












Timeline of Key Events in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

1897	 <p>The first Zionist congress calls for "the creation of a home for Jewish people in Palestine...to be secured by public law."</p>
1917	<p>The British cabinet approves the Balfour Declaration, which states support for "the creation of a national home for Jews in Palestine." At this time, Arabs in Palestine outnumber Jews 10 to 1.</p> 
1936	 <p>Jewish immigration and land purchases in Palestine create a large, unemployed landless Palestinian class, and a three-year bloody Arab revolt against the British and Jews begins.</p>
1945	<p>World War II and the Holocaust end. Two thirds of European Jews are killed, increasing world support for a Jewish homeland.</p> 
1947	 <p>Britain relinquishes Palestine to the United Nations, which partitions Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. Jews accept this plan, but Arabs, who outnumber Jews 2 to 1 and are given less of the land, oppose it.</p>
1948	<p>Israel proclaims independence, and the next day Arab states attack Israel. Israel wins the war and expands its territory by capturing a majority of the Arab state. The war creates over 700,000 Palestinian refugees.</p> 
1964	 <p>The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), a union of Palestinian resistance groups, is founded. It eventually becomes the internationally recognized representative body of the Palestinians.</p>
1967	<p>After tensions between Israel and neighboring Arab states escalate, Israel attacks Egypt and Syria; Jordan joins the war against Israel. Israel occupies Golan Heights, West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza Strip, and the Sinai peninsula (the Occupied Territories), assuming control over 1.5 million Arabs.</p> 
1978	 <p>In the Camp David accords, Egypt trades a promise of peace with Israel for return of the Sinai peninsula.</p>
1987	<p>The Intifada, a spontaneous Palestinian uprising in Gaza Strip and West Bank aimed at ending Israeli occupation of the Occupied Territories, begins.</p> 
1993	 <p>The Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, which outlines a plan for exchanging land for peace between Israel and the PLO, is created in Oslo, Norway.</p>

Summary of Conference Groups

Student Handout 3.3C

Directions: Listed below are the groups participating in the conference on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For each, there is a summary of who they are and what type of political state they think should exist in the land of Israel/Palestine. Use this information to help you prepare for the conference.

Arab Israelis

Arab Israelis are Palestinian Arabs who are recognized citizens of the state of Israel. Their goal is to achieve the "full and equal citizenship" that was promised to them by the state of Israel after the 1948 war. However, they also support some form of independent Palestinian state.

Hamas

Hamas is a Palestinian resistance group that emerged from the 1987 Intifada. Hamas's members emerged from the Palestinian refugee camps in the Occupied Territories, particularly Gaza Strip. Their goal is to reclaim all of Palestine and to create an Islamic Palestinian state (a state ruled according to Islamic religious law). Hamas believes that this goal can be reached only through armed struggle with Israel, not through negotiation.

The Labor Party

The Labor Party is a predominantly Jewish Israeli political group. They are a Zionist group which believes in the establishment of a secular (nonreligious) Jewish state through the collective labor of the Jewish people and the use of military force only if necessary. Their goal is to maintain only one state, the Jewish state of Israel, but to allow for limited Palestinian self-rule in parts of the Occupied Territories.

The Likud Bloc

The Likud Bloc is an alliance of Jewish Israeli political groups. They are a Zionist group which believes in the establishment of a secular (nonreligious) Jewish state and the use of military force to achieve that end. They also advocate aggressive Jewish territorial expansion. Their goal is to maintain only one state, the Jewish state of Israel, and to encourage the Palestinians settled in the Occupied Territories to leave to make way for continued Jewish Israeli settlement.

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)

The PLO is the internationally recognized representative body of the Palestinians. The PLO's members emerged from the Palestinian refugee camps in the Occupied Territories and until 1988 supported armed struggle against Israel. The PLO's long-term goal is to create a secular (nonreligious) Palestinian state, but they have adopted a policy of negotiation with Israel and have temporarily agreed to Palestinian limited self-rule in parts of the Occupied Territories.

Palestinian Refugees

Palestinian refugees were driven from their homes after the expansion of the state of Israel after the 1948 war and the 1967 war. They live in camps and villages in the Occupied Territories and other Arab states, mostly in great poverty. The refugees' goal is to return to their homeland and to establish an independent Palestinian state, possibly on the site of the Occupied Territories.

Peace Now

Peace Now is a Jewish Israeli peace group formed in 1977 by army reserve officers. Peace Now's goal is for the state of Israel to compromise and exchange land for peaceful relations with Palestinians and other Arabs, with whom they often work in partnership. All members support Palestinian self-rule, and many support a fully independent Palestinian state located in the Occupied Territories.

Ultra-Orthodox

The Ultra-Orthodox are religiously observant Jews who do not recognize the state of Israel as a legitimate entity because it was created by humans and not by God and because the government is secular (nonreligious). Although primarily concerned with religious matters, many Ultra-Orthodox support Jewish reclaiming and settling of the land that once made up ancient, biblical Israel, which includes the Occupied Territories.