



Israel & Palestine





What do you know
about Israel and
Palestine?

How did you come
to know it?



Key Terms

- Judaism/Jewish
- Islam/Muslim
- Zionism
- Antisemitism
- Israel
- Palestine
- Arab

Background

- This isn't about Islam versus Judaism
- Territory and land after WWII



Israel's boundaries today

■ Palestinian civil control

■ Built-up Palestinian area



In 1994, Jordan became the second Arab state to recognise Israel, formalising its long border with the Jewish state in the process. While there has not yet been a peace treaty between Israel and Lebanon, the two countries' 1949 armistice line serves as Israel's de facto northern border, while Israel's border with Syria remains unsettled.

Similarly, Israel has had a de facto border with Gaza since it pulled its troops and settlers out in 2005, but Gaza and the West Bank are considered a single occupied entity by the UN, and the official borders have not yet been determined. The final status and contours of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem are meant to be decided in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians living there under Israeli occupation, but decades of on-off talks have so far proved fruitless.

Rafeef Ziadah
“We teach life, sir”



Students for Justice in Palestine

- Iraq War
- 2006



What's Happening Now? The Israel-Hamas War

- In early October 2023, war broke out between Israel and Hamas, the militant Islamist group that has controlled Gaza since 2006.
- Hamas fighters fired rockets into Israel and stormed southern Israeli cities and towns across the border of the Gaza strip, killing and injuring hundreds of soldiers and civilians and taking dozens of hostages.
- The attack took Israel by surprise, though the state quickly mounted a deadly retaliatory operation. One day after the October 7 attack, the Israeli cabinet formally declared war against Hamas, followed by a directive from the defense minister to the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) to carry out a “complete siege” of Gaza.
- Since then, the two sides have traded daily rocket fire, and Israel ordered more than one million Palestinian civilians in northern Gaza to evacuate ahead of a possible ground assault. Meanwhile, Gaza is running out of water, fuel, and supplies amid an Israeli aid blockade, and the conflict risks spreading as cross-border strikes escalate in Lebanon and Syria.

What's Happening Now?

The Israel-Hamas War

- Israel is air raiding Gaza—including schools, hospitals, water facilities and refugee camps
- Israel controls the electricity and movement into/out of Gaza
- Gaza death toll is at ~10,000
- Deadliest ever conflict for the UN—88 UN workers killed
- Ground invasion of Gaza by Israel—30 Israeli soldiers have been killed
- Ground invasion split Gaza in two, forcing civilians into southern Gaza where there is intense airstrikes and low supplies/resources



What's Happening Now?

The Israel-Hamas War

- More than 1.5 million people have been displaced in Gaza
- Israel says 1,400 people were killed in the Hamas attack, and 240 are still held hostage.
- International calls for a ceasefire
- U.S. is preparing \$14 billion in military aid to Israel



(2021)

- Since May 7: Airstrikes and rockets
 - Israel launches daily airstrikes

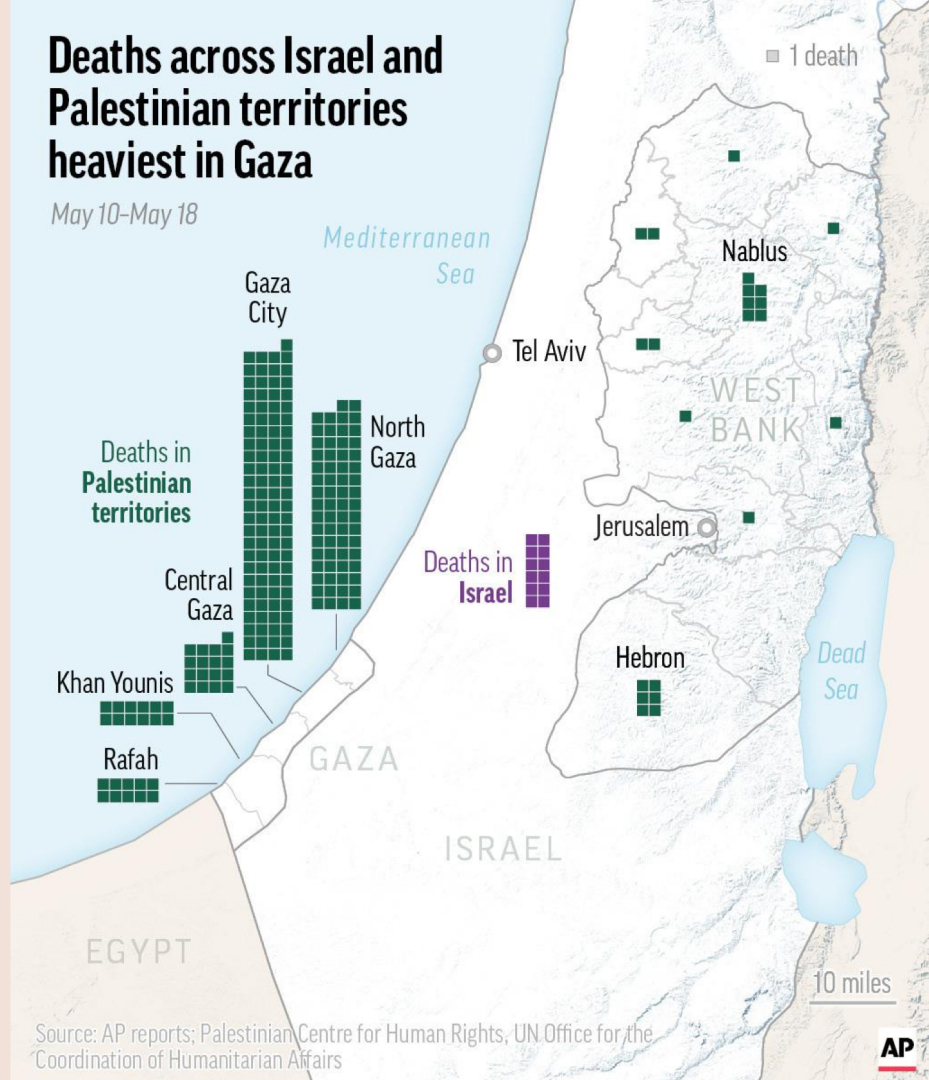
“At least 227 Palestinians have been killed, including 64 children and 38 women, with 1,620 people wounded...Some 58,000 Palestinians have fled their homes.

Twelve people in Israel, including a 5-year-old boy, a 16-year-old girl and a soldier, have been killed.”

Cease-fire called last night

Deaths across Israel and Palestinian territories heaviest in Gaza

May 10–May 18



What is the difference between *intifada* and Hamas?

Intifada: the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, beginning in 1987.

Hamas: Hamas is a Palestinian Sunni-Islamic fundamentalist organization and is the governing authority in the Gaza Strip

How are other countries involved? (2021)

- U.S. provides ~\$3.8 billion in military aid to Israel
- Funded the Iron Dome
- Biden administration approved a \$735 million military arms sale to Israel this week
- Why is the US unequivocal in its support for Israel?



The White House @WhiteHouse · May 15

United States government organization

The President also spoke with Palestinian Authority President Abbas and conveyed a commitment to strengthening the U.S.-Palestinian partnership. They discussed a shared desire for Jerusalem to be a place of peaceful coexistence for all faiths and backgrounds.

1.9K

2.3K

9.9K



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The White House @WhiteHouse · May 15

United States government organization

Today the President spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, reaffirmed his strong support for Israel's right to defend itself against rocket attacks from Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza, and condemned these indiscriminate attacks against Israel.



23.4K

25.5K

23.1K



Is there anything
regular people can
do? How will this be
solved?

Be mindful of your language (Jewish, Muslim, Zionism, etc.)

If you are critical of/opposed to Israel's actions, *be mindful of antisemitic views and language*

You can always be learning and even hold seemingly contrasting views (for example, being critical of Israel without condoning Hamas bombings)

Is there anything regular people can do? How will this be solved?

- A pro-Palestinian movement is known as BDS (Boycott, Divestments, and Sanctions)

“Inspired by the South African anti-apartheid struggle and the US civil rights movement, the nonviolent, **anti-racist** BDS movement was launched in 2005 by the **broadest coalition in Palestinian society**. It calls for ending Israel’s 1967 occupation, upholding the **right of Palestinian refugees to return** to their lands, and ending Israel’s institutionalized and **legalized system of racial domination**, which meets the **UN definition of apartheid**, as recently acknowledged by **Human Rights Watch**.”

From The Guardian

1. Be clear about what you mean when using labels:

- a. Jewish or Muslim refers to people all over the world who are part of a religious group
- b. Palestinian or Israeli are national identities
- c. Zionism is the belief in the right of the Jewish people to self-determination (and not all people who call themselves Zionist share the same opinion about the exact territory, principles, etc. of the state of Israel). 'Zionist' or 'Zio' should not be used as a term of abuse
- d. Arab is a grouping of people whose mother tongue is Arabic and there is great diversity across the Arab World (i.e. Jordan can't simply become Palestine just because they are Arabs)
- e. Islamism is an academic term with French origins that refers to a broad spectrum of political ideologies. Islamism is not a synonym for terrorism and should not be used as such

2. Do not hold Jews responsible for the decisions of the Israeli leaders, or Muslims responsible for the decisions of the Palestinian leaders
3. Do not demand that Jews or Muslims must take a certain political position on the issue
4. Do not assume that all Palestinians or Israelis support the actions of their governments/authorities.
5. Anti-Zionism is not always antisemitic (for example if someone is generally anti-nationalism and believes in abolishing nation-states), but it can be, for example if criticism of Israel goes beyond that of its government policies into using antisemitic tropes



Resource:

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/AboutUs/CivilSociety/ReportHC/75_The%20Louis%20D.%20Brandeis%20Center%20Fact%20Sheet%20Anti-Semitism.pdf

6. Do not state that Muslims should leave Palestine because they have the whole of the rest of the Middle East or that Israeli Jews should 'go back to where they came from'
7. Israel is not a conspiracy to take over the Middle East or the World, and Palestine is not a conspiracy to enforce a Caliphate on Israel/Europe/the World. These are two national identities who both want to exist in the same piece of land
8. Israel is not Nazi Germany. Palestine is not Daesh/ISIS.
9. Israelis and Palestinians are human beings, celebrating their suffering and death is not acceptable



10. Be sensitive towards people who are pro-Israel or pro-Palestine at this time - they may have friends/family involved in the situation, or Israel/Palestine may represent something important to them such as their own sense of struggle and oppression or a place of safety in times of persecution. Solidarity with one side or the other is not a crime, they can be pro-Israel/pro-Palestine and still be pro-solution





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