

History of the Jewish and the Palestinian peoples

Warning: These paragraphs are very simplistic because there have been many movements and intermingling of populations over the centuries that cannot be precisely evaluated.

Palestinians

The current Palestinians have as ancestors the Philistines who lived in the Gaza region (the Philistines, "people of the sea", are an Aegean people). They have mixed origins with other ancestors like Canaanites, Arameans who also lived there, Jews who remained on the spot and were Christianized and then Islamized for the major part of them. Added to this were Hellenistic and Roman populations, Arabs (conquest/invasion and Islamization following the death of Mohammed), Turks, Kurds, black slaves, Franks from the time of the Crusades, etc.

The actual **identity** of the Palestinian people was forged after the 2 world wars, the wars of 1948 and 1967, particularly in the refugee camps. Previously, it was more a question of families and tribes.

Palestinians share a common language with the Arab nation and feel part of it.

Jews

The current Jews have as ancestors, in the real and spiritual senses, the Hebrews (Bnei Yisrael), the first people to believe in a unique God. According to the biblical tradition, they came to the "promised land" under Moses and Joshua. Their ancestors may also include Arameans and Canaanites who were living in the land. The Jewish people were dispersed thereafter, notably with the exile to Babylon and after 70 and 135 CE, and mixed in part with other populations. Converts to Judaism joined the Jewish people in the diaspora, especially before 70 CE and throughout history. For example, the rulers of the Khazar kingdom (6th-8th centuries, end of 13th century, Turks of Central Asia) converted to Judaism.

Judaism is not only a people, it is a religious and cultural identity.

The Jewish diaspora is present in many countries.