

## **A Brief History of Modern Israel**

- Late 1800s – Zionist movement – The Ottoman Empire (which was in deep financial trouble) relaxed its centuries-old prohibition against sale of the land within its territories to non-Muslims.
  - Wealthy Zionists from the USA and Europe began buying land in Canaan and sending young “kibbutzim” to live there and establish agricultural communities.
- 1914-1918 – The Ottoman Empire fought on the losing side of WWI and disintegrated when the war ended, leaving a power vacuum in Turkey, the Levant, and the Arabian Peninsula.
- 1920 – The Treaty of Versailles created “mandates” to European nations for the government (and exploitation) of the peoples and lands of the Middle East.
  - The British Mandate of Palestine included the territories now belonging to Iraq, Israel, and Jordan, the “West Bank,” Gaza, and the Golan Heights.
  - The French Mandate controlled Lebanon & Syria.
- 1947 – UN resolution 181, ended the British Mandate of Palestine partitioning the land.
  - Two new nation-states were created.
    - Israel – with capital in Tel Aviv.
    - The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (including the “West Bank”).
  - Under the UN plan, Jewish residents were to move west into Israel, and Arab (Muslim) residents were to move east into the “West Bank”.
  - The partition lines defined by the UN resolution were virtually identical to the current boundaries except the Golan Heights.
  - The Gaza strip was offered to Egypt, but Egypt declined. Gaza was placed under control of the Arab League.
  - Jerusalem was partitioned as an “international city.”
    - West Jerusalem was to be controlled by the new State of Israel.
    - East Jerusalem including the Temple Mount was to be controlled by Jordan.
- 1948 – British occupying forces and administrators evacuated the new nations.
  - Military strong points (Tegart Forts) were left in the hands of Jordanian forces.
  - Egypt, Syria, and Jordan immediately launched a war to “drive the Jews back into the sea.”
- 1948-1949 – Israeli War of Independence.
  - Israeli forces initially took but could not hold all of Jerusalem.
  - Armistice left the land and the city partitioned along virtually identical lines called for in the UN resolution.
  - Gaza remained under control of the Arab League.
- 1967 – Israel’s neighbors once more massed along the borders with the declared goal of destroying the State of Israel, driving all the Jews back into the sea, and seizing control of the entire former British mandate of Palestine.
  - Israel launched pre-emptive strikes.
  - Israel was entirely victorious in the Six-Day war.
    - Occupied the “West Bank,” Gaza, and the Golan Heights.
    - Seized control of all of Jerusalem.
  - Temple Mount initially seized, but returned to Muslim council administrative control by Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan.
  - Jordanian forces demolished much of the old city of Jerusalem including the Jewish Quarter with explosives before withdrawal.

## **A Brief History of Modern Israel**

- 1973 – All of Israel’s neighbors launched a coordinated surprise attack on the holiest day of the Jewish calendar – Yom Kippur – the day of atonement.
  - Once again, the stated goal was to destroy the State of Israel, drive all the Jews back into the sea, and seize control of the entire Levant.
  - After significant initial losses, Israel miraculously regained control of the “West Bank,” Gaza, and the Golan Heights.
  - Israel also occupied the Sinai Peninsula.
  - The Muslim council retained control of the Temple Mount.
- 1978 – Camp David Accords
  - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and US President Jimmy Carter met at the US President’s Camp David retreat.
  - Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty.
    - The Sinai was returned to Egypt but not Gaza.
  - Begin and Sadat shared the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1981 – Anwar Sadat was assassinated by his own military who took over the government of Egypt.
- 1987-1993 – First Intifada.
  - Palestinian Arabs rioted in the “West Bank” and Gaza with the goal of ending the Israeli occupation.
- 1993 – Oslo Accords.
  - Israel partially withdrew from Gaza and the “West Bank.”
    - Government of the two areas was given to the Palestinian Authority under the leadership of Yasser Arafat’s Palestine Liberation Organization.
- 1994-2022 – Israel constructed a “West Bank” border wall.
- 2000-2005 – Second Intifada
  - Violent protests, suicide bombings, rocket attacks throughout Israel.
  - Israel military operations inside Gaza and the “West Bank.”
  - Mahmoud Abbas replaced Yasser Arafat as head of Palestinian Authority.
  - 2004 – Yasser Arafat died in France of a cerebral hemorrhage.
  - 2005 – Israelis evacuated Gaza.
- 2006 – Hamas won majority in Palestinian Authority Legislative Council.
  - USA and EU declared Hamas a terrorist organization.
- 2007 – Hamas took over control of Gaza.
- December 2008-January 2009 – Gaza War.
  - 23-day invasion of Gaza by IDF to stop rocket attacks into Israel launched from Gaza.
- 2010- 2023 – Hamas continued to launch rockets from Gaza into Israel and use Gaza as a base of operations for paramilitary incursions into Israel.
- October 2023 – Israel-Hamas (Sukkot) War.
  - Hamas and Hezbollah launched coordinated attacks throughout Israel.
    - Hamas attacks launched from Gaza.
    - Hezbollah attacks launched from “West Bank” and Lebanon
  - Iran declared support for attacks.
    - Hamas acknowledged military and financial support from Iran.
  - Thousands of Israelis captured, massacred, tortured, and mutilated.
    - 40 Israeli babies reportedly beheaded.
  - Israel responded with blockade, air strikes, and ground invasion of Gaza.