

TEKMUN'24



Study Guide

HUNSC

Agenda Item:
The First Arab-Israeli War (1948-1949)

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1. Letters

1.1 Letter from the Secretary General

Most esteemed participants of TEKMUN'24,

It is with the utmost respect that I sincerely welcome every distinguished delegate to join us at the first annual Tenzile Erdoğan Girls Anatolian Religious High School Model United Nations Conference, which will be held between 22-24 of November.

I, Tuğba SevdeNur Karataş and currently nine-year student at Tenzile Erdoğan, consider it an honor to serve you as the Secretary-General in TEKMUN'24, a conference that brings together delegates from across the globe to discuss some of the most pressing issues the world is facing today.

In addition, I would like to thank in advance all to the members of our academics and organization team, and board members of the TEKMUN club for their outstanding talent and efforts. We are a strong family, thanks to our passion for this conference. I cannot wait to meet all of you in November. Until the time we all meet, take care of yourselves, and get ready for this extraordinary MUN conference.

Most esteemed participants of TEKMUN'24, It is with the utmost respect that I sincerely welcome every distinguished delegate to join us at the first annual Tenzile Erdoğan Girls Anatolian Religious High School Model United Nations Conference, which will be held between 22-24 of November.

I am looking forward to meet you at TEKMUN'24

Warmest Regards,

Secretary General

Tuğba Sevdener Karataş

1.2 Letter from the Head of Academy

Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to our United Nations Security Council (H-UNSC) committee at TekMUN'24! It is my great honor to have you as part of this esteemed committee, and I am thrilled to see such passionate and driven individuals ready to tackle one of the most critical issues of our time: the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The Israel-Palestine conflict is not just a political dispute—it is a humanitarian crisis, a moral challenge, and a fundamental issue of international peace and security. For decades, this conflict has shaped the lives of millions, influencing regional dynamics and international relations on a global scale. As members of the United Nations Security Council, it will be your responsibility to engage in deep, thoughtful analysis and work toward solutions that prioritize peace, justice, and stability.

I encourage each of you to approach this agenda with a sense of responsibility, an open mind, and a commitment to constructive dialogue. The Israel-Palestine conflict is fraught with emotion and history, but it is also an opportunity for innovation, resilience, and the pursuit of a lasting peace. Through careful negotiation and collaborative efforts, we can take steps towards resolving the issues that have divided nations for so long.

I am confident that the discussions in H-UNSC will be insightful, challenging, and inspiring. I look forward to seeing the future diplomats of the world engage in a truly transformative debate that could shape the course of global diplomacy.

Once again, welcome to TekMUN'24. Let the dialogue begin!

Warm regards,

Nilgün Nihal Çalık

Head of Academy

TekMUN'24

1.3 Letter From the Under Secretary General

Dear Esteemed Delegates of the Historical United Nation Security Council,

As the Under Secretary General of this esteemed committee, I have the great pleasure and excitement of addressing you on this special occasion of TEKMUN'24. Please allow me to greet each and every one of you with great affection as we set out on this diplomatic and conversational journey. I am quite confident that our efforts during this conference will further cement the H-UNSC's reputation as one of the most prestigious and sought-after committees. You bring a multitude of experience, viewpoints, and tenacity to the table as delegates from different countries and interests; these are necessary ingredients for deep and fruitful conversations.

We will have the chance to examine the intricacies of the First Arab-Israeli War and possible resolutions that take into account the worries and goals of all sides over the course of the next four days. In the middle of the discussions and agreements, I sincerely hope that we will discover not only intellectual stimulation but also a sense of respect and companionship.

The problems we are supposed to be solving are extremely serious and have broad ramifications for both global security and regional stability. I therefore implore each of you to approach our conversations with the utmost attraction and commitment. Our ability to succeed as a team will depend on your capacity to clearly state the positions of your nation, have productive conversations, and look for areas of agreement. I recognize that each of you has spent a great deal of time and energy getting ready for this conference, and I want to thank you all for your hard work and dedication. You may be sure that your efforts will not go unappreciated and that they will soon bear fruit in the days to come.

Let me conclude by thanking you all again for your participation and sincerely hoping that everyone has a positive and fulfilling experience. Let's rise to the challenges at hand as a team and work toward a more promising and tranquil future. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me before, during, and after the conference.

ggwwpru5@gmail.com

Warm regards,

Under-Secretary-General

Danyal Ok



2. Introduction to the Committee

Historical Security Council is the historical simulation of the Security Council, which is the strongest organ authorized to take legal measurements worldwide of the United Nations responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is so organized as to be able to function continuously, and a representative of each of its members must be present including the permanent countries; United States of America, the French Republic, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation and the people's Republic of China, at all times at the United Nations Headquarters.

A State, which is a Member of the United Nations but not of the Security Council, may participate, without a vote, in its discussions when the Council considers that that country's interests are affected. Both Members of the United Nations and non-members, if they are parties to a dispute being considered by the Council, are invited to take part, without a vote, in the Council's discussions; the Council sets the conditions for participation by a non-member State. The Presidency of the Council rotates monthly, according to the English alphabetical listing of its member States.

The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement.

Function

The United Nations Security Council was created to primarily maintain international peace and security across the world. It is also entitled to accept new members to the United Nations and accept changes to the UN charter.

Powers

The UN Security Council has the power to establish peacekeeping operations and enforce international sanctions as well as authorize military actions through the resolutions it submits. It is also the only UN body that is authorized to issue binding resolutions to its member states, meaning that all countries have to abide by the passed resolutions of the Security Council.

Structure

The Security Council consists of fifteen members, including five permanent members and ten non-permanent members, elected on a regional basis to serve a term of two years. The five permanent members can veto resolutions and clauses without giving an explanation.

3. Introduction to the Agenda Item

The 1948 Palestine War was fought in the territory of what had been, at the start of the war, British-ruled Mandatory Palestine. During the war, British withdrew from Palestine, Zionist forces conquered territory and established the State of Israel, over 700,000 Palestinians fled or were expelled. It the first war of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict and the broader Arab–Israeli conflict.



Haganah personnel carry a man wounded by the Egyptian bombing of Tel Aviv

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and
was

The war had two main phases, the first being 1947–1948 civil war, which began on 30 November 1947, a day after the United Nations voted to adopt the Partition Plan for Palestine, which planned for the division of the territory into Jewish and Arab sovereign states. During this period the British still maintained a declining rule over Palestine and occasionally intervened in the violence. Initially on the defensive, the Zionist forces switched to the offensive in April 1948. In anticipation of an invasion by Arab armies they enacted Plan Dalet, an operation aimed at securing territory for the establishment of a Jewish state.

The second phase of the war began on 14 May 1948, with the termination of the British Mandate and the declaration of the establishment of the State of Israel. The following morning, the surrounding Arab armies invaded Palestine, beginning the 1948 Arab–Israeli War. The Egyptians advanced in the south-east while the Jordanian Arab Legion and Iraqi forces captured the central highlands. Syria and Lebanon fought with the Israeli forces in the north. The newly formed Israel Defense Forces managed to halt the Arab forces and in the following months began pushing them back and capturing territory. By the end of the war, the State of Israel had captured about 78% of former territory of the mandate, the Kingdom of Jordan had captured and later annexed the area that became the West Bank, and Egypt had captured the Gaza Strip. The war formally ended with the 1949 Armistice Agreements, which established the Green Line demarcating these territories.

During the war, massacres and acts of terror were conducted by and against both sides. A campaign of massacres and violence against the Arab population, such as occurred at Lydda and Ramle and the Battle of Haifa, led to the expulsion and flight of over 700,000 Palestinians, with most of their urban areas being depopulated and destroyed. This violence and dispossession of the Palestinians is known today as the Nakba (Arabic for "the disaster") and resulted in the beginning of the Palestinian refugee problem.

4. Key Terms

Zionist Movement

Zionism, Jewish nationalist movement, aims to create and support a Jewish national state in Palestine, the ancient homeland of the Jews. Though Zionism originated in eastern and central Europe in the latter part of the 19th century, it may be easily seen that it is a continuation of the ancient attachment of the Jews and of the Jewish religion to the historical region of Palestine, where one of the hills of ancient Jerusalem was called Zion.

Numerous messiahs had appeared to convince Jews about returning to Palestine but Haskalah (18th century), Jew enlightenment, urged Jews to assimilate into western secular culture. Despite the Haskalah, eastern European Jews did not assimilate and, in reaction to tsarist pogroms, established the Hovevei Ziyon (“Lovers of Zion”) to encourage the settlement of Jewish farmers and artisans in Palestine.

A political term was given to Zionism by Theodor Herzl, who is an Austrian journalist. He argued, if Jews were forced by external pressure to form a nation, they could lead a normal existence only through concentration in one territory. In 1897, Herzl convened the first Zionist Congress at Basel, Switzerland, and drew up the Basel program of the movement: Zionism strives to create for the Jewish people a home in Palestine secured by public law.

Jew extermination by Hitler forced the large amounts of Jews to migrate to Palestine and people around the world started to assimilate Zionism. The growing tension among Arabs and Zionists led to Anglo-US discussion, and later to the United Nations, which on November 29, 1947, proposed the partition of the country into Arab and Jewish states and the internationalization of Jerusalem. Creation of the Israel State triggered the occupation of Arab countries that were defeated by the Israeli army.

Ceasefire signed in 1949 between Arabs and Zionists. Thus, Israel possessed more land than the land UN allotted. Around 800,000 Arab migrated or exiled from that land and Zionists achieved the creation of a state in Palestine.

In the following two decades, numerous countries supported Zionists and encouraged Jews into migrating to the region of Palestine.

Jerusalem

Jerusalem has been the holiest city in Judaism and the ancestral and spiritual homeland of the Jewish people since the 10th century BCE. During classical antiquity, Jerusalem was considered the center of the world, where God resided.

"And God said: 'Take now thy son, thine only son, whom thou lovest, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah [Jerusalem]; and offer him there for a burnt-offering upon one of the mountains [Temple Mount] which I will tell thee of.' "

—Genesis 22:2

Despite these, this case is all about promised lands

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you."

– Genesis 12:1

As it shall be seen from the quotations taken from the holy book of Judaism, "Genesis", it is the most sacred land for Jews. Especially, for the "Zionist" portion of the Jews, considering the act of "Zionism" was created in order to reconquer Jerusalem and erase the presence of "Muslim Invaders" there.

Al-Quds

In Islam, Jerusalem is the third-holiest city after Mecca and Medina. Muslims believe that Prophet Muhammad was transported to Jerusalem during his Night Journey (Isra and Mi'raj). The Qur'an describes how the prophet was taken by the miraculous steed Buraq from the Great Mosque of Mecca to Al-Aqsa ("the farthest place of prayer") where he prayed, and then to visit heaven in a single night in the year 621.

"Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from al-Masjid al-Haram to al-Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs. Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Seeing."

—Surat Al-'Isra' [17:1]

According to Muslims, they are obliged to visit Jerusalem at least once in their lifespan. Muslims keep rejecting lending the possession of Jerusalem to any other religion because of its sacredness in the religion of Islam.

Furthermore, the possession of the land of Al-Quds belonged to Muslims for 400 years, 1517-1917. And during those years, Al-Quds has become a symbol of “dominance” of the Ottoman Empire over other religions and countries.

League of Nations

The League of Nations was an international organization created after World War I on January 10, 1920. Its goal was to ensure peace and security among nations. The League was established under the Treaty of Versailles, and its headquarters were located in Geneva, Switzerland. Even it was not able to fulfill the hopes its creation was an important event in history.

Although the League had some successes, like preventing some minor conflicts and coordinating humanitarian efforts, it faced significant challenges. Its effectiveness was limited by the lack of big powers like the United States, which never joined, and later withdrawals by countries like Japan, Italy, and Germany. The League couldn't abstract World War II, this led to its termination in 1946, and it was replaced by the United Nations, which was established in 1945 with a similar mission but with a stronger framework for international cooperation and security.

5. General Overview

Historical Background on the Conflict

The 1948 War came as the culmination of 30 years of friction between Jews and Arabs during the period of British rule of Palestine when, under the terms of the League of Nations mandate held by the British, conditions intended to lead to the creation of a Jewish National Home in the area were created.

Jewish Immigration to Palestine

Zionism formed in Europe as the national movement of the Jewish people. It sought to reestablish Jewish statehood in the ancient homeland. The first wave of Zionist immigration, dubbed the First Aliyah, lasted from 1882 to 1903. Some 30,000 Jews, mostly from the Russian Empire, reached Ottoman Palestine. They were driven both by the Zionist idea and by the wave of

antisemitism in Europe, especially in the Russian Empire, which came in the form of brutal pogroms. They wanted to establish Jewish agricultural settlements and a Jewish majority in the land that would allow them to gain statehood.

The Arab inhabitants of Ottoman Palestine who saw the Zionist Jews of the first aliyah settle next to them were not associated with a national movement at the end of the 19th century. Historically, Palestine had never been administered or recognized as a distinct province by any of its Muslim rulers.

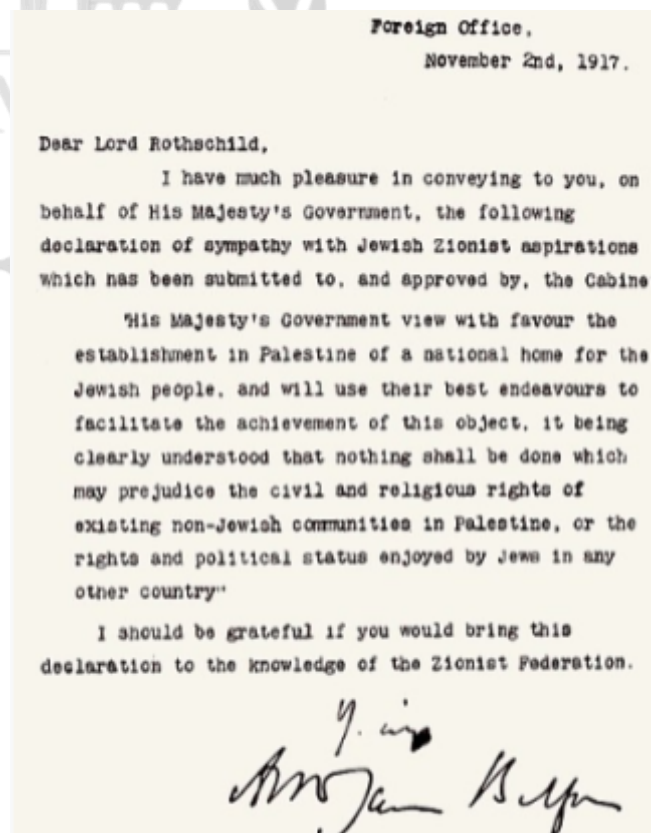
Starting in 1882, the Ottomans issued a stream of prohibitions against Jewish settlement and land purchases in Palestine. However, due to the inefficiency of Ottoman bureaucracies, these restrictions had little effect. Due to bribes, the Ottoman authorities often supported the Jewish settlers in disputes over land and settlement.

Until the 1910s, Zionists encountered little violence, as the Arabs lacked political awareness and were disorganized. Between 1909 and 1914, this changed, as Arabs killed 12 Jewish settlement guards and Arab nationalism, and opposition to the Zionist enterprise increased. In 1911, Arabs attempted to thwart the establishment of a Jewish settlement in the Jezreel Valley, and the dispute resulted in the death of one Arab man and a Jewish guard. The Arabs called the Jews the "new Crusaders", and anti-Zionist rhetoric flourished.

World War I and the Balfour Declaration

During the war, Palestine served as the frontline between the Ottoman Empire and the British Empire in Egypt. The war briefly halted Jewish-Arab friction. The British invaded the land in 1915 and 1916 after two unsuccessful Ottoman attacks on Sinai. They were assisted by the Arab tribes in Hejaz, led by the Hashemites, and promised them sovereignty over the Arab areas of the Ottoman Empire. Palestine was excluded from the promise, initially intended to be a joint British-French domain.

After the Balfour Declaration in November 1917, it was designated as a "national home for the Jewish people", with the stipulation that "nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine." Several factors influenced the decision to support Zionism. Zionist lobbying, led by Chaim



Balfour Declaration

Weizmann, played a significant role, along with religious and humanitarian motivations. The fact that the Arabs of Palestine supported the Ottoman fight against the Allied Powers also contributed. Additionally, the British believed that a British-backed state would help defend the Suez Canal. At that time, the Arab Hashemites did not seem opposed to Jewish rule over Palestine.

Early years of the British Mandate

After World War I, the League of Nations granted Britain the Mandate for Palestine, which required it to implement the Balfour Declaration. As the numbers and strength of the Yishuv grew, tensions between the Jewish and Arab communities deepened. Significant bouts of violence happened during the 1920 Jerusalem Riots, as well as in 1921 and 1929. In addition to the emerging Palestinian Arab nationalism, the violence also drew on religious inspirations, such as the accusation that the Jews intended to take over the Temple Mount.

Despite Arab opposition to Jewish immigration, leading Palestinian families continued to sell land to Zionists throughout the period. At least one quarter of members of the Palestinian Arab Executive benefited financially from such purchases, including the mayor of Jerusalem and the al-Husayni family.

The Zionist leaders intermittently attempted to reach a compromise with the Arabs, but none proved possible.



Fawzi al-Qawuqji (third from the right) in 1936

The Arab States

Following World War II, the surrounding Arab states were emerging from mandatory rule. Transjordan, under the Hashemite ruler Abdullah I, gained independence from Britain in 1946 and was called Jordan in 1949, but remained under heavy British influence. Egypt gained nominal independence in 1922, but Britain continued to exert a strong influence on it until the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1936 limited Britain's presence to a

garrison of troops on the Suez Canal until 1945. Lebanon became an independent state in 1943, but French troops did not withdraw until 1946, the same year Syria won its independence from France.

In 1945, at British prompting, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Transjordan, and Yemen formed the Arab League to coordinate policy among the Arab states. Iraq and Transjordan

coordinated closely, signing a mutual defense treaty, while Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia feared that Transjordan would annex part or all of Palestine and use it as a stepping stone to attack or undermine Syria, Lebanon, and the Hijaz.

The 1947 UN Partition Plan

On 29 November 1947, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution "recommending to the United Kingdom, as the mandatory Power for Palestine, and to all other Members of the United Nations the adoption and implementation, with regard to the future government of Palestine, of the Plan of Partition with Economic Union", UN General Assembly Resolution 181. This was an attempt to resolve the Arab-Jewish conflict by partitioning Palestine into "Independent Arab and Jewish States and the Special International Regime for the City of Jerusalem". Each state would comprise three major sections; the Arab state would also have an enclave in Jaffa, which had an Arab-majority population and provided the Arab state with a port on the Mediterranean.

With about 32% of the population, the Jews were allocated 56% of the territory (most of it the Negev desert). It contained 499,000 Jews and 438,000 Arabs. The Palestinian Arabs were allocated 42% of the land, which had a population of 818,000 Palestinian Arabs and 10,000 Jews. In consideration of its religious significance, the Jerusalem area, including Bethlehem, with 100,000 Jews and an equal number of Palestinian Arabs, was to become a *corpus separatum*, to be administered by the UN. The residents in the UN-administered territory were given the right to choose to be citizens of either of the new states.

The Jewish leadership accepted the partition plan as "the indispensable minimum", glad to gain international recognition but sorry that they did not receive more. The representatives of the Palestinian Arabs and the Arab League firmly opposed the UN action and rejected its authority in the matter, arguing that the partition plan was unfair to the Arabs because of the population balance at that time. The Arabs rejected the partition, not because it was supposedly unfair, but because their leaders rejected any form of partition. They held "that the rule of Palestine should revert to its inhabitants, in accordance with the provisions of ... the Charter of the United Nations". According to "Article 73b" of the Charter, the UN should develop self-government of the peoples in a territory under its administration. In the immediate aftermath of the UN's approval of the partition plan, explosions of joy in the Jewish community were



The 1947 UN Partition Plan recommended dividing Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state.

counterbalanced by discontent in the Arab community. Soon after, violence broke out and became more prevalent. Murders, reprisals, and counter-reprisals came fast upon each other, resulting in dozens killed on both sides. The sanguinary impasse persisted as no force intervened to put a stop to the escalating violence.

First phase: 1947–1948 civil war in Mandatory Palestine

The first phase of the war took place from the United Nations General Assembly vote for the Partition Plan for Palestine on 29 November 1947 until the termination of the British Mandate and Israeli proclamation of statehood on 14 May 1948. During this period the Jewish and Arab communities of the British Mandate clashed, while the British organized their withdrawal and intervened only occasionally. In the first two months of the Civil War, around 1,000 people were killed and 2,000 injured, and by the end of March, the figure had risen to 2,000 dead and 4,000 wounded. These figures correspond to an average of more than 100 deaths and 200 casualties per week in a population of 2,000,000.

From January onwards, operations became increasingly militarized. A number of Arab



Aftermath of the Ben Yehuda Street bombing, February 1948

Liberation Army regiments infiltrated Palestine, each active in a variety of distinct sectors around the coastal towns. They consolidated their presence in Galilee and Samaria. The Army of the Holy War, under Abd al-Qadir al-Husayni's command, came from Egypt with several hundred men. Having recruited a few thousand volunteers, al-Husayni organized the blockade of the 100,000 Jewish residents of Jerusalem.

To counter this, the Yishuv authorities tried to supply the city with convoys of up to 100 armored vehicles, but the operation became more and more impractical as the number of casualties in the relief convoys surged. By March, al-Husayni's tactic had paid off. Almost all of Haganah's armored vehicles had been destroyed, the blockade was in full operation, and hundreds of Haganah members who had tried to bring

supplies into the city were killed. The situation for those in the Jewish settlements in the highly isolated Negev and North of Galilee was more critical.

This caused the US to withdraw its support for the Partition Plan, and the Arab League began to believe that the Palestinian Arabs, reinforced by the Arab Liberation Army, could end the partition. The British decided on 7 February 1948 to support Transjordan's annexation of the Arab part of Palestine.

While the Jewish population was ordered to hold their ground everywhere at all costs, the Arab population was disrupted by general conditions of insecurity. Up to 100,000 Arabs from the urban upper and middle classes in Haifa, Jaffa and Jerusalem, or Jewish-dominated areas, evacuated abroad or to Arab centers to the east.

Plan Dalet and Second Stage

David Ben-Gurion ordered Yigal Yadin to plan for the announced intervention of the Arab states. The result of his analysis was Plan Dalet, which was put in place at the start of April, and which marked the war's second phase, in which the Haganah took the offensive.

The first operation, Nachshon, was directed at lifting the blockade on Jerusalem. In the last week of March, 136 supply trucks had tried to reach Jerusalem; only 41 had made it. The Arab attacks on communications and roads had intensified. The convoys' failure and the loss of Jewish armored vehicles had shaken the Yishuv leaders' confidence.

1,500 men from Haganah's Givati brigade and Palmach's Harel brigade conducted sorties to free up the route to the city between 5 April and 20 April. The operation was successful, and two months' worth of foodstuffs were trucked into Jerusalem for distribution to the Jewish population. The operation's success was aided by al-Husayni's death in combat.

As part of Plan Dalet, the Haganah, Palmach and Irgun captured the urban centers of Tiberias, Haifa, Safed, Beisan, Jaffa, and Acre, violently expelling more than 250,000 Palestinian Arabs.

The British had essentially withdrawn their troops. The situation pushed the neighboring Arab states to intervene, but their preparation was not completed, and they could not assemble sufficient forces to turn the tide of the war. The majority of Palestinian Arab hopes lay with the Arab Legion of Transjordan's monarch, King Abdullah I. He did not intend to create a Palestinian Arab-run state, as he hoped to annex much of Mandatory Palestine. Playing both sides, he was in contact with the Jewish authorities and the Arab League.

Preparing for Arab intervention from neighboring states, Haganah successfully launched Operations Yiftah and Ben-'Ami to secure the Jewish settlements of Galilee, and Operation Kilshon. This created an Israeli-controlled front around Jerusalem. The inconclusive meeting between Golda Meir and Abdullah I, followed by the Kfar Etzion massacre on 13 May by the Arab Legion, led to predictions that the battle for Jerusalem would be merciless.



Palestinian irregulars of the Holy War Army, approaching al-Qastal village near Jerusalem to take it back from Palmach

Second phase: 1948 Arab–Israeli War

Arab League Entry

On 14 May 1948, the day before the expiration of the British Mandate, David Ben-Gurion declared the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz Israel, to be known as the State of Israel. Both superpower leaders, U.S. President Harry S. Truman and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, immediately recognised the new state, while the Arab League refused to accept the UN Partition Plan, proclaimed the right of self-determination for the Arabs across the whole of Palestine, and maintained that the absence of legal authority made it necessary to intervene to protect Arab lives and property. The Palestinians' Arab Higher Committee rejected the Partition Resolution and any kind of Jewish state and refused to negotiate with "the Zionist Project.

Over the next few days, contingents of four of the seven countries of the Arab League at that time, Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan, and Syria, invaded the former British Mandate of Palestine and fought the Israelis. They were supported by the Arab Liberation Army and corps of volunteers from Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Yemen. The Arab armies launched a simultaneous offensive on all fronts: Egyptian forces invaded from the south, Jordanian and Iraqi forces from the east, and Syrian forces invaded from the north. Cooperation among various Arab armies was poor.

First truce: 11 June – 8 July 1948

The UN declared a truce on 29 May, which began on 11 June and lasted 28 days. The ceasefire was overseen by UN mediator Folke Bernadotte and team of UN Observers, army officers from Belgium, United States, Sweden and France. Bernadotte was voted in by the General Assembly to "assure the safety of the holy places, to safeguard the well being of the population, and to promote 'a peaceful adjustment of the future situation of Palestine'". He spoke of "peace by Christmas" but saw that the Arab world had continued to reject the existence of a Jewish state, whatever its borders.

An arms embargo was declared with the intention that neither side would make gains from truce. Neither side respected the truce; both found ways around the restrictions. Both the Israelis and Arabs used this time to improve their positions, a direct violation of the terms of the ceasefire.



Map of the military situation as of June 1st 1948

"The Arabs violated the truce by reinforcing their lines with fresh units (including six companies of Sudanese regulars, a Saudi battalion and contingents from Yemen and Morocco) and by preventing supplies from reaching isolated Israeli settlements; occasionally, they opened fire along the lines". The Israeli Defense Forces violated the truce by acquiring weapons from Czechoslovakia, improving the training of its forces, and reorganizing the army. Yitzhak Rabin, an IDF commander who would later become Israel's fifth prime minister, said, "without the arms from Czechoslovakia... it is very doubtful whether we would have been able to conduct the war". As well as violating the arms and personnel embargo, both sides sent fresh units to the front. Israel's army increased its manpower from approximately 30,000 or 35,000 men to almost 65,000 during the truce and its arms supply to "more than twenty-five thousand rifles, five thousand machine guns, and more than fifty million bullets".



Israeli forces air dropping supplies to besieged Yehiam, 1948

As the truce began, a British officer stationed in Haifa said the four-week-long truce "would certainly be exploited by the Jews to continue military training and reorganization while the Arabs would waste feuding over the future divisions of the spoils". On 7 July, the day before the truce expired, Egyptian forces under General Muhammad Naguib renewed the war by attacking Negba.

Second phase: 8–18 July 1948

Israeli forces launched a simultaneous offensive on all three fronts: Dani, Dekel, and Kedem. The fighting was dominated by large-scale Israeli offensives and a defensive Arab posture and continued for ten days until the UN Security Council issued the Second Truce on 18 July.

Israeli Operation Danny resulted in the expulsion from Lydda and Ramle of 60,000 Palestinian residents. According to Benny Morris, in Ben-Gurion's view, Ramlah and Lydda constituted a special danger because their proximity might encourage cooperation between the Egyptian army, which had started its attack on Kibbutz Negbah, and the Arab Legion, which had taken the Lydda police station. Widespread looting took place during these operations, and about 100,000 Palestinians became refugees. In Operation Dekel, Nazareth was captured on 16 July. In Operation Brosh, Israel tried and failed to drive the Syrian army out of northeastern Galilee. By the time the second truce took effect at 19:00 18 July, Israel had taken the lower Galilee from Haifa Bay to the Sea of Galilee.

With smuggled Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress planes acquired in violation of the international arms embargo, Israel bombed a residential neighborhood in Cairo on July 15.

18 July 1948 – 10 March 1949

At 19:00 on 18 July, the second truce of the conflict went into effect after intense diplomatic efforts by the UN. On 16 September, a new partition plan for Palestine was proposed but it was rejected by both sides.

During the truce, the Egyptians regularly blocked the passage of supply convoys to the beleaguered northern Negev settlements by firing on them, contrary to the truce terms. On 15 October, they attacked another supply convoy, and the already planned Operation Yoav was launched.[91] Its goal was to drive a wedge between the Egyptian forces along the coast and the Beersheba-Hebron-Jerusalem road, and to open the road to the encircled Negev settlements. Yoav was headed by Southern Front commander Yigal Allon. The operation was a success, shattering the Egyptian army ranks and forcing Egyptian forces to retreat from the northern Negev, Beersheba, and Ashdod. Meanwhile, on 19 October, Operation Ha-Har commenced operations in the Jerusalem Corridor.



An Otter armoured car captured by the Haganah from the ALA in 1948

On 22 October, the third truce went into effect.

Before dawn on 22 October, in defiance of the UN Security Council ceasefire order, ALA units stormed the IDF hilltop position of Sheikh Abd, overlooking Kibbutz Manara. The kibbutz was now besieged. Ben-Gurion initially rejected Moshe Carmel's demand to launch a major counteroffensive. He was wary of antagonizing the United Nations on the heels of its ceasefire order. During 24–25 October, ALA troops regularly sniped at Manara and traffic along the main road. In contacts with UN observers, Fawzi al-Qawuqji demanded that Israel evacuate neighboring Kibbutz Yiftah and thin out its forces in Manara. The IDF demanded the ALA's withdrawal from the captured positions and, after a "no" from al-Qawuqji, informed the UN that it felt free to do as it pleased. On 24 October, the IDF launched Operation Hiram and captured the entire upper Galilee, originally attributed to the Arab state by the Partition Plan. It drove the ALA back to Lebanon. At the end of the month, Israel had captured the whole Galilee and had advanced 5 miles (8.0 km) into Lebanon to the Litani River.

On 22 December, large IDF forces started Operation Horev. Its objective was to encircle the Egyptian Army in the Gaza Strip and force the Egyptians to end the war. The operation was a decisive Israeli victory, and Israeli raids into the Nitzana area and the Sinai Peninsula forced the Egyptian army into the Gaza Strip, where it was surrounded. Israeli forces withdrew from Sinai and Gaza under international pressure and after the British threatened to intervene against Israel. The Egyptian government announced on 6 January 1949 that it was willing to enter armistice negotiations. Allon persuaded Ben-Gurion to continue as planned, but Ben-Gurion told him: "Do

you know the value of peace talks with Egypt? After all, that is our great dream!" He was sure that Transjordan and the other Arab states would follow suit. On 7 January 1949, a truce was achieved.

On 5 March, Israel launched Operation Uvda; by 10 March, the Israelis reached Umm Rashrash (where Eilat was built later) and took it without a battle. The Negev Brigade and Golani Brigade took part in the operation. They raised a hand-made flag ("The Ink Flag") and claimed Umm Rashrash for Israel.

Israeli usage of biological warfare

Research by Israeli historians Benny Morris and Benjamin Kedar show that during the 1948 war, Israel conducted a biological warfare operation codenamed Cast Thy Bread. According to Morris and Kedar, the Haganah initially used typhoid bacteria to contaminate water wells in newly cleared Arab villages to prevent the population including militiamen from returning. Later, the biological warfare campaign expanded to include Jewish settlements that were in imminent danger of being captured by Arab troops and inhabited Arab towns not slated for capture. There were also plans to expand the biological warfare campaign into other Arab states including Egypt, Lebanon and Syria, but they could not be carried out.

6. Timeline and Key Events

- **November 29, 1947:** The UN General Assembly passes UN Resolution 181, which calls for the partition of Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state.
- **November 30, 1947:** Palestinian Arabs ambush a bus carrying Jewish passengers near Lod (Lydda), an attack often cited as the start of the civil war in Palestine.
- **December 2, 1947:** The Arab Higher Committee, the leading organizer of the Palestinian Arab nationalist movement in Jerusalem, announces a three-day strike against the partition plan. Riots break out in the city, and violence between Arabs and Jews escalates.
- **April 5, 1948:** The Haganah, the foremost of the Jewish paramilitaries, launches Operation Nachshon to open the road between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.
- **April 9, 1948:** Jewish paramilitaries destroy Deir Yassin, a Palestinian Arab village that overlooks the main passageway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. About 100 people are killed, although contemporary reports from both Jewish and Arab sources counted a higher number.
- **April 13, 1948:** Palestinian Arabs attack a convoy en route to Rothschild-Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem, killing some 80 Jews.
- **May 14, 1948:** Israel declares independence hours before the British mandate ends and British forces withdraw from Palestine.
- **May 15, 1948:** Arab forces from Egypt, Transjordan (Jordan), Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon invade.
- **May 19, 1948:** Egyptian forces surround the Negev.
- **May 28, 1948:** Arab forces overtake the Jewish quarter of Jerusalem's Old City.

- **May 31, 1948:** Following an ordinance by Israel's provisional governance issued on May 26, Jewish paramilitaries (including the Haganah, the Irgun, and the Stern Geng [Lehi]) are officially folded into a unified army, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF). Some units continue to act independently.
- **June 11, 1948:** The first truce begins and is set to last 28 days.
- **June 20, 1948:** The *Altalena*, a ship carrying arms for the Irgun paramilitary, arrives on the shore of Israel. A standoff with the IDF leads to the death of 16 Irgun fighters and 3 IDF soldiers.
- **July 9, 1948:** The IDF launches Operation Danny (Dani), in which Israel secures control over the Arab cities of Lod and Ramla, west of Jerusalem, but it fails in its attempt to take control of Latrun or Ramallah, north of Jerusalem. A simultaneous campaign in the north, Operation Dekel, secures Israeli control over the lower Galilee region.
- **July 16, 1948:** Nazareth, a large town in Galilee with a predominantly Arab Christian population, signs a surrender agreement with the IDF.
- **July 18, 1948:** The second truce begins and is set to last indefinitely.
- **September 15, 1948:** Greve Folke Bernadotte, a mediator appointed by the United Nations, proposes a settlement that trades Galilee to a Jewish state for the Negev to an Arab state. The plan is rejected by both Israel and the Arabs.
- **October 15, 1948:** The second truce comes to an end, and the IDF launches Operation Yoav to retake control of the Negev.
- **October 29, 1948:** The IDF embarks on Operation Hiram to push Arab forces from Galilee.
- **January 7, 1949:** A UN-brokered cease-fire takes effect, and the hostilities largely come to an end.
- **February 24, 1949:** Israel reaches an armistice agreement with Egypt.
- **March 23, 1949:** Israel reaches an armistice agreement with Lebanon.
- **April 3, 1949:** Israel reaches an armistice agreement with Transjordan (Jordan).
- **July 20, 1949:** Israel reaches an armistice agreement with Syria.

7. Major Parties and the Forces

The war and all the conflicts was fought between the newly and just declared State of Israel and a coalition of Arab states and forces along with Palestinian Arab forces. The conflict saw several key participants on both sides.

The major parties can be shown as follows:

1. State of Israel:

Formally declared independence on May 14, 1948, after the end of the British Mandate in Palestine.

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) were formed during the war, incorporating various Jewish paramilitary groups like the Haganah, Irgun, and Lehi.

2. Palestinian Arab Forces:

Various local Palestinian militias fought against the Jewish forces, including groups like the Arab Liberation Army (ALA), which was a transnational Arab force but had many daring Palestinians.

Leadership from key figures such as Haj Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, was critical and had a significant role in the progress.

3. Arab States:

Egypt: Played a major and important role by invading from the south.

Transjordan (now known as Jordan): The Arab Legion, commanded by British officers, was one of the most effective Arab military forces in the war. They were mostly focused on areas like Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Syria: Participated in Israel's northern fronts and campaigns. The support they gave cannot be ignored even though it wasn't a strong contribute.

Lebanon: Played a more minor role because of the smaller forces but also helped and provided a lot with them. Operating primarily in the north.

Iraq: Sent and deployed troops to assist and to not hesitate the military demand, operating mainly in the central regions of Palestine.

These parties were involved in a series of campaigns, ceasefires, and negotiations throughout 1948, with the conflict causing a lot of significant territorial changes and the displacement of a large number of Palestinian Arabs. The legacy of the war has been central to the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict and it offers a fragment of today's conflicts while preserving its important place in history.

8. Relevant UN Treaties, Resolutions and Events

The UN played a significant role during this timeline, particularly concerning the partition of Palestine and the response to the conflict between Jews and Arabs. Below are key UN-related actions:

UN Resolution 181 (1947) - The Partition Plan

On November 29 1947, UN had a plan. This was the foundational UN resolution that proposed the partition of Palestine into two independent states, one Jewish and one Arab, with Jerusalem placed under international control. The resolution was accepted by the Jewish community but rejected by the Arab states and Palestinian Arab leaders. The rejection of the plan and subsequent declaration of the State of Israel by Jewish leaders in May 1948 directly led to the outbreak of the war.

Basically, the government would be divided into Jewish and Arab state and Jerusalem would be shown as a *corpus separatum* (international city).

UN Resolution 194 - The Right of Return

On December 11 1948, passed in the aftermath of the war, Resolution 194 established the basis for the "right of return" for Palestinian refugees, who had fled, punished or been expelled during the war. It called for the return of refugees wishing to live in "peace" or compensation for those who choose not to return.

In this action, the UN Conciliation Commission for Palestine (UNCCP) was established and the UN taught that refugees should be allowed to return to their homes and be compensated if they do not.

Creation of the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)

On May 29, 1948, the UN established the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) to monitor the ceasefire and truce agreements between Israel and the Arab states. It was the UN's first peacekeeping mission and continues to operate today, monitoring peace processes and the maintenance of ceasefires between Israel and its neighbors.

The UN monitored and arranged a ceasefire and provided military observers. It was the first and one of the most important peacekeeping missions of them.

Bernadotte's Plan (1948)

In September 1948, UN mediator Count Folke Bernadotte, appointed to mediate between Arabs and Israelis, presented a plan advocating for territorial changes and a solution to the refugee crisis. His plan included a revision of the boundaries proposed by the Partition Plan, but he was assassinated in September 1948 by the Jewish paramilitary group Lehi. His assassination significantly influenced the UN's role in the region and led to the adoption of further UN resolutions.

After years, refugee return advocated. Also international status for Jerusalem was discussed. Last but not least, adjustments to borders proposed in Resolution 181.

UN Mediator Role (Ralph Bunche)

In September 1948, after Bernadotte's assassination, Ralph Bunche, an American diplomat and Bernadotte's deputy, succeeded him and played a pivotal role in negotiating the 1949 Armistice Agreements between Israel and its neighboring Arab states (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria). For his efforts, Bunche received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950.

He achieved to mediate the end of hostilities and paved the way for future diplomatic efforts.

1949 Armistice Agreements

In February–July 1949, these agreements were brokered by the UN and established the armistice lines, later known as the Green Line, which became the de facto borders of Israel until the 1967 war. While not formal peace treaties, they marked the end of major hostilities in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.

After that, the ceasefire lines were established and the lines of the borders remained a matter of dispute.

UN General Assembly Special Sessions

Throughout 1948 and 1949, the UNGA convened multiple special sessions to address the ongoing conflict and refugee crisis. The UN remained a critical platform for debates over the legitimacy of Israel, the status of Palestinian refugees, and the need for international mediation in the conflict.

9. Possible Solutions

It is important for the delegates to have creative and functional ideas in the resolution part of the committee and the conflict. Therefore, the whole of the events should be investigated thoroughly and the details should not be overlooked. Here are some solutions that can help you, inspire you and have been tried during the war:

1. Partitioning Palestine into Jewish and Arab States, with Jerusalem under international control

Separating the State into Jewish and Arab states in a fair and consistent way. If this solution is to be implemented, the details, clauses and conditions of the agreement or possible situations are very important. Additionally, the control of Jerusalem is both significant for the sides. So delegates may try to convince the opposites to make Jerusalem under international or some kind of a joint control.

2. Territorial Adjustments

For a peaceful solution, the parties must reach an agreement on border adjustments and lines and lead to situations that will provide mutual satisfaction. However, while doing this, solutions must be found to problems such as whose borders Jerusalem will remain within and what the unpredictable situation of the refugees will be, and the final decision must be reached by looking at the events from every perspective.

3. Ceasefires and Truce

A ceasefire is something that needs to be done urgently in the event of a possible war. When determining the terms of a ceasefire agreement, the economic, social and diplomatic damage caused by the war should be taken into consideration, joint solutions should be found between the demands of the other side and yours, and it should be reminded that peace should be everyone's priority by finding things that will ensure peace.

The greatest liability of the delegates is to conclude the crisis and the series of events as required and to end the tension and uncertain situations with original but at the same time efficacious solutions.

10. Further Reading

<https://www.ajc.org/IsraelConflictTimeline>

<https://www.un.org/unispal/about-the-nakba/>

<https://youtu.be/eTMRMX7Pw5U?si=HhPuqSY82eSTjGhO>

<https://youtu.be/CaIi-3huRLE?si=bVjtlhi-veMs2VjI>

<https://youtu.be/STii6p1Tm8k?si=3P7Wn1oKEGwGXzU5>

<https://youtu.be/9zzUNMKSn2E?si=p3F1Tk8ArssiFenK>

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