

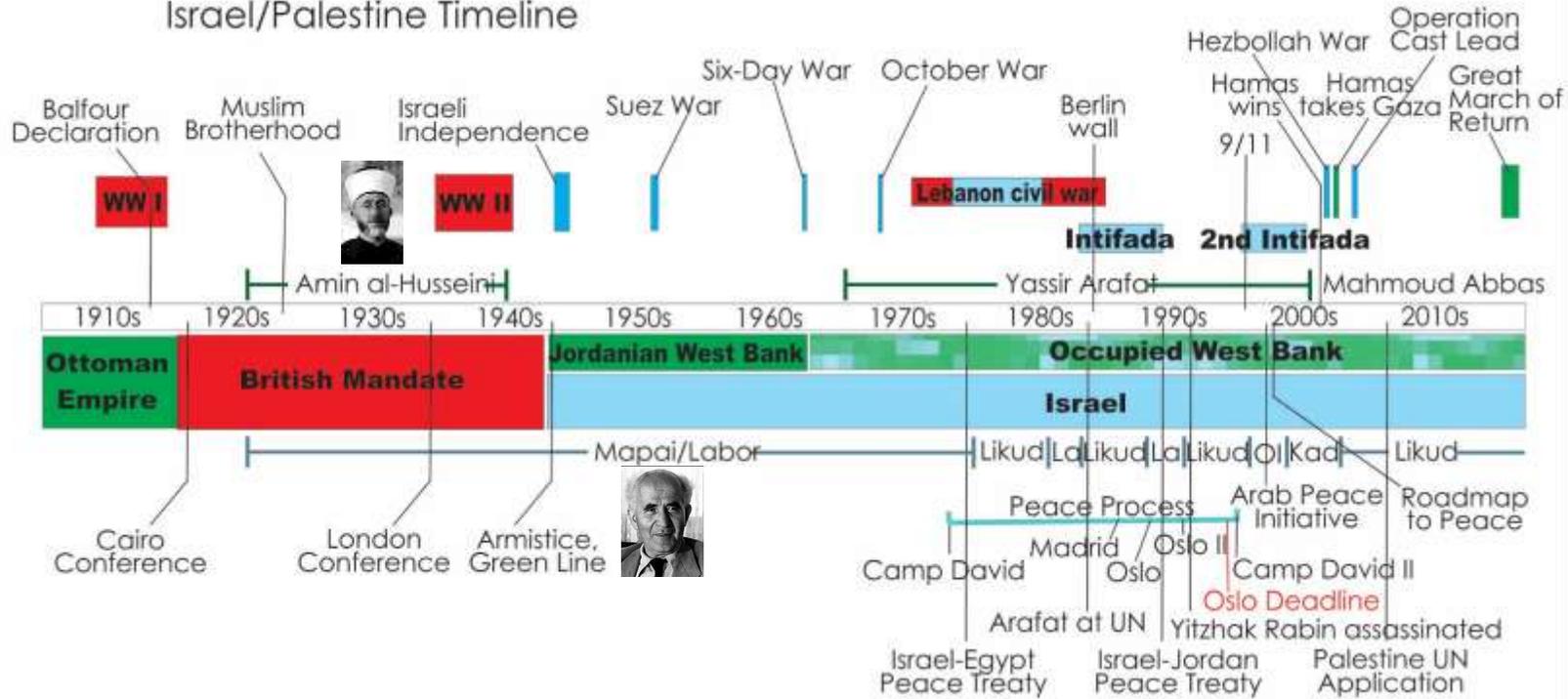
*One reason that history repeats itself is that so many people were not listening the first time.*

—Margaret Hussey

# Israel and Palestine



# Israel/Palestine Timeline



## Israel and Palestine

February 2026

Instructor: Chris Schaefer, [Chris.Schaefer@bataandary.com](mailto:Chris.Schaefer@bataandary.com)

**Books:** Suggested outside reading, for those interested in more in-depth study:

*Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*, by Bruce Feiler.

*A Peace to End All Peace*, by David Fromkin. (The treaties that ended World War I)

*The Road Not Taken: Early Arab-Israeli Negotiations*, by Itamar Rabinovich.

*Six days in June: How Israel Won the 1967 Arab-Israeli War*, by Eric Hammel.

*The Accidental Empire: Israel and the Birth of the Settlements, 1967-1977* by Gershom Gorenberg.

*Arafat: From Defender to Dictator*, by Said K. Aburish.

*Politics of Diplomacy*, James A. Baker (the only successful period in the Middle East peace process).

*The Israelis: Ordinary People in an Extraordinary Land*, 2005, by Donna Rosenthal.

*The Much Too Promised Land: America's Elusive Search for Arab-Israeli Peace*, by Aaron David Miller.

*Faith Misplaced: The Broken Promise of U.S.-Arab Relations: 1820-2001*, by Ussama Makdisi.

**News sources:**

Haaretz: [www.Haaretz.com](http://www.Haaretz.com)

Al Monitor: [www.al-monitor.com](http://www.al-monitor.com)

Jerusalem Post: [www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com)

Times of Israel: [www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com)

BBC: [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)

Al Jazeera: [www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com)

The Economist, Middle East Newsletter: [www.economist.com/newsletters/middle-east-dispatch](http://www.economist.com/newsletters/middle-east-dispatch)

The Guardian: [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com)

Media Line: [www.themedialine.org](http://www.themedialine.org)

UNRWA: [www.unrwa.org](http://www.unrwa.org)

**Movies:**

*The Oslo Diaries*. Documentary movie produced by Mor Loushy and Daniel Sivan, 2018.

*No Other Land*. Academy Award winning documentary movie produced by Israeli Yuval Abraham and Palestinian Basel Adra, 2024.

**Other resources:**

The Jewish Virtual Library, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/> (To search, click the small magnifying glass icon in the upper right corner.)

## Israel and Palestine

February 2026

### Geopolitics:

**Israel**—declared independence on May 14, 1948 when the British Mandate expired. In a war with Egypt, Jordan and Syria, Israel took over all of traditional "Palestine" except the West Bank (taken by Jordan) and the Gaza Strip (taken by Egypt).

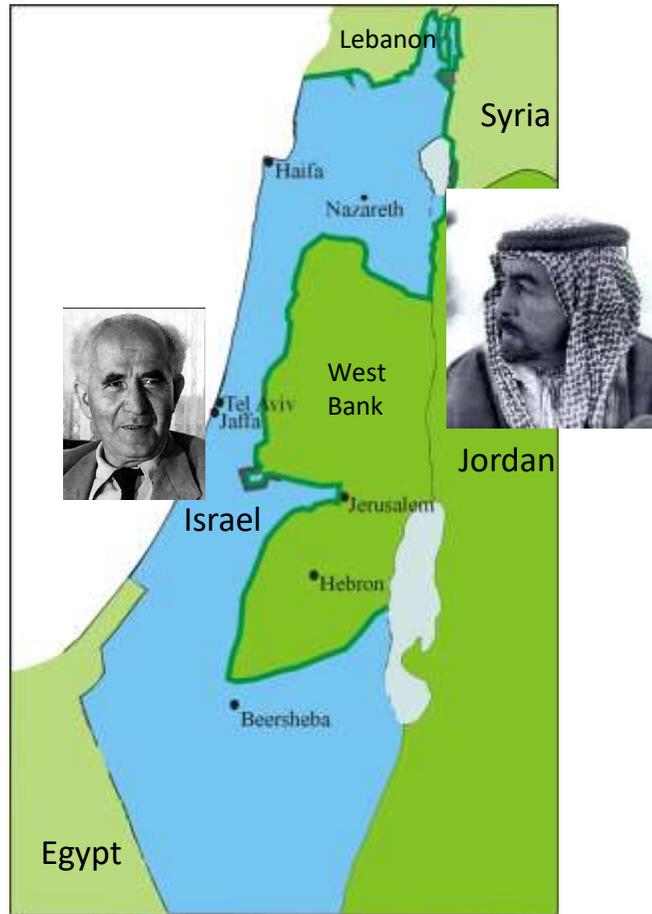
**West Bank** (aka Judia and Samaria)—Captured by Jordan in the 1948 war. Home to 19 refugee camps for Palestinians who fled Israel during the war. Captured and occupied by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War. In 1988 Jordan ceded its claim to the West Bank to the PLO as part of the Palestinian homeland. In the 1994 Oslo Accords, the West Bank was fragmented into three areas: A—eight Palestinian municipalities administered and secured by the Palestinian Authority; B—440 Palestinian villages and their surrounding farmlands which are not directly connected to each other, administered by the Palestinian Authority and secured by the Israeli Army; and C—everything else, comprising about 61% of the West Bank, administered and secured by the Israeli Army. Approximately 144 Jewish settlements have been built in the West Bank, in Area C. These settlements and the roads that connect them are secured and administered by the Israeli Army (IDF).

**Gaza**— Captured by Egypt in the war of 1948. Captured and occupied by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War. Twenty-one Israeli settlements were built there, but they were all closed and the occupants evacuated to Israel in 2005 in accordance with the Oslo Accords, at which time Gaza was turned over to the Palestinian Authority. In 2007, Hamas took over Gaza. Since then Israel has kept the territory isolated and it has become a hotbed of resistance, culminating in Hamas' attack of October 7, 2023 and the ensuing Gaza War,

**Golan Heights**—Part of Syria that Israel captured and occupied in the 1967 Six-Day War. Negotiations between Israel and Syria over the return of the Golan Heights have gone on sporadically ever since. After Islamist nationalists overthrew the government of Bashir al-Assad in 2024, the Israeli army pressed further into Syria to create a new "buffer zone."

**Sha'aba Farms**—Area north of the Golan Heights that Israel captured in 1967, which is claimed by both Lebanon and Syria. Negotiations between Israel, Lebanon and Syria over the return of the Sha'aba Farms have been going on ever since.

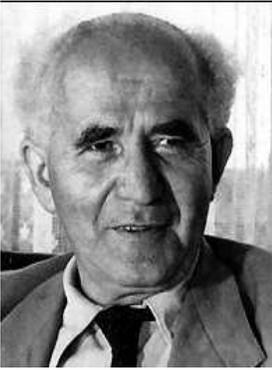
**Israel's Wars**  
**Settlements**  
**Arab Terrorism**  
**Peace Process**



The Green Line, drawn in the 1949 Armistice Agreements.



Palestinian refugees, 1948



David Ben-Gurion,  
founder of the  
Mapai/Labor  
party.



Late 1800s – 1940s, Ashkenazi Jewish immigration

Late 1940s – 1980s, Mizrahi Jewish immigration



Menachem Begin,  
founder of the  
Herut/Likud  
party.

# Israeli Government:

- Parliamentary democracy
- Prime Minister/cabinet, Knesset, Supreme Court
- Basic laws
- Ultra-Orthodox Chief Rabbinate

## Palestinian governance, 1948-1993:

Palestinians who stayed in Israel during the 1948 War are made full Israeli citizens. Hebrew and Arabic are both official languages of the new state.

Palestinians who live in the West Bank are non-citizen residents of Jordan.

Palestinians who live in Gaza are non-citizen residents of Egypt.

Palestinian refugees in all countries are serviced, but not governed by, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which supplies refugee camps. How they are governed varies from country to country.



Bethlehem camp, 1956

Israel at War:  
1956--The Suez War



Ruins of destroyed house in Qibyah

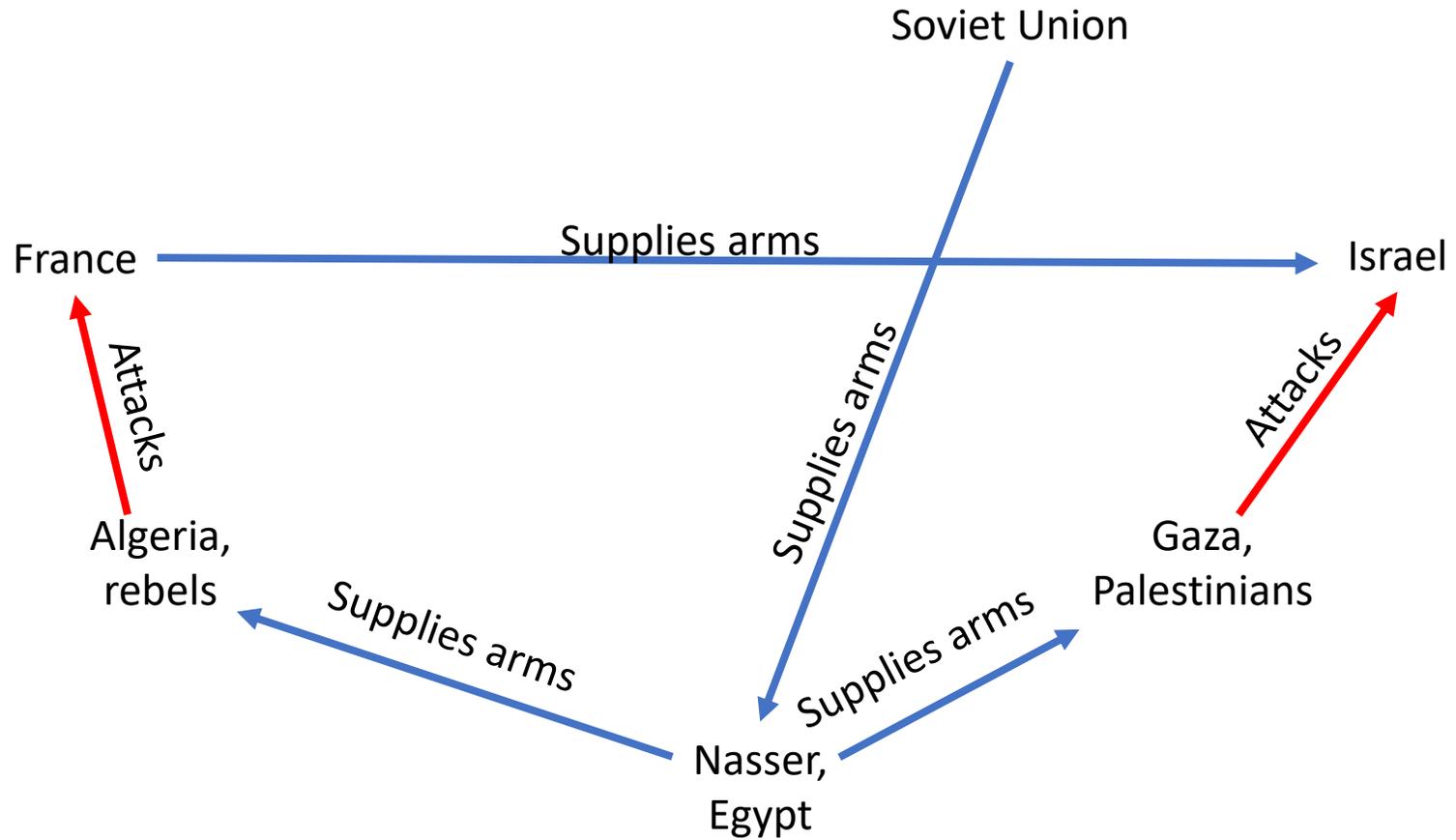


Mission commander  
Ariel Sharon



Colonel Gamal Abdul Nasser and General Mohammad Naquib

# Cold War Arms Traffic, 1950s





Nasser at Suez



Suez Crises: Israeli, British, French attack on Egypt



Borders after the war of 1956 did not change. But UN personnel was placed along the border between Egypt and Israel, in order to secure peace. UN stations are marked with red signs. They were stationed here from 1957 until 1967.

SUEZ-SINAI WAR, 1956



Canadian UN peacekeepers

Israel at War:  
1967--The Six-Day War



## 1967, 6-Day War



Israeli ground forces capture the Sinai and Gaza, June 5-8, 1967



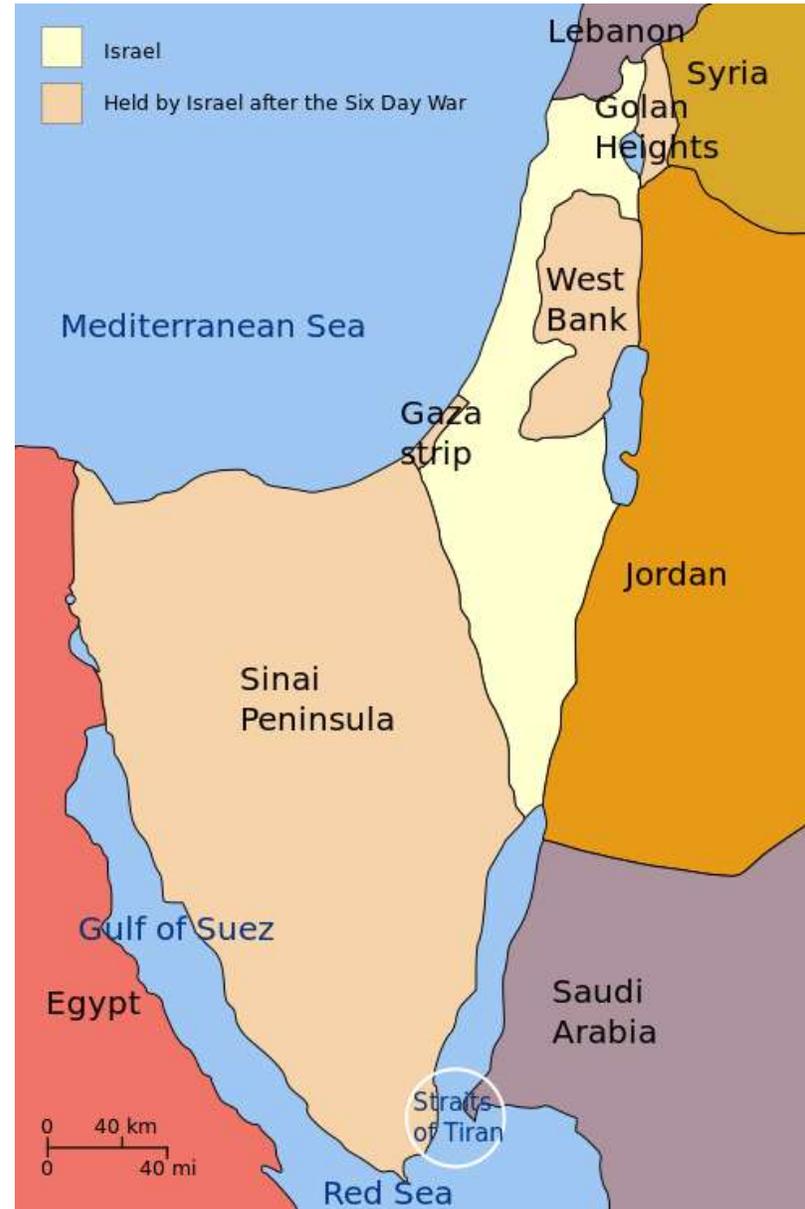
Israeli ground forces attack Jerusalem and the West Bank, June 5-7, 1967



Israeli forces capture the Golan Heights, June 9-10, 1967



Israel before 1967 Six-Day War  
(Red = refugee camps)



Israel after 1967 Six-Day War

# Aftermath of the 6-Day War:

- U.S. became Israel's main arms supplier
- Settlements
- Religious Zionism
- Theory of Transfer
- Expanded Jerusalem
- Islamic Resurgence
- Increased terrorism
- 1973 October War

# Aftermath of the 6-Day War:

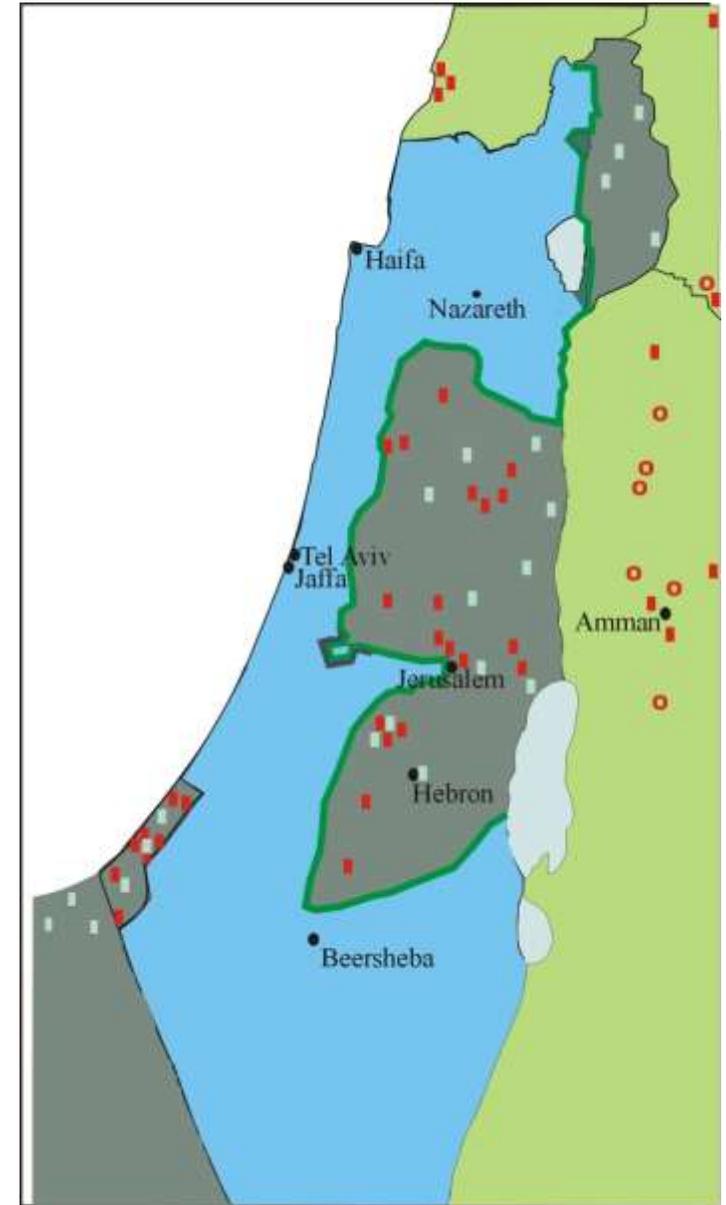
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U.S.-built Israeli F-4 Phantoms



Settlement home in Hebron, built as temporary housing in 1967, still in use today



Early settlements

# Aftermath of the 6-Day War:

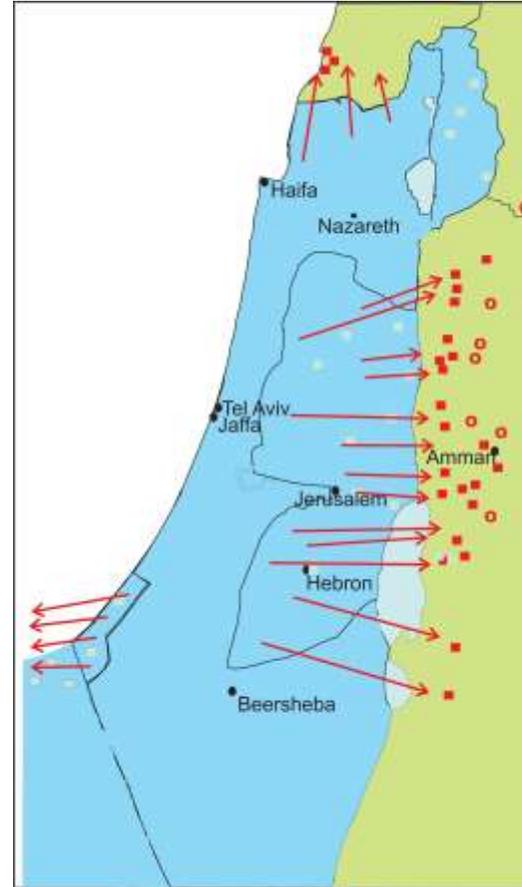
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Ultra-Orthodox develop the concept of “Religious Zionism”

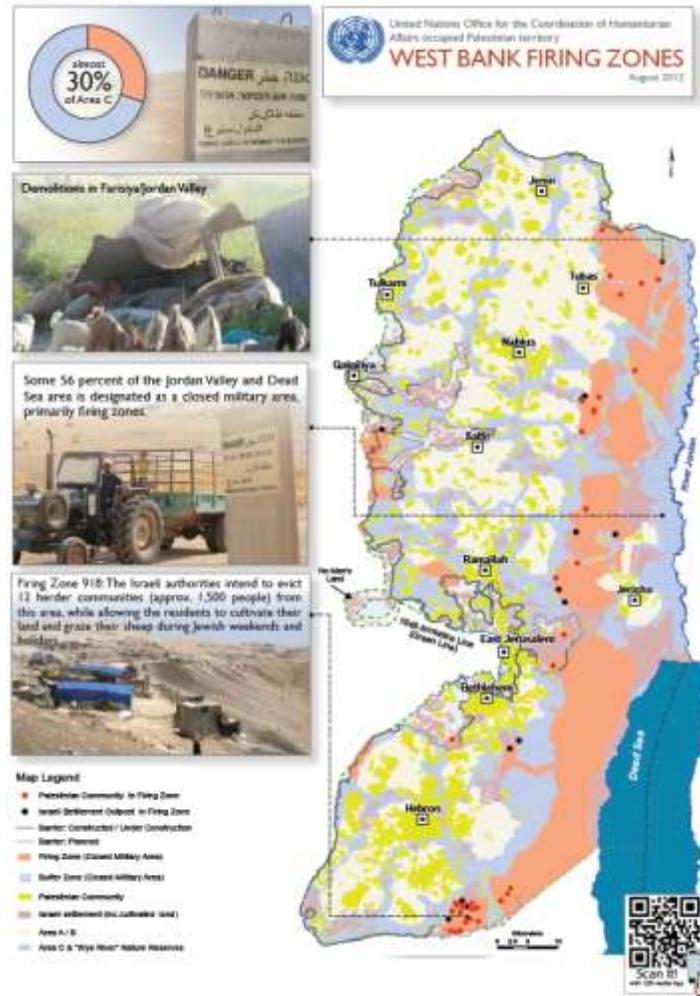
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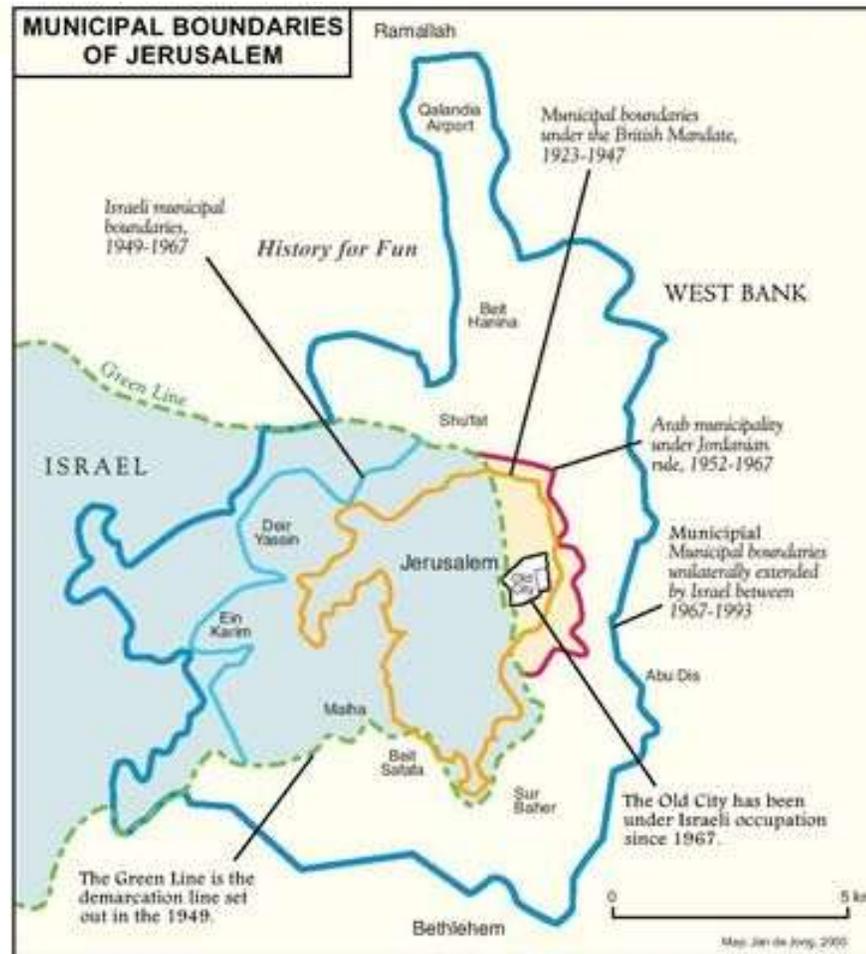
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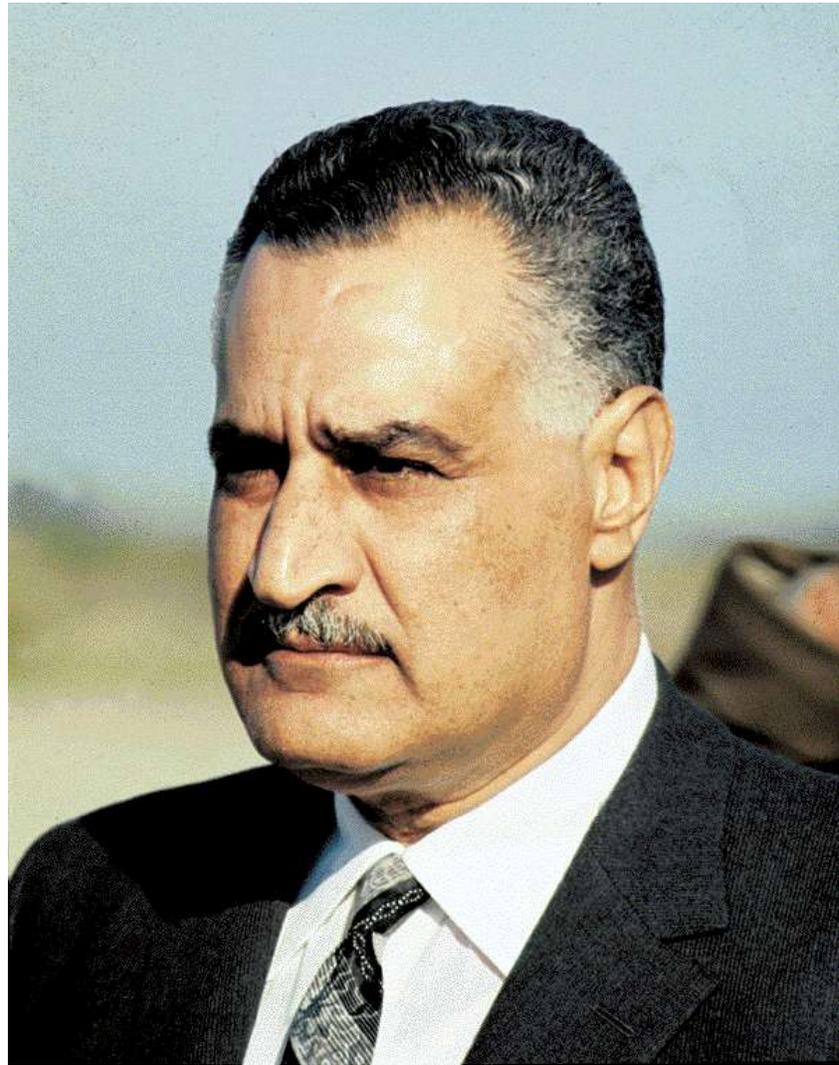
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Mosque of the Prophet, Medina Saudi Arabia

# Increased Arab Terrorism



Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser  
forms the PLO at an Arab Summit meeting



Yasser Arafat in Jordan, 1964 He founds the Fatah political party, which joins the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) after the 6-Day War.



1964 – 1967 Al Fatah raids into the West Bank and Israel



Israeli Defense Force raid on Karamah, Jordan, March 21, 1968

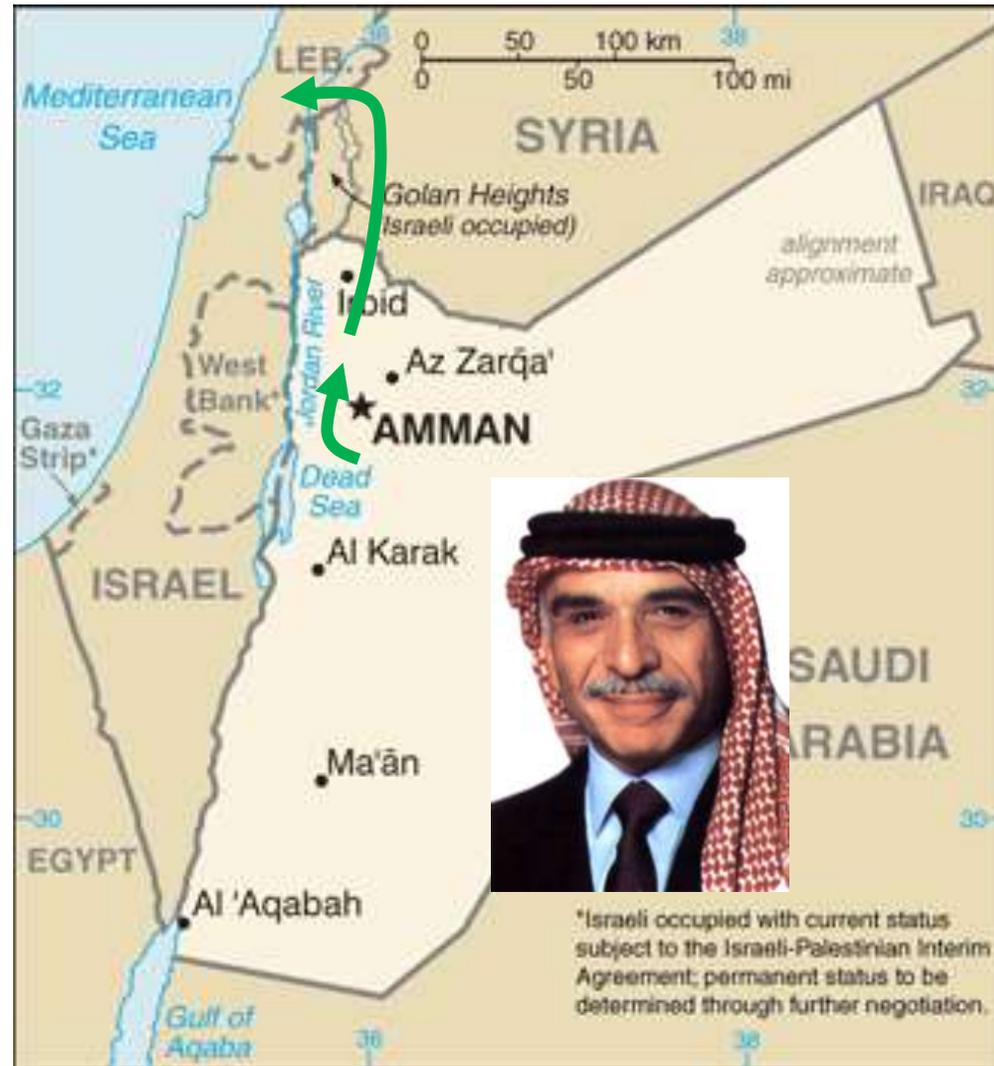


King Hussein sent the Arab Legion to defend Karamah



BETTMANN / CORBIS

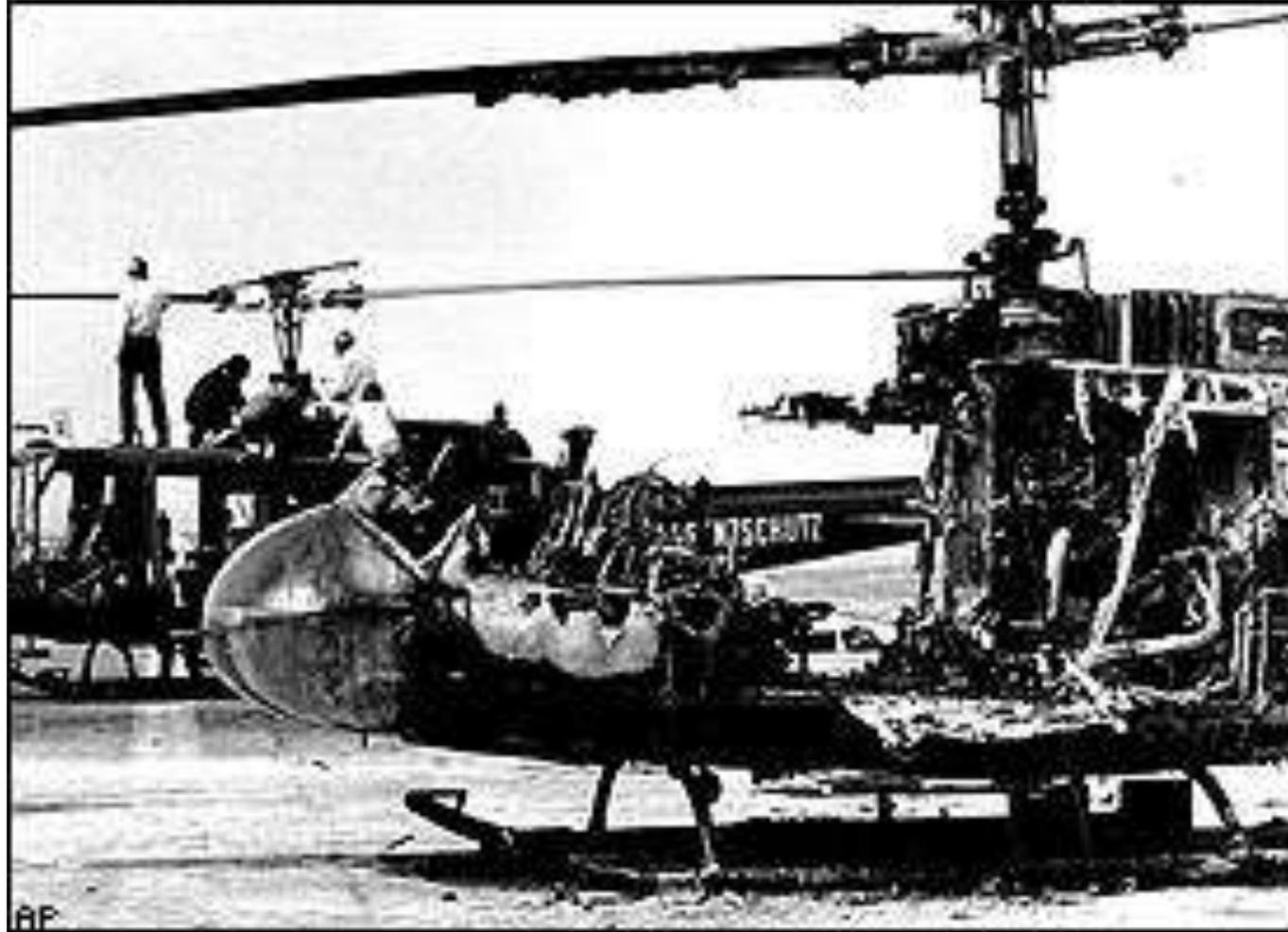
September 12, 1970, PLO member Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) hijacks five airliners, destroys three of them at Dawson's Field, Jordan



September 1970 (Black September)  
King Hussein drives the PLO out of Jordan



Eight Black September terrorists kill 2 Israeli athletes, take 9 as hostages.



9/6/72 in night-time airport gun battle, 9 Israeli hostages, 5 terrorists and 1 policeman are killed.

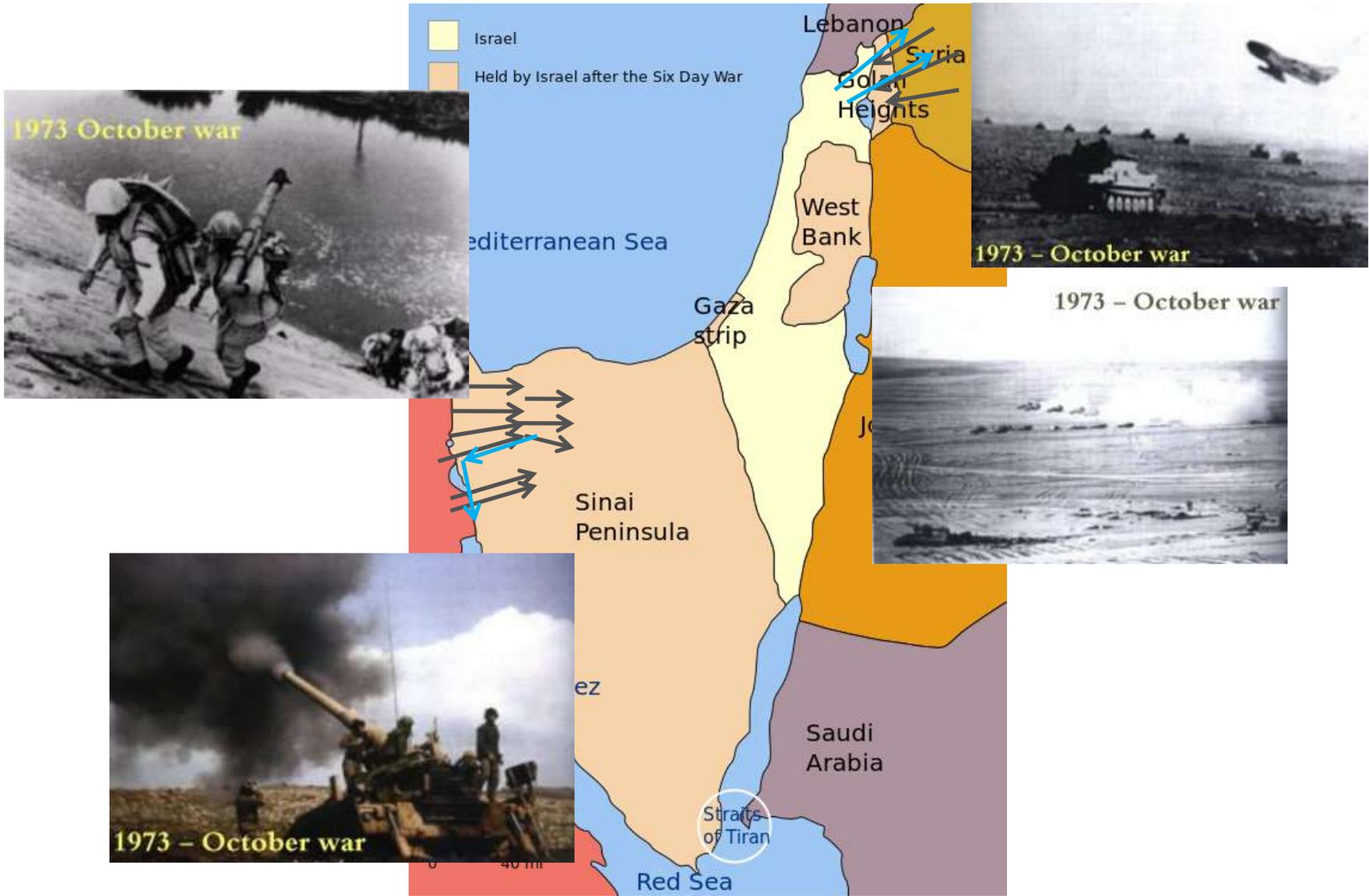
Israel at War:  
1973--The October  
(Yom-Kippur) War



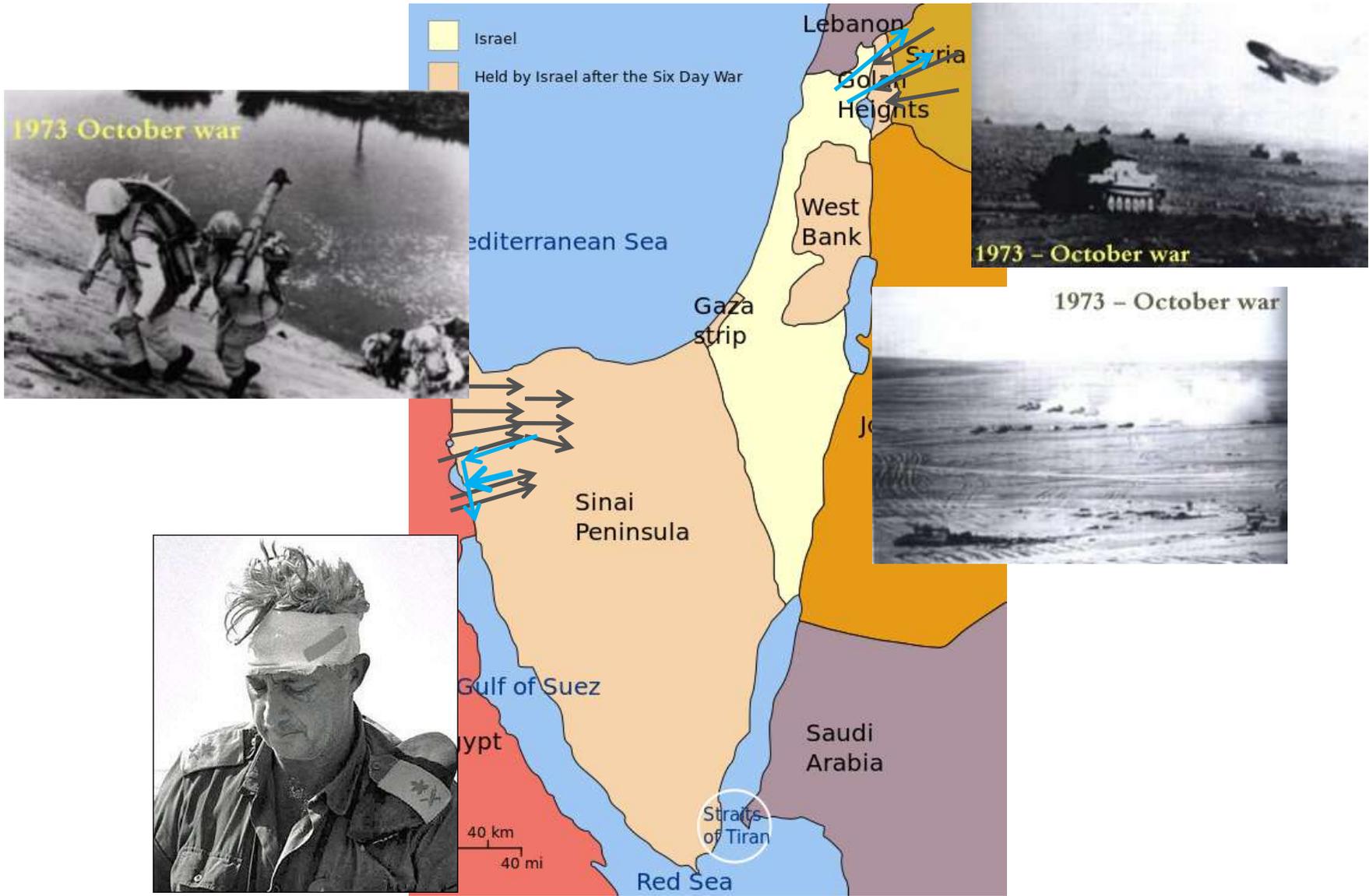
Anwar Sadat, third President of Egypt



Territory held by Israel after the 1967 Six-Day War



October 6, 1973, Egyptian surprise attack across the Suez Canal, Syrian tanks attack the Golan Heights

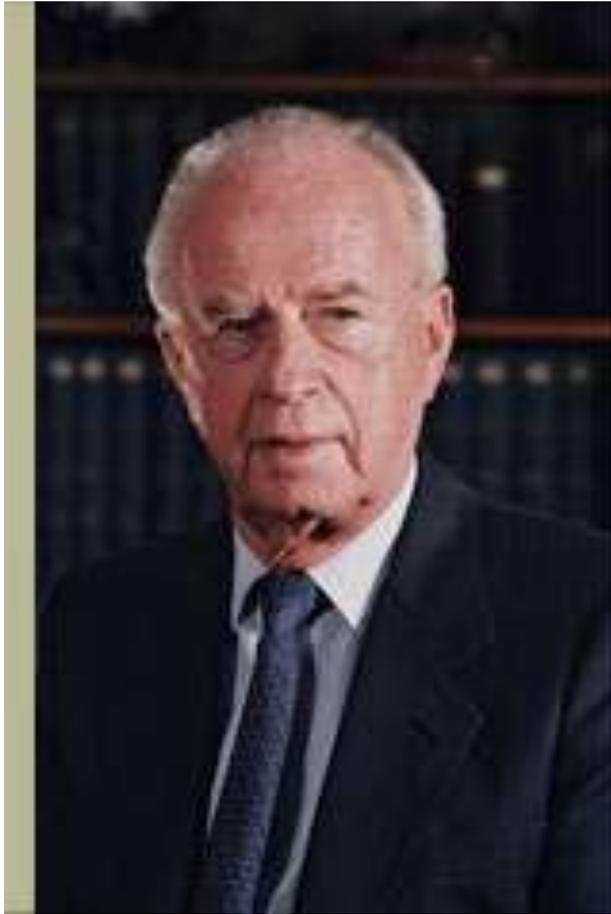


Ariel Sharon asks permission to attack Cairo, is wounded in action.



Israel evacuates all 18 settlements in Sinai, returns Sinai to Egypt.

# The Peace Process Begins

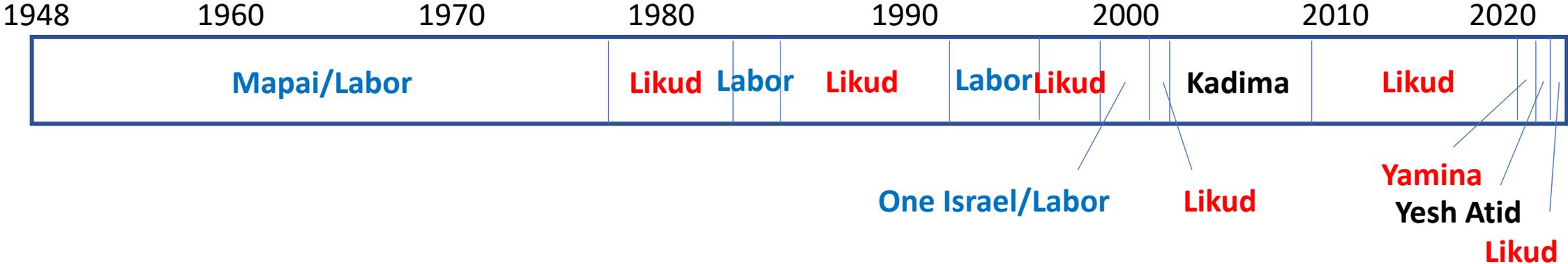


Yitzhak Rabin,  
Prime Minister of  
liberal, socialist, Labor party



Menachem Begin,  
founder of  
conservative, religious, Likud party

# Israeli Politics

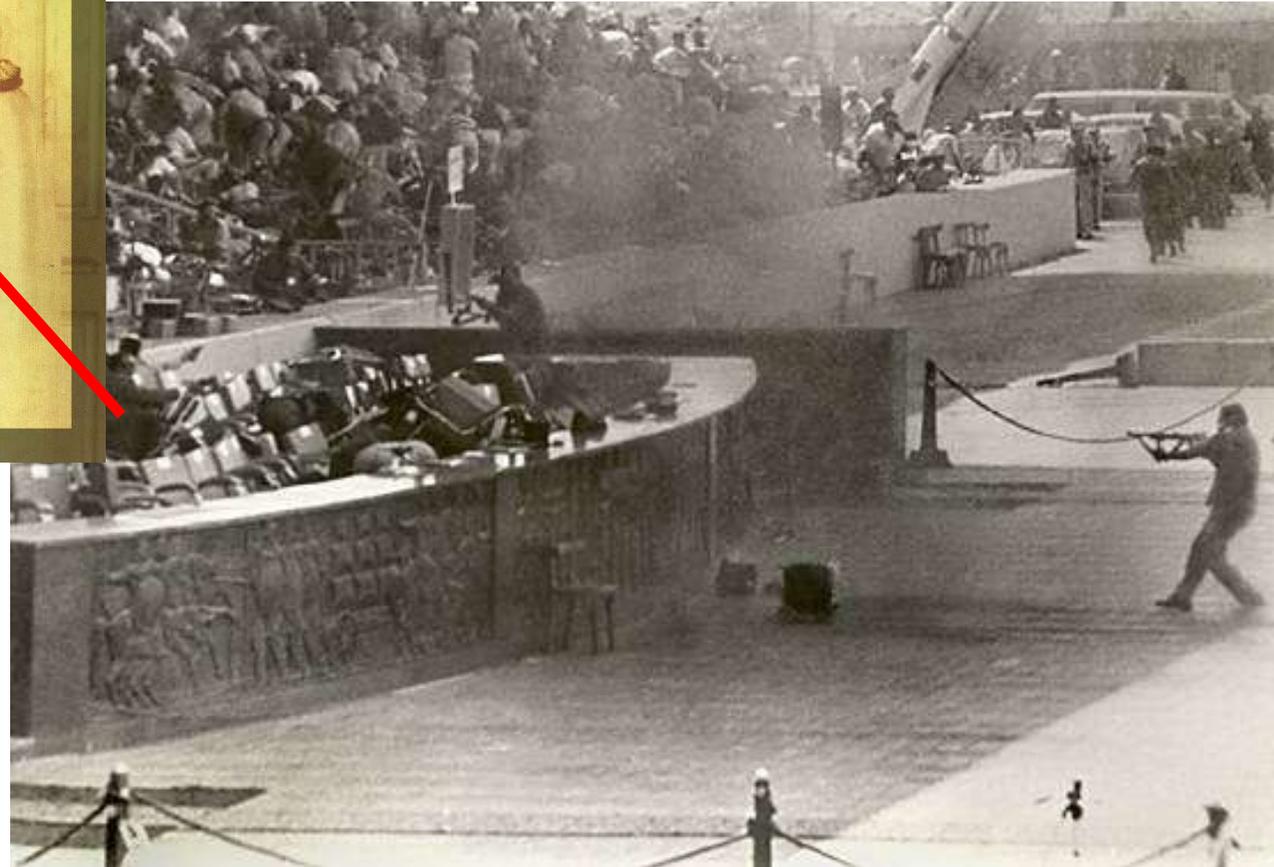


Ashkenazi founding and control  
Socialist

Mizrahi political influence  
Free market



Menachim Begin, Jimmy Carter and Anwar Sadat at Camp David, 1978

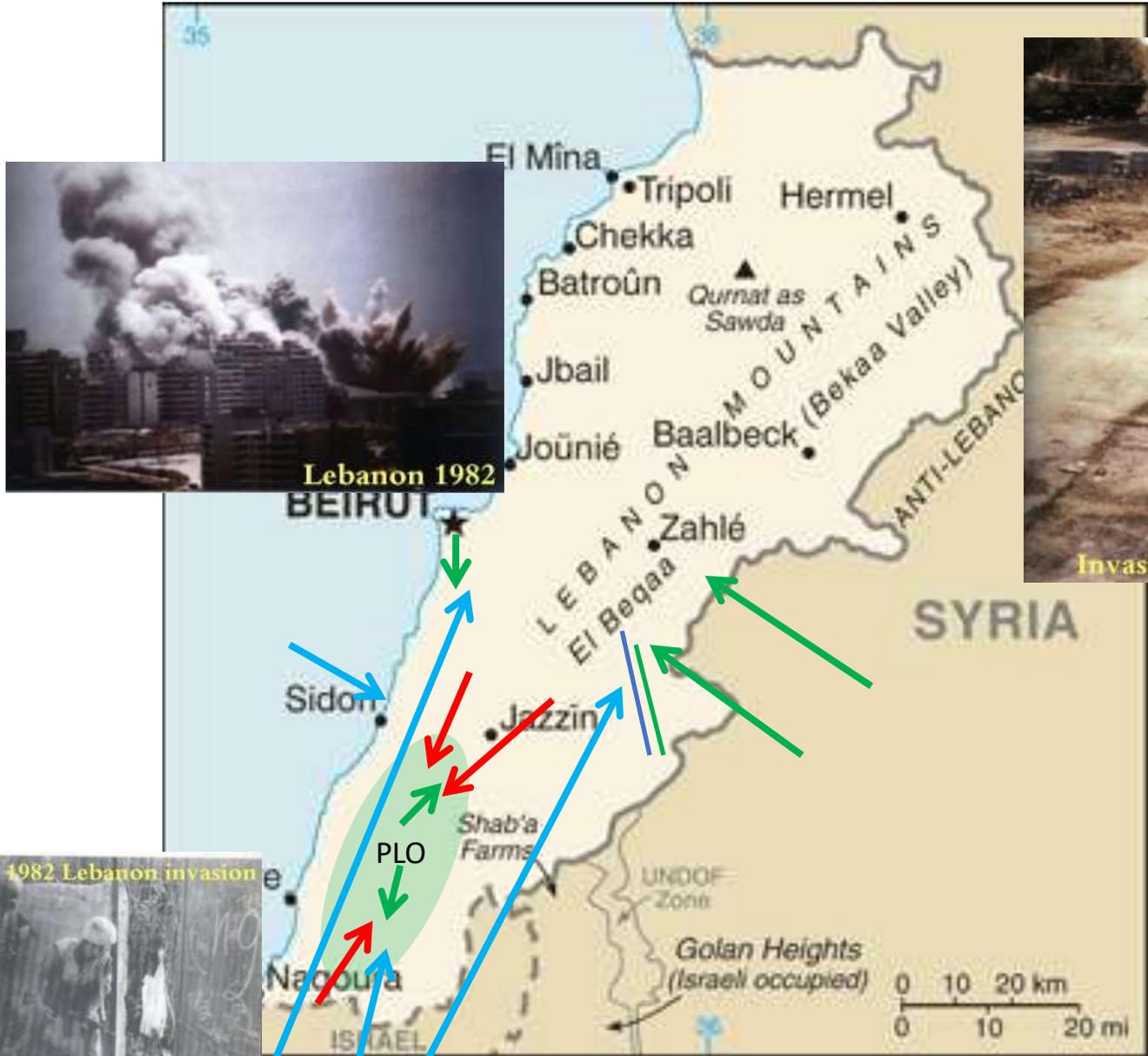


October 6, 1981, Anwar Sadat assassinated by the Muslim Brotherhood

# 1980s--Radical Islam, Iran and Hezbollah



Ayatollah Khomeini took control of Iran in 1979,  
beginning Radical Islam



June 1982, Israel invades Lebanon to drive out the PLO



1982: Ayatollah Khomeini, in Iran, sponsors the birth of Hezbollah in Lebanon.

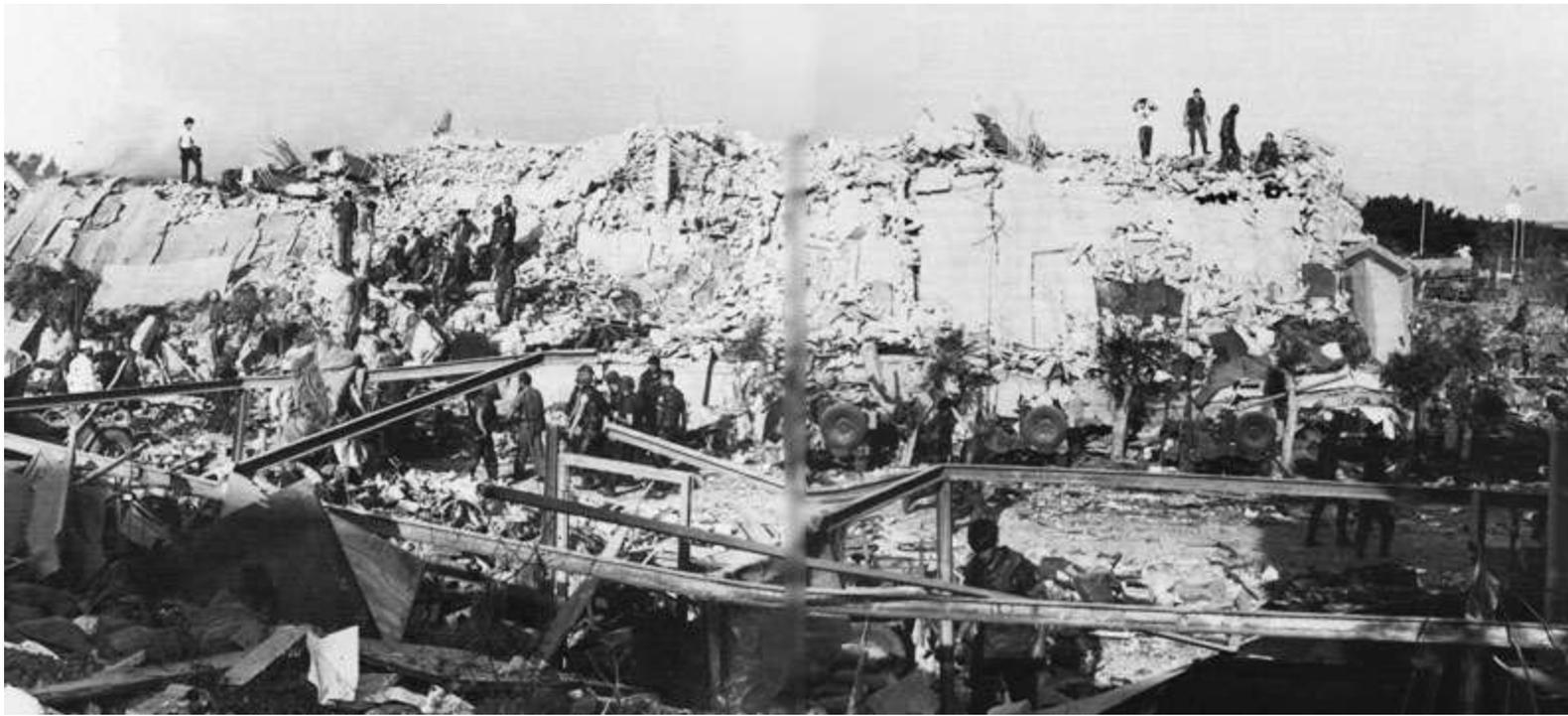




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Hezbollah headed by Shi'a cleric Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah

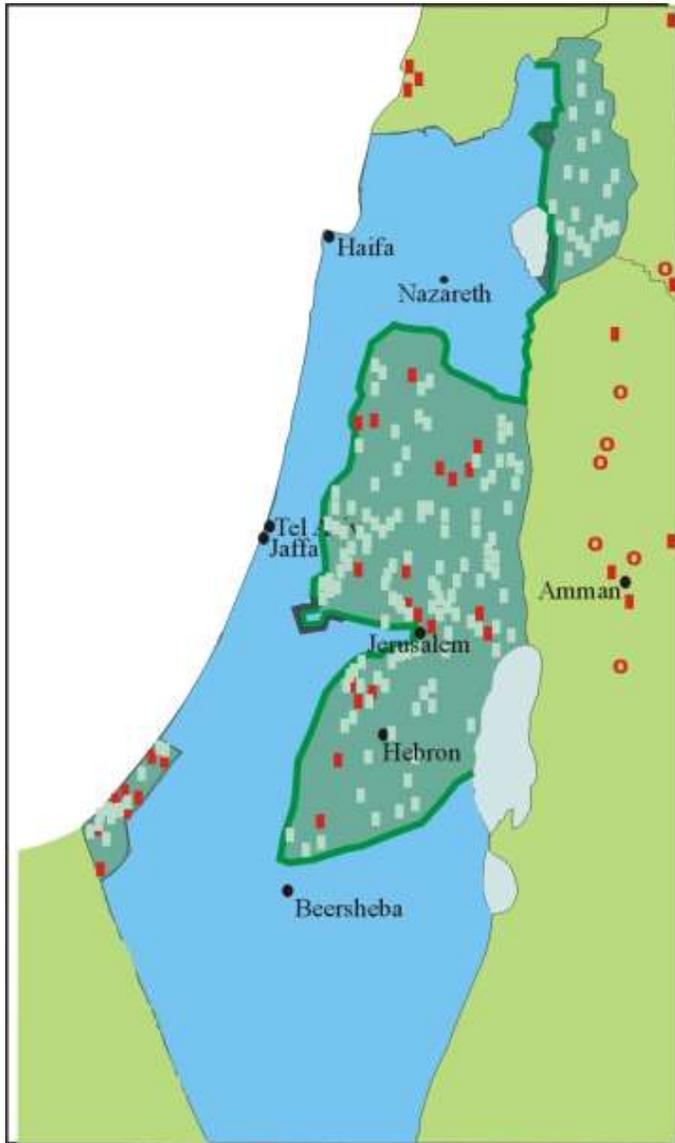


October 1983: Nasrallah orders Hezbollah to Bomb the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut.

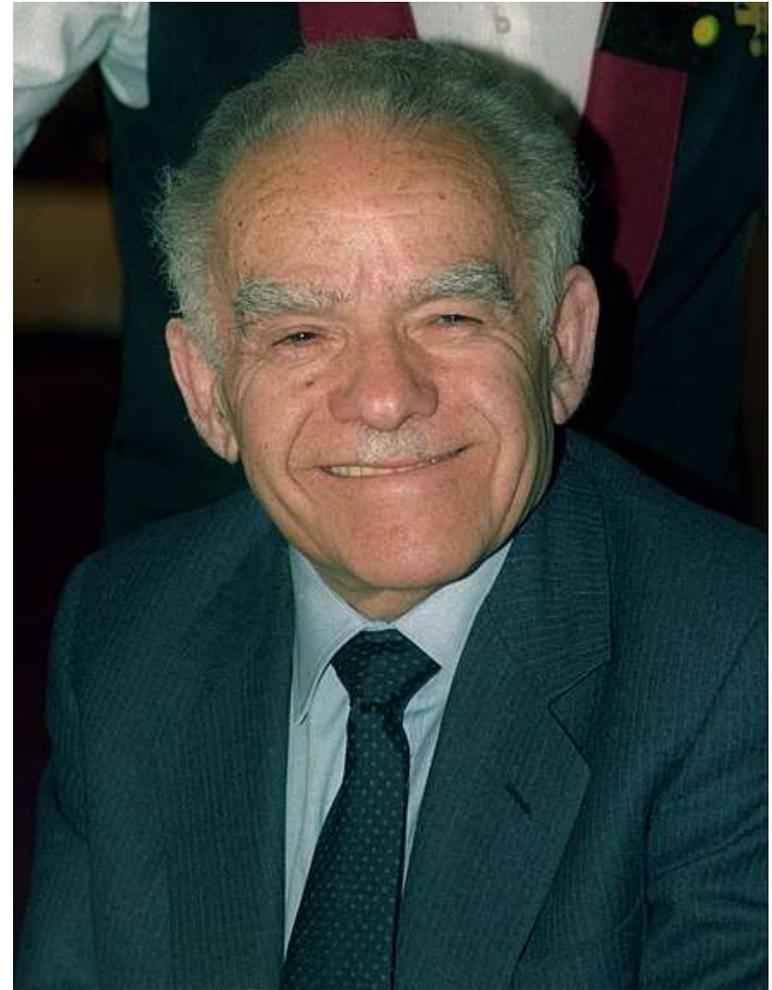


Hezbollah headed by Shi'ite cleric Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah

# Settlements In the 1980s



Israeli settlements, about 1988



Prime Minister Ytzhak Shamir,  
Likud successor to Menachim Begin

# Intifada, and Hamas



December 9, 1987, Intifada  
(War of the Stones) begins in  
Jabalia refugee camp.



Dr. Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi (above) and Sheikh Ahmed Yassin (right), founded Hamas in 1988, during the Intifada.



Hamas also funds the terrorist Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigade.

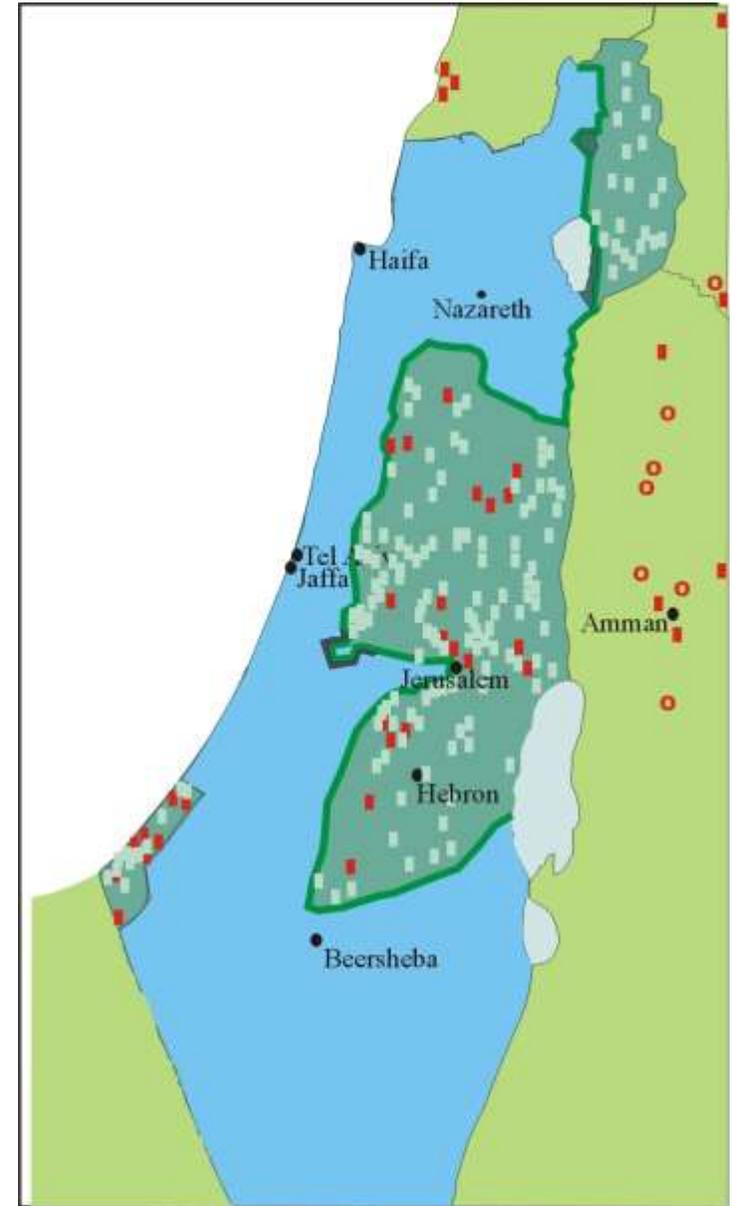


Hamas provides health care, soup kitchens, day-care, helps build mosques and sponsors youth sports leagues.



12/4/88 Yassir Arafat speaks to a special session of the U.N. General Assembly in Geneva. On behalf of the PLO he renounces terrorism and recognizes Israel.

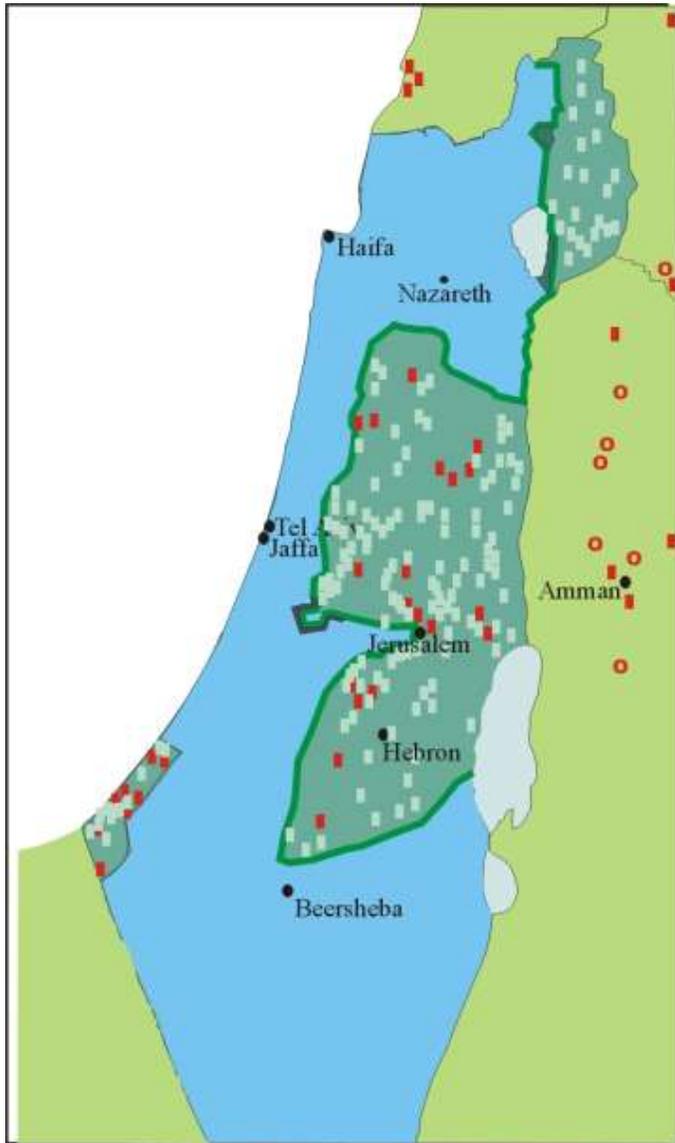
December 1988. Jordan relinquishes its claim to the West Bank, and turns it over to the PLO.



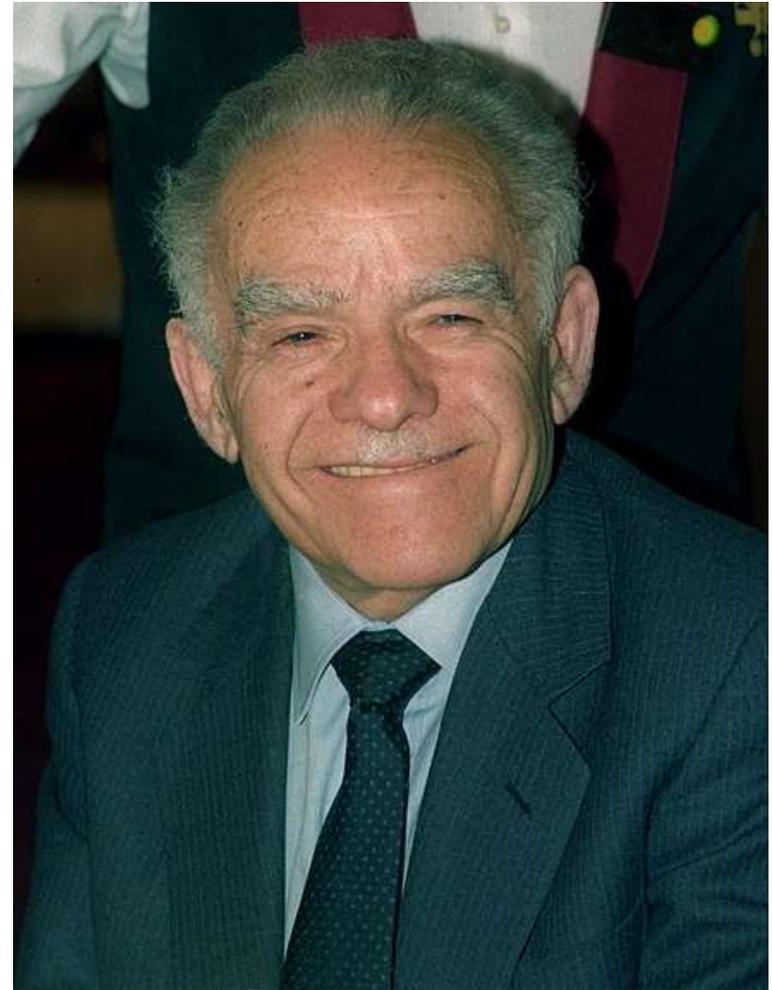
# 1990s--The Oslo Accords



Gulf War in Kuwait, February 1991



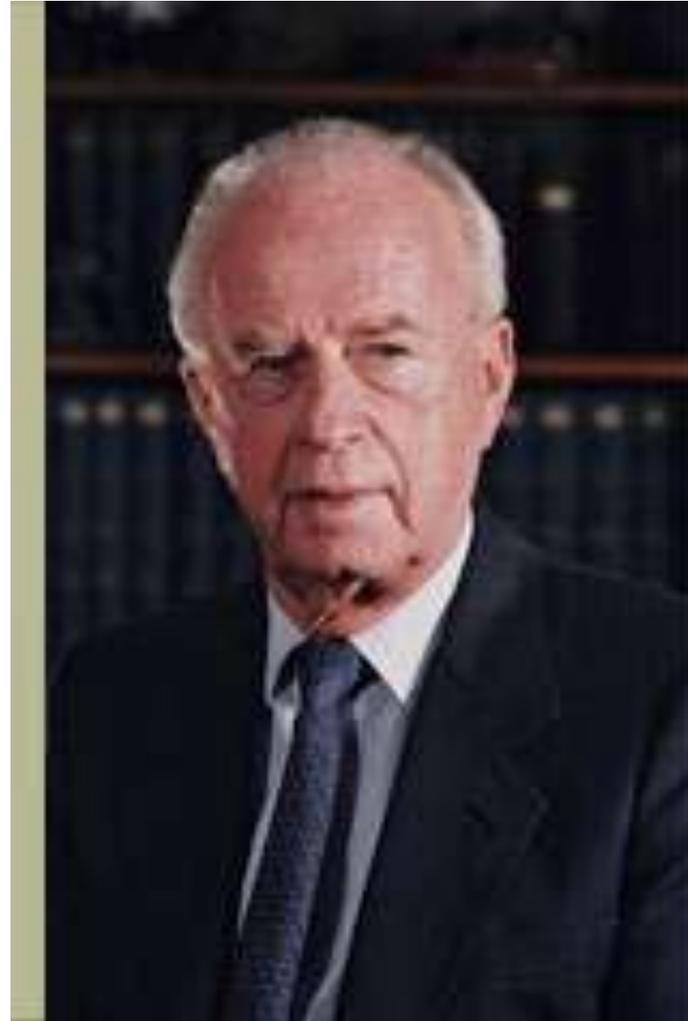
Israeli settlements, about 1988



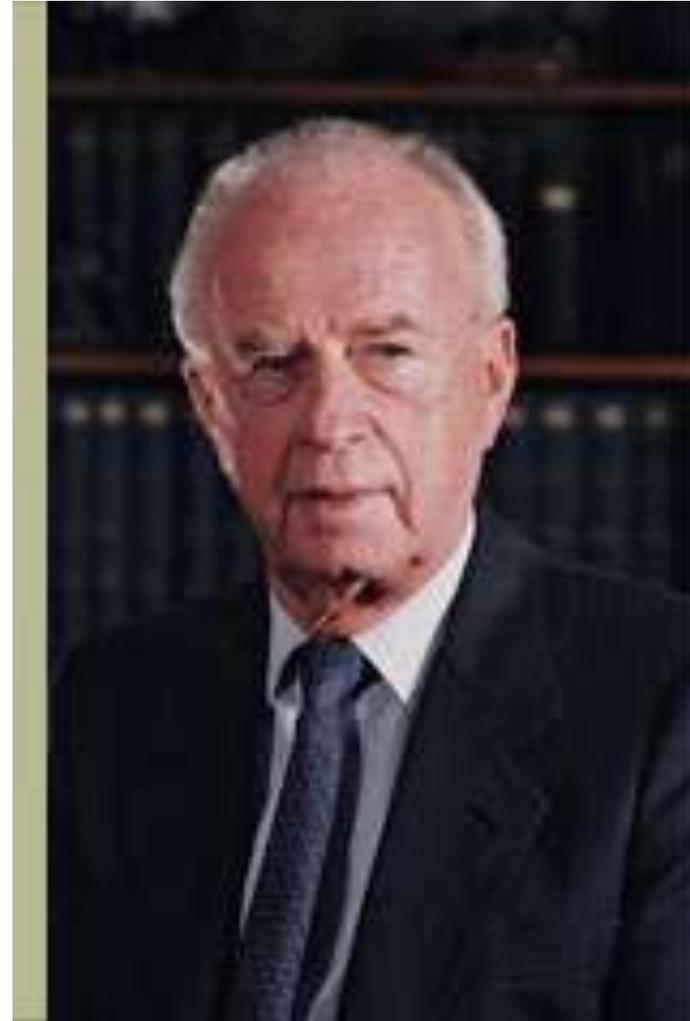
Prime Minister Ytzhak Shamir,  
Likud successor to Menachim Begin



George H.W. Bush opens the Madrid Conference, in November 1991



1992, Labor Party and Yitzhak Rabin take control after 15 year Likud control.



1993, Yitzhak Rabin and Yassir Arafat initiate the secret Oslo talks.



Oslo Accords signed in Washington D.C., September 13, 1993

## **Oslo Accords:**

Palestinian Authority (PA) will govern designated areas during an interim 5-year “confidence-building” period.

No new Settlement construction during the interim period

Final Status negotiations to begin May 1996:  
Borders, Settlements, Refugees, Security, Jerusalem

Final treaty to be signed not later than May 1999.



The West Bank, per the Oslo Accords

Final Status issues to be negotiated during the five-year transition period between 1995 and May 1999:

- Status and disposition of refugees.
- Settlements.
- Security arrangements between the two states.
- Borders.
- Jerusalem.



Hamas, having pledged to destroy Israel, stepped up its attacks in an attempt to sabotage the Oslo Accords. 7/1994-3/1996, 34 fatal attacks, 161 killed.



## Suicide bombings:

### **Sept. 1993—Oslo Accords signed**

|      |               |
|------|---------------|
| 1993 | 2— 1 killed   |
| 1994 | 5—38 killed   |
| 1995 | 4—39 killed   |
| 1996 | 4—59 killed   |
| 1997 | 3—24 killed   |
| 1998 | 2— 3 killed   |
| 1999 | 2—none killed |



Suicide attack on public bus in Haifa, 1993



Machpelah, Tomb of the Patriarchs  
Attacked by Baruch Goldstein, February 25, 1994  
29 killed, 125 wounded



Grave of Baruch Goldstein in Park Kahne, Hebron



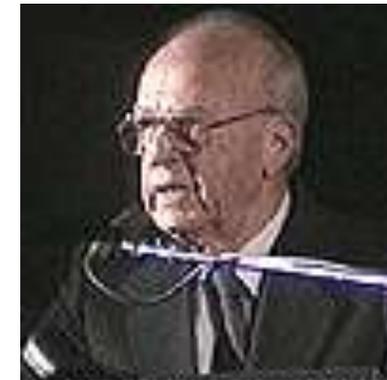
Benjamin Netanyahu, a young leader of the Likud Party, spoke out against the Oslo Accords and against Yitzhak Rabin at two large rallies, calling Rabin a traitor.



On November 4, 1995 a celebration was held in this square in Tel Aviv to rally support for the Oslo Accords.



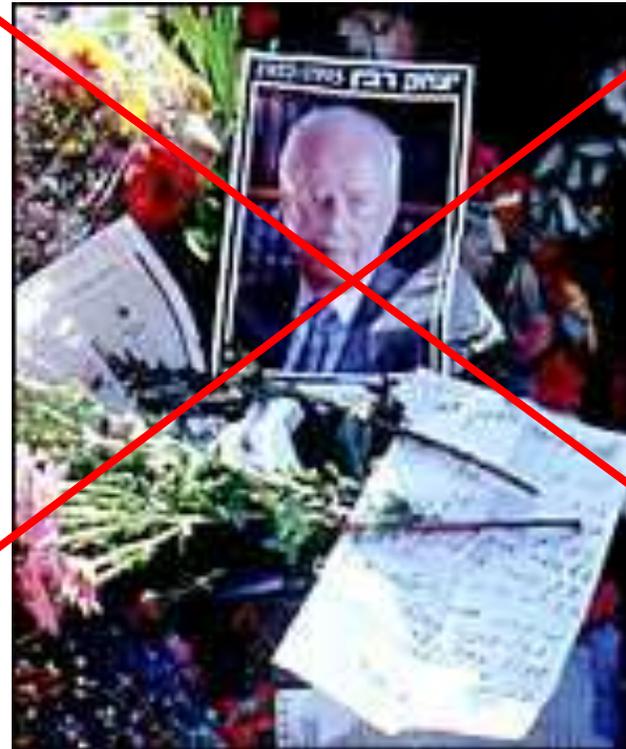
The pro-peace rally



Rabin spoke of a vision of peace at the rally



The scene after the shooting



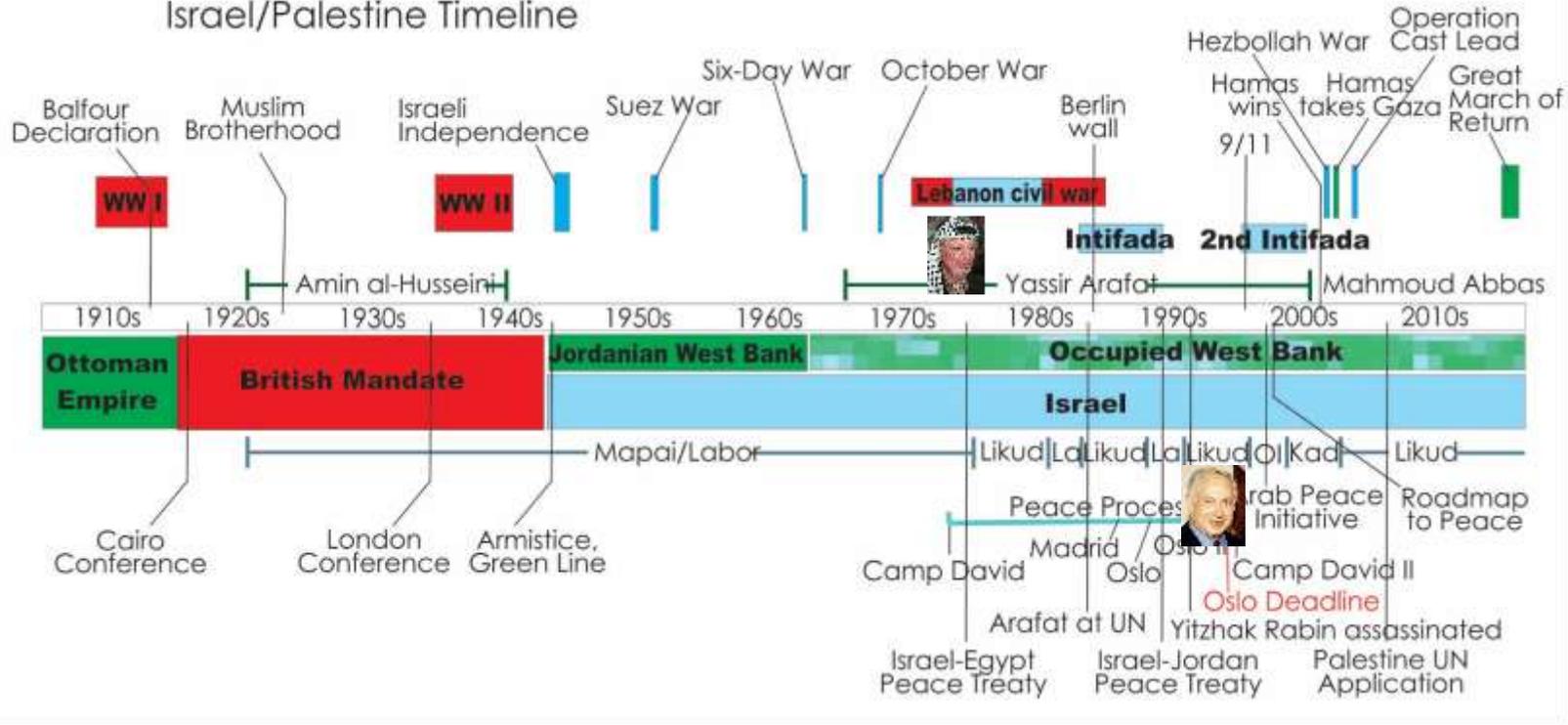
The assassin, Yigal Amir.

11/4/95. Yitshak Rabin assassinated by right-wing, Religious Zionist Yigal Amir.



June 1996. Benjamin Netanyahu takes over the Israeli government. He refused to negotiate the “final status” issues required in the Oslo Accords. Consequently, there was no treaty to sign in 1999.

# Israel/Palestine Timeline



# Israel and Palestine

