

Israel 1918-2014

My own biases. The trials and tribulations of a liberal Zionist. It's just good to get all that out on the table. But I will try and just stick to the facts after this.

Pre-state Israel

1918- The Balfour Declaration

His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

British Mandate Palestine

What is Palestine?

British promised the same land to several parties

Tensions- pre-state militias

The Peel commission: 1937

An irrepressible conflict has arisen between two national communities within the narrow bounds of one small country. There is no common ground between them. Their national aspirations are incompatible. The Arabs desire to revive the traditions of the Arab golden age. The Jews desire to show what they can achieve when restored to the land in which the Jewish nation was born. Neither of the two national ideals permits of combination in the service of a single State.

Independence 1948

UN partition plan, two (three) states- Jewish Israel, Arab Palestine, Arab Kingdom of Jordan.

Immediate attack by Arab forces, on all fronts. Israel prevails, captures most of the land allocated for Arab Palestine, Jordan captures the west bank and east Jerusalem. Egypt captures Gaza.

1950s- Sephardi immigration from North Africa; operation Ezra & Nehemia (Iraq),
Operation Magic Carpet (Yemen)
Sallah Shabati says it better than I ever could.

1967- Another war of conquest. This time there is a danger that the superpowers could get involved. But they don't.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 242

(i) Withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict;
(ii) Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force."

1973- Yom Kippur war

Sneak attack by same countries as usual

Major cultural event for Israelis because of the context of the attack

roughly no change in borders from before

UN resolution 338 calls for all parties to adopt resolution 242

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The Security Council:

Calls upon all parties to present fighting to cease all firing and terminate all military activity immediately, no later than 12 hours after the moment of the adoption of this decision, in the positions after the moment of the adoption of this decision, in the positions they now occupy; Calls upon all parties concerned to start immediately after the cease-fire the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 (1967) in all of its parts; Decides that, immediately and concurrently with the cease-fire, negotiations start between the parties concerned under appropriate auspices aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

1970s- Increasing popularity of the Likud party in Israel- Sephardi election strategy- hard line on peace; PLO- Yasser Arafat- non-recognition of Israel; Peace with Egypt; Camp David Accords- return of the Sinai

1980s- Lebanon war; security zone; invasion of Lebanon; international problems; stagnation of peace process; Intifada

1990s- Gulf War, Desert Storm; much improved international relations; peace with Jordan, some gulf states; Oslo accords, Yitzhak Rabin; Palestinian authority, Hamas

2000s- Ariel Sharon; New generation of leadership, both Israeli and Palestinian; Benjamin (Bibi) Netanyahu; Continued settlements and stagnation of peace process

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