

Unraveling the Complexities of the Israel-Palestine Conflict

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The Israel- Palestine conflict stands as one of the most enduring and complex geopolitical disputes of the modern era, being rooted in historical, religious, and territorial tensions. Spanning decades, both sides lay claim to the same chunk of land for differing reasons. To understand the ongoing strife in between these two reasons, we'll delve into the intricate history that has shaped both Israel and Palestine into what they are now.

At the heart lies the holy land of Israel, revered by three major Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This shared religious significance has fueled competing claims to the territory, dating back many centuries. The Hebrew bible's assertion of the land as the "Promised Land" for the Jewish intersects with Christian beliefs in the relation to Jerusalem and its surroundings. Meanwhile, Muslims regard the land as sacred, particularly due to its association with the Prophet, Muhammad's ascension to heaven. These religious differences meant each of the three were willing to fight sporadically for the land they worshiped in different ways.

The landscape of the Middle East underwent significant transformations in the aftermath of World War I, when the collapse of the Ottoman Empire paved the way for British control over Palestine. Six new states were created from the former Ottoman Empire: Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, and Transjordan. The British created the British Mandate, established to rule over Palestine in 1922 by the League of Nations, which sought to govern the territory, paving the way for the creation of Israel. However, conflicting promises made to both Jewish and Arab communities sowed the seeds of future discord in between the two.

The concept of Zionism, advocating for a Jewish homeland and an escape from anti-Semitism and racism in Europe, gained traction in the early 20th century, culminating in the establishment of Israel. This move, supported by the Balfour Declaration, a British document which promised Jews a land where the natives made up more than 90% of the population of Palestine, and subsequent UN resolutions, ignited fierce opposition from Palestinian Muslims who viewed it as dispossession of their land. The ensuing Arab-Israeli conflicts led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and the emergence of resistance movements like the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The United Nation (UN) decided to deal with this issue by taking a more "aggressive" path, splitting Palestine into two: Israel and Palestine. This solution led to the rejection from the Palestinians as 84% of the agricultural arable lands and 80% of the coastline was given to Israel.

Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia also refused to accept the resolution and Israeli independence due to trade routes and other factors. They started the first Arab-Israeli War in 1948. This war, while a victory for the Israelis, gaining only a small portion of Palestinian-Arab land, only caused more issues between Israel and other surrounding countries. Due to this war, tens of thousands of Arab-Palestinians are refugees and the same amount of Jews are persecuted within Muslim nations, no longer able to travel to Israel.

As a result of this war, the PLO turned to terrorism, its main focus that time being to force Israel to withdraw from occupied territories of Palestine. The situation continued to escalate until Hamas, a group that split off from the PLO took charge of Gaza. The Israeli occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, coupled with the expansion of Jewish settlements, have fueled Palestinian resentment and resistance. The first Palestinian Intifada in the late 1980s and subsequent uprisings underscoring the enduring struggle for self-determination and statehood. The Israelis were not too happy about this and tightened their control of Gaza even more. More than 70,000 Palestinians and 25,000 Israelis have been injured in the past few years with over 100,000 deaths in Gaza, a call for humanitarian aid and desperation to cease fire.

The Israel-Palestine conflict remains a multifaceted and deeply entrenched issue, with no easy solutions in sight. As both sides continue to assert their well earned rights and grievances, the path to peace grows more and more elusive. Amidst the complexities and challenges being faced by civilians of both sides, we hope that there will be a future where Israel and Palestine no longer are in such a battle.

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