

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Part 1

Zionism is both an ideology and [nationalist](#) movement among the [Jewish people](#) that espouses the re-establishment and support for a [Jewish state](#) in the territory defined as the historic [Land of Israel](#) (roughly corresponding to [Canaan](#), the [Holy Land](#), or the region of [Palestine](#)). Modern Zionism emerged in the late 19th century in [Central](#) and [Eastern Europe](#) as a national revival movement, both in reaction to newer waves of [antisemitism](#) and as a response to [Haskalah](#), or Jewish Enlightenment. Soon after this, most leaders of the movement associated the main goal with creating the desired state in Palestine, then an area controlled by the [Ottoman Empire](#).

Until 1948, the primary goals of Zionism were the re-establishment of Jewish sovereignty in the Land of Israel, [in gathering of the exiles](#), and liberation of Jews from the antisemitic discrimination and [persecution](#) that they experienced during their diaspora*. Since the establishment of the [State of Israel](#) in 1948, Zionism

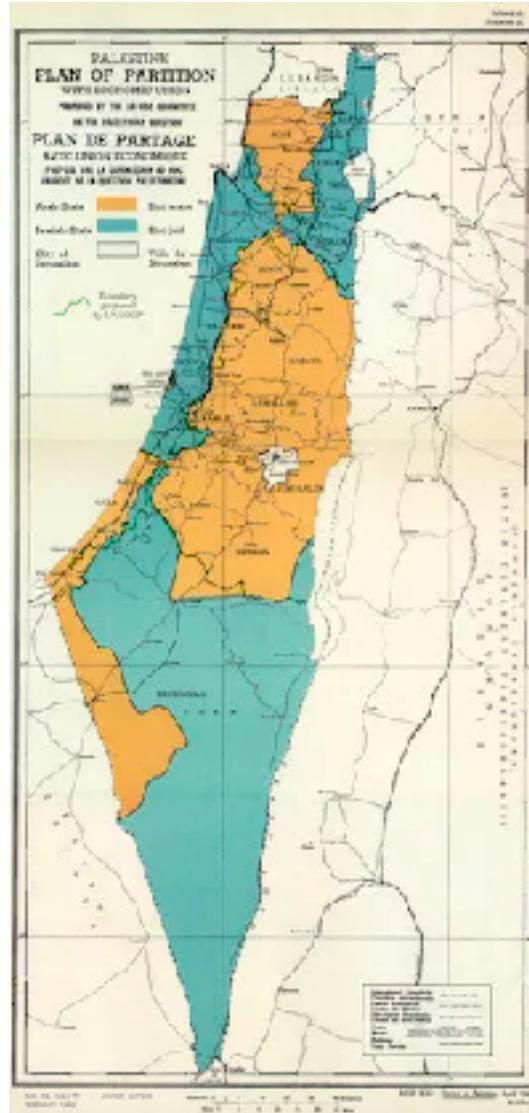
continues primarily to advocate on behalf of Israel and to address threats to its continued existence and security.

A religious variety of Zionism supports Jews upholding their Jewish identity defined as adherence to religious Judaism, opposes the assimilation of Jews into other societies, and has advocated the [return](#) of Jews to [Israel](#) as a means for Jews to be a majority nation in their own state. A variety of Zionism, called [cultural Zionism](#), founded and represented most prominently by [Ahad Ha'am](#), fostered a [secular](#) vision of a Jewish "spiritual center" in Israel. Unlike Herzl, the founder of political Zionism, Ahad Ha'am strived for Israel to be "a Jewish state and not merely a state of Jews".^[17]

Advocates of Zionism view it as a national [liberation movement](#) for the repatriation of a persecuted people residing as minorities in a variety of nations to their ancestral homeland. [Critics of Zionism](#) view it as a [colonialist](#), [racist](#) and [exceptionalist](#) ideology that led advocates to [violence](#) during [Mandatory Palestine](#), followed by the [exodus of Palestinians](#), and the subsequent denial of their right to [return to lands and property](#) lost during the 1948 and 1967 wars.

How did Israel become a country in the first place?

Social and political developments in Europe convinced Jews they needed their own country, and their ancestral homeland seemed like the right place to establish it. European Jews — **90 percent** of all Jews at the time — arrived at Zionism partly because of rising anti-Semitic persecution and partly because the Enlightenment introduced Jews to secular nationalism. Between 1896 and 1948, hundreds of thousands of Jews resettled from Europe to what was then British-controlled Palestine, including large numbers forced out of Europe during the Holocaust.

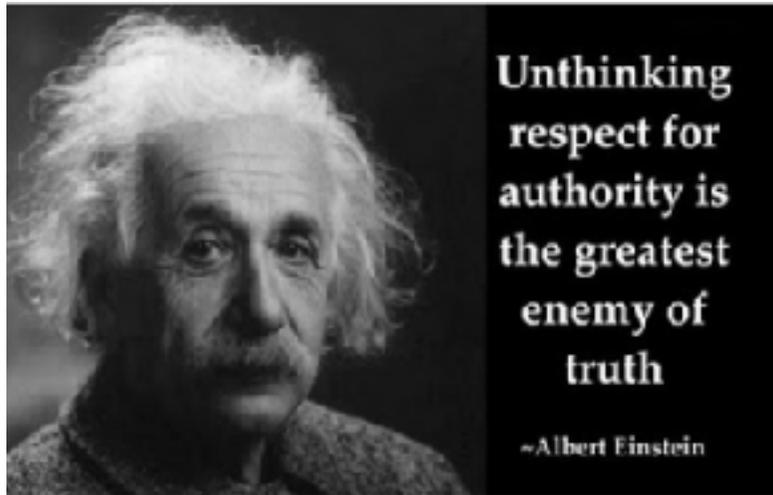


Many Arabs saw the influx of Jews as a European colonial movement, and the two peoples fought bitterly. The British couldn't control the violence, and in 1947 the United Nations voted to split the land into two countries. Almost all of the roughly **650,000** Jews went to the blue territory in the map to the right, and a majority of the Arab population (**roughly twice the size of the Jewish community**) went to the orange.

The Jewish residents accepted the deal. The Palestinians, who saw the plan as an extension of a long-running Jewish attempt push them out of the land, fought it. The Arab states of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Syria all later declared war on Israel, as well (albeit not to defend the Palestinians).

Israeli forces defeated the Palestinian militias and Arab armies in a vicious conflict that turned **700,000 Palestinian civilians into refugees**. The UN partition promised 56 percent of British Palestine for the Jewish state; by the end of the war, **Israel possessed 77 percent** — everything except the West Bank and the eastern quarter of Jerusalem (controlled by Jordan), as

well as the Gaza Strip (controlled by Egypt). It left Israelis with a state, but not Palestinians.



Alber Eistein's 1948 Letter to the New York Times

Comparing Israeli Politicians to Nazis

Albert Einstein's 1948 letter to the *New York Times*

Full report can be found in the link: <https://www.globalresearch.ca/albert-einsteins-1948-letter-to-the-new-york-times-comparing-israeli-politicians-to-nazis/5653561>

If we want to understand the real history of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, we can turn to a trustworthy Jewish source: Albert Einstein. Einstein was a humanitarian and

*peace activist, in addition to being one of the greatest scientists of all time. What did this extremely intelligent, wonderfully wise and warmly humane Jew have to say about Israel's treatment of Palestinians? In a landmark open letter to the *New York Times* in 1948, Einstein clearly and candidly explained why Israel's militant Zionist leaders were not to be trusted and did not deserve money or support from Americans. (You can find scanned images of the Einstein letter online, and because it appeared in a major American newspaper its authenticity is not in doubt.)*

The letter was also signed by Hannah Arendt, Sidney Hook and more than 20 other Jewish intellectuals who wanted to alert Americans and the larger world to the dangers of emergent racism, fascism, terrorism and religious fanaticism in the newly-formed state of Israel. They also foresaw and predicted the disastrous results we see today in Israel/Palestine.

I have annotated the letter with to help readers better understand how the "Einstein Letter" relates to the present situation. Other prominent, world-esteemed Jews have strongly opposed the policies and methods of the

militant Zionists, including *Sigmund Freud*, *Franz Kafka*, *Isaac Asimov*, *Erich Fromm* and *Noam Chomsky*. They have been joined by icons of peace like *Mohandas Gandhi*, *Nelson Mandela*, *Desmond Tutu* and *Jimmy Carter*.

Michael R. Burch, editor and publisher of *Holocaust and Nakba poetry*



Christians may want to consider the ethical questions "What does the Bible say? What would Jesus do?"

Please note that Menachem Begin, discussed in the letter, was a future prime minister of Israel. He was, according to the letter, a racist, a fascist and the preeminent terrorist in the Middle East, murdering Arabs, Jews and Englishmen. What sort of nation elects a fascist terrorist to its highest office?

Part 2

from "Letters to the *New York Times*"

December 4, 1948

TO THE EDITORS OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:
(emphasis added by Michael R. Burch)

Among the **most disturbing political phenomena of our times** is the emergence in the newly created state of Israel of the "Freedom Party" (Tnuat HaHerut), a political party closely akin in its organization, methods, political philosophy and social appeal to the **Nazi and Fascist parties**. It was formed out of the membership and following of the former Irgun Zvai Leumi, a **terrorist, right-wing, chauvinist* organization** in Palestine.

The current visit of Menachem Begin, leader of this party, to the United States is obviously calculated to give the impression of American support for his party in the coming Israeli elections, and to cement political ties with conservative Zionist* elements in the United States. Several Americans of national repute have lent their names to welcome his visit. **It is inconceivable that those who oppose fascism throughout the world, if correctly**

informed as to Mr. Begin's political record and perspectives, could add their names and support to the movement he represents. [See Note A]

Before irreparable damage is done by way of financial contributions, public manifestations in Begin's behalf, and the creation in Palestine of the impression that a large segment of America supports Fascist elements in Israel, the American public must be informed as to the **record and objectives of Mr. Begin and his movement**. [See Note B]

The public avowals* of Begin's party are no guide whatever to its actual character. Today they speak of freedom, democracy and anti-imperialism, whereas until recently they openly preached the doctrine of the Fascist state. It is in its actions that the terrorist party **betrays its real character; from its past actions we can judge what it may be expected to do in the future**. [See Note C]

Attack on Arab Village

A shocking example was their behavior in the Arab village of Deir Yassin. This village, off the main roads and

surrounded by Jewish lands, had taken no part in the war, and had even fought off Arab bands* who wanted to use the village as their base. On April 9 (THE NEW YORK TIMES), terrorist bands attacked this peaceful village, which was not a military objective in the fighting, killed most of its inhabitants "240 men, women, and children" and kept a few of them alive to parade as captives through the streets of Jerusalem. Most of the Jewish community was horrified at the deed, and the Jewish Agency sent a telegram of apology to King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan. But the terrorists, far from being ashamed of their act, were proud of this massacre, publicized it widely, and invited all the foreign correspondents present in the country to view the heaped corpses and the general havoc* at Deir Yassin.

The Deir Yassin incident exemplifies the character and actions of the Freedom Party.

Within the Jewish community they have preached an admixture* of ultranationalism, religious mysticism, and racial superiority. Like other Fascist parties they have been used to break strikes, and have themselves pressed for the

destruction of free trade unions*. In their stead they have proposed corporate unions* on the Italian Fascist model.

During the last years of sporadic anti-British violence, the IZL and Stern groups inaugurated a reign of terror in the Palestine Jewish community. Teachers were beaten up for speaking against them, adults were shot for not letting their children join them. By gangster methods, beatings, window-smashing, and wide-spread robberies, the terrorists intimidated the population and exacted* a heavy tribute.

The people of the Freedom Party have had no part in the constructive achievements in Palestine. They have reclaimed* no land, built no settlements*, and only detracted* from the Jewish defense activity. Their much-publicized immigration endeavors* were minute, and devoted mainly to bringing in Fascist compatriots.

Discrepancies Seen

The discrepancies between the bold* claims now being made by Begin and his party, and their record of past performance in Palestine bear the imprint of no ordinary

political party. This is the unmistakable stamp of a Fascist party for whom terrorism (against Jews, Arabs, and British alike), and misrepresentation are means, and a "Leader State" is the goal.

In the light of the foregoing* considerations, it is imperative that the truth about Mr. Begin and his movement be made known in this country. It is all the more tragic that the top leadership of American Zionism has refused to campaign against Begin's efforts, or even to expose to its own constituents the dangers to Israel from support to Begin.

The undersigned therefore take this means of publicly presenting a few salient facts concerning Begin and his party; and of urging* all concerned not to support this latest manifestation of fascism.

(signed)

ISIDORE ABRAMOWITZ, HANNAH ARENDT, ABRAHAM BRICK, RABBI JESSURUN CARDOZO, ALBERT EINSTEIN, HERMAN EISEN, M.D., HAYIM FINEMAN, M. GALLEN, M.D., H.H. HARRIS, ZELIG S. HARRIS, SIDNEY HOOK, FRED KARUSH, BRURIA KAUFMAN, IRMA L. LINDHEIM,

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New York, Dec. 2, 1948

Part 3

[**NOTE A:** Einstein made the point that supporting Jewish fascists like Menachem Begin was like supporting Nazis. Unfortunately, many prominent Americans have supported the fascist movement led by Begin and his disciples, who now firmly control Israel. Begin founded Herut in 1948. It was the political twin of the Irgun, a violent terrorist group headed by Begin. Both were ultra-right-wing organizations that opposed any ceasefires or negotiations with Arabs, preferring to expand Israel's territory in defiance of international law and the U.N. mandate that partitioned Palestine, defining Israel's borders. Before entering

politics, Begin had been the preeminent terrorist in the Middle East, wantonly murdering British, Jewish and Arab civilians. His most notorious act was blowing up the King David Hotel in 1946. That explosion killed 91 people and wounded 46 others, most of them hotel staff and other civilians. (This remains the single most deadly act of terrorism in Israel/Palestine to this day.)

It was not just peace-loving intellectuals who compared Begin to European fascists like Hitler, because David Ben-Gurion, Israel's George Washington and first prime minister, who was no shrinking violet, said similar things. But by the mid-1960s Israel's voters were swinging hard to the extreme right. A 1964 government resolution calling for the reinternment of Zeev Jabotinsky's remains in Israel signaled Herut's and Begin's ascendancy. (Jabotinsky was the creator of the fascist "Iron Wall" doctrine, which maintains that Jews must crush the spirit and will of Palestinians through superior firepower and sheer brutality, rather than seeking peace through diplomacy and compromise.)

In 1977, the former über-terrorist Begin was elected prime minister in a landslide. In his book *Palestine: Peace, not*

Apartheid, former U.S. president and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Jimmy Carter mentioned the sea change that took place in Israel's **policies** after Begin came to power. Begin's administration promoted the construction of illegal Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, in effect expanding Israel's borders by allowing robber barons to steal land from defenseless Palestinian farmers and their families. Begin also authorized the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, which became Israel's Vietnam. As Israeli military involvement in Lebanon deepened, and the Sabra and Shatila massacre shocked the world, Begin grew increasingly **isolated**. He resigned from politics in 1983, but his **racist, fascist** spirit lives on in disciples of his and Jabotinsky's, such as Israel's current prime minister, Benyamin "Bibi" Netanyahu.]

[**NOTE B:** Unfortunately, the American public, through their government, have supplied Israel with hundreds of billions of dollars in financial aid and advanced weapons. That "aid" has been used by Israel to practice **large-scale** ethnic cleansing in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. This ethnic **cleansing** begins with home demolitions (more than 24,000 according to the Israeli Committee Against

Home Demolitions), which are followed by Israel's euphemistic "settlement expansions."

Funding this **wildly** unjust system, which has been compared to a new Holocaust, has created the impression in Palestine and throughout the Muslim world that Americans are raging **hypocrites** when they talk about "equal rights," "justice" and "democracy." Muslims have correctly concluded that the U.S. will always support Israel, no matter how cruelly, brutally and offensively it treats Palestinians, Bedouins and other non-Jews in its **quest** for free land and ever-expanding borders. The results have included **9-11**, two horrific wars, multitudes of lives lost on both sides, and trillions of dollars in **unpaid** war debt that **threatens** not only the solvency of the U.S., but also that of the free world. If the dollar plummets in value, or if the U.S. can no longer **borrow** money, what will happen to the economies of Germany, Japan, and other countries that **rely** on exports to Americans?]

[**NOTE C:** If we **heed** Einstein's wisdom, and judge Israel by its actions—apartheid, ethnic **cleansing**, strafing its victims in Gaza—rather than by oceans of self-serving propaganda, the racist/fascist nature of its government

quickly becomes apparent. Or we can simply read what prime ministers of Israel and other prominent Zionists have said themselves. Please keep in mind that when the terms "transfer," "**eviction**" and "removal" are used, the Zionists are talking about ethnic cleansing: a crime against humanity. When the right of return is **denied** to Palestinians, this means the victims of ethnic cleansing are being collectively sentenced to remain stateless, rightless **refugees** forever. When the term "expropriation" is used, it means the **theft** of Palestinian land via superior firepower, which is armed robbery. **Here** now are the leading Zionists in their own words; you can judge for yourself whether Einstein was correct, or not ...