



Arab-Israel Relations - July 2024

Mr. Yisrael Ne'eman

Class Time: Mondays/Wednesdays 19:00-21:00 (Chinese Time)

14:00-16:00 (Israel Time)

Office Hours: By Appointment on Zoom

Email: syneeman@bezeqint.net

Course Description

This course focuses on the development of Jewish and Arab nationalism and ensuing clash between the two in particular as expressed thru the turbulent Palestinian-Israeli relationship.

Our investigation/analysis will be broken down into five themes:

1. The relationship between Jews and Arabs (mainly Muslims but also Christians) and the development of secular nationalism (Zionism and Arab) as concerns both. From the outset we will examine the religious opposition to the nation state concept in both cases.
2. The development of the Jewish and Arab communities in Mandated Palestine prior to the 1948 War and the resulting establishment of the Israeli State on the one hand and the failure of the Arab invasion alongside the collapse of the Palestine national movement.
3. Central to our discussions will be the period from 1949 Israeli State institutionalization, massive Jewish immigration and the strengthening of Jewish nationalism while the Palestine national movement begins the process of rejuvenation in the 1960s. Pivotal to our understandings will be the wars fought throughout this period (1956, esp. 1967, 1973 and 1982) between Israel and the “confrontation” states.
4. The beginning of conflict resolution between Israel and Egypt in 1979 marks a new chapter in the Arab-Israel relationship and takes us to the peace agreement with Jordan, the partially successful (unfinished) Oslo Process and the recent Abraham Accords.
5. By the late 20th century and into the 21st we discover a rejuvenation of religious fundamentalist identity and the demand for a return to Holy Texts, whether Jewish (ultra Orthodoxy and the Greater Land of Israel Movement) or Islamic (Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad movements). Here we find absolutes in a God centered world leaving little possibility for compromise should we seek “compromise” and mutual recognition as understood by Western defined international relations.
6. Events in Israel in 2023 and the Hamas attack on Oct. 7 will be examined in this light.
7. Considering the resurgence of religious absolutism is conflict resolution possible?

Course Requirements:

Take Home Final Essay: 6-7 pages– Due August 18, 2024

All essays are to have three academic sources and a bibliography

Class Attendance is Mandatory

(More than two unwarranted/unjustified absentees lead to failure)

Grade Assessment:

Final Essay will be the student's grade

However class participation can raise one's final grade by up to 5 points

Course Outline and Readings

Class 1: Mon July 8 – Origins: National/ Religious Memories and Origins

Holy Lands, Sacred Texts and Blessed Memories

How much is proven “History” and does it Matter?

Part I: Israelites/Jewish People and the Land of Israel and Early Islam/Conquests

Exodus 19:1-8 and Deuteronomy 30:1-20 (Use link below typing in the Book, Chapter and Verse – Just do copy/paste from Exodus and Deuteronomy)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-International-Version-NIV-Bible/>

Koran Quotes Provided in Document posted on Moodle

Mecca and Medina periods discussed and contrasted

Part 2: Dawn of Secular Arab Nationalism/ Christian Minority to the Muslim Majority?

European influences and the Eastern Christian communities introduce secular nationalism and equality into the Muslim Middle East/Ottoman Empire (Tanzimat reforms)

Muslim Arab intellectuals adopt the national understandings, taking the lead

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, Chapter “Palestine on the Eve” pp. 3-36.

Part 3: Herzl/ Roots of Secular Jewish Nationalism (Zionism)

The “business plan” and subsequent development of Jewish national state building

Class 2: Wed July 10 – Parallel Development and Challenges of Jewish and Palestinian Nationalism

Part I: Development of Palestinian Nationalism and Clash w/Zionism: WWI thru WWII and 1948 First Arab-Israel War

Fall of the Ottoman Empire

Haj Amin el-Husseini/ Development of Palestinian Arab Nationalism

Jewish Immigration and Dominance of Labor Zionism

World War II and the 1948 War

The Holocaust and its consequences for the Jewish People

Collapse of the British Empire and resulting Partition Plan for the dual development of Jewish and Palestinian Arab national aspiration

1948 War and establishment of the State of Israel

The Palestinian “Nakba” or catastrophe in 1948

Anita Shapira, *Israel: A History*, Chapter 7, “The War of Independence 1947-49” pp. 155-178.

Class 3: Mon July 15 – Israel State Development/ Palestinian Rebuilding

Part I: Israeli State Development 1949 – 67

Building State Institutions

Immigrant Absorption: Emphasis on Jews from Arab/Muslim Countries

Arabs in Israel

Anita Shapira, *Israel: A History* – Chapter 10 “The Great Aliya,” pp. 222 - 247

Part II: Collapse & Rejuvenation of Palestinian Nationalism 1948 - 68

The Palestinians: UNRWA/Refugees, Arab Attitudes and Collapse and Restart of the Palestine National Movement

Barry Rubin, *Revolution Until Victory*, Chapter 1, “Chameleon in the Labyrinth, 1964 – 1968” pp. 1 – 23

UNRWA – The United Nations and Palestinian Refugees

<https://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/2010011791015.pdf>

Class 4: Wed July 17: The Arab States in the Shadow of 1948 and thru 1967

The Confrontation States: Egypt, Syria and Jordan

Albert Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples*, pp. Chapter 24, “The Climax of Arabism,” and Chapter 25 “Arab Unity and Disunity” pp. 401-433.

Class 5: Mon July 22 - War and Initiating Conflict Resolution 1967 – 79

1967 and 1973 Wars

1978-79 Camp David Accords: Peace w/Egypt, Framework for Peace in the Middle East and the Foundations of Palestinian Autonomy

Camp David Accords 1978-79

<https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/camp-david-accords-egypt-1978.pdf>

Download *UN Res. 242* (Nov. 22, 1967) from UN site

<https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/7D35E1F729DF491C85256EE700686136>

Class 6: Wednesday July 24 – From Secular National Conflict to Religious Fundamentalist Absolutism

Part I: Israel/Palestinian Conflict 1964 – 80s

Yasir Arafat and the Resurrection of the Palestine National Movement

Clash/Terrorism, Politics, Economics and International Relations

First Lebanon War 1982 and Concurrent Rise of Hezbollah

Download *Palestinian National Charter* – Yale Avalon Project

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/plocov.asp

Part II: Challenge of Religious Fundamentalism (Overriding Secular Nationalism?)

Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood/Hamas

National Religious Zionism and the Settler Movement

The Hamas Covenant - [The Avalon Project : Hamas Covenant 1988](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp)

avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp

Lustick, Ian, Article on Gush Emunim - For The Land and The Lord: - Article
www.sas.upenn.edu/pennqip/lustick/lustick13.html

Class 7: Mon July 29: From Oslo Optimism ((1990s) to 2nd Intifada Clash

Part I: Oslo Process Hopes/Non-Completion: Part Success/Part Failure?

Land for Peace? Two-State Solution?

Opposition from Right Religious

Yasir Arafat vs. Ehud Barak

Dennis Ross, *The Missing Peace*, Chapter 26, “Learning the Lessons of the Past” pp. 759-779

Part II: Second Intifada 2000-05 (Low Intensity Conflict), Hamas Palestinian Victory and Israeli Containment

Israel-Palestinian Clash 2000 – 2004/5

Hamas Palestinian Street Victory and Gaza Conquest

Hezbollah

Iranian and Turkish Influence

Yisrael Ne’eman, Chapter 5 “Hamas Ideological Victory,” pp. 199 – 235

Class 8: Wed July 31 – Israel-Palestinian Clash: 2009 – Present

Israel-Palestinian Relations

Israel-Palestinian Authority Ambivalent Relations

Hamas-Israel: Continual Clashes

Palestinian Authority – Where To?

Increasing Right Religious Domination (Jewish and Islamic)

Oct. 7, 2023 Earthquake: Shift Towards Peace or Conflict?

One or Two State Solution? – Or Status Quo 1.5 State Solution?

Reading TBA

Israel-Arab World Relations in the Shadow of Oct. 7

Israel – Egypt/Jordan Relations

Abraham Accords

Explosion of Antisemitism: Islamic/ Extreme Left/ Right Racist



Abraham Accords - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Accords