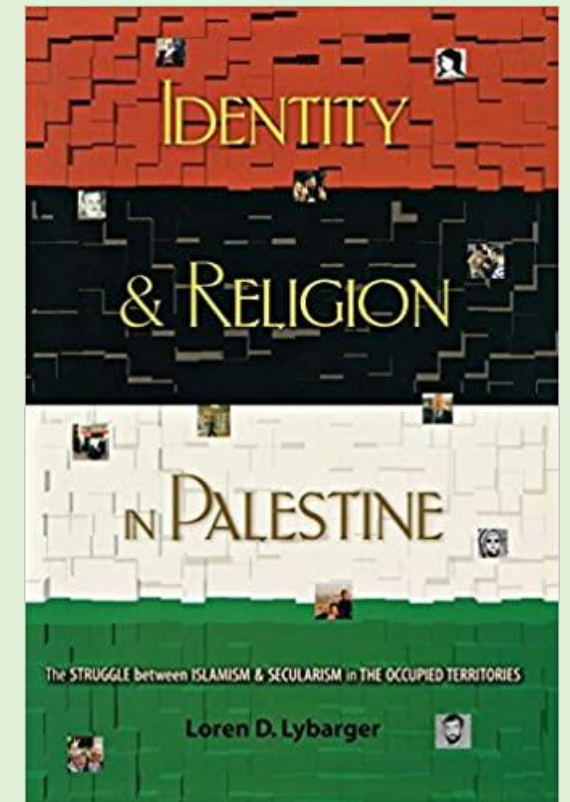
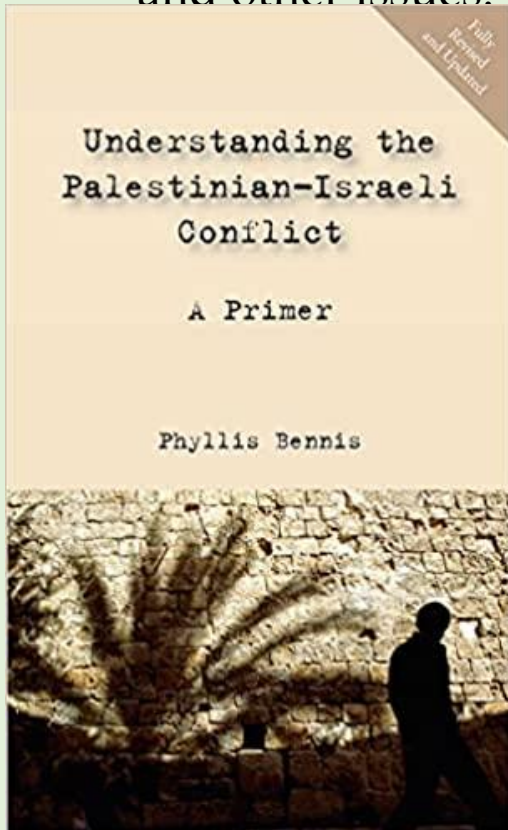


The History and Geography of the Bible and the Holy Land: 4 Modern Israel Sunday January 15

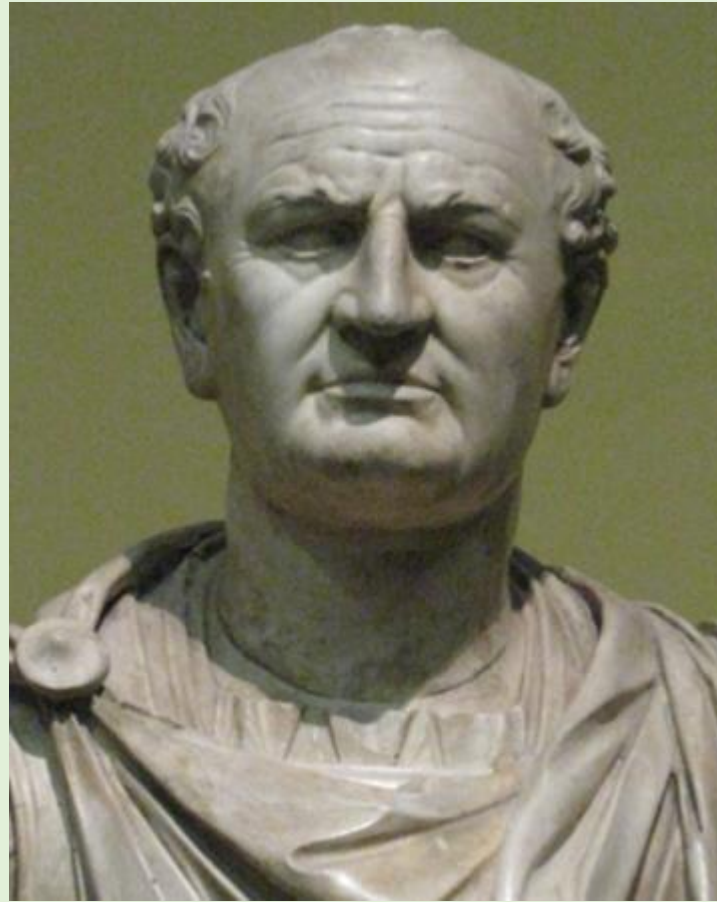
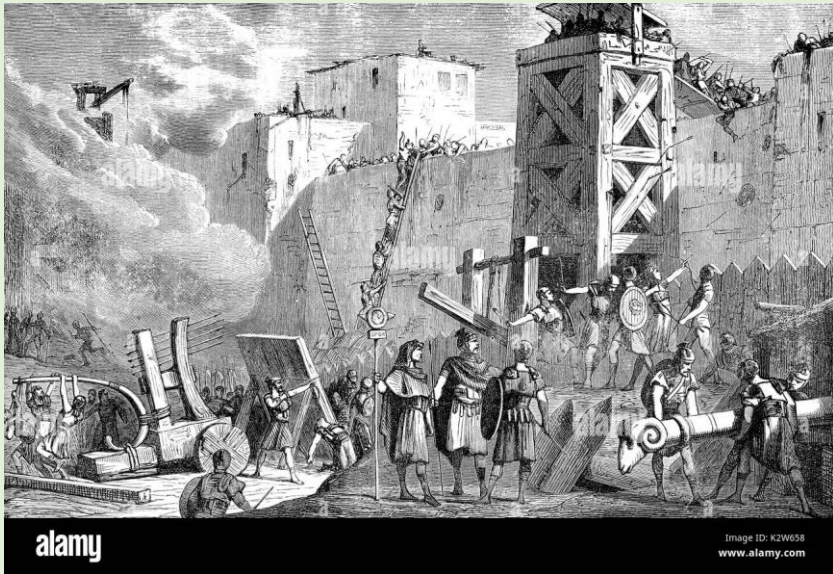
Faith Adult Christian Education (FACE) at
Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA), 667 E First Avenue, Chico, CA
Across the street from Bidwell Perk, in the Sanctuary, 11 a.m. Sundays
Joel Zimbelman, instructor

- **January 15: Biblical lands in modern times: 1917-2023.** We will end our study looking at the last 150 years of the land and outsiders who were interested in it: These will include the pervasiveness of various Jewish diasporas, the rise of the Jewish Enlightenment, the emergence of Zionism, the end of the Ottomans and the Allied occupation and partition of Palestine, WWII and the holocaust, Israel's independence, the Six-Day War and the new partition, the festering Israeli/Palestinian divide, new walls, changing demographics, and other issues.



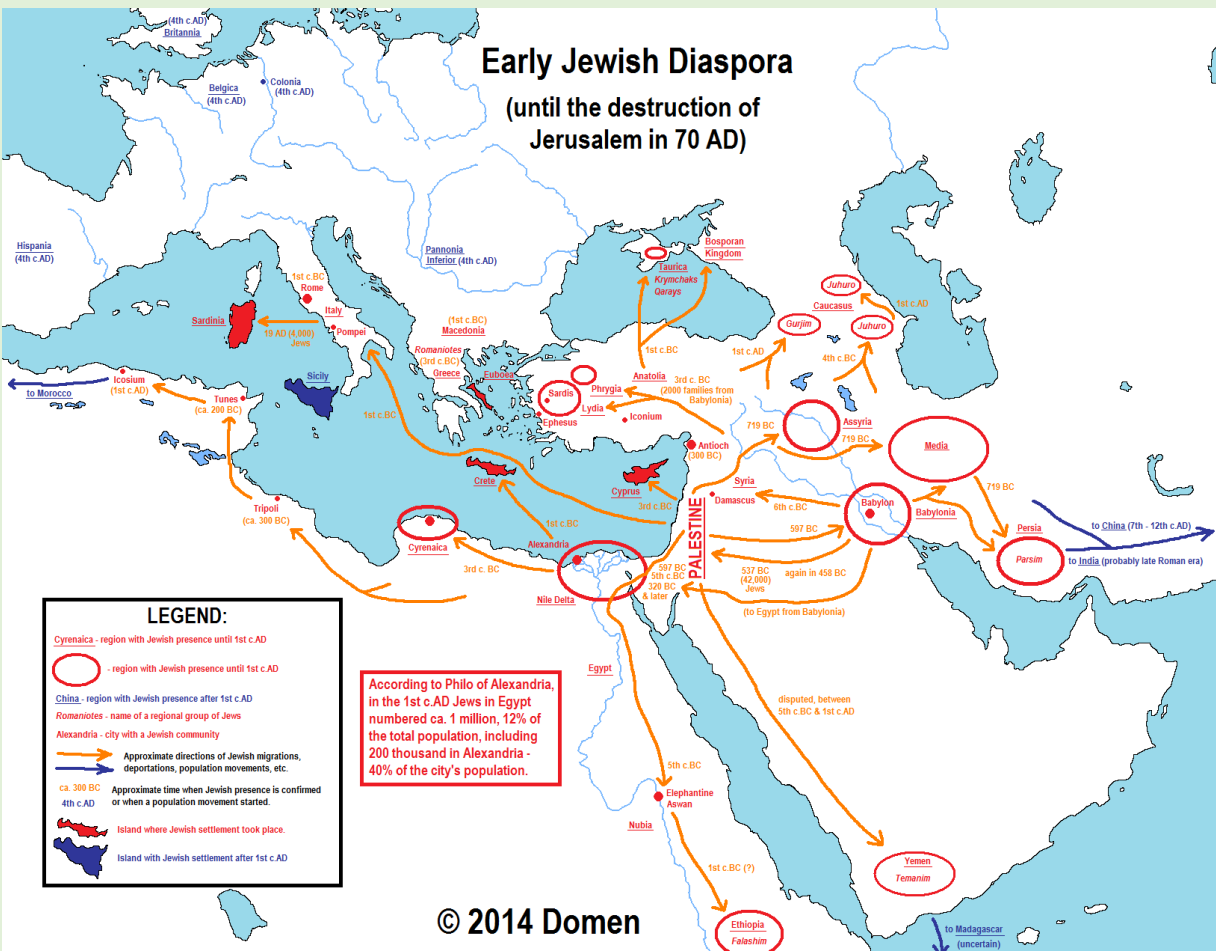
- **Augustus (31 BCE–14 CE)**
 - **Tiberius (14–37 CE)**
 - [Caligula](#) (37–41 CE)
 - [Claudius](#) (41–54 CE)
 - [Nero](#) (54–68 CE)
 - [Galba](#) (68–69 CE)
 - [Otho](#) (January–April 69 CE)
 - [Aulus Vitellius](#) (July–December 69 CE)
 - **Vespasian (69–79 CE)**
 - **Titus (79–81 CE)**
 - [Domitian](#) (81–96 CE)
 - [Nerva](#) (96–98 CE)
- 2nd century CE**
- [Trajan](#) (98–117 CE)
 - **Hadrian (117–138 CE)**
 - [Antoninus Pius](#) (138–161 CE)





In 132 CE, [Bar Kokhba led a rebellion](#) against [Hadrian](#), a revolt connected with the renaming of Jerusalem as [Aelia Capitolina](#). After four years of devastating warfare, the uprising was suppressed, and Jews were forbidden access to Jerusalem.

Early Jewish Diaspora (until the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD)



Jews in the Roman Empire (c. A.D. 300)



Alteneu Shul, 13th c, Prague Czech Republic



Medieval Synagogue Molina de Aragon
Iberian—13th to 14th centuries
(explusion in late 15th and early 16th
Centuries)





Touro Synagogue, Newport Rhode Island, 1763



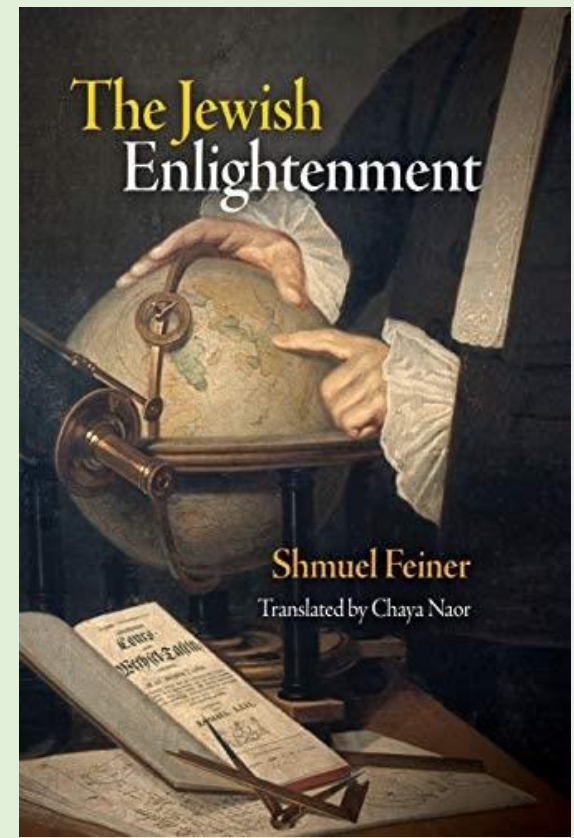
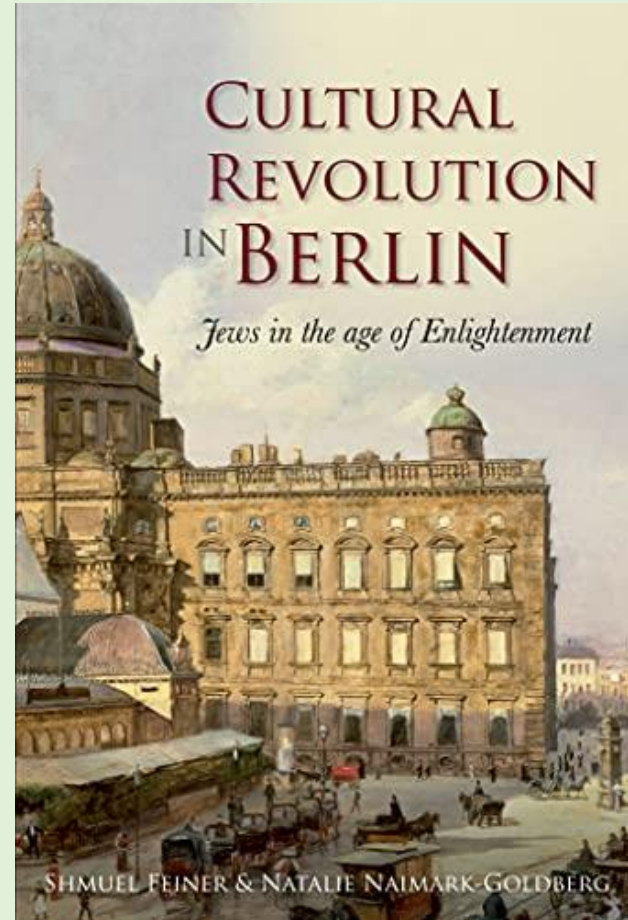
Ohel Rachel Synagogue, Shanghai China
1917—funded by exiled Iraqi Jews



Hobart Synagogue, Sydney Australia, 1845

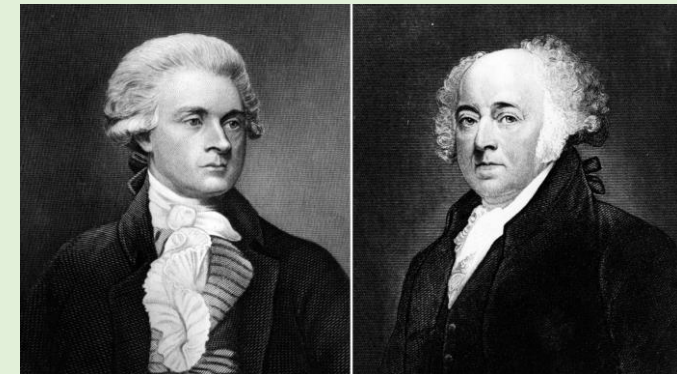


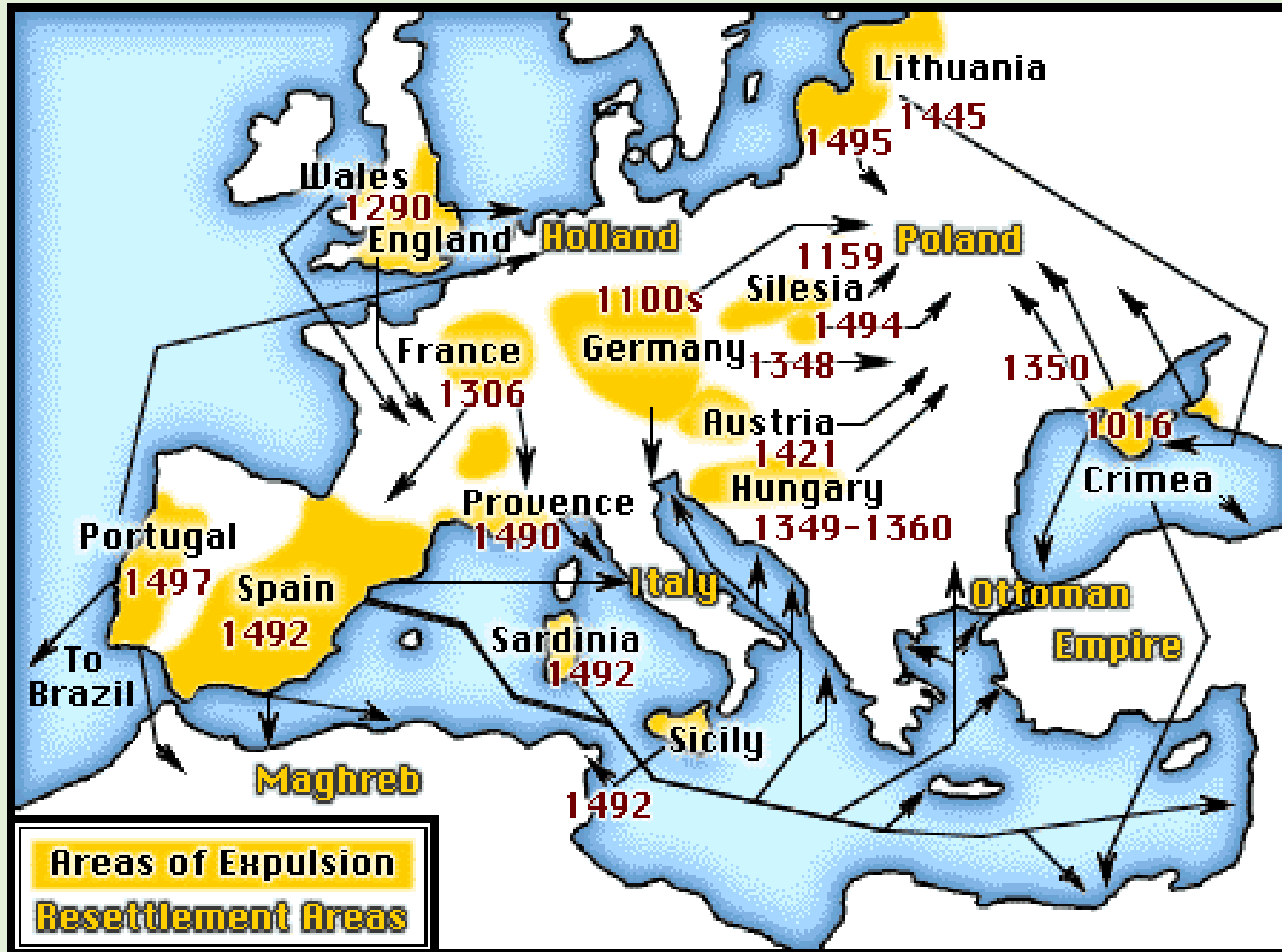
Moses Mendelssohn, 1729-1786



Haskalah –Jewish Enlightenment

“our” Enlightenment





Zionism—premised on theories of nationalism, the Jewish Enlightenment, and the history of anti-semitism

From 1897 to 1948, the primary goal of the **Zionist** Movement (World Zionist Organization) was to establish the basis for a Jewish homeland in Palestine, and thereafter to consolidate it.



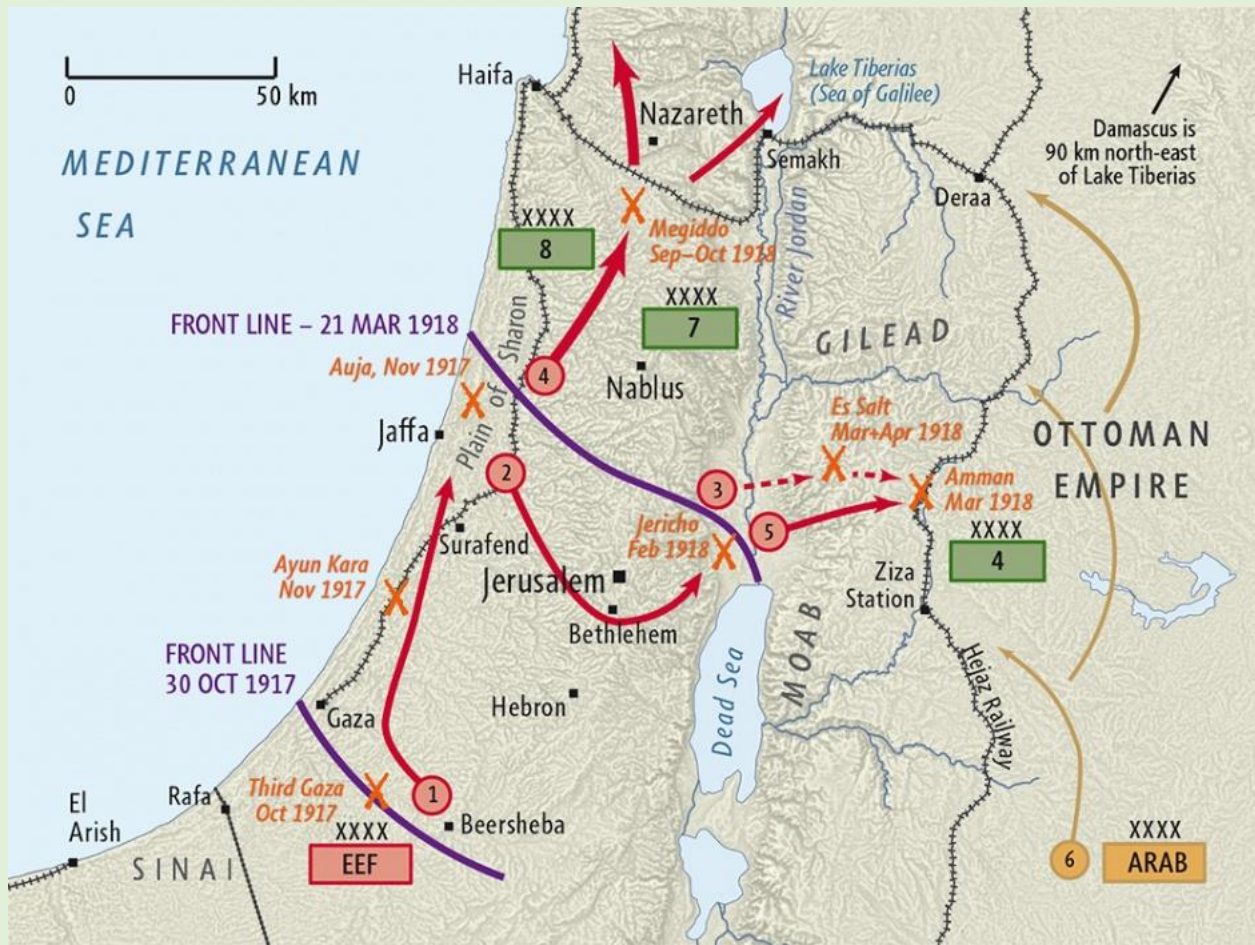
Theodor Herzl—Austro Hungarian Lawyer

Chaim Weizmann—Russian Chemist, first President Of Israel, 1948



ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית
WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION





Ottoman surrender of Jerusalem

British Palestine Campaign 1917-1918



From Wikipedia

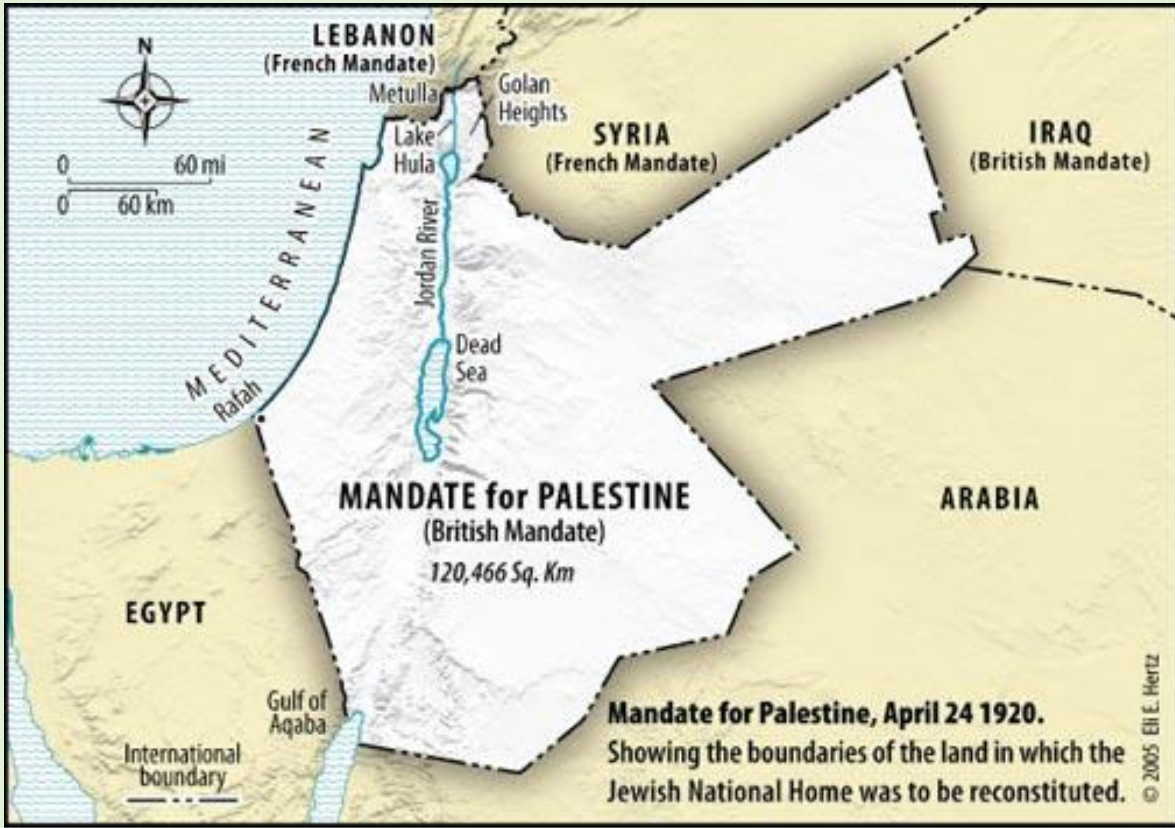
Balfour Declaration 1917—Pro Jewish/Israelite Nationalist, or Anti-Palestinian? **The Balfour Declaration was a public statement issued by the British government in 1917 during the First World War announcing its support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine,** then an Ottoman region with a small minority Jewish population.

The declaration was contained in a letter dated 2 November 1917 from the United Kingdom's [Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour](#) to [Lord Rothschild](#), a leader of the [British Jewish community](#), for transmission to the [Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland](#). The text of the declaration was published in the press on 9 November 1917.

With American and Russian allies not yet in the war even at this late date, the British Cabinet discussion had referenced perceived propaganda benefits [in such a declaration] amongst the worldwide Jewish community for the Allied war effort.

The declaration called for safeguarding the civil and religious rights for the [Palestinian Arabs](#), who composed the [vast majority of the local population](#), and also the rights and political status of the Jewish communities in other countries outside of Palestine. The British government acknowledged in 1939 that the local population's views should have been taken into account, and recognised in 2017 that the declaration should have called for the protection of the Palestinian Arabs' political rights.

This is a really important point for us to be aware of. It suggests that there were in this case and in all such situations serious problems with taking land from local populations and “repurposing” it for new inhabitants

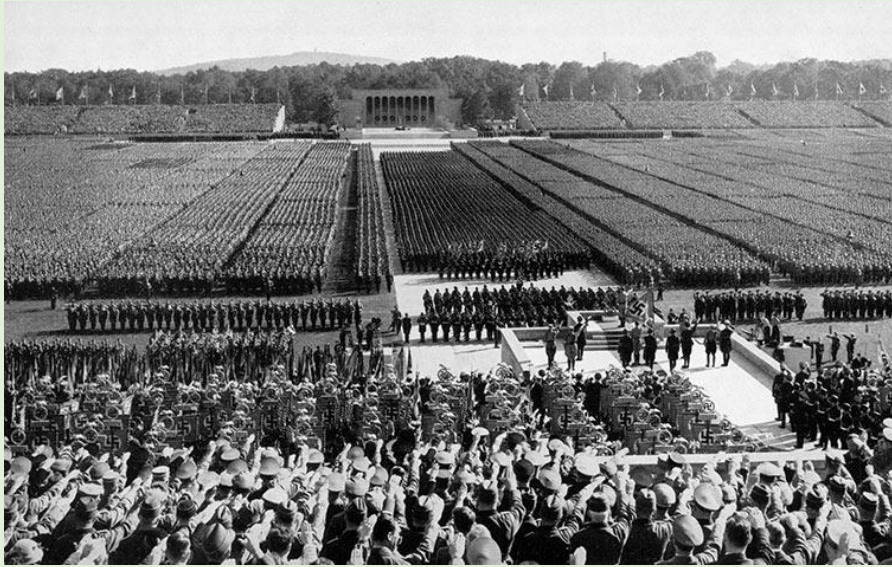


The plan starts here.....

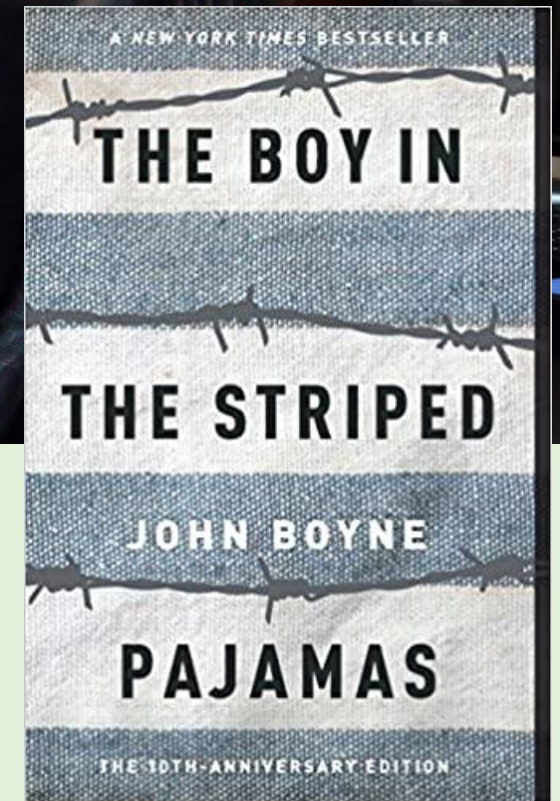
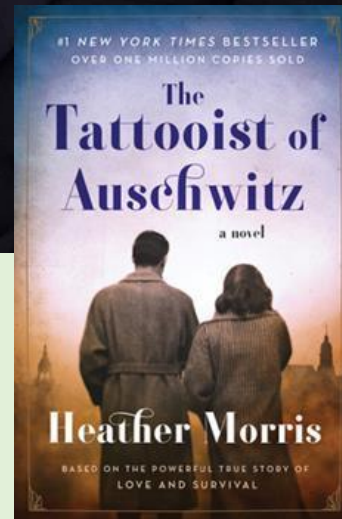
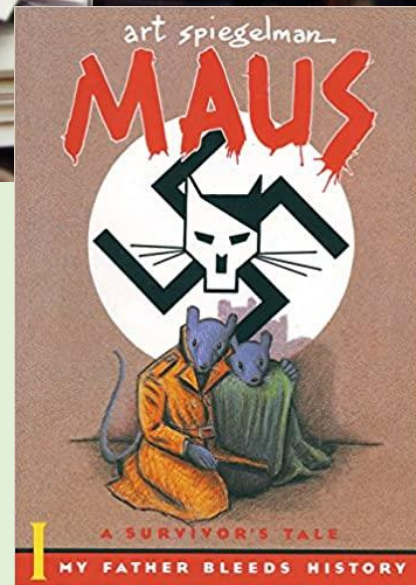
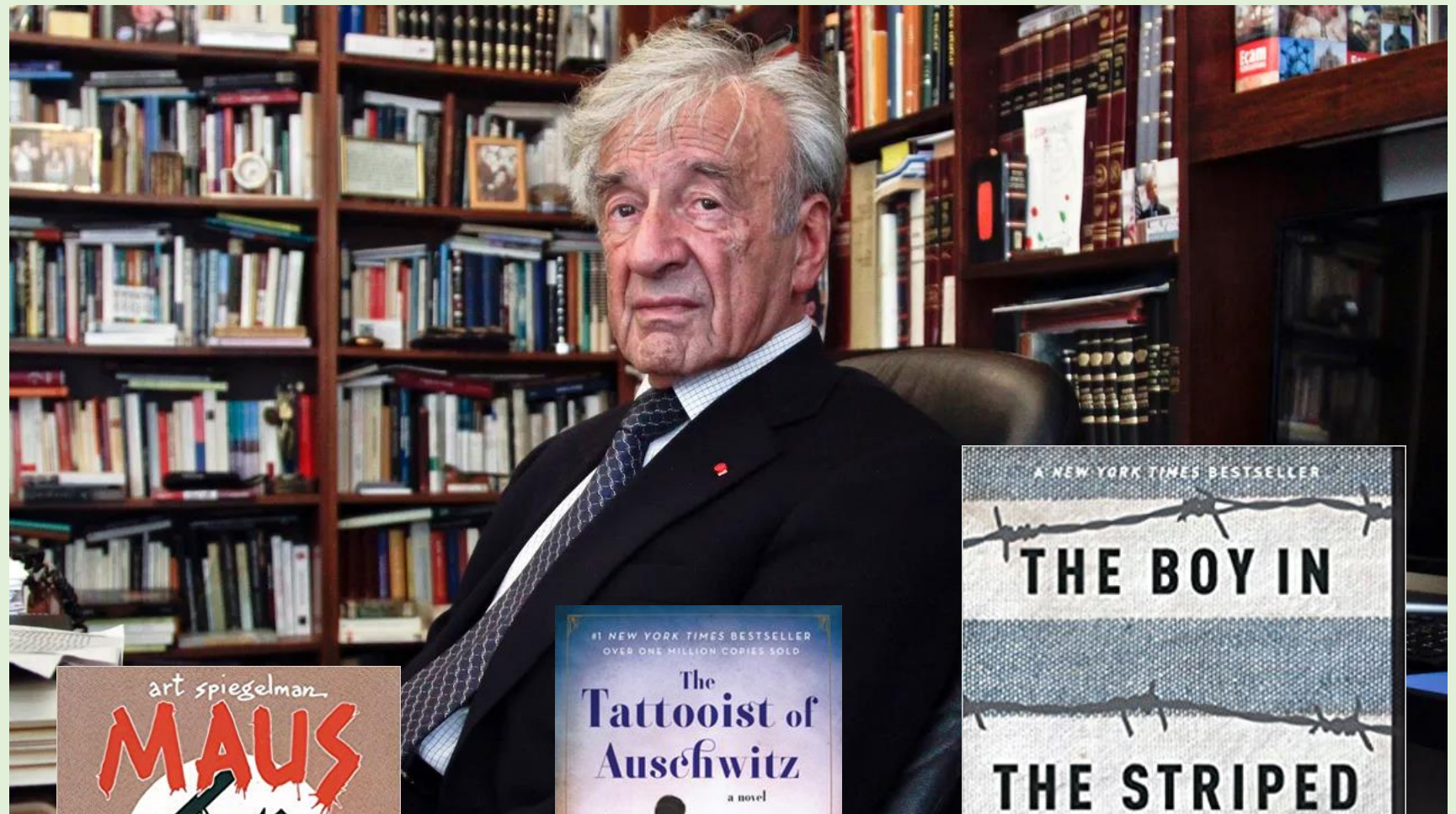
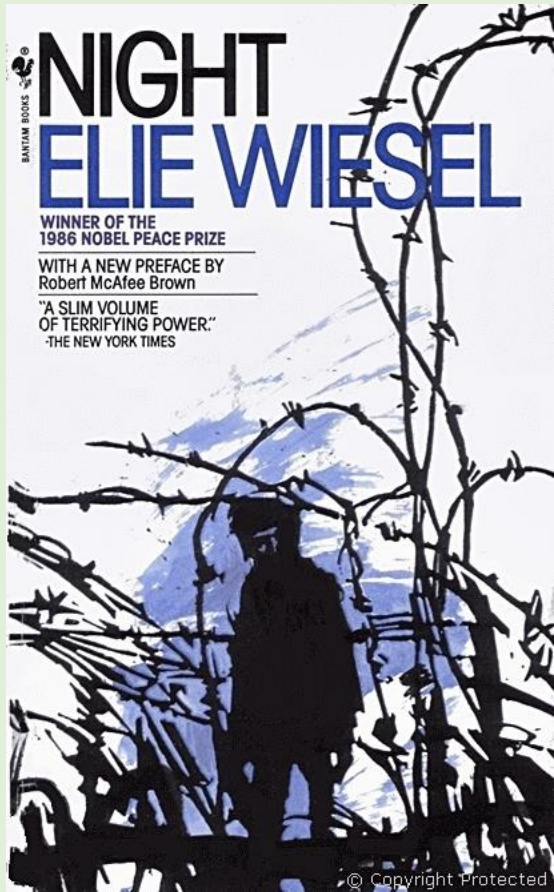
and ends here.....

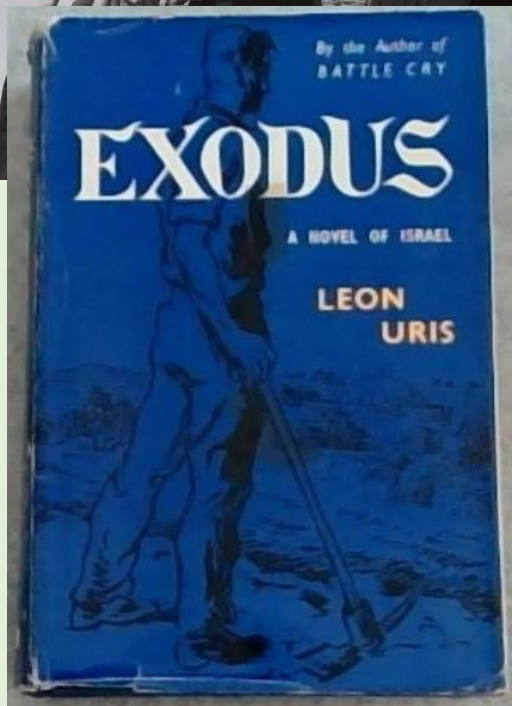
But note that there is really no Jewish homeland
Established at this point....its still just an idea.

In Europe in the 20s and 30s: Rise of Hitler (1923ff), Antisemitism and Fascism, Camps (Dachau as early as 1933) Kristallnacht (1938)









1947: United Nations Partition Plan



June 1948: Arab armies invade



July 1948: Israeli army counterattacks



End of Israel's Independence War, 1949

- When Israel's independence war ended in March 1949, the area held by Israel was 20,500 sq kilometers, an **increase of 37%** of what the UN had allocated to the Jewish state in the UN's 1947 partition plan; and a **50% decrease** of what was to be the Arab state per the UN Partition plan.
- The decision by Arab states not to accept partition in 1947 and to go to war resulted in land lost and Arab flight from Palestine. In 1950, Jordan annexed the West Bank (6,070 sq km) and Egypt controlled the Gaza Strip (390 sq km)

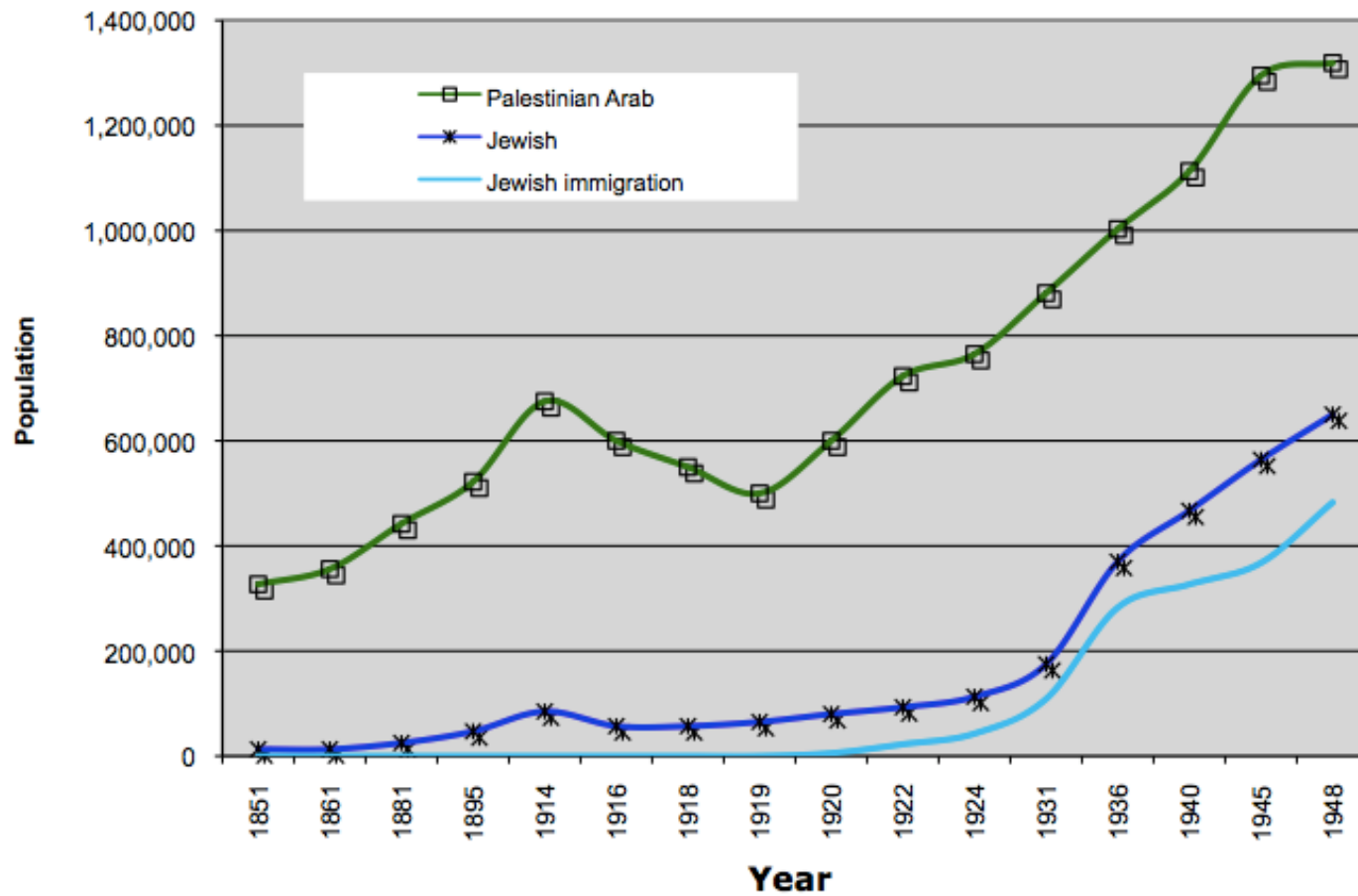




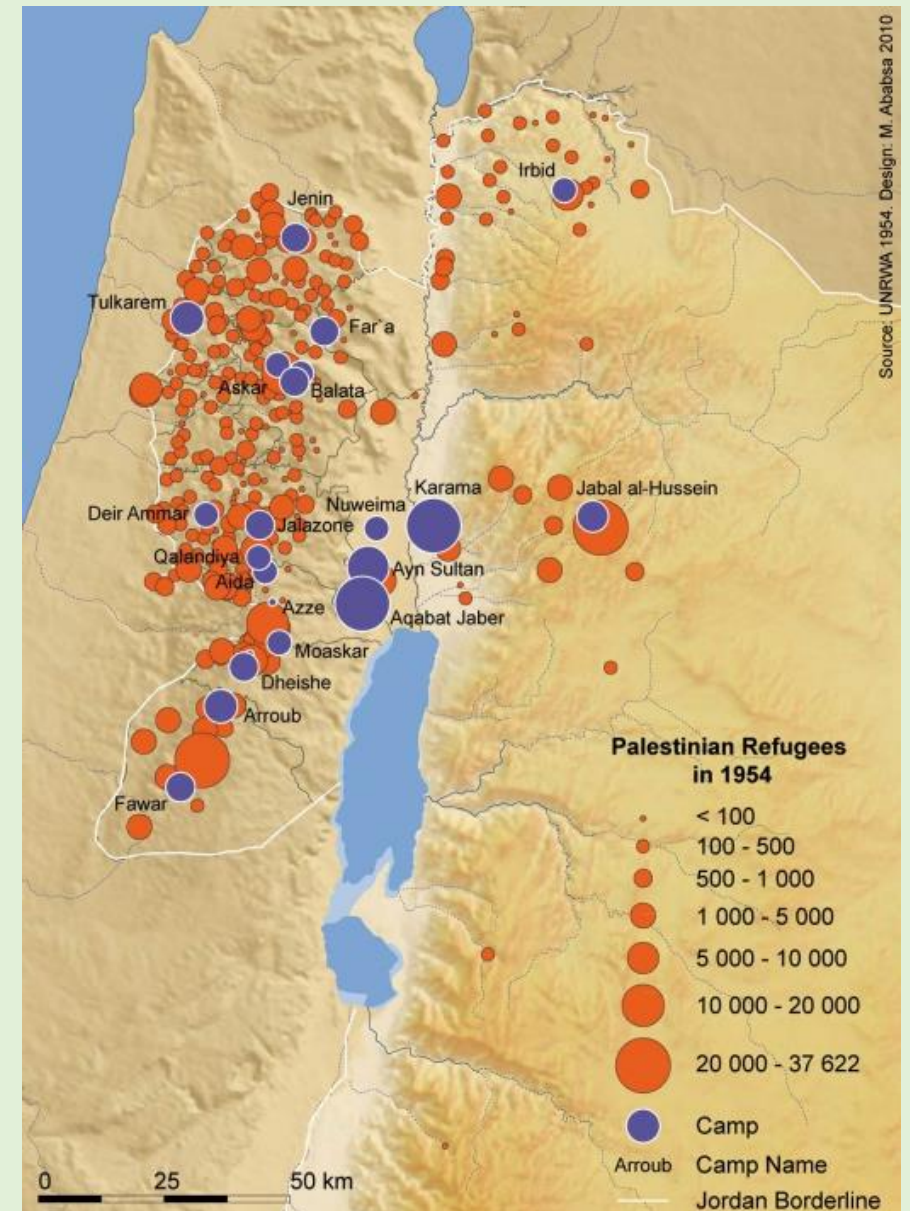
Partitioning of the territory forces a serious refugee problem, and of course gives rise to political recriminations, liberation movements, terrorist actions, and related issues that persist today.

In addition, the hope of a "two state solution" becomes a political hot potato

And the disposition of Jerusalem/East Jerusalem becomes an intractable issue to address.



At the same time that Palestinian refugee challenges are flattening out, Jewish immigration policies are increasing the population of the Jewish state significantly.



Six day war June 1967



Territorial Gains of Israel during the Six-Day War

5-10 June 1967

- Day 1
 - Day 2
 - Day 3
 - Day 4
 - Day 5
 - Day 6
- West Bank, Gaza Strip & Sinai Peninsula
- Golan Heights





Before and after the Six Day War, 1967

Before



..... 1949 Ceasefire line



BBC

After

■ Occupied by Israel

----- 1967 Ceasefire line

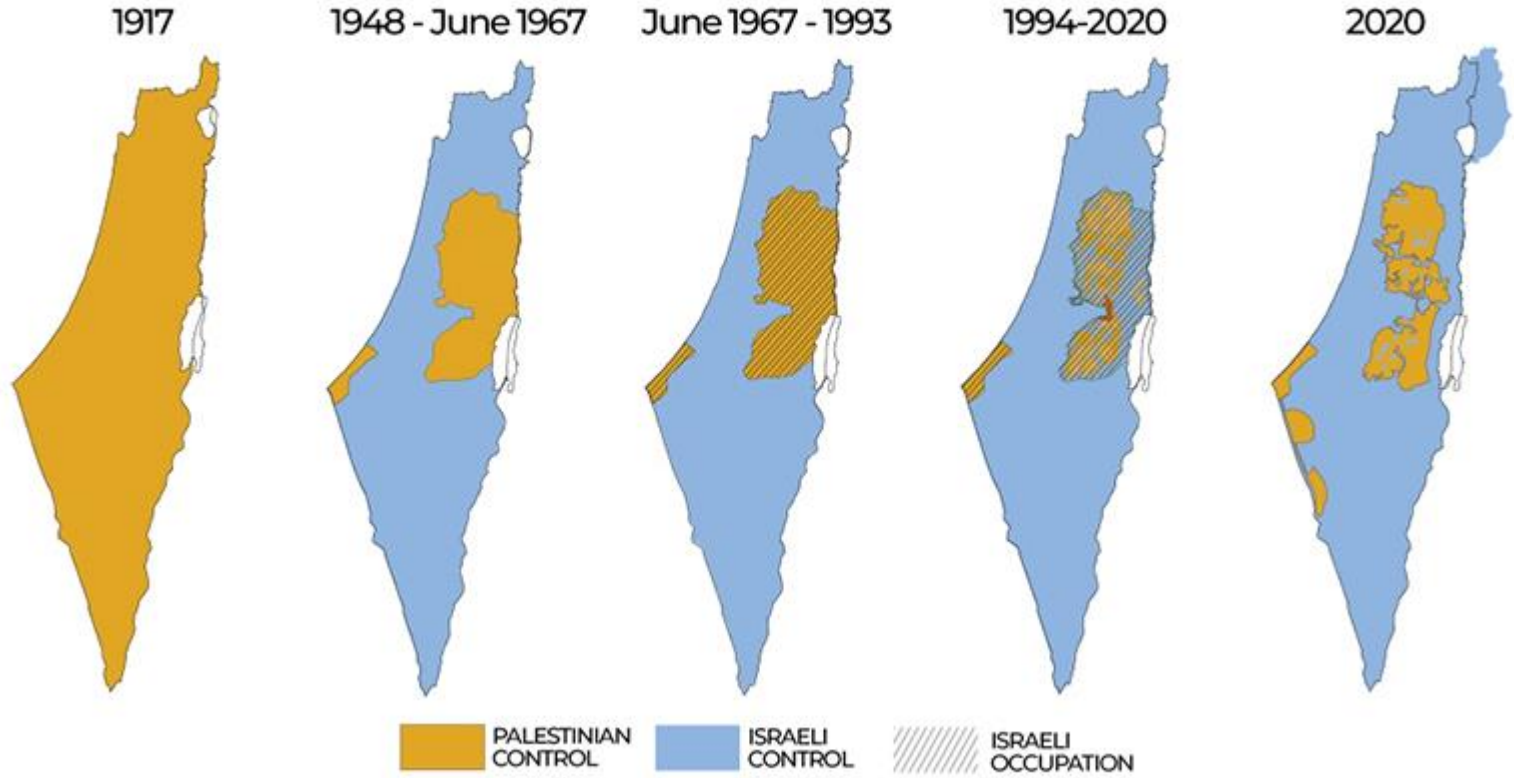
Israel withdrew from Sinai in 1982 and Gaza in 2005



The **Camp David Accords** were a pair of political agreements signed by [Egyptian President Anwar Sadat](#) and [Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin](#) on 17 September 1978. The two framework agreements were signed at the [White House](#) and were witnessed by [President Jimmy Carter](#). The second of these frameworks (*A Framework for the Conclusion of a Peace Treaty between Egypt and Israel*) led directly to the 1979 [Egypt–Israel peace treaty](#). The first framework (*A Framework for Peace in the Middle East*), which dealt with the [Palestinian territories](#), was written without participation of the Palestinians and was condemned by the United Nations.

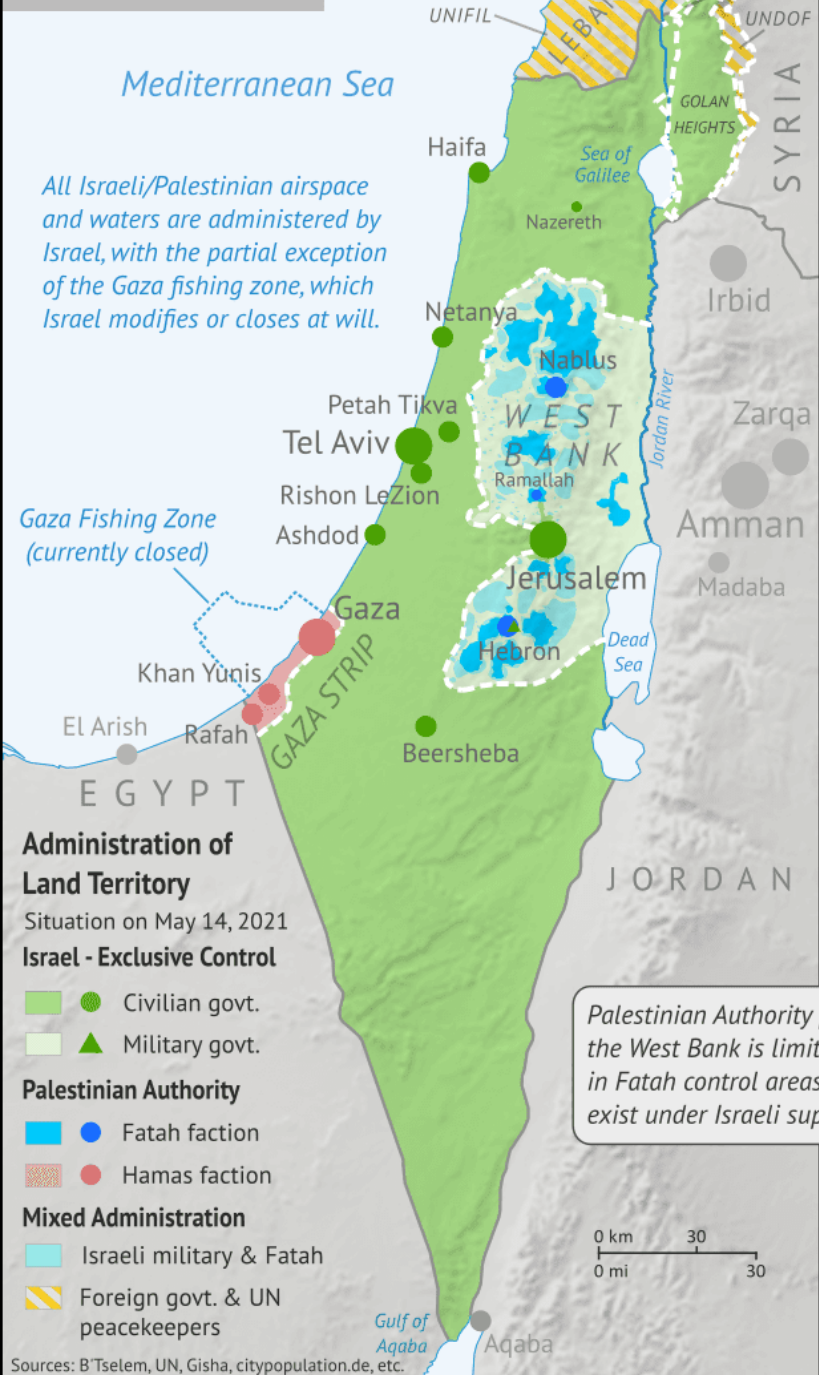


PALESTINE Land loss since 1917

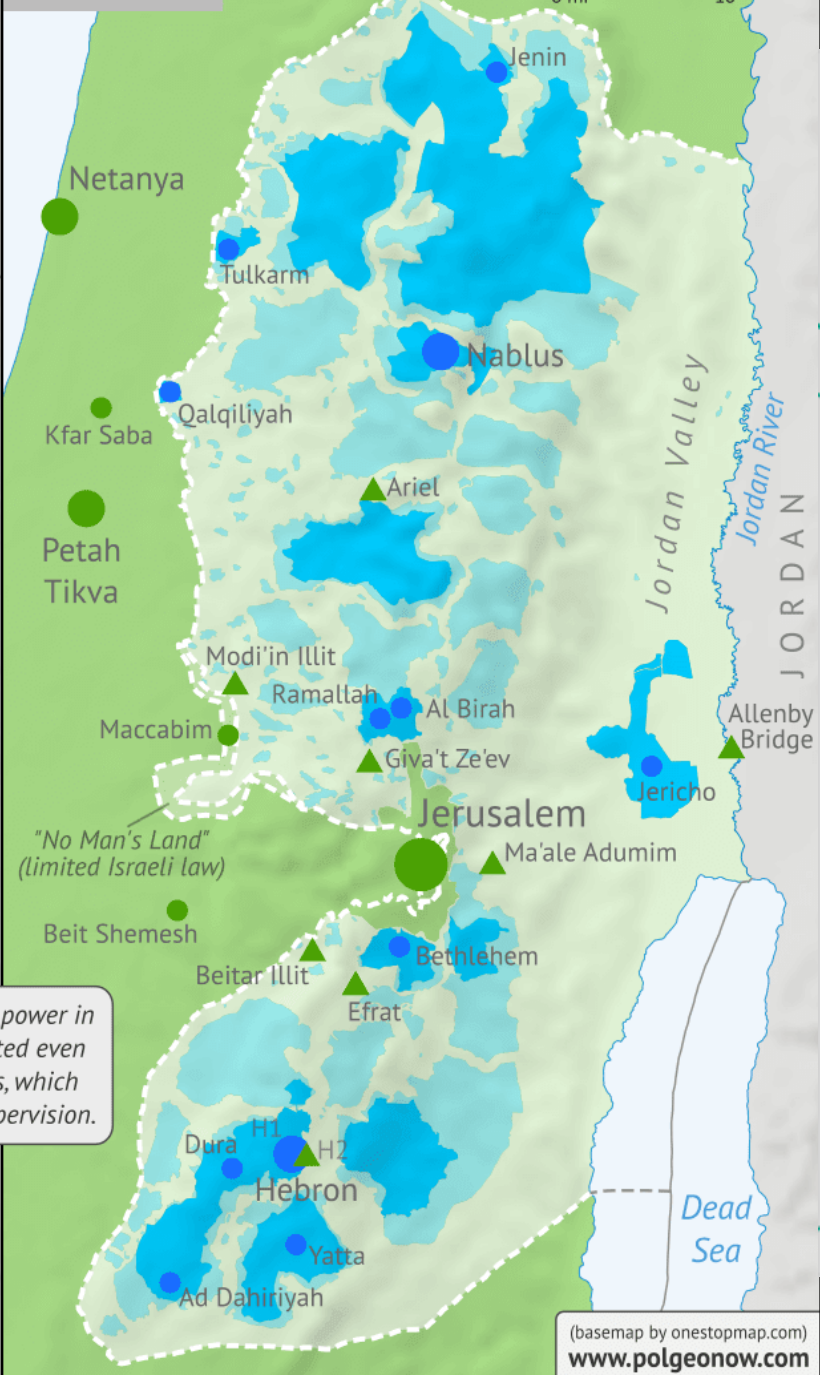


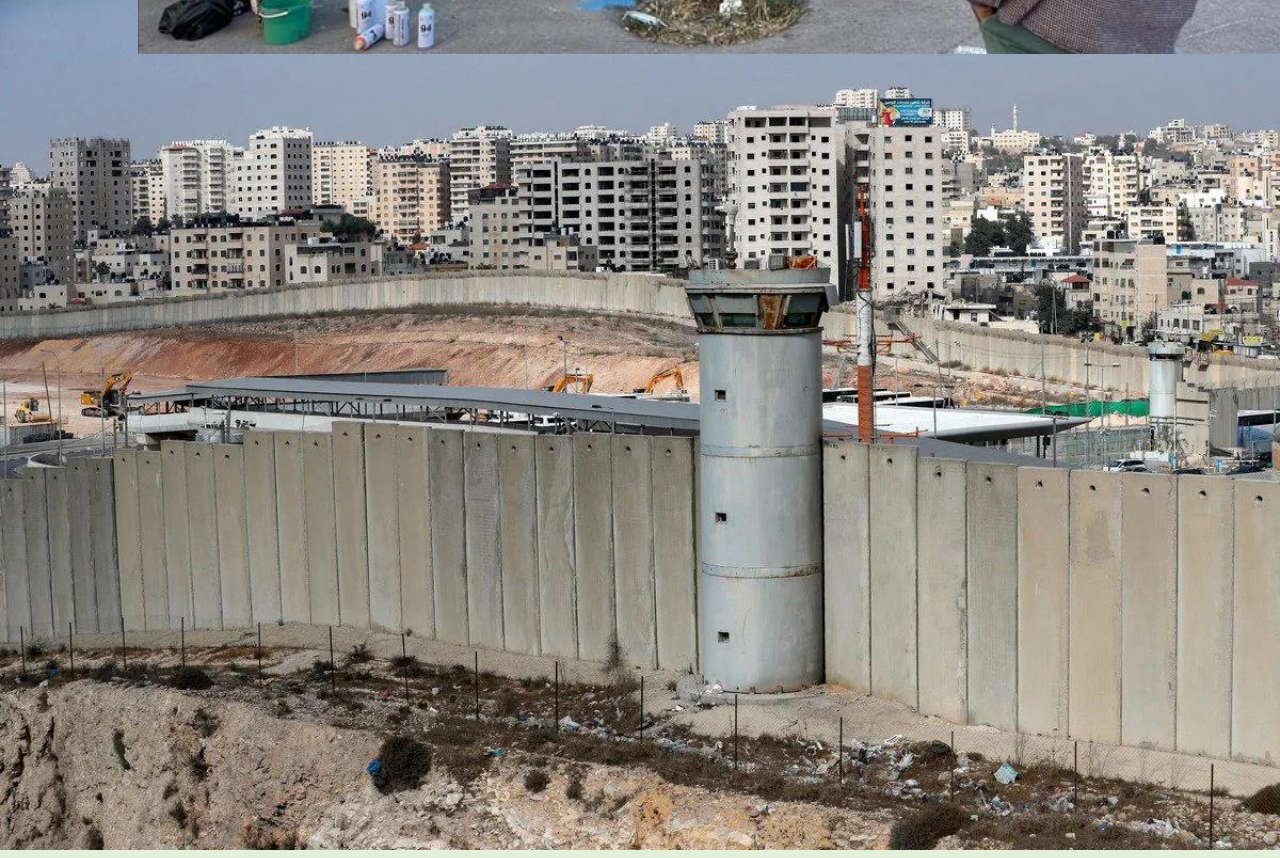
Security?
Occupation?
Apartheid?

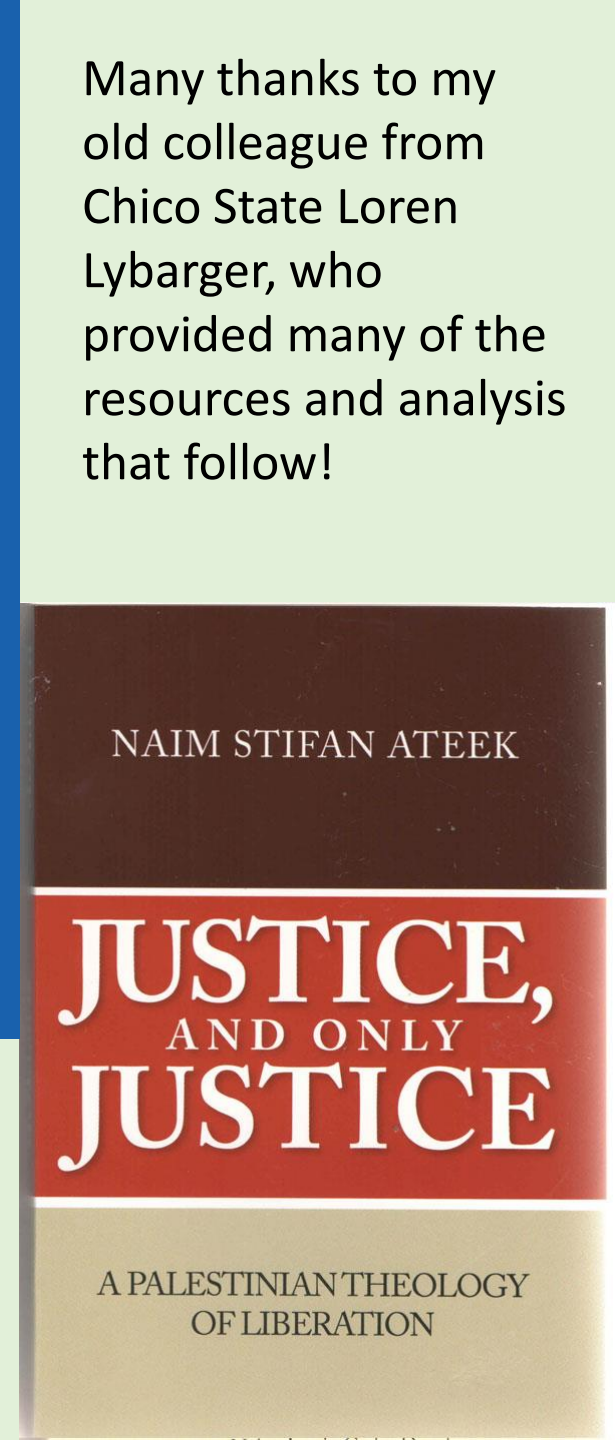
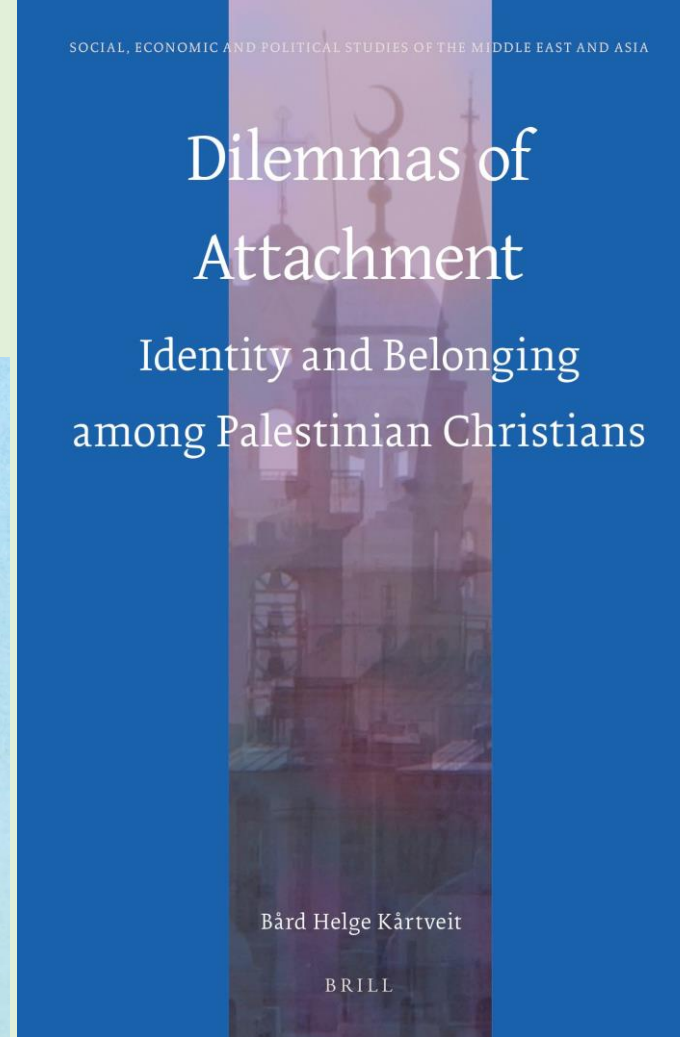
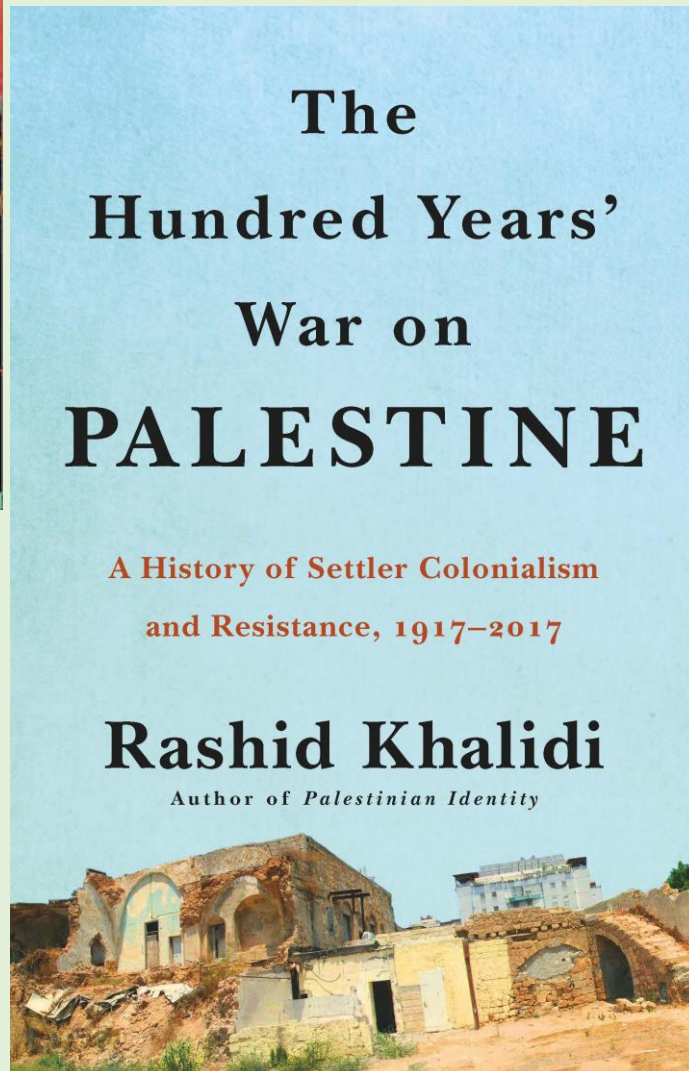
Israel/Palestine



West Bank







Many thanks to my old colleague from Chico State Loren Lybarger, who provided many of the resources and analysis that follow!



[The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories](#)



Some local organizations here and there working on Politics and Palestinian rights

On your visit, you'll be spending more than half your time staying in Bethlehem on the West Bank—in the Palestinian-Partitioned part of the country, aka to many advocates of Palestinian rights known as the “occupied territories.”

Lots of issues related to these facts will get discussed, and I'm hopeful that you'll ask questions around these issues as well. But here are some points to ponder and think about

1. Netanyahu's rise and return last month as a conservative rests on a somewhat tenuous deal. He achieved the prime minister position only because he made significant concessions to the radical right wing of Israeli politics. These concessions give key portfolios to these factions, who seek to reinforce Israel's territorial dominance by annexing the rest of the West Bank and imposing even more stringent controls on the Palestinians living in the Occupied Territories. Their domestic policies, too, will deepen discrimination against Palestinian citizens of Israel and intensify secular-religious polarization. Many US publications have analyzed this situation in detail, many which see the Netanyahu win as the continuation of long-established trajectories in Israeli politics and policy. Israelis and non-Israelis as well as many American Jewish groups are critical of this.

Parties represented in the Knesset

The following parties are represented following the [2022 election](#):

Party or alliance		Ideology	Symbol	Leader	MKs
	Likud^[a]	Conservatism National liberalism Right-wing populism	מחל מחל	Benjamin Netanyahu	32 / 120
	Yesh Atid	Liberalism Secularism	פה פה	Yair Lapid	24 / 120
	National Unity	Blue and White (Resilience) New Hope	דן דן	Benny Gantz	12 / 120
	Shas^[a]	Religious conservatism Sephardi and Mizrahi interests Haredi interests	שש שש	Aryeh Deri	11 / 120
	Religious Zionist Party^[a]	Religious Zionism	ט ט	Bezalel Smotrich	7 / 120

	United Torah Judaism^[a]		Agudat Yisrael	Religious conservatism Ashkenazi Haredi interests Haredi non-Zionism	ג ח	Moshe Gafni	7 / 120
	Otzma Yehudit^[a]			Kahanism	עוצמה יהודית	Itamar Ben-Gvir	6 / 120
	Yisrael Beiteinu			Nationalism Secularism Russian-speakers' interests	ל ל	Avigdor Lieberman	6 / 120
	United Arab List			Israeli Arab interests Conservatism Islamism	עם עם	Mansour Abbas	5 / 120
	Hadash–Ta'al		Hadash (Maki)	Israeli Arab interests Two-state solution Secularism	ום ום	Ayman Odeh	5 / 120
	Labor Party			Social democracy Labor Zionism	אמת أمت	Merav Michaeli	4 / 120
	Noam^[a]			Religious Zionism, Religious conservatism	נעם	Avi Maoz	1 / 120

the incoming government's published guideline principles, its stated priorities are to combat the cost of living, further centralize [Orthodox](#) control over [state Jewish services](#), pass judicial reforms that includes legislation to reduce judicial controls on executive and legislative power, expand settlements in the West Bank, and consider a [West Bank annexation policy](#).^l

2. Palestinians remain mired in political dysfunction. The failure to hold general elections for their assembly and presidency has resulted in paralysis at every level. Gaza remains isolated under de facto Hamas rule. We can expect continuing violence with Israel as Hamas seeks to assert itself. The Palestinian Authority under Abbas (the Palestinian government of the West Bank) will continue to demonstrate its utter ineffectiveness in advancing Palestinian interest. There are signs that new groups have emerged. These groups seek to reignite the armed revolt in cities like Nablus and Jenin in the northern West Bank.

3. The two-state solution is all but dead. It collapsed in 2000 with Sharon's government and has been kept on life support. But the "Abraham Accords," Trump's effort to cut the Palestinians out entirely, has signaled a US decision to pursue other avenues toward suppression and stabilization. The closing off of this avenue to Palestinians has led to the Tik-Tok generation's attempt to reignite the armed resistance. But it also forces the question of the viability of that resistance.

Another alternative recommended by some: Palestinians should declare an end to their goal of an independent state and instead demand full democratic inclusion as fully enfranchised citizens of the State of Israel. The current situation is one of a de facto single state with half the population living under Apartheid conditions. Given this reality, Palestinians could call Israel's bluff by transforming their movement into a nonviolent civil rights struggle. They should make common cause with Palestinian citizens of Israel (a substantial population) as well as with Jews of Middle East and African descent (and remember the Diaspora!!), who also suffer discrimination in Israel. This move could garner international backing and deflect accusations of terrorism, which serve to discredit groups like Hamas. The challenge of course is that Palestinian nationalism rests on the idea of national liberation through revolution. Hamas also presents a challenge.

4. Here are some Zimbelman ruminations.

It may be the only democratic government in the Middle East; and it is in many ways a free nation and a thriving nation. But as Yohanan Plesner has recently noted, it has very shaky foundations! It has no constitution, no bill of rights, no federal distribution of power (Executive, Legislative, Judiciary that check each other the way our government does), no Presidential veto, only a single house of parliament that is controlled by the executive branch by dint of its parliamentary majority. And a simple majority of the house/Knesset can just about alter an foundational principles for the state that they want—and there are serious moves afoot at this point to do just that regarding Supreme Court decisions.

Thank heavens there is a Supreme Court that can check political pretensions, supported by a divided people (like the US right now) and a vibrant and progressive and open minded educated civic culture.

But the very conservative coalition alluded to earlier without any partners on the left or the center, is likely to take on serious changes to religious practice, control, and West Bank politics. Have your antennae up for these conversations!