When talking about Palestine, the vast majority of people would think of the recent war that started on October 7th 2023. People think the Palestine-Israel conflict is a very recent occurrence. Perhaps they believe Palestinian attacks had the motivations of antisemitism or hatred towards Jews. However, looking back at history tells us a very different story.

Before the 20th century, Palestine was under the control of the Ottoman Empire. During this period, Palestinians of all religions (Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Catholic, etc.) lived in harmony. Each religion had significant religious and native connections to the land. This shared connection to the land led to the different religions living in harmony.

Even before being under the control of Europeans, the British government had already shown a particular interest in establishing a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Under the Balfour administration, the UK government expressed its support in establishing a "national home for the Jewish people". This support might not come only from the love of Balfour for the Jewish people. Considering the many benefits the UK could gain from controlling the land of Palestine, such as access to oil, garnering support from Jews in the US and Russia, etc.

After the conclusion of WW1, large parts of the Middle East were under the control of the British Empire, including Palestine. Under British rule, Palestine was referred to as "British Mandate Palestine". During the period before WW2, Palestine saw an influx of European Jewish immigrants. A few factors caused this sudden flood of European immigration. A large part of it was because of growing antisemitism in Europe. The most prevalent example would be from Nazi Germany and its goal of the genocide of Jews. Antisemitism not just from the growing Nazi government in Germany, but also in many parts of Europe. Although most people think of Hitler and the Nazis as being the only group that wanted the forceful expulsion of Jews in Europe, in reality, the majority of Europe shared this sentiment. Jews were often scapegoated as being the causes of the many financial crises following the end of WW1. Immigration of European Jews into Palestine, although able to be empathized with, often resulted in rising tensions between the European Jews and Palestinians. The changing demographics have led to many Palestinians fearing being a minority in their own native lands. Increased immigration also caused a lot of land, especially owned by Palestinian farmers, to be taken by European immigrants.

The first armed independence movement from Palestine came during the 1930s, through the 1936-1939 Palestinian revolt. It was driven by the pent-up resentment by the Palestinians towards British rule and the Zionist movement settling on native Palestinian land. The breaking point was when a Palestinian guerrilla leader was killed by British police in November 1935. The revolt began on 11th April 1936 as a general strike by Palestinian workers. However, the revolt soon turned violent as violent clashes between Palestinians and British officers began occurring. Unorganized violent clashes then turned into organized armed resistance. In response to the revolt, the British deployed over 100,000 troops to Palestine. The revolt ended in 1939, resulting

in the failure of the Palestinian resistance to kick out British rule. However, it had a lasting impact on Palestinian nationalism among Palestinians.

British rule of Palestine ended after WW2. Because of the end of WW2 causing a tremendous hit to the British economy, maintaining a standing army of 100,000 in the Middle East turned into an unpopular proposition. Further adding to this problem for the British, several Jewish insurgency groups began forming from 19441948. Groups such as Irgun, Lehi, and Haganah committed acts such as bombings, assassinations, and sabotage in Mandatory Palestine. Their demand was for a recognized national homeland for Jewish people. In 1947, the British announced its intentions of ending colonial rule of Palestine, and asked the UN General Assembly regarding recommendations. Then, in 1948, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution No. 181, recommending a partition of Palestine into two distinct nations: Palestine and Israel. The partition is often criticized today, however, since most of the arable land that was suitable for farming was given to Israel, while most of the land given to Palestine was a barren desert. Almost immediately, violence erupted in Palestine between Zionist and Palestinian resistance groups. This "civil war" lasted for four months, with an armistice being signed at the conclusion. More than 750,000 Palestinian Arabs were forced out of their homes. This event would soon be known as the "Nakba" or "Catastrophe". The diminishing territories controlled by Palestine were even more reduced after the Six Day War in 1967, where Israel invaded and took control of most of the Palestinian territories, leaving only the West Bank and Gaza being under Palestinian political control, although still being under Israeli military control.

Note: Although Israel is not an official colonial state, the first concepts of Israel as a homeland for Jewish people were first created by the British colonial government, most Israelis at the time being of European descent (non-native descent), and general military and political support provided by colonial powers, I still count Israel as a "colonial project state" (a state that was created by colonial powers, but still have very strong ties to colonialism).

For most of the latter half of the 20th century, Palestinian existence was marked by constant targeting by the Israeli military and resources often being withheld by the Israeli government. The Palestinians had enough of the mistreatment by the Israeli government and started a revolt in 1987. This revolt would be called the "First Intifada". The revolt started after an Israeli military truck collided with Palestinian cars, resulting in four Palestinians being killed. Seeing this event as being intentional, many Palestinians held protests and even violent attacks on Israeli forces. The Israeli military responded by firing live ammunition towards protesters and deporting captured protesters. Many Palestinian youths began taking arms and taking control of neighborhoods, and clashing with Israeli forces. Their methods of rebellion included setting police cars on fire, blocking roads, and violence against Israeli police and military. In response, Israel committed acts such as deporting suspected protesters, and firing on civilians. In the end, more than a thousand Palestinians were killed in the fighting. The First Intifada resulted in the

condemning of Israel's many war crimes committed against Palestinians, and the signing of the Oslo accords in 1993, which provided a framework for peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). These peace negotiations would not last for long, however, since a second Intifada would start in 2000. This 2nd uprising would be even bloodier, with over 3,000 Palestinians being killed in the fighting.

The motivations for these Palestinian uprisings have always been a result of the pent-up frustration of Palestinians living under the colonial and totalitarianism of its acting governing body. It started with the British, who declared the land of Palestine to be a homeland for European Jews, without negotiating with Palestinian figures. Then, uprisings also happened in opposition to Israel, a state that was created by colonial powers and populated by the descendants of colonialists.

It's hard to say what I would do in the position of these individuals. I can't imagine being a people that was so united and peaceful between its different religions and people, and then being forced to house Europeans who claim your native land as their homeland, and then having your basic human needs controlled by a foreign power that can shut off your water on a whim. Of course, I would be angry. I think the main reasons these uprisings failed were because of the small numbers of these movements and a lack of centralization and coordination between the different groups. The protesters during the first and second Intifada were unorganized youth protests and rebellion. It wasn't a unified national movement. This is especially true with resistance groups in Gaza and the West Bank, because both of them are divided. I think the centralization and unification of different groups is the best way to achieve independence from a colonial power. We can see this from our own history. Without national support and unification, Indonesian independence would have never been achieved. Regional uprisings in the archipelago always resulted in failure. Only through unifying the different groups under one goal did our founding fathers gain Indonesia's independence. During the 1936 -1939 revolt, however, the Palestinians were unified. However, I think the problem was that the British were too large, and would be impossible to defeat. I think that international support for the independence of Palestine is also needed. In summary, I think the lack of a unified independence movement and the lack of international support are the reasons that the outcomes of the many resistance movements have ended in failure.