

ANCIENT ENMITY, ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST MODERN CONFLICT

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POST-
DISPATCH
SON
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Long before the partition of Palestine led to the creation of a Jewish state, Jews and Arabs struggled with deep-seated enmity – one that has its roots in the biblical story of Abraham, Ishmael and Isaac.

PAST

1850 B.C. Age of the biblical patriarch Abraham, considered to be the father of monotheistic religion. Judaism and Islam have conflicting stories of Abraham (Ibrahim to Muslims) and his sons Ishmael (Ismail), whose mother was Hagar (Hajar), and Isaac, whose mother was Sarah.

Ishmael's mother was called a servant by the Jewish holy books and Abraham's wife by Islamic writings. Ishmael and his mother were exiled – according to the Jewish Torah, at Sarah's insistence. But according to the Islamic Quran, Abraham visited regularly, eventually building the Kaa'bah, the cube-shaped shrine in Mecca, with his son. Tradition holds that Ibrahim also was the builder of Al Aqsa in what is now Jerusalem. Ibrahim and Ismail's descendants were the Arabs, eventually establishing Islam. Aspects of the Hajj pilgrimage, one of the five pillars of Islam, represent a ritualistic re-enactment of certain aspects of the lives of Ibrahim, Hajar and Ismail.

The descendants of Abraham – who came from Mesopotamia into Canaan – Sarah and Isaac eventually settled in Egypt, and their descendants established Judaism. During the Hebrews' long exile in Egypt, however, care of the Al Aqsa fell to the region's natives, also followers of Abraham/Ibrahim.

– CNN

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

STARTED: 1994

Self government for Gaza Strip, West Bank set up by Palestinian-Israeli peace accord; Arafat is president; 12-member Cabinet; 88-member legislative council

PRESENT

SEPT. 28, 2000 Efforts to bring peace to Israel and the Palestinians were threatened on Sept. 28, 2000, after Likud party leader Ariel Sharon's visit to a Jerusalem shrine holy to Muslims and Jews. The visit, considered a demonstration of Israel's domination of the area, sparked rioting in Jerusalem and on the West Bank and in Gaza. The death toll climbed above 80 in 10 days. Anger over the situation has spread throughout much of the Arab world, with protesters taking to the streets in Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Jordan.

– THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TANZIM

Arabic for "organization"

STARTED: 1995

Armed grassroots militia born in refugee camps, connected to Fatah; Israel says it has major role in latest uprising

PALESTINIAN GROUPS

WITH TIES TO YASSER ARAFAT:



FATAH Palestine Liberation Movement
STARTED: 1957
MEMBERS: 6,000 – 8,000
Founded by Arafat, led by him since 1965; military wing has attacked Israeli forces

PLO Palestine Liberation Organization
STARTED: 1964

Coalition of Palestinian nationalist groups; Fatah is largest faction; Arafat named chairman, 1968; national council is highest decision-making body of PLO

FORCE 17

STARTED: 1970s **MEMBERS:** 3,500
Security force for Arafat, other PLO leaders, Palestinian Authority; Israel says it has attacked Jewish settlers

ARAFAT'S RIVALS:

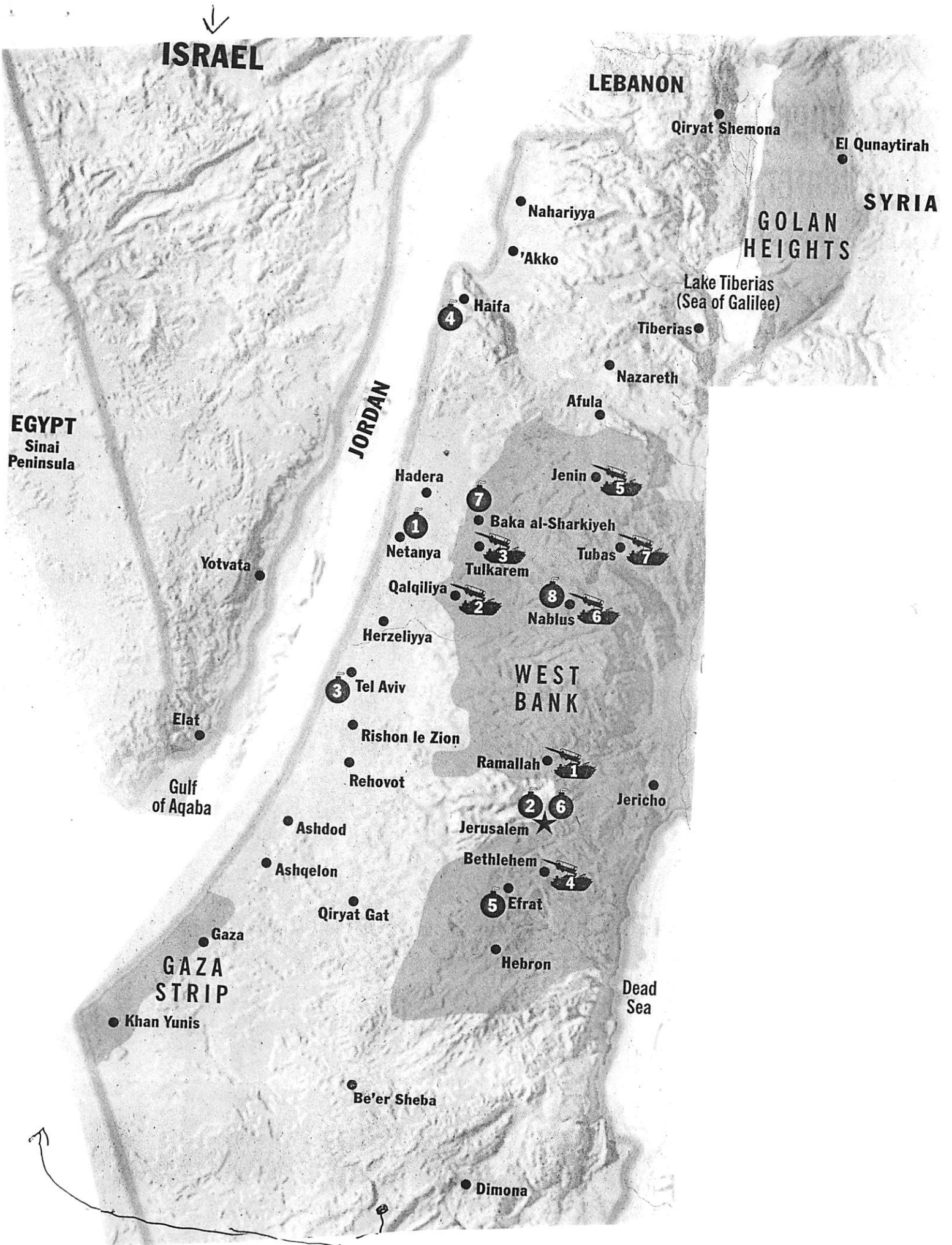
ISLAMIC JIHAD

STARTED: 1970s
Began in Gaza Strip; loose group of factions that support Islamic Palestinian state, destruction of Israel; oppose Western secular influence; has carried out suicide bombings against Israel

AL-AQSA MARTYRS BRIGADES

STARTED: After September 2000
Arafat's control over group is disputed; Israel links them to Tanzim and says its terrorist attacks have killed more than 100, injured 400; affiliated with Fatah

HAMAS Islamic Resistance Movement
STARTED: 1987 (during first uprising)
Radical Islamic fundamentalists; wants Islamic Palestinian state in place of Israel; militant wing has conducted terrorist attacks against Israel, Palestinian rivals



ISRAEL

LEBANON

SYRIA

GOLAN HEIGHTS

Qiryat Shemona

El Qunaytirah

Nahariyya

'Akko

Haifa

Lake Tiberias (Sea of Galilee)

Tiberias

Nazareth

Afula

JORDAN

EGYPT
Sinai Peninsula

Yotvata

Hadera

Jenin

Netanya

Baka al-Sharkiyeh

Tubas

Tulkarem

Qalqiliya

Nablus

Herzeiliyya

WEST BANK

Tel Aviv

Rishon le Zion

Rehovot

Ramallah

Jericho

Gulf of Aqaba

GAZA STRIP

Khan Yunis

Ashdod

Ashqelon

Qiryat Gat

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

Efrat

Hebron

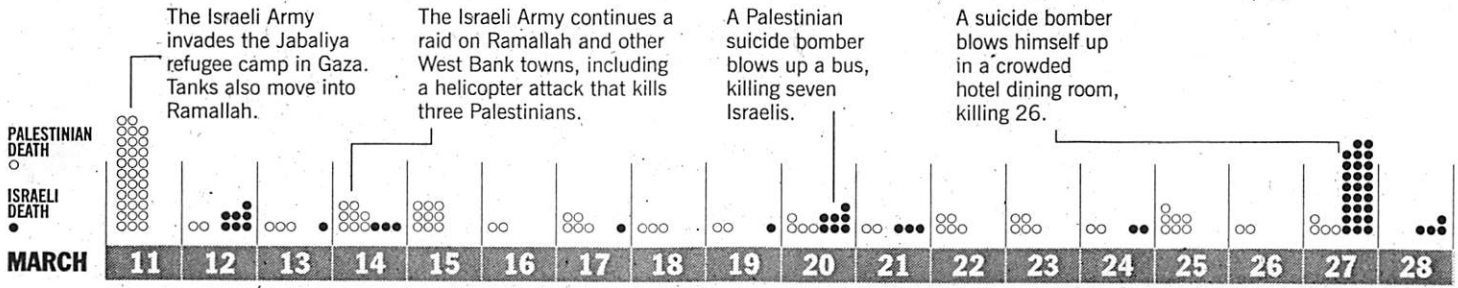
Dead Sea

Be'er Sheba

Dimona

DEATH AND DIPLOMACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Violence has continued despite attempts by various parties to find a solution. Totals are based on confirmed deaths and could be higher.



SAUDI PEACE PROPOSAL

Put forward in February, it calls for normalization of relations with Israel if the Israelis leave territories occupied in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

U.N. RESOLUTION

The United Nations Security Council approves a resolution, backed by the United States, endorsing a Palestinian state for the first time, and calling for an immediate cease-fire.

Sources: Palestinian Red Crescent Society; Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The New York Times. The Associated Press

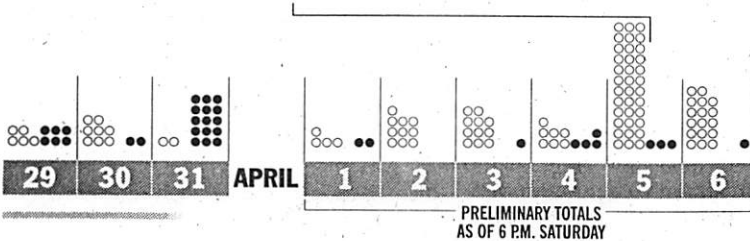
ARAB SUMMIT MEETING

At the Arab summit meeting in Beirut, the Saudi peace plan is ratified, calling for "normal relations" between Israel and Arab states if Israel withdraws from all territory occupied since 1967, a Palestinian state is created, with its capital in East Jerusalem, and Palestinian refugees are allowed to return to their homes.

U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL

U.N. Security Council calls for a cease-fire and an Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian cities.

At least 36 Palestinians – including the suspected mastermind of the Passover attack that triggered the offensive – die in the bloodiest day of fighting since the beginning of the Israeli military offensive.



STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN

ISRAEL

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: 8,000 sq.mi.

POPULATION: 5,842,454

CHIEF RELIGIONS:

Judaism 80% Muslim 15%

INDUSTRIES: Diamond cutting, textiles, electronics, food processing

CHIEF CROPS: Citrus, fruits, vegetables

GAZA STRIP

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: 140 sq.mi.

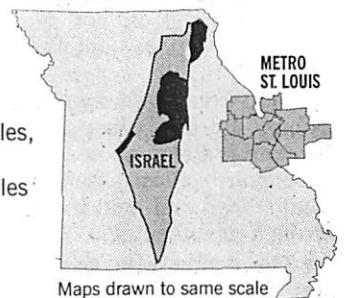
POPULATION: 1,132,063

WEST BANK

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: 2,270 sq.mi.

POPULATION: 2,020,298

COMPARED TO MISSOURI

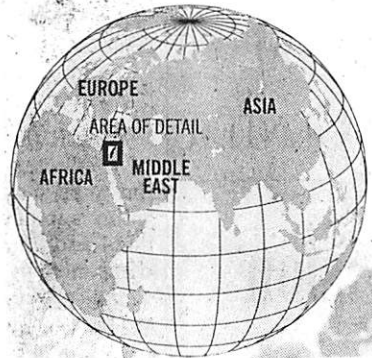


Source: 2001 World Almanac

ISRAEL TODAY

On Oct. 6, 1973, Egypt and Syria reached an alliance with the aim of invading Israel simultaneously from the north and south on the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur. Israel eventually fought its enemies to a standstill. By 1977 Egyptian President Anwar Sadat decided to try a different course.

On Sept. 18, 1978, Sadat clasped hands with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin after signing the Camp David peace accords. By 1982, the Sinai Peninsula was returned to Egypt.



MARCH 27 – APRIL 6

SUICIDE BOMBERS, ISRAEL RESPONDS

KEY  SUICIDE BOMBING
 ISRAELI OFFENSIVE

- 1 March 27**
WHERE: A Netanya hotel
DETAILS: Seder Passover night bombing kills 26, injured 140
RESPONSIBLE: Hamas
- 2 March 29**
WHERE: Jerusalem supermarket
DETAILS: Female suicide bomber kills 2
RESPONSIBLE: Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades
- 1 March 30**
WHERE: Ramallah
DETAILS: Israel launches "Operation Protective Wall."
- 3 March 30**
WHERE: Tel Aviv cafe
DETAILS: Suicide bomber kills 1
RESPONSIBLE: Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades
- 4 March 31**
WHERE: Haifa restaurant
DETAILS: Suicide bomber kills 15, injures more than 40
RESPONSIBLE: Hamas
- 5 March 31**
WHERE: Efrat emergency medical center
DETAILS: 4 injured in bombing
RESPONSIBLE: Unknown
- 2 March 31**
WHERE: Qalqiliya
- 3 April 1**
WHERE: Tulkarem
- 6 April 1**
WHERE: Jerusalem checkpoint
DETAILS: Bomber kills one police officer
RESPONSIBLE: Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades
- 4 April 2**
WHERE: Bethlehem

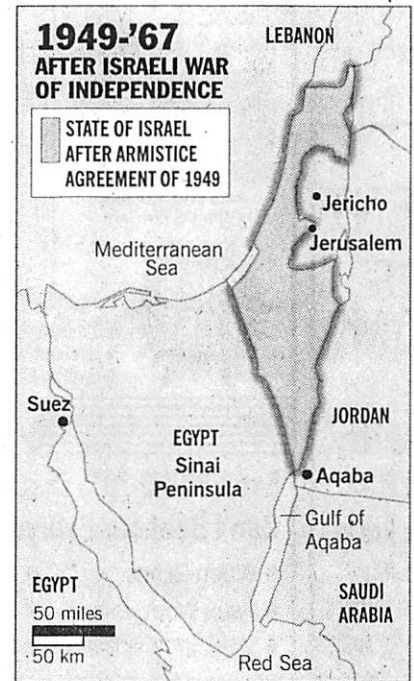
- 7 April 2**
WHERE: Baka al-Sharhiyeh
DETAILS: Suicide bomber dies at Palestinian village checkpoint
RESPONSIBLE: Unknown
- 5 April 3**
WHERE: Jenin
- 6 April 3**
WHERE: Nablus
- 8 April 4**
WHERE: Nablus
DETAILS: Suicide bomber kills himself and injures or kills four soldiers
RESPONSIBLE: Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades
- 7 April 4**
WHERE: Tubas

Source: News reports, Israeli government

THE EMERGENCE OF MODERN ISRAEL



The United Nations voted to set up both a Jewish and an Arab state, and fixed their borders, with Jerusalem to be a U.N.-administered international city. The Jews accepted the plan; the Arabs did not.



Following Arab attacks on Israel in May 1948, the Israelis pushed back the Arab armies and extended the area under Israeli control beyond then U.N.-set borders for the Jewish state.



As a result of the 1967 war, Israel took the Sinai from Egypt, the Gaza Strip from Egypt, the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria.