

*History repeats itself--first as tragedy,
second as farce.*

--Karl Marx

*What we learn from history, is that we
learn nothing from history.*

--Friedrich Hegel

Israel and Palestine



Israel and Palestine

February 2026

Instructor: Chris Schaefer, 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

Al Monitor: www.al-monitor.com

Jerusalem Post: www.jpost.com

Times of Israel: www.timesofisrael.com

BBC: www.bbc.com

Al Jazeera: www.aljazeera.com

The Economist, Middle East Newsletter: www.economist.com/newsletters/middle-east-dispatch

The Guardian: www.theguardian.com

Media Line: www.themedialine.org

UNRWA: 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.)

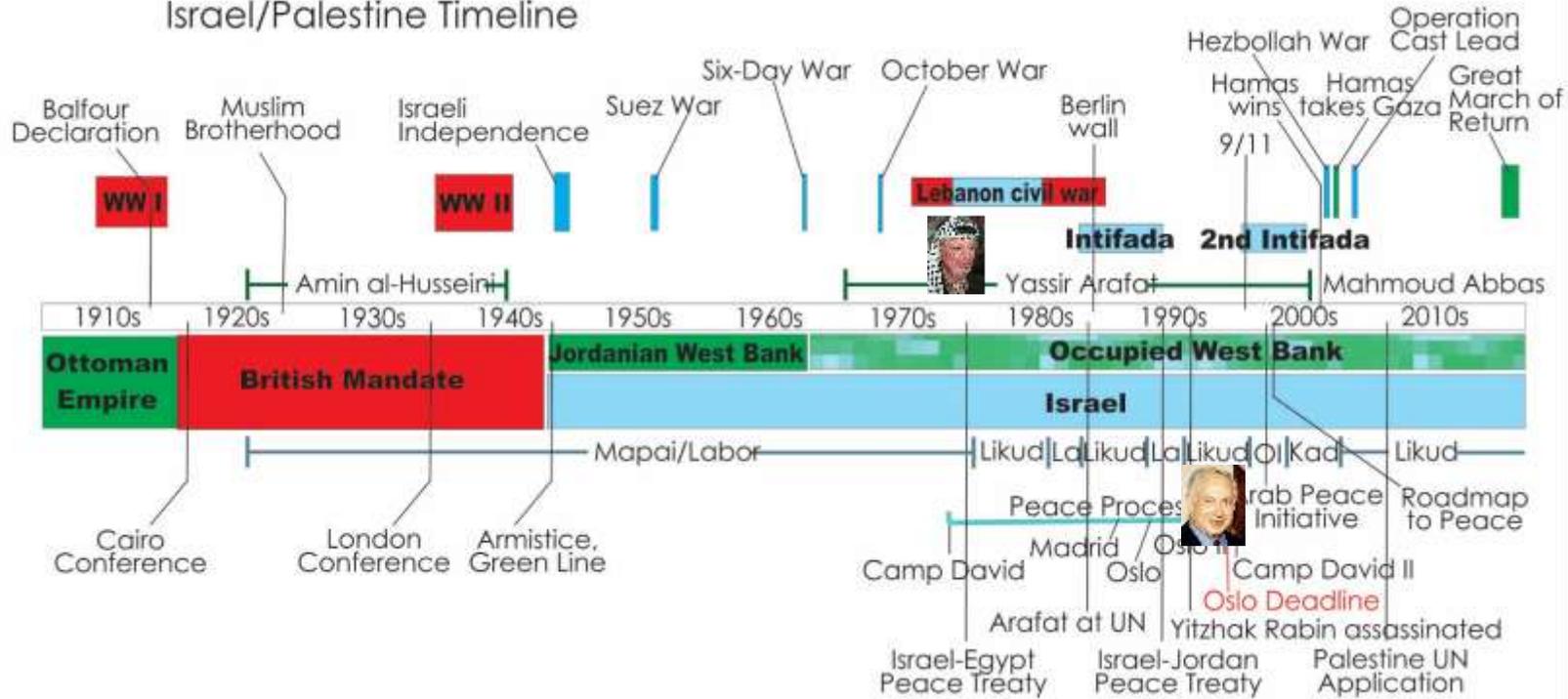
Israel and Palestine

Palestinian suicide attacks on Israelis:

Year	Number of attacks	Persons killed	Comments
Dec. 1987—1st Intifada begins			
1988	none		
1989	1	16	Islamic Jihad
1990	none		
1991	none		
1992—1st Intifada ends			
Sept. 1993—Oslo Accords signed			
1993	2	1	Hamas and Islamic Jihad
1994	5	38	Hamas and Islamic Jihad
1995	4	39	Hamas and Islamic Jihad
1996	4	59	Hamas and Islamic Jihad
1997	3	24	Hamas
1998	2	3	Hamas and Islamic Jihad
1999	2	none	Hamas
Sept. 2000—Second Intifada begins			
2000	5	6	Hamas and Islamic Jihad
2001	40	85	Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PFLP and Fatah*
2002	47	238	Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PFLP and Fatah
2003	23	145	Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PFLP and Fatah
2004	17	98	Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PFLP and Fatah
2005	9	33	Islamic Jihad, Fatah, Popular Resistance Committee and Hezbollah
Aug. 2005—Second Intifada ends			
2006	3	15	Islamic Jihad and Fatah
2007	1	3	Islamic Jihad and Fatah
2008	2	1	Hamas, PFLP and Fatah
2009	----		

Aftermath of Rabin's Assassination
Likud and Benjamin Netanyahu
Arab Terrorism
Settlements
Peace Process

Israel/Palestine Timeline



Oslo Accords:

Palestinian Authority (PA) will govern designated areas during an interim five-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.

During the interim period:

- Area A—Palestinian government and security

- Area B—Palestinian administration, Israeli security

- Area C—Israeli military (IDF) administration and security



The West Bank, per the Oslo Accords

Final Status issues:

- **Refugees.**
- **Settlements.**
- **Security.**
- **Borders.**
- **Jerusalem.**

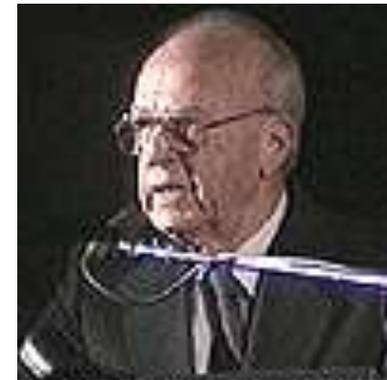
Hamas



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.



The pro-peace rally



Rabin spoke of a vision of peace at the rally



The scene after the shooting



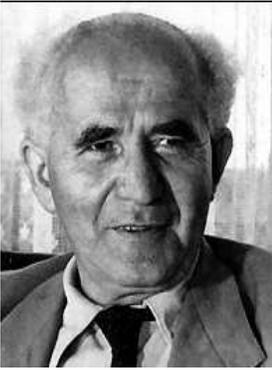
The assassin, Yigal Amir.

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



June 1996. Benjamin Netanyahu narrowly 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.

1990s



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



Late 1800s – 1940s, Ashkenazi Jewish immigration

Late 1940s – 1980s, Mizrahi Jewish immigration

1990s – 2000s, Russian Jewish immigration

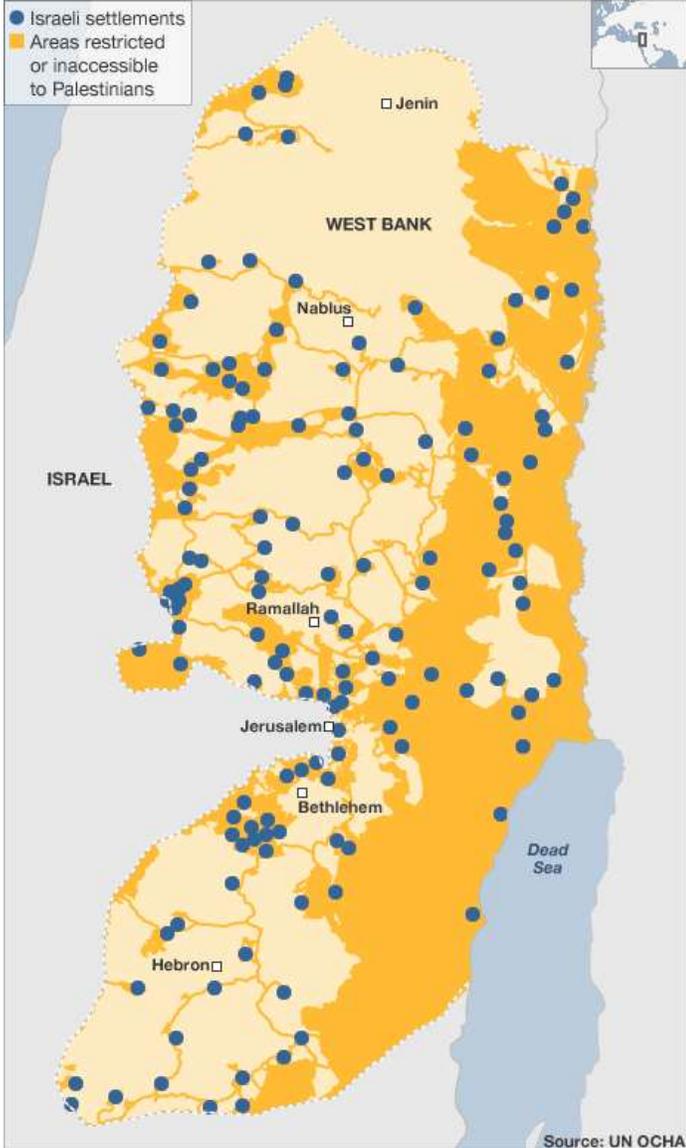


Menachem Begin,
founder of the
Herut/Likud
party.



Avigdor Lieberman,
founder of the
Yisrael Beiteinu
party.

Israeli settlements in the West Bank

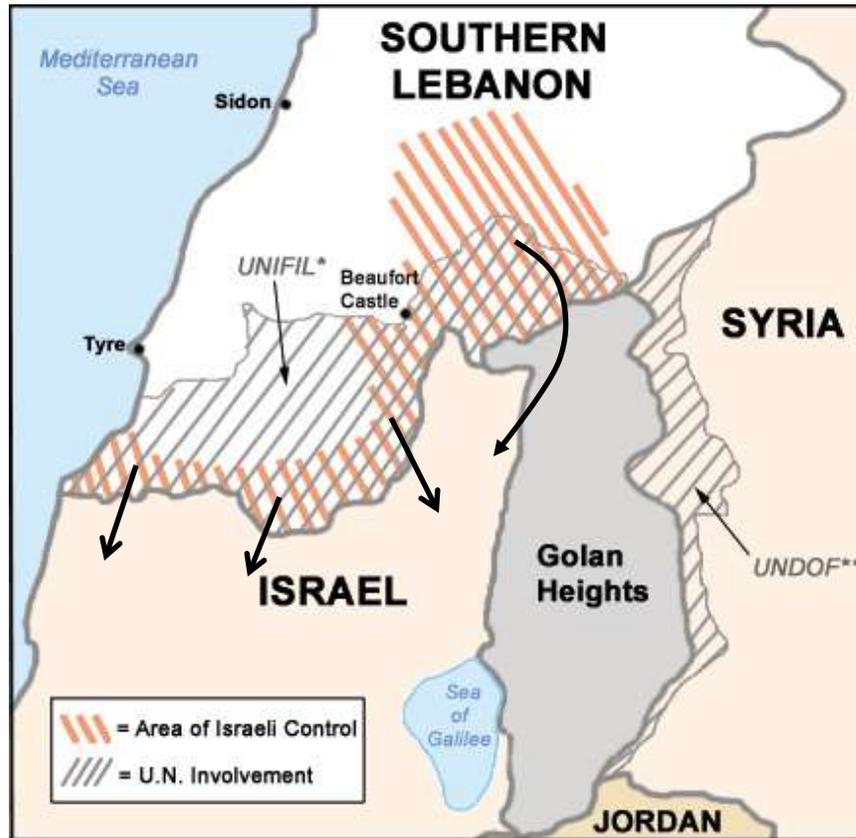




October 1998. Benjamin Netanyahu, Madeleine Albright and Yasser Arafat at the Wye River Conference.



May 1999. Labor's Ehud Barak defeats Benjamin Netanyahu, on a "Peace" platform.



May 2000. Israeli PM Ehud Barak withdraws Israeli troops from southern Lebanon. Muslim guerrillas arrest, attack Israel's (Christian, Druze, Shi'ite) South Lebanon Army killing 5,000.





July 2000, Ehud Barak, Bill Clinton, Yassir Arafat meet at Camp David

The Second Intifada



Ariel Sharon



The Haram al-Sharif



Palestinian protestors

Al-Aqsa Intifada
Sharon visit Sep. 2000



Suicide bombings:

Sept. 2000—Second Intifada begins

2000	5—	6 killed
2001	40—	85 killed
2002	47—	238 killed
2003	23—	145 killed
2004	17—	98 killed
2005	9—	33 killed



Suicide bombing in Haifa, 2003



11/11/04. Yasser Arafat dies, Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) takes over as President of the Palestinian Authority and head of Fatah.

9/06/05. Ariel Sharon removes settlements from Gaza.

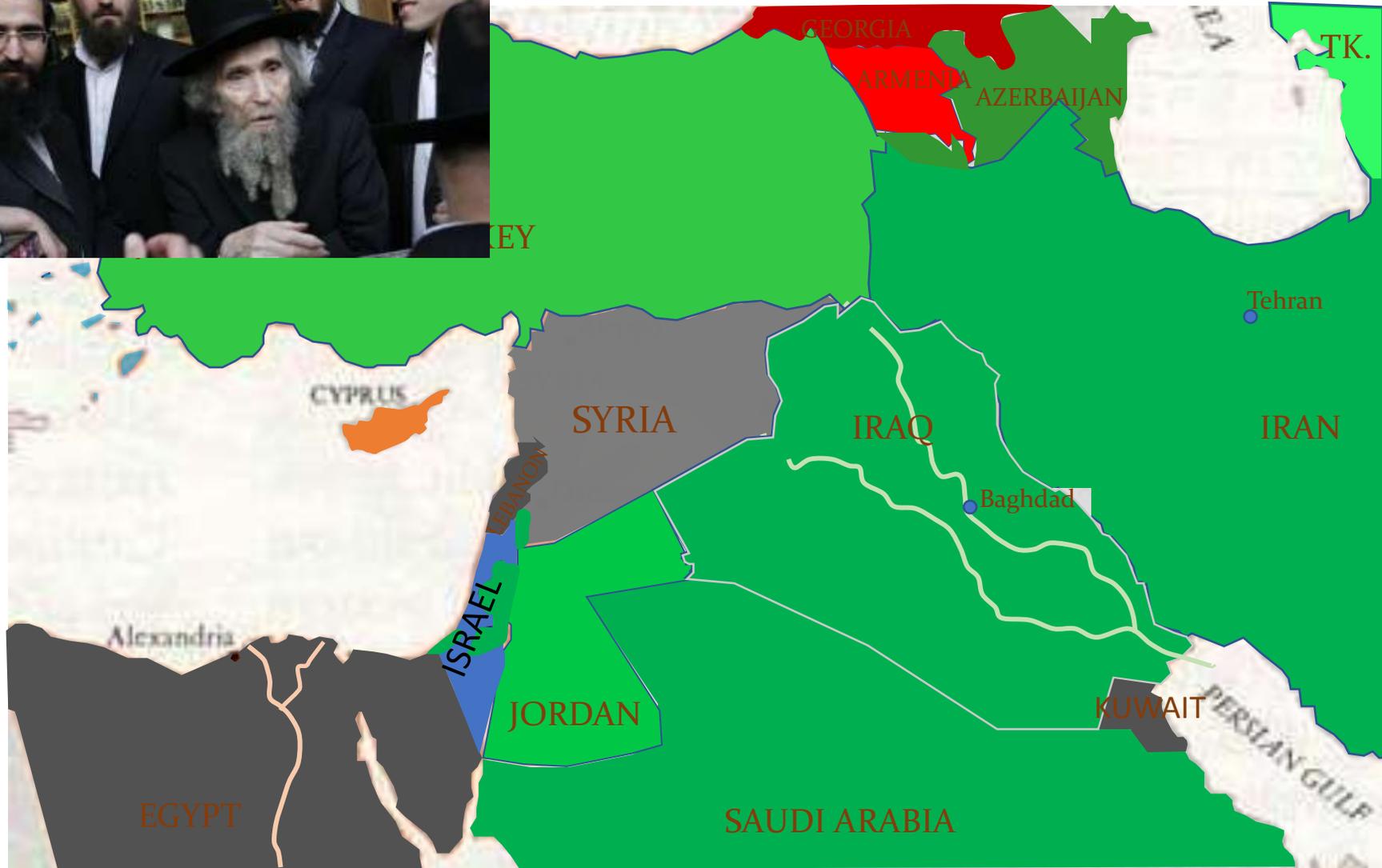


Gaza settlers forced to evacuate

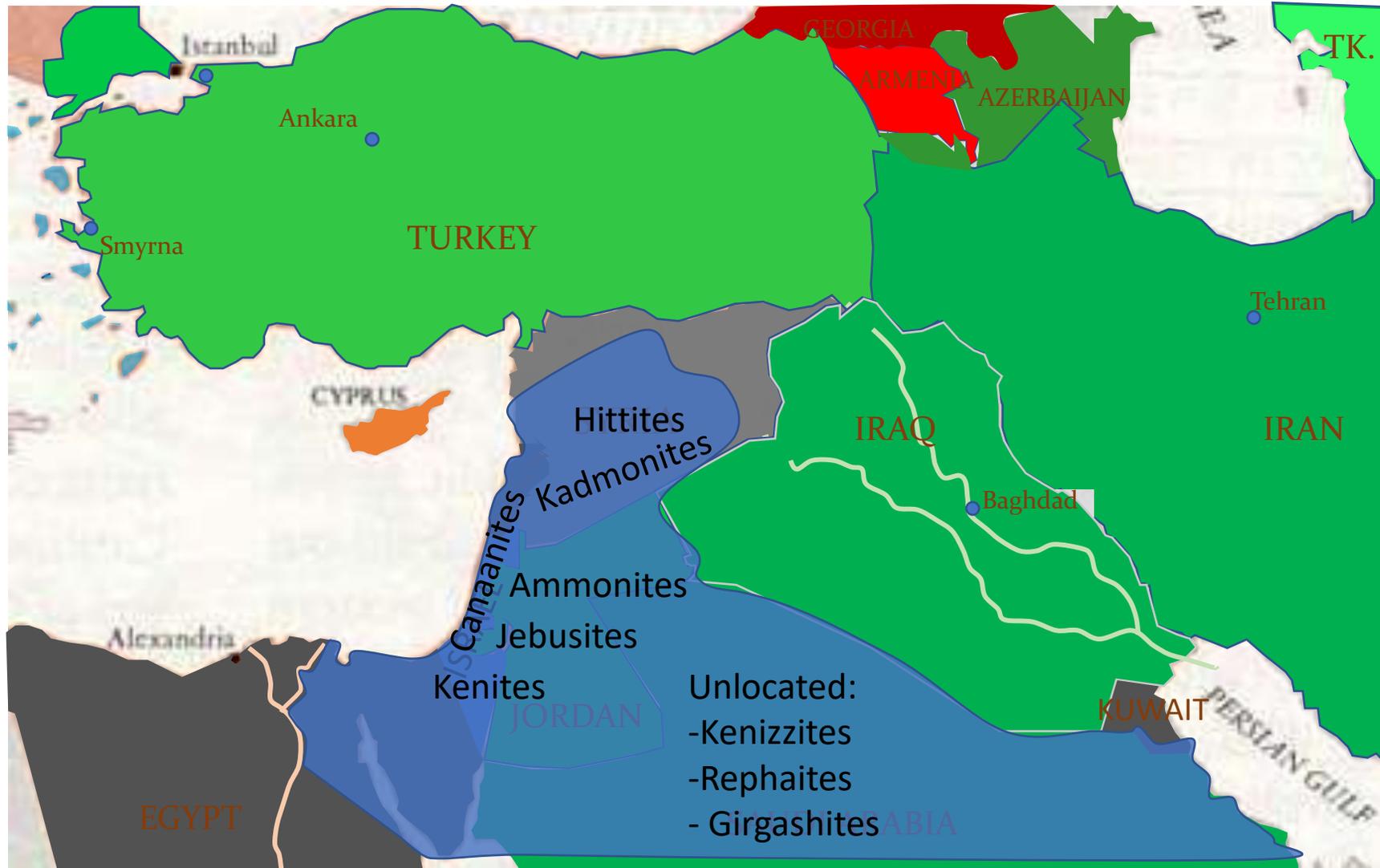
Settlement buildings being destroyed by IDF bulldozers.



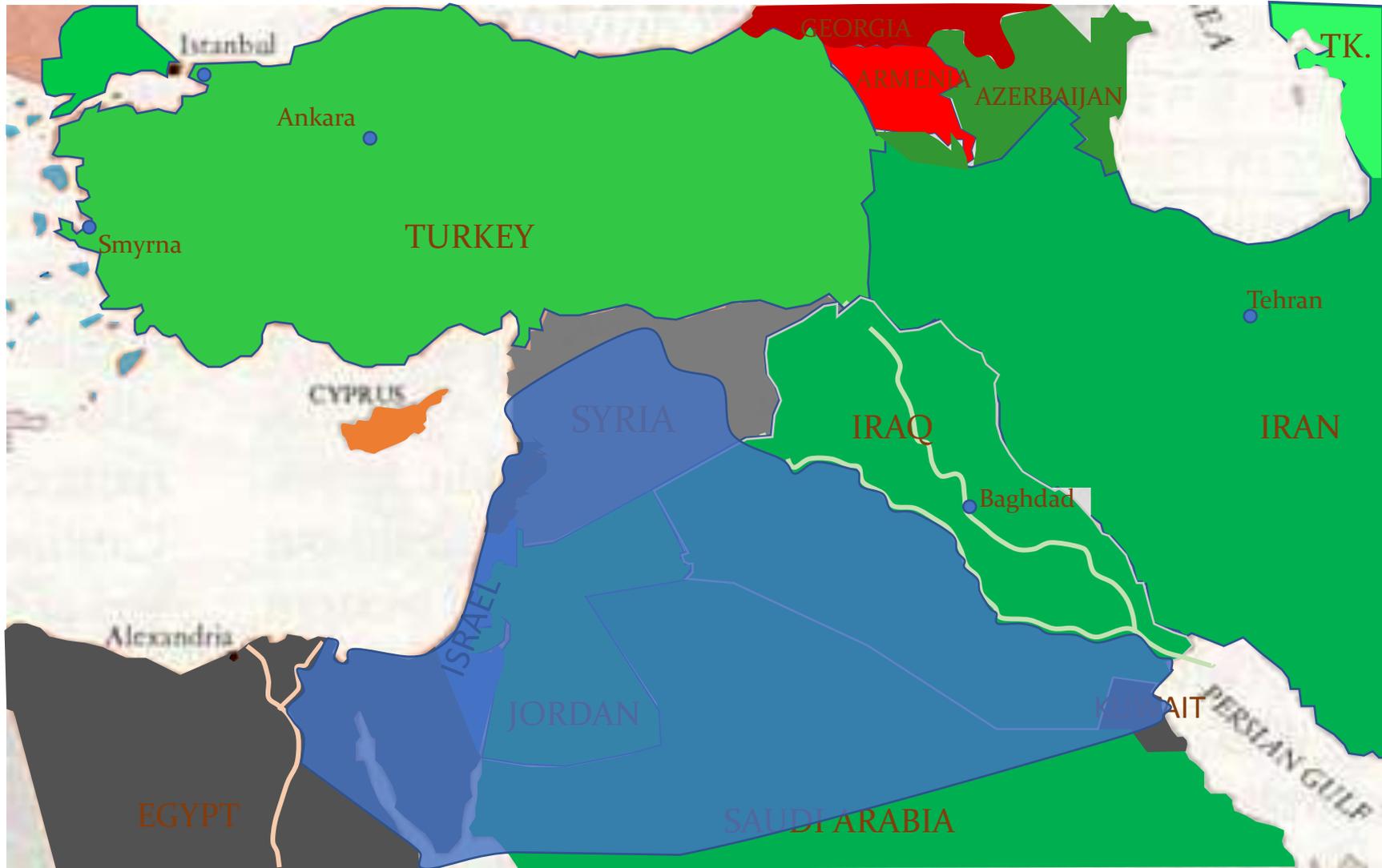
Settlement Expansion



Israel in the Middle East



Eretz Israel
 per Genesis 15: 18-21



Eretz Israel
Per Exodus 23:31 and Numbers 34: 1-15



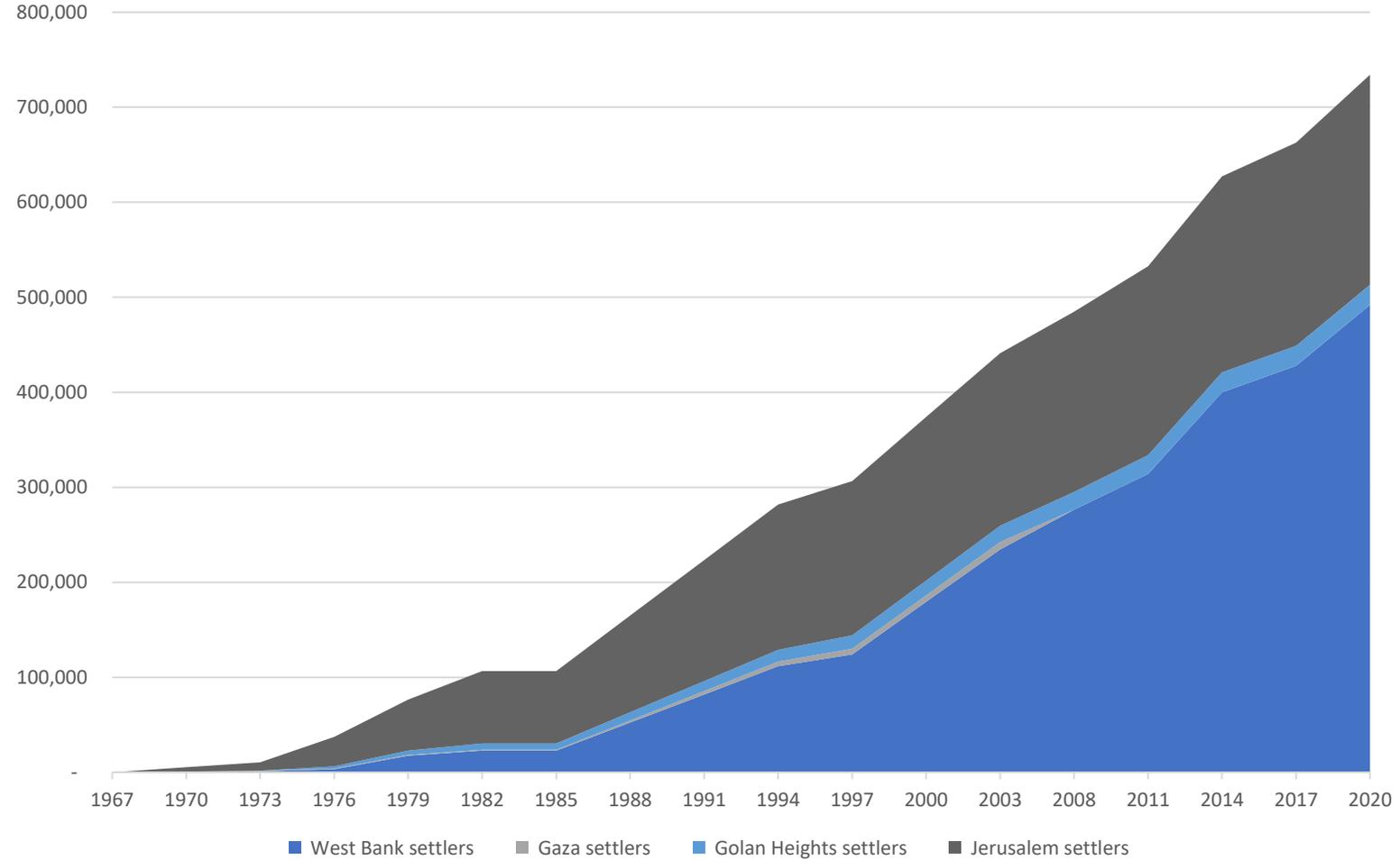
Yitzhar settlers damage olive trees near Hawara village.
Film by Times of Israel.



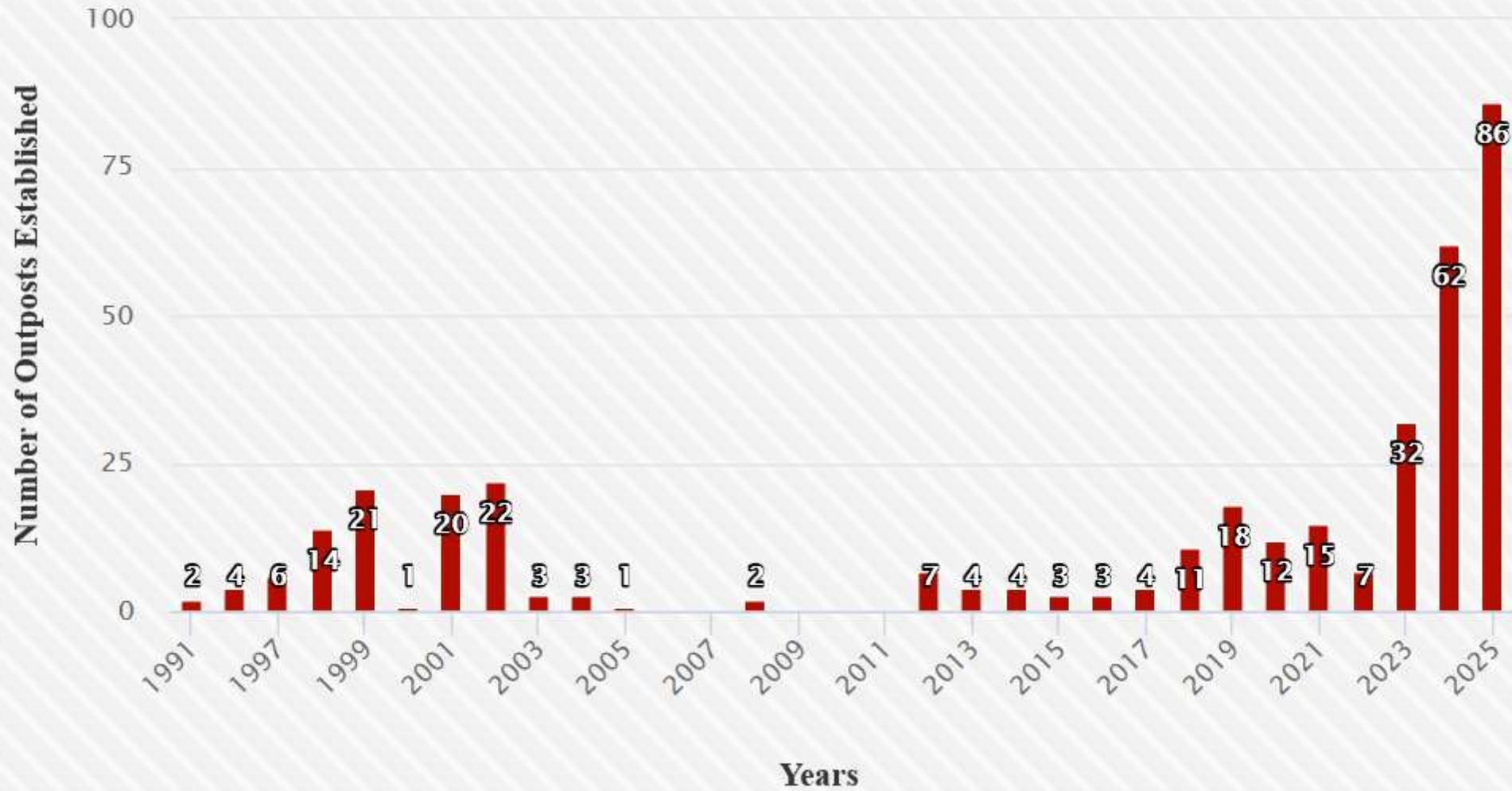




Settlement population growth



Number of Outposts Established per Year



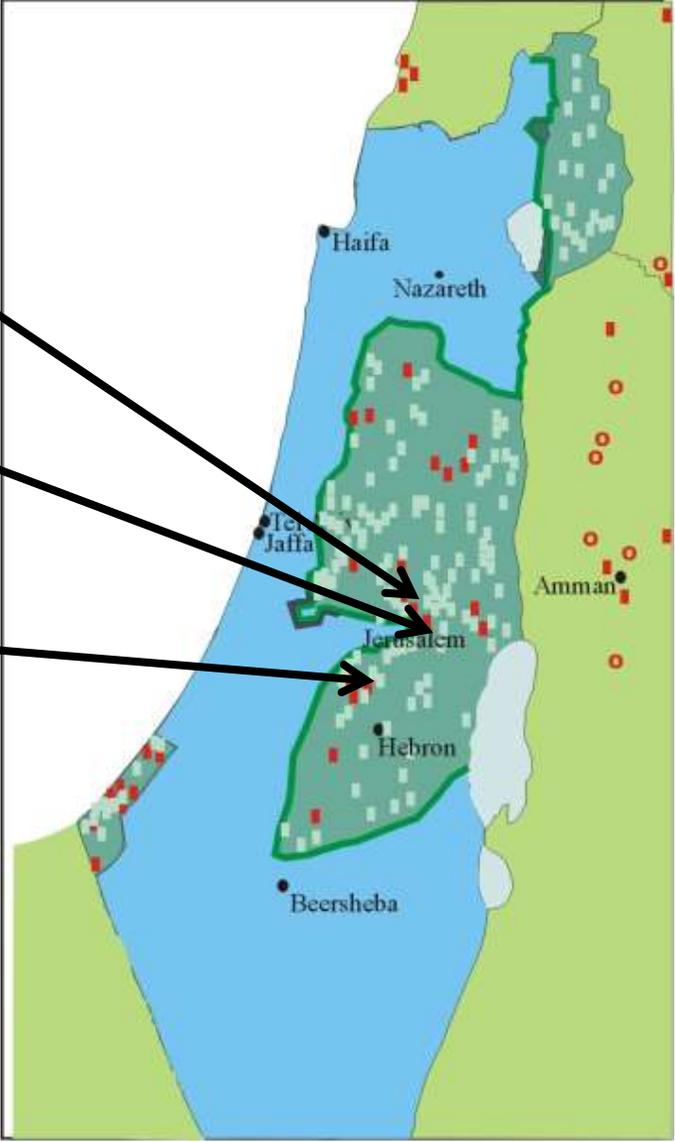


Givat Zeev Settlement, near the Palestinian city of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, February 2023

**Givat Zeev
Settlement**

**Ma'ale
Adumim
Settlement**

**Gush
Etzion
Settlement**













Gush Etzion Settlement, east of Bethlehem.

Security Barrier







Security fence, near Bethlehem

Yellow: Area "A"

Pink: West Bank areas where access by Palestinians is not allowed.

Black line: route of the security wall/fence





Wall, olive grove, and platform.
Aida Refugee Camp, Bethlehem

2000s



1/26/06. Hamas wins Palestinian parliamentary elections.



Hamas power struggle with Fatah in Gaza.
 Hamas sees Fatah as cooperating with Israel to
 deny Hamas' opportunity to govern.



Ariel Sharon, Kadima
Prime Minister
3/2001 - 4/2006



Ehud Olmert, Kadima
Prime Minister
3/2006 - 2/2009



2006. In response to kidnappings and rocket attacks, Israel invades southern Lebanon



When Israel withdraws, Hezbollah claims victory and becomes enormously popular in Lebanon.



June 2007, Hamas drives Fatah out of Gaza.
With Hamas in control of Gaza, Israel isolates Gaza.

Population of Gaza,
2.21 Million.

Population of Houston,
2.4 Million (city limits).



Source: Ocha

BBC

Size of Gaza:
141 square miles,
(25 miles long,
3.7 to 7.5 miles wide)

Size of Houston:
660 square miles,.

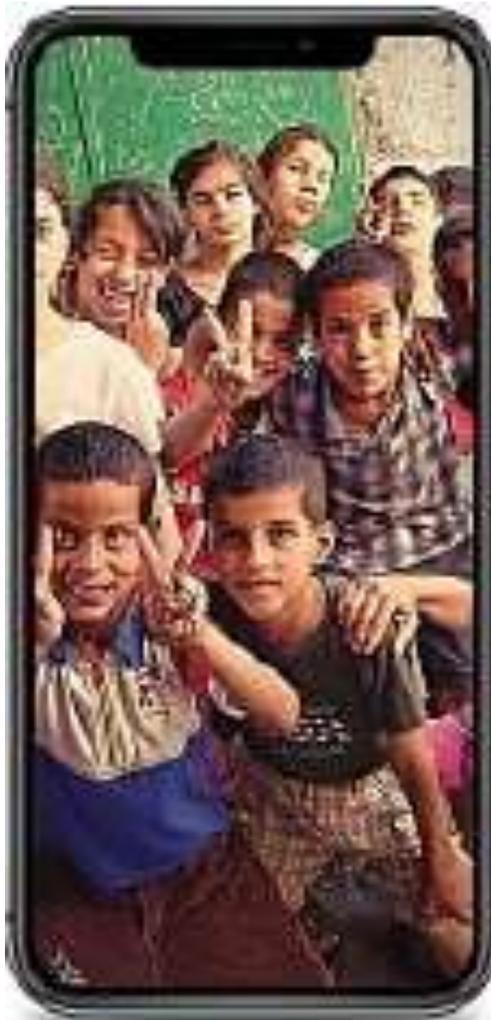


Palestinian medical personnel approach an injured protestor.



Source: Ocha

BBC



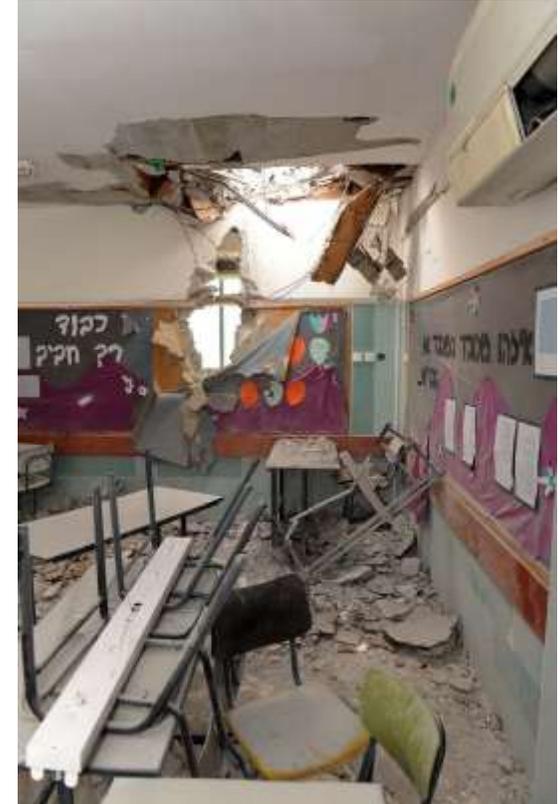
Gazans: young, poor and imprisoned



2009, First Gaza War--Operation Cast Lead.



Explosion in Gaza, 12 January 2009, during operation Cast Lead.



[Kindergarten](#) classroom in [Beersheba](#) hit by [Grad](#) rocket from Gaza



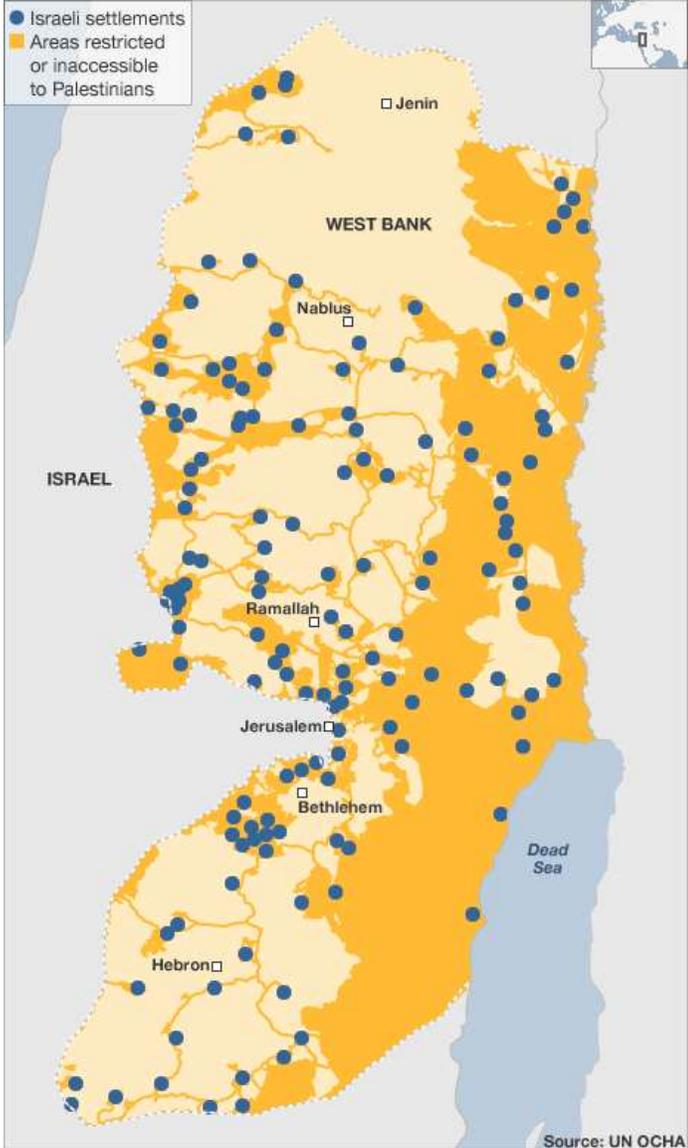
Benjamin Netanyahu regains control of the government in the 2009 elections.

Salaam Fayyad's plan



Salaam Fayyad, Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority, 2007-2013

Israeli settlements in the West Bank



Israeli settlement connections



Salaam Fayyad's Plan:

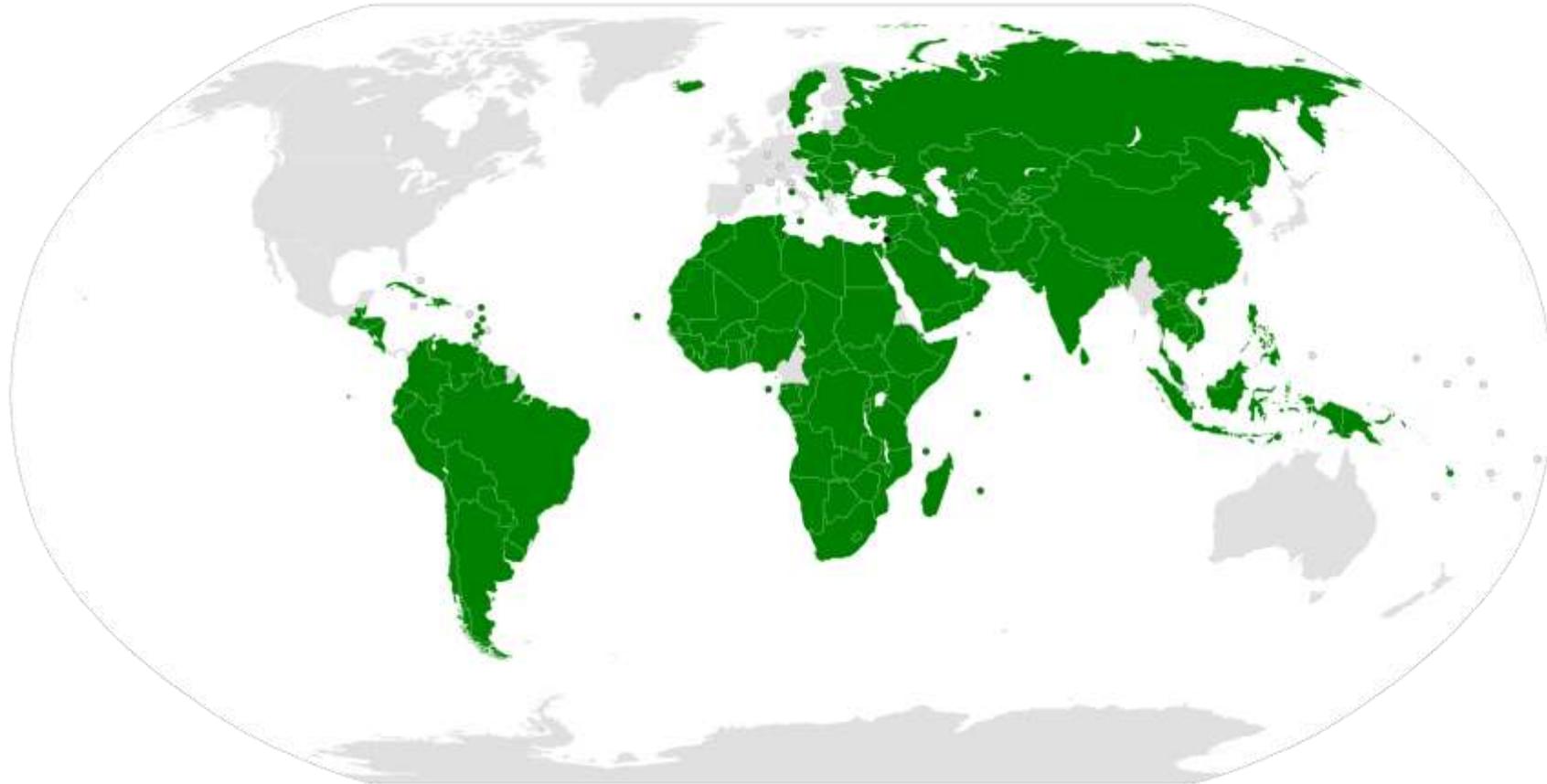
- Pursue peace negotiations with the US and the Quartet.
- At the same time, prepare for statehood.
 1. Establish and implement the infrastructure needed by an independent state.
 2. Build up our economy to reduce unemployment and make our businesses attractive to others.

This is a “bottom up” approach. (As opposed to the “top down” of negotiations.) When “bottom up” and “top down” meet, peace is forced.

Plan went into effect in 2009.







Green--countries that already recognized the State of Palestine.
Gray—the 50 countries that did not recognize Palestine in 2011.





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