

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**PALESTINE:
HISTORY, VIRTUES,
AND CHALLENGES**

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ
الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ
[الإسراء: ١]



The Prestige of Palestine According To The Qur'an

- Glory be to the one who took his servant (Muhammad) by night from Al-Masjid Al-Haram to Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa whose surroundings we have blessed - Qur'an 17:1
- Oh my people! Enter into the holy land which Allah has ordered you to enter - Qur'an 5:21
- And to Sulayman we subjugated the raging wind, blowing by his command to the lands we had showered with blessings - Qur'an 21:81
- And we made the oppressed people successors of the eastern and western lands, which we had showered with blessings - Qur'an 7:137
- But when he came to it, he was called from the bush in the sacred ground to the right side of the valley - Qur'an 28:30
- We had also placed between them and the city we showered with blessings other towns in sight of one another - Qur'an 34:18
- (I swear) By the fig and the olive (of Jerusalem) - Qur'an 95:1
- And listen! On the day that the caller will call out from a near place - Qur'an 50:41

WHY IS PALESTINE IMPORTANT?

The Significance Of Palestine According To The Three Abrahamic Religions

The Rightful Heirs of Palestine

Historically, Dawūd, Sulaymān, and all of the Prophets and saints of the Children of Israel were the rightful heirs to Jerusalem because for a period of time, they ruled under the flag of monotheism and God-consciousness. The right to rule that land was later divinely conveyed to the Muslims because they are the true followers of those Prophets, whereas the Jews went astray. They distorted their scriptures, killed their prophets, dealt in usury, and invoked Allah's wrath. If one reads the books of history, he would find that throughout the rule of the Muslims over Palestine, they safeguarded the right of other religions to freely practice their faith while providing them protection. On the contrary, when other religions ruled (ie. Christians), they oppressed and tyrannized the followers of other faiths while also expelling them from the land.

IN LIGHT OF JUDAISM

- In the Old Testament, it is referred to as "The Promised Land" for the Jews.
- They claim that their prophets are buried in Palestine
- The Judaic faith originated in Palestine
- The tomb of Jacob (Ya'qūb) is secured in a room in which only Jews are permitted to enter
- The Jews have two sacred cities; Jerusalem (Al-Quds) and Hebron (Al-Khalīl), both of which are in Palestine
- David (Dāwood) and Solomon (Sulaymān) established their throne in Jerusalem

IN LIGHT OF ISLAM

- In the early days of Islam, before the Ka'bah, the Muslims considered Masjid Al-Aqsa to be the Qiblah
- The second place of worship on the face of the Earth
- The quarters of the night journey (Al-Asraa Wa Al-Mi'raaj)
- The third of the three holy cities (After Makkah and Madinah)
- The land of the Prophets
- As the Qur'an states in numerous places, Allah has showered it in blessings
- It will be a place of refuge during the time of trial and tribulation to come
- The land of holy war
- Prayer in Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa bears a reward equal to hundreds of prayers elsewhere in the world (Various figures according to different narrations)
- The land of those whom Allah assists
- The place of resurrection and assembly on the day of Qiyaamah

IN LIGHT OF CHRISTIANITY

- They claim that Palestine is their land because Isā (عليه السلام) (Jesus) was born there
- Isā (عليه السلام) spread the message of God and preached monotheism in Palestine
- "Al-Qiyamah Church", or "The Church Of The Holy Sepulchre" is located in Palestine, in which they claim Isā (عليه السلام) is buried
- Via Dolorosa, or "The Path Of Pain" is situated in Palestine, a path which Jesus walked
- Bethlehem and Nazareth (The birthplace of Isā (عليه السلام)) are cities of Palestine



THE HISTORY OF PALESTINE



UNKNOWN BCE

Ādam (عليه السلام) built the Kaaba in Makkah. 40 years later, either him or his children built Masjid Al-Aqsa in Jerusalem. A masjid is not a 'building', rather it is a piece of land designated for Allah's worship. Thus, the entire Al-Aqsa compound is designated for Allah's worship.

1500 BCE

Palestine falls under Egyptian rule. The Pharaoh of Egypt enslaves many of Ibrāhīm (عليه السلام) descendants who had settled in Egypt after Ya'qub (عليه السلام) had moved there.

1157 BCE

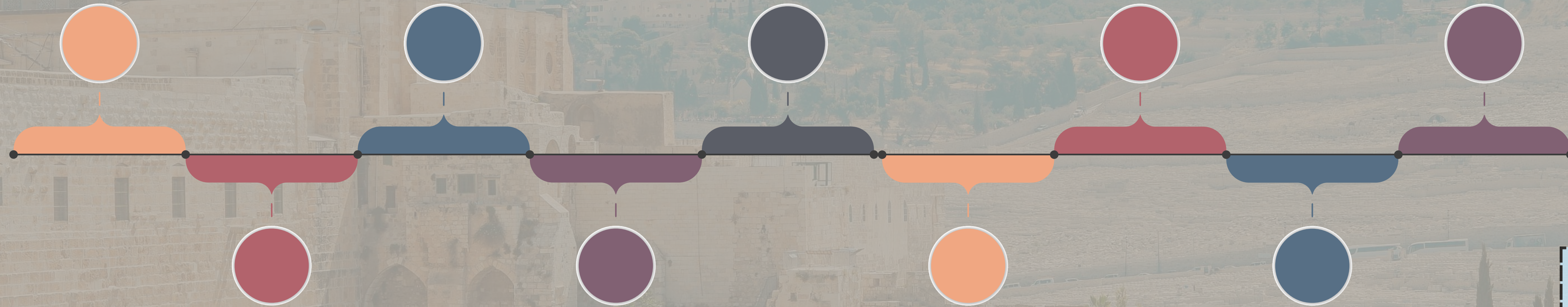
After being banished for 40 years, Banu Israel captured Jerusalem from the Canaanites under the leadership of Yusha' bin Nūn (عليه السلام). Palestine is divided between the 12 tribes. They still face challenges from some remaining Canaanite tribes and the Philistines tribe who are near the west coast of Palestine.

1018 BCE

Dāwud (عليه السلام) is the second King of the Israelites and moves towards Jerusalem, currently ruled by the Jebusites, a Canaanite tribe. He defeats them and Jerusalem becomes his capital. He builds a Masjid - within Masjid Al-Aqsa (which is the entire compound), that was originally designated by Ādam (عليه السلام). Jews refer to this as a 'Temple Mount'.

586 BCE

The other group of Banu Israel (South) fell into polytheism and idolatry. The king of Babylon Nebuchadnezzar, attacks the Kingdom of Judah and conquers Jerusalem a second time. He destroys the temple and takes prisoners back to Babylon.



1790 BCE

Ibrāhīm (عليه السلام) and his nephew Lut (عليه السلام) migrate to Palestine (Canaan) from Ur, a place in modern-day Iraq, which was part of the Babylonian Empire. Later, Ibrāhīm (عليه السلام)'s nephew Lut (عليه السلام) is ordered to go to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, east of Jerusalem. Ibrāhīm's (عليه السلام) grandson, Ya'qūb (عليه السلام) (also known as Israel), the son of Is'hāq (عليه السلام) moves to Egypt at the request of his son, Yūsuf (عليه السلام).



Source: Islamicknowledge.co.uk, Passia.org, wikipedia.

1203 BCE

Musa (عليه السلام) leads the Children of Ya'qūb (عليه السلام) (Banu Israel) from Egypt, escaping the Pharaoh, towards Palestine. The Banu Israel refuse to enter as the Canaanites in Palestine have might and power. They are banished for 40 years.

1025 BCE

The 12 tribes of Banu Israel unite under King Talut (Saul) as their first king. They battle with the Philistines tribe. Goliath, a mighty Philistine warrior, is killed by the Israelite shepherd Dāwud (عليه السلام). Dāwud (عليه السلام) later becomes the king.

978 BCE

After Dāwud (عليه السلام)'s demise, Sulaymān (عليه السلام) becomes king. He completed Dāwud (عليه السلام)'s Masjid. Jews believe this to be the first house of God and refer to it as "Temple Mount", hence their attachment with it. After Sulaymān (عليه السلام), the 12 tribes of Bani Israel split into 2 areas Samaria in the North and the Kingdom of Judea in the South. Jerusalem was the capital of the Kingdom of Judea.





THE HISTORY OF PALESTINE



UMAR رضي الله عنه IBN AL-KHATTAB'S CONQUEST OF PALESTINE

0 BCE

Isā (عليه السلام) is born. However, Banu Israel rejected him and went to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate and have Isā (عليه السلام) 'crucified' - or so they believe.

66 CE

Herod's temple is destroyed and Banu Israel is banished.



Birth city of Isā (عليه السلام)

634 CE

Amr bin Al Ās رضي الله عنه leads a conquest against the Byzantines, winning at the battles of Beisan, Fahl, Lud, and Yaffa. The Byzantine emperor Heraclius' brother Theodorus becomes the chief of the Roman army. Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه orders Khalid bin Waleed رضي الله عنه to go from Iraq to Palestine to lead the armies. He also orders Yazīd bin Abu Sufyān to face the Romans in Wādi Al-Arab, a battle in which Yazid would be victorious. After Abu Bakr's رضي الله عنه death, Umar رضي الله عنه would then order Khalid رضي الله عنه to gather the Muslim armies and take Palestine.

661-750 CE

Palestine remains under the caliphate of Damascus, led by Abd Al-Malik bin Marwan. He builds the initial Dome Of The Rock upon the area which the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم ascended in The Night Journey (Mi'rāj). The brother of Sulaymān, Waleed bin Abd Al-Malik expands Al-Aqsa. Sulaymān later established the city of Ramallah.

1114 CE

Nur al-Din Zenghi, of the Zengid Dynasty who ruled on behalf of the Seljuk Empire, recaptures Aleppo and Edessa in Syria. This prompts the Second Crusade, which is led by King Louis VII of France and King Conrad III of Germany. But they fail to take back Aleppo and are sent back.

1517 CE

The Ottomans defeat the Mamluks and gain control of Palestine. Jews had been persecuted by the Burji Mamluks, but were now given amnesty by the Ottomans. Jews had also been persecuted in Europe during the black plague, and also found amnesty with the Ottomans. Hence, some Jews moved there. Sulaymān builds the beautiful walls encircling Jerusalem.

Umar رضي الله عنه, who was the second rightly-guided caliph after the demise of the Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم, traveled to Al-Aqsa riding on a camel while being accompanied by one of his servants. They would take turns between riding and walking. If Umar رضي الله عنه had wished, he could have easily taken a massive army. However, Umar رضي الله عنه chose to journey as a layman, which shows his humility.

When Umar رضي الله عنه and his servant reached Al-Aqsa, it was the servant's turn to sit on the camel. He offered Umar رضي الله عنه to sit, but Umar declined saying that it was the servant's right. Once again, showing that he is Al-Farooq, the one who differentiates between right and wrong. Hence, Umar رضي الله عنه entered Al-Aqsa walking. The Muslims greeted and welcomed him. When Umar رضي الله عنه approached the Muslims, they noticed his clothes were torn, and worn out.

Umar رضي الله عنه passed by an area which was soiled with mud, so Umar رضي الله عنه proceeded carrying his shoes in his hands and walking barefoot. Seeing this, Abu Ubaidah رضي الله عنه couldn't bear such a sight. He said, "You did something extraordinary today". Umar رضي الله عنه put his hand on his chest, saying, "If only someone other than you said this. We were the most disgraced, then Allah honored us and gave us respect through Islam. He who seeks honor and respect through anything other than Allah, will be disgraced."

Umar رضي الله عنه granted safety and security to the people of Palestine regardless of their faith, and told them that their places of worship were safe. Thus, Jerusalem was blessed with such a conquest that resulted in justice and peace unlike it had ever experienced before. An agreement/treaty followed, called "Mu'ahadah Umar". Umar رضي الله عنه then led the first Salaah to be performed in Al-Aqsa, and recited Surah Al-Israa and Surah Saad.



570 CE



The Christians hold the belief that the path that Jesus (Isā عليه السلام) walked is currently located in Jerusalem, known as Via Dolorosa, which translates to "Pain Road" or "The Way Of Suffering". It is a path of roughly 6000 meters. The Christians give it this name because they believe it is through this road that the Roman soldiers escorted Jesus on the way to the crucifixion. On the pathway stands The Church Of The Holy Sepulchre, within which Christians also claim the tomb of Jesus is located. The route was formally established and opened as a revered tourist sight for Christians in the 18th century.



BIRTH HOUSE OF MUHAMMAD

Source: Islamicknowledge.co.uk, Passia.org, wikipedia.

636 CE

As the Muslims continue their conquest of Rome, the Christians migrate and flee to Jerusalem, which the Muslims lay siege to for 4 to 6 months.

637 CE

The second caliph of the Muslims, Umar رضي الله عنه has conquered much of Persia and now conquers Jerusalem. He meets Sophronius, signs a treaty and cleans Masjid al-Aqsa (which is the entire compound). **No blood is shed. This marks the first instance throughout history in which Jerusalem is conquered without any blood being shed.**

1099 CE

European Christians were allowed to visit holy sites under Muslim rule. However, Al-Hakīm, the Fatimid caliph begins persecuting Christians and destroys the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Pope Urban II calls on Christians to take up arms against the Muslims and reclaim Jerusalem, with the promise of Heaven. The Byzantines join the Europeans and this is the first crusade. They enter Jerusalem including Masjid al-Aqsa, and massacre everyone. They establish a state called the First Kingdom. They also begin to persecute the Jews.

1187 CE

After uniting the Muslims, Salahuddīn Al-Ayyubi defeats the crusaders and recaptures Jerusalem in Battle of Hattin.

1192 CE

The Third Crusade, primarily led by King Richard I of England, leads to a series of wars with Salahuddin, finally ending with a peace treaty. Salahuddīn passes away and the Ayyubid Dynasty after he agrees to provide the Europeans a Second Kingdom in Palestine with Acre as its capital.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF SULTAN SALAHUDDĪN AIYUBI رضي الله عنه

Salahuddīn Al-Ayyubi رضي الله عنه is born in Tikrit, Iraq in 1137. His father, named Najmuddin Al-Ayyubi, was the guardian of the city of Baghdad. Al-Madrasah Al-Islahiyah was where Salahuddīn رضي الله عنه received his education. He was a righteous servant of Allah; punctual in his Salah and generous in wealth. Salahuddīn رضي الله عنه passes away in Damascus, Syria in 1193, where he is buried.

1830 CE

European countries begin taking chunks of the Ottoman Empire. France annexes Ottoman Algeria. Many years later, Italy took Libya.

1875 CE

Nationalism grows in the Arabs, disgruntled by Ottoman rule. The first Arab nationalist party forms. The European countries hope to divide and occupy.

1896 CE

Austrian Journalist Theodore Herzl, a non-religious Jew, founded the Zionist movement. The only solution he feels is to establish a Jewish state. He needs a government to sponsor his cause. The Jews feel that the only way to tackle antisemitism is to establish a state for the Jewish people in a land where Banu Israel once lived; Palestine.

1908 CE

The Young Turk Revolution demands the restoration of the 1876 constitution so that the parliament has power, and attempts to depose Sultan Abdul Hamid of the Ottomans

1909 CE

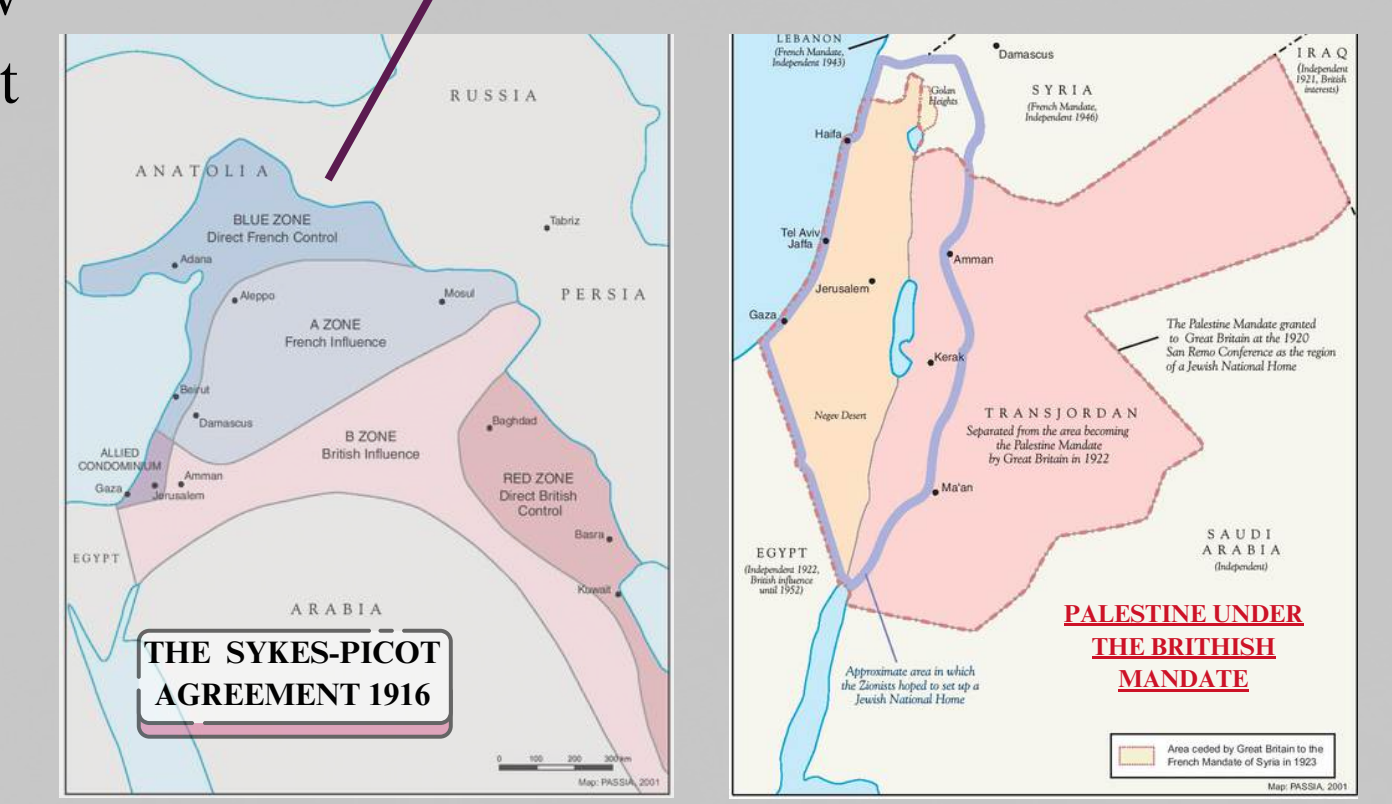
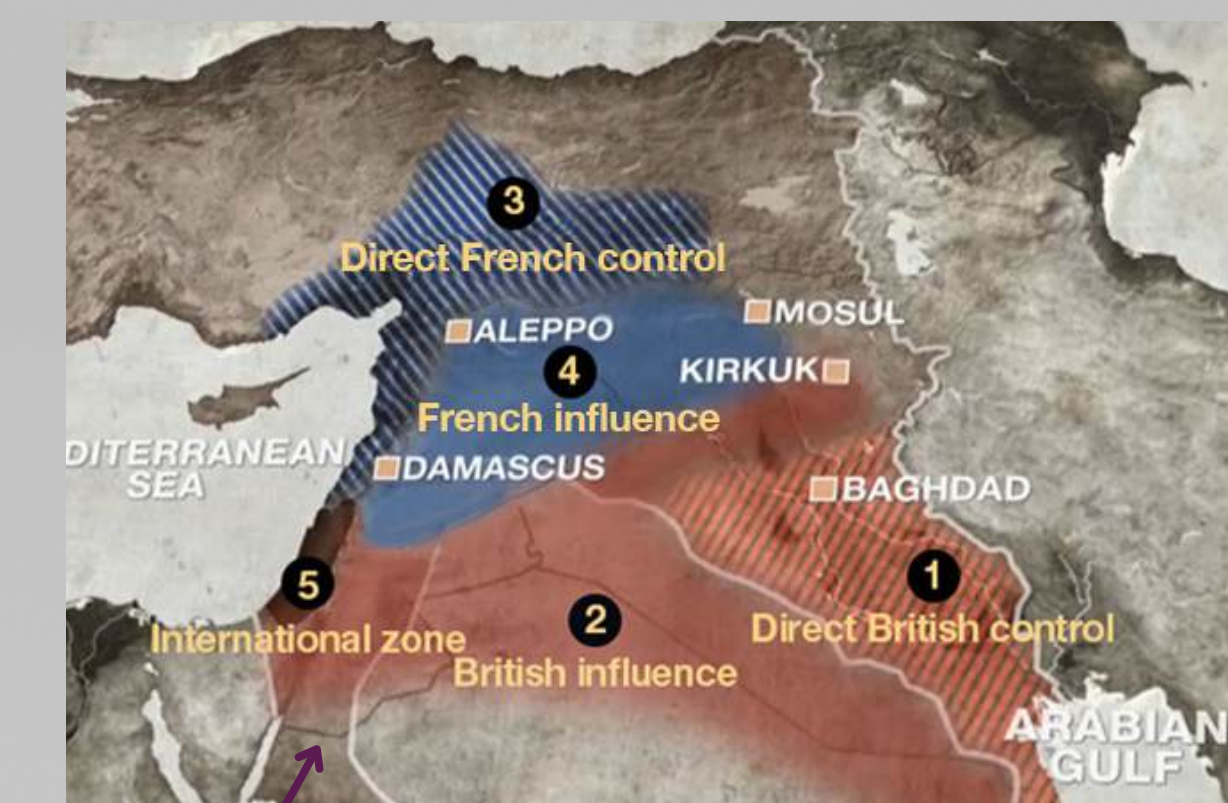
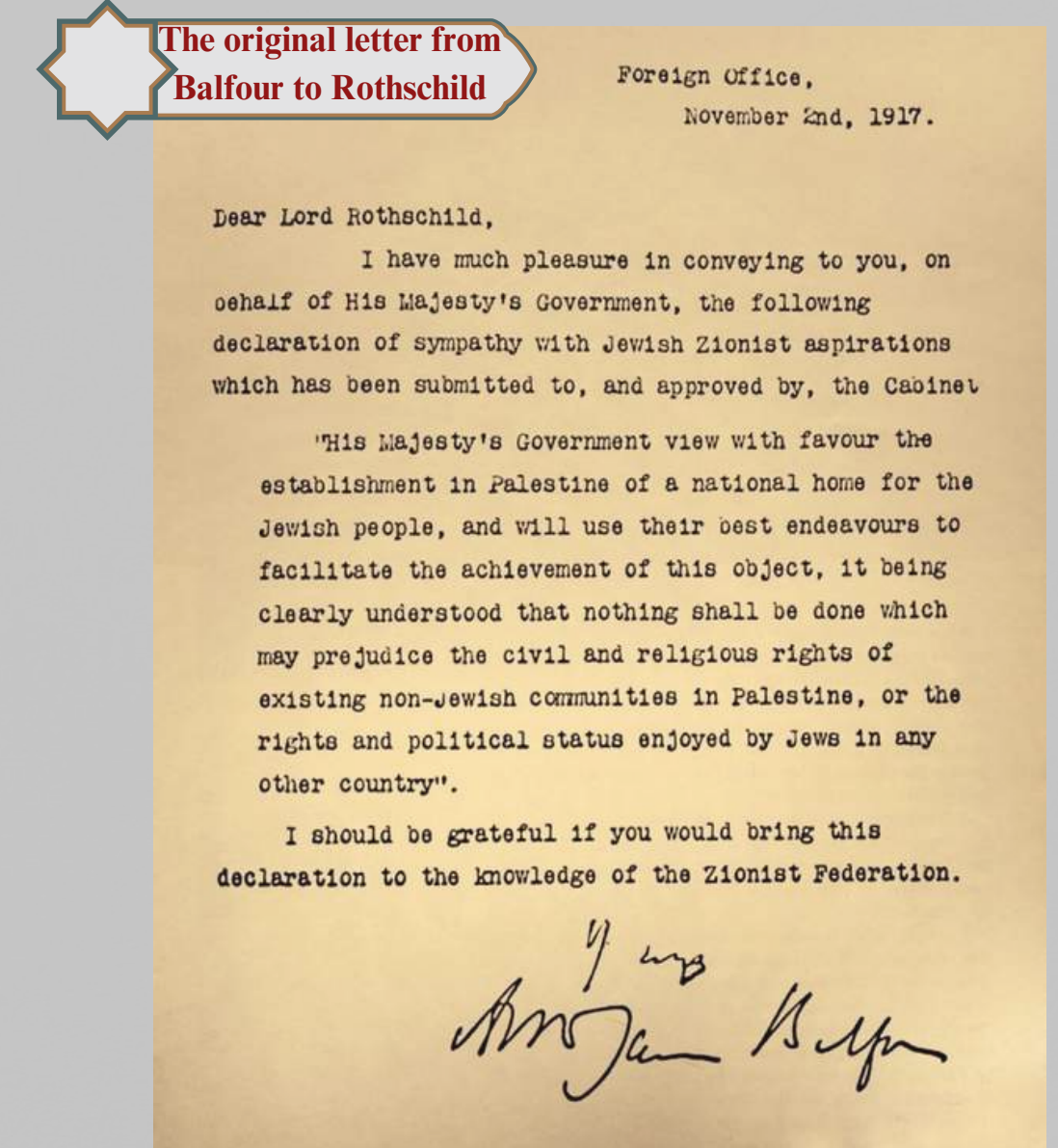
The nationalist Young Turks overthrow Sultan Abdul Hamid II. Weizmann knows this is his chance to raise the issue of Zionism.

1916 CE

After the Europeans defeated Germany and its allies, the Sykes-Picot was ratified. The Europeans carved up Ottoman territories. Britain would occupy Iraq and the area from Egypt to Eastern Palestine. France would occupy Lebanon and Syria. Palestine is promised to the Zionists. The Arab nationalists had thought they would get Palestine. The British broke their agreement with Sharif Hussein, reserving Palestine for the Jews according to their agreement with the Zionists.

1920 CE

A Jew by the name of Herbert Samuel becomes the high commissioner of England. England opens the doors of Palestine to the Jews. Initially, 55,000 Jews settled there. By 1948, it became 646,000; an increase from 8% to 31%.



1897 BC

The first Zionist congress happens in Basel. They form the World Zionist Organisation and consider two lands for the Jews: Palestine and Argentina. The Eastern European (Russian) Jews insisted it had to be Palestine. 'Zion' means the area of the Solomon Temple. Around this time, Israel Zangwill coined the term "A land without a people for a people without a land". He later admitted the land already belongs to others.

1881 CE

Jewish 'pogroms' (killing of Jews) continues in Russia and Romania. Many groups called 'Lovers of Zion' emerge in Romania and Russia. They want Jewish self-rule.

1890 CE

Due to continued persecution in Europe, many Jews leave Europe for Morocco, Turkey, Canada, America. A tiny minority emigrated to Palestine.

1901 CE

Herzl writes directly to Sultan Abdul Hamid II, stating that if Jews are to settle in Palestine, the Jews will pay off all of the Empire's debts. He responds with: "I would prefer my body be dissected to small pieces rather than give Palestine away". The Jewish National Fund (JNF) is set up financed by the Rothschilds' whose purpose was to purchase Palestinian land.

Source: Islamicknowledge.co.uk, Passia.org, wikipedia.

1914 CE

World War 1 begins. Turkey enters as an ally of Germany. The Zionists have their eyes on Palestine and reassure the British that they will be an outpost for the British interests in the region. Weizmann committed himself and Zionism to the British war effort with the understanding that Britain would reward them with a public declaration of political support for Zionism. The British had promised the same to the Arab nationalists, such as Sharif Hussein, if they revolted against the Ottomans.

1917 CE

The Balfour Declaration is written by British Foreign Secretary and former PM, James Balfour. This was one month before the Ottomans surrendered Jerusalem. In 67 words, Balfour expressed how Britain would assist the Zionist project of settling Jews in Palestine.

1919 CE

The King-Crane Commission Report was released in which the Palestinian people were asked how they wished to be ruled. The Palestinian's response was clear; Zionism's triumph would mean Arab enslavement. At the time, 90% of Palestine was non-Jewish.



THE HISTORY OF PALESTINE

فلسطين

1946 CE

Zionist militias blow up 11 bridges in one day, severing connections between Palestine and Trans-Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Sinai. The Irgun Zionist militia blew up the King David Hotel (British Headquarters) in Jerusalem killing 92. The US also pressured Britain to relax its restrictions on Jewish migration to Palestine.

NOVEMBER 1947 CE

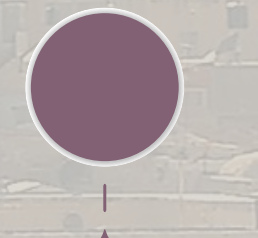
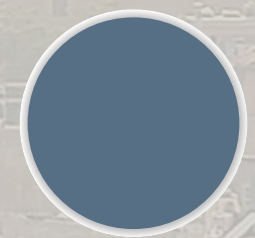
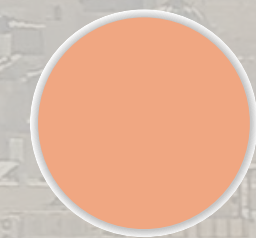
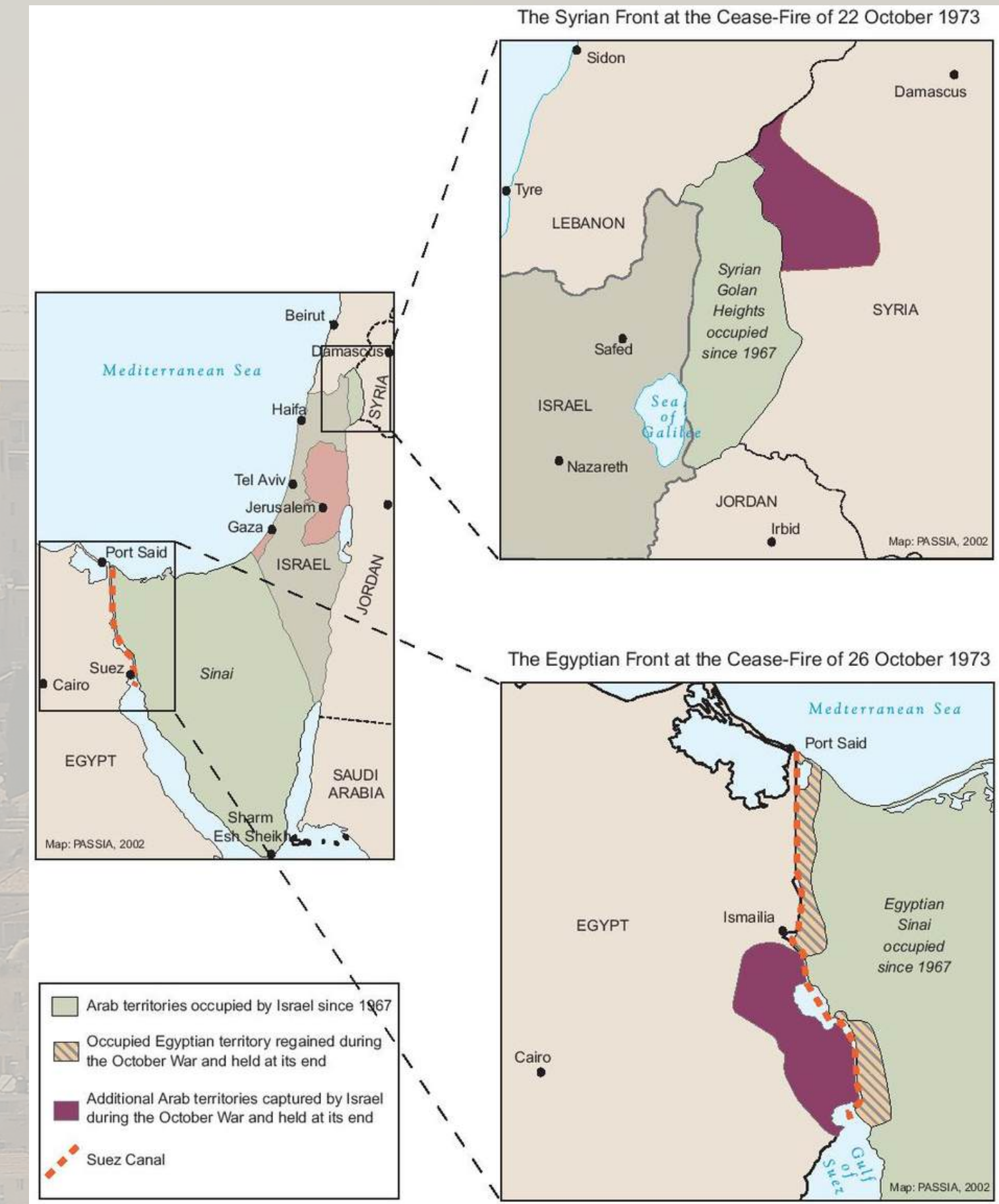
Zionists lobby the US to create a Jewish state after which the newly-formed United Nations (formed mainly by the British and US) put forward a plan for partition without consulting the Palestinians. Jews would now be given 55% of Palestine even though they constituted only 37% of its population and currently owned less than 7% of the land. The UN partition keeps the West Bank (Jerusalem is within the West Bank) and the Gaza Strip for the Palestinians. The Arabs are livid at this decision and ask an International court to determine how the UN partition is legal.

1950 CE

Israel implements the Law of Return which provides an automatic right of Israeli citizenship to all Jews from anywhere in the world. Israel builds settlements for these Jews. Palestinians are unable to return to their homes after 'Al-Nakba' despite the UN resolution 194 enforcing that. This law is widely considered an apartheid law.

13th November 1967

The Six-Day war occurs. With the Egyptian Army presence increasing in the Sina province, Israel attacks Egypt. In 6 days, Israel defeats Egypt and the Arab countries and annexes the West Bank (Jerusalem is within West Bank) and Gaza strip. A UN resolution is issued to order Israel to give back the annexed land, but they do not comply. The West Bank has over 1 million Palestinians. 350,000 are expelled as settlers move in.



1964 CE

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is formed under the auspices of the Arab League.

1935 BC

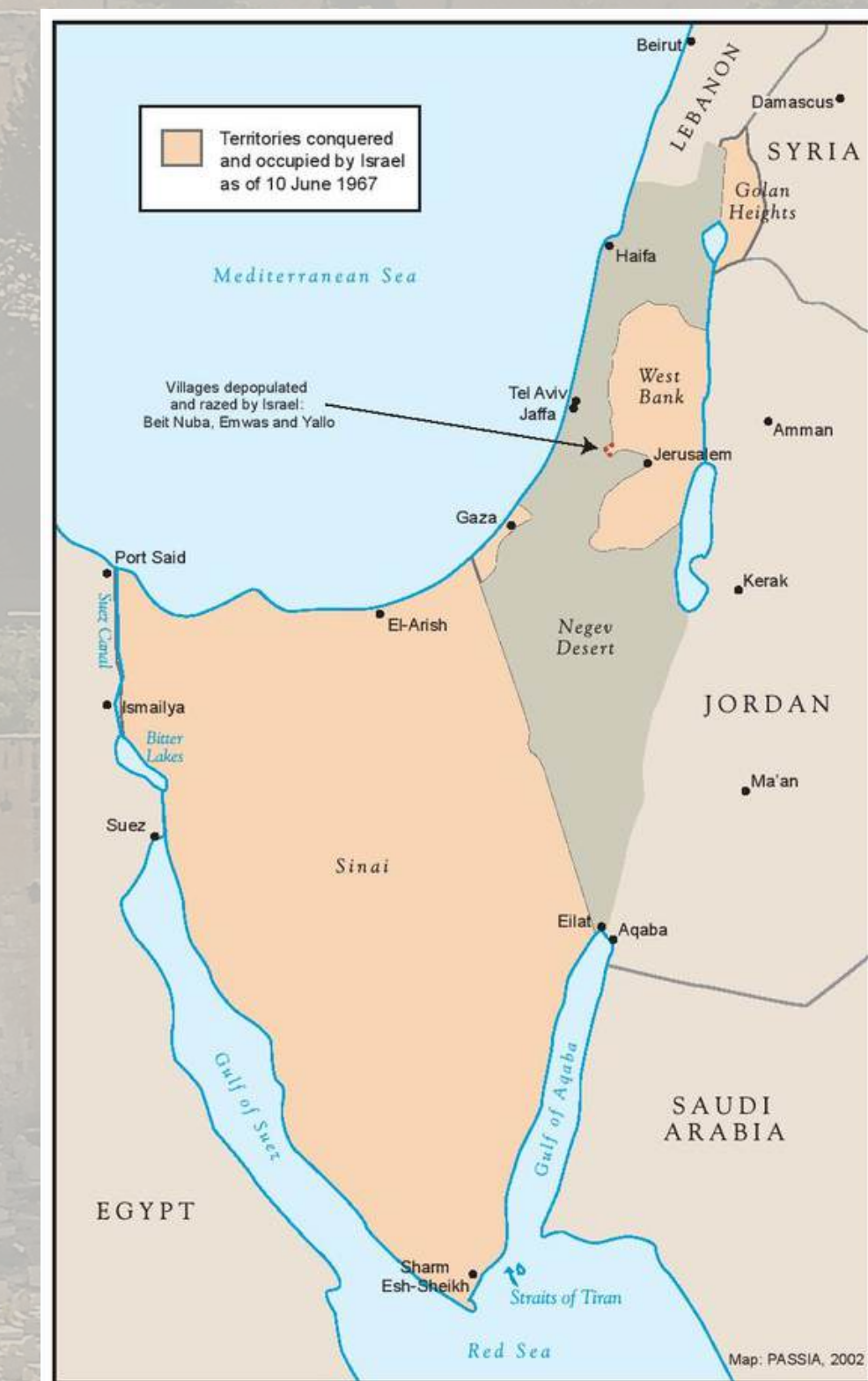
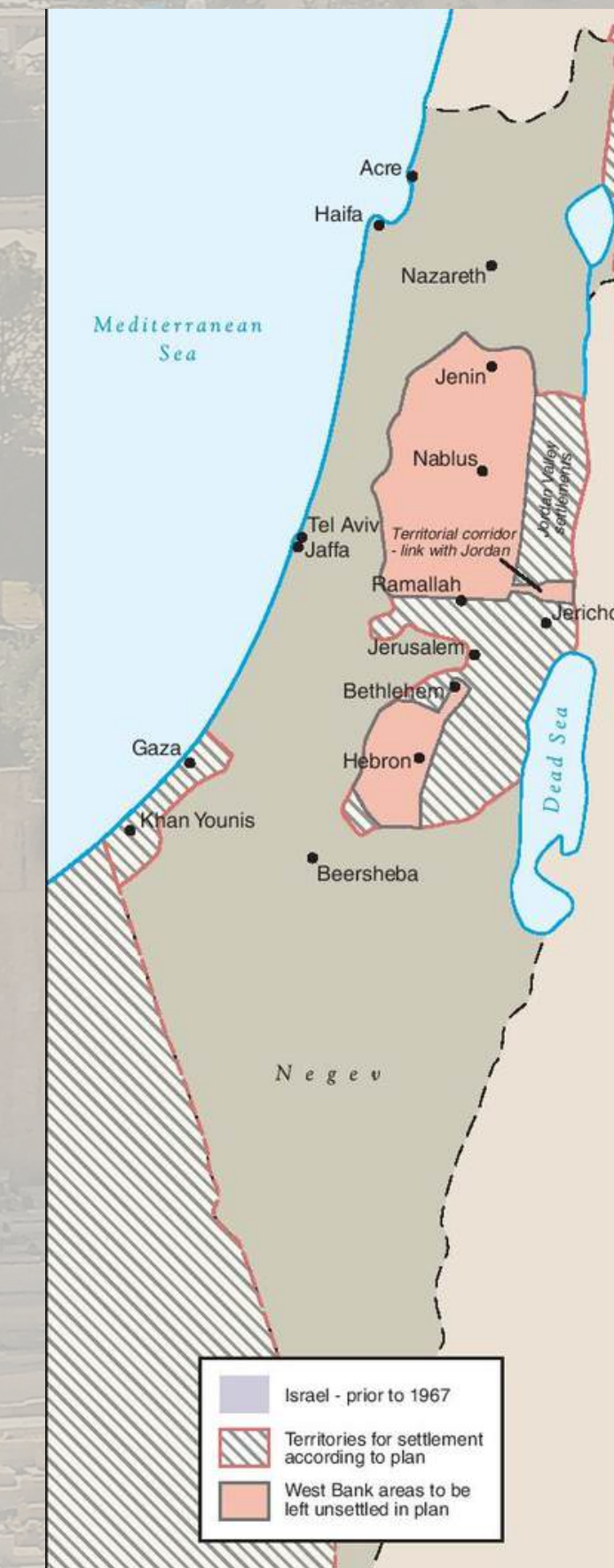
The Nazi holocaust begins as Zionists continue to take the land of the Palestinians under British-mandate Palestine. Fed up, the Palestinians declared a general strike and revolted against the British for 3 years. Over 4,500 Palestinians were killed including many leaders.

AUG 1947 CE

The British announce they will leave Palestine in November. The Zionists have become too difficult to handle.

1948 CE

After the announcement of Israel, and frustrated at the UN resolution of 1947, a combined Arab military force from Egypt, Jordan, and Syria marched to Palestine. The Israeli army, far better equipped and trained by the British in World War 2, destroyed the force. Instead of 55%, they now occupied 78% of Palestine. Only the West Bank (taken by Jordan) and the Gaza Strip (taken by Egypt) are still not in Israeli control. 750,000 Palestinians are made refugees. This ethnic cleansing is referred to as the 'Al-Nakba' (catastrophe).



Source: Islamicknowledge.co.uk, Passia.org, Aljazeera.com

1929 CE

The Buraq (Wailing) Wall incident happens in British-mandate Palestine. The Muslims refer to this wall as the Buraq Wall because the Prophet left his conveyance there during Al-Isrā. The Jews believe that this wall is the sole remaining part of Sulaymān (عليه السلام)'s temple. Jews living in Palestine march towards the Wall. Riots broke out all over Palestine due to the event, causing 100 deaths on both sides. The British blame it on the Palestinians. A 1930 International Commission of Inquiry ruled that the Wall belongs to the Muslims.

18th Sept 1987 CE

The First Intifada begins. 'Intifada' means 'shaking off'. The Intifada was sparked by an IDF truck crashing into a Palestinian car in occupied Gaza. This caused Palestinians to begin protesting and expressing civil disobedience at Israeli Occupation. With Israel having occupied the West Bank, Gaza since 1967, illegal Jewish settlers have increased and living conditions are made difficult for the Palestinians are made difficult.

1993 CE

The Declaration of Principles is written in Oslo (also called the Oslo Accord I), between the Israeli government headed by Yitzhak Rabin, and PLO. It establishes a frame-work wherein Palestinians would recognize Israel as a state and in return be given Interim Self - Government Arrangements in the West Bank for 5 years. Israel agree to withdraw from West Bank and Gaza in the Declaration, but its civilians will be allowed to 'freely' use the roads in Gaza and West Bank. Israel fails to comply by the 13th December deadline. Innocent Palestinians hopeful for peace are excited that they may get the West Bank and Gaza strip back.

APRIL 2002 CE

Israel begins the construction of a wall that cuts off the West Bank from the rest of Israel thus cutting off Palestinian villages from Israeli land taken in 1948. 85% of the wall itself is on the inside of the West Bank, i.e., decreasing the size of the West Bank and bringing more of it under complete Israeli control. The Palestinians inside the wall have to go through checkpoints, and deal with Israeli settlers on a daily basis inside the West Bank. The wall is widely condemned even by Blair and Bush.

26th January 2006 CE

A democratic election is held in Gaza. To everyone's surprise, Hamas wins the election. Many political pundits express that the election was fair. Despite this, the US, Europe and Israel is not happy and impose heavy sanctions on Gaza. They intensify military attacks on Gaza and arrest one third of Hamas-led Palestinian cabinet. The West Bank is still occupied.

18th SEPT 1991 CE

The First Intifada comes to an end. 1,095 Palestinians have been killed. 100 Israelis killed. Shaykh Ahmed Yaseen, the leader of the resistance was arrested in 1989 during the Intifada and was given life imprisonment.

21st Aug 1973 CE

The Yom Kippur War occurs. Anwar Sadat, the President of Egypt, frustrated at Israel for not following the UN Resolution of 1967 to give back the land annexed during the Six Day War, launches a surprise attack on Israel. But Ariel Sharon pushes the Egyptian forces back and dispatches a Division to Cairo. 15,000 Arabs are killed and 2,000 Israelis. The US intervenes.

Sept 1978 CE

Anwar Sadat signs a Peace Treaty with Israel ending aggression between Israel and Egypt. However, this was just a treaty between Egypt and Israel and meant that Egypt can no longer interfere in the ethnic cleansing of Palestine. Sadat is labeled a traitor by the Egyptians and thus assassinated.

24TH SEPT 1994 CE

The Oslo Accord II is signed, another peace treaty between the Israelis and PLO. They divide the West Bank into three areas, A, B and C. The aim is ambitious but as memoirs of prominent Israeli negotiators show, they had no intention to install a Palestinian government in the West Bank or Gaza strip.

May 1996 CE

Benjamin Netanyahu becomes Prime Minister. He makes it clear he has no intention to follow the Oslo accords. They require Israel to withdraw 50% from the West Bank, Netanyahu offers 13%.

Sept 2000 CE

The Second Intifada begins when opposition leader, Ariel Sharon makes a provocative visit to Masjid Al-Aqsa with 1,000 Israeli soldiers. This deliberately lights the fuse for Palestinian protests. Ariel Sharon is elected by Israelis as Prime Minister the very next year, in 2001.

Sept 2004 CE

The Second Intifada ends. 3,334 Palestinians are killed including 12 journalists. The most harrowing death is the killing of 12-year old Muhammad al-Durra whose father tried to protect him. His father survived but Muhammad died. 75% of Palestinians in the Gaza strip are living below the poverty line. Shaykh Ahmad Yaseen, spiritual leader of Hamas was assassinated earlier in the year and Yasser Arafat, leader of PLO also passed away. Arafat is replaced by Mahmoud Abbas.

December 2008

Israel launches 'Operation Cast Lead' on Gaza. This is followed by a full land invasion. 1,400 Palestinians are killed. Israel uses Phosphorus bombs against a UN school. By the end of December, food and medicine stocks in Gaza are at an all-time low. The very next year, Israelis voted for Benjamin Netanyahu to become Prime Minister for the second time.



CARTOGRAPHIC REGRESSION

For nearly a century, the Jewish community in what is now Israel and Palestinian Arabs have battled over a 10,000-square-mile territory between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. Both claim historic and religious ties to the land, so the conflict has become a geopolitical war with far-reaching implications. Throughout the years of fighting, Israel's share of the land has grown from about 3 percent in 1917 to 87 percent today.

1917

Palestine before the creation of Israel

1947

Proposed borders under the U.N. Partition Plan

1948

Israel is formed

1967

After the Six-Day War

PRESENT



A BRIEF HISTORY OF HOW THE BORDERS CAME TO BE

1897

The World Zionist Organization is created to advocate for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

1917

The Balfour Declaration: British Foreign Secretary James Balfour approves the creation of a national homeland for Jews in Palestine.

1947

U.N. Partition Plan: The U.N. successfully passes a plan to separate western Palestine into two states. Jewish leaders accept the proposal while Palestinian Arab leaders reject it, prompting riots.

1948-1949

Arab-Israeli War: The Jewish community declares itself independent in the new state of Israel. War breaks out between Israelis and forces from nearby Arab nations.

February-July 1949

Israel and the Arab states agree to an armistice that results in Israel controlling 78 percent of Palestine. The U.N. estimates that more than 700,000 Palestinian Arabs become refugees during this period.

1967

Six-Day War: Using air, sea, and ground combat, Israel captures the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt and Golan Heights from Syria. Although the Israeli Army does not annex the West Bank of Jordan, it begins to occupy the region.

1982

Israel returns Sinai to Egypt and the two countries sign a peace treaty, making Egypt the first Arab nation to officially recognize Israel as a state.

1987-1993

First Intifada: Palestinians begin a mass uprising in Gaza. Civil disobedience and riots soon spread to the West Bank.

1993-1995

The Oslo Accords: Palestine and Israel sign the Declaration of Principles, in which both nations seek recognition as autonomous governing bodies. The West Bank is split into three zones: One fully controlled by Palestinian Authority; one that's joint-controlled; and one that stays in Israeli hands.

2000

Camp David Summit: The Israeli Army withdraws from Lebanon. The Camp David Summit aims to help the two sides finally agree on a settlement; the talks eventually fail and the violence leads to The Second Intifada (2000-05).

April 2003

Road Map for Peace: The European Union, U.N., U.S., and Russia release a road map, which outlines a clear timetable toward a Palestinian state.

2005

Gaza Expulsion Plan: Israel's defense forces leave the Gaza Strip and four settlements in the northern West Bank as part of a unilateral disengagement plan.

September 2011

Palestine submits a bid to the U.N. for statehood and membership.

CITIES OF PALESTINE

JERUSALEM القدس

Other names for Al-Quds are Bait al-Muqaddas, Bait al-Maqdis and Īliya. 5000 years prior, the people of Yaa'boos had established their homes in this specific area, and since then, the people of Yaa'boos were known as Palestine's dynasty worldwide. Jerusalem is one of the most important cities according to history and holds a special place in the hearts of Muslims, since it was the first Qibla of Islam for 16-17 months after the hijra. The city of Al-Quds is in the middle of Palestine and this adds to its significance.

GAZA غزة

"Gaza" means a place whose mocking won't be tolerated. This city is the biggest and most important city in south Palestine. In between Egypt, Palestine, and the islands of Arabia (جزيرة العرب), it has been the center of business and trade. The Prophet's grandfather Hāshim, passed away in this city and is also buried there. This is why some call this city "Ghaza Hishām". The great jurist Muhammad Bin Idrees Al-Shāfi'i was also born in this city. Amr ibn al-Ās ʿ conqurred Gaza at the time of Abu Bakr ʿ's caliphate.

NABLUS نابلس

This city is situated between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim. It is the city that the companion of the Prophet ʿ Amr ibn al-Ās ʿ conqurred. It is also the birthplace of multiple great scholars such as Ibn Qudāma, Al-Maqdasi, and Al-Mardāwi.

LOD لُد

This is one of Palestine's oldest and most historical cities. It is located 38 kilometers from Jerusalem. It also houses the Ben Gurion International Airport, which has been in service since 1937. Close to Baab Al-Lud (the door of Lud), Dajjal (the anti-christ) will be destroyed as per the Ahādīth.



JERICO أريحا
This city is located towards the north of the Dead Sea. It is the world's oldest city in which people have resided for over 10,000 years.

RAMALLAH راملا

In the Egyptian language, "Raam" means an exalted place. The Arabians later on, added the word "Allāh" to it. This is why it is called Ramlā. In present day, Ramallah has a very important political position .

BETHLEHEM بيت لحم

This city is located in the southern part of Jerusalem. The famous church Al-Mahd in which the Prophet Isā ibn Maryam (عليه السلام) (Jesus son of Mary) was born, is established in this city.

NAZARETH الناصرة

This city is located between the cities of Tabriya and Haifa. It's a blessed and sacred place according to Christians, since it is the location of the Al-Bashaara church where the Prophet Isā (عليه السلام) spent his life. Nazareth is also full of olive trees and grape trees.

TEL AVIV يافا

This city nicknamed "The Bride of the Mediterranean sea" is over 5000 years old, and it is in this city that the People of Can'an (Canaan) resided. This place is famous for its services for sea boats.

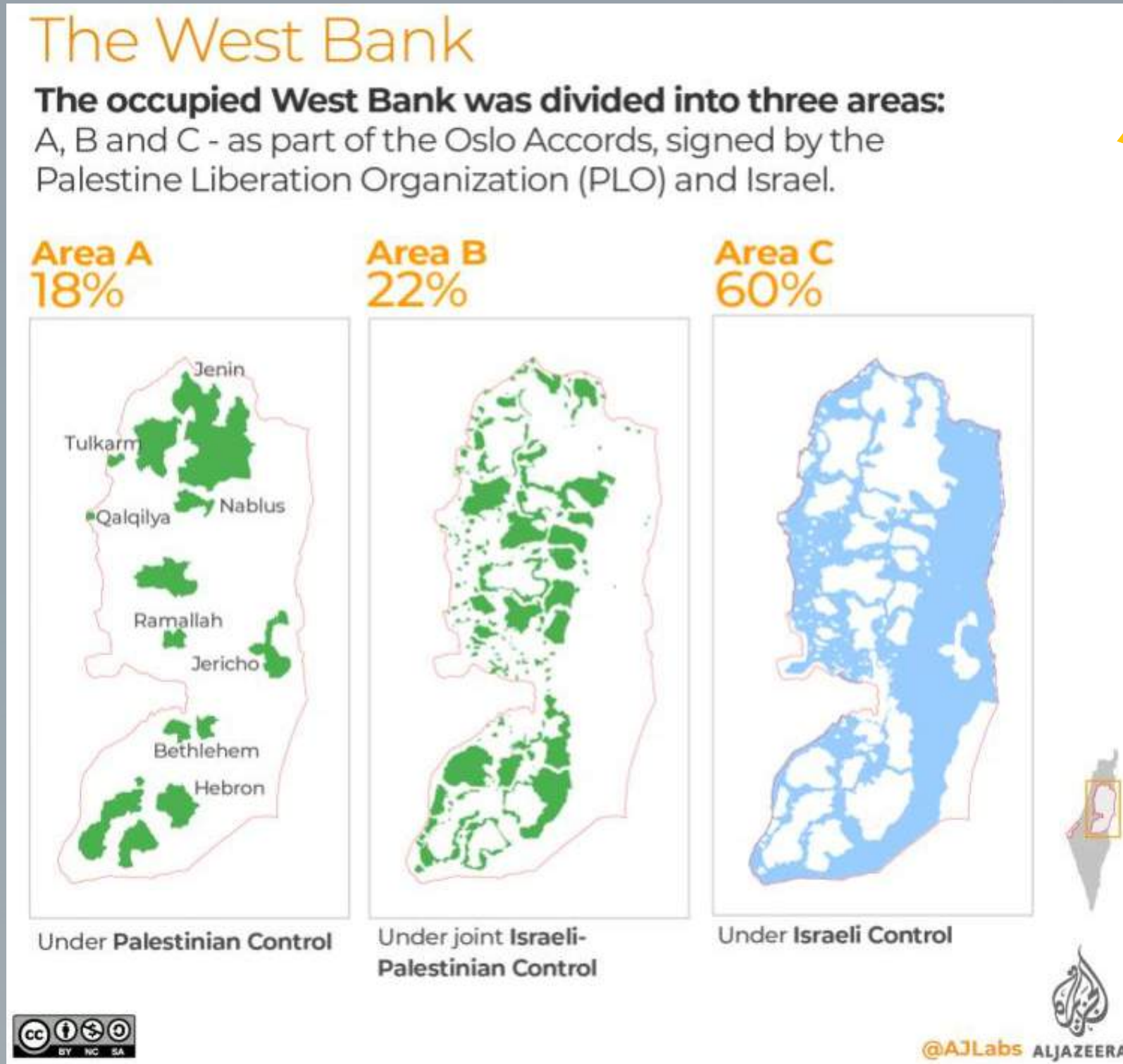
HEBRON الخليل

This city is attributed to the Prophet Ibrāhīm (عليه السلام), since his wife Sarah, and his son, Prophet Ishāq (عليه السلام) are buried here. This city is also the birthplace of the great mujāhid, Mūsā bin Nasēr, who would go on to conquer Spain.

Ashkelon العسقلان

This city is 25 kilometers west of Jerusalem. It is a very old and ancient city since the Canaanites used to reside here. It is the birthplace of Ibn Hajar Al-Asqalāni, the notable scholar who wrote Fath Al-Bari, the greatest commentary on Sahīh Al-Bukhāri.

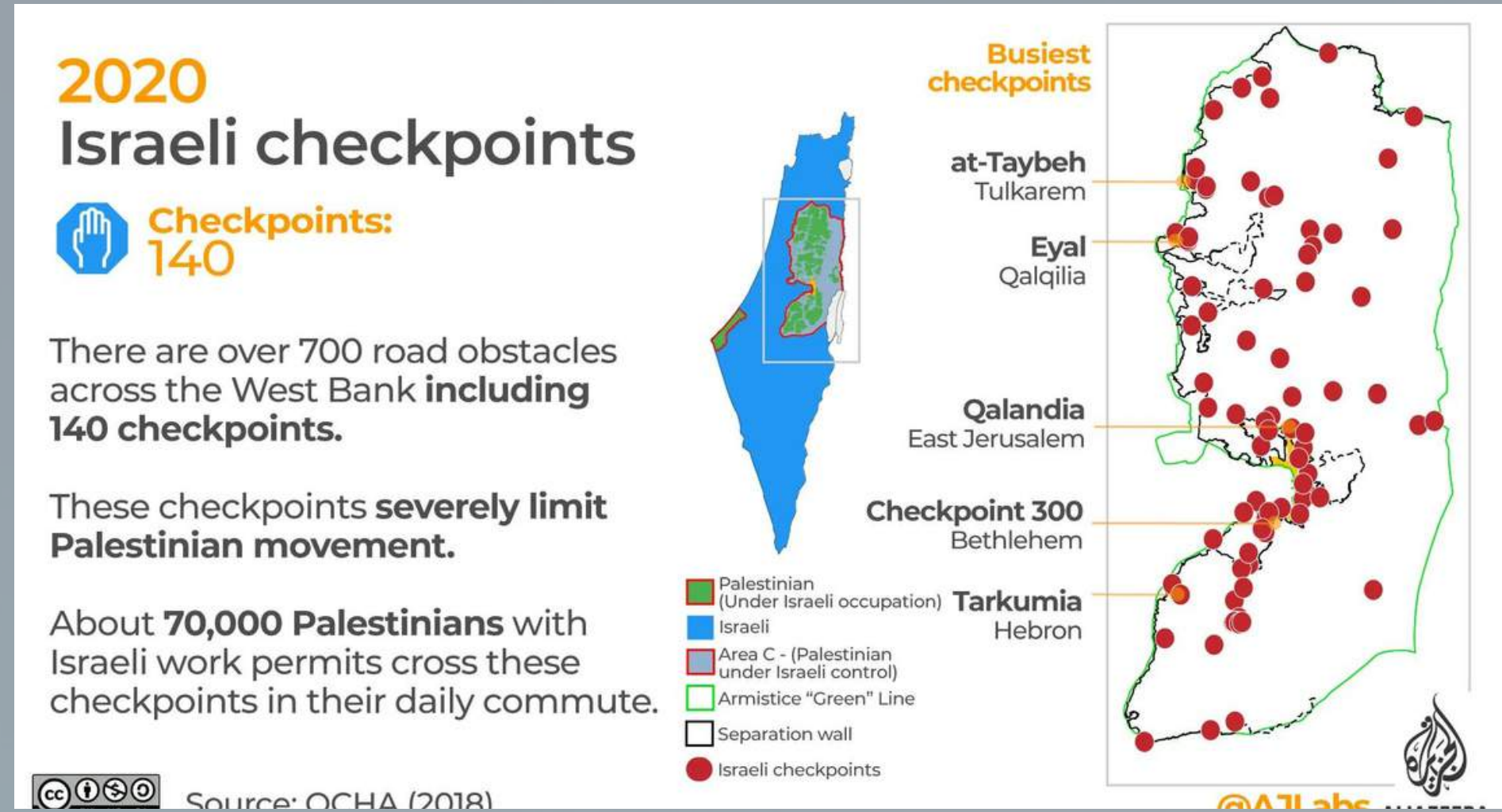
THE WEST BANK EXPLAINED



THE WEST BANK

The West Bank is a kidney-shaped area located on the west bank of the Jordan River. Between 1993 and 1995, the first direct Palestinian-Israeli peace agreements were signed between the government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). This led to the formation of the Palestinian Authority (PA) which is an administrative body that would govern Palestinian internal security, administration, and civilian affairs in areas of self-rule, for a five-year interim period. On the ground, the occupied West Bank was divided into three areas: A, B and C.

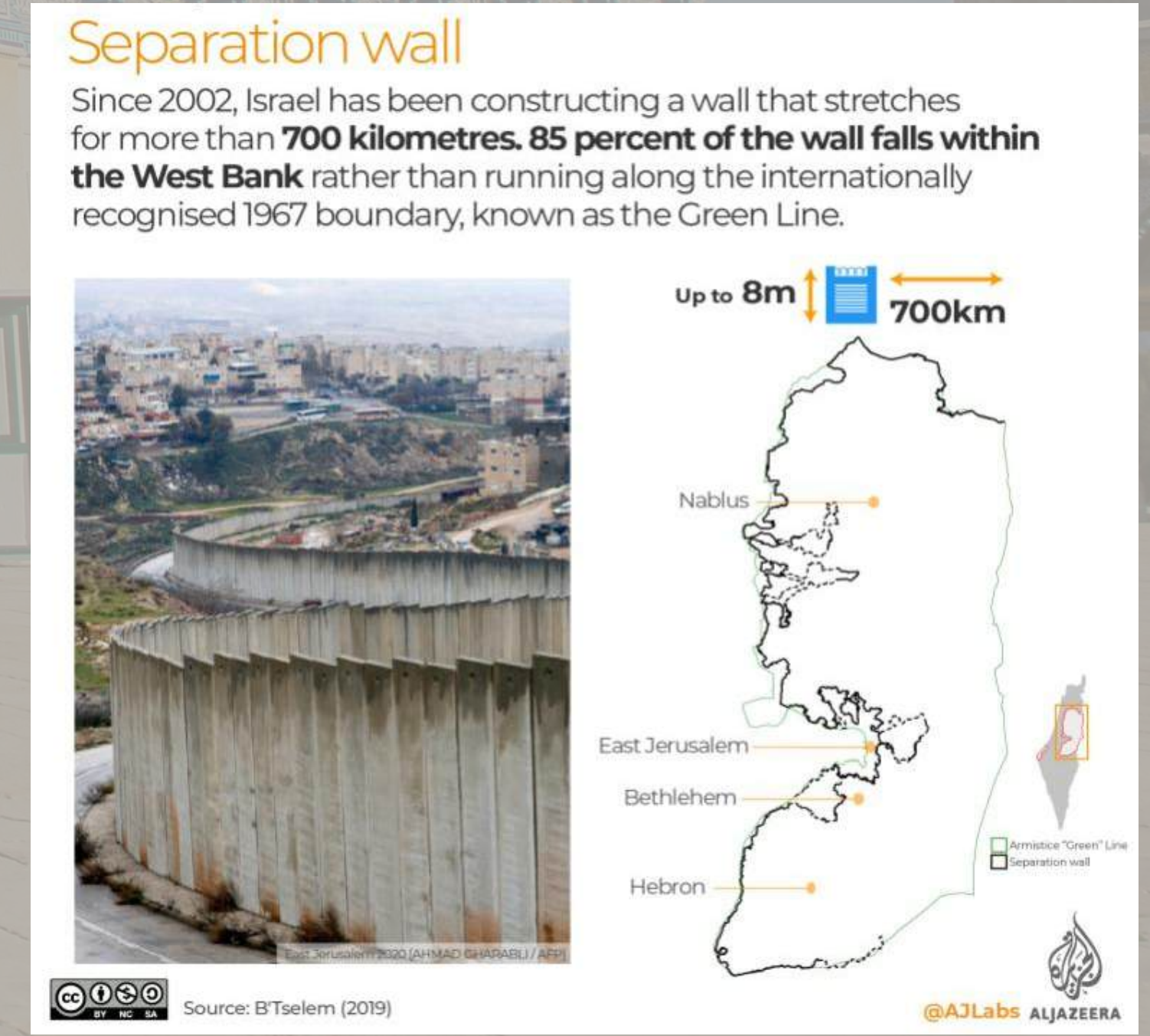
- Area A (18%) – Under Palestinian control – initially comprised 3% of the West Bank and grew to 18% by 1999. In Area A, the PA controls most affairs.
- Area B (22%) – Under joint Israeli-Palestinian control – represents about 22% of the West Bank. In both areas, while the PA is in charge of education, health and the economy, the Israelis have full control of external security, meaning they retain the right to enter at any time.
- Area C (60%) – Under Israeli control – represents 60% of the West Bank. Under the Oslo Accords, control of this area was supposed to be handed over to the PA. Instead, Israel retains total control over all matters, including security, planning and construction. The transfer of control to the PA has never happened.



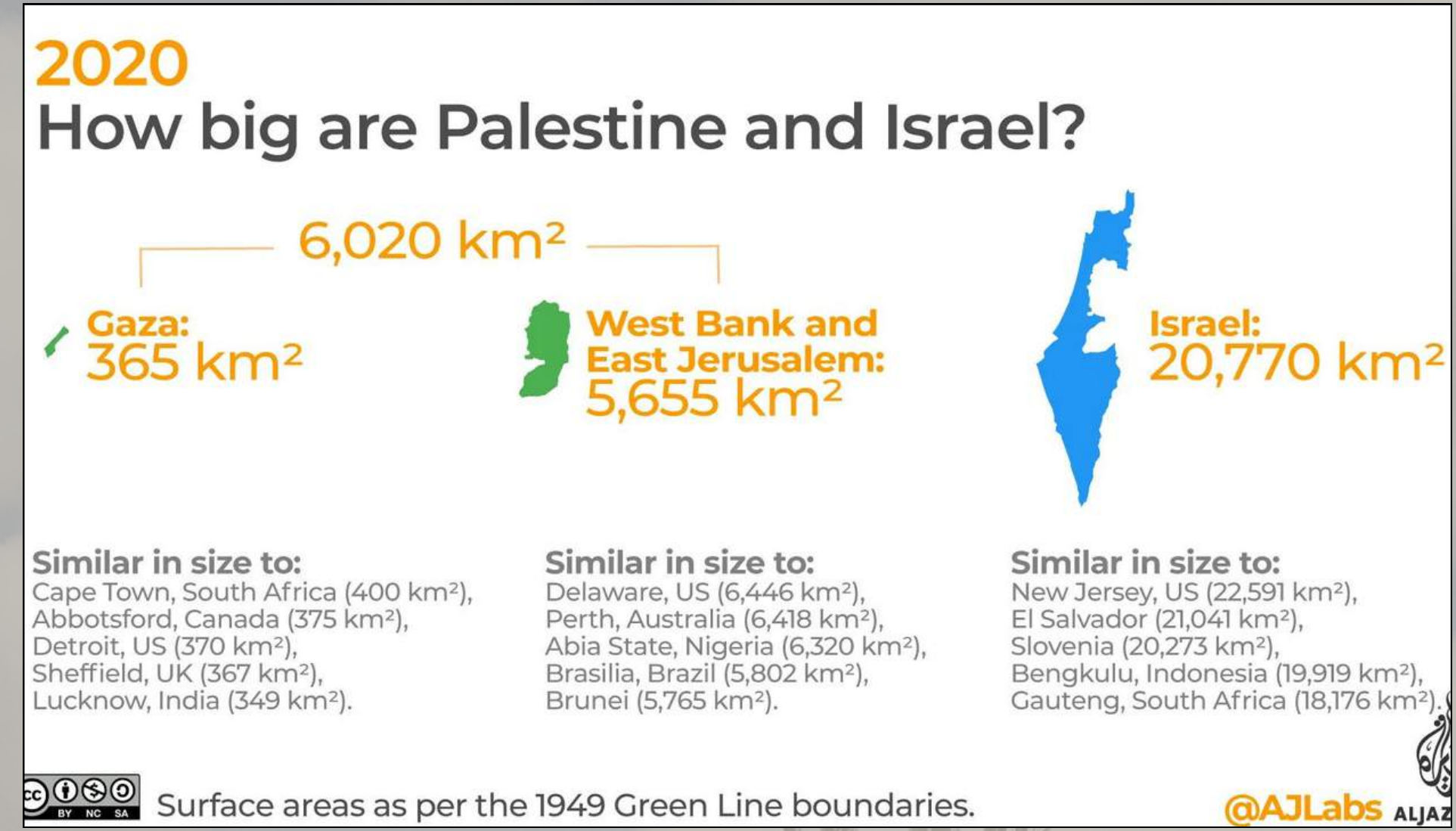
ISRAELI CHECKPOINTS

There are more than 700 road obstacles across the West Bank, including 140 checkpoints. These checkpoints severely limit Palestinian freedom of movement. While Palestinians may have to wait for hours at these checkpoints and travel along segregated road networks, Israelis can travel freely on their own "bypass roads" which have been built on Palestinian land to connect illegal Israeli settlements to major metropolitan areas inside Israel. About 70,000 Palestinians with Israeli work permits cross through Israeli military checkpoints on their way to their workplaces every day. They work beyond the Green Line inside Israel due to the high unemployment rate in the Palestinian territories – a byproduct of the 54-year Israeli occupation.

Israeli settlements are Jewish communities built illegally on Palestinian land. Today there are between 600,000 and 750,000 Israeli settlers living in at least 250 illegal settlements (130 official, 120 unofficial) in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. Israeli settlements are illegal under international law as they violate the Fourth Geneva Convention, which bans an occupying power from transferring its population to the area it occupies. The population of Israeli settlers in the West Bank and East Jerusalem is growing at a faster rate than the population of Israel. Roughly 10% of Israel's 6.8 million Jewish population lives in these occupied Palestinian territories. Despite being outside of Israel property, these settlers are granted Israeli citizenship and receive government subsidies that significantly lower their cost of living. In contrast, Palestinians living in the West Bank are subject to Israeli military law.



GAZA EXPLAINED

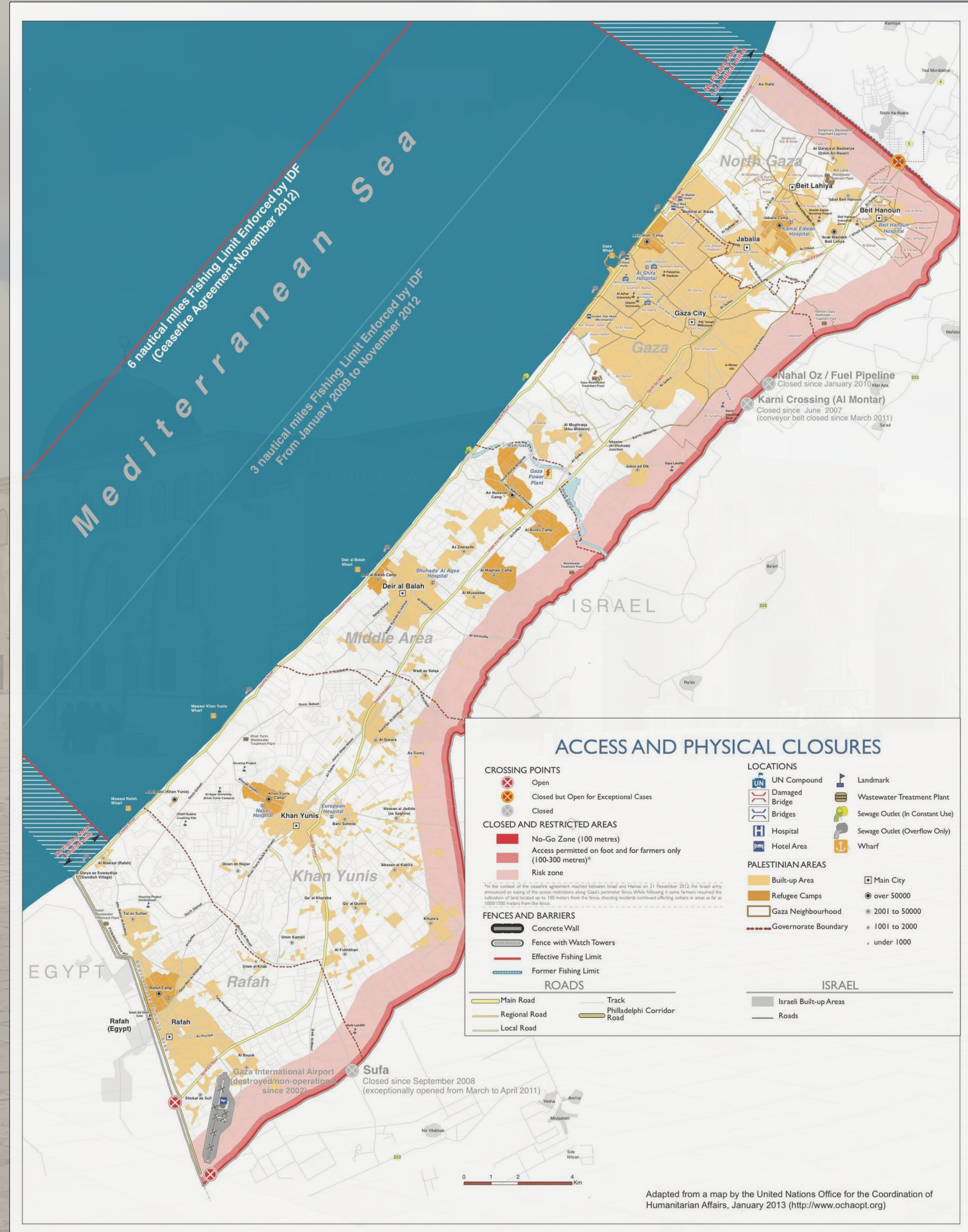


The Gaza Strip has been under an Israeli sea and air blockade since 2007. Since 2008, Israel has waged four wars on the Palestinian territory, killing thousands of people, most of which were civilians. Bordered by Israel and Egypt on the Mediterranean coast, the Gaza Strip is about 365 square km; about the size of Cape Town, Detroit, or Lucknow. It is one of the most densely populated areas in the world, and due to Israel's continuing occupation, has been described as "the world's largest open-air prison". Israel's blockade has cut off Palestinians from their main urban centre, Jerusalem, which hosts specialized hospitals, foreign consulates, banks, and other vital services. This is despite the fact that the terms of the 1993 Oslo Accord stated that Israel must treat the Palestinian territories as one political entity and was not to be divided.

SOURCE: ALJAZEERA.COM

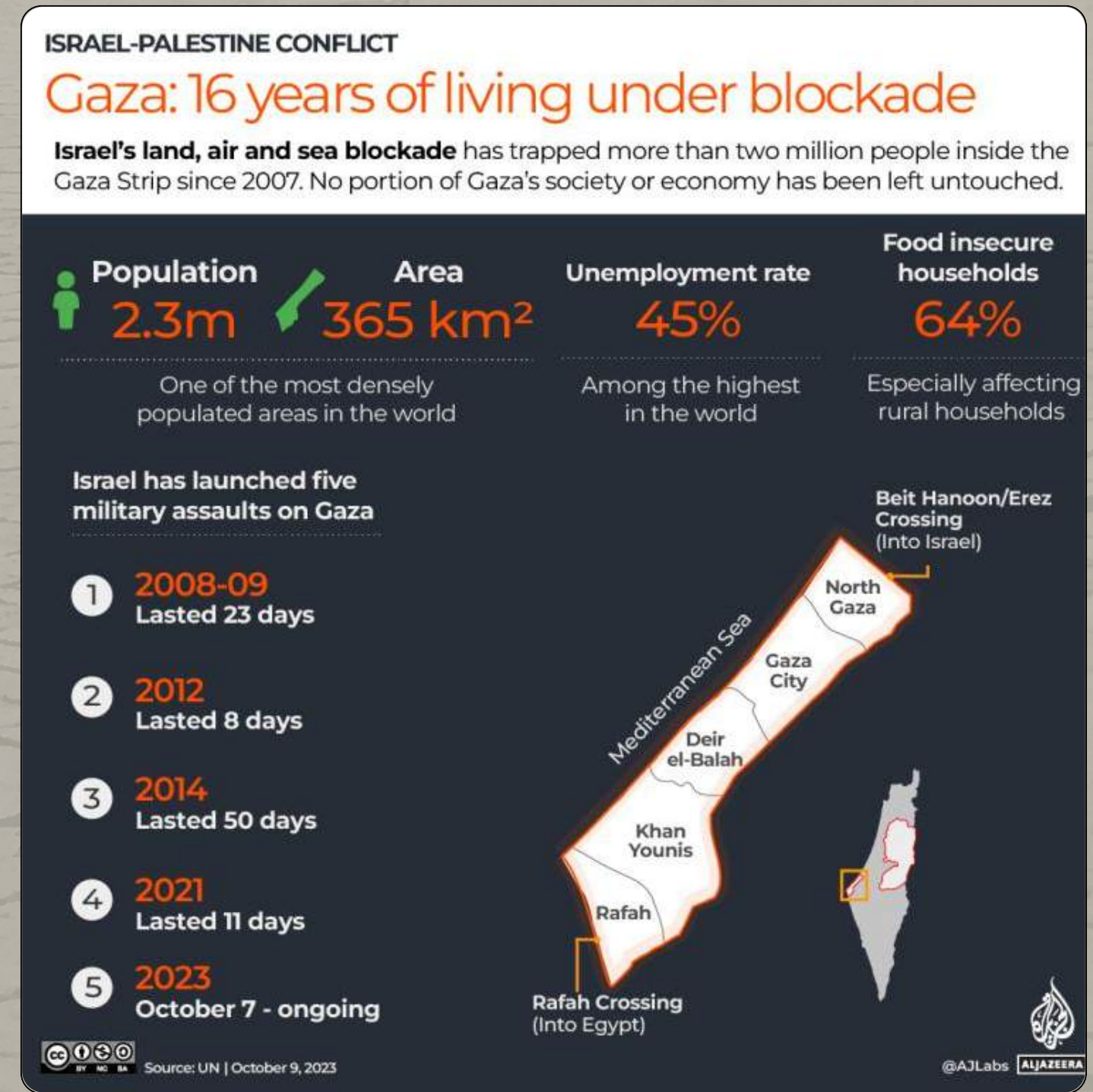
ایہا انسان فلسطین صد ایتا ہے
وہ بھی ایسے کے کٹیجوں کو بلا دیتا ہے
اسکی آواز پ لیک کہا جو تم نے
ہر لب زخم سے وہ تم دعا دیتا ہے

Oh humanity, Palestine is calling you
In such a way that shakes the hearts
If you respond to its plight,
Then every wound would pray for you



Israel's strict rules which prevent people from leaving Gaza has severely impacted over two million residents, and has limited their chance for a better life. This continues to harm Gaza's economy, contributes to the division among Palestinians, and is deemed as one of Israel's crimes of apartheid and persecution by Human Rights Watch. The closure prevents Gaza residents from going to the West Bank, hindering professionals, students, and others from pursuing opportunities within Palestine or traveling abroad. This policy, combined with restrictive Egyptian measures, has significantly reduced travel, violating human rights and contradicting the international consensus on the unity of the Palestinian territories.

SOURCE: HRW.ORG JUNE 14 2022



CURRENT SITUATION OF JERUSALEM

WEST JERUSALEM

In 1948, the Israeli government stormed and took control of West Jerusalem, seizing 84% of the land. Since then, they have been making efforts to abolish any and all traces of Islam from Palestine by oppressing and evicting Muslims, while propagating Zionism and sugarcoating their crimes. They have established numerous colonies, including Ein Karem, and their main governmental building is in the city of Lifta. Through these schemes, they have ended Muslim control and dominance over Palestine.

MASJID AL AQSA

In stark violation of the status quo at the site, provocative visits to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound by Israeli right-wing activists continued during 2022, with a rise in incidents of Jews performing religious rituals. It has become obvious that Israel's policy leans towards opening the site up for Jewish access, while ignoring Jordanian and other Muslims' complaints. According to figures from the right-wing "Temple Mount" group Beyadenu, a total of 49,179 Jews had entered the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the first nine months of 2022, almost double the number that had entered the site during the same period in 2021 (25,582). During the Jewish holidays in September/October 2022 alone, almost 8,000 Jews "visited" the site.

Even though Muslims have a greater claim to the Buraq/Wailing Wall, the Israelis have spread propaganda and distorted the truth regarding it. They also destroyed the surrounding neighborhood Mugharabah, a land of Waqf to the Muslims which had 135 houses and 2 mosques. Many Muslims have been martyred, injured, and imprisoned, with hundreds of thousands being evicted from their homes.

(<https://www.israel365news.com/355116/record-number-of-jews-visit-the-temple-mount/>).com
/355116/record-number-of-jews-visit-the-temple-mount/).

EAST JERUSALEM

In 1967 the Zionists occupied the eastern part of Jerusalem which included Masjid Al-Aqsa. In order to erase the Islamic value of the city, on the 30th of June in 1980, the Zionists announced that Jerusalem will remain a Jewish city. In the surrounding area around Masjid Al-Aqsa they built 12 neighborhoods which have a population of 190,000 Jews altogether. In order to separate Jerusalem from Arabs, around 17 Jewish colonies were established. Around 86% of Jerusalem is under the occupation of Israel while only 4% is under the control of Arabs. Around 10% of Jerusalem is prohibited for Arabs to enter and conduct business. This is despite the fact that during British rule, 90% of it was owned by Arabs.

CURRENT SITUATION OF PALESTINIANS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Palestinians who are not classified by Israel as permanent residents of East Jerusalem, including spouses, children, and other relatives of East Jerusalem permanent residents, must apply for family reunification to reside there legally. Granting or rejecting these is ultimately at the discretion of the Interior Minister, who is not required to justify a refusal. The confiscation of ID cards (i.e., residency rights) under bureaucratic pretexts is one of Israel's methods to control the number of Palestinians in the city. Based on the 1952 Law of Entry to Israel and the 1974 Entry to Israel Regulations, which only apply to Palestinian Jerusalemites, anyone who:

- wants to travel abroad must obtain an Israeli re-entry visa or risk losing his right of return;
- holds or applies for residency/citizenship elsewhere loses his residency right in Jerusalem (as the "center of life" is not in Jerusalem);
- lives abroad (including the West Bank) for over seven years loses the residency right;
- wants to register a child as a Jerusalem resident must apply to the Israeli Ministry of Interior (before the child turns 14 years) and prove the "center of life" in Jerusalem (this results in countless cases of 'unregistered' children);
- marries a non-resident spouse (from the WBGS or abroad) must apply for family reunification.

Only 34% of the Israeli citizenship applications are approved, and approval often takes years (Ibid.)

By 2021, Israel had revoked at least 14,727 ID cards from Palestinian Jerusalem residents since 1967

Israel does not grant Palestinians in Jerusalem the right to live in their city by birth but treats them as immigrants, and since 1967, successive Israeli governments have worked to limit their number. Right after the 1967 occupation, an Israeli census counted 66,000 Palestinians in East Jerusalem within the new municipal borders; these became "permanent residents of Jerusalem", while those who were absent (studying or visiting, etc.) were not classified as residents and had to later apply for family reunification to the Interior Ministry. According to Israeli records, the city's 1967 ratio was 25.8% Arabs and 74.2% Jews and the 1973 ministerial "Gafni Commission" stipulated that a demographic balance be maintained at a ratio of 30:70. However, this ratio had reached 38.6% (366,800) Palestinians to 61.4% (584,400) Jews & others in 2020, with a total population of 951,140. The overall growth rate was 1.6% (Palestinian: 2.2%; Jewish: 1.2%) and Jerusalem accounted for 10.2% of Israel's total population. For comparison: Tel Aviv had a population of 463,800 (5%) and Haifa of 283,700 (3.3%) (JIPR, Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem 2022).

In 2021, there were 240,274 residential apartments in Jerusalem: 175,911 (73.2%) in Israeli and 64,363 (26.8%) in Palestinian neighborhoods, where the largest number of dwellings was in Beit Hanina (9,792), followed by Jabal Mukabber (6,436), At-Tur (6,135) and Kufr Aqab (5,061) (JIPR, Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem 2022).

Source: www.passia.org

CHALLENGES AND COMING DANGERS FOR MASJID AL-AQSA



THE ZIONISTS' PLAN TO MAKE JERUSALEM THE CAPITAL OF THEIR STATE

1. Converting Palestinian land into Jewish land. This involves destroying and purchasing Muslim properties and buildings, and constructing their structures in its place.
Source: Aljazeera.com
2. Evicting Palestinian civilians and unlawfully replacing them with Jewish settlers. East Jerusalem is currently occupied by 200,000 Jewish settlers. They have achieved this by confiscating personal records and imposing high taxes so that Palestinians are forced to leave. As of the year 2000, over 200,000 Palestinians have been displaced from the land and 400,000 Jewish settlers have immigrated in their place.
Source: Aljazeera.com
3. Establishing and encouraging Zionist/Jewish institutions and media to continue their propaganda and brainwash the masses while they conduct the construction of the Third Temple.
Source: poica.org
4. Removing any and all Islamic movements from Jerusalem, leaving the Muslims helpless and unable to defend themselves.
Source: poica.org
5. Distorting the Palestinian history, spreading myths and lies, whitewashing it and presenting it in a manner that favours Judaism.
Source: Middleeastmonitor.com
6. Preventing Salaah in Masjid Al-Aqsa by any means possible. Around 20 separate Zionist groups are scheming on how to destroy the Masjid and build the Third Temple in its place. From 1967-Present Day there have been numerous attacks on Masjid Al-Aqsa resulting in multiple casualties.
Source: Aljazeera.com

THE PLANNED DEMOLITION OF MASJID AL-AQSA

The initial plan was to burn it down with fire, either individually or in groups. On the 21th of August in 1969, Denis Michael succeeded in his attempt to set fire to the Masjid. As a result, the carpets, walls, and Mimbar (pulpit) were burned. The Mimbar was handcrafted by Nur-Udin Zingi himself. Further attempts to ignite fire inside of Masjid Al-Aqsa were made through the use of explosives in the year 1980, 1982, and 1984. These attempts were confirmed to be true in 1987.
Source: Wikipedia

Another plan of the Zionists was to start an operation of constant digging under the Al-Aqsa compound and to leave dug out tunnels under the base of the Masjid. Their plan began taking effect since the war in 1967. At the time, they had already destroyed Al-Mugharaba. The purpose of this plan was to destabilize the ground under Masjid Al-Aqsa leading to its collapse and sinking into the ground. The tunnels dug underneath the mosque caused the walls to crack, particularly the north wall where the graves of the Sahabah and Tabi'een were destroyed. Construction in the surrounding area continues even today.
Source: Wikipedia

According to an article written by Corey Sherman and is published in 'JewishCurrents', extremist Jews, who have been given the name "The Temple Movement", are in a constant effort to destroy Masjid Al-Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock. They believe that the destruction of the Muslim holy sites and the construction of a third temple will bring about the end times and the coming of the Messiah. The movement itself has been inspired by a radical rabbi who advocated for the expulsion of Arabs and annexation of the West Bank and Gaza. This extremist movement has also been given support by republican politicians and donors from the US. The followers of this movement are known to harass and clash with Muslims and often storm the holy sites to perform their own prayers.
Source: Jewishcurrents.org

THE PREPARATIONS TO BUILD THE THIRD TEMPLE OF SOLOMON

On the 28th of January in 1976, the Israeli government allowed Jewish worshippers to enter Masjid Al-Aqsa at any time to partake in Jewish religious rituals. They forcibly took possession of the keys of Baab Al-Mugharaba to gain unrestricted access to the Western Wall at any time. Two Jewish religious leaders have been reported to have entered the Masjid. Muslims are banned from entering Masjid Al Aqsa from Baab Al-Mugharab.
Source: masjidalaqsa.net

People of the Jewish and Protestant Christian faith were encouraged to display radical religious devotion in the media. A plan was formed to place a cornerstone as a starting point in building the foundation of the Third Temple near the gate of Masjid Al-Aqsa.
Source: aljazeera.com

In the years 1989-1990, followers of an extremist Jewish movement made an attempt to start the construction of the Third Temple by placing a 6.5 ton cornerstone in the Temple Mount, where Masjid Al-Aqsa is located. In a historic ceremony, they carried the stone, but the Israeli government prevented them from entering the Temple Mount with it. Consequently, they had to leave the stone near the southern gates of the Temple Mount. This information comes from the followers of the radical movement known as the "Temple Mount and Land of Israel Faithful Movement."
Source: templemountfaithful.org

I too will see what time reveals.

PROPHETIC NARRATIONS REGARDING BAYT AL-MAQDIS

میں بھی دیکھتا ہوں جو دکھائے گا زمان

MASJID AL-AQSA - THE SITE OF THE FUTURE CALIPHATE

1

Abdullāh ibn Hawalah al-Azdi رضی اللہ عنہ reported, the Prophet ﷺ put his hand on my head and said, "Ibn Hawwala, if you see that the Caliphate has taken abode in the Holy Land then the earthquakes, tribulations and great events are at hand. The Last Hour on that day will be closer to people than my hand is to your head".

(Imām Ahmad رضی اللہ عنہ and Sunan Abū Dāwud رضی اللہ عنہ)

2

Yūnus ibn Maysarah رضی اللہ عنہ relates that the Prophet ﷺ said, "This matter (the Caliphate) will be after me in Madinah, then Al-Shām, then al-Jazira, then Iraq, then in Madinah, then in al-Quds (Jerusalem). When it is in al-Quds, that will be its rightful place, and if any people expel it, it will not return there forever".

(Ibn Asākir رضی اللہ عنہ)

3

Al-Nu'mān ibn Bashīr رضی اللہ عنہ relates that the Prophet ﷺ said, "Prophethood will last with you for as long as Allāh ﷻ wants it. Then Allāh ﷻ will end it if He wishes to end it. Then there will be the rightly guided Caliphs according to the method of Prophethood and things will be as Allāh ﷻ wishes them. Then Allāh ﷻ will end it if He wishes it. Then there will be a voracious kingdom and things will be as Allāh ﷻ wishes them. Then Allāh ﷻ will end it if He wishes. Then there will be a Khilāfah according to the method of Prophethood. Thereafter the Prophet fell silent". (Imām Ahmad رضی اللہ عنہ)

4

'Abd al-Rahmān ibn abi Umayrah al-Muzani رضی اللہ عنہ relates that the Prophet ﷺ said, "There will be a rightly guided oath of allegiance in al-Quds (Jerusalem)".

(Sahīh al-Bukhārī and Sahīh Muslim)

MASJID AL-AQSA - THE PLACE OF MUJAAHIDIN

1

Umamah al-Bahili رضی اللہ عنہا reports that the Prophet ﷺ said, "A group of my community will remain on truth, they will vanquish their enemy, and those who disagree with them will not be able to harm them until Allah commands". "Where are these people"? The Companions asked. The Prophet replied, "In and around al-Quds (Jerusalem)".

(Imām Ahmad رضی اللہ عنہ)

2

Mu'awiyah ibn Abi Sufyān رضی اللہ عنہ relates that the Prophet ﷺ said, "There is a group among my followers who will continue to be openly on the truth. No one who opposes them will harm them until the coming of the Hour".

(Imām Ahmad رضی اللہ عنہ)

3

Abu Hurayrah رضی اللہ عنہ relates that the Prophet ﷺ said, "A group of my community will not cease to fight at the gates of Damascus and at the gates of al-Quds (Jerusalem) and its surroundings. The betrayal or desertion of whoever deserts them will not harm them in the least. They will remain victorious, standing for truth, until the Final Hour rises".

(Al-Tabaranī رضی اللہ عنہ)

MASJID AL-AQSA - THE PLACE FOR MAJOR EVENTS NEAR QIYAMAH

1

Mujamma ibn al-Hārith رضی اللہ عنہ narrates that the Prophet ﷺ said, "Ibn Maryam (Isā عليه السلام) will kill al-Dajjal (the Anti-Christ) at the door of Ludd (a town in Palestine)".

(Imām Ahmad رضی اللہ عنہ and Tirmidhī رضی اللہ عنہ)

2

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said regarding Al-Dajjal: "He will stay in the land forty days; he will enter every place on earth except the Ka'bah, the Prophet's Masjid, the al-Aqsa Sanctuary and Mount Sinai".

(Imām Ahmad رضی اللہ عنہ)

3

Maymunah bint Sa'd رضی اللہ عنہا reports that she asked the Prophet ﷺ, "O Messenger of Allah, give us a pronouncement about al-Quds (Jerusalem)". The Prophet ﷺ replied, "It is the land where they will be raised (Al-Hashr) and gathered (Al-Mahshar)".

(Imām Ahmad رضی اللہ عنہ and Al-Tabaranī رضی اللہ عنہ)

4

Mu'ādh ibn Jabal رضی اللہ عنہ relates that the Prophet ﷺ said, "The flourishing state of al-Quds (Jerusalem) (under the non-Muslims) will be when Yathrib is in ruins, the ruined state of Yathrib will be when the Great War comes, the outbreak of the Great War will be at the conquest of Constantinople and the conquest of Constantinople will be when Al-Dajjal (Anti-Christ) comes forth". He (the Prophet) struck his thigh or his shoulder with his hand and said: "This is as true as your presence here or as you are sitting (meaning Mu'ādh ibn Jabal رضی اللہ عنہ)".

(Sunan of Abū Dāwud)

5

Awf ibn Malik رضی اللہ عنہ reports that the Prophet ﷺ said, "The rest of the world will be destroyed forty years before al-Shām is destroyed".

(Ibn Asākir رضی اللہ عنہ)

6

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said regarding the inhabitants of the blessed land, "They and their wives, children, and slaves (men and women) are in ribat (guardians, literally a fort) in the cause of Allah".

(Al-Tabaranī رضی اللہ عنہ)

7

Al-Nawwās ibn Sam'ān al-Kalbi رضی اللہ عنہ narrates that the Prophet ﷺ said, "If Al-Dajjal comes forth while I am amongst you then I shall dispute with him on your behalf, but if he comes after I am not with you, then each man must dispute on his own behalf, and Allah will take to protecting every Muslim. Those of you who live up to his time should recite over him the opening verses of Surah Kahf, for they are your protection from his trial". We asked, "How long will he remain on the earth"? He replied, "Forty days, one like a year, one like a month, one like a week and the rest of his days like yours". We asked, "Will one day's prayer suffice us in this day which will be like a year"? He replied, "No, you must make an estimate of its extent. Then Isā عليه السلام, son of Maryam will descend at the white minaret to the east of Damascus. He will then catch Al-Dajjal up at the gates of Ludd and kill him".

(Sunan Abū Dāwud)

VIRTUES OF AL-AQSA

MASJID AL-AQSA - THE BEST PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Abdullāh ibn Umar (رضي الله عنه) reports that the Prophet ﷺ said, "There will be migration upon migration. The best of the inhabitants of the earth will reside where Prophet Ibrāhim (عليه السلام) migrated (Jerusalem)".

(Sunan Abū Dāwud)

MASJID AL-AQSA - THE PLACE WHERE ALLAH'S REVELATION DESCENDED

Abu Umāmah (رضي الله عنه) reports that the Prophet ﷺ said, صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ "Prophethood descended upon me in three places: Makkah, Madinah and al-Sham.

(Sunan Abū Dāwud, Al-Tabaranī)



MASJID AL-AQSA - THE SECOND HOUSE OF ALLAH ON EARTH

Abu Dhar (رضي الله عنه) reported that he asked the Prophet ﷺ, "O Prophet of Allah, which Masjid was built first on earth"? The Prophet ﷺ replied, "The Sacred Masjid of Makkah". Abu Dhar (رضي الله عنه) asked, "Which was next"? The Prophet ﷺ said, "The Masjid al-Aqsa". Abu Dhar (رضي الله عنه) further asked "How long was the period between the building of the two Masājid"? The Prophet ﷺ said, "Forty years". Apart from these, offer your prayers anywhere when it is time to pray, although excellence is in praying in these Masājid".

(Sahīh al-Bukhārī)

THE IMPORTANCE OF DONATING TO MASJID AL-AQSA

Maymoonah bint Sa'd (رضي الله عنها) relates that she asked the Prophet ﷺ "O Prophet! Inform us about Bayt al-Maqdis (Jerusalem)". He said, "Visit it for prayer". She further asked, "If one of us cannot visit it, what should we do"? He said, "If you cannot go for prayer then send some oil to be used in its lamps; whoever gives oil for its lamps, it will be as if he has prayed in it"

(Imām Ahmad, Ibn Mājah, Sunan Abu Dāwud, Al-Tabaranī)

THE IMPORTANCE OF VISITING MASJID AL-AQSA

Abu Hurayrah (رضي الله عنه) relates that the Prophet ﷺ said, "You should not undertake a special journey to visit any place other than to the following three Masājid with the expectations of getting greater reward: the Sacred Masjid of Makkah, this Masjid of mine, and Masjid al-Aqsa (in Jerusalem)".

In another narration the words are, "For three Masājid a special journey may be undertaken: The Sacred Masjid (Ka'bah), my Masjid, and the Masjid of al-Quds (Jerusalem)".

(Sahīh Bukhārī, Sahīh Muslim, and Sunan Abū Dawud)

THE BLESSED LAND OF MASJID AL-AQSA

Zaid ibn Thābit (رضي الله عنه) reports that the Prophet ﷺ said, "How blessed is al-Sham"! The companions around asked: "Why is that"? The Messenger ﷺ replied, "I see the angels of Allah spreading their wings over al-Shām"

(Tirmidhī and Imām Ahmad)

THE VIRTUES OF WEARING IHRĀM FROM MASJID AL-AQSA

Umm Salamah (رضي الله عنها) relates that the Prophet ﷺ said, "If anyone puts on ihrām for Hajj or Umrah from Masjid al-Aqsā and then proceeds to the sacred Masjid, his former and latter sins will be forgiven, or he will be guaranteed Paradise". The narrator 'Abdullāh was not certain which of these words were said.

(Sunan Abū Dāwud)

GREAT VIRTUE OF PRAYING IN MASJID AL-AQSA

Abu Dardā'a (رضي الله عنه) relates that the Prophet ﷺ said, "A prayer in Makkah is worth 100,000 times, a prayer in my Masjid (Madinah) is worth 1,000 times, and a prayer in Al-Aqsa Sanctuary is worth 500 times more than anywhere else".

(Al-Tabaranī, Al-Bayhaqī and Al-Suyutī.)

Anas ibn Malik (رضي الله عنه) relates that the Prophet ﷺ said, "The prayer of a person in his house has the reward of a single prayer; his prayer in the Masjid of his tribe has the reward of twenty-five prayers; his prayer in the Masjid in which the Friday prayer is observed has the reward of five hundred; his prayer in Masjid al-Aqsa (i.e. al-Aqsa Sanctuary) has a reward of five thousand prayers; his prayer in my Masjid (the Prophet's Masjid in Madinah) has a reward of fifty thousand prayers; and the prayer in the Sacred Masjid (Ka'bah) at Makkah has a reward of one hundred thousand prayers"

(Tirmidhī and Ibn Mājah)

Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound/Al-Haram Ash-Sharif

Located in the southeast corner of the Old City of Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa Mosque comprises the entire area of Al-Haram Ash-Sharif within the walls of the compound (144 dunums/144,000 m2). The earliest structure dates back to Caliph Omar Bin Al-Khatab's peaceful capture of Jerusalem in 638, since when the site has been under continuous Muslim administration, except for the period of the Crusaders' rule in the 12th Century. All structures listed here are integral parts of the Islamic Waqf, i.e., property and its revenues donated under Islamic law to the public for charitable or religious purposes (plural: awqaf), or holding, in perpetuity. The Islamic Waqf in Jerusalem is subjected to a range of Israeli violations, including denying it its historic right and responsibility to administer the holy site in violation of the historical, religious status quo and international humanitarian law, preventing the its regulation of non-Muslim entry to the compound through the Mughrabi Gate, thereby significantly increasing the number, size, and provocative incursions of Jewish extremists who call for Jewish worship at the site, destruction of its Muslim shrines and the marginalization or even elimination of a Muslim role and presence there; and partially unauthorized tunneling and digging next to and beneath the compound, which is causing damages to many properties – including the Awqaf Administration offices, Manjakiyyah School, Ribat Al-Kurd, the Uthmani and Al-Tankaziya Schools, and Palestinian homes.

Uthmani School

Building consisting of two floors, a number of rooms and a small courtyard overlooking Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. It has been damaged by tunnel excavations beneath it conducted by the Israeli authorities, which also confiscated the school's mosque on the pretext of creating ventilation for the tunnel.



Dome of the Rock (Masjid Qubbat As-Sakhra)

Built in the 7th Century by the Umayyad Caliph Abdul Malik Bin Marwan over what Muslims believe to be the Rock of Ascension, i.e., the spot from which Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) ascended to heaven in the night journey of Al-Isra' wa Al-Miraj. The Crusaders turned it into their headquarters, but when Saladin liberated the city in 1187, it returned to function as a mosque.



Bab Al-Rahmeh (Gate of Mercy or Golden Gate)

Ancient gate believed to have been shut by Saladin after ending the crusaders' rule over Jerusalem in 1187 to prevent future invasions. The building attached to it is said to be the place where the Muslim scholar Al-Ghazali (1058-1111) took up residence while in Jerusalem. It housed the Islamic Heritage Committee from 1992 until 2003, when Israel closed it down. In February 2019, the Islamic Waqf Council re-opened its prayer hall, triggering numerous clashes with Israeli forces.



Bab Al-Rahmeh Cemetery

One of the oldest Islamic cemeteries in Jerusalem, containing the remnants of Shadad bin Aws and Obada bin As-Samet - companions of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). In recent years, Israel has uprooted trees, dug up graves, fenced the site off, and prevented new burials - all under the pretext that it was an "antiquities site" and part of Israel's "Jerusalem Walls National Park."



Al-Qibly Mosque (also known as Al-Aqsa Mosque)



First physical structure ever built by Muslims on the holy compound. In 638, Caliph Omar Ibn Al-Khatab and his companions cleared the site and built a simple mosque on its southern part. Between 706-714, Umayyad Caliph Abdul Malik Bin Marwan constructed the larger mosque known today. The site of the Mosque was the first holy site (before Mecca) towards which Muslims directed their prayers (qibla-hence its name). In 1969, it was damaged in an arson attack by an Australian Christian extremist.

Ribat Al-Kurd

Waqf property dating back to the Mamluk period, consisting of a small plaza, an alleyway and a few houses inhabited by the Shihabi family. It has been subject to numerous Israeli violations, including converting it into a Jewish prayer place (calling it "small wailing wall"), putting up a checkpoint and surveillance cameras, and depriving the Waqf of its right to renovate it.



Tankaziya School

Originally dedicated to teaching the traditions of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) (sunnah and hadith), this building was turned into a court-house during the reign of Mamluk Sultan Qaitbay, then became a Shari'a Court under the Ottomans until the early days of the British Mandate. Israel turned it into a police station to oversee the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and, in 2015, converted the hall beneath it into a synagogue.



Al-Buraq Wall (also known as Western Wall)

Integral part of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. The Jewish prayer plaza adjacent to it was the location of the Magharbeh (Moroccan) Quarter, which Israel razed to the ground, evicting all inhabitants, following its occupation of East Jerusalem in the 1967 War.



Al-Buraq Mosque (Musalla Al-Buraq)

Derived its name from a ring that is nailed to its wall which Muslims believe was used to tie Al-Buraq, the winged creature that carried Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) from Mecca to Jerusalem in the night journey of Al-Isra' wa Al-Miraj. While its main gate is permanently sealed, it is open for prayers via the compound's western corridor.



Mughrabi Ramp & Gate

One of 11 gates providing access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, believed to have been used by Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) during his night journey of Al-Isra' wa Al-Miraj. Since 1967, when its keys were confiscated by Israel, it is the only entrance for non-Muslim visitors (until 2000 only upon the Waqf's permission; since 2003 at Israel's will).



Umayyad Palaces

Palaces built to serve the princes of the Umayyad dynasty as dwellings attached to the mosque and as the headquarters for the management of Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque affairs. The site has been subject to extensive Israeli excavations, digging, and illicit trafficking of historic remains, and was turned into an archaeological park reflecting the "Talmudic narrative."



Al-Marwani Mosque (Al-Musalla Al-Marwani)

Massive subterranean hall built by Umayyads who descended from Marwan bin Al-Hakam. Originally a steep hill, it was raised so as to be on the same level of the northern courtyards and ensure that Al-Qibly Mosque is built on strong foundations. In 1996, its prayer hall was renovated. Accessed via a staircase it extends over some 4,5 acres and can accommodate over 6,000 worshippers.



البيوت العتيقة

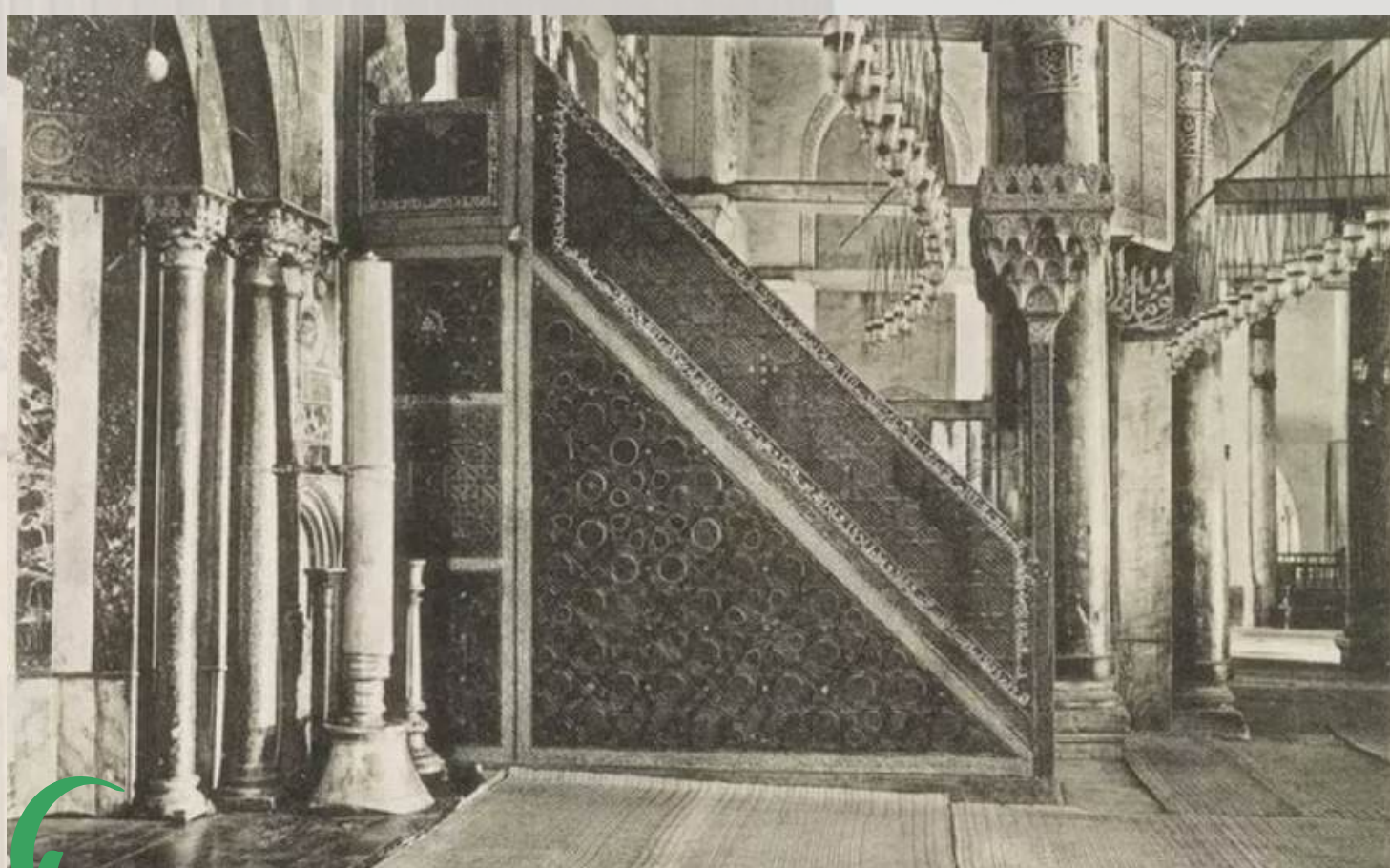
HISTORICAL PLACES MASJID AL-AQSA



The interior of Masjid al-Qibly, within Masjid Al-Aqsa. When the Crusaders captured Jerusalem, this area was desecrated. Salahuddin's biographer Imad Eddin, mentions that the mihrab of the mosque was full of pigs and excrement. This was removed and cleared up after being recaptured by Muslims.



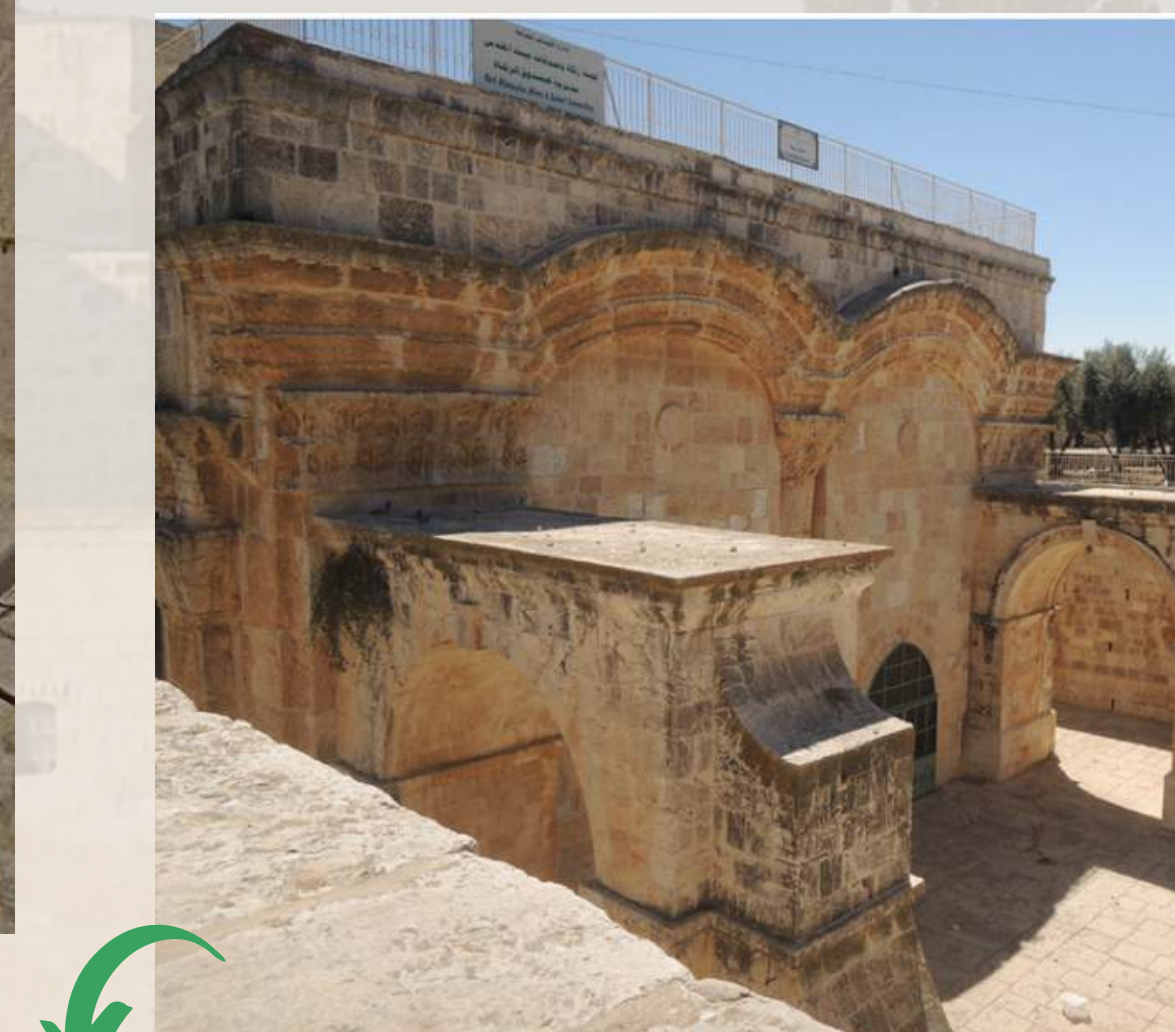
This is a section of the Western Wall of Masjid al-Aqsa below ground level. The large stone at the bottom is known as the 'Western Stone'. Estimated to weigh more than 500 tons, it ranks as one of the heaviest objects ever lifted by human beings without powered machinery.



The original pulpit in Masjid al-Qibly (in Aqsa) before it was destroyed by a fire is considered to be one of the most beautiful pulpits in the world. It was crafted from over 10,000 interlocking pieces of cedar and other wood, ivory, and mother of pearl, all affixed without a drop of glue or a single nail.



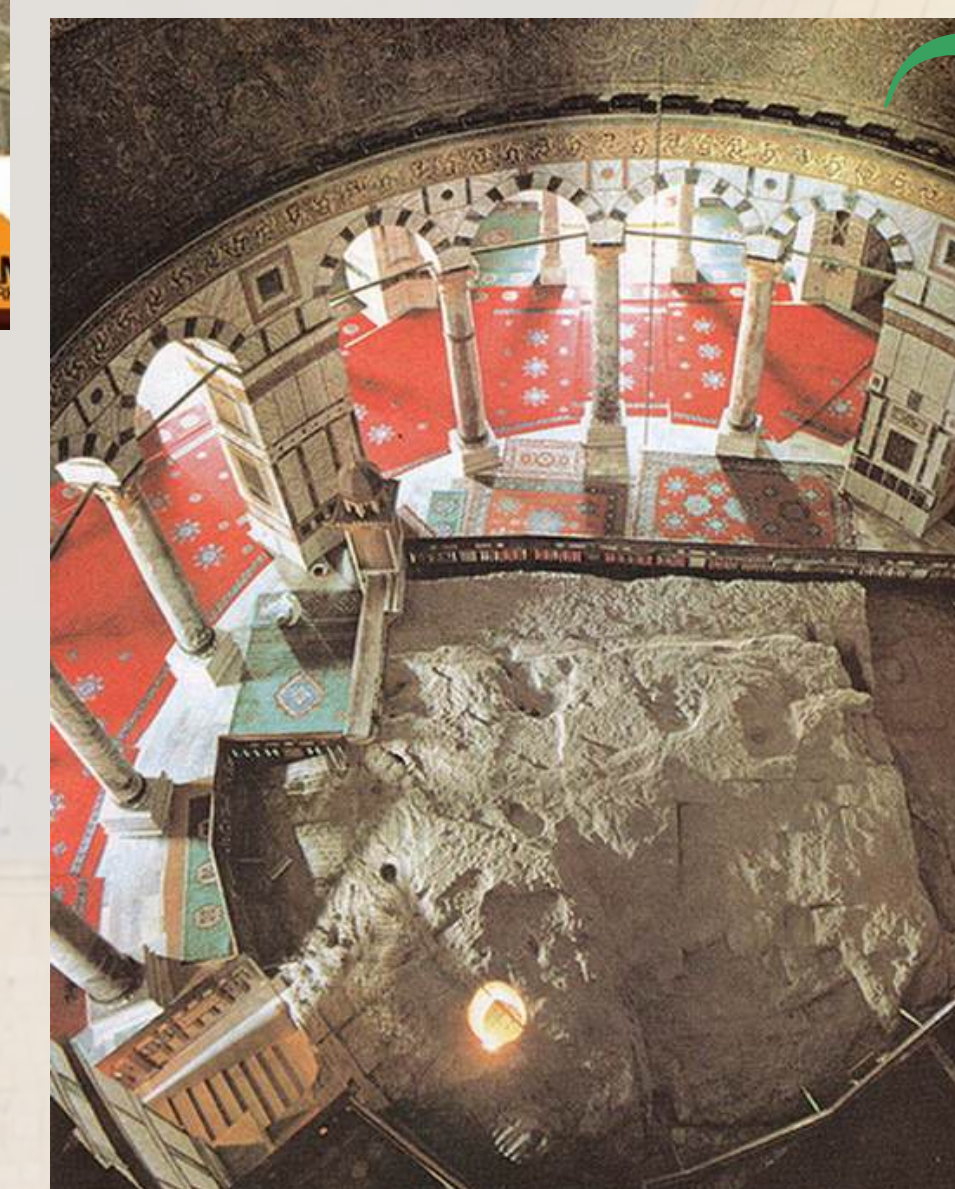
A ring affixed to the qibla side wall in Masjid Buraq symbolizes the area where the Prophet ﷺ tied the Buraq, although it doesn't indicate the exact location. The Buraq was an animal, larger than a donkey but smaller than a mule that the Prophet ﷺ rode on his way to Masjid al-Aqsa.



One of the earliest gates dating back to the Umayyad times, the Golden Gate lies along the Eastern Wall of al-Aqsa Sanctuary. The Golden Gate's two vaulted halls lead to the Door of Mercy (Bab al-Rahman) and the Door of Repentance (Bab al-Tawbah). Imam al-Ghazali is thought to have written his Revival of the Religious Sciences - Ihya' 'Ulum al-Din, while sitting and teaching above these gates. The Christians believe that Isa will, on his second coming, enter through this gate. From the courtyard of al-Aqsa Sanctuary, the Door of Mercy is to the right of the Golden Gate and the Door of Repentance is to the left.



Close-up of the hole in the rock inside the Dome of the Rock, believed to be the place where the Prophet ﷺ ascended to heaven. The hole was cut by the Crusaders for drainage purposes, as they used to sacrifice animals on the rock.



As Muslims, we believe that this is the place that the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ started his night journey to the heavens, known as Mi'rāj. Underneath this sacred stone is the Well of Souls as well as the hiding place of At-Ṭaboot (the Ark of Covenant).



The 'Musalla Marwani' inside the Masjid al-Aqsa compound. During the Crusaders' rule, this area was converted into stables. When Salahuddin Ayyubi reclaimed Masjid al-Aqsa, he had this area cleaned. Today, it's the largest prayer hall in al-Aqsa holding up to 10,000 people. Some hold the opinion that Maryam (عليها السلام) brought her son Isā (عليه السلام) here.



This is the small cave inside the Dome of the Rock. The small mihrab on the left shows the direction of the Qiblah (i.e. Makkah). This cave has been called 'The Well of Souls' (Arabic: Bir al-Arweh) as some believe this is where the souls of the dead gather to wait for Judgement Day. However, this is a myth, as is the notion that the rock above it is floating without any support.

Source: Twitter: @MuslimLandmarks,
www.islamiclandmarks.com,
Book: Al Aqsa Guide Book

HISTORICAL PLACES MASJID AL AQSA

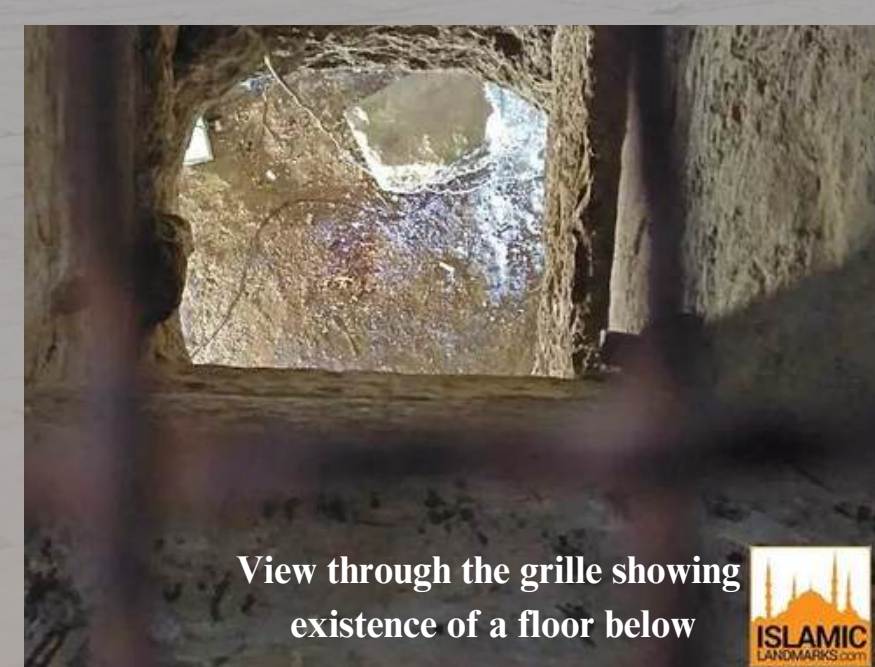


During the night of al-Isra, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ journeyed from Makkah to Masjid al-Aqsa in Jerusalem. It's believed that he entered the al-Aqsa compound from the western side, where Masjid al-Buraq is currently located.



This is a view underneath the Qibly mosque in the Masjid al-Aqsa platform. Some believe that the stone pillars were erected by jinnat in the time of the Prophet Sulaymān (عليه السلام).

Grille in the basement floor showing floor below



View through the grille showing existence of a floor below

There is an adjacent room that contains a grille through which the floor, where oil would be burned to heat the mosque, is visible. Maymunah bint Sa'd (رضي الله عنها) relates that she asked the Prophet ﷺ, "O Prophet! Inform us about Bayt al-Maqdis". He said, "Visit it for prayer". She further asked, "If one of us cannot visit it, what shall we do?" He said: "If you cannot go for prayer then send some oil to be used in its lamps; whosoever gives oil for its lamps, it will be as if he has prayed in it". [Imam Ahmad, Ibn Majah, Sunan Abu Dāwud and al-Tabarani]



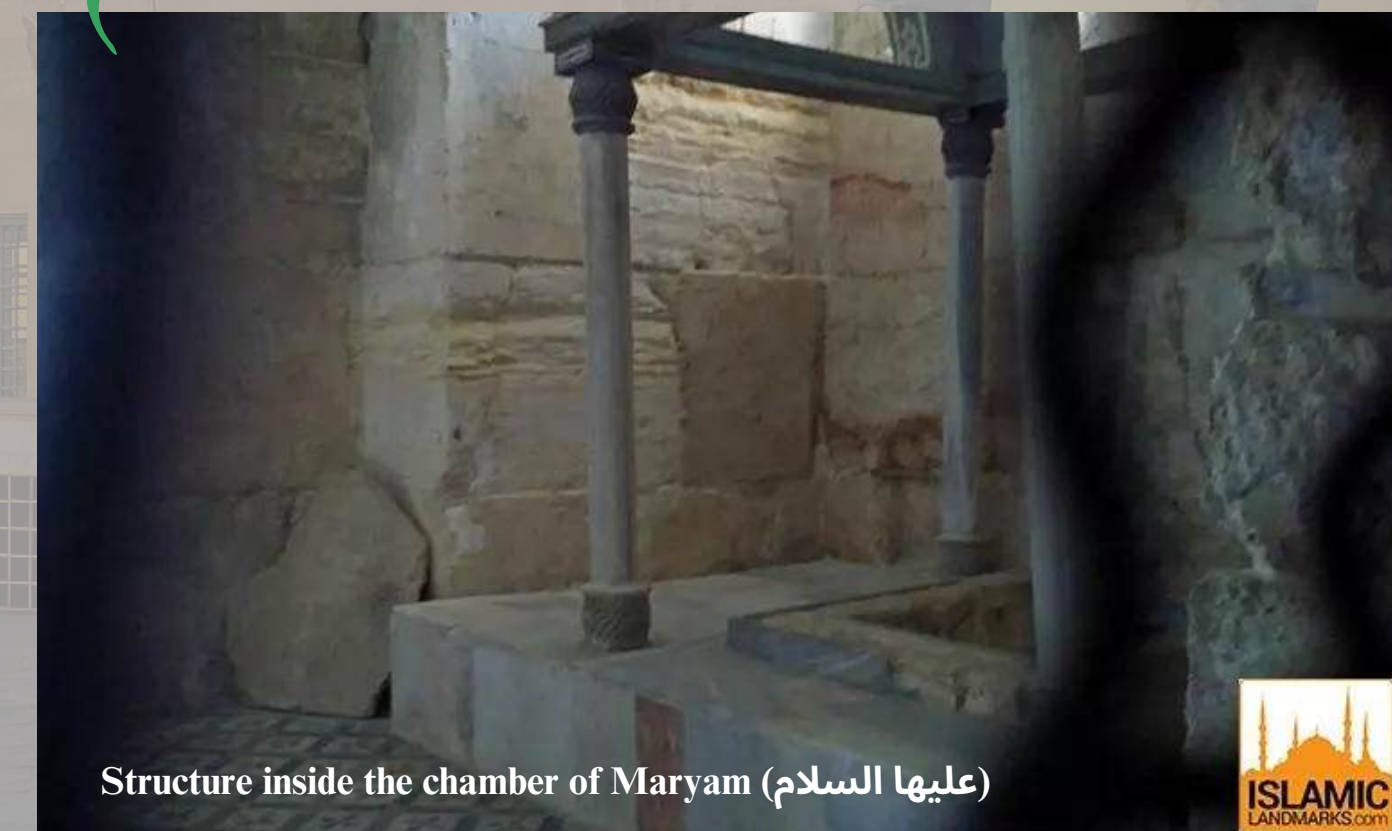
The Mihrab-e-Zakariyya is a small prayer niche located in the eastern part of Masjid al-Qibly. It was built to commemorate the Prophet Zakariyyah (عليه السلام) who was a custodian of the Sacred Sanctuary (Masjid al-Aqsa). This space is also said to be the place Maryam (عليها السلام) was lodged and visited by Zakariyyah (عليه السلام) however there is no solid evidence for this.



This small room in the far left corner of Masjid Qibly was built by previous Muslim rulers in honor of the Caliph Umar (رضي الله عنه) who visited Jerusalem in 638 CE. The room shown above is believed to be the area where Umar (رضي الله عنه) started clearing away rubbish. It is regarded as part of Masjid al-Qibly. Today, part of the mosque is used as an emergency clinic.

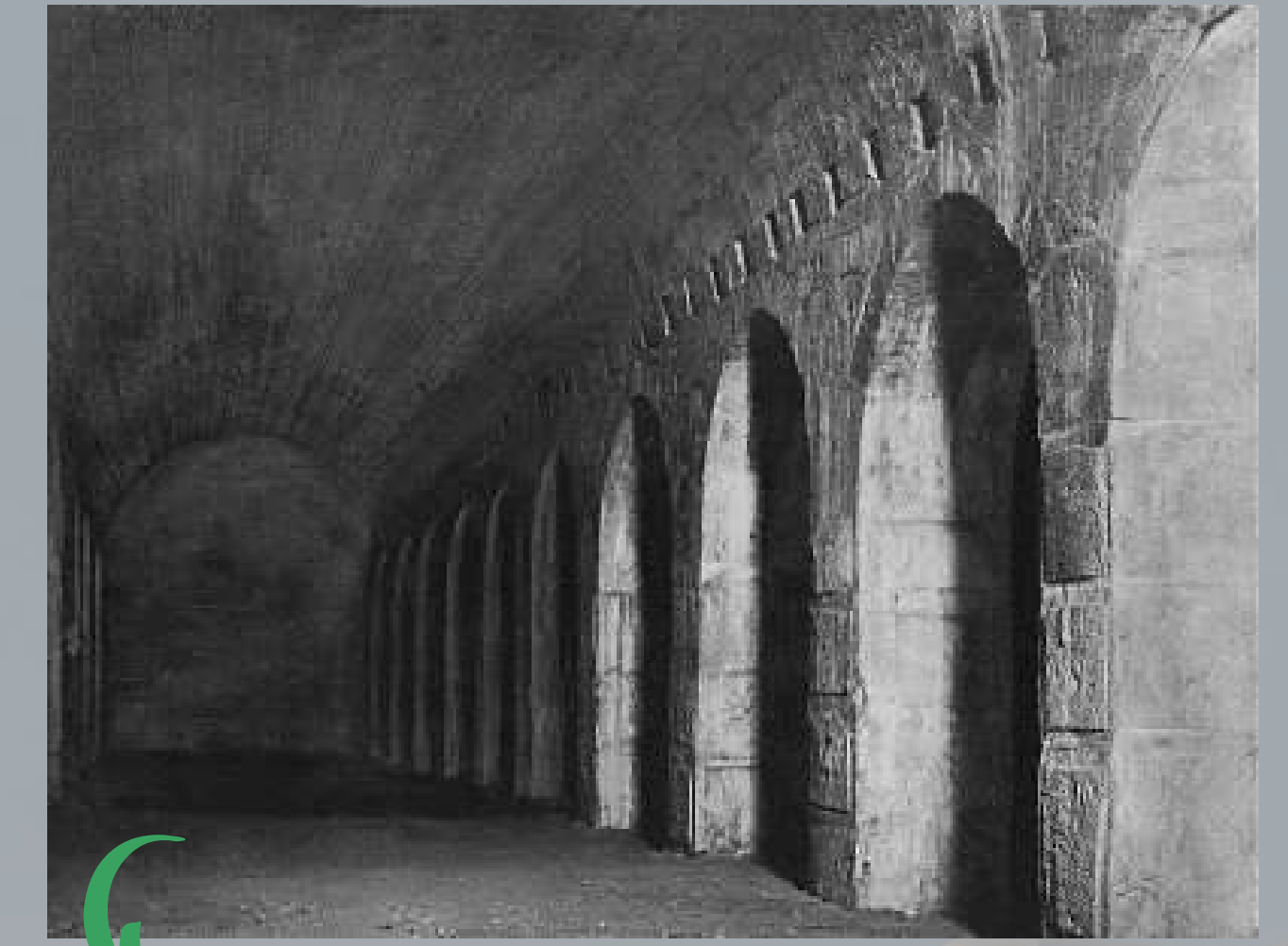


This small room in the south-eastern corner of Masjid al-Aqsa, is said to be where Maryam (عليها السلام) raised her son, the prophet Isā (عليه السلام) [Jesus]. However, it should be noted that there isn't any authentic or reliable source for this.



Structure inside the chamber of Maryam (عليها السلام)

This building, which is located at the rear end of the Aqsa platform is believed to be the place where the Prophet Sulaymān (عليه السلام) passed away while leaning on his staff. It presently functions as a girls school.



Just below the paved courtyard in the southeast corner of the al-Haram al-Sharif (Al-Aqsa Sanctuary) lies the vast vaulted subterranean area referred to, mistakenly, as Solomon's Stables. The actual construction is Umayyad dating back to the 8th Century. This area is accessible via a flight of stairs leading down to a recently renovated prayer area



The Dome of the Prophet is an octagonal dome structure located northwest of the Dome of the Rock. It is commonly believed to mark the spot from where the Prophet ﷺ led all the prophets in prayer during the night of Isra' and Mī'rāj.





HISTORICAL PLACES JERUSALEM



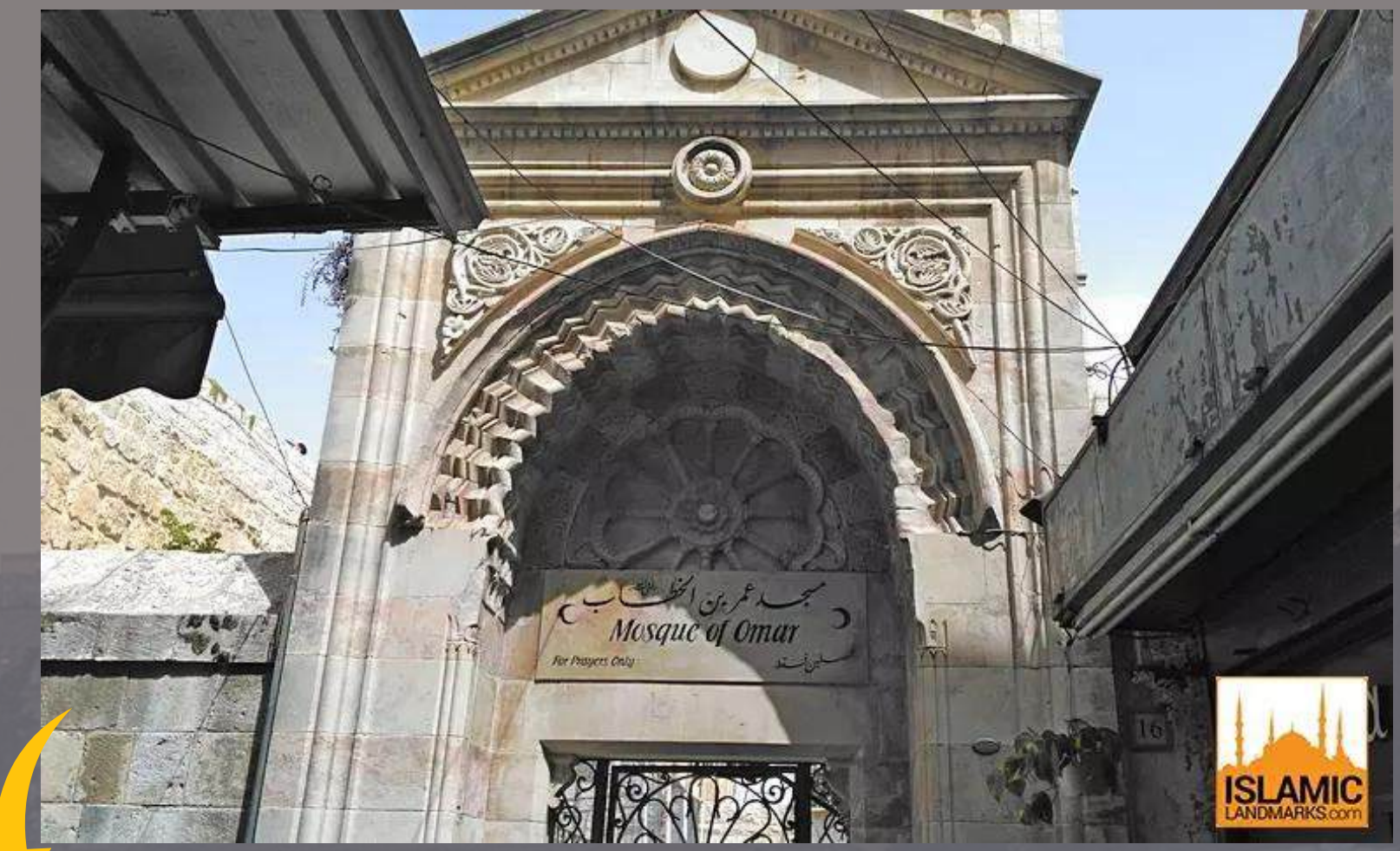
The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem is the holiest place according to Christians since they believe this is where Isā (عليه السلام) was crucified. This idea is rejected by Muslims, as we believe that Isā (عليه السلام) did not die, rather he was taken up to the heavens and will return towards the end of time.



This is the room where the renowned Muslim general Salahuddin Ayyubi would observe itikaf when in the Old City of Jerusalem. Salahuddin liberated Jerusalem from the Crusaders in 1187 CE. The room is part of a khanqah and mosque complex adjacent to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



Maq'ad Al-Rahma cemetery is located on the eastern wall of the Temple Mount and extends from the Bab Al-Asbat to the end of Masjid Al-Aqsa near the Umayyad Palaces. It contains the graves of many great Companions of the Prophet, such as Abu Ubadah ibn Al-Samit and Shadad bin Aus. In 2011, Palestinian sources stated that the Israeli government has made plans to convert a portion of the cemetery to a Biblical garden.



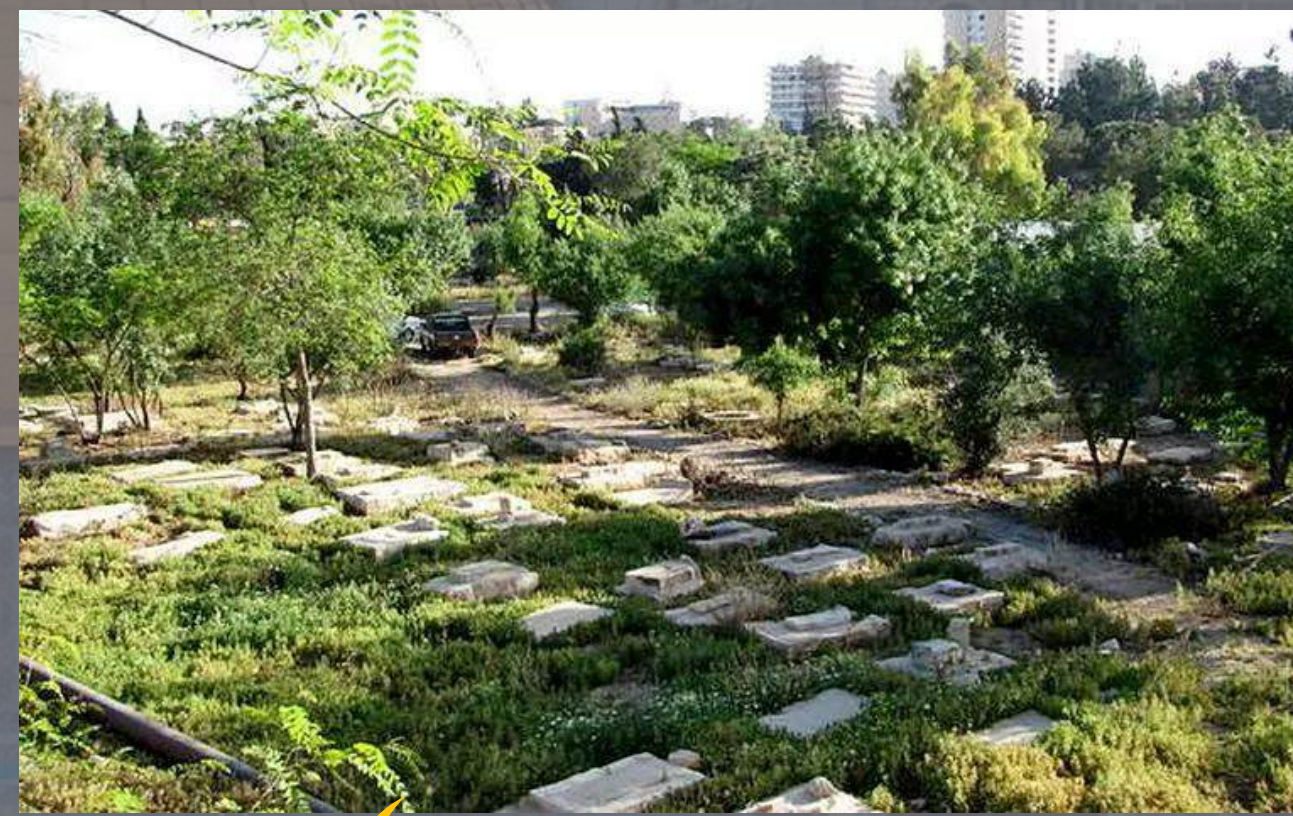
This is the place where the Caliph Umar (رضي الله عنه) performed salah after the conquest of Jerusalem by the Muslims in 638 CE. It is located opposite the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The Patriarch of Jerusalem was showing Umar (رضي الله عنه) around the Church of the Holy Sepulchre when the time for salah occurred. The Patriarch offered a place for him to pray in the church, but Umar (رضي الله عنه) refused, explaining to the Patriarch, "Had I prayed inside the church, the Muslims coming after me would take possession of it, saying that I had prayed in it." According to tradition, he picked up a stone, threw it outside, and prayed in the spot where it landed. The present Mosque of Umar (or Masjid-e-Umar) was built over this place by Salahuddin Ayyubi's son, Afdhal Ali in 1193 CE.



This structure is situated in the city of Lod, approximately 15 km south-east of Tel Aviv. This is where the Prophet Isā (عليه السلام) will destroy Dajjal (the anti-Christ).



This is the Church of St. Anne, a Roman Catholic church located near the Lions' Gate in the Muslim Quarter of the old city. According to Christian sources, this church is built over the place where Maryam (عليها السلام), the mother of Prophet Isā (عليه السلام) was born. The church is named after Anne (Hannah), her mother, who is believed to have lived in this location.



The Mamilla cemetery is the largest historical Muslim cemetery in Jerusalem. It is the burial place of many religious and political leaders, including several companions of the Prophet ﷺ.



This region, in south-eastern Jerusalem, is known as Jabal Mukabbir. According to local sources, it is named after Umar (رضي الله عنه), the second caliph of the Islamic Caliphate, who cried Allahu Akbar at this site when he came to take the city. St. Sophronius, Christian Patriarch of Jerusalem, greeted Umar (رضي الله عنه) with a set of fresh regal clothes and insisted he wear them instead of the dirty rags he was wearing. According to the Greek chronicler Theophilus of Edessa (695-785 CE), Umar (رضي الله عنه) refused saying, "It is not right for a man to take from another what God has not decreed for him, for God has given to each and every one of humanity from His Divine knowledge, and he who desires to receive something from his companion exceeding that, does so against God." The Christians of the city were outraged and Umar (رضي الله عنه) sensed that they found it humiliating to concede the city to someone who looked so base and common so he compromised. Theophilus further records from Umar (رضي الله عنه), "Because you request it of me, and have shown me such great honour, please lend me these clothes and I will wear them while you wash mine. When mine are returned, I will return these clothes to you." Michael the Syrian, 12th Century Patriarch of the Syriac Orthodox Church, says about Umar (رضي الله عنه), "He was certainly just and removed from greed, to the degree that from all the empire that the Arabs ruled, that is, from all the wealth and treasures of the Romans and Persians, he took nothing for himself. He did not change the simplicity of his habits, not even the piece of hide that was placed under him when he rode by camel and that he used for sitting on the ground or sleeping on."



This church in Bethlehem is one of the oldest churches in the world, constructed over the site where Christian traditions assert Isā (عليه السلام) was born. The exact spot is indicated by a marble floor in the basement, while a stone block marks the place where a palm tree once stood, which Maryam (عليها السلام) shook during the pains of labor.

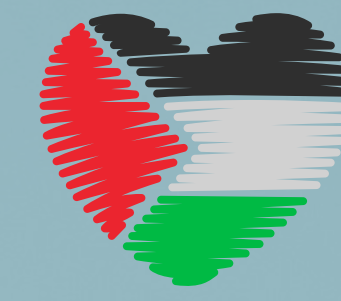


The basement where it is said Isa (عليه السلام) was born



Crypt under the church where it is said Maryam (عليها السلام) was born

Source: Twitter: @MuslimLandmarks, www.islamiclandmarks.com



Aerial view of Masjid-e-Ebrahim in Hebron, Palestine. It's built over a small cemetery where it is commonly believed that 4 of the most illustrious Prophets and their wives are buried. They are Ibrāhīm (عليه السلام), his son Is'hāq (عليه السلام), his son Ya'qūb (عليه السلام) and his son Yūsuf (عليه السلام).



This is the tomb of Sārah (عليها السلام), the first wife of Prophet Ibrāhīm (عليه السلام) and the mother of Prophet Is'hāq (عليه السلام). It is located in the south-east side of Masjid-e-Ibrāhīm.



Here is the tomb of Maryam (عليها السلام) [Mary], the mother of Isā (عليه السلام) [Jesus]. It is located in a church at the foot of the Mount of Olives, close to the old city of Jerusalem.



This is said to be the tomb of the Prophet Dāwud (عليه السلام) [biblical King David]. It's located on Mount Zion, in Jerusalem. He ruled in Jerusalem for 33 years. Some historians believe that this is not his tomb but a "maqam", to mark the place where he once stayed.



The exact place where Musa (عليه السلام) is buried is unknown but tradition holds that Salahuddīn Ayyubi once had a dream where he was shown this spot. He had a mosque built on the site which was further expanded by Sultan Baybars in 1269 CE. The Maqam is located 11km south of Jericho and 20km east of Jerusalem.



This is the tomb of Prophet Ibrāhīm (عليه السلام) in Masjid-e-Ibrāhīm in Hebron. It is built above where he is believed to be buried, along with other close members of his family. On the left side is the window from the Jewish synagogue which is built next to the mosque. This place is a source of great friction between Muslims and Jews and is heavily guarded.



This mosque houses a tomb believed to be that of Prophet Yunus (عليه السلام). The mosque was built by the Ayyubids in 1226 CE and is located in a town called Halhul, north of Hebron. It is built on Mount Nabi Yunus, the highest peak in the West Bank, Palestine. Yunus (عليه السلام) is also claimed to be buried in Mosul, Iraq.



This is the tomb of Salman al-Farsi (رضي الله عنه), one of the most famous Companions of the Prophet ﷺ and a great example of a seeker of truth. It is located on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem and marks a place where he once stayed.



This building houses the shrine of Prophet Lut (عليه السلام) [Lot] and is situated in the town of Bani Na'im near the Dead Sea.



The tombs of Prophet Is'hāq (عليه السلام) (right) and his wife Rifaqah (left) are located in the Ibrāhīm Mosque in Hebron, Palestine. They are constructed above the cemetery where it is believed they are buried.



In the Old City is the Sayed al-Hashim Mosque. Within its complex is the tomb of Hashim ibn Abd al-Manaf, the great grandfather of the Prophet ﷺ. He died in Gaza during a trade journey and was buried here.

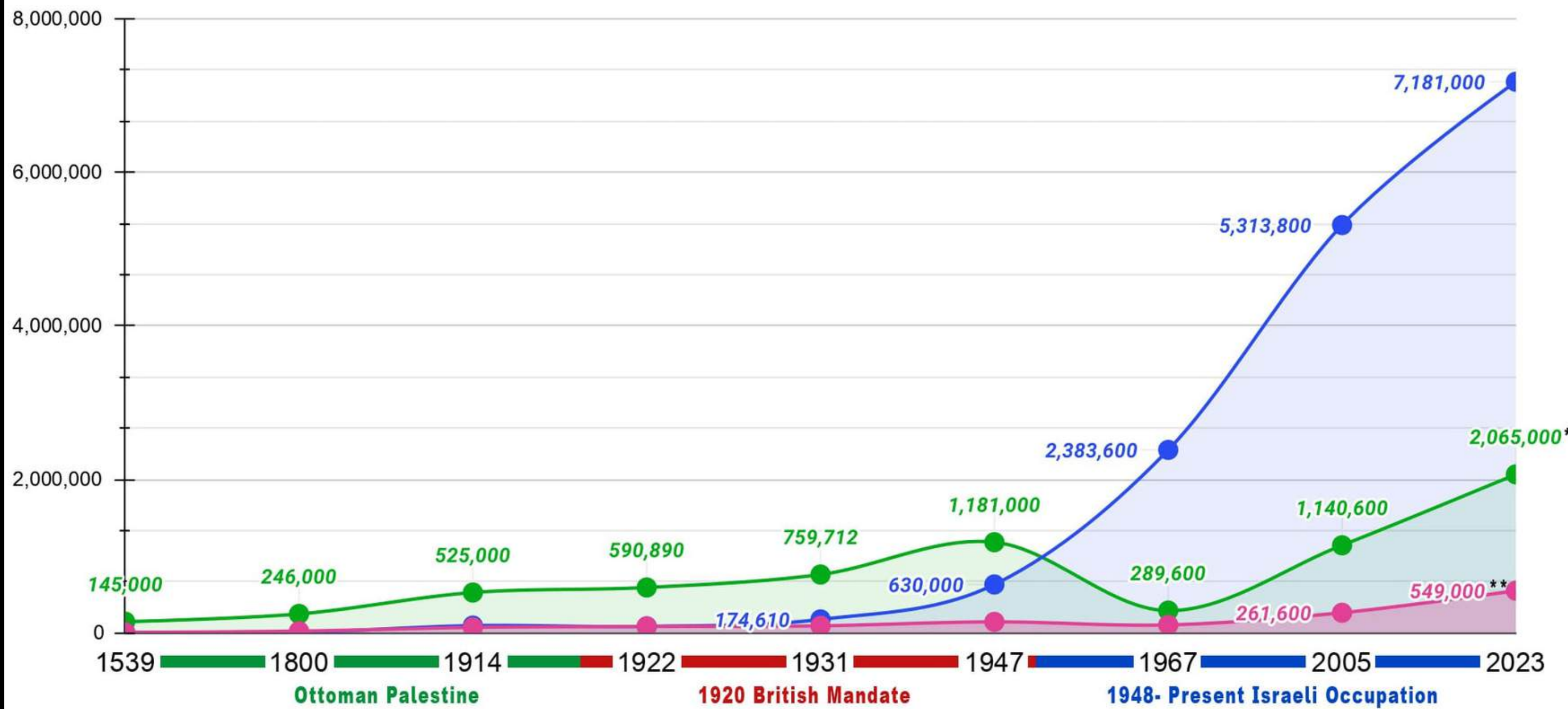


This is a view of the Dead Sea, a sea of salt situated with the West Bank on its left side and Jordan to its right. It is widely believed to be the place where the community of Lut (عليه السلام) was destroyed.

POPULATION BY RELIGION

Population of occupied Palestine/Israeli Occupation by Religion

● Muslims ● Jews ● Christians/Others

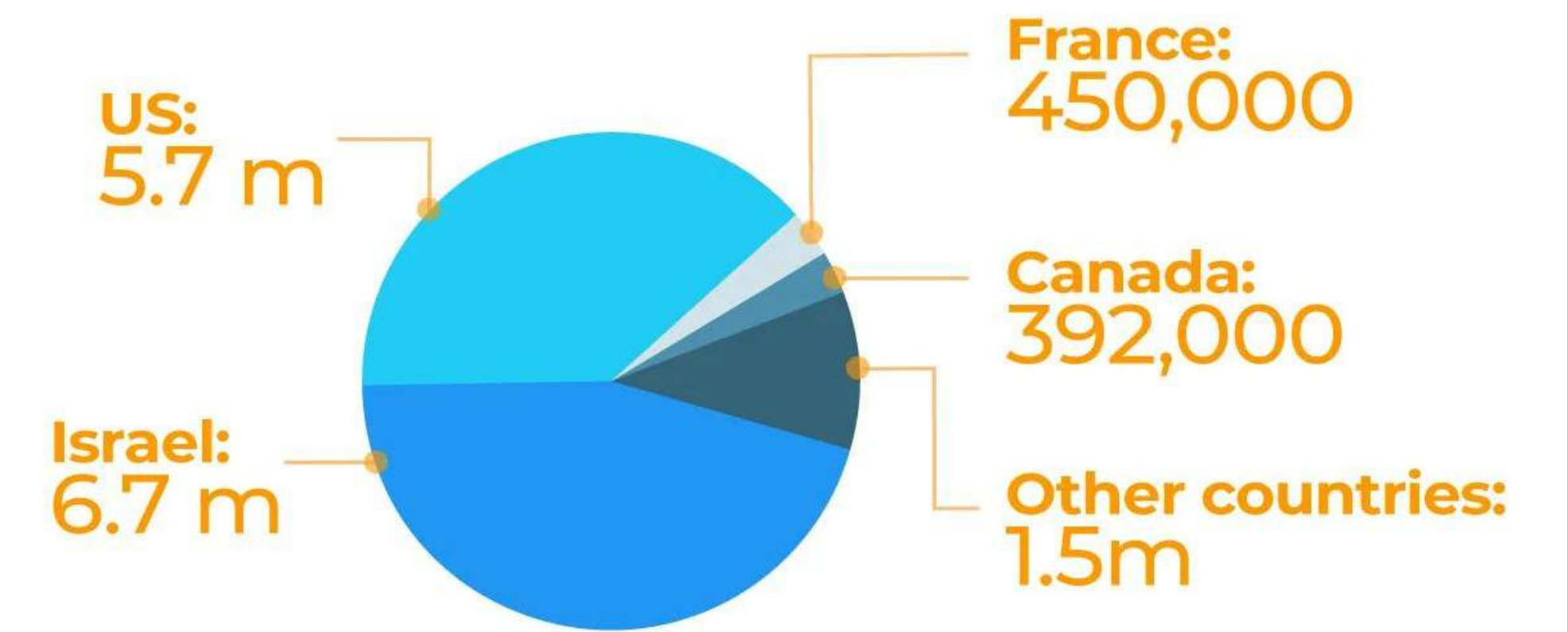


Figures are not exact, as of May 1, 2022
Source: Jewish Virtual Library (www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/population-of-israel-palestine-1553-present)

*All Arabs, including some Christians
**Non-Arab Christians and others

2020 Where are the Jews today?

There are about **14.7 million Jews around the world today**. Eighty-four percent live in either Israel or the US.

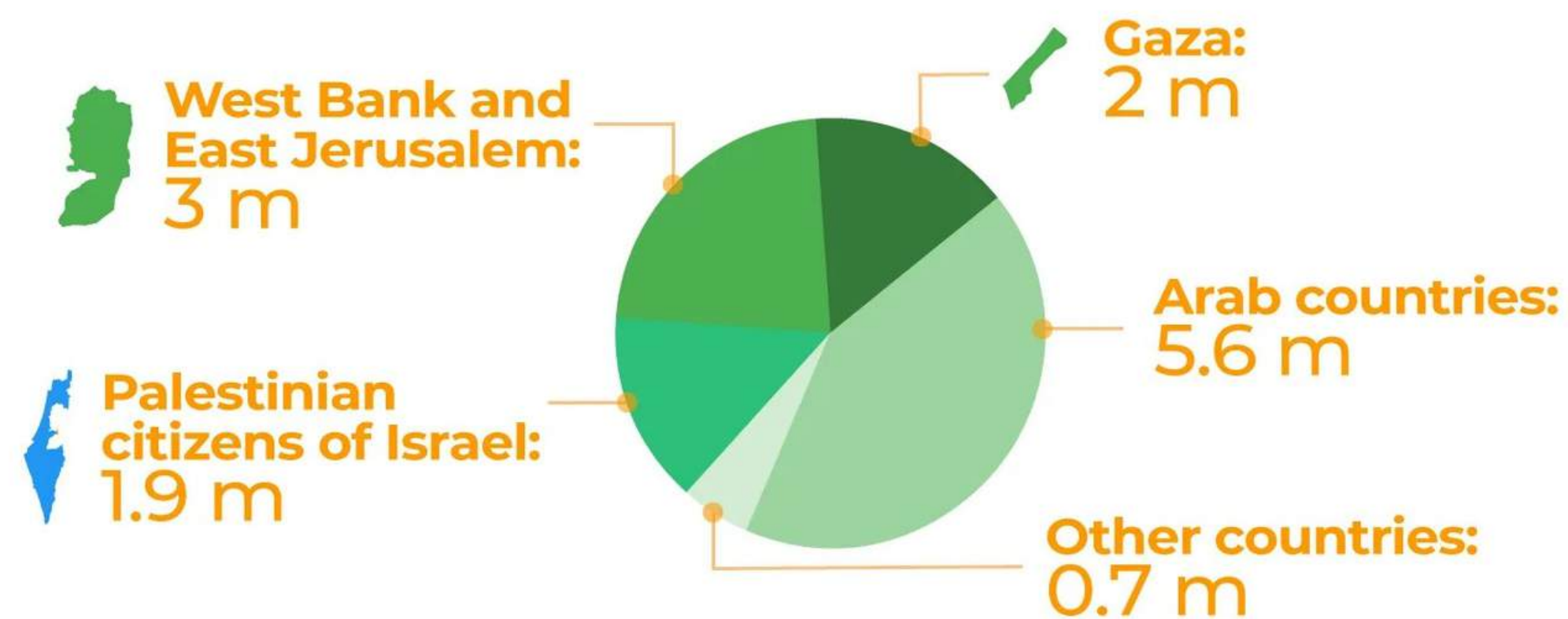


Source: Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics (2020)

@AJLa

2020 Where are the Palestinians today?

There are about **13 million Palestinians around the world today**. Half of them live in historic Palestine, while the rest are distributed around the world.

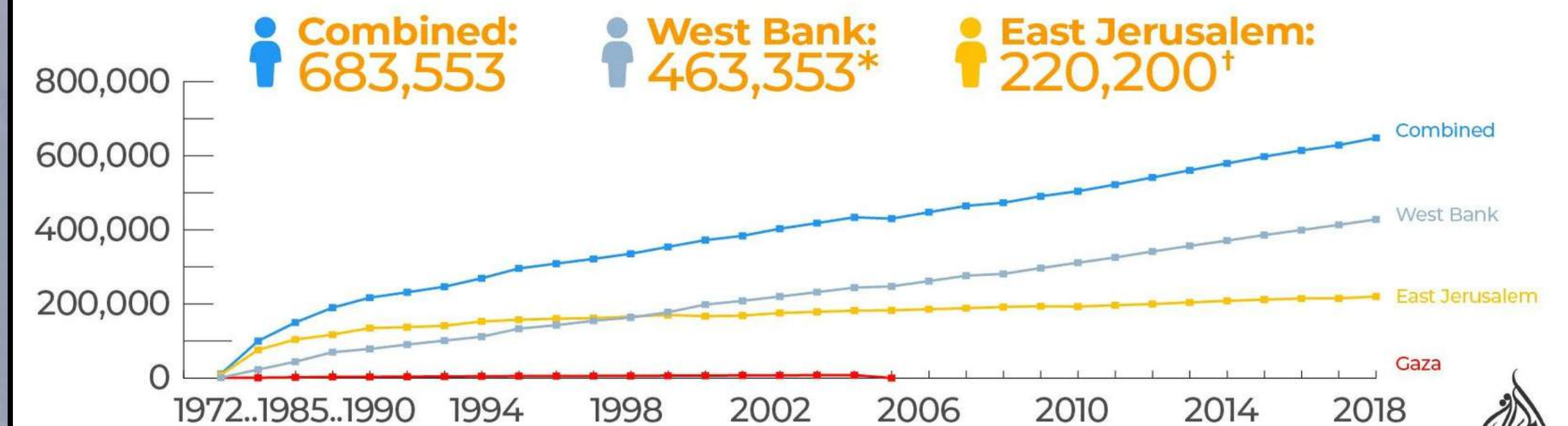


Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2019), Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (2020)

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1972 - 2018 Israeli settler growth

The population of Israeli settlers in the West Bank and East Jerusalem is **growing at a faster rate** than the population of Israel. Roughly 10 percent of Israel's 6.8 million Jewish population live in these occupied Palestinian territories.



Sources: Chart - Foundation for Middle East Peace (1972 - 1999), PeaceNow (2000 - 2018).
* Israel Ministry of Interior (2020), † Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research (2020).

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• VIEWS OF NON MUSLIMS REGARDING ISRAEL WAR CRIME •

• MICHAEL PALUMBO •

In the book, "The Palestine Catastrophe" by Michael Palumbo, it is explained that the Nakba, Arabic for 'catastrophe,' refers to the mass displacement of Palestinians during and after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. As Israel declared independence, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were expelled from their homes. The Nakba resulted in the loss of homes, land, and livelihoods for many Palestinians, creating a lasting refugee crisis. This event remains a central aspect of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with divergent narratives on its causes and consequences.

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA

• ATALLAH HANNA •

Archbishop Atallah Hanna, Head of the Greek Orthodox Church in Jerusalem, emphasized that Christians should not remain silent about the crimes of the Israeli occupation against Palestinians. During a meeting with a Palestinian-Christian delegation, Hanna stressed the importance of supporting oppressed people and rejecting hatred and racism. He highlighted the Palestinians' right to freedom, asserting that Palestinian Christians cannot stay neutral in the face of oppression. Hanna expressed solidarity with the Palestinian cause, emphasizing that their dream of freedom is shared by Palestinian Christians. He called for justice and peace in the birthplace of Jesus Christ and urged prayers for genuine peace, not acceptance of aggression and authoritarianism.

SOURCE: MIDDLEEASTMONITOR.COM

• THE ETHNIC CLEANSING OF PALESTINE •

Ilan Pappé, a professor in the College of Social Sciences and International Studies at the University of Exeter in the UK, has written a book titled "The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine" which is a historical account of the events that led to the creation of the state of Israel and the displacement of the Palestinian people. The book argues that the Israeli leaders, especially David Ben-Gurion, planned and executed a systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing to remove the Arab population from the land and establish a Jewish majority. This campaign involved destroying hundreds of villages, massacring civilians, and expelling around 800,000 Palestinians from their homes. This book has challenged the conventional narrative that the Palestinian refugees fled because of the war that broke out in 1948. The book is based on archival sources, testimonies, and other historical evidence.

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA

• NORMAN FINKELSTEIN •

Norman Finkelstein, an author and professor at various institutions with a Ph.D. in political science from Princeton University, has called Israel a "Jewish supremacist state", and condemned it out for committing the crime of apartheid against the Palestinian people. Both his parents were survivors of the Holocaust. He compares the difficulty of the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation with that of the Nazis. Norman Finkelstein argues that Israel's assaults on Gaza are not justified by self-defense, but by a desire to "re-establish regional deterrence" after its defeat in the 2006 Lebanon war. He supports the two-state solution based on the 1967 borders and the right of return for Palestinian refugees. He was banned from entering Israel for ten years in 2008, and had to face censorship and harassment for his views.

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA

مسجد ہی نہیں قبلہ اول ہے ہمارا
یہ مسجد اقصیٰ ہے ہر ایک آنکھ کا تارا
یوں اہل فلسطین کو ستاؤ تا خدا را
مسجد ہی نہیں قبلہ اول ہے ہمارا

**It is not just a mosque; it's our first Qibla,
This is Al-Aqsa, a star in every eye.**

**So oppress not the people of Palestine,
It is not just a mosque; it's our first Qibla.**

• RICHARD FALK •

Israel's assault on Gaza is a massive violation of international law. Nations that have supplied weapons and supported the siege are complicit in the crimes. Richard criticizes Israel's military actions in the Gaza Strip, alleging collective punishment, targeting of civilians, and a disproportionate military response. They highlight the impact on Gaza's population, including shortages of essential resources and hindrances to medical assistance. The author argues that while rocket attacks on Israel are unlawful, they don't justify Israel's violations of international humanitarian law. The appeal is made for condemnation of Israel's actions and the development of new approaches to protect the Palestinian population. He calls out countries complicit in Israel's alleged violations.

DECEMBER 29, 2008

SOURCE: THENATION.COM

• CHRIS HEDGES •

Nearly all the words and phrases used by the Democrats, Republicans and the talking heads on the media to describe the unrest inside Israel and the heaviest Israeli assault against the Palestinians since the 2014 attacks on Gaza, which lasted 51 days and killed more than 2,200 Palestinians, including 551 children, are a lie. Israel's military actions, which are justified as self-defense, are mass murder and war crimes due to the significant power imbalance with the occupied Palestinian population. The defense minister's statement indicates a readiness to escalate the conflict, targeting various civilian structures, press agencies, and public facilities, similar to the 2014 assault on Gaza.

SOURCE: SALON.COM 6/15/2021

• NETUREI KART JEWISH GROUP •

Neturei Karta is a group of Orthodox Jews who strongly oppose Zionism, which is the idea that Jewish people should have their own country in the land of Israel. They believe that Zionism is against the teachings of the Torah and that only God can create a Jewish state, which will happen when the Messiah comes. They also say that Zionism causes violence and suffering for both Jews and Palestinians which is why they want Israel to be peacefully dissolved and replaced by a state where Jews and Palestinians can live together in harmony. They support the rights of the Palestinians and often join their protests and rallies. Perhaps because of this, they are often attacked or harassed by Zionists and have been banned from entering Israel since 2008.

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA

• HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH REPORT •

Human Rights Watch reports that fifty years after Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it maintains control through repression, discrimination, and abuse against the Palestinian population. Major violations include unlawful killings, forced displacement, abusive detention, Gaza's closure, and settlement development. Israel's practices, often justified for security reasons, contribute to an entrenched system of discrimination. The attacks on civilians by Palestinian armed groups are also condemned. The report highlights Israeli security forces' use of excessive force, lack of accountability, and the transfer of civilians to the West Bank in violation of international law, leading to an unequal system between settlers and Palestinians.

SOURCE: HRW.ORG JUNE 4 2017.

HOW WE CAN HELP THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE AND MASJID AL AQSA

INDIVIDUALLY

- 1: Have true and sincere intentions of helping the people of Palestine with your wealth and physical ability.
- 2: Be punctual in making duā for Palestine and its people everyday, especially in the hours in which duās are accepted.
- 3: Boycott products made from Israel or a company which supports the genocide.
- 4: Show love and affection to the people of Palestine.
- 5: Make a budget goal that you have to reach by the end of each month for Palestine even though it may be little. Everyone in the family should give at least \$1-\$2 every day towards the goal.
- 6: Sponsor the families of Palestinians whose breadwinner was martyred either by yourself or find someone else who can help.
- 7: Educate yourself and your close ones regarding the history of Palestine and masjid al-Aqsa. Gift books regarding the history of Palestine to others.
- 8: Every Muslim should have the concern of how to free Palestine.
- 9: Read Qunoot e Nazila in prayers and after prayers.
- 10: Fast or pray in voluntary night prayer with the intention that in this act of worship, I will be punctual in making dua for the people of Palestine.

حسب تنہے کانے بھی بچھانا ہو بچھالے کوئی
تیسری راہوں سے جدا ہو گی نہ راہیں اپنی

Let anyone scatter as many thorns as they may,
Our paths will never be separate from your ways.

غم نہ کر ہاتھ اگر تیرے قلم ہو جائے
جوڑ دینگے تیرے بازو میں یہ باہیں اپنی

Grieve not, even if your hands gets cut off,
We'll join our arms with yours.

خون کہاں بہتا ہے انسان کاپانی کی طرح
جس سے تو ہر روز یہاں کر کے وضو آتی ہے

کب اٹھا بیگا خدا حشر خدا ہی جانے
آدمی ہر روز کوئی حشر اٹھا دیتا ہے

O breeze, from which city do you return?
From every wave of yours, the smell of gunpowder emanates

Where does the human blood flow like water?
Which you perform ablution with every day and come here

Why would you believe me, ask these weapons,
Who turns a city into ashes?

When will God intervene, only God knows!
But every day humans spark a new conflict.

AS A HOUSEHOLD

- 1: Have a daily reading session of the explanation of Surah al- Hashr and Surah Bani Israel.
- 2: Give charity as a family.
- 3: Educate children regarding the importance and virtues of Palestine.
- 4: Parents should try to put as much love of Masjid al-Aqsa in the hearts of the children by reading the Seerah (The life of the prophet), the history of Islam, and Poems.
- 5: Mention the people of Palestine in family gatherings and special family occasions.
- 6: Have programs or a family get together for Palestine.
- 7: Have pictures of Al Aqsa and articles of Palestine in your homes.

اے سبالوٹ کے تو کس شہر سے آتی ہے
تیسری ہر لہر سے بارود کی بو آتی ہے

میسری کیوں مانو گے یہ پوچھ لو ہتھیاروں سے
کون ایک شہر کو شمشان بنا دیتا ہے

AS A NATION

- 1: Have programs educating people regarding al-Aqsa and the history of Palestine from time to time.
- 2: Keep names of institutions, schools, and businesses as the names of Palestinian cities and historical sites in order to preserve their names.
- 3: Help the people of Palestine politically.
- 4: Help organizations that are dedicated to the people of Palestine.
- 5: Make it easy for the Palestinian refugees to come to your country by providing them with basic necessities.
- 6: Have duas and Qunoot e nazila in mosques for Palestine.
- 7: Publish books and put banners up about Palestine.
- 8: Visit the Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt if possible.
- 9: Spread news about Palestine on social media.
- 10: Learn about Palestinian history and refer to its cities by their original and historical names.

یہ پکاراے چمن میں تھی وہ سحر ہوئی وہ سحر ہوئی
میرے آشیانے سے دھواں اٹھا تو مجھے بھی اسکی خبر ہوئی
یہی ہے کسی تھی تمام شب اسی ہے کسی میں سحر ہوئی
نہ کبھی گلوں میں گذر ہوا نہ کبھی چمن میں سحر ہوئی

This cry echoed throughout the garden, that the dawn arrived, the dawn arrived.
When the smoke rose from my nest, I too received the news of it.

This helplessness persisted throughout the night, and whilst in it the dawn arrived.
Neither could it pass through the flowers nor could it settle in the garden.

SPECIAL THANKS!

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Mawlānā Ilyas Nadwi Sahib, Mufti Imran Falahi Sahib

Editing & Translation

Mufti Ismail Kotwal Sahib, Mawlānā Imran Patel Sahib, Mawlānā Khalid Hatia Sahib, Ālimiyyah
Students of Madrasah Faizul Quran, Mu'allimah Arshia Asad, Mu'allimah Ishrat Un Nisa

اللهم إنا نستودعك بيت المقدس واهل القدس وكل فلسطين، اللهم كن لهم
عونا، اللهم إنا لا نملك لفلسطين إلا الدعاء ياربنا لا تجعلنا بدعائك شقيا، ولا
تخيب لنا رجاء وأنت أرحم الراحمين، اللهم رد إلينا فلسطين والمسجد
الاقصي ردا جميلا، اللهم انصر ضعفهم فإنهم ليس لهم سواك.

Oh Allāh, we entrust you with Bayt Al Maqdis, the people of Quds, and the entire Palestine. Oh Allāh, be a means of support from them. Oh Allāh, we can only supplicate. Oh Allāh, do not make us unfortunate (by rejecting our Duas), and Oh Allāh, do not disappoint us, you are the most Merciful. Oh Allāh, return Palestine and Masjid Al Aqsa to us with beauty. Oh Allāh, help their weak, for they have no one other than you.

