

Israel and Palestine: Global Implications

Introduction

From 1987 to 2010, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict killed 11,952 individuals.¹ Today, the death toll continues to rise, as domestic and international measures have failed to bring this controversy to an end.² The conflict has extended for several decades, and the situation as it stands remains volatile and tense. The issue began in 1948 when the global community began to recognize Israel as a State although it was located on the same land as the geographic region historically known as Palestine; the territorial dispute resulted in humanitarian and security implications both within the region and abroad.³ Numerous violent conflicts have resulted, including the Six-Day War, which set new boundaries for the shared land between the Israelis and Palestinians; Palestine then declared its independence in 1988, and was recognized by many Member States as its own state.⁴

There are several aspects of this conflict, but the issue of statehood, recognition, and the rights of the land are the primary focus. These issues are further complicated by the Israeli settlements, the decision regarding Jerusalem as the State's capital, and the increase in steady attacks and violent outbreaks that have taken place in the region. Throughout the conflict, there have been several different parties who have been involved. The Israeli government, the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), the Palestinian Authority (PA), and Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya (Hamas), are directly involved, but several Member States have shown interest in this conflict through time as well, including Jordan, Egypt and the United States.⁵ This further impacts the international community as a whole, as the conflict directly involves international actors, and creates significant security and humanitarian concerns for both the region and the international community at large.

Individual Actors

There are multiple parties involved in the conflict between Palestine and Israel. The Israeli Government is currently led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, first elected to serve in this position in 1996, and most recently elected in 2009.⁶ Several Member States support Israel, including the United States and Qatar.⁷

The situation in Palestine is a bit more complex, with three organizations playing a role. Today, the PLO is recognized as the legitimate representative of Palestine to the international community, and has established diplomatic relations with over 100 Member States.⁸ However, during the Oslo Peace Process, the PA was set in to govern specific regions within Gaza, and is recognized as the official governmental body in Palestine.⁹ The PLO maintains seniority to the PA.¹⁰ Further, Hamas is a Palestinian Sunni-Islamic political organization which seized control of the Gaza Strip in 2007, and has since maintained it.^{11 12} However, Hamas is not afforded a place in the Palestinian government and is not recognized by the PA, instead governing independently but

¹ "Fatal Terrorist Attacks in Israel (Sept 1993-1999)", Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, September 24, 2000. <http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/foreignpolicy/terrorism/palestinian/pages/fatal%20terrorist%20attacks%20in%20israel%20since%20the%20dop%20-s.aspx> (accessed February 20, 2018).

² "The Humanitarian Monitor", United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, December 2007. http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/Humanitarian_Monitor_Dec_07.pdf (accessed February 20, 2018).

³ Gösta Werner Ahlström, *The History of Ancient Palestine*, (Fortress Press, 1993) pgs. 72-111.

⁴ "Ban sends Palestinian application for UN membership to Security Council", United Nations News Centre, September 23, 2011. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2011/09/388322-ban-sends-palestinian-application-un-membership-security-council#.VfMZaZeM-ao> (accessed March 10, 2018).

⁵ Ron Synovitz, "The Israel-Gaza Conflict: A Guide to the Major Players," *The Atlantic*, November 20, 2012. <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/11/the-israel-gaza-conflict-a-guide-to-the-major-players/265431/> (accessed March 24, 2018).

⁶ Serge Schmemman, "The Israeli Vote." *The New York Times*, May 30 1996. <https://www.nytimes.com/1996/05/30/world/israeli-vote-overview-election-for-prime-minister-israel-dead-heat.html> (Accessed March 26, 2018).

⁷ Ron Synovitz, "The Israel-Gaza Conflict: A Guide to the Major Players," *The Atlantic*, November 20, 2012. <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/11/the-israel-gaza-conflict-a-guide-to-the-major-players/265431/> (accessed March 24, 2018).

⁸ Deon Geldenhuys, *Isolated states: a comparative analysis*, (Cambridge University Press, 1990), p 155.

⁹ Arlene Kushner, "Commentary: Difference Between PLO and PA," *Behind the news in Israel*, March 16, 2007. <http://israelbehindthenews.com/commentary-difference-between-plo-and-pa/5262/> (accessed March 24, 2018).

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Anthony H. Cordesman, *Peace and War: The Arab-Israeli Military Balance Enters the 21st Century*, (Greenwood Publishing Group, 2002), p 243.

¹² Tariq Mukhimer, *Hamas Rule In Gaza: Human Rights Under Constraint*, (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), p. 57.

coordinating with the PLO on the liberation front.¹³ In 1997, the United States officially designated Hamas as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO), followed by similar action from the European Union, Canada, and Japan.¹⁴ On the contrary, Iran, Lebanon, and the Arab League have expressed support for both Hamas and the PLO.¹⁵

Israel, the PLO, and Hamas each believe that they are entitled to the land of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem, viewing the areas as holy places for each respective state.¹⁶ Thus, the conflict continues to ensue, as no formidable solution for peace has been found. Internationally, in the interest of ending the security risks and humanitarian crisis this conflict creates, a majority of Member States support a peace agreement between Israel and Palestine, many of which refuse to support one side.¹⁷

Historical Background

The relevant history of the region occupied by Palestine and Israel begins with the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Empire controlled the region for almost 400 years, and at the beginning of the 20th century with the defeat of the Ottomans in World War I, a majority of the region was divided between the states we now know as Syria and Lebanon, and inhabited primarily by Arab Muslims.¹⁸ ¹⁹ The League of Nations in 1921 granted the remaining land in the region to the United Kingdom in the Palestine Mandate; this region included the territories now known as Israel, Jordan, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip.²⁰

As a result of prolonged conflict between the Arabs and the Jews over land rights in the British Mandate of Palestine, the United Nations created the Special Commission on Palestine to investigate the best path forward.²¹ Following the end of this Commission in November 1947, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 181, or the Partition Resolution, recommending the division of the Palestine region into Jewish and Arab states.²² However, as Resolutions in the General Assembly are not legally binding, this recommendation was not acted upon, and the conflict ensued.²³ On 14 May 1948, the British Mandate over the area known as Palestine ended, and David Ben-Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel, acting upon the Partition Resolution proclaimed the land as the state of Israel.²⁴ A majority of Jews were in support of the Partition Resolution, while a majority of Arabs were against it; thus, in reaction to the proclamation of a Jewish state of Israel, the 1948 Arab-Israeli war began.²⁵ Troops from Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Syria, invaded the Palestinian region to combat Israeli troops and the creation of a Jewish state.²⁶ During the conflict, approximately 711,000 Arabs fled

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ "Is Hamas a Terrorist Organization?" *ProCon.org*, December 9, 2015. <https://israelipalestinian.procon.org/view.answers.php?questionID=000374> (accessed March 30, 2018).

¹⁵ Ron Synovitz, "The Israel-Gaza Conflict: A Guide to the Major Players," *The Atlantic*, November 20, 2012. <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/11/the-israel-gaza-conflict-a-guide-to-the-major-players/265431/> (accessed March 24, 2018).

¹⁶ Anthony H. Cordesman, *Peace and War: The Arab-Israeli Military Balance Enters the 21st Century*, (Greenwood Publishing Group, 2002).

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ "Palestine: Ottoman rule." *Britannica Online Encyclopedia*, April 1, 2009.

¹⁹ Shelomo Alfassá, "Sephardic Contributions to the Development of the State of Israel." *Wayback Machine*, January 14, 2015. <https://web.archive.org/web/20071012042245/http://www.alfassa.com/contributions.pdf> (accessed March 24, 2018).

²⁰ Avraham Sela. "Arab-Israel Conflict." *The Continuum Political Encyclopedia of the Middle East*. (New York: Continuum, 2002.) pgs. 58-121.

²¹ A/RES/106 (1947). *Special Committee on Palestine*. United Nations General Assembly. <https://web.archive.org/web/20120806072438/http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/F5A49E57095C35B685256BCF0075D9C2> (accessed March 24, 2018).

²² A/RES/181 (II) Resolution 181 (II). *Future Government of Palestine*. United Nations General Assembly. <https://web.archive.org/web/20120524094913/http://domino.un.org/unispal.nsf/0/7f0af2bd897689b785256c33006Id253> (accessed March 24, 2018).

²³ "The Plan of Partition," UN. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpi/palestine/ch2.pdf> (Accessed March 26, 2018).

²⁴ "Declaration of Establishment of State of Israel," Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 14 May 1948 <http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/foreignpolicy/peace/guide/pages/declaration%20of%20establishment%20of%20state%20of%20israel.aspx> (accessed March 24, 2018).

²⁵ "Zionists Proclaim New State of Israel; Truman Recognizes it and Hopes for Peace," *New York Times*, 15 May 1948 <https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/big/0514.html> (accessed March 24, 2018).

²⁶ Linda Gradstein, "Six Day War: Land Ownership Dispute Arise," *National Public Radio*, June 7, 2007. <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=10801564> (accessed March 24, 2018).

or were expelled from Israel.²⁷ After several ceasefire attempts, the war ended in 1949, with an independent Israel controlling more territory than before the war.²⁸ As a result, Israel was recognized by several Member States of the United Nations, including the United States, the Soviet Union, Guatemala, Iceland, Romania, Poland, Ireland, and South Africa.²⁹ On 11 May 1949, Israel was admitted and gained full membership in the United Nations, further escalating tensions and conflict within the region.³⁰

Palestine officially declared itself an independent state in 1988, reigniting many of the existing tensions and disputes which continue to occur today.³¹ The PLO claimed rule over Palestine, justifying their right to form a state on the Partition Resolution.³² Although lacking control of the territory of Jerusalem, the PLO claimed Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine, leading to increased violence between Israel and Palestine.³³

In 1993, the United States initiated peace talks known as the Oslo Accords between the governing bodies of Israel and Palestine.³⁴ This process was intended primarily to address the territorial disputes, with the ultimate goal of achieving lasting peace; the foundation for the peace talks were Security Council Resolution 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), two previous ceasefire solutions.³⁵ The Oslo Accord discussions were led by Norway, and resulted in an agreement under which the West Bank and Gaza Strip were transferred to Palestinian control in exchange for a permanent end to the attacks on Israeli targets by Palestinian forces.^{36 37} However, this solution was not successful in its implementation; Israel did not recognize the PLO as an authoritative body, and refused to turn over the West Bank and Gaza Strip.³⁸ Palestine, on the other hand, began to exercise control over the areas, moving people and forming settlements in the West Bank and on the Strip.³⁹ Thus, the international community continued to attempt peace talks throughout the 1990s.⁴⁰ However, Palestinian uprisings against Israel in the early 2000s ended the 1990s-negotiations process.⁴¹ From 2000 to 2005 the uprisings resulted in the death of approximately 1,000 Israelis and 3,200 Palestinians.⁴²

Current Situation

As the situation stands today, Palestine maintains legal control of the West Bank under the Oslo Accords, but the area is occupied by Israel; the Gaza Strip is controlled by Hamas and under an Israeli land, air, and sea blockade to prevent Hamas from obtaining weapons.⁴³ This blockade is assisted by the imposition of economic

²⁷ *General Progress Report and Supplementary Report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine*. United Nations General Assembly. October 23, 1950.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ "United States *de facto* Recognition of State of Israel," *OurDocuments*, 14 May 1948. <https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=83> (accessed March 24, 2018).

³⁰ A/RES/273 (III): 11 May 1949: 273 (III). *Admission of Israel to membership in the United Nations*. United Nations General Assembly. <https://web.archive.org/web/20130615041505/http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/83E8C29DB812A4E9852560E50067A5AC> (accessed March 24, 2018).

³¹ Youssef M. Ibrahim, "P.L.O. Proclaims Palestine to be an Independent State; Hints at Recognizing Israel," *The New York Times*, November 11, 1988. <https://www.nytimes.com/1988/11/15/world/plo-proclaims-palestine-to-be-an-independent-state-hints-at-recognizing-israel.html> (accessed March 24, 2018).

³² Madiha Rashid al Madfai, *Jordan, the United States and the Middle East Peace Process, 1974-1991*, (Cambridge Middle East Library, Cambridge University Press, 1993), p. 21.

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ *1995 Oslo Interim Agreement*. Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. Accessed March 24, 2018.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ Hilde Henriksen Waage. "Postscript to Oslo: The Mystery of Norway's Missing Files," *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. XXXVIII, No. 1 (Autumn 2008), pgs. 54-65.

³⁷ *1995 Oslo Interim Agreement*. Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. Accessed March 24, 2018.

³⁸ "Extraordinary Increase in Settlement Construction as Diplomacy Falters" *Settlement Report*, March-April 1998. <https://archive.is/20130414194355/http://www.fmep.org/reports/archive/vol.-8/no.-2/extraordinary-increase-in-settlement-construction-as-diplomacy-falters> (accessed March 24, 2018).

³⁹ "General Assembly grants Palestine non-member observer State status at UN," *UN News*, November 29, 2012. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2012/11/427052-general-assembly-grants-palestine-non-member-observer-state-status-un> (accessed March 24, 2018).

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² "Everything you need to know about Israel-Palestine", Vox, <https://www.vox.com/cards/israel-palestine/peace-process> (accessed December 23, 2017).

⁴³ Sara Roy, *Hamas and Civil Society in Gaza: Engaging the Islamist Social Sector*, (Princeton University Press, 2013) p. 41.

and financial sanctions by the United States, as the state views Hamas as a terrorist organization.⁴⁴ Ultimately, the blockade has resulted in a significant humanitarian crisis, with those in Gaza essentially locked into the area with no access to badly needed food and humanitarian supplies.⁴⁵

Although Israel officially withdrew from Gaza in 2005, the United Nations and other international human rights organisations such as Amnesty International still consider Gaza to be occupied by Israel, as the blockade gives Israel both direct and indirect control of life within Gaza.⁴⁶

While the West Bank is currently governed by the PA, there are several Israeli settlements within the West Bank.⁴⁷ On 9 July 2004, the International Court of Justice ruled that these Israeli settlements are illegal, as construction of these settlements is essentially an attempt to annex the territory.⁴⁸ However, Israel continues to dispute this ruling, and maintains its settlements, creating areas within Palestinian territory solely occupied by Israeli citizens.⁴⁹ In these areas, Palestinians are excluded from certain Israeli-only roads and forced to go through a number of security checkpoints in what is legally Palestinian territory.⁵¹ Additionally, most international lawyers believe settlements violate the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the transfer of population into occupied territories.⁵² These settlements pose a constant threat to peace, as the restrictions and regulations lead to violence, home demolition, and arbitrary borders.⁵³ On 23 December 2016, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2334 (2016), stating that Israel's settlements do not have legal validity and are in breach of international law.⁵⁴ The United States abstained from voting on this Resolution.⁵⁵

Today, there is still an abundance of violence in the region. Recently, the primary conflict at hand involves the territorial claims to Jerusalem. Jerusalem, especially the Old City and its Holy Sites, are essential to the religious beliefs of both Muslims and Jews; while the area is currently a neutral site, tensions in the region continue to escalate over claims to the rightful ownership of the city.⁵⁶ In the past year there have been several outbreaks of violence in the Old City of Jerusalem, and the Holy Sites of the Old City have been vandalized numerous times.⁵⁷ In July of 2017, Israel imposed new law enforcement restrictions around the mosques in the Old City, making it more difficult for Palestinians to enter the region.⁵⁸ As a result, violence in the area has increased; most recently, four Palestinians were killed and over 200 Palestinians and Israelis were harmed during a violent uprising in September of 2017 due to a clash of Israeli and Palestinian civilians and police

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ "US Consults Allies About Gaza Blockade," VOA. June 09, 2010. <https://www.voanews.com/a/us-consults-allies-about-gaza-blockade-96089949/119284.html> (Accessed March 26, 2018).

⁴⁶ *Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people: Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, July 6, 2015. http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/tdb62d3_en.pdf (accessed March 24, 2018).

⁴⁷ Catriona Drew, "Self-determination and population transfer," *Human Rights, Self-Determination and Political Change in the Occupied Palestinian territories*. International studies in Human Rights. 1997.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Michael Dumper, *Jerusalem Unbound: Geography, History, and the Future of the Holy City*, (Columbia University Press 2014), p. 85.

⁵¹ William Booth and Sufian Taha, "A Palestinian's daily commute through an Israeli checkpoint," *The Washington Post*, May 25, 2017. https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/world/occupied/checkpoint/?utm_term=.0bc6197b3b5a (accessed March 24, 2018).

⁵² *Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civillian Persons in Time of War*. Geneva, August 12, 1949.

⁵³ "Israel's Settlements Have No Legal Validity, Constitute Flagrant Violation of International Law, Security Council Reaffirms", United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Release, December 23, 2016. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12657.doc.htm> (accessed February 20, 2018).

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Charles M. Sennott, "In Jerusalem, Recent Violence is Measured by a Long History," *Huffington Post*, https://www.huffingtonpost.com/the-groundtruth-project/in-jerusalem-recent-viole_b_6184950.html (accessed March 24, 2018).

⁵⁷ "Following latest clashed, UN Mid-east envoy urges respect for Jerusalem's holy sites", UN News, September 13, 2015. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2015/09/508662-following-latest-clashes-un-mid-east-envoy-urges-respect-jerusalem-holy-sites> (accessed February 20, 2018).

⁵⁸ "Guterres condemns deadly attack on Israeli police officers in Old City of Jerusalem", UN News, July 14, 2017. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/07/561522-guterres-condemns-deadly-attack-israeli-police-officers-old-city-jerusalem> (accessed February 20, 2018).

forces at the Holy Gates of Jerusalem.⁵⁹ ⁶⁰ Complicating matters even more, in December of 2017, the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, went on record to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and announced that the US would relocate its embassy there, further legitimizing Israel as the rightful claimant to the disputed holy land.⁶¹ This announcement was condemned by 128 countries in a United Nations General Assembly vote.⁶²

Security Implications

The United Nations Security Council has adopted several resolutions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since 1948. The primary motivation for UN action is to bring a peaceful and permanent end to the conflict. Thus, in 2002, the United Nations proposed a two-state solution in Security Council Resolution 1397, under which Palestine would be established as an independent state with control over the Gaza Strip and most of the West Bank, and Jerusalem would serve as the capital of both states.⁶³ This solution remains the current recommendation of the UN, but has not been adopted by the PLO or Israeli Government.

The alternative to the two-state solution is the one-state solution, which comes in two forms.⁶⁴ The first option is the unification of the territory currently known as Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza, into a democratic state.⁶⁵ In this version, Arabs would outnumber the Jews, thus effectively ending Israel as a Jewish state.⁶⁶ Alternatively, Israel would annex the West Bank, taking the region for the state of Israel.⁶⁷ Generally speaking, Palestinians tend to favor the first option, whereas Zionists tend to favor the second.⁶⁸

The security concerns created by this conflict are extensive. The extremism and acts of terrorism that ensue within the region, from one side to the other or as a clashing of both sides, is reason enough for the UN to remain involved.⁶⁹ The fear created from constant attacks, destruction of property, and threat of removal from the region, as well as the lack of access to food and adequate water, creates a humanitarian crisis that affects civilians on both sides.⁷⁰ Each year, 20-30 rockets are launched between the sides, destroying homes, access roads, and infrastructure, and even injuring or killing civilians.⁷¹ All attempts at peace agreements thus far have failed to prevent these attacks, and the possibility that another attack could strike the region at any second keeps all citizens on edge.⁷²

Furthermore, the security concerns extend far beyond the Israeli and Palestinian borders. As noted by UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Nickolay Mladenov, borders are not enough to contain extremism or acts of extreme violence.⁷³ The constant instability of the region has contributed to instability in the Middle East overall, and does nothing to help bring an end to the global war on terrorism.⁷⁴ In fact, it

⁵⁹ "New Outbreak of Violence in Jerusalem", ABC News, September 29, 2017.

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/story?id=82502&page=1> (accessed February 20, 2018).

⁶⁰ Stuart Winer, "Jerusalem police chief says ultra-Orthodox provoked cops to violence," *Times of Israel*, September 18, 2017. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/jerusalem-police-chief-says-ultra-orthodox-provoked-cops-to-violence/> (accessed March 24, 2018).

⁶¹ Oren Liebermann, "US to Move Embassy to Jerusalem by Year's End, Netanyahu says," CNN, January 18, 2018. <https://www.cnn.com/2018/01/17/politics/us-jerusalem-embassy-move-netanyahu-intl/index.html> (accessed March 30, 2018).

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ "Security Council Demands Immediate Cessation of All Violence in Middle East; Affirms Vision of Two States, Israel and Palestine", United Nations Meetings and Press Releases, March 12, 2002.

<https://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2002/sc7326.doc.htm> (accessed March 1, 2018).

⁶⁴ "What are the "two-state solution" and the "one-state solution"?" Vox. December 6, 2017.

<https://www.vox.com/cards/israel-palestine/two-state-one-state>. (Accessed March 30, 2018).

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ "What are the "two-state solution" and the "one-state solution"?" Vox. December 6, 2017.

<https://www.vox.com/cards/israel-palestine/two-state-one-state>. (Accessed March 30, 2018).

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ "Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Cannot Be Separated from Global Terrorism Threat," UN. November 19, 2015.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc12126.doc.htm>. (Accessed March 27, 2018).

⁷⁰ "Israel/Palestine," Human Rights Watch World Report 2017. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/israel/palestine> (Accessed March 27, 2018).

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ "Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Cannot Be Separated from Global Terrorism Threat," UN. November 19, 2015.

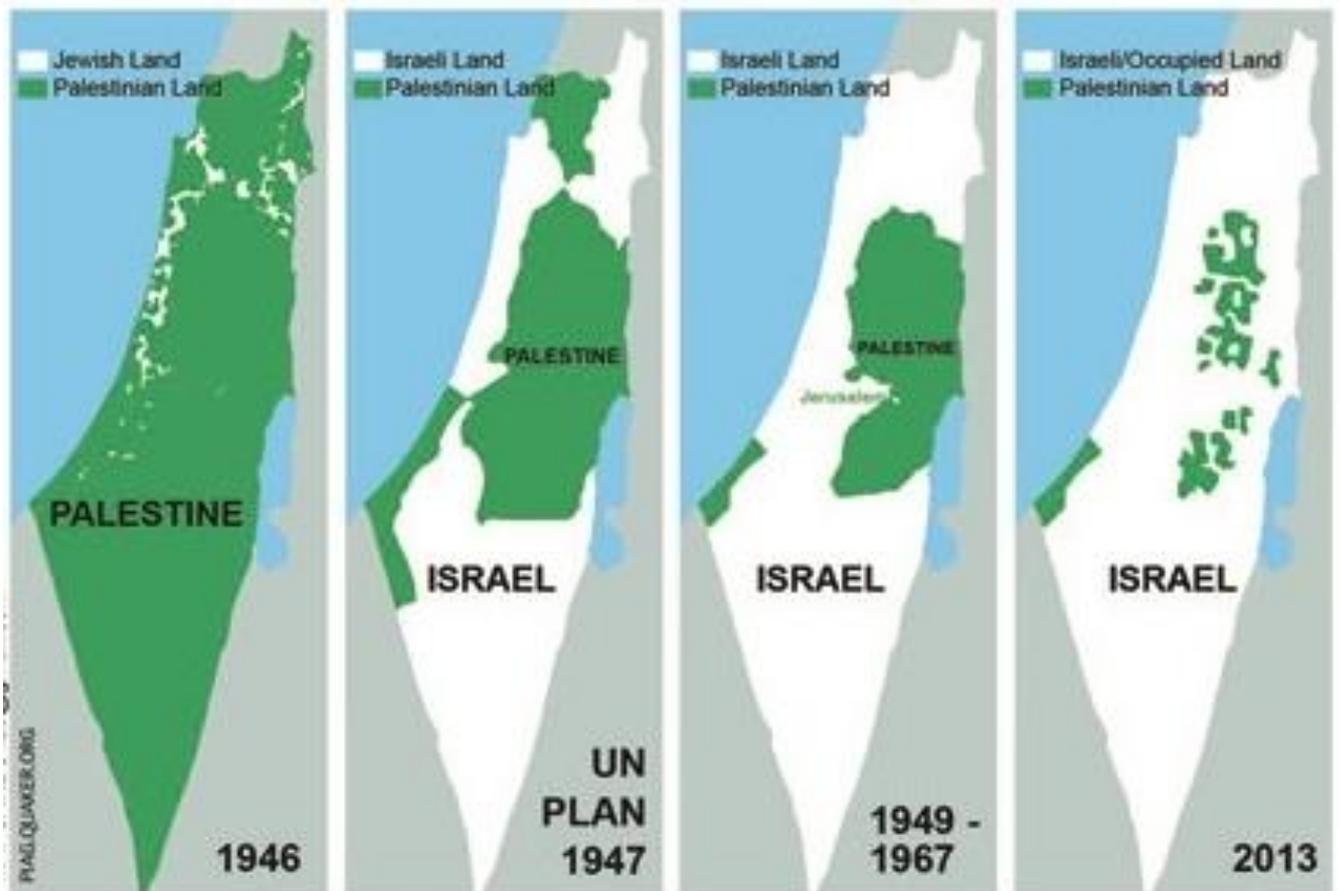
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc12126.doc.htm>. (Accessed March 27, 2018).

⁷⁴ Ibid.

ultimately contributes to it. Lacking an adamant stance on terror and the use of extreme violence internally, Israel and Palestine cannot enforce an end or solution to international extremism, nor forge a clear path forward.

Despite the many attempts at peace that have been made, it is difficult to negotiate an agreement that will ensure that all parties in this conflict are satisfied. The international community has made several attempts to attain peace through mediation and negotiation without success. Tensions continue to rise in the region and the possibility of a two-state solution dwindles with the passing of time, impacting not only the Israeli and Palestinian people, but the international community as a whole. The heated debate continues to cause irreversible damage in the region and within society. The question remains as to whether the conflict should be resolved by following the United Nations proposed two-state solution or through some other peaceful path.

Map of the Israeli/Palestinian Territory Since 1946



Source: Hannah Banks, "The Ongoing Israel/Palestine Conflict," *Washington State University*, January 21, 2017 <https://history.libraries.wsu.edu/spring2017/2017/01/21/the-ongoing-israel-palestine-conflict/> (accessed March 30, 2018).