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978-0-521-86468-8 - A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples: Second edition

Ilan Pappé

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A HISTORY OF MODERN PALESTINE

Ilan Pappé's history of modern Palestine has been updated to include the dramatic events of the 1990s and the early twenty-first century. These years, which began with a sense of optimism, as the Oslo peace accord was being negotiated, culminated in the second intifada and the increase of militancy on both sides. Pappé explains the reasons for the failure of Oslo and the two-state solution, and reflects upon life thereafter as the Palestinians and Israelis battle it out under the shadow of the wall of separation.

ILAN PAPPÉ is Senior Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Haifa in Israel. He has written extensively on the politics of the Middle East, and is well known for his revisionist interpretation of Israel's history. His books include *The Making of the Arab–Israeli Conflict, 1947–1951* (1992/4) and *The Modern Middle East* (2005).

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A HISTORY OF MODERN
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One Land, Two Peoples

SECOND EDITION

ILAN PAPPE

University of Haifa, Israel



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*To Ido and Yonatan, my two lovely boys. May they live not only
in a modern Palestine, but also in a peaceful one.*

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1699	Austro–Ottoman War ends; Peace of Karlovitz
1703–30	Sultanate of Ahmet III
1710–11	Russo–Ottoman War
1725–30	Ismail Pasha governor of Damascus
1730–54	Sultanate of Mahmoud I
1745	First Wahhabiyya state founded in Arabian Peninsula
1746–75	Dahir al-Umar rules Galilee
1754–57	Sultanate of Uthman III
1757–74	Sultanate of Mustafa III
1767–74	Further Russo–Ottoman War
1770–73	Ali Bey al-Kabir rules Egypt
1771	Dahir al-Umar and Ali Bey occupy Damascus
1774–89	Sultanate of Abdul Hamid I
1774	Kaucuc Kainerge Agreement between Russia and Ottoman Empire
1775–1804	Ahmad al-Jazzar rules <i>vilayet</i> of Syda from Acre
1783	Russia occupies Crimean Peninsula
1787–92	Further Russo–Ottoman War
1789–1807	Sultanate of Selim III
1789	Austrian army invades Bosnia and Serbia; Russian army invades Moldavia and Wallachia
1789–1840	Bashir II Amir of Mount Lebanon
1798	Napoleon invades Egypt
1799	Napoleon in Palestine and Syria
1800	French army retreats from Egypt
1801	Wahhabis occupy Karbala
1802	Mecca and Medina taken by Wahhabis
1805–48	Muhammad Ali rules Egypt
1806–12	Further Russo–Ottoman War
1807–08	Sultanate of Mustafa IV

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- 1808–39 Sultanate of Mahmud II
 1818–32 Abdullah Pasha rules *vilayet* of Syda and Acre
 1820 London Society for the Promotion of Christianity among the Jews begins activity in Palestine
 1820–30 Greek War of Liberation
 1824 First modern hospital opens in Palestine
 1826 Massacre of Yeneceris in Istanbul
 1828–29 Further Russo–Ottoman War
 1830 French invade Algeria
 1830 British consulate opens in Jerusalem
 1831–40 Ibrahim Ali rules Syria and Palestine
 1834 Revolt in Palestine against Egyptian rule
 1834 First Arab printing house opens in Beirut
 1838–58 Mustafa Rashid is Grand Vizier
 1839 British occupy Aden
 1839–61 Sultanate of Abdul Magid I
 1839 Hat-I-Sharif of the Gulhana lifts discrimination against non-Muslims in Ottoman Empire; beginning of the Tanzimat period
 1840 Treaty of London ends Egyptian rule in Syria and Palestine
 1843 Lebanon divided into two sub-districts: Maronite and Druze
 1850 Riots in Aleppo against Tanzimat
 1853 Sahayun Anglican School opens in Jerusalem
 1853–56 Crimean War
 1856 Paris Conference ends Crimean War
 1857 Land Law of the Ottoman Empire
 1858–61 Civil war in Lebanon
 1858–71 Ali Pasha is Grand Vizier
 1860 Massacre of Christians in Syria and Lebanon; French forces land
 1861–69 Fuad Pasha is Grand Vizier
 1861 Organic Law of Lebanon
 1861–76 Sultanate of Abdul Aziz II
 1864 New *Vilayet* Law of the Ottoman Empire
 1868 Young Ottoman Movement founded; first Templars' colony founded in Haifa
 1869 Suez Canal opened; Fuad Pasha dies
 1870 Mikveh Israel, first Jewish agricultural school, founded in Palestine

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1871	<i>Sanjaq</i> of Jerusalem autonomous; Templars' colony founded in Sharona, near Jaffa
1875	Partial bankruptcy of Ottoman Empire; newspaper <i>Al-Abram</i> founded in Egypt; first Muslim and Jewish neighbourhoods outside Old City of Jerusalem; first national associations appear in Arab world.
1876–1908	Sultanate of Abdul Hamid II
1876	New constitution for Ottoman Empire and first parliament
1877–78	Further Russo–Ottoman War
1878	Zionist colony, Petach Tikva, founded
1878	Dissolution of Ottoman parliament
1879	Britain takes over Cyprus; full bankruptcy of Ottoman Empire
1880	Urabi Pasha revolt in Egypt
1881	American colony founded in Jerusalem
1882	British occupation of Egypt; foundation of Rishon le Ziyon, Zichron Yaacov and Rosh Pina; Pinsker publishes <i>Auto-emancipation</i>
1882–1903	First wave of Zionist immigration (First Aliya)
1885	First newspapers in Hebrew (<i>Ha-Shahar</i> and <i>Ha-Megid</i>) founded in Europe
1892	Railway opened between Jaffa and Jerusalem
1893	Founding convention of Hibat Ziyon in Katowitz
1896–1904	Herzl precursor and leader of Zionist movement
1897	First Zionist Congress in Basle
1898	St George's School opened in Jerusalem; Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany visits Palestine
1902	El-Arish plan of Herzl
1903	Herzl's Uganda plan; first Palestinian women's association convenes in Palestine
1903–14	Second Aliya
1905	Final determination of line dividing Egypt and Palestine
1908	Sharif Husayn appointed Guardian of Mecca and Medina; oil discovered in Persia; Young Turks come to power
1909–20	Hashomer movement in Palestine
1909	Building of Tel-Aviv
1911	Al-Fatah founded
1911–13	Balkan wars

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- 1913 Enver Pasha, Talat Pasha and Jamal Pasha ('the Trio') take over Ottoman Empire
- 1915–16 McMahon–Husayn correspondence
- 1916 Sykes–Picot agreement between Britain and France; Sharif Husayn's revolt in the Hejaz against Ottomans
- 1917 Balfour Declaration; Allenby's troops occupy most of Palestine and enter Jerusalem and Damascus
- 1918–20 British military rule in Palestine
- 1918 Muslim–Christian Association founded; first Palestinian National conference
- 1919 King–Crane Commission visits Palestine; upper Galilee ceded from Syria to Palestine; Ahdut Ha'Avoda movement founded
- 1920 Palestine becomes mandatory entity; clashes between Jews and Palestinians in Jerusalem; Faysal declared King of Greater Syria; San Remo Conference; Hebrew University built in Jerusalem; Jewish Agency established; Palin Commission, Histadrut founded
- 1921 Transjordan separated from Palestine; clashes in Jaffa between Jews and Palestinians
- 1922 Britain recognizes Transjordan as separate political entity and Amir Abdullah as its ruler; Amin al-Husayni appointed Grand Mufti; Supreme Muslim Council founded; Egypt gains independence
- 1923 Lausanne Conference finalizes borders of Palestine
- 1925 Beitar founded
- 1926 Major earthquake in Palestine
- 1927 Palestine currency (pound) introduced
- 1928 British resident appointed to Transjordan to guide Amir Abdullah in foreign and defence policies
- 1929 Violent clashes between Jews and Palestinians
- 1930 Shaw Commission and White Paper of Lord Passfield; Ha-Poel founded; Arab Workers' Union founded
- 1931 Pan-Islamic Conference in Jerusalem
- 1932 Louis French Report
- 1933 Assassination of Haim Arlosoroff by Jewish right-wingers; Izz al-Din al-Qassam operates in Palestine until his death in 1935
- 1936 Arab Higher Committee founded; al-Difa' Party founded

- 1936–39 The Arab revolt
 1937 Peel Royal Commission
 1937 Grand Mufti flees Palestine
 1939 White Paper restricting Jewish immigration and land purchase
 1946 Amir Abdullah proclaimed King of Jordan; new Arab Higher Committee appointed; King David Hotel blown up by Jewish terrorists
 1947 British Cabinet decides to refer question of Palestine to UN; UN General Assembly Resolution 181 proposing partition of Palestine between Jewish state and Palestinian state
 1948 State of Israel proclaimed; Arab armies enter Palestine, and uprooting of Palestinian population begins; pro-Hashemite notables in Jericho declare wish for union between Palestine and Transjordan under Hashemite rule; Resolution 194 orders Israel to allow repatriation of refugees expelled from Palestine and the internationalization of Jerusalem; David Ben-Gurion becomes Israel's first prime minister; Herut founded
 1949 Armistice agreement signed between Israel and the Arab states, apart from Iraq
 1950 West Bank officially annexed to Jordan; tripartite declaration by USA, Britain and France recognizes borders in Middle East as final
 1954–55 Moshe Sharett replaces Ben-Gurion as prime minister
 1954 Lavon affair (Ha-Parasha); espionage and sabotage plan exposed by group of Jews in Egypt under orders from Israeli defence minister, Pinchas Lavon
 1956 Suez Campaign; national religious party, Mafdal, founded
 1957 Eisenhower Doctrine ignites cold war between Nasser and the West;
 1958 British forces land in Jordan, American marines in Lebanon; Hashemite rule in Iraq ends
 1959 Wadi Salib riots
 1963 End of Ben-Gurion era; Levi Eshkol elected prime minister
 1964 First Arab summit; PLO founded; Al-Ard movement in Israel outlawed
 1965 The Fatah and Gahal founded

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- 1967 The Six Day War; Israel occupies the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights; 200,000 new Palestinian refugees; Resolution 242 adopted by UN Security Council
- 1968 Fatah takes over PLO; Karameh campaign; hijacking of El-Al aeroplane to Algeria; PFLP and PDFLP founded
- 1969 Golda Meir becomes prime minister of Israel
- 1969–70 USA attempts to resolve conflict
- 1970 Civil war between Jordanian army and PLO; mass killing of Palestinian guerrillas in Jordan and subsequent expulsion to Lebanon of many of them as part of agreement between Arafat and King Hussein; Nasser dies
- 1972 Russian advisers leave Egypt; Husayn plan for federation between Palestine and Jordan
- 1973 October War between Egyptian, Syrian and Israeli forces; superpower intervention ends fighting; during war, Arab oil countries impose embargo on West (apart from Britain and France); Resolution 338 adopted by UN Security Council affirming Resolution 242, with added reference to need to solve refugee problem
- 1974 UN includes Palestine on its agenda and PLO invited as observer; Arab summit in Rabat recognizes PLO as sole legitimate representative of Palestinian people; Jordan abrogates parliament representing two banks of River Jordan; Agranat Report leads to fall of Meir government and election of Rabin as prime minister; Kissinger's 'shuttle diplomacy' in Middle East to seek bilateral peace between Israel and neighbours; Gush Emunim, settlement movement in occupied territories, founded
- 1975 Arafat addresses UN General Assembly; outbreak of civil war in Lebanon; first disengagement agreement between Israel and Egypt; partial Israeli withdrawal in Palestine
- 1976 Syrian army enters Lebanon
- 1977 President Anwar Sadat of Egypt visits Jerusalem and begins bilateral peace talks with Israel. Likud and Begin come to power; Peace Now movement founded in Israel
- 1978 Peace treaty signed between Israel and Egypt on White House lawn; PLO attack on northern entrance to Tel-Aviv reciprocated by Litani operation, in which Israel occupies part of southern Lebanon

- 1981–84 Free-market and liberalization policies in Israel
- 1981 New leadership emerges in West Bank; crushed by IDF
- 1982 Rest of Sinai returned to Egypt; Israel invades Lebanon in operation ‘Peace for the Galilee’
- 1983 End of Begin era; Itzhak Shamir elected prime minister
- 1984 Rabbi Kahana elected to Knesset; Shas movement founded
- 1985 Israel withdraws from Lebanon, apart from south, which is kept; agreement between PLO and Jordan allows latter to represent Palestinian case in negotiations
- 1987 First intifada in occupied territories
- 1988 King Hussein announces Jordan’s secession from West Bank; Hamas founded; Palestinian National Council publishes Palestinian Declaration of Independence in Tunis
- 1989 Collapse of USSR and mass migration of Jews and non-Jews from there and from Eastern bloc to Israel
- 1991 Gulf War; Iraqi Scud missiles land on Haifa and Tel-Aviv
- 1991 US convenes international conference on Palestine in Spain
- 1992 Tripartite peace talks in Washington between Israel, Palestinians and Jordan; Rabin prime minister for second time
- 1993 Oslo Declaration of Principles signed on White House lawn
- 1994 Israel and Jordan sign official peace treaty; Arafat arrives in occupied territories and becomes president of Palestinian Authority
- 1995 Israel and PLO sign Oslo B agreement; interim agreement for Palestinian control of parts of West Bank and Gaza Strip; Prime Minister Rabin assassinated
- 1996 Benjamin Netanyahu elected prime minister
- 1999 Israeli election, Ehud Barak prime minister
- 2000 Israel withdraws from southern Lebanon; second intifada
- 2001 Israeli election, Ariel Sharon prime minister
- 2003 Sharon re-elected

Foreword

The idea of this book germinated in my Haifa University class entitled ‘The history of the Palestine conflict’. Very alert and eager Palestinian and Jewish students demanded again and again a narrative of their country’s history that did not repeat the known versions of the two conflicting parties; one that respected the other, included those who are not part of the story, and above all was more hopeful about the future. I began writing the book in the twilight of the Oslo Agreement and found it difficult to comply with the last request. But then I realized that, by then, industrious researchers had already provided us with new perspectives on Palestine, but they were never presented in one narrative. What these novel approaches had in common was that they attempted to tell the story of the people and the land, and not just that of high politics, dogmatic ideologies or rehearsed national narratives.

The fact that the students, Palestinians and Jews, wanted to hear the story told from a humanist, and not nationalist, ethnic or religious, perspective was itself a hopeful sign for the future. It is this perspective that dictates the tone of this book. It is a narrative of those in Palestine who were brutalized and victimized by human follies well known from many other parts in the world. The abusive power used by people against other people in the name of one ideology or another is condemned in this book for being the source of much evil and few blessings. These human ambitions wrought invasions, occupations, expulsions, discrimination and racism on Palestine. The heroes of this book are therefore the victims of these calamities: women, children, peasants, workers, ordinary city dwellers, peaceniks, human rights activists. The ‘villains’ to a certain extent are the arrogant generals, the greedy politicians, the cynical statesmen and the misogynist men. Many of the victims were, and still are, the indigenous people of Palestine, the Palestinians; but many of them also belong to the community of the newcomers, now evolving into a second generation of natives, the Jews.

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Foreword

We are constantly warned that we should not be slaves of our history and memory. This book is written with the view that in order to perform this liberation act in Israel and Palestine, you need first to rewrite, indeed salvage, a history that was erased and forgotten. The violent symbolic and real exclusion of people from the hegemonic narrative of the past is the source of the violence of the present. Various historians who came directly from the forgotten and marginalized communities in Palestine provided with their original and pioneering works the bricks with which I could attempt the present project of redrawing the historical picture of Palestine. This is done not for the sake of intellectual curiosity, but out of a wish to disseminate a more expanded narrative of what happened in a country that never ceases, to the great dismay of its inhabitants, to capture the global headlines, even if its population does not exceed that of London or New York and its territory is smaller than that of any of the Great Lakes of North America. It is both an introduction to those interested for the first time in the country – if there are still such fortunate persons – and a suggestion for an alternative narrative for those who think, quite understandably, that they have read everything they need to know of the torn and tortured land of Palestine.

Acknowledgements

Many people made this book possible. All of them had to be above all patient with someone who felt, rightly or wrongly, that he was writing from the trenches. Being in Palestine at one of its most dramatic moments and writing about its past was beneficial to the book, but not for those who needed manuscripts in time, speedy answers to crucial questions, or the usual last bits and pieces that make a manuscript a book. I would like to thank them all: Marigold Acland, Karen Hildebrandt and Amanda Pinches.

Equally important for someone whose mother tongue is not English (and is actually a dormant German, but whose native tongue is Hebrew, and who today converses more and more in Arabic) is the help of linguistic and stylistic editors. I am most grateful to Mary Starkey who did the bulk of the work, to Dick Bruggman who, as always, had a thorough and constructive look, and Donna Williams, who did the copy editing. I thank them all for the excellent work they have done.

Finally, as always, to Revital and the kids for paying the price of my love for the country, my dislike of the state, and my devotion to my work.