



FACTSHEET

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CHRONOLOGY

Rulers of Palestine

539 BC	Persian
333 BC	Hellenistic
63 BC	Roman
330-640	Byzantine
638	Arab-Islamic
661-750	Umayyad
750-969	Abbasid
969-1099	Fatimid
1099-1187	Crusader
1260-1516	Mamluk
1516-1917	Ottoman
1922	British Mandate

Timeline

ca 1900 BC	Abraham travels from Ur to Canaan.
Ca 1250 BC	Arrival of the Philistines, Sea Peoples from the Aegean. Migration of the Hebrews into Canaan (Moses leads the Israelites' exodus from Egypt).
Ca. 1000 BC	King David unites the twelve tribes of Israel. His son Solomon builds the Temple in Jerusalem.
Ca 930BC	The Israelite nation divides into two weaker kingdoms, Israel and Judah. Israel is conquered by the Assyrians about 720 BC and Judah is destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC.
Ca 538 BC	Persia conquers Babylonia and permits exiled Jews to return to Jerusalem.
332 BC	Greeks conquer the region
167 BC	Jews establish an independent Judaea.
63 BC	Romans establish control over Judaea.
Ca 4BC	Jesus is born. He is crucified thirty-three years later after a ministry of three years. Christian churches are established throughout the eastern Roman Empire.

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AD 70	A Jewish revolt against Rome is put down and the Temple is destroyed.
135	Romans suppress a Jewish revolt, killing or forcing almost all Jews of Judaea into exile. The Romans name the province Syria Palaestina.
Ca 325	The Roman Emperor Constantine, a Christian, strengthens his own religion throughout the region.
Ca 570	The Prophet Muhammad is born in Mecca, established the Islamic faith, unites the Arabia Peninsula, and dies in 662. Arabic rule and faith spread rapidly throughout Syria Palaestina, Persia, and Egypt.
1099	The first Crusaders capture Jerusalem and establish Christian rule over Palestine.
1187	Saladin, sultan of Egypt, conquers Jerusalem and, except for a fifteen-year interval, Muslims control Palestine until the end of World War I.
1516	The Ottoman Turks take Syria, Palestine, and then Egypt.
1861	The French establish Lebanon as a autonomous district within Syria, under Christian leadership.
1882	British forces occupy Egypt and remain there until 1955.
1917	Great Britain, during World War I, issues the Balfour Declaration, promising a Jewish national home in Palestine, with respect for the rights of non-Jewish Palestinians.
1922	After the Ottoman Empire is defeated in World War I, the League of Nations confirms British mandates over Iraq and Palestine, and a French mandate over Syria and Lebanon. Transjordan is separated from the Palestine Mandate and becomes an autonomous kingdom.
1936	Palestinian Arabs demand a halt to Jewish immigration and a ban on land sales to Jews. British troops attempt to assert control, but violence erupts. The Peel Commission recommends partition of Palestine between Arabs and Jews.
1939	Britain announces severe restrictions on Jewish immigration and land purchases in Palestine. Violence erupts from Jewish militants.
1947	Britain lets the United Nations (UN) decide what to do about Palestine, which is partitioned into Jewish, Arab, and international areas (Jerusalem and Bethlehem). Fifty-five percent of the territory is allocated to the Jewish state. Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan are now independent states.
29 Nov 1947	UN resolution for the partition of Palestine.
1948	The British mandate over Palestine terminates. Israelis declare their independence as a nation, Arab armies attack, and Israel prevails. UN General Assembly Resolution 194 establishes a conciliation commission and asserts that refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace should be allowed to do so, that compensation should be paid to others, and that free access to the hold places should be assured.
15 May 1948	Proclamation of the State of Israel.

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15 May 1948-7 Jan 1949	First Arab-Israeli War
1949	Armistice agreements with the Arabs allow Israel to gain more land (77% of Palestine) . Egypt occupies the Gaza Strip. Transjordan, renamed Jordan, controls what is left of the west bank of the Jordan River, including Old Jerusalem, and in 1950 annexes this territory.
4 Apr 1950	Jordan annexes West Bank, including East Jerusalem
1956	Egypt nationalises the Suez Canal, and Israel joins Britain and France in occupying the canal area. Under international pressure all foreign forces withdraw from Egyptian territories by the next year. UN forces are assigned to patrol strategic areas of the Sinai.
29 Oct-7 Nov 1956	The Suez War.
29 May 1964	The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is established.
5-10 June 1967	The Six-Day War Egypt blockades the Straits of Tiran, and Arab forces make menacing moves. Israel launches pre-emptive attacks on Egypt, Syria, Iraq and then Jordan, and within six days occupies the Golan Heights, Gaza, the Sinai, and the West Bank, including Jerusalem.
27 June 1967	Israel annexes East Jerusalem
22 Nov 1967	UN Security Resolution 242 is passed, confirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of land by force and calling for Israel' s withdrawal from occupied territories, the right to all states in the region to live in peace within secure and recognised borders, and a just solution to the refugee problem.
6 – 26 Oct 1973	The Yom Kippur War (the October war) . Egypt and Syria attack Israeli forces in the Sinai and Golan Heights. After 16 days of war, UN Resolution 338 is passed, confirming Resolution 242 and calling for international peace talks. Various disengagement agreements follow.
Oct 1974	The Arab summit at Rabat in Morocco unanimously proclaims the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.
1975	Civil war erupts in Lebanon. With approval from the international community the following year, Syria sends troops to establish order.
1977	Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat visits Jerusalem and outlines Arab demands to the Israeli Knesset. Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin makes a return to visit Ismailia, with no progress toward peace.
17 Sept 1978	The Camp David Accords are signed by Israel and Egypt, confirming Israel' s compliance with UN Resolution 242, withdrawal of political and military forces from the West Bank and Gaza, and full autonomy for Palestinians. The Accords outline a peace agreement between Israel and Egypt and other Arab neighbours. The Accords are rejected by the Arabs at the Baghdad summit, and Egypt is isolated.
1979	A peace treaty is signed between Israel and Egypt, guaranteeing withdrawal of Israel from the Sinai, normal diplomatic relations and Israel' s access to the Suez Canal.
1981	Israel escalated establishment of settlements on Palestinian territory. Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat is assassinated.
6 June 1982	Israeli invasion of Lebanon.
21 Aug 1982	PLO fighters are evacuated from Beirut.

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16 Sept 1982	The massacre of Sabra and Shatila.
10 June 1985	Israel partially removes its forces from Lebanon, but forms ' security zone ' in the south.
9 Dec 1987	A Palestinian <i>intifada</i> (uprising) erupts and Israel responds to the violence with harsh reprisals.
31 July 1988	King Hussein announces Jordan ' s disengagement from the West Bank.
15 Nov 1998	Palestine National Council in Algiers conditionally accepts UN resolutions 181, 242 and 338.
14 Dec 1988	Yasser Arafat accepts US terms for talk with the PLO.
20 June 1990	US suspends dialogue with the PLO.
1991	The first Gulf War (the Persian Gulf War) ejects Iraqi forces that have invaded Kuwait. Many e Palestinian exiles move to Jordan. A Middle East peace conference, focusing on Arab -Israeli relations, is convened in Madrid.
10 Dec 1991	Bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks begin in Washington.
25 July 1993	Israel launches Operation Accountability in south Lebanon.
10 Sept 1993	Israel and PLO exchange letters formally recognising each other.
13 Sept 1993	Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles on Palestinian Self-Government is signed in the White House.
25 Feb 1994	Massacre of Palestinians at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron.
1994	The Palestinian National Authority is established. Israel and Jordan sign a comprehensive peace agreement.
2 Feb 1995	First summit between leaders of Egypt, Jordan, PLO and Israel.
28 Sept 1995	Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (Oslo II) is signed.
4 Nov 1995	Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated by an Israeli right-wing religious fanatic. Shimon Peres succeeds him.
1996	Palestinians elect Yasir Arafat as president and elect the members of a legislative council. Israelis return the Likud Party to power, which stalls the Oslo process.
23 Aug 1998	Binyamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat sign the Wye River Memorandum.
24 May 2000	Israeli forces are withdrawn from Lebanon except for a disputed area, Shebaa Farms.
11-25 July 2000	The Camp David Summit.
28 Sept 2000	Ariel Sharon visits the Haram al-Sharif. The outbreak of the second Intifada (Al Aqsa intifada)
2001	Ariel Sharon is elected prime minister of Israel, committed to rejection of the Oslo peace agreement and an emphasis on national security. The Gaza airport runway is bulldozed.
28 March 2002	An Arab League summit in Beirut endorses a Saudi peace plan based on UN resolutions 242 and 338. Suicide bombings provoke strong Israeli response. Sharon blames Arafat for the violence and confines him to his Ramallah office. Israel begins building a separation barrier within the West Bank.
29 March 2002	Israel launches Operation Defensive Shield in the West Bank.

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30 April 2003	The Quartet Group (the US, UN, European Union and Russia) issue the “ road map for peace ”. Palestinians pledge full support, but Israel rejects key points. Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) appointed as prime minister. Violence continues and the separation barrier in the West Bank draws international criticism for undermining the peace process.
6 Sept 2003	Mahmoud Abbas resigns as prime minister.
11 Sept 2003	Israeli Cabinet decides in principles ‘to remove ’ Arafat.
1 Dec 2003	Unofficial ‘peace agreement’ is signed in Geneva.
11 Nov 2004	Yasser Arafat dies. Mahmoud Abbas succeeds him.
18 Dec 2004	Ariel Sharon announces unilateral withdrawal from Gaza.
9 Jan 2005	Mahmoud Abbas is elected president of the PNA.
August 2005	Israel evacuates its settlements from the Gaza Strip and four from the West Bank.
Jan 2006	Ariel Sharon suffers a massive stroke.
25 Jan 2006	Hamas victory in Palestinian legislative elections. Israel and the US isolate Palestine, cutting off funds.
2006	Ehud Olmert becomes Israel’ s prime minister, promising that the separation barrier, in effect, will be the new Israel-West Bank border.



Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter - in the company of John Ging head of UNRWA Gaza - plants a tree in the grounds of “Al-Mathaf”. This museum and cultural centre in Gaza stands testament to the long and rich Palestinian cultural inheritance and history.

28 June 2006	Israel launches operation Summer Rains in the Gaza Strip to recover kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit.
12 July – 14 Aug 2006	Second Lebanon War
26 Nov 2006	Israelis and Palestinians announce Gaza truce.
8 Feb 2007	Palestinian Unity Agreement in Mecca.
19 Feb 2007	Israeli-Palestinian-American summit in Jerusalem.
15 June 2007	Hamas forces Fatah out of Gaza Strip. President Abbas dissolves the unity government.
25 June 2007	Sharm el-Sheikh Summit II.
19 June 2008	Egyptian-brokered Israel-Hamas truce in Gaza
4 Nov 2008	Israel violates truce.
9 Nov 2008	Quartet meeting at Sharm el-Sheikh reaffirms support for the Annapolis peace process.
27 Dec 2008 – 18 Jan 2009	Israel ’ s Operation Cast Lead in the Gaza Strip.

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Information from following sources:

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