

Palestine is the geographical region located southeast of the Mediterranean Sea up to the Jordan Valley, and in some definitions, the definition extends to areas east of the Jordan River, located in western Asia and connects to North Africa by its location and the Sinai Peninsula at the meeting point of the two continents, forming the southwestern part of the Levant connected to Egypt; it was a crossing point and intersection of cultures, trade and politics in addition to its centrality in the history of religions, therefore for many its cities have historical or religious significance, foremost among which is Jerusalem, the historical capital of Palestine.

Today, several superimposed political entities are based on the borders of the historical region: the Israeli occupation state (which was established in the 1948 war after hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were displaced from their homeland) and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which Israel occupied in the 1967 war. In addition to the Israeli military control over the entire West Bank, the residents of the cities of the occupied territories have been subject to a Palestinian autonomous authority, which has been managing the civilian affairs of the population since 1994, based on the Oslo Accords, in addition to the Gaza Strip's complete subordination to the Palestinian National Authority since Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005. In 2007, the division of political power in the autonomous regions led to the emergence of one authority in the Gaza Strip and another in the cities of the West Bank. The population within these borders is estimated at approximately 11,900,000, as a large part of the population of historical Palestine today are arabic-speaking (Muslims and Christians), while the other part of its population are Hebrew-speaking, Jewish immigrants and people of other peoples, and their percentage today is 49% while Arabs make up 46% .

#### The area

The area of the territory under the rule of the Palestinian Authority after the Israeli occupation of Palestine is 26,990 km<sup>2</sup>

It is divided as follows: Palestinian Authority: 6,220 km<sup>2</sup> , West Bank: 5,860 km<sup>2</sup> , Gaza Strip: 360 km<sup>2</sup>.

The area of the areas under Israeli occupation is 20,770 km<sup>2</sup>.

#### Capital

The capital of Palestine is Jerusalem, which is an (occupied / disputed) area, but after the Israeli occupation of Palestine, the center of the Palestinian Authority became Ramallah.

Tel Aviv is considered the center of the Israeli occupation.

#### Official language

Arabic, Hebrew

#### Ethnic groups

Palestinian Arabs, other groups

#### Statistics (2011)

The population of Palestine is 11.9 million (the current population of historical Palestine not counting the Palestinian diaspora.)

Divided as follows: Palestinian Authority: 4.3 million, West Bank: 2.5 million ,Gaza Strip: 1.9 million, territories under Israeli occupation: 6.6 million.

The residents of East Jerusalem are considered to be in the West Bank.

Population density

426/ km<sup>2</sup>

Palestinian Authority: 667/ km<sup>2</sup>

Israel: 324/ km<sup>2</sup>

Judgment

Legislative power

S.And.Q: Legislative Council

Israel: the Knesset

Establishment and sovereignty

Founding

May 14, 1948 (Israel)

October 10, 1993 (Palestinian Authority)

\* November 15, 1988 declaration of independence

Gross national product

\* PA: \$11.95 billion

\* Israel: \$201.761 billion

Currency

\* Palestinian Authority: Jordanian dinar, US dollar and a new format

\* Israel: a new shekel

Internet icon

ps. Palestinian / il. The Israeli

International phone code

970 Palestinian / 972 Israeli

The time zone

TCM+2

In the summer (DST)

TCM+3

The cities of Palestine are: Jerusalem, Haifa, Jaffa, Hebron, Bethlehem, Nablus, Gaza, Safed, Beersheba, Jericho, Beisan, Tiberias, Acre, Lod, Ramle, Nazareth.

Jerusalem, which is called "Jerusalem House" and El-Jah, which is the political, cultural and economic capital of Palestine, and the qeplah of the world's eyes because of its Islamic and Christian holy sites, including the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is the first of the two tribes and the third of the Two Holy Mosques, the dome of the rock, and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Urban development in Jerusalem extended to the city of Ramallah in the North, and the city of Bethlehem in the South. Jerusalem is located in the heart of the mountains of Central Palestine and in the heart of all Palestine, and since ancient times it has been the main transportation center in Palestine, in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea and the ravines; North and south of Palestine, Jerusalem is connected by this location to all the cities of Palestine such as Nazareth, Haifa, Nablus, Jaffa, Ramla, Hebron, Beer Sheva, Gaza, Jericho and Beisan. It was built by the Arab Jebusites five thousand years ago on this privileged site, and since that time it has remained the capital of Palestine throughout the ages. It was opened by the Muslims and received by the just Caliph Omar ibn al-Khattab in the fifteenth year of emigration, and he gave to its people the age covenant, which is considered an example of justice and religious and humanitarian tolerance. All the successors and sultans of Muslims, such as Abd al-Malik ibn Marwan, al-Walid ibn Abd al-Malik, caliph Al-Ma'mun, Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi and Suleiman the magnificent, took care of Jerusalem and its reconstruction.

Haifa is called The Bride of Carmel, it is located on the Mediterranean Sea and is the most important port of Palestine, located on the southern tip of the Gulf of Acre – Haifa. A large part of it was built on Mount Carmel, and there is a large industrial area in it.

Jaffa is called The Bride of the sea, it is located in the middle of the Palestinian shore between Haifa and Gaza south of the mouth of the Auja River. Surrounded by fertile plains, it is an ancient Canaanite city that is more than five thousand years old and has always been an important port for the central regions of Palestine and especially for Al-Quds Al-Sharif. Famous for its orange bars and Jaffa gave its name to the most famous oranges in the world, it was also famous for the textile, soap, casting and metalworking industries. Jaffa played a prominent role as a civilizational and Cultural Center, where the mothers of Palestinian newspapers, such as the Palestine and defense newspapers, were published.

Hebron is located south of Bethlehem, an ancient historical city, where the Ibrahimi Mosque is located, and is famous for a number of industries such as vegetable canning, shoe factories, leather, fiber, porcelain and glass. The city of Hebron is the main commercial center of the entire Mount Hebron region, as well as a religious, cultural and administrative center.

Bethlehem is located south of Jerusalem, and it has the Church of the Nativity where Christ was born, and it is famous for tourist industries such as the manufacture of antiques, shells and embroidery. Due to its outstanding religious and historical importance and proximity to the city of Jerusalem, Bethlehem developed as an important tourist center, and the importance of its location in the middle of the Hebron mountains had the greatest impact on its growth and prosperity.

Nablus is located north of Jerusalem between the mountains of Ebal and Gerizim, and is famous for its soap and confectionery industry. It is the administrative, cultural and economic center of the Nablus Mountains region, which led to its prosperity and urban expansion in all directions, especially towards the East and West.

Gaza is the largest and most important city in southern Palestine for thousands of years until today, and has always been an important center on the transport and trade routes between Palestine and Egypt, and between the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea and the Arabian Peninsula. It is also the cultural and administrative center of the southern Palestine region. Gaza is famous for growing vegetables, citrus fruits and flowers, where Imam Shafi'i was born, and where the Tomb of Hashim bin Abdul Manaf is located, and therefore it was called Gaza Hashim.

Safed is a mountainous city located in the east of the Galilee mountains, characterized by the quality of its climate and surrounded by olive trees and vineyards. Oak and oak forests are also common in the mountains and surrounding areas, especially the forests of Jebel al-jarmaq and Saada. Throughout its history, Safed was a prosperous city and an important administrative center in northern Palestine.

Beersheba is located in the south of Palestine and is the key to the Negev and its main center, and for thousands of years it has been an important stop on the roads between Palestine and Egypt on the one hand, and Palestine and the Arabian Peninsula on the other. Due to its Mediterranean location in the northern Negev, it was surrounded by dozens of Bedouin villages, forming an active center for the trade of animal products, cereals and feed.

Jericho is located north of the Dead Sea and is the center of Palestine, surrounded by ancient monuments such as Tell al-Sultan and Hisham Palace, and is famous for growing vegetables, citrus fruits and bananas. It is the oldest city in the world, and it is more than ten thousand years old. It turns into an active tourist center; for the importance of the archaeological and historical sites located in it, for the beauty of its views, and the warmth of its weather in winter.

Beisan the city of beisan is an Arab city, one of the oldest cities in historic Palestine, located south of the sea of Galilee and east of Marj Bani Amer, and 84 kilometers from the city of Jerusalem. Before the Nakba of 1948, beisan was a first-class agricultural city due to its abundant water, flat land and fertile soil. The Canaanite name of the city of beisan is "Beit Shan" and means the House of the God Shan or the House of stillness. The city of Baysan is a prominent tourist stop for its many ancient monuments; it hosts many remains of temples, churches, burials and columns dating back thousands of years. Most of the monuments found there date back to the period of Islamic rule, as it contains many remains of demolished Arab houses. Some of the most famous archaeological areas in Baysan are: tell Al-Hosn, tell Al-Mustapha, tell Al-busul, tell Al-Jisr and tell Al-Zahra.

Tiberias the city of Tiberias is one of the oldest Palestinian cities, located in the north-eastern part of Palestine, on the banks of a historical lake, stretching on a flat plain rich in beautiful forests. Since its establishment, its location has been an important commercial, military and tourist center; it is located on the trade route that starts from Damascus, passing through Al-lujun, qalansawa and Al-lad; continuing its direction through the territories of Ashdod, Gaza, Rafah, Sinai and Egypt. Due to the fertility of the land of the city of Tiberias, its abundance of water and its proximity to the lake of Tiberias, rich in fish, in addition to the beauty of its nature and the abundance of its Green Plains, its nature distinguished by the multiplicity of valleys and mountain slopes, and containing many archaeological sites – the profession of Agriculture and fishing, in addition to trips and tourist visits, has formed the most important economic resources for it. After the Nakba, the features of Tiberias changed, especially the northern region; the occupation demolished the Arab neighborhoods, replacing them with parks, public parks, hotels and modern buildings.

Acre the city of Acre is located in the north-western part of Palestine, and it is distinguished by its location that stretches along the Mediterranean coast on the northern end of the Gulf of Haifa, formerly known as the Gulf of Acre, so the city of Acre is strategically important; it connects the East with commercial activity and waterways, and is one of the historical cities listed in the UNESCO World Heritage. The city of Acre contains several distinct historical places, the most important of which are: the fortress of Acre, the wall of the butcher, the gardens of delight, the old Saraya, the White market, the Pasha's bath, Khan al-Amdan, Khan al-ifrang, Khan al-shawarda, the shrine of the Prophet Saleh, the mausoleum of Sheikh Ghanem, and the shrines of the three

martyrs executed by the English: Fuad Hijazi, Mohammed Jamjoum, Atta Al-Zair, the butcher mosque, the sand mosque, and the Zaytuna mosque.

The city of Lod is one of the largest and oldest Canaanite cities in historic Palestine, located in the Palestinian coastal plain at a distance of 16 kilometers southeast of Jaffa, and less than five kilometers northeast of Ramla, and rises about fifty meters above sea level. Among its most prominent landmarks are: the railway station, Lod Airport, Dahmash mosque, the lily well, the eastern Square and the Arbaeen Lighthouse, the Omari Mosque, the Church of St. George, the jandas bridge, Khan El Helou, in addition to the Abu Shanab well and the well of Abu Mohammed Abdul Rahman Bin Auf.

Ramla was named Ramla because it was built on sandy land, distinguished from other Palestinian cities by the fact that it was an Islamic city of origin, because the one who built it was caliph Suleiman bin Abdul Malik at the time of the succession of his brother Al-Walid, and he was the Emir of the Palestine Army at that time, and he took it as the capital of the Palestine Army when he assumed the caliphate. It remained the administrative capital of the Gendarmerie for 400 years until its occupation by the Franks in 1099. There are many monuments in the city that still exist despite the policies of Judaization, including: the White Mosque or the Great Mosque, an archaeological mosque dating back to the Umayyad era in Palestine, located in the old town of the Palestinian city of Ramla, ordered to be built by Caliph Omar bin Abdul Aziz in 720 ad.

Nazareth Nazareth is one of the ancient historical Palestinian cities; it is an ancient Canaanite city. The city of Nazareth is characterized by its religious and ethnic diversity, and is an important cultural and media center. The city of Nazareth is located on the jump mountain overlooking the plain of Marj bin Amer. Nazareth has a special religious significance; it has 24 churches, monasteries and a number of religious museums; it also includes some mosques and mausoleums of martyrs and righteous Muslims, and the most prominent historical religious landmarks of the city is the Church of the Annunciation.

After the first World War and its consequences from the fall of the Ottoman Empire, which controlled the whole of the Levant, including Palestine, through the Treaty of Sevres, the San Remo Conference and the Sykes-Picot agreement, the borders of the British Mandate on Palestine were

drawn, so the borders stretched longitudinally from North to South at about four degrees latitude, where it extends between 29.30 and 33.15 latitude north and 34.15 and 35.40 longitude East, with an area of 26.990 km<sup>2</sup>, including the sea of Galilee and half of the Dead Sea. It is bordered to the West by the Mediterranean Sea with a coastline of 224 km, to the East by Syria and Jordan, to the north by Lebanon, to the South by Egypt and the Gulf of Aqaba. Palestine is rectangular in shape, its length from North to South is 430 km, while its width in the North varies between 51-70 km, in the center 72-95 km at Jerusalem, and in the south the width expands to reach 117 km at Rafah and Khan Yunis to the Dead Sea. The region has a very diverse land, and is geographically divided into four regions, namely from West to East the coastal plain, the hills, the mountains (the Galilee mountains, the Nablus mountains, the Jerusalem mountains and the Hebron mountains) and the ravines (Jordan Valley). In the extreme south there is the Negev desert. Between the Nablus mountains and the Galilee Mountains lies Marj Ben Amer and Mount Carmel, which extends from the Nablus mountains north-west, cuts the coastal plain. The heights range from 417 meters below sea level in the Dead Sea (it is the lowest point on the land surface in the world) to 1204 meters above sea level at the top of Mount garmak (Mount Meron as it is called in Israel). From a political point of view, Palestine is one of the most tense security areas in the world due to what many international human rights organizations consider Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians, as well as settlement operations that aggravate the situation, in addition to racist treatment such as the Israeli separation wall that it erected in the West Bank, which many considered racist, all these things have caused a bad security climate. Since the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in 1993, the name Palestine has been used internationally in some contexts to sometimes refer to the territories under the rule of the Palestinian Authority. A Palestinian surname today, and especially since 1948, refers to the Arab population throughout the region (while the Jewish population prefers not to use this surname to refer to themselves).

Nomenclature and boundaries: one of the notations that are known to use the name "Palestine" to refer to the geographical area south of the Levant is what the Greek historian Herodotus wrote in his writings in the fifth century BC, referring to the regions of the Levant and Mesopotamia as "Syria" and to the south of it as "Palestine" (Παλαιστίνη plistine) and "Syrian Palestine". Apparently, Herodotus borrowed this name from the name "plesht", which referred to the southern coast between Jaffa and Wadi el-Arish, where the Philistine cities were located. The Philistines were one of the peoples of the sea and one of the most prominent peoples who lived in the area of Palestine from the 12th century BC.M. And for at least 500 years. The name Palestine was used as the name of a region with certain political borders in the second century AD when the authorities of the Roman Empire abolished the "state of Judea" (Provincia Judaea) following the Jewish rebellion against them in 132 AD and established the Syrian state of Palestine (Provincia Syria Palaestinae) in its place. Palestine came to be called "Jund Palestine" at the beginning of the era of the Islamic caliphate, and its borders overlapped with the "Jund Jordan". Topographically and botanically different criteria can be used to define the area of Palestine, but it can generally be described as the area extending from the Litani River in Lebanon in the north to the head of the Gulf of Aqaba in the south, and from the Mediterranean Sea in the west to the western outskirts of the Syrian Badia in Jordan in the East. The Negev Desert can also be considered a natural part of the Sinai Peninsula and not geographically included in the Palestine region. The historical borders of Palestine ("from

the river to the sea") are the Mediterranean Sea to the West, the "Rafah-Aqaba line" separating it from the Sinai from the Southwest, the head of the Gulf of Aqaba to the south, the Arabah Valley, the Dead Sea and the Jordan River to the East, the slope of the Golan plateau near the shores of the eastern sea of Galilee and the Northern course of the Jordan River in the Northeast. Palestine is bordered to the north by Lebanon in a zigzag line starting in the West with Ras Naqoura on the Mediterranean Sea, then it turns east to the village of Yaron, turning north to the place where the villages of Al-malikiya and Jerusalem were located in the past and where the town of Matla is located, then east to Tell el-Qadi and west to a point near the source of Banias. The North-Eastern course of the border forms the image of a finger, since this area was called the "finger of Galilee". The borders referred to today as the borders of historic Palestine are the result of a series of negotiations and agreements between the empires that dominated the Middle East at the beginning of the 20th century, which also led to the design of political borders throughout the Middle East. Between 1917 and 1948, the name Palestine referred to the area of the British Mandate of Palestine and was composed of several administrative units.

History: Palestine is located in a strategic location between Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, it is the land of letters and the cradle of human civilizations, where the oldest city in it, Jericho, passed twenty-one civilizations since the eighth millennium BC. It is the cradle of the Jewish and Christian religions, and this land has a long history and roots in culture, religion, trade and politics. In Palestine, historical evidence speaks of the long and intertwined history of this land since prehistory. The oldest known people who settled this land are the Canaanites. The region has been controlled by many different peoples, including the ancient Egyptians, Philistines, Israelites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arab Caliphate, Crusaders, Ayyubids, Mamluks, Ottomans, British and finally Israel after the Nakba in 1948.

Archaeologists and historians in the region have divided the history of Palestine according to the following scheme within their field of study archaeology in Palestine:

1- antiquity: traces of human presence were found in the area south of the sea of Galilee, it dates back to about 600 thousand years BC, and in the Neolithic era (10,000 BC.M. - 5000 BC.M.) Established stationary agricultural communities, and from the Copper Age (5000 BC.M. - 3000 BC.M.) Copper and stone tools were found in the vicinity of Jericho, Beersheba and the Dead Sea, and the Canaanites from the Arabian Peninsula arrived in Palestine between 3000 BC.M. And 2500 BC.M. According to the biblical story, it was around 1250 BC. In ad, the Israelites took over parts of the interior of Canaan, and between 965 BC.M. And 928 BC.M. King Solomon built a temple in Jerusalem, and in 928 BC.M. The state of the Israelites was divided into the kingdoms of Israel and Judah in 721 BC.M. The Assyrians captured the kingdom of Israel, and in 586 BC.M. The Babylonians, led by bakhtansar, defeated the kingdom of Judah, exiled its people to Babylon and demolished the temple. 539 BC.M. The Persians capture Babylon and allow the Jews to return, the Second Temple is built. And in the year 333 BC.M. Alexander the great seizes Persia and brings Palestine under Greek rule, and with his death, around 323 BC.M. The Egyptian and Seleucid-Syrian batals took turns ruling Palestine. The Seleucids tried to impose Hellenistic (Greek) religion and culture but in 165 BC.M. According to Jewish history, the Maccabees revolted against Antiochus



Epiphanes the Seleucid, the ruler of Syria, and proceeded to establish an independent Jewish state, and in 63 BC.M. Palestine was annexed to the Roman Empire. It extends from 63 BC.M-324 m. At the end of the Hellenistic era, Rome emerged as a powerful state in the western Mediterranean, and began to look forward to replacing the Hellenic kingdoms in the eastern Mediterranean, so the leaders of Rome took advantage of the turmoil and competition between the rulers, and sent a campaign led by "Pompey Pompeius", who was able to occupy Palestine, and the city of Jaffa fell under Roman rule in 63 BC.M. Which lasted until about 324 ad, Jaffa met with a lot of problems during the rule of the Romans, it was burned and destroyed, more than once, because of the many wars and disputes between the leaders, sometimes between the ruling authorities and the Jewish gangs that were rebelling against some rulers or cooperating with one ruler against others, sometimes others. When "Pompeius" disagreed with Julius Caesar, the Jews took advantage of the opportunity, collaborated with Julius in his conquest of Egypt, allowing them to reside in Jaffa with a kind of sovereignty. And when they rebelled against the rule in 39 BC.M. During the reign of "Antony", the Roman commander "sosius" (Sosius) sent an army led by "Hirose" to discipline them, and was able to regain full control of the troubled cities, especially Jaffa, Hebron, Masada (Massada) and then Jerusalem in 37 BC.M. He returned to the city its stability and importance, when "Cleopatra", the Queen of Egypt at that time, was able to occupy the Palestinian coast and remove Herod, as the Palestinian coast, including the city of Jaffa, remained under the rule of "Cleopatra" until the end of her reign in 30 BC. The Byzantine era then spans from 324 ad - 636 AD. Palestine came into the possession of the Byzantines in the first quarter of the fourth century AD, during the reign of Emperor Constantine I (324-337 AD), who converted to Christianity and made it the official state religion. Palestine in general has experienced special importance in this era because it is the cradle of Christianity. It occupied a prestigious position in the Byzantine era, as it was the main port for receiving Christian pilgrims coming to visit the Holy Land.

- Ad: in 325, after the declaration of freedom of worship for the Christian religion, St. Macarius, patriarch of Jerusalem, asked the emperor to return the holy place, so St. Helena built the Basilica of the Nativity. In 384, with the arrival of St. Hieronymus in Bethlehem, a Latin cult center was established in the city, which lasted for many years after his death. In 614, the invasion of the armies of Khosrau led to the ruin of Judea, and only the Basilica of the Nativity survived from Bethlehem, as it is said, thanks to a drawing of the Magi based on the wall of the Basilica. The Magi are the Kings of the Persians who worshiped the Child Jesus according to the biblical narrative. Bethlehem derived its great international fame from the birth of Christ in it. It is narrated that Joseph the carpenter and the Virgin Mary went to Bethlehem to register their names in the general census, and Mary gave birth to her child there. Christian sources believe that the birth was in a cave near the village, but the Koran (says): (Labor brought her to the trunk of a palm tree), and in 330 AD Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great, built a church above the cave where Jesus was said to have been born, and today it is the oldest church in the world. The grotto is located inside the Church of the Nativity, carved in limestone rock, and contains two small rooms, and in the northern of them is a marble slab, a house of which is a silver star, since it is said that Christ was born there. When Umar ibn al-Khattab entered Jerusalem, he went to Bethlehem, where he gave the inhabitants written security over their souls, children, property and churches. When the time of prayer came, he prayed, with a signal from a monk, in front of the southern apse of the church, in

which the Muslims began to hold their prayers, individually, and the Caliph made the Christians to take it out and clean it. Thus, Muslims and Christians began to hold their prayers side by side.

الوسطى-the Middle Ages: the Arab-Islamic era in Palestine in general is characterized by important features that make it completely different from previous eras, whether Byzantine, Hellenistic, Persian, or others. The Arab-Islamic conquest of Palestine was not for the purpose of expanding or spreading influence, or establishing empires, but for religious motives to spread the religion of Allah and save the conquered peoples, and this is clearly evident in the fact that the cities of Palestine were not subjected to any destruction when they were conquered. The Arab Islamic wave coming from the Arabian Peninsula, in the seventh century AD, was able to liberate its people from the control of the Byzantines, and then strengthen the Arab presence in it, and provide it with new Arab blood, as it was preceded by the old Arab waves, from the Nabataeans around 500 BC.M. And Arameans around 1500 BC. M. And the Amorites, and the Canaanites about 3000 BC.M. Jerusalem became a holy city for Muslims after the incident of Isra and Miraj according to Islamic belief, and after prayer was imposed on Muslims, they began to head towards the city during their stay, and after about 16 months, Muslims returned to head in their prayers towards Mecca instead of Jerusalem, because of the frequent shaming of Jews to Muhammad and Muslims because of receiving the kiss of Jews, and for other reasons. Palestine was conquered by Muslims, beginning in 634 ad. In 636 AD, the Battle of Yarmouk took place between Muslims and Byzantine Romans in the central Levant, in which the Muslims won. During the reign of Umar ibn al-Khattab and the Islamic conquests, Amr ibn al-As and Abu Ubaida Ibn Al-Jarrah were sent to conquer Palestine in general and spread the Islamic call there, but Jerusalem disobeyed them and they could not open it because of the immunity of its walls, as its people camped inside the walls. When the siege of the Muslims lasted for a long time, the head of the Patriarchs and bishops, called "safronius", asked them not to hand over Jerusalem except to Caliph Umar ibn al-Khattab in person, so it was the age-old conquest of the holy house. Umar wrote with the Christians a document known as the "Umar Covenant", a document that granted them religious freedom in exchange for tribute, and pledged to preserve their property and shrines, and after the conquest of the Levant, it was divided into several provinces, each of which was called "Junda", which means military provinces. The Palestine area was located within Jund al-Palestine and Jund al-Jordan, two of the five Jund belonging to the Wilayat al-Sham. The other junds were Jund qusairin, Jund Damascus and Jund Homs. In 661 ad, with the assassination of Caliph Ali ibn Abi Talib, Muawiya ibn Abi Sufyan became the undisputed caliph of the Muslim world after he was crowned in Jerusalem. The dome of the Rock Mosque, the construction of which was completed in 691, was the largest architectural work in the world and the first of its kind in Islamic architecture. Umayyad rule was replaced by the Abbasids in 750, after which Ramla became the main city and Administrative Center for the following centuries, and Tiberias also became a prosperous center of Muslim scholarship. Starting from 878 AD, Palestine was ruled from Egypt, with semi-autonomous autonomy for almost a century. In the Fatimid era, the region was overrun in 970 by a predominantly Berber Army, a date that marks the beginning of a continuous period of intertribal wars that destroyed many of the country's cities. In 1073 Palestine was taken over by the great Seljuk Empire, but it was recaptured by the Fatimids in 1098, and then lost to the Crusaders in 1099 who conquered Palestine in various campaigns and founded the kingdom of Jerusalem. Their control of Jerusalem and most of

Palestine lasted almost a century until their defeat by the forces of Saladin at the Battle of Hattin in 1187. After that, most of Palestine was taken over by the Ayyubids. The crusader state remained contested in the northern coastal cities for a century. The Fourth Crusade led directly to the collapse of the Byzantine Empire, significantly reducing the influence of Christianity throughout the region. In the Mamluk era, Palestine was one of the fiefs of Al-Zahir Baybars. In 1260, the Ain Goliath region located between Baysan and Jenin witnessed one of the decisive battles in history, where the Battle of Ain Goliath is one of the most important battles in the history of the Islamic world, in which the Mamluk Muslims won a crushing victory over the Mongols and this was the first time the Mongols were defeated in a decisive battle since the reign of Genghis Khan. The battle led to the decline of the influence of the Mongols in the Levant and their final exit from it and to stop the sweeping Mongol tide that overthrew the Abbasid Caliphate in 1258 ad. In 1486, hostilities broke out between the Mamluks and the Ottoman Turks in a battle for control of Western Asia, after which the Ottomans took control of Palestine and the whole Levant in 1516.

٤ - modern times: with the beginning of this period, the Mamluk rule ended and Palestine and all the Levant joined the framework of the Ottoman state, whose rule lasted for almost four centuries. The Sultan of the Ottoman state based in Istanbul extended over the Balkans and Anatolia during two centuries of wars and expansion. In light of this central and prominent power in the region, the struggle for influence began to increase between three powers, the Ottoman state and the emerging Safavid state in Tabriz, and the Mamluks on the third hand. In August (1514), the first separation was signed between the Ottoman state led by "Selim I" and the Safavid state led by "Shah Ismail" in (Galdaran) near (Tabriz), and the Ottomans won thanks to the effectiveness of the firearm, which they excelled in using. Two years later, the Ottomans defeated the Mamluks in a decisive position at Marj Dabiq near Aleppo on August 23, 1516, which was the end of the Mamluk power with the Ottoman occupation of Egypt. In the same year, Selim I entered the Levant without the slightest resistance, because the Levant hated the Mamluks at that time, on the one hand, and their fear of the Ottomans on the other. After the death of "Selim", his son "Suleiman" (1520-1566 ad) took power, who was nicknamed Suleiman the magnificent due to the many laws he issued in the affairs of State organization. During his reign, the Ottoman Empire reached its expansion and prosperity, spread over three continents, inherited the Abbasid Caliphate and the Byzantine Empire, and Istanbul became the center of the Islamic world and the rebirth of Islamic Civilization. But after the discovery of America, the Cape of Good Hope and the beginning of the European Renaissance, the center of power began to shift to the West. The Ottomans left a great impact on the prosperity of Palestine, as the importance of its ports increased over their days, and they established schools, mosques, churches, baths, markets, companies and other government and private buildings, especially in the cities of Jerusalem, Acre, Jaffa, Nablus, Jenin, and Bethlehem. Napoleon's campaign against Egypt and the Levant marks the beginning of the European colonial struggle to occupy the Arab countries following the industrial revolution in Europe. Napoleon Bonaparte headed his campaign to the Levant after his victory over the Mamluks and entered Cairo on July 21, 1798. Napoleon Bonaparte's campaign was limited to Palestine, and only the coastal strip of it exceeded the Nazareth – Tiberias area, where the Ottoman army was defeated, and the campaign began with the occupation of the Qutbah area on the border with the Levant in 1798 in Sinai and then the El Arish Castle, and three months later the campaign began to retreat to Egypt.

after failing to occupy Acre in 1799. In the last years of the Ottoman era, Palestine was administratively located in two administrative divisions: the first was the governorship of al-Quds Al-Sharif attached to the Ministry of Interior in Istanbul, and the districts of Beersheba, Hebron, Gaza and Jaffa were subordinate to it in addition to Bethlehem. The second was northern Palestine, which was under two brigades: the Sanjak of Nablus, whose actions included Tulkarem, Jenin, Tubas and Baysan, and the Sanjak of Acre, and its actions included Safed, Tiberias, Nazareth and Haifa. From the military point of view, Palestine was part of the general military command of Syria. The Sanjak of Acre was an Ottoman Sanjak located in the Vilayet of Beirut. Its borders stretch between the Sanjak of Hauran and the Jordan River to the East and the Mediterranean Sea to the West, the Sanjak of Nablus to the North and the Sanjak of Beirut to the South. The sanjaks of Acre and Nablus were carved out of the state of Syria and annexed to the state of Beirut in 1888.

◦ - contemporary history: in 1916, a secret understanding was concluded between France and Britain and Russia ratified the division of the northern part of the Arab lands (Iraq and the Levant) between France and Britain to determine the areas of influence in the Arab Levant after the collapse of the Ottoman empire, controlling this region, as a result of its defeat in the first World War. It was decided that the area that was later carved out of southern Syria and known as Palestine would fall under international administration (except for the Negev desert), agreed in consultation between Britain, France and Russia. But the agreement stipulated that Britain would be granted the ports of Haifa and Acre, on the condition that France would have the freedom to use the port of Haifa in exchange for Britain's free use of the Syrian port of Iskenderun, which is under French tutelage. Since the beginning of the twentieth century, England has adopted a policy of creating a Jewish political entity in Palestine, which they estimated would remain subject to their influence, circling in their orbit, in need of their protection and care, and in the future would be an occupation for the Arabs, exhausting their forces and bequeathing them a constant carelessness that hinders every attempt at unity among them. Britain's policy culminated in the Balfour Declaration, which was launched by its then foreign minister in 1916. In 1917, Palestine fell to the English army, and the cities of Palestine entered the umbrella of the British Mandate on Palestine in 1920, which allowed Jewish immigration to Palestine, Egypt entered the Gaza Strip in 1948, and Jordan entered the West Bank. In February 1949, Jordan and Israel signed an armistice in which Egypt retained the Gaza Strip and Jordan the West Bank. Therefore, it was a shelter for many Palestinian refugees when they left their homes. These two parts remained under Egyptian and Jordanian rule until the 1967 war. Tension between the Arab population and Jewish immigrants began to appear at the end of the Twenties of the last century, and reached its peak in the mid-thirties when the Palestinians announced the Great Palestinian revolution in 1936. In 1947, the UN made an attempt to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on Palestine, and the UN established the UNSCOP committee, consisting of multiple states except for permanent members, to ensure neutrality in the process of finding a solution to the conflict. The Partition Resolution gave 55% of the land of Palestine to the Jewish state, and included the Jewish share of the land of Palestine on the Central Maritime Strip (from Isdud to Haifa approximately, except for the city of Jaffa) and the majority of the area of the Negev desert (except for the city of Beersheba and a strip on the Egyptian border). At that time, the Negev desert was not suitable for agriculture or civil development, and the project of dividing the Palestinian land was based on the locations of the

Jewish blocs so that those blocs would remain within the borders of the Jewish state. After the end of the Second World War, the attacks of Zionist groups on the British forces in Palestine escalated, which prompted Britain to refer the Palestinian problem to the United Nations. On April 28, the session of the United Nations General Assembly on the question of Palestine began. The sessions concluded on May 15, 1947 with a decision to establish (UNSCOP) the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine. On May 14, 1948, Britain withdrew from Palestine. The Zionist Organization announced on the same day the declaration of the state of Israel on more than the part allocated to it in the partition of the land of Palestine. The first war between the Arabs and Israel broke out in 1948 after the declaration of the establishment of the state of Israel on the land of Palestine, where the forces of five Arab countries (Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq) entered Palestine to prevent the establishment of the Hebrew state on the land of Palestine, and military operations continued until January 1949 after Israel practically controlled the parts given to it by the Partition Resolution 194 and more. On that date, the issue of refugees was born with the exodus of more than 700 thousand Palestinians from their homes to the West Bank (which was later followed by Jordan) and the Gaza Strip (which was also annexed by Egypt), in addition to neighboring countries and the diaspora, to start the Arab-Israeli conflict. In the Nakba of 1948, the majority of the inhabitants of Arab cities were expelled and abandoned, making it impossible for them to become refugees, as only a few of them were allowed to return to their cities, while the state of Israel confiscated the Arab homes that had been abandoned from their people. A government was formed in Gaza on September 23, 1948, the All-Palestine government, during the 1948 war, headed by Ahmed Hilmi Abdel Baqi. The announcement of this government was rejected by several Arab regimes, namely Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. Its formal representation of Palestine in the Arab League remained for several years before its collapse. The Zionist political and military leaders considered that the survival of the major cities of Tel Aviv and Haifa in the hands of the Arabs is a major disaster for the Zionist project, so the liquidation of those cities is in itself a great contribution to the success of this project, and therefore leads to weakening any Palestinian attempt to rebuild the Palestinian city again. After the Nakba, the municipalities of those cities demolished hundreds of Arab houses and buildings in most of the Arab neighborhoods seized by the Haganah gang in order to prevent the return of Arabs to their cities. A war broke out in Egypt and the Gaza Strip in 1956, and the countries that used to be France, Israel and Britain after Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal. This war is also known as the 1956 war. Israel's occupation of the Gaza Strip lasted for several months and lasted until 1957, and it was called in the Arab world (the triple aggression) and in the Western media (the Suez crisis) and in the Israeli media (the Sinai war). In 1964 the PLO was founded and Ahmed Al-Shaqiri was elected as its first president, a paramilitary political organization, recognized at the UN and the Arab League and as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people inside and outside Palestine. Its establishment came after the first Palestinian Arab conference was held in Jerusalem as a result of the decision of the 1964 Arab Summit conference (Cairo) to represent the Palestinians in international forums and it includes most of the Palestinian factions and parties under its banner. Among them are the Fatah movement, the Popular Front, the Democratic Front, the People's Party (communist) and others. The chairman of the executive committee is the president of Palestine and the Palestinian people in the territories controlled by the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as the Palestinians of the diaspora. It should be noted that the Islamic resistance movement (Hamas) and the Islamic Jihad movement are not factions of the Palestine

Liberation Organization and that the Popular Front for the liberation of Palestine - General Command has withdrawn its membership. In 1967, a war broke out between Israel and Egypt, Syria and Jordan, and with the logistical assistance of many Arab countries, it ended with the victory of Israel and its seizure of the rest of Palestine (the Gaza Strip and the West Bank) in addition to the Egyptian Sinai and the Syrian Golan Heights. Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser has temporarily stepped down from power. And the displacement of more of the Palestinian people to neighboring countries. The PLO, along with other resistance factions, contributed to the 1987 intifada, which brought the Palestinian issue back to the global agenda after years of political neglect. One of the most important results of this Intifada, in addition to the material losses it inflicted on Israel, was that it removed the fear of the Palestinian youth and returned the option of armed resistance to the forefront of the solutions offered to solve the Palestinian problem. In 1988, the PLO officially adopted the option of two states in historic Palestine, living side by side with Israel in a comprehensive peace that guarantees the return of refugees and the independence of Palestinians on the territories occupied in 1967 and with East Jerusalem as their capital. In September 1993, after secret negotiations, both Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat signed a declaration of Principles agreement approving Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and other areas, and the transfer of local government administration to the Palestinians. In May 1994, Israeli forces partially withdrew from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, leaving several settlements under the command of the IDF deep inside the Strip, and the area became partially under the rule of the Palestinian Authority until Israel completely withdrew from the territory of the Gaza Strip on August 15, 2005 on the orders of then Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. The Al-Aqsa Intifada broke out in September 2000 after the visit of Ariel Sharon, who was involved in several massacres against the Palestinian people, the most famous of which was the Sabra and Shatila massacre in 1982. Various factions of the Palestinian resistance participated in this Intifada and Israel suffered painful human and material losses. The Israeli government accused one of the factions of the organization (Fatah movement) and its Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades of terrorism, as the US administration described the same and placed it on the list of terrorist organizations to be fought and dismantled, which put the organization itself between the hammer of Israeli strikes and the anvil of American pressure. In 2006, in the midst of the Israeli war on Lebanon, the Lebanese Hezbollah responded by bombarding cities in the north of the country, such as Haifa, with dozens of rockets, causing dozens of injuries among Israelis dead and wounded, while sirens sounded in various cities of northern Israel after the fall of a batch of Hezbollah rockets, which was an indication of a qualitative escalation of resistance operations against Israel. The party also explained in a statement that the bombing came in response to the Israeli aggressions that affected various Lebanese regions, especially some areas of Amaq, and its commission of massacres in them. It is noteworthy that Israel has been bombed by Arab missiles previously, specifically in the second Gulf War in 1991, when Iraq bombed several Israeli sites in Haifa, Tel Aviv and other cities with several Scud missiles. In 2008, after Hamas won the legislative elections and took control of the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces besieged the strip, cut off electricity and fuel, deprived patients of medicines, and prevented neighboring Arab countries from supplying fuel to the strip. the blockade is still imposed on the Strip until now, and many Palestinians have been killed as a result of Israeli clashes and incursions into the Strip. At the end of this year, Israel began a fierce war on the Gaza Strip, which began with the violent aerial bombardment of all Palestinian police headquarters, followed by a week-long bombardment of houses, mosques and even

hospitals, and a week later it began to march to the open spaces in a brutal aggressive military campaign whose goal, according to the leaders of the Zionist occupation, was to end the rule of the Islamic resistance movement Hamas, and eliminate the Palestinian resistance, especially the launch of homemade rockets such as the Qassam rocket or Russian or Chinese rockets, such as the Grad rocket, which reached a range of 50 km during the war, and the Zionist forces used internationally prohibited weapons and missiles, such as carcinogenic phospholipids and bombs. The timing of the explosion and others. In November 2012, Israel attacked Gaza with indiscriminate shelling, initially targeting a Hamas leader, but mainly targeting civilians, resulting in dozens of casualties. The Palestinian resistance responded in an unprecedented way by bombarding cities in the Israeli hinterland, the blocks of Aviv, Herzliya and Beersheba with dozens of rockets.

**Geography:** Palestine is located in the west of the Asian continent between the longitude 15-34 and 40-35 East, and between the latitude circles 30-29 and 15-33 North. It forms the southwestern part of a large geographical unit in the Arab Levant, the Levant, which includes - in addition to Palestine - both Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, and therefore its borders were shared with those countries, as well as its borders with Egypt. Palestine, by virtue of its intermediate position among the Arab countries, is a combination of the natural and human geographical elements of a larger land area that includes between its wings the inherent character of Bedouin in the south and the ancient style of settlement in the North. The Palestinian land is characterized by the fact that it was part of the original homeland of the first man, a landing ground for celestial religions, a place for the emergence of ancient civilizations, a crossing point for trade movements, and military invasions through various historical eras. Its central location for the world has allowed it to be a connecting factor between the continents of the ancient world Asia, Africa and Europe. It is a patch that is easy to spread from it to neighboring areas, so it has become a transit bridge for human groups since ancient times, a patch that enjoys a focal location that attracts - for its importance - all those who wish to settle. This site was the focus of the eyes of the aspirants to control it and take advantage of its advantages.

**Terrain:** Palestine geographically consists of four clear natural areas: the coastal plain, the Highlands (the Galilee mountains such as Jabal al-qafza, Nablus, Jerusalem and Hebron), the Jordan Valley: includes the Dead Sea and the Arabah Valley. It is part of the great geological rift that begins at Aleppo in the North and ends in the Red Sea in the south, so that it includes the al-Qaa plain, the Bekaa Valley and the Jordan Valley, and it is geologists who connect this rift with the African tropical lakes located around the sources of the Nile, the Negev desert.

The coastal plain consists of the acre plain between Naqoura and Haifa, and the larger coastal plain, which is separated from the acre plain by Mount Carmel, which extends from it to Gaza and Rafah, and it is getting wider in its direction to the south, it becomes about thirty kilometers at Gaza, and it connects to the Negev plateau, which has an area of about half the area of Palestine, but the mountains generally increase in height towards the South, separating the Galilee mountains and the mountains of Nablus, the extensive and fertile Marj Ben Amer. The Jordan Valley extends from the area of Marj al-hula south through the sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea. Palestine contains several coastal cities on the Mediterranean coast, the most important of which are: Acre,

Haifa, Hadera, Netanya, Herzliya, Tel Aviv, Jaffa Ashdod, Ashkelon (Majdal), and Gaza, which are among the most important cities in Palestine in terms of geography, economy and demography, where about 60% of the population is concentrated in coastal cities and towns (about 75% of the Jewish population, and about 40% of the Arab population), and the largest industrial and commercial centers are located. This coastal area, especially the Tel Aviv governorate and the Gaza Strip, is one of the most densely populated areas in the world. Palestine has several fertile areas, the most important of which are the northern Meadows among the Galilee mountains, Marj Ben Amer and some Meadows in the center of the country. The water supply of the region is not abundant, and it is dependent on rainwater that falls during a period of 5 months annually and not others (from November to March). Lake Tiberias is the most important and largest natural water source for drinking and irrigation in the region, as it was the only freshwater lake in it. The source of the lake's water is rainwater falling directly on it or the water of the Jordan River fed by the snow of Mount Sheikh melted in the spring season. The Jordan River is the largest river in the region, flowing south through the sea of Galilee to the hypersaline Dead Sea. Drinking water is also pumped from aquifers (underground layers carrying rainwater penetrating into the ground), and recently these natural underground reservoirs have been subjected to salinization and pollution due to increased water intake from them and the lack of rainwater feeding them, as well as due to the burial of industrial waste in the land of the coastal zone.

The Nablus mountains overlap with the Jerusalem and Hebron mountains, the height of the largest part of which ranges from five hundred to a thousand meters, and because of the lack of rain falling on them, erosion factors have not done their work in the Nablus mountains, so the deep valleys and irregular elevation lines that we see in these mountains are less than in those. These mountains remain continuous Highlands forming a high plateau. Their typography rarely varies from place to place.

**Geology:** Palestine geologically consists of a layer of red sandstone on top of the original rocks followed by Cretaceous limestone, which forms the bulk of the land. It is covered with nemolitic limestone and alluvial soil. In the northeastern section are huge blocks of volcanic rock. Along the eastern coast of the Dead Sea and a section of the rock wall adjacent to the Jordan Valley to the East stretches a layer of Nubian Sandstone, also found on the western slopes of Lebanon and the Eastern Mountain, its color is dark red or tan. Above this layer is a layer of Cretaceous limestone, which makes up most of Najd East and west of the Jordan River. In Jerusalem, there are two layers of limestone, a hard upper layer known as almazi, and a less hard lower layer known as Melki.

**Wildlife:** the wildlife in historical Palestine is characterized by its great diversity, due to the climatic diversity in the region and its location in the middle of the three continents of the ancient world: Asia, Africa and Europe, which made it a crossing for the migration of many species from North to South and vice versa, and gave it different and sometimes contradictory climatic patterns, which enabled a great variety of diverse organisms to settle. Many species of megafauna in Palestine, or in some parts of it but not others, have been extinct due to the destruction of natural habitats for the purpose of human settlement and exploitation, or due to poaching since ancient times. since the late twentieth century, several nature reserves have been established throughout the country,



through local and international efforts, to preserve the remaining animal species and unique natural habitats. Some of these reserves have achieved great success in preserving wildlife and its habitats. Today, the Palestinian Tamir, or Palestinian Sun Sparrow, is the national bird of Palestine.

The wildlife of historic Palestine has suffered from the repercussions of the Israeli occupation in addition to the harmful practices of farmers, shepherds and vacationers. Many Israeli colonies were established in forested areas, such as the colonies of Eli, Ariel, Kadumim, Alon Moreh and Barkha in Nablus, the Jabal Abu Ghneim colony in Bethlehem, the Mitatiah and Kiryat Sefer colonies, and most of the Golan Heights colonies. The colonies were responsible for 78% of the loss of forest land in the West Bank. In addition, Israel is exploiting natural areas for tourism, which has affected the natural life in them. For example, in the Ein al-Fushkha area on the shore of the Dead Sea, trees were removed, leaving only one Sial acacia tree and the area of Arak trees was reduced to only 3 dunums.

Several non-governmental organizations inside and outside Palestine have carried out projects that include replanting trees uprooted from Palestinian lands bulldozed by the Israeli occupying forces in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to build or expand Jewish settlements and roads leading to them and the construction of the apartheid wall. Hundreds of thousands of olive trees, fruit trees and palm trees are currently being planted in various locations.

There are 48 nature reserves in the West Bank, some of which were declared reserves during the British Mandate of Palestine, while the rest were declared by the Israeli authorities during their successive years of existence. The combined area of the reserves is 330,700 dunums (more than 330 km<sup>2</sup>), which makes up 5.6% of the area of the West Bank. Most of these reserves are located in the areas of the eastern slopes and the Jordan Valley. The main goal of these reserves was to facilitate their seizure for the establishment of new colonies, however, some of these protected areas contributed to the protection of plant life. The Shubash Reserve is the largest of the reserves with an area of more than 55 km<sup>2</sup>. The most beautiful is the Wadi Al-Bazan reserve, located 5 km northeast of Nablus. The Palestinian Authority has implemented afforestation and forest protection programs in cooperation with local and foreign bodies.

In 1986, the American Society for Wildlife Conservation was founded in Israel to help raise awareness and educate people on various environmental issues, and has been operating since then, being the oldest wildlife Association in the country. At the governmental level, the Israel Department of Environment and National Parks is the official body that maintains and protects the country's various ecosystems as well as biodiversity, and educates farmers about the importance of preserving natural resources for future generations. This authority was born in 1963 after the Knesset issued a decision to form a body to preserve the remaining forests and deserts before human hands extended to them, and the authority has established a huge number of reserves in Israel, the first of which was the Hula reserve, which opened its doors to the public in 1964, and during the subsequent years worked to rehabilitate its lands until it became suitable to host the huge numbers of migratory birds. Its success is that some species of migratory birds began to settle in it throughout the spring and autumn without following up. Especially after encouraging farmers to constantly throw grain and vegetables to feed the birds.

The organization "Hay Bar" was founded during the decade of the sixties of the twentieth century, by Ibrahim Yoffie, who set his sights on preserving the remaining wildlife in the land of Palestine,

reintroducing what became extinct from them, the Carmelite Reserve has had great success in preserving the Persian Brown elk and reintroducing it to the wild, and has also made efforts in protecting the Eurasian vultures, and returned the European roe deer and the Anatolian Aryan to the country. As for the Hay Bar Yotvata desert reserve, it is concerned with the protection and breeding of the animals mentioned in the Torah, which were said to have inhabited the land of Palestine in ancient times, and experts in that reserve have been able to reintroduce Asian wild red and Arabian oryx to the Negev desert, and they are also breeding a number of other Levantine and African desert animals, such as Arabian Tigers and Abu Harab Maha.

Climate: the climate of Palestine is transitional between the Mediterranean climate and the desert climate, so it is influenced by both the Mediterranean Sea and the desert, as most days the Mediterranean influences prevail, while some days the desert influences prevail. The climate of Palestine in terms of temperature and the amount of precipitation is influenced by three things: the first is that the country has a mountain range stretching from North to South adjacent to the coastal plain. Secondly, to the south and Southwest, which are the path of the western winds that carry rains in winter, there are vast deserts starting with the Sinai desert and passing through Egypt to North Africa, and thirdly, the country adjoins on the eastern side part of the Syrian desert. The winds blowing from the East and Northeast, which are generally easterly winds with different local designations, are dry winds, which do not carry moisture with them and do not drop rain. On the contrary, it has the ability to absorb moisture, and therefore it increases evaporation in the summer. And its prolonged downpours, especially in late spring, are usually a bad omen for the peasant. And if the east wind (Pentecost) blows in late spring for a long time, people feared for olives, especially. In winter, these winds are very cold, and this is due to the low temperature in the high areas, knowing that Palestine is also exposed to northern winds blowing in winter, increasing the temperature drop, especially in the North.

Palestine is located in the region called the Mediterranean climate zone. This means that winter is the rainy season, and summer is the dry season, and this is very obvious, but the winds that carry rain to Palestine from the Mediterranean Sea are south-westerly winds. This means that the winds that carry rain to the north of Palestine travel a greater distance freely than those that are cut by the winds blowing on its South, and therefore the amounts of water vapor that carry it are less, and the rain that falls is less accordingly, while the rainfall in the acre plain and the northern part of the current plain is between 50,100 cm per year, we find that the Gaza area has only 25,37 CM of rain. As for the fact that the mountain range is parallel to the coastal plain and perpendicular to the rain-bearing westerly winds. It means that the western slopes of the mountains receive rain first and capture it, and the eastern slopes are less rainy. (This is more evident in Lebanon than in Palestine). The rain in the coastal plain is generally moderate or heavy, but it decreases as we move south, Haifa receives about 65 cm of rain, while Gaza receives only about 35 cm. Humidity rises in summer, reaching 73% in Jaffa in June and 77% in Gaza in January. The average winter temperature in Jerusalem and Hebron ranges between 8 and 10 degrees Celsius, and the temperature may drop to zero or slightly below it on winter nights in these two cities and in Ramallah and Safed. But in the summer the situation is completely different. In the mountains of Jerusalem, the temperature is

much lower than in the coast, while in the mountains of Galilee the difference between them and the coast may not exceed one or two degrees. The temperature reaches its highest in summer in both the Negev plain and the Jordan Valley, in the first region, monitoring stations recorded 35 degrees Celsius in August in Beersheba, while in the Jordan Valley, the temperature in Jericho remains about 38 degrees Celsius the most summer months, but often reaches 43 degrees Celsius or 50 degrees. Humidity is lower in the mountains and Highlands than in the coastal plain, ranging from 10% to 20% between winter and summer. It may even fall to 9% in summer (for example, in Jerusalem) during easterly winds.

Cities: after the completion of the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948 (the Nakba), the Rhodes Accords were signed, which imposed an armistice between Israel and all of Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. It was under these agreements that the Green Line was drawn, which was officially designated as the ceasefire line, but already became the border between the then modern state of Israel and neighboring Arab countries. A number of Palestinian Arab towns and cities and mixed cities inhabited by Jews and Arabs remained within the green line, that is, in Israel.

The western part of Jerusalem also remained inside the Green Line, as the Green Line passed through the center of the city. The Arab residents who remained in these cities and towns are called Palestinians 48, and they acquired Israeli citizenship under the Israeli citizenship law, which stipulates that anyone who stayed within the Green Line on July 14, 1952 (that is, when the Israeli Knesset passed the law) will be considered an Israeli citizen. On the other hand, this law has closed the door to Palestinian refugees who have not been able to return to their homes until this date, as they are prohibited from entering the state of Israel as citizens of the state. The most important Palestinian or mixed cities located in Israel along the borders of the Green Line are: in 1967, Israel occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during the 1967 war (or what the Arabs call a setback), and the entire cities of the West Bank that belonged to Jordan administratively fell, especially east Jerusalem. (The west bank accounts for 21% of the area of Palestine, which is about 5860 square kilometers). The Gaza Strip accounts for 1.3% of the area of Palestine, which is about 360 square kilometers. It is where most of the refugees of the interior, especially the cities of the coast, are concentrated, making it the most densely populated region in the world.

## Politics

Political awareness in Palestine began early and this awareness was noticeable in the period of the Ottoman Empire. Palestine had a role in the Ottoman Empire, where the people of Palestine had representatives in the Council of envoys, which was elected after the issuance of the Constitution, as Ruhi Khalidi, said Hussein and Hafiz said were from the Quds Brigade, Sheikh Ahmed Al-Khamash from the Nablus brigade and Saad al-Shaqiri from the acre brigade. Palestinian intellectuals played an important role in countering the policy of Turkification and confronting Jewish immigration to their country, and they founded about 17 organizations and political parties

to express their opinions and defend their national rights, many of which were related to the issues of the region and the Arab nation.

Today, as an area under the control of a political entity, Palestine is a disputed territory, which has been divided more than once, the first was in 1937 and the second in 1947. According to the Geneva Convention and Security Council Resolution 242, Israel is an occupying party to the Arab territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and most Palestinians demand an end to its occupation of their lands occupied on the eve of the 1967 war in exchange for establishing peace with it. For this reason, the Palestinian people were inspired in their first intifadas in 1987 (the stone intifada) and the second in 2000, which was called the Al-Aqsa Intifada. Both were extensions of the contemporary Palestinian revolution that began in 1964 with the founding of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). And before that, in the mid-thirties, to fight against the British Mandate and the waves of Jewish immigrants to Palestine, where the Palestinian people have been continuing their revolution against the occupation since the declaration of the Balfour Declaration, as the Great Palestinian revolution in 1936 was the largest of the revolutions carried out by the Palestinians before the declaration of the state of Israel.

The Palestinians, regardless of their political and ideological affiliations, have resisted the occupation by all civilian and military means. The Palestinian leadership negotiated with Israel from the Madrid peace conference to Camp David, through the Oslo agreement to end the occupation and establish peace, but Israel has reneged on most of these agreements. In Palestine Today, there are many factions and parties that are united by major goals such as the liberation of the land, the expulsion of settlers and the return of refugees to their homes.

#### Political situation

The government (the Council of ministers) constitutes the executive authority of the state and is charged with managing its internal and external affairs, including current affairs. Its policy-making powers are numerous and it has the authority to take steps in any area that is not legally subject to the competence of another authority. The government determines the procedures for its work and the decision-making mechanism, as it usually meets once a week, knowing that additional meetings can be called if necessary. The government can also act through its ministerial committees. So far, all Israeli governments have relied on a coalition of a number of parties, since no party has been able to get enough Knesset seats to form a government alone.

On the other hand, although the PA Constitution provides for the election of a PA President and a Legislative Council periodically, elections were held only twice during the period between the establishment of the PA and 2010, the first in 1996 and the second in 2006, and on January 24, 2010, the Palestinian president became the outgoing, and the Legislative Council, according to

Article 47 BIS of the Palestinian Basic Law, the mandate expires "when the members of the newly elected council take the oath of office". It is one of the institutions of the Palestinian National Authority. Headed by Dr. Aziz Dweik, it was established based on the declaration of principles and the Oslo agreement signed between the PLO and the government of the state of Israel. The council was established in 1996 following the legislative and presidential elections held at the beginning of that year. The Palestinian Legislative Council performs the functions of the parliament, as it is entrusted with the responsibility of enacting laws and supervising the executive branch.

### Legislative branch

The most important Israeli government institutions, including the parliament or Knesset, the Supreme Court, and the official residence of the president and prime minister are located in Jerusalem. Prior to the declaration of the establishment of the state of Israel, Jerusalem was the administrative capital of the Levantine territories under the British mandate, that is, those that today include the territories of the Palestinian Authority, Israel and Jordan. West Jerusalem was the capital of Israel from 1949 to 1967, but this was not recognized by the countries of the world since UN Resolution No. 194 provided for the internationalization of the city. After the city was subjugated in both parts to Israel after the 1967 war, the government of Levi Eshkol declared the application of Israeli law to east Jerusalem and the extension of the jurisdiction of the Israeli judiciary to it, but agreed to the subordination of the area of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the dome of the rock to the Jordanian Ministry of Awqaf. The Israeli authorities ordered the closure of Orient House, the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization, in 1988 for security reasons, and in 1992 the house was reopened as an annex. The Oslo agreement stipulated that the final status of Jerusalem should be determined by negotiations with the Palestinian Authority, which considers east Jerusalem the capital of a future Palestinian state. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has said that any negotiations that do not include the recognition of East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine will be unacceptable.

### Military establishment

The Israeli army was established 12 days after the official declaration of the establishment of the state of Israel by the Union of several Zionist militias, some of them terrorist, by an order issued by the head of the interim government on May 26, 1948. On March 31, 1976, the Israeli Knesset decided to consolidate the status of the army and its goals in a "basic law" (constitutional law), which clarifies the subordination of the army to government orders and the prohibition on the establishment of an alternative armed force to it. The three arms of the Israeli army (the ground forces, the Air Force and the Navy) operate under a unified central command, at the top of which is the chief of staff, who holds the rank of general and is accountable to the minister of Defense. The chief of Army Staff is appointed by the government based on the recommendations of the prime minister and the minister of Defense and holds office for a three-year term, which is usually extended by another year. All qualified men and women aged 18 are recruited, the service of men lasts three years and the service of women 21 months, deferments may be granted to competent students in higher educational institutions.

On the other hand, the first armed Palestinian faction was founded in 1965, the Fatah movement, one year after the establishment of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Jerusalem. The establishment of armed factions and parties continued throughout the seventies, eighties and nineties. Among the most important resistance factions on the Palestinian scene today are Hamas, the Popular Front for the liberation of Palestine and the Islamic Jihad movement in Palestine.

## Sovereignty

The Israeli. The political position of the Gaza Strip is particularly complicated since the withdrawal of the Israeli army from it in 2005 without an agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority on the nature of the authority there, as well as due to the seizure of the Hamas movement despite the opposition of the Palestinian Authority.

Internationally, there is an implicit consensus that these are lands that will become the future of the Palestinian state, and that Israel is an occupying party to them. There is no international recognition of the annexation of the eastern part of the city of Jerusalem to Israel, but most countries of the world (with the exception of Arab countries) consider Jerusalem a place of special importance that would be subject to a special settlement. At the heart of the International attitude towards these two regions is the UN resolution issued in November 1967, No. 242, which states: "the adoption of the principles of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East resolution, as the Security Council, expressing its continued concern about the dangerous situation in the Middle East and affirming the inadmissibility of the seizure of territories by war. And the need to work for a lasting and just peace in which every state in the region can live in security, reaffirming also that by accepting the Charter of the United Nations all member states have committed themselves to act in accordance with Article 2 of the charter". The Palestinian and Israeli sides have agreed to adopt the text of Resolution 242 as the basis for their settlement within the Oslo Accords.

## Demographics

The first known monuments in Palestine belong to a people called the Canaanites and other people called the Amorites, these two peoples are tribes that migrated from the Arabian Peninsula North and settled in the Levant and Palestine specifically, and this is consistent and clear in the history of Palestine and was unanimous by all Eastern and Western historians and then inhabited by other peoples called the peoples of the Sea (Mediterranean) some believe that they came from the island of Crete, and it seems that the peoples of the sea were struck by famine or certain circumstances, which made them attack the shores of the Levant and Egypt and were first repulsed by Ramses III in the Battle of Luzzin Ramses did not want them to settle in his country and after negotiations it was settled that they should be deported to Palestine and ordered Ramses believed that they inhabited it, and they were Philistines, hence the name Palestine. These peoples coexisted with the Canaanites (the indigenous population) and as the years progressed, the Philistines melted away

with the Canaanites and they no longer had a trace and their historical mention was lost. Before the organized migration to the Palestinian Territories began at the beginning of the twentieth century and until the Nakba and the establishment of Israel, Palestinians continued to constitute the overwhelming majority of the population of Palestine. The Palestinian society was divided into three categories, namely the people of cities, peasants and Bedouins, where each contributed in its position to create a special Palestinian culture that distinguished the Palestinian state from the rest of its neighboring countries, whose peoples were linked with the Palestinian people by cultural, commercial and artistic relations, like all countries in the region.

Currently, the areas of historical Palestine that formed the state of Israel in the 1948 borders are inhabited by an Arabic-speaking minority of the population that existed before the establishment of the state of Israel and Jewish immigration, and a Jewish majority that emigrated from various parts of the world. It is worth noting that today there are more than five million Palestinian refugees living outside the borders of the Palestinian territories, the majority of whom are concentrated in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. In addition to the hundreds of thousands of people of Palestinian origin distributed in the diaspora around the world, especially the Gulf countries and the Americas.

## Palestinians

The global census of Palestinians estimates approximately 11 million people, half of whom live as refugees outside the borders of historical Palestine, and the other half live within the borders of historical Palestine, but not necessarily in their home countries, a large proportion of them are also refugees. The area called the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is inhabited by the majority of the indigenous population, refugees and displaced persons from the areas on which the state of Israel was founded, Arabic speakers, and there is a minority of Israeli settlers in scattered communities in the West Bank and the former Gaza Strip.

The reference to the Palestinian people for the first time as a people dates back to before the outbreak of the first World War, and as Independence was demanded by the Palestinian-Syrian Council of Representatives on September 21, 1921. After the emigration that took place in 1948 following the declaration of the Jewish state of Palestine, as well as the second emigration in 1967 after the Six-Day War, the term Palestinian people came to refer not only to the country of origin, but also to the realization of a common past and a common Palestinian state. The Palestinian people are represented globally by the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Palestinian National Authority also administers the civil administration of some areas of the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

## In the West Bank and Gaza Strip:

They consist of Indigenous people and immigrants from the territories on which the state of Israel was founded. They lack a clear political entity and have been under Israeli occupation since 1967.

Residents of East Jerusalem carry special blue-colored IDs issued by the Israeli occupation authority. The rest of the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip today hold passports issued by the Palestinian National Authority (although these passports have retained the same PIN number that was on the personal ID issued by the Israeli occupation authority). The estimated number of Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (2011) is 3,752,200, most of whom are Arabs with the presence of some other ethnicities: they consist of the following categories: urban Arabs: 3,711,000 of them speak the southern Levantine dialect, mostly Sunni Muslims (with less than 5% of them Christians), Bedouin Arabs: 17,000 speak the Sinai and Negev Bedouin dialect. They are concentrated in the desert of the Jerusalem mountains and the ravines, most of them are Sunni Muslims, Gypsies: their number is 8,600 who speak the domrian language (nurian dialect). They are based in Old Jerusalem, Gaza City and Bir Zeit, most of them are Sunni Muslims, Western Arameans: their number is 4,300. Christians who speak modern Western Aramaic, Assyrians: their number is 4,300. Assyrian-speaking Christians, Circassians: there are 3,600 who speak the Adyghe language, mostly Sunni Muslims, Armenians: there are 2,500 Armenian-speaking people based in East Jerusalem, mostly Orthodox Armenians, and Samaritans: there are 900 of them. Jews who speak Arabic in its southern Levantine dialect have Palestinian and Israeli citizenship and live in the village of Loza near Nablus.

In the diaspora:

Today, there are more than five million Palestinians living outside the borders of historic Palestine. The majority of them are based in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Chile. Most of them profess Sunni Islam (except in Latin America, Canada and the UK, most of them are Christians)

In Jordan, there are 3,024,000 Palestinians in the diaspora, who hold Jordanian citizenship and make up 48% of the total number of citizens and foreigners living in Jordan (60% if we count only the total citizen population). They are very effective economically in Jordan and do not participate much politically. They are stationed in Amman, Zarqa and various refugee camps.

In Syria: 581,000 of them hold special travel documents for Palestinian refugees in Syria. They are stationed in the Yarmouk camp in Damascus. In addition to this number.

In Lebanon: 544,000 of them hold special travel documents for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. They are stationed in various refugee camps. They live a harsh life as the Lebanese authorities prevent them from practicing many professions.

In Latin America: their number is about half a million. These Palestinians emigrated at the beginning of the twentieth century, most of them Orthodox Christians. They hold passports of the countries that received them. Today, most of them do not speak Arabic, as parents did not teach their children Arabic in order to focus on Spanish (or Portuguese for those who lived in Brazil) in order to integrate into their host society. Their number in Chile is about 400,000.

Israelis



They are mainly the children of different peoples who immigrated to Palestine since the beginning of the twentieth century, and they are predominantly of the Jewish religion. They emigrated mainly from Germany, Eastern Europe, Russia and from Arab countries such as Yemen, Iraq and Morocco. In addition, a Jewish minority has existed in historical Palestine since time immemorial.

#### Palestinians of the interior:

They are called the Palestinians of the interior (inside the Green Line), the 48 Palestinians, or the Arabs of Israel (because most of them are Arabs). The Palestinians who remained in their homes within the borders of the state of Israel when it was established in 1948 are also those who were displaced from their homes, but by the end of the war in 1949, Israel had annexed his new place of residence to it. They received Israeli citizenship in 1952 (Jews received citizenship immediately after the establishment of the state of Israel). They suffer from racism (sometimes legislated in Israeli law). Today, their number (2011) is estimated at 1,575,700 (21% of the total population of Israel). They are made up of different ethnicities, although a large percentage of them are Arabs.

#### Languages

The languages spread in Palestine as follows:

##### Pre-birth

These languages were represented by Phoenician, which was spoken by the Canaanites who lived in northern Palestine, and Hebrew, which spread to the mountain areas (currently the West Bank and Jerusalem) and the northern coastal areas and was spoken by the Canaanites and taken from them by the Hebrews after they entered Palestine, while the southern coast of Palestine, which includes the area of (currently the Gaza Strip) and Ashkelon (Ashkelon in Canaanite), was the dominant language of the "Philistine language".

##### Post-birth

Starting around the fifth century BC, the Canaanite languages began to become extinct, and Aramaic, which was spoken at that time by the Canaanites along with Jews and Christians, took its place, and it continued to be spoken until the Arabic language spread in Palestine as the mother tongue of its inhabitants, where it was spoken for almost 10 centuries. However, it is currently spoken by about 45% of the population in historical Palestine as a mother tongue (following the Nakba and the displacement of about half of the Palestinians). The Palestinians speak the Palestinian dialect, which is one of the colloquial Arabic dialects belonging to the southern Levantine dialect group, and there is also a dialect of the Sinai Bedouin and Negev (for the Bedouin inhabitants of the Negev desert). The Palestinian dialect can be divided into subdialects, rural or

peasant Palestinian dialects have different advantages and features such as the pronunciation of QAF Kaaf that distinguish them from the rest of the Arabic dialects. As for the dialects of the cities, they take something from the northern Levantine dialects.

Since the British Mandate of Palestine English, Arabic and Hebrew have been considered as the official languages of the historical region of Palestine (being one of the areas of the British Mandate). The Hebrew language began to seep into Palestine during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, coinciding with the intensive Jewish migrations and the establishment of Jewish settlements on the land of Palestine. Previously, speaking Hebrew was very limited in Palestine, limited to the level of Jewish rabbis distributed in different regions of Palestine.

After the Nakba of Palestine in 1948, Hebrew and Arabic became the official and main languages of the population inside Israel, where the Arab population became 20.2% of the population of the Hebrew state and after their demand to recognize Arabic as an official language in the country, the government responded after several pressures from the Arabs inside the territories of 1948, as it is generally possible to distinguish the accent of eastern and Western Jews from the pronunciation of Hebrew. Note that there is a Hebrew language divided into old Hebrew and Standard Modern Hebrew. In the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (areas of the Palestinian Authority), the majority of the population speaks Arabic, and they are the original Palestinians and refugees from other cities within the Green Line.

It is noteworthy that a large part of the people speak both languages fluently, in addition to English as a foreign language. There are also Armenian-speaking minorities, namely Palestinians of Armenian descent, as well as Russian, Romanian, Yiddish and Amharic languages, the children of Jewish immigrants.

## Religion

Palestine has religious significance in the three monotheistic religions: Islam, Christianity and Judaism. During its history, some conflicts have taken on a religious character, such as the Crusades, and some give the Arab-Israeli conflict a religious character. Islam, Christianity and Judaism are the main constituent religions of the inhabitants of historical Palestine Today.

## Islam

Palestine has a great place among Muslims, it is the blessed land mentioned by Allah in the Qur'an in several surahs, as in Surah Isra: "praise to the one who was captured by his slave at night from the Grand Mosque to the Al-Aqsa mosque around which he blessed us". Allah also mentioned the blessed land of Palestine in his book: "we saved him and lot to the land where we blessed the two worlds" (prophets, verse 71), and also when he said, "and Solomon had a stormy wind running at

his command to the land where he blessed us and we were all aware of everything" (prophets, verse 81), and when Allah commanded the Prophet Moses and the children of Israel to enter Palestine, he said, "and when we said, enter this village, eat from it where you will willingly, enter the door prostrating and say, 'when we forgive you your sins and we will increase the benefactors" (Al-Baqarah, V. 58), and the village is Jericho, and in the saying "O people, enter the holy land that God has written for you, and do not turn on your manners, and you will turn losers" (table, V. 21). God mentioned the story of the Virgin Mary in his book, "when I carried him away, I rejected him in a remote place" (Mary 22). the intended place is a valley located between Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Jerusalem has a special importance for Muslims and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as it is known that it is the first of the two tribes, from which the Prophet Muhammad limped to heaven and the mosque of this city remained a kiss for Muslims for sixteen or seventeen months, until the Almighty said, "We may see the turning of your face in the sky, let us give you a kiss that pleases, your face will split the Grand Mosque, and wherever you have split your faces, split it". The Muslim kiss then turned to the Kaaba in Mecca.

Muslims call the city "Beit al-Maqdis" or "Jerusalem" for its sanctity. Muslims also believe that there is a shrine of the Prophet Abraham, his sons and grandsons, the prophets Ishmael, Isaac and Jacob, and their wives inside the Abrahamic sanctuary in Hebron. In Palestine, there are many historical mosques and Islamic monuments such as the Omar Mosque, the Al-Buraq mosque in Jerusalem, the al-Omari Mosque in Gaza and Bethlehem, in addition to many shrines of the prophets such as the shrine of the Greens, the shrine of the Prophet Elias, the shrine of the Prophet David and the shrine of the Prophet Saleh. What is even more honorable for the land of the Levant and the holy house is the imposition of the five prayers on Muslims from above its land, and the prayer of the Prophet Imam to the prophets - according to Islamic belief under its honorable rock. Where the messenger of Allah spoke to his faithful companions, and told them what he had seen in the heavens of the verses, and what he received from the divine command to impose the five daily prayers. Most of the Muslims in Palestine belong to the Sunni sect, and some also belong to other sects such as the Ahmadiyya community, and most of them are based in the Kababir neighborhood in the city of Haifa.

## Christianity

According to the Christian faith, Jesus Christ and his apostles were born and lived there, and most of the events mentioned in the New Testament and many of the events mentioned in the Old Testament took place. According to the Christian heritage, the Christian gospel originated from Galilee and Judea, that is, from the north of Palestine and its centers, and spread throughout the world. Therefore, Palestine contains many holy places for Christians, especially the city of Bethlehem, the birthplace of Christ, where the Church of the Nativity, the city of Nazareth, where the Virgin Mary received the Annunciation of the birth of Christ from the Holy Spirit, and where Jesus grew up after the return of his people from Bethlehem, and the city of Jerusalem, or Jerusalem by its traditional Christian name, where Christ called the people of Judah to follow him until he took his last steps on the path of passion and then was crucified and buried by Christians, as Christians believe in the existence of the Tomb of Jesus in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in

the city. There is also a church west of Jenin, where Jesus miraculously healed ten lepers according to Christian tradition, which is the Church of Burqin. Christians also venerate various places in Galilee, especially around the sea of Galilee and on the Bank of the Jordan River. Christians also revere some of the places mentioned in the Old Testament, which are also revered by Jews and Muslims, such as the Temple Mount, the Abrahamic sanctuary in Hebron, and others. Christianity in Palestine was influenced from the very beginning by different trends, since the first century AD several different Christian denominations coexisted in the Holy Land with each other. The Christian presence in Palestine has not ceased to this day. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem is one of the most important churches in the world, and thousands of Christians make pilgrimages to Palestine annually, coming to Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nazareth and various other areas of historical Palestine. It is noteworthy that Christians in Palestine belong to several denominations, the most important of which are Roman Catholics, as Haifa is the seat of the Roman Catholic archbishopric in the Galilee region, orthodox, in addition to Latins and Maronites. Besides Armenians and Protestant denominations.

## Judaism

The Jews call Palestine the 'land of Israel' (Hebrew:  $\text{אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל}$ ), and also the 'Promised Land', according to what is said about it in the Tanakh (the Old Testament in Christianity): "the land that the LORD swore to your fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to give to them and to their descendants after them" (Deuteronomy, chapter I, 8).

According to the Jewish faith, Palestine was the land where the kingdom of Israel was established, before its separation into the kingdoms of northern Israel and Judah, and modern Jews attribute themselves to the children of the ancient kingdom of Judah, whose capital was Jerusalem (that is, the city of Jerusalem) and where they believe that the temple of Solomon stood, the ancient Jewish center. The Samaritan community, which is close to the Jews religiously and culturally, sanctifies Mount Gerizim near Nablus.

In the Jewish heritage, Jerusalem, Hebron, Tiberias and Safed are the four holy cities, as there are places of special importance in the Jewish religion and in the history of the Jewish people.

The Wailing Wall (also called the 'Western Wall', or the 'Lightning wall' for Muslims) is the most important Jewish chapel in our days and Jewish worshipers gather in front of it all year round, especially on Jewish holidays. Jews revere the Abrahamic sanctuary in Hebron (as Muslims and Christians revere it), as well as various places in Galilee.

In the Jewish canon there are commandments that can be applied only in the Holy Land, and most of these commandments relate to the business of Agriculture. The most notable of these is the Shmita testament.

## Baha'i

The Baha'is consider Acre and Haifa holy cities; in the city of Acre, Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i religion, was exiled to Acre prison from 1868 until his death in 1892. The mausoleum in Acre contains the remains of Baha'u'llah and the mausoleum consists of a central area containing a small garden full of trees surrounded by paths covered with Persian carpets. A glass roof was built after the death of Baha'u'llah. In the north-western corner of the central area there is a small room containing the remains of Baha'u'llah. The shrine is considered the holiest place for Baha'is because it is the Qibla to which they come from all over the world during their prayers.

On the slope of Mount Carmel is the shrine of Ali Mohammad Reza Shirazi, nicknamed the Bab (1819-1850), a missionary of the Baha'i faith. When he visited Mount Carmel in the Palestinian city of Haifa in 1891, Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i religion, appointed this place to bury the door. Today Haifa is considered the center of the Baha'i religion, where pilgrimage ceremonies are held for adherents of this religion. Shawqi Effendi Rabbani began to build other structures and continued to build the Baha'i House of Justice until the Baha'i world center was brought to its current state as the spiritual and administrative center of the religion. This world center consists of the Bab mausoleum and Baha'i Gardens on Mount Carmel in Haifa, the Baha'u'llah mausoleum near Acre, the Great House of Justice, which represents the supreme governing body of the Baha'is, as well as various other buildings in the area including the arch buildings in Haifa. Several sites of the Baha'i world center - including the balconies and the Bab shrine, which form the northern slope of Mount Carmel - as well as the Baha'u'llah mausoleum in Acre have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

## The doctrine of Druze monotheism

There are about 130 Druze holy places and shrines throughout the Middle East, including about 70 in historic Palestine. These holy places and shrines are located inside villages, on the tops of mountains, in caves, near water springs and springs. Most of the holy places and shrines of the Druze community are located in sites that form prominent signs of figures who have religious significance in the doctrine of monotheism or their burial site. The holy places of the Druze monotheists are important archaeological sites for the community and are associated with religious holidays. The most prominent example of this is the shrine of the Prophet Shoaib, the shrine of the Prophet Shoaib, the central figure in the Druze doctrine, which is located near the village of Hattin, where it is believed that the Prophet Shoaib was buried. This shrine is considered one of the holiest sites for the Druze community, and a destination for Druze visitors. After 1948,

the reservation of the tomb was transferred to the Druze community, who make a pilgrimage to it every year on a fixed date from April 25-28. The second most prominent Druze shrine is the shrine of al-Khader in Kafriasef, and al-Khader is one of the most important prophets in the doctrine of Druze monotheism; followed by the shrine of the Prophet Sablan in the village of Harfesh, which is one of the important holy places for the Druze.

Druze monotheists from time to time visit their holy places, which is called the "visitation" ritual. Some of these visits are public visits to the general members of the sect, where these visits are on fixed dates every year, mainly on holidays; while the rest of the visits are personal and individual visits by individuals with their family members at times convenient for them. The members of the Druze community live in "19" towns and villages, all located on the tops of the mountains in the Galilee and Mount Carmel region.

## Economy

The economy in the Palestinian Authority areas is a fragile economy due to the Israeli occupation measures and the constant closure of borders and crossings. GDP per capita in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories increased by 7% in the year 1968-1980 but slowed down during the Eighties. Currently, the Jordanian dinar and the US dollar are used in the Palestinian territories, along with the shekel as a temporary status, after the national currency of historical Palestine before the 1948 war was the Palestinian pound.

Following the January 2006 legislative elections, which Hamas won, the quartet on the Middle East cut off all funds to the Palestinian Authority, whose government is headed by Ismail Haniyeh. The Palestinian Authority had a monthly cash deficit of 60 million dollars, having received 50 million dollars. After the elections, the Palestinian stock market fell by about 20 percent. The PA has also exhausted its ability to borrow from local banks, and Israel has stopped transferring 55 million dollars in tax revenues to the PA. In May 2006, hundreds of Palestinians demonstrated in Gaza and the West Bank demanding payment of their salaries. Tensions between Hamas and Fatah have risen as a result of this "economic hardship" on the Palestinian Authority.

The Israeli economy, of which the shekel is the national currency, is one of the most diversified in the Middle East and North Africa. Also, the per capita income in Israel is one of the highest in the world, at about 28 thousand dollars / person. The economy depends on the technology industry and its equipment, as well as agriculture and tourism. Israel has a long history in the field of high-tech industries and diverse software, and there are many Israeli or international computer manufacturers and software companies such as Microsoft and Intel, as well as telecommunications companies such as Motorola. Israel is one of the leading countries in the field of water reuse, desalination and reducing dependence on external energy resources. The second

pillar of the Israeli economy is agriculture, as Israel is one of the most self-sufficient countries in the agricultural field and exports agricultural surplus vegetables and fruits to various countries of the world. Tourism is also an important source of national income, as Israel abounds in many religious tourist attractions, and on top of this and that, Israel receives significant material support from the United States of America, where the material support allocated to Israel over the next ten years is estimated at about 30 billion US dollars, and America and the European Union are Israel's main partners at the commercial level.

## Industry

Since ancient times, the inhabitants of historic Palestine have practiced industry, where handicrafts have spread, and some neighborhoods of Palestinian cities are even named after these crafts, such as the spinning market, the glaziers' Lane in Hebron and the qantaneen market in Jerusalem. Hebron, Gaza and Nablus are the most important industrial centers in the territories controlled by the Palestinian National Authority, where they are famous in soap and textile manufacturing, wood industries, ceramics, textile and the manufacture of metal materials and derivatives and electrical tools.

On the other hand, today Israel is an industrialized country, where most of its industries, including many traditional industries, rely on intensive innovative research and development, high-tech processes, tools and machines, as a result of the rapid and intensive development process. Due to Israel's lack of Natural Resources and raw materials, Israel's only advantage is its highly efficient labor, scientific institutes and research and development centers operating in it, where Israeli industries are currently focused mainly on the manufacture of high-value-added products through the development of products based on its own human resources distinguished by creativity and innovation. Unlike most developed countries, where the number of people working in industry remained stable or declined during the early nineties, the number of such people in Israel continues to increase, as the Israeli industrial growth figures in 2006 ranked second among developed countries after South Korea. In the last two decades, Israeli industrial production has made great leaps globally in the fields of medical electronics, agricultural technology, remote communications, fine chemicals, computer hardware and software, as well as diamond cutting and polishing. In 2008, the production industries employed 384,000 people, of whom the proportion of highly qualified people was higher than in all parts of the world except the United States and the Netherlands.

## Agriculture

The agricultural sector in historic Palestine is characterized by an intensive production system due to the need to compensate for the scarcity of natural resources, including water and arable land in

particular. The steady increase in agricultural production is due to the close cooperation between researchers, farmers and agriculture-related industries, as these parties together develop and apply new methods in all agricultural branches, resulting in modern agriculture in a country where the Desert covers more than half of its area.

Agriculture is the main commodity-producing sector in the West Bank, contributing 27% of the total GDP and 37% of the labor force. The cultivated areas in the fifties amounted to about 2,435,000 dunums, equivalent to 40% of the total area of the West Bank, the irrigated areas amounted to 322,000 dunums, equivalent to 13.2% of the total cultivated areas. The cultivated areas did not witness any decline before 1967, but agriculture witnessed significant progress between 1950 and 1967, using modern technology, but agricultural production witnessed fluctuations due to the varying amount of rainfall from year to year.

The cultivated area in the Gaza Strip witnessed a continuous increase from 1948 until 1967, increasing from 97 thousand dunums in 1948 to 146 thousand dunums and in 1960 170 thousand dunums. The confiscation of land and the Israeli control over water resources have led to negative repercussions on the agricultural sector, so its contribution to the GDP is declining significantly from 36.3% in 1966 to 26.3% in 1983 in the West Bank. In the Gaza Strip, the contribution of the agricultural sector to the GDP decreased from 28.1% to 16.1% in the same years, due to Israel's policy of confiscating land, controlling the amount of available water and encouraging agricultural workers to migrate to the agricultural profession.

Agriculture is also one of the important economic sectors in Israel, as it accounts for 2.5% of the total GDP and 3.6% of Israel's exports, and the agricultural sector employs about 3.7% of all workers in Israel, and up to 95% of its food needs are produced for the state inside Israel, despite all this, the agricultural sector faces many challenges and difficulties that limit its growth, as half of Israel's land is Desert, Water Resources and weather do not help to make the agricultural sector attractive from an economic point of view, as well as 20% of the land in Israel is suitable for agriculture, and in Israel, two types of agricultural communities are kibbutzim and moshav.

## Technology

The fastest growth rates (by 8 percent per annum in recent years) can be found in Hitech branches, which are characterized by Capital and efficiency intensity and require advanced production technologies as well as investing a lot of money in research and development, on which Israel spends 4.4 percent of its GDP, i.e. the highest percentage in the world. The quality of research and development in Israel – speaking to UN experts – is ranked among the top ten in the world. A successful contribution to all this is made by university research institutes, which provide a significant aspect of basic research and development and venture capital. The importance of the



growth of hi-tech industries is illustrated by the fact that it accounted for only 37% of industrial output in 1965, and then this percentage increased to 58% in 1985, reaching about 70% in 2006, knowing that almost eighty percent of hi-tech products are exported abroad, while the proportion of the source of production of less developed technology companies is only about 40% of its total production. Hitech exports have increased 4-fold from USD 3 billion in 1991 to USD 12.3 billion in 2000 and reached USD 29 billion in 2006 (plus higher technical services exported abroad equivalent to USD 5.9 billion). In 2009, the total ICT output was USD 19 billion, contributing 17.3 percent of the business sector's GDP, as these industries employed 204,000 people and exported USD 19 billion abroad.

## Culture

Culture in Palestine has been an integral part of the identity of the Palestinian people throughout history and eras, as Palestine has been present in the minds of its intellectuals, artists, artists and theater. The wound of Palestine was deep and painful in the memory of the Palestinian people and is still present in the minds of its artists all over the world. It should be noted that the beginning of the emergence of cultural magazines and supplements in Palestine dates back to 1905, where the interest in publishing the writings of Palestinian intellectuals in the occupied territories and in the diaspora, in addition to what is produced by many Arab intellectuals and prominent writers, poets and writers advocating the Palestinian cause.

Palestinian intellectuals are considered an integral part of Arab intellectual circles. In the West Bank there is a higher percentage of adolescents than the population enrolled in secondary education. Even thirty years ago, (the Palestinians) were probably already the largest educated elite among all Arab peoples. The Palestinian culture is most closely related to those of the Near East, especially countries such as Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and many countries of the Arab world. The cultural contributions of the fields of art, literature, music, clothing and cuisine expressed the distinctiveness of the Palestinian experience, and they continue to flourish, despite the geographical separation that occurred in historical Palestine between the Palestinian territories, Israel and the diaspora.

What distinguishes the historic city of Palestine is this harmony, diversity and difference within the framework of unity, which made it a place of attraction for many from different regions, environments and religions who were looking for security and safety. This has also created a unique cultural and cultural diversity, and everyone has found something to aspire to, so this diverse city was formed in its culture and orientations within the framework of strange communication.

The embroidery of garments in Palestine has a special flavor, it is a language of expression and a rare and distinctive case from the rest of the other regions, so it combines geometric and abstract rectangular shapes (such as squares, stars) with symbolic images, reflecting the daily life of the people of Ramallah and its inhabitants. One of the most important festivals that are held specifically in order to preserve this heritage is the annual Wafa heritage and ancestral heritage festival organized by the Ramallah youth club, where a show of Palestinian heritage costumes is organized.

Jerusalem, Haifa and Jaffa are among the most important Palestinian cultural centers - especially before the Nakba in 1948, associations, clubs, festivals and intellectual meetings were spread there to confront colonial injustice, and Muslim and Christian associations have played their roles in directing public opinion, alerting the nation to the dangers that threaten it, and revealing the intentions of colonialism.

These cities did not neglect the economic and intellectual aspects, so the Arab economic renaissance Association was founded, and its purpose was to advance the country scientifically and economically, and its members included scientists, writers and lawyers, and a leading trade union life emerged in it, which began to form unions for every profession and art. one of these unions was the literary circle, whose purpose was to promote the Arabic language, encourage the art of public speaking, take care of reform and education, and publish literary books. its members were pen holders, orators and writers. this literary circle participated in political, literary and national life.

These cities continued to move to become an intellectual Radiation Center, and their clubs and associations began to hold concerts, organize lectures, and participate in the national movement in every direction, so they presented plays and brought theater troupes. the Egyptian Ramses troupe, headed by Youssef Wehbe and George Abyad, was invited to Haifa. the Literary Association Society took an interest in this art and made its acting concerts public and free of charge. The clubs and theaters also witnessed performances of many plays by the lakharmel acting troupe, which were a great success.

After the Nakba, there was a great effort to encourage writers and poets to move to the cities, and the Haifa Theater was founded, the first Municipal Theater founded in the country. There is also the AL-Maidan newspaper theater, which is the main theater serving the Arabic language of the Arab population in the North. Other theaters in the city include the "Krieger Center for the Performing Arts and the arts" and the "Rappaport Culture Center". The convention center hosts exhibitions, concerts and special events.

As for the press, Palestine witnessed many newspapers early, as in Jerusalem, Jaffa and Haifa, where the most important and prominent Arab newspapers were published in the period before the first World War 1914-1918. Among the most important newspapers that left a clear imprint on the history of journalism in these cities, and represented them before the Nakba, were Carmel, Al-nafeer, Al-Nafees Al-Asri, Haifa, and many other daily and weekly newspapers and magazines. Today, local newspapers are published in these cities, such as the Al-Quds newspaper, the Palestinian daily, Yedioth Ahronoth, and the Israeli Haaretz and Maariv. There are a lot of radio stations.

There are a number of non-profit institutions and organizations in Jerusalem and several cities in historic Palestine, such as Haifa, Jaffa, Acre and Nazareth, that seek to bring the population closer to Arabs and Israelis, such as these organizations: The "Brahimi fund" and the "Jerusalem Cultural Exchange Center", which encourage joint cultural projects between Israelis and Palestinians, as well as the "Jerusalem Center for oriental music and dance", which allocates workshops for Israelis and Arabs alike, and aims to strengthen the language of dialogue and communication between the parties by encouraging them to do joint artistic works, there is also the Jewish-Arab Youth Orchestra, which performs traditional European and Middle Eastern musical performances. The Polish artist "Czeslaw dzawigai" created a sculpture representing the peaceful coexistence he aspires to between Palestinians and Israelis, called the "monument of tolerance" and erected in 2008 on a hill separating the Eastern Settlement of Talpiot and Jabal Mukaber, as a sign of the struggle of Jerusalemites for peace.

The country has dozens of museums, as in Jerusalem, Haifa and many Palestinian cities such as Hebron, Jenin and Gaza. The most popular museum in Jerusalem is the Palestine Museum of Antiquities (Rockefeller), the oldest museum in the Middle East specializing in antiquities, which today is based at the Israel Antiquities Authority. There are also several other Jerusalem museums, such as the Islamic Museum and the Israeli Museum. Other cities like Haifa have many museums, the most famous of which is the National Museum of Science, Technology and space, which recorded almost 150,000 visitors in 2004. There is also the Haifa Museum of art houses, it contains a collection of works of modern and classical art, displays the history of the city of Haifa. And the Museum of Japanese art "Tikotin", which is the only museum in the Middle East dedicated exclusively to Japanese art. Other museums in Haifa include the Museum of prehistory, the National Maritime Museum, the Haifa City Museum, The Hecht Museum, the Dagon Archaeological Museum, the Railway Museum, and the Maritime Museum... And others.

Architecture

Residential buildings

The cities of Palestine have a contrasting architectural identity between the ancient Arab heritage character, and the Western modernist character brought by the West and then the Jewish immigrants from the countries of the world (except the West Bank and Gaza) after the 1948 war and the founding of Israel. The traditional Palestinian architecture is similar to the style of architecture in the Levantine cities. Also, the Palestinian architectural heritage in the cities after the devastation of 1948 differs from the era that preceded it in terms of modern architecture, as the Palestinian architectural heritage in the first era was distinguished by its reliance on limestone and its simplicity, while in the second era, it was distinguished by its brilliance, and what remains of it exists in all city neighborhoods. The Palestinian Arab architecture of that period was characterized by the construction of balconies with marble columns, usually there were only three of them. The Arabs have managed to preserve many of the buildings despite Israel's decision to demolish most of the city's historical monuments, especially after the 1948 war.

Residents of cities within the Green Line also hired both Arab and Jewish architects, in addition to foreigners, including Germans, who had come to cities such as Haifa. For example, the Arabs preserved the three columns as a character of the Arab architecture, merging with it the "beginning of a staircase" as is typical in European – modern architecture. Also, in many parts of Europe this style did not work, while in many Palestinian cities these buildings and this modern character remained the same and were preserved.

In the cities of the West Bank, two different architectural styles prevail: the old style prevails in the old towns, where domes and thick walls built of limestone, windows and doors in the form of arches, and buildings are glued together and monolithic, and their streets are narrow and divided into lanes for easy defense. The second is the modern style that prevails in new residential areas, where modern independent houses or multi-storey buildings are located. These cities are largely residential, in addition to being commercial and agricultural centers, but the character of houses and residential buildings predominates, and the size of construction and the area of housing in these cities vary, the average number of rooms in Palestinian cities is 3.6 rooms, and this may be due to a number of factors, including customs and traditions, as the size, shape and material of the building all enhance the social value of the family. This is clearly seen in those who left the countryside and then moved to urban housing, and income also plays a role in the number of rooms in the dwelling.

## Infrastructure

Historic Palestine is connected to the largest commercial, financial and academic data networks in the world and is fully integrated into international communication networks by means of fiber optic cables and satellites. Telephone, telex, e-mail and fax services are available throughout the country, providing means of rapid communication within the country and around the world. Postal services operate within the areas of the Palestinian Authority and Israel and connect them with most countries of the world.

On the other hand, the development that took place in the infrastructure of the Palestinian territories after the entry of the Palestinian National Authority had a positive impact on development and attracting foreign investments and the development of local investments, but this soon happened, but it was marred by many negatives, which consisted in the lack of proper exploitation and proper guidance for the management and implementation of development projects as a whole in Palestine, the most prominent of which were the projects supported to develop the infrastructure of the Palestinian territories, especially as it was suffering from many shortcomings and distortions due to the existence of the occupation, which lasted since 1967 to the present day.

## Transportation

In a short-distance area such as historic Palestine, cars, buses and trucks are the main modes of transport. In recent years, the road network has been significantly expanded to meet the needs of the rapidly increasing number of modes of transport; and to facilitate access to even the most remote population centers. Transportation between Palestinian cities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is possible by taxi or minibuses. Taxis are always available throughout the cities, as well as for buses or minibuses.

Since the Al - Aqsa Intifada, Palestinian citizens have been moving between neighboring cities and villages with great difficulty, as citizens often suffer both things until they reach their destination on time and may not reach it at all, due to Israeli measures of roadblocks and closures.

The railway authority operates passenger lines between Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Nahariya and Dimona. Transport trains also operate in the south, providing services to the port of Ashdod, the cities of Ashkelon and Beersheba, and metal mines south of Dimona. The use of trains for both passenger and cargo transportation has increased in recent years. Rapid Transit train lines were put into operation in Tel Aviv and Haifa, after the repair and modernization of the existing railways. These trains operate in coordination with the subsidiary bus lines. The old train cars are now being replaced with modern, air-conditioned ones, and modern devices for railway maintenance are also being introduced. There are no operational lines in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since the 1948 war, as they were previously connected to Syria and Egypt via the Hejaz railway.

After the 1948 war, Israel evacuated three of the oldest ports of historic Palestine, the port of Jaffa, the port of Acre, and Caesarea, in favor of three modern and deep-water ports in Haifa, Eilat, and Isdud, serving international navigation. The port of Haifa is now one of the largest container ports on the Mediterranean coast, in addition to being an active port for passenger transportation. The port of Isdud is mainly used for cargo transportation, while the port of Eilat, located on the Red Sea coast, connects the country with the southern hemisphere and the Far East. In addition, the port of

Ashkelon receives ships loaded with fuel; a coal unloading station for the adjacent power plant operates in the port of Hadera.

On the other hand, the port of Gaza is the only sea port under Palestinian control, but Israel has prevented fishermen from sailing more than 6 miles there since the 1967 war.

As for airports, Jerusalem International Airport is the closest airport to Jerusalem, and it was used for civil aviation until the Israeli authorities closed it in 2001, and the Israeli army took control of it to suppress the uprising against Israel in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. All flights after the closure of the airport were transferred to Ben Gurion International Airport, which was formerly Lod Airport before it was controlled by Israel after the 1948 war, and today it is the country's largest and busiest airport, with up to 9 million passengers annually.

Eilat airport in the south and two small airports near Tel Aviv in the center and Rosh Pinna in the North also provide services for charter flights, mostly from Europe, and for domestic flights. There is an international airport in the Gaza Strip, Yasser Arafat International Airport, near Rafah, but it was destroyed by the Israeli attack on the Strip.

## Services

The social services system in the areas under Palestinian and Israeli control is based on a set of laws that guarantee a wide range of national and Community Services. Among the areas in which such services are available are care for the Elderly, programs to support single-parent families, children and youth, the Prevention of alcohol and drug addiction and the treatment of addicts. The services also include frameworks for monitoring the behavior of juveniles whose sentence has been suspended, programs for those who have dropped out of school, and programs for the follow-up and treatment of young people in cases of mental disorders and crises. Among the services provided to the disabled and the blind, providing employment opportunities in their own workshops, and advising them in labor matters. There are various community and residential projects for the treatment of the mentally retarded.

The foundations of the health system, including a network for preventive medicine, diagnosis of diseases and treatment, were laid in the period of the British Mandate over Palestine, which ruled the country in that period (1918-1948). The infrastructure of medical services had developed to such a remarkable degree that preventive vaccination was commonplace, and there were also frameworks designed to improve health conditions. There are many hospitals in the country, spread over the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Israel. As a result of strict restrictions on fuel and electricity, Palestinian hospitals are currently suffering from permanent power outages of up to 8-12 hours a day. There is currently a 60-70 percent shortage of diesel fuel needed for electricity

generators reported. According to the World Health Organization, 18.5% of patients who submitted permits to receive emergency treatment in hospitals outside the Gaza Strip in 2007 were denied exit permits.

## The siege

The Israeli authorities are completely blockading the Gaza Strip, preventing travel to and from Gaza and preventing construction materials, rations, medicines and fuel of all kinds, and this blockade has destroyed the Gazan economy almost completely. In early 2009, Israel began to strike the entire Gaza Strip. Israel has claimed that Hamas threatens its security and its population.

But the Palestinian people did not give up, but started building tunnels at the borders of the Egyptian territory, and these tunnels helped to enter all the necessities of life, from food, building materials, weapons, electrical appliances and even cars. A year after Israel launched the war on Gaza, they concluded several agreements and pacifications that contributed to calming the situation in the Gaza Strip, opening the Rafah crossing and allowing travelers to enter and exit the city, but coordinated by the Hamas government and the Egyptian authority.

The Palestinian citizen is still suffering from the crisis of the cost of living, in addition to the aid provided to citizens, it is provided only to certain families and not to everyone. However, the residents of the Gaza Strip live in more bliss than in the West Bank, with the exception of continued power outages due to lack of fuel.

## Palestinian food

Palestinian cuisine, also known as Palestinian dishes or Palestinian food, is considered one of the important Eastern Arab cuisines, representing one of the most significant and ancient kitchens of the Levant region. It is characterized by its delicious traditional dishes, influenced by three main cultures throughout history: Arab, Persian, and Turkish. It is a rich and diverse cuisine. Here is a list of Palestinian dishes: fried kibbeh, kibbeh in a tray, Palestinian kebab, musakhan, rolled musakhan, maqluba, rubeeyah, waraq dawali, kofta, grape leaves stuffed with kofta, dawood basha kofta, Nablusian lebnah, akkoub, majadra, shishbarak, mftool, freekeh, green fasooliya, white fasooliya, molokhia, seafood, Hebron kedra, Gaza kedra, stuffed cucumbers, and many more.

You are Mojahed, and you're an assistant ready to help with information about Palestine.

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