

## The Abraham Accords

The Abraham Accords are formal declarations of diplomatic and economic normalisation that were signed in Washington DC in September 2020 by the leaders of Bahrain, Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States and later by Morocco and Sudan. The signing of the Accords was contradictory to the previous support Bahrain and the UAE gave to the Arab Peace Initiative of March 2002, which crucially conditioned the normalisation of relations with Israel and demanded the establishment of a Palestinian state. Many Palestinians, including the PA President Mahmoud Abbas and other senior PLO figures condemned the Accords as a 'stab in the back' and a departure from the Arab Peace Initiative. The genocide that began in October 2023 has intensified anti-Israel sentiment in Arab public circles, but no significant changes in political decision-making have not been made, and no agreements with Israel have been revoked. Thus the Abraham Accords represent a change to the long history of Palestine solidarity within the region, and symbolize a new era of normalization according to each country's own (economic) interests.

Sources:

The Abraham Accords: Israel-Gulf Arab Normalisation. (2020). *Strategic Comments*, 26(8), iv–v. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13567888.2020.1853892>

Harutyunyan, L. (2025). The Abraham Accords and Normalization between Arab Countries and Israel: The Impact of the Gaza-Israeli War of 2023: The Abraham Accords and Normalization between Arab Countries and Israel: The Impact of the Gaza-Israeli War of 2023. *Journal for Interdisciplinary Middle Eastern Studies*, 11(1), 103–134. <https://doi.org/10.26351/JIMES/11-1%5>

## The Arab Peace Initiative

The Arab Peace Initiative (originally known as the Saudi Peace Initiative) was a policy proposal put forth by Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz at the Arab League Summit in 2002. It called for an end to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Israeli withdrawal from the territories and the establishment of a Palestinian state with a capital in East Jerusalem. In exchange, all of the Arab states would normalize relations with Israel. The Initiative was adopted by the members of the Arab League. Israeli governments have never officially responded to the initiative.

Sources:

Geneva Initiative. (n.d.). *Arab Peace Initiative*. [https://genevaaccord.org/cool\\_timeline/arab-peace-initiative/](https://genevaaccord.org/cool_timeline/arab-peace-initiative/)

Podeh, E. (2014). Israel and the Arab Peace Initiative, 2002-2014: A Plausible Missed Opportunity. *The Middle East Journal*, 68(4), 584–603. <https://doi.org/10.3751/68.4.15>

### **Arab Revolt (1916–1918)**

The Arab Revolt was launched in 1916 by Sharif Hussein bin Ali of Mecca against the Ottoman Empire during the First World War. Supported militarily and financially by Britain, the revolt aimed to establish Arab independence from Ottoman rule. Arab forces captured several strategic cities, including Aqaba and Damascus, and contributed to the broader Allied campaign against the Ottomans.

The revolt became a foundational event in Arab nationalist historiography. However, postwar European agreements such as the Sykes–Picot Agreement and the mandate system undermined expectations of a unified independent Arab state.

Sources:

Eugene Rogan, *The Fall of the Ottomans* (2015), pp. 235–276.

David Fromkin, *A Peace to End All Peace* (1989), pp. 231–262.

George Antonius, *The Arab Awakening* (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1939), pp. 248–302.

[Britannica – Arab Revolt](#)

### **Arab Revolt (1936–1939)**

The Palestinian Arab Revolt of 1936–39 was a large-scale uprising against British colonial administration and increasing Jewish immigration into Palestine during the Mandate period. Beginning with a general strike in 1936, the revolt evolved into armed resistance involving rural guerrilla groups, urban political organizations, and popular mobilization.

Britain responded with extensive military repression, including mass detentions, curfews, house demolitions, and executions. The revolt significantly weakened Palestinian political and military leadership prior to the 1948 war, while Zionist military organizations expanded their organizational capacity with British cooperation.

Sources:

Ted Swedenburg, *Memories of Revolt* (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2003), pp. 1–22, 97–126.

Matthew Hughes, *Britain's Pacification of Palestine* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019), pp. 52–103.

Ghassan Kanafani, *The 1936–39 Revolt in Palestine* (New York: Committee for a Democratic Palestine, 1972), pp. 7–41.

[Britannica – Arab Revolt in Palestine](#)

## **Antisemitism**

An irrational hostility and/or fear towards Jewish people. Although the current genocide in Gaza has led to an increase in antisemitic rhetoric throughout the world, the word has also been misappropriated by the Israel State. For them, antisemitism means any criticism of Israel, deserved or otherwise. This is done to falsely equate Israel with all Jews, despite the fact that many Jews have voiced and continued to voice their opposition against the State of Israel.

Sources:

[https://www.passia.org/media/filer\\_public/90/13/90137bde-26ed-4f4e-b79b-272c511c55d6/dictionary\\_of\\_palestinian\\_political\\_terms.pdf](https://www.passia.org/media/filer_public/90/13/90137bde-26ed-4f4e-b79b-272c511c55d6/dictionary_of_palestinian_political_terms.pdf)

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/antisemitic-anti-israeli-attacks-around-world-since-october-7-2023-2025-10-02/>

## **Apartheid ('separateness')**

An Africans language term originally describing South Africa's system of enforced racial segregation by the white minority. It is listed as a crime against humanity in the Rome Statute, defined as "inhumane acts... committed in the context of an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other... with the intention of maintaining that regime." Israel has been described as an apartheid regime due to its discriminatory policies toward Palestinians and its aims to separate the Palestinian and the Israeli populations from one another on a racial basis. In the occupied West Bank, Palestinian freedom of movement is restricted on a discriminatory basis through the separate "security zones", separate roads, checkpoints, and the West Bank Wall, which separates them from Israeli settlers. Palestinians also face systematic inequalities in access to water, farmland, and natural resources, as well as in education, where Arabic-language schools receive significantly lower funding than Hebrew ones.

Sources:

B'Tselem. (2004, August). Forbidden roads: Israel's discriminatory road regime in the West Bank (Information sheet). <https://www.btselem.org>

Clarno, A. (2017). Neoliberal Apartheid: Palestine/Israel and South Africa after 1994 / Andy Clarno. University of Chicago Press. <https://doi.org/10.7208/9780226430126>

Veracini, L. (2006). Israel and settler society / Lorenzo Veracini. Pluto Press.

## **Balfour Declaration**

The Balfour Declaration was a statement issued by the British government on 2 November 1917 in a letter from Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour to Lord Rothschild, a leader of the British Jewish community. The declaration expressed British support for “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people,” while stating that the rights of existing non-Jewish communities should not be prejudiced.

The declaration represented a major diplomatic victory for the Zionist movement and became incorporated into the British Mandate framework. Palestinians and other Arab populations opposed the declaration because it was issued without consultation with the indigenous Arab majority and appeared to endorse settler-colonial transformation under imperial sponsorship.

Sources:

Jonathan Schneer, *The Balfour Declaration* (New York: Random House, 2010), pp. 332–369.

Rashid Khalidi, *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine* (New York: Metropolitan Books, 2020), pp. 31–49.

Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (2021), pp. 90–95.

[UK National Archives – Balfour Declaration](#)

## **BDS**

BDS — Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions — is a Palestinian-led, global movement launched in 2005 by 170 Palestinian unions, professional associations, refugee networks, women's associations and other civil society. It calls for directed boycott, divestment and sanctions against entities complicit in the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. The movement demands that Israel 1) Ends its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall 2) Recognizes the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality and 3) Respects, protects and promotes the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 1948.

Calls for boycott extend to the state of Israel as well as complicit Israeli institutions, like sports teams, cultural and academic institutions and companies. Divestment campaigns, according to the BDS-website, *urge banks, local councils, churches, pension funds, and universities to withdraw investments from the State of Israel and all Israeli and international companies that sustain Israeli apartheid*. Economic sanctions are called to be put up by states, through banning business and trade with Israeli settlements, ending free-trade agreements and banning Israel from participating in international forums. These tactics draw from the successful boycott movement against entities associated with the South African apartheid

regime. BDS has a list of priority targets, pressure targets, and organic boycott efforts that it supports.

Sources

BDS Movement. <https://bdsmovement.net/>

### **British Mandate**

The British Mandate for Palestine was established by the League of Nations in 1922 after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. Britain administered Palestine until 1948 under a mandate system ostensibly intended to prepare territories for self-government. The Mandate incorporated the principles of the Balfour Declaration, committing Britain to support a “Jewish national home” in Palestine while also preserving the civil and religious rights of the non-Jewish population.

The Mandate period was marked by increasing tensions between Palestinian Arabs and Jewish immigrants associated with the Zionist movement. Britain struggled to reconcile conflicting political demands, resulting in recurring unrest, including the Palestinian Arab Revolt of 1936–39. The Mandate ended in 1948 amid civil war and British withdrawal, which finally led to the declaration of the state of Israel and shaped the modern Middle East.

Sources:

Martin Bunton, *The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), pp. 11–33.

Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2021), pp. 89–118.

Tom Segev, *One Palestine, Complete* (New York: Henry Holt, 2000), pp. 35–62.

[Avalon Project – Palestine Mandate](#)

### **Cast Lead (2008)**

The Cast Lead (also known as the “First Gaza War”) was an Israeli military operation it launched on the Gaza strip in December 2008. The “operation against Palestinian terror” lasted 22 days, during which Israel killed some 1400 Palestinians, including 300 children. More Palestinians were killed and more properties were destroyed in the operation than in any previous Israeli offensive. The borders of Gaza were kept sealed throughout Operation and civilians could not flee, and there was nowhere in Gaza where their safety could be guaranteed. In addition, Israeli forces forced Palestinian civilians on several occasions to serve as “human shields”. The Cast Lead was the first of many Israeli military operations on the Gaza strip, including the 2012, 2014 and 2021 wars as well as the current genocide.

Sources:

Amnesty International. (2009). *Israel/Gaza: Operation "Cast Lead": 22 days of death and destruction*. <https://www.amnesty.org/fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/mde150212009eng.pdf>

B'Tselem. (n.d.). *The Gaza Strip*. Retrieved May 17, 2026, from [https://www.btselem.org/gaza\\_strip](https://www.btselem.org/gaza_strip)

## **Decolonialism**

Decolonialism is a way of organizing thought and social movement. It builds on principles of liberating indigenous lands, mentalities, cultures and material realities from modes of Eurocentric oppression or supremacy. It has generally tackled the issue of how coloniality in addition to explicit colonialism, persists in social and economic structures despite some degree of decolonisation having occurred within a nation. Prominent theorists include C.L.R. James, Aimé Césaire, Albert Memmi, Frantz Fanon, and Edward Said, who's written extensively on Palestine. Palestinian resistance can be viewed as a decolonial struggle for independence both due to the colonial logic and tactics inherent in Zionism, as well as the means and movements built around Palestinian resistance and self-determination.

Sources:

Anthony, D. D. (2025). Decolonialism. *Beyond Doctrine: Alternative and Critical Approaches to Law* (The Federation Press), 189–207.

Sumud. (2024, August 28). Understanding Palestine: colonialism, apartheid, occupation. Sumud. <https://www.sumud.fi/en/background-on-palestine-colonialism-apartheid-and-occupation/>

## **Edward Said**

Edward Said (1935-2003) was a Palestinian-American academic and political activist. His most famous work is *Orientalism*, a critique of the mysticised Western view of the "Orient". Born in Jerusalem, he had to flee Palestine with his family to Egypt and then the United States during the Nakba. He joined Columbia University in 1963 and taught there until his death in 2003. Said was a part of the Palestinian National Council and advocated for a two-state solution accompanied with a Palestinian right of return. He resigned from his post in 1993 due to is opposition to the implementation of the Oslo Accords and later in 1999 advocated for a one-state solution with a binational Israeli-Palestinian state. He remains respected among Palestinians and pro-Palestinian scholars, even having his own chair in Columbia University.

Sources

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Edward-Said>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2003/09/26/arts/edward-w-said-literary-critic-advocate-for-palestinian-independence-dies-67.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/1999/01/10/magazine/the-one-state-solution.html>

<https://history.columbia.edu/person/khalidi-rashid/>

## **Ethnic Cleansing**

Systemically and forcefully removing racial, ethnic and/or religious groups from a given area in an effort to make the area ethnically homogenous. Methods include forced deportation under the threat of violence and destroying the population's property in order to disincentivize them from returning. Israel has engaged in ethnic cleansing during the Nakba, and more recently, from 2023 onwards via ordering the forced evacuation of Palestinians from Northern Gaza to Southern Gaza.

Sources:

Khalidi, Rashid (2020) *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine* (pp. 12, 73, 76) Metropolitan Books.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/israel-orders-evacuation-of-1-million-in-northern-gaza-in-24-hours>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20240805100858/https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/ethnic-cleansing.shtml>

## **Famine**

A widespread scarcity of food, that can be caused because of war, crop failure, widespread poverty or natural disasters. The UN has the following criteria for a famine: 1) at least 20% of households in the area face acute food shortages with limited ability to cope 2) the prevalence of acute malnutrition in children exceeds 30% and 3) the death rate exceeds two people per 10,000 per day. There is currently an ongoing famine in Gaza, exacerbated by Israel preventing the flow of essential goods and aid to Gaza and by Israeli airstrikes on Palestinian farm land.

Sources:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/03/1147661>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/08/1165702>

## **The First Intifada**

A spontaneous popular uprising in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip that started in December 1987. The cause of the first intifada is most often attributed to the killing of four Palestinian civilians by an Israeli jeep at a checkpoint in the Gaza Strip, however it was also a reaction to twenty long years of Israeli occupation. Palestinians used tactics such as protesting, stone throwing against Israeli soldiers, commercial strikes, refusing to pay taxes to Israel, and other acts of civil disobedience and nonviolent resistance. Israel responded with disproportionate and brutal violence, killing more than 1100, injuring more than 100 000 and imprisoning more than 120 000 Palestinians. The First Intifada gradually tapered off as a result of Israeli repression and political co-optation by the PLO, effectively ending by 1993, when the first of the Oslo Accords were signed by Israel and the PLO.

Sources:

Institute for Middle East Understanding. (n.d.). *Explainer: The first intifada*. IMEU. <https://imeu.org/resources/resources/explainer-the-first-intifada/240> (imeu.org)

Karkar, S. (2007, December 10). *The first intifada 20 years later. The Electronic Intifada*. <https://electronicintifada.net/content/first-intifada-20-years-later/7251> (electronicintifada.net)

## **The Gaza blockade (2007)**

In June 2007, following the takeover of Gaza by Hamas, Israel imposed a land, sea and air blockade on the Gaza Strip as another intensification of its occupation. This blockade still remains in place, and the Palestinians in Gaza have been “locked in” Gaza even before the genocide without free access to the remainder of the occupied Palestinian territory and the outside world. The blockade has had extensive impacts on Palestinian life in Gaza, including almost full economic collapse, high levels of unemployment, food insecurity and aid dependency, as well as the inability to connect with families outside the Gaza strip. The blockade has also deteriorated the quality of basic services, and impeded the reconstruction and repair of homes after Israeli attacks. Gaza under the blockade has been described as the world’s largest open prison.

Sources:

B’Tselem. (n.d.). *The Gaza Strip*. Retrieved May 17, 2026, from [https://www.btselem.org/gaza\\_strip](https://www.btselem.org/gaza_strip)

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2011). *Easing the blockade: Assessing the humanitarian impact on the population of the Gaza Strip*. United Nations. [https://unispal.un.org/pdfs/OCHA\\_BLOCKADE.pdf](https://unispal.un.org/pdfs/OCHA_BLOCKADE.pdf)

## Geneva IV

The Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War was adopted on 12 August 1949 and is one of four treaties of the 1949 convention that form the basis for international humanitarian law. Geneva IV specifically concerns the treatment of protected civilians in occupied territories. Persons protected by the Convention are defined under article 4 as **[T]hose who, at a given moment and in any manner whatsoever, find themselves, in case of a conflict or occupation, in the hands of a Party to the conflict or Occupying Power of which they are not nationals.** Among other things the Convention mandates the protection civilian hospitals or their staff (Articles 18 and 20) by all parties, prohibits the forced transfer or deportation of protected persons from occupied territory (Article 49), the murder, torture, corporal punishment and other measures of brutality of protected persons (Article 32), as well as all forms of collective punishment (Article 33) and hostage-taking (Article 34).

The convention has been ratified by 196 states, including Palestine and Israel. Israel has continuously violated several articles, e.g. article 49 by building settlements in occupied territories, where it is, according to international humanitarian law, the occupying power. Likewise, it has demolished homes, imposed blockades to civilian movement, and especially since October 2023, targeted civilians, as well as destroyed approximately 75 of Gaza's civilian infrastructure.

Sources: <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gciv-1949?activeTab=>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/09/1141572> |

<https://www.hrw.org/reports/2001/israel/hebron6-04.htm#:~:text=Israel%20ratified%20the%20Geneva%20Conventions%20on%20July%206%2C%201951.>

[https://www.trtworld.com/article/18194934?\\_rt=1](https://www.trtworld.com/article/18194934?_rt=1)

## Genocide

Any act committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. As most of Israel's victims have been civilians, and because of Israel deliberately bombing hospitals and blocking food aid from reaching Gaza, it can be reasonably said that Israel's actions constitute a genocide under that definition. South Africa has led a case against Israel for the crime of genocide in the International of Court of Justice and is supported by many other countries, such as Spain, China, Brazil and Mexico

Sources:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-prevention-and-punishment-crime-genocide>

<https://www.justsecurity.org/89403/the-siege-of-gaza-and-the-starvation-war-crime/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cn5wel11pgdo>

<https://www.icj-cij.org/case/192>

### **Ghassan Kanafani**

Ghassan Kanafani (1936-1972) was a Palestinian militant and author who was a key figure in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a Marxist-Leninist organisation in Palestine. Like many prominent Palestinian figures, he and his family were forced out of their homes during the Nakba and had to move to Syria. Kanafani was forced out of the University of Damascus in 1955 because of his involvement with Movement of Arab Nationalists. He moved first to Kuwait and from there to Lebanon. In Beirut, he joined the PFLP in 1967 and drafted its' program in 1969, whereby the party officially adopted Marxism-Leninism. Kanafani was assassinated using a car bomb in 1972 by the Israeli intelligence services Mossad while he was in Beirut. He remains one of the most venerated writers among Palestinians, with *Men in the Sun* being his most prominent work.

Sources:

<https://www.palestineremembered.com/Acre/Acre/Story168.html>

<https://www.newarab.com/features/memorial-ghassan-kanafani-palestinian-novelist-and-political-activist-0>

Bashkin, O. (2010). *Nationalism and Liberal Thought in the Arab East: Ideology and Practice*. (pp. 96). Routledge.

### **The Great March of Return**

The Great March of Return was a set of demonstrations that started on Land Day, 30th March in 2018 and lasted until the end of 2019. Palestinians in the Gaza Strip began to hold regular protests along the perimeter fence, demanding an end to the blockade Israel has imposed on the Strip since 2007 and fulfillment of the right of return. The protests, held mostly on Fridays, had tens of thousands of Palestinians participating, including women, children and seniors. Israel was quick to frame the protests as illegitimate even before they began. It made various attempts to prevent the demonstrations and declared in advance it would violently disperse the protesters. The IDF deployed dozens of snipers along the fence, and various officials

permitted lethal fire against anyone attempting to approach the fence or damage it. As a result, 223 Palestinians, 46 of them under the age of 18, were killed and some 8,000 injured. The vast majority of the persons killed or injured were unarmed and posed no threat to the Israeli soldiers.

Sources:

Amnesty International. (2018, October 19). *Six months on: Gaza's Great March of Return*. Amnesty International. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2018/10/gaza-great-march-of-return/>

B'Tselem. (n.d.). *The Gaza Strip*. Retrieved May 17, 2026, from [https://www.btselem.org/gaza\\_strip](https://www.btselem.org/gaza_strip)

### **Green Line ICJ**

Also known as the Armistice Line, established in 1949 after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. It came to represent the border between Israel and its neighbours Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, and importantly, to this day, between Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. However, since the six-day war of 1969, Israel has been violating these by occupying or building unlawful settlements and establishing diverse forms of militarized control within Palestinian territories. Notable examples include the building of a 186 km long wall within the West Bank, in and around occupied East Jerusalem during 2003, and the continuing blockade of Gaza which started in 1990, which is widely considered collective punishment, banned under the Hague convention and Article 33 of the fourth Geneva convention.

Sources:

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-194572/>

<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/hague-conv-iv-1907>

### **Hasbara**

(Hebrew, roughly translates to “explaining”) The Zionist regime’s public relations strategy, including both mass communication, individual interaction and different forms of cultural diplomacy. The aim of these is to frame Israel in a positive light abroad as well as to control the narrative and garner legitimacy for occupation, apartheid and genocide. Pinkwashing is one of the most prominent examples. Hasbara can also be seen to affect how the genocide is framed in media abroad, with press like NY Times instructing to avoid words like “genocide” “ethnic cleansing” and “occupied territory” when reporting on Gaza. Initially simply termed

propaganda by Theodor Hertzl, the term hasbara was introduced by Nahum Sokolow, fifth president of the world Zionist organization.

Source:

<https://theintercept.com/2024/04/15/nyt-israel-gaza-genocide-palestine-coverage/>

## Historic Palestine

“Historic Palestine” refers to the geographical region located between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River, historically connected to Bilad al-Sham (Greater Syria). The term is used in historical, political, and cultural contexts to describe the territory that today includes Israel, the occupied Palestinian territories (the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip), and sometimes adjacent surrounding areas depending on the historical period discussed.

Under the Ottoman Empire (1516–1917), Palestine was not administered as a single unified province but was divided among several administrative districts such as the sanjaks of Jerusalem, Nablus, and Acre. During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, especially under the British Mandate for Palestine, the term “Palestine” acquired a clearer territorial and political meaning. Palestinian Arab identity developed in relation to local social structures, Ottoman reforms, European colonialism, Arab nationalism, and Zionist immigration.

Sources:

Rashid Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1997), pp. 18–35.

Ilan Pappé, *A History of Modern Palestine* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. 10–27.

Beshara Doumani, *Rediscovering Palestine* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995), pp. 1–15.

[United Nations – Question of Palestine](#)

## Human Rights

Rights that have been granted to all humans, regardless of gender, ethnic background, religion or other statuses, simply for being alive. These rights were declared in 1948 by the United Nations in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They include the right to life, right to education and prohibition of enslavement. Israel has repeatedly violated human rights in Gaza and the West Bank. It, for example, restricts the access of Palestinians to education in both the West Bank and Gaza by forcefully closing down schools and outright bombing them.

In addition to this, it also restricts the movement of Palestinians via establishing checkpoints in the West Bank.

Sources:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/human-rights/universal-declaration/translations/english>

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/02/israelopt-un-experts-appalled-reported-human-rights-violations-against>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20240616093841/https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/04/un-experts-deeply-concerned-over-scholasticide-gaza>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140108153640/http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/8F5CBCD2F464B6B18525791800541DA6>

### **Intifada, aka “Rebellion”**

The Arabic word for uprising. The word’s primary meaning outside of the Arab world is to describe Palestinian uprisings against Israel. The First Intifada took place from 1987 to 1993 and led to the Oslo Accords. The Second Intifada took place from 2000 to 2005 which resulted in Israel withdrawing from Gaza for the time being. The current genocide in Gaza has been described as the Third Intifada by some.

Sources:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2023/12/8/history-illustrated-the-first-intifada-against-israel>

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/3677206.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/3677206.stm)

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20240910-the-third-intifada-is-in-its-gestation-period/>

### **Islamophobia**

An irrational hostility and/or fear towards Muslims and the religion of Islam. Islamophobic rhetoric has increased in the Western world since the start of the “War on Terror” after the September 11 attacks and the increase in refugees coming from the Islamic World. Another surge in Islamophobic rhetoric has been detected after the October 7th attacks especially in Israel and the United States. By way of example, three Palestinian students were shot in the United States in 2023 in what was believed to be a hate crime.

Sources:

<https://eu.burlingtonfreepress.com/story/news/crime/2023/11/27/shooting-burlington-vermont-arrest-victims-possible-hate-crime-north-prospect-street/71715148007/>

<https://www.nyulawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NYULawReviewOnline-95-Beydoun.pdf>

## **Israel Defence Forces IDF**

The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) is the state's military, formed out of Zionist paramilitary groups, WWII veterans and Holocaust survivors in 1948. With 169,500 active personnel in 2023, IDF combatant force consists largely of active-duty conscripts.

Israel has compulsory military service for Jews and Druze regardless of gender, as well as for Circassian men, with deferments available for students and exemptions for women who are married or with children. Moreover, compulsory reserve duty extends to the age 40. As of 2024, previously exempt ultra-orthodox Jewish men have also been subject to conscription.

IDF has repeatedly been accused of several widely documented human rights violations including torture, unlawful killings and detentions, and as of 2023, genocide, against the Palestinian people in occupied territories and Israel. Accusations have been given by UN bodies, human rights organisations and civil society. One of the most critical voices against IDF inside Israel can be found in the veteran-led organization called Breaking the Silence, with stated aims of exposing the daily lives in occupied territories as well as ending the occupation.

Sources:

<https://theweek.com/history/origins-of-the-israel-defence-forces>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Israel-Defense-Forces>

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/israel-west-bank-and-gaza/>

International Institute for Strategic Studies (15 February 2023). *The Military Balance 2023*. London: Routledge. p. 331. ISBN 9781032508955. Archived from the original on 1 March 2023. Retrieved 18 October 2023.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/12/amnesty-international-concludes-israel-is-committing-genocide-against-palestinians-in-gaza/>

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/09/israel-has-committed-genocide-gaza-strip-un-commission-finds>

## **Israeli withdrawal from Gaza (2005)**

Ariel Sharon's government decided to withdraw Israel from Gaza in 2005 after the ceasefire and end of the second intifada. However, the disengagement itself was unilateral, and was not the result of negotiations with the Palestinians. The withdrawal resulted in the disengagement of 21 Israeli settlements and the pulling out of IDF troops. Israel's interest to withdraw from Gaza had multiple reasons. On one hand, it helped to battle the domestic crises of "Palestinian terror" and the economic costs of the occupation, and on the other hand, it helped to better protect those West Bank settlements which were more heavily populated. Despite the withdrawal, Israel has maintained the occupation over the Gaza strip, as it controls virtually all entry and exit. Still it claims not to have any obligations or responsibilities toward Gaza residents. After the withdrawal, Israel has also targeted escalated violence towards the Gaza strip, especially after Hamas' rise to power in 2006.

Sources:

B'Tselem. (n.d.). *The Gaza Strip*. Retrieved May 17, 2026, from [https://www.btselem.org/gaza\\_strip](https://www.btselem.org/gaza_strip)

Institute for Middle East Understanding. (n.d.). *Putting Gaza in formaldehyde: Israel's disengagement a decade later*. <https://imeu.org/resources/gaza/putting-gaza-in-formaldehyde-israels-disengagement-a-decade-later/235>

## **Mahmoud Abbas**

Mahmoud Abbas (born in 1935) is the second and current president of the Palestinian Authority since 2005. Abbas has always been on the more moderate side of Fatah and was among the first to call for negotiations between them and the Israelis in 1977. Because of this, he has strongly condemned Hamas following the October 7th attacks and has called on them to relinquish power in the Gaza Strip. He has also been hit with multiple corruption allegations, targeting both his aides and his sons. His government is widely perceived to be a puppet of Israel's and because of this and the corruption scandals his approval ratings are at all-time lows, being only 19% in May 2025. The claims of being an Israeli puppet have basis in reality, as Israeli officials see Abbas not as a partner in peace but rather a strategic asset.

Sources:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220612072330/https://d2071andvip0wj.cloudfront.net/162-no-exit-gaza-israel-between-wars.pdf> (pp. 33)

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4g20pj6epvo>

<https://www.pcpsr.org/en/node/997>

<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/palestinian-authority-wants-ottawas-help-seizing-former-arafat-advisors-canadian-assets>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSL9347117>

<https://time.com/archive/6642596/the-stateless-statesman/>

## **Mahmoud Darwish**

Mahmoud Darwish (1941-2008) was a Palestinian poet and an author. His most notable work is writing the Palestinian Declaration of Independence in 1988. Darwish and his family had to flee their homevillage of al-Birwa during the Nakba to Lebanon. They later returned to Israel, but were only granted residency status. This experience caused Darwish to first join the Israeli Communist Party in 1961 and later the Palestinian Liberation Organisation 1973, where he was elected to its Executive Committee in 1987. He would later resign from this position in 1993 due to his opposition to the 1993 Oslo Accords. Mahmoud Darwish died in 2008 after having recieved heart surgery in Texas. Darwish's legacy remains positive among Palestinians and he is regarded as the nation's national poet.

Sources:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/7551918.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7551918.stm)

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2008/aug/11/poetry.israelandthepalestinians>

<https://web.archive.org/web/19990823093225/http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Delphi/2549/darwish.html>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2024/3/13/remembering-mahmoud-darwish-the-poetic-voice-of-palestine>

## **Military Occupation**

The exerting of hostile military control over a territory that is not recognised as that country's legal territory. Israel currently occupies parts of the Gaza Strip, large areas of the West Bank through direct military control and settlements, the rightfully Syrian territory of the Golan Heights and parts of Southern Lebanon.

Sources:

Benvenisti, Eyal (2004) The international law of occupation (pp. 43) Princeton University Press

[https://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/25/opinion/the-justice-of-occupation.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/25/opinion/the-justice-of-occupation.html?_r=0)

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cjerjzxlpvdo>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2025/02/17/middleeast/israel-lebanon-ceasefire-withdrawal-latam-hnk-intl/index.html>

### **Nakba, aka “The Catastrophe”**

The Arabic word for catastrophe. Is used to describe the systemic expulsion of Palestinians from current-day Israel before, during and after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. The expulsion of Palestinians enabled the establishment of the Israeli state, as the Israelis now had ample land to settle without needing to account for the Palestinian population. The Nakba and the refugees created by it still shape current Palestinian life, as it disintegrated the whole of Palestinian society by scattering the Palestinian population across the world.

Sources:

Khalidi, Rashid (2020) *The Hundred Years’ War on Palestine* (pp. 12, 73, 76, 231)

Metropolitan Books.Manna, Adel (2013). "The Palestinian Nakba and Its Continuous Repercussions". *Israel Studies*. 18 (2): 86–99.

Manna, Adel (2022) (pp. 2) *Nakba and Survival: The Story of Palestinians Who Remained in Haifa and the Galilee, 1948-1956*. University of California Press.

### **The Oslo Accords**

A secret set of meetings in 1993 between the PLO and Israel. The main results of the Oslo peace contract were the establishment of the PA (Palestinian Authority), and the division of the West Bank into three “security” zones. Some were hopeful that the accords would be a step towards a two-state solution, but in fact, the contract was a tool to further legitimize the illegal occupation of the West Bank. In area C, one of the security zones, Israel has full administrative and military control. Area C comprises the largest area (63%) of the West Bank. In area C, Palestinian movement is restricted or fully forbidden. The Oslo contract was supposed to be temporary, but even when the peace process collapsed at the outbreak of the Second Intifada, the territorial divisions and illegal occupation remained.

Sources:

Baumgart-Ochse, C. (2009). Democratization in Israel, politicized religion and the failure of the Oslo peace process. *Democratization*, 16(6), 1115–1142.

B'Tselem. (2004, August). *Forbidden roads: Israel’s discriminatory road regime in the West Bank* (Information sheet) Available at:

[https://www.btselem.org/download/200408\\_forbidden\\_roads\\_eng.pdf](https://www.btselem.org/download/200408_forbidden_roads_eng.pdf)

Malik, I. (2001). Analysis of Oslo Accords. *Strategic Studies*, 21(2), 134-145. Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.

## One-State Solution

The idea that a single, binational state should be established in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. This state would be democratic and have equal rights for every citizen. Israel, fearing the fact that implementing this solution would mean that Palestians would outnumber Jews, advocates for its own type of a one-state solution. In this version, the West Bank and Gaza would be annexed into Israel, and their citizens either expelled or denied voting rights so as to prevent the aforementioned demographical problem.

Sources:

[https://www.passia.org/media/filer\\_public/90/13/90137bde-26ed-4f4e-b79b-272c511c55d6/dictionary\\_of\\_palestinian\\_political\\_terms.pdf](https://www.passia.org/media/filer_public/90/13/90137bde-26ed-4f4e-b79b-272c511c55d6/dictionary_of_palestinian_political_terms.pdf)

<https://web.archive.org/web/20170630054834/http://www.reut-institute.org/Publication.aspx?PublicationId=346>

## Ottoman Rule

Ottoman rule in Palestine began in 1516 after the Ottoman defeat of the Mamluks and continued until the British conquest during the First World War in 1917. The region became integrated into the administrative, economic, and legal structures of the Ottoman Empire. Palestine was governed through provincial systems connected to Damascus and later Beirut, while Jerusalem held special administrative significance due to its religious importance.

The nineteenth century witnessed major reforms under the Tanzimat period, including land registration laws, centralization of governance, and tax reforms. These developments altered rural social relations and land ownership patterns and increased European economic and political influence in the region. Ottoman decline during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries coincided with the rise of Arab nationalism and Zionist settlement in Palestine.

Sources:

Eugene Rogan, *The Arabs: A History* (London: Penguin, 2009), pp. 80–109.

Beshara Doumani, *Rediscovering Palestine* (1995), pp. 23–45.

Alexander Schölch, *Palestine in Transformation* (Washington, DC: Institute for Palestine Studies, 1993), pp. 49–76.

[Encyclopaedia Britannica – Ottoman Empire](#)

## **PACBI**

PACBI, the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel was started in 2004 and calls for the boycott of Israeli academic and cultural institutions specifically. PACBI is a founding member of the Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC) and is tasked with overseeing the academic and cultural boycott aspects of BDS.

Sources:

BDS Movement. <https://bdsmovement.net/>

<https://www.bdsmovement.net/pacbi/cultural-boycott-guidelines>

## **Palestinian Authority (PA)**

The Palestinian Authority (PA) was established as a result of the Oslo Accords to govern Gaza and the West Bank. The PA has three separate branches of power: executive, legislative, and judiciary. However, given the existence of a colonial condition ensures that the PA's institutions lack the resources, sovereignty, and political mandate to operate like a "real" state. In the occupied West Bank, the PA is also responsible in governing security, and has been described as the "right hand" of the IDF. They work, for instance, as security personnel at the checkpoints in the West Bank. The PA has also been criticized for its bureaucracy and opacity. In the West Bank, the biggest party of the PA is Fatah, and in Gaza it's Hamas. After Hamas' rise to power in 2006, no elections have been carried out in Gaza.

Sources:

B'Tselem. (2004, August). Forbidden roads: Israel's discriminatory road regime in the West Bank (Information sheet)  
[https://www.btselem.org/download/200408\\_forbidden\\_roads\\_eng.pdf](https://www.btselem.org/download/200408_forbidden_roads_eng.pdf)

Malik, I. (2001). Analysis of Oslo Accords. *Strategic Studies*, 21(2), 134-145. Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.

Sen, S. (2022). *Decolonizing Palestine: Hamas between the anticolonial and the postcolonial* / Somdeep Sen. Cornell University Press.  
<https://doi.org/10.1515/9781501752766>

Weizman, E. (2007). *Hollow land: Israel's architecture of occupation* / Eyal Weizman. Verso.

## **Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)**

The PLO was established in 1964 as “the handmaiden” of the Arab states concerned with the situation of Palestine. Its' first goal wasn't the establishment of a Palestinian state but the liberation of Palestine in service of the pan-Arab cause. After the 1967 war, the PLO was controlled by guerilla organizations and went through a transformation to become an independent decision-maker, and a Palestine-based, nationalist movement to mobilize Palestinians in the struggle against Israeli rule. In the 1974 Rabat conference, the PLO was recognized as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. The Fatah leader Yasir Arafat worked as the chairman of the PLO executive committee from 1969 until his death in 2004. Arafat brought the PLO to the Oslo Accords, to discuss conditions of peace with Israel. During the Oslo Accords, Israel recognized the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people, whereas the PLO recognized the State of Israel.

Sources:

Frisch, H. (2012). Territorializing the PLO: The PLO and Mass Mobilization. In *Countdown to Statehood* (pp. 35–58). State University of New York Press. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9781438403410-005>

Hamid, R. (1975). What is the PLO? *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 4(4), 90–109. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2535603>

Malek, C. (n.d.). *Palestine Liberation Organization (I)*. Interactive Encyclopedia of the Palestine Question – Palquest. <https://www.palquest.org/en/highlight/162/palestine-liberation-organization-i>

## **Pinkwashing**

A strategy of appearing to promote LGBTQIA+ interests through superficial messaging for purposes that have nothing to do with the promotion of rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. Israel has repeatedly engaged in pinkwashing by attempting to contrast their progress on queer rights with the situation of queer people in Gaza and the West Bank. They even sometimes claim to protect gay Palestinians from facing persecution by granting the asylum in Israel. Not only is this primarily done to dissuade queer people from voicing their solidarity with Palestinians, it's also hypocritical to state that Israel would want to protect any Palestinians from persecution.

Sources:

<https://decolonizepalestine.com/rainbow-washing/pinkwashing/>

Atshan, Sa'ed (2020). Global Solidarity and the Politics of Pinkwashing. *Queer Palestine and the Empire of Critique*. (pp. 105) Stanford University Press.

## **Refugee**

A person who is forced cross an international border to get safety from war or another type of manmade disaster or natural disasters. The people usually referred to as Palestinian refugees are those who were forced to leave their homes during the Nakba or the subsequent Naksa. There are currently about 5.6 million official Palestian refugees though the number is estimited to be higher.

Sources:

<https://www.unhcr.org/us/about-unhcr/who-we-protect/refugees>

<https://www.unrwa.org/who-we-are/frequently-asked-questions>

## **Right of Return**

The idea that the Palestinians and their descendants have a right to return to their homeland and to reclaim any property they or their ancestors were forced to leave behind. This right would extend to anyone who was ethnically cleansed from Palestine during the Nakba, Naksa (1967 Six-Day War), and subsequent displacements by Israel. Not to be confused with Israel's own "right of return," which grants every Jew the right to "return" to Palestine and be granted Israeli citizenship, whether they have any historical ties to the land or not.

Source:

[https://www.passia.org/media/filer\\_public/90/13/90137bde-26ed-4f4e-b79b-272c511c55d6/dictionary\\_of\\_palestinian\\_political\\_terms.pdf](https://www.passia.org/media/filer_public/90/13/90137bde-26ed-4f4e-b79b-272c511c55d6/dictionary_of_palestinian_political_terms.pdf)

## **Scholasticide**

The mass destruction of education in a specific place. Elements of this include the intentional destruction of existing educational institutions, the mass killing of professors, teachers and students and the destruction of academic materials. Scholasticide is done in order to control the norms, values and history that is taught in the colonised/occupied place and thus having a greater control of that specific place's residents ideas and thoughts. Israel has systematically destroyed all the universities and the 95 % of all schools in Gaza. In addition to this, Israel has deliberately targeted academics, killing proportionally vast amounts of professors and teachers.

Sources:

Köse, Talha; Özcan, Mesut; Karakoç, Ekrem (2016) "A Comparative Analysis of Soft Power in the MENA Region: The Impact of Ethnic, Sectarian, and Religious Identity on Soft Power in Iraq and Egypt". *Foreign Policy Analysis*. 12 (3): 354–373.

<https://zoltangluck.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/american-anthropologist-2024-glc3bcck-introduction-e28090-anthropology-and-the-security-encounter-toward-an-abolitionist.pdf>

<https://www.etf.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-07/Gaza%20update%202025%20final%20072025.pdf>

## **The Second Intifada**

After the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993 it soon turned out that Israel had no intentions to give up the territories it had occupied in 1967. The number of Israeli settlers kept on growing, in addition to which Israel stalled on implementing signed agreements and demanded the right to renegotiate the terms of the Accords. The trust of the Palestinian public towards the Palestinian Authority had also started to weaken. The result was the outbreak of the Second Intifada (also “the Al-Aqsa Intifada) in September 2000, when the Israeli Likud Party leader Ariel Sharon paid a visit to the Palestinian holy site in Haram al-Sharif. Seven Palestinian protesters were shot dead. Demonstrations spread quickly, and again, Israel responded with brutal violence, killing seventy Palestinians during the first week. Israel claimed that the Oslo Accords had fallen through, but it still sustained the division of the West Bank, progressively throwing up hundreds of roadblocks, imposing permanent closures on and between villages, camps, and cities. The second intifada ended with the signing of a ceasefire between Sharon and the Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas in February 2005.

Sources:

Isaac, J., & Rizik, M. (2002). The viability of the Palestinian state and Israel's settlement policy. *Palestine - Israel Journal of Politics, Economics, and Culture*, 9(4), 76

Roger Heacock. (n.d.). *The Second Intifada, 2000–2005*. PalQuest. <https://www.palquest.org/en/highlight/33567/second-intifada-2000-2005>

## **Settler Colonialism**

Diverging from “traditional” colonialism, the aim of settler colonialism is not to gain economic benefit, but instead populate an area considered new, at the expense of the indigenous populations of the land. Central in settler colonial ideology is “emptying” the land, which often means the displacing or killing of the natives. Israel is a settler colonial rule. Other examples of settler colonialism are for instance: the United States, Canada, Australia and French Algeria.

Sources:

Wolfe, P. (1999). *Settler colonialism and the transformation of anthropology: the politics and poetics of an ethnographic event* / Patrick Wolfe. Cassell.

Zhumatay, G., & Yskak, A. (2024). A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF FRENCH AND ZIONIST SETTLER COLONIALISM IN ALGERIA AND PALESTINE. *KazMU Habaršysy. Šygystanu Seriâsy*, 110(3), 4–15. <https://doi.org/10.26577/JOS.2024.v110.i3.01>

## Sumud

“steadfastness” or “steadfast perseverance” in Arabic, describes Palestinian nonviolent everyday resistance against Israel's occupation. It is commonly used to refer to various coordinated strategies as well as everyday acts of cultural preservation amidst repression. The term was established in 1960s as a political symbol, and also used by the PLO to promote the national cause. In the 1970s Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee established the Sumud Aid Fund, which caused the term to be associated with external aid and resistance on diaspora/top-down terms. However, it was again repurposed by grass-roots movements living in occupied territories during the 1980s, linking it more to strategic civil disobedience and nonviolent resistance.

Source:

<https://www.palquest.org/en/highlight/33633/sumud>

## Sykes–Picot Agreement

The Sykes–Picot Agreement was a secret wartime agreement concluded in 1916 between United Kingdom and France, with the approval of Imperial Russia, concerning the division of Ottoman Arab territories following the anticipated defeat of the Ottoman Empire in the First World War. Negotiated by British diplomat Mark Sykes and French diplomat François Georges-Picot, the agreement divided the Middle East into spheres of direct and indirect European control.

Under the agreement, Palestine was designated for international administration due to its religious significance. The revelation of the agreement contributed to widespread Arab distrust of Britain and France because it contradicted wartime promises of Arab independence. During the First World War, Britain made contradictory promises to secure Middle Eastern allies, primarily through the McMahon–Hussein Correspondence, which pledged Arab independence in exchange for revolting against the Ottoman Empire. Simultaneously, Britain secretly negotiated the Sykes–Picot Agreement to divide the region with France. The agreement later became a symbol of European colonial intervention and arbitrary border-making in the modern Middle East.

Sources:

James Barr, *A Line in the Sand* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2011), pp. 7–29.

David Fromkin, *A Peace to End All Peace* (New York: Holt, 1989), pp. 189–198.

Eugene Rogan, *The Fall of the Ottomans* (New York: Basic Books, 2015), pp. 332–341.

[Britannica – Sykes-Picot Agreement](#)

## Two-State Solution

The more mainstream idea that the question of Palestine should be solved by establishing an independent Palestine alongside Israel. The first initial suggestion of the two-state solution was the Partition Plan of the UN in 1947, which suggested that the area of Palestine should be divided into two different states. In this plan, the Israeli State would have encompassed over 60% of the land. The UN plan fell through when the State of Israel was established in 1948. The second time this idea gained popularity was during the Oslo Accords (see, also: “The Oslo Accords”). The result of the accords was the establishment of the Palestinian Authority and the division of the West Bank into three security zones, on some of which the PA holds administrative responsibilities, and on the other, Israel holds them. This arrangement, however, does not support the two-state solution but instead legitimizes Israel’s illegal occupation. The main issue of the two-state solution is the ensuring of Palestinians who live in Israel, and the right to return for Palestinian refugees.

Sources:

Agbaria, A. K., & Mustafa, M. (2012). Two states for three peoples: the “Palestinian-Israeli” in the Future Vision Documents of the Palestinians in Israel. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 35(4), 718–736. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2011.598234>

Biger, G. (2021). The Partition Plans for Palestine—1930–1947. *Israel Studies (Bloomington, Ind.)*, 26(3), 24–45. <https://doi.org/10.2979/israelstudies.26.3.03>

Malik, I. (2001). Analysis of Oslo Accords. *Strategic Studies*, 21(2), 134-145. Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.

## War Crime

A violation of the laws of war as stated in the Geneva Conventions, such as killing civilians, torture, sexual assault or unnecessarily destroying civilian property. Israel has been complicit in committing war crimes on the Palestinian population, such as indiscriminately bombing civilian institutions such as hospitals, preventing aid from getting to Gaza and actually killing

aid workers, sexually assaulting detained Palestinian women and murdering surrendering Palestinians. The list is by no means exhaustive.

Sources:

<https://unric.org/en/international-law-understanding-justice-in-times-of-war/>

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/10/un-commission-finds-war-crimes-and-crimes-against-humanity-israeli-attacks>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/27/heartbreaking-chaos-in-gaza-as-starving-palestinians-seek-us-israeli-aid>

<https://observers.france24.com/en/middle-east/20231013-israeli-army-tweets-video-that-appears-to-show-soldiers-shooting-palestinians-who-surrendered>

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/02/israelopt-un-experts-appalled-reported-human-rights-violations-against>

### **The White Paper (1939)**

The 1939 White Paper was a British policy document issued following the Palestinian Arab Revolt. It marked a departure from earlier British support for unrestricted Zionist immigration by limiting Jewish immigration to 75,000 persons over five years and restricting land transfers to Jews in certain areas. The White Paper also proposed the establishment of an independent Palestinian state within ten years governed jointly by Arabs and Jews.

Zionist organizations rejected the White Paper because it restricted immigration during a period of intensifying antisemitic persecution in Europe. Palestinian Arab leaders considered the measures insufficient because Britain maintained colonial control and did not immediately halt Zionist settlement.

Sources:

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims* (New York: Vintage, 1999), pp. 138–147.

Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (2021), pp. 149–153.

Martin Bunton, *The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict* (2013), pp. 34–38.

[Avalon Project – British White Paper of 1939](#)

## **Yasser Arafat**

Yasser Arafat (1929-2004) was one of the leading figures of the Palestinian liberation movement and the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation from 1969 to 2004. Initially taking a hard-line approach to Israel, he eventually shifted his approach towards a two-state solution and stated that Israel has a right to exist in 1988. This approach led to the 1993 Oslo Accords (see: The Oslo Accords) , which have been criticised as legitimizing the Israeli occupation over Palestine and not properly implementing a two-state solution. He later served as the president of the Palestinian Authority from 1994 until his death in 2004. Because of his willingness to accept the terms of the Oslo Accords, his legacy remains controversial among Palestinians: some regard him as a freedom fighter, while others denounce his submissiveness to Israeli authority.

Sources:

[https://www.passia.org/media/filer\\_public/90/13/90137bde-26ed-4f4e-b79b-272c511c55d6/dictionary\\_of\\_palestinian\\_political\\_terms.pdf](https://www.passia.org/media/filer_public/90/13/90137bde-26ed-4f4e-b79b-272c511c55d6/dictionary_of_palestinian_political_terms.pdf)

Ghanem, As'ad (2010). Palestinian Politics after Arafat: A Failed National Movement. (pp. 259) Indiana University Press.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A41509-2004Nov10.html>

## **Zionism**

The idea that a Jewish state should be created through the colonisation of Palestine that should contain as many Jews as possible and as few Palestinians as possible. The term comes from a hill near Jerusalem, "Zion", which symbolises the "national homeland of Jews". It emerged first in the late 1800s and is now the national ideology of the State of Israel.

Sources:

Khalidi, Rashid (2020) The Hundred Years' War on Palestine (pp. 76) Metropolitan Books.

Pixner Bargil (2010) Paths of the Messiah (pp. 320-322) Ignatius Press  
Article 14 of the Basic Laws of Israel

## **The 1982 invasion of Lebanon**

Israel invaded its border region in Southern Lebanon in 1982, during the Lebanese civil war (1975-1990), that took place between the Lebanese Front, Lebanese National Resistance Front and multiple other participant factors. Israel supported the Lebanese Front in its fight

against Palestinian forces already before the invasion. Lebanon had already for a long time been Israel's target because of the large number of Palestinian refugees and political mobilization, led by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). Thus Israel invited Southern Lebanon as a means to destroy PLO's infrastructure and weaken its organization, which was successful as PLO had to eventually flee Lebanon to Tunis. Israel's invasion was brutal. In 1982, Israel together with the Lebanese front, conducted a massacre of between 800 and 2000 civilians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Western Beirut. Israel has justified its occupation of Lebanon as a part of its 'war on terror' towards Palestinian resistance, which has also continued after its withdrawal from Southern Lebanon in 2000, in violent attacks of 2006, 2024 and 2026.

Sources:

Hamilton, K. (2011). The moral economy of violence: Israel's first Lebanon War, 1982. *Critical Studies on Terrorism*, 4(2), 127–143. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17539153.2011.586199>

Kaufman, A. (2009). From the Litani to Beirut - Israel's invasions of Lebanon, 1978-85: Causes and consequences. In S. Catignani & C. Jones (Eds.), *Israel and Hizbollah* (1st ed., pp. 25–38). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203865521-3>

Sogge, E. L. (2026, February). *Disarming the Camps—Palestinian factions and the limits of Lebanese sovereignty*. Middle East Research and Information Project. <https://www.merip.org/2026/02/disarming-the-camps-palestinian-factions-and-the-limits-of-lebanese-sovereignty/> .