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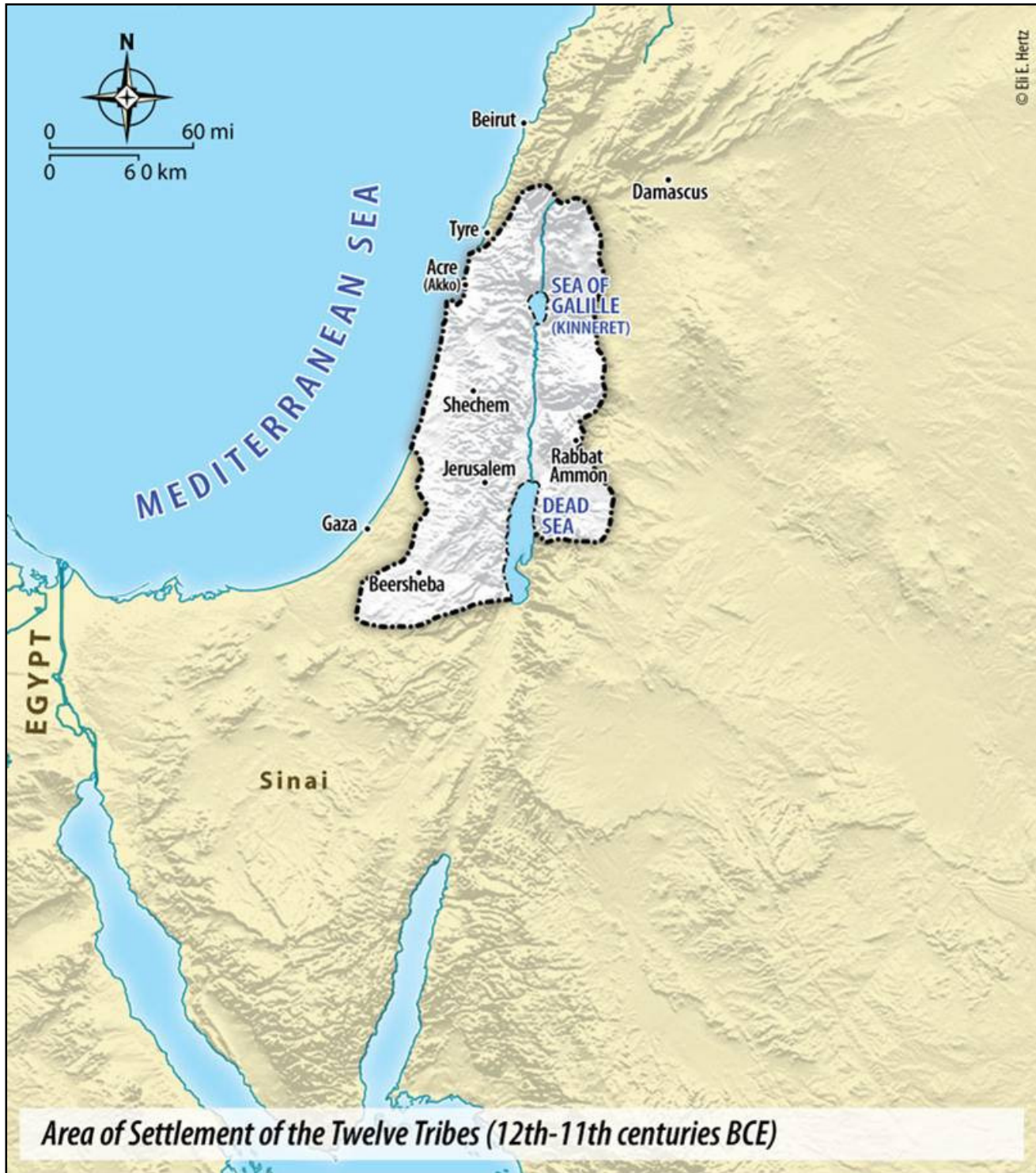


ביתנו, "בעזאל"
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 מכל הסוגים, הנעשות בארץ-ישראל

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CHANGING BOUNDARIES

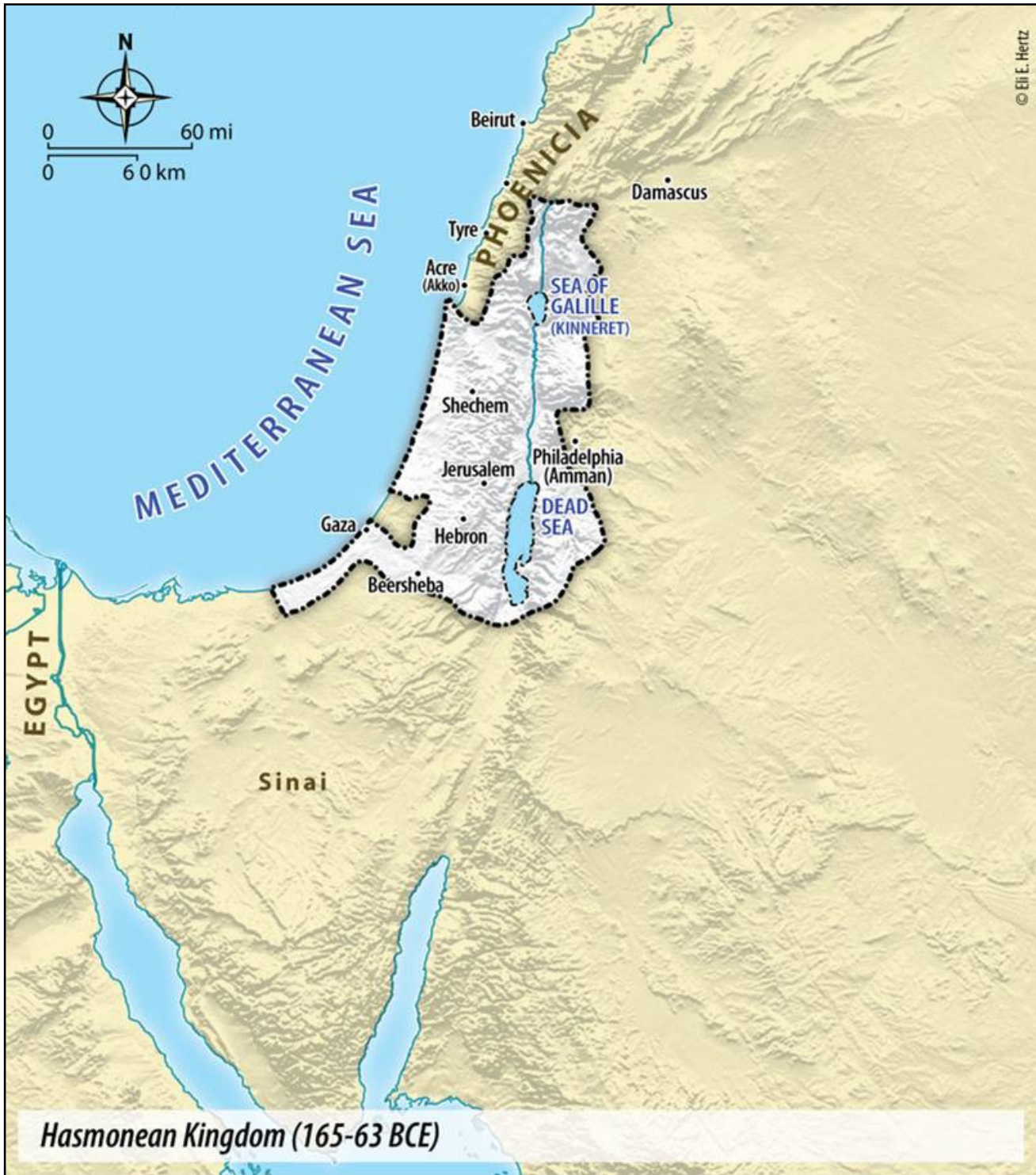
An Ancient Presence



Source: Martin Gilbert, *Atlas of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*

CHANGING BOUNDARIES

An Ancient Presence

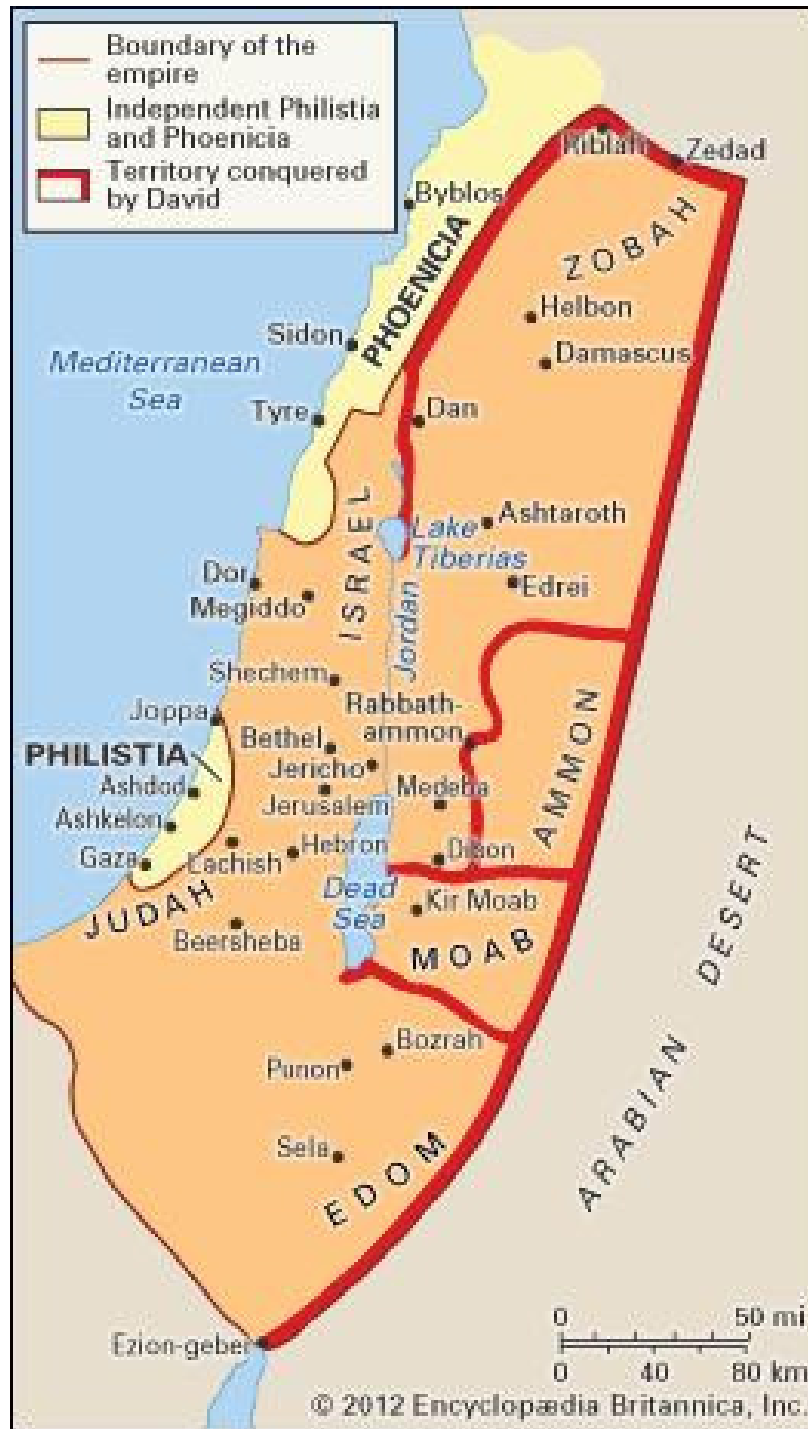


Hasmonean Kingdom (165-63 BCE)

Source: Martin Gilbert, *Atlas of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*

CHANGING BOUNDARIES

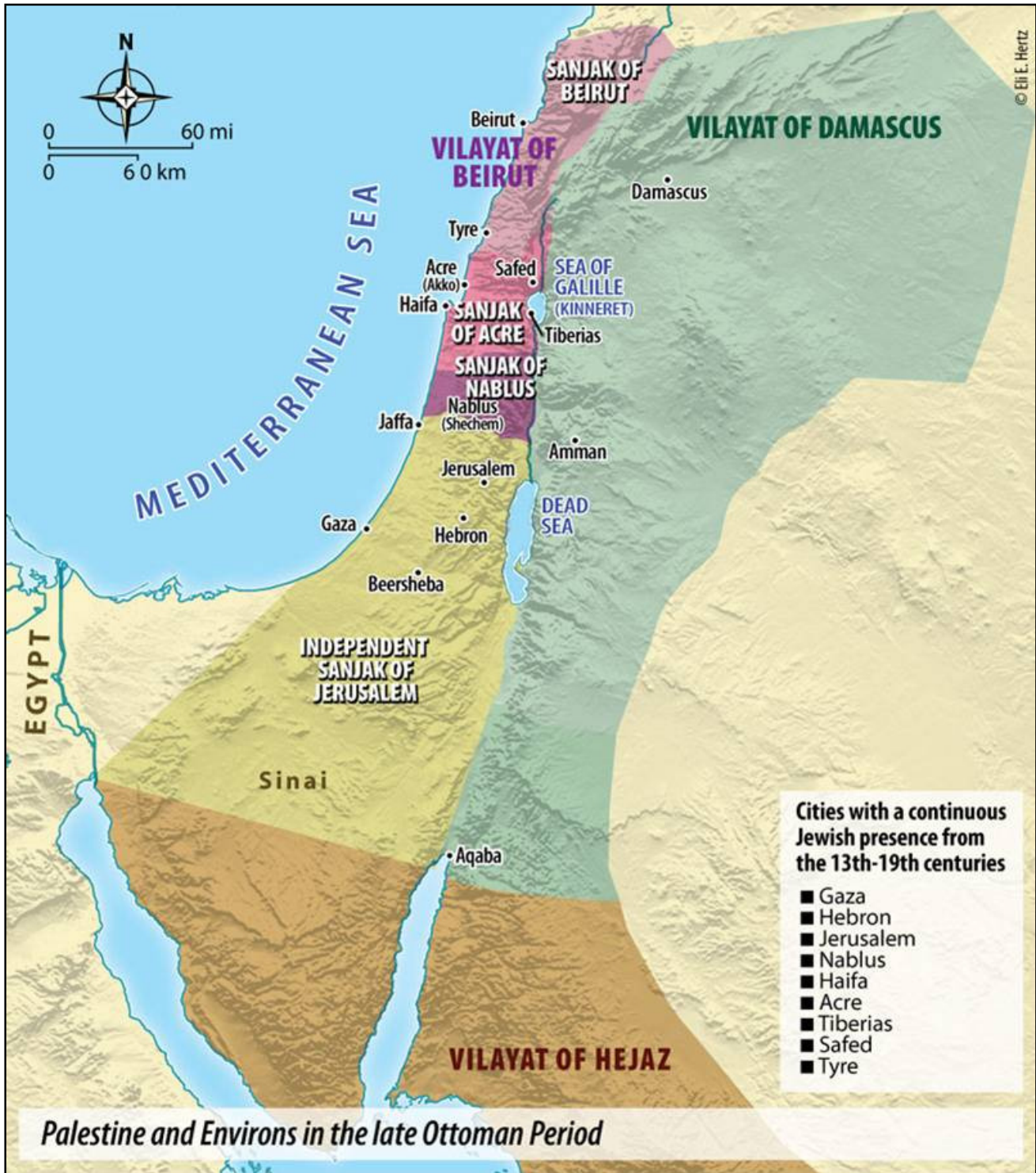
An Ancient Presence



Solomon's Kingdom (c. 1000 BCE)

CHANGING BOUNDARIES

The 1800s



The 1800s

1800

1848

1881

1882

1883

1884

1897

1898

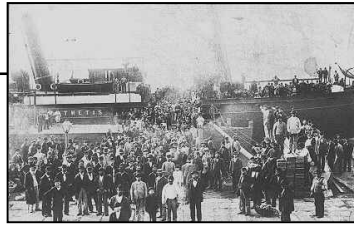
1899



1848-1890—Nationalism—the belief that a people who share a common culture should be an independent nation—grows throughout Europe.



Massive Jewish casualties from pogroms in Eastern Europe. Persecution and periodic attacks continue through the 1900s.



First Aliyah (approximately 25,000 individuals.) Large-scale immigration from Russia, Romania and Yemen. Jews begin to set up communities on purchased land.



In the face of increased antisemitism in both Eastern and Western Europe, Zionism (Jewish nationalism), the belief that the Jewish people have a right to their own land, strengthens. Theodore Herzl, one of the founders of the movement, convenes the First International Zionist Congress which declares "The aim of Zionism is to create for the Jewish people a home in the land of Israel secured by law."

The map on the previous page shows how the area of what is today Israel appeared in the late 1800s. It was part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, which controlled much of the Middle East at that time.

1. Can you locate an area called "Israel"? Can you locate an area called "Palestine"?
2. Does the area shown on the map seem to be one country or many units?
3. What does "nationalism" mean?
4. What events in the 1880s may have helped trigger a greater desire for Jews to have a nation of their own? What is a "pogrom"?
5. What steps did Jews take to develop a state of their own?
6. From which parts of the world did the Jews of the First Aliyah (immigration) come?
7. What is Zionism and who was its most famous leader in this period?
8. Why do you think Herzl felt the future Jewish home should be "in the land of Israel"?
9. What do you think Herzl meant when he said the future Jewish home should be "secured by law"?

CHANGING BOUNDARIES

The 1900s



Source: Martin Gilbert, *Atlas of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*

The 1900s

1900



1901

Establishment of the Jewish National Fund (JNF), dedicated to purchasing land for Jews in Palestine.

1902

1903



Second Aliyah. Large-scale immigration, mainly from Russia and Poland, in the wake of further pogroms. Approximately 30,000 individuals.

1904

1905



1906

Bar Giora, the first Jewish self-defense organization formed to protect the communities in Palestine from Arab raiders.

1907

Tel Aviv, the first modern all-Jewish city, is founded on Jewish-purchased land near Jaffa.

1908

1909



The map on the previous page shows the growth of Jewish settlement activity in the beginning of the 20th century. “Palestine” was still part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire.

1. How might have the Jewish National Fund’s (JNF) activities affected what you see on the map on the previous page?

2. What effect do you think events in Europe may have had on the Second Aliyah?

3. What connection do you see between the 1907 event shown here and the map on the previous page?

4. Based on the picture, what do you think was the condition of the land that Tel Aviv was built on?

5. Based on the information provided here and on the map, do you feel that Jews have a legal claim to the land of Israel?

CHANGING BOUNDARIES

The 1910s



The 1910s

1910



1911

World War I begins. Germany, Austria and Turkey wage war against Britain, France, Russia and eventually the United States.

1912

1913



British promise Sherif Hussein, ruler of Mecca, an Arab state in return for leading an Arab uprising against the Turks. Boundaries of future state are vague; Arabs claim Palestine was included but Sir Henry McMahon, the British high commissioner in Egypt who dealt with Hussein, said it did not.

1914

1915

1916



Britain's Lord Balfour promises British support for a "Jewish national home in Palestine." When later incorporated by the League of Nations in the Palestine Mandate, the Balfour Declaration becomes the basis in international law for the Jews' right to reestablish a homeland in their original, native land.

1917

1918



1919

End of World War I. Britain conquers Palestine and defeats Turkey with the aid of a Jewish brigade. The League of Nations is established in an effort to prevent further wars and to deal with defeated nations. Arab delegates to the League oppose a Jewish state in Palestine

The map on the previous page shows the area controlled by the British at the end of World War I. Before the war, the area was controlled by the Turks.

1. What choices did the Jews in Palestine have to make as a result of the conflict between Turkey and Britain in World War I? What choices did they make?
2. Who was Sherif Hussein and what promise did the British make to him? How might that promise have affected the Jews of Palestine?
3. What promise did Britain's Foreign Secretary Lord Balfour make to the Jewish people?
4. How might Britain's successes in World War I have affected the promises it made to the Jewish people? To the Arab leader Hussein?
5. Does the area in white shown on the map on the previous page seem more or less than the territory of Israel today?
6. What was the purpose of the League of Nations? What was the significance of the League of Nations adopting the Balfour Declaration?
7. What was the Arab reaction to the idea of carrying out the Balfour Declaration?

CHANGING BOUNDARIES

The 1920s



The 1920s

1920



1921

1920—The League of Nations gives Britain a mandate to rule Palestine. According to the Palestine Mandate, Britain is to encourage “close settlement by Jews on the land.” At the San Remo Conference, the Allied powers confirmed the Balfour Declaration pledge establishing a Jewish national home in Palestine.

1922

The Haganah, a Jewish defense organization, is formed in the face of continued Arab attacks on Jewish communities.

1923

1921—Arab riots against Jews in Palestine. British temporarily suspend Jewish immigration to appease the Arabs.

1924



1922—Britain takes approximately 77 percent of the Palestine Mandate—all the land east of the Jordan River—to create “Transjordan”, and installs as ruler its Arab ally, Hussein’s son, Abdullah. Jews are forbidden to live in Transjordan until practicable.

1925



Under Arab pressure, Britain begins to issue a series of “White Papers” declaring that only a very small number of Jews will be allowed to enter Palestine. Jews continue to enter Palestine and buy land, but on a limited scale.

1926

1924—The Saud family, with the aid of extremist Muslim allies (Wahhabis), defeats Abdullah’s family (the Hashemites) and takes over Arabia (today Saudi Arabia).

1927

Fourth Aliyah. Large-scale immigration, mainly from Poland. Approximately 67,000 individuals.

1928



1929

1929—Arab rioting throughout Palestine leaves 135 Jews dead and 350 wounded.

New York stock market collapse signals worldwide economic depression. These conditions fuel growth of fascism and communism. Troubled economy also spurs Arab land sales to Jews.

The map on the previous page shows how the original Palestine mandate was divided in 1922 by the British. Half became the Arab country of Transjordan (where Jews were forbidden to live) and half, “Palestine,” continued under British rule.

1. What was Britain obligated to do in Palestine by the League of Nations?

2. What was the Arab reaction to the Mandate and how did the Jews of Palestine respond?

3. What did Britain do in 1922 that affected its Mandate in Palestine? How were the Jews of Palestine affected by this decision?

4. How did Britain’s 1922 White Paper affect the Jews of Palestine?

5. What was the connection between the Saudi conquest of Arabia and Britain’s decision regarding its ally Abdullah?

6. What were relations between Arabs and Jews like by the end of the decade?

7. What is fascism? How might have economic conditions during the worldwide depression led to its growth? How did this affect the Jews of Europe?

8. How did the Great Depression affect the Jewish community in Palestine?

CHANGING BOUNDARIES

The 1930s



The 1930s

1930



1933—Hitler's rise to power in Germany. Numerous anti-Jewish laws are passed.

1931

1932



1933

1934-1945—In the face of rising antisemitism in Europe as well as British restrictions (and violation of its legal mandate), unauthorized Jewish immigration into Palestine begins in earnest. By the war's end a mere 115,000 Jews manage to escape Nazi-occupied Europe to Palestine.

1934

1936—Arabs launch violent rioting throughout Palestine against the Jews; over 100 killed.

1935

1937—Britain's Peel Commission recommends partitioning Palestine into two states, Jewish and Arab, and a British zone around Jerusalem. The plan is accepted with reservations by the Jews but rejected by the Arabs. Further rioting ensues. Facing war with Germany, in need of Arab oil and access to its colonies in Asia, Britain also rejects the plan.

1936

1937



1938—Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass). Massive destruction of Jewish property in Germany and attacks against Jews. Mass deportations of Jews to concentration camps.

1938

1939



1939—Britain issues a "White Paper" promising Arabs a country and limiting Jewish immigration to 75,000 annually over 5 years, after which it is to end altogether. Unable to escape to Palestine, and refused asylum elsewhere, millions of European Jews are murdered in the Holocaust.

Hitler invades Poland and World War II begins.

The map on the previous page shows a plan the British prepared to divide Palestine between the Jews and the Arabs. The Jews accepted the plan; the Arabs rejected it.

1. How did Hitler's rise to power relate to the Jewish people's need for its own homeland?

2. Why was there "unauthorized" Jewish immigration into British Mandatory Palestine during the 1930s and 1940s?

3. Were Britain's immigration restrictions legal or illegal?

4. What was the Arab reaction to the worsening condition of Jews in Europe and their attempts to enter Palestine?

5. What compromise did the British devise in 1937? What were the Jewish and Arab reactions to the proposal?

6. Why did the British government reject the Peel Commission plan prepared by its own experts?

7. How did the 1939 White Paper affect the Jews of Europe? What impact did it have on the Jews of Palestine?

CHANGING BOUNDARIES

The 1940s



The 1940s

1940

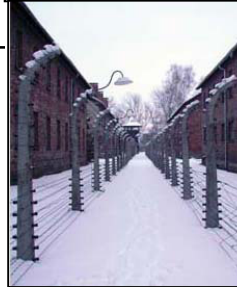


1941—Pro-Nazi Palestinian leader Haj Amin al-Husseini (appointed Grand Mufti by the British) calls for holy war (jihad) against Britain and meets with Hitler, who promises to help annihilate all Jews in Arab lands.

Attack on Pearl Harbor. United States enters the war against Hitler and Japan.

1941

1942



1942—Hitler's lieutenants put final touches on planning the "Final Solution" to the "Jewish problem." Auschwitz, major Nazi death camp, becomes fully operational.

1943

1944—Britain allows the formation of a Jewish Brigade of Palestinian Jews to fight alongside British troops. More than 5,000 join.

1944

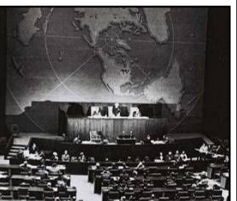


1945—World War II ends. Six million Jews are murdered in the Holocaust. Great Britain continues to bar Jews from entering Palestine.

1945

1946—Pogroms against Jews in Arab countries. Fighting between Arabs and Jews in Palestine intensifies. Britain does little to stop the violence. The Haganah and other Jewish groups unite to fight the British and defend Jews.

1946



1947—The United Nations proposes a partition of Palestine. The Jews accept the partition, the Arabs reject it. Continued Arab attacks on Jewish communities.

1947

1948—The State of Israel is declared. Prime Minister Ben Gurion urges Arabs to stay and help build the country with equal rights. Five Arab countries attack Israel.



1948

1949

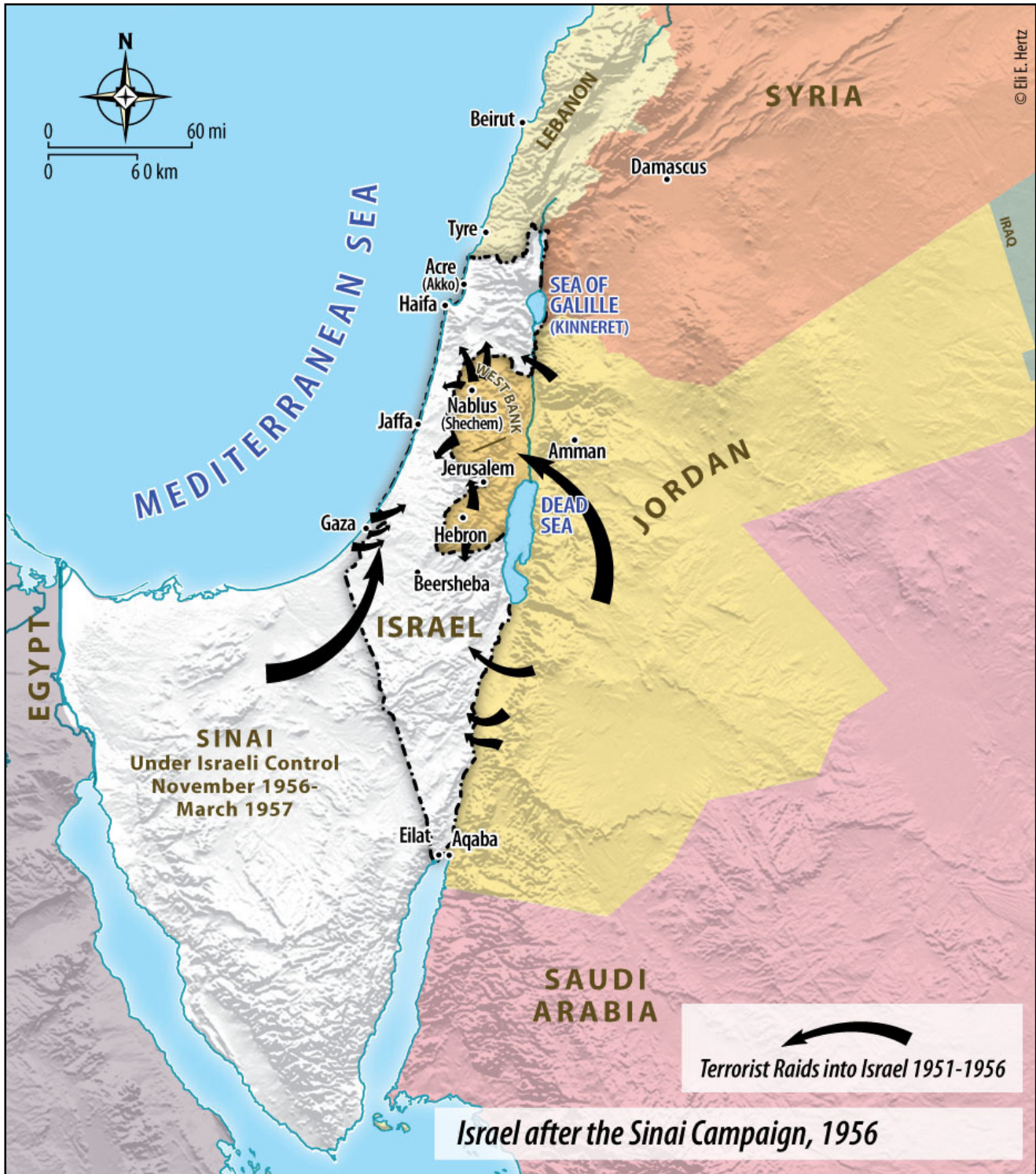
1949—Israel wins its War of Independence. The Arabs are defeated and an armistice is brought about by the United Nations. Jordan occupies the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem, while Egypt takes the Gaza Strip. Neither country seeks to establish an Arab "Palestine."

The left-hand map on the previous page shows the plan the United Nations devised to divide Palestine between the Jews and the Arabs. The Jews accepted the plan; the Arabs rejected it and attacked. The right-hand map shows the cease-fire lines when the fighting stopped.

1. What was the significance for Palestinian Jewry of the 1941 meeting between Hitler and Haj Amin al-Husseini?
2. How did Hitler's "Final Solution" relate to the Zionist call for a Jewish homeland?
3. Why do you think the Haganah and other Jewish groups took up arms against the British in 1946?
4. What compromise did the United Nations propose in 1947 and what were the Jewish and Arab reactions? How did this compromise differ from the League of Nations' original Mandate of 1920?
5. What rights did the Jewish leaders of Israel offer the Arabs when they declared independence?
6. What became of the Palestinian Arab state that the United Nations proposed in 1947?

CHANGING BOUNDARIES

The 1950s



The 1950s

1950



1950-1952—Massive immigration (more than 687,000) to Israel by the remaining Jews of Europe and Jews of Arab countries facing persecution.

1951



1951—Fearing he may make peace with Israel, an assassin kills King Abdullah of Jordan.

1952



1951-1956—Violating their agreements with Israel, Egypt and Jordan begin to send terrorists into Israel.

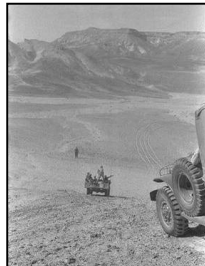
1953

1952—Gamal Abdul Nasser, a supporter of Pan-Arabism (the belief that all Arab peoples should be united into one nation, or at least that Arab identity transcends nationality) emerges as leader of Egypt.

1954

1955

1956—Nasser violates international agreements by blocking Israeli shipping through the Straits of Tiran and nationalizes the Suez Canal. England and France plot to retake the Canal; they and Israel attack Egypt in the Sinai Campaign. Israel captures Sinai and the Gaza Strip.



1956

1957

1957—Israel returns the Sinai to Egypt for the promise it will be able to use the Suez Canal as well as the Straits of Tiran. Egypt reneges on the canal promise. The United Nations sends a "buffer force" to Sinai to keep Israeli and Egyptian forces apart.

1958

1958—Egypt and Syria briefly combine to form the United Arab Republic.

1959



1959—Yasir Arafat founds the anti-Israel organization Fatah (reverse Arabic acronym for Movement for Liberation of Palestine) in Kuwait.

The map on the previous page shows attacks on Israel by Arab *fedayeen* (terrorists) in the 1950s as well as the results of Israel's Sinai Campaign of 1956. Israel gave up the territory it conquered in keeping with international agreements.

1. Why was there a massive wave of immigration to Israel in the 1950s?
2. Did the cease-fire agreements Israel reached with its Arab neighbors in 1949 hold?
3. What does pan-Arabism mean? How did it threaten the new state of Israel?
4. Find the Straits of Tiran on the map. How would Egypt's closure of it affect Israel?
5. Find the Suez Canal on the map. What does "nationalize" mean? Why did Britain and France want to recapture the canal?
6. Did Israel keep the Sinai? What post-war promises were made about the Sinai?

CHANGING BOUNDARIES

The 1960s



The 1960s

1960

1961

1962

1963

1964

1965

1966

1967

1968

1969



1964—The Arab League founds the Palestinian Liberation Organization composed of a number of groups, including Arafat's Fatah. The PLO does not demand a Palestinian state in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. Its goal is a Palestinian state in all of Israel.



1967—Egypt breaks its international agreements and closes the Straits of Tiran. Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and other Arab countries mass armies on Israel's borders.

Israel preemptively attacks in the Six-Day War, gaining control of the Sinai, Golan Heights, West Bank, Gaza Strip and eastern Jerusalem. Jews are finally able to go to their holy sites in Jerusalem and elsewhere for the first time in 19 years.

Arab leaders meet in Khartoum and proclaim—No peace with Israel, No negotiations with Israel and No recognition of Israel.

The U.N. Security Council issues Resolution 242 calling for the return of land whose exact dimensions are not specified in return for recognition by, and peace with, neighboring countries. Israel accepts the resolution; Arab countries reject it.



1968—With the hijacking of an El Al plane, Palestinian Arabs begin to widen the war of terror against "soft" Israeli and Jewish targets.

1969—Israel begins to build Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) and the Gaza Strip primarily for security reasons and also because it views the area as the cradle of Jewish civilization.

The map on the previous page shows the land that Israel captured as a result of the 1967 Six-Day War when it had been threatened with destruction by six Arab armies.

1. Look at the map on the Palestine Liberation Organization's emblem on the previous page. Does it look like the PLO aimed to divide the land between Jews and Arabs?

2. What does "preemptively" mean? Why did Israel attack its neighbors preemptively?

3. Once the Arab countries were defeated in the 1967 War, did they attempt to make peace with Israel?

4. What did U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 require Israel to do? What were the Arab nations required to do?

5. Why did Palestinian Arabs hijack commercial airliners?

6. Why did Israel begin to build Jewish communities in the areas taken in the 1967 war? Was this forbidden by U.N. Security Council Resolution 242?

CHANGING BOUNDARIES

The 1970s



The 1970s

1970



1970—Palestinian forces lead by Arafat and the PLO threaten Jordan as well as Israel. King Hussein of Jordan counter-attacks, killing thousands and sending the PLO into exile in Lebanon. Over the next 10 years, many innocent Israelis, including children, are targeted and killed by terrorists.

1971

1972—Eleven Israeli athletes are murdered by Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists at the Munich Olympic Games.



1972



1973

1973—Egypt and Syria, aided by Russian arms, attack Israel on Yom Kippur. After difficult fighting and with the help of US-supplied weapons, Israel defeats the Arabs. The U.N. Security Council calls for a cease-fire, adopts Resolution 338, which calls for prompt implementation of Resolution 242 and negotiations. Israel accepts the resolution; Arab countries reject it.

Arab oil producing countries (OPEC) raise oil prices to record highs and announce an embargo against the United States and other countries aiding Israel, letting the world know that support for Israel can have drastic effects.

1974

1975

1976



1977

1975—Prodded by oil-rich Arab countries and the Soviet Union, the U.N. General Assembly adopts a resolution equating Zionism with racism (repealed in 1991).

In Lebanon, open warfare breaks out between Christian, Muslim and PLO fighters. Syrian troops are called in by Lebanon's president to impose a cease-fire. PLO continues to attack Israeli towns from Lebanon.

1978

1979

1979—Peace treaty is signed between Anwar Sadat, President of Egypt and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin with the help of U.S. President Carter. Israel gives up the Sinai in stages but Egypt refuses to take back the Gaza Strip.



The map on the previous page side shows the land that Israel returned to Egypt as a result of a peace treaty signed in 1979.

1. What types of activities did Palestinian terrorists engage in during the 1970s? With whom did they come into conflict? (Look carefully at all events on this page.)

2. Why was the 1973 war also known as the "Yom Kippur War"? Who was directly involved in the fighting? Who was indirectly involved in the conflict?

3. What role did the United Nations play in the aftermath of the 1973 war? What were the Israeli and Arab reactions to the Security Council's requests?

4. What is an "embargo"? Whom did the Arab members of OPEC target with their embargo and why?

5. What is "racism"? Why did the U.N. General Assembly pass the "Zionism-is-Racism" resolution in 1975?

6. Why did Syria enter Lebanon in 1975? Did its presence help with Israel's security needs?

7. What was the significance of the 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt? Looking at the map, what did Israel give up for peace?

CHANGING BOUNDARIES

The 1980s



The 1980s

1980

1981—Fearing that an atomic weapon would be used against it, Israeli fighter jets destroy Iraq's nuclear reactor.



President Sadat of Egypt is assassinated by members of a Muslim Brotherhood offshoot for signing a peace treaty with Israel.

1981



1982

1983

1982—Israel invades Lebanon in response to PLO and Syrian shelling and the United Nation's inability to keep the peace. Israel expels Palestinian terrorists, reaching as far as the capital, Beirut. Yasir Arafat and his forces are allowed to retreat into exile in Tunisia. Lebanese Christian Phalangists, allied with Israel, massacre Palestinian civilians at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. Israel sets up a security zone in South Lebanon.

1984

Iran founds, trains and finance Hezbollah, a Lebanese Shi'ite terrorist organization dedicated to destroying Israel.

1985



1984—Operation Moses brings approximately 7,000 African Jews from the ancient Jewish community of Ethiopia to Israel.

1986

1987

1987—Intifada I. Palestinian Arabs in the West Bank begin rioting against Israel. At first a spontaneous uprising, it eventually comes under the control of PLO leadership in exile in Tunis.



1988

Founding of Hamas, a radical Sunni Muslim organization associated with the Muslim Brotherhood and sworn to the destruction of Israel.

1989

1988—Jordan's King Hussein gives up any claim to the West Bank (which his country had occupied from 1948-1967) and recognizes the PLO as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians."

The map on the previous page shows the border between Israel and Lebanon and a security zone (dark pink) that Israel set up with the aid of Lebanese Christians to keep Palestinian Arabs and others from attacking its northern communities.

1. Why did Israel, which doesn't border Iraq, attack Iraq's nuclear reactor?
2. What lesson might other Arab leaders "learn" from what happened to President Sadat of Egypt?
3. Why did Israel invade Lebanon? How did this war affect Palestinian Arabs? Did this mark the end of attacks on Israel's northern border?
4. In 1975, Israel was described in a United Nations General Assembly resolution as being a racist country. What event in this period clearly refuted that notion?
5. What was the "intifada"? Who began it and who came to control it?
6. What is Hamas and what are its beliefs?
7. How did the king of Jordan's declaration that the PLO was the only "legitimate representative of the Palestinians" become a source of trouble for Israel?

CHANGING BOUNDARIES

The 1990s



The 1990s

1990

1991—Gulf War. Saddam Hussein's Iraq invades Kuwait and threatens Saudi Arabia. The United States leads a multi-nation coalition, which does not include Israel, against Iraq. Nevertheless, Israel is attacked by Iraqi missiles.



1991

The United States convenes a peace conference in Madrid, bringing together representatives of Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian Arabs for the first face-to-face talks.

1992



1993

1993—Oslo Accords are signed by Yasir Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Under the plan, Israel is to gradually hand over major Palestinian cities for self-rule. The PLO pledges to give up, to stop incitement against Israel and to resolve all future problems through negotiations.

1994



1995

1994—Jordan becomes the second Arab country to recognize Israel, signing a peace treaty.

1996

Yasir Arafat becomes head of the Palestinian Authority. He soon moves to eliminate all opposition in Palestinian territories and quashes freedom of the press. Suicide bombers from areas under Palestinian control begin to attack Israeli civilians. A Jewish extremist kills 29 Muslim worshippers in Hebron.

1997



1998

1995-1999—Suicide bombers attack buses, malls and street gatherings, killing Israeli civilians. Arafat continues to claim he is fighting terrorism but does little or nothing to stop it.

1999

Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated by a young Jew opposed to ceding any land controlled by Israel to Arab rule.

The map on the previous page shows the areas of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip that Israel agreed to give over to Palestinian Arab control as a result of peace talks known as the “Oslo Accords.”

1. In 1981, Israel destroyed Iraq's nuclear reactor, fearing that Iraq might use it to make a nuclear bomb. Based on this period's events, how would you evaluate that decision?

2. What was the significance of the U.S.-led Madrid conference of 1991?

3. What were the Oslo Accords? What did they obligate Israel to do? What were the Palestinian Arabs obligated to do?

4. Did the Palestinian Arabs live up to their obligations? Based on the map on the previous page, did Israel live up to its obligations?

5. With which nation did Israel achieve peace in this decade?

6. Did Palestinian Arabs create a democracy in the areas under their control?

7. Were Palestinian Arabs the only extremists in this period?

CHANGING BOUNDARIES

The 2000s



Source: Dennis Ross, *The Missing Peace*, 2004

The 2000s (1)

2000



2000—At Camp David Israel offers the Palestinian Arabs a state in more than 95 percent of the West Bank and all of Gaza and parts of eastern Jerusalem as its capital. Palestinian Authority chairman Arafat rejects the offer and launches the “Al-Aqsa intifada.” Two months later, Ariel Sharon is elected Israel's prime minister.

2001



2001—Escalation of violence as Palestinian Arabs unleash suicide bombings against Israelis and foreign visitors at discos, pizzerias and markets.

September 11—Mass terror strikes the United States as al Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden and other Islamic fundamentalists, attacks New York and Washington.

2002

2003

2002—After hundreds of non-combatant deaths from Palestinian terrorism, Israeli troops return to Palestinian population centers vacated as part of the 1993 Oslo “peace process.” Construction of West Bank security barrier begins. Terrorist attacks decrease.

U.S. President George W. Bush calls publicly for the creation of a Palestinian state but only after Palestinian Arabs select new leaders untainted by terrorism.

2004

2003—American and allied forces overthrow Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein who had violated U.N. resolutions including those regarding inspections for weapons of mass destruction. He also helped bankroll anti-Israel suicide bombings.

Israel continues work on the security barrier, despite protests by Palestinian Arabs and their supporters, and U.N. condemnation.

2005

2004—President Bush writes letter to Prime Minister Sharon stating that new “facts on the ground” since the 1967 Six-Day War make it unrealistic to expect an Israeli withdrawal to the 1949 armistice lines.

Yasir Arafat dies.

2006

2005—Mahmoud Abbas who had briefly served as Palestinian prime minister in 2003, is elected Arafat's successor as head of the Palestinian Authority.

Israel unilaterally withdraws from the Gaza Strip, removing its more than 8,000 Jewish residents and all troops.



2006—Hamas, designated a terrorist organization by the United States and other countries in addition to Israel, wins elections to lead the Palestinian Authority. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, president of Iran, which is believed to be developing nuclear weapons, calls for Israel's destruction. Israel wages war in Lebanon against Hezbollah after its gunmen cross the border into Israel, killing eight soldiers, capturing two and bombarding northern Israel with rockets.

The map on the previous page shows the approximate outlines of the Palestinian state that was offered Yasir Arafat in the summer of 2000.

1. What was Israel's offer to the Palestinian leadership at Camp David? What was the Palestinian response?

2. What were the major elements of President Bush's 2002 speech and 2004 letter about Israel and the Palestinian Arabs?

3. What is the purpose of Israel's security barrier? What was international reaction to it and why?

4. Who is Mahmoud Ahmadinejad? What is his significance?

5. What caused the Israel-Hezbollah War of 2006? Describe the result and what has happened since then.



The 2000s (2)

2007

2007—Iran declares its ability to enrich uranium on an industrial scale, a necessary step to building a nuclear bomb.

Fighting erupts between Hamas and PA President Abbas' Fatah. Hamas seizes the Gaza Strip.



6. Who took over the Gaza Strip in 2007?
7. What was the purpose of Operation Cast Lead?
8. Describe Israel's peace proposal to Mahmoud Abbas in 2008 and after.
9. What concept did Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu publicly endorse in 2009 for the first time?

2008

2008—Hamas resumes heavy mortar and rocket barrage from Gaza at nearby Israeli communities. Palestinian terror attacks staged in other parts of Israel.

Hezbollah terror chief Imad Mugniyah is assassinated in Damascus.

Abbas rejects Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's offer of a Palestinian state on virtually all the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with eastern Jerusalem as its capital, in exchange for peace with Israel. Abbas makes no counter offer.

Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.), wins the U.S. presidential election, defeating Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.).

Under Prime Minister Olmert, Israel Defense Forces launch Operation Cast Lead, a three-week offensive to halt mortar and rocket fire and other attempted attacks by Hamas and other terrorist groups on Israel from the Gaza Strip.



2009

2009—Benjamin Netanyahu, chairman of the Likud Party, is sworn in as Israeli prime minister and head of new government.

In a speech in Cairo, President Obama calls for a "new beginning between the United States and Muslims."

Incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad claims victory in Iranian election. Vote fraud is suspected, and many Iranians publicly protest and are violently suppressed.

Netanyahu publicly endorses—for the first time—the concept of a West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinian Arab state alongside Israel in exchange for peace and recognition of Israel as the Jewish state.

The U.N.'s Goldstone commission report is released, accusing both Israel and Hamas of war crimes and possible crimes against humanity in connection with Operation Cast Lead. A year and a half later, Goldstone retracts central accusations against Israel, most notably that Israeli troops had intentionally targeted Arab civilians.

Netanyahu announces a 10-month freeze on Israeli construction in West Bank communities in a bid to restart stalled peace talks with the Palestinian Arabs, but Abbas refuses to negotiate without a total freeze.

2010—A "humanitarian aid" flotilla from Turkey (chartered by anti-Israeli organizations) attempts to break Israel's naval blockade of Gaza and is intercepted by Israeli naval forces. Nine Turks, who attacked Israeli commandos with knives and metal bars, are killed.

Immense natural gas discovery in the eastern Mediterranean Sea within Israel's territorial waters.



2010



2011

2011—"The Arab Spring" leads to the overthrow of dictators in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen and Libya, and large-scale bloody repression in Syria.

Terrorist attacks include the murder of five Jewish family members in Itamar in Samaria (northern West Bank).

Israel thwarts Iran's attempt to smuggle over 50 tons of weapons into Gaza via the sea aboard the "Victoria."

Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden is killed in Pakistan by United States Navy SEALs.

U.S. President Obama declares "the borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps." Netanyahu asserted that those lines were "undefensible."

Eight Israelis are killed during a terror attack along the border with Egypt.

Antisemitism and anti-Israel activity increase on U.S. college campuses. The movement calling for boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel gains attention.

PA President Abbas requests formal U.N. recognition of a Palestinian state, ignoring President Obama's plea to negotiate directly with Israel.

Hamas frees Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit in return for Israel's releasing 1,027 Palestinian terrorists.

The Stuxnet virus reportedly slows down Iran's nuclear weapons program.

The 2000s (3)

10. What is the Goldstone report? What did Judge Goldstone do in regard to the report in 2011?
11. Describe what you know about the 2010 and 2011 flotillas bound for the Gaza Strip and Israel's naval blockade of the area.
12. What is the Arab Spring? What is its impact on Israel?
13. Who was Osama bin Laden, and what did he do? Why?
14. How do U.S. President Barack Obama's and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's views about Israeli-Palestinian negotiations differ?
15. What dangers does Israel face from beyond its borders?



2012

2012—The Sinai Peninsula becomes a new hotspot with an expanding terrorist infrastructure. IDF Intelligence head reports that Israel's enemies have 200,000 rockets and missiles, which could reach all parts of Israel.

Saboteurs blow up Egyptian natural gas pipelines to Israel 12 times in 2012. Finally, Egypt terminates its agreement with Israel.

Terrorist bombers attack Israel embassy staffers in India. Plots to attack Israeli interests in Singapore and Thailand go awry.

The Iron Dome system intercepts more than 50 rockets fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip.

Israel receives German-built Dolphin submarines, equipped to carry cruise missiles and nuclear warheads, giving Israel "second-strike" capabilities in case of a nuclear attack.

A senior member of the Muslim Brotherhood, Mohammed Morsi, wins Egypt's first democratic election since President Hosni Mubarak's overthrow.

An Israeli government-appointed judicial commission states that Israel's presence in the West Bank should not be considered "occupation" and existing settlements authorized by the government are legal under international law.

Israel launched Operation Pillar of Defense in response to incessant rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip.

The U.N. General Assembly voted to grant "Palestine" the status of "non-member observer state."

2013

Parliamentary elections gave the ruling Likud and Israel Beitenu parties a reduced plurality. Yesh Atid (There is a Future), led by former newscaster Yair Lapid, came in second, and Habayit Hayehudi (Jewish Home), led by Naftali Bennett, placed third.

Yityish Aynaw, 21, became the first Ethiopian-Israeli to win the Miss Israel pageant.

President Obama arrived in Israel, the first visit of his presidency. His agenda included discussing Iran's nuclear program, the situation in Syria and Israeli-Palestinian diplomacy.

Upheavals in Arab and Muslim countries throughout the Middle East resulted in attacks on Christians. Dozens of churches in the Middle East have been destroyed.

An Israeli government review discredited a report saying 12-year-old Muhammad al-Dura was killed by Israel Defense Forces fire during the al-Aqsa *intifada*. Al-Dura became one of the second *intifada*'s most widely disseminated anti-Israel symbols. The IDF had initially accepted responsibility for the incident.

The death toll in Syria exceeded 100,000. In August, more than 1,400 Syrian men, women and children were killed in a nerve gas attack by Syrian President Bashar-al-Assad forces on rebel-held areas near Damascus.

Hassan Rouhani won Iran's presidential elections, succeeding Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Egypt's military deposed Mohammed Morsi, the country's first democratically elected president.

Singer Alicia Keys performed to a sold-out Tel Aviv concert despite pressure to cancel her trip from author Alice Walker and other proponents of the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

The European Union published a directive forbidding any funding or cooperation to Israelis residing beyond the 1949 armistice line, including in Judea and Samaria, eastern Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

The European Union added the "military" wing of Hezbollah to its list of terrorist organizations.

Demonstrating their interest in resuming peace talks with the Palestinian Authority, the Israeli government agreed to gradually release 104 Palestinian terrorists, all convicted of murder, attempted murder or kidnapping.

Israel and the Palestinian Authority held several rounds of peace talks, their first negotiations in nearly five years.

Two Israeli scientists and one American Jewish scientist shared the Nobel Prize in chemistry.

The P5+1 powers (United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China, Germany and the European Union) reached a six-month interim deal with Iran on its nuclear program, despite the opposition of Israel, Jewish groups, the U.S. Congress and Saudi Arabia.

The 2000s (4)



2014

The 2000s (5)

PA President Mahmoud Abba's Fatah party agreed to form a unity government with Hamas, an organization sworn to the destruction of Israel. This unity agreement prompted the Israeli government to officially pull out of peace talks.



Israeli teenagers Eyal Yifrach, Gilad Shaar and Naftali Frenkel were kidnapped and murdered. The discovery of their bodies led to an apparent revenge killing of Palestinian teenager Mohammed Abu Khdeir.



Israel launched Operation Protective Edge in response to increased rocket fire from Gaza. The war began with airstrikes, then led to a ground invasion that destroyed more than 30 Hamas terror tunnels into Israel.



Israel and Egypt shared an interest in cracking down on Islamic terror groups in the Sinai Peninsula and in targeting Hamas. Israel also found common ground with Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.

Israel faced new threats at its border with Syria from al-Qaeda-affiliated terror groups, Hezbollah and Iran. After violence on the Syrian side, the United Nations moved its peacekeeping forces to the Israeli side of the Golan. Israel built an improved security fence against infiltration.

The relationship between Turkey and Israel deteriorated, with President Erdogan accusing Israel of "genocide" and "terrorism" against the Palestinian Arabs.



The threat from radical Islam rose to new proportions. The Islamic State terrorist group (also know as ISIS or ISIL) has been the most prominent, gaining attention for its beheadings of American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff (also an Israeli citizen) and two British citizens, David Haines and Alan Henning. ISIS posted videos of their brutal murders on YouTube.

Energy-independent Israel is now supplying natural gas to its neighbors. In September, Israeli energy companies signed a multi-billion dollar deal with Jordan to provide them with off shore natural gas.



Antisemitism increased worldwide, especially in Europe, to levels not seen since the Holocaust. French Jews are making aliya in record numbers.

Anti-Israel and antisemitic sentiment continued to grow on American college campuses, including regularly held "Israel Apartheid Week" and BDS events.



2015

Elections for Israel's 20th Knesset were held on March 17, 2015 after the dissolution of the prior government in Dec. 2014 over budget disputes and legislation to codify into law that Israel is a "Jewish state." The Center-Right Likud Party of sitting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu won a plurality of votes. He formed a governing coalition that included right-of-center political parties and religious parties that just barely provided a majority in the Knesset. Netanyahu's main focus is on preventing Iran from developing the capacity to build nuclear weapons. He also took a firm stand opposing a Palestinian state as long as Palestinian Authority leaders refuse to endorse a two-state solution with Israel as a Jewish state and an end to the conflict.

Throughout the spring and summer of 2015, announcements of a political agreement between the Obama administration and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the backing of the P5+1 group (China, France, Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom), generated friction between Israel and the United States. Prime Minister Netanyahu spoke for the detractors of the pact both in Israel and the United States when he stated that a bad deal was worse than no deal at all.

Israelis across the political spectrum felt the agreement conceded too much to the Iranians. The deal provides an end to crippling economic sanctions and gives Iran access to a reported \$100 to \$150 billion that had been withheld from the Islamic Republic because of its failure to cooperate with international inspectors of its nuclear program and its support for terrorism. Critics from many quarters also expressed their concern that the American negotiators had conceded too much to the Iranians and abandoned previous demands that Iran allow unfettered inspections of its nuclear facilities, especially those associated with military installations.

Israel was not alone in expressing deep consternation over the proposed deal. Many of its Arab neighbors voiced similar dismay. While publicly voicing conditional support, Saudi Arabia also threatened to initiate its own competing nuclear program. Numerous reports also suggest that Turkey and Egypt, as well as other Middle Eastern states, might seek nuclear weapons in response.

Many in Israel and the region as a whole saw the deal between the United States and Iran as a harbinger of an increasingly dangerous region in the wake of a receding American presence and influence. The Saudis and other Gulf Arab states have interceded in a civil conflict in Yemen in which the Iranians are backing a Shiite militia, the Houthis, in their attempt to overthrow Yemen's Sunni dominated- government.

The civil war in Syria also threatens to impact Israel. Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed terrorist group in Lebanon sworn to Israel's destruction, has increased its involvement in Syria and the potential for a new infusion of funds from Iran worries Israel. In September, Russia entered the conflict directly, providing military assets it said would be used to fight Sunni extremists of the recently declared Islamic State, but the Russian intervention will also reinforce the Syrian Assad regime.

Israel has had to counter a growing boycott, divestment and sanctions movement [BDS] in some western countries. The BDS movement presents itself as a human rights cause but it is openly hostile to the existence of the state of Israel. Prominent liberal churches whose leaderships are influenced by anti-Israel activism and the antisemitic trope of replacement theology have passed boycott initiatives. The BDS movement is visible on college campuses where strong anti-Israeli activism occurs, although when put to vote, boycott initiatives usually fail.

The 2000s (6)

