PALESTINIAN CONFLICT FOR DUMMIES

PALESTINIAN CONFLICT FOR DUMMIES IS YOUR COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST COMPLEX AND LONGSTANDING GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGES. THIS ARTICLE EXPLORES THE ORIGINS, KEY EVENTS, MAIN PARTIES, AND ONGOING ISSUES BEHIND THE PALESTINIAN CONFLICT IN A STRAIGHTFORWARD AND ACCESSIBLE MANNER. WHETHER YOU'RE NEW TO THE SUBJECT OR SEEKING TO DEEPEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE, WE'LL BREAK DOWN THE HISTORY, MAJOR MILESTONES, AND CURRENT SITUATION USING CLEAR EXPLANATIONS AND HELPFUL LISTS. WE'LL ALSO COVER THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT, ATTEMPTS AT PEACE, AND THE PERSPECTIVES OF THOSE INVOLVED. THIS GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO CLARIFY CONFUSING TERMS, HIGHLIGHT CRITICAL FACTS, AND OFFER A BALANCED OVERVIEW OPTIMIZED FOR YOUR SEARCH NEEDS. BY THE END, YOU'LL HAVE A SOLID GRASP OF THE PALESTINIAN CONFLICT, ITS BACKGROUND, AND ITS GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE, MAKING IT EASIER TO UNDERSTAND NEWS REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

- OVERVIEW OF THE PALESTINIAN CONFLICT
- HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
- Main Parties Involved
- KEY EVENTS AND TURNING POINTS
- Major Issues and Disputes
- HUMANITARIAN IMPACT
- PEACE EFFORTS AND INTERNATIONAL ROLES
- CURRENT SITUATION AND CHALLENGES

OVERVIEW OF THE PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

THE PALESTINIAN CONFLICT REFERS TO THE ENDURING STRUGGLE OVER LAND, IDENTITY, AND SOVEREIGNTY BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. CENTERED AROUND THE TERRITORIES OF ISRAEL, THE WEST BANK, AND GAZA STRIP, THIS DISPUTE HAS LED TO WARS, UPRISINGS, PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, AND ONGOING TENSION. ROOTED IN COMPETING NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS AND HISTORICAL GRIEVANCES, THE CONFLICT AFFECTS MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AND DRAWS GLOBAL ATTENTION DUE TO ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STABILITY. UNDERSTANDING THE PALESTINIAN CONFLICT INVOLVES EXAMINING ITS HISTORICAL ROOTS, POLITICAL DYNAMICS, AND HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

ORIGINS BEFORE THE 20TH CENTURY

THE LAND AT THE HEART OF THE PALESTINIAN CONFLICT, HISTORICALLY KNOWN AS PALESTINE, WAS HOME TO DIVERSE POPULATIONS INCLUDING ARABS, JEWS, AND CHRISTIANS FOR CENTURIES. UNDER OTTOMAN RULE UNTIL WORLD WAR I, THE REGION SAW COEXISTENCE AND OCCASIONAL TENSIONS AMONG THESE GROUPS. THE AREA'S SIGNIFICANCE TO JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM HAS MADE IT A FOCAL POINT FOR RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL INTERESTS THROUGHOUT HISTORY.

BALFOUR DECLARATION AND BRITISH MANDATE

FOLLOWING WORLD WAR I, BRITAIN TOOK CONTROL OF PALESTINE THROUGH THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS MANDATE. THE 1917

BALFOUR DECLARATION EXPRESSED BRITISH SUPPORT FOR A "NATIONAL HOME FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE," INTENSIFYING JEWISH IMMIGRATION AND LAND PURCHASES. THIS LED TO INCREASED FRICTION WITH THE ARAB POPULATION, WHO OPPOSED THE LOSS OF LAND AND FEARED MARGINALIZATION.

FORMATION OF ISRAEL AND FIRST ARAB-ISRAELI WAR

IN 1947, THE UNITED NATIONS PROPOSED PARTITIONING PALESTINE INTO SEPARATE JEWISH AND ARAB STATES, WITH JERUSALEM UNDER INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATION. THE JEWISH LEADERSHIP ACCEPTED THE PLAN, WHILE ARAB REPRESENTATIVES REJECTED IT. THE DECLARATION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL IN 1948 PROMPTED NEIGHBORING ARAB COUNTRIES TO INTERVENE, RESULTING IN THE FIRST ARAB-ISRAELI WAR AND THE DISPLACEMENT OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PALESTINIANS, KNOWN AS THE NAKBA ("CATASTROPHE").

MAIN PARTIES INVOLVED

PALESTINIANS

PALESTINIANS ARE THE ARAB PEOPLE ORIGINATING FROM HISTORIC PALESTINE, NOW LIVING IN THE WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL, AND THE DIASPORA. THEIR PRIMARY POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO), ESTABLISHED IN 1964, AND HAMAS, WHICH GOVERNS THE GAZA STRIP SINCE 2007. PALESTINIANS SEEK RECOGNITION, STATEHOOD, AND RIGHTS IN THEIR HISTORIC HOMELAND.

ISRAELIS

ISRAELIS ARE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL, FOUNDED IN 1948 AS A HOMELAND FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE. THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY ARE CENTRAL ACTORS IN THE CONFLICT, SEEKING SECURITY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND RECOGNITION FROM NEIGHBORING STATES AND GROUPS. ISRAEL'S POLICIES AND ACTIONS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ARE CRITICAL POINTS OF CONTENTION.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTORS

- NEIGHBORING ARAB COUNTRIES (EGYPT, JORDAN, SYRIA, LEBANON)
- United States and European Union
- UNITED NATIONS
- RUSSIA AND OTHER GLOBAL POWERS

THESE ACTORS HAVE SHAPED THE CONFLICT THROUGH DIPLOMACY, MILITARY INVOLVEMENT, AID, AND PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, OFTEN SEEKING TO INFLUENCE OUTCOMES IN LINE WITH THEIR INTERESTS.

KEY EVENTS AND TURNING POINTS

1948 ARAB-ISRAELI WAR AND PALESTINIAN EXODUS

THE WAR FOLLOWING ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE LED TO THE DISPLACEMENT OF ROUGHLY 700,000 PALESTINIANS, THE DESTRUCTION OF HUNDREDS OF VILLAGES, AND THE DIVISION OF TERRITORY. ISRAEL GAINED CONTROL OVER MORE LAND THAN

1967 SIX-DAY WAR AND OCCUPATION

IN 1967, ISRAEL FOUGHT NEIGHBORING ARAB STATES IN THE SIX-DAY WAR, CAPTURING THE WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, EAST JERUSALEM, SINAI PENINSULA, AND GOLAN HEIGHTS. THE OCCUPATION OF THESE TERRITORIES BECAME CENTRAL TO THE CONFLICT, WITH PALESTINIANS DEMANDING AN END TO ISRAELI CONTROL AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT STATE.

INTIFADAS (UPRISINGS)

- 1. FIRST INTIFADA (1987-1993): A GRASSROOTS PALESTINIAN UPRISING AGAINST ISRAELI OCCUPATION, MARKED BY PROTESTS, CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, AND VIOLENCE.
- 2. SECOND INTIFADA (2000-2005): A MORE VIOLENT UPRISING, TRIGGERED BY FAILED PEACE TALKS AND INCREASED ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN TENSIONS.

OSLO ACCORDS AND PEACE PROCESS

In the 1990s, direct negotiations led to the Oslo Accords, creating the Palestinian Authority and outlining steps toward a two-state solution. While the accords raised hopes, ongoing disputes, violence, and political divisions stalled progress.

RECENT CONFLICTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

PERIODIC ESCALATIONS, SUCH AS WARS IN GAZA (2008, 2012, 2014, AND BEYOND), ONGOING SETTLEMENT EXPANSIONS, AND CHANGING INTERNATIONAL POLICIES, CONTINUE TO SHAPE THE CONFLICT'S TRAJECTORY AND PROSPECTS FOR PEACE.

MAJOR ISSUES AND DISPUTES

TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES

THE BORDERS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND A POTENTIAL PALESTINIAN STATE REMAIN UNRESOLVED. KEY DISPUTED AREAS INCLUDE THE WEST BANK, EAST JERUSALEM, AND GAZA. ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE WEST BANK ARE CONSIDERED ILLEGAL BY MOST OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BUT CONTINUE TO EXPAND.

REFUGEES AND RIGHT OF RETURN

MILLIONS OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES AND THEIR DESCENDANTS, DISPLACED SINCE 1948, SEEK THE RIGHT TO RETURN TO THEIR FORMER HOMES OR RECEIVE COMPENSATION. ISRAEL OPPOSES MASS RETURN, CITING DEMOGRAPHIC AND SECURITY CONCERNS.

STATUS OF JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM IS A HOLY CITY FOR JEWS, MUSLIMS, AND CHRISTIANS. ISRAEL CONSIDERS ALL OF JERUSALEM ITS CAPITAL, WHILE PALESTINIANS CLAIM EAST JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF A FUTURE STATE. THE CITY'S STATUS IS A CORE ISSUE IN NEGOTIATIONS.

SECURITY AND RECOGNITION

ISRAEL DEMANDS SECURITY GUARANTEES AND RECOGNITION FROM PALESTINIAN FACTIONS AND NEIGHBORING STATES. PALESTINIANS SEEK PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE, FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, AND AN END TO OCCUPATION.

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

LIVING CONDITIONS IN GAZA AND WEST BANK

RESIDENTS OF GAZA AND THE WEST BANK FACE RESTRICTED MOVEMENT, ECONOMIC HARDSHIP, AND LIMITED ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES. GAZA, UNDER BLOCKADE SINCE 2007, SUFFERS FROM HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, POOR INFRASTRUCTURE, AND RECURRING CONFLICT.

CASUALTIES AND CIVILIAN SUFFERING

- THOUSANDS OF DEATHS AND INJURIES AMONG CIVILIANS
- DESTRUCTION OF HOMES, SCHOOLS, AND HOSPITALS
- PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA AND DISPLACEMENT

THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REMAINS DIRE, PROMPTING INTERNATIONAL AID AND CALLS FOR IMPROVED PROTECTIONS.

PEACE EFFORTS AND INTERNATIONAL ROLES

MAIOR PEACE INITIATIVES

SEVERAL PEACE PROPOSALS HAVE AIMED TO RESOLVE THE PALESTINIAN CONFLICT, INCLUDING THE OSLO ACCORDS, CAMP DAVID SUMMIT, AND THE ARAB PEACE INITIATIVE. WHILE SOME AGREEMENTS HAVE LED TO TEMPORARY IMPROVEMENTS, LASTING SOLUTIONS REMAIN ELUSIVE DUE TO UNRESOLVED CORE ISSUES AND MUTUAL DISTRUST.

ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE BY PASSING RESOLUTIONS, PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN AID, AND SUPPORTING NEGOTIATIONS. UN AGENCIES SUCH AS UNRWA ASSIST PALESTINIAN REFUGEES WITH FOOD, EDUCATION, AND HEALTH CARE.

INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION AND SUPPORT

THE UNITED STATES, EUROPEAN UNION, RUSSIA, AND REGIONAL POWERS HAVE ALL ATTEMPTED TO MEDIATE AND SUPPORT PEACE TALKS. EXTERNAL PRESSURES, SHIFTING ALLIANCES, AND CHANGING POLICIES INFLUENCE THE CONFLICT'S DIRECTION AND PROSPECTS FOR RESOLUTION.

CURRENT SITUATION AND CHALLENGES

POLITICAL DIVISIONS

Internal Palestinian divisions between the Palestinian Authority (West Bank) and Hamas (Gaza) complicate governance and peace efforts. Israel's political landscape also affects negotiations and policy decisions.

ONGOING VIOLENCE AND SECURITY CONCERNS

PERIODIC OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE, CLASHES, ROCKET ATTACKS, AND MILITARY OPERATIONS CONTINUE TO THREATEN STABILITY AND CIVILIAN SAFETY. SECURITY REMAINS A TOP CONCERN FOR BOTH SIDES.

OBSTACLES TO PEACE

- DISPUTED BORDERS AND SETTLEMENTS
- STATUS OF JERUSALEM
- REFUGEE RIGHTS
- MUTUAL DISTRUST AND HISTORICAL GRIEVANCES
- EXTERNAL POLITICAL INFLUENCES

DESPITE WIDESPREAD CALLS FOR PEACE, THESE CHALLENGES MAKE A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE.

TRENDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: PALESTINIAN CONFLICT FOR DUMMIES

Q: WHAT IS THE PALESTINIAN CONFLICT IN SIMPLE TERMS?

A: THE PALESTINIAN CONFLICT IS THE ONGOING STRUGGLE BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS OVER LAND, NATIONAL IDENTITY, AND SOVEREIGNTY, MAINLY IN THE AREAS OF ISRAEL, THE WEST BANK, AND GAZA STRIP.

Q: WHO ARE THE MAIN PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE PALESTINIAN CONFLICT?

A: THE MAIN PARTIES ARE PALESTINIANS (REPRESENTED BY GROUPS LIKE THE PLO AND HAMAS) AND ISRAELIS (THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY), ALONG WITH INVOLVEMENT FROM NEIGHBORING ARAB COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ACTORS.

Q: WHY DID THE PALESTINIAN CONFLICT BEGIN?

A: THE CONFLICT BEGAN DUE TO COMPETING CLAIMS TO THE SAME LAND, INCREASED JEWISH IMMIGRATION, AND POLITICAL PROMISES DURING AND AFTER THE BRITISH MANDATE, CULMINATING IN THE CREATION OF ISRAEL AND THE DISPLACEMENT OF PALESTINIANS.

Q: WHAT ARE THE MAJOR ISSUES BLOCKING PEACE IN THE PALESTINIAN CONFLICT?

A: THE MAJOR ISSUES INCLUDE DISPUTED BORDERS, ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS, THE STATUS OF JERUSALEM, PALESTINIAN REFUGEES' RIGHT OF RETURN, MUTUAL SECURITY CONCERNS, AND POLITICAL DIVISIONS.

Q: WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JERUSALEM IN THE CONFLICT?

A: JERUSALEM IS A HOLY CITY FOR JEWS, CHRISTIANS, AND MUSLIMS. BOTH ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS CLAIM IT AS THEIR CAPITAL, MAKING ITS STATUS A CENTRAL DISPUTE IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

Q: WHAT ARE THE LIVING CONDITIONS LIKE FOR PALESTINIANS IN GAZA?

A: LIVING CONDITIONS IN GAZA ARE CHALLENGING DUE TO BLOCKADES, HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, LIMITED ACCESS TO RESOURCES, AND RECURRING CONFLICT, LEADING TO WIDESPREAD HUMANITARIAN NEEDS.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY SUCCESSFUL PEACE AGREEMENT?

A: While agreements like the Oslo Accords have established steps toward peace, no lasting resolution has been achieved due to unresolved core issues and recurring violence.

Q: How does the international community influence the Palestinian conflict?

A: International actors such as the UN, US, EU, and regional powers mediate negotiations, provide aid, and apply diplomatic pressure, but outcomes depend on local leadership and willingness to compromise.

Q: WHAT IS THE "RIGHT OF RETURN" FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES?

A: THE "RIGHT OF RETURN" REFERS TO THE DEMAND THAT PALESTINIAN REFUGEES AND THEIR DESCENDANTS BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IN WHAT IS NOW ISRAEL OR RECEIVE COMPENSATION, A POINT ISRAEL STRONGLY RESISTS.

Q: WHY IS THE PALESTINIAN CONFLICT CONSIDERED IMPORTANT WORLDWIDE?

A: THE CONFLICT AFFECTS REGIONAL STABILITY, GLOBAL POLITICS, RELIGIOUS INTERESTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, MAKING IT A SUBJECT OF WORLDWIDE CONCERN AND ONGOING DEBATE.

Palestinian Conflict For Dummies

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Palestinian Conflict for Dummies: A Simplified Guide to a Complex Issue

Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can feel like navigating a minefield of conflicting narratives and historical complexities. This guide aims to provide a simplified, yet nuanced, overview of the key issues, avoiding overly partisan language and focusing on providing a foundational understanding for those new to the subject. We'll explore the historical roots, core disagreements, and ongoing challenges in a way that's accessible and informative, making this intricate conflict more understandable.

H2: Historical Roots: A Century of Conflict

The roots of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are deeply entwined with the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Zionism, a nationalist movement advocating for a Jewish homeland in Palestine, gained momentum alongside rising antisemitism in Europe. Simultaneously, Palestine, then under Ottoman rule, was home to a diverse Arab population with its own established communities and cultural heritage. After World War I, British Mandate rule over Palestine introduced further complications, attempting to balance the aspirations of both Jewish and Arab populations, a task ultimately proving impossible.

H3: The 1948 Arab-Israeli War and its Aftermath

The 1948 Arab-Israeli War, resulting from the UN Partition Plan for Palestine, fundamentally shaped the conflict's trajectory. The establishment of the State of Israel led to the displacement of a large number of Palestinians, an event known as the Nakba (catastrophe) in Palestinian history. This displacement created a large Palestinian refugee population, whose descendants continue to seek repatriation or compensation. The war also led to the occupation of territories beyond the initially designated borders of Israel.

H3: The Six-Day War and the Occupation

The 1967 Six-Day War resulted in Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, Golan Heights, and Sinai Peninsula. This occupation is a central point of contention, shaping much of the present-day conflict. The occupation has led to ongoing disputes over settlements, borders, and control of resources.

H2: Core Disagreements: Land, Borders, and Sovereignty

The core disagreements in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are primarily centered around three key issues:

H3: The Question of Land and Borders:

The most significant disagreement revolves around land and borders. Palestinians claim a right of return to lands lost in 1948, while Israelis assert their right to the land based on historical and religious claims, as well as security concerns. Determining the final borders of a potential Palestinian state remains one of the most intractable issues.

H3: The Status of Jerusalem:

Jerusalem holds immense religious significance for both Jews and Muslims, making its status a highly sensitive issue. Both sides claim sovereignty over the entire city, leading to ongoing tensions and disputes over access to holy sites.

H3: Security Concerns and Settlements:

Israeli security concerns, particularly regarding potential threats from militant groups, significantly influence its policies. The continued expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories is a major point of contention, considered illegal under international law by many countries and organizations.

H2: The Ongoing Struggle: Intifadas and Peace Processes

The conflict has been punctuated by periods of intense violence, notably the First and Second Intifadas (uprisings). Several peace processes have been attempted, most notably the Oslo Accords, but these have ultimately failed to achieve a lasting resolution. The continued lack of progress fuels frustration and deepens the divisions between both sides.

H2: Understanding Different Perspectives: Beyond the Headlines

It's crucial to understand that both Israelis and Palestinians have legitimate grievances and historical narratives. To comprehend the conflict fully, it's essential to engage with diverse perspectives and avoid generalizations. Engaging with primary sources and diverse media outlets, while critically evaluating their potential biases, is vital for developing a balanced understanding.

Conclusion:

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a complex and multifaceted issue with deep historical roots. Understanding its complexities requires recognizing the legitimate concerns of both sides and engaging with the historical context. While a lasting solution remains elusive, fostering dialogue, understanding, and empathy remains crucial for achieving a peaceful resolution.

FAQs:

- 1. What is the role of religion in the conflict? Religion plays a significant role, with Jerusalem holding deep religious significance for both Judaism and Islam. However, the conflict is not solely a religious conflict; it's primarily a political and territorial dispute with religious dimensions.
- 2. What are the main Palestinian political factions? Key Palestinian factions include Fatah (generally considered more moderate) and Hamas (an Islamist group controlling Gaza). Their differing ideologies and approaches to conflict resolution significantly impact the overall political landscape.
- 3. What is the role of international actors in the conflict? Numerous international actors, including the UN, the US, and the EU, have been involved in mediating peace efforts and providing humanitarian aid. However, their influence has been limited by the deep-seated divisions and conflicting interests involved.
- 4. What are the key obstacles to peace? Significant obstacles include the issues of land and borders, the status of Jerusalem, the future of Palestinian refugees, and the continuing expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.
- 5. Where can I learn more about the conflict? Reputable news organizations, academic research papers, and documentaries offer valuable insights. Critically evaluating information from various sources and perspectives is essential for a comprehensive understanding.

palestinian conflict for dummies: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Dov Waxman, 2019-04-01 No conflict in the world has lasted as long, generated as many news headlines, or incited as much controversy as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Yet, despite, or perhaps because of, the degree of international attention it receives, the conflict is still widely misunderstood. While Israelis and Palestinians and their respective supporters trade accusations, many outside observers remain confused by the conflict's complexity and perplexed by the passion it arouses. The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: What Everyone Needs to Know® offers an even-handed and judicious guide to the world's most intractable dispute. Writing in an engaging, jargon-free Q&A format, Dov Waxman provides clear and concise answers to common questions, from the most basic to the most contentious. Covering the conflict from its nineteenth-century origins to the latest developments of the twenty-first century, this book explains the key events, examines the core issues, and presents the competing claims and narratives of both sides. Readers will learn what the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is all about, how it has evolved over time, and why it continues to defy diplomatic efforts at a resolution.

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... perhaps the most widely read American voice on foreign policy on the planet." —The New York Times Book Review "One of the radical heroes of our age . . . a towering intellect . . . powerful, always provocative." —The Guardian . . . and Ilan Pappé "Ilan Pappé is Israel's bravest, most principled, most incisive historian." —John Pilger, journalist, writer, and filmmaker "Along with the late Edward Said, Ilan Pappé is the most eloquent writer of Palestinian history." —New Statesman

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palestinian conflict for dummies: The Hundred Years' War on Palestine Rashid Khalidi, 2020-01-28 A landmark history of one hundred years of war waged against the Palestinians from the foremost US historian of the Middle East, told through pivotal events and family history In 1899, Yusuf Diya al-Khalidi, mayor of Jerusalem, alarmed by the Zionist call to create a Jewish national home in Palestine, wrote a letter aimed at Theodore Herzl: the country had an indigenous people who would not easily accept their own displacement. He warned of the perils ahead, ending his note,

"in the name of God, let Palestine be left alone." Thus Rashid Khalidi, al-Khalidi's great-great-nephew, begins this sweeping history, the first general account of the conflict told from an explicitly Palestinian perspective. Drawing on a wealth of untapped archival materials and the reports of generations of family members—mayors, judges, scholars, diplomats, and journalists—The Hundred Years' War on Palestine upends accepted interpretations of the conflict, which tend, at best, to describe a tragic clash between two peoples with claims to the same territory. Instead, Khalidi traces a hundred years of colonial war on the Palestinians, waged first by the Zionist movement and then Israel, but backed by Britain and the United States, the great powers of the age. He highlights the key episodes in this colonial campaign, from the 1917 Balfour Declaration to the destruction of Palestine in 1948, from Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon to the endless and futile peace process. Original, authoritative, and important, The Hundred Years' War on Palestine is not a chronicle of victimization, nor does it whitewash the mistakes of Palestinian leaders or deny the emergence of national movements on both sides. In reevaluating the forces arrayed against the Palestinians, it offers an illuminating new view of a conflict that continues to this day.

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by Palestinians, Israelis, and others, Tessler assesses the conflict on both the Israelis' and the Palestinians' terms. New chapters in this expanded edition elucidate the Oslo peace process, including the reasons for its failure, and the political dynamics in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza at a critical time of transition.

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practice how international law points the way to a just and durable solution to the conflict in the Middle East. Contributions from leading scholars in their respective fields give an in-depth analysis of key issues that have been marginalized in most mainstream discussions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Palestinian refugees Jerusalem security legal and political frameworks the future of Palestine. Written in a style highly accessible to the non-specialist, this book is an important addition to the existing literature on the subject. The findings of this book will not only be of interest to students and scholars of Middle Eastern politics, International Law, International Relations and conflict resolution, but will be an invaluable resource for human rights researchers, NGO employees, and embassy personnel, policy staffers and negotiators.

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turn, hindered prospects for a diplomatic resolution. Thus, while the peace process was not necessarily doomed to fail, Washington's management of the process, with its built-in blind spot to Israeli power and Palestinian politics, made failure far more likely than a negotiated breakthrough. Shaped by the pressures of American domestic politics and the special relationship with Israel, Washington's distinctive "blind spot" to Israeli power and Palestinian politics has deep historical roots, dating back to the 1917 Balfour Declaration and the British Mandate. The size of the blind spot has varied over the years and from one administration to another, but it is always present.

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