

Conflict and Peace: A Visual Timeline

Over the years, many have tried to make peace and solve conflicts in the Middle East. But disagreement and distrust remain. Peace has not yet come to the region.

1948-9 WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

Israel prevails. Fighting ends without a formal peace treaty.

1964 PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION FORMS

Palestinians create the Palestine Liberation Organization, or PLO, to represent them. Their original goals include the destruction of Israel.

1973 YOM KIPPUR WAR

Egypt and Syria launch a surprise attack. Israel suffers high casualties but ultimately wins the war and keeps the territory it captured in 1967.



Egyptian soldiers, 1973

1956 SUEZ WAR



IDF soldiers, 1956

1967 SIX-DAY WAR

In response to serious threats, Israel attacks Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, and defeats their armies in just six days. Israel gains new territories, including the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. Israel offers to return territory in exchange for peace, but the Arab nations refuse.



Israeli paratroopers after they capture the Western Wall, 1967



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1979 ISRAEL-EGYPT PEACE TREATY

Israel agrees to return the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt in exchange for peace.



President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin, 1979

1987 HAMAS FORMS

A new organization, Hamas, is formed to represent Palestinians. Hamas gains support because they operate schools and hospitals, and provide other services that help with everyday life for Palestinians. However, their attacks on civilians and calls for the destruction of Israel lead the United States and many other countries to consider them a terrorist organization.

1981 EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT IS ASSASSINATED

1982 FIRST LEBANON WAR

The PLO attacks Israel from its base in Lebanon. Israel responds by invading Lebanon. It maintains a presence there for eighteen years.

1987 FIRST INTIFADA

Palestinians protest and riot in response to the Israeli presence on the West Bank and in Gaza.

1991 MADRID PEACE CONFERENCE



President H.W. Bush addressing the conference, 1991

The United States and Soviet Union organize a peace conference with Israel and its Arab neighbors. For the first time, negotiators from Israel and the Palestinians meet with one another. The idea

of a two-state solution—one Israeli and one Palestinian—is discussed.



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1993 OSLO ACCORDS

The PLO rejects terrorism and, for the first time, recognizes Israel's right to exist. Israel agrees to allow the PLO's newly formed Palestinian Authority to rule the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank.



Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, with US President Bill Clinton, 1993

1994 ISRAEL-JORDAN PEACE TREATY SIGNED



Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein of Jordan, with US President Bill Clinton, 1994

1995 YITZHAK RABIN, PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL, IS ASSASSINATED

1996 PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS

Palestinians conduct fair and free elections. Israel withdraws from parts of the West Bank.

2000 ISRAEL WITHDRAWS FROM LEBANON

2000 SECOND INTIFADA

In response to the failure of the peace talks, Palestinians begin the Second Intifada, which includes suicide bombings against Israeli civilians.



The aftermath of a suicide bombing attack on an Israeli bus, 2000

2000 CAMP DAVID SUMMIT



Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel, US President Bill Clinton, and Chairman Yasser Arafat at Camp David, 2000

Yasser Arafat, the leader of the PLO, meets with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak at Camp David, in Maryland. Their peace talks break down over the issues of control of Jerusalem and whether Palestinians should be given land inside Israel.



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2002 ISRAEL BUILDS A SECURITY FENCE

Israel begins building a fence to prevent terrorists from entering the country. The barrier does its job but provokes controversy because it is built, in part, on land claimed by Palestinians and makes daily life more difficult for Palestinians.

2005 ISRAEL WITHDRAWS FROM GAZA

Israel dismantles settlements in Gaza and withdraws its soldiers, leaving the Palestinian Authority in charge.



Israeli residents of Gaza protesting the IDF's withdrawal, 2005

2006 SECOND LEBANON WAR

“One of the biggest problems that ALL Palestinians complain about is the lack of a clear future.... [W]e have lived through periods of hope, violence, anticipation, concern....We do not know what the future holds for us....”

—**Nedal Zahran**, a Palestinian from the West Bank



“The hundreds of Israeli military closures across the West Bank such as checkpoints, road-blocks, and settler-only roads...make simple daily tasks for Palestinians who are trying to get to work, school or hospital a constant struggle.”

—**Amnesty International**

2007 HAMAS TAKE-OVER OF GAZA

Hamas violently overthrows the Palestinian Authority in Gaza. Palestinian rule is divided, with the Palestinian Authority in charge of the West Bank and Hamas in charge of Gaza. Hamas fires rockets into Israel from Gaza, hitting nearby towns.



2008 OPERATION CAST LEAD

Israeli soldiers enter Gaza and destroy Hamas rockets.



Remains of some of the thousands of rockets fired on the Israeli city of Sderot from the Gaza Strip

“I remember growing up, feeling safe and secure in Sderot. I was happy. Why can’t my kids have that kind of childhood?”

—**Carmit Malka**, an Israeli from Sderot

2014 OPERATION PROTECTIVE EDGE



Eyal Yifrah (19), Gilad Shaer (16), and Naftali Frenkel (16)

Following the murder of three Israeli teenagers by Hamas, Israel enters Gaza and destroys dozens of tunnels leading from Gaza into Israeli neighborhoods.

The Timeline

Continue the timeline into the future.

What do you think will happen between Israel and its neighbors in the future? In the white boxes, write the year and the title of an important event that you think will occur in five years, ten years, and twenty-five years. Add a drawing or paste an image that illustrates it.

2018 GAZA BORDER PROTESTS

Palestinians organize what they call the “Great March of Return,” protests demanding that Palestinian refugees and their descendants be allowed to claim land in Israel.



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