

## A PALESTINE STORY: A BRIEF OVERVIEW

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#### **Abstract**

The paper provides a historical overview of Palestine, tracing its rich heritage and the significance of the land in Islamic history and tradition. It highlights the deep-rooted connections between Muslims and the land of Palestine, encompassing religious, cultural, and spiritual dimensions. Delving into contemporary realities, the paper examines the challenges faced by Palestinians, including occupation, displacement, and marginalization. It explores the impact of political conflict, economic hardship, and social injustices on the lives of Palestinians, drawing attention to their resilience and steadfastness in the face of adversity. From a Muslim perspective, the paper explores the significance of Palestine as a symbol of Muslim identity and solidarity. It examines the sense of belonging and attachment that Muslims around the world feel towards Palestine, viewing it as a central aspect of their faith and collective consciousness. The paper discusses the quest for justice, peace, and self-determination for the Palestinian people. It advocates for a just and equitable resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on principles of international law, human rights, and Islamic ethics, emphasizing the importance of dialogue, reconciliation, and mutual respect. Highlighting the role of Islam in empowering Palestinian communities, the paper explores forms of resistance, resilience, and solidarity that emerge from Islamic teachings and values. It celebrates the efforts of Palestinians to preserve their cultural heritage, uphold their rights, and pursue justice through non-violent means. Lastly, the paper underscores the importance of global solidarity and advocacy efforts in supporting the Palestinian cause. It calls upon Muslims and people of conscience worldwide

*to stand in solidarity with Palestinians, amplify their voices, and work towards a just and lasting resolution to the conflict. Through this Muslim perspective on the Palestinian narrative, the paper aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding the Palestinian struggle and to advocate for a future of peace, justice, and dignity for all inhabitants of the region.*

**Keywords:** *historical background, Occupied Palestine, Israel-Palestine Conflict, peaceful society.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

*Approximately half a million years ago, the Fertile Crescent and Palestine witnessed the arrival of early human populations. The establishment of a sedentary lifestyle in the region occurred during a specific time period ranging from 12,500 to 9,500 BCE. This transition was marked by the emergence of the Natufian civilization, which was characterized by a semi-sedentary way of life. The culture derived its name from the geographical location of Wadi Natuf, situated west of Ramallah. During ancient times, human populations inhabited both caves and open communities, where they mostly subsisted through activities such as gathering, hunting, fishing, and the incipient stages of agricultural practices. The development of stone tools facilitated the process of collecting and grinding cereals, while also giving rise to the production of the earliest artistic and cultic artifacts. The narrative of Palestine is continued by the Palestinian History Tapestry, which commences with the Neolithic era and the fortified urban settlement of Jericho.*

## **THE PALESTINE**

*The Neolithic period, spanning from 9,500 to 4,000 BCE, was characterized by the establishment of agricultural villages. The emergence of agriculture and the establishment of settled farming communities and villages marked important turning points in human history. These milestones include the domestication of animals, the advancement of pottery-making techniques, and the expression of religious beliefs and ritual practices, as indicated by the presence of figurines and tools. Jericho has been identified as one of the first known instances of fortified settlements in the annals of human civilization.*

*The era spanning from 4,000 to 3,000 BCE is commonly referred to as the Stone-Copper Age, during which there was a significant emergence and evolution of distinct regional cultures. The development of regional cultures in Palestine was shaped by the concurrent presence of pastoralism and agricultural practices, alongside the arrival of copper and its consequential impact on the enhancement of artistic and cultic traditions.*

*During the period known as the Bronze Age, namely spanning from 3,000 to 1,250 BCE, the Canaanite city states were under the governance of the ancient Egyptian Empire. The age of Egyptian domination witnessed the emergence of urbanization and the establishment of walled cities. The Canaanites, an ethnic group of Semitic origin, undertook a migration and established settlements in the region commonly referred to as Palestine/Canaan, as well as along the Syrio-Palestinian coastline. The formation of semi-autonomous urban communities by the Canaanites is proved through the evidence provided by the Tell al-Amarna Letters. The individuals in question actively participated in trading activities, encompassing both sea and*

overland routes, with regions such as Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Eastern Mediterranean. Moreover, their contributions to the advancement of alphabetic writing were substantial. The Canaanites were known to engage in the worship of several deities, a religious practice that was commonly observed by several Semitic communities in the ancient Near East. Moreover, they exhibited proficiency in the fabrication of bronze implements. The Canaanite city-states were subject to periodic uprisings, resulting in military incursions by the Egyptians within the geographic area of Palestine.

During the Iron Age, specifically from 1250 to 721 BCE, the political environment was marked by the existence of diverse regional kingdoms. The emergence of regional kingdoms in Palestine can be attributed to substantial population movements. Included in these migratory movements were the Phoenicians, who can be identified as the progeny and inheritors of the Canaanite civilization. The Phoenicians were renowned for their adeptness in navigation and created maritime settlements along the southern coastlines of the Mediterranean region. These colonies sprang from their city-states situated along the Syrio-Palestinian coastline. Another migratory group that can be identified is the Philistines, who bestowed their name upon the region known as Palestine. The migratory movement of individuals from the Mediterranean basin resulted in the establishment of a confederation including various city states situated around the southern coastline of Palestine. It is worth mentioning that the Philistines demonstrated proficiency in the manufacturing of iron weaponry and implements. Finally, the Hebrews or Israelites, a group of semi-nomadic Semitic individuals, established their settlements in the central mountainous region of Palestine. The individuals in question were subject to the influence of the Canaanite culture and were actively involved in confrontations with the Philistines.

The epoch of Mesopotamian Hegemony, which endured from 721 to 332 BCE, holds great importance within the realm of ancient history. The territory of Palestine was under the rule of Mesopotamia, undergoing conquest by the Assyrians in 721 BCE and subsequently by the Babylonians in 586 BCE, leading to the displacement of a considerable number of its population. In the annals of Assyrian records from this particular epoch, the designation "Palestine" made its appearance, notably in the variant "Plistu," which is widely thought to have derived from the Philistine people. Under the rule of the Persian emperor Cyrus, the territory of Palestine was subjected to military conquest, resulting in the homecoming of Judeans who had previously been expelled from their homeland. During this historical era, there was a notable growth of diverse conceptual frameworks and institutions, one of which was the identification and categorization of individuals as "Jews." Furthermore, a substantial section of the Hebrew Bible underwent a series of changes before reaching its ultimate state of finalization. The earliest known usage of the name "Palestine" may be traced back to the writings of the ancient Greek historian Herodotus during the 5th century BC. Subsequently, the Hebrew version of the Old Testament included the term "Pleshet," which is believed to have originated from the term "Pleshteem" connected with the Philistines.

The Hellenistic Period, including the years 332 to 63 BCE, held considerable importance within the context of ancient history. In the year 332 BCE, Alexander the Great achieved the conquest of Palestine, so submitting it to the extensive influence of

Hellenistic civilization. The cultural transformation in question had extensive consequences, affecting several aspects of society such as life, art and architecture, philosophy, and religion, among others. After the death of Alexander, the Great, his vast empire in the Middle East was divided between two of his generals. The territories of Syria and Palestine were subjected to the rule of the Seleucids, whereas Syria was brought under the authority of the Ptolemies. In this historical era, the Jewish community, under the leadership of the Maccabees, initiated a rebellion against the enforced process of Hellenization. The victorious uprising led to the establishment of an autonomous Hasmonean kingdom in 129 BCE. The Hasmonean dynasty enacted a program of mandatory conversion to Judaism for the Idumeans, an early Arab group that inhabited the southern area of Palestine.

The Roman Period, which encompasses the years 63 BCE to 325 CE, holds great historical significance. Following the Roman conquest of Palestine in 63 BCE, a phase of cultural assimilation known as Romanization ensued. This encompassed the establishment of urban centers characterized by specific Roman attributes, such as Jerusalem, Caesarea, Sabatiya, and Beisan. In the year 37 BCE, Herod the Great, an individual of Idumean Arab descent, was appointed as the governing authority of Judaea, holding the position of a subordinate monarch. During this specific time frame, the demographic composition of the region consisted of a diverse array of ethnic groups, including Jews, Samaritans, Idumeans, Nabatean Arabs, Greeks, and Phoenicians. The birth of Jesus Christ took place during this period, resulting in the spread of Christianity, a religion established on the principles he taught. Furthermore, it is worth noting that the New Testament was written at this particular period. The Roman Empire successfully suppressed two notable uprisings initiated by the Jewish community. The initial event took place in the year 70 CE, leading to the profound devastation of the Jewish Temple located in Jerusalem. The Bar Kochba insurrection, which occurred in 135 CE, led to the total destruction of Jerusalem and the subsequent foundation of a Roman colony called Aelia Capitolina.

The Byzantine Period, which lasted from 325 to 640 CE, witnessed the Byzantine Empire's control over the region of Palestine. Emperor Constantine played a pivotal role during this period by establishing the legitimacy of Christianity and declaring it as the official religion of the realm. The process of Christianization in Palestine unfolded in a progressive manner, leading to the establishment of several churches and monastic institutions throughout the country. The aforementioned religious edifices were founded on notable sites associated with the life of Jesus Christ, such as the Church of the Resurrection situated in Jerusalem and the Church of Nativity located in Bethlehem. There was a notable surge in the quantity of pilgrims who embarked on visits to the revered sites.

The time span ranging from 640 to 1099 is widely recognized as the Early Islamic Period. The territorial acquisition of Palestine by Muslim Arabs from the Byzantine Empire resulted in a subsequent transformation characterized by Arabization and Islamization of the indigenous population. The Umayyad dynasty, which reigned in Damascus from 661 to 750, brought about substantial modifications to Jerusalem, leading to its elevation as the third most revered city in Islamic civilization. Significantly, the Umayyad dynasty was responsible for the construction of the Haram al-Sharif, a religious complex that includes the Dome of the Rock and

the Aqsa Mosque. The city of Ramla was designated as the capital of Palestine. During the period of the Abbassid dynasty in Baghdad (750–969), the Fatimid dynasty in Cairo (969–1073), and the Saljuq dynasty in Damascus (1073–1098), the territory of Palestine witnessed notable advancements and economic success. Jerusalem, specifically, arose as a significant center for Islamic pilgrimage and academic endeavors.

The historical era spanning from 1099 to 1291 is widely recognized as the Crusader Period. In the year 1099, the Crusaders, also referred to as the Franks, effectively seized control of Palestine, thereby commencing a future era of colonization. Throughout this military campaign, Jerusalem experienced extensive pillaging and a merciless slaughter of its populace. As a result, the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem was founded, along with the foundation of military orders assigned with the responsibility of protecting its interests. The Franks undertook the construction of a multitude of urban centers, rural villages, fortified constructions, religious edifices, monastic establishments, and industrial facilities.

The Ayyubid Period, which occurred between the years 1187 and 1250, is a notable epoch in the historical narrative of both the Ayyubid monarchy and the Islamic faith. The Ayyubids, building upon the preceding endeavors of the Zangids, undertook a militarily driven religious war against the Crusader states located in the Levant region. After Salah al-Din's victory over the Crusaders in the Battle of Hittin in 1187, Salah al-Din effectively recaptured the regions of Palestine and Jerusalem, engaging in the process of rehabilitating and venerating Islamic holy sites located inside the urban area. Furthermore, his contribution was crucial in the resurgence of Islamic art and architecture. In the year 1229, al-Kamil, the reigning prince, ceded authority over Jerusalem to the Crusaders as a component of a peace accord. In the year 1244, the Khawarizmians effectively reestablished their authority over it.

The Mamluk Period, which occurred between 1260 and 1517, is a significant chapter in the history of Egypt and Syria. During this period, the Mamluks effectively overthrew the Ayyubids and took authority over the region of Palestine. Their governance was established from the city of Cairo. The Mongols suffered a resounding defeat during the battle of 'Ain Jalut in the year 1260. Following the death of Baybars in 1277, he had effectively recaptured a substantial chunk of Palestine from the Crusaders. The Mamluks shown considerable patronage for the arts through their role as wealthy sponsors and patrons, commissioning a diverse range of religious and secular structures that were distinguished by a distinctive architectural style. Furthermore, a complete network of khans, which served as caravanserais and mail stops, was established by them. These elements were interconnected via a network of roadways and bridges. The significance of Jerusalem as a key center for Muslim pilgrimage and academic endeavors was further reinforced.

The Ottoman Period, which endured from 1516 to 1917, constituted a momentous epoch in the annals of Islamic history. In the year 1516, Selim I, the reigning sultan of the Ottoman Turkish Empire, achieved a triumphant conquest of Palestine, ultimately assimilating it into the territorial dominion of the Ottoman Empire. During the tenure of Sultan Suleiman, also known as Suleiman the Magnificent, a comprehensive endeavor was initiated, involving numerous construction undertakings including the restoration of the fortifications of Jerusalem,

*as well as the refurbishment of the Dome of the Rock and the Aqsa Mosque.*

*The Ottoman Empire implemented a division of the Palestine territory into three administrative units referred to as sanjaks, specifically Jerusalem, Nablus, and Acre. The proliferation of several uprisings can be ascribed to the imposition of onerous taxation and repressive practices by the Ottoman authorities. As a result, some regional leaders opted to establish their own forms of self-governance, as demonstrated by Zahir al-Umar in the northern area of Palestine, where he founded his capital in Acre. In the year 1801, an expedition led by Napoleon, consisting of French military forces, was launched into Egypt and Palestine. This invasion faced opposition and ultimately suffered defeat at Acre, where it was confronted by Ahmad Pasha al-Jazzar's leadership. During the era from 1831 to 1840, Muhammad 'Ali demonstrated his pursuit of autonomy in Egypt and his assumption of authority over Palestine. Over the course of history, Jaffa emerged as the foremost port in the geographical area commonly referred to as Palestine.*

*The commencement of Jewish migration to Palestine began in 1881. The proclamation made by Herzl regarding the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine occurred at the initial Zionist congress held in Basel in 1897.*

*In 1916, a clandestine agreement was established between the United Kingdom and France, outlining their intentions to divide the Arab areas governed by the Ottoman Empire.*

*The years spanning from 1917 to 1920 were the period during which **the** British Military Administration governed Palestine. In 1917, the city of Jerusalem saw a seizure by British armed forces led by General Allenby. In the year previously indicated, the British Government formally conveyed its support, as articulated in the Balfour Declaration, for the creation of a national territory for the Jewish community in Palestine.*

*The temporal span ranging from 1920 to 1948. The British Mandate denotes the temporal span spanning from 1920 to 1948, during which the League of Nations bestowed upon Britain the jurisdiction to govern the regions encompassing Palestine. The Mandate of Palestine was officially conferred upon Britain in 1920, resulting in a significant increase in Jewish immigration and the establishment of settlements, both of which were actively facilitated by the British government.*

*The Palestinian Revolt of 1936, which lasted for a period of three years, arose in reaction to the British rule and the increasing influx of Jewish immigrants. During this historical period, there was a notable increase in incidents of Jewish terrorism and sabotage specifically directed towards the British.*

*The Partition Plan, adopted by the United Nations in 1947, sought to delineate separate Jewish and Arab governments within the region of Palestine.*

*The year 1948 is a pivotal moment in the historical trajectory of the Palestinian population, as it bore witness to the Nakba, a term employed to depict the calamitous occurrences and forced displacement endured by Palestinians. During this historical time, the State of Israel was established, hence playing a significant role in the ongoing Palestinian diaspora.*

*The fighting and ensuing Palestinian Nakba in 1948 led to the involuntary expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland and the establishment of the State of Israel. An estimated one million Palestinian refugees were obliged to seek asylum in*

neighboring Arab states, while over 500 towns and villages were depopulated and destroyed.

The Palestinians who chose to stay experienced Israeli military administration, while the implementation of the Absentee Property Act in 1950 led to the transfer of land owned by Palestinian refugees to the control of the Israeli state. Furthermore, the Law of Return was implemented by Israel, conferring to all individuals of Jewish descent the right to acquire permanent residency in the region of Israel/Palestine. In contrast, the West Bank was administered by Jordan, while the Gaza Strip was governed by Egypt.

The Fateh movement, led by Yasser Arafat, was founded in 1961. The establishment of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) followed in 1964.

### **THE SABRA AND SHATILA MASSACRE OF 1982**

The adoption of United Nations Resolution 242 in 1967 entails an urging for Israel to engage in a withdrawal from the territories it had previously conquered. A significant occurrence that took place during this particular era was the al-Karama fight in 1968, wherein Fatah effectively repulsed an offensive launched by Israeli forces. An additional noteworthy occurrence was the October War of 1973. Moreover, the Camp David Accord, which was signed in 1978 by the nations of Israel, Egypt, and the United States, represents a significant turning point in the historical trajectory of the region. In the year 1982, the nation of Israel executed a military incursion into the territory of Lebanon, which led to the imposition of a blockade on the city of Beirut, the forced removal of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) from Lebanese soil, and the distressing occurrence known as the Sabra and Shatila Massacre.

### **THE TIME PERIOD FROM 1987 TO 1993**

The occurrence of the First Intifada and the Oslo Accords in 1987 represented a pivotal juncture in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The founding of the Unified Leadership of the Intifada resulted in the establishment of a significant entity that played a pivotal role in the coordination of Palestinian resistance endeavors.

Following this, the Madrid peace conference was convened in 1992, serving as a forum for diplomatic discussions among the parties involved in the war. The culmination of these events resulted in the formalization of the Oslo Accords in 1993, representing a significant milestone in the diplomatic relations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in 1994 was a direct outcome of these accords, which provided the Palestinians with a degree of self-governance that was restricted in nature. Nevertheless, during this particular timeframe, there was a continuation of Israeli settlement activity, which played a role in the division and separation of Palestinian territory.

From the turn of the millennium to the present day, two notable occurrences have transpired within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict:

This paper examines significant events in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including the Second Intifada and the Great March for Return. It explores the commencement of the Second Intifada in 2002, which led to the re-occupation of the Palestinian Territories that were previously under the control of the Palestinian Authority. Additionally, it discusses the Israeli blockade of Arafat in Ramallah, which

ultimately resulted in his demise in 2004. Furthermore, it highlights the United Nations' recognition of the State of Palestine as a non-member state in 2012. Lastly, it analyzes the occurrence of the Great March for Return in 2018. The ongoing and enduring process of appropriating militarily occupied Palestinian land for the use of Jewish Israeli settlers remains prevalent, representing a distinct violation of international law.

### **WHAT WERE THE MECHANISMS EMPLOYED BY ISRAEL TO ASSUME CONTROL OVER THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES?**

In the context of the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel used pre-emptive military measures against Egypt and Jordan, leading to the annexation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Sinai Peninsula. Beginning in 1979, Israel initiated a gradual process of transferring control of the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt, prompted by diplomatic endeavors aimed at achieving a state of peaceful coexistence. Nevertheless, it has persistently retained control over the remaining territories.

In the year 1980, the state of Israel implemented a formal annexation of East Jerusalem, while choosing not to extend this official recognition to the West Bank and Gaza. Nevertheless, the entity progressively implemented a comprehensive process of establishing settlements in both territories, a practice that is widely perceived as lacking legitimacy by the majority of the international community. Concurrently, it was formally asserted that the final determination of the status of both regions will be resolved through subsequent deliberations. In the year 2005, Israel implemented a contentious disengagement initiative, which led to the removal of Israeli settlements from the Gaza Strip. Nevertheless, it is important to highlight that Israel has experienced a substantial rise in its establishment of settlements within the West Bank.

Following the signing of the Oslo Accords in the mid-1990s, a brief period of optimism emerged, during which it was believed that specific regions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip had the capacity to merge and form an independent Palestinian state. However, the implementation of the agreements quickly deteriorated as a result of the emergence of political unrest in the area following the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by a right-wing Israeli extremist, coupled with the outbreak of the Second Intifada, which is also referred to as the uprising.

The agreement that followed the initial Oslo Accord resulted in the formation of the Palestinian Authority (PA), which is widely recognized by scholars as a quasi-governmental body operating within the Palestinian territory. The prevailing consensus is that the Palestinian jurisdiction (PA) enjoys a restricted scope of jurisdiction and primarily operates as a security subcontractor to Israel. The Palestinian Authority (PA), led by President Mahmoud Abbas, is officially tasked with governing a limited portion of the West Bank known as Area A, which constitutes approximately 18 percent of the territory. It is noteworthy to acknowledge that Israeli forces maintain the authority to enter the PA's jurisdiction at their own discretion. The Palestinian Authority (PA) currently holds administrative jurisdiction over an additional 22 percent of the region, commonly known as Area B. However, it is important to note that security control in this area is still maintained by the Israeli military. A considerable chunk of the West Bank, specifically 60% of its land known as Area C, is presently allocated for Israeli settlements and governed by



Israeli authorities. A consensus among several notable human rights organizations has been formed, asserting that the conditions endured by Palestinians living in the West Bank bear similarities to the notion of apartheid. Certain persons have made statements regarding the *de facto* annexation of the territory.

Initially, the Palestinian Authority assumed authority over both the West Bank and Gaza. Subsequent to the electoral events of 2006, the Palestinian Authority (PA) experienced a decline in its governance over the Gaza Strip. In the recent elections, the Islamist Hamas party achieved success, surpassing Fatah, the longstanding dominant political party that was led by Yasser Arafat and is presently headed by Abbas. In contrast to the secular political organization Fatah, which recognizes the existence of Israel, Hamas, founded in the Gaza Strip in 1987 during the First Intifada, declines to acknowledge what it terms the "Zionist entity."

The electoral triumph of Hamas in 2006 led to a state of crisis for the Palestinian Authority (PA) and eventually triggered a civil conflict between Fatah and Hamas. The culmination of internal conflict occurred in 2007, leading to a power struggle that finally resulted in Hamas gaining authority over the Gaza Strip. Israel, with the backing of Egypt, swiftly enforced a comprehensive blockade encompassing land, air, and sea, which has faced scrutiny from human rights organizations for its perceived imposition of "collective punishment." Over the course of sixteen years, Gaza has often been described as a "open-air prison." The United Nations (U.N.) asserts that Israel's control over the enclave endures, despite the disengagement in 2005, a claim that Israel disputes.

The Gaza Strip is home to a population exceeding 2.3 million persons, making it one of the most densely populated locations on a global scale. Israel and Egypt assert control over their own border crossings in order to manage the entry and exit of individuals, products, and humanitarian assistance within their territory. Israel retains authority over the energy distribution in the Gaza Strip and possesses the capability to exert discretion in its provision or termination. The implementation of the embargo has had a profound effect on the economic conditions in Gaza, leading to a notable deterioration in the overall standard of living experienced by its inhabitants. Currently, the Gaza region is marked by significant levels of poverty. Approximately 80% of the population in Gaza relies heavily on external aid to fulfill their fundamental survival needs. Moreover, even before the recent enforcement of a comprehensive blockade, a significant majority of the populace, around ninety-five percent, faced considerable challenges in accessing potable water. Roughly half of the population encounters inadequate access to sustenance. A considerable portion of the population encounters difficulties in obtaining sufficient healthcare treatments due to the widely recognized Israeli permit system, distinguished by stringent regulations.

The Palestinian Authority (PA) has abstained from organizing national elections since 2006 due to apprehensions expressed by President Abbas and his international allies, namely Israel and the United States, concerning the potential ramifications in the West Bank if Hamas were to achieve triumph once again.

#### **WHAT FACTORS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE HEIGHTENED TENSIONS AND CONFLICTS IN THE GAZA REGION?**

In contrast to Fatah, Hamas is largely motivated by its aim to engage in conflict with Israel, an attitude that has correspondingly escalated over time. Since the

*commencement of Israel's blockade in 2007, there have been four notable military campaigns conducted by Israel targeting the Gaza Strip, with the exception of the ongoing operation. Hamas routinely partakes in the act of launching rockets against Israel, hence eliciting a reciprocal response from Israel. Historical occurrences of conflict have led to a much greater number of casualties within the Palestinian people. In 2019, the International Criminal Court issued a public statement announcing the commencement of an investigation into alleged war crimes committed by Hamas and Israel.*

*The scale and intensity of the latest attack initiated by Hamas against Israel are unparalleled. At present, the tally of Israeli casualties has surpassed 1,000, predominantly comprising civilian persons. In response, the Israeli government undertook a series of retaliatory airstrikes, with a specific focus on targeting positions affiliated with Hamas, as indicated by Israeli authorities. As per statements made by Palestinian officials, it has been contended that these attacks have had an impact on civilian infrastructure. Currently, the prevailing estimation suggests that over 20,000 persons who can trace their ancestry to Palestine have perished. The projected rise in casualty numbers, specifically in the Gaza region, is a subject of apprehension.*

## **CONCLUSION**

*The official demarcation of Israel's boundaries remains unresolved, but the prevailing consensus among the international community recognizes the 1949 armistice lines that delineated Israel's separation from its Arab counterparts. The partition led to the establishment of the West Bank and Gaza as separate geopolitical entities, as well as the split of Jerusalem into eastern and western districts.*

*The locations indicated above are widely referred to as the "Palestinian territories" in popular discourse, even though Palestinians have not historically possessed full autonomy in governing these areas. The ongoing increase in violent incidents mostly centers on the Gaza Strip, a southern territory that has become the central focus of an Israeli military campaign.*

*The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is primarily centered on a territorial dispute, primarily focused on the question of lawful ownership of the territory encompassing the region between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, as well as the regulations controlling residency inside this area. The demarcation of territorial boundaries between the states of Israel and Palestine in this particular geographic area is a multifaceted issue that has experienced substantial changes throughout its historical trajectory. The response to this inquiry is reliant upon the viewpoint of the individual being consulted.*

**Note:** *A History of Palestine" is a pioneering publication that provides a comprehensive and intricate analysis of the historical development of this significant region. A comprehensive narration of contemporary Palestine necessitates a meticulous examination of both its remote and recent historical context. However, until far, there has been a lack of a comprehensive English publication that chronicles the historical occurrences, spanning from the Ottoman Empire to the mid-twentieth century, which have significantly influenced the formation of contemporary Palestine.*

*Commencing with the pre-biblical and biblical origins of Palestine, esteemed historian Gudrun Krämer undertakes an analysis of the interpretations attributed to the territory within the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim religious traditions. With a*

particular focus on social and economic aspects, the author analyzes the progressive evolution of Palestine, tracing its historical trajectory from the Egyptian occupation in the mid-nineteenth century, through the period of Ottoman reforms, and the British Mandate, culminating in the establishment of Israel in 1948. The book "A History of Palestine" examines the historical interactions between Arabs and Jews, exploring the impact of these linkages on the cultural and political development of both communities and the region of Palestine as a whole.



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