

Lesson IV: The Continuing Conflict and Steps Toward Peace (1967-Today)

Materials

Each student will need:

- 1) Copies of *A Timeline Chart of Major Events in Arab-Israeli Relations*
- 2) *An Overview of Key Events Since 1967* (if Option B is chosen for Topic 2)

The teacher will need:

- 3) Transparencies of:
 - a. *The 1967 War*
 - b. *Additional Consequences of the 1967 War*
- 4) The events from *An Overview of Key Events Since 1967* cut out to be posted around the classroom (if Option A is chosen for Topic 2)

Note

Please download the latest version of this lesson from www.icsresources.org/curricula. ICS frequently updates, revises, and strengthens its materials. The ICS website includes a variety of lesson plans, teacher's guides, maps, and primary source materials. Most maps and images are in color if accessed through the website. All materials may be downloaded and shared.

Sign up at www.icsresources.org/register to be notified of major updates, new materials, and events in your area. Please send questions, suggestions, and requests about ICS educational materials to bchaika@icsresources.org.

Goals

- 1) Students will be able to analyze the causes and consequences of the 1967 War.
- 2) Students will be able to identify major conflicts and peace efforts between Israel and its neighbors after 1967.

Instructional Design

Anticipatory Set: What is Peace?

- 1) Write the following quote by Dorothy Thompson on the board: "Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of creative alternatives for responding to conflict."
- 2) Ask students to put Thompson's quotation into their own words.
- 3) Ask students whether or not they agree with the quotation and why.



Topic 1: The Six Day War

- 1) Display *The Six Day War* and have a volunteer read the information.
- 2) Instruct students to examine the maps, then ask:
 - a. How did the 1967 War change political boundaries in the region? Responses should identify that Israel gained control of the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza from Egypt, the Golan Heights from Syria, and the West Bank including East Jerusalem from Jordan.
 - b. Why do some people consider Israel's preemptive strike illegal and some people consider it justified? Responses should mention that some people might feel that military force should be used only after a country is actually attacked, that Arab armies were poised to strike Israel on all its borders, and that Egypt had blockaded the Straits of Tiran and made repeated public threats to destroy Israel.
 - c. How large is the Sinai Peninsula compared to Israel before the war? Responses should identify Sinai as being much larger. Before the 1967 War, Israel was approximately 8,000 square miles. The Sinai Peninsula is approximately 23,500 square miles.
 - d. Why do you think Israel was willing to return this land to Egypt after the 1979 peace treaty? Responses, especially if *Lesson III* was used, should mention that peace requires compromise.
- 3) Display *Additional Consequences of the 1967 War*. Have a volunteer read the information.
- 4) Instruct students to examine the pie charts and ask:
 - a. Which country has the most Palestinians? Responses should identify Jordan.
 - b. What percentage of Palestinian Arabs lives in Israel? Responses should identify 12%.
 - c. Does this mean that 12% of Israelis are Palestinian Arabs? Why? Responses should indicate that this does not mean 12% of Israelis are Palestinian because the figure is measuring the percentage of Palestinians who live in Israel, not the percentage of Israelis who are Palestinian. If *Lesson IV* was used remind students that approximately 20% of Israel's population is Arab. If *Lesson IV* was not used, this fact may be introduced here. (*Optional – review the relationship between fractions and percentages with students; write [Arabs in Israel/Total number of Israelis] and [Palestinians in Israel/Total number of Palestinians] in order to demonstrate what the 12% figure measures. Point out that not all Arabs in Israel are Palestinian (e.g. Bedouin and Druze are non-Palestinian Arabs).*)

Topic 2: Key Events Since 1967

Option A

- 1) Before class, cut out each of the key events listed in *An Overview of Key Events Since 1967* and post them in different locations around the classroom. ICS recommends posting 2-3 event blurbs in the same location.
- 2) Distribute *A Timeline Chart of Major Events in Arab-Israeli Relations*.
- 3) Instruct students to fill in the third and fourth columns (“Brief Description” and “Outcomes”) by moving around the classroom and reading about the different events. Inform them that the first two rows have been completed for them as examples. To increase classroom order, the teacher may arrange the classroom so that each event (or group of 2-3 events) is at a different station. Assign students to one of the stations. Every few minutes, have the students rotate clockwise to the next station.

Option B

- 1) Instead of Steps 1-3 above, distribute *An Overview of Key Events Since 1967* and *A Timeline Chart of Major Events in Arab-Israeli Relations*. Instruct students to fill in the chart by reading the information in *Overview of Key Events Since 1967*. Inform them that the first two rows have been completed for them as examples. This activity may be done individually or in mixed-ability pairs.

Closure: Reflecting on Sources

- 1) Have students discuss the advantages and disadvantages of learning by creating outline charts from short blurbs. Students might mention that it allows them to cover a large amount of history in a small amount of class time, that it summarizes information to use as a reference, or that it does not give them in-depth information about the events and issues.
- 2) Have students identify ways they can learn more information. Students might mention internet search engines, encyclopedias, textbooks, the library, or asking family members.
- 3) Have students discuss the advantages and disadvantages of getting information from the internet. Students might mention that it is convenient, that it is easy to get a wide variety of opinions, that anyone can post anything on the internet, or that the information might be incomplete, biased, or inaccurate especially on topics where people have strong opinions.
- 4) Have students discuss the advantages and disadvantages of getting information from encyclopedias. Students might mention that encyclopedias are often dry or boring, get outdated quickly, that most encyclopedias try to make their entries neutral and based on facts, not opinions, or that encyclopedia entries are reviewed for accuracy. Mention that Wikipedia is a convenient reference, but that anyone can post to it and the content is not officially reviewed by professionals and should not be relied on exclusively.



- 5) (Optional) If *Lesson 1* was used, display the “What We Want to Know” transparency from the anticipatory set. Have students identify questions that they can now answer or begin to answer. Have students provide answers to those questions.



The 1967 War

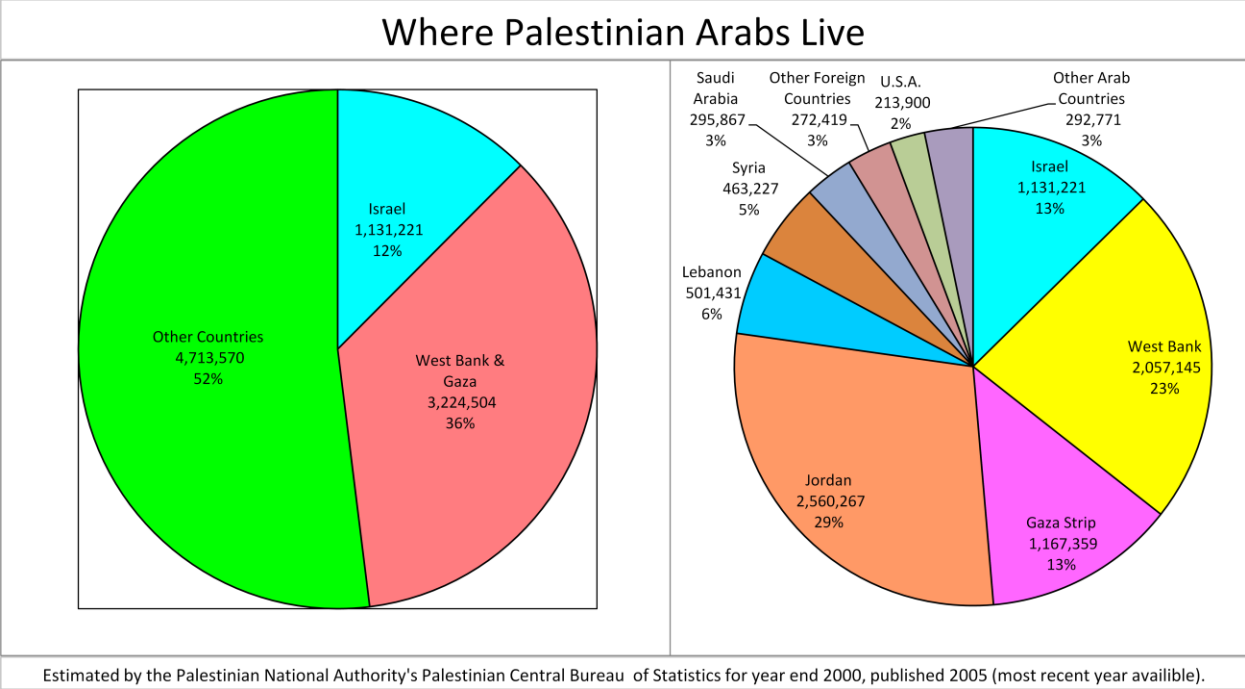
In May of 1967, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and Syria mobilized their armies on Israel's borders. Israel's major population centers were only a few miles away from these borders. Egypt also closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping and to any vessels carrying goods to Israel. Blockades are acts of war and in a statement to the United Nations General Assembly in 1957 Israel explicitly stated that it would consider a blockade of the straits a justification for war. Arab leaders made threatening comments such as Egyptian President Nasser's statement on May 27, "Our basic objective will be the destruction of Israel. The Arab people want to fight." After three weeks of fruitless diplomacy, Israel launched a preemptive strike against the various Arab armies amassed on its borders. Some people argue that this was an illegal action because Israel did not wait until it was attacked. Others argue it was justified for the reasons above. This war between Israel and Egypt, Syria, and Jordan is known as the "Six-Day War" because it only lasted six days. The result was that Israel captured the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, the Golan Heights from Syria, and the Gaza Strip and all of the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt. The entirety of the Sinai was returned to Egypt under the terms of the Camp David Peace Agreement between Israel and Egypt in 1979.

Boundary Changes After the 1967 War



Additional Consequences of the 1967 War

As a result of the 1967 War, more Arabs fled from lands captured by Israel. This added to the number of Palestinian Arab refugees. More Jews in Arab lands became refugees as well. After the Arab defeat in 1967, Palestinian Arabs came to believe that they could not count on their fellow Arabs to eliminate the Jewish state. The Palestine Liberation Organization, or PLO, which was founded in 1964, gained popularity and came under the leadership of Yasser Arafat. This group called for the destruction of Israel and used terrorism, attacking civilian targets in order to accomplish political objectives. Neighboring states were affected because they were used as bases from which the PLO launched its attacks. In 1993, the PLO formally recognized Israel's right to exist in peace and security and endorsed negotiation, rather than terrorism, as the solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. However, other militant Palestinian groups, such as Hamas, as well as some factions within the PLO, continued to reject Israel and carry out terrorist acts against Israeli civilians.



An Overview of Key Events Since 1967

Attrition Battles between Wars / The War of Attrition, 1967-1970

During the 1967 War, Israel gained land from Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. Israel maintained that Jerusalem would remain a unified city, with all religions having access to their holy sites. But Israel stated it was open to returning other territories in exchange for peace and recognition of its right to exist. Arab nations met in Khartoum, Sudan in 1967, and declared their unwillingness to make peace, recognize, or even negotiate with Israel. Egypt began small-scale attacks against Israeli positions which continued until Anwar Sadat came to power in 1970. During this same period, the PLO attacked Israeli military personnel and civilians from bases in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. It also carried out airplane hijackings and terrorist attacks outside of Israel. In 1970, after an attempt by the PLO to overthrow Jordan's King Hussein, the Jordanian army attacked PLO forces in what became known as "Black September." Fighting continued until June of 1971 when Jordan succeeded in evicting the PLO from the country. The PLO moved its base of operations to Lebanon.

Settlement Construction Begins

The Israeli government approved the building of settlements in the Sinai, Gaza and the West Bank. The term *settlements* refers to Israeli communities built on land that was captured in the 1967 War. The first settlements were intended to act as security outposts and to prevent attacks on major population centers. Settlements were also built on the sites of Jewish villages that had been destroyed by Arab forces during the 1948 War. Settlement construction was very limited for the first decade that Israel controlled the territories; in 1976, there were approximately 3,200 West Bank settlers. Over time, settlement constructions increased; there are now roughly 300,000 West Bank settlers. Those who criticize settlements say that they are built on land needed for a future Palestinian state, protecting settlements is a drain the Israeli military, and they make travel for Palestinians in the West Bank more difficult. The future of the settlements is one of the issues that the Israel and the Palestinian Authority must negotiate as part of a comprehensive peace agreement.

The October War or Yom Kippur War

In 1973, Egypt and Syria attacked Israel on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year. After initial Arab military successes, the Israelis managed to push back the attack. The United States convinced Israel to withdraw from the territories it had entered. For many Israelis, the 1973 war reinforced the strategic importance of the buffer zones gained in 1967. For example, Syrian troops were stopped ten miles from the Israeli town of Tiberias. Many Israelis felt that the heartland of Israel could have been overrun without the time it took for the invading forces to move through the West Bank, the Golan Heights, and the Sinai. After the war, Israel retained the territories captured in 1967, but did not keep additional land.

Egypt and Israel Sign a Peace Agreement

In 1979, as a result of intense diplomatic efforts by the United States the year before, Egypt became the first Arab country to recognize Israel and to enter into a peace treaty with it. Egypt's President, Anwar Sadat, realized that a continuing state of war with Israel was harming the Egyptian economy and the well-being of his people. For its part, Israel returned to Egypt all of the Sinai that had been captured during the 1967 war and removed Jewish families from the homes they had established there. This agreement became a model for Israel's "land for peace" policy.

The 1982 Lebanon War

In 1982, PLO units in southern Lebanon increasingly attacked communities in northern Israel. In response, Israel launched an attack on PLO militants stationed in Lebanon. This conflict is known as the 1982 Lebanon War or the First Lebanon War. Israeli troops advanced as far as Beirut and succeeded in expelling the PLO leadership from Lebanon to Tunisia. This costly struggle drew Israel into the increasingly complicated Lebanese civil war and generated domestic and international opposition to its involvement in Lebanon. Israel withdrew from most of Lebanon in June 1985. Until 2000, it maintained a military presence in a section of southern Lebanon that served as a buffer zone and prevented widespread terrorist incursions into Israel from the north. Renewed terrorist attacks from southern Lebanon led to the Second Lebanon War in 2006.

The First Intifada

In 1987, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank engaged in an uprising, or *intifada*, against Israeli control of these territories. Palestinians attacked Israelis with improvised weapons and firearms supplied by the PLO, which organized much of the uprising. Suicide attacks against civilians in Israel began at this time. Israel used military force to contain the violence. The Israeli army, trained to fight regular armies, was not well prepared to respond to these kinds of attacks. Palestinian lives lost during military countermeasures led some to feel that the Israeli response was too harsh, while continued attacks against Israelis led others to feel that the response was too lax. In addition to conflicts with Israeli troops, an approximately equal number of Palestinians were killed in Palestinian in-fighting. This conflict continued until the Oslo Accords were signed in 1993.

The Oslo Accords

The Oslo Accords were a set of agreements that began in 1993 when Israel and the PLO signed a Declaration of Principles (DOP). The Oslo Accords led to the creation of the Palestinian Authority, which had responsibility for administering the territory under its control. It also called on Israel to gradually withdraw its military presence from the Gaza Strip and a small area around Jericho. It left Israel the right to defend itself and its citizens, including those in the territories. Along with the DOP, Israel and the PLO exchanged Letters of Mutual Recognition. For the first time, the PLO formally recognized Israel, renounced violence, and publicly expressed acceptance of peaceful coexistence with Israel. Also, for the first time, Israel formally recognized the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people. The Oslo Accords were intended to be an interim agreement that would lead to a permanent settlement with Israel giving up land in return for peace and security. Both Israelis and Palestinians accuse the other of not fulfilling their obligations.

Israel and Jordan Sign a Peace Agreement

As with the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, the United States led a difficult but successful diplomatic process to help Jordan and Israel achieve peace. In 1994, Jordan became the second Arab country to recognize Israel. Trade, business relations, tourism, cultural exchanges, and scientific cooperation between the two nations have increased since the agreement was signed, but at a slower pace than hoped for initially.

The Camp David Summit

American President Bill Clinton brought Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to Camp David in July 2000. It was the first major attempt to negotiate a comprehensive final status agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. Although the negotiations were carried out in secret, participants President Clinton and US Middle East envoy Dennis Ross attributed the failure of the talks to Arafat's refusal to compromise. They reported that Barak made major concessions, including withdrawing from the vast majority of the West Bank to create an independent Palestinian state with a capital in East Jerusalem. However, Arafat did not feel the offer was enough and refused it. He made no counter-proposals. The goal of the summit, two states living side by side in peace, was not achieved and further conflict ensued.

The Second Intifada

In September 2000, Israeli General Ariel Sharon visited the Jewish Temple Mount, a site revered by Jews that is also of major importance to Muslims. There was widespread frustration at the lack of progress in the peace process. Many Palestinians claimed that Sharon's visit was provocative and began to riot. Many Israelis claimed that Sharon's visit was a pretext for violence, not its cause. This visit began the Second Intifada, known to Palestinians as the Al-Aqsa Intifada, named for the Al-Aqsa Mosque which is on the Temple Mount. The conflict caused great bloodshed and suffering on both sides. Israelis were terrorized by numerous suicide bombers who targeted and killed hundreds of civilians. In response, Israel's military returned to major population centers in the territories and carried out operations against terrorist targets. Since terrorists operate among the civilian population, Palestinian civilians were also unintentional victims of the intifada. The result of the failed peace process has been a prolonged condition of misery for both peoples. There is no definitive event marking the end of the Second Intifada. Many people suggest late 2004 or early 2005. Others argue it never stopped.

Israel Begins Constructing the West Bank Barrier

In 2002, Israel decided to build a security barrier that would separate its citizens from terrorist groups in the West Bank. The new fence was similar to the security fence Israel built in 1996 that separated the Gaza Strip from Israel. Both fences have been effective in dramatically reducing the number of suicide bombings in Israel coming from the Gaza Strip and West Bank. However, the barrier – which is for the most part a fence, but is a wall in areas near urban centers - has been criticized for dividing some Palestinians from their land and places of work or study and requiring these individuals to wait to pass through security checkpoints. Other people argue that the barrier is temporary and can be removed in the context of true peace, but that lives lost to terrorism cannot be brought back.

The Arab Peace Initiative Is Proposed

In March 2002, during the Beirut Summit of the Arab League, crown prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia (the current king of that country) proposed a peace initiative that was endorsed by all members of the Arab League. The proposal offered Israel peace in return for Israeli withdrawal from all territories captured in the 1967 War, recognition of an independent Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and a “just solution” for Palestinian refugees. The Arab League endorsed the proposal again at the Riyadh Summit in 2007. The proposal is viewed by some as a major breakthrough because previously most Arab nations had ruled out peace, recognition, and even negotiations with Israel. Israel has welcomed the proposal, but does not accept all of its demands. Israel especially rejects the demand that it withdraw to the pre-1967 borders as a precondition to negotiations. In July 2007, Israeli leaders met with representatives of the Arab League to discuss the proposal. This was the first time that the Arab League sent an official delegation to Israel.

The Roadmap for Peace Is Proposed

The Roadmap for Peace, known as the Roadmap, is a plan for peace that was proposed in 2003 by the “Quartet” the United States, Russia, the European Union, and the United Nations. It involves reciprocal steps by the Israelis and Palestinians with the ultimate goal of an independent Palestinian state and a secure Israel. The Roadmap is divided into three phases, but has never progressed past the first. Progress on the Roadmap was completely halted following the Palestinian election of Hamas in 2006. Hamas is a terrorist organization committed to destroying Israel. Negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority became possible again when the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, dissolved the government controlled by Hamas. On November 27, 2007, the basic principles of the Roadmap were reaffirmed at the Annapolis Conference. There has yet to be significant progress as a result of the Roadmap or the Annapolis Conference.

Disengagement From Gaza

In 2005, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon moved ahead with the policy of “Disengagement,” or the physical separation of Israel from Palestinian territories. In addition to continuing the construction of the West Bank Barrier, he determined that Israel should withdraw from the Gaza Strip. This was very controversial in Israel because the Israeli citizens who lived there did not want to leave. A very vocal minority of Israelis in Israel and most Israelis in the West Bank demonstrated in support of the Israelis who lived in Gaza. Nevertheless, Israel decided to remove itself from this territory so that the Palestinians living there could govern themselves. The plan has been criticized because it was not done as part of negotiations with the Palestinians and did not require the removal of all West Bank settlements (four were dismantled). Since Israel withdrew from Gaza, the number of rockets fired by terrorists from Gaza into Israel has increased dramatically.

Hamas is Elected

In January 2006, Palestinians elected a majority of Hamas members to the Palestinian Authority’s legislature over the PLO’s Fatah party that had previously been in power. People have speculated that Hamas won the elections because many Palestinians saw the previous government as corrupt. In its charter, Hamas calls for the destruction of Israel and for the killing of Jews. It does not accept previous Palestinian-Israeli agreements. The group has claimed responsibility for hundreds of terrorist attacks. As a result of the election, many Western nations imposed sanctions and suspended aid to the Palestinian Authority. However, they also declared that these sanctions would be lifted once Hamas recognized Israel’s right to exist, forswore violence, and accepted previous Palestinian-Israeli agreements.

The 2006 Lebanon War

Hezbollah is a radical Islamist organization committed to destroying Israel. It is based in Lebanon and is believed to be heavily supported by Iran and Syria. On July 11, 2006, it crossed the Lebanon-Israel border and attacked an Israeli army unit, killing eight soldiers and kidnapping two more who were later murdered. At the same time, it began launching rockets into Israeli cities and towns. In response, Israel launched air strikes on suspected Hezbollah military targets, particularly rocket launchers, and mounted a ground offensive. This conflict is known as the 2006 Lebanon War or the Second Lebanon War. Hezbollah used a human shield strategy by imbedding its fighters and rocket launchers in civilian neighborhoods and homes. This resulted in the loss of civilian lives as well as property damage when Israel retaliated. Israel also damaged Lebanon's transportation infrastructure in an attempt to prevent Hezbollah from resupplying and redeploying. Hostilities officially ended with UN Cease Fire Resolution 1701 passed on August 11, 2006.

The Battle of Gaza

There had been great tension and occasional conflict between Hamas and the PLO Fatah since Hamas won the Palestinian election in January of 2006. In June 2007, Hamas militants attacked Fatah members throughout Gaza. In response, the Palestinian Authority president, Mahmoud Abbas, dissolved the Hamas government. Today, there are in effect two Palestinian governments: Hamas controls Gaza and the Palestinian Authority controls the West Bank. Western sanctions to the Palestinian Authority were lifted after the Hamas government was dissolved.

The Gaza War

Between December 27, 2008 and January 18, 2009, Israel attacked Hamas targets in Gaza in an attempt to stop rocket attacks on southern Israel and to disrupt terrorist infrastructure and weapons smuggling. Hundreds of militants were killed. But because Hamas was based in and launched attacks from urban areas, there were also much civilian casualties and Gaza's buildings and economy were heavily damaged.

Gaza Flotilla Incident

After Hamas seized control from the Palestinian Authority, Israel and Egypt began a blockade of Gaza. They required all goods to be inspected before entering Gaza to prevent Hamas from smuggling in weapons. Some groups argue the blockade is collective punishment and is illegal. A UN investigative committee has ruled it is legal. In May 2010, six ships set sail to break the blockade. Israel informed the ships that they could not sail into Gaza, but they could dock at the Israeli port of Ashdod where their cargo would be inspected and permitted goods would be shipped into Gaza. The ships refused. Israeli commandos boarded the ships. On one ship, the *Mavi Marmara*, the commandos were attacked with iron bars and knives. During the ensuing struggle, 9 Turkish activists were killed. Israel gained control of the ship and directed it to Ashdod along with the other 5 ships, which were taken there without incident. The cargo was subsequently inspected and permitted goods were shipped into Gaza. Turkey has demanded an apology from Israel. Israel states that its actions were justified and instead expressed regret at the loss of life. This has led to a severe deterioration in the relationship between Israel and Turkey, which had been allies.

The Arab Spring

Before 2011, no Arab state had a democratic government. Beginning in Tunisia on December 18, 2010, citizens in Arab states began to protest against autocratic and oppressive governments. This is known as the Arab Spring. Protests spread from Tunisia across the Arab world. The Tunisian president left the country on January 14, 2011. The Egyptian President resigned on February 11. Protests have also occurred in Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Syria, Yemen and other countries. The long-term impact of the ongoing changes in Arab nations on the Arab-Israeli conflict and peace process is not yet clear.

A Timeline Chart of Major Events in Arab-Israeli Relations

Fill in the second and third column. The first two rows have been completed as examples.

Event	Date	Brief Description	Outcome
1948 War	1948	Israel declared independence. Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, & Iraq attacked Israel.	Israel gained land. Egypt gained the Gaza Strip and Jordan gained the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and Jews became refugees.
Six Day War or The 1967 War	1967	Egypt blockaded Israel. Egypt, Jordan, Syria & Iraq moved troops to Israel's borders and made threatening statements. Israel launched a preemptive strike.	Israel captured the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, the Golan Heights from Syria, and the Gaza Strip and all of the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt. More Palestinians and Jews became refugees. Terrorism became more common.
Attrition Battles	1967-1970		
Settlement Construction Begins	1967		
The October War or Yom Kippur War	1973		
Egypt and Israel Sign a Peace Agreement	1979		

The 1982 Lebanon War	1982		
The First Intifada	1987-1993		
The Oslo Accords	1993		
Israel and Jordan sign a Peace Treaty	1994		
The Camp David Summit	2000		
The Second Intifada	2000-ongoing		
Israel Begins Constructing the West Bank Barrier	2002 – ongoing		
Arab Peace Initiative Is Proposed	2002		

The Roadmap for Peace Is Proposed	2003		
Israel Disengages from Gaza	2005		
Hamas Is Elected	2006		
The 2006 Lebanon War	2006		
The Battle of Gaza	2007		
The Gaza War	2008-2009		
Gaza Flotilla Incident	2010		
The Arab Spring	2011		