

YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

Palestinian Mythology

Palestinian Arabs claim full ownership of the Holy Land, denying any Jewish connection or rights—all based on deceptive lies, all easily proven false.

In this era of “fake news,” it’s often hard to tell truth from fiction. Indeed, Palestinian Arab leaders have constructed an elaborate false mythology to justify their war against Israel and the Jewish people. It’s time to lift the curtain on these myths—to separate truth from fabrication.

What are the facts?

Every ethnic group has the right to create its own narrative—but such a narrative should be based on truth, especially when it denies the rights of others. We may disagree on interpretation, but at least we should agree on the facts. So, let us consider five cornerstones of the Palestinian narrative and judge their moral strength by adherence to the truth. We soon find that modern Palestinian myths are unfair attempts to disenfranchise the Jewish people from Israel—their ancestral homeland.

1. Palestinians are indigenous to the Holy Land:

False. President Mahmoud Abbas often claims Palestinians are related to the biblical Canaanites, a group that vanished 2,300 years ago. This claim has no basis in archeological or genetic research. Nearly all Palestinians trace their lineage to Arab lands. What’s more, unlike the Jews, Palestinians have no unique language, culture or religion—essential markers of indigenous peoples. Indeed, historians, archeologists, biblical records, and the Koran itself affirm conclusively that Jews founded a kingdom in the Holy Land some 3,000 years ago—before arrival of the Arabs—and have lived in the lands of present day Israel, Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) ever since.

2. Israel occupies Palestinian land: False. Mr. Abbas and even mainstream media frequently refer to “Palestinian land.” In truth, the Palestinians have never had a state, nor have they had sovereignty over any land in the Middle East. Aside from individual private holdings, there is no defined public Palestinian land in the disputed territories. Nonetheless, Israel has many times offered to turn over most of land it won after its defensive war against Jordan in 1967 in exchange for peace, but the Palestinians have refused all those offers.

3. Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian people.

False. Palestinian leaders commonly herald Jerusalem as a Muslim and Christian capital—unfairly excluding 3,000 years of Jewish history and Jerusalem’s centrality to Judaism. Indeed, history shows King David founded Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish kingdom around 1000 BCE, before the advent of Islam. Jerusalem is cited 669 times in the Hebrew bible and not a single time in the Koran. Moreover, Jerusalem has never been an Arab capital, and for most of the city’s history, Jews have been the majority population.

4. Palestinians have a right of return to Israel: False.

Among approximately 700,000 Arabs who left Israel in 1948, when five Arab armies attacked, only about 30,000

are still alive today. Some live in the disputed territories of Judea and Samaria, and many over the 70 years have made homes in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Nonetheless, the Palestinians claim that 5.5 million *descendants* of these refugees—children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren—are also refugees. No other descendants in world history have ever been considered refugees. Indeed, no displaced refugees, let alone descendants, have inherent legal rights to return to their original homes after a war. Any such returns have always been negotiated among the parties—and so they will be in a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

5. Israel is guilty of apartheid against the

Palestinians: False. Palestinian leaders frequently accuse Israel of committing genocide, ethnic cleansing and apartheid. In fact, Israel’s two million Arab citizens enjoy full civil rights and benefits—greater than those in Arab nations.

Peace between Israel and the Palestinians must be based on the truth and good faith.

Palestinians in the West Bank, on the other hand, are largely self-governing, have increased dramatically in

number over the decades, and enjoy a higher standard of living than any of their Arab neighbors. Limitations on Palestinian movement within the West Bank exist only when necessary to prevent Arab terrorism against Israelis, which continues to this day. In short, accusations of discriminatory subjugation of Palestinians by Israel are false and malign.

The Nazis continuously repeated “the Big Lie” to convince their people to wage an imperialistic, genocidal war. Today, Palestinians repeat falsehoods to convince the world that Jews are evil, colonial usurpers. Until the Palestinians agree to negotiate peace with Israel—based on the truth and good faith—they are sadly condemned to bitterness and thwarted aspirations for independence.

This message has been published and paid for by

FLAME

Facts and Logic About the Middle East

P.O. Box 3460, Berkeley, CA 94703

James Sinkinson, President

Gerardo Joffe, Founder and President Emeritus

FLAME is a tax-exempt, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Its purpose is the research and publication of facts regarding developments in the Middle East and exposing false propaganda that might harm the United States, Israel and other allies in the region. Your tax-deductible contributions are welcome.

To receive free FLAME updates, visit our website: www.factsandlogic.org