

Zionism and its Discontents

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Session 2: The Crisis of Zionism



1. Or Commission Report (2003)

a. **The Or Commission** was a panel of inquiry appointed by the Israeli government to investigate the events of October 2000 at the beginning of the Second Intifada in which 12 Arab citizens of Israel and one Palestinian were killed by Israeli police amid several demonstrations. The chief investigator was Theodor Or, an Israeli Supreme Court Justice.[3]

Or Commission Findings:

- A. Government handling of the Arab sector has been primarily neglectful and discriminatory. The establishment did not show sufficient sensitivity to the needs of the Arab population and did not take enough action in order to allocate state resources in an equal manner.
- B. Serious distress prevails in the Arab sector in various areas. Evidence of the distress included poverty, unemployment, a shortage of land, serious problems in the education system and substantially defective infrastructure.
- C. In various mosques, messages were transmitted delegitimizing the state and its security forces, and serious hostility and antagonism toward its symbols were expressed. Various circles raised demands to grant autonomy in some areas to the Arab minority, and to abolish the definition of the state as a Jewish state and make it "a state for all its citizens." This blurred more than once the line between the Palestinians in Judea and Samaria and the Arab citizens of the state.

Maps of Israel/Palestine

Israel-Palestine escalation

Mapping Israeli occupation

According to Human Rights Watch, Israel - which calls itself a Jewish state - is committing “**crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution**” against Palestinians.



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2019), Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (2020).
Israel Ministry of Interior (2020). Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research (2020).

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Palestinians expelled

In 1948, Zionist military forces expelled at least **750,000** **Palestinians and captured 78 percent of historic Palestine.** The remaining 22 percent was divided into the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



Source: UN OCHA

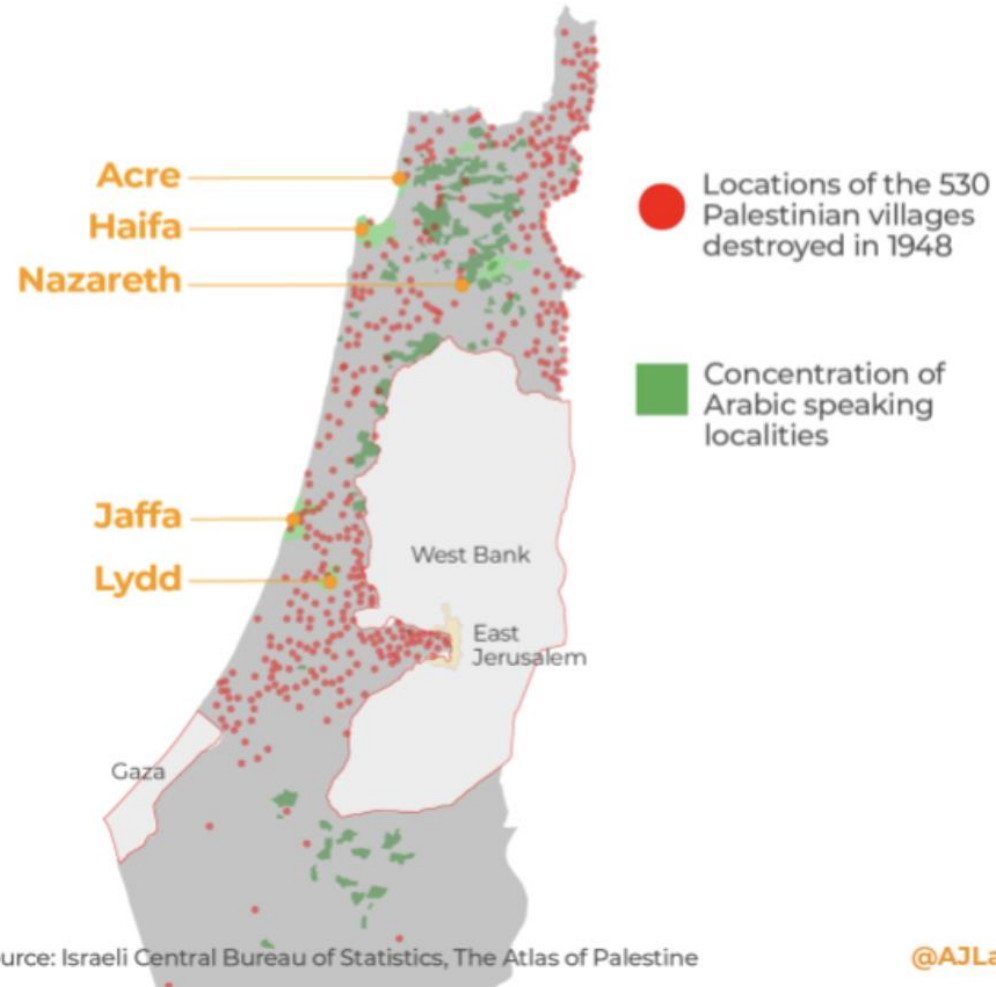


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Palestinian citizens of Israel

There are around **1.6 million Palestinians with Israeli citizenship** living in present-day Israel. These Palestinians are **descendants of those who managed to remain in their towns and villages** during the creation of the State of Israel in 1948.



Source: Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, The Atlas of Palestine

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Jerusalem - the divided city

West Jerusalem has been Israeli territory since 1948 with Jews in the majority. **East Jerusalem is Palestinian majority** and was occupied by Israel in 1967.

West Jerusalem

👤 **Israelis:**
349,700

👤 **Palestinians:**
4,500

East Jerusalem

👤 **Israelis (settlers):**
220,200

👤 **Palestinians:**
345,000



Although Israel claims Jerusalem as its undivided capital, the realities for those who live there cannot be more different.



More than 140,000 Palestinian residents of Jerusalem have been physically separated from the city by a 700-kilometre concrete wall, which Israel started building in 2002.



Source: Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research (2020)

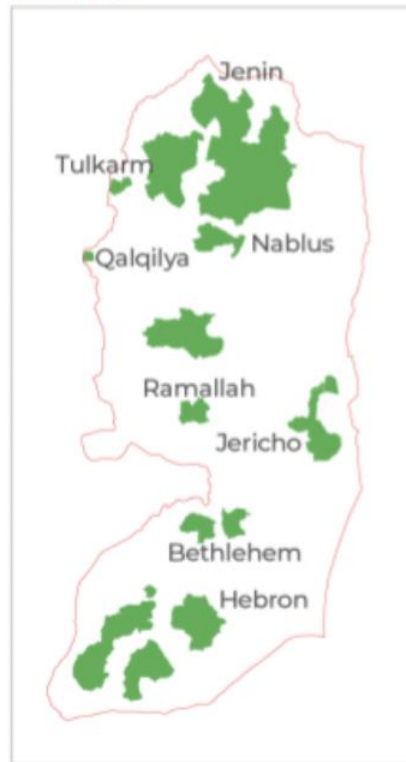
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The West Bank

The occupied West Bank was divided into three areas:

A, B and C - as part of the Oslo Accords, signed by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel.

Area A
18%



Under **Palestinian Control**

Area B
22%



Under joint **Israeli-Palestinian Control**

Area C
60%



Under **Israeli Control**



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Illegal Israeli settlements

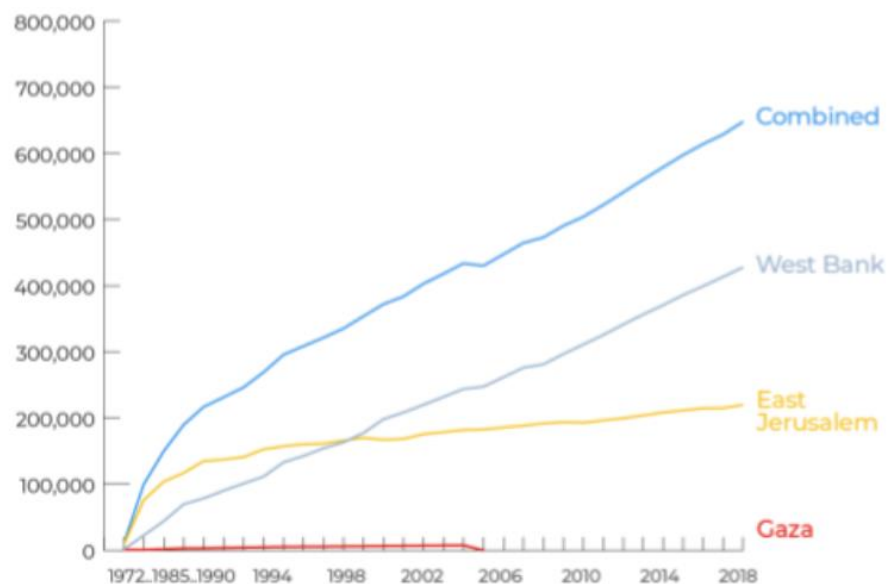
Settlements are Jewish communities built on Palestinian land.

There are between 600,000 - 750,000 Israeli settlers living in at least 250 settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. **Israeli settlements are illegal under international law.**

 **Combined:**
683,553

 **West Bank:**
463,353*

 **East Jerusalem:**
220,200†



The population of Israeli settlers in the West Bank and East Jerusalem is **growing at a faster rate** than the population of Israel.



Sources: Foundation for Middle East Peace (1972 - 1999), PeaceNow (2000 - 2018).
* Israel Ministry of Interior (2020), † Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research (2020).

Figure 7. Israel and West Bank: Population Growth Rates, 2009–19

