

# ISRAEL-PALESTINE

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FOR CRITICAL THINKERS

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## LESSON 3: WAR AND PEACE

STUDENT'S NAME:

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# LESSON 3: WAR AND PEACE

Watch videos 9-12 of Israel-Palestine for Critical Thinkers (23:03 min) on YouTube and complete the handout's readings and exercises. A transcript of the videos is included below.

## VIDEO TRANSCRIPTS: LESSON 3 (VIDEOS 9-12, 23:03 MIN.)

### VIDEO 9: INDEPENDENCE OR NAKBA



**00:00** After the British government announced that Britain was handing off its obligations as mandatory to the newly formed United Nations, the UN sent a committee to Palestine. The committee's recommendations became UN Resolution 181 also known as the **Partition Plan**.

**00:17** According to the plan the remaining territory of the Mandate

for Palestine was to be divided into a Jewish state and another Arab state.

**00:27** The Jewish leaders were divided over resolution 181 but they voted to accept it.

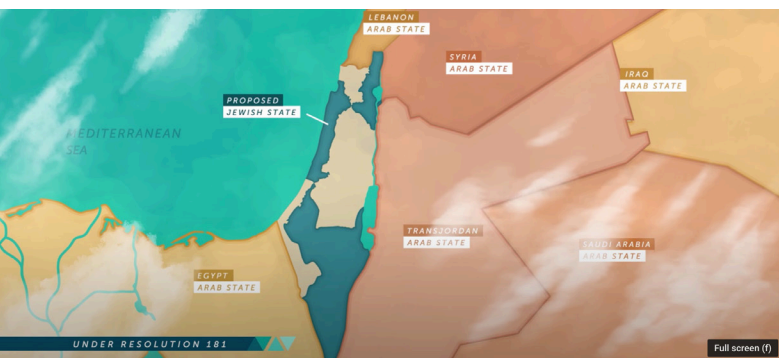
**00:32** Arab leaders rejected the plan declaring that they would defeat the Jews in battle and establish an Arab state in all of Palestine.

**00:41** After the UN vote on November 29, 1947 to partition Palestine, a civil war broke out between Arab and Jewish militias.

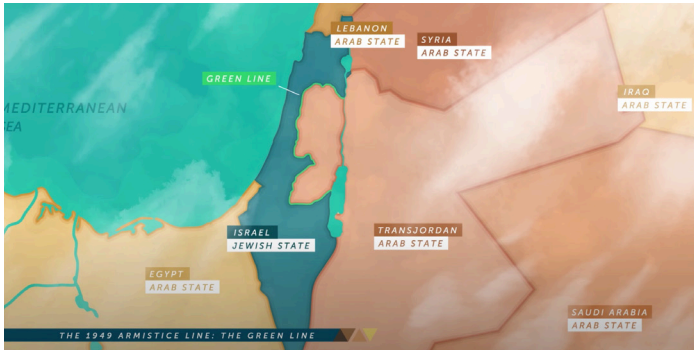
**00:49** Arab forces fought to liberate all of Palestine from the Jews and Jewish forces fought to secure the territory allotted to them under the partition plan. A full-scale war was on the horizon.

**01:13** On May 14th 1948, the British completed the withdrawal of their Armed Forces from Palestine and Israel declared its independence.

**01:23** The next day Arab armies from the states of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt attacked Israel.



Screen shot from Ep.9  
Map Res 181



Screen shot from Ep.9  
1948 Armistice Line

**01:29** In contradiction to their leaders' public statements about Arab unity and defending Palestinian Arabs, Jordan and Egypt pursued their own territorial ambitions.

**01:39** As a result Jewish militias fought back and captured territory promised to them under the Mandate for Palestine and the UN Partition Plan but by the end of the 1948 war, the territory held by Israel and the Arabs was not consistent with the UN's plan.

**01:58** In early 1949, Israel and the Arab rulers signed an armistice agreement.

**02:04** The 1949 Armistice Line, also called the Green Line, has become one of the most significant dividing lines in the history of the Middle East.

**02:11** It divides Palestine into Israel and the territory now called the West Bank. Which is the name given to the area by the Jordanians who captured it in 1948.

**02:22** To understand much of what's behind the failures to achieve peace one has only to look at how each side frames the 1948 war.

**02:35** For the State of Israel, 1948 is commemorated as a war of independence for the Jewish people after 2,000 years of displacement dispersion and persecution.

**02:46** For Arabs, the 1948 war is *al nakba*, Arabic for the 'catastrophe'. It represents, the defeat of the Arab armies, the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs, and the cause of the Palestinian refugee problem.

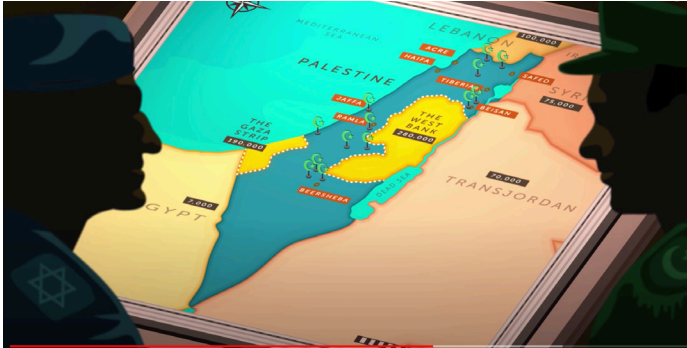
**02:58** Who bears responsibility for the Palestinian refugees has become one of the most hotly debated topics in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

**03:11** According to the UN roughly 700,000 Palestinian Arabs who lived in Israel before 1948 fled beyond the 1949 Armistice Line during the fighting and became refugees.

**03:22** Arab leaders hold Israel fully responsible. They argue that Israel had a plan to drive Palestinian Arabs from their towns and villages in order to reduce the number of Arabs that would remain in the territory that was to become the Jewish state after the war.

Screen shot from Ep.9  
Jewish Refugees 1948





Screen shot from Ep.9  
Palestinian Refugees 1948 (2)

**03:38** And the Arab leaders demand that Israel grant the refugees their right to return to their homes.

**03:42** Israel holds that the Palestinian refugee problem was a result of the war started by the Arabs after their leaders rejected the UN Partition Plan. And Israel believes that the Arabs should take responsibility for the Palestinian refugees living in their countries

**03:58** Israel argues that the 1948 War brought about a Jewish refugee problem when over 800,000 Jews were driven out of Arab countries after the Arab armies were defeated.

**04:12** Israel absorbed most of those Jewish refugees and says that the Arab states should do the same for the Palestinian refugees.

**04:18** Last, Israel holds that only those Palestinians who fled in 1948 should be considered refugees.

**04:24** Currently the UN Relief and Works Agency, UNRWA, the organization that provides relief for the Palestinian refugees, considers all descendants of male Palestinians who fled in 1948 eligible for refugee status

**04:41** UNRWA's definition does not apply to any other refugee population. It is a definition that has resulted in over five million people qualifying for Palestinian refugee status under UNRWA, when in fact the number of actual refugees from 1948, is by now almost 70 years later, less than the 700,000 it was originally.

**05:02** Israel believes that a person should not be considered a refugee from a country that he or she has never lived in and that most of the UNRWA refugees should be considered citizens of the states that they were born in and/or reside in.

**05:17** Israel viewed 1948 as the War of Independence but the Arabs viewed 1948 as the war of catastrophe and sought to avenge their defeat

**05:27** It's no surprise then that the 1948 war was not the end of the hostilities between the Arab States and the newly formed State of Israel.



Screen shot from Ep.9  
Palestinian Refugees Under UNRWA

## VIDEO 10: AGGRESSION AND SELF-PRESERVATION



**00:00** Tensions between Israel and the Arab states were on the rise again in the early years of the 1960s.

**00:08** Disputes over rights to the region's freshwater sources, a growing number of **fedayeen** raids into Israel, and inter-Arab rivalries were among the main reasons.

**00:26** In 1963, Israel began planning to build a pipeline to channel water from the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee to other parts of Israel including the Negev desert.

**00:36** The Arab states accused Israel of plotting to take more than its allotted share of water, and they feared too, that an irrigated desert would support millions more Jewish immigrants to Israel.

**00:47** The Syrians attempted to use those fears to boost their status as leaders of the Arab world.

**00:54** Not to be outmaneuvered, President Nasser of Egypt, called for an Arab summit meeting stating that, "Palestine supersedes all differences of opinion."

**01:06** At the 1964 Cairo summit the Arab League voted to divert from Israel, the headwaters of the Jordan River which are located in Syria and Lebanon, and thus to cut off Israel's main source of water.

**01:17** Syria embarked on the construction of this diversionary effort and Israel responded by bombing the earth moving equipment.

**01:26** Syria retaliated by increasing Syrian sponsored Palestinian fedayeen attacks on Israeli civilians.

**01:30** By sponsoring these attacks, Syria also aimed to boost its credentials for leading the Pan-Arab movement.

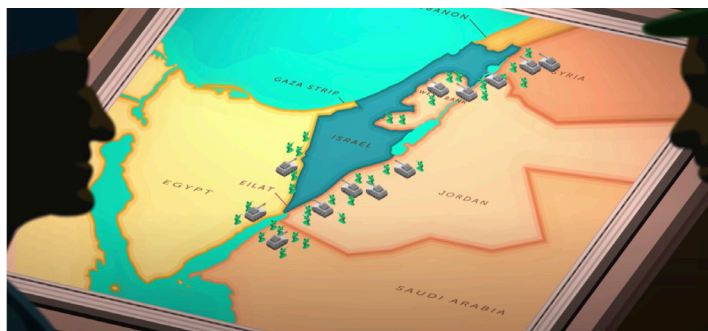
**01:37** One of the Palestinian fedayeen groups was **Fatah**. Fatah was founded by Yasser Arafat in 1958 with the aim of liberating Palestine by destroying Israel.

**01:50** Arafat's strategy was to provoke an Israeli retaliation against the Arab states that were sponsoring the fedayeen raids and ultimately to start another regional war. The strategy was successful.

**2:10** Nasser moved two divisions of his Armed Forces into the Sinai Peninsula close to Israel.

**02:15** The following week he announced a naval blockade of the Israeli port city of Eilat. Then on Egypt's directive, the governments of Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia began amassing hundreds of thousands of troops and thousands of tanks along Israel's borders.

Screen shot from Ep.10  
Prelude to 1967 War

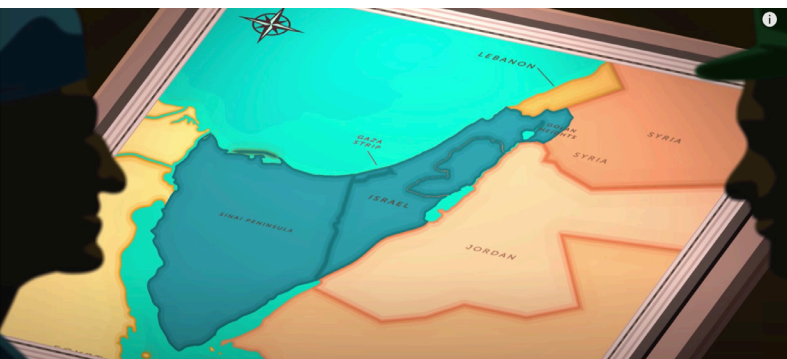




Screen shot from Ep.10  
Nasser



Screen shot from Ep.10  
Territory Held Prior to 1967



Screen shot from Ep.10  
Territory Captured by Israel  
in 1967

**02:33** Israel found itself surrounded by enemy states calling for war and promising to annihilate it as retribution for 1948.

**02:40** In a speech of May 26, 1967, Nasser said, “Egypt will, thanks to this war, at long last wipe Israel off the face of the earth.”

**02:50** When the international community took a wait-and-see approach, Israel decided that it needed to act.

**02:57** On June 5th, 1967 Israel launched a pre-emptive strike against Egypt that destroyed almost all of the Egyptian air force, and led to an Israeli victory in six days.

**03:12** The Arabs refer to the 1967 war as the ‘Aggression of June the fifth’. In their eyes Israel started the war with an unprovoked act of aggression.

**03:24** The international community did not agree with the Arab perspective.

**03:29** The 1967 war resulted in Israel capturing the West Bank from Jordan, which included the Old City of Jerusalem. The Temple Mount is located in the old city and the reclaiming of this site, the holiest site in Judaism, was deeply significant for Israelis and for the Jewish people.

**03:47** The site is also very significant for Arabs. The Temple Mount, known as *Haram al-sharif* in Arabic, is the third holiest site for most Arab Muslims.

**03:58** Israel also captured the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, and the Golan Heights from Syria.

**04:04** Israel offered to return the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights in exchange for peace, but Arab leaders meeting in **Khartoum** just after the war, passed a joint resolution that



Screen shot from Ep.10  
Settlements Animated

became known as the three nos. No peace, no recognition, and no negotiation with Israel.

**04:22** After the 1967 War, Israel also began establishing a small number of communities, or settlements, in the West Bank. Settlements are our next **hot topic**.

**04:38** Originally Israeli settlements were established for security purposes and to rebuild the Jewish communities that were destroyed by Arab forces in 1948.

**04:48** But within Israel, a group known as the **settler movement**, opposed the government's policy of limiting Jewish settlement. They wanted Jewish communities to be built throughout the West Bank which they refer to by its biblical name Judea and Samaria. The settler movement has exerted political pressure on the Israeli government since 1967.

**05:07** Pressure has also been exerted by Arab leaders who have viewed the construction of Israeli settlements as illegal and have insisted that Israel remove them and withdraw from all the territory captured in 1967.

**05:21** The United Nations addressed Israel's capture the territories in 1967 by passing one of its most famous resolutions. Resolution 242, 'the occupation resolution', has been at the center of peace initiatives since it was passed.

Screen shot from Ep.10  
Settler Movement



## VIDEO 11: OWNERS OR OCCUPIERS



**00:00** After June 1967, over 600,000 Arabs living in the West Bank were brought under Israeli military authority.

**00:08** In response the United Nations passed Resolution 242, which labeled the Israeli presence in the recently captured territories an **occupation**.

**00:27** Resolution 242 called on Israel to return territory that it acquired in the 1967 War in exchange for Arab recognition of Israel's right to secure borders and to a peaceful existence.

**00:39** After the Arab states rejected Israel's offer to return the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights in exchange for peace, Israel took the position that it could not realistically return all the territory it had captured in 1967 and still be able to defend itself against hostile neighbors whose aim was to destroy it.

**00:59** According to the pre-1967 lines Israel was a strip of territory between the West Bank and the Mediterranean Sea that was nowhere more than 80 miles across and only nine miles wide at its narrowest point

**01:13** Holding on to the territory of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip addressed important security concerns for Israel, but it created other problems.

**01:21** Hundreds of thousands of Arab inhabitants who didn't want to be governed by Israel now found themselves under Israeli military administration.

**01:27** Resolution 242 attempted to solve the challenges created by the 1967 war. To this day the resolution is a cornerstone of the international community's diplomatic efforts in the Middle East.

**01:44** Israel, Egypt and Jordan accepted resolution 242 but their interpretations of it are different. Those different interpretations are our next **hot topic**.

**01:55** Israel has taken Resolution 242 to mean that they did not have to withdraw from *all* the territories captured in the 1967 War.

**02:03** And Israel maintained that withdrawal would only take place after a direct negotiation process between itself and the Arab states to determine quote, "secure and recognized boundaries in a signed peace treaty".

**02:19** In other words, any settlement would have to involve official Arab recognition of the State of Israel. Such recognition has been a key



Screen shot from Ep.11  
Res 242 and Map Israel's width





Screen shot from Ep.11  
Positions on Res 242

requirement by Israel in every peace initiative to date.

**02:30** The Arabs took Resolution 242 to mean that Israel had first to withdraw from all the territories captured in 1967 before negotiations could begin.

**02:40** Many Arab leaders supported by members of the international community blame Israel's refusal to withdraw from all the territories for the fact that there is no peace in the region today.

**02:50** Israeli leaders disagree and point out that before the 1967 War, the Sinai, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem were all in Arab possession yet there was still no peace between them and the Arab states.

**03:06** Israel's control of territories captured in 1967 is not the only

source of conflict in the region but it is a factor in Arab-Israeli relations.

**03:20** Some jurors argue that the Jewish people received perspective rights to self-determination and title to the land now called the West Bank under the Mandate for Palestine.

**03:31** They claim that under the mandate system the Arab people received their rights to self-determination and title in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan and they point out that Article 80 of the United Nations Charter obligates the UN to uphold the decisions made in this regard by its predecessor organization the League of Nations.

**03:52** They also point out that no other state was sovereign over the territory when Israel captured it in 1967 from Jordan who captured it in 1948.

**04:01** Other jurists maintain that the Palestinian Arabs are entitled to

Jurists on Jewish  
Sovereignty



the right to self-determination in their own state just as other Arabs received in the region.

**04:10** These jurists argue that the Jewish leaders' acceptance of the UN Partition Plan in 1947 means that Israel relinquished its rights to the West Bank and that the territory is illegally occupied by them.

**04:24** The key question is whether Israel has sovereign title over the West Bank according to international law.

**04:30** On this question jurists disagree, but for the Arab states in 1967 there was no question. As far as they were concerned the Mandate for Palestine and Israel's existence in general were and always had been illegitimate, and no Arab state should recognize or make peace with a Jewish state or negotiate with its leaders. That however was about to change.

## VIDEO 12: WAR AND PEACE



**00:00** When Egypt and Jordan accepted Resolution 242, their acceptance implied a recognition of Israel and this caused young Palestinians to turn to Yasser Arafat and his Fatah group for leadership.

**00:13** In their continuing efforts to liberate Palestine, Palestinians lost their hope that Pan-Arab unity movements such as Nasserism would further their interests.

**00:25** When Anwar Sadat succeeded Nasser as president of Egypt, the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict took on a new dimension.

**00:42** Sadat wanted to recover the Egyptian territories that Resolution 242 had deemed to be occupied by Israel in the wake of the 1967 War.

**00:52** Sadat allied himself with Syrian President Assad with the aim of forcibly retrieving from Israel the Sinai Peninsula for Egypt, and the Golan Heights for Syria. A fourth Arab-Israeli war was brewing.



Screen shot from Ep.12  
Arafat and Fatah



Screen shot from Ep.12  
1973 War

**01:09** On Saturday October 6th 1973, while Israel was engaged in the holy day services of Yom Kippur and the Jewish Sabbath, Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack.

**01:21** The first days of the war saw significant Arab victories and advances but the conflict then turned in Israel's favor.

**01:28** Although Israel won this war, the early setbacks shook the country's sense of military invincibility.

**01:34** On the Arab side the '73 war brought changes in their leader's strategy for defeating Israel. Several oil-producing Arab states put in place an oil embargo against countries that had supported Israel in the 1973 war.

**01:49** They aimed to compel the international community to apply United Nations Resolution 242 and force Israel to withdraw to the pre-1967 line.

**01:58** In addition to the oil embargo, Arab leaders voted in 1974 to officially recognize for the first time the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

**02:12** After the 1967 War, Fatah and its leader Yasser Arafat, rose to prominence and took control of the Palestinian resistance movement, the PLO.

**02:23** In 1968, the PLO charter was revised to reflect the central role of armed resistance in Fatah strategies.

**02:31** In the years that followed, the PLO gained political recognition.

**02:35** With Palestinian identity and nationalism on the rise, a month after the Arab states officially recognized the PLO, the United Nations likewise recognized the organization as the representative of the Palestinian people. Until then the international community had considered the PLO a terrorist organization. The PLO with support from certain Arab leaders, became the standard bearers for Palestinians who wanted to seize Palestine from Israel by force.

Screen shot from Ep.12  
News Headline Egypt  
and Israel Peace



THE LEFT  
IN ISRAEL

THE LEFT HAS SUPPORTED  
GIVING UP MOST OF  
THE SETTLEMENTS TO  
ACCOMMODATE PALESTINIAN  
ASPIRATIONS TO STATEHOOD

THE RIGHT  
IN ISRAEL

THE RIGHT HAS SUPPORTED  
THE BUILDING OF ISRAELI  
SETTLEMENTS THROUGHOUT  
THE WEST BANK

Screen shot from Ep.12  
Israeli Right and Left

**03:02** Meanwhile other Arab leaders were forging a radically different path. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's unexpected and historic visit to Jerusalem in 1977 struck a rare positive note in Arab-Israeli relations.

**03:23** In 1978, meetings took place between Sadat, American President Jimmy Carter, and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin at Camp David in the United States

**03:32** The agreements concluded there, eventually resulted in the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt in March 1979.

**03:40** In return for the termination of hostilities, Israel agreed to withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula. This marked the beginning of the **land for peace strategy**

**03:49** Egypt and Israel signed a peace agreement on March 26, 1979.

**03:51** The Arab League condemned the Camp David agreements and the resulting peace treaty and voted to expel Egypt from the organization.

**04:01** They considered Sadat's actions a betrayal of the joint strategy that the Arab states had earlier agreed upon at Khartoum, no peace, no negotiation, no recognition.

**04:13** In October of 1981, the Muslim Brotherhood, who publicly opposed a peace treaty with Israel, assassinated Sadat. But Sadat's actions set a precedent for peaceful negotiations with Israel. That did not sit well with the PLO

**04:28** The policy of Fatah, the dominant faction of the PLO was too establish by force a Palestinian state in all of Palestine. For the PLO, all of Palestine meant all the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. Including the State of Israel.

**04:42** And within Israel there have been heated debates about what the policy should be regarding the area now called the West Bank.

**04:53** The right has supported the building of Israeli settlements throughout the West Bank. The left has supported giving up most of the settlements to accommodate Palestinian aspirations to statehood.

**05:04** These two competing policies would remain front and center in the years of accord and discord to come.

# LESSON 3: QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

Using the videos, the video transcripts and the supplementary readings complete the following.

## T OR F

- Arab leaders accepted Resolution 181 and agreed to partition Palestine into an Arab State and a Jewish State.  T  F
- After the 1967 War Israel refused to return the territory it captured.  T  F
- The international community agreed that Israel's preemptive strike in 1967 was an act of aggression.  T  F
- Egypt became the first Arab country to make peace with Israel when the two countries signed a peace agreement in 1979.  T  F
- The West Bank is the name the Jordanians gave to the area after they captured it in the 1948 War.  T  F

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

- 1.) For the \_\_\_\_\_ the 1948 war is commemorated as a War of Independence
  - a. Arab states
  - b. State of Israel
  - c. Arab and Jewish people
  - d. All of the above
- 2.) The 1948 War resulted in a refugee problem for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Palestinian Arabs.
  - b. Jews living in Arab countries.
  - c. a and b
  - d. neither a or b
- 3.) Which of the following precipitated the 1967 War.
  - a. President Nasser of Egypt moved two divisions of his Armed Forces into the Sinai Peninsula close to Israel.
  - b. Egypt announced a naval blockade of the Israeli port city of Eilat.
  - c. The governments of Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia began amassing hundreds of thousands of troops and thousands of tanks along Israel's borders
  - d. All of the above.

- 4.) The 1967 War resulted in Israel capturing \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. The Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt.
  - b. The Golan Heights from Syria.
  - c. The West Bank from Jordan
  - d. All of the above
- 5.) Which of the following was not a provision in United Nations Resolution 242?
  - a. Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories captured in 1967.
  - b. Acknowledgement of the right of every State in the area to be free from threat or acts of force.
  - c. The establishment of an Arab State and a Jewish State in Palestine
  - d. Achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem

SHORT ANSWER

- 1.) What was the Khartoum Resolution?

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- 2.) What is Fatah?

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- 3.) How did the events that followed the Six-Day War affect the political status of West Bank Arabs?

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**DEBATE AND/OR DISCUSS**

Complete the charts below then discuss and/or debate the issues.

- 1. Who is responsible for Arabs being displaced from and/or fleeing Israel-Palestine in 1948 and what should the remedy be?

STATE OF ISRAEL'S POSITION	ARAB'S POSITION

YOUR CONCLUSIONS ON THE ISSUE.

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- 2. Did Israel start the 1967 War? Describe the two perspectives on this question and offer your own assessment.

STATE OF ISRAEL'S POSITION	ARAB'S POSITION

YOUR CONCLUSIONS ON THE ISSUE.

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■ 3. Interpreting U.N. Security Council Resolution 242

*Following the Six-Day War, the UN General Assembly discussed the situation in the Middle East and referred it to the Security Council. After lengthy discussion, the British Ambassador, Lord Caradon, presented a final draft for a Security Council resolution on November 22, 1967. It was adopted on the same day. This resolution, numbered 242, established provisions and principles which, it was hoped, would lead to a solution of the conflict. Resolution 242 was to become the cornerstone of Middle East diplomatic efforts in the coming decades.*

Read Resolution 242 below then complete the chart.

The Security Council,

*Expressing* its continuing concern with the grave situation in the Middle East,

*Emphasizing* the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in which every State in the area can live in security,

*Emphasizing* further that all Member States in their acceptance of the Charter of the United Nations have undertaken a commitment to act in accordance with Article 2 of the Charter,

1. *Affirms* that the fulfillment of Charter principles requires the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East which should include the application of both the following principles:

Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict;

Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force;

2. *Affirms* further the necessity

(a) For guaranteeing freedom of navigation through international waterways in the area;

(b) For achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem;

(c) For guaranteeing the territorial inviolability and political independence of every State in the area, through measures including the establishment of demilitarized zones;

3. *Requests* the Secretary General to designate a Special Representative to proceed to the Middle East to establish and maintain contacts with the States concerned in order to promote agreement and assist efforts to achieve a peaceful and accepted settlement in accordance with the provisions and principles in this resolution;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on the progress of the efforts of the Special Representative as soon as possible.

SOURCE

United Nations, [https://undocs.org/S/RES/242\(1967\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/242(1967)).



