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**Israel: The land of milk, honey, and conflict**

Jewish sovereignty in Palestine existed for about 1,000 years. However, with the Roman conquest in 70 AD, many Jews were forced to leave the ‘holy land.’ This is known as a diaspora, when people settle outside of their homeland. In Europe, Jews were often persecuted for their religious beliefs, and were forced to live in separate areas of the city called ghettoes. Throughout time some Jews remained in Palestine, the holy land. In the 19th century the Zionist movement started. Zionists are people who want an independent Jewish nation. They increased their efforts to help persecuted Jews to immigrate to Palestine. During World War I the Jews supported Britain and against the Turks, who at the time had control over Palestine.

1. What is diaspora?
2. What happen when Jews moved to Europe?

Arab sovereignty in Palestine can be traced to the Umayyad conquest in 637 AD, which began a long era of Muslim control that lasted until the end of World War I. Different Arab dynasties held power in Palestine from the 7th to the 15th centuries. From 1453 until World War I, political control was held by the Ottoman Turks, who were not Arabs. The Arabs did not like the Turks and wanted to establish their own nation. The Arabs sided with the British in World War I.

1. How long have Arabs had ties with the land of Israel (Palestine)?
2. Who had control of Israel from 1453 until WWI?

With the end of World War I, Britain was given temporary control over Palestine by the League of Nations. At the time, Britain was the most powerful country in the world. During that time both Arabs and Jews continued their claims to the land. Britain made territorial promises to defeating the Turks in Palestine, called the Balfour Declaration. In this document Palestine was established as a home for Jewish people, but respected the rights of the non-Jewish communities. In 1922 acting on their own, the British also carved out a piece of land for the Arabs known as Jordan.

1. After WWI who was the most powerful country in the world?
2. Why would Arabs be upset by the Balfour Declaration?

Jews began to increase their immigration to what remained of Palestine, where they bought land from some Arabs and cultivated areas left unused by the Turks. Arab protests against Jews grew into riots and violent confrontations. Britain found it difficult to maintain peace between the two sides and was further weakened by its involvement in World War II. World War II was also the time when persecution against Jews in Europe reached an unprecedented level, with the killing of six million Jews by the Germans in the Holocaust. This tragedy convinced many Jews that the only safe place for them would be their own nation in Palestine. At the end of World War II, Britain decided to give up its mandate over Palestine and asked the United Nations to resolve the conflict between the Arabs and Jews in Palestine. In 1948 the state of Israel was created.

1. Why would the Arabs protest against the Jews?
2. What convinced the UN and Britain to give Palestine to the Jews?

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**The Oil Crisis of 1973:** During the Yom Kippur War with Israel (An Arab Israeli conflict erupted in Oct. of 1973), the Arab oil-producing states decided to show what impact they could have upon the world economy. OPEC announced that it was severely reducing oil production. It also cut off all oil shipments to countries that supported Israel. The result was an energy crisis that brought shortages of gasoline to much of the Western world. OPEC’s (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) action also produced other dramatic results. Oil prices shot up overnight, tripling and quadrupling their levels. The high cost of oil affected industries and homes alike. Oil prices remained high for several years. Gradually, however, they began to decline.

1. How did OPEC countries react to the Yom Kippur War?

**Intifada – Palestinian Resistance:** Palestinians living in refugee camps had under Israeli control as well as in neighboring countries had grown tremendously since 1948. Many supported the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), headed by Yasir Arafat. It stated goal was the destruction of Israel, which PLO claimed had no right to exist on the land they called Palestine. For years, the PLO waged guerrilla warfare against Israelis at home and abroad. Bombings, airplane hijackings, and the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympic games brought PLO demands to attention of the world. At the same time, though, such violent and heartless attacks stiffened Israel’s resolve not to negotiate with the PLO. In the late 1980’s and again starting in 2000, large numbers of young Palestinians mounted intifadas, or uprisings, against Israeli occupation. Demanding a Palestinian homeland of their own, they disobeyed curfew laws and stoned Israeli troops. Palestinian gunmen fired on Israeli occupying force trying to push them off their land. Israeli army responded with overwhelming force. Hundreds of Palestinians were injured or killed in bloody street fights. Some Palestinian kids were killed and the Israeli troops repeatedly sealed off Palestinian towns and villages, crippling the already fragile Palestinian economy and intensifying Palestinian bitterness.

1. What is the PLO?
2. What is the goal of the PLO?
3. What are intifadas?

The Gaza Strip and the West Bank are currently governed by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). While the areas are predominately settled by Arabs some Jewish people also live there. In April 1993, after two decades of uprisings, negotiations, and armed conflicts, Israel and the PLO agreed during secret negotiations to gradually extend self-government of both regions to the Palestinians. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the world's longest standing conflicts. Many people believe that resolving this conflict is the key to resolving the various conflicts throughout the Middle East. Some observers see this conflict creating Arab resentment towards the West and fueling radical Islamic terrorism.

1. What two areas in Israel are controlled by the Palestinians?
2. Who do you think, Arab or Jews, should have the land of Israel?

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***Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***Create a bumper sticker based on what you learned about the conflicts in Israel and surrounding countries.***

***Your bumper sticker should be***

* ***Related to the topic***
* ***Thoughtful***
* ***Colorful***

***Write here an explanation of what your bumper sticker means, and why you wrote it.***

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