

# The myth of the “occupied territories”

As Adolf Hitler discovered, the Big Lie will eventually be accepted as the truth. The Big Lie, the monster whopper of our time, is that the provinces of Judea/Samaria, often called the "West Bank," are "occupied territories."

## Brief History of “Palestine”

**Jews have been living** in all parts of "Palestine" since Biblical times. After World War I, Britain was in control of Palestine. Earlier, in 1917, it issued the Balfour Declaration. It called for the establishment in Palestine as a "national home for the Jewish people," with the understanding that the civil and religious rights of the existing non-Jewish community would be respected. Jewish presence in Hebron lasted over 3,000 years, interrupted only by the Arab pogroms in 1929. What is often referred to as “Arab East Jerusalem” hosted a vibrant and just as deep-rooted Jewish community until they were exiled and the Jewish Quarter with its ancient synagogues was destroyed by the Arab armies in 1948. Similar ethnic cleansing and murder was the fate of communities in the West Bank (e.g. Gush Etzion) and Gaza.

**In 1920, the League of Nations** made Britain the mandatory power in Palestine, effective in 1922. The Mandate, in line with the Balfour declaration, provided for the establishment of a Jewish national home in all or any part of Palestine. The British, however, contrary to the spirit of the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate, divided the country into two parts. They granted the area east of the Jordan River to the Hashemite tribes, thus excluding it from Jewish settlement. They limited the Jewish National Home to an area within the 23% remaining west of the Jordan River. That entire area is about half the size of San Bernardino County in California. Transjordan (the name implied that it is on the East bank of Jordan river) was given independence by Britain in 1946.

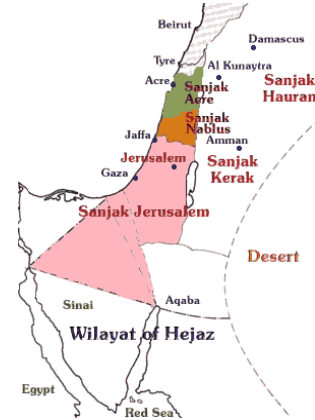
**Israel declared its independence** in April of 1948, on the same day as Britain relinquished its Mandate, and after the Arabs had rejected a partition plan proposed by the United Nations, a plan that the Jews had accepted. In its War of Independence, against overwhelming odds, the newly-formed Israel Defense Forces were able to defeat five combined Arab armies. Transjordan, however, succeeded in pushing westward across the Jordan River and in occupying Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank"). They were the occupiers, and they stayed in that occupation until they attacked Israel in 1967 and were defeated in the Six-Day War. During its 19 years of occupation, Transjordan, now renamed "Jordan" (to reflect the occupation results), systematically removed all Jews from the territory. Jewish holy places were profaned and destroyed.

**Israel has administered** Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank") since 1967. Approximately 250,000 Jews have returned to live there. Another 250,000 Jews live in the areas of “East Jerusalem” officially annexed by Israel after 1967.

**A homeland for Arab Palestinians?** Of course, they deserve one. They have such a country. It's Jordan. Jordan (77% of the British Mandate) is Arab Palestine. Never in history has there been an Arab state in Judea and Samaria, and there certainly was never any mention of it during the 19 years of Transjordanian occupation.



Palestine in the time of Saul 1020 BC (1915 map)



Under Ottoman Empire Palestine did not exist as a single entity. The area was divided into 3 administrative districts



Palestine under British Mandate in 1920



In 1923 British create an Arab state of Transjordan on 78% of the Mandate Palestine



1949 Armistice. Transjordan occupies West Bank and Egypt occupies Gaza.



1967 Israel Captures West Bank and Gaza in a defensive war.

# "Palestinian Refugees"

## Who are they, what is the real story?

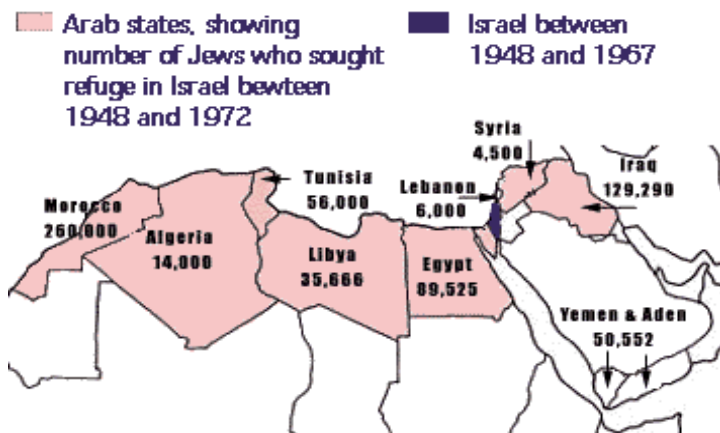
You have heard about "Palestinian refugees," who claim "right of return" to Israel. Of course, virtually none of them ever lived in Israel - they are the children and mostly grandchildren of those who fled in 1948. The total number of those who fled in 1948 was estimated to be about 720,000. Now the number who wish to return has swollen to almost 6 million!

### How did the "Palestinian refugees" come about?

In 1948, on the day of the proclamation of the State of Israel, five Arab armies invaded the new country from all sides. In frightful radio broadcasts, they urged the Arabs living there to leave, so that the invading armies could operate without interference. They could return after the expected quick victory in that "holy war," get their property back -- and that of the Jews. Things turned out differently. The invading armies were defeated. Those who had left became refugees -- people without a country. Those who stayed, and their children, are full-fledged citizens of the State of Israel. These so-called "Palestinian refugees" have not been allowed to settle in the "indivisible Arab nation." They have been supported in camps since 1948. So far, close to \$1.8 billion has been spent on their maintenance. No end is in sight. Who pays for that? You guessed it: Through UNWRA Relief, the United States contributes more than 60% of the total cost.

**A Jewish side of the "refugee" story.** Little is heard of the 870,000 Jewish refugees from Arab countries, who fled those countries to settle in the newly formed Jewish State of Israel. Every one of these refugees was immediately accepted, resettled, taken care of, and given full citizenship by the fledgling, impoverished, and embattled Jewish State. There never has been, and there certainly is not now, a Jewish "refugee" camp in Israel or anywhere else. The Arab "refugees" who fled Israel left little wealth and little history, since most of them had not come to "Palestine" until Jewish settlers opened economic opportunities in what had been a desolate country for centuries. But the Jews of Arab lands have a history going back thousands of years. When forced to flee, they left behind land, wealth, and a long history. They arrived in Israel, quite literally only "with their shirts on their backs." They now make up almost 60% of the vibrant and productive population of Israel.

**Population transfer.** If the Arab nations truly decided to make peace with Israel, they would accept the "Palestinian refugees" in their countries, just as Israel did with Jewish refugees from Arab countries. Population transfers are common, especially in the wake of wars. In 1923, Greece and Turkey agreed to the resettlement of 2 million Greeks and 800,000 Turks; in 1945, the resettlement of 3 million Germans from Poland and Czechoslovakia was arranged. Following the collapse of its North African Empire, France accepted close to 1.5 million people. More than 12 million(!) Muslims and Hindus were exchanged between India and Pakistan. Israel has recognized this historical necessity. The "Arab Nation," with its enormous wealth and vast underpopulated lands, has stubbornly refused to face facts.



In 1945 there were more than 870,000 Jews living in the various Arab states. Many of their communities dated back 2,500 years. Throughout 1947 and 1948 these Jews were persecuted. Their property and belongings were confiscated. There were anti-Jewish riots in Aden, Egypt, Libya, Syria, and Iraq. In Iraq, Zionism was made a capital crime. Approximately 600,000 Jews sought refuge in the State of Israel.



Approximately 720,000 Arabs, encouraged by their leaders to leave, fled from what is now Israel between April and December, 1948. The Arab leaders promised them that they would soon be able to return following Israel's destruction.