

**Israel - Palestine Perspectives Based on Two Books**  
 Passages Sunday Class – February 25, 2024 - Ross Loeser and Ed Munn

100 Years War on Palestine  
 Rashid Khalidi

Israel, a Simple Guide  
 Noa Tishby

<p><b>Foundation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For centuries, Palestine was an Ottoman province with no clear boundaries.</li> <li>▪ There has been a “Colonial war against <u>indigenous</u> population”.</li> <li>▪ For over a century, Palestinians have been depicted in condescending way.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Foundation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ancient Jewish kingdom starts 1500 BC; 1<sup>st</sup> Temple 930-970 BC</li> <li>▪ “Jewish people are <u>indigenous</u> to the land of Israel.” It is their ancestral land.</li> <li>▪ <u>History</u> - Jews, Babylonians, Assyrians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Crusaders, Muslim Caliphate, Egyptians, Ottomans, British, UN.</li> <li>▪ “There was <u>never a sovereign state</u> called Palestine”</li> <li>▪ Israel is a <u>Refugee State</u> not a Colonial State</li> </ul>
<p><b>First Declaration of War: 1917-1939</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 11/2/1917, Balfour Declaration (British official Arthur Balfour): Called for a national home for Jewish people in Palestine. Arab majority (94%) not mentioned.</li> <li>▪ 1922 League of Nations “Mandate for Palestine” - uses Balfour text; British rule supporting Zionism. Jewish population Increases from 6% to 18% by 1926.</li> <li>▪ 1933; rise of Nazis; Jewish immigration to Palestine</li> <li>▪ 1936-9: Palestinian revolt; many deaths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In reaction to centuries of <u>antisemitism</u> the Zionist movement officially begins in 1896 Theodor Herzl – leader..</li> <li>• <u>Zionism</u> is about allowing the return of Jews to their ancestral homeland - (Balfour Declaration).</li> <li>• Beginning in 1910 refugees fleeing persecution settle in communal villages called <u>kibbutzes</u>.</li> <li>• <u>Holocaust</u> (1941-1945) Casts a long shadow over the Jewish people – six million murdered.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Second Dec. of War: 1947-48</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ After WWII, power goes to US &amp; USSR; sympathy towards Jews (Holocaust).</li> <li>▪ Future of Palestine goes to UN Res. 181: divide Palestine into large Jewish state and smaller Arab one.</li> <li>▪ Starting 11/47, Zionist paramilitary groups force Palestinians from several cities. Arab neighboring countries (exc. Jordon) send troops, but suffer defeat -- 1948 war.</li> <li>▪ 720k people displaced; 160k stayed and are now Israeli citizens. Today, 5.5 million descendants live in refugee camps.</li> <li>▪ <u>Nakba</u> (catastrophe)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>UN Partition Plan</u> vote establishes a Jewish state 11/29/47 and an Arab state. Jewish leaders accept the Plan while all Arab leaders &amp; countries reject it.</li> <li>▪ May 14, 1948: British leave, Ben-Gurion declares Israel formed and reads <u>Declaration of Independence</u>.</li> <li>▪ May 15, 1948 - all neighboring <u>Arab countries attack</u>. Certain of victory, they call for all Arab residents to leave.</li> <li>▪ July, 1949 - after 10 months of a vicious war, all sign <u>Temporary Truce</u> with Israel. 700-750k people displaced. As a result, the new Jewish state (Israel) expands in size.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gaza Strip was governed by Egypt until 1967.</li> <li>▪ <u>Suez War of Oct. 1956</u>: Israel, France &amp; England vs. Egypt (supported by US &amp; USSR).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Conflict remains</u> - Israel demands security while Arabs demand return to pre-1948 land.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Third Dec. of War: 1967 (Six-Day War)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Egypt, Jordan, Syria attack, but are decisively beaten.</li> <li>▪ US now fully backs Israel.</li> <li>▪ UN Security Council Res. 242 approved 11/22/67: legitimized 1949 boundaries... Palestinians not mentioned.</li>   <li>▪ April 10, 1975 - Israel assassinates 3 PLO leaders in their homes</li> <li>▪ Jimmy Carter - Camp David 1978 - treaty with Egypt &amp; Israel; ignores PLO.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Six Day War</u> - several Arab countries about to attack, but Israel preemptively attacks. War over in 6 days. Israel takes Golan Heights, Gaza Strip, Sinai Peninsula, West Bank including the Old City of Jerusalem.</li> <li>▪ <u>UN Security Council Res. 242</u> accepted by Israel (concept: exchange of land for peace).</li> <li>▪ <u>1972 Munich Olympics Massacre</u></li> <li>▪ <u>Yom Kippur War (Oct. 6-26, 1973)</u> - Egypt, Syria and Iraq attack on Holy day, again with support from other Arab countries.</li> <li>▪ <u>Camp David Accords (1978)</u> - Israel returns Sinai Peninsula in exchange for peace with Egypt.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fourth Dec. of War: 1982 (Israel invasion of Lebanon)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Massive Israeli shelling of Beirut (author &amp; family living there!)</li> <li>▪ 10-weeks of terrible conflict</li> <li>▪ Sharon and Begin intended to defeat PLO, but effect was to empower PLO.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>PLO moves into Lebanon</u> along Israel's northern border, launching <u>attacks on Israel</u>.</li> <li>▪ After 270 terrorist attacks, <u>Israeli military attacks Lebanon</u> to remove PLO.</li> <li>▪ <u>PLO expelled from Lebanon</u>. Ariel Sharon criticized for tactics, expanding the war into Beirut on his own.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fifth Dec. of War; 1987-95 (First Intifada)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Palestinian uprising all over West Bank &amp; Gaza (grass roots)</li> <li>▪ Results in <u>Oslo framework (1993)</u> - West Bank &amp; Gaza split into A, B, C sections (defining who has responsibility for civil affairs, internal security, public order).</li> <li>▪ Author: key focus is always Israel security</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>First Intifada</u> - popular Palestinian uprising (protests, civil unrest, throwing stones, hurling Molotov Cocktails).</li> <li>▪ <u>Oslo Accords 1993</u> - Israel and PLO conditionally recognize each other's authority to govern. Palestinian Authority (PA) given partial administration over the West Bank and Gaza. Jordan and Israel sign peace treaty.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sixth Dec. of War; 2000-2014</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ After Oslo things got much worse. Lots of travel restrictions, with the worst in Gaza.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Second Intifada (2000-2005)</u> started when former defense minister Ariel Sharon visited the Temple Mt. / Al-Aqsa Mosque.</li> </ul>

<p>Most Palestinians could no longer work in Israel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The PLO's more militant rival, Hamas, forms from Muslim Brotherhood in Gaza.</li> <li>▪ Powder keg set off when Sharon visits Temple Mt. <u>Second Intifada</u> starts Sept. 2000 and lasts 8 years (suicide bombers, Israel reoccupies territories, ...)</li> <li>▪ Hamas runs full slate of candidates in 2006 Gaza elections and surprisingly wins (people want change); takes over Gaza.</li> <li>▪ Much destruction and death in Gaza; Hamas sends missiles into Israel (not effective)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Defined by Palestinian suicide bombers indiscriminately killing Israeli civilians. Israel responded by retaking parts of the West Bank and Gaza.</li> <li>▪ <u>Second Lebanon War</u> (July 12-Aug 14, 2006) - Hezbollah started as both political party and terrorist org. They fire thousands of missiles on civilians in the north of Israel. UN Buffer Zone installed.</li> <li>▪ <u>Israel leaves Gaza entirely</u>, removes Jewish settlements (2005).</li> </ul>
<p><u>Additional points / factors (Khalidi)</u></p> <p>No matter the history, there are now two peoples in Palestine. Their mutual acceptance can only be based on complete equality of rights. There is no other possible sustainable solution, barring the unthinkable notion of one people's extermination or expulsion by the other.</p>	<p><u>Additional points / factors (Tishby)</u></p> <p>Three actions that can facilitate peace: (1) encourage investment in Palestine economy, (2) "shrink the conflict," (3) develop responsible Palestinian leadership.</p>

Summary Thoughts:

- Exceedingly complicated situation.
  - Many entities have an interest in conflict: Jewish & Palestinian plus surrounding countries, plus major countries (e.g., US)
- Both sides have a claim to the land.
- Both sides are victims of major injustices (and feel them deeply)
  - For example - from Time Magazine, 12/23: The Hamas massacre... activated the 2000-year-old communal history of persecution every Jew carries... "we are trained in trauma."
- Both sides feel hatred toward the other from atrocities in the past.
- Both sides have extremists

## Wars and Uprisings

- 1936 - Palestinian revolt
- May 15, 1948 - Start of country of Israel; all neighboring Arab countries attack; they all sign temporary truce in July 1949
- 1956 - Suez War; France & England vs. Egypt (supported by US & USSR)
- 1967 - Six Day War; Israel preemptively attacks Egypt, Jordan, Syria. War is over in 6 days. Israel takes Golan Heights, Gaza Strip, Sinai Peninsula, West Bank, Old City of Jerusalem.
- Oct. 6-26, 1973; Yom Kippur War - Egypt, Syria and Iraq attack on Holy Day
- 1982 - War in Lebanon (Israeli invasion)
- 1987-95 - First Intifada (popular uprising, all over West Bank); results in Oslo Accord; results in A,B,C division of Palestinian lands.
- 2000-2005-2014 - Second Intifada (popular uprising after Oslo agreement) made things "much worse (travel restrictions, ...)". Started when Israel Defense Minister Ariel Sharon visited the Temple Mount.
- July - August 2006 - Second Lebanon War - Hezbollah

## Peace Initiatives

- 1967 - UN Security Council Resolution 242 legitimized 1949 boundaries (concept: exchange of land for peace)
- 1978 - Camp David Accords, led by Jimmy Carter; treaty with Egypt and Israel (ignores Palestine)
- 1993 - Oslo Accords between Israel and PLO, and 1995 signed in Egypt
  - PLO and Israel recognize each other; also Palestinian Authority created for limited Palestinian self-government over parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## Some terms

- PLO - Palestinian Liberation Organization
- Palestinian Authority (PA) - Another Palestinian governing body
- Hamas - Palestinian militant organization in Gaza Strip; forms out of "Muslim Brotherhood"
- Hizballah - Lebanon militant organization that rose out of the 1982 Israel invasion of Lebanon