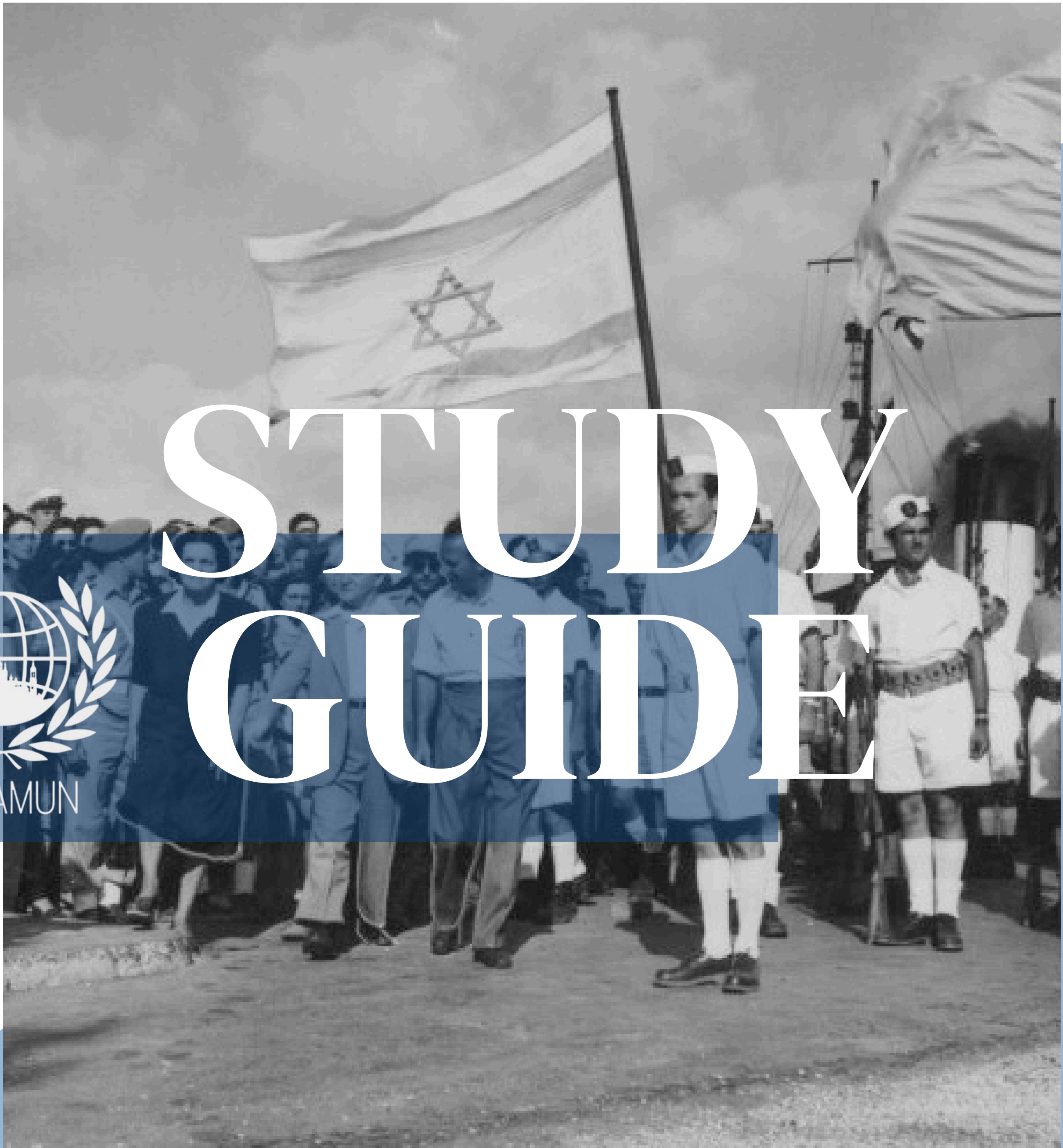


ZARAMUN 2025

“The Dilemmas Of Humanity: Borders, Justice and Ethics; Building the Future Of The World”



STUDY GUIDE



HISTORICAL CRISIS

Contending with the 1947 debate: evaluating the international decision on the acceptance of the State Of Israel and its implications for regional stability.

INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

We are Ángela Gresa and Andrea Alday, and are Terminale students at ZARAMUN. In this year's conference, we have the honor of chairing the Historical Crisis committee.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with HCC, the Historical Crisis Committee is a unique and dynamic forum that diverges significantly from the structured procedures of other committees. It is designed to immerse delegates in a pivotal historical moment, where they take on the roles of influential historical figures rather than representing nations.

The heart of the HCC lies in its emphasis on creativity and improvisation. Crises are introduced dynamically, ranging from geopolitical standoffs and covert operations to propaganda campaigns and symbolic gestures. Delegates must think on their feet, balancing historical accuracy with innovative solutions. This committee fosters not only collaboration but also competition, as delegates may pursue conflicting objectives or seek to outmaneuver their opponents through clever alliances, bluffs, or even sabotage.

The committee's primary aim is to offer an immersive experience that blends historical fidelity with strategic problem-solving. By stepping into the shoes of figures such as Harry S. Truman, Joseph Stalin, or David Ben-Gurion, delegates are challenged to address the complex issues of their time. Whether negotiating a peace settlement, managing a military escalation, or leveraging economic sanctions, they must weigh the consequences of their decisions carefully. In this high-stakes environment, every move counts, and the actions of each delegate can shape the course of history—or rewrite it entirely.

The topic we are going to debate on is the international decision on the acceptance of the State of Israel and its implications for regional stability. As we delve into the events surrounding the creation of Israel, we will be exploring the pivotal role played by the United Nations, the conflicting aspirations of the Jewish and Arab communities, and the long-term consequences of Resolution 181 implementation.

Back then, this issue was not just a matter of diplomatic negotiations—it was a moment of global decision-making that has shaped the geopolitics of the Middle East and still affects the region nowadays. The debates you will engage in during ZARAMUN will require critical thinking, collaboration, and a deep understanding of the topic.

We have written this Study Guide in order to provide a starting point for your own research on the subject, and we hope it serves you well. Don't forget that we are available at any time if you have any doubts concerning the procedure!

Good luck,

Ángela Gresa
Andrea Alday

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

#1 Ethnic Group

A community or group of people with distinctive social, cultural, and behavioral characteristics that distinguish them from others in the same or different country / society.

#2 Middle-East

A transcontinental region that encompasses parts of Western Asia, North Africa, and the eastern Mediterranean. Historically significant as the birthplace of major civilizations and religions, it became a focal point of geopolitical conflict due to its strategic location and resources.

#3 Near-East

From the French term « Proche-Orient » an indefinite geographical or regional term, usually referring to the countries of southwestern Asia, including Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia and the other nations of Arabia.

#4 League Of Nations

An international organization established after World War I in 1920 to promote peace and resolve disputes between nations. It administered mandates over former Ottoman territories, including Palestine, granting Britain control under the Mandate system.

#5 Pan Arabism

A nationalist ideology advocating for the unity of Arab nations and people, emphasizing shared language, culture, and history. It gained momentum in the early 20th century as a response to colonial rule and Western influence in Arab lands.

#6 Zionism

Jewish nationalist movement founded in the late 19th century advocating for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, rooted in historical and religious ties to the land.

#7 The Holocaust

The Holocaust was the state-sponsored persecution and mass murder of millions of European Jews, Romani people, intellectually disabled, political dissidents and homosexuals by the German Nazi regime between 1933 and 1945. The word "holocaust," from the Greek "holos" (whole) and "kaustos" (burned), was historically used to describe a sacrificial offering burned on an altar. It was called « Shoa » by the Jews, meaning catastrophe in hebrew.

#8 Promised Land

Middle Eastern land in the Levant that Abrahamic religions claim God promised and subsequently gave to Abraham and several more times to his descendants.

#9 White Paper

A British policy document addressing issues in Palestine during the Mandate period. For example, the 1939 White Paper limited Jewish immigration and land purchases to appease Arab opposition, causing tension during the Holocaust.

#10 Intifada (non-existent term in 1947)

An Arabic word meaning "uprising," later on associated with Palestinian resistance movements against Israeli occupation in 1987 (First Intifada) and 2000 (Second Intifada). It reflects a strategy of civil disobedience and popular resistance.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Zionist movement emerged in the late XIXth century as a response to rising antisemitism in Europe and the desire among Jews to establish a homeland in the promised land. Theodore Herzl, an Austrian journalist, is considered its founding figure. In 1896, he advocated for the creation of a Jewish homeland as the solution to antisemitism in "Der Judenstaat". While the project initially faced skepticism from the Jewish community, it gained popularity due to events such as the Dreyfus affair and escalating programs in Russia, as these events highlighted the need for a safe haven.

Palestine, which had been part of the Ottoman Empire for centuries, came under British rule in 1920 following the San Remo Conference and the League of Nations mandate system. This was part of the reorganization of the Middle East following the Ottoman defeat in World War I. During the conflict, Britain made contradictory promises: in exchange for the revolt of the Arabs against the Ottomans, they supported Arab independence, all the while issuing the Balfour Declaration of 1917, which expressed support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. These conflicting commitments set the stage for decades of tension.

Jewish immigration towards Palestine increased dramatically in the early 20th century, fueled by rising anti-Semitism in Europe and calls from the Zionist movement to establish a Jewish homeland in the biblical "Holy Land." In the 1930s, Jewish immigration exploded as Jews fled persecution in Nazi-occupied Europe. However, the growing Jewish population clashed with the Arab majority, which opposed the idea of a Jewish state and feared losing control of their land.

British efforts to manage the conflict proved largely ineffective. The first White Paper of 1922 attempted to limit Jewish immigration while acknowledging Arab concerns, but satisfied neither side. Tensions rose, culminating in violent episodes such as the Hebron massacre of 1929 and the Arab Revolt (1936–39), a large-scale uprising against British rule and Jewish immigration.

As a response to these events, the British government implemented the third white paper which stated the points that follow:

- Jewish immigration was to be limited and only possible if approved by the Arab representatives.
- Land available to buy by Jews was significantly restricted, mostly in Arab majority zones, to avoid the displacement of previous tenants.
- Called for the creation of a self-governing Arab state that would be partly binational to permit a certain balance of rights between both communities.

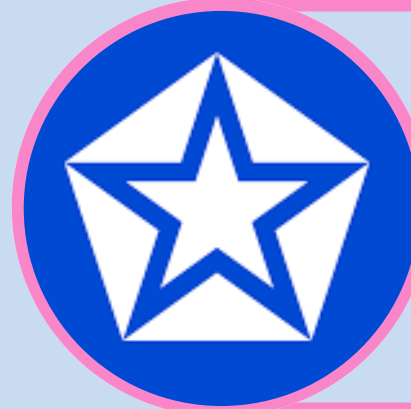
The document was welcomed by the Arab leadership, who perceived it as a victory, but completely rejected by the Zionists who then decided to insurgе against the British government. Due to the bad timing (Second World War), the Jews perceived the immigration restrictions as a betrayal and accelerated their efforts for self-preservation, demanding to the international community a way to ensure their safety and straining their relations not only with Great Britain but with the Arabs too.

CONCERNED COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS



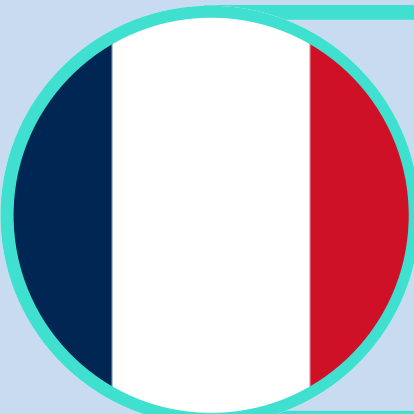
UNITED KINGDOM

Controlled Palestine under the British Mandate from 1920 to 1948 and played a central role in shaping the region through policies like the Balfour Declaration and the White Papers.



LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Oversaw the British Mandate for Palestine, legitimizing British control of the territory after World War I.



FRANCE

Collaborated with Britain in the Sykes-Picot Agreement to divide Ottoman territories after World War.



UNITED NATIONS (POST 1945)

Took over international governance responsibilities and proposed the 1947 Partition Plan to resolve the conflict.



OTTOMAN EMPIRE (PRE-1920)

Controlled Palestine for centuries before its collapse after World War.



ARAB LEAGUE

Established in 1945, it represented the collective interests of Arab states and strongly opposed the partition of Palestine and the establishment of Israël.



UNITED STATES

Influenced by Zionist lobbying and growing global awareness of the Holocaust, it supported the establishment of Israel in the late 1940s.



JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

A key organization representing the Zionist movement and facilitating Jewish immigration and settlement in Palestine.



ARAB NATIONS

Neighboring countries like Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia opposed the creation of Israel, leading to their involvement in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.



PALESTINIAN ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE

Represented Palestinian Arab interests and opposed British and Zionist policies.



ISRAEL (1948)

Declared its independence in 1948, becoming a focal point of the regional conflict.



WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION

Promoted the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, spearheading the Zionist movement globally.

UN INVOLVEMENT

Following the end of World War II, the issue of Jewish migration to Palestine, alongside tensions between Jewish and Arab communities, became increasingly urgent. The British, who had controlled Palestine under a League of Nations mandate since 1920, were struggling to maintain order and facing pressure from both Jewish and Arab groups. It's imperative to understand that the UN had been formed two years prior and was still trying to lay their foundations in the context of an extremely traumatized world after the events of the Second World War. In spite of this fact, Britain referred the issue to the newly established United Nations for resolution.

The UN responded by forming a special committee, the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), in 1947. The committee's mandate was to investigate the situation in Palestine and propose a solution to the ongoing conflict. After examining the political, economic, and social conditions in Palestine, UNSCOP presented a report that recommended the partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. This was based on the idea that a two-state solution would provide a way to satisfy both Zionist and Arab nationalist aspirations.

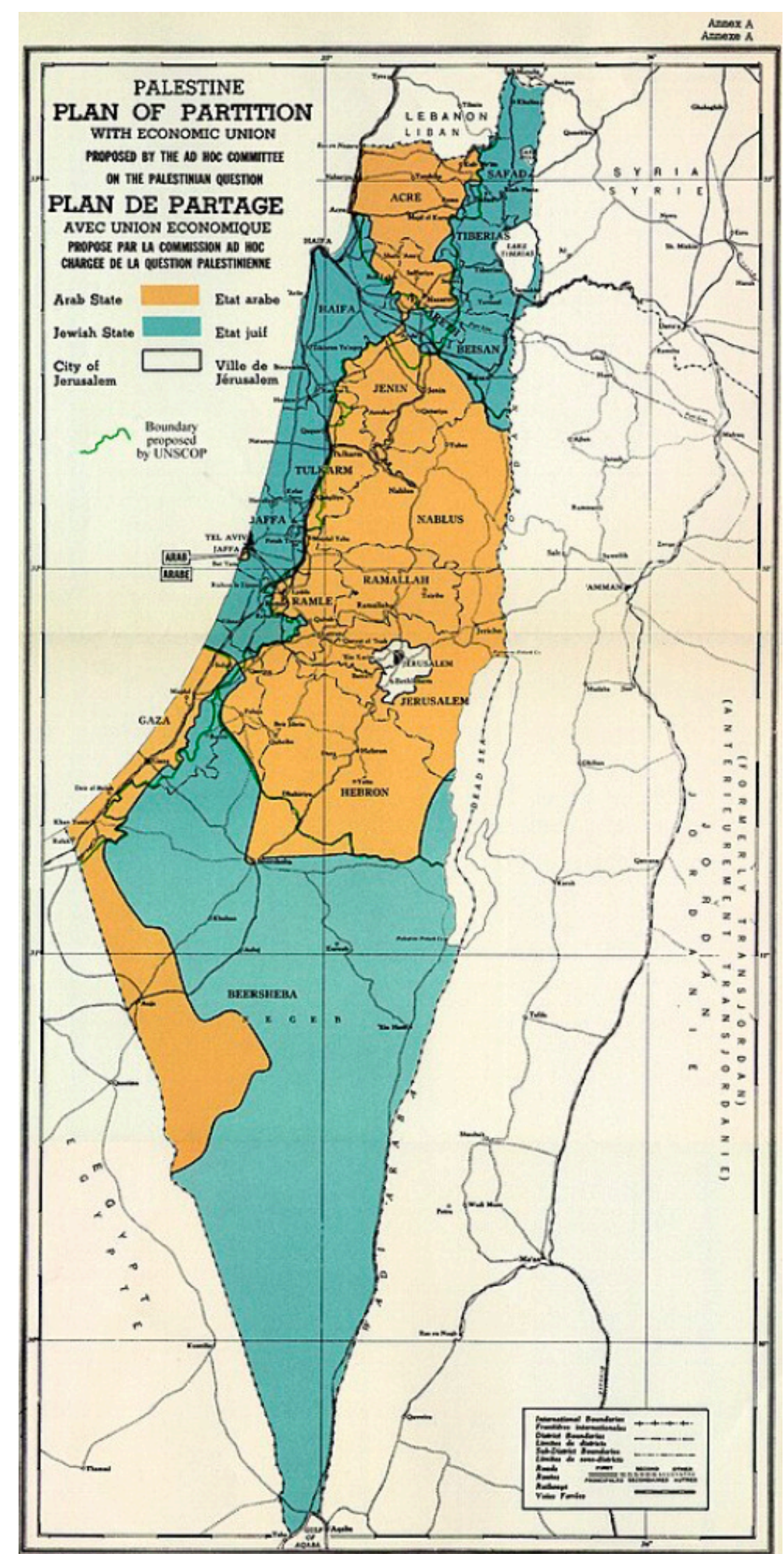
The plan proposed dividing Palestine into two states, one Jewish and one Arab. The Jewish state was given about 55% of the land, despite Jews being a minority in Palestine at the time, and the Arab state received 45%. Jerusalem would be established as an international city, governed by the United Nations to avoid conflict over its religious significance to both Jews and Arabs, and to ensure it remained accessible to all religious groups.

The plan suggested an economic union between the two states, especially concerning issues like trade, currency, and infrastructure, to promote cooperation despite the political division. The plan also protected the rights of the Arab population within both states, guaranteeing their civil rights and religious freedoms.

On November 29th 1947, the UN General Assembly voted to approve Resolution 181, which endorsed the partition plan with a two-thirds majority. The vote was as follows:

- 33 in favor of the plan (mainly Western countries and Latin American nations),
- 13 against the plan (mostly Arab states and a few others),
- 10 abstentions (including the Soviet Union and several Eastern European countries).

The Jewish leadership, under David Ben-Gurion, accepted the plan, even though it did not grant them all the territory they wanted. They saw it as a practical step toward establishing a Jewish state. However, the Arab states and Palestinian Arab leaders rejected the partition plan, arguing that it was unfair to the Arab population, who constituted the majority in Palestine at the time. They also felt that the plan violated the principles of self-determination, as it imposed a division of the land without Arab consent.



POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

A BINATIONAL STATE (Coexistence Model)

Implicates the creation of a singular state in which both Jews and Arabs would coexist. Moreover, they would share governance, institutions and resources while maintaining their distinct cultural identities.

This model would fulfill the aspirations of both parties for self-determination, annihilating disputes for land and avoiding the sense of injustice felt by palestinians. It is the most proposed resolution for today's conflict.

Unfortunately, at the time, the Jews fear of being a minority in an Arab dominated state was far greater because of the significant difference between their population percentage and the Arab hostility towards them.



A GRADUAL PARTITION

Some historians found the land partition proposed by the 181 resolution to be too abrupt. Instead, a more gradual and supervised by the UN approach could have led to a secured transition to separate political entities and allowed the two communities to settle their differences in a neutral ambience.



Furthermore, the promotion of greater cooperation between the Arab league and the zionists not only would facilitate the establishment of the proposed resolution but also would permit the development of an amicable relationship between ethnies based on trust and mutual respect. This would then avoid triggering conflicts once the states fully divided and self-managed.

However, the problem that hinders all of these propositions is the deep-rooted violence and sensation of angst that reigns on the spirits of the region's inhabitants. Approaches to mend this complex issue could be building a historical memory and establishing fair retribution as well as safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable populations.

How to ensure order in this oh-so disputed territory? Good luck solving this mess!

FURTHER RESSOURCES

The Question Of Palestine & The General Assembly

<https://www.un.org/unispal/data-collection/general-assembly/>

UN Committee On The Exercice Of The Inalienable Rights Of The Palestinian People

<https://www.un.org/unispal/committee/>

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181

https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/res181.asp

The Birth Of The Palestinian Refugee Problem Revisited

<http://larryjhs.fastmail.fm.user.fm/The%20Birth%20of%20the%20Palestinian%20Refugee%20Problem%20Revisited.pdf>

Institute For Palestine Studies

<https://www.palestine-studies.org/>

Jewish Virtual Library

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/>

The National United Kingdom Archives On Palestine

https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/search/results?_q=Palestine

The Balfour Project

<https://balfourproject.org/>

Israel-Palestine Conflict: A Brief History In Maps And Charts

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/27/palestine-and-israel-brief-history-maps-and-charts>

The Electronic Intifada

<https://electronicintifada.net/>