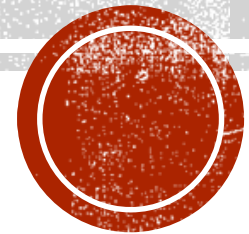


PALESTINIAN / ISRAELI CONFLICT



Morgan Alexander Hughes

1807843

I have chosen to talk about the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine, driven partly by my own personal interest in the political debates around Anti-Semitism and its modern definitions.

According to the IHRA, antisemitism includes;

- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.

Just a few entries from the website make it clear that it is difficult to speak out against the State of Israel and its actions.

This has been critical in public relations in British Politics especially, with claims that the Labour Party and their leader Jeremy Corbyn are Anti-Semitic.

My attention was drawn further in February, when it was announced that Benjamin Netanyahu was under investigation over election related bribery, yet still took seat for a 5th term in power in April.

This had me look further into the impact on Palestinian life, as Netanyahu's prime objectives are to complete his visionary borders of the 'State of Israel', through military force.

Note (illegal) Israeli settlements throughout Palestinian territory, extensive fencing/walls and presence of Israeli military.



A BRIEF HISTORY; FORMING NEW STATES.

- 1881 - The Jewish Diaspora, spread worldwide, starts a contemporary movement of the Jewish Community to the homeland of their people, establishing settlements and communities in Palestine.
- 1917 - Balfour Declaration:

Signed on November the 2nd, an agreement between the British and Zionists; promising the establishment of a 'national home' in Palestine, also stipulating that the 'Non-Jewish' communities would not be subject to any prejudices.

This was partly to win favour of the Jewish population, in an effort to secure strategic positions such as the Suez Canal (vital for communication to British Colonial India)

- 1922 - Official approval of Balfour Declaration by League of Nations
- 1939 - British Policy was changed, limiting Jewish migrants to 75,000, and recommending a complete halt by 1944.
- 1946 – A new exodus began, following 'Pogroms' such as Kielce in Poland, where 42 Jews were murdered.
- 1947 – Harry Truman convinces the British to stand down, and allow 100 thousand Jews to enter Palestine, followed by a UN vote to partition Palestine.
- 1948 – British Withdrawal from Palestine, and the State of Israel was founded

It should be noted that Britain were drawn thin at this point, not only recovering from WWII, but heavily involved in the partitioning of India and overrun with displaced persons from all over the colonial empire and at home in Europe.





GAZA 1960s

DECADES OF DESTRUCTION, WAR AND TERROR

The general pattern of the conflict that has ensued - practically non-stop since 1948 – could be seen as a series of retaliations:

- The 'Six Day War' of 1967 saw involvement from Syria and Jordan, in defence of Egypt from Israel
- This was followed by Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza
- During the seventies and eighties, Palestinian settlements were destroyed and Israeli civilians encouraged to move in. Also Ethiopian Jews and Soviet Jews in numerous operations between 1984 and 1991,
- During this time, Israel invaded Lebanon in an attempt to shut down military support for Palestine
- Each of these events is sparked by an attack by one side on the other. For more details see

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-29123668>



GAZA 2015





REFUGEES

**THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF
AND WORKS AGENCY (UNRWA)
FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN
THE NEAR EAST**

- In 1967 Israel had occupied both Gaza and the West Bank
- After a sharp rise in hostility between the two factions, the UNWRA established further camps to provide for the refugees of the conflict (some 750,000)
- There are now 60 camps in the region, (Jordan, Lebanon and other neighbouring countries) housing one third (1.5million) refugees.
- The total estimation of registered Palestinian refugees now stands at 5.1million
- The other two thirds are spread across Gaza, the West Bank, and towns and cities of the host nations of the UNRWA camps.



DISPROPORTIONATE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT



- Whilst Israel has gained international support and recognition, especially from the US, the promises that Palestinians would receive no prejudice and be able to live freely in their state has not been upheld by the British or UN.
- Palestine is still not recognized as an official state, and holds the position of 'Observer' at the United Nations
- President Trump's policies on 'Terrorist Organisations' eg. Anti Terrorism Clarification Act has caused cessation of aid to Palestine. This could further affect peace in areas of the West Bank, where Palestinian Authorities have been cooperating with Israeli forces to keep a relative calm.
- Also declaring recognition of Jerusalem as the capitol of Israel, a somewhat controversial move as it has always been a multi-faith religious centre worldwide
- When compared to other instances of humanitarian crises and subsequent intervention, such as Syria or Iraq, it could be said that Palestine has received unjust apathy from the global community.
- US administration's refusal to include Palestine in major peace talks, declaring that the Palestinian Army is an institutionally terrorist organization.



NETANYAHU'S INTENTION TO OFFICIALLY ANNEX THE WEST BANK

- Israeli Prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu was re-elected in April for his fifth term, despite allegations of corruption.
- Part of his bid for votes was to declare that he would complete annexation of the West Bank
- However, this will be no more than a formality, as the occupation of Gaza and the West Bank has been upheld since 1967.
- Netanyahu's close relationship with Washington, especially the Trump administration has gained ground in these proceedings among others.



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE; POSSIBILITIES OF RESOLVE

- BDS Movement – feared now even by Israeli politicians, there is a strong international movement to ‘boycott’ Israel. More can be found at:
<https://bdsmovement.net/>
- There is existing Left-Wing Zionist support for the plight of the Palestinians; Israeli politics is factioned in a similar manner to our own.
- There are many other organisations founded to support Palestine and give them a voice;
- Gaza Surf Club: Festival of 2017
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mEkwJlxJfA>
- <https://surfing4peace.org/history>



REFERENCES AND SOURCES

- Gaza and West Bank Map Photo: Accessed 28th May 2019
https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&source=images&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwip4_mUq77iAhUI8hOKHYzIDE0jRx6BAgBEAU&url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FIsraeli%25E2%2580%2593Palestinian_conflict&psig=AOvVaw0GX77EH4kzq8v1wXgh1cj&ust=1559136745624685
- Gaza 1960s to 1915 photo: Accessed 28th May 2019
https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&source=images&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjdl574qL7iAhUMoROKHVljCWOQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pinterest.com%2Fpalestinianatheart%2Fthen-now%2F&psig=AOvVaw2VNIjcb_-ad8ST0s15OFQY&ust=1559136067066837
- Palestinian Refugee Camp Photo: Accessed 2nd June 2019
<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&source=images&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwj0u9Dur8viAhXKGewKHSecC68QjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https%3A%2F%2Fimemc.org%2Farticle%2Fplot-to-depopulate-palestinian-refugee-camps-in-lebanon%2F&psig=AOvVaw0wY1NcqCm4kQnETq8GKaZi&ust=1559569903928939>
- 'Free Palestine' Photo: Accessed 28th May 2019
https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&source=images&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiF4u_Wqb7iAhWOMBOKHaLEDkQQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.no-gods-no-masters.com%2Ftshirt-free-gaza-free-palestine-0012477858&psig=AOvVaw3LpjhqLFXeSpiaTxIWKFb5&ust=1559136342932762
- Benjamin Netanyahu Photo: Accessed 28th May 2019
<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiVw4OWv77iAhXK8OAKHUCtDd0QjRx6BAgBEAU&url=%2Furl%3Fsa%3Di%26source%3Dimages%26cd%3D%26ved%3D%26url%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fwww.pbs.org%252Fnewshour%252Fworld%252Fhow-israeli-pm-netanyahu-could-still-win-re-election%26psig%3DAOvVaw1M9U5FvKg1wXhXsvo7PliN%26ust%3D1559141909059785&psig=AOvVaw1M9U5FvKg1wXhXsvo7PliN&ust=1559141909059785>
- Gaza Surf Cub Photo: Accessed 2nd June 2019
https://www.google.com/search?q=palestine+surf+festival&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiTkujWqsviAhUKEVAKHVONAN4Q_AUIESgC&biw=1517&bih=640#imgsrc=gOgKmyWRWiLlIM:
- Ashley, J, May 9th 2019, *Has Israel already annexed the West Bank?*, Al Jazeera, accessed 2nd June 2019, URL: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/05/israel-annexed-west-bank-190506160016495.html>
- CNN Library, April 2018, *Benjamin Netanyahu Fast Facts*, accessed 2nd June 2019 at URL: <https://edition.cnn.com/2013/01/01/world/meast/benjamin-netanyahu---fast-facts/index.html>
- Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1998, with edition in October 2018, *Balfour Declaration, United Kingdom 1917*; accessed 29th May 2019 at URL: <https://www.britannica.com/event/Balfour-Declaration>
- Knell, Y, Feb 2019, *US Stops all Aid to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza*, BBC News, Jerusalem, accessed on 2nd June 2019 at URL: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-47095082>

