

## Appendix B: A Timeline of Israel and Palestine

### B.C.E.

**ca. 1300–931** Hebrew tribes and Philistines migrate into Canaan. The Hebrew tribes defeat the Canaanites and, after a struggle, the Philistines. The kingdom of Israel is established with Saul as the first king. King David establishes Jerusalem as the capital and King Solomon builds the first Temple there.

**ca. 931** The kingdom splits into the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah).

**ca. 721** Northern Kingdom falls to Assyria.

**ca. 587/586** Southern Kingdom falls to Babylon, which destroys the Temple and takes many into exile.

**ca. 539** Babylonian Empire falls to the Persian Empire. Persian emperor Cyrus allows some Jews to return from exile.

**ca. 520–515** Temple in Jerusalem is rebuilt as the Second Temple.

**ca. 331** Alexander the Great defeats the Persian Empire. Following his death, the land is subject to rule by Egypt and Syria.

**ca. 166–160** Maccabees lead a revolt against the ruling Syrian Hellenists because of restrictions on the practice of Judaism, the desecration of the Temple, and the imposition of Greek religion.

**ca. 142** Hasmoneans (Maccabees) begin a period of Jewish rule.

**ca. 63–61** Romans conquer Jerusalem.

**ca. 20** Herod begins improvements on the Temple in Jerusalem.

**ca. 4** Jesus is born. He is crucified by Rome between 31 and 33 C.E.

### C.E.

**66–73** First Jewish Revolt against Rome takes place. Jerusalem and the Second Temple are destroyed in 70.

**133–135** The Second Jewish Revolt against Rome occurs. Roman forces crush the rebellion. The emperor Hadrian renames the province Syria Judea as Syria Palaestina and forbids Jews to dwell in Jerusalem.

**313** Emperor Constantine recognizes Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire. Throughout the period of the Roman Empire, Jews are periodically subjected to varying degrees of persecution.

**570** The prophet Mohammed is born.

**ca. 638** Muslims from the Arabian Peninsula conquer Jerusalem. Caliph Omar provides the Christians of Jerusalem with a covenant guaranteeing their protection and allows Jews to return to Jerusalem.

**705** The Dome of the Rock mosque is completed by Caliph Abd al-Malik ibn Marwan.

**715** The Al-Aqsa Mosque is built by Caliph Walid.

**1071** The Seljuk Turks invade and capture Jerusalem.

**1096** Participants in the First Crusade massacre Jews as they pass through several European cities. Over the next centuries Jews face persecution to varying degrees in various European countries including restrictive laws, pogroms, and expulsions.

**1099** Crusaders conquer Jerusalem, killing many Jewish and Moslem inhabitants and expelling surviving Jews.

**1187** Muslims under Saladin conquer Jerusalem.

**1291** Crusaders are evicted from Palestine.

**1517** Ottoman Empire conquers Palestine. Small Jewish communities flourish.

**1537–1541** Under Suleiman the Magnificent, walls are built around Jerusalem.

**1843** First writings of modern Zionism appear.

**1856** Ottoman Empire requires people to register land and pay taxes.

**1860** Mishkenot Sha'ananim, first modern Jewish settlement outside the walls of Jerusalem, is built.

**1878** Petah Tikvah, first Zionist settlement, is built.

**1897** First Zionist Congress meets in Basel, Switzerland.

**1908** *Al-Karmil*, first Arabic newspaper in Haifa, popularizes opposition to selling land to Zionists.

**1909** First kibbutz, Degania, is founded. Tel Aviv is founded as a Hebrew-speaking Jewish city. Hashomer, first Jewish self-defense organization, is founded.

**1914** World War I begins. Ottoman Empire enters the war on the side of Germany.

**1916** The Sykes-Picot Agreement divides the Ottoman lands into French and British spheres of influence.

**1917** Britain signs Balfour Declaration supporting the “establishment of the Jewish national home...and safeguarding the civil and religious rights of all the inhabitants of Palestine.”

**1918** World War I ends, bringing defeat of the Ottoman Empire.

**1919** First Palestinian Congress advocates incorporation of Palestine into greater Syria.

**1920** League of Nations divides lands of Ottoman Empire into entities called Mandates that are intended to lead to the creation of nation states. Britain accepts Mandate for Palestine. Haganah is organized for Jewish self-defense.

**1933** Hitler rises to power in Germany.

**1936–1939** While previous incidents of violence have occurred, the Arab Revolt is first major outbreak of Arab-Jewish hostilities.

**1939–1945** The Holocaust takes place during World War II. Jewish migration into Palestine increases.

**1942** Zionist leaders meet to discuss postwar plans with the aim of founding a Jewish commonwealth.

**1944** Arab leaders meet to discuss postwar plans for independence and ways to prevent implementation of Jewish control over Palestine.

**1945** Palestinians receive representation in newly formed League of Arab States.

**1947** UN General Assembly passes Resolution 181, which would partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states and establish Greater Jerusalem as an international city. The Jewish state would receive 56.47 percent of the land of the Palestine Mandate, the Arab state about 43.53 percent. Numerous skirmishes, road ambushes, riots, and bombings take place, organized by both Jews and Palestinians.

**1948** Violence escalates. British Mandate ends. Israel declares statehood on May 14. Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia declare war on Israel. The war results in a divided Jerusalem and some 650,000 to 750,000 Palestinian refugees. The UN General Assembly passes Resolution 194 calling for the cessation of hostilities and establishing the Right of Return for refugees who wish to live in peace.

**1949–1950** At war's end, Israel holds about 78 percent of the territory of the Palestine Mandate. The Green Line, set at the 1949 armistice, establishes borders between Israel and Arab lands. Jordan annexes East Jerusalem and West Bank. Egypt controls Gaza Strip. UN Relief and Works Agency is established to care for Palestinian refugees until they can return home.

**1950** Israel enacts Law of Return stating that every Jew has the right to become a citizen.

**1964** Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is established. At the time, its aim is to destroy Israel. Leaders of Arab states largely control PLO, which operates out of Gaza Strip.

**1967** Six-Day War. Israel conquers Gaza Strip, West Bank, East Jerusalem, the Sinai, and Golan Heights, creating additional Palestinian refugees. PLO moves its headquarters to Jordan. UN Security Council passes Resolution 242 calling for Israeli withdrawal and establishes “land for peace” principle.

**1968–1969** Fatah gains formal control of the PLO, and Yasser Arafat becomes chair of the PLO.

**1969–1970** The War of Attrition takes place between Egypt and Israel. Jordan moves against the PLO, whose members flee to Lebanon. Israel begins the policy of establishing settlements.

**1973** Egypt and Syria attack Israel, beginning Yom Kippur War. Israel pushes back both armies.

**1974** Arab League declares the PLO to be the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The UN recognizes the Palestinians’ right to sovereignty and grants observer status to the PLO.

**1978** Egypt and Israel agree to the Camp David Accords, which create peace, provide for the return of the Sinai to Egypt in exchange for recognition of Israel, and set a framework for settling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel invades Lebanon, occupying its southern border in response to the violence of the PLO.

**1980** Israel declares Jerusalem its eternal, undivided capital, affirming the annexation of East Jerusalem.

**1981** Israel annexes the Golan Heights.

**1982** Israel invades Lebanon a second time, laying siege to Beirut. PLO moves its headquarters to Tunis.

**1985** Israeli government orders withdrawal of its troops from most of Lebanon.

**1987** An *Intifada*, a Palestinian popular uprising, begins in Gaza and spreads to the West Bank. Stone-throwing Palestinian teens attack Israeli soldiers.

**1988** PLO accepts UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, implicitly recognizing Israel. The United States opens dialogue with the PLO. Hamas Islamic Brotherhood is founded with a charter based on forged anti-Semitic Protocols of the Elders of Zion and advocating destruction of Israel.

**1992** President George H. W. Bush’s administration holds up ten billion dollars in US loan guarantees to Israel (fiscal years 1993 to 1997) in attempt to limit Israeli settlement building.

**1993** Israel and PLO sign Oslo Declaration of Principles, providing for mutual recognition. PLO renounces violence and use of terrorism and agrees to revise the PLO Charter to remove chapters referring to destruction of Israel.

**1994** Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is established in Gaza and the West Bank. PLO and Yasser Arafat arrive in Gaza. Jordan and Israel sign peace treaty.

**1995** Oslo Accords establish three areas of control in the West Bank: Area A under Palestinian control, Area B under Palestinian civilian control and Israeli security control, and Area C under exclusive Israeli control. Prime Minister Rabin is assassinated in Tel Aviv.

**1997** Israel and PLO sign Hebron Protocol dividing the city of Hebron. Israel starts building a settlement, Har Homa, on a hill overlooking East Jerusalem, resulting in widespread protests. Israel imposes closures on Palestinian communities in the West Bank and Gaza.

**2000** Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat, and US President Bill Clinton meet at Camp David in failed attempt to negotiate a settlement on final status issues. The Al-Aqsa Intifada begins, following a visit to Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif by Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon. Violence escalates rapidly and continues, involving rock-throwing, machine gun and mortar fire, suicide bombings, and road ambushes.

**2002** In retaliation for a series of suicide bombings, Israeli army reoccupies Palestinian areas. Yasser Arafat is placed under house arrest. Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah proposes a peace plan, endorsed by Arab League, promising recognition of Israel for ending the Occupation. UN Security Council passes Resolution 1397 affirming a two-state solution. President George W. Bush declares a vision for a "viable Palestinian state next to a secure Israel." Israel begins construction of security barrier in the West Bank.

**2003** The United States, the European Union, the UN, and Russia release the Road Map to Peace, which contains a process to guide Israelis and Palestinians toward peace. Israelis and Palestinians acting as individuals, and not as representatives of any government, release the Geneva Initiative, containing a vision for a two-state peace.

**2004** The International Court of Justice (ICJ) rules that the Israeli security barrier violates international law. UN General Assembly votes to order Israel to dismantle the barrier. Israel announces that it will ignore the ruling but changes the barrier route according to rulings of the Israeli High Court. Yasser Arafat dies.

**2005** Mahmoud Abbas is elected president of PNA. Israeli settlers and troops evacuate Gaza Strip and four settlements in West Bank. Ariel Sharon quits Likud Party to form a new party, Kadima. Ariel Sharon suffers massive stroke and Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert assumes power. Hamas, which is on the US State Department's list of terrorist organizations, wins majority in Palestinian Legislative Council elections.

**First Months of 2006** Ariel Sharon suffers massive stroke, and Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert assumes power. Hamas, which is on US State Department's list of terrorist organizations, wins majority in Palestinian Legislative Elections.

**July 2006** Israel-Lebanon Conflict: Hezbollah launches Katyusha rockets over border into Israel on July 12 as a diversion; crosses border and kidnaps two Israeli soldiers and kills three. Israel attempts rescue; five more killed. In retaliation, Israel launches massive artillery and airstrikes against Lebanese civilian infrastructure and invades southern

Lebanon. Hezbollah responds with rocket launches and guerrilla warfare. Fifteen hundred killed, mostly Lebanese civilians. About 900,000 Lebanese and 300,000 Israelis internally displaced. Much of South Lebanon rendered uninhabitable due to unexploded cluster bombs.

**August 11, 2006** UN Security Council unanimously approves Resolution 1701 in an effort to end the hostilities.

**August 17, 2006** Lebanese army begins deployment in southern Lebanon.

**September 8, 2006** Blockade lifted.

**October 1, 2006** Israel army reports withdrawal, but some troops remain near the border. Israel continues jet fly-overs.

**December 1, 2006** Kofi Annan reports to the Security Council evidence of unauthorized assets, weapons, and armed personnel in Lebanon.

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Resource Sheet 1: Developed February 2005, updated March 2006, adapted December 1, 2006, [www.pcusa.org/worldwide/israelpalestine/resources.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/israelpalestine/resources.htm)

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