

IS 101

Week 4.1: Armed Conflict and War

Main ideas for today

1. The perspectives and sources of information we have access to determine what is an issue of security for us as the general population. In other words, "security" and urgent issues of security change depending on where you are (geography) and change with time (when you are looking at the issue).
2. To really analyze conflict we need to look at structural causes and not just address symptoms (continued on next slide).

From UNESCO's inclusive policy lab

Terms to understand:

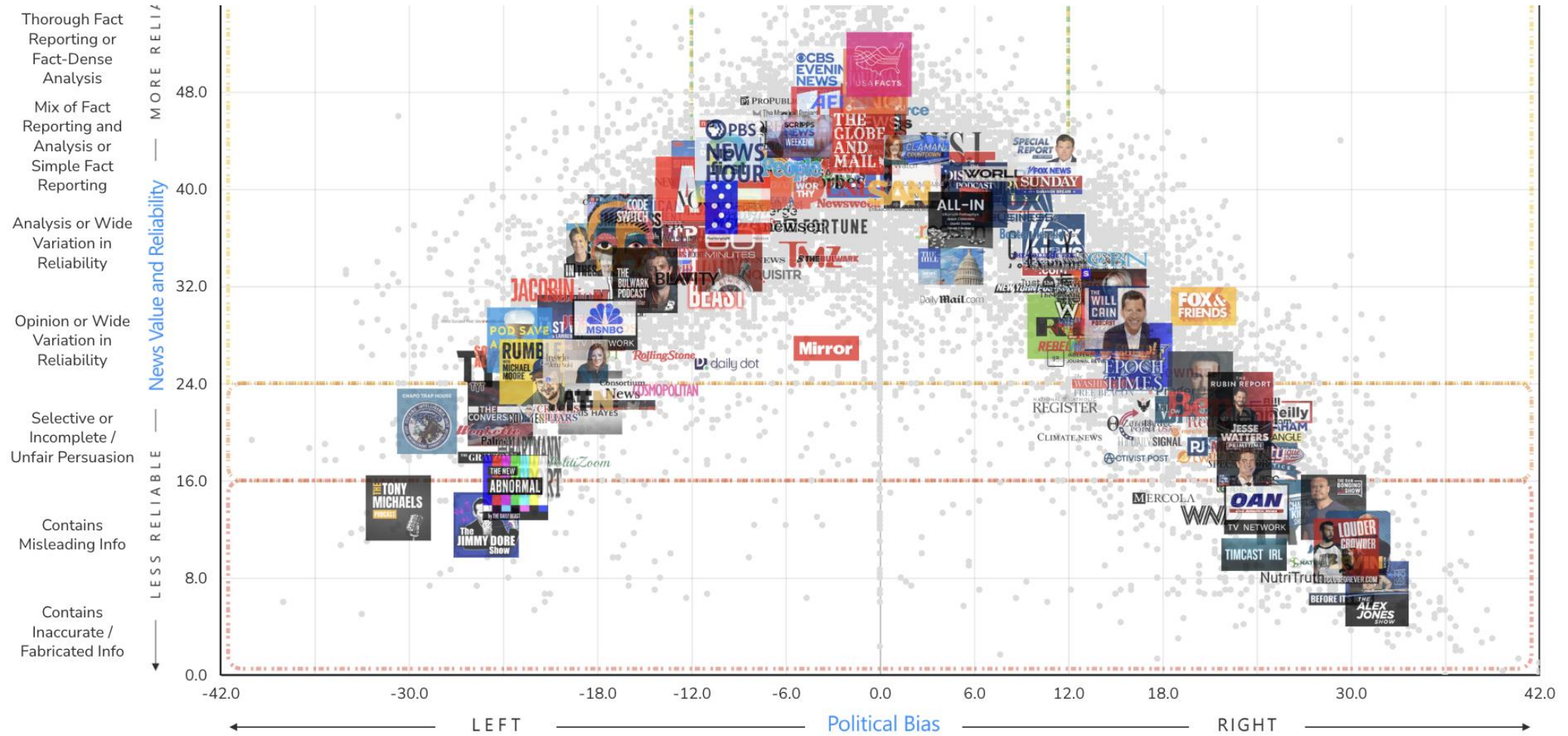
Symptoms and structural causes

To deliver sustainable outcomes, measures do not only redress symptoms and manifestations of inequalities and exclusion (e.g. lack of income, education or healthcare) but also cover their deep and structural causes (e.g. discrimination, differentiated power relations, lack of access to resources, lack of representation).

We will pause here to explain the first concept using a case study.

1. The perspectives and sources of information we have access to determine v

This text is from the first slide.



Caption

“Security” issues are generally considered to be those related to threats to the nation-state



What are the major global
challenges that we are
facing in the world today?

From Case Study 1: Climate change

9260TH MEETING* (AM & PM)

SC/15199

14 FEBRUARY 2023

Climate Change-induced Sea-Level Rise Direct Threat to Millions around World, Secretary-General Tells Security Council

Speakers Warn of Vanishing Coastlines, Endangered Nations, Forced Migration, Competition over Natural Resources


How is climate change
connected to security?





From your
recommended
reading (the UN
source)

The “President of the General Assembly, stressed: “You don’t need me to tell you that the displacement of hundreds of millions of people is a security risk.” The new legal questions provoked by climate change-induced sea-level rises are at the very core of national and State identity.”



THE SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTE

EXPLAINER



Case Study 2: The EU and current positioning during the war on Ukraine

Headlines

Europe

EU ready to impose more sanctions on Russia after summit talks

Show of unity marred by Viktor Orbán refusing to back declaration of support for Ukraine

2h ago

Europe UK PM warns Putin of 'severe consequences' if he breaches peace deal



Ukraine Russia names former FSB officer behind Ukraine invasion to lead peace talks

Analysis Ignored by Trump and menaced by Putin, the UK turns to the EU for defensive ties



Israel

Thousands protest in Israel over 'attack on democracy' by Netanyahu

5h ago

Gaza Israeli strikes on Gaza add to soaring child death toll

Tutorial

Pick ONE international conflict discussed in class. You are tasked with coming up with a research project aimed at finding the most holistic representations of the conflict to produce a lecture for an undergraduate classroom. You are given 4 teams of research assistants and you can send them anywhere. What will you ask all 4 teams to do? How will you organize the information?

Russia-Ukraine war at a glance

20 March 2025

A summary of the most significant developments in the Ukraine-Russia conflict

Ukraine war briefing: Trump 'wants Zaporizhzhia power plant for US'

White House has 'moved beyond' minerals deal; Zelenskyy expects ceasefire deal to cover civilian as well as energy infrastructure. What we know on day 1,121

20 Mar 2025 01.22 GMT



19 March 2025

Ukraine war briefing: Russian drone strikes immediately follow Trump-Putin talks

Hospital in Sumy hit as Zelenskyy says Putin has rejected full ceasefire; Ukrainian troops go on attack at Belgorod border. What we know on day 1,1120



18 March 2025

Ukraine war briefing: 'Coalition of the willing' military chiefs to assemble in London

Russian oil refinery on fire after Ukrainian drone strike; Russia claims advances in southern Ukraine. What we know on day 1,119

18 Mar 2025 01.20 GMT



17 March 2025

Ukraine war briefing: Zelenskyy replaces head of general staff of the armed forces

Defence minister says Ukraine 'systematically transforming' its military; Macron says allied security force does not need Russia's blessing. What we know on day 1,118

17 Mar 2025 00.55 GMT



16 March 2025

Ukraine war briefing: Zelenskyy accuses Putin of seeking to prolong war amid buildup of forces

Ukrainian president maintains his troops are still fighting in Russia's Kursk region and warns that Moscow is 'doing everything' to prevent a ceasefire. What we know on day 1,117



BRUSSELS (AP) — All European Union nations but Hungary signed a joint statement Thursday backing Ukraine, the second time in a month that Budapest was the bloc's sole member to decline to sign such a statement of support.

Conclusions reaffirming the EU's "continued and unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity" were "firmly supported" by 26 out of 27 leaders, according to the press statement issued at Thursday's summit in Brussels.

Case Study 3: Israel and Palestine

Sources used that you may find useful to understand the conflict further include:

Justice for some by Noura Erakat. https://sfu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/usv8m3/01SFUL_ALMA51353246160003611

The question of Palestine by Edward Said. https://sfu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/usv8m3/01SFUL_ALMA21175924070003611

The hundred years war by Rashid Khalidi. https://sfu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/usv8m3/01SFUL_ALMA21482936080003611

The ethnic cleansing of Palestine by Ilan Pappé. https://sfu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/usv8m3/01SFUL_ALMA21482936080003611

FURTHER READING (Peer reviewed books)

Colonizing Palestine by Areej Sabbagh-Khoury. https://sfu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/usv8m3/01SFUL_ALMA51478057980003611

City on a Hilltop by Sara Yael Hirschhorn. <https://www.hup.harvard.edu/books/9780674975057>

On understanding the way the American media discusses the conflict (although it is important to note that this documentary was released in 2004 so is dated) this is instructive viewing: <https://www.cinemapolitica.org/film/peace-propaganda-and-the-promised-land-us-media-and-the-israeli-palestinian-conflict/>

A short overview of the documentary and why it is recommended for college students can be seen here: <https://emro.libraries.psu.edu/record/index.php?id=2406>

Part 1: The history of this conflict cannot be fully understood without reference to colonialism.

Ilan Pappé also discusses this in detail.

In class we linked back to our session on the mandate system and the establishment of the British mandate in Palestine.

We also linked how the division of land among colonial powers, was a global process enacted in the 1880s with [the division of Africa](#) and after WW1 with German and Ottoman territories being divided up as well. The British mandate in Palestine and the Balfour declaration need to be understood against this global backdrop.

Part 2: Land was and is central.

- Sale of land was taking place before the end of the British mandate. Therefore, the sales of land were valid under British colonial rule (Edward Said; Noura Erakat; Hirschorn and Sabbagh-Khoury)
- The settlements set up by settlers are seen as illegal under international law (HRW report)
- Access to land and who can purchase land is limited by laws (HRW report).

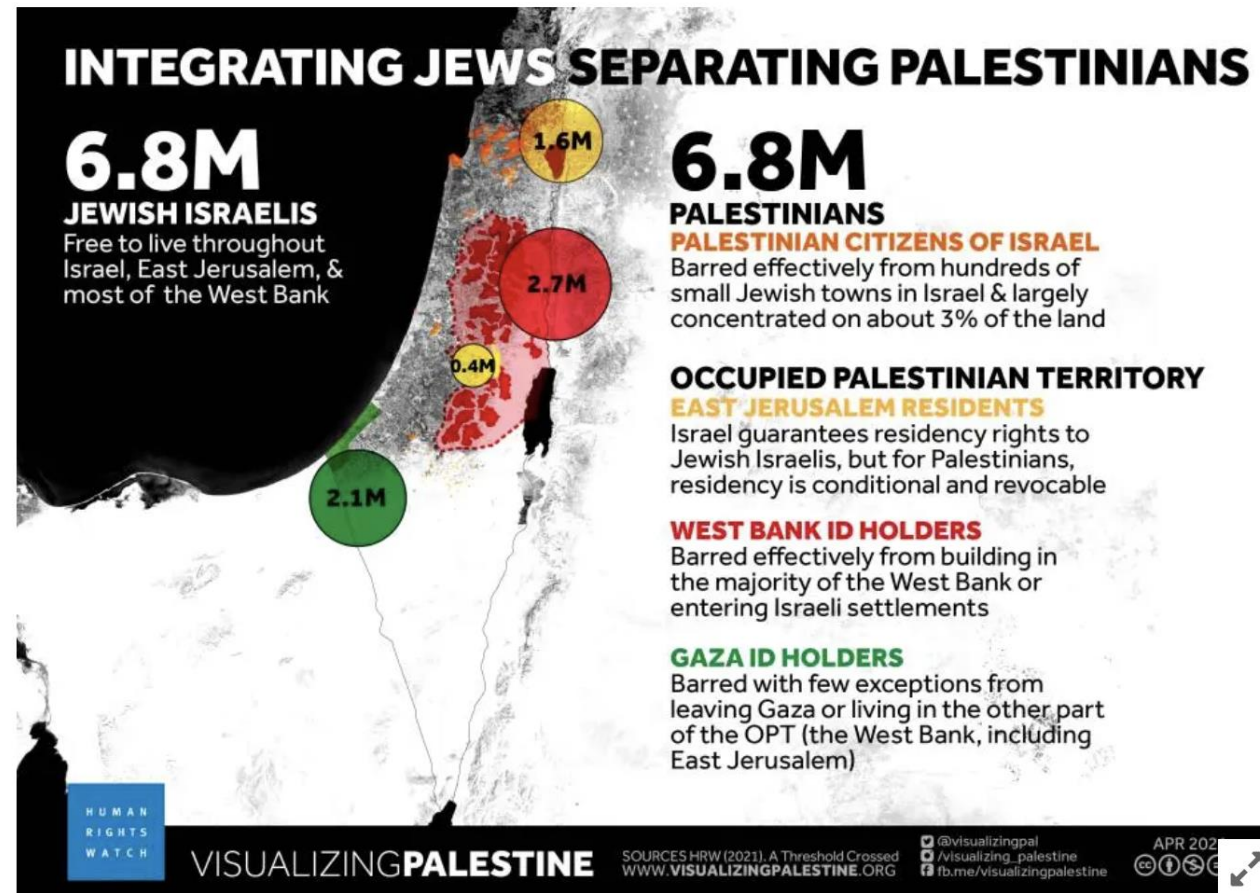
Part 3: Palestine is not a state. Therefore this cannot be seen as a war between states.

For those who were not present for the lecture, the discussion used the following sources:

HRW report (linked in your canvas). A more detailed historical background on what this means can also be found [here](#).

[This video](#) may also be helpful.

Part 3 (i) The right to mobility and who protects this right.



Part 3 (ii) Government policies maintain difference explicitly. Let us look at laws applying to citizens born abroad (HRW)

BORN UNEQUAL ABROAD

HANNAH



JEWISH AMERICAN
BORN IN THE U.S.

CAN I VISIT ISRAEL & THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY?

YES

You can visit Israel and most of the West Bank, and you'll find programs that may help fund your trip

CAN I MOVE THERE?

YES

Because you're Jewish, the 1950 Law of Return guarantees your right to live in Israel. Plus, you'll get a free flight and a bunch of perks if you do so



LEILA

PALESTINIAN REFUGEE
BORN IN LEBANON

NO

You are barred from entry to Israel, the West Bank or Gaza

NO

As a Palestinian refugee, you're barred from returning and denied residency rights, even if you have family living there

CAN I BECOME AN ISRAELI CITIZEN?

YES

The 1952 Citizenship Law entitles you to automatic citizenship, even if you've never set foot in Israel before

NO

You are ineligible if your family became refugees between 1947 and 1949, even if they had lived there for generations before

CAN I PASS ON MY LEGAL STATUS TO MY SPOUSE IN ISRAEL OR THE OPT?

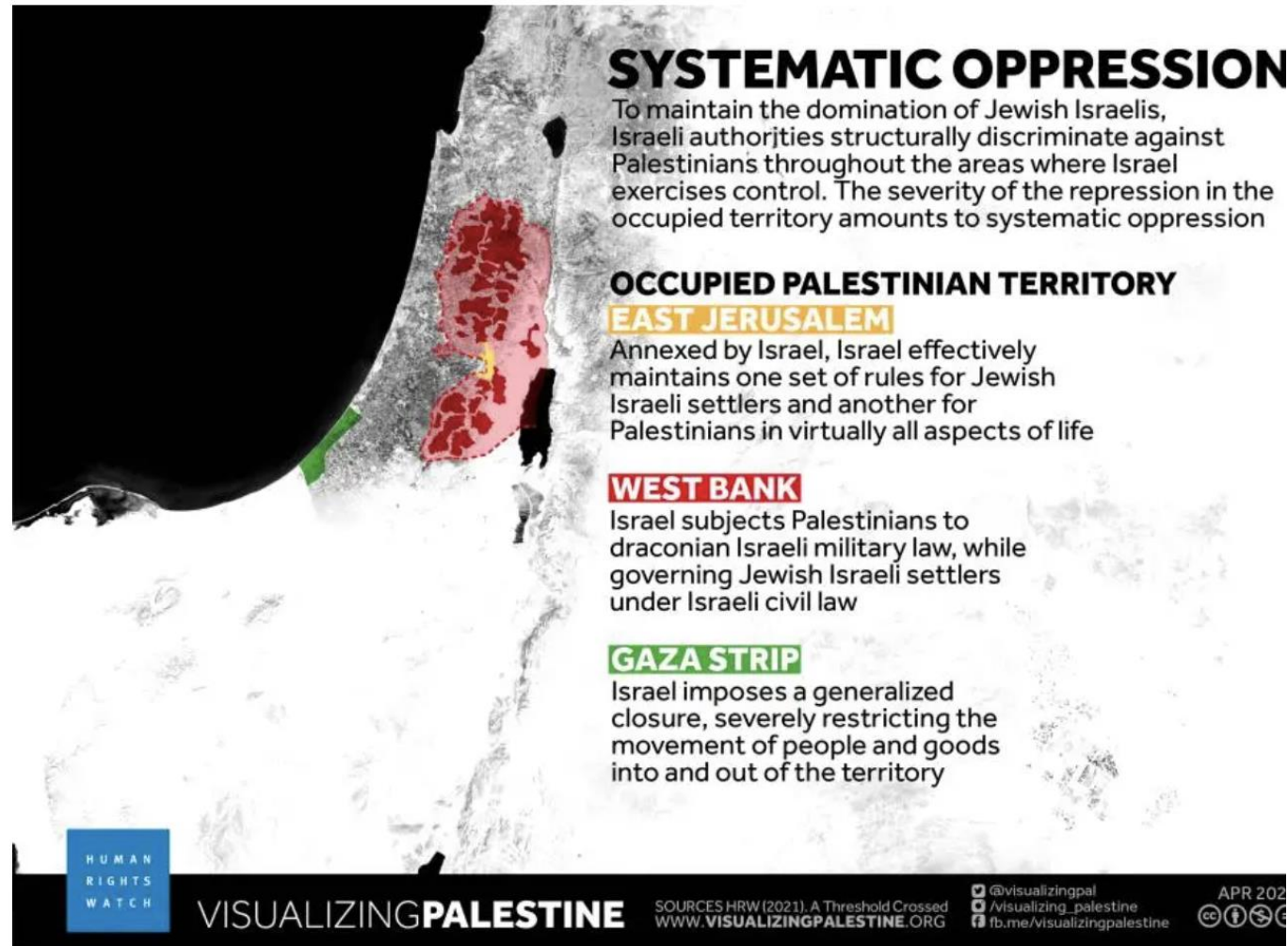
YES

Upon becoming a citizen, you can pass along legal status and even citizenship to your spouse (except if they're Palestinian from the OPT or from several Arab countries)

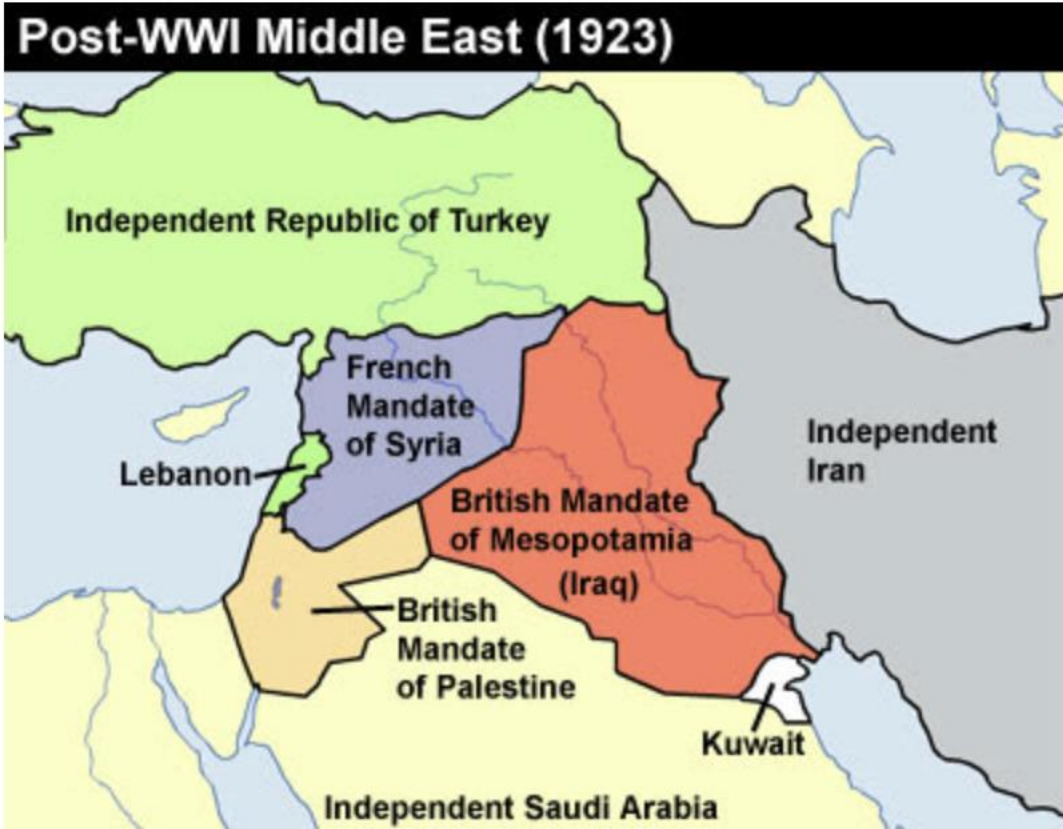
NO

You have no legal status and cannot gain one, even by marrying a citizen or resident of Israel

Part 3 (iii) different laws apply to different areas



Part 4: Timeline of the conflict (sources: Al Jazeera and the Guardian).
*please note that other timelines exist, including ones published by newspapers such as the New York Times.



From Noura Erekat, p. 37 in
Justice for Some:
The Treaty of Sèvres (1920) did
not give Palestine independence
even though this should have
been agreed to under Article 22
(which we read in class as part of
the Charter of the League of
Nations). In meetings it was
argued that the Balfour
declaration and the promise it
contained would be affected if
they did this.

Two perspectives: Rashid Khalidi and Adam Kirsch.

Adam Kirsch, an editor at the *Wall Street Journal*, who has also written about philosophy for *The New Yorker*. “Settler colonialism is . . . a zero-sum way of looking at the conflict,” Kirsch tells Remnick. “In the classic examples, it involves the destruction of one people by another and their replacement over a large territory, really a continent-wide territory. That’s not at all the history of Israel and Palestine.” Kirsch made his case in a recent book, “[On Settler Colonialism: Ideology, Violence, and Justice](#).”

Khalidi, a professor emeritus at Columbia University, is the author of a number of books on Palestinian history; among them, “[The Hundred Years’ War on Palestine](#)” has been particularly influential. The book helped bring the term “settler colonialism” into common parlance, at least on the left, to describe Israel’s relationship to historic Palestine. Sometimes invoked as a term of opprobrium, “settler colonialism” is strongly disputed by supporters of Israel. Khalidi asserts that the description is historically specific and accurate. The early Zionists, he says, understood their effort as colonization. “That’s not some antisemitic slur,” he says. “That’s the description they gave themselves.”

Plus, the concept of settler colonialism has been applied, on the political left, to describe Israel’s founding, and to its settlement of the Palestinian-occupied territories.

Land back is complicated. Here's what we can learn from a B.C. island returned to the Saanich people

First Nations aren't able to simply accept land as a gift, says lawyer



[Laura Beaulne-Stuebing](#) · CBC Radio · Posted: Mar 02, 2023 1:00 AM PST | Last Updated: March 2, 2023



Tara Martin, a professor of conservation science at the University of British Columbia, planted the seed to get SISƆENEM returned to the WSÁNEĆ (Saanich) people. (Alex Harris)

Case Study 1: to understand how even good intentioned moves to give land back and decolonize can be quite complicated.

Britain to return Chagos Islands to Mauritius ending years of dispute


Agreement to hand back UK's last African colony follows 13 rounds of negotiations and international pressure

Haroon Siddique, Diane Taylor and Patrick Wintour

Thu 3 Oct 2024 17.56 BST

 **Share**



 Diego Garcia, one of the Chagos islands, has been a UK and US airbase since the 1960s and is thought to be excluded from the right to return. Photograph: Universal Images/Getty Images

1947 and the UN Partition Plan

1947

UN Partition Plan (Resolution 181)

- Arab State | 45%
- Jewish State | 55%
- Jerusalem under international control

Following the end of WWII, the newly formed United Nations proposed a plan that would grant **55 percent of historic Palestine to a Jewish state and 45 percent to a non-contiguous Arab one.**

This plan was never implemented on the ground.



Conceptual map



Voted For (33)

Australia
Belgium
Bolivia
Brazil
Byelorussian SSR
Canada
Costa Rica
Czechoslovakia
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
France
Guatemala
Haiti
Iceland
Liberia
Luxemburg
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Norway
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Sweden
Ukrainian SSR
Union of South Africa
US
USSR
Uruguay
Venezuela

Voted Against (13)

Afghanistan
Cuba
Egypt
Greece
India
Iran
Iraq
Lebanon
Pakistan
Saudi Arabia
Syria
Turkey
Yemen

Abstained (10)

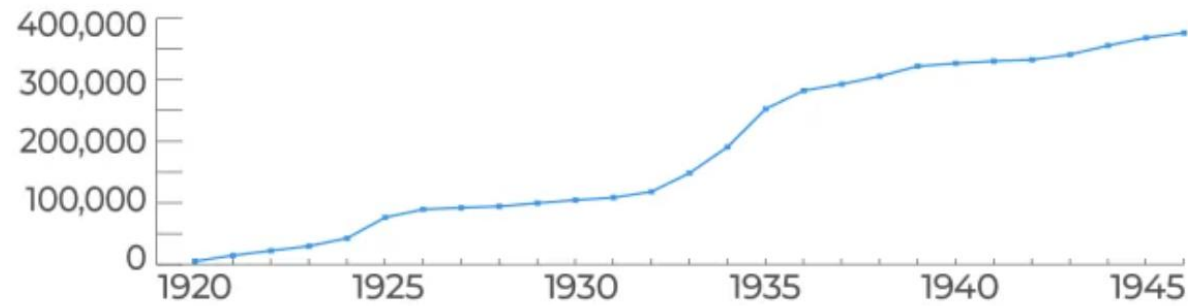
Argentina
Chile
China
Colombia
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Honduras
Mexico
United Kingdom
Yugoslavia

Large scale
migration

1920-1946

Jewish immigration to Palestine

An estimated **376,415 Jewish immigrants, mostly from Europe**, arrived in Palestine between 1920 and 1946 according to British records.



Source: A survey of Palestine (1946)

Year	Authorized Jewish Immigration
1920	5,514
1921	9,149
1922	7,844
1923	7,421
1924	12,856
1925	33,801
1926	13,081
1927	2,713
1928	2,178
1929	5,249
1930	4,944
1931	4,075
1932	9,553
1933	30,327
1934	42,359
1935	61,854
1936	29,727
1937	10,536
1938	12,868
1939	16,405
1940	4,547
1941	3,647
1942	2,194
1943	8,507
1944	14,464
1945	12,751
1946	7,851



@AJLabs ALJAZEERA

ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

Jerusalem - the divided city

West Jerusalem has been Israeli territory since 1948 with Jews forming the majority.
East Jerusalem was occupied by Israel in 1967 but Palestinians remain the majority.

WEST JERUSALEM

Israelis
354,000

Palestinians
5,000



- Armistice "Green" Line
- Jerusalem Municipal Boundaries (since 1967)
- Occupied Palestinian territories



EAST JERUSALEM

Israeli settlers
236,600

Palestinians
370,000

OLD CITY



Religious sites

1. Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound
2. Wailing Wall
3. St James Cathedral
4. Church of the Holy Sepulchre

West Jerusalem



Although Israel claims Jerusalem as its undivided capital, the realities for those who live there cannot be more different

East Jerusalem



More than 140,000 Palestinian residents of Jerusalem have been physically separated from the city by a 700km (435 mile) concrete wall, which Israel started building in 2002

1948 and the Nakba; 1967 and the Six Day War

1948

Palestinians expelled

-  Palestinian
-  Israeli
-  Armistice "Green" Line
(Created in 1949)

Zionist military forces expelled at least **750,000 Palestinians** and captured **78 percent of historic Palestine**.

The remaining 22 percent was divided into the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

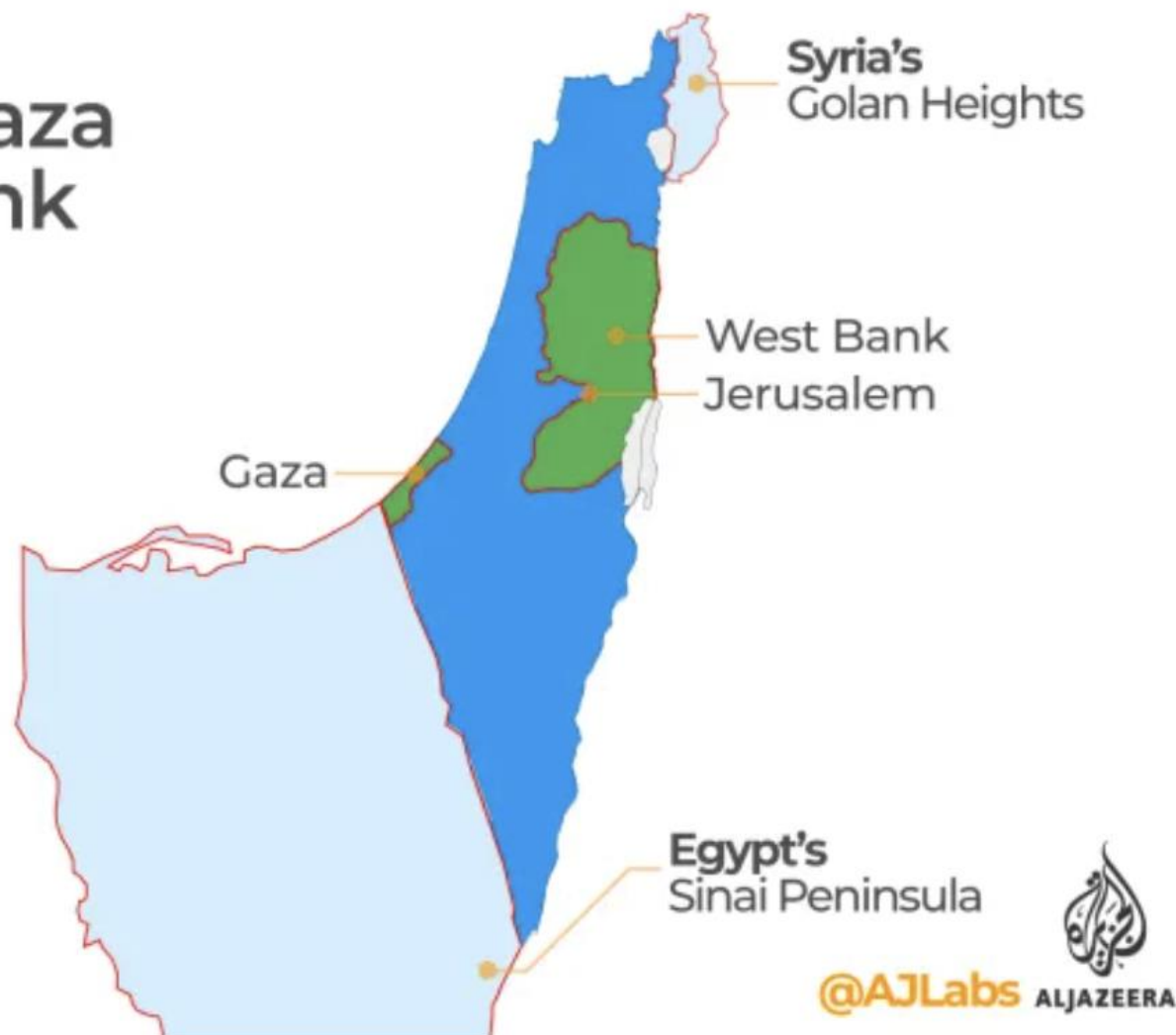


1967

Israel occupies Gaza and the West Bank

-  Palestinian (under Israeli occupation)
-  Israeli
-  Egyptian and Syrian land occupied by Israel

During the June 1967 War, Israel occupied all of historic Palestine and expelled a further **300,000 Palestinians** from their homes.



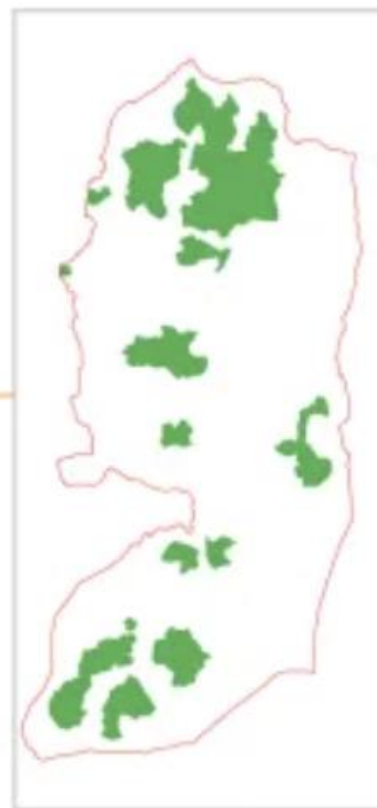
1993 & 1995 Oslo accords

-  Palestinian (under Israeli occupation)
-  Israeli
-  Area C - (Palestinian under Israeli control)

The occupied West Bank was **divided into three areas** - A, B and C - as part of the Oslo Accords, signed by the **Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)** and Israel.



Area A
18%



Under
Palestinian
Control

Area B
22%



Under joint
Israeli-
Palestinian
Control

Area C
60%



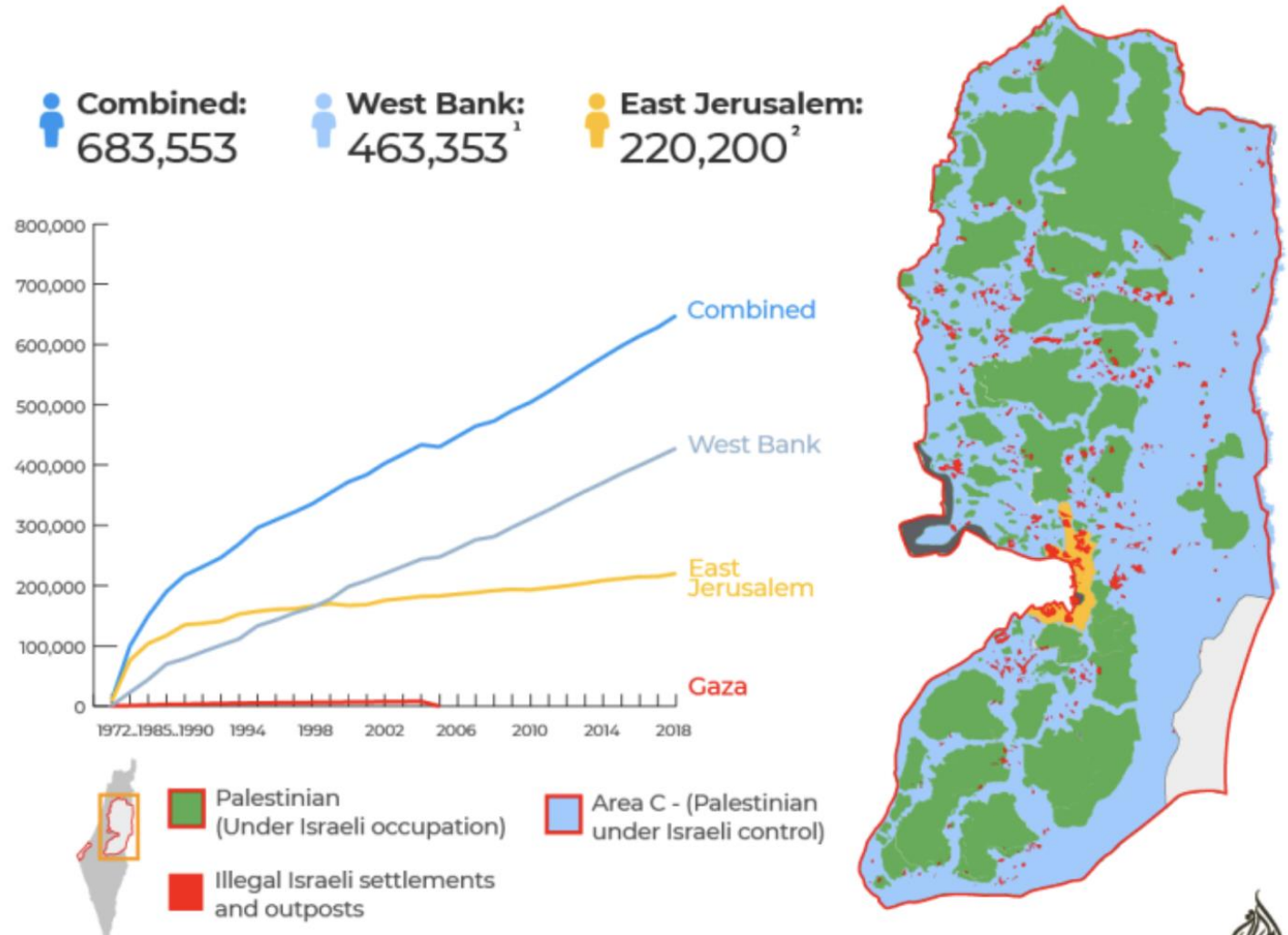
Under
Israeli
Control

What are the settlements?

OCCUPIED WEST BANK

Illegal Israeli settlements

Settlements are Jewish compounds built on Palestinian land. Between 600,000 and 750,000 Israeli settlers live in at least 290 settlements and outposts in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. **Israeli settlements are illegal under international law.**

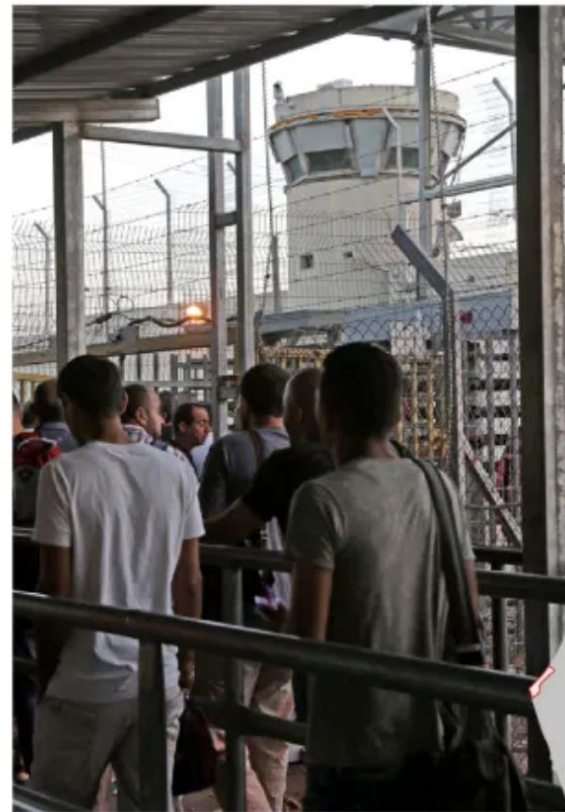


Everyday life and the checkpoints

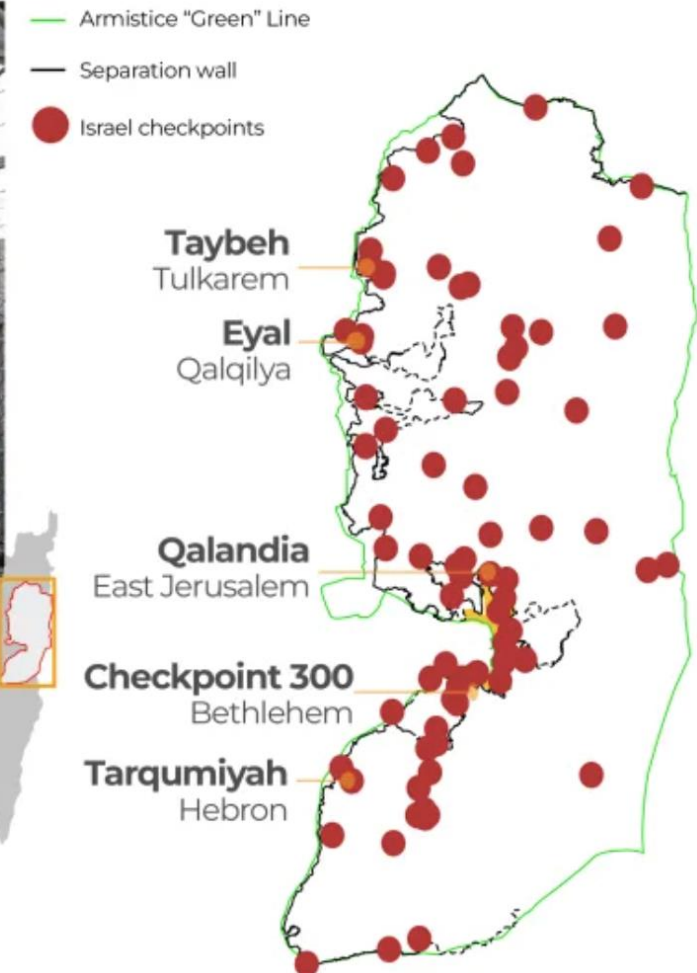
ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

Israeli checkpoints in occupied West Bank

There are at least **645 fixed physical obstacles**, **49 checkpoints constantly staffed** by Israeli companies and **139 occasionally staffed checkpoints**. In 2022, Israeli forces also deployed an average of four ad hoc, "flying" checkpoints each week in the occupied West Bank.



Eyal Checkpoint, 2018 [Activestills]



What about solutions? Is a ceasefire and two state solution one that would find support? This video is from 26th May 2024. We will watch the first 10.5 minutes

<https://www.aljazeera.com/program/the-bottom-line/2024/5/26/why-is-the-west-divided-over-palestinian-statehood>

EXTRA Case Study (this one was not covered in class today, but is one of the themes in your main reading): Information and social media

Let us explore the relationship between information and international relations:

This question is on the first page of your main reading for today:

“Why has this chapter incorporated perspectives about the US war with Iraq from Middle east sources? Where would you go to find European, Latin American, Asian or African perspectives on this issue?”

What does this imply?

In order to understand what that question implies, think back to our first session where your tutorial question asked you to think about where you get your news sources from...

- The purpose of that exercise was to get you to think about how our access to information determines our view of the world.
- Example: Do you think most of the world believes in the freedom of gender expression?
- How about most of Canada?

- “The accused targeted a gender-studies class and investigators believe this was a hate-motivated incident related to gender expression and gender identity,” police said in a release.

CRIME

University of Waterloo stabbings were ‘hate-motivated,’ police say



By **Aaron D'Andrea** & **Kevin Nielsen** • Global News

Posted June 29, 2023 7:56 am · Updated June 29, 2023 9:46 am

Now of course this is not sufficient to say that this is a general trend, but it is enough for policy makers to argue that more research needs to be done about where this idea continues to exist and how government campaigns can reach all groups of people.

In other words, you have to cover all spaces in order to understand an issue. In some spaces (like those that have controversial opinions) people may not want to speak to you (as the researcher) or be honest about their opinions because they are worried about being perceived in a negative light.

Similarly, if you do not speak a particular language, say Spanish or Portuguese, you would not be able to read much of what is written within Latin America. Therefore, you would have to rely on English language sources and only have a limited understanding of the region.