

Forum: Historical Security Council
Question of: The Situation in Palestine (1948)
Student Officer: Ian Leighwon Kim, President

Introduction

Historical Overview

On November 29th, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly, in a thirty-three to ten vote, adopted to formally divide the British Mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states in the passage of Resolution 181, otherwise known as the Partition of Palestine (Appendix A). As a result of Jerusalem's religious significance for all three of the Abrahamic religions, the United Nations designated the Holy City a *corpus separatum*, Latin for separate entity, that would be governed by a Special International Regime administered by the United Nations Trusteeship Council. The resolution also provided for a five-member commission under the Security Council to oversee the progressive British withdrawal from the region and help in the establishment of the two provisional governments.¹

While the Zionists and their supporters rejoiced at the resolution's passage, the Arab delegations declared the resolution invalid and would not accept any form of cession.² Palestinians immediately retaliated with guerilla warfare and a series of bombings. Over the course of the following months, the anti-semitic violence spread to other Arab states and hundreds of Jewish homes, synagogues, shops, and schools razed.³ When the British mandate expired in mid-May of 1948, member states of the Arab League formally intervened in the situation and invaded the new-born state. The described conflict, also known as the First Arab-Israeli War, was the first of the many and ongoing conflicts in the region. A series of separate armistice agreements, brokered between Israel and various Arab states in 1949, provided for a temporary border in accordance with the 1947 Partition Plan.

Causes

¹ Resolution 181, From *United Nations Documents: English, 1947*, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/038/88/PDF/NR003888.pdf?OpenElement>

² United Kingdom delegation to the United Nations to Foreign Office, 29 November 1947 (no. 3566), Public Record Office Foreign Office 371- 61890.

³ Campbell to Foreign Office, 2, 6 December 1947, Public Records Office Foreign Office 371-62994.

25th Annual Session of the **Seoul Model United Nations**

According to historian Benny Morris, the Situation in Palestine (1948) was the “almost inevitable result of more than half a century of Arab-Jewish friction and conflict.” Starting from as early as the 1880s, Jewish immigrants, otherwise known as Zionists, flocked to Palestine to fulfill the divine promise of land and to flee the increasingly anti-semitic environment of 19th century Europe’s growing national consciousnesses.⁴

To the Zionists, Palestine was the Promised Land, the land designed to them by God as the Chosen People. Zionists argued that since they had ruled the land for nearly thirteen centuries, between 1200 BCE and the second century CE and were only exiled from the land as a result of failed Jewish insurrection and subsequent oppression, the Jewish people had the right to self-determination. Furthermore, Zionists often depicted Palestine as a “land without a people” awaiting the arrival of a “people without a land.”⁵ However, this was far from reality. In 1881, an estimated 450,000 Arabs lived in the area as compared to the only 25,000 Jews. Over the course of the next fifty years, Jewish immigration to Palestine or Aliya exploded, bringing the total Jewish share of the population to around a third by 1948.⁶ And with it, so too did riots and lynchings on the part of both factions. Most notably, the unsuccessful Arab Revolt of 1936 to 1939 resulted in an estimated 5,000 Arabs and 500 Jews killed.⁷ Rhetoric played a key role in heightening these tensions. Palestinian political leaders warned against Zionism as a threat to the country’s Arab character while at the same time Zionist leaders rallied to “take over the land of Israel.”⁸

Major Issues & Problems Faced

With the beginning of their withdrawal in November of 1947, the British Empire left a vacuum of power in their former mandate of Palestine. Disorder and division blemished the region as guerilla warfare and acts of terror became a part of everyday life. Although Resolution 181 established a commission for the specific purpose of avoiding political fallout, it is more than evident that the commission was nothing less than a complete failure.

With political fallout, came destruction, violence and displacement. Since the passage of Resolution 181 in November of 1947 to the signing armistice agreements in July of 1949, the conflict saw

⁴ Benny Morris, *1948: A History of the First Arab-Israeli War* (Yale University Press, 2009).

⁵ Finlayson, *Shaftesbury*, 441; Garfinkle, “Origin, Meaning, Use and Abuse of a Phrase.

⁶ Alain Gresh, Dominique Vidal, and Emmanuelle Pauly, *Les 100 clés du Proche-Orient* (Paris: Fayard, 2011).

⁷ A Survey of Palestine. Jerusalem: Government of Palestine. 1946. P. 38-49.

⁸ Vladimir Dubnow, Palestine, to Simon Dubnow, St. Petersburg, 20 October 1882, quoted in Shapira, *Land and Power*, 55; Gorny, *Zionism and the Arabs*, 27.

25th Annual Session of the **Seoul Model United Nations**

an estimated 4,074 Jewish troops and 2,000 civilians killed alongside a civilian-combatant aggregate 15,000 Arabs.⁹ The conflict also depopulated and destroyed between 400 and 600 Arab towns and villages, leaving a mass majority of them completely uninhabitable.¹⁰ Both sides of the conflict committed massacres. Most notably, in Kfar Etzion, the Arab Legion massacred 129 surrendered Jewish fighters and in Deir Yassin, Jewish paramilitary groups massacred between 100 and 120 innocent Palestinian civilians. Massacres were in no way uncommon in this conflict. As a result, throughout the conflict and after armistice, more than 700,000 Palestinian Arabs would flee to neighboring Arab states, namely Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt to become refugees.¹¹

Previous Efforts to Resolve

As the primary instigator of the conflict, the United Nations bore grave responsibility for the situation in Palestine. Following Resolution 181, the United Nations passed 5 additional resolutions to improve conditions in the region and serve as the mediator for the armistice agreements to end the conflict altogether. Resolutions 212, 194, 302, and 393 provided some basic level of humanitarian aid to Palestinian IDPs and protection for reconciliation. However, none were particularly successful as demonstrated by the growth in IDPs and deteriorating political situation. As chief mediator, the United Nations successfully negotiated a series of independent armistice agreements to establish temporary peace in the region and borders set forth in the 1947 Partition Plan.¹² However, again, peace was only temporary in that Israel would be coerced into invading Egypt in the 1956 Suez Crisis.

Impacts

Despite later success in meditation, the United Nations and the passage of Resolution 181 sparked one of the deadliest conflicts and humanitarian crises in modern global history. Since 1949, a total of eight formal conflicts with the aggregate death toll in the hundreds of thousands have been fought in the region. Even today, Israeli and Palestinian civilians alike must live in fear for the next air strike and divisions run deep. According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), there are currently more

⁹ Stanley Sandler. *Ground Warfare: An International Encyclopedia*. (ABC-CLIO: 2002). 160; Michael Clodfelter . *Warfare and Armed Conflicts: A Statistical Encyclopedia of Casualty and Other Figures, 1492-2015, 4th ed.* (McFarland: 2007). 572.

¹⁰ Benny Morris. *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem Revisited*. (Cambridge University Press: 2004) 342.

¹¹ David McDowall. *The Palestinians*. Minority Rights Group Report no 24. (Claire Palley: 1987). 10.

¹² Resolutions 212, 194, 302, 393. United Nations Documents. (New York: 2022).

25th Annual Session of the **Seoul Model United Nations**

than 1.5 million Palestinian IDPs, a majority of which live in overcrowded camps with cramped living conditions and inadequate basic infrastructure such as hospitals or proper plumbing systems.

Definition of Key Terms

Arab League

Founded in 1945, the Arab League, consisting of six member nations (for the purposes of this debate) - Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Yemen, the Emirate of Transjordan, the Kingdom of Egypt, and the Second Syrian Republic - served as a loose diplomatic alliance of the Arabic nations of the region. While the collective has received a relatively low level of cooperation throughout its history, the question of Palestine has consistently animated the union into action. The Arab League was key in organizing Palestinian resistance to the creation of Israel, funding terrorists and organizing riots, even before their formal military intervention in May of 1948.¹³

Arab Legion

The Arab Legion refers to the regular army of the Emirate of Transjordan, later Jordan. Although initially founded as a force for British colonial rule, the force, under orders from Transjordanian King Hussein, actively participated in the intervention in Palestine, contributing over 10,000 men to the cause, one of the largest by any Arab League member nation.¹⁴

Zionism

Zionism refers to the Jewish nationalist movement calling for the establishment of a separate Jewish state. The movement emerged in the mid-19th century in response to anti-semitism and the rise of nation-states. Zionist lobbying played an instrumental role in the passage of Resolution 181 and the establishment of the State of Israel. Many leaders of the movement served as leaders of the early state and successfully defended the newborn nation from multiple attempted invasions.¹⁵

Aliyah

¹³ “The Arab League,” Council on Foreign Relations, 2017, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/arab-league>.

¹⁴ John Bagot Glubb. *The Arab Legion*, (London: Hodder & Stoughton: 1948).

¹⁵ “Zionism,” ADL, 2022, <https://www.adl.org/resources/glossary-term/zionism>.

25th Annual Session of the **Seoul Model United Nations**

Aliyah, Hebrew for ascent, refers to the immigration of Jews from the diaspora back to the Eastern Mediterranean region. Broken up into five major waves, aliyah peaked during times of particularly intense anti-semitism. Aliyah was the key tenet of the Zionist movement.¹⁶

Corpus Separatum

Corpus Seperaterem, Latin for separate entity, refers to the special status of Jerusalem proposed in Resolution 181 due to its importance to all three of the Abrahamic religions. Although Resolution 181 would fail as a result of the Arab rejection of the plan, the special designation would be a critical provision in future armistice agreements and treaties. In 1948, through the passage of Resolution 194, Jerusalem officially became an international city under United Nations supervision. Even today, through all the wars and violence, Jerusalem is still an international city administered by the United Nations.¹⁷

Diaspora

A diaspora refers to the emigration of a people group outside of their region of origin. Most notably, the Jewish diaspora refers to the forced expulsion of the Jewish people out of the Eastern Mediterranean region by the Roman Empire around 70 CE. Many Zionists cite the diaspora as rationale for the Jewish claim to the territory.

Guerilla Warfare

Guerilla warfare refers to a fast-moving, irregular war strategy typically employed by a smaller-group of combatants. Common tactics used in guerilla warfare include ambushes, hit-and-runs, bombings, and raids. Following the passage of Resolution 181 in November of 1947, many Palestinians organized to engage in guerilla warfare.

Mandate

Following World War I, as a means to divy conquered territories, the League of Nations issued mandates, or legal authorizations to govern former German and Turkish colonies, to the victors of the First World War. The League issued the mandate of Palestine to Great Britain. Although historians debate

¹⁶ “Aliyah,” Jewishvirtuallibrary.org, 2022, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/aliyah>.

¹⁷ The State of Israel & the Universal Church, *Seeking a Theology of the Holy Land*, by Massimo Faggioli, 2018.

25th Annual Session of the **Seoul Model United Nations**

the particular reason for doing so, the British would withdraw from the region and let their mandate expire, sparking the question of Palestine.¹⁸

Refugees & Internally Displaced Person (IDP)

A refugee refers to an individual forced to leave their country of origin in order to escape near danger. An internally displaced person refers to an individual expelled or forced out of their domicile. Unlike a refugee, they remain in their country and have not crossed their country's borders to seek asylum. As a result of the violence and destruction of the situation in Palestine, an estimated 263,000 Palestinians were displaced and 700,000 sought asylum abroad.

Self-determination

Self-determination refers to “the process by which a group of people choose their own state or government.” Popularized by American President Wilson in his Fourteen Points, Palestinians and Jews alike cited self-determination as the basis for their arguments on the question of Palestine. Generally speaking, when formulating solutions, delegates must ensure that a nation's right to self-determination is protected in accordance with the United Nations charter.

¹⁸ “Mandate” in *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/mandate-League-of-Nations>.

Timeline of Key Events

70 CE - Siege of Jerusalem

The Siege of Jerusalem effectively ended the first Jewish insurrection against Roman rule. Angered by oppressive taxation and unwanted imperialism, the Jewish people mounted an unsuccessful four-year campaign to take control of Israel. In the culminating battle, the Romans destroyed much of the city, including the Second Temple. The end of the First Jewish Revolt continued the mass exodus of Jews from the region started by the Babylonian's exile of the "chosen people" nearly six centuries earlier.

July 6, 1882 - First Aliyah begins

Following the Russian pogroms of 1881 and 1882, many Jews immigrated to Palestine in what became known as the First Aliyah. Many of the early settlers chose to settle in small agricultural communities. Nearly 35,000 Jews came in this first wave with their defined goal as "the political, national, and spiritual resurrection of the Jewish people in Palestine." The First Aliyah paved the way for future aliyahs to come.¹⁹

February 14, 1896 - Der Judenstaat published

Written by Theodore Herzl (often dubbed the father of the Zionist movement), *Der Judenstaat* laid the framework for Zionist ideologies. The pamphlet proposed that the question of the Jewish state was not a question of a social or religious nature, but a national one. The publication won significant favorability among many east European Jews. Alongside the first Zionist Congress (also organized by Herzl), historians often point to the publication of *Der Judenstaat* as the birth of the early Zionist movement.²⁰

May 19, 1916 - Sykes-Picot Agreement signed

A secret agreement signed between Britain and France following World War I, the Sykes-Picot Agreement in effect divided the former Ottoman Empire holdings into British and French spheres of

¹⁹ "The First Aliyah (1882-1903)," Jewish Virtual Library, 2022, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-first-aliyah-1882-1903>.

²⁰ David Ben-Gurion, "Theodore Herzl." Encyclopedia Britannica, 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Theodor-Herzl>.

25th Annual Session of the **Seoul Model United Nations**

influence. The accords settled the question of Palestine prior to the official mandate issued by the United Nations.²¹

November 2, 1917 - Balfour Declaration issued

A letter written by at-the-time British Foreign Secretary, the Balfour Declaration was a public issuance expressing British support of the Israeli statehood. The Balfour Declaration was particularly significant in that the British governed the debated region at the time and as a result, many Arabs felt outraged by the indication that they would not receive full statehood, especially after their participation in the First World War. Immediately following the Declaration, the size of aliyahs exploded, along with anti-semitic violence.²²

July 22, 1922 - British Mandate of Palestine approved

The British received formal approval from the League of Nations to administer the region a whole six years after the Sykes-Picot agreement that had already settled the question of Palestine. The mandate would last from 1923 until 1947, during which British authorities would face serious resistance from both Zionists and Arab nationalists alike. British mandate authorities granted the Jewish and Arab communities a significant amount of governing leeway, which allowed for mass Jewish immigration to the region. This posed a significant threat to Arab nationalists, many of who would later protest free immigration policies (see below).²³

April 15, 1936 - August 26, 1939 - Arab Revolt of 1936

Beginning as a series of boycotts and protests as a response to mass Jewish immigration, the Arab Revolts of 1936-39 mobilized thousands of Arabs from all walks of life to protest growing Jewish influence in the region. The revolt sparked the birth of the Palestinian national identity. Likewise, Zionists armed more than 15,000 Jews in their own nationalist movement. The British would eventually institute martial law and suppress the rebellion. However, the insurrection alarmed the British government

²¹ “A Century On: Why Arabs Resent Sykes-Picot,” Al Jazeera, 2014, <https://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/2016/sykes-picot-100-years-middle-east-map/index.html>.

²² History.com Editors, “Balfour Declaration,” HISTORY (HISTORY, December 14, 2017), https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/balfour-declaration#section_3.

²³ “History & Overview of the British Palestine Mandate,” Israeli Foreign Library, 2022. <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/history-and-overview-of-the-british-palestine-mandate>.

25th Annual Session of the **Seoul Model United Nations**

nonetheless. All in all, the revolt was the first sustained violent uprising by Palestinian Arabs and killed more than 5,000 and wounded another 15,000 Arabs.²⁴

May 23, 1939 - White Paper of 1939 published

The second of two White Papers, the White Paper of 1939 was the British response to the Arab Revolt of 1936. The policy paper called for reduced immigration quotas, restrictions on land sales to Jews, and measures that would eventually lead to a single state under Arab majority rule with protections to the Jewish minority. As expected, Zionists received the proposal poorly and would call for boycotts and strikes in the months to come. Arab nationalists also rejected the new policy largely as a result of their mistrust of the British government and opposed the provision for extending the mandate another ten years.²⁵

June 1941- May 1945 - Holocaust

The Holocaust refers to the state-sponsored systematic persecution and genocide of nearly 6 million Jews by Nazi Germany. It is remembered as one of the worst tragedies in recorded human history. In the context of the agenda, the Holocaust garnered much support of the Israeli statehood and helped prove why such was necessary. Many historians point to the Holocaust and subsequent inaction by the international community as one of the largest driving forces behind the passage of Resolution 181 (see below).²⁶

November 29, 1947 - United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181 passed

The passage of Resolution 181 put forth the 1947 Partition Plan, consisting of two independent states and an internationally-administered Jerusalem. The proposal was almost universally accepted by Zionists while almost universally rejected by Arab nationalists. The resolution was the direct cause of the current situation at hand; immediately following United Nations approval, Palestinian Arabs retaliated with guerilla warfare and acts of terror. The resolution provided the legal basis for the establishment of the State of Israel, sparking the Arab League's military intervention in Israel (also known as the First-Arab Israeli War).

²⁴ Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopedia. "Palestine-the Arab Revolt," in *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Palestine/The-Arab-Revolt>.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ "The Holocaust and the Founding of Israel (July 1998)," Library of Congress, 2022, <https://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/9807/aronson.html>.

There are more significant events that happened post-November 1947, but this report will not go into details as the chairs want the delegates to explore an alternative historical scenario in which the situation is properly dealt with within the Security Council. Therefore, the chair deems any event that happened past these events to be a good reference point to observe various nations' responses to the situation in hindsight, but is not completely relevant in the discourse of the agenda and within the context of the HSC.

Position of Key Member Nations and Other Bodies

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was initially sympathetic towards Zionist movement. During World War I, the Kingdom issued a public pledge to establish a "national home for the Jewish people" in the Eastern Mediterranean region and heavily encouraged Jewish migration after being issued their mandate. However, in response to growing Arab resistance to pro-Zionist imperial policies, the United Kingdom issued the White Papers of 1939 that would turn call for eventual Arab governance of immigration quotas and land transfers; the proposal would ultimately fail as a result of overall Jewish disapproval in addition Arab distrust of the imperial government. The United Kingdom would turn the problem over to the United Nations and abstain on Resolution 181.²⁷

United States of America

The United States of America played an active role in the passage of the United Nations partition plan, going as far as threatening sanctions or cutting foreign aid to nations who attempted to vote against the proposal. For example, 26 Senators with vast influence on foreign aid bills sent a telegram to many neutral countries seeking support for the resolution. It is noteworthy that the Senate was considering a large general foreign aid package at this time.²⁸ American businessmen and head of the infamous United Fruit Corporation, Samuel Zemurray also played a large role in switching many of the Latin American and Caribbean nations' votes which were crucial to the resolution's passage.²⁹ See individual key

²⁷ Zena Al Tahhan, "More than a Century On: The Balfour Declaration Explained," (Al Jazeera, November 2, 2018), <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2018/11/2/more-than-a-century-on-the-balfour-declaration-explained>.

²⁸ Chinese Put Needs at Several Billion, *New York Times*, 30 November 2015;

²⁹ Weizmann to Samuel Zemurray, 20 October 1947, *Political Documents of the Jewish Agency*, 2:743

25th Annual Session of the **Seoul Model United Nations**

positions for further examples of the United States of America's role in the passage of Resolution 181. The United States was also a major arms supplier to the State of Israel, providing bombers, trucks, guns, and ammunition.

France

Prior to the vote, the French delegation was visited by a member of the United States delegation that implied that French failure to vote in favor of the proposal might prevent American aid for the war-torn nation. While France had not publicly voiced an opinion on the question of Palestine, the French delegation would vote in favor of Resolution 181 along with neighboring Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.³⁰

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

While the Soviets had initially voiced a pro-Arab, anti-British sentiment throughout the earlier years of the British mandate, in a May 1947 speech, that surprised the Western nations and Zionists, Deputy Foreign Minister Gomkyo spoke of the “the Jewish people’s exceptional, indircible sorrow and suffering” during the Holocaust and affirmed the Jews’ right to self-determination. Historians to this day cannot wholly justify the sudden shift in policy.³¹ The Union would vote in favor of Resolution 181.

Republic of China

Although subject to heavy Zionist lobbying and moderate United States pressure, the Republic of China maintained a neutral stance on the question of Palestine. The delegation would explain “China has her own difficulties. The Chinese Republic has twenty million Muslims many of whose leaders hold important positions in Nanking and throughout China.” The Republic of China, like the United Kingdom, would abstain on Resolution 181.³²

Arab League

The Arab League was not particularly concerned with the potential passage of Resolution 181. With five member states and a handful of Islamic and third world supporters, they expected the resolution to fail. Leaders of the league initially chose not to commit to intervene because of political and economic

³⁰ James Barr. *A Line in the Sand: Britain, France and the Struggle that Shaped the Middle East*. London: 2012: Simon & Schuster.

³¹ Text of Andrei Gromyko’s speech, *Documents on Israeli-Soviet Relations, 1941–1953*, 1:189–196.

³² V. K. Wellington Koo to Sumner Welles, undated, c. 27 November, CF F39-589.

25th Annual Session of the **Seoul Model United Nations**

implications. Even with their defeat in the passage of the resolution, Arab leaders made no major changes to policy. It was primarily public opinion that drove the League to take action and intervene on behalf of Palestine in the First Arab-Israeli War. A lack of basic preparation and divisions regarding strategy and chains of command would ultimately spell defeat in the war over Palestine.³³

Egypt

Although Egypt would ultimately intervene along with the rest of the Arab League, Egypt was the one of the most reluctant to take action among the Arab League's member nations - remaining uncommitted until just four days before the planned invasion. Prime Minister Mahmoud argued that the large British presence in the Suez Canal made it impossible for Egypt to intervene and contended that Egypt would not and could not send regular forces to Palestine.³⁴ However, in the end, Egypt would contribute over 20,000 troops to the cause, the largest number by any foreign force.

Emirate of Transjordan

Transjordan, like much of the Arab League, was somewhat hesitant to intervene in the conflict. However, neighboring Palestine, the Emirate saw an opportunity to annex the West Bank and possibly East Jerusalem contrary to the Palestinian Arabs' wishes. In intervening, their aim was to take over the West Bank rather than destroy the newly-founded Jewish state as many other Arab League nations sought to do. Transjordan would be successful in their goal as they would come to annex the West Bank in the independently-negotiated 1949 Armistice Agreements.³⁵

Zionist Congress

The Zionist Congress played a huge role in lobbying General Assembly member nations to vote in favor of the two-state partition plan, making death threats and even offering straight-up cash bribes. The main argument for the Zionists were the the two-thousand years of suffering and statelessness, resulting in the Holocaust. In the end, the Zionist Congress would be succesful as the resolution would pass in a 33-10-10 vote and the newborn State of Israel would successfully defend itself from the Arabic invasion.³⁶

³³ Benny Morris, *1948: A History of the First Arab-Israeli War*

³⁴ Ronald Campbell to FO, 27 April 1948, PRO FO 371-68370.

³⁵ Benny Morris, *1948: A History of the First Arab-Israeli War*

³⁶ *Ibid.*

India

India's position on the question of Palestine took that of the Arab League's, voting against the partition plan. However, unlike the League, the Republic did not intervene on behalf of the Palestinian Arabs. Although they too were subject to Zionist bribes and death threats, their position was consistently sympathetic to the Arab cause or they risked agitating the large Muslim population of the country.³⁷

³⁷ Benny Morris, *1948: A History of the First Arab-Israeli War*

Suggested Solutions

Like most Security Council agendas, there are two primary issues that delegates must address in order to answer the Question of the Situation in Palestine (1948): politics and human rights. These two broader issues form the agenda in consideration.

Please take into consideration that the suggested solutions are general courses of action, not detailed step-by-step guidelines. It is the delegates' duty to craft these detailed guidelines in the soon to be composed resolution. Additionally, please note that, the forum will assume the position of the Security Council in May of 1948, in order to explore alternative historical scenarios in which the Question of the Situation in Palestine (1948) is adequately handled in the opinion of the chairs. Accordingly, delegates must authentically represent their nations' best interests and alignments at the time in order for a constructive and historically accurate debate

However, that does not mean that delegates must assume the exact same position of the Security Council member nations at the time. Delegates should remain flexible to hindsight while maintaining a similar position to the position held in May of 1948. It is crucial that delegates research and keep in consideration their delegations' best interests and alignments when considering the various solutions to answer the Question of the Situation in Palestine (1948).

Settling the Border Dispute

The Question of the Situation in Palestine (1948) is at its core a question of land. The assumed date of May 1948 marks the beginning of the Arab invasion prior to the civilian displacement of total war. As such, it is encouraged that delegates prioritize the question of the border prior to attempting to mitigate the human rights crisis caused by the border dispute. Typically, when addressing the issue of politics, delegates must be very considerate of national sovereignty and avoid violating the principle at all costs. As a result, in comparison with human rights, the United Nations is usually much more confined to resolve the issue. However, given that the region was an expiring mandate, it could be argued that the United Nations have the ability to take a much more active role in the politics of the region.³⁸

³⁸ United Nations. "United Nations Charter." United Nations, 2022.
<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text#:~:text=To%20achieve%20international%20co%2Doperation,%2C%20language%2C%20or%20religion%3B%20and.>

25th Annual Session of the **Seoul Model United Nations**

The first and most typical solution to resolving fractured politics of the region would be to sponsor a series of peace talks with the end goal of avoiding the Arab invasion. Although a special committee on Palestine was formed (UNSCOP), the committee consisted solely of “neutral” nations, meaning that their recommended solution did not take into consideration Arab or Zionist input.³⁹ Given this information, it is evident why the partition plan failed to bring about political stability. As demonstrated throughout the near entirety of the chair report, the Zionist and Arab causes were completely polar in their agendas; the Arab League and Palestine refused to make any concessions whatsoever. However, given the ultimate signing of the 1949 Armistice Agreements, it could be argued that a middle ground can be found. Sponsorship of peace talks on the part of the United Nations would be the first and foremost step towards doing so.

Furthermore, as an expiring mandate, in theory, the United Nations would not be limited to protecting national sovereignty as the legally recognized entity governing the region is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland who ceded administrative delegation to the United Nations. After all, it was the United Nations General Assembly that passed Resolution 181 which provided the basis for an independent Israeli state and prompted the Arab invasion thereafter. Further, given the fact that all P5 nations voted for Resolution 181 with the exception of the Republic of China who abstained, a deployment of United Nations peacekeeping troops to deter the Arab invasion is not unfeasible in terms of surviving a Security Council vote. However, feasibility of deployment is shaky considering past reluctances of P5 nations and United Nations member nations to contribute troops.⁴⁰

Delegates must find a way to facilitate peace and cooperation between the Jewish and Arab people in order to restore the unity and stability of the Eastern Mediterranean region. Hindsight has demonstrated that consensus is possible. As aforementioned, as a result of the British Mandate, the United Nations is not confined to that of a facilitator. Delegates can and are encouraged to find ways to bring political stability to the region whether that be through simple United Nations sponsored discussions or through more implicating means.

³⁹ American Israeli Cooperative Enterprise. “United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP),” Jewish Virtual Library, 2022, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/united-nations-special-committee-on-palestine-unscoop>.

⁴⁰ Anita Shapira. *Ben-Gurion: Father of Modern Israel*. Yale University Press, 2014.. pp. 17

Preventing the Human Rights Crisis

The second issue that delegates must address is the human rights crisis caused by political instability. The issue of human rights can be dealt with through various means, however, the most common and simple method would be humanitarian aid. The most effective remains a matter to be debated by the delegates. If humanitarian aid is used, delegates must be extremely wary of how the aid is applied and executed. Direct aid to the national government is a common method in applying humanitarian aid, however, given that each of the national government is driven by their own agendas respective of religion and confined to the border drawn by the proposed plan, it would be strongly advised to find a more effective means to deliver aid such that it can effectively reach the necessary people, namely those displaced by the drawn borders.

A potential means of doing so would be the creation of United Nations safe zones protected by a peacekeeping force in both Israel, Palestine, and neighboring countries to provide refuge for refugees and internally displaced persons. These safe zone camps would provide improved living conditions and physical security. One thing to consider, however, is that it is not uncommon for peacekeepers in these camps to sexually harrass or abuse those seeking refuge. Therefore, if implemented, peacekeeper-protected safe zones must be accompanied by some sort of safeguards, such as a tip line, third-party watch organization, or some sort of regulatory authority to ensure that such abuses are not committed.

A final potential solution towards preventing the human rights crisis would be to simply sanction the national governments should a human rights violation, namely civilian massacres, be discovered. By imposing worldwide sanctions, the national governments would feel the burden in doing so and provide a sizable incentive for independent and government forces alike to halt human rights violations. Additionally, an enforced arms embargo would significantly deter any further human rights violations as well. Along with an arms embargo, delegates could implement a number of different sanctions, such as economic or diplomatic sanctions, to pressure violating governments to stop further action. Something that delegates must consider while drafting, is that if an economic sanction is used, a general population humanitarian aid package would likely undermine the effectiveness of the economic sanction by alleviating the pressures of an economic downturn. Thus, delegates must choose either-or between the two means in order to draft the most effective resolution. Another thing to consider is that sanctions alone

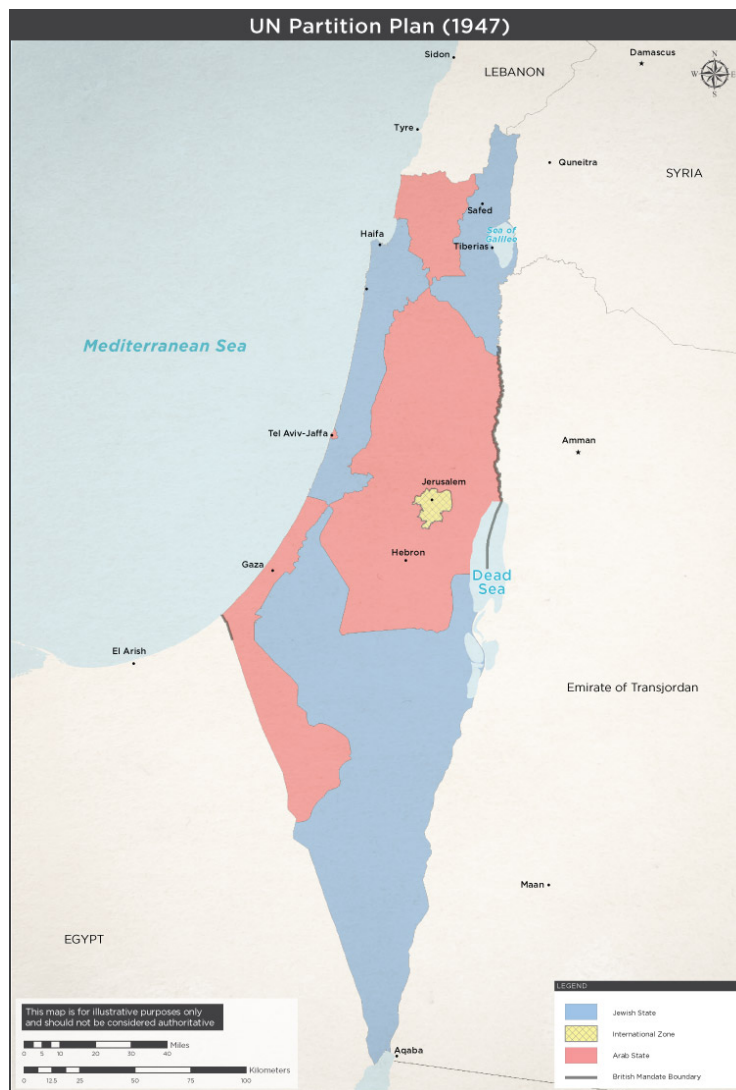
25th Annual Session of the **Seoul Model United Nations**

may not be strong enough to stop the issue of human rights violations. Therefore, the chair would strongly advise in mixing a combination of efforts to create the most comprehensive and fruitful solution.

The presented solutions are just a few of the multitude of solutions in addressing the Question of the Situation in Palestine (1948). Delegates are encouraged to go beyond the lengths of this report to propose creative and innovative solutions to ensure the short term and long term stability of Palestine and the rest of Middle East.

Appendix

Appendix A



Illustrated is the territorial partition proposed in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181. The proposal ultimately failed as a result of Arab retaliation. The passage of the proposal was the beginning of the ongoing conflict in the region.

Israeli Missions Around The World. "UN Partition Plan - Resolution 181 (1947)," 2012.
<https://embassies.gov.il/MFA/AboutIsrael/Maps/Pages/1947%20UN%20Partition%20Plan.aspx>.

Bibliography

Al Jazeera. "Timeline of Palestine's History." Palestine Remix. Accessed July 3, 2022.

https://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/palestineremix/timeline_main.html.

American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise. "United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP)," Jewish Virtual Library, 2022.

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/united-nations-special-committee-on-palestine-unscop>.

Anti Defamation League. "Zionism," 2022.

<https://www.adl.org/resources/glossary-term/zionism>.

Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopedia. "mandate." Encyclopedia Britannica, August 13, 2021.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/mandate-League-of-Nations>.

Council on Foreign Relations. "The Arab League," 2017.

<https://www.cfr.org/background/arab-league>.

Gorny, Yosef. *Zionism and the Arabs, 1882-1948 a Study of Ideology*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2001.

Glubb, John Bagot. *The Story of the Arab Legion*. New York, New York: Hodder & Stoughton, 1976.

Ben-Gurion, D.. "Theodor Herzl." Encyclopedia Britannica, June 29, 2022.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Theodor-Herzl>.

25th Annual Session of the **Seoul Model United Nations**

Gresh, Alain, Dominique Vidal, et Emmanuelle Pauly. *Les 100 clés Du Proche-Orient*. Paris: Fayard, 2011.

Morris, Benny. *1948: A History of the First Arab-Israeli War*. Yale University Press, 2009.

Resolution 181. United Nations General Assembly. Meeting No. 108. New York: United Nations Documents, 1947. From *United Nations Documents: English*.

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/038/88/PDF/NR003888.pdf?OpenElement>

Shapira, Anita. *Land and Power: The Zionist Resort to Force, 1881-1948*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2018.

“The Holocaust and the Founding of Israel (July 1998)” Library of Congress, 2022.

<https://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/9807/aronson.html>.

United Nations. “United Nations Charter.” United Nations, English, 2022.

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text#:~:text=To%20achieve%20international%20co%2Doperation,%2C%20language%2C%20or%20religion%3B%20and>.

“United Nations Resolution 181 | Map & Summary | Britannica.” In *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2022. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-Nations-Resolution-181>.

Al Tahhan, Zena. “More than a Century On: The Balfour Declaration Explained.” Aljazeera.com. Al Jazeera, November 2, 2018.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2018/11/2/more-than-a-century-on-the-balfour-declaration-explained>.