

Research Report

COMMITTEE: Security Council

PROBLEM: *How to end the armed conflict and the illegal occupation in Israel and Palestine?*

PRESIDENTS: Jules MOREL & Juliane ZEEB

How to end the armed conflict and illegal occupation in Israel and Palestine?



KEYWORDS

Zionism: A political movement that gained momentum in the 19th century and asserted the right to the existence of a Jewish state in Palestine. It was created at the end of the 19th century by Dr. Herzl.

The League of Nations: the first attempt at a universal organization of states, created mainly to settle conflicts related to collective security. It was proclaimed by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 and sat in Geneva between 1920 and 1946.

The Likud: political party of the Israeli right, successor of the revisionist party created in 1925 by Vladimir Jabotinsky and then of the Herut party created in 1948 by Menachem Begin, attached to the Great Israel (the borders of Israel according to this idea would be delimited by the conquests of the Six Day War, so the existence of an Arab state, Jordan, is no longer a problem, it would be enough to be able to preserve the conquered lands). The ideology advocated within this party is partly in line with that of the Orthodox Jews, and it affirms their desire for colonization. Benjamin Netanyahu has been the president of the Likud since December 2005.

Labour Party: Israeli political party of the left, advocating peace and the recognition of a Palestinian state according to the 1948 borders.

Orthodox Jews: extremist religious party that refuses the existence of an Arab/Palestinian state. Very popular at present, a major political party of this movement is the Shas with Arye Dery as president.

PLO (Fatah) *Palestine Liberation Organization*: a nationalist and secular movement that advocated the creation of a Palestinian state. Yasser Arafat was its charismatic leader. Fatah is its political organisation based in the West Bank. Today it refuses the armed struggle and recognizes the existence of a Jewish state.

Hamas: Muslim fundamentalist movement that refuses the existence of Israel and claims armed struggle and terrorism. Hamas is established in the Gaza Strip, the divergence of ideas between Fatah and Hamas leads to conflicts, even within the Arab organizations.

"A hostile entity" is what the Israelis officially call the Gaza Strip. This allows Israel to impose economic sanctions on Hamas and the Gaza Strip.

Hezbollah: Iranian-backed Shiite fundamentalist movement that denies the existence of Jews and engages in terrorist practices, including hostage-taking.

Settlement: an illegally closed Israeli enclave under international law, and therefore on Palestinian territory.

The Intifadas are the wars of the stones, i.e. the revolts of Palestinian youth in the occupied territories between 1994 and 2006.

The Green Line is the demarcation line between Arab and Israeli forces in 1949. It is considered the basis of the separation and the border between the two possible states.

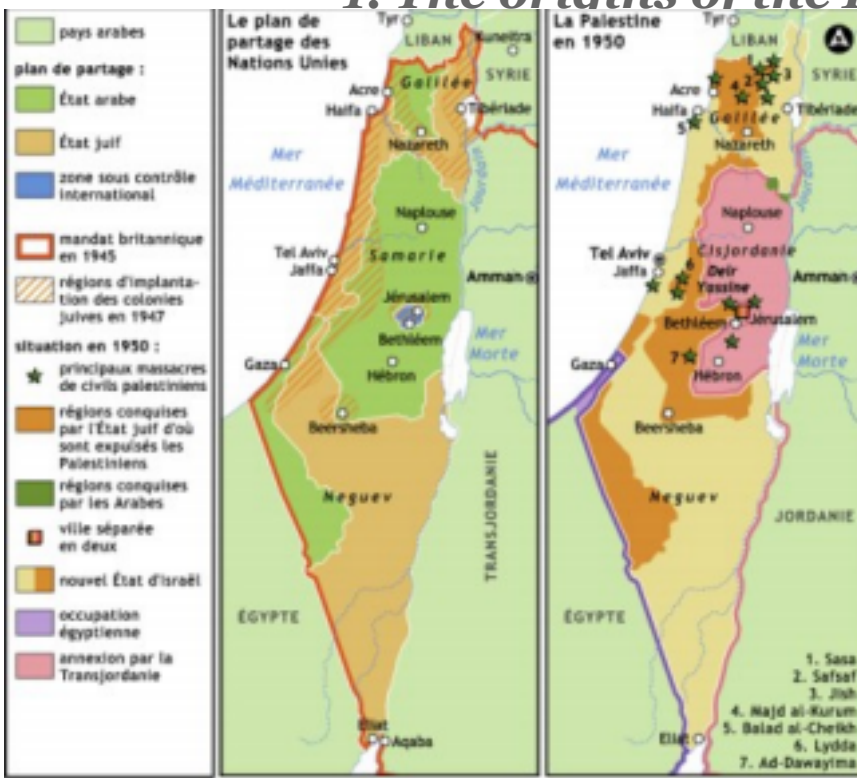
OVERVIEW

The Israeli-Arab conflict and the Palestinian question have long been a major issue for the Security Council since its creation in 1945. This conflict of international scope is also one of the great failures of the previous League of Nations (League).

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC): The UN Charter gives the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council has 15 members, including 5 permanent members, each with one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are required to implement the decisions of the Council. The Security Council has the primary competence to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or an act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle the dispute by peaceful means and recommends such methods of adjustment and terms of settlement as it considers appropriate. In some cases, it may impose sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Since its creation, the Security Council has adopted 226 resolutions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

1. The origins of the Israeli-Arab conflict



Palestine in the Middle East was a province of the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century. It was given as a mandate by the League of Nations to the United Kingdom at the end of the First World War. Palestine was a British mandate populated by an Arabic-speaking population, the Palestinians, and a Jewish population emigrated from Europe in the 1920s and 1930s. The British, in the

Balfour Declaration of 1917, recognized the right of the Zionist movement to settle in Palestine.

a. The Jewish people of Israel

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither. Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth. **Psalm - Song of the Exiled Children of Israel**



For the Jewish people, this geographical area is Canaan, the promised land of Yahweh. The children of Israel, the Jews, after the Roman occupation in the first century A.D., were driven out of Palestine forming a diaspora. They are returning to their past territories. Within the framework of Zionism, they demand the creation of a Jewish state, Israel.

b. The Palestinian Muslim people

"O Jerusalem, the chosen land of Allah and the home of His servants, from your walls the world has become a world. **The Hadith, words of the Prophet Muhammad**



For the Arabs, Palestine is home to Jerusalem, the third holy place of Islam, the Dome of the Rock, the tomb of the Khalifa Omar. They want to keep this holy land. The Palestinians, in agreement with the British, demand the birth of an Arab state: Palestine.

c. The 1947 - 1948 UN land division plan

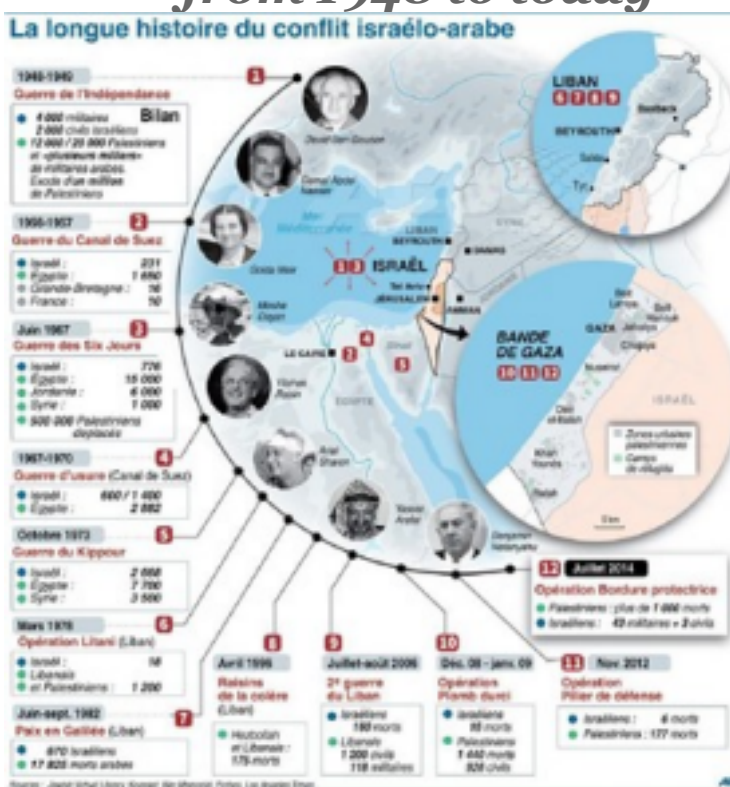
Under the aegis of the UN in 1948, the United Kingdom had to give Palestine its independence. Faced with the double claim of the populations, the UN planned a partition plan in 1947.

The two superpowers of the time - the USA and the USSR - wanted the creation of a Jewish state. The Jewish people had just suffered the Nazi genocide in Europe (6 million dead), and the European states did not know what to do with the survivors, who asked to emigrate to what was to become the future State of Israel and join their colleagues who had already been living there since the 1920s. The Jewish population was then in the majority: 500,000 Jews against 400,000 Arabs. The populations were unevenly distributed over the territory: the Jews on the coast, the Arabs in the Jordan Valley and in the West Bank.

The UN proposes the creation of two states according to a partition plan giving 55% of Palestine to a Jewish state: Israel, and 45% to an Arab state: Palestine.

The Arab states refused to accept this division of land and declared war on Israel in 1948.

2. Chronology of Israeli-Arab armed conflicts from 1948 to today



In 1947, a partition plan was proposed to the UN. Established by resolution 181, this partition plan provided for a Jewish state, an Arab state and an area "under international and special regime" (see map 1). The international zone would include the holy places of Bethlehem and Jerusalem. The eleven Arab nations taking part in the vote were against the partition plan. After an extremely close vote, the partition plan was adopted on 29 November by 33 votes in favour, 13 against and 10 abstentions.

Clashes between Jews and Arabs exploded in the days following the UN vote.

a. 1948 and the proclamation of the State of Israel

On May 14, 1948 David Ben Gurion, former Prime Minister of Israel and President of the Israeli Labor Party, proclaimed the creation of the State of Israel, which was then recognized by Moscow and Washington.

The announcement provoked the immediate entry into war of the Arab States. The armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq invaded the country. It was the first Arab-Israeli war. The Israeli army, Tsahal, pushes back the armies of the Arab League and wins the war. Israel enlarges its territory by one third.

The fighting is accompanied by the exodus of some 800,000 Palestinian refugees.
(See details of the human toll on map 2 and the territorial enlargement on map 1)

b. 1967 and the 6-day war

Border tensions between Israel and Syria increase. Soviet propaganda proclaimed that Israel was preparing an all-out war against Damascus. These statements forced Egypt, under the mutual assistance treaty signed by the two countries, to support Syria.

From June 5 to 11, it was the Six Day War. It ended with a crushing military victory for Israel, which conquered the Sinai, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Golan Heights: it was the Great Israel.

Thus, Israelis can once again enter the Old City of Jerusalem and pray at the Wailing Wall.

The flow of Palestinian refugees is growing by several million Palestinians who are taking refuge in other Arab countries. There are more than 4.5 million Palestinians today, forming a diaspora.

At the same time, the leaders of eight Arab states meet for an Arab League summit in Khartoum, Sudan. They decided to agree on a common political line to adopt towards Israel. The "Khartoum resolution", voted on 1 September, was a "triple no": "No peace with Israel, no recognition of the State of Israel, no negotiations with it. It reaffirms "the rights of the Palestinian people over their own country" and the desire to recover the lost territories.
(See details of the human toll on map 2)

c. 1973 and the Yom Kippur War

On Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, Syrian and Egyptian armies attacked Israel simultaneously. They were quickly defeated and the Arab capitals were threatened by Tsahal.

Palestinians no longer envisage an Arab victory and engage in terrorism
(See details of the human toll on map 2)

d. 1979 and the beginning of the Isralo-Arabic agreements

On 26 March 1979, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin signed a peace treaty. It implies the normalization of their relations, the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Sinai occupied since 1967 and a right of free passage to Israel through the Suez Canal. Egypt became the first Arab country to recognize the Jewish state.

After the Yom Kippur War of October 1973, the Egyptian president sought peace with Israel for domestic political reasons and to improve the economic situation. "It is referred to as a cold peace between Israel and Egypt, because it does not involve any great enthusiasm or remarkable exchanges," Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978.

Egypt was then banned from the Arab League for 10 years and Sadat was assassinated in 1981 by Egyptian extremists.

e. 1982 and the Lebanon war

On 6 June, Israel launched Operation Peace in Galilee and invaded Lebanon. The objective: to put an end to Palestinian attacks from southern Lebanon. Syria was defeated in a few days.
(See details of the human toll on map 2)

f. The 1990s to the present

The last 30 years of the Arab-Israeli conflict no longer take the form of open warfare like those that took place between 1948 and 1982.

Major periods of tension, more or less violent but of lesser geopolitical importance, interspersed with periods of truce and peace, occur frequently and repeatedly. The multiple defeats of the Arab countries pushed the Palestinians to activism and terrorism. Here are the important dates to remember from this period:

(The map below shows the current composition of the territory)



The 90's presented a hope for peace, in connection with negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians

September 13, 1993: Israel and the PLO sign in Washington an agreement in principle ("Oslo I") on a five-year transitional Palestinian autonomy. (see section on international agreements)

And at the end of 1995, Israel withdrew from six West Bank cities, which became autonomous. However, the overall trend has been towards a resumption of the conflict, particularly with the return to power of the Likud and the growing importance of Hamas

More details on the dates : Appendix1

3. Current issues in the conflict

also in new economic, social, political and geographical development issues.

a. Table of the current Israeli-Palestinian situation

	Israel	Palestinian Territory
Area	22,000 km ² of land	6,200 km ² of land
Population	9.1 million inhabitants (20 of Arabs)	5 million inhabitants
Fertility rate	3.1 children per woman	4.4 children per woman
Population density	445 inhabitants per km ² .	846 inhabitants per km ² .
GNP	371 billion	15 billion
GNP per capita	41,700 per capita	3,050 per capita
HDI	0'906	0,690

→ Palestine survives only through international aid. In 2018, it represents 1.41 billion \$ coming from the European Union and the European States, the United States, the Arab countries, Norway and Japan.

b. The illegal Israeli occupation, settlements and current events



the occupied territories. The settlements serve several

The green line defines the separation route proposed by the UN between the two states. Thus, the Israelis seek to control the maximum amount of territory before the probable official partition into two states. Israel then creates settlements in

purposes, including control of Jerusalem by encircling the Palestinian side. (Jerusalem remains a central issue, both for religious and strategic reasons); the control of the water resources of the Jordan River through the settlement of population and activities along the Jordanian border. And finally, the taking of part of the Palestinian territory beyond the Green Line.

An occupation occurs when an occupying entity exercises civilian administration.

The West Bank is jointly administered by Israeli and Palestinian civil authorities: Area A (100% Palestinian administration in urban areas) Area B (joint Israeli and Palestinian administration) Area C (100% Israeli administration: holy and strategic places)

At the same time, the Israelis are building a separation wall between the two territories to prevent even daily migration of the Palestinian population, the aim being also to protect themselves from suicide attacks. There are therefore logically strategic places and places of confrontation which are the "checkpoints" between the two states on the separation wall. The checkpoints are guarded by the Israeli army, which filters out one by one the Palestinians coming to work in Israel.

c. Current Issues Summary Table

	Israel	Palestine
Religious and symbolic	The promised land and the holy city of the Jews, Jerusalem.	Jerusalem is a holy place in Islam.
Policy	The recognition of a Jewish state by all actors, even extremists.	The real existence of an independent Palestinian state.
Company	The opposition between religious orthodox Jews, settlers and secular Jews	The opposition between Fatah which holds the West Bank and Hamas which holds Gaza.
Geographic	Control as much territory, water resources and the border as possible to ensure Israel's existence and security.	Ensuring territorial continuity between the West Bank and Gaza
Economic	Becoming a regional development hub. Ultra liberal economy.	Getting out of the underdevelopment and humanitarian crises
Military	Stop the escalation of air raids and suicide bombings.	Disarm the extremist militias of Hamas and Hezbollah.

UN TREATIES AND MAJOR EVENTS

29/11/1947 General Assembly Resolution 181

Adoption of the Partition Plan: Palestine is divided into two independent states, one Arab, the other Jewish, and Jerusalem is placed under UN administration.

22/11/1967 SC Resolution 242

Voted following the Six-Day War. The UN regularly refers to this text in other resolutions adopted on the Israeli-Palestinian question. The Security Council condemns the "acquisition of territory by war" and demands the "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from the occupied territories". It affirms the "territorial inviolability and political independence" of every state in the region.

21/05/1968 SC Resolution 252

The Security Council declares "invalid" Israeli actions, including expropriation of land and property, aimed at "altering the status of Jerusalem", and calls on Israel to refrain from taking such actions.

25/10/1973 SC Resolution 340

Following the Ramadan or Yom Kippur war, creation of the second United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF-II) which aims to "supervise the ceasefire between Egyptian and Israeli forces" and to ensure the "redeployment" of these same forces

17/09/1978 Camp David Agreement between Israel and Egypt Under the aegis of the United States, Egyptian President Sadat and Israeli President Begin sign peace agreements. Israel returns the Sinai to Egypt. → Sadat is assassinated in 1982 by fundamentalist Muslims for his agreement with Israel. Gradually, Arab states make peace with Israel.

03/11/1991 The Madrid Conference

In the context of the end of the Cold War and following the 1991 Gulf War, marked by the coalition's victory, American diplomacy decided to work on the Palestinian question and the peace process. Under the presidency of George Bush (1989-1993), relations with Israel cooled down, as the United States defended its oil interests in the Gulf region from an economic point of view, and from an international law point of view, having defended Kuwait during the Gulf War, it intended to apply the same law to the Palestinian territories. Under the leadership of US Secretary of State James Baker, negotiations were undertaken with Israel, Syria, the Palestinians (Palestinians in the occupied territories, i.e. not members of the PLO), Jordan and Lebanon. The United States thus intended to normalise relations between Israel and the Arab states.

04/05/1994 The Oslo agreements

The Oslo Accords are the result of a series of discussions held in secret, in parallel with the public discussions following the 1991 Madrid Conference, between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators in Oslo, Norway, to lay the groundwork for a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Oslo process was supplemented on 4 May 1994 by the **Jericho-Gaza agreement**, which gave the new Palestinian National Authority limited powers. Finally, the interim agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip or "**Taba Agreement**", which was signed in Washington on 28 September 1995, provides for the first elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council and involves a negotiated division of the Palestinian territories into three zones where Israeli and Palestinian controls are applied differently, pending the outcome of the negotiations which are still ongoing.

The lively handshake between Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin behind the White House and in front of President Bill Clinton following the signing of the Washington Accords rekindled hopes for a lasting peace between the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

This attempt at an Israeli-Palestinian peace process, which was widely supported by the international community, ran into difficulties between 1996 and 1999 as a result of the hardening of positions on both sides when the crucial issues of the status of Jerusalem, the problem of Palestinian refugees and the fight against terrorism were addressed.

19/11/2003 SC Resolution 1515

The Security Council declares itself "committed to the vision of a region in which two states, Israel and Palestine, live side by side within secure and recognised borders", and therefore calls on the parties to the conflict to fulfil their obligations under the "road map" of the Quartet (established in 2002 and composed of the United States of America, the

Russia, the European Union and the United Nations, the "Middle East Quartet", seeks to mediate in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.)

Other UN treaties and major events : Annex 2

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The political classes currently in place, both Arab and Israeli, do not allow for constructive dialogue on solutions that have already been considered by the UN SC. Indeed, the Palestinian political leaders must take into account the existence of a radical and therefore anti-Semitic Islamist component (because this component refuses Israel's right to exist) and the Israeli political leaders must take into account the Orthodox and therefore Islamophobic Jewish movement. All consensus and the establishment of peace seems impossible at present. Especially since demographically, Orthodox Jews, according to their ideology, have on average two to three times more offspring than the rest of the Israeli population. Thus, possible solutions could only be found on the basis of long-term projections. For example, a more profound re-education of the population on tolerance and the fundamental principles of international law. Such solutions would then allow for concrete ideological changes that would lead to a change in the political classes, which could then establish a consensus that would suit the majority of the populations of the Western Middle East.

However, through international actors, a return to negotiations may be possible:

Here are four solutions that need to be explored further:

[Four short solutions for understanding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict | Cairn.info](#)

Re-launched by Joe Biden, the 46th president of the United States of America, a major solution, although already proposed by the SC before, would be the delimitation of two very distinct states: an Israeli state (within the current borders) and an Arab state (composed of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip within borders without the settlements).

What status for the city of Jerusalem?

The city of Jerusalem would be under international mandate, which means that only peaceful pilgrims and only those who wish to celebrate their deities in peace would have access to it. (A bit like the Vatican today for the Catholic order). The city of Jerusalem should no longer be the object of national claims.

What solutions for the retrocession of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank? (see annex 1)

The two-state solution could, according to some ideologues, be extremely dangerous: population displacements would be necessary, and civil war would be inevitable. Israel's settlement policy makes a two-state solution difficult to envisage. A substitute could be the creation of a federal state (linking Israel and Palestine in its entirety) based on the Swiss model would be an alternative and would avoid a civil war.

As we have just seen, the question of the handover of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank raises the issue of population movements and the return of settlers to Israel. If a two state solution is desired, how can the international community support such population movements?

How to achieve a more unified and peaceful Palestinian entity? (Making Hamas and the West Bank the same country without conflict of interest) After the last ceasefire between Israel and the Gaza Strip, a Palestinian unification movement has resurfaced. Many popular demonstrations took place for this unification. A solution to facilitate this unification, politically, geographically and economically, would be a re-division of the Israeli-Palestinian land, to allow a territorial reunification between the two Palestinian entities that are separated today, or, in a more moderate way, guaranteed and secure circulation between the two Palestinian entities.

Finally, in order to ensure the stability and viability of the coexistence of two states, how can water resources be distributed in a more equitable manner?

Indeed, the Oslo II Accords (1995) perpetuated the unequal distribution of water established since 1967: 80% of groundwater is allocated to Israel, although 75% of the catchment area is located in the West Bank. Only 20% of available water resources are allocated to the Palestinians.

Modifying the Oslo agreements with the idea of distributing water according to the needs of each country, and having them ratified by each of the parties could be a solution to this issue.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

[Mr Arnal](#)

[\(7\)AlphaBlondy-Jerusalem\[officialclip\]-YouTube](#)

[Israel-Palestine\(francetvinfo.fr\)](#)

[Israel-Palestine: what led to the current outbreak of violence \(lavoixdunord.fr\)](#)

[Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Clashes with Israeli soldiers, nearly 150 Palestinians injured \(rtbf.be\)](#)

[The "Iron Dome" intercepts dozens of rockets from Gaza \(lefigaro.fr\)](#)

[After the destruction of a building housing international media in Gaza, indignation and anger against Israel \(lemonde.fr\)](#)

[Why and how was the UN created? UN France \(unric.org\) United Nations Security Council](#)

[United Nations | Peace, Dignity and Equality
 on a Healthy Planet Resolutions | United Nations Security Council](#)

[Since 1948, Israel has often flouted UN resolutions \(la-croix.com\) Israeli Palestinian conflict - France ONU \(delegfrance.org\)](#)

[The UN and the issue of Israeli apartheid - BDS France](#)

[HISTORICAL ATLAS - Cartography & History \(atlas-historique.net\)](#)

[The Israeli-Palestinian conflict: origin, dates, keys, consequences \(lefigaro.fr\)](#)

[Lebanon July 2006 | Israel's Strategy \(wordpress.com\)](#)

[What are the Oslo Accords? - Amnesty International France](#)

[With resolution 2334 Israel violates 35 UN resolutions #israel-Agora Vox média citoyen](#)

[Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict - Sherpas](#)

[maxresdefault.jpg \(1280x720\) \(yting.com\)](#)

[The Twelve Rules of "Independent" Journalism Covering the Arab-Israeli Conflict - The Independent Spokesman - The Independent Spokesman \(mondoblog.org\)](#)

[15 israel 1947 2010-01.jpg \(701x542\) \(bp.blogspot.com\)](#)

[Israeli-Palestinian conflict: 10 questions to understand the violence - BBC News Africa Israeli](#)

[Palestinian conflict: Joe Biden for a two-states solution - LePoint](#)

UNDERSTAND THE SUBJECT IN A VISUAL AND ANIMATED

[\(7\) Explain to me... The Israeli-Palestinian conflict - YouTube](#)

[\(7\)Israel-Palestine:whatsolution?ALesson inGeopolitics#37 -TheDessousdes cartes|ARTE YouTube](#)

[\(7\) Gaza, Israel, Palestine: Understanding the situation in maps -](#)

[YouTube \(7\)Half acenturyofconflictinJerusalemexplainedin5minutes](#)

[YouTube \(7\) Understanding the origins of the war in Gaza in 5 minutes -](#)

[YouTube \(7\)UnderstandingIsraelisettlement in fiveminutes-YouTube](#)

