

The Palestine Issue

Historical Background & Contemporary Developments



Prof. Dr. Mohsen. M. Saleh

Revised and Updated Version 2022



Al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies & Consultations

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English Version

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
List of Abbreviations	6
Introduction	7
Chapter One: Background of the Palestine Issue Until 1918	
First: Palestine	11
Second: Palestine’s Religious Status:	13
1. Palestine’s Islamic Status	13
2. Palestine’s Christian Status	15
3. Palestine’s Jewish Status	16
Third: Palestine Throughout History	17
Fourth: Palestine in the Islamic Era	20
Fifth: The Religious and Historical Claims of the Jews in Palestine	25
Sixth: Background of the Emergence of the Palestine Issue in Modern History	27
Seventh: The Political Development of the Palestine Issue Until 1914	30
Eighth: The Palestine Issue During WWI (1914–1918)	35
Chapter Two: Palestine Under British Occupation 1918–1948	
Introduction	45
First: Development of the Zionist Project	46
Second: The Emergence of the Palestinian National Movement	48
Third: The Palestinian Revolt 1936–1939	56
Fourth: Political Developments 1939–1947	60
Fifth: The 1948 War and Its Repercussions	66
Chapter Three: The Palestine Issue 1949–1967	
Introduction	77
First: The Arab States and Palestine	77
Second: Palestinian National Action	79
Third: The Birth of the Fatah Movement	83
Fourth: The Establishment of the PLO	86
Fifth: The June 1967 War and Its Repercussions	87

Chapter Four: The Palestine Issue 1967–1987

Introduction	93
First: The Emergence of the Palestinian Identity	93
Second: The Armed Palestinian Struggle	95
Third: Arab States and the Palestine Issue	100
Fourth: The Emergence of the Palestinian Islamist Trend	104

Chapter Five: The Palestine Issue 1987–2000

Introduction	109
First: The <i>Intifadah</i>	109
Second: The Inception of the Hamas Movement	111
Third: The PLO: From Armed Struggle to Peaceful Settlement	115
Fourth: The PA	122
Fifth: Israel	124

Chapter Six: The Palestine Issue 2000–2011

Introduction	129
First: The Aggression and the Resistance:	130
1. <i>Al-Aqsa Intifadah</i>	130
2. The Aggression and the Resistance 2006–2011	136
Second: The Internal Palestinian Situation:	140
1. The PA’s Course	141
2. Hamas’ Control over GS, and Fatah’s over the PA in the WB	149
3. Salam Fayyad’s Government	153
4. The Caretaker Government in GS	157
5. The PLO	162
6. The National Reconciliation Path	166
Third: The Path to Peace Talks:	176
1. The Geneva Accord	178
2. The Arab Initiative	180
3. The Road Map	181
4. Unilateral Separation	183
5. The Return Through Negotiations to the Palestinian State Option	185
6. The One-State Option	186
Fourth: The Separation Wall	186
Fifth: Israel	189

Chapter Seven: The Palestine Issue 2012–2021

Introduction199
First: The Palestinian People200
Second: The Aggression and Resistance 2012–2021204
Third: The Internal Palestinian Scene216
Fourth: The Peace Process 2012–2021235
Fifth: Jerusalem and the Status Quo240
Sixth: Israel 2012–2021249

Afterword271
Index275

List of Abbreviations

CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CUP	Committee of Union and Progress
DFLP	Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GS	Gaza Strip
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ISA	Israel Security Agency (Shabak)
KSA	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
MB	Muslim Brothers
OIC	Organization of Islamic Cooperation
PA	Palestinian Authority
PCC	Palestinian Central Council
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
PFLP	Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
PFLP–GC	Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine–General Command
PIJ	Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine
PLC	Palestinian Legislative Council
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
PNC	Palestinian National Council
PPP	Palestine People’s Party
PPSF	Palestinian Popular Struggle Front
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNSCOP	United Nations Special Committee on Palestine
WB	West Bank
WWI	World War I
WWII	World War II
WZO	World Zionist Organization

Introduction

This study attempts to provide a general overview of the Palestine issue through the main points of its historical background, thus allowing the reader to better grasp the overall picture and the intertwined factors pertaining to the issue, at any stage, and in a logical sequence, up to the current stage. Indeed we could have examined the Palestine issue through the lens of themes such as the land, the people, the Zionist program, the resistance, etc., but we believe that such a division would be hard to tackle in a compact study, as it would provide only a general overview of each theme, but not of the overall themes together and in the same context.

This study is addressed to those wishing to become acquainted with the Palestine issue, particularly those who have little time to read specialized and detailed studies. However, recent history and contemporary developments are assessed in detail to allow readers to become informed about many events, changes, and complex issues going on around them.

Naturally, this study was written with the belief that the people of Palestine are the rightful owners of their land, and that Palestine is an Arab and Islamic land. This study was developed by following rigorous academic standards, and—wherever possible—was worded in a simple language, with up-to-date information up to summer 2021, and far from any sensationalism.

This book is a revised and updated edition of the original 2002 edition that was printed in Egypt, Kuwait and Malaysia, titled *The Palestinian Issue: Background and Developments Until 2001*. It is also a revised and updated edition of the 2014 edition that was printed in Beirut, and to it, a seventh chapter has been added covering the period 2012–2021.

Prof. Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh
July 2021

This Book

This book seeks to present a comprehensive overview of the Palestine issue, its historical background, as well as its modern and contemporary developments.

The book, in a documented, methodical, and concise style, and in plain language, delves into the history of Palestine from its early history throughout the Islamic era, and the background of the emergence of the Zionist movement, as well as the British occupation of Palestine and the founding of Israel. The book analyzes the various phases of the Palestine issue and its developments, shedding light on the struggle of the Palestinian people, their uprisings and revolutions, and the role of the Palestine Liberation Organization and its factions, as well as the role of the Palestinian Islamic movements.

The book places particular emphasis on the first two decades of the twenty-first century, so that the reader would be able to obtain a clear picture about many of the issues related to the contemporary aspects of the Palestinian question.

The revised and updated edition of the book covers the period up to the year 2021, and contains a large collection of pictures and maps to illustrate its points.

The book is an important source for readers seeking to acquaint themselves with the Palestine issue, and to become informed of the pertinent facts in a balanced manner. It can also serve as an introduction to further studies of the Palestine issue.

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ISBN 978-614-494-020-4



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