

## **History line Middle East from 1897 – 2003**

### **1897**

The First Zionist Congress in Basle, Switzerland Herzl. Their goal was to have their own state in Palestine- primarily as a response to European anti-Semitism.

### **1917**

End of World War I. Until this time the area was ruled by the Turkish Ottoman empire.

### **1936-1939**

The situation for the Jewish people Europe lead to increasing immigration of Jews in Middle East. The Jewish population rose from 8% i 1918 to 28% i 1936.

### **1940-1945**

Six million Jews were killed in the Holocaust during World War II.

### **1947 UN partition of Palestine**

Britain handed over responsibility for solving the Zionist-Arab problem to the UN in 1947. The territory was plagued with chronic unrest pitting native Arabs against Jewish immigrants (who now made up about a third the population, owning about 6% of the land). The situation had become more critical with the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Jews fleeing the Nazi persecution in Europe. The partition plan gave 56.47% of Palestine to the Jewish state and 43.53% to the Arab state, with an international enclave around Jerusalem.

### **1948 Establishment of Israel**

The day after the state of Israel was declared five Arab armies invaded Israel but were repulsed.

Egypt kept the Gaza Strip while Jordan annexed the area around East Jerusalem and West Bank.

Israel kept 78% of Palestine.

### **1947-1949, Al – Nakba, catastrophe for Palestine**

The Palestine people were forced out of their villages and homes. 418 villages were destroyed, and 726000 became refugees. Some places massacres took place.

### **1964 Formation of the PLO**

### **1967: The 1967 War**

War between Israel and its Arab neighbours culminated in six days. Israel occupies the rest of Pelestine, Gaza, West Bank and East Jerusalem. Another 500,000 Palestinians who fled to Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

### **The 1973 Yom Kippur war**

Egypt and Syria attacks Israel to reconquer the palestine's area. Israel won the war.

### **1974 Arafat's first UN appearance**

### **1979 Israel and Egypt make peace**

### **1982 Israel invades Lebanon**

The Operation was intended to wipe out Palestinian guerrilla bases near Israel's northern border.

Israel expelled the PLO from the country.

From 16 to 18 September hundreds of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps were killed.

### **1987 Palestinian 1. intifada**

A mass uprising - or intifada - against the Israeli occupation. More than 1,000 died in clashes

which lasted until 1993.

### **1988 PLO opens door to peace**

### **1993 The Oslo Peace Process**

Peace agreement between PLO and Israel. Mutual recognition of each other. The Palestinians consented to recognise Israel in return for the beginning of phased dismantling of Israel's occupation.

### **1994 Birth of the Palestinian Authority**

### **1996-1999 Deadlock**

Little progress in peace process. Conflict returned after a massacre in a mosque in Hebron, with a series of devastating suicide bombings in Israel, and a bloody three-week bombardment of Lebanon by Israel.

### **2000 Second intifada and end of Israel's 21-year entanglement in Lebanon.**

Ariel Sharon toured the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. The Palestinians saw it as a highly provocative move, and demonstrations followed, quickly developing into what became known as the al-Aqsa intifada, or uprising. About 3,200 Palestinians and 900 Israeli's has been killed.

### **2002 The Wall**

Israel began building 670km (420 mile) barrier in the West Bank. The wall is not in accordance to the Green line (borders from 1967), and annexes (?) 47% of West Bank from Palestine.

### **2003 Road map**

The US published roadmap, which outlined a step-by-step timetable towards a negotiated Palestinian state.