Carleton University
Learning in Retirement Program
(Sept- Oct 2018)

Israel/Palestine: Will it ever end?

Welcome

Peter Larson, Instructor
Introductory videos

1. Rick Steve's' The Holy Land: Israelis and Palestinians today
2. The Knesset at the Centre
3. A system of control
4. Dalia Landau
Israel/Palestine: Can it ever be solved?
Outline - (six 2 hour lectures)

1. Tuesday, Sept 11th, Introduction

2. Tuesday, Sept 18th, Who are the Palestinians, why are they unhappy and what do they want?

3. Tuesday, Sept 25th – Who are the Israelis, where do they come from and what do they want?

4. Tuesday, Oct 2 – What does it mean to be a “Jewish State”?

5. Tuesday, Oct 9th - The issue of the Palestinian refugees

6. Tuesday, Oct. 16 – Canadian policy/Conclusion/discussion
Israel/Palestine: Will it ever end?

Day 1 Agenda

• Introduction
• What do I think today?
• Basic geography
• Basic terminology
• The two narratives
• Review of resources
What do I think about the Israel/Palestine issue?

1. The only secure long-term solution to the conflict is to have 2 equal states living side by side in security.

2. Israel is a democracy. Arabs and Jews have equal rights, (though they might not always respected as well as they should be).

3. Israel is an “apartheid state”

4. Most people in Israel/Palestine want peace. The main problem is that the religious extremists on both sides make it impossible.

5. The main problem in Israel is the proportional representation system of government which gives too much power to the extreme right wing elements.
What do I think about the Israel/Palestine issue?

6. If the Palestinians had had better leadership, starting with Arafat, this could have been solved long ago.

7. The Palestinian refugees have to get over it. There is no way Israel will ever accept a return of 5 million refugees. Palestinian refugees, like Russian, Polish or Eritrean refugees have to move on, not cling to the past.

8. Israel used excessive force against Gaza. But as long as Hamas keeps attacking and refuses to recognize Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state, Israel has the right to defend itself.

9. I believe that the move to boycott Israel, known as the BDS movement (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) is unfair and basically anti-Semitic as it puts all the blame on Israel.

10. It’s basically a hopeless situation. Arabs and Jews have hated each other for millennia, and there doesn’t seem to be any reason to believe it will get better anytime soon.
Basic Geography
Geography – Israel/Palestine
Geography
Topography

Map 7: Topography and Israeli Security: Utilizing the 4,200-Foot Mountain Barrier to Protect Israel’s Vulnerable Coastal Plain

- The West Bank (Juda and Samaria)
- Hashemite Kingdom
- Pre-1967 Israel
- Jordan Valley
- Coastal Plain
- Mediterranean Sea
- Tel Aviv
- Latrun
- Jerusalem
- Mt. Nebo
- Dead Sea and Jordan River

45 miles

km
Geography – Main Israeli cities
Geography – West Bank and Gaza
Political geography – West Bank
Showing areas of control after Oslo agreement

Red – Palestinian controlled area
Grey – Mixed control
Green – controlled by Israeli military
Political geography
Jerusalem
Distribution of population
Geography

Distribution of Palestinians outside Israel - 2008

- **Gaza**: 1.1 MM
- **West Bank**: 0.8 MM
- **Lebanon**: 0.4 MM
- **Syria**: 0.5 MM
- **Jordan**: 2.2 MM
How does any sane person justify NOT supporting Israel?
Terminology

Israel vs. the Palestinians

Palestinian Loss of Land 1947 to Present

1947

Partition Plan, 1947

1949-1967

Present
Terminology

Israel vs. the Palestinians

Military Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Israel</th>
<th>Palestine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main Battle Tanks</td>
<td>3,950</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combat Aircraft</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artillery</td>
<td>1,542</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001 Military Expenditures</td>
<td>$10.1 billion</td>
<td>$85 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official Active Forces</td>
<td>167,600</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Center for Strategic and International Studies

Israel continues to maintain tens of thousands of troops in the West Bank and Gaza – Israel invaded and occupied those areas in the 1967 war.

“We can argue with the Palestinians about who’s to blame; but about who is suffering worse – there is no argument. They are a destitute nation living in an elaborate prison under the guns of the Israeli army.”

Jerusalem Post Editorial, March 3, 2004
Terminology

• Palestine
• Palestinian
• Arab
• Israel
• Israeli
• Arab Israeli
• Palestinian citizens of Israel
• Jew
• Jewish
Terminology

• “Two State Solution”
• Zionism/Zionist
• West Bank
• Judea and Samaria
• Refugees
• Occupation
• Disputed territory
• Annexation
The two “narratives”

1. The Jewish/Israeli/Zionist narrative
2. The Palestinian narrative
The Israeli (or Jewish, or Zionist) narrative (1)

- Escape from Egypt to “promised land”
- Defeat local groups to establish Kingdom of Israel – Temple in Jerusalem
- 500 BC - Expulsion by Babylonians
- Return to Jerusalem
- 60 AD – Sack of Jerusalem by Romans
- Expulsion
- Diaspora
The Israeli (or Jewish, or Zionist) narrative (2)

- History of oppression in Europe
- Ghettos
- 1500 Expulsions from Spain, etc.
- 1848 Emancipation
- Pogroms
- Dreyfus affair in France
- Rise of Zionism
- First “Aliyeh”
The Israeli (or Jewish, or Zionist) narrative (3)

- 1917 Balfour declaration
- 1921 – British mandate - start of major immigration of European Jews
- 1940 – 45 Holocaust
- Jews denied entry by Western countries
- Palestine only safe haven

![Image of the Balfour Declaration](image1.png)

![Image of Jewish children in Auschwitz](image2.png)
The Israeli (or Jewish, or Zionist) narrative (4)

- European Jews established farms
- Arab resistance – 1936 revolt – Jews killed
- 1947 – UN Partition of Palestine
- Accepted by Jews - opposed by Arabs
The Israeli (or Jewish, or Zionist) narrative (5)

• War of Independence - 1948 State of Israel declared
• Arab countries attack
• Palestinians ran away
• 1949 Armistice creates effective borders
The Israeli (or Jewish, or Zionist) narrative (6)

- Arabs do not accept defeat
- PLO attacks continuously
- 1967 defensive war => occupation of WB
- Arab resistance
- Intifadas/ suicide bombers
- Construction of the wall
- Never ending “peace process”
- Palestinians never willing to accept a Jewish state
Palestinian narrative

• Pre-historic times various small tribes: Hebrews/Israelites, Philistines, Canaanites, Jebusites, Moabites, etc. etc.
• Repeated conquests (Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Crusaders, etc.)
• Palestine a cross-roads but never became independent country
• For last 2000 years, Palestinians were a mix of Christians, Muslims and Jews
Palestinian narrative (2)

- 1500 - 1900 – Under the Ottoman empire
- Struggle for independence against Turks
- WWI - Britain promised Arabs independence
- Britain promised Palestine to the world’s Jews as a “homeland”
Palestinian narrative (2)

- 1921 - Post WWI – British get League of Nations “Mandate” - imposes military government on Palestine
- 1920’s - Britain encourages thousands of European Jews to immigrate
- Palestinians forced off land
- 1936 – 39 Palestinians revolt against Britain but brutally repressed
- Arab capacity to resist all but eliminated
Palestinian narrative (3)

- 1945 – Britain weakened
- Zionists seize opportunity to turn against Britain to take over Palestine
- 1947 Britain gives up – turns over to UN - votes to divide Palestine
- 1947 - Zionist forces take over Palestine - massacres
- Thousands expelled
- “The Nakba”
Palestinian narrative (4)

• Within 6 months May 1948 - Israel declared a state – Arab countries attack but overwhelmed
• Zionist troops continue to carry out “ethnic cleansing” including some massacres
• 750,000 Palestinian refugees flee to neighbouring countries
Palestinian narrative (5)

• 1949 – Armistice signed with Arab countries
• About 150,000 Palestinians remain but the rest find temporary refuge in neighbouring countries
• UN declares “right of return” but Israel denies this right
• Refugees lands and property confiscated by Israel
• Palestinians remaining inside Israel under military rule
Palestinian narrative (6)

- 1964 - Creation of PLO (“liberate Palestine”) to conduct military operations
- 1967 war - Israel completes takeover of historic Palestine
- Two uprisings “intifadas” violently suppressed
- Israeli settlers continuously colonising WB
- Israeli talks about a 2 state solution but its real intention seems to be to rule over all of historic Palestine
In Summary

Jewish (Israeli, Zionist) Narrative
• We have always been a tiny, persecuted people.
• We have learned through painful experience that we can’t depend on others to protect us.
• We have now returned to our ancestral lands, and we plan to stay there.
• All we want is for our neighbours to accept our right to exist as a Jewish state.

Palestinian narrative
• We have lived in an area called “Palestine” for thousands of years.
• Western countries who oppressed European Jews helped them establish in Palestine.
• Those Jews expelled us from our ancestral lands and confiscated our property.
• We can accept Jews, but can’t accept Israel as a “Jewish State” – its our homeland.
• We want an admission that what was done to us was wrong and that those wrongs have to be righted.
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Thank you!!

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