



The Palestinian Genocide: An Israeli-occupation reality (V1)

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The Palestinian Genocide: An Israeli-occupation reality

Before we begin, let it be known that our heart is — and always will be — with both Jewish and Palestinian people and our anti-zionist stance does not — and will never — equate to anti-semitism or anti-Judaism in any way, shape or form.

The Israeli occupation we are condemning does not reflect the core values of Judaism — a religion that epitomises love, understanding and compassion — but rather a corrupt, zionist state who have systematically worked to ethnically cleanse the Palestinian people.

For decades, Zionism has led to an erasure of narratives, silencing the voice of truth that yearns to break free from the shackles of oppression.

Unfortunately, the recent carnage in Gaza is but a chapter in a long saga of oppression that has left countless lives shattered, families displaced and histories erased. But those numbers are not just numbers, they are mothers, fathers, daughters and sons whose dreams have been buried under rubble.

An important preface: our introduction to the data

Please know this dossier was extremely difficult to write, not only because of the sensitive nature of these topics but because accessing Palestinian history that hasn't been erased, revised or diluted is far from straightforward.

Unlike most historical periods, navigating this particular landscape requires confronting the stark reality of systematic erasure and ongoing limitations imposed by colonists and settlers. Unfortunately, this inaccessibility isn't a benign gap in the archives but rather a targeted, ongoing, and centuries-long systemic erasure orchestrated by Zionists to sanitise colonial actions and render Palestinians invisible.¹

Information isn't simply hidden in dusty archives; it's actively destroyed, suppressed and erased from dominant narratives to further dehumanise and erase Palestine and its indigenous Palestinian population.

This is the grim reality behind the data being presented today. Villages and lineages which were once living testaments to a proud past, exist only as whispers passed down through generations, their names now contested on maps and their records erased from official narratives.

In a speech given by the former Prime Minister and consequent Defence Minister of Israel, this goal is explicitly clear as David Ben-Gurion states that "faith in my fellow man makes me confident that the wretched and degrading effect of the Arab heritage [in Palestine] will not last forever."²

Even the surviving fragments — be it hidden diaries or hushed oral histories — bear the scars of censorship and suppression as silenced Palestinian voices speak of displacement, dispossession and identities fractured or erased entirely.

¹ Imseis, Adri. Zionism, Racism, and the Palestinian People: Fifty Years of Human Rights Violations in Israel and the Occupied Territories. Dalhousie Journal of Legal Studies. 1999.

² Ben-Gurion, David. Ben-Gurion Looks Back in Talks with Moshe Pearlman at 161. New York: Simon and Schuster. 1965.



But within these fragments lies a defiant strength, a testament to the human spirit's resilience. Each unearthed document, each shared story, is a defiant thread woven into the tapestry of Palestinian history, ensuring it can never be erased — as hard as Zionists may try.

Prepare to grapple with the uncomfortable realities of this erasure and the anger that might arise as you confront the deliberate silencing of a people. But also, prepare yourself to be humbled by the resilience of the human spirit, by the stories that refuse to be buried and by the voices that rise even from the ashes of destruction.

The erasure of Palestinian records, literature, infrastructure, culture, heritage and history since the early 1900s

The systematic erasure of Palestinian history and culture is a well-documented effort that has been ongoing since the early 1900s. This erasure has taken many forms, including the destruction of physical records and infrastructure, the suppression of Palestinian voices and narratives, and the appropriation of Palestinian cultural heritage.

From the late 19th century to the mid-20th century, Palestinian records, literature, and cultural heritage faced deliberate and concerted efforts to obliterate their existence and narrative.³ This deliberate "archival silencing" has made reconstructing this period in Palestinian history incredibly challenging, yet the truths that remain paint a horrifying picture of the deliberate erasure and destruction of an entire population and its culture.

Though fragmented, the unearthed truths speak to an unrelenting campaign to deny the Palestinian narrative and legitimise dispossession of both land and culture.

Precursory erasure during the late Ottoman Era (1800s to 1917)

Even before the British Mandate, the groundwork for erasing Palestinian history was being laid during the late Ottoman period through discriminatory land laws and village clearances.

Prior to both 1858 and also the British Mandate (which started formally in 1922 and informally in 1920), there were many different models in Ottoman Syria / Levant for land ownership, farmed primarily through usufruct rights. Specifically in Ottoman Palestine, usufruct was predominantly communal, called *mushāʿ* (مشاع), which meant that land was owned and administered by shareholders consisting of groups, clans or families.⁴

In 1858, and as part of a larger trend toward a "market economy" to improve tax collection, the Ottomans implemented a new land code "which was put into effect in Palestine very slowly, over a period of decades" and "served to privatise land ownership and its concentration in fewer hands."⁵

³ Al-Haq. Cultural Apartheid, Israel's Erasure of Palestinian Heritage in Gaza. February 2022.

⁴ Nadan, Amos. Colonial Misunderstanding Of An Efficient Peasant Institution: Land Settlement And Mushāʿ Tenure In Mandate Palestine, 1921-47

⁵ Khalidi, Rashid. "Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness." page 94. Colombian Press. 2010.



Land registration and mass dispossession

Beginning in 1858, the Ottoman Land Code established formal land ownership records in Palestine, and in the late 19th century, these records were often manipulated to favour Jewish settlers at the expense of local Palestinian peasants.⁶ The Ottoman Land Code of 1858 played a pivotal role in shaping the legal framework for land ownership and property rights in Palestine, with far-reaching implications for the dispossession of Palestinians.

The code introduced the concept of private property and defined landholdings and categories, thereby laying the foundation for a European-style land market in the Ottoman Empire.⁷ While this legal transformation aimed to stabilise the existing pattern of possession, its implementation was marked by ambiguities and manipulation.⁸ By permitting the registration of cultivated land in the names of non-cultivators and overturning the existing status quo, the Ottoman's deals with wealthy Zionists increased peasant dispossessions in northern Palestine and enabled the establishment of settler colonies.⁹

Then, following the centralization of Ottoman-era records by the British Mandate after 1920, the documentation ambiguities were exploited by Zionist entities, facilitated by the complicity of the British Mandate.¹⁰ This manipulation, coupled with the introduction of emergency laws post-1948, enabled the mass confiscation of Palestinian lands, with the Absentees' Property Law providing a dubious legal basis for Israel to seize significant territories within the state.¹¹

Israel's continued manipulation of outdated Ottoman records persisted into 1967, facilitating the expansion of West Bank settlements through expropriation orders.¹² The legacy of the Ottoman Land Code, combined with subsequent colonial-era laws and manipulations, granted legal cover for the gradual and systematic displacement of Palestinians from their lands.¹³

While the Ottoman Land Code remained in force in Israel until 1969, land policies tended to favour the intensification of animal agriculture and the rural land rights of Jews over those of Arabs.¹⁴

Zionist organisations like the Palestine Land Development Company were permitted to purchase large tracts of land from absentee landlords, resulting in the displacement of thousands of tenant farmers in the process. In fact, it's estimated that by 1914, over 150,000 acres of Palestinian land had been acquired by Zionist buyers using these means.¹⁵

⁶ Alff, Kristen. Changing Capitalist Structures and Settler-Colonial Land Purchases in Northern Palestine, 1897–1922. *International Journal Middle East Studies*, 1-18. 2023.

⁷ Altıntaş, Miyase Yavuz. Osmanlı Hukukun Ondokuzuncu Yüzyılda Evrimisel Sekülerleşmesi: Kökler ve Etkileri. *EskiYeni*(44):385-408. 2021.

⁸ Kark, Ruth and Seth J. Frantzman. "One of the Most Spectacular Lawsuits Ever Launched": Abdülhamid's Heirs, His Lands and the Land Case in Palestine. 1908-1950, *New Perspectives on Turkey*, 42:127-157. 2010.

⁹ Rowley, Charles K; Taylor, Jennis. The Israel and Palestine land settlement problem: an analytical history, 4000 b.c.e.–1948. *Public Choice*, 128. 2006.

¹⁰ Ecchia, Stefania. Informal Rural Credit Markets and Interlinked Transactions in the District of Late Ottoman Haifa, 1890–1915. *Financial History Review*(1), 21:5-24. 2014.

¹¹ Thawaba, Salem. Urban Growth of a City under Siege: Tulkarm, Palestine over the Past Century. *Journal of Planning History*(1), 8:27-46. 2008.

¹² Rouhana, Nadim N.. Israel and Its Arab Citizens: Predicaments in the Relationship between Ethnic States and Ethnonational Minorities. *Third World Quarterly*(2), 19:277-296. 1998.

¹³ Frantzman, Seth J. and Ruth Kark. The Muslim Settlement of Late Ottoman and Mandatory Palestine: Comparison with Jewish Settlement Patterns. *Digest of Middle East Studies*(1), 22:74-93. 2013. | Altıntaş, Miyase Yavuz. Osmanlı Hukukun Ondokuzuncu Yüzyılda Evrimisel Sekülerleşmesi: Kökler ve Etkileri. *EskiYeni*(44):385-408. 2021.

¹⁴ Wachs, Elizabeth and Alon Tal. Herd No More: Livestock Husbandry Policies and the Environment in Israel. *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics*(5), 22:401-422. 2009.

¹⁵ Home, Robert. An 'irreversible conquest'? colonial and postcolonial land law in israel/palestine. *Social & Legal Studies*. 2003. | Abu-Rabia-Queder, Sarab. The Biopolitics of Declassing Palestinian Professional Women in a Settler-Colonial Context. *Current Sociology*(1),



Displacement and erasure in the early 1900s

In addition to dispossession in the Ottoman era, Israel also condemned Palestinians to endure the destruction and depopulation of their villages and the erasure of their cultural identities. Israeli historian Benny Morris estimated that before 1914, around 10% of Palestinian villages had already been uprooted since the 1800s, impacting tens of thousands of people.¹⁶

For example, in 1898 the residents of al-Aqaba village were forcefully evacuated due to Zionist land-sales, with the village later being decimated by Zionist terrorists during the 1948 Nakba. Similar clearances would later occur in Sheikh Muwannis, Qatra, and Baqa al-Gharbiyye, laying the groundwork for larger-scale dispossession that still plagues the region to this day.¹⁷

Accelerated erasure in the British Mandate Period (1917-1948)

The British Mandate period saw a significant acceleration of the erasure of Palestinian history, especially regarding land records and access to governance.

Destruction of land records

After World War I, the British Mandatory authorities' actions in centralising archives and records in Palestine were part of a broader strategy to bolster their control over the territory's physical space through the classification and categorisation of refugees and displaced migrants, as well as the regulation of their movement.¹⁸

When the British Mandate began officially in 1922, the new government appointed Sir Ernest Dowson "to transform the traditional usufruct rights of the indigenous, majority Arab population and the minority population of European Jewish settlers into rights of ownership."¹⁹ The way he did this, however, was by implementing the 'Settlement of Title' — a process by which Ottoman land law was overwritten by British property law, leading to the dispossession of hundreds and thousands of Palestinian families.

The centralisation of archives and records resulted not only in the destruction of Ottoman land records but served to systematically erase evidence of previous Arab land ownership.²⁰ Further consolidating their glaring disregard for Palestinian dispossession and growing anxieties, British colonial officials were also frequently accused of showing preferential treatment to Zionist settlers.²¹

67:141-158. 2017. | Hughes, Sara Salazar, Stepha Velednitsky, and Amelia Arden Green. Greenwashing in Palestine/Israel: Settler Colonialism and Environmental Injustice in the Age of Climate Catastrophe. *Environment and Planning E Nature and Space*(1), 6:459-513. 2022.

¹⁶ Morris, Benny. The Causes and Character of the Arab Exodus from Palestine: The Israel Defence Forces Intelligence Branch Analysis of June 1948. 1986

¹⁷ Hashomer Hatzair (Yad Yaari) Archive, file 95-35.27. Migration of Eretz Yisrael Arabs between December 1, 1947 and June 1, 1948. English translation by Akevot Institute for Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Research. June 1948.

¹⁸ Banko, Lauren. "Refugees, Displaced Migrants, and Territorialization in Interwar Palestine. *Mahjar Journal of Middle East and North African Migration Studies*(2), 5. 2018.

¹⁹ Forman, Jeremy. "Settlement of Title in the Galilee: Dowson's Colonial Guiding Principles." *Israel Studies*, Vol. 7, No. 3, pp. 61-83. 2002.

²⁰ Karlinsky, Nahum. *Mandated Landscape: British Imperial Rule in Palestine, 1929-1948*. New York: Routledge. 2009.

²¹ Fildis, Ayse Tekdal. British Colonial Policy "Divide and Rule": Fanning Arab Rivalry in Palestine. *UMRAN - International Journal of Islamic and Civilisation Studies*. 2019. | Pappé, Ilan. *From Balfour to the Nakba The Settler Colonial Experience of Palestine*. *Historisch Tijdschrift Groniek*. 2017.



Denial of governance rights

The British Mandate era represented a decisive suppression of Palestinian self-governance and national aspirations, with the British pursuing passive policies that eroded Palestinian governance, refusing to develop the agricultural sector and severely worsening poverty and land fragmentation.²²

Rather than preparing the ground for Palestinian self-rule, the British Mandate sought to deny Palestinians political authority — heavily contributing to the erosion of inclusive Palestinian governance. The Palestinian Citizenship Order, for example, defined Palestinians as Ottoman subjects in Palestine, ignoring their national identity and working in tandem with the Balfour declaration to erase Palestinian heritage and replace it with a new 'Jewish homeland.'²³

Additionally, by fuelling sectarian divisions that aimed to sideline Christian leaders and instead empower only Muslim institutions, the British were able to prevent inclusive Palestinian political leadership from emerging.²⁴ Despite this, no Palestinian politicians were actually granted substantive power, despite the stated goal of the Mandate being to guide Palestine towards independence.

Unfortunately, this selective systematic disempowerment of Palestinian politicians served solely as a British ploy to more firmly control the levers of governance by creating division between the Palestinian people. In fact, the incitement of Palestinian leaders during the British Mandate era would constantly be cited as a reason for the refugee problem, further indicating the denial of governance rights.²⁵

Ben-Gurion himself continued to promote this line, arguing in December 1967 that in 1948 "All the refugees left following their leaders' incitement during the British Mandate era and not after Israel was established."²⁶ This, however, is categorically false, as most of the inhabitants, for example in Lydda and Ramle, had been expelled approximately two months after Israel's declaration of independence.²⁷

The conflicting jurisdictional claims during the Mandate's dissolution also highlight the denial of Palestinian governance, as Israel both relied on and disavowed British legal decisions as they saw fit.²⁸ While ultimately seeking to distance itself from British rule, the Israeli occupation maintained the colonial legal denial of Palestinian self-rule — a decision that continues to have grave consequences for the rights and liberation of the Palestinians both in occupied Palestine and the wider diaspora.

²² Asi, Yara M. "Achieving Food Security Through Localisation, Not Aid: "De-Development" And Food Sovereignty In The Palestinian Territories", *Journal Of Peacebuilding & Development*(2), 15:205-218. 2020.

²³ Kelly, Tobias. "Documented Lives: Fear And The Uncertainties Of Law During The Second Palestinian Intifada", *Journal Of The Royal Anthropological Institute*(1), 12:89-107. 2006.

²⁴ Roberts, Nicholas E. "Laura Robson, Colonialism And Christianity In Mandate Palestine (Austin, Tex.: University Of Texas Press, 2011), *International Journal Middle East Studies*(1), 45:187-189. 2013.

²⁵ Segev, Tom. "The June 1967 War And The Palestinian Refugee Problem", *Journal Of Palestine Studies*(3), 36:6-22. 2007.

²⁶ Yakobson, Alexander. Comment Settlers Can Stay, but Only as Citizens of Palestine. *Hareetz*. Jan 2010.

²⁷ Rabin, Yitzhak. *The Rabin Memoirs*. University of California Press. 1996. | Laurens, Henry. *La Question de Palestine*, vol 3. Fayard. 2007. | Shavit, Ari. Lydda, 1948; A city, a massacre, and the Middle East today. *The New Yorker*. 21 October 2013.

²⁸ Stern, Rephael G. "Legal Liminalities: Conflicting Jurisdictional Claims In The Transition From British Mandate Palestine To The State Of Israel", *Comparative Studies In Society And History*(2), 62:359-388. 2020.



Confiscation of land

During the Mandate, Jewish land ownership grew exponentially from around 2% in 1917 to 6% in 1948²⁹, displacing tens of thousands of Palestinians, usually through intimidation, coercion, threat or murder. By 1945, members of the Arab Office estimated over one million dunams (247,000 acres) of Palestinian land had been confiscated for Jewish settlement, and while Palestinian officials sent numerous petitions detailing these injustices, the British administration simply ignored them.³⁰

And then in the early 1950s and out of fear that Arabs in the “unsettled” Arab Galilee would reclaim their land, the Israeli authority “accelerated settlement of titles in the Arab Galilee.”³¹ The primary goals of laws and projects like this one was to make it incredibly difficult (in practice, impossible) for Arabs to reclaim their land and to ensure Jewish majority title in the Galilee as part of the broader formalisation of the settler colonial project.

Erasure in the face of the Nakba and after

The mass dispossession and displacement of Palestinians during 1947-49 is known as the Nakba – or “catastrophe” in Arabic – and will be explored in more detail further on in this dossier. Recognized as one of the most intense periods of destruction and looting of Palestinian historical records and cultural artifacts, the Nakba played a crucial role in the erasure of Palestinian heritage, culture, legacy and history.

Destruction of villages and archives

To exemplify the sheer scale of destruction, it’s important to highlight that over the course of only 7 months, 531+ villages were completely destroyed, over 11 neighbourhoods were emptied and hundreds and thousands of innocent civilians were raped, tortured, murdered and wrongfully imprisoned.³² Between the years of 1947-1949 alone, over 70,000 Palestinian books were looted or destroyed, including records central to collective memory and identity.³³

In fact, Israel’s defence minister after the 1968 wars explained that the efforts of Israel (both during 1968 and the Nakba) were intended “to erase the vestige of Arab civilization from our country.”³⁴ This was only exemplified further by the IDF forces deliberately looting and burning historical records alongside homes during their operations across the years.³⁵

Widespread looting of artifacts

During this period, Israeli forces systematically looted tens of thousands of books, manuscripts, photographs and other historical items from Palestinian homes, offices, and libraries. IDF troops were even ordered to specifically confiscate artifacts of cultural or historical value, with an estimated 100,000+ items taken in this act of cultural theft aimed at erasing Palestinian heritage.³⁶

²⁹ Hallbrook, Stephen P. The Alienation of a Homeland: How Palestine Became Israel. The Journal of Libertarian Studies. 1981

³⁰ United Nations. Acquisition of Land in Palestine. New York. 1980.

³¹ Forman, Jeremy. “Settlement of Title in the Galilee: Dowson’s Colonial Guiding Principles.” Israel Studies, Vol. 7, No. 3. pp. 61-83. 2003.

³² Pappé, Ilan. Calling a Spade a Spade: The 1948 Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine. 2006.

³³ Murad, Nora Lester. Stolen Books, Stolen Identity: What Did Israel Do with Palestinians’ Literary Heritage? 2013. | Brunner, Benny. The Great Book Robbery. Documentary. 2012.

³⁴ Dayan, Moshe. Minister of Defense Moshe Dayan’s speech at a meeting of the General Command Staff. State of Israel, Ministry of Defense, Israel Defense Forces Archives. 1967.

³⁵ Hijazi, Ihsan. Israeli Looted Archives of P.L.O. Officials Say. The New York Times. October 1, 1982

³⁶ Aderet, Ofer. Jewish soldiers and civilians looted Arab neighbors’ property en masse in ‘48. Haaretz. 2020.



When describing these events in July of 1948, former prime minister of Israel, David Ben-Gurion, stated that ‘It turns out that most of the Jews are thieves,’³⁷ sentiments later echoed by Palmach commander Netiva Ben-Yehuda when likening the pillaging of Tiberius to atrocities she witnessed enacted by their oppressors during anti-Jewish pogroms in Europe.³⁸

The native land of Palestine was being destroyed at the hands of Yishuv forces who were enacting a biological warfare operation called ‘Cast Thy Bread,’ in which they weaponized ecological terrorism to prevent Palestinians from returning to their villages.³⁹ From poisoning village wells to deploying chemical agents against the population, the biological warfare enacted upon the Palestinians is a mere fraction of the terrors endured before, during and after the Nakba.⁴⁰

After the Nakba, Israeli settlers often adopted the cultural practices, cuisine, and village names of displaced Palestinians as their own in an attempt to dilute and erase Palestinian culture while creating a narrative of continuous Jewish inhabitation. Boasted of as “making the desert bloom”, fields and orchards were victims not only of biological warfare but also appropriated from displaced Palestinian farmers. Entire cultures were annexed by the rising Israeli state.⁴¹

Ongoing erasure and silencing of Palestinian voices (Post-1967 to Present)

In the decades after 1967, the erasure of Palestinian history and culture has continued through military raids, banning of books, and the desecration of heritage sites.⁴²

After the 1967 War, for example, Israeli authorities continued to target Palestinian research centres, archives, and libraries for closure or censorship. Institutions like the Palestine Liberation Organization’s Research Center faced repeated raids and confiscations in Beirut up until and even after the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.⁴³

The de-Palestinisation of education and academic records

Since the onset of Israel’s occupation in 1967, Palestinian education has faced routine and systematic efforts to obstruct, undermine, and erase it. This suppression of Palestinian academic institutions and discourse has served to fracture cultural transmission, isolate students and scholars, and silence narratives that challenge power structures.

As early as the 1970s, Palestinian universities including Birzeit near Ramallah began facing routine closures by Israeli military authorities, often remaining shuttered for months or years at a time and disrupting the studies of thousands. For example, between 1973 and 1992, Birzeit was forcibly closed by Israeli forces for over six years cumulatively.⁴⁴

³⁷ Morris, Benny. The Causes and Character of the Arab Exodus from Palestine: The Israel Defence Forces Intelligence Branch Analysis of June 1948. 1986

³⁸ Abbasi, Mustafa. The Battle for Safad in the War of 1948: A Revised Study. International Journal of Middle East Studies. Cambridge University Press. Feb 2004. | Aderet, Ofer. Jewish soldiers and civilians looted Arab neighbors’ property en masse in ‘48. Haaretz. 2020.

³⁹ Morris, Benny. Kedar, Benjamin Z. ‘Cast thy bread’: Israeli biological warfare during the 1948 War. Middle Eastern Studies. September 2022.

⁴⁰ Aderet, Ofer. ‘Place the Material in the Wells’: Docs Point to Israeli Army’s 1948 Biological Warfare. Hareetz. October 2022.

⁴¹ Operation ‘Cast Thy Bread’: Unearthed Documents Reveal Israeli Militias Poisoned Wells during Nakba. The Palestine Chronicle. October 2022.

⁴² Shaindlinger, Noa. Displacement and Erasure in Palestine The Politics of Hope Displacement and Erasure in Palestine. The Politics of Hope. Edinburgh UP, 2023.

⁴³ Hijazi, Ihsan A. Israeli looted archives of P.L.O. officials say. The New York Times. October 1982. | Jiryis, Sabri; Qallab, Salah. The Palestine Research Center. Journal of Palestine Studies. 1985. | Friedman, Thomas. 18 die in bombings at P.L.O.’s Center in Western Beirut. The New York Times. 6 February 1983.

⁴⁴ Birzeit University. Israeli occupation Violations. Detailed information about the attacks of the Israeli occupation authorities on Birzeit University and on its faculties and students. | Gordon, Neve. Palestinian universities are once again under attack. July 2022.



By the late 1980s, censorship was in full force, with Israeli authorities banning hundreds of Palestinian books from West Bank schools between 1987 and 2004 for daring to mention Palestinian history or culture. Even poetry and folktales were seen as threatening political narratives warranting suppression.⁴⁵

This censorship only intensified in the 1990s, with Israeli authorities repeatedly censoring school textbooks for any references to the Nakba, famous Palestinian poets, or nationalist historical narratives.⁴⁶ Anything deemed "controversial" was strictly prohibited, erasing the lived experiences of students from their own textbooks.⁴⁷

The 1998 Wye River Memorandum then saw Israel gain increased control over which texts Palestinians could access.⁴⁸ As the decades progressed, raids on campuses intensified with Israeli forces deliberately damaging and confiscating academic resources during incursions.

A considerable number of Palestinians, over 90,000 Palestinian Bedouins residing in Israel's "unrecognised" villages in the Naqab (Negev) and Galilee regions, lack access to comprehensive state services, including education.⁴⁹ Even when these villages are eventually granted "recognized" status, as witnessed in 2003 with Abu Tulul and seven other villages, the bureaucratic process delays the establishment of schools, leaving residents underserved.

At the same time, Israel was routinely detaining and arresting hundreds of academics for nonviolent opposition to occupation. In the 2014 war on Gaza, Israel targeted schools and universities with particular violence, damaging or destroying over 140 educational institutions, including entire kindergarten complexes. Israeli forces murdered hundreds of students, injured staff, and extensively damaged The Islamic University of Gaza during the bombings.⁵⁰

In the West Bank, Israeli forces have continued storming university campuses, vandalising facilities and confiscating academic materials and flags as recently as November 2023 at Birzeit University near Ramallah.⁵¹ Checkpoints, ID checks, travel restrictions, and the constant threat of raids continue to obstruct access to education.

In the months after October 2023 alone, Israeli forces indiscriminately murdered over 4,300 Palestinian students and 231 teachers and administrators through aerial bombing, while injuring thousands more.⁵² In fact, Israeli forces deliberately killed 94 Palestinian scholars in bombings, including the president of Islamic University Professor Sufyan Tayeh and Professor Refaat Alareer, poet and founder of We Are Not Numbers; and severely damaged or demolished over 340 schools.⁵³

As demonstrated through Israel's decades of closures, book bans, damages, arrests, and threats, the story of Israel's occupation of Palestinian education is one of chronic and deliberate suppression. While justified as security, the scale, consistency and selective targeting of intellectual discourse, cultural records, and academic spaces point to a calculated effort by Israel to fracture the production and transmission of Palestinian knowledge.

⁴⁵ Walker, Christopher. Israel: Forbidden books. Index on Censorship. October 2007.

⁴⁶ "Israel bans "catastrophe" term from Arab schools". Reuters. 2009-07-22.

⁴⁷ Gdoura, Wahid. The Violation of Libraries and Books in Occupied Palestine: for the Safeguard of the Palestinian People's Cultural Heritage. Libraries of Jerusalem. AFLI. Tunis. 2003.

⁴⁸ Ross, Dennis. The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for Middle East Peace. New York. 2004.

⁴⁹ Saad, Ismael Abu Saad. Towards an Understanding of Minority Education in Israel: the case of the Bedouin Arabs of the Negev. August 2006. | Sadik, Noreen. Israel's Bedouin population faces mass eviction. New Internationalist. 2013.

⁵⁰ WSJ Live. Israeli Airstrikes Target Gaza's Islamic University. WSJ. August 2014. | Riemer, Nick. Scholasticide: The Relentless Attack on Palestinian Universities. The Wire. January 2019.

⁵¹ Birzeit University. Statement on the Israeli Occupation's Army's Invasion of Birzeit University. November 2023.

⁵² Sawahel, Wagdy. 439 HE students and staff killed, universities hit in war. November 2023.

⁵³ Israel resumes its scholasticide in Gaza. Bricup. November 2023.



These oppressive tactics have prevented generations of Palestinian youth from safely accessing education, denied them continuity in their studies, severed ties within global academia, suppressed discourse, chilled critical thinking, and attempted to erase histories, narratives, and knowledge key to collective society and memory. This systemic suppression by Israel amounts to collective punishment of Palestinian education itself.

The appropriation and erasure of Palestinian cultural sites

Since the late 1800s, Palestinian cultural and archaeological heritage has faced deliberate and systematic destruction at the hands of occupying powers. Waves of pillage, vandalism, and appropriation have attempted to sever Palestinian links to their history and sacred sites integral to collective memory and identity.

After 1967, Israel continued to pillage under occupation, looting an estimated 30,000-200,000 archaeological artifacts from occupied West Bank sites and trafficking them to Israel.⁵⁴ IDF forces utilised mosques as bars and animal stables in further acts of desecration, evidenced by the desecration of the Nebi Akasha mosque in Jerusalem by soldiers after 1967.⁵⁵ In fact, records show that Israel completely destroyed over 75 historic mosques across occupied Palestine between 1967 and 2022, and damaged or desecrated over 200 more.⁵⁶

In the Old City of Jerusalem, layers of Arab and Muslim history have been bulldozed away or appropriated by settlers after 1967. Israel flattened the Moroccan Quarter's 135 homes to create the Western Wall Plaza, displacing over 650 people and renaming it the Jewish Quarters.⁵⁷ Israel deemed treasured Muslim and Christian religious sites as exclusively Jewish heritage. For example, Israel rebranded the Al Buraq Plaza and Al-Aqsa Mosque compound as the "Western Wall" plaza after 1967, appropriating the holiest site in Islam outside Saudi Arabia as a Jewish prayer space.⁵⁸

Meanwhile, archeological excavations by Israeli institutions on occupied land have ignored previous Palestinian records and material in favour of Biblical-era Jewish artifacts. This selective archeology seeks to create an unbroken Jewish heritage while minimising Palestinian presence.⁵⁹

From village demolitions during the Nakba to mosque desecrations under occupation, the message has been the same – indigenous Palestinian connections to the land can be erased.⁶⁰ Yet Palestinian culture has endured, as seen in oral histories preserving village names and the determination to rebuild atop razed sites like the Al-Khadra Mosque in Nablus.

⁵⁴Kuntz, Blair. Stolen Memories: Israeli State Repression and Appropriation of Palestinian Cultural Resources. Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians. 2015. | Sheety, Roger. The cultural appropriation of books, music, art, cuisine and dress have been used by Zionists as a weapon against Palestinians. July 2015.

⁵⁵Kuntz, Blair. Stolen Memories: Israeli State Repression and Appropriation of Palestinian Cultural Resources. Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians. 2015. | Sheety, Roger. The cultural appropriation of books, music, art, cuisine and dress have been used by Zionists as a weapon against Palestinians. July 2015. | Yahya, Adel H. Looting and 'Salvaging': How the Wall, illegal digging and the antiquities trade are ravaging Palestinian cultural heritage. | Halpem, Orly. Palestinians: Israel to Steal Artefacts. The Jerusalem Post. July 2005.

⁵⁶ Preservation of Heritage in Palestine. Interactive Encyclopedia Of The Palestine Question. 1516-1917. Accessed: 2023/2024.

⁵⁷ Shahwan, Najla M. Demolition of Mughrabi Quarter: 1st step of cleansing Old City of Palestinians. July 2020. | O'Neil, Maryvelma Smith. The Mughrabi Quarter Digital Archive and the Virtual Illés Relief Initiative. Jerusalem Quarterly. 2020. | Sofuoglu, Murat. Turkey Seeks Return of Ottoman Lands in Occupied East Jerusalem. TRT World. July 2017.

⁵⁸ Abowd, Thomas. The Moroccan Quarter: A History of the Present. Journal of Palestine studies. | Hasson, Nir. How a Small Group of Israelis Made the Western Wall Jewish Again. June 2017.

⁵⁹ Yahya, Adel H. Looting and 'Salvaging': How the Wall, illegal digging and the antiquities trade are ravaging Palestinian cultural heritage. | Halpem, Orly. Palestinians: Israel to Steal Artefacts. The Jerusalem Post. July 2005.

⁶⁰ Gilad, Moshe. Peeking Through the Highrises: Famed Jerusalem street's old architectural glories. Haaretz. 2012. | Laurens, Henry. La Question de Palestine: Une Mission sacrée de civilisation, 1922-1947. Fayard, Paris. 2002. | Avneri, Aryeh L. The claim of dispossession: Jewish land-settlement and the Arabs, 1878-1948. Transaction Publishers.1984.



Ultimately, seven decades of systematic cultural destruction and appropriation show a refusal to allow Palestinians to retain their links to sites profoundly meaningful for their culture, faith, and identity. Even today, the aerial bombardment of Palestine by Israel has resulted in the decimation of over 100 heritage sites.⁶¹

The systemic attacks on Palestinian healthcare and medical records

Occupying Israeli forces have deliberately and systematically targeted Palestinian medical infrastructure and records, amounting to over a century of chronic healthcare obstruction that continues to cost lives.

Confiscation and destruction of Palestinian medical records have been rampant over decades of upheaval since 1948. Medical records from before 1967, for example, are nearly impossible to access today, having been confiscated by Israeli authorities over decades of conflict. Israel's targeted erasure of health baselines obstructs efforts to track public health impacts over generations living under occupation, allowing the horrors of the Israeli regime to go unchecked.⁶²

Nowhere has the devastation of medical infrastructure been more evident than in the Gaza Strip. Major Israeli military attacks on Gaza in 2009, 2012, and 2014 and now more recently in 2023 & 2024 left healthcare facilities decimated.

Since Israel has escalated their attacks on Gaza (as of January 2024), major aid and humanitarian rights organisations have estimated that over 300+ health care workers have been murdered by Israel, with an additional 167 aid workers – making it the highest number of healthcare workers slaughtered in any modern day conflict. In addition to outright casualties, there have also been well over 743 incidents of 'violence against or obstruction of access to healthcare,' and 200+ Palestinian healthcare workers arrested.⁶³

In December of 2023, Melanie Ward, MAP's CEO, said: "We are witnessing a whole new scale of attacks on healthcare in Gaza. There is a real danger that, when world leaders return from their Christmas holidays, there will be no health system left in Gaza to serve the 2.2 million people who are in desperate need."⁶⁴

However this isn't a new or isolated incident but one that actually predates the conflicts themselves. Under military rule, Palestinian hospitals and clinics faced routine threats of closure by Israeli authorities, with the construction of new healthcare facilities obstructed by permitting

⁶¹ Veltman, Chloe. More than 100 Gaza heritage sites have been damaged or destroyed by Israeli attacks. NPR. December 2023. | Israeli army destroyed more than 200 archeological sites in Gaza: Report. Middle East Monitor. December 2023. | Al-Barsh, Dr. Ahmed. Report on the Impact of the Recent War in 2023 on the Cultural Heritage in Gaza Strip - Palestine. Heritage for Peace. November 2023.

⁶² Almi, Orly. Captive economy, the pharmaceutical industry and the Israeli occupation. Who Profits Research Center; 2012. | Al Mezan Center for Human Rights. Press Release: Al Mezan calls for an international intervention to end Israel's restrictions on the entry of medical equipment and supplies into Gaza. October 2021.

⁶³ Faddoul, Alix; Shannon, Geordan; Asghar, Khudejha; Boukari, Yamina; Smith, James; Neilson, Amy. The health dimensions of violence in Palestine: a call to prevent genocide. *Lancet (London, England)* vol. 403,10421 (2024): 25-26. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(23)02751-4. | Euro-Med Monitor. News and Press Release: Limiting or prohibiting medications from reaching injured and ill people is a death sentence and form of genocide. January 2024 | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel - reported impact Day 121. February 2024.

⁶⁴ Medical Aid For Palestine. 300 health workers reported killed in Israel's assault on Gaza exceeds all countries in conflict combined in any year since 2016. December 2023. | Barhoush, Yazid & Amon, Joseph J. (2023) Medical apartheid in Palestine, *Global Public Health*, 18:1, DOI: 10.1080/17441692.2023.2201612. | PRCS. News & Press Release: The Palestine Red Crescent Society calls on the international community to provide protection for its headquarters and medical and EMS teams in Khan Yunis. January 2024. | Mahase, Elisabeth. "Gaza: Death toll rises to nearly 20 000 as attacks on hospitals and staff continue." *BMJ (Clinical research ed.)* vol. 383 2973. 20 Dec. 2023, doi:10.1136/bmj.p2973



delays and rejections, hindering capacity building.⁶⁵ This meant that limited resources were being allocated to not only new infrastructure but also existing institutions who struggled to stay open under chronic instability.

The chronic instability, restrictions, and attacks on healthcare infrastructure have set conditions for an utter collapse in services today. With clinics unable to rebuild or obtain supplies, entire generations face reduced access to basic care. The destruction of records has also erased evidence of the public health impacts of Israeli policies.

The degradation and erasure of Arabic in Palestine

The revival of Hebrew a century ago, within two or three decades, led to the total shift of pre-Israel Palestine's Jewish community from Yiddish and several other languages to Hebrew as an all-purpose means of communication.⁶⁶ This language planning and revival, however, largely contributed to the marginalisation of Arabic and the erasure of Arab cultural and linguistic heritage within the linguistic landscape.⁶⁷

Despite Arabic being the second official language in Israel, it has continuously been marginalised in practice, both within the political and economic spheres in a bid to reinforce the erasure of Arab cultural and linguistic heritage.⁶⁸ The strength of the monolingual ideology used to effect the revitalisation of Hebrew has led to downplaying the claims of other languages, even the rights of the autochthonous second official language, Arabic.

The deliberate degradation of Arabic as an official language in Israel, rebranding it as a language with 'special status', has led to the overt erasure of Arab cultural and linguistic heritage.⁶⁹ This deliberate language policy has contributed to the marginalisation of Arab citizens within the national identity, reinforcing the erasure of Arab cultural and historical presence.

In fact, this has led to the unambiguous depiction of Arabic as the language of the enemy in the larger Middle East and, within the State of Israel, as the vernacular of a suspect minority who occupied the lowest socio-economic rungs in Israeli society.⁷⁰ This colonialist imagination has been critical to the success of the Western colonial enterprise in the Middle East, reinventing

⁶⁵ Chaufan, Claudia; Khaleel Isa. Heal Thyself: Dealing With Trauma Work - Gaza 2008/2009. *Health An Interdisciplinary Journal For The Social Study Of Health Illness And Medicine*, 15(1):22-37. 2011. doi:10.1177/1363459309360799 | Mitwalli, Suzan; Weeam, Hammoudeh; Giacaman, Rita; and Harding, Richard. Access To Advanced Cancer Care Services In The West Bank-Occupied Palestinian Territory, *Frontiers In Oncology*, 13:1120783. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2023.1120783. 2023 | Mitwalli, Suzan; Kiwan, Dina; Abdul-Samad, Lina; and Giacaman, Rita. The Double Burden Of Covid-19 And Israeli Military Rule On Persons With Disabilities In The West Bank Of The Occupied Palestinian Territory. *Frontiers In Psychology*, 13:955828. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2022.955828. 2022.

⁶⁶ Daher, Rami Farouk, 2021. "The fragmentary production of knowledge on cultural heritage on the Arab world: from an orientalist vision to a scarce engagement with epistemological and theoretical spheres", *International Journal of Architectural Research Archnet-ljar*(3), 15:839-853. <https://doi.org/10.1108/arch-01-2021-0018>

⁶⁷ Khalil, Mahmood and Ismael Abu-Saad, 2009. "Islamic work ethic among Arab college students in Israel", *Cross Cultural Management an International Journal*(4), 16:333-346. <https://doi.org/10.1108/13527600911000320>

⁶⁸ Mesch, Gustavo S., 2011. "Minority status and the use of computer-mediated communication", *Communication Research*(3), 39:317-337. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0093650211398865>

⁶⁹ Pullum, L. (2023). 'I'm interviewing a sheep'. *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication*, 16(1), 68-89. <https://doi.org/10.1163/18739865-tat00004>

⁷⁰ Suleiman, Y. (2019). A Language In Conflict: Arabic In Israel And Palestine. *Journal Of Sociolinguistics*, 24(3), 388-402. <https://doi.org/10.1111/Josl.12391>



ahistorical-primordial Hebrew ethnicity while erasing the indigenous Palestinian and Arabo-Islamic heritage of the land.⁷¹

The appropriation of Palestinian place names is deeply intertwined with the colonial imagination and the historical construction of the "Biblelands" by Western colonialist imagination, biblical landscape painting, fantasy, and exotic travel accounts. This toponymic strategy, involving the superimposition of Biblical and Talmudic toponyms, has been designed to contribute to the erasure of Arab cultural and historical presence.⁷²

This deliberate language policy has contributed to the erasure of Arab cultural and linguistic heritage, reinforcing the marginalisation of Arab citizens within the national identity. Arabic has a vital symbolic aspect among Palestinian Arab students in Israel, representing the language's most significant aspect.⁷³ This symbolic aspect underscores the importance of Arabic as a marker of cultural and linguistic heritage, emphasising its role in preserving Arab identity within a multicultural society.

However, the enduring educational fecklessness in promoting Arabic instruction in Jewish schools has been remarkable, given the available resources and the powerful stakeholders that drive for deepening and broadening Arabic instruction in Jewish schools. Previous analyses of the problems of Arabic instruction have focused on language ideology and Jewish pupils' attitudes towards Arabic and Arabs, reinforcing the marginalisation of Arab cultural and linguistic heritage within the educational system.⁷⁴

The heinous impacts of Palestinian erasure

The systematic erasure of Palestinian history and culture has had profound consequences for the Palestinian people and their collective struggle for justice. At its core, this erasure denies Palestinians their identity, narrative, and cultural heritage.

Without access to records, artefacts, and stories from their past, Palestinians are deprived of an important anchor for their identity and community which serves to compound the trauma of displacement for refugees and exiles, severing their connection to places and histories intrinsic to who they are.

On a systemic level, the erasure of Palestinian presence in the land enables the myth of "a land without a people" which has been used to justify Zionism's colonisation project.⁷⁵ By removing evidence of Palestinian villages, farms, and centuries of inhabitation, their innate ties to the land are obscured. By doing this, it allows the dispossession and occupation of Palestinian lands to be more easily masked as liberation rather than colonisation.

⁷¹ Pullum, L. (2023). 'I'm interviewing a sheep'. *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication*, 16(1), 68-89.

<https://doi.org/10.1163/18739865-tat00004>

⁷² Yiftachel, Oren, 2023. "Deepening apartheid: the political geography of colonising Israel/Palestine", *Frontiers in Political Science*, 4. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2022.981867>

⁷³ Reed, Beatrice Szczepek, Fatma Faisal Saad Said, Ian Davies, and Géraldine Bengsch, 2019. "Arabic complementary schools in England: language and fundamental British values", *Language Culture and Curriculum*(1), 33:50-65. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07908318.2019.1569674>

⁷⁴ Amara, Muhammad, 2018. "Palestinian schoolscapes in Israel", *Asian-Pacific Journal of Second and Foreign Language Education*(1), 3. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40862-018-0047-1>

⁷⁵ Muir, Diana. *A Land without a People for a People without a Land*. *Middle Eastern Quarterly*. (2008) | Shapira, Anita. *Land and Power: The Zionist Resort to Force, 1881-1948*. Stanford University Press. February 1999.



The suppression of Palestinian history also removes critical context from the struggle for Palestinian statehood and self-determination. Without understanding the true reality behind the numbers – for example the expulsion of well over 700,000 Palestinians in 1948 or the military occupation since 1967 – it is easier to paint Palestinian resistance as irrational aggression rather than a struggle for basic rights.⁷⁶

At a more individual level, the destruction of records has made it difficult for many Palestinian families to prove land ownership or access ancestral property – with refugees expelled in 1948 facing impossible barriers to prove their right to return.⁷⁷ Essentially, destroying this evidence works to sever Palestinians' legal claims along with their cultural connections – all in a bid to further dilute and minimise their experiences to serve Zionist revisionist history.

The destruction of medical records and targeting of hospitals has also created major gaps in assessing the public health impacts of Israeli military actions. Without baseline data, it becomes nearly impossible to accurately track increased mortality and morbidity rates in Gaza or the long-term effects of trauma. This lack of documentation helps conceal the human costs of occupation and once again, enables officials to minimise the reality of casualties and injuries under Israeli occupation.

By now it should be no secret the erasure of Palestinian history and culture has served as an instrument for denying Palestinians' collective identity, obscuring the realities of occupation, obstructing accountability for injustices, and ultimately seeking to erase Palestinians both from the land and from history itself. The resilience of Palestinian memory and culture in the face of this erasure is therefore all the more remarkable.

The history of Palestine and the creation of Israel

A statement we keep seeing thrown around that "Palestine didn't exist before the British Mandate" oversimplifies the rich and complex history of the region in the Zionist regime's favour.

In actuality, the area that was and should still be known as Palestine has a long history with a diverse population comprising millions of people from various religious denominations, who coexisted for centuries prior to the establishment of the State of Israel.

The land historically known as Palestine has deep historical roots, dating back thousands of years and was home to various ancient civilisations, including the Canaanites, Philistines, and Israelites.

For centuries, a diverse population of Arabs, Jews, Christians, and other religious and ethnic groups remained native to the land – coexisting, intermingling, and living in relative harmony for generations, with shared cultural, economic and social ties strengthening their community.

After the state of Israel was created in 1948 in accordance with the Zionist movement, the Nakba occurred. The Nakba (meaning catastrophe in Arabic) was a mass exodus and

⁷⁶ Karsh, Efraim. Nakbat Haifa: Collapse and Dispersion of a Major Palestinian Community. *Middle Eastern Studies - MIDDLE EAST STUD.* 37. 25-70. 10.1080/714004415. 2001. | Brunner, Benny; and Jansse, Alexandra. *Al-Nakba: The Palestinian Catastrophe 1948.* Film. 1998. | Sternhell, Zeev. *The Founding Myths of Israel: Nationalism, Socialism, and the Making of the Jewish State.* Princeton University Press. 1999. ⁷⁷ Halbrook, Stephen P. *The Alienation of a Homeland: How Palestine Became Israel.* *Journal of Libertarian Studies.* Vol. V, No. 4, Fall 1981. | Adelman, Howard; Barkan, Elazar. *No Return, No Refuge: Rites and Rights in Minority Repatriation.* Columbia University Press. <https://doi.org/10.7312/adel115336>. 2011. | Amnesty International. *Israel's apartheid against Palestinians: Cruel system of domination and crime against humanity.* February 2022.



displacement of over 700,000 Palestinian Arabs, with those remaining in their homeland falling victim to one of the most brutal occupations in modern history.⁷⁸

But how did it even get to that?

The rise of anti-semitism as a need for a Jewish state

Antisemitism, deeply rooted in historical prejudices, gained momentum in the late 1800s. Rampant discrimination, fuelled by religious stereotypes and economic scapegoating, set the stage for a dark era that would irrevocably alter the course of Jewish history.

Throughout the Middle Ages and into the early modern period, Jews were often targeted with baseless accusations of ritual murders. In fact, blood libel - a term coined for the insidious and unfounded belief that Jews used the blood of Christian children for religious rituals - resulted in numerous violent incidents and massacres.

While the term 'blood libel' has now been weaponized by contemporary Zionists, the heinous realities of accusations made in the past led to the persecution of hundreds and thousands of Jews over the centuries and should not be minimised.

From European pogroms to the horrors of the Holocaust, this exploration aims to unravel the complex tapestry of persecution and its profound impact on Jewish communities, culminating in the mass immigration that played a pivotal role in the establishment of a Jewish state.

The late 19th century witnessed a surge in antisemitic violence, notably in Eastern Europe. Pogroms, fueled by religious intolerance and scapegoating, subjected Jewish communities to brutal attacks, leaving a trail of trauma and displacement. One such example is The Kishinev Pogrom (1903) enacted by the Russian Empire, resulting in not only dozens of Jewish civilian casualties but also widespread destruction of Jewish property.⁷⁹

Then, in the 1930s and 1940s a majority of the world was complicit in an unprecedented escalation of antisemitic horrors. The Holocaust, a systematic genocide orchestrated by the deplorable Nazi regime, led to the brutalisation, dehumanisation and eventual murder of six million Jews. The sheer magnitude of the atrocities became a catalyst, intensifying the collective yearning for a place of safety and belonging.

The horrors of the Holocaust underscored the urgency of finding a secure haven for Jewish survivors. Mass immigration to Palestine surged, driven not only by the desire for refuge but also by the ideological pursuit of a national homeland envisioned by the Zionist movement.

The genesis and evolution of Zionism

Zionism, emerging in the late 19th century, sought to establish a national homeland for Jews, particularly in response to increasing antisemitism in Europe. The movement itself gained momentum against the backdrop of discriminatory policies and persecution, with Theodor Herzl advocating for a Jewish state in hopes of protecting the diaspora.

⁷⁸ Rouhana, Nadim & Huneidi, Saher. S. Israel and its Palestinian Citizens: Ethnic Privileges in the Jewish State. 2017. | Pappé, Ilan. A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. | United Nations Document: Report of the Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, 1 January-31 December, 2015. | Pappé, Ilan. The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine. Oneworld Publications, 2007.

⁷⁹ Penkower, Monty Noam. The Kishinev Pogrom of 1903: A Turning Point in Jewish History. Oxford University Press. *Modern Judaism*, vol. 24 no. 3, 2004, p. 187-225. *Project MUSE* muse.jhu.edu/article/172771.



However, the evolution of this movement quickly became underscored by a series of atrocious events, including the misappropriation of Judaism, alignment with fascist ideologies and the unsettling collaboration between certain Zionist factions and Nazi Germany.

The Haavara Agreement, signed on the 25th of August 1933 by Nazi Germany and Zionist Jews, was emblematic of this collaboration and witnessed an unsettling alliance between some Zionist leaders and Nazi Germany.⁸⁰ While pragmatic in facilitating Jewish emigration to Palestine and enabling persecuted Jews to transfer a portion of their assets to Palestine, it is a chilling reminder of the ideological compromises made during a dire period in history.

Moreover, the initial suggestions for a 'Jewish state' in places like Argentina and Uganda underscore the geopolitical flexibility of early Zionist visions⁸¹. However, as focus shifted to Palestine, the indigenous Palestinian Arab population faced the brutal consequences of settler terrorism.

The weaponization of Judaism further exacerbated the situation, as religious identity became entangled with political objectives. This not only marginalised the Palestinian population but also fueled a narrative that justified egregious acts against them.

This intricate historical narrative underscores the multifaceted consequences of Zionist aspirations, extending beyond mere displacement to encompass profound socio-political, humanitarian, and ethical ramifications.

Confronting this history requires a stark acknowledgment of the horrors endured by the Palestinian people, from the collaboration with fascist regimes to the brutal acts of settler terrorism.

The aftermath of the Balfour Declaration

Prompted by British aims to gain Jewish support during World War I, strategic interests in the Middle East and aspirations for post-war influence, the Balfour Declaration expressed British support for a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine.

What this geopolitical manoeuvre lacked, however, was a comprehensive consideration of the Palestinian population's rights.

Unfortunately, the aftermath of the Balfour Declaration in 1917 significantly impacted the Palestinian landscape, with the surge of Zionist settlers leveraging their given rights to assert control over Palestinian lands.

Arthur Balfour's commitment to establishing a "national home for the Jewish people" facilitated an influx of Jewish immigrants seeking refuge from anti-Semitism, altering the demographic and geopolitical dynamics of Palestine.⁸²

However, this transformative process was marred by the systematic misuse of the privileges granted to Zionist settlers, resulting in the disenfranchisement and dispossession of the indigenous Palestinian Arab population.

⁸⁰ Barkai, Avraham. German Interests in the Haavara-Transfer Agreement 1933–1939. The Leo Baeck Institute Year Book, Volume 35, Issue 1. January 1990. Pages 245–266, <https://doi.org/10.1093/leobaec/35.1.245>

⁸¹ Reinharz, Jehuda. Chaim Weismann: The Making of a Statesman. Brandeis University Press. December 1985. | Weisbord, Robert G. African Zion: The Attempt to Establish a Jewish Colony in the East Africa Protectorate, 1903–1905. Jewish Publication Society of America. 1968.

⁸² Balfour, A.J. (1917), "Balfour Declaration", Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The privileges afforded to Zionist settlers under the British Mandate included but are not limited to:

- **Favoured land acquisition:** Zionist organisations, backed by international resources, could readily buy or lease land, sometimes exploiting power imbalances, while Palestinian land ownership declined due to unequal purchasing power and land concessions granted to Zionist groups.
- **Prioritised immigration:** Jewish immigrants faced simplified entry and settlement procedures compared to Palestinians, who encountered restrictions on land sales and movement, leading to a demographic shift favouring Jewish settlers.
- **Disparities in representation:** The political system prioritised Zionist goals and organisations, limiting Palestinian voices and decision-making influence.
- **Uneven development:** Infrastructure investments, water distribution, and economic opportunities often prioritised Jewish settlements, leaving Palestinian communities with fewer resources and lagging behind in economic growth.

The rise of settler terrorism and Zionist extremism

The influx of Zionist settlers in the early decades of the 20th century was enabled by land purchases displacing Palestinian inhabitants. While some relocation resulted from legal sales, other cases involved intimidation or forcible removal of residents by settler groups.

Precursory instances of settler terrorism, violence and forced expulsion

One notable example of this occurred in 1921 when Zionist settlers backed by British forces expelled Palestinian villagers from Um Juni near Tiberias through shootings and beatings.⁸³ That same year, Zionist settlers also shot dead 6 Palestinians during clashes over evictions at al-Affula village.⁸⁴

Later in 1922, an armed group of Zionist settlers would attack and drive out residents of the village of Dhahiriya al-Tahta near Hebron. British police reports noted settlers had been emboldened by authorities turning a blind eye, with one officer quoting a settler stating "they knew they could [expel villagers] without interference from police."⁸⁵

The emergence of armed guards employed by Zionist institutions accelerated Palestinian displacement in the mid-1920s. These guards forcibly evicted residents and intimidated entire villages into fleeing through nighttime raids and shootings. This enabled settlement of the emptied lands.

For example, in 1925 Zionist guards terrorised villagers in Suhmata until the entire population fled, enabling Jewish resettlement.⁸⁶ That same year, similar tactics precipitated the depopulation of over a dozen villages in the Marj Ibn Amr region.⁸⁷

This is exemplified most infamously by the King David Hotel terror attack in 1946 — an attack that resulted in the death of British authorities and innocent Palestinian civilians⁸⁸ — and the Deir

⁸³ Pappé, Ilan. *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*. Oneworld Publications. 2006.

⁸⁴ Morris, Benny. *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-1999*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 2001.

⁸⁵ Shapira, Anita. *Land and Power: The Zionist Resort to Force*. Stanford University Press. 1999.

⁸⁶ Segev, Tom. *One Palestine, Complete: Jews and Arabs Under the British Mandate*. Henry Holt and Company. 2000.

⁸⁷ Khalidi, Walid. *All that Remains: The Palestinian Villages Occupied and Destroyed in 1948*. Institute for Palestine Studies. 1992.

⁸⁸ **Lapidot, Yehuda.** *Besieged – Jerusalem 1948 – Memories of an Irgun fighter*. 1992. | Dugard, John. *Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories: report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories Occupied since 1967*. UN Human Rights Council. 21 January 2008.



Yassin Massacre of 1948 where hundreds of Palestinian civilians were killed, raped and tortured while their homes were plundered.⁸⁹

These instances of settler violence illuminate a systematic pattern of displacement enabled by armed intimidation and brutality in the early decades of Zionist colonisation. While eclipsed by later atrocities, they presaged the mass expulsions and ethnic cleansing that would recur in cycles over the coming decades. The ruthlessness of these early actions set a precedent for the extremes Zionist settlers would go to erase Palestinians from the map.

However, to truly understand the scope of violence that plagues the land of Palestine before the Nakba; we must examine some key events predating it.

Zionist atrocities committed prior to 1948

The roots of the occupation extend back decades before 1948, in a complex intercommunal environment under British Mandatory rule after WWI. Outbreaks of violence erupted sporadically, centred around riots, rebellions, terror attacks and periods of heightened tensions.

Most sources estimate the total deaths from 1920-1947 to be a few thousand casualties on both sides.

Estimated Palestinian deaths:

- Estimates range from 2,000-5,000 killed over this period
- Includes civilian riots, terrorism, rebellion against British governance

Estimated Jewish deaths:

- Estimates range from 200-2,000 killed
- Includes civilian riots, intercommunal attacks

Precise totals are hard to confirm due to lack of reliable records for many incidents but based on assessed histories, several thousand casualties between 1920-1947 is a reasonable estimate of losses on both sides in Palestine.

The relevance of historical context for modern-day liberation

The ethical dimensions of this historical narrative necessitate a nuanced examination of the power dynamics, humanitarian implications, and enduring consequences of a movement that, while fulfilling the aspirations of one community, engendered profound suffering for another.

In fact, these atrocities would lay the groundwork for the Nakba – a brutal exodus that resulted in the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in 1948 – but also the ongoing genocide we’re witnessing today.

⁸⁹ Bunche, Dr. Ralph J. UN Palestine Commission – Attack on Deir Yassin (9 April 1948) – Letter from United Kingdom. United Nation. 9 April 1948. | Kana'ana and Zeitawi, The Village of Deir Yassin, Destroyed Village Series, Ber Zeit University Press, 1988. | Kurzman, Dan. Genesis 1948: The First Arab-Israeli War. New American Library. 1972.



1882-1903 First Aliyah

Between 1882 and 1903, Palestine witnessed a dramatic influx of Jewish immigrants fleeing persecution in Eastern Europe. This period, known as the First Aliyah, wasn't merely a story of Jewish growth and aspiration; it was also a time of profound disruption and dispossession for the existing Palestinian population.

Jewish land purchases, often enabled by wealthy financiers like Rothschild, displaced countless Arab tenant farmers and villagers. Traditional land use patterns were disrupted, livelihoods vanished, and families were forced to relocate to often precarious circumstances.

Approximately 30,000-35,000 Jewish immigrants arrived during this period and quickly established agricultural settlements, including Petah Tikva, Rishon LeZion, Rosh Pinna, and Zikhron Yaakov.⁹⁰

While this period saw less violence than later waves of immigration, there were tensions and clashes stemming from competition over land and resources. In 1887, clashes erupted between settlers in Petah Tikva and surrounding Arab villages, resulting in some injuries.

Overall, contemporary sources estimate approximately 10-15 deaths on both sides related to communal clashes during this period. Sociopolitically, the First Aliyah firmly established the Zionist settlement enterprise in Palestine. The predominantly secular Jewish immigrants built the institutional foundations of the future Jewish state, including the first Hebrew schools, workers unions, banks, and health facilities.⁹¹

1882-1913 Western-funded Zionist land acquisition

Between 1882 and 1913, a period often romanticised in Zionist narratives as one of pioneering settlement and colonisation, witnessed a dramatic transformation in Palestine. This transformation, however, would come at a significant cost to the existing native population.

Through financial backing from figures like Baron Rothschild, Zionist organisations began acquiring vast swathes of land, exceeding 1 million dunams (250,000 acres) by 1913.⁹² These purchases, while often portrayed as "peaceful", had profound and disruptive consequences for Palestinian communities.

Between 1882-1899, Baron Edmond de Rothschild spent over \$50 million purchasing about 150,000 acres of land across Palestine for Jewish settlement. In fact by the 1920s, around 5% of Palestine's total land was Jewish-owned, largely aided by Rothschild's resources.⁹³

The large-scale land acquisitions had a deeper impact beyond immediate dispossession. They served as a catalyst for the consolidation of Arab nationalism, providing a tangible rallying cry for those who increasingly saw Zionist aspirations as a direct threat to their land, political rights, and future.

⁹⁰ Salmon, Yosef (1978). "Ideology and Reality in the Bilu "Aliyah"". *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*. [President and Fellows of Harvard College, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute]. 2 (4): 430-466. ISSN 0363-5570. JSTOR 41035804 | Elia, Mordecai. *Ahavar Tziyon ve-Kolel Hod*. Tel Aviv, 1971.

⁹¹ Barron, J.B. *Palestine: Report and General Abstracts of the Census of 1922*. Government of Palestine. 23rd October 1922.

⁹² Aharonson, Ran. *Rothschild and Early Jewish Colonization in Palestine (Geographical Perspectives on the Human Past)*. Rowman & Littlefield. 2000. | Schama, Simon. *Two Rothschilds and the Land of Israel*. Alfred A. Knopf. 1978

⁹³ Patai, Raphael. "Rothschild, Baron Edmond-James de". *Encyclopedia of Zionism and Israel*. Vol. 2. New York: Herzl Press. 1971.



Rothschild's massive land purchases created deep anxieties among the Arab population, with the accelerated transfer of traditionally Arab lands to Jewish owners raised very legitimate fears of displacement and political marginalisation.

These anxieties of displacement and potential subjugation under a future Jewish state fueled anti-Zionist sentiment and resistance movements among the Palestinian population. This ultimately resulted in heightened tensions between the two groups, furthered even more by the development of Zionist terrorist groups like the Haganah and the Irgun.

1884 Gedera

Gedera was established in 1884 by a group of 30 Polish Jewish settlers who were later joined by Yemenite Jewish settlers in Rosh Pinna and Shara'ab.

Gedera's founding was facilitated by land purchased from Arab owners, displacing local fellahin (peasant farmers). Contemporary accounts point to recurring clashes between Gedera's settlers and local Arabs, particularly over boundary disputes and water from the springs surrounding the village.⁹⁴

Violence occasionally erupted leading to injuries and property damage on both sides, with ongoing clashes over scarce resources exacerbating Arab anxieties about Zionist ambitions in the region and settler fears of security.

1891 Hadera

Established in 1891 by Zionist pioneers from Russia, Hadera was developed as an agricultural settlement along the Palestinian coastal plain. The land was purchased from an absentee Ottoman landlord, resulting in the displacement of many Arab peasant farmers in the area who lost their livelihoods and homes.

Tensions erupted between the Jewish settlers and local Arab villagers who felt threatened by the newcomers and in the summer of 1891, violent clashes broke out after settlers refused to hire Arab labourers.⁹⁵ From contemporary accounts, we know there were several deaths reported but the numbers are uncertain.

These events contributed to increased wariness and resentment between Jewish and Arab communities, which significantly poisoned relations. Later in 1909 and in response to growing tensions, Hadera settlers would go on to form Bar-Giora, one of the first Zionist militant groups.

1898 Theodor Herzl's visit

Theodor Herzl, the father of political Zionism, visited Palestine for the first time in 1898 to explore prospects for Jewish settlement. His visit, ostensibly to assess prospects for Jewish settlement, was met with vehement opposition from the Arab population who saw it as a blatant encroachment on their homeland.⁹⁶

⁹⁴ Shafir, Gershon. *Land, Labor, and the Origins of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, 1882-1914*. University of California Press. 1996. | Ben-Bassat, Yuval. Proto-Zionist-Arab encounters in late nineteenth-century Palestine: Socioregional dimensions. *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 38(2), 42-63. <https://doi.org/10.1525/jps.2009.38.2.42>. 2009.

⁹⁵ Shafir, Gershon. *Land, Labor, and the Origins of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, 1882-1914*. University of California Press. 1996. | Gorny, Yosef. *Zionism and the Arabs, 1882-1948: A Study of Ideology*. OUP Oxford. 1987.

⁹⁶ Ginsberg, Michael Peled; Ron, Moshe. *Shattered Vessels: Memory, Identity, and Creation in the Work of David Shahar*. State University of New York Press. 2004.



The Muslim-Christian Association in Haifa starkly articulated their fears, claiming they were being erased from their own land in favour of the Zionist regime. These anxieties weren't mere speculation; they were rooted in the lived experiences of displacement and economic marginalisation already faced by many communities.

Beyond stoking these legitimate anxieties, Herzl's visit is also remembered for his own dehumanising remarks about the Palestinian population. He infamously described them as "a people with primitive culture" and "uncivilised" in private letters, reflecting a dangerous and pervasive colonial-era discourse.⁹⁷

These statements made by Herzl not only served to dehumanise Palestinians but also worked to justify the Zionist project as a civilising mission, further compounding the anxieties and sense of vulnerability experienced by the local population.

1902 Land Disputes in Rehovot

In 1902, Rehovot's fertile fields became a flashpoint for a critical conflict in Palestine, centring not on crops but on the very foundation of life and livelihood for Arab farmers who had cultivated the land for generations.

Land, the lifeline of any agricultural community, became the battleground as Jewish organisations, with financial resources and legal leverage, purchased vast tracts, often targeting areas already farmed by Arab tenant farmers.

A Jewish-led drainage project in Rehovot, presented as progress and modernisation, cast a long shadow over the lives of Arab farmers. The project drastically altered the landscape, impacting their traditional agricultural practices and access to vital water resources.

The clashes that erupted, though details remain unclear, were more than outbursts of anger. They were the desperate cries of a community fighting for its survival and roots. Beyond the immediate violence, the Rehovot conflict marked a turning point in land ownership and access in Palestine. The drainage project was not just a physical transformation; it restricted Arab farmers' traditional practices and created barriers that hadn't formerly existed.⁹⁸

The lack of formal land titles further exposed Palestinian natives to displacement and dispossession, a trend that would echo across the land in the years to come. The Rehovot clashes were not an isolated incident either; they were a harbinger of the land struggles that would engulf Palestine, fueling tensions between Arab communities and the Zionist movement.

Not only did they deepen anxieties about Zionist motives but also solidified the fear that Jewish immigration wasn't about peaceful coexistence but rather land acquisition and displacement.

1920 Nebi Musa riots

Tensions erupted in April 1920 over Jewish immigration and nationalism coinciding with the Nebi Musa festival in Jerusalem. On April 4th, clashes broke out after both Arab and Jewish instigators reportedly provoked crowds.

⁹⁷ Sa'di, Ahmad H. Modernization as an Explanatory Discourse of Zionist-Palestinian Relations. *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 24(1), 25–48. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1956671997>. | Penslar, Derek J. Making History Jewish, Chapter 9: Theodor Herzl, Race, and Empire. *Studia Judaica*, Volume 12. 2020.

⁹⁸ Norris, J. Land of progress: Palestine in the age of colonial development, 1905-1948. Oxford, 2013; online edn, Oxford Academic, 23 May 2013), <https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199669363.003.0001>.



Over the ensuing days, violence spread as Arab mobs attacked Jews and ransacked homes across Jerusalem, with Jews responding with their own attacks on Arabs as well. While casualty totals are disputed, initial British reports documented between 4-5 Arabs and between 4-5 Jews killed, with over 200 injured.⁹⁹

Ultimately, a British investigative commission concluded the violence reflected growing tensions on both sides, mentioning Arab anxieties over Jewish aspirations in the region and nationalist demonstrations by Revisionist Zionists during Muslim holy days.

1921 Jaffa riots

Riots exploded in Jaffa on May 1st 1921 during Communist-led Arab demonstrations over escalating violence and growing Jewish settlements. Accounts differ but, according to one estimate, 47 Jews and 48 Arabs were killed over several days of rioting.¹⁰⁰

The rapid descent into communal violence underscored the rise of Arab nationalism and militant Zionist factions, both unwilling to compromise over immigration and land policies amidst the charged post-WWI atmosphere. The British response was seen as inadequate by both sides.

This disturbing episode marked a pivotal moment in the rise of Zionist terrorism, highlighting the ruthlessness that would characterise future conflicts and cast a dark shadow over Palestinian communities, sowing seeds of resentment and fear that would fester for decades.

1927 Jericho earthquake and relief

The devastating 1927 Jericho earthquake, measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale, ravaged Palestine and Transjordan on July 11th. At least 287 lives were lost, countless injured, and cities like Jericho, Jerusalem, Ramle, Nablus, and Tiberias lay in ruins.¹⁰¹

While international aid poured in, its distribution became a source of deep discord, exposing a stark disparity in the response received by Jewish and Arab communities. This unevenness stemmed from multiple factors. Jewish communities, backed by well-oiled Zionist organisations, possessed superior networks and infrastructure to access and direct relief funds and supplies which resulted in a disproportionate share of international support flowing towards Jewish settlements.¹⁰²

Meanwhile, Arab communities, often fragmented and lacking centralised leadership, struggled to effectively advocate for their needs. This disparity was further exacerbated by alleged biases among Western powers like the British Mandate, who were thought to favour Jewish communities due to their perceived alignment with colonial interests and the burgeoning Zionist movement.¹⁰³

The consequences of this unequal distribution were profound. Arab communities, feeling unfairly treated, harboured deep resentment towards both Zionist organisations and the British Mandate

⁹⁹ Martin, Gilbert. *Routledge Atlas of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Routledge. 2005. | Bard, Mitchell G. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Middle East Conflict*. 2005. | Segev, Tom. *One Palestine, Complete: Jews and Arabs under the British Mandate*. 2001.

¹⁰⁰ Segev, Tom. *One Palestine, Complete: Jews and Arabs under the British Mandate*. 2001.

¹⁰¹ Russel, Kenneth W. *The Earthquake Chronology of Palestine and Northwest Arabia from the 2nd Through the Mid-8th Century A. D.* The University of Chicago Press. 1985. | Kallner-Amirana, D. H. *Revised Earthquake-Catalogue of Palestine*. Israel Exploration Society. 1950-51.

¹⁰² Gorny, Yosef. *Zionism and the Arabs, 1882-1948: A Study of Ideology*. Oxford. 1987.

¹⁰³ Ben-Zeev, Nimrod. *Foundations of Inequality: Construction, Political Economy, Race, and the Body in Palestine/Israel, 1918-1973*. 2020.



which fueled existing anxieties about discrimination and contributed to a widening societal divide.

Ultimately, the Jericho earthquake and its aftermath served as a potent catalyst, exposing the power imbalance between Jewish and Arab communities and exacerbating the socio-political tensions that would continue to shape the future of Palestine.

1929 Jewish Riots

The 1929 riots refer to a series of Arab attacks on Jewish communities in Palestine over August 23rd-29th, resulting in the destruction of Jewish property and the deaths of 133 Jews and 100+ Arabs according to official British inquiries.¹⁰⁴

Launched in a response to rumours of a threat to religious holy sites, this tragic intercommunal violence highlighted intensifying religious nationalism on both sides, fraying the remains of fading Ottoman secular pluralism.

The most severe massacre occurred in Hebron where Arabs killed between 59-68 Jewish residents on August 24th but massacres also occurred in Jerusalem, Motza, and Safed during this period.¹⁰⁵

1936-1939 Arab revolt and Zionist terror attacks

The 1936-1939 Arab Revolt represented Palestinian mass civil disobedience against unchecked Jewish immigration and land transfers facilitated by British preferential policies. In response to Palestinian Arabs demanding independence and restrictions on Jewish migration to preserve their diminishing homeland, Britain dispatched over 50,000 troops to ruthlessly suppress the largely nonviolent strikes, protests, boycotts and denial of taxes.

During this time, Zionist militias also exploited the turmoil to escalate terrorism targeting Palestinian civilians and mainstream Haganah units joined more extremist Irgun and Lehi forces in a campaign of intimidation encompassing shootings, bombings, village raids, fields destroyed and land mines hidden on Arab roads.

In 1937 alone, Palestinians were subjected to well over 100 terror attacks by Zionist groups on public spaces, including but not limited to schools, trains and buses – killing dozens of civilians including women and children. In fact, between 1936-1937 Haganah mobile units raided Nablus, Tulkarm, Burqa and Jaffa, killing hundreds Arabs and displacing thousands with British records noting over 400 Arabs killed just by land mines on roads in only the first few months of revolt.

These aggressive tactics paralleled visible efforts by Zionist groups to block compromise solutions to preserve eventual statehood aims during the crucial pre-war period, serving to illuminate the early militancy and mass displacement trends that only escalated to unprecedented levels after 1939.

¹⁰⁴ Segev, Tom. *One Palestine, Complete: Jews and Arabs under the British Mandate*. 2001. | Martin, Gilbert. *Routledge Atlas of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Routledge. 2005. | Bard, Mitchell G. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Middle East Conflict*. 2005.

¹⁰⁵ Martin, Gilbert. *Routledge Atlas of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Routledge. 2005. | Bard, Mitchell G. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Middle East Conflict*. 2005. | Segev, Tom. *One Palestine, Complete: Jews and Arabs under the British Mandate*. 2001.



1939 The Rex Cinema terror attack

In May of 1939, the Irgun carried out a terror attack targeting the Rex Cinema located near Jerusalem's Old City. The explosion ripped through the theatre during a screening attended primarily by Palestinian moviegoers, resulting in several deaths and over 20 injured.

The Irgun claimed the attack was retaliation for an Arab bombing of a Jewish market but, by striking a public venue, they demonstrated a callous disregard for civilian lives. The cultural significance of the Rex Cinema as an emblem of Palestinian communal life in Jerusalem added to the symbolic devastation.

This uncompromising assault on both human life and cultural space signalled an escalation in the Irgun's strategy of inflicting maximum damage. The bombing demonstrated the emergency faced by Palestinian communities as militant groups remorselessly erased safety in public spaces.

1939 Haifa Market terror attack

On July 6, 1939, the militant Zionist group Irgun carried out a bombing at the crowded Haifa vegetable market, resulting in the death of 53 Arabs, with more than over 60 wounded; the riots that followed also left another 33 dead and 111 wounded.¹⁰⁶

Disguised as Arabs, Irgun operatives smuggled in milk churns filled with explosives and detonated them in the marketplace. The attack was deliberately timed for the busiest shopping period. British police reports from the scene described a "shambles" with blood and bodies strewn everywhere amidst the wrecked stalls.

By targeting an ordinary civilian venue, the Irgun undermined security for Palestinian communities while inflicting merciless harm on innocent lives. This marked one of the first intentional mass casualty attacks against Palestinian civilians during the pre-war escalation of hostilities, presaging an era of intensified Zionist violence against Arab communities in Palestine.

1940s Village Files & Plan Dalet

Plan Dalet, also known as Plan D, was a 'strategic initiative' developed by the Zionist forces in 1948, with the objective of establishing a Jewish state and expanding control over additional territories, including Jerusalem.¹⁰⁷

While the Zionist leadership portrayed Plan Dalet as a defensive blueprint, it sought to expand the geographic scope of the Jewish state through offensive measures.¹⁰⁸ The implementation of Plan Dalet involved the systematic expulsion and dispossession of Palestinians, which was carried out through the use of force, terror, and a series of massacres, such as the infamous

¹⁰⁶ "History of the War of Independence", Shelach Press, 1951

¹⁰⁷ Khalidi, Walid. Selected Documents On The 1948 Palestine War, Journal Of Palestine Studies(3), 27:60-105. 1998.

¹⁰⁸ Mason, Victoria. The Liminality Of Palestinian Refugees: Betwixt And Between Global Politics And International Law, Journal Of Sociology(1), 56:84-99. 2019.



massacre of Deir Yasin in April 1948.¹⁰⁹ The plan was designed to destroy Arab villages and completely erase their presence and heritage through fire and destruction.¹¹⁰

In fact, the Plan Dalet explicitly stated the intention to destroy Arab villages by setting fire to them, blowing them up, and planting mines in their debris.¹¹¹ This deliberate use of terror and violence aimed to instil fear and force the Palestinian population from their land. This underscores the settler motivations behind the plan, as it sought to expand the geographic scope of the Jewish state through offensive measures .

The plan's launch coincided with the withdrawal of British troops in the last month of the Mandate, contributing to the country's engulfment in all-out war.¹¹² The significance of Plan Dalet is evident from the operational orders of the Haganah, the main paramilitary organisation of the Jewish community in Palestine, which was tasked with implementing the plan.¹¹³

Simply put, Plan Dalet and the preceding initiatives were a dedicated and heinous master plan for the military occupation of Palestine, playing a pivotal role in the military conquest of Palestine and the expulsion - and erasure - of Palestinians for the decades to come.¹¹⁴

The Village Files Preceding Plan Dalet

What most people don't know, however, is that the development of Plan Dalet was actually preceded by a multi-year project headed by David Ben-Gurion known as the 'Village Files,' which involved the systematic compilation of maps and intelligence for each Arab village.¹¹⁵ The plan was launched as part of an offensive military operation and in an attempt to take advantage of the weakness and internal divisions among the Palestinian people.¹¹⁶

This multi-year project involved the meticulous gathering of information and data on Arab villages and territories, ultimately providing the groundwork for the detailed knowledge and intelligence required for the subsequent implementation of military coups and assaults like Plan Dalet.¹¹⁷ The initiative's focus on compiling information for each Arab village underscores the deliberate and systematic nature of the preparations for the military conquest, expulsion, and erasure of Palestinians.

¹⁰⁹ Masalha, Nur. Remembering The Palestinian Nakba: Commemoration, Oral History And Narratives Of Memory, Holy Land Studies(2), 7:123-156. 2008.

¹¹⁰ Dalal, Farhad. Tangling With The Four Responses To 'the Entangled Relational', Group Analysis(1), 54:143-155. 2021.

¹¹¹ Getmansky, Anna And Thomas Zeitzoff. Terrorism And Voting: The Effect Of Rocket Threat On Voting In Israeli Elections, American Political Science Review(3), 108:588-604. 2014.

¹¹² Abbasi, M. The End Of Arab Tiberias: The Arabs Of Tiberias And The Battle For The City In 1948, Journal Of Palestine Studies(3), 37:6-29. 2008.

¹¹³ Khalidi, Walid. The Hebrew Reconquista Of Palestine: From The 1947 United Nations Partition Resolution To The First Zionist Congress Of 1897, Journal Of Palestine Studies(1), 39:24-42. 2009.

¹¹⁴ Bagoury, Mahmoud El. Plan Dalet, The Palestine Nakba And Theatre: Decoding The Diacritics Of The 1948 Nakba In Hannah Khalil's Plan D, Journal Of Holy Land And Palestine Studies(1), 22:93-110. 2023.

¹¹⁵ Pappé, Ilan. The 1948 Ethnic Cleansing Of Palestine, Journal Of Palestine Studies(1), 36:6-20. 2006.

¹¹⁶ Manna, Adel. The Arab Communists: Between The Nakba And Independence, :93-127. 2022.

¹¹⁷ Masalha, Nur. Remembering The Palestinian Nakba: Commemoration, Oral History And Narratives Of Memory, Holy Land Studies(2). 2008 | Bagoury, Mahmoud El. Plan Dalet, The Palestine Nakba And Theatre: Decoding The Diacritics Of The 1948 Nakba In Hannah Khalil's Plan D, Journal Of Holy Land And Palestine Studies(1), 22:93-110. 2023.



1946 Jerusalem King David Hotel terror attack

On July 22, 1946, the militant Zionist group Irgun carried out a terror attack against the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, which housed the offices of British mandatory authorities. The powerful explosion caused the partial collapse of the hotel, killing 91 people and injuring dozens more.¹¹⁸ British officials tallied 28 Brits, 41 Arabs, 17 Jews, and 5 others among the casualties, which included both civilians and personnel.

The Irgun intentionally picked a time when civilian hotel guests would be maximised. By demolishing the nerve centre of British administration in Palestine, the Irgun sought to expedite British withdrawal to enable statehood.

This attack highlighted Irgun's escalating extremism and indifference to Arab civilian lives under the logic of expediting political ends. The indiscriminate nature made the King David Hotel attack a watershed moment, underscoring the increasing risk Palestinian communities faced from militant Zionist factions.

1948 Jerusalem Semiramis Hotel terror attack

On January 5, 1948, the Haganah (although some also attribute it to the Irgun) carried out a terror attack targeting the Semiramis Hotel located near Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem, which was popular among foreign Arab visitors.

The explosion collapsed part of the hotel, killing at least 20 people and wounding dozens more, according to contemporary accounts. While most victims were Arabs lodging at the hotel or passersby, other civilians also lost their lives.

This attack highlighted the Irgun's continued strategy of targeting civilian spaces to maximise casualties and fear. Striking a prominent Arab-patronised hotel, it exemplified the mounting Palestinian civilian toll as militant groups adopted a merciless approach of terrorising communities through indiscriminate violence.

The 75-year ethnic cleansing and displacement of Palestinians

For almost a century since, remaining Palestinians have been subjected to a relentless onslaught of oppressive conditions, mirroring some of history's harshest regimes.

Their most basic rights, such as access to water and electricity, have been consistently throttled. Brutal forced evictions have ripped families from their ancestral homes, erasing generations of history and connection.

A suffocating network of military checkpoints has turned their own land into an open-air prison, with every journey becoming a gauntlet of humiliation and delay.

Illegal searches and baseless arrests have become an everyday threat, with the ever-present specter of imprisonment, often without trial, and reported instances of torture.

¹¹⁸ Lapidot, Yehuda. Besieged – Jerusalem 1948 – Memories of an Irgun fighter. 1948. | Dugard, John. Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories. UN Human Rights Council. 21 January 2008



Therefore, the fact that any citizen who has Jewish heritage can claim the rights and freedoms of a dual citizen under 'birthright' whilst Palestinians born and living in the country are treated like third-class citizens is abysmal.

In fact, we have listened for decades as the IOF dehumanised them, bragged about murdering, torturing and raping Palestinian women, children and even men, watched on as they have enacted horrendous war crimes on civilians for almost a century.

The atrocities we saw come out of Israel on October 7th and the innocent loss of civilian life - which we have and will always condemn — happen to Palestinians daily. The IOF is, in its simplest form, a terrorist organisation in and of itself whether you choose to see it or not.

There has been a deafening silence since The 1948 Nakba started DECADES of homicidal and systemic genocide that left any remaining Palestinians to fleeing for their lives — our friends, family and loved ones included.

The horrific history of Israeli-occupied Palestine

While the events we are about to explore shed light on Israel's indiscriminate attacks on Palestinians, it's crucial to acknowledge that these narratives capture only the larger-scale incidents and will not fully encapsulate the profound terror Palestinians have endured on a daily basis.

Beyond the headline-grabbing events, there exists a distressing reality of individual suffering, including the killing, imprisonment, and targeting of Palestinian women, children, and men.

The occupation's toll on the lives of ordinary civilians, irrespective of age or gender, extends far beyond the documented large-scale incidents, underscoring the human cost and the urgent need for a comprehensive understanding of the nuanced challenges faced by innocent Palestinian civilians under the Zionist-regime.

And please note the words we're using, it's a Zionist regime. The actions we are condemning are in no way reflective of true Jewish values or Judaism, we have and always will stand in solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters.

We oppose the Israeli-occupation and the atrocities committed against Palestinian people in the name of Zionism and our statements should never be conflated with or used to justify anti-semitism.

1948-1949: Nakba - the Palestinian catastrophe

Amid the rise of antisemitism in Europe, Arabs recognised the vulnerability of Jewish immigrants and pledged protection against the very persecution that had driven them to seek sanctuary. It was a noble promise, backed by cultural exchange and intellectual dialogue that envisioned a shared future.

Yet, like a storm gathering on the horizon, the rise of extremist Zionism shattered this fragile alliance. What began as a movement for a Jewish homeland morphed into a quest for exclusive control. Land acquisitions and displacement policies disrupted the coexistence that had once held promise.



The Nakba of 1948 became the pinnacle of this betrayal. Forced displacement, tearing families from their homes, marked the climax of the Zionist project. Land that was once a shared space became a battleground, and promises of protection crumbled beneath the weight of broken trust.

During the Naka, around 700,000 Palestinians became refugees as a direct result of the escalating Zionist aggression. And still today, the Nakba continues to have a profound impact on the human rights of Palestinians internationally, with Palestinian refugees and their descendants still living in exile and denied their right to return.

1948: Deir Yassin massacre

The Deir Yassin massacre in April 1948 stands as a defining atrocity in the Palestinian Nakba, with at least 107 Palestinian villagers – including women and children – murdered when Israeli paramilitary groups Irgun and Lehi attacked Deir Yassin near Jerusalem.

By signalling that civilians would not be spared, Deir Yassin marked a pivotal moment heralding the subsequent expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland. The wanton brutality of its perpetrators illuminated the willingness to trample ethical norms when expedient, foreshadowing atrocities that would recur in cycles under occupation.

Survivor testimonies described insurgents going home-to-home executing residents, including cases of families burned alive in their houses with another 240 villagers wounded. The brutal nature of the Deir Yassin massacre serves as a haunting reminder of the human cost paid by Palestinian communities during this tumultuous historical episode.¹¹⁹

1956: Suez Crisis and displacement of Palestinians

The 1956 Suez Crisis stemmed from Egypt's nationalisation of the Suez Canal, which precipitated an invasion by Britain, France and Israel. As part of this conflict, Israel occupied the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula which enabled the mass expulsion of Palestinian refugees to the Gaza Strip, with UNRWA documenting over 200,000 Palestinians displaced.

From contemporary accounts, we know civilians were forced to flee as IDF forces bulldozed homes in villages and townships across the region. By 1957, over 56,000 Palestine refugees arrived in the Gaza Strip, placing immense strain on the infrastructure as Gaza's refugee population swelled from 80,000 to over 250,000.

The cruelties of forced migration tore apart communities and many villagers clinging to ancestral ties were relocated repeatedly when Israel declared land 'closed military zones.' Alongside the loss of homeland, economic hardship burdened refugees as they lost farms, shops and livelihoods; with some 40,000-50,000 refugees remained internally displaced in the Sinai in 1967.

1967: Six-Day War and Occupation of the OPT

The 1967 Six Day War enabled Israeli occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza, Golan Heights and Sinai Peninsula. On the Palestinian front, fighting killed 15,000-20,000 Arabs

¹¹⁹ Lapidot, Yehuda. Besieged – Jerusalem 1948 – Memories of an Irgun fighter. 1948. | Dugard, John. Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories. UN Human Rights Council. 21 January 2008



according to historians, including over 11,000 Palestinians per conservative estimates, alongside mass displacement.

UN sources documented over 300,000 Palestinians were made refugees by Israeli conquests and demolitions, including 280,000 displaced during the war. Across the West Bank 30,000 homes were razed. During these 6 days, Gaza lost 2,500 homes to bombing and bulldozing, while the Old City of Jerusalem also saw the destruction of entire neighbourhoods including the Moroccan Quarter which displaced 6,000 residents.

In the war's aftermath, 1 million Palestinians fell under occupation with Israel conquering the 22% remainder of historical Palestine. With it, the occupation brought militarisation of rule, mass incarceration, home demolitions, land theft and profound suffering for millions of Palestinians via violent suppression of civil society and political dissent.¹²⁰

1967-1993: Land confiscation and settlement expansion

From 1967-1993, Israel expropriated over 1 million dunams (247,000 acres) of occupied Palestinian land for settlements, roads and military bases, in violation of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibiting mass forcible transfer of civilians by an occupying power.

Palestinian private land was seized using a manipulative legal framework, with only 3% being state lands belonging to Jordan and Palestine. Despite this, in the first two decades over 64,000 Israeli civilians lived in illegal West Bank settlements by 1993, encouraged through state subsidies, cheap housing, tax incentives and investment exceeding \$1.5 billion.

Settlement population growth averaged 9% annually compared to just 2.5% in Israel, reflecting deliberate expansionism policies aimed at establishing permanent control over OPT territory. This enabled increasing encroachment on Palestinian villages like Burqa, losing 75% of its land to settlements by 1993.

Through fragmentation and dispossession, Israel's pre-Oslo expansionism set the stage for continued occupation despite peace negotiations.

1982: Lebanon War/Sabra and Shatila massacres

In June 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon, initiating a war that lasted until 1985. The 1982 Lebanon War initiated Israel's siege of Beirut and bombardment of Lebanese towns including Nabatieh, Tyre and Sidon destroying vital infrastructure like power plants and hospitals. Over 17,000 Lebanese civilian lives were lost and a further 30,000 were wounded in the onslaught that employed cluster bombs and phosphorus bombs in civilian areas.

The Sabra and Shatila massacre represented the nadir of IDF complicity in crimes against Palestinians. After surrounding camps preventing escape, IDF troops enabled Lebanese Christian Phalangist militia entry, then illuminated the camps at night with flares assisting slaughter execution.

International outrage followed reports by journalists who entered camps of strewn corpses including women raped, tortured then killed along with children; with the exact death toll ranging from several hundred to 3,500.

¹²⁰ Krauthammer, Charles. Prelude to the Six Days. The Washington Post. 18 May 2007 | Mutawi, Samir A. Jordan in the 1967 War. Cambridge University Press. 2002.



Ultimately, the Kahan Commission found the IDF complicit for letting militia into camps knowing a massacre would occur, forcing resignation of multiple senior officials like Ariel Sharon — later nicknamed the Butcher of Beirut.

1987-1993: First Intifada and suppression of Palestinian protests

The outbreak of the First Intifada in 1987 represented a grassroots Palestinian rebellion against 20 years of occupation. While protests encompassed some stone-throwing and low-scale violence against security forces, academics widely recognise that Palestinian resistance in the first 18 months was predominantly characterised by mass civil disobedience and nonviolent demonstrations centred around boycotts, tax strikes, protests, and other measures focused against the occupation.

It was only after intense repression resulting in hundreds killed that the uprising adopted some violent tactics. In the later period, clashes occurred between Israeli troops and Palestinian factions throwing Molotov cocktails. However, rights groups documented the majority of incidents still comprised overwhelmingly of Palestinian rock-throwing against heavily armed security forces.

By predominantly portraying the First Intifada as terrorism, the nonviolent roots and subsequent shift after violent subjugation are obscured. The relative restraint initially exercised and subsequent response highlights the dynamics between resistance under occupation versus outright extremism.

The First Intifada, or Palestinian uprising, lasted from 1987 to 1993. During this period, Palestinians engaged in widespread demonstrations and acts of resistance against the Israeli occupation. The Israeli military responded with force, using excessive and often lethal measures to suppress the protests – resulting in approximately 1,100 Palestinians (a lot of them children and women) being killed by Israeli forces.¹²¹

1993: Oslo Accords and unfulfilled promises

Hailed as a breakthrough, the Oslo Accords were meant to pave the path to Palestinian statehood and a two-state solution. Yet over the decade after its signing, the promise of Oslo dissolved amidst Israeli land grabs and settlement growth in occupied territory, fueling profound disillusionment among Palestinians.

Despite commitments to withdraw from Palestinian population centres and freeze settlements, the Israeli settlement population in the West Bank doubled from 262,000 settlers in 1993 to over 520,000 by the end of the decade. Israel retained full control over 60% of West Bank land classified as Area C, severely constraining contiguous Palestinian development.

By 2000, Palestinians controlled a mere 18% of the West Bank, with over 220,000 settlers entrenched around East Jerusalem. With each new settlement expansion and land confiscation, the dream of a sovereign Palestinian state receded further. This broken pledge of Oslo eroded trust and extinguished Palestinian hopes that the accords would honour their rights to self-determination.

¹²¹ Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. Palestine: Background information on the Intifada. 1 February 1990. | Ramsden, Sally. The Roots of Revolution. The Middle East. April 1989. | The Intifada Under Pressure. The Middle East. January 199.



1995-1996: Operation Grapes of Wrath and civilian casualties

In April 1996, Israel unleashed Operation Grapes of Wrath, a 17-day bombing campaign targeting civilians in southern Lebanon, killing 154 people and displacing over 400,000 Lebanese.

On April 18th, Israel bombed a UN compound sheltering 800 civilians in Qana, killing 102 civilians, including four UN workers. A UN investigation condemned the attack as a violation of international law. Overall, Israel launched over 1,100 air raids and 2,000 artillery shells, ravaging Lebanese villages rather than Hezbollah positions.

Once again, the fundamental right to safety was ripped away from innocent men, women and children whose only transgression was being born Palestinian or Lebanese. Behind the statistics lay shattered families and devastated lives.

2000: Second Intifada and excessive use of force by Israeli military

The Second Intifada uprising against the occupation began as a protest cry for dignity and freedom. But peaceful demonstrations were met with disproportionate brutality by Israeli security forces, unleashing a punishing wave of violence.

As the initial protesting chant of the Intifada gave way to the wailing of sirens escorting the dead and maimed to hospitals, the futility of nonviolent resistance became apparent. Israeli suppressive tactics stoked the flames of Palestinian desperation.

With over 3,350 Palestinians killed and tens of thousands gravely injured, many of them civilian non-combatants, the price of Israel's excessive force was etched into every grieving mother's face and every child's history.¹²² Behind the statistics lay more harrowing stories of innocent lives destroyed.

2002: Operation Defensive Shield and Destruction of Palestinian Infrastructure

In March 2002, Israel launched Operation Defensive Shield, a large-scale military operation in the West Bank in response to a series of suicide bombings carried out by Palestinian militant groups. While they called it Operation Defensive Shield, there was nothing defensive in the trail of devastation left by Israeli tanks and bulldozers as they rumbled through the West Bank in 2002.

Homes were reduced to rubble; schools left as hollow shells; livelihoods crushed under the tracks of military machinery. Palestinian infrastructure ravaged just months after being painstakingly rebuilt following earlier offensives.

Once more, the fog of war provided cover for collective punishment as civilian spaces were pounded with scant evidence of military necessity. When the dust settled, the demolished landscape stood as a monument to the disposability of Palestinian lives under occupation.

¹²² Tenne, Ruth. Rising of the oppressed: the second Intifada. International Socialism. 2007. | Finkelstein, Norman G. Beyond Chutzpah: On the misuse of anti-Semitism and the abuse of history. 2008.



2006: Lebanon War and destruction of Lebanese infrastructure

In the 2006 Lebanon invasion, Israel engaged in proven war crimes, deploying cluster munitions nicknamed “teddy bear bombs.” These deceptive munitions, resembling innocent toys, were intentionally dropped in villages, with a disturbing aim – luring children into picking up what seemed harmless, only to cause explosions upon contact.

This ruthless tactic not only violated international humanitarian laws prohibiting the targeting of civilians but also demonstrated a callous disregard for the lives of innocent children. The operation also resulted in the destruction of Lebanese infrastructure, including homes, schools, and power plants.

For over a month, Israeli air strikes pounded villages and cities across Lebanon, killing over 1,100 Lebanese civilians, including hundreds of children. But more importantly, the deliberate use of “teddy bear bombs” constitutes a severe war crime, demanding urgent accountability and justice for the devastating impact it left on civilian populations.¹²³

2008-2009: Gaza War and civilian casualties

In December 2008, Israel launched Operation Cast Lead, a 22-day military operation in the Gaza Strip. The operation resulted in widespread civilian casualties, with over 1,400 Palestinians killed, including hundreds of children. During this 23 day assault on Gaza, the Palestinian death toll reached an estimated 1,400 with thousands more injured.

When Israel unleashed its military plight on Gaza in 2008, it was civilians who paid the steepest price. Behind the clinical government statements justifying ‘targeted strikes,’ over 1,400 lives were extinguished, including hundreds of children.

For three weeks, Gaza’s civilians were corralled into an unrelenting warzone, unable to flee the onslaught from land, sea and air. Missiles tore through crowded neighbourhoods as tank shells flattened homes and sniper bullets pierced those who stepped outside.

Even UN schools sheltering terrified families could not escape the carnage, fraying the last threads of hope they desperately clung to. All around, the flames of devastation illuminated the precarity of civilian life under occupation.

2009: Operation Cast Lead II

Israel’s Operation Cast Lead II in early 2009 killed 248 Palestinians, including 215 civilians - with attacks striking densely populated areas and resulting in widespread destruction of apartment buildings, factories, schools and farmland vital to civilian life. In contrast, 13 Israelis were killed during the operation - 10 of which were soldiers.

In comparison, Palestinian projectiles - like always - cause comparatively limited damage and casualties. Of rockets fired by Palestinian groups from Gaza, over 95% are small homemade Qassam rockets that rarely hit populated zones or cause injury when they do. By contrast, Israel utilised US-supplied F-16s, helicopter gunships, tanks and elite ground forces to strike targets in the besieged Gaza strip with sophisticated precision-guided missiles and munitions, inflicting severe damage and loss of civilian life.

¹²³ Amnesty International. Israel - Lebanon: Out of All Proportion - Civilians Bear the Brunt of the War. 21 November 2006



During Cast Lead II, over 115,000 Palestinians required immediate food aid and cash assistance to survive in Gaza amidst the ravaged infrastructure. The extreme disparity and indiscriminate use of firepower against areas with a captive civilian populace underscored the asymmetric nature of force and injustice under prolonged occupation.¹²⁴

2012: Operation Pillar of Defense and Civilian Casualties

In November 2012, Israel launched Operation Pillar of Defense, an eight-day military operation in Gaza in response to non-lethal rocket launches from Hamas towards the Iron Dome.

Roads, government offices, sports stadiums - the sinews of ordinary life - crumbled as missiles slammed into civilian spaces. Farms became makeshift graveyards as the dead were buried in bombed fields beside crushed greenhouses and poisoned livestock.

When the skies finally cleared after a week, 167 Palestinians lay dead, including dozens of children. Among the rubble of civilian infrastructure, obliterated livelihoods embodied the human toll of Israel's doctrine of deterrence through devastation.¹²⁵

2014: Operation Protective Edge and civilian casualties

Israel's devastating 2014 offensive on Gaza killed over 2,200 Palestinians, including 1,462 civilians and over 500 children. By contrast, Palestinian rocket fire killed just 6 Israeli civilians during the entire operation.

This stark asymmetry in casualties highlights the limited destructive capacity of Hamas' crude rockets, which have only killed a total of 44 Israelis since 2001. Most rockets launched by Hamas and other groups are crude, homemade designs that rarely strike populated areas or cause casualties but are rather used to cause disruption and expend the Iron Dome's resources.

However, Israeli strikes in Gaza have and always will utilise high-grade US-supplied planes, helicopters, drones, artillery, tanks and warships with sophisticated targeting capabilities. But these advanced systems are never targeted at militants; instead, they were directed against Palestinian civilians and civilian infrastructure like residential buildings, hospitals, clinics, schools, factories and UN shelters - just like we're seeing today.

In total, the bombardment of Gaza by Israel caused over \$1.4 billion in damage to Gaza's civic infrastructure including 18,000 housing units destroyed, damaged 36,000 leaving over 100,000 Palestinians homeless and left an additional 11,000 Palestinians injured during Protective Edge, a third of them children.¹²⁶

2018: The Great March of Return

The Great March of Return protests in 2018-2019 began as a peaceful grassroots movement calling for Palestinian refugee rights. Palestinians in Gaza organised weekly demonstrations along the border fence to demand their internationally recognised right of return to ancestral lands lost since 1948 and an end to the blockade on Gaza and decades of occupation.

¹²⁴ Human Rights Watch. "I Lost Everything": Israel's Unlawful Destruction of Property during Operation Cast Lead. 13 May 2010

¹²⁵ Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack. Education under Attack 2014 - Israel/Palestine. 27 February 2014.

¹²⁶ Amnesty International. State of Palestine: Unlawful and deadly: Rocket and mortar attacks by Palestinian armed groups during the 2014 Gaza/Israel conflict. 26 March 2015. | International Federation for Human Rights. Trapped and Punished: The Gaza Civilian Population under Operation Protective Edge. 27 March 2015.



While most gatherings involved sit-ins and distance from the fence, Israeli forces characterised them as violent riots. Yet UN reports found over 95% of protests were entirely peaceful. Despite this, Israel deployed live ammunition against the crowds from the outset, rejecting calls for restraint.

Even though just 4% of all demonstrations involved stone-throwing at distance from the fence, Israeli snipers continued shooting protesters wavering between 100-400 metres away, evidently targeting unarmed demonstrators in violation of international law. Protesters included women, persons with disabilities, journalists covering events and even medics who were shot aiding the wounded and many even lost their lives. As casualties mounted weekly, Gaza's main hospitals were overwhelmed, with 120 amputations and life-altering wounds.

After over a year of protests, Israeli fire killed 215 demonstrators, including 46 children, 2 paramedics, and 2 journalists. Over 36,000 were injured, nearly 7,000 by live ammunition. Despite the horrific bloodshed, protesters continued their principled stand, paying the price for basic rights with their lives.

Despite this, calls for independent investigations into the systematic shootings of civilians and those visibly unarmed were blocked, engendering a culture of impunity and deepening Palestinian distrust in the possibility of liberation.¹²⁷

2022: The assassination of Shireen Abu Akleh

Shireen Abu Akleh was fatally shot in the head on May 11th while reporting an IDF military raid in Jenin despite wearing a helmet and vest clearly marked 'press.' Abu Akleh's long career reporting on Palestinians gave voice to those living under occupation, with her targeted killing adding her to the list of 46 journalists killed by Israel between 2000 and 2022 – including award-winning photographer Yasser Murtaja killed while also wearing a press vest.

Abu Akleh's May 13th funeral procession in Jerusalem drew thousands and Israeli riot police not only refused to protect the pallbearers but actively assaulted them. Shocking footage shows police beating crowds with batons, almost causing Abu Akleh's casket to crash to the ground, before invading the church where she was to be buried – resulting in over 33 Palestinians injured.¹²⁸

The brutal killing of esteemed Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and the consequent attacks on her funeral represented grave violations by Israel, all of which they worked to shroud with misinformation. Ultimately, UN experts found no active combat or fire in her vicinity, determining the shot targeting Abu Akleh was fired from an IDF position.

2022: The carpet bombing of the Gaza Strip

Weeks later in August 2022, Israel once again unleashed disproportionate force on Gaza civilians when it initiated airstrikes on the besieged enclave, preceding Palestinian rocket fire. Over the course of 3 days, Israel's precision guided missiles and artillery shells slammed civilian

¹²⁷ Amnesty International. Six months on: Gaza's Great March of Return. 2018. | Abusalim, J. The Great March of Return: An organiser's perspective. Journal of Palestine Studies. 2018. | Hawari Y. From inspiration to despair: A year of Gaza's Great March of Return. Middle East Eye. 2019

¹²⁸ The Palestinian Return Centre Ltd. The Unlawful Killing of Palestinian-American Journalist - Shireen Abu Akleh. 7th June 2022.



areas killing 49 Palestinians, including 17 children and wide-scale damage, prompting warnings that Gaza's infrastructure was near total collapse.¹²⁹

International human rights organisations verified that lethal Israeli strikes hit busy intersections, major roads and a kindergarten in densely populated neighbourhoods reflecting a deliberate tactic of targeting areas most likely to harm civilians.

During this period, Hamas and Islamic Jihad rockets killed no Israelis and instead only destroyed infrastructure. This vast asymmetry underscores the lack of safe haven for Palestinians under bombardment and occupation by one of the world's most advanced militaries.

Life as a Palestinian under the Israeli-occupation

In the harsh reality of the Israeli-occupation, the term 'apartheid' merely scratches the surface of the profound human rights abuses and systemic brutality endured by the Palestinian people.

Beyond the explicit brutalisation, torture, and dehumanisation, Israel's occupation apartheid manifests in multifaceted forms that collectively strangle the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Palestinian people. This exploration aims to unravel the layers of oppression, shedding light on the systematic restrictions imposed on Palestinian lives.

Restriction of movement and military checkpoints

Military checkpoints are emblematic of the daily humiliations endured by Palestinians. Subject to arbitrary searches, delays, and harassment, Palestinians face a dehumanising experience every time they traverse these checkpoints.

For Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, even mundane aspects of daily life are restricted by Israel's extensive system of checkpoints, roadblocks and the 708 km separation wall declared illegal by the ICJ for encroaching deep into Palestinian territory far beyond the Green Line.

Over 460 obstacles to movement exist, consisting of checkpoints, earth mounds, road gates and other barriers to restrict access to essential services for millions of Palestinians – obstructing access to schools, hospitals, jobs and livelihoods during 'peacetime' living under occupation.

And to make matters worse, there's also a long list of ridiculous 'contraband' items Palestinians aren't allowed to bring into occupied land, including but not limited to: fishing rods, cumin, coriander, ginger, jam, vinegar, fabric, seed planters, irrigation pipe systems, ropes, heaters, sewing machines, razors, toys, newspapers and the list goes on.¹³⁰

In 2019, over 65% of Palestinian workers endured over six hours of delay weekly at checkpoints while commuting between home and work.¹³¹ Not to mention, patients, including pregnant women in ambulances stuck for over 30 minutes, have died from lack of timely medical care after checkpoint delays.

¹²⁹ American Near East Refugee Aid. Palestine Situation Report. 8th August 2022. | Amnesty International. They Were Just Kids: Evidence of War Crimes during Israel's August 2022 Gaza Offensive. October 2022.

¹³⁰ Gisha - Legal Center for Freedom of Movement. Restrictions on the Transfer of Goods into Gaza: Obstruction and Obfuscation. January 2010

¹³¹ ITUC CSI IGB. Workers Rights in Crisis: Palestinian workers in Israel and the settlements. 2019.



Farmers also routinely report harassment and economic losses due to restricted movement that constrains tending crops and access to markets. What this blanket denial of basic rights demonstrates is the determination of Israel to erode Palestinian agency and dignity in all spheres of life.

Land confiscation and settlement expansion

The strategic confiscation of Palestinian land for illegal settlements is a calculated policy to alter the demographic and geographic landscape. Beyond those complicit through inherent bias are the radicalised extremists who engage in overt violence against Palestinian communities. The violent ideology of religious and nationalist settlers who expropriate Palestinian lands under army protection views existence of non-Jews itself as prohibited, with entire Palestinian neighbourhoods and villages denied basic services to coerce displacement.

Settler violence encompasses physical assaults, stonings, Molotov cocktails, vandalism and other attacks against Palestinian civilians that have killed dozens. Olive groves, representing key livelihood sources, are torched and damaged to economically devastated Palestinian farmers. These extremists are driven by a radical belief system with genocidal undercurrents regarding indigenous communities, allowing them to enact psychological and physical cruelty without ethical reservations.

By obstructing daily life, making Palestine inhospitable and driving vicious pogrom-style attacks against neighbourhoods, Israeli settlers aimed to terrorise indigenous Arabs into fleeing. These attempts, when coupled with state policies which were introduced to minimise the presence of non-Jewish natives, worked to erase both Palestinian heritage and indigeneity.

Dispossession of basic human rights and resources

Water, a basic human necessity, becomes a tool of oppression as Israel controls and limits Palestinian access to vital water resources. Palestinians face severe water scarcity exacerbated by Israel's discriminatory water policies under occupation. Israel retains near complete control over aquifers and water resources in the West Bank, with average water allocation per Israeli over 300 litres per day compared to just 73 litres for Palestinians – well below WHO's 100 litre minimum.¹³²

The West Bank's largest aquifer is tapped disproportionately for Israelis, leaving Palestinians dependent on smaller over-used reservoirs of poorer quality. The restricted access has caused chronic shortages in many towns and villages, impacting hygiene, healthcare and livelihoods of Palestinian communities. Before the war, more than 600,000 Palestinians across 200 communities located mostly in Area C have had no option but to purchase from trucks due to lack of piped water infrastructure.

Besides control over resources, the inequities permeate through to wastewater treatment. While Israel treats around 90% of all wastewater, including from settlements, the treatment rate in the West Bank is hardly 16%. This leads to environmental issues and public health crises for Palestinians caused by contaminated water – over a quarter of all disease cases can be linked to inadequate water supply and sanitation.¹³³

¹³² Amnesty International. The Occupation of Water. November 2017.

¹³³ Stamatopoulou-Robins, Sophia C. Failure to build: Sewage and the choppy temporality of infrastructure in Palestine. 2020.



Palestinians face discriminatory water policies, with Israeli settlements enjoying ample supply while neighbouring Palestinian communities experience chronic shortages, further deepening the inequalities imposed by the apartheid regime.

Destruction of Palestinian infrastructure and property

Since its occupation of the West Bank in 1967, Israel has systematically demolished over 14,000 Palestinian homes due to lack of proper construction permits, which are almost impossible for Palestinians to obtain.¹³⁴ This policy has displaced thousands of Palestinian families and entrenched poverty. For example, in 2022 alone, Israel demolished or seized 822 Palestinian buildings, displacing over 1,400 people.¹³⁵

The humanitarian impact is immense - families watch their life's savings crumble before their eyes as the bulldozers arrive. Demolished houses often contained the family's entire wealth. The constant threat of losing their homes further demoralises Palestinian communities. Discriminatory planning regimes make permits in Area C and East Jerusalem virtually unattainable for Palestinians. For instance, from 2009-2020 only 2.5% of Palestinian permit requests were approved in East Jerusalem, in contrast to 34% approval for Jewish Israelis there.¹³⁶

This vast gulf underscores the realities of occupation, where Palestinian development is severely restricted. Since home demolitions often occur to make way for expanding settlements, this displacement frequently compounds the loss by forcibly transferring Palestinians off their own lands. This systematic erosion of Palestinian space is a microcosm of the wider pressures that the community faces under military occupation. Even before the active onslaught we've witnessed since October 7th, over 60,000 Palestinians were facing the threat of forcible transfer due to settlement expansion plans.

Legal discrimination and military courts

Contrary to principles of rule of law, Israel operates under a dual legal system that structurally discriminates against Palestinians living under occupation across the West Bank. Under military orders, Palestinians reside under martial law administered by occupying Israeli forces with little legal protection. Simultaneously, Israeli settlers in the West Bank fall under the country's civil jurisdiction and laws, facing entirely different regulatory frameworks.

This bifurcated justice apparatus produces severe inequalities. Data indicates over 99% of cases brought by military prosecutors result in convictions in this parallel legal system that systematically fails principles of fairness and impartiality.

Once charged, Palestinians under military detention lack safeguards like promptly informing families, prohibitions on night interrogations without lawyers, and other checks against maltreatment, enabling systematic abuses. Just 5% of detainees see lawyers before interrogation sessions where coercion is rampant. Most face a toxic status quo where imprisonment without trial based on secret evidence provided by unnamed sources is commonplace.

¹³⁴ Meetings Coverage Security Council - 9425th Meeting (AM). Settlement Expansion in Occupied Palestinian Territory Violates International Law, Must Cease, Many Delegates Tell Security Council. September 2023

¹³⁵ OCHA. West Bank demolitions and displacement. United Nation Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. December 2022

¹³⁶ Human Rights Watch. A Threshold Crossed Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution. June 2021.



The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Israel has ratified, demands detention of children "be used only as a measure of last resort." Yet night arrests and detention of Palestinian children by Israeli security forces have become widespread.

In 2022, Israeli prison records showed over 600 Palestinian children arrested every year since 2017 and of these, almost all report physical - and sometimes sexual - violence used during arrests.

This denial of legal rights permeates even non-security domains dehumanising Palestinian lives. For example, the planning regime enforced by Israel denies over 94% of Palestinian building permit requests in East Jerusalem between 2016 and 2018 relegating construction as "illegal." Conversely approval rates within settlements reached 53% over the same period.¹³⁷

Through imposed legal inequality across domains from due process to basic property rights, systemic discrimination prevails with profound human impacts. Rule of law cannot exist under such arbitrary control disempowering Palestinian rights.

Illegal detainment and murder of innocent children

Israel's systematic targeting of Palestinian children is a heinous crime that cannot be ignored. The illegal detainment and murder of innocent children, often unarmed and defenceless, serves as a glaring example of the genocidal agenda at play. These acts are not isolated incidents and violations of international law but are part of a deliberate strategy aimed at demoralising and extinguishing Palestinian hope.

Nighttime arrests by Israeli security forces have terrorised West Bank Palestinian children, with over 1,200 detained in 2022 adding to an estimated total exceeding 19,000 children arrested since 2000 based on human rights data. Many of these children are identified as security offences and held solely for throwing stones while others are held on absolutely no charge at all.¹³⁸

During arrest raids, 89% of children report physical violence including kicking, slapping, punching and striking with rifle butts according to testimonies, while others describe verbal abuse by arresting Israeli soldiers. Inside detention centres, systematic abuses continue.¹³⁹ Reports indicate children often endure abuse and coercion to sign confessions in Hebrew, a language most don't understand, without parents or lawyers present.

While detained, 77% of children report physical violence and 95% psychological abuse based on affidavits collected by monitoring groups.¹⁴⁰ Yet systemic impunity shields perpetrators. Of 645 complaints of violence filed against Israeli Security Agency interrogators from 2018-2021, only one criminal investigation opened, reflecting utter disregard for rule of law.

This illegal mistreatment has created profound psychosocial distress for an entire generation. Well-documented symptoms include nightmares, bed-wetting, lowered academic performance, depression, and suicidal tendencies triggered by trauma from arbitrary arrests or observing violence against family members.

¹³⁷ The Israeli Committee Against Home Demolishing. Obstacles to Peace 2020 edition. ICAHD. 2020.

¹³⁸ Meetings Coverage Security Council. 9366TH MEETING (AM & PM). July 2023.

¹³⁹ CAAC Bulletin 2020. Situation of Concern: Israel and the State of Palestine. Unicef. August 2021.

¹⁴⁰ Save the Children. Stripped, Beaten and Blindfolded: new research reveals ongoing violence and abuse of Palestinian children detained by Israel military. July 2023.



Palestinian children also face heightened threats of violence in mundane aspects of life under occupation. In 2022 alone, 41 Palestinian children were killed and a further 169 injured by Israeli military and security personnel across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Trigger-happy policies have enabled killing of Palestinian children with live ammunition, especially during violent dispersals of protests. Some children died playing football or running away posing no credible danger to heavily armed security personnel.

Routine threats erode any semblance of a safe childhood, from violence-induced trauma to coerced displacement when settlements expand. This ‘de-development’ of Palestinian spaces strangulates future prospects before children can realise their potential, entrenching despondency under systematic oppression.

Torture as a tool of oppression

Torture is wielded as a weapon of oppression, with Israeli authorities resorting to brutal methods against Palestinian detainees. The grim reality includes physical abuse, psychological torment, and a culture of impunity that shields perpetrators from accountability.

Verified reports have exposed how both physical and psychological torture is systematically deployed to deliberately inflict suffering as a coercive instrument for gathering intelligence or self-incriminating statements.

Between 2015 and 2019, Palestinian detainees filed over 1,200 torture complaints detailing abuses like stress positions, beatings, sleep deprivation and solitary confinement. One method termed “shabah” involves painful binding of limbs behind the body in absolute discomfort.¹⁴¹ However only one criminal investigation has opened based on available records, indicating near absolute impunity.¹⁴²

Coercion is also structured into underlying procedures. A process termed ‘pressure system’ facilitates psychological torture where detainees face intimidating threats of prison, arrest of family members or other scaring tactics to force cooperation. Most Palestinians face interrogation without lawyers where abusive practices prevail.

Other reports reveal prison authorities deploying medical means for torture. Evidence indicates some detainees were injected against their will with muscle relaxants causing inability to move for hours, an experience described as equal to physical torture but without marks. Victims also recount detention in foul cells with blistering lights or being placed by heaters in summer.

These practices contradict international law obligations banning torture, cruel or inhumane treatment of prisoners. Yet the seeds of this culture of torture were sowed decades earlier after authorities condoned “moderate physical pressure” in a landmark 1999 Israeli High Court ruling.¹⁴³ Palestinian victims as young as 14 years have testified to torture scars from sustained abuses. Some recount permanent physical disabilities or profound psychological trauma persisting years after being released.

By systemically violating prisoner rights, Israel aims to dehumanise and demoralise Palestinian society to sustain occupation control. Yet refusing to investigate credible torture claims or holding officials accountable, authorities have emboldened perpetrators for decades

¹⁴¹ The Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR). 27th Annual Report. 2021.

¹⁴² HCJ 9018/17 Tbeish et al. v the Attorney-General et al., Ruling of 26 November 2018.

¹⁴³ HCJ 5100/94 Public Committee Against Torture in Israel v the Government of Israel, PD 73(4) 817 (1999).



precipitating this moral crisis. Urgent international action is warranted to prevent further descent into this regulatory abyss scarred by horrific abuses at odds with modern ethical norms.

Dehumanisation as governmental policy

The dehumanisation of Palestinians has been a deliberate policy, perpetuated through military operations, discriminatory laws, Israeli education and a pervasive culture that fosters prejudice. Dehumanising rhetoric, portraying Palestinians as "roaches" and "rats," lays the foundation for atrocities by stripping away their humanity in the eyes of the oppressor.

Israeli textbooks and historical narratives frequently reinforce prejudices against Palestinians and erase elements of their lived experiences. A comprehensive analysis of 138 Israeli textbooks found 79% portrayed Palestinians negatively, 73% contained "extreme negative characterisations" including promotion of racist stereotypes, while significant historic events like the Nakba were entirely erased from key historical accounts about the state's founding.¹⁴⁴

Worse still, some state-issued school books contain incendiary statements against Palestinian that echo sentiments from extremist positions. For example, a 2018 civics textbook prepared under the supervision of the Israeli Ministry of Education portrayed Palestinians as a 'blood-thirsty culture,' called Palestinian labourers 'infiltrators,' and actively promoted racism against minorities despite outcry from advocates.¹⁴⁵

Besides school textbooks, widespread media narratives also project institutional biases ranging from depicting Palestinians solely as militants and erasing their normal daily life to embedding language biases around land, protests and resistance tactics. These patterns collectively indicate how public discourse within segments of Israeli society systematically dehumanise Palestinians while entrenching prejudices against them.

Illegal imprisonment and suppression of human rights

The widespread practice of illegal imprisonment, often without charges or due process, is a blatant violation of human rights. Palestinian activists, journalists, and civilians face relentless suppression, with arbitrary arrests, administrative detentions, and the stifling of dissent creating an environment of fear and intimidation.

As of March 2023, around 670 Palestinians were held in detention without trial under renewable 6-month administrative detention orders.¹⁴⁶ Some detainees have been imprisoned for years under revolving orders without ever standing trial. Israel defends the practice as imperative for national security threats but rights groups argue it breaches standards of due process and enables inhumane treatment. Reports indicate many administrative detainees have suffered extensive periods of solitary confinement or torture during interrogations over their open-ended incarceration.

Critically, administrative detention relies on secret evidence undisclosed even to the detainee or their lawyer. Family members are also often denied access or information, disappearing into the Israeli prison system. By detaining people indefinitely on the basis of confidential records, due process standards are violated as individuals cannot even contest the reasons behind their

¹⁴⁴ Podedh, Elie. *The Arab-Israeli Conflict in Israeli History Textbooks, 1948-2000* Bloomsbury Publishing. 2001. | Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*. 2009. |

¹⁴⁵ Civics textbook called 'Being a Citizen in Israel' - supported by the Israeli Ministry of Education. (First reported on 2016)

¹⁴⁶ UN Human Rights Office. OPT: Dramatic rise in detention of Palestinians across occupied West Bank. December 2023.



imprisonment. The inherently unequal treatment contributes to perceptions of unjust persecution rather than fair detention.

The inhumanity of implicit bias under Israeli-occupation

Unfortunately, even so-called progressive Israelis exhibit innate anti-Palestinian prejudices that enable the machinery of occupation and horrific abuses against Palestinians as an oppressed people. Their conditioned biases foster public acquiescence to the unconscionable reality where millions of Palestinians are denied basic human, civil and national rights.

Behind the benign language of “security fences” and “necessary checkpoints” lies a darker truth of deliberate policies to restrict Palestinian life, liberty and livelihoods enforced under the barrel of a gun. These biases allow many Israelis to excuse and ignore what is a brutal system of military rule rife with institutional discrimination, land confiscation, night raids, and violent suppression of protests against a dehumanising status quo.

The biases extend to selective application of ethical standards whereby innocent Palestinian civilians murdered are implicitly regarded as expendable or inevitable collateral, while Israeli casualties are mourned as tragic victims even if armed or in territory occupied against international law. This explains the yawning gulf in reactions to comparative deaths.

Moreover, most Israelis exhibit a double standard for violence by state forces maintaining occupation through vastly disproportionate military firepower versus desperate acts by occupied Palestinian youth expressing their resistance and trauma through stone throwing and lone wolf attacks. This contradictory ethical judgement reveals an intrinsic apathy to daily injustices endured by Palestinians.

Even seemingly sympathetic Israelis frame peace through a lens of magnanimity, as though granting Palestinians conditional human rights is an act of charity rather than an ethical and legal obligation to correct grave breaches inflicted through decades of dispossession and disenfranchisement. This distorted mindset ultimately serves to perpetuate systemic mistreatment.

The destruction of education and health-care

The Israeli occupation has also created vast divides in access to education and healthcare between illegal settlements and Palestinian communities. Because of the occupation, high school completion rates stand at 76% among Palestinians versus 91% inside Israel and while over half of Israelis progress towards higher education, just 11.4% of Palestinians get such opportunities.¹⁴⁷

But that’s not to say Palestinians don’t have an enduring commitment to education, despite the systemic obstacles imposed by Israel. In fact, adult literacy stands at 97.83% while youth literacy (ages 15-24) averages around 100% at 98.44% indicating both historic progress and current efforts to pursue learning.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁷ Education at a Glance 2023: OECD Indicators. The output of educational institutions and the impact of learning. OECD Library. 2023. | For Most Palestinian Students, University Education Is A Dream. Reach Education Fund. January 2022. | State of Palestine. Main results for living standards in Palestine: Expenditure, Consumption and Poverty. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. 2017.

¹⁴⁸ Palestine: Literacy Rates. The Global Economy. UNESCO. 1997-2019.



Similarly, Palestinians encounter restrictions accessing quality healthcare under occupation. While Israel maintains universal healthcare coverage even for settlers residing illegally in the West Bank, Palestinians require hard-to-obtain permits for treatment in East Jerusalem where Israel has relocated advanced specialist services after 1967 – contributing over the decades to completely preventable deaths.¹⁴⁹

This stratified system produces poorer wellbeing outcomes evident from stark gaps in infant mortality rates - 12.9 per 1,000 live births in Palestine compared to 3.4 inside Israel based on 2022 World Bank data.¹⁵⁰ By design, Israel's discriminatory policies engineer "de-development" elongating these discrepancies in basic rights to healthcare and education.

A plea for Palestinian liberation

It's no longer enough to just shed light on the explicit horrors faced by Palestinians. Now, we must unequivocally demand justice and an end to the genocidal campaign waged by Israel.

The explicit horrors of Israel's systemic oppression and genocidal actions towards the Palestinian people and infrastructure exposes the deliberate brutalisation, torture, and dehumanisation that have become hallmarks of its occupation.

The international community's complicity through silence or insufficient action is contributing to the perpetuation of this genocidal campaign. Calls for accountability must move beyond rhetoric, demanding concrete measures to hold Israel responsible for its crimes against humanity.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) must play a pivotal role in ensuring justice for the victims and an end to the culture of impunity.

The world cannot turn a blind eye to the suffering of a people subjected to a relentless genocide – a collective call for justice is not only a moral imperative but an urgent necessity to halt the ongoing atrocities against the Palestinian population.

The reality of Palestinian casualties and grief

In total, between only the years of 2008-2023: 50+ years after the initial Nakba and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians – 6500+ Palestinians have been mercilessly killed and 121,438+ injured, again mostly civilians – and that's only the ones the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs are aware of.

A stark contrast to the 308 dead and 6,307 injured Israelis – most of whom, up until the tragic Hamas attack in 2023, were mainly militants and not civilians. This is not to say extremist Palestinians didn't harm or kill Israeli civilians, in fact, of these mentioned numbers; many innocent individuals were just that, innocent Israeli lives who deserve to be remembered with the same grace and compassion as the innocent Palestinians lost.¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁹ Right to Health in the occupied Palestinian territory: 2018. WHO. October 2019.

¹⁵⁰ Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births). Estimates developed by the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, UN DESA Population Division). childmortality.org

¹⁵¹ United Nations. The Human Cost Of The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. 2021.



The harrowing truth however is that these numbers are from BEFORE the continued attacks on Gaza, with an additional 25,000+ lives being taken by Israel's genocidal warmongering with the US and UK's support.

As of right now — the IOF and Israel are continuing their genocidal attack on Palestinians while the whole world watches, performing under the guise of 'targeting Hamas' — which has time and time again been proven as a lie!

And it's not the only lie they've told in the last few months!

Dissecting Zionist propaganda echoed by western media

Israel's propaganda machine, known as Hasbara, has systematically perpetuated the dehumanisation of Palestinians, often with explicit and evocative tactics. This calculated effort aims to shape global perceptions and suppress criticism, using various strategies verified by reputable sources, including NGOs, Reuters, the UN, and the Red Cross.

Between the dates of October 7th and October 25th of 2023 alone, Israel funded ads to the tune of a startling \$7.1 million, with adverts even targeting children on apps such as YouTube and games like Angry Birds.

It's unknown how much more has been spent on funding this political propaganda but some of their particularly insidious claims include the following.

Pallywood and minimising Palestinian grief

The term "Pallywood" has been coined to undermine the credibility of Palestinian suffering. This concept suggests that Palestinians manipulate or stage events to exaggerate their plight, a narrative employed to downplay the real and often devastating consequences of conflict. This insidious tactic diminishes genuine grief and perpetuates a narrative that undermines the credibility of Palestinian narratives.

Examples of this include:

- The term "Pallywood" has been used to discredit genuine Palestinian suffering by alleging that events are staged or manipulated for media coverage, diminishing the authenticity of Palestinian narratives.
- Footage of Palestinian casualties or destruction has been selectively edited or taken out of context, altering the perception of the scale of human suffering during conflicts.

Explicit dehumanisation in Israeli media narratives

Israel's media narratives have consistently portrayed Palestinians in dehumanising ways, casting them as threats or terrorists. This deliberate framing influences public opinion and fosters an environment where the suffering of Palestinians is dismissed or justified.

Examples of this include:

- Public statements or media narratives that downplay civilian casualties by attributing them solely to the actions of Palestinian militants, minimising the impact of Israeli



military operations on civilian populations or completely undermining the reported number of casualties as evidenced by Biden and the USA.

Unfounded anti-semitism accusations to suppress critique

Accusations of anti-Semitism are wielded as a tool to stifle legitimate criticism of Israeli policies. This tactic, documented by various sources, creates a chilling effect on discussions about human rights abuses, deflecting attention from well-documented violations.

Examples of this include:

- Accusations of anti-Semitism directed at individuals or organisations critical of Israeli policies, deterring open discourse and framing legitimate concerns as inherently prejudiced.
- The promotion of legislation criminalising or penalising support for the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, framing such actions as inherently anti-Semitic rather than a form of political expression.
- The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism being misused to conflate criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism, leading to a broader suppression of dissenting voices.
- Attempts to silence Jewish individuals critical of Israeli policies by branding them as "self-hating Jews" or accusing them of betraying their own community, using personal attacks to undermine dissent.

Financial investments in shaping public opinion

Israel's substantial financial investments in public relations campaigns, lobbying, and media outreach are well-documented. These efforts contribute to a carefully crafted image that obscures the reality of human rights violations and promotes a narrative that aligns with Israeli interests.

Examples of this include:

- Substantial allocations from the Israeli government for Hasbara efforts, including initiatives to shape international public opinion through strategic messaging and media campaigns.
- Sizeable financial contributions from private individuals and organisations to groups promoting a pro-Israel narrative globally, influencing media coverage and public discourse.
- Collaborations with social media influencers and bloggers who receive financial support to present a positive image of Israel, creating a curated online presence that aligns with Israeli interests.
- Funding initiatives that shape educational materials and programs globally to portray Israel in a positive light, influencing how young people perceive the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



- Significant expenditures on lobbying activities, particularly in the United States, to influence policymakers and ensure a favourable political environment for Israel.

Obstruction of accountability and evidence tampering

Reports have highlighted instances of evidence tampering and obstruction of accountability for human rights violations. These actions undermine efforts to hold individuals and entities responsible for alleged abuses, contributing to a culture of impunity.

Examples of this include:

- Instances where investigations into alleged war crimes committed by Israeli military forces face obstacles, resulting in a lack of accountability and contributing to a culture of impunity.
- Allegations and reports suggesting the deliberate destruction of evidence in conflict zones, hindering efforts to establish responsibility for human rights violations.
- Reports of intimidation or threats against individuals, including Palestinian civilians and international activists, who attempt to document or testify about human rights abuses in the region.
- Efforts to influence or obstruct international investigations, such as challenging the legitimacy of inquiries by bodies like the International Criminal Court (ICC), limiting their effectiveness.
- Refusal to grant access to independent investigative bodies, hindering the collection of evidence and obstructing efforts to uncover the truth behind alleged human rights violations.

Influence on UK and US politics

Israel's influence on UK and US politics is evident through lobbying groups like AIPAC. This has led to policies that align with Israeli interests, impacting the objectivity of decision-making processes related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Examples of this include:

- The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) exerting significant influence on U.S. policymakers through lobbying efforts and campaign contributions, impacting decisions related to Israel.
- The close political ties between Israel and the U.S. resulting in substantial military aid packages, creating a dynamic where financial support is linked to political alignment and influencing policy decisions.
- Financial contributions from pro-Israel donors to political candidates in the U.S. and the UK, shaping political landscapes and fostering a climate conducive to policies aligning with Israeli interests.



- Instances where individuals with dual citizenship in the U.S. and Israel hold influential positions in government, raising questions about potential conflicts of interest and influence on policy decisions.
- The establishment of parliamentary groups, such as the Conservative Friends of Israel in the UK, fostering political alliances and shaping political narratives that favour Israel.

The historical complicity of the UK in Palestinian suffering

As the actor responsible for issuing the 1917 Balfour Declaration, the UK bears a profound historic responsibility for the initial terms that led to the expulsion of 700,000 Palestinians to enable the founding of Israel.

Rather than fostering democratic foundations between two communities amid rising tensions and targeting extremists on both sides equally, the UK extended preferential support to the Zionist movement including rarely disarming the mass rapid militarisation of tens of thousands of settlers who imposed collective punishments and attacks Arabs frequently (though talking tough on Arab violence).

Hundreds of Palestinian deaths went largely uninvestigated and unprosecuted by British Mandatory Forces from 1920 to 1948 while applying emergency laws like detentions more broadly on Arabs for collective punishment after a comparatively smaller number of Jewish casualties. Neither protecting Arabs nor reining in Zionist expansionary aspirations, they set the stage for escalating violence that culminated in the Nakba.

The failure by the British administration to restrain armed militias who terrorised Palestinian communities caused immeasurable suffering. Later in 1948, the UK also blocked the return of refugees to villages like Deir Yassin that prompted mass flight. The bias in implementation of policies to limit Palestinians laid immediate roots of modern conflict.

The UK's modern-day complicity in Palestinian human rights violations

In recent decades, the UK has frequently failed to act in preventing or mitigating Israeli actions causing egregious human rights violations against Palestinians both in the OPT and among its own Palestinian minority citizens:

In the face of indiscriminate bombing against dense civilian centres in Gaza, the UK issued ineffective platitudes lacking meaningful opposition to the grave breaches of international law its own role enabled over a century prior. Arms exports continued unabated to Israel, tacitly endorsing actions in breach of human rights safeguards the UK is treaty bound itself not to enable.

Having long dismissed and failed to implement UN resolutions on Palestinian issues from ending occupation to addressing root injustices, the UK equally obstructs practical paths to accountability like ICC investigations against leaders. Resistance to acknowledging historic responsibilities has forestalled remedies.

The US' reckless support for Israel and the imbalance of power

Since the 1960s, the United States has provided staunch economic, military and diplomatic support for Israel that has directly facilitated policies targeting and oppressing the Palestinian



population under occupation. This lopsided backing dispensed without conditionality on improving human rights has directly enabled grave status quo abuses.

Total US military aid to Israel now exceeds \$146 billion, financing one of the most powerful armies of the Middle East that enforces the occupation regime. Israel remains the largest cumulative recipient of US foreign assistance since WWII. By financing the military apparatus maintaining decades long occupation with few civil rights protections for Palestinians, the US is squarely complicit.

Equally, unconditional US diplomatic cover has shielded Israel from over 45 UNSC resolutions demanding adherence to international law because dozens of US vetoes blocked binding action whenever invoked. This has granted impunity for violations like home demolitions and settlement expansions that cumulatively dispossess Palestinians.

US intervention has also imposed outcomes like annulment of democratic Palestinian elections and appointments of reliable leaders amenable to continued occupation. This external meddling has constrained Palestinian self-determination and paralyzed their preparedness to negotiate as equals, perpetuating their subjugation.

By actively arming one side to overwhelmingly dominate conflict while shielding them from accountability, the US creates a gross asymmetry where Israel as occupying power faces no incentives to cease compounding occupation practices eroding Palestinian rights and sovereignty for over 50 years. This willful negligence of power dynamics preventing resolution builds on historic refusal to recognise any responsibility for Palestinian displacement despite supporting the UN partition plan that enabled it.

The enormous US financial, military and diplomatic assistance continues to severely undermine prospects for Palestinian liberation and fundamental rights by cementing Israeli ability and incentive to dictate bounded terms of gradually worsening inequality long term through unchecked settlement expansion threatening Oslo's entire premise. This constitutes complicity in the human rights violations inherent to unbridled occupation.

Human rights organisations have directly implicated US military aid and arms in enabling violations by Israel against Palestinians routinely, including most recently in the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 bombardment of Gaza where American weapons like JDAM precision bombs were used for attacks on residential apartment blocks killing entire families without military pretext. Systematic impedance of international justice and accountability enables permanent occupation.

Complicit in genocide: then and now

As the chief western enablers blocking redress for historical grievances like refugees through the consistently hawkish stances shielding Israeli leaders from remedying human rights violations and constrained self-governance, the United States and the UK remain centrally complicit in Palestinian disenfranchisement today, just as the equally obstructionist British empire was responsible for exodus that birthed the conflict initially by placing politics over principles to advance projected imperial interests.



The myths and historical implications of proposed peace resolutions

The quest for a just resolution to the Israeli-occupation of Palestine has been marred by a series of ostensibly diplomatic initiatives, often touted as solutions to achieve peace.

By exploring the explicit details of these proposals, their adverse consequences on Palestinian rights and the reasons for their rejection, we aim to unveil the complexities surrounding purported peace agreements.

Peel Commission Plan (1937)

The Peel Commission Plan, proposed in 1937, was among the earliest attempts to address the escalating tensions between Jewish and Arab communities in Palestine. However, its suggestion of a two-state solution through territorial partition encountered immediate challenges. The proposed borders lacked geographical coherence, leading to concerns about the viability of two separate entities. Arab rejection of the plan highlighted the inadequacy of dividing land without addressing fundamental issues like displaced populations and equal rights.

Why did Palestinians actually object to this resolution?

- The plan allocated over 80% of the fertile land to the Jewish state despite Jews only making up less than a third of the population. This reinforced fears of displacement and lack of economic viability for Palestinians.
- Historic Palestinian villages like Jaffa, Acre and Tiberias were cut off from the proposed Arab state, raising concerns that Palestinians would lose access to critical seaports, railways and roads needed for trade and economic activity.
- The population transfer proposal aimed to forcibly remove 225,000 Palestinians from the Jewish state, which Palestinians viewed as an infringement on their basic rights and an endorsement of their mass displacement.
- The Peel Commission largely ignored Arab input in the decision-making process, fostering resentment among Palestinians who felt marginalised in determining their own fate.

UN Partition Plan (1947)

The UN Partition Plan of 1947 aimed to resolve the escalating conflict by dividing Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. While it set the groundwork for Israel's establishment, its implementation unfolded amidst violence and forced displacement. The plan's failure to ensure equitable distribution of land and resources sowed the seeds of future discord. Palestinian rejection stemmed from the perceived injustice of losing significant territory and the displacement of Arab communities.

Why did Palestinians actually object to this resolution?

- The plan designated 56% of land to the Jewish state while 43% was allocated for the Arab state, despite Jews owning less than 7% of the land at that time. and the Jewish



population constituting just over 30% of the total population. This only served to reinforce the view that Palestinian land rights were being fundamentally erased.

- Over 40% of the Arab population in the territory designated as the Jewish state faced the prospect of forcible transfer out of their homes in cities like Haifa, Safad and Beisan, fueling vehement opposition.
- The plan denied Palestinian sovereignty over key religious sites in Jerusalem and the Galilee held sacred by Muslims and Christians, heightening a sense of dispossession.
- The partition led to mass displacement, with hundreds of thousands of Palestinians forcibly expelled from their homes, contributing to the rejection of a plan seen as endorsing their dispossession.
- Palestinians perceived the international influence in favour of the Zionist cause as an infringement on their right to self-determination, adding to their refusal to accept the plan.

Rogers Plan (1969)

The Rogers Plan, introduced in 1969, sought to de-escalate tensions by endorsing UN Security Council Resolution 242. While emphasising land-for-peace, the plan lacked specificity on key issues such as the status of Jerusalem and the right of return. This ambiguity hindered its potential for success, as both Israel and the Arab states held divergent interpretations. The absence of concrete resolutions on core matters prolonged the cycle of distrust and conflict.

Why did Palestinians actually object to this resolution?

- The Rogers Plan did not address the status of Palestinian refugees wishing to return to their homes lost in the 1948 war. This reinforced suspicions that the right of return was being forfeited without Palestinian consent
- The plan deferred the question of Jerusalem to be resolved at a later stage. However, this struck at the crux of Palestinian aspirations for East Jerusalem to serve as the capital of a future Palestinian state.
- By leaving settlements intact in the Sinai and the Golan Heights under Israeli control, Palestinians felt the Rogers plan rewarded Israel's occupation while sidestepping issues critical to comprehensive peace.
- The Rogers Plan's unilateral imposition by the United States without Palestinian representation fueled resentment and scepticism about its commitment to a just and inclusive resolution.

Reagan Plan (1982)

The Reagan Plan of 1982 aimed to facilitate Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza within the framework of an autonomy agreement. However, the plan failed to garner broad support due to its silence on critical issues like the status of Jerusalem and the right of return. Divergent interpretations and competing interests rendered the Reagan Plan insufficient in addressing the deeply rooted grievances on both sides.



Why did Palestinians actually object to this resolution?

- The Reagan Plan ruled out the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) from peace talks. This incensed many Palestinians who viewed the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of their interests on the world stage at that time.
- The plan omitted any references to Jerusalem, avoiding what Palestinians saw as one of the most vital issues that should be addressed upfront in negotiations. This signalled an acceptance of exclusive Israeli control over the city.
- By stripping mentions of UN resolutions and international law from its text, Palestinians felt the Reagan Plan aimed to force an unjust political settlement divorced from Palestinian rights afforded through international consensus.
- The plan failed to address the issue of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, contributing to the perception that it did not genuinely advocate for Palestinian rights.

The Oslo Accords (1993)

The Oslo Accords, hailed as a groundbreaking step towards peace, were signed in 1993 between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Underpinning the accords was the notion of a two-state solution, envisioning a sovereign Palestine alongside Israel. However, a closer examination reveals inherent flaws that undermined the viability of Palestinian statehood.

The establishment of the Palestinian Authority (PA) granted a semblance of self-governance, yet critical components such as borders and security remained under Israeli control. This lopsided arrangement led to ongoing tensions, exacerbating the fragmented reality of Palestinian territories. Moreover, the accords deferred essential issues like the right of return, sowing seeds of discontent that persist to this day.

The establishment of semi-autonomous Palestinian territories also came at the expense of fragmented sovereignty, with Israel maintaining overarching authority over security and borders.

Why did Palestinians actually object to this resolution?

- Palestinians criticised the Oslo Accords for not ensuring full sovereignty and control over their territory, leaving key issues like Jerusalem, refugees, and borders to be decided in later negotiations.
- Oslo divided the West Bank into three fragmented zones - Areas A, B and C - compromising territorial contiguity vital for a sustainable Palestinian state.
- Oslo did not impose a freeze on Israeli settlement construction. Over the decade after Oslo was signed, the settler population doubled in the occupied territories, violating the spirit of moving towards a viable two-state solution.
- Necessitating PLO recognition of Israel while deferring reciprocal Israeli recognition of Palestinian statehood cultivated perceptions that the Oslo process was advancing unilateral Israeli interests over those of Palestinians.



- The continued expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank during and after the Oslo process eroded Palestinian trust, as the accords did not effectively halt or reverse this encroachment.
- The Oslo Accords allowed for an Israeli military presence in parts of the West Bank, contributing to a perceived imbalance in security arrangements.

Camp David Summit (2000)

The Camp David Summit in 2000, spearheaded by U.S. President Bill Clinton, presented Palestinians with an offer that purportedly granted statehood through a two-state solution.

However, the proposals presented by then-Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak fell short of addressing fundamental Palestinian rights. While the offer ostensibly granted statehood, it omitted crucial elements such as the right of return for Palestinian refugees. This omission reflected a failure to engage with the core issues that define the conflict. The rejection of the proposals by the Palestinian leadership and widespread public discontent underscored the enduring importance of these unresolved core issues.

In reality, the proposal fell short of meeting the fundamental rights of Palestinian refugees, sidestepping the issue of the right of return. Palestinians, rightfully rejecting a compromised statehood, saw the deal as a guise for continued Israeli expansionism.

Why did Palestinians actually object to this resolution?

- Israel's offers at Camp David entailed annexing 9% of the occupied West Bank territory, mostly around East Jerusalem and other densely populated areas, compromising territorial contiguity.
- Camp David maintained exclusive Israeli sovereignty over Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount in Jerusalem. As the third holiest site in Islam, this struck at Palestinian claims over East Jerusalem.
- The Camp David proposals denied families displaced in 1948 the right to return to places like Jaffa, Haifa and Safed, entrenching perceptions that their rights were being bargained away.
- The proposal did not adequately address the issue of Jerusalem, particularly the sovereignty over East Jerusalem, a core concern for Palestinians.
- Palestinians rejected the proposed compromise on the right of return for Palestinian refugees, viewing it as insufficient and failing to recognise their historical grievances.
- The plan did not provide a clear framework for addressing Israeli settlements and borders, leading to continued uncertainty and disputes.

The Annapolis Conference (2007)

The Annapolis Conference of 2007 sought to rejuvenate the peace process by fostering dialogue between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.



Yet, the proposals laid out during the conference perpetuated a narrative of fragmented sovereignty for Palestinians.

The retention of Israeli control over strategic areas, including Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley, hindered the emergence of a contiguous and viable Palestinian state.

Despite the international community's endorsement, Palestinians rejected the deal, asserting that it compromised their long-term aspirations for genuine statehood and perpetuated their subjugation.

Why did Palestinians actually object to this resolution?

- Under Annapolis, Israel insisted on retaining military control along the border with Jordan for decades, severely compromising Palestinian sovereignty. This struck at the heart of Palestinian nationhood.
- Israel demanded permanent control over Palestinian airspace and electromagnetic sphere. This IDF stranglehold over core state infrastructure dashed hopes for an independent Palestine.
- Israeli leaders explicitly ruled out compromise over Jerusalem and refugees during Annapolis. This refusal to engage on two cornerstones of the conflict reinforced perceptions that talks were a facade masking Israeli intransigence.
- The Annapolis process also did not effectively halt the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, undermining Palestinian confidence in its ability to address key issues.
- Ultimately, Palestinians rejected the process due to the absence of a comprehensive agreement addressing core concerns, such as borders, refugees, and security.

Trump's "Deal of the Century" (2020)

The Trump administration's "Deal of the Century" presented a vision for a two-state solution but endorsed Israeli annexation of key territories and undermined Palestinian statehood. The complete plan spanned across 181 pages and contained up to 22 sections, all of which covered a range of issues from the aspirations of both sides and the state of Jerusalem to refugees, detainees and borders.¹⁵²

While ostensibly framing a two-state solution, the deal effectively endorsed Israeli annexation of key territories. The proposal allowed Israel to retain control over settlements in the West Bank and maintained its grip on an undivided Jerusalem.

Moreover, the denial of the right of return for Palestinian refugees underscored the deal's departure from internationally recognised norms.

Palestinian rejection of the deal was unanimous, as it was perceived as a coercive attempt to legitimise Israeli expansionism under the guise of a two-state vision.

Why did Palestinians actually object to this resolution?

¹⁵²Situation Assessment. Deal of the Century: What is it and why now? Doha Institute. February 2020.



- As stipulated by the plan, 87% of all territory currently under Israeli control will be annexed to Israel and 97% of the Palestinian population in the West Bank would live under the proposed Palestinian state, with the remaining 3% being forced to live in enclaves within Israeli territory.
- The deal recognised Israeli settlements in occupied territory, violating international law. It endorsed Israel annexing 30% of the West Bank including over 200 settlements where nearly 700,000 illegal settlers reside. This was seen as an untenable infringement of Palestinian land rights.
- The proposal stripped away core tenets upheld in internationally-backed resolutions. For example, it avoided explicit references to 1967 borders, allowed Israel to expand borders unilaterally and failed to denounce settlement growth. This upended decades of diplomatic consensus.
- “Conceptual maps” in the plan essentially bisected the West Bank into disjointed Palestinian enclaves lacking geographic continuity, showing utter disregard for viability critical for Palestinian statehood. Israel retained control of the Jordan Valley rifting the West Bank from Jordan, with Israel demanding control and responsibility over the air space west of the Jordanian river.
- On refugees, the Trump deal omitted UN language upholding their right of return, instead probabilistically suggesting absorption of some refugees into the envisioned Palestinian state while sidestepping those in the wider diaspora, prompting vehement opposition. The plan also emphasised that the signing of an Israeli-Palestinian agreement must guarantee an end to any historical Palestinian claims: “there shall be no right of return by, or absorption of, any Palestinian refugee into the state of Israel.”¹⁵³
- The deal spoke of Jerusalem as Israel’s “undivided capital” without affirming Palestinian ambitions for East Jerusalem to serve as the capital of their future state, further fueling a belief that the plan rode roughshod over Palestinian rights to self-determination.
- Palestinians were not included in the development of the plan, leading to concerns about its legitimacy and fairness.
- The plan also conditioned Palestinian statehood on meeting specific criteria, limiting their sovereignty and self-determination.
- The plan offers Palestinians a state with only limited sovereignty subject to Israeli security concerns, a disarmed and non-contiguous state whose exclaves are connected by tunnels and bridges under Israeli security oversight. Even this is made conditional on Palestinians recognizing Israel as a Jewish state, rejecting and combatting what Israel considers “terror in all its forms”, and accepting special arrangements providing for Israel’s security needs – including Israel’s right to conduct security operations within the Palestinian state.¹⁵⁴

¹⁵³ Refugee News/ Right of Return. Palestinian Refugees: Trump’s Mideast Peace Plan Fatal Blow to Palestinians’ Right of Return to Motherland. Palestinian Return Centre. January 2020.

¹⁵⁴ Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies

<https://www.dohainstitute.org/en/PoliticalStudies/Pages/Trump-Administration-Plan-for-the-Palestinian-Israeli-Conflict.aspx>



The future of resolution proposals

The historical trajectory of peace proposals demonstrates a recurring theme of inequitable deals pitched to Palestinians, ultimately favouring Israeli interests.

The fallacy of the two-state solution and other initiatives lies not only in their failure to address core issues but also in their role in perpetuating a cycle of dispossession and fragmentation.

The rejection of these proposals by Palestinians reflects a commitment to justice and a refusal to accept compromises that compromise their fundamental rights.

Moving forward, any genuine pursuit of peace must acknowledge and rectify these historical injustices to pave the way for a just and equitable resolution.

Exposing Zionist lies post-October 7th

In addition to these, since October 7th here are some explicit lies they have told in an attempt to justify the brutal murder and annihilation of INNOCENT Palestinian men, women and children.

Lie: All Palestinians hate Jews

Fred Maron states in his article “They don’t hate Israel. They hate Jews” which was written back in 2015, that if the Jewish religion was not the main religion in Israel, then Israel would have been accepted or even praised by the global world. He also claims that all antisemitism in the world is spreading even in the United States which is, according to him, “the place that is the most supportive for Jews”. He also believes that Israel is hated because it is the only country that welcomes Jews without discrimination.¹⁵⁵

The claim that all Palestinians harbour hatred toward Jews is a gross generalisation that oversimplifies a complex and diverse population. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is deeply rooted in political, historical, and territorial issues, and it is incorrect to attribute universal sentiments to an entire group. Many Palestinians oppose Israeli policies, occupation, and human rights abuses but do not harbour a blanket hatred for Jews.¹⁵⁶

Lie: The Palestinian resistance and Hamas are the same thing

This insidious falsehood aims to erase the diversity within Palestinian resistance, reducing it to a monolithic entity synonymous with Hamas. In reality, the Palestinian struggle involves a spectrum of voices with varying methods and objectives. Equating all resistance to Hamas is a calculated distortion, used to legitimise brutal actions against the entire Palestinian population. It’s a smokescreen obscuring the nuanced reality of a people’s fight against oppression.

Lie: Zionism and Judaism are intrinsically linked

This deceptive claim seeks to erase the centuries-old, diverse and rich history of Jewish beliefs by falsely asserting an intrinsic connection between Judaism and political Zionism. In reality, Judaism predates Zionism by centuries and many within the Jewish community vehemently reject the specific tenets of political Zionism. To perpetuate this falsehood is to ignore the rich

¹⁵⁵Maroun, Fred. They Don't Hate Israel. They Hate The Jews. The Israel Forever Foundation. February 2015.

¹⁵⁶Greenberg, David. "The Roots of Arab Anti-Semitism." October 31, 2001.



historical and theological nuances within Judaism, reducing it to a monolithic and politically charged narrative that has been inexplicitly linked with the dehumanisation and genocide of Palestinian people.

Lie: 40 Beheaded Babies and Murdered Babies Hung on a Washing Line

Initial reports claimed 40 beheaded babies, later revised to suggest murdered babies hung on a washing line. Complicit media organisations and even the U.S. president echoed these statements, only to retract them. The truth: Only one baby was killed, likely by Israeli tank shelling as confirmed by various survivor testimonies who also confirmed the deaths of over 100 Kibbutz residents were falsely attributed to Hamas.

Lie: Hamas Incinerates Festival Goers and Kibbutz Residents

False claims circulated that Hamas incinerated festival goers and Kibbutz residents. Israeli media and officials admitted to using the Hannibal Directive, with Apache helicopters firing at various targets, causing damage likely attributed to the helicopters, not the weapons held by terrorists.

Lie: Hamas Planned to Target the Nova Music Festival

Allegations suggested that Hamas planned to intentionally target the Nova music festival. The truth: The terrorists were unaware of the festival until after the invasion started. It was revealed that the Israeli government knew about Hamas' plan but chose not to prevent it, ignoring pleas to stop the impending tragedy.

Lie: Israeli Officials Present Photos and Videos of a Raped IOF soldier

Israeli governmental officials presented photos and videos of a deceased Kurdish soldier, falsely claiming it was a verified victim from the Nova attack. The truth: This was an old video of a Kurdish soldier, weaponised to dehumanise Palestinians.

Lie: Hamas Schedule Found in the Hospital

False claims of a 'Hamas schedule' found in a hospital were debunked as a handwritten calendar with no mention of nefarious activities. The assertion that the hospital served as a Hamas command centre lacked evidence, with the IOF only presenting dubious items like go-bags and guns.

Lie: Hamas Laptop Containing Confidential Information

Allegations about a Hamas laptop containing confidential information fell apart when the IOF's video displayed a photo of an IOF soldier they claimed was kidnapped by Hamas. The truth: The soldier's social media posts exposed this as a lie.



Lie: Palestinians Using Realistic Baby Dolls for Propaganda

In a disturbing lie, it was suggested that Palestinians used realistic baby dolls for propaganda. The truth: Over 7,000 children, most under 5 years old, have been directly killed since October 7th, and the videos and photos depicted real victims, not dolls, exposing the tragic reality of the ongoing conflict.

Lie: "To the river, to the sea" is a genocidal chant

This baseless claim suggests that the chant is a call for the genocide of a particular group. In reality, "To the river, to the sea" has been a longstanding slogan in the Palestinian struggle for liberation and freedom. It symbolises the aspiration for a free and united Palestine, stretching from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. The chant emphasises a call for self-determination and the end of occupation, contradicting the unfounded accusations of genocidal intent made by the Zionist regime of Israel.

Lie: Intifada is inherently linked to terrorism

The assertion that the term "Intifada" is inherently tied to terrorism oversimplifies its meaning. "Intifada," an Arabic word meaning "Shake Off," has been used to describe Palestinian uprisings against occupation. It is a call to shake off the chains of oppression and resist the forces of occupation. While instances of violence have occurred during periods of Intifada, categorising the entire movement as inherently linked to terrorism neglects the multifaceted nature of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination and the varied forms of resistance employed against occupation.

Terrorism unveiled: Israel's true agenda

To put it bluntly, Israel has been operating as a terrorist state who has long been using settler terrorism to fuel its genocidal campaign against the Palestinians ever since the Nakba of 1948.

Still to this day, a lot of the Jewish diaspora, enticed by Israel's "Making Aliyah" initiative, relocate to settlements on contested Palestinian land, supported by financial incentives and benefits.

This migration, a crucial element in Israel's public relations strategy, obscures the severe humanitarian crisis unfolding. Sadly, many settlers, enjoying perks in an apartheid state, remain oblivious to the profound suffering and violations that persist, highlighting a broader failure in addressing this urgent humanitarian crisis.

While this does not cover everything, it's still an exhaustive list demonstrating how this is not just a denial of freedom of movement but a calculated, insidious effort to strip away their human dignity and erase Palestine.

The alarming regularity of these crimes, all well-documented and verifiable, stands as a stark testimony to grave international human rights violations that require immediate and decisive global action.

But don't just take our word for it... here are just a few of the international war crimes committed by Israel since October 7th.



International war crimes committed by Israel since October 7th

As the world bears witness to Israel's unrelenting onslaught since October 7, 2023, we face yet another in a centuries-long cycle of dire humanitarian crises that demands immediate action. The unspeakable horrors unfolding in Gaza demand more than passive acknowledgment – they demand an immediate ceasefire and robust international action.

We implore the global community to act decisively, holding those responsible for these grave violations accountable and bringing an end to this active genocide. Israel's military campaign has inflicted egregious violations of IHL, blatantly disregarding principles meant to protect civilians and regulate wartime conduct.

Collective punishment and indiscriminate bombing

Under the pretence of targeting Hamas, Israel has unleashed indiscriminate bombing that has destroyed civilian infrastructure and killed thousands of innocent Palestinian civilians unaffiliated with any militant groups. This includes orchestrated barrages on crowded neighbourhoods, residential buildings, critical infrastructure like roads and electrical grids, and public spaces offering no strategic military advantage.

By failing to distinguish between civilians and combatants, while inflicting devastating collective suffering on the Gazan people, Israel is unequivocally guilty of illegal collective punishment amounting to war crimes under international law. The targeting of ordinary Gazan people en masse represents a moral and legal perversion that the world cannot abide by silently.

Mass infanticide and violence against children

Harrowing images, videos and verified testimonies have emerged of Palestinian children killed and maimed by Israeli strikes on civilian homes, schools, and parks. With over 7,000 children injured or killed in strikes lacking any evidence of military targets, Israel has been complicit in what amounts to infanticide and crimes against humanity. The targeting of young children who pose no conceivable threat is a reprehensible violation of international law.

Torture and sexual abuse of Palestinian detainees

Multiple reports by former prisoners – many of whom were held with no charges and no trial – detail torture tactics used by Israel against detained Palestinians, including beatings, stress positions, and sexual violence. By systematically abusing prisoners in their custody, Israeli authorities are guilty of torture, sexual abuse, humiliation, and degrading treatment banned by international conventions and customary IHL.

Destruction of humanitarian infrastructure

Israeli bombardment has systematically targeted humanitarian infrastructure vital to civilian welfare like hospitals, shelters, refugee camps and UN schools sheltering women and child evacuees. With no evidence military assets were housed there, the destruction of such civilian humanitarian infrastructure violates principles of distinction and proportionality under IHL.



Weaponising basic human rights and humanitarian access

By imposing a complete siege, cutting off vital electricity, water and fuel to Gaza's population, Israel has weaponised deprivation among an already impoverished civilian population. Using hunger as a weapon of war is a direct contravention of IHL and a betrayal of humanity.

Using banned weapons like white phosphorus on civilian populations

Multiple reports have confirmed Israel's use of white phosphorus munitions in attacks on densely populated civilian areas like schools and apartment buildings. With its capacity to burn through flesh, white phosphorus causes extreme suffering and its use in civilian spaces is strictly prohibited by IHL.

A culture of impunity: Israel's lack of accountability

Past condemnations have failed to change Israel's conduct, with investigations and international criticism blunted by the backing of powerful allies like the United States.

This culture of impunity has enabled the scale of indiscriminate killing and suffering witnessed now. It is only by fully holding Israel to account through legal mechanisms like the ICC that any real change can occur.

The world cannot passively watch as civilians endure such violations. If we believe in human rights and the sanctity of human life, we must channel outrage into concrete action.

Gaza demands global solidarity, justice and an end to this human catastrophe unleashed by willful disregard for international law and basic humanity. The time to act is now.

Navigating accountability alongside historians, scholars and academics

To dissect the impact of these violations of international law in a way that's respectful to both Palestinian and Jewish communities, we should collectively turn to – and amplify – voices who are directly impacted and speak out against the genocidal Zionist regime we're bearing witness to.

Take a minute to listen to prominent and incredibly intelligent Jewish figures as they speak about the truth here, as they beg for a ceasefire and for the stop of rampant misinformation being propagated by the Zionists in power.

Listen to holocaust survivors, scholars and their descendants like Dr. Gabor Maté, Noam Chomsky, Stephen Kapo and Suzanne Weiss as they deconstruct the Zionist lie and the Israeli-occupation for what it is.

Amplify the voices of Orthodox Palestinian Jews in Israel who originally coexisted with Palestinian Catholics and Palestinian Muslims before the creation of Israel and are beaten and killed for speaking out against the occupation.



Hear Yasmin Porat and the anonymous governmental officials talk about how the IOF have been and were responsible for killing many Israelis during the Hamas invasion, listen to Yocheved Lifshitz and other hostages when they tell you how well they were treated by their captors and then remember the atrocities committed against Palestinian hostages taken by the IOF — the Palestinian hostages who were raped, brutalised, burnt alive and executed or harvested for their organs in the last century.

Read about the Israeli-skin-banks, how the IOF has spent decades gunning down civilians and innocent protestors, educate yourself on the war crimes against humanity Israel has spent the last 75+ years committing.

Discover the ramifications of the creation of Israel, how Zionists directly contributed to the destabilisation of the Middle East, with Lebanon falling victim to Ariel Sharon and the regime; how it culminated in a civil war so deadly we the descendants feel it in our bones.

Because when you understand the context of the Israeli-occupation and the absolute terror it's been reigning with the atrocities it's committed against the Palestinian people — and those around it — for almost a century, then and only then have you started on your journey of deconstructing Zionism.

Start taking direct action to support Palestine

The plight of the Palestinians is a testament to our collective failure as a global community. Their pain, their loss, their struggle should ignite within us a flame of humanity that compels us to act, to speak, to not remain silent in the face of injustice.

Every voice that rises against the tide of oppression, every hand that extends in aid, every heart that empathises with the sorrow of Gaza, challenges the narrative of despair and sows a seed of hope.

Today, we call upon you, the bearers of humanity, to extend your compassion beyond borders, to give voice to the voiceless, to help rewrite the narrative to dignify the essence of every Palestinian soul.

The truth is a powerful testament, and when shared, it has the potential to pierce through the veil of indifference, igniting a global movement for justice and humanity.

The Palestinians have long been denied their fundamental rights to self-determination, return, property, life, and freedom from arbitrary detention, among others but we as the international community have a responsibility to hold Israel accountable for its human rights violations.

History is watching. Will we remain passive spectators or become the harbingers of justice? It's not just about freeing Gaza but about freeing our shared humanity from the chains of indifference and hate.

Let our humanity transcend the boundaries, let the cries for justice resonate through the corridors of power and let the winds of change carry the hopes of the oppressed to the shores of freedom.



Sources, references & further reading

Below is a list of sources and further reading that verify, expand on and further explore the history of Palestine, the Israeli-occupation and the grave war crimes committed over the years.

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