Conflict Between Israel & Palestine

Historic overview
- In ancient times Palestine included territory on both sides of the Jordan River
- Palestine was never its own state
- Three great religions:
  - Judaism
  - Christianity
  - Islam

History (Continued)
- During the first century the Jews were driven out of Jerusalem due to the take over of the Roman Empire
  - This dispersion of the Jews is known as Diaspora
  - Roman Empire eventually fell and since then it has been ruled by Arabs, the Crusaders, the Mamluk and the Ottoman Empire
- Anti-Semitism
  - During this time the Jews suffered centuries of persecution which is known as anti-Semitism
  - 19th century conditions improved for the Jews
  - Theodor Herzl became convinced that the solution for the Jews was for them to have their own country

Theodor Herzl (1860-1904)
- His idea became known as Zionism
  - Comes from the word Zion, a hill in the heart of Jerusalem
- 1896 organized the 1st international congress of Zionists at Basel in Switzerland
  - Debate over where the “Jewish State” should be: Argentina vs. Palestine

Early 20th Century
- Britain and France encouraged the Arabs to revolt against Turkish rule
  - They made an understanding that independent Arab states would be established at the end of the war
  - Britain’s foreign minister, Arthur Balfour, also made promises to the Jews.
    - The Balfour Declaration stated: “view with favor establishment in Palestine of a nation home for the Jewish people”.
  - The Council of the League of Nations issued a Mandate for Palestine in 1922. The Mandate was in favor of the establishment for the Jewish people a homeland in Palestine
- In 1939 there was a shift in British policy: Jewish immigration was to be limited
- During WWII the Nazis launched a program designed to exterminate all Jews
  - *Holocaust*: > 6 million Jews were killed
  - The Jewish survivors were referred to as “Displaced Persons” without homes or countries
- 1947, the British had had enough and handed the problem to the UN
  - The UN plan was to divide Palestine in a Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem under the UN jurisdiction

The First Arab-Israeli War 1948
- May 14, 1948 the state of Israel was created.
  - The armies of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon joined to attack the new state of Israel
  - The war lasted just over a year. Arab states lost the battle and Israel gained a considerable amount of territory
  - The Arab refusal to accept partition led to the 1948 Arab-Israeli War
  - Over 600,000 Palestinians were refugees
Aftermath of 1948 Arab-Israeli War

About 200,000 Palestinian Arabs stayed in Israel after the war and Israel granted them citizenship rights.

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- 500,000 living in the Jordanian-occupied West Bank.

- During the 1950s and 1960s, Palestinians began organizing themselves with the goal of “liberating” Palestine from Israeli control.

- In 1964, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was established in Egypt.

- The Syrian PLO was founded by Egyptian-born Palestinian Yasser Arafat.

- Arafat began launching guerrilla raids and terrorist attacks in Israel.

In Cairo, Azzam Pasha, Secretary General of the Arab League (and great-uncle of a certain Ayman al-Zawahiri) boasted:

“This will be a war of extermination and a momentous massacre which will be spoken of like the Mongolian massacres and the Crusades.”

One year later five oh so heroic Arab armies lay in ruins and a tiny Jewish force had not only secured its UN-allocated area, but also taken hold of half the Arab area. Arabs call this the six days of June which they commemorate every year. The Arabs call this “al-naqba” (the disaster), a term which these days seems to have gained a certain sympathy and credibility among those Western academic and media folk which are curiously called “intelligentsia.” A more appropriate denomination for such people should be “intollientsia.”

“Diejenigen, die sich verbrannt haben, müssen auf ihrer Brust sitzen.”

Which, translated in the King’s English sounds somewhat like:

“He who burns his butt must sit on the blisters.”

THE SIX DAY WAR & ITS AFTERMATH 1967

Israel gained the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Palestinians realized that they could not depend on other Arab countries to get their land back.

Arafat planned to liberate Palestine: “people’s war.”

The fedayeen “freedom fighters” were created under the PLO who would launch guerrilla operations against Israeli targets.

In the 1970s, the PLO gained political influence and was recognized by the Arab League as a legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

OSLO ACCORD

THE WASHINGTON PEACE AGREEMENT


- Israeli and PLO officials conducted secret negotiations.

- Committed to make a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza strip.

- Sept. 13, 1993 Rabin and Arafat signed a Declaration of Principles in Washington DC.

THE SECOND INTIFADA

- Israel’s withdrawal from five Arab cities.

- Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was assassinated in Tel Aviv by a right-wing extremist who considered Rabin’s crusade for peace a betrayal of the Jewish state.

- Ariel Sharon
The mood in the Gaza Strip was joyous yet chaotic as Israeli troops pulled out of Jewish settlements there, officially ending Israel's 38-year occupation.

Annapolis Peace Conference

Political Cartoons
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-pfjgz4Wc