Fact Sheet: The Palestinian Experience from a Jewish Perspective

“That which is despicable to you, do not do to your fellow, this is the whole Torah, and the rest is commentary, go and learn it.” –Rabbi Hillel on Judaism.

The Palestinian Experience from a Jewish Perspective project, with roots in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, provides detailed, objective documentation to alleviate common misconceptions to help people better understand the Israel Palestine conflict from a truly Jewish perspective.

The creation of Israel made Palestinian families refugees

To create a Jewish state in a land where the majority of people were not Jewish, Palestinian families had to be forced from their homes. According to the an Israel Defense Force (IDF) 1948 report, Palestinian families fled because they were forced out by the Jewish army (the Haganah) and Jewish terrorist organizations.

Misconceptions about Palestinians

It is claimed that Palestinians want to kill Jews, but Palestinian Jews had lived peacefully along side far, far greater numbers of Palestinian Muslims and Palestinian Christians for centuries. Palestinian refugee families are seeking to return to their homes. The solution to the conflict cannot be to continue the mistreatment and killing of Palestinian men, women and children, families who were forced from their homes to create a state run by and for Jews in a land where the majority population wasn’t Jewish.

This project is founded in the idea that peace, justice and security can and should be obtained by treating all the people of Israel/Palestine equally. Israeli, Christian, Arab Palestinian pastor, Father Elias Chacour, has stated the issue very eloquently:

“If you have been enlightened enough to take the side of the Palestinians—oh, bless your hearts—take our sides, because for once you will be on the right side, right? But if taking our side would mean to become one-sided against my Jewish brothers and sisters, back up. We do not need such friendship. We need one more common friend. We do not need one more enemy, for God’s sake.”

The report then outlines what IDF Intelligence Branch regards, in June 1948, as the factors which precipitated the exodus, citing them “in order of importance”:
1. Direct, hostile Jewish [Haganah/IDF] operations against Arab settlements.
2. The effect of our [Haganah/IDF] hostile operations on nearby [Arab] settlements... (especially – the fall of large neighboring centers.)
3. Operations of the [Jewish] dissidents [the Irgun Zva'i Leumi and Lehi]
4. Orders and decrees by Arab impositions and gangs [irregulars].
5. Jewish whipping operations [psychological warfare], aimed at frightening away Arab inhabitants.
6. Ultimate expulsion orders [by Jewish forces].
8. The appearance of gangs [irregular Arab forces] and non-local fighters in the vicinity of a village.
9. Fear of Arab invasion and its consequences [mainly near the borders].
10. Isolated Arab villages in purely [predominantly] Jewish areas.
11. Various local factors and general fear of the future.

Project Feedback:
“Unbelievably moving and compelling. I am left feeling guilty and motivated to seek peace and fairness for both Jews and Palestinians.”

Learn more

Kickstarter:

Steven R. Feldman, M.D., Ph.D.
4618 Country Club Road
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27104
Phone: 336-577-1164
sfeldman@wakehealth.edu

Coalition for Peace with Justice
P.O. Box 2081
Chapel Hill, NC 27515
Phone: 919-914-9881
Email: contact@peace-with-justice.org

Israel Bars Rabin From Relating '48 Eviction of Arabs

“Mr. Prime Minister, this is not merely a matter of principle, but a matter of justice. We cannot accept the idea that the whole of our history can be summed up in a single phrase: ‘The Right of Return.’”

“I am convinced that if we are to live in peace, we must recognize the justice of the Palestinian people’s demand to return to their homeland.”

By Shlomo Ben-Ami, President of the Israeli Peace Now movement and co-founder of the Shalom Foundation. His book, “The Road to Peace in the Middle East,” was published in 1995.