



## Balfour Declaration

[Source: IE](#)

Recently, the [Balfour Declaration](#) completed **107 years** which was issued on **2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1917**.

- **The Balfour Declaration** (named after **Arthur James Balfour**, British Foreign Secretary) was a **public statement** issued by the **British government** during [World War I](#).
- It supported the establishment of a "**national home for the Jewish people**" in Palestine which was then an **Ottoman region** with a small **Jewish minority** population.
- This declaration was issued to ensure **Jewish safety** amid rising **persecution in Europe**.
- It **conflicted** with Britain's prior promise in the **McMahon-Hussein correspondence (1915-1916)** to support an **independent Arab state** in return for Arab assistance against the [Ottoman Empire](#).
- Britain sought Jewish support for the [Allied powers](#) to influence Jewish communities in the **US and Russia**, while also viewing control over **Palestine** as key for protecting the [Suez Canal](#) and [British interests in India](#).

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# ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a long-standing geopolitical dispute over territory and self-determination in the Middle East.

## BEGINNING

- UN adopted **Resolution 181** - the Partition Plan in 1947
- State of Israel created in 1948, sparking the **first Arab-Israeli War** (Israel won)
  - Palestinians displaced
  - Division of territory into - State of Israel, West Bank and Gaza Strip

## INITIAL TENSIONS AND CONFLICTS (1956-1979)

- Suez Crisis** and Israeli **invasion of Sinai Peninsula** in 1956
- Six-Day War (1967)** - Israel gained control over Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, East Jerusalem and Golan Heights

### Controversy over Jerusalem as Capital

- Israel view:** Complete and united Jerusalem
- Palestinians view:** East Jerusalem future capital

- Yom Kippur War (1973)** - Surprise attack by Egypt and Syria
- Camp David Accords (1979)** b/w Egypt and Israel

### Intifada (Arabic for 'shake off')

- First Intifada - 1987 to 1993**
  - Led to the foundation of Hamas (1987) - a Palestinian political party designated as a foreign terrorist org by US
  - Response - **Madrid Conference 1991** (chaired by the US and Russia)
- Second Intifada - 2000-2005**
- The latest escalation (2023) is being called the beginning of "Third Intifada"

## OSLO ACCORDS (MEDIATED BY US)

- First (1993)**
  - Estd framework for **Palestinian self-governance** in West Bank and Gaza
  - Enabled mutual recognition between Israel and Palestine

## Second (1995)

- Expanded on Oslo I Accords
- Mandated **complete Israeli withdrawal** from several cities and towns in **West Bank**

## POST 2000 CONFLICT AND RESPONSES

- 2013** - US-led peace process began
- 2014-18** - Gaza Conflict (2014)
  - Palestine announced break from territorial divisions under Oslo Accords (2015)
- 2018-20** - US Cancelled funding for Palestinian refugees under UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)
  - US proposed "**Peace to Prosperity**" plan
- 2020 - Abraham Accords**
- 2022-2023:**
  - Israel raids on **Jenin refugee camp**
  - Hamas launched "**Operation Al-Aqsa Flood**" and Israel launched "Operation Iron Swords" (both in 2023)
    - Israel declared a **State of War**
  - India's Stand:**
    - Supports a **Two State solution** for Israel and Palestine
    - Condemned the recent attack** by Hamas on Israel



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PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/balfour-declaration>