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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

August 13, 2019



## No . . . The United Nations Didn't Create Israel

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Hanan Ashwari, a member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, recently restated one of her favorite falsehoods about the creation of Israel. This falsehood—ironically often advanced by both Israel's supporters and its enemies—holds that Israel was created by the United Nations in its Palestine Partition Resolution 181, passed on November 29, 1947 and implemented by Great Britain's withdrawal on May 14, 1948.

It is a pernicious lie that portrays Israel as existing simply as a result of "the kindness of strangers" and as a foreign body imposed on the region by outside forces.

In fact, Jews have yearned and struggled to return to their ancestral homeland for three millennia. Zionism began as a movement in 1897, when Jews began to resettle in what was then called Palestine, culminating in Israel's declaration of independence in 1948 on the same day Great Britain left.

Those dates in 1947 and 1948 were momentous events in the Zionist effort to create a Jewish nation in its indigenous land, and are celebrated annually in Israel and among most diaspora Jews. But November 29—the date of the UN General Assembly vote to recommend the partition of Palestine—is, appropriately, not an Israeli holiday. Appropriately though, May 14—or its equivalent date on the Jewish calendar—is feted as the Israeli Independence Day, *Yom Ha'Atzmaut*.

In any event, the UN's Palestine partition is of merely symbolic value in explaining Israel's creation.

After World War II, Great Britain was a thoroughly exhausted shadow of its former colonial power. While the creation of a Jewish homeland was the express purpose of the British Mandate starting in 1922 under the League of Nations, Britain utterly betrayed its Mandate obligations.

Rather than fulfilling its role of welcoming Jewish immigrants to Palestine, the British—in order to pacify Arab anti-Semitic terrorism—issued the notorious

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**What is "Palestinian Territory"?**

Mainstream media often refers to "the Palestinian territory" yet there is no such legal entity. **The land—Judea, Samaria—is disputed and awaits a peace agreement.**

The phrase "occupied Palestinian territory" implies that Israel control over the ancient Jewish homeland. In fact, Israel's presence in Judea, Samaria and the West Bank is based on Biblical history, population realities, agreement with the Palestinians and international law.

**What are the facts?**

1. **There is a biblical and historical connection between the Jewish people and the land of Israel.** The Jews lived in the land of Israel for over 3,000 years. The Bible records the Jewish people's history in the land of Israel, including the Jewish Kingdom of David in 1000 BC, the Babylonian Exile, the return to the land, the Second Temple, the destruction of the Temple, the Roman occupation, the Bar Kokhba Revolt, the Crusades, the Ottoman Empire, and the British Mandate.

2. **There is a ready-made Jewish population in the land of Israel.** The Jewish people have lived in the land of Israel for over 3,000 years. The Bible records the Jewish people's history in the land of Israel, including the Jewish Kingdom of David in 1000 BC, the Babylonian Exile, the return to the land, the Second Temple, the destruction of the Temple, the Roman occupation, the Bar Kokhba Revolt, the Crusades, the Ottoman Empire, and the British Mandate.

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White Paper of 1939, which prohibited Jewish immigration to Palestine. It thus cut off six million European Jews from the only place in the world that could have saved them from Hitler's genocide.

Neither the Jewish or Arab inhabitants of Palestine wanted the British there, and armed chaos was proliferating.

So when Britain renounced its Mandate after the Second World War, the two-year-old United Nations took the problem over. Its United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) recommended that the only solution for Palestine was its partition into a Jewish state and an Arab state.

UNSCOP's proposed borders for the two suggested states were utterly impractical, and bear little relation to the frontiers that Israel achieved after its War of Independence. During that year-long war, of course, Jordan and Egypt stole all of the land that could have become UNSCOP's "Arab state."

The General Assembly—by a vote of 33-13, with 10 abstaining, including Britain—voted to accept the UNSCOP plan and to *recommend* its implementation.

The UN vote created nothing except more chaos.

With the Arab League promising to eradicate any Jewish state, the UN General Assembly requested that the Security Council assure the fulfillment of its partition recommendation. As David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, succinctly stated in 1949, "The UN didn't lift a finger" to stop the Arab onslaught. The Security Council surveyed the situation, including the massed Arab armies, and decided to let the chips—or the Jews—fall where they may.

So while the UN's suggestion of partition lent some level of international moral endorsement to the Zionist cause—as did European guilt over the Holocaust—Israel's birth in May, 1948 was fully the achievement of the Zionist dream through the efforts of the IDF and world Jewry.

Neither the Orwellian United Nations nor any individual nation—except Czechoslovakia—sent a single bullet to help Ben-Gurion and the *Haganah* bring Israel into existence. Having passed its toothless partition plan the world and its General Assembly turned its back on the Jews once again.

In fact, the partition plan was never implemented. It was rendered moot by a massive Arab invasion of the fledgling state. It is hard to see how the absence of such a UN plan would have altered history one little bit.

The UN's fecklessness in its partition plan has been multiplied many times over in the years since. Not only did the UN do nothing to help Israel survive the 1948 Arab assault, it has consistently been the faithful agent of anti-Semitic forces for seven decades in undermining Israel's legitimacy and survival.

So, in discussions with friends, family and adversaries, beware of the canard "the UN imposed the Jewish state into Palestine," or that "Israel should respect the United Nations, because it owes its very existence and legitimacy to the UN."

Explain patiently to them that Israel owes little to nothing to the United Nations, and that Israel's reason for existence is its own ability to assert the Jewish

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people's right as an indigenous people to its ancestral homeland. Oh yes—and Israel is also indebted to itself for its democratic vibrancy, its respect for its minority populations, and its ability to defend itself in the face of a hostile world . . . including the United Nations.

I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to visit FLAME's lively [new Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new *hasbarah* campaign—a refutation of the myth of "Palestinian territories."

Best regards,

Ken Cohen  
Editor, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. Critics of Israel, from *The New York Times* to BDS and the United Nations, usually base their condemnation of Israel on accusations that Israel's settlements (or its "occupation of Palestinian territory") are illegal. These accusations are false and deserve to be exposed once and for all. That's why FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[What Is 'Palestinian Territory'?](#)" I hope you'll review this hard-hitting paid editorial, which will begin running in national media this month. It provides a plain-English explanation of the legal issues surrounding Israel's historical and entirely legal presence in its Biblical homeland. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Pence and President Trump. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME's powerful ability to influence public opinion—and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you'll consider giving a donation now, as you're able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate online, just go to [donate](#) now. Now, more than ever, we need your support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and President Trump stay focused on Israel's critical role in protecting U.S. interests in the region—as well as protecting itself.

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