
Chronology of Major Events

- 1200 BCE** According to Jewish mythology, the ancient Israelites, led by Joshua, conquer part of the Land of Canaan, annihilating most of the local inhabitants of the country and establishing the territorial base for a semi-monotheistic religion and civilization as well as a tiny regional empire. This land later becomes known as Palestine, named by the Romans after the Philistines, who settled the coastal plain of the country in 1190 BC and were annihilated by King David in a series of bitter battles. In the modern day, some Palestinians are trying to construct a counter-myth referring to themselves as the remnant of the pre-conquest Philistine population.¹
- 1075 BCE** Following the collapse of the Assyrian world, power is supposedly built up under the reign of Kings David and Solomon. The inhabitants are forcefully deported and have ceased to exist as a recognizable group.
- 587 BCE** Nebuchadnezzar II destroys Jerusalem, the capital of Judea, sending a considerable part of the Judean population—mainly the elite and artisans—into Babylonian exile. In Babylon, the Judeans develop a desire to return. When Cyrus of Persia gains control over the ancient world, the Judeans return to Zion, a synonym for Jerusalem and the Land of Israel, and rebuild the second Temple of Yahweh in 550 BC.
- 168 BCE** The Judean polity rises again amid struggles between rival candidates for the Jerusalem priesthood and attempts to Hellenize the religious cult. A peasant revolt against the Jerusalem elite and their Seleucid

1. For the Hebrew Scriptures as mythology, see, T.L. Thompson. *The Mythic Past: Biblical Archaeology and the Myth of Israel* (London: Random House Basic, 1999).

patrons takes place. The military leader of the revolt, Judah the Maccabee, turns the revolt into a guerrilla civil war, which the Judeans eventually win. His clan takes over the Jerusalem priesthood and, in alliance with the Roman Empire, conquer large territories, converting their populations to Judaism. Quarrels among the Maccabean dynasty lead Rome to crown the Idumaeen Herod as King of Judea.

66–135 CE A series of Judean rebellions against the Hellenistic and Roman rulers occur, and the Romans destroy the Second Temple. In 135, the Jewish elites are again exiled, effectively destroying the Jewish polity; the Romans then divide the territory, renaming it as Philistine Prima (Primary Palestine) and Philistine Seconda (Secondary Palestine). Christianity separates itself from Judaism and spreads among the Roman underclass and slave populations. By 391 CE, Christianity has survived countless persecutions to become the dominant religion of the Roman Empire.

70–200 Judaism itself undergoes a major transformation when Rabbi Yohanan Ben Zakai establish a new center in the Judean town of Yavneh, redefining Judaism as a religion as opposed to the previous proto-nationalist orientations. Over the next 130 years, Rabbi Judah and his successors develop the Mishnah, codifying Jewish religious law in the Greco-Roman Diaspora.

500 The Babylonian Talmud, the written codification of Jewish oral law by the Sages of Babylon, is compiled into one body of knowledge dealing with all aspects of behavior required of Jews; its style is influenced by the Platonic dialogues. The Talmud is composed of parts of the Mishnah and the Babylonian Gemara. It is a synopsis of more than three hundred years of analysis of the Mishnah in the Babylonian academies. Tradition ascribes the initial editing of the Babylonian Talmud to two Babylonian sages, Rav Ashi and Ravina. Sages in academies—mainly Tiberias and Caesaria—did a similar project, but the Jerusalemian Talmud is considered inferior.

620 According to Muslim mythology, in one night, Muhammad travels from Mecca to “the furthest mosque,” identified as the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, the site of the Dome of the Rock, from which Muhammad ascended into heaven.

630–4 (cir.) In the deserts of Arabia, a new culture and religion, Islam, comes into being when a military leader named Muhammad defeats the city of Mecca at the battle of Badr (630 CE). Muhammad establishes Mecca as the center of the new religion, with himself as prophet. His successors, the Khalifs Abu Bakr and Umar, conquer the Fertile Crescent.

- 635–37 The Arab tribes capture Jerusalem from the Byzantines, making the province of Palestina Prima into a military district (*jund*) of Filastin; Arabization and Islamization of the region.
- 641 Arabs conquer Byzantine Egypt.
- 661 Muawiya, the founder of Umayyad dynasty, proclaims himself caliph in Jerusalem but rules from Damascus, his capital.
- 685–705 Caliph Abd al-Malik builds the Dome of the Rock to emphasize the holiness of the city, in opposition to his rival who controls Mecca and Medina.
- 705–715 His son Walid builds the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.
- 711–1492 Moslem conquest of the Iberian peninsula (al Andalus); establishment of the Caliphate of Córdoba and its successor kingdoms, and creation of a great and tolerant Islamic culture, developing poetry, philosophy, mathematics, medicine, architecture, astronomy, etc. Jews are full partners (as a privileged minority, *dhimmi*) in developing an Arab-Jewish culture; the period is known in Jewish historiography as The Golden Age.
- 715–717 Suleiman, the seventh Umayyad Caliph, builds Ramleh as his residence.
- 1095 The famous scholar Abu Hamid al-Ghazali, from Nizamiyya Academy of Baghdad, resides in Jerusalem, where he begins work on his volume *The Revivification of the Science of Religion*, one of the major works of Islamic theology.
- 1099–1187 Crusaders invade Palestine and establish the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem; major massacres of the Arab and Jewish populations of the territory.
- 1187 Salah al-Din (Saladin) reconquers Jerusalem and creates a new Islamic dynasty; the Ayubidis rule over a part of the region.
- 1236 Iberia is gradually regained by Christians fighting from northern regions of Spain (the Reconquista); the last Islamic stronghold of Granada falls to the Christian forces of Ferdinand III of Castile.
- 1260 In the battle of Ayn Jalut (Nazareth) the Egyptian-based Mamluks defeat the Mongol hordes of Hulagu (the grandson of Genghis Khan) and overcome the remaining Crusader fortifications.
- 1260–1515 The region is under the rule of the Mamluk military caste and its sultans after it deposes the Ayubid dynasty.
- June 1492 Partial cleaning of Spain and Portugal from non-Christian inhabitants; expulsion or forced conversion to Christianity of hundreds

of thousands of Muslim Moors and Jews and their spread all over the known world, mainly among Muslim lands; appearance of the Spaniard Jewish (Sephardic) subculture.

1515–1917 During the rule of Suleiman the Magnificent (1520–1566), the old city of Jerusalem is walled. With some interruptions, the country is incorporated into Turkish Ottoman rule.

1665 A self-appointed messiah named Shabbtai Zvi appears and provokes mass hysteria among hundreds of thousands of Jews, from the territories of the Ottoman Empire to Poland and Eastern Europe and even to many parts of Western Europe, by proclaiming the Day of Redemption to be June 18, 1666. Despite the opposition of most prominent rabbis, the Jews are ready to march as a mighty army and restore the godly kingdom of David on earth. Eventually, the Ottomans interpret the millenarian movement as a rebellion and put the messiah in jail, where he converts to Islam.

1798 Napoleonic campaign in Egypt; battle of the Nile.

1799 Ahmad al-Jazzar, the governor of Acre, turns back the French army, gaining control over most of Palestine.

1808 Muslim revolt in Jerusalem against the Ottoman governor; more power for local families.

1826 Second rebellion of the Jerusalem Muslims; Christians and Jews attacked.

1830 Ibrahim Pasha, the Ottoman governor, gains considerable control and autonomy over the country.

1831–40 Egyptian conquest of the region, including Palestine, and its incorporation into the Egyptian state.

1834 Major revolt of the region against the Egyptians, focused mainly in Palestine.

1839 Proclamation of a program of reorganization in the Ottoman Empire.

1854–56 Crimean War.

1856 Reform in the Ottoman Empire with a more detailed statement than in 1839, followed by land tenure changes.

1860–61 Intercommunal rifts in Lebanon and Syria.

1861–65 Civil War in the United States.

1863 Creation of the municipality of Jerusalem under Ottoman law, first nucleus of modern local government.

1868–75 Ottoman civil code adopted.

1876 Ottoman Constitution.

- 1881–82 Pogroms in Eastern Europe against the Jews; Arab revolt in Egypt; British occupation of Egypt.
- 1882–1904 First wave of modern Jewish settlers immigrate to Palestine.
- 1878 Establishment of Petah Tikvah, the first Jewish modern colony in Palestine.
- 1891 Ahad Ha'am (Asher Ginzberg) publishes his article "Truth from Eretz Israel [Palestine]," warning his fellow Jews of the danger of ignoring Arabs' feelings in Palestine.
- 1892 Establishment of Palestinian branches of Credit Lyonnais in Jaffa and Jerusalem.
- 1897 First Zionist Congress launches the Basel Program to resettle the Jewish people in Palestine and establish the World Zionist Organization.
- 1899–1902 Arab-Jewish tension following large Jewish land purchases in the Tiberias region.
- 1904-14 Second wave of Jewish immigration; Jews demand exclusive use of Jewish labor in Jewish colonies and in Zionist-funded enterprises.
- 1905 Nagib Azouri publishes his *Le reveil de la nation arabe*, envisioning the conflict between the Arab and Jewish major national movements in the Middle East.
- 1907 Yitzhak Epstein, a Hebrew teacher from Galilee, publishes an essay in *Shiload* warning the Zionist settlers that uprooting Arab tenants from the land will cause hatred against the colonization and promote the crystallization of a common Arab consciousness that will turn against the Jewish settlement.
- 1908 Appearance of the first Palestinian newspaper in Haifa, *al-Karmil*, with the major aim of fighting against land transfers from Arab to Jewish ownership. Young Turks revolution in Istanbul. Palestinian delegates, elected to the Ottoman parliament, warn against the Judification of the country, frequent tension between Arabs and Jews.
- 1911 *Filastin*, a large Arabic newspaper, is launched in Jaffa.
- 1914 World War I breaks out.
- 1915–16 Correspondence between the British high commissioner in Egypt (Henry McMahon) and Sharif Hussein of Mecca leads to agreement between the British and the Arabs on establishing an Arab kingdom in the Middle East in exchange for an Arab military revolt against the Ottomans; the Arabs believe that the Arab kingdom includes Palestine.
- 1916 Secret Anglo-French agreement to divide Ottoman Middle East provinces (Sykes-Picot agreement).

- June 1916** Hussein proclaims Arab independence and revolts against the Ottomans.
- 1917** Ottoman forces in Jerusalem surrender to British forces. The Balfour Declaration: Britain support for establishment of a “Jewish national home” in Palestine.
- 1918** All of Palestine occupied by British forces. End of World War I; Treaty of Versailles and League of Nations Covenant approved; General Arab (Syrian) Congress held in Damascus, including prominent Palestinians, rejects the Balfour Declaration and considers Palestine part of southern Syria.
- 1919** Arab Literary Club and Arab Club founded to propagate Arab nationalism. British appoint Kamil al-Husseini as Grand Mufti of Jerusalem. A new Muslim hierarchy emerges in Istanbul.
- 1919–20** Muslim-Christian associations formed countrywide, protesting against the Balfour Declaration and claiming Palestine as part of Syria.
- 1920** As part of Arab unrest in Syria against the French, Arab rebels attack two Jewish settlements in northern Palestine. Faysal proclaims the independence of Greater Syria and himself as king; the revolt is suppressed by French troops. Faysal’s proclamation excites the Arab population of Palestine; riots in Jerusalem and Jaffa following the Nabi Musa festival; some notables arrested by the British; Amin al-Husseini’s flight; Musa Kazim al-Husseini, the mayor of Jerusalem, replaced by Raghīb al-Nashshibi.

First Palestinian National Congress meets in Haifa, constituted from delegates from Muslim-Christian associations and other notables; the congress nominates the Arab Executive Committee, which is perceived (and recognized *de facto*) by the British as the political leadership and representative of the Arab community in Palestine until 1935; the Congress demands independence as well as an immediate halt to Jewish immigration and land acquisition.

- San Remo Peace Conference assigns Britain the mandate over Palestine
- 1921** Riots in Jaffa; Arabs kill forty-six Jews; a British commission of inquiry attributes the disturbances to Arab anxiety about increasing Jewish immigration. Amin al-Husseini is appointed Mufti of Jerusalem and pardoned by High Commissioner Herbert Samuel.
- 1922** Creation of the Supreme Muslim Council to fill the vacuum left by the end of Islamic Ottoman rule; Amin al-Husseini elected president of the Council. Britain issues a White Paper emphasizing that only a part

- of Palestine is considered to be the Jewish national home, excluding East Palestine (Transjordan) from the Mandate.
- 1925 Establishment of Palestinian Workers' Society (PAWS) as a moderate trade union movement led by Sami Taha.
- 1927 Municipal elections end in a resounding Nashashibi-led opposition victory.
- 1929 Countrywide riots against Jews, including the massacre of many members of the old non-Zionist community of Hebron, following fears and rumors of Jewish intentions to gain control over the Western Wall; Arab Women's Congress in Jerusalem adopts strong nationalist positions.
- 1930 The Arab Bank established by the Abd al-Hamid Shuman family, competing with Barclays.
- 1931 Pan-Islamic Congress held in Jerusalem, attended by 145 delegates from the Muslim world, reinforces Amin al-Husseini's position as an Islamic leader.
- 1932–36 Waves of middle class, persecuted Jewish immigrants from Germany and Poland change the social and economic fabric of Jewish Palestine.
- 1932 National Congress of Arab Youth convened in Jaffa; anti-British riots provoked by Arab nationalist groups.
- Formation of the first modern Palestinian political party, the Istiqlal ("Independence"); strong pan-Islamic ideology and revival of the idea of Palestine as a natural part of southern Syria; creation of additional quasi-parties: Palestine Arab party (Husseinis), National Defense party (the opposition, or the Nashashibis), and Reform party (Khalidis).
- 1933 Establishment of the Arab Agricultural Bank to grant loans to *fellaheen*. Starting in the 1940s, it is called the Bank of the Arab Nation.

Meetings of some Palestinian leaders—Musa Alami, Awni Abd al-Hadi, and George Antonius—with the just-appointed chair of the Jewish Agency, David Ben-Gurion, in an attempt to find some accommodation between the contrasting demands of the two national movements; no understanding achieved. Arab Executive Committee declares a general strike and mass demonstrations are held in the major cities; the protest is directed solely against British rule, demanding independence, immediate halt of Jewish immigration and land acquisition, and establishment of a local government based on proportional representation. British police and troops suppress the protest movement.

1935 Sheikh Izz al-Din al-Qassam, leader of a small Islamic guerrilla group and considered to be the first Palestinian *shahid*, or martyr, killed by British forces.

1936 Following minor clashes with Jews, Palestinian national committees are established in all towns and some villages; the Jerusalem committee adopts the slogan “No taxation without representation.” Some local leaders call for a general strike, forcefully implemented by the mob. All Arab political parties and organizations merged into the Arab Higher Committee, led by Amin al-Husseini; waves of violence; the British lose control over the country despite reinforcements, and the Great Arab Revolt breaks out.

A Syrian officer, Fawzi al-Qa’ujji, enters Palestine, leading volunteers from Arab countries to conduct guerrilla warfare against the British.

The Arab 175-day general strike exhausts the Arab economy. A general strike occurs in Syria against French rule; the French promise to consider granting independence.

1937 The 175-days Palestinian general strike ends with the appointment of a Royal Committee of Inquiry known as the Peel Commission. Different British inquiry commissions have made several inquiries since British rule over Palestine was established, particularly after riots. Most of the commissions found Jewish land purchases and immigration to be the major reason for Arab unrest. After each report was published, new regulations and laws were issued to restrict the purchase of land and to limit immigration to the absorption capacity of the country, usually quantified by the rate of unemployment. The Peel Commission goes further by recommending partition of the territory between the Arabs and Jews and the establishment of a Jewish state, an Arab state, linked with the Transjordan Emirate, and an international enclave, a corridor between Jaffa and Jerusalem that includes Bethlehem. Both the Arabs and the Jews reject the partition proposal.

1938 Insurgence and counterinsurgence escalate; thousands of *fellaheen* join guerrilla rebel forces; Amin al-Husseini establishes the Central Committee of the National Jihad and the Council of Rebellion in Damascus.

Rural rebels control most of the inland towns, such as Nablus, Hebron, Ramallah, Tiberias, Beersheba, and even parts of Jaffa and the walled portion of Jerusalem; well-to-do families leave Palestine; Palestinian counterinsurgence groups fight the rebels; civil war breaks out among the Arabs.

British military rule over the country; reinforcements from Britain; military pressure on the hilly regions; recapture of the Arab Old City of Jerusalem by British troops; guerrilla groups disbanded and leadership killed or captured. Close cooperation between the Haganah, the mainstream Jewish paramilitary organization, and British forces; Colonel Charles Wingate trains and leads joint counterinsurgency units. Arab opposition leaders organize and fund so-called peace bands, fighting against rebel groups and defending villages and neighborhoods.

The Partition (Woodhead) Commission declares the Peel Commission partition proposal to be “impractical”; proposes an Arab-Jewish-British conference to solve the problem of Palestine; deported Palestinian leaders released.

1939 London Conference convened; talks end without agreement. Malcolm MacDonald, colonial secretary of state, launches a new British policy for Palestine (1939 White Paper): after ten years of a transitional period, an independent, unitary (i.e., Arab-ruled) Palestinian state, annual Jewish immigration of 15,000, and heavy restrictions on Jewish land purchases; de facto withdrawal from Balfour Declaration. The House of Commons approves the new policy.

George Antonius publishes *The Arab Awakening*, the first comprehensive history of the Arab nationalist movement.

World War II breaks out.

1940 Publication of land transfer regulations, restricting official Jewish purchases; de facto sales continue.

1941 Economic prosperity; establishment of the Congress of Workers and Union of Section of Arab Workers, both unions under communist influence.

Formation of Jewish military shock units (Palmach).

German invasion of Soviet Union; British troops sent to overthrow pro-German regime in Iraq, with assistance of Jewish units.

The United States enters World War II.

1942 Following a Nablus conference, the Palestinian Worker Society splits; formation of communist-led Federation of Arab Trade Unions.

Ben-Gurion declares the policy of prompt creation of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine; awareness of the scope of the Nazi Holocaust.

1944 Revival of Arab National Fund; new board of directors, replacing Amin al-Husseini’s supporters.

Etzel declares an anti-colonial revolt against Britain.

1945 End of World War II; millions of uprooted people, among them hundreds of thousands of Jewish survivors of the Holocaust; Jewish leadership begins a policy of sending ships to Palestine with unauthorized immigrants. Declaration of the “Jewish Revolt” against British by the mainstream paramilitary Haganah; negotiations with other Jewish underground organizations on coordination among them.

Formation of the Arab League. Reconstitution of the Arab (Palestine) Higher Committee. Najjada, a Palestinian paramilitary organization, founded in Jaffa.

New statement of policy (White Paper of 1945) launched by British Foreign Secretary E. Bevin; more restrictions on Jewish immigration; proposal to set up Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry.

1946 Jamal al-Husseini, allowed to return to Palestine, takes control of a reorganized Arab Higher Committee. Amin al-Husseini arrives in Egypt to try to regain control over Palestinians; new attempt at unity by creating an Arab Higher Executive. Transjordan gains independence from Britain.

Full-scale Jewish underground operations, mainly against British targets and infrastructure (railroads and bridges); Etzel blows up the British administration headquarters in a wing of Jerusalem’s King David Hotel.

The Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry recommends the immediate entry of 150,000 Jewish immigrants and abolition of the 1940 Land Transfer Regulations.

1946–47 London Conference: Britain submits an autonomy plan based on dividing the country into provinces; first round attended only by Arab states; second round includes participation of Palestinian and Jewish delegations. Arabs demand a unitary state, and conference ends without results.

1947 Prime Minister Bevin submits the problem of Palestine to the United Nations; UN special commission (UNSCOP) appointed and sent to Palestine. In UNSCOP report, a majority recommend partition, a minority recommend a federation.

Organization of a second Palestinian paramilitary organization, the Futuwwa, under the control of Jamal al-Husseini. Arab League meeting in Aley (Lebanon) reaffirms Bludan resolution to use oil as a weapon in the struggle over Palestine.

November 29: The Palestinians and the Arab states reject partition; the Zionists accept.

1948 UN General Assembly adopts Resolution 181, recommending the establishment of Jewish and Arab states in Palestine and the internationalization of the Jerusalem-Bethlehem area.

Arab Higher Committee declares a general strike; full-scale intercommunal war breaks out in Palestine. Abd al-Qadir al-Husseini returns to the country and proclaims himself the chief commander of Palestinian forces. Arab League calls for volunteers for an Arab Liberation Army (ALA) under the command of Fawzi al-Qa'ujji. Brigades of ALA irregulars arrive in North Palestine in January; selective abandonment by middle- and upper-class members from the large cities, and flight from the villages captured by Jewish forces in the coastal plain.

Political Committee of Arab League rejects all of Amin al-Husseini's demands and declares that the Arab Higher Committee does not represent the Palestinian people; all funds allocated to the League's Palestinian Council.

Fawzi al-Qa'ujji establishes his headquarters in central Palestine; ALA irregulars arrive in Jaffa; significant successes for the Arab irregulars; the main roads of the country are blocked; Yehiam, Gush Etzion, Hulda, and Nebi Daniel Jewish convoys destroyed; Jewish Jerusalem under siege.

March: Jewish military forces facing the ALA in the north succeed, capturing and demolishing Arab villages on the coastal plain, including Abu Kabir and Jabalya; Plan D adopted, allowing for securing Jewish settlements and the roads to them even beyond the territories allocated for the Jewish state and destroying Arab localities and expelling their inhabitants if necessary for security reasons.

April: Abd al-Qadir al-Husseini is killed in a counterattack by Jewish forces on the strategic village of Castel, dominating the way to Jerusalem; major demoralization among Palestinian irregulars; massacre in the village of Deir Yassin, about 120 villagers killed; Palestinian leadership tries to halt the flight; Arab Higher Committee calls on Palestinian Arabs not to leave. Battle for Jaffa continues; an ALA unit reinforces its defenders; all Arab neighborhoods of West Jerusalem are captured by Jewish forces and their inhabitants driven out.

Qa'ujji withdraws from Mishmar Haemek; Jewish forces take over Tiberias, Haifa, and additional villages; Arab population flees or is expelled; Jaffa under siege; a Jewish convoy to the Mount Scopus campus of Hebrew University is massacred.

Mass demonstrations in Damascus, Baghdad, Cairo, and Tripoli calling to save the Palestinian brethren; pogroms in local Jewish communities; Arab League committee meets to discuss the ALA failures and the Deir Yassin events.

April: Lebanon and Syria announce their intentions to send troops to Palestine; Iraq concentrates troops in Transjordan.

May: Jewish forces capture Safed and its rural hinterland; Jaffa surrenders and the majority of its Muslim population leaves; the remaining Jewish settlements of Etzion bloc in the mountainous region surrender to the Arab Legion.

May 15: End of the British Mandate. The state of Israel is proclaimed; Egyptian regular forces cross the border into Palestine, Arab Legion (Transjordanian) forces cross the Jordan River westward; Syrian troops move to cross the border; the 1948 war breaks out.

The Soviet Union and the United States recognize Israel; creation of the Israel Defense Forces, unifying various militias.

May–June: Major battles between advancing Arab armed forces and Israeli forces; most Arab villages are evacuated following force movements; Israeli decision prevents Arabs from returning to evacuated villages; formation of refugee camps in Gaza, territories controlled by the Arab Legion and Lebanon.

The All Palestine Government, with a temporary site in Gaza, is established by Amin al-Husseini.

July: End of first truce; major Israeli offensive on three fronts, mainly to clear the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem road including the Lydda-Ramleh region; this action leads to a new wave of about 100,000 Palestinians fleeing to territories held by Arab Legion, ALA, and Egypt; a portion of the Palestinians are evacuated by force.

September: Lausanne peace talks fail, mainly due to Israel's refusal to repatriate the Palestinian refugees. The Jericho Conference in November calls on Abdullah to annex the West Bank to Transjordan.

Continuing battles and expulsion of Arabs from the conquered territories by Israeli armed forces; remaining Arab population is moved from one place to another according to perceived security requirements.

December: UN General Assembly Resolution 194(III) recognizes the right of the Palestinian refugees to return "and live at peace with their neighbors."

1948–52 The Jewish population of Israel doubles by mass immigration of Holocaust survivors and immigrants from Muslim countries; severe eco-

conomic conditions prevail; distribution of minimal food, housing and labor for the needy Jewish population.

1949 Armistice agreements between Israel and Lebanon, Transjordan, and Syria are signed; Israel holds about 80 percent of the total territories of Western Palestine; the eastern mountain area (the West Bank) is under Transjordanian rule; the Gaza Strip is under Egyptian occupation.

The UN partition has granted the Jewish state 5,405 square miles, yet the territory that remains under Israel's control after the armistice agreements in 1949 is 8,108 square miles.

1949–56 Constant infiltration of Palestinians across the armistice lines causes casualties and unrest in Israel, which adopts a policy of retaliating against the Arab states and the “sources of infiltration”; military clashes along the armistice lines.

1950 Military government imposed on most Israeli Arabs; in April, the West Bank is formally annexed to Jordan; the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) begins operations.

1951 Yasir Arafat reorganizes the Palestinian Students' Union in Cairo. Nationalization of oil in Iran.

George Habash organizes the Arab Nationalists' Movement, with a leftist pan-Arabist ideology; its Palestinian branch will develop into the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), initiating sabotage activities against Arab and imperialist targets.

King Abdallah of Jordan killed at prayer in al-Aqsa mosque by a Palestinian nationalist.

1952 The Arab League dissolves the All Palestine Government and empowers the Arab states to represent the Palestinian cause.

Free Officers coup in Cairo; end of monarchy.

1955 Alliance among Iraq, Pakistan, and Turkey (Baghdad Pact) links them to Britain and the Western bloc.

1956 Forty-seven Israeli Arabs massacred in Kafr Qasim village after violating curfew.

Nationalization of Suez Canal; Israel conquers Gaza Strip and most of Sinai Desert; Anglo-French intervention.

1957 Most of the Arab members of the Israeli Communist party (MAKI) split away, forming the almost purely Arab Communist list (RAKAH).

Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai Desert and Gaza Strip.

1958 Formation of Egyptian-Syrian federation, creating the United Arab Republic, arouses pan-Arab sentiment.

1959 Fatah is created by Arafat and associates; al-Ard group starts to publish an Arab nationalist periodical in Israel. In Lebanon, Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) issues the clandestine Fatah magazine *Filastinuna*; the Arab Higher Committee and Amin al-Husseini are forced to move from Egypt to Lebanon.

Muammar Qaddafi overthrows the monarchy in Libya.

1962 Civil war in Yemen removes the monarchy; Egypt backs the republicans, sending a military expedition.

1964 Israeli authorities outlaw Al-Ard after an attempt to establish it as an Arab nationalist party in Israel.

January: The first Arab summit in Cairo concludes with a statement about the need to “organize the Palestinian people enabling them to play their role in the liberation of their country and to achieve self-determination.”

May: The First Palestinian National Council (PNC) convenes in Jerusalem, chaired by Ahmad Shukayri; it adopts the Palestine National Charter as the Basic Constitution of the Palestine Liberation Organization. A Palestine Liberation Army is also planned.

1965 January: Fatah launches its armed struggle to liberate Palestine; Communiqué No. 1 of al-Assifa, its military branch, is issued.

1966 Abolition of the military government that had ruled Israeli Arabs.

1967 May 16: Nasser orders United Nations Emergency Forces (UNEF) stationed on the Egyptian-Israeli border to withdraw, removing the international buffer between Egypt and Israel that has existed since 1957.

May 22: Egypt announces a blockade of all goods bound to and from Israel through the Straits of Tiran. Israel has maintained since 1957 that such a blockade justifies Israeli military action to maintain free access to the port of Eilat, supplying Israel a pretext to attack Egyptian forces.

June 5: Israel’s (preemptive) surprise attack conquers the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip. Despite an Israeli appeal to Jordan to stay out of the conflict, Jordan attacks Israel and loses control of the West Bank and the eastern sector of Jerusalem. Israel also captures the Golan Heights region from Syria.

Following Israel’s victory in the June war, the entire territory of the former Palestine Mandate comes under Israeli control, including about 650,000 Palestinians of the West Bank and East Jerusalem and 356,000 in the Gaza Strip; East Jerusalem is annexed to Israel. The rest of the captured territories, including the Golan Heights and Sinai Desert, are put under military administration.

August: Arab states leaders' summit in Khartoum rejects any negotiations with Israel.

Arafat attempts to establish his headquarters inside the occupied territories, trying to provoke and lead a popular uprising; by the end of December, his entire network is destroyed by Israeli intelligence and Arafat has left the territories.

September–November: Teachers and students strike against Israeli occupation in the West Bank; first general strike in Nablus.

George Habash's group joins other small guerrilla organizations to form the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

1968 March: Fatah fighters, supported by Jordanian artillery, repel an Israeli attack on Fatah headquarters at Karamah (in the Jordan Valley). At the fourth session of PNC in July, the guerrilla groups led by Fatah take over the PLO, which becomes an umbrella organization of different streams with Fatah predominating; the National Covenant is revised; an Israeli civilian airliner is hijacked by the PFLP and lands in Algiers.

1969 Naif Hawatma splits from the PFLP and founds the pro-Maoist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). At the fifth session of the PNC in February, Arafat is nominated to chair the ruling Executive Committee (EC). The Cairo Agreement between Arafat and Emile Bustani, the Lebanese Army commander, permits "regulated guerrilla activities" in Lebanon; this agreement will be the basis of the state-in-a-state infrastructure that the PLO builds in Lebanon.

1969–71 Demonstrations against Israeli rule in all major West Bank cities; sporadic Palestinian uprisings and guerrilla activities in the Gaza Strip.

1970 The PFLP initiates a multiple hijacking; planes land in the desert area of Zarqa in Jordan and are blown up.

Jordan armed forces begin to destroy the infrastructure of the guerrilla forces around Amman and the refugee camps; civil war erupts between Palestinians and Jordanian troops; the guerrilla forces are defeated in what comes to be known as Black September, and their headquarters are moved to Lebanon.

1971 Israeli security forces under the command of Ariel Sharon pacify the Gaza Strip.

Assassination of Washi Tal, Jordanian premier and minister of defense; it is the first operation of Fatah-led organization Black September, under the command of Ali Hasan Salamah and Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad).

1972 The Japanese Red Army guerrilla group, in coordination with Wadi Haddad, PFLP's chief of operations, hits Ben-Gurion Airport (Operation Deir Yassin); Black September takes the Israeli Olympic team hostage in Munich; most of the hostages and terrorists are killed during an abortive attempt by German police to rescue the athletes.

1973 April: Israelis launch a commando action against Fatah headquarters in Beirut, killing several Fatah commanders.

Formation in the West Bank of the Palestine National Front, controlled by the Communist party, challenging the outside PLO leadership.

The October War begins with a surprise Egyptian-Syrian attack on Israel; Henry Kissinger brokers separation of forces agreements to prepare for a Geneva peace conference.

1974 Arab Summit recognizes the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; Arafat speaks to the UN General Assembly in New York.

July: the twelfth PNC adopts the idea of establishing "a Palestinian national authority in any area liberated from Israeli control," the so-called mini-state option; George Habash (PFLP) resigns from the PLO Executive Committee, establishing the Rejectionist Front, a pro-Syrian guerrilla organization; faced with the possibility of Palestinian participation in the Geneva Peace Conference, the Rejectionist Front is enlarged to include the PFLP-GC, the Iraqi-backed Arab Liberation Front, and other small guerrilla groups.

Creation of the Committee of the Heads of Arab Local Councils, which becomes the Supreme Follow-Up Committee and acts as the leadership and representatives of the Israeli Arabs.

1975–91 Civil war in Lebanon with PLO participation; Syrian intervention in the civil war leads to gradual Syrian control over Lebanon, except for a small security zone in southern Lebanon dominated by Israel.

1976 Municipal elections in the West Bank lead to PLO supporters being swept into office (Bassam al-Shaka in Nablus, Fahd Qawasma in Hebron, Karim Khalaf in Ramallah, Ibrahim Tawil in al-Bira); the elected mayors and other prominent figures form a nucleus of an internal leadership, the National Guidance Committee.

March 30: The first Land Day includes a general strike and protests of Israeli Arabs against land expropriations; six Arabs are killed. In 1992, it is declared a national holiday.

Christian right-wing militias in Lebanon, supported by Syria, enforce a siege on Tal al-Zaatar, a Palestinian refugee camp; the siege ends with a massacre of the camp inhabitants.

1977 Abu Abbas splits from PFLP-GC and forms the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF).

The nationalist right-wing party Likud comes to power in Israel; settlement of the occupied territories by Jews accelerates.

Formation of the radical nationalist group Sons of the Village among Israeli Arabs.

President Sadat of Egypt visits Jerusalem and speaks before the Knesset.

Israeli-Fatah (Habib) agreement on a ceasefire along the Lebanon-Israel border.

Camp David Egyptian-Israeli peace accords signed; Israel recognizes the “legitimate rights of the Palestinians” and commits to granting them “full autonomy” after a transitional period of five years; Israel also commits to withdrawal from the Sinai Desert in exchange for peace with Egypt.

Menahem Milson appointed as civilian administrator of the West Bank; tries to establish a local counterbalance to the PLO by forming the Village Leagues, armed groups headed by Mustafa Doudeen.

Revolution in Iran; a radical Shiite Muslim regime is established, promoting militant Islam throughout the Islamic world.

1982 The Palestinian National Guidance Committee is outlawed; general strike and mass demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

June: Israeli troops invade Lebanon in collaboration with the Maronite-Christian forces; Israel’s major aim is to destroy the PLO’s quasi-state infrastructure. It is the first large-scale Israeli-Palestinian war since 1948, with heavy battles and casualties on all sides; West Beirut comes under siege and bombardment

August: the PLO evacuates its forces and headquarters from Beirut to Tripoli, with its fighters carrying only their personal arms; new headquarters established in Tunis.

Bashir Gemayel elected president of Lebanon; twenty-two days later, he is killed by an explosive planted by Syrian agents.

September: Christian-Maronite militias, under Israeli protection, massacre Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps.

1984 Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip increase to about 80,000 settlers.

1985 King Hussein and Arafat sign the Amman Agreement on a confederation between a future Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jordan; after a year, King Hussein voids the agreement.

1987 December 9: a general popular uprising, the intifada, breaks out in the Gaza Strip and spreads to the West Bank; popular committees and a unified leadership of the revolt form inside the territories; their directives are ratified by the outside PLO and are spread mainly by leaflets; power shifts toward inside leadership.

1988 April: Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), the military commandant of Fatah and one of its founders, is assassinated by an Israeli commando unit led by Ehud Barak.

November: The nineteenth session of the PNC convenes in Algiers and declares an independent Palestinian state; following heavy pressure from the United States, which holds out the possibility of recognition and a dialogue with the PLO, Arafat declares in Geneva that the PLO recognizes the rights of all parties concerned in the Middle East conflict to exist in peace and security, including the state of Palestine, Israel, and other neighbors; Arafat denounces terrorism, and the United States opens dialogue.

1988 The Islamic Movement wins the municipal election in the Israeli Arab town of Umm al-Fahm.

1989 When Arafat refuses to condemn a terrorist attack by a PLO constituent organization, the United States suspends dialogue with the PLO.

1990 December: Seventeen Palestinians are killed and nearly two hundred wounded after jittery Israeli security forces open fire near al-Aqsa mosque.

Iraq invades Kuwait; the United States creates a multinational force.

1991 January: Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) is assassinated, probably by the Abu Nidal organization, perhaps at the behest of Iraq.

Massive Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union to Israel.

The intifada turns inward as collaborators and other suspects are killed by Palestinian shock troops or individuals; vigilante activities on the part of Jewish settlers.

The U.S.-led force defeats Iraq in the Gulf War; the PLO is hurt diplomatically by its support of Iraq; the Palestinian community in Kuwait of over 300,000 is reduced to several thousand and is badly persecuted.

November: Peace talks begin in Madrid (continued later in Washington) between Israel and Arab delegations, including Palestinians from the occupied territories as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation; the

peace talks are the product of U.S. diplomatic efforts and are held under the auspices of the United States and Russia.

1992 December 22: In response to the killing of a border policeman, Israel carries out an executive order to expel 415 suspected Hamas activists to Lebanon. The deportees remain near the Israeli border in difficult winter conditions after the government of Lebanon refuses to accept them. Both the deportation itself and the condition of those expelled cause an international uproar.

The Labor party returns to power in Israel, promising to implement Palestinian autonomy within a year.

Deportations lead to a rise in Palestinian support for the Islamic groups in the occupied territories, with a corresponding drop in support for the PLO.

Emil Habibi wins the prestigious Israel Prize for literature.

Secret negotiations between Palestinian and Israeli officials in Norway.

January 20: Informal talks under Norwegian sponsorship begin between Israeli academics and mid-level PLO representatives, with the aim of exploring possibilities for reconciliation between the Palestinians and Israelis.

Israeli foreign ministry officials join the talks in Norway. As the possibility of interim arrangements grows, the Israeli foreign minister and prime minister, along with top Fatah leaders, become involved indirectly by supervising the talks.

A declaration of principles (DOP) is drafted; the DOP includes Israel's recognition of the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the agreement to grant full autonomy to the Palestinians under PLO leadership for five years, starting in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The final status of the autonomous entity will be negotiated later. Palestinians interpret the agreement as an interim stage toward establishing an independent state.

September 13: Yasir Arafat of the PLO and Yitzhak Rabin of Israel formally sign the DOP in Washington (Oslo I). The DOP grants the Palestinian National Authority (or simply Palestine Authority) autonomous status in a small portion of the West Bank (Jericho) and most of the Gaza Strip. The DOP includes an understanding that by December 13, an agreement will be reached on withdrawing Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, and that by April 13, 1994, Israeli troop redeployment would be completed. The PLO would assume civil authority in those regions and deploy its own police forces.

Jordan and Israel conclude a framework for a peace agreement.

Intensification of terror acts by Jewish settlers against Palestinians as part of their political protest movement against the PLO-Israel agreement; with similar motives, Hamas members and other figures step up the murder of Jews in Israel and the occupied territories.

Some progress in the Israeli-Arab multinational negotiations in Washington and other locations; Syria takes a hard line by supporting the groups rejecting the PLO-Israeli agreement.

Most of the non-Fatah elements within the PLO and the Islamic movements reject the DOP; some Fatah leaders express objections to Arafat's concessions to Israel.

December: Difficulties occur in PLO-Israeli talks; the December 13 deadline for the Gaza-Jericho plan is missed and high-level negotiations continue; most of the members of the Islamic movements who were expelled are returned to the occupied territories.

1994 Presidents Bill Clinton of the United States and Hafez al-Assad of Syria meet in Geneva; Syria indicates its readiness to negotiate a full peace with Israel in exchange for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Several months after missing the December 13, 1993 deadline, Israel and the PLO sign an agreement opening the way for Israeli troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho and the beginning of limited PLO self-rule there.

February 25: A radical religious Jew (Baruch Goldstein) carries out a suicide massacre in the Patriarchs' Cave, a holy place for Judaism and Islam; his aim seems to have been to create a chain of responses that would end reconciliation between Palestinians and Jews; twenty-nine praying Muslims are killed and dozens of others wounded.

Rising fear in Israel in response to growing Islamic terror; demonstrations against the peace process, organized mostly by groups of settlers in the territories, religious radicals, and secular right wing activists, gain momentum in Israel.

The number of Jewish settlers in the occupied territories reaches over 150,000.

October 26: Signing of the Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement; Israel acknowledges Jordanian sovereignty over several border areas in which Israeli presence continues (as a formal lease); Israel grants Jordan special status over the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem.

April–March 1996: A series of about ten terrorist attacks in Israeli urban centers by radical Islamic suicide bombers kill one hundred and wound hundreds of others; expanded closures are imposed on the occupied territories; the Palestinian Authority and its machinery begin to take root and spread over the area; dozens of Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders and fieldworkers are arrested.

In an economic protocol, the PLO and Israel agree that 75 percent of taxes withheld from Palestinian workers in Israel will be transferred to the Palestinian Authority.

May: the first Palestinian self-government begins with PLO self-rule in Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

An agreement allows initial entry of the Palestinian Authority and its militia forces into most of the area of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region.

1995 September: Interim agreement (Oslo II) grants rule over all Palestinian cities (except Hebron) to the Palestinian Authority (Area A, about 4 percent of the West Bank) and joint Israeli-Palestinian rule over village areas (Area B); large areas of the Jordan Valley, Jewish settlements, and their access roads remain under sole Israeli control (Area C).

Israel redeploys its military forces in compliance with Oslo II.

November 4: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated by a national religious youth hoping to stop the process of transferring territories to Palestinian Authority control; Rabin is blamed for betraying the idea of the Greater Land of Israel.

1996 April 24: The twenty-first conference of the PNC is held in Gaza; an 88 percent majority of the 504 representatives decides to revoke all articles of the Palestinian National Charter that conflict with the Oslo agreements. The PNC Legislative Council is given the responsibility for formulating a new charter within six months.

April: With attacks by the Lebanese Islamic Hezbollah organization, public pressure, and upcoming elections, Shimon Peres announces Operation Grapes of Wrath. This series of air strikes on southern Lebanon causes a massive flight of 200,000 citizens; damage in Kafr Kana causes the death of about one hundred Lebanese citizens.

May 29: Early general elections in Israel produce a razor-thin victory for Benjamin Netanyahu, presiding over a bloc consisting of right wing national-religious, secular, and ultra-Orthodox factions; the new government declares it necessary to implement the Oslo agreements, granting autonomy

to the Palestinians, but it toughens its position and demands discussion of final status arrangements concerning the occupied territories—including East Jerusalem, over which the Israelis demand sole sovereignty, with allocation of special status over the Islamic holy sites to Jordan.

September 25–27: Following the opening of a tunnel dug by archaeologists under the area of al-Aqsa (the Temple Mount), large-scale rioting sweeps the West Bank and Gaza Strip; about forty Palestinians and eleven Israelis are killed, and one hundred wounded from each side. The Palestinians attack a site being used as a *yeshiva* near Nablus; Israelis try to rescue soldiers stationed there, using tanks and helicopters in the territories for the first time since the Palestinian Authority's creation.

1997 January 16–17: The Israeli government authorizes the Hebron Agreement; the Israeli army transfers control of the city, with the exception of the Jewish enclave, to the Palestinian Authority.

January 22: Yasir Arafat declares that at the end of the interim agreement period, the Palestinians will unilaterally declare the establishment of a Palestinian state.

February 27: About one thousand Palestinians protest in Bet Sahour against the Israeli plan to build in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Homa (Ras al-Amud).

February 4: Two army helicopters bringing soldiers to Lebanon crash by accident, killing seventy-three soldiers; the accident becomes a turning point in Israeli public opinion on the subject of continued control of southern Lebanon.

March 12: A suicide bomber sets off an explosion in central Tel Aviv, killing three and wounding forty-seven; total closure is imposed over the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

March 19: Netanyahu proposes canceling incremental withdrawal and establishing Camp David-style talks for a final status agreement; Arafat rejects the proposal.

July 30: Two suicide bombers set off explosions in a Jerusalem marketplace; 13 Israelis are killed and 170 wounded. The Izz al-Din Brigades takes responsibility. Abdellaziz Rantisi, the Hamas political leader, denies responsibility. The Israelis respond with expanded closures and many arrests.

August 12: Large demonstrations in Nablus call for Arafat to stand up to Israeli pressure aiming to break the resistance movement.

- September 4:** Three suicide bombs detonate in Jerusalem, killing 5 Israelis and wounding 192; the Al-Qassem Brigade take responsibility.
- 1998 September 25:** Israeli agents try to assassinate Khaled Mashal, the secretary general of Hamas, headquartered in Damascus at the time, by injecting him with poison; following the furious reaction of King Hussein, Israel supplies the antidote. Mashal is considered Hamas's strongman.
- January 21:** The World Bank decides to fund an industrial area for export products in al-Muntar (Gaza Strip).
- September 27–29:** Demonstrations in the Arab-Israeli city of Umm al-Fahm against government intentions to use sixty-two *dunums* of olive orchards as a firing range; the police use live fire, and about one hundred Arabs and fifteen policemen are injured. A general strike among Palestinian Israelis is called to protest police violence.
- October 17–23:** Wye Plantation talks. In the Wye Plantation Agreements, Israel agrees to initiate the third stage of Oslo II, freeing Palestinian prisoners and detainees. The Palestinian Authority pledges to reduce the scope of armed militias, collect arms from residents, and increase coordination of security forces.
- October 19:** A hand grenade is thrown at a bus stop in Beersheba, wounding sixty-four.
- October 30:** The Palestinian Authority working council authorizes the Wye Agreement.
- November 16:** The Knesset authorizes the Wye Agreement, contingent on the Palestinian Authority's implementation of the agreement to collect illegal arms.
- November 20:** Israel transfers 1.1 percent of Area C to total Palestinian control and frees 250 prisoners; virtually all Palestinian population concentrations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have now been transferred to PA control.
- November 24:** An international airport is opened in Gaza.
- December 10:** The central council of the PLO meets in Gaza, authorizing Arafat's letter to Clinton canceling articles of the National Charter that deal with the extermination of Israel.
- December 12:** Eight opposition groups from within the PLO, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad meet in Damascus to reaffirm their opposition to the Oslo process and to the changes in the National Charter.

December 14: In the presence of the U.S. President, the PNC cancels articles of the National Charter that deal with the extermination of Israel and appoints a committee for reformulating the charter.

December 20: The Israeli government halts continued implementation of the Wye Agreement, claiming that the Palestinians are not fulfilling their part of the agreement.

December 28: New elections are set in Israel; Benjamin Begin resigns from the Likud to form a right wing opposition bloc to Netanyahu.

1999 January 20: King Hussein's eldest son, Abdullah, is appointed heir to the throne in place of the crown prince, Hasan.

February 6: Large demonstration in Hebron at the Palestinian Authority offices demanding both an end to cooperation with Israel and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, as well as the freeing of prisoners by Israel.

February 7: King Hussein dies; his son Abdullah assumes the throne in Jordan.

February 14: About 200,000 ultra-Orthodox Jews demonstrate in Jerusalem against the Supreme Court decision to draft yeshiva students; counter-demonstration of 50,000 secular citizens.

February 15: Naif Hawatma is expelled from the Rejectionist Front after shaking hands with the President of Israel at the funeral of Jordan's King Hussein.

May 17: Ehud Barak, the Labor party candidate, is elected prime minister; Labor and Likud continue losing power as Shas, a religious-ethnic party of Mizrahi Jews, gains strength. Shinui, a secular party, wins six seats. Barak declares efforts toward a final agreement with the Palestinians and his intention to bring it to a popular referendum, but then bypasses Palestinians in favor of efforts to gain settlement with Syria.

May 23: Israeli army withdraws from the security zone in southern Lebanon.

May 27: Binyamin Netanyahu retires from political life.

June 22: Demolition of an Arab house in Lydda sparks protest; the police open fire using rubber bullets; MK Azmi Bishara and sixteen other demonstrators are injured. Supporters of Fatah and the Islamic movement clash in the Ein al-Hilwa refugee camp (Lebanon) over control of the camp.

July 3: The Palestinian Authority declares a day of wrath to protest settlement expansion; response is minimal.

July 5: The International Covenant for Arab-Jewish Peace based in Ramal-

lah organizes a conference in Cairo on the subject of normalization with Israel; about seven hundred Egyptian intellectuals and public figures organize a counter-conference.

July 6: An expanded government is formed in Israel.

July 15: At a Clinton-Barak meeting in Washington, Barak promises to implement the Wye Agreement, announces that most settlements will remain in place after a final status agreement.

The signers of the Fourth Geneva Convention condemn Israel for violation of human rights and actions in the occupied territories and declare the settlements illegal.

Australia, Canada, the United States, and Israel boycott the conference.

July 27: Israel and the Palestinian Authority open negotiations on the construction of a joint industrial area in the Karai region (Jenin).

August 2: At reconciliation talks in Cairo between Fatah and the Popular Front, the possibility of coordinating over the final status issue is discussed; George Habash refuses to meet with Arafat.

November 16: Israeli armed forces enter several cave villages in the area of southern Mount Hebron and expel more than seven hundred Palestinian residents.

2000 March 4: About one hundred Palestinians from the Diaspora put forth a call to emphasize the refugee issue and the right of return in talks with Israel.

March 8: The Israeli Supreme Court decides against discrimination in allocating land to an Arab family in a Jewish communal settlement.

March 21: Israel implements the second stage of the interim agreement, transferring 6.1 percent of Area B to Area A; the Palestinian Authority now fully controls 18 percent and partially controls 22 percent of the West Bank.

March 22–26: The Pope visits the Holy Land; among other places, he visits Bethlehem and the Dehaisha refugee camp.

March 27: The minister of interior returns 250 *dunums* of land appropriated for public use to the Palestinian Israeli village of Kafr Qasim.

May 20: Stormy demonstrations in West Bank cities of Hebron, Nablus, Jenin, Ramallah, and Tulkarm; five Palestinians dead and about five hundred wounded.

May 23: Total withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon; the Southern Lebanese Army is disbanded, and some of its members take refuge in Israel.

- June 10:** Syrian President Hafez al-Asad dies; his son Bashir is appointed as his successor. Netanyahu and Barak are seemingly close to an arrangement with Syria, but Asad's demand for access to the Sea of Galilee prevent it.
- July 9:** The Barak government becomes a minority government when Shas, the National Religious Party, and Israel B'Aliya leave in protest over Barak's agreement to final status talks. Meretz, which had left earlier in protest against Shas's remaining in the coalition, supports the government from the outside.
- July 11–25:** An attempt to arrive at a final status agreement between the Palestinians and Israel fails (Camp David II); each side blames the other for the conference's failure.
- July 27:** The Israeli Ministry of Interior announces that the Jewish population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has grown by 13,000 in the past year and now approaches 200,000 people.
- August 2:** Israeli foreign minister David Levy resigns from the government, blaming Barak for deceiving his supporters with his promise not to divide Jerusalem.
- August 8:** Suicide bomb explodes in Sbarros, a Jerusalem pizzeria; fifteen are killed and dozens wounded.
- August 15:** Construction of Gaza Port begins.
- September 28:** Israeli opposition head, Ariel Sharon, known to be indirectly responsible for the Sabra and Shattila massacre and other murderous acts against Palestinians, visits the areas of the mosques and Haram al-Sharif (the Temple Mount); his visit awakens a fierce emotional storm, leading to mass demonstrations against the continuing Israeli presence in the Palestinian territories.
- September 29:** Sharon's visit to Haram al-Sharif is considered a provocation by the Palestinians and insensitively timed during negotiations over arrangements for Jerusalem; demonstrations and riots break out throughout the West Bank, with violence directed mostly toward settlers and the Israeli army. Palestinian militia men join as individuals and groups, using live fire against the Israelis; the escalating violence, which turns into ethnic warfare between Israel and the Palestinian Authority by early 2002, is termed the Al-Aqsa (or Second) Intifada, and is later seen by some as the beginning of a war of independence
- September 30:** Twelve-year-old Muhammad al-Durrah is killed during an exchange of fire between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian armed forces;

- the event is captured by TV cameras, and the young martyr becomes a symbol of the renewed Palestinian struggle.
- October 1–8:** Palestinian Israelis hold protests identifying with Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. They block roads and throw stones; the police react with massive live fire. Twelve Arab citizens and one resident of the territories are killed; hundreds are injured.
- October 9:** Riots between Jews and Arabs in Jaffa; Jews try to burn down the Hassan Beck Mosque.
- October 12:** Two Israeli reserve officers mistakenly find themselves in a Palestinian controlled area and are taken to the police station in Ramallah; an angry mob beats them to death. The event, broadcast on television, has a strong impact on Israeli public opinion.
- November 15:** The Israeli government establishes the Orr Commission to investigate the October events in which thirteen Arabs were killed in Israel.
- December 17:** Israel initiates a policy of extrajudicial executions or assassinations (so-called focused elimination) of those found responsible for terrorist acts and armed resistance; Tanzim activist Samih al-Malabi is among the first murdered.
- December 30:** Israeli agents assassinate Dr. Thabat Thabat, Fatah secretary general in the West Bank.
- 2001 January 5:** Israel intercepts and captures *Karine A*, a boat full of armaments bought in Iran and destined for Palestinians in the territories, causing great embarrassment to the Palestinian Authority but also great pride among the Palestinians.
- January:** George W. Bush assumes the U.S. presidency; he takes a much more hands-off orientation to Israeli-Palestinian issues than did his predecessor, Bill Clinton; his statements through the year are more unequivocally pro-Israel.
- January 14:** Assassination of Raad al-Karmi, the head of the Tanzim in Tulkaram.
- February 1:** Two suicide bombers blow themselves up in central Jerusalem: eleven are killed and about ninety wounded.
- February 6:** Special elections for prime minister in Israel; Ariel Sharon, the Likud candidate, is elected by a large majority, but with the lowest turnout ever, mostly because of the boycott by Palestinian Arab citizens.
- April 4:** Assassination of Iyad Khadran, leader of the Islamic Jihad in Jenin.
- May 15:** In a speech to the Legislative Council, Arafat proposes regime reforms, democratization, and new elections.

March 27–28: Supporting a Saudi initiative, the Convention of Arab States in Beirut proposes a full peace agreement with Israel, including normalization of relations, in exchange for withdrawal to 1967 borders and the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital; Israel does not respond to the proposal.

June 1: A suicide bomber blows himself up at the Dolphinarium discotheque in Tel Aviv; eighteen are killed and dozens wounded.

August 25: Assassination of Abu Ali Mustafa, secretary of the Popular Front.

September 11: Al-Qaida's terror attack against U.S. targets destroys the World Trade Center towers in New York and damages the Pentagon. The attacks causes anti-Islamic and anti-Arab sentiment throughout the world; President Bush declares a fierce global war on terrorism.

September 17: Sharon calls Arafat a "Bin Laden" and Israel's responses in fighting Palestinian terror to be a part of the global war on terrorism.

October 17: Rachvam Zeevi, Israel's minister of tourism and head of the Moledet movement, which supports transfer (forcible resettlement) of Palestinians outside the country, is assassinated by a Palestinian hit team.

October: The United States and United Kingdom conduct air and, later, land attacks against Afghanistan—the host regime supporting al-Qaida and its head, Osama Bin Laden—with the aim of destroying the organization's infrastructure, killing its leader, and replacing Afghanistan's theocratic regime.

December 2: Two suicide bombers and a car bomb explode in central Jerusalem; about 10 are killed and 150 wounded.

2002 January: The right wing bloc secures 69 out of 120 Knesset seats and Sharon wins a second term.

March 2: A suicide bomber blows himself up in an ultra-Orthodox neighborhood in Jerusalem; nine are killed and fifty wounded.

March 7: A suicide bomber blows himself up in the West Bank settlement of Ariel; fourteen are wounded.

March 10: A suicide bomb is detonated in the Jerusalem cafe Moment; eleven are killed and dozens wounded.

March 27: On the first night of Passover, a suicide bomber kills 29 and wounds about 150 persons in a hotel in Netanya celebrating the holiday.

March 29: Beginning of Operation Defense Shield; the Israeli army reoccupies parts of Area A in the West Bank under Palestinian Authority

control, with the exception of Jericho, claiming to be “destroying the infrastructure of terror”; one after another, the major cities, refugee camps, and some villages are occupied. In most cases, Israeli forces do not face strong resistance; about 8,500 suspects are taken to Israeli prisons for investigation.

Arafat’s headquarters in the city of Ramallah (the Muqata) is placed under siege.

March 30: The first female suicide bomber blows herself up in a commercial center in a Jerusalem neighborhood; three are killed and twenty-six wounded.

A suicide bomber blows himself up in a Tel Aviv cafe; thirty-seven are wounded, five seriously.

March 31: A suicide bomber blows himself up in an Arab-owned Haifa restaurant; fourteen are killed and thirty-one wounded.

April 2–19: Israeli forces enter the Jenin refugee camp and face strong resistance; twenty-three Israeli soldiers are killed and more than one hundred wounded in the fighting. Fifty Palestinians are killed; entire quarters of the camp, including five hundred houses, are destroyed as a result of Israeli fighting methods. The Palestinians accuse Israel of carrying out a massacre; the international community is summoned; the UN secretary general appoints an investigation committee, but Israel refuses the committee entry.

April–June: Israeli military actions in areas of the Palestinian Authority stir waves of protest throughout the world, mostly in Europe, accompanied by anti-Semitic statements and incidents.

April 2–May 2: A group of Palestinians on Israel’s most wanted list takes refuge in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem; fighting in the surrounding area stirs international interest; after extensive negotiations, some of the refugees are deported to Gaza and some to European states.

April 3–21: The Battle of Nablus takes place mostly in the old city (Casbah) and the Balata and Askar refugee camps; the Palestinians report about eighty dead and three hundred wounded.

April 10: A suicide bomber blows up a bus on the way from Haifa to Jerusalem; eight are killed, twenty wounded.

April 13: A suicide bomber attacks the Jerusalem marketplace; six are killed and eighty wounded. Marwan Barghouti, Fatah general secretary, considered one of the most visible and dominant figures in the Palestinian Authority, is arrested by Israel on suspicion of involvement with the Al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigade, the armed branch of Fatah.

- April 21–May 20:** Israel retreats from Ramallah, but continues siege on Arafat's headquarters in the city; Israel demands extradition of those inside, especially Zeevi's assassins and Ahmed Saadat, secretary of the Popular Front. After negotiations, the most wanted persons are transferred to a prison in Jericho under Anglo-American supervision; the extradition wounds Arafat's prestige in the eyes of the Palestinians.
- May 5:** In light of the wave of hostility sweeping the world in the wake of the September 11 events, leaders of forty-two Muslim states gather in Malaysia to crystallize an interpretation of the concepts of jihad and suicide combat; differences of opinion are not reconciled.
- May 7:** Suicide bomber blows up a pool hall in Rishon L'Tzion; fifteen are killed and fifty wounded.
- May 15:** Arafat promises the Legislative Council that there will be regime reforms, immediate elections, consolidation of the various security mechanisms, increased efficiency, and democratization.
- May 17:** The Legislative Council proposes reforms, including abolition of the state security courts.
- May 19:** A suicide bomber blows himself up in the Netanya marketplace; three are killed and about fifty wounded.
- May 23:** A suicide bomber blows himself up in Rishon L'Tzion; two are killed and about forty wounded.
- June:** Israel declares Operation Determined Path, reoccupying all of Area A for an indefinite period.
- June 24:** President George W. Bush conditions the establishment in an unspecified future of a Palestinian state with ending any terror or resistance activities, the change of present Palestinian leadership by free election, and democratization of the PNA.
- July 18:** Tanzim, the Palestinian militia connected to Yasir Arafat's Fatah faction, prepares to announce a unilateral ceasefire with Israel; European Union officials lead the effort for the ceasefire, which has intensified over the previous two weeks and is supported by Jordanian and Saudi diplomats; Bush administration officials are informed.
- July 22:** Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, spiritual leader of Hamas, announces that Hamas is willing to agree to a ceasefire, including a halt to suicide bombings, in exchange for Israeli withdrawal from the areas previously under Palestinian administration under the Oslo agreements.
- July 23:** An Israeli war plane drops a one-ton bomb, killing Sheikh Salah Shehada, a leader of Hamas' military wing; thirteen other people are

killed, including nine children. Suspicions mount that the attack was intended to produce massive rage among Palestinians and to impede or scuttle the ceasefire initiative.

2004 January 26: Hamas offers a ten-year truce (*hudna*) conditioned on Israel's complete withdrawal from the territories captured in the 1967 war and the establishment of a Palestinian state. Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin states that the group can accept a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel responds by assassinating Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi.

June 30: The Israeli High Court orders changes to 19 miles of a total projected length of 423 miles of the route of the West Bank barrier.

July: the International Court of Justice at The Hague rules that the entire separation fence contravenes international law because it is being built on Palestinian land rather than on the Green Line separating Israel from the occupied territories.

2005 December: Sharon forms a centrist party (Kadima) to implement his plans. He is joined by leading political figures in the Likud and other factions.

September 12: The Israeli cabinet formally declares an end to military rule in the Gaza Strip after thirty-eight years of control; all Jewish settlements evacuated; Israel still controls territorial, sea, and air access to Gaza for security reasons.

2006 January 4: Ariel Sharon is hospitalized after suffering a major stroke. He is succeeded by his deputy, Ehud Olmert.

January 25: Hamas wins an electoral victory in the Palestinian Authority Legislative Council. Ismayil Haniya elected as prime minister, heading a new government.

February–November: Waves of Qassam missiles hit southern Israel, especially the small town of Shedort; Israel responds with brutal measures, incursions into the Gaza Strip, and targeted killings of Islamic operatives that injure many Palestinian civilians. Israel describes these casualties as "collateral damages." An Israeli soldier is captured and held hostage by the Palestinians, who demand as a condition for his release the freeing of thousands of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails and detention camp.

July 12–September 8: Following the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah, Israeli troops invade southern Lebanon using massive air strikes and artillery fire on Lebanese civilian infrastructure, including Rafik Hariri International Airport, which Israel says Hezbollah uses to

import weapons. Israel implements air and naval blockades and a ground invasion of southern Lebanon. Hezbollah in turn launches Katyusa rockets into northern Israel and engages the Israeli troops in guerrilla warfare from reinforced positions; more than 1,400 people are killed, most of them Lebanese civilians; Lebanese infrastructure is severely damaged; 900,000 Lebanese and 300,000 Israelis are displaced and normal life is disrupted across all of Lebanon and northern Israel.