

THE ETHNIC CLEANSING OF

Palestine

1878

FIRST ZIONIST COLONY IN PALESTINE

Zionism emerged in Europe as a national revival movement, prompted by the growing pressure on Jews in those regions either to assimilate totally or risk continuing persecution. Most of the leaders of the Zionist movement associated the craving for security from a long history of oppression with the colonization of Palestine.

In 1882, 25,000 Jewish immigrants began to settle in Palestine, coming mainly from eastern Europe. Over the years of 1904 through 1914, 40,000 Zionist immigrants arrived in Palestine. By this time, Jewish immigrants total 6% of the population.

1909

TEL AVIV WAS FOUNDED, NORTH OF JAFFA

1914 – 1918

WORLD WAR I

In November of 1917, a letter was sent from the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary to a leader of the British Jewish community. This document, called the Balfour Declaration, pledges support for "a Jewish national home in Palestine."

The Ottoman forces in Jerusalem surrender to the British General Edmund Allenby.

In 1918, Palestine is occupied by Allies under Allenby's forces. World War I ends, and the Ottoman rule in Palestine ends.

1919

DEMAND FOR INDEPENDENCE

The First Palestinian National Congress in Jerusalem rejects the Balfour declaration in demands for independence. Chaim Weizmann of the Zionist Commission calls for a Palestine "as Jewish as England is English" at the Paris Peace Conference. Other members of the Commission say "as many Arabs as possible should be persuaded to emigrate."

1920

HAGANA IS FOUNDED

Hagana is a Zionist underground military organization, and becomes the main militia.

1923

BRITISH MANDATE FOR PALESTINE OFFICIALLY COMES INTO FORCE

1925

PARIS REVOLUTIONIST PARTY FOUNDED

The Revolutionist Party founded in Paris insisted on a Jewish state in Palestine and Transjordan.

1928

16% JEWISH POPULATION IN PALESTINE

102,000 Zionist immigrants come to Palestine, constituting 16% of the Palestinian population.

1929

RIOTS IN PALESTINE

A dispute over claims to the Wailing Wall turned into a massacre, with 133 Jews and 116 Arabs killed, mainly by British Police

1931

MORE MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS

The Irgun (IZL) military organization was founded to support more militancy against Arabs.

1932

ISTIQLAL FOUNDED

First regularly constituted Palestinian political party, the Istiqlal (Independence) Party is founded.

1935

ARMS SMUGGLING BY ZIONIST GROUPS DISCOVERED AT JAFFA PORT

1937

PEEL COMMISSION RECOMMENDS PARTITION OF PALESTINE

The Peel Commission was a British Royal Commission of Inquiry. They recommended the 33% of the country to become a Jewish state. Part of the Palestinian population was to be transferred from this area.

The British dissolved all Palestinian political organizations, deported five of their leaders, and established military courts against rebellion by Palestinians.

1938

IRGUN BOMBINGS

The Irgun, National Military Organization in Israel, bombed and killed 119 Palestinian people. Palestinian bombs and mines then kill 8 Jewish people.

1939

CONDITIONAL INDEPENDENCE FOR PALESTINE IN WORLD WAR II

Zionist leader Jabotinsky writes, "...the Arabs must make room for the Jews in Eretz Israel. If it was possible to transfer the Baltic peoples, it is also possible to move the Palestinian Arabs."

British House of Commons votes in approval of a White Paper which plans conditional independence of Palestine after 10 years and the immigration of 15,000 Jews into Palestine each year for the next five years.

World War II begins.

1940

PROTECTION OF PALESTINIAN LAND

Land Transfer Regulations come into force, protecting Palestinian land against Zionist acquisition.

1943

THE 5 YEAR LIMIT PLANNED IN WHITE PAPER OF 1939 EXTENDED

WHAT IS NAKBA?

On May 15, every year, the people of Palestine commemorate Nakba (نكبة), meaning catastrophe in Arabic. It is a day of mourning and remembrance of the massive expulsion of Palestinian people from their homeland.

WHAT IS ZIONISM?

Zionism is a movement motivated by national impulses that craved a security from a long history of oppression, and sought to gain a rightful sense of normal settlement by establishing Judaism as a nation. However, the moment the leaders of the Zionist movement decided that the only place they could satisfy the impulse for security and self-determination was in the land of Palestine, the Zionist movement became a colonialist project.

APRIL

1 First delivery of Czech arms arrives for Hagana; includes 4,500 rifles, 200 light machine guns, 5 million rounds of ammunition.

4 Plan Dalet launched by Hagana. Villages along the Tel-Aviv Jerusalem road captured and residents expelled.

9 Massacre of Deir Yassin, with 107 of the 600 villagers killed by Zionist shootings and hand grenades being thrown into the villagers' homes.

17 The Security Council resolution demands a truce.

20 The Palestine trusteeship plan submitted to UN by US.

22 Haifa completely cleansed of its Palestinian population.

26 – 30 Hagana attacks an area of East Jerusalem, and are forced to hand it over to the British. Hagana captures an area of West Jerusalem. All Palestinians in West Jerusalem expelled by the Jewish forces.

MAY

3 Reports of 175,000 and 250,000 Palestinians that have been forced from their homes.

12 – 14 Czech arms arrive for Hagana.

13 Arab Legion attacks Jewish communities in retaliation for Jewish military action. Jaffa surrenders to Hagana.

14 Israel declares independence as British Mandate ends.

22 UN Security resolution demands ceasefire.

11 June to 8 July
First Truce established.

JULY

8 – 18 Fighting breaks out anew as IDF capture both the Ramla District and Lydd City in Palestine.

17 IDF launch an offensive but fail to capture Old City of Jerusalem.

18 July to 15 October
Second Truce established, broken by the capture of several villages by IDF.

SEPTEMBER

17 UN Mediator Count Bernadotte assassinated by Jewish terrorists in Jerusalem. UN appoints Ralph Bunche as new Mediator.

OCTOBER

29 – 31 Thousands of Palestinians are expelled during Operation Hirsh.

NOVEMBER

4 UN Security Council calls for immediate truce and withdrawal of forces.

UN adopts Resolution 194 on Palestinian refugee right of return. Israel blocks return.

November to 1949
Second Truce established, broken by the capture of several villages by IDF.