

Chapter 1 : Israel - HISTORY

The Crusaders, the Mamluks, and the Ottomans conquered the Land of Israel. + The British conquered the Land of Israel. Following the British conquest of the land, Arabs from neighboring countries started a massive year invasion of the Land of Israel, to look for jobs and to fulfill their religious obligation to capture as much foreign land as possible.

Arab-Israeli conflict The Arab-Israeli conflict refers to the political tension and military conflicts between the Arab league and Israel and between Arabs and Israelis. The roots of the modern Arab-Israeli conflict lie in the rise of Zionism and Arab nationalism towards the end of the 19th century. Territory regarded by the Jewish people as their historical homeland is also regarded by the Pan-Arab movement as historically and presently belonging to the Palestinian Arabs, and in the Pan-Islamic context, as Muslim lands. The conflict between Palestinian Jews and Arabs emerged in the early 20th century during the Nebi Musa riots, exploding into a full scale civil war in and expanding to all Arab League countries with the creation of the modern State of Israel in May . The conflict, which started as a political and nationalist conflict over competing territorial ambitions following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, has shifted over the years from the large scale regional Arab-Israeli conflict to a more local Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as large-scale hostilities largely ended with the cease fire, following the October War. Consequently, peace agreements were signed between Israel and Egypt in 1979, and Israel and Jordan in 1994. The Oslo accords led to the creation of the Palestinian National Authority in 1993, though a final peace agreement has yet to be reached. A cease-fire currently stands between Israel and Syria, as well as more recently with Lebanon since 2000. The conflict between Israel and Hamas-ruled Gaza, which resulted in cease fire although fighting has continued since then 2005, though not directly related with the Arab League is usually also included as part of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and hence the Arab-Israeli conflict. Despite the peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan and the generally existing cease fire, the Arab world and Israel generally remain at odds with each other over specific territory. Religious aspects of the conflict Jewish, Muslim and Christian groups invoke religious arguments for their uncompromising positions. The Likud is currently the most prominent Israeli political party to include the Biblical claim to the Land of Israel in its platform. Muslims also claim rights to that land in accordance with the Quran. Additionally, Muslims also revere many sites holy for Biblical Israelites, such as The Cave of the Patriarchs and the Temple Mount, and in the past 100 years have constructed Islamic landmarks on these ancient Israelite sites, such as the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Muslim teaching is that Muhammad passed through Jerusalem on his first journey to heaven. Hamas, which governs the Gaza Strip, claims that all of the land of Palestine the current Israel and Palestinian territories is an Islamic waqf that must be governed by Muslims. Christian Zionists support Israel because they recognize an ancestral right of Jews to this land, as suggested, for instance, by Paul in Romans .

End of 19th century The roots of the modern Arab-Israel conflict lie in the rise of Zionism and Arab Nationalism towards the end of the nineteenth century. Territory regarded by the Jewish people as their historical homeland is also regarded by the Pan-Arab movement as historically and presently belonging to the Palestinian Arabs. During the closing years of their empire, the Ottomans began to espouse their Turkish ethnic identity, asserting the primacy of Turks within the empire, leading to discrimination against the Arabs. The promise of liberation from the Ottomans led many Jews and Arabs to support the allied powers during World War 1, leading to the emergence of widespread Arab nationalism. Both Arab nationalism and Zionism had their formulative beginning in Europe. In the late 19th century many European Jews and some Middle Eastern Jewish communities began to increasingly immigrate to Southern Syria and purchase land from the local Ottoman land lords. At that time, Jerusalem did not extend beyond the walled area and had a population of only a few tens of thousands. Collective farms, known as kibbutzim, were established, as was the first entirely Jewish city in modern times, Tel Aviv. McMahon promised that if the Arabs supported Britain in the war, the British government would support the establishment of an independent Arab state under Hashemite rule in the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire, including Palestine. The Arab revolt, led by T. The Declaration was issued as a result of the belief of key members of the government, including Prime Minister David Lloyd George, that Jewish support was essential to winning the war; however, the declaration caused

great disquiet in the Arab world. After the war, the area came under British rule as the British Mandate of Palestine. Transjordan eventually was carved into a separate British protectorate- the Emirate of Transjordan, which gained an autonomous status in 1946. A major crisis among the Arab nationalists took place with the failed establishment of the Arab Kingdom of Syria in 1920. With the disastrous outcome of the Franco-Syria War, the self-proclaimed Hashemite kingdom with its capital in Damascus was defeated and the Hashemite ruler took refuge in Mandatory Iraq. The crisis saw the first confrontation of nationalist Arab and Jewish forces, taking place in the Battle of Tel Hai in March 1920, but more importantly the collapse of the pan-Arabist kingdom led to the establishment of the local Palestinian version of Arab nationalism, with the return of Hajj Amin al-Husseini from Damascus to Jerusalem in late 1921. At this point in time Jewish immigration to Mandatory Palestine continued, while to some opinions a similar, but less documented, immigration also took place in the Arab sector, bringing workers from Syria and other neighboring areas. Palestinian Arabs saw this rapid influx of Jewish immigrants as a threat to their homeland and their identity as a people. Moreover, Jewish policies of purchasing land and prohibiting the employment of Arabs in Jewish-owned industries and farms greatly angered the Palestinians Arab communities. Demonstrations were held as early as 1929, protesting what the Arabs felt were unfair preferences for the Jewish immigrants set forth by the British mandate that governed Palestine at the time. This resentment led to outbreaks of violence later that year, as the al-Husseini incited riots broke out in Jerusalem. During the week of riots, at least 139 Arabs and 61 Jews were killed and wounded. By 1931, 17 percent of the population of Mandatory Palestine were Jews, an increase of six percent since 1922. Jewish immigration peaked soon after the Nazis came to power in Germany, causing the Jewish population in British Palestine to double. He recruited and arranged military training for peasants and by 1942 he had enlisted between 10,000 and 15,000 men. The cells were equipped with bombs and firearms, which they used to kill Jewish settlers in the area, as well as engaging in a campaign of vandalism of Jewish settler plantations. By 1947, escalating tensions led to the Arab revolt in Palestine. In response to Arab pressure, the British Mandate authorities greatly reduced the number of Jewish immigrants to Palestine see White Paper of 1939 and the Exodus ship. These restrictions remained in place until the end of the mandate, a period which coincided with the Nazi Holocaust and flight of Jewish refugees from Europe. As a consequence, most Jewish entrants to Palestine were considered illegal see Aliyah Bet, causing further tensions in the region. Following several failed attempts to solve the problem diplomatically, the British asked the newly formed United Nations for help. To make the committee more neutral, none of the members were from the Middle East. On September 27, 1947, the General Assembly on September 3, 1947, The Report contained a majority and a minority plan. The minority proposed The Independent State of Palestine. With only slight modifications, the Plan of Partition with Economic Union was the one the adoption and implementation of which was recommended in resolution of November 29, 1947. The Resolution was adopted by 33 votes to 13 with 10 abstentions. The Arab states, which constituted the Arab League, voted against. On the ground, Arab and Jewish Palestinians were fighting openly to control strategic positions in the region. Several major atrocities were committed by both sides. Civil War in Palestine In the months prior to the end of the Mandate the Haganah launched a number of offensives in which they gained control over all the territory allocated by the UN to the Jewish State, creating a large number of refugees and capturing the towns of Tiberias, Haifa, Safad, Beisan and, in effect, Jaffa. Early in 1948, the United Kingdom announced its firm intention to terminate its mandate in Palestine on May 14, 1948. Violence and bloodshed will descend upon the Holy Land. Large-scale fighting among the people of that country will be inevitable result. There was no mention of the borders of the new state other than that it was in Eretz Israel. The remainder of the Mandate consisted of Jordan, the area that came to be called the West Bank controlled by Jordan, and the Gaza Strip controlled by Egypt. Prior to and during this conflict, 1948, Palestinian Arabs fled their original lands to become Palestinian refugees, in part, due to a promise from Arab leaders that they would be able to return when the war had been won, and also in part due to attacks on Palestinian villages and towns by Israeli forces and Jewish militant groups. Many Palestinians fled from the areas that are now present-day Israel as a response to massacres of Arab towns by militant Jewish organizations like the Irgun and the Stern Gang See Deir Yassin massacre. The War came to an end with the signing of the Armistice Agreements between Israel and each of its Arab neighbors. Before the adoption by the United Nations of Resolution 181 in November 1947 and the declaration of the State of Israel in May 1948, several Arab countries adopted

discriminatory measures against their local Jewish population. The status of Jewish citizens in Arab states worsened dramatically during the Israeli-Arab war. Major anti-Jewish riots erupted throughout the Arab world in December , and Jewish communities were hit particularly hard in Syria and Aden, with hundreds of dead and injured. By mid, almost all Jewish communities in Arab states had suffered attacks and their status deteriorated. Jews under Islamic regimes were uprooted from their longtime residency or became political hostages of the Arab-Israeli conflict. As a result, a large number of Jews fled or were forced to emigrate from Arab countries and other Muslims countries as well. Anti-Jewish violence and persecution initiated the first waves of exodus, with many following. In Libya, Jews were deprived of citizenship, and in Iraq, their property was seized. Egypt expelled most of its Jewish community in , while Algeria denied its Jews of citizenship, upon its independence in . The majority were fleeing due to worsening political conditions, although some emigrated for ideological reasons. Today, fewer than 7, Jews remain in these same countries. Individual and communal properties were confiscated without compensation. Over , Jews immigrated to Israel between and , with approximately , of them from Arab countries. In , Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, and blockaded the Gulf of Aqaba, in contravention of the Constantinople Convention of . Many argued that this was also a violation of the Armistice Agreements. Most of Egyptian Jews were expelled, following the Suez crisis. It again closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, returning the region to the way it was in when Israel was blockaded. On May 30, , Jordan signed a mutual defense pact with Egypt. On June 5, Israel launched an attack on Egypt. The result of the war effect the geopolitics of the region to this day. In , Egypt initiated the War of Attrition, with the goal of exhausting Israel into surrendering the Sinai Peninsula. The Israeli military were caught off guard and unprepared, and took about three days to fully mobilize. This led other Arab states to send troops to reinforce the Egyptians and Syrians. In addition, these Arab countries agreed to enforce an oil embargo on industrial nations including the U. S, Japan and Western European Countries. These OPEC countries increased the price of oil fourfold, and used it as a political weapon to gain support against Israel. The United States, wary of nuclear war, secured a ceasefire on October . Under its terms, the Sinai Peninsula returned to Egyptian hands, and the Gaza Strip remained under Israeli control, to be included in a future Palestinian state. The agreement also provided for the free passage of Israeli ships through the Suez Canal and recognition of the State of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba as international waterways. Jordan In October , Israel and Jordan signed a peace agreement, which stipulated mutual cooperation, an end of hostilities, and a resolution of other issues. The conflict between them had cost roughly . Iraq Israel and Iraq have been implacable foes since . During the Gulf War in , Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles into Israel, in the hope of uniting the Arab world against the coalition which sought to liberate Kuwait. At the behest of the United States, Israel did not respond to this attack in order to prevent a greater outbreak of war.

Chapter 2 : Palestinian Arabs claim full ownership of the Holy Land|FLAME

At the beginning of the 20th century, there were practically no Arabs in the Holy Land. Historically, a "Palestinian" people never existed. The English name "Palestinian", to describe the local Arab population, was invented AFTER the establishment of the State of Israel in

An official cablegram from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to the UN Secretary-General on 15 May stated publicly that Arab Governments found "themselves compelled to intervene for the sole purpose of restoring peace and security and establishing law and order in Palestine" Clause 10 e. Further in Clause 10 e: The remainder of the Mandate consisted of Jordan, the area that came to be called the West Bank controlled by Jordan , and the Gaza Strip controlled by Egypt. Prior to and during this conflict, , [39] Palestinian Arabs fled their original lands to become Palestinian refugees , in part due to a promise from Arab leaders that they would be able to return when the war had been won, and also in part due to attacks on Palestinian villages and towns by Israeli forces and Jewish militant groups. The War came to an end with the signing of the Armistice Agreements between Israel and each of its Arab neighbours. The status of Jewish citizens in Arab states worsened during the Israeli-Arab war. Anti-Jewish riots erupted throughout the Arab World in December , and Jewish communities were hit particularly hard in Aleppo and British-controlled Aden , with hundreds of dead and injured. In Libya , Jews were deprived of citizenship, and in Iraq, their property was seized. Over the course of twenty years, some , Jews from Arab countries immigrated to Israel and other countries. Many argued that this was also a violation of the Armistice Agreements. The United States and the United Nations soon pressured it into a ceasefire. Egypt agreed to freedom of navigation in the region and the demilitarization of the Sinai. The Arabs responded by trying to divert the headwaters of the Jordan, leading to growing conflict between Israel and Syria. On 30 May , Jordan signed a mutual defense pact with Egypt. On 5 June, Israel launched an attack on Egypt. The results of the war affect the geopolitics of the region to this day. Once Sadat took over, he tried to forge positive relations with the USA, hoping that they would put pressure on Israel to return the land, by expelling 15, Russian advisors from Egypt. The Israeli military were caught off guard and unprepared, and took about three days to fully mobilize. In addition, these Arab countries agreed to enforce an oil embargo on industrial nations including the U. S, Japan and Western European Countries. These OPEC countries increased the price of oil fourfold, and used it as a political weapon to gain support against Israel. The United States, wary of nuclear war , secured a ceasefire on 25 October. Under its terms, the Sinai Peninsula returned to Egyptian hands, and the Gaza Strip remained under Israeli control, to be included in a future Palestinian state. The agreement also provided for the free passage of Israeli ships through the Suez Canal and recognition of the Straits of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba as international waterways. Israelâ€™s Jordan relations In October , Israel and Jordan signed a peace agreement , which stipulated mutual cooperation, an end of hostilities, the fixing of the Israel-Jordan border, and a resolution of other issues. The conflict between them had cost roughly It was signed at the southern border crossing of Arabah on 26 October and made Jordan only the second Arab country after Egypt to sign a peace accord with Israel. Iraqâ€™s Israel relations Israel and Iraq have been implacable foes since During the Gulf War in , Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles into Israel, in the hopes of uniting the Arab world against the coalition which sought to liberate Kuwait. At the behest of the United States, Israel did not respond to this attack in order to prevent a greater outbreak of war. September is known as the Black September in Arab history and sometimes is referred to as the "era of regrettable events". In another conflict between Israel and the PLO broke out, which ended with a ceasefire agreement that did not solve the core of the conflict. In June , Israel invaded Lebanon. Within two months the PLO agreed to withdraw thence. In March , Israel and Lebanon signed a ceasefire agreement. In and , Israel launched major operations against the Shiite militia of Hezbollah , which had become an emergent threat. In May , the newly elected government of Ehud Barak authorized a withdrawal from Southern Lebanon, fulfilling an election promise to do so well ahead of a declared deadline. The hasty withdrawal lead to the immediate collapse of the South Lebanon Army , and many members either got arrested or fled to Israel. Israeliâ€™s Palestinian conflict The s were marked by a large number of major,

international terrorist attacks, including the Lod Airport massacre and the Munich Olympics Massacre in , and the Entebbe Hostage Taking in , with over Jewish hostages of different nationalities kidnapped and held in Uganda. In December , the First Intifada began. The First Intifada was a mass Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the Palestinian territories. Palestinian actions ranged from civil disobedience to violence. In addition to general strikes, boycotts on Israeli products, graffiti and barricades, Palestinian demonstrations that included stone-throwing by youths against the Israel Defense Forces brought the Intifada international attention. The PLO, which until then had never been recognised as the leaders of the Palestinian people by Israel, was invited to peace negotiations the following year, after it recognized Israel and renounced terrorism. As a result, in September , Israel and the PLO signed the Oslo Accords , known as the Declaration of Principles or Oslo I; in side letters , Israel recognized the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people while the PLO recognized the right of the state of Israel to exist and renounced terrorism, violence and its desire for the destruction of Israel. Area A was land under full Palestinian civilian control. In Area A, Palestinians were also responsible for internal security. The Oslo agreements remain important documents in Israeli-Palestinian relations. Following a series of suicide bombings and attacks, the Israeli army launched Operation Defensive Shield. It was the largest military operation conducted by Israel since the Six-Day War. Israel established a complicated system of roadblocks and checkpoints around major Palestinian areas to deter violence and protect Israeli settlements. However, since , the IDF has slowly transferred authority to Palestinian security forces. This policy was fully implemented in August A year previously, he had commented that the fate of the most far-flung settlements in Gaza, Netzararem and Kfar Darom, was regarded in the same light as that of Tel Aviv. It divided his party. It was also uncertain whether this was simply the beginning of further evacuation.

Chapter 3 : Hope In The Holy Land Movie - Israeli and Palestinian Conflict

The Arab League warned Israel on Sunday that it was "playing with fire" in Jerusalem and said it would convene an emergency meeting on Wednesday over increasing Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Harry Mandelbaum At the beginning of the 20th century, there were practically no Arabs in the Holy Land. Historically, a "Palestinian" people never existed. These Arabs do not even have a native name to describe themselves in their own Arabic language. The Arabs who now claim to be natives of the Holy Land have migrated to Palestine and invaded the land after , from neighboring Arab countries. There is only one possible solution to the "Palestinians" desire for a homeland - let them return to where they came from - to where they lived earlier for hundreds or thousands of years - to their real homeland in their original Arab countries. At the beginning of the 20th century, there were practically no Muslim Arabs in the Holy Land. By contrast, the Jews, despite years of persecution and forced conversions by various conquerors, have throughout most of history been the majority population there. In Jerusalem Jews were always the largest demographic group [1][2], except for periods when conquerors specifically threw them out and prevented them from returning. Most of the Arabs were Christians, and most of the Muslims in the area either came from Turkey under the Ottoman Empire, or were the descendants of Jews and Christians who were forcefully converted to Islam by the Muslim conquerors. These Muslims were not of Arab origin. It is important to note that estimates and censuses conducted by the Muslim conquerors were heavily biased to exaggerate the number of Muslims and to minimize the number of Jews and Christians. Therefore, the only reliable data is provided by non-Muslim neutral sources. Tourists and politicians, Arabs and non-Arabs alike, have documented their observations of the population in the Holy Land beginning more that a thousand years ago. The historian James Parkes wrote: Apart from the Bedouin in the earliest days, the only Arabs west of the Jordan were the garrisons. It was the Jews who implanted the culture and customs of the permanent settlement". He documented his visits to many locations. The names of settlements were mostly Hebrew, some Greek, and some Latin-Roman. No settlement had an original Muslim-Arab name with a historical root in its location. Most of the inhabitants of the cities were Jews, the others were Christians. The Arabs were predominantly Christians with a tiny minority of Muslims. In Nazareth there were approximately people - all Christians. In Gaza there were approximately people - half of them Jews, the rest Christians. Um-El-Phachem was a village of 10 families - all Christians. Reland mentions all the Muslim Arabs as nomadic Bedouin tribes who arrived in the area as seasonal workers. We saw no animals moving among the stony brakes; scarcely even a dozen little birds in the whole course of the ride. Not a house, not a trace of inhabitants, not even shepherds, to relieve the dull monotony Much of the country through which we have been rambling for a week appears never to have been inhabited, or even cultivated; and there are other parts, you say, still more barren. This is how he described the land: One may ride ten miles hereabouts and not see ten human beings Jericho lies a mouldering ruin Bethlehem and Bethany, in their poverty and humiliation A desolate country whose soil is rich enough but is given over wholly to weeds. A silent, mournful expanse. We never saw a human being on the whole route. There was hardly a tree or a shrub anywhere. Even the olive and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil, had almost deserted the country. This fertile plain, which might support an immense population, is almost a solitude Day by day we were to learn afresh the lesson now forced upon us, that the denunciations of ancient prophecy have been fulfilled to the very letter -- "the land is left void and desolate and without inhabitants. I laid upon my couch at night, to listen to the moaning of the waves and to think of the desolation around us. No orange groves, orchards or vineyards were to be seen until one reached the [Jewish] Yabna village. Schools did not exist. The western part toward the sea was almost a desert. The villages in this area were few and thinly populated. Many villages were deserted by their inhabitants. A huge difference exists between these authentic accounts and the falsified Muslim-Arab propaganda. When the Holy Land was taken from the Ottomans by the British, it was no longer under Muslim control. The Quran commands Muslims to take land away from non-Muslims, including land which they have never trodden on before[14]. Following the British conquest of the Holy land, the Muslim Arabs embarked on a massive immigration into the Holy Land, fulfilling their religious obligation

to capture as much foreign land as possible. The following accounts describe the massive Arab immigration after Large areas were uncultivated The fellahin, if not themselves cattle thieves, were always ready to harbor these and other criminals. The individual plots changed hands annually. Churchill, a veteran of the early years of the British mandate in the Holy Land, noted in that "far from being persecuted, the Arabs have crowded into the country and multiplied till their population has increased more than even all world Jewry could lift up the Jewish population. Before , when the Arab immigration started, only a minuscule number of Muslim Arabs lived in the Holy Land, practically all of them in Jerusalem. This is why it is so difficult to find an old-age Arab in the Holy Land whose grandparents were born in the Holy Land. The Arab population and growth in Jerusalem[2] before and after The break point between the two straight lines shows the exact point in time when the massive Arab immigration into the Holy Land started. They saw with their own eyes how empty the land was at the time. This invasion lasted for only 30 years, and ended in with the evacuation of the British from the land and the declaration of the state of Israel. The translation of this name to English is: The Philistines arrived from the Mediterranean islands near Greece and invaded the land about years ago. The Philistines are extinct since approximately years ago, and have no ancestral or historical relationship to Arabs. Before , during the years rule of the Ottoman empire, the Ottomans did not call the Holy Land "Palestina". The British decided to renew this ancient name and called the land "Palestine". The local Arabs never called themselves "Palestinians", not even during the British mandate. Both Arab and British leaders referred to them only as "Arabs". The Hope-Simpson report[15] published by the British in , contains the phrase "the number of Palestinian unemployed, whether Arab, Jew or other The Arab inhabitants are always referred to as "Arabs". The word "palestinians" does not appear anywhere in this report. After 30 years of invasion, following the end of the British mandate and the declaration of the state of Israel in , the Arabs recognized the fact that they invaded foreign land and invented for themselves a name in English -- "Palestinians". If the British were to call the land "New England", and the local Arabs were to call themselves "English" would they automatically become English? It is important to emphasize that the concept of a "Palestinian" to describe the local Arab residents was invented by the Arabs AFTER the declaration of the state of Israel. This group of Arabs who started calling themselves "the Palestinian nation" after , does not have an original name in their native Arabic language. Is there any nation in the world which does not have a name in its original native language? The Arabs who invaded the Holy Land do not have a name in their native Arabic language because they are not, and have never been, a unified group or a nation. Even Arab leaders and historians have admitted that a "Palestinian" people never existed. Palestine is a term the Zionists invented. Palestine is alien to us. The creation of a Palestinian state is only a means for continuing our struggle against the state of Israel. Palestine has never existed as an autonomous entity. Then all of the sudden we were Palestinians. They removed the star from the Jordanian flag and all at once we had a Palestinian flag. The Arabs who now claim to be natives of the Holy Land have migrated to Palestine and invaded the land after , from neighboring Arab countries, predominantly from areas now known as Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. None of these countries existed as nations prior to They were nothing but a disorganized collection of tribes, constantly terrorizing each other, trying to seize land from their neighbors. Unfortunately, those Arab invaders, imported into the Holy Land their age-old "culture" of terrorizing neighbors to seize land. Many of them were social outcasts and criminals who could not find jobs in their own countries so they searched for their luck elsewhere. Some of them were accepted by the British regime as a source of cheap labor and were allowed to settle on unoccupied Jewish land. He called himself a "Palestinian refugee" but spoke Arabic with an Egyptian dialect. He was born in in Cairo, Egypt. He served in the Egyptian army, studied in the University of Cairo, and lived in Cairo until How exactly does that constitute a "Palestinian refugee"? Arafat must have been a good student of Muhammad, the founder of the Muslim religion, who said in the Quran: Mysteriously, they are never willing to add another 60 years to their "historical" claims on the Holy Land. Years ago, during negotiations with the, so-called, Palestinians, a Israeli negotiator proposed to revise a mention of their claim of "pre" rights and replace it with "pre". The "Palestinians" vehemently opposed. Now we know why. If there is anyone who still believes that a "Palestinian" nation ever existed before the end of the British mandate and the founding of the state of Israel, would they please be kind enough to answer when was it founded and by

whom?

Chapter 4 : Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land | IMEU

For Christians, the Land of Israel is considered holy because of its association with the birth, ministry, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, whom Christians regard as the Savior or Messiah, and because it is the land of the Jewish people (according to the Bible).

That which God has promised to you by the words of your father Israel that it is the inheritance of those among you who believe. Abdul Hadi Palazzi, the Wahhabi position, in contrast, was extremely anti-Zionist. The resources of the country [Palestine] are still virgin soil and will be developed by the Jewish immigrants. The cause of causes could not escape those who had a gift of deeper insight. The return of these exiles [jaliya] to their homeland will prove materially and spiritually an experimental school for their brethren who are with them in the fields, factories, trades and all things connected to the land. Chaim Weizmann, President of the World Zionist Organization signed the Faisal-Weizmann Agreement for Arab-Jewish cooperation, in which Faisal conditionally accepted the Balfour Declaration based on the fulfilment of British wartime promises of development of a Jewish homeland in Palestine and on which subject he stated: Our deputation here in Paris is fully acquainted with the proposals submitted yesterday by the Zionist Organisation to the Peace Conference, and we regard them as moderate and proper. We will do our best, in so far as we are concerned, to help them through; we will wish the Jews a most hearty welcome home I look forward, and my people with me look forward, to a future in which we will help you and you will help us, so that the countries in which we are mutually interested may once again take their places in the community of the civilised peoples of the world. We strongly protest against the attitude of the said delegation concerning the Zionist question. We do not consider the Jewish people as an enemy whose wish is to crush us. We consider the Jews as a brotherly people sharing our joys and troubles and helping us in the construction of our common country. Artin, of the Kurdish-American Education Society, argues that the creation of Israel has been "a thorn in the eye of fascists who would rather eliminate the Jewish state". Please improve this article or discuss the issue on the talk page. During the Israeli War of Independence of 1948, many Bedouin switched sides to join the Zionist forces in opposing the invasion by the regular Arab armies. Bedouins of Tuba-Zangariyye helped defend these communities in the 1936 Arab revolt in Palestine. Formal co-operation between Jews and Bedouin began in 1948, when tribal leader Sheik Hussein Mohammed Ali Abu Yussef of the al-Heib tribe sent more than 60 of his men to fight alongside Zionist forces, forming the Pal-Heib unit of the Haganah. Sheik Abu Yussef was quoted in as saying, "Is it not written in the Koran that the ties of neighbors are as dear as those of relations? Our friendship with the Jews goes back many years. We felt we could trust them and they learned from us too". While acknowledging that the state of Israeli Bedouin minority is not ideal, he said I am a proud Israeli along with many other non-Jewish Israelis such as Druze, Bahai, Bedouin, Christians and Muslims, who live in one of the most culturally diversified societies and the only true democracy in the Middle East. Like America, Israeli society is far from perfect, but let us deal honestly. The Circassians have had good relations with the Jewish community in Israel since the beginning of the Jewish settlement in the Land of Israel. In 1948, when Israel was created, Circassians of Palestine did not migrate to neighboring countries, but rather made the choice to stay within the borders of the new state and embrace full Israeli citizenship. The percentage of army recruits among the Circassian community in Israel is particularly high. This loyalty to Israel is often considered as an act of betrayal by the Arab Muslims, who see Circassians as traitors to the Ummah. The Druze consider themselves to be Muslim, although they are considered non-Muslim by the general Islamic community. The bond between Jews and Druze is commonly known by the term "a covenant of blood". Reda Mansour, a Druze poet, historian and diplomat, explained: So we are considered a very nationalistic, patriotic community. Five Druze lawmakers currently have been elected to serve in the 18th Knesset, a disproportionately large number considering their population. We invalidate and reject everything that the Adalah organization is requesting," he said. According to A-din, the fate of Druze and Circassians in Israel is intertwined with that of the state. We are unwilling to support a substantial alteration to the nature of this state, to which we tied our destinies prior to its establishment," he said. He serves as the operations officer at an IDF

ground forces training base, and describes himself as a "Zionist Israeli Arab". Wahib grew up in a society where Holocaust denial was common, but visited Poland while serving in the IDF and was shocked, saying that "there was something very powerful in the fact that I was standing on Polish soil, holding an Israeli flag and donning the uniform of the Israeli army, but this time from a position of power. In regards to being a Muslim, Wahib explained that he believes in the Muslim faith, and will never abandon it, but believes that "Zionism A mother of three children who have served in the IDF, she says that Arabs in Israel live better than those living in any Arab state, and states, "I was born in Israel, and it is my homeland. I thank God every day that I was born in the Jewish state because of everything that happens in the Arab states in general and Syria, in particular. Not only do I support Israel, I am also willing to sacrifice my family for the existence of this state. You have to understand, Israel is my homeland. Just because I am an Arab Muslim does not mean I will support Arab countries against Israel or identify with a murderous organization like Hamas that wants to destroy my homeland. Tawfik Hamid A former self-described member of a terror organization and current Islamic thinker and reformer, [10] Sheikh Prof. In an interview with The Voice of Israel, Sadat dubbed himself the "Theodr Herzl of Afghanistan" and hopes Afghans will unite their war-torn nation inside the country and in exile to become eternal and united like Israel. Choudhury was arrested by Bangladeshi police on November 29, at Dhaka airport since he was scheduled to fly to Israel, a country Bangladeshi citizens are barred from travelling to. After release from months imprisonment, Choudhury wrote in an Israeli newspaper "I also stand before you perhaps as a living contradiction: I also acknowledge this historical reality: At the same time, I live in an environment where people believe just as passionately in an opposing viewâ€”one that sees Israel as illegitimate; and the Jewish people as evil incarnate. She further argues that the allegation of apartheid in Israel is deeply misleading, noting that there are in Israel several Arab political parties; that Arab-Muslim legislators have veto powers; and that Arab parties have overturned disqualifications. She also observes that Israel has a free Arab press; that road signs bear Arabic translations; and that Arabs live and study alongside Jews. And We said thereafter to the Children of Israel, "Dwell securely in the land of promise". He explains the Quran went even further to consider the Promised Land as the permanent inheritance for the Israelites. During the chaos following the fall of the Mubarak regime in , she managed to escape and fled to Israel. In , she renounced Islam. He added, "I think Muslims are rational and rationality dictates that. Wahid replied, "I think there is a wrong perception that Islam is in disagreement with Israel. This is caused by Arab propaganda [Upon his return to Iraq, he was stripped of parliamentary immunity so that he could face charges of traveling illicitly to Israel. He wrote, Indeed, I recognize their sovereignty over their land. I believe in the Holy Koran, and this fact is stated many times in the book. His political rivals, led by Sharif Kassir, denounced these activities, calling Mwidau a "Zionist agent". Mwidau remained in parliament until his death in According to Al-Hadlaq, Israel has in the past made strategic concessions for peace, in Sinai , the Gaza Strip and South Lebanon , proving her desire for peaceful negotiations, but the response she earned was a hail of rockets from the "terrorists of Hizballah and Hamas". He said that Israel is vital for the stability of the region. Sayyed praised the treatment of Arabs in Israel, and applauded the "strength of the Jewish spirit that refuses to give in to evil forces despite thousand of years of anti-Semitism ". He concluded by saying "I am convinced that it is true that God created this earth but it is also a fact that only an Israel can keep this earth from dying". Tashbih condemned the press that portrays the Israelis as villains, and "chooses to ignore all rules of ethical journalism when it comes to Israel. I believe the Palestinians and the Israelis have the right to have their own land. The group spokesperson, Hasan Afzal, a political economics student at the University of Birmingham, explained in an interview with Israeli Channel 10 that Muslims in Israel are freer than they are under oppressive regimes in Arab countries. Israel is a democratic state. Muslims in Israel have more rights than possibly most Muslims in the Arab world and then there is the reality of the actual conflict. He has said, "No Muslim country boycotted East Timor or banned its citizens from traveling there after it became independent from mainly Muslim Indonesia. As with East Timor, we did not see any Muslim boycotts. However, when Israel became independent in , Muslim countries acted with unrelenting hostility. Israel was established in the exact same manner as were Australia and America. History will not rewind. Kamal believes that Muslim countries must recognize the state of Israel, and the Muslim world must boycott Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran if they rejected

peace. He has accused Jordan of practicing Apartheid , and is a supporter of Israeli settlements in the West Bank , saying that those who oppose it "are just encouraging the terrorist groups indirectly. Husain also cofounded, with Maajid Nawaz , the counter-extremism organisation the Quilliam Foundation. Husain has condemned suicide bombing of Israeli civilians as well as the "killing of Palestinian civilians by the Hamas-led Gazan government". Many people condemn Israeli settlements and call for an economic boycott of their produce, but I saw that it was Arab builders, plumbers, taxi drivers and other workers who maintained Israeli lifestyles. Separatism in the Holy Land has not worked and it is time to end it. How much longer will we punish Palestinians to create a free Palestine? We stand in support of the existing unqualified recognition of the state of Israel behind internationally recognized borders". Zuhdi Jasser , a former Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy , [] said that Muslims need to recognize Israel as a state, to stand against radical Islamist groups by name, not by theory, tactic, or condemning terrorism, but by nameâ€”Hamas, Al Qaeda and other groups. Now each country is going to have to deal with it". Afdhere Jama , an American-Muslim writer and editor of the Huriyah magazine, added, "My main difference with the majority of Muslims is the belief that a Jewish homeland is an important progress for all of us, especially one in their ancestral land of Israel". He continued, "Muslims in the United States must decide whether they see groups like Hamas and Hizbullah as legitimate resistance or the cause of Muslim troubles in the region". Ahmed , a British-born Pakistani Muslim who today lives in New York, is a staunch defender of Israel, who has been accused by her critics of being a " Zionist in a Muslim guise". She is firmly opposed to the boycott against Israel, saying that the movement attempts to vilify Israel in almost every argument.

Chapter 5 : Christians in the Holy Land: Don't Call Us Arabs - The Tower - The Tower

The Arab-Israeli conflict refers to the political tension and military conflicts between the Arab league and Israel and between Arabs and Israelis. The roots of the modern Arab-Israeli conflict lie in the rise of Zionism and Arab nationalism towards the end of the 19 th century.

Israel has now appeared to offer some concessions over contentious security precautions that led to bloody violence. Palestinian President freezes contact with Israel The Arab League warned Israel on Sunday that it was "playing with fire" in Jerusalem and said it would convene an emergency meeting on Wednesday over increasing Israeli-Palestinian violence. Tensions ratcheted up even further in the occupied West Bank at the weekend after three Palestinians were killed and at least wounded in some of the worst street violence in years. Palestinians see the measures as a means for Israel to assert further control over the site. The Health Ministry said at least 20 people were hospitalized from rubber bullet wounds and tear gas inhalation during clashes with Israeli police. The day had started with increased security measures. Israel boosts security at Jerusalem holy site amid tensions Women are allowed to enter Israeli authorities said they would allow women of all ages to enter the holy site for Friday prayers. Israel boosts security at Jerusalem holy site amid tensions Praying as an act of protest Palestinian Muslims have been praying on the streets outside the mosque compound for the past week. Israel boosts security at Jerusalem holy site amid tensions Women gather outside in solidarity In the Old City of Jerusalem, Palestinian women come together to pray on the street outside of the holy site, following an appeal from Muslim clerics. Israel boosts security at Jerusalem holy site amid tensions Contentious security measures Israeli authorities say the security measures are necessary after three Arab Israeli gunmen killed two police officers at the entrance of the shrine. The issue has quickly gained an international dimension as the mosque compound is considered the third most holy site in Islam after Medina and Mecca. Rey Azizi Security cameras as a concession After sending in reinforcement troops on Saturday and putting soldiers on high alert, Israel appeared to offer concessions over the divisive metal detectors. Major General Yoav Mordechai, who heads the Israeli defense body for Palestinian civilian affairs, said on Sunday that Israel was open to alternatives to lower the tensions. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held cabinet discussions on Sunday to discuss the situation and said he would act according to recommendations. Abbas demands complete reversal A top adviser to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said he was holding consultations with various countries, including Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Morocco, about the crisis. Abbas announced Friday he would "freeze" ties with Israel "on all levels" until the new security measures Israel imposed at the Jerusalem site were removed. Ending those ties, which have been constant amid previous hostilities in the Palestinian territories, could quickly escalate tensions. Abbas freezes Israeli relations as Temple Mount protests turn deadly The top Muslim cleric of Jerusalem, Mohammed Hussein, told the Voice of Palestine radio station that he demands a complete return to procedures that were in place before the initial attack at the shrine. The conflict showed no signs of easing on Sunday. Israeli security forces said they arrested 25 members of the militant Hamas group that rules the Gaza Strip, including "senior members. Meanwhile various international figures weighed in on the violence. The United Nations Security Council announced on Saturday it would meet on Monday to discuss the situation after Sweden, Egypt and France urgently requested the meeting.

Chapter 6 : Arab arsonists spark massive Gush Etzion fire - Israel National News

Under previous agreements with Israel, the Palestinian Authority (PA) is required to protect Jewish holy sites under its control, and to allow secure access for Jewish worshippers.

Visit Website Around B. For the next several centuries, the land of modern-day Israel was conquered and ruled by various groups, including the Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Fatimids, Seljuk Turks, Crusaders, Egyptians, Mamelukes, Islamists and others. In 1917, at the height of the war, British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour submitted a letter of intent supporting the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. The British government hoped that the formal declaration—known thereafter as the Balfour Declaration—would encourage support for the Allies in World War I. Arabs vehemently opposed the Balfour Declaration, concerned that a Jewish homeland would mean the subjugation of Arab Palestinians. The complex hostility between the two groups dates all the way back to ancient times when they both populated the area and deemed it holy. Both Jews and Muslims consider the city of Jerusalem sacred. Much of the conflict in recent years has centered around who is occupying the following areas: A piece of land located between Egypt and modern-day Israel. A rocky plateau between Syria and modern-day Israel. A territory that divides part of modern-day Israel and Jordan. The Zionism Movement In the late 19th and early 20th century, an organized religious and political movement known as Zionism emerged among Jews. Zionists wanted to reestablish a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Massive numbers of Jews immigrated to the ancient holy land and built settlements. Between 1919 and 1924, about 35,000 Jews relocated to Palestine. Another 40,000 settled in the area between 1924 and 1939. Many Jews living in Europe and elsewhere, fearing persecution during the Nazi reign, found refuge in Palestine and embraced Zionism. Arabs in Palestine resisted the Zionism movement, and tensions between the two groups continue. An Arab nationalist movement developed as a result. In May 1948, Israel was officially declared an independent state with David Ben-Gurion, the head of the Jewish Agency, as the prime minister. While this historic event seemed to be a victory for Jews, it also marked the beginning of more violence with the Arabs. Civil war broke out throughout all of Israel, but a cease-fire agreement was reached in 1949. As part of the temporary armistice agreement, the West Bank became part of Jordan, and the Gaza Strip became Egyptian territory. Some of these include: Relations between Israel and Egypt were rocky in the years following the war. Israeli, France and Great Britain eventually withdrew from the conflict. In 1956, what started as a surprise attack, Israel defeated Egypt, Jordan and Syria in six days. The fighting went on for two weeks, until the UN adopted a resolution to stop the war. Syria hoped to recapture the Golan Heights during this battle but was unsuccessful. In 1967, Israel annexed the Golan Heights, but Syria continued to claim it as territory. Israeli occupation of Gaza and the West Bank led to a Palestinian uprising and hundreds of deaths. After this, the Palestinian Authority formed and took over some territories in Israel. In 2005, the Israeli army withdrew from parts of the West Bank. Palestinians launched suicide bombs and other attacks on Israelis in 2002. The resulting violence lasted for years, until a cease-fire was reached. Israel announced a plan to remove all troops and Jewish settlements from the Gaza strip by the end of 2005. Israel went to war with Hezbollah—a Shiite Islamic militant group in Lebanon—in 2006. A UN-negotiated ceasefire ended the conflict a couple of months after it started. Israel has been involved in repeated violence with Hamas, a Sunni Islamist militant group that assumed Palestinian power in 2007. Some of the more significant conflicts took place beginning in 2008, and Israel Today Clashes between Israelis and Palestinians are still commonplace. Key territories of land are divided, but some are claimed by both groups. For instance, they both cite Jerusalem as their capital. Both groups blame each other for terror attacks that kill civilians. The Two-State Solution Several countries have pushed for more peace agreements in recent years. Many have suggested a two-state solution but acknowledge that Israelis and Palestinians are unlikely to settle on borders. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has supported the two-state solution but has felt pressure to change his stance. Netanyahu has also been accused of encouraging Jewish settlements in Palestinian areas while still backing a two-state solution. In a visit to Israel in May 2017, U. President Donald Trump urged Netanyahu to embrace peace agreements with Palestinians. While Israel has been plagued by unpredictable war and violence in the past, many national leaders and citizens are hoping for a secure, stable

nation in the future. Creation of Israel, Office of the Historian, U. The Arab-Israeli War of The Second Aliyah â€” The New York Times.

Chapter 7 : ANALYSIS: Israel at the Center of a New Order in the Middle East - Israel Today | Israel News

Palestinian Arabs claim full ownership of the Holy Land, denying any Jewish connection or rights—all based on deceptive lies, all easily proven false. In this era of "fake news," it's often hard to tell truth from fiction. Indeed, Palestinian Arab leaders have constructed an elaborate false.

Indeed, Palestinian Arab leaders have constructed an elaborate false mythology to justify their war against Israel and the Jewish people. What are the facts? We may disagree on interpretation, but at least we should agree on the facts. So, let us consider five cornerstones of the Palestinian narrative and judge its moral strength by its adherence to the truth. We soon find that modern Palestinian myths are unfair attempts to disenfranchise the Jewish people from Israel—their ancestral homeland. Palestinians are indigenous to the Holy Land: President Mahmoud Abbas often claims Palestinians are related to the Canaanites, a group that vanished 4,000 years ago. This claim has no basis in archeological or genetic research. Nearly all Palestinians trace their lineage to Arab lands. Indeed, historians, archeologists, biblical records, and the Koran itself, affirm conclusively that Jews founded a kingdom in the Holy Land some 3,000 years ago—before arrival of the Arabs—and have lived in the lands of present day Israel, Judea and Samaria the West Bank ever since. Israel occupies Palestinian land: Aside from individual private holdings, there is no defined public Palestinian land in the disputed territories. Nonetheless, Israel has many times offered to turn over most of land it won after its defensive war against Jordan in exchange for peace, but the Palestinians have refused all those offers. Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian people. Jerusalem is cited hundreds of times in the Torah and not a single time in the Koran. Palestinians have a right of return to Israel: Among approximately 700,000 Arabs who left Israel in 1948, when five Arab armies attacked, only about 30,000 are still alive today. Some live in the disputed territories of Judea and Samaria, many over the 70 years have made homes in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Nonetheless, the Palestinians claim that 5. No other descendants in world history have ever been considered refugees. Indeed, no displaced refugees, let alone descendants, have inherent legal rights to return to their original homes after a war. Any such returns have always been negotiated among the parties—and so they will be in a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. Israel is guilty of apartheid against the Palestinians: Palestinian leaders frequently accuse Israel of committing genocide, ethnic cleansing and apartheid. Palestinians in the West Bank, on the other hand, are largely self-governing, have increased dramatically in number over the decades, and enjoy a higher standard of living than any of their Arab neighbors. Limitations on Palestinian movement within the West Bank exist only when necessary to prevent Arab terrorism against Israelis, which continues to this day. In short, accusations of discriminatory subjugation of Palestinians by Israel are false and malign. Today, Palestinians repeat falsehoods to convince the world that Jews are evil, colonial usurpers. Until the Palestinians agree to negotiate peace with Israel—based on the truth and good faith—they are sadly condemned to bitterness and thwarted aspirations for independence. FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

Chapter 8 : Jews, Arabs nearing population parity in Holy Land: Israeli officials | Reuters

There have been countless attempts to make peace between the Holy Land's Jews and Arabs with two states living side by side in peace and security. One of the central facts of history concerning this conflict is that in the United Nations divided up "Palestine" giving a part to the Jews and a part to the Arabs.

The Jewish people have lived in Palestine continuously for more than 3, years " " " far longer than any ethnic group. Why do Arabs deny this history? Many Arabs and anti-Israel activists claim Palestinians are the true indigenous people of the Holy Land, comparing their plight to that of Native Americans. Yet the ethnogenesis of the Jewish people" Hebrew language, Torah, Jewish religion, culture and self-identity" began in Palestine more than 1, years before Arabs arrived. What are the facts? By contrast, Arabs first arrived in Palestine around CE, first became a dominant population there in the twelfth century and first called themselves Palestinians only in Are Palestinian Arabs indigenous? Comparisons of Palestinians to indigenous Native Americans fall short, as do claims that Palestinians are indigenous to the Holy Land. Unlike American Native People, Palestinian Arabs were not the aboriginal nor ever the sole inhabitants of this land. In addition, the population of Native Americans after white conquest was decimated by massacre and disease, while the Palestinian population has thrived and expanded dramatically over the past century. Finally, Native Americans were never offered a state of their own, whereas Palestinian Arabs have been offered a state many times, starting in , but have refused these offers in favor of futile attempts for nearly 70 years to expel the Jews. However, just as white colonists in the Americas cannot call themselves indigenous people simply because they lived in an area for centuries, neither can Palestinian Arabs. In reality, there is no ethnic difference between Palestinian Arabs, Syrians and Jordanians. Likewise, Palestinians have no culture peculiar to Palestine, nor do they have strong religious ties to it. The Koran, for example, never mentions Jerusalem, which has been the capital of the Holy Land for several thousand years. Are Jews indigenous to Palestine? The ancient Jewish connection to Palestine is confirmed in the Jewish Bible, the Christian Gospels and the Koran, as well as by countless Jewish antiquities and copious scholarly research. Jews also have a distinct language, culture and religion that are linked inextricably to Palestine. Indeed, for thousands of years Jewish liturgy has expressed the yearning of Jews to return to the land of Israel: FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

Chapter 9 : Arab - Israeli Conflict

Production Diary ~ Part 2 - Israel: Holy Land, Holy Fire see all posts "It was the best-documented journey of its time, inspiring the imaginations and ambitions of countless adventurers, including Christopher Columbus.

There are no official figures on the number of Palestinian Christians in the occupied territories, but according to the Lutheran ecumenical institution the Diyar Consortium there are 51, Christians in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. Lower birthrates for Christians have also contributed to their shrinking percentage of the population. According to Israeli government figures, as of there were about , Christian citizens of Israel, or about 2. High Commissioner for Human Rights. In recent years, settlers have begun so-called "price tag" attacks against Palestinians in response to Israeli government actions that displease them, such as the dismantling of settlement "outposts" nascent settlements built without official approval from Israeli authorities. Often, such attacks take the form of vandalism and desecration of Muslim and Christian holy sites, including a string of arson attacks against mosques in the West Bank and Israel. In December , Jewish extremists vandalized the Greek Orthodox Monastery of the Cross in Jerusalem for the second time , painting "Death to Christianity," "Jesus, son of a whore," and "price tag" on its walls and slashing tires on cars in its parking lot. In October , the St. George Romanian Orthodox Church in Jerusalem was vandalized , its door damaged and garbage dumped in its entrance. It was at least the third act of vandalism against a Christian holy site in the previous five weeks. A week before the Romanian Church was attacked, vandals spray-painted "Jesus is a bastard" and "price tag" on the Franciscan convent on Mount Zion. In September , attackers set fire to the door of the Latrun Monastery in Jerusalem. Believed to be a "price tag" attack, the arson took place a week after the Israeli government evacuated settlers from the Migron settlement "outpost" in the West Bank. In the attacks on the churches, the perpetrators spray-painted "Jesus is dead," "Death to Christianity," and "Mary was a prostitute" on the walls. One of the churches, the Narkis Street Baptist Congregation in Jerusalem, was previously the target of arson attacks in and In November , Haaretz reported that ultra-Orthodox Jews were cursing and spitting at Christian clergy in the streets of the Old City of occupied East Jerusalem "as a matter of routine. You walk down the street and suddenly they spit at you for no reason. There are more than 50 laws that discriminate against Palestinian citizens of Israel, directly or indirectly, based solely on their ethnicity, rendering them second- or third-class citizens in their own homeland. Palestinian citizens of Israel, including Christians, face significant legal obstacles in gaining access to this land for agriculture, residence, or commercial development. In November , the influential chief rabbi of the city of Safed, Shmuel Eliyahu, issued a ruling forbidding Jews from renting property to Gentiles. The following month, some 50 other municipal chief rabbis, also on the government payroll, signed a letter supporting Eliyahu and his decree. The land of Israel is designated for the people of Israel. Human rights groups criticized the move as an attempt to allow Jewish towns to keep Arabs and other non-Jews out. The US State Department International Religious Freedom Report noted, "While well-known [religious] sites have de facto protection as a result of their international importance, many Muslim and Christian sites are neglected, inaccessible, or threatened by property developers and municipalities. These restrictions do not apply to the more than , Jewish settlers living in illegal settlements in the occupied territories. Since , Palestinians living in the in the occupied West Bank and Gaza have been forbidden by Israel to enter occupied East Jerusalem without a difficult to obtain permit. In April , 15, Christian Palestinians applied for a permit to enter occupied East Jerusalem to worship at Old City holy sites for Easter, but Israel only granted approximately 2, of them. Christian advocates claimed that the difficulty of obtaining permits gradually worsened in the last 10 years. Israeli authorities continued to limit visas for Arab Christian clergy serving in the West Bank or Jerusalem to single-entry visas, complicating clergy travel, particularly to areas under their pastoral authority outside the West Bank or Jerusalem. This disrupted their work and caused financial difficulties for their sponsoring religious organizations. In and around Bethlehem there are some 32 physical barriers to Palestinian movement erected by Israel, including checkpoints, roadblocks, dirt mounds, and gates. As with other Israeli restrictions on movement in the West Bank, Israeli Jews are allowed to bypass them freely. Historically, Jerusalem has

been the religious, economic, and cultural center of Palestinian life in the West Bank. Since occupying and illegally annexing the eastern half of the city in 1967, Israel has attempted to separate and isolate East Jerusalem from the rest of the occupied West Bank by building a ring of settlements around its outskirts. As in the case of Bethlehem, this ring of settlements has been reinforced by the wall Israel is constructing, which also separates Israeli settlements in and near East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank. To achieve this goal, the government has been taking actions to increase the number of Jews, and reduce the number of Palestinians, living in the city. See [here](#) for a map of Israeli settlements around East Jerusalem and the E-1 plan. See [here](#) for a map of settlements surrounding Bethlehem. JavaScript must be enabled to view this email address