

Israel/ Palestine Debate Vocabulary

- **Balfour Declaration 1917-** A document that showed the King of Great Britain's support of the Zionist movement and the creation of a Jewish State in the land of Palestine (Israel). At the time, the land of Palestine was owned by the British who won it after the fall of the Ottoman Empire during World War I.
- **Holocaust-** The genocide of 6 million Jews in Europe during World War II. This event led to the resurgence of the Zionist movement and the creation of the State of Israel.
- **Anti-Semitism-** Hostility towards or prejudice against Jews. Racism that focuses specifically on Jewish people.
- **Occupation-** Military government control of a region/country that does not belong to the country controlling it. For example, Germany had an occupation of France during World War II. Germany's army had taken over Paris and controlled it, but this did not mean that Paris was now a part of Germany.
- **Intifada-** Arabic word for "tremor" or "shaking." This word was used to describe two Palestinian uprisings against Israel. The Palestinian people were trying to "shake" up the government and military control of the Gaza Strip and West Bank.
- **Diaspora-** The mass exodus of Jews from Judea (Israel) under the rule of the Babylonian Empire. The Babylonians attacked Jewish temples and the Jewish people, forcing Jews to leave their homeland, spreading out around the world in order to find safety.
- **Zionism (1800's)-** The political movement to begun in the late 1800s that focused on the creation of an independent Jewish State (State here means country). This idea led to Israel.
- **McMahon Agreement 1915-** A document that showed the British's support of the growing Arabic nationalist movement in the Middle East. This region (Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Iraq, and Jordan) were all under the Ottoman Empire's control at the time. If the Arab people here allied themselves with Great Britain, then they were promised their own country in these lands after World War I.

- **Interwar Period-** The time period between the 2 World Wars. 1917-1939 C.E.
- **UN Partition Plan 1947-** The United Nations plan to divide the land of Palestine, controlled by the British since the end of World War I, into two countries. The first would be an independent Jewish State (Israel). The second would be an independent Arab State (Palestine). The holy city of Jerusalem and its surrounding areas would be controlled by the United Nations. Jews began moving in to the proposed Israel. Arabs did not accept the plan. This caused the first war between Israel and its surrounding Arab neighbors.
- **PLO 1964-** Palestine Liberation Organization was founded to liberate (free) Palestine from Israel through armed uprisings (with weapons). Much of the violence from the PLO targeted Israeli civilians.
 - **Yasser Arafat-** founder and leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization
- **6 Day War-** Israel and its surrounding Arab nations went to war for 6 days in June of 1967. In the end, Israel had more than doubled their size.
 - **Sinai Peninsula-** battleground between Israel and Egypt. Territory gained by Israel during the war. Given back to Egypt later.
 - **Gaza Strip-** battleground between Israel and Egypt. Territory gained by Israel during the war. Kept by Israel.
 - **Golan Heights-** battleground between Israel and Syria. Territory gained by Israel during the war. Today, 2/3 is controlled by Israel; 1/3 by Syria.
- **Camp David Accords-** Meeting between the Egyptian President, the Israeli Prime Minister, and the U.S. President (Jimmy Carter) in 1978 at Camp David. The agreement ended the state of war that existed between Egypt and Israel since the establishment of Israel in 1948. Egypt was given the Sinai Peninsula back and Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty. The two leaders of Egypt and Israel won the Nobel Peace Prize the following year.
 - **Anwar Sadat-** President of Egypt in 1978. Sadat's agreement evoked a strong negative reaction from the Arab world, leading to Egypt's expulsion (kicking out) from the Arab League (like the United Nations, but of Arab countries) in 1979. In 1981, Sadat was assassinated.

- **The Oslo Accords-** Meeting between Israeli Prime Minister and the negotiator from the Palestine Liberation Organization with the U.S. President (Bill Clinton). This meeting resulted in the set up of a framework of governmental and military control in the West Bank. Established the Palestinian Authority.
 - Area A – Palestinian Government and Military control
 - Area B – Palestinian Government and Israeli Military control
 - Area C – Israeli Government and Military control
- **Settlers-** Jewish people who have moved to/live in (settled) the West Bank
- **Hamas-** Sees themselves as enemies of the PLO; a Palestinian Islamic fundamentalist group who use violence (such as rockets and suicide bombers) against Israeli civilians. Their goal is to establish a Palestinian State and are the current governmental force of the Gaza Strip in Israel.
- **Palestinian Authority (PA)-** The unofficial governing body of the Gaza Strip and Hamas. One of the outcomes of the Oslo Accords.