



Compiled by Dr. Jon McNeff, Senior Pastor North Creek Church, Walnut Creek, CA,
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FORTY-SIX FACTS ABOUT THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN DEBATE

The people in the land:

1. There is no such thing as a "Palestinian" by birth, ethnicity, or national identity. "Palestinians" are ethnic and national Egyptians, Jordanians, Syrians, or Iraqis.
2. The Jewish people are the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3. They are Jews by ethnic origin and national identity. They have lived in Israel continuously for the past 3,000 years.
3. In A.D. 135, Hadrian forced the Jews out of Israel because of their opposition to Roman occupation. Many were disbursed among the nations of the world, though some continued to live in the land. They have been the majority population in Israel again since the late 19th century.
4. The contemporary usage of the word "Palestinian" was appropriated by Yasser Arafat in 1967 after he had been expelled from Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon and landed in the "West Bank." Arafat was not a "Palestinian." He was Egyptian. He began identifying Arabs living in Israel as "Palestinians" in 1967. This was two decades after the modern re-establishment of the nation of Israel by the U.N. in 1948.
5. Seven million people live in Israel, 20% of whom are Arabs. 365 million people live in the surrounding Arab countries, with not one country having a Jewish population of even 1%.

The land:

1. There has never been a nation called *Palestine*. There has never been a *Palestinian* King or President, no army, no constitution, no flag, no international recognition, and no borders.
2. The word *Palestine* comes from *Philistine*, (an O.T. enemy of the Jews) and was first used by Hadrian in A.D. 135 as an insult to Jews when he ordered them out of Israel. The area of Biblical Israel was known as *Palestine* until 1947, when the modern nation of Israel was mandated by the U.N.
3. Israel became a nation in 1312 B.C., 2,000 years before the rise of Islam.
4. Since the Jewish conquest of the land called *Canaan* in 1272 B.C., the Jews have had dominion over the land for one thousand years with a continuous presence in the land for the past 3,300 years.
5. King David founded the city of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Mohammed never set foot in Jerusalem except through an alleged dream.
6. For over 3,300 years, Jerusalem has been the Jewish capital. Jerusalem has never been the capital of any Arab or Muslim entity. Even when the Jordanians occupied Jerusalem, they never sought to make it their capital. No international relations were ever formed and no foreign dignitaries (including Arab) ever came to visit.
7. Jerusalem is not mentioned once in the Koran. It is mentioned over 700 times in the Tanach, the Jewish Holy Scriptures.
8. The only Arab dominion since the Muslim conquest in A.D. 635 lasted no more than 22 years.
9. Israel is the only Jewish nation in the world with a land mass of 8,000 square miles. The surrounding 21 Arab nations have a land mass covering over 5.4 million square miles.

The "occupation" of the land:

1. There were no Arab nations until the 20th Century. Until that time, Bedouin tribes roamed the desert with no national title or affiliation. There were no national boundaries or identities of any kind. No one owned or wanted the area called *Palestine*.
2. At the end of WWI in 1917, General Edmund Allenby took control of *Palestine* and freed it from the 400-year rule of the Ottoman Turks.
3. At the end of WWI the League of Nations gave the British and the French the right to control *Palestine*.
4. The *British Mandate* of 1920 pronounced all of *Palestine* (including modern Jordan) as the *Jewish National Home*. The word *Palestine* was understood to refer to the Jews.
5. The *British Mandate* was modified the next year by British Colonial Secretary Winston Churchill to appease Emir Faisal, who had been removed as the Emir of Syria by the *French Mandate*, and named the King of Iraq by the British. Churchill named Faisal's brother Abdullah (great grandfather of the current King Abdullah of Jordan) as the Emir of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, thus removing 80% of the land promised to Israel the year before.
6. All the modern Arab nations were named and drawn on a map by the Sykes-Picot Agreement at the end of WWI. For example, Saudi Arabia (1913), Lebanon (1920), Iraq (1932), Syria (1941), Jordan (1946), and Kuwait (1961) are all recent national entities.
7. In 1947, at the end of WWII, the U.N. proposed to divide Israel further by giving the land known as the *West Bank* and *Gaza Strip* to a new Arab state. Israel agreed to this. The Arabs did not.
8. The day after the modern nation of Israel was declared by the U.N. in 1948, it was invaded by Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia. According to Egyptian President Nasser, the attempt was to "push Israel into the sea." The nation of Israel survived the attack and defeated the invaders.
9. In 1948, Jordan arbitrarily "annexed" biblical Judea and Samaria and labeled it the *West Bank*.

10. In 1967, Israel was attacked again, this time by Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq. Israel won the battle in six days, gaining full possession of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights which had been cut away from them by the U.N. in 1947.
11. Since 1967, Israel has built 144 settlements in the West Bank (biblical Judea and Samaria). During the same time period Arabs have built 261 settlements in the same area. No one mentions this.
12. In 1979, Israel signed a peace treaty with Egypt following the *Yom Kippur War* of 1973. They returned the Sinai Peninsula but kept the Gaza Strip.
13. In 1994, Jordan signed a peace treaty that established the international boundary between the two nations as the Jordan River, *ceding the right to the West Bank to Israel*.
14. In 2000, Israel offered the Palestinians 96% of the West Bank land, control of the Temple Mount, and a capital in East Jerusalem. Yasser Arafat flatly refused this offer.
15. Under the Oslo Accords there are absolutely no restrictions on the building of settlements in Gaza or the West Bank.
16. Israel has the rights to the land, including Gaza, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights, by the mandate of God, their 3,300 year history of living in the land, the British Mandate at the end of WWI, the designation by the U.N. at the end of WWII, as well as the possession by war when they have fought off all invaders.
17. The five wars that have been launched against Israel since 1948, as well as the "intifadas," have all been allegedly fought over the issue of "occupation." But Israel has demonstrated a willingness to give up practically all of the land in question. For the Arab nations, the issue is not the "occupation," it is the complete and final destruction of Israel.

The "refugees":

1. In 1948, thousands of Arabs were encouraged to leave Israel by Arab leaders who promised to purge the land of Jews in short order. Sixty-eight percent left without ever seeing an Israeli soldier.
2. At the same time, Jewish refugees were forced to flee from Arab lands due to Arab brutality, persecution and pogroms.
3. The number of Arab refugees who left Israel in 1948 is estimated to be around 600,000. The number of Jewish refugees from Arab lands is estimated to be almost 800,000. These Jewish refugees are never mentioned.
4. Arab refugees were intentionally not absorbed or integrated into the Arab lands to which they fled, despite the vast Arab territory. Out of the 100,000,000 refugees since World War II, theirs is the only refugee group in the world that has never been absorbed or integrated into their own peoples' lands. Jewish refugees were completely absorbed into Israel, a country no larger than the U.S. state of New Jersey.
5. Arabs living in Israel today are allowed the full rights of citizenship, with rights to buy and own property, practice their religion, receive full medical care, and even run for political office, as many have done.

General observations:

1. Jews pray facing Jerusalem. Muslims pray with their backs toward Jerusalem.
2. The P.L.O.'s Charter still calls for the destruction of the State of Israel. Israel has turned over many Palestinian cities (including Jericho and Bethlehem) and has armed 55,000 Palestinians to provide for their own security.
3. Under Jordanian rule, Jewish holy sites were desecrated and the Jews were denied access to places of worship. Under Israeli rule, all Muslim and Christian sites are preserved and made accessible to people of all faiths.
4. Arab Muslims are allowed to live and work in Israel, and some even belong to the Knesset. The practice of Judaism is not allowed in any of the surrounding Arab countries.
5. The U.N. Record on Israel and the Arabs – of the 175 Security Council resolutions passed before 1990, 97 were directed against Israel.
6. Of the 690 General Assembly resolutions voted on before 1990, 429 were directed against Israel.
7. The U.N. was silent when the Jordanians destroyed 58 Jerusalem synagogues, systematically desecrated the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, and enforced an apartheid-like policy of preventing Jews from visiting the Temple Mount and the Western Wall from 1948-1967.
8. Israel is the only member of the U.N. that is not permitted membership on the Security Council.
9. Israel has never been permitted membership in the Red Cross.
10. If the *Palestinians* laid down their arms, there would be peace immediately. Israel has demonstrated to a fault that they would give them land and secure borders and those still living in Israel would continue to be granted the rights of full citizenship. If Israel laid down their arms, they would be annihilated.

