

Israel and the Palestinians: Will It Ever End?

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Session: Israel/Palestine: Will it ever end?

Over the last 70 years, the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has cost thousands of lives and imposed misery on many innocent people. To many Canadians, the issue appears unsolvable. It is difficult to have a calm discussion about it, as emotions are high on all sides. This lecture series will examine the Israeli and Palestinian narratives and compare them to the historical record and current reality. We will also look at whether Canada's current policies are likely to help bring about a resolution.

Lectures, discussions, visual presentations, and film clips

Dates: Wednesday, March 13 – Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Time: Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: Leeds building

Schedule of topics:

Week 1 – Introduction

- Review of course
- Expectations of participants
- Basic geography and clarifying terminology
- Understanding the two narratives (Israeli and Palestinian)

Week 2 - Who are the Palestinians, why are they unhappy and what do they want?

- History/demography/current issues
- Presentation based on many trips to Israel/Palestine and meetings with dozens of politicians, religious leaders, NGO's, academics and international observers
- 1967 and "the occupation", the "wall" and the "settlers"

Did you know? Your registration in the LinR program allows you to borrow materials from Carleton University's MacOdrum Library. To receive a temporary borrowing card, visit the circulation desk and identify yourself as a participant of LinR.

Week 3 – Who are the Israelis, where do they come from and what do they want?

- The history of anti-Semitism in Western Europe, the rise of Zionism and the creation of Israel
- The legacy of the Holocaust
- Today's complex Israeli society

Week 4 - What does it mean to be a “Jewish State”?

- Israel defines itself as a “Jewish and Democratic State”. We will examine the legal framework and practical consequences for both Jews and non-Jews living as citizens of the State of Israel

Week 5 – Who are the “refugees” and what is “the occupation”?

- In 1947/48, when Israel was created, about ¾ million Palestinians became refugees. But today, according to the UN there are now over 5 million Palestinian refugees. Why so many and why can't this be solved?
- 1967 (The 6 day war) Israeli troops took over the rest of what had been British Palestine. 51 years later, they are still there. Why did it happen and what are the consequences for the Palestinians who live there?

Week 6 - Conclusion/discussion of Canadian policy

- What are the issues that need to be resolved?
- Will a 2 state solution really solve the issue?
- If so, why can't they just agree and get on with it?
- If not, is there any solution? What would it look like? Could it happen?