

Palestine Before Oct 7th Lecture 7
Nakba: The Creation of the Palestinian Exodus:

I. Review

- A. British 1939 White Paper” UK ends its support for Zionist program in Palestine
- B. Zionists switch to US as superpower patron
- C. Zionist fight with UK in WWII; get military training, arms, etc. but then, after war,
immediately begin full scale war with Brits in Palestine to drive them out
- D. Newly created United Nations “recommends” partition of Palestine into Jewish and
Arab states. Jews, mainly Zionists born in Europe, own 6% of the land of Palestine
and are 30% of the population and are allocated 55% of the land of Palestine.
The
“non-Jewish” Palestinians, mainly Arabic speaking, are 70% of the population
and
own, either privately or through local religious institutions, the rest of the land.
The
Palestinians are allocated disconnected chunks of 45% of the land by the UN
- E. Almost immediately after the UN Declaration, the ethnic cleansing of the
Palestinian population by Zionist military forces commences, with over 70,000
Palestinians expelled from the homes and property within a month (by the end of
December 1947), eventually over 700,000 in the next year

II. One “Narrative”

- A. *The expulsion of the Palestinians by the Zionist forces was not premeditated, not Planned out in detail in advance;*
- B. *In particular, there were never any orders from “the top,” from Ben Gurion or other Zionist leaders, to violently expel the Palestinians (some local Zionist units may have gotten carried away, but this was the exception, not the rule)*
- C. *The Arabs left voluntarily, or after urging by surrounding Arab Government leaders*
- D. *The Arab governments immediately attacked the Jewish state in November/December 1947, with armed forces over three times larger than Zionist military forces*

III. The Other Narrative: Ilan Pappé and the Israel Defense Forces archives

- A. Pappé presents the evidence for premeditated ethnic cleansing from Israeli sources
- B. “The Archives:” research on Palestinian villages, neighborhoods, in preparation for expelling their populations (how best to attack villages; identifying locals for immediate execution); all this started as early as the 1930s.
- C. Not the actions and plans of a few extremists; planned and executed by mainstream Ben Gurion, Hagana forces (Irgun and Stern Gang considered as “terrorists,” see Einstein/Arendt letter to NYT)

- D. Ben Gurion 1937 “The Arabs will have to go;” Joseph Weitz, the Zionist “right to transfer” Arabs
- E. Orde Wingate and the “training” of Zionist military forces (defenseless villages, “elementary use of bayonets”)
- F. Peretz Kidron and the Israeli belief that no expulsion orders were given from top (Dunkelman memoirs)
- G. Uri Avneri and “Other Side of the Coin”

IV. David v. Goliath: Zionist Military forces in 1947-1948

- A. During the mandate, Zionist communities were allowed by the Brits to arm and militarily train themselves. Indeed, during the 1936-1939 Arab Rebellion, and during WWII, the Brits had armed and trained Zionist Jewish brigades.
- B. Palestinian Arabs were not allowed by the Brits to train or organize themselves militarily during the mandate; indeed, any such effort during the Great Rebellion led to harsh individual or collective punishment. This was true right up to 1947
- C. On the eve of the 1947-1948 war, Zionist military forces in Palestine were significant: 30,000 armed and trained and centrally commanded fighting soldiers, with another 20,000 auxiliaries. By the end of summer 1948, Zionist forces were over 80,000
- D. Palestinian forces started at 7,000 poorly trained, poorly armed, with no real central command. Arab “volunteers” numbering 1,000-3,000 from outside Palestine entered early on and went to the areas allocated to the Arab state. Almost none of these forces were still in action beyond January/February 1948.
- E. Arab government forces did not enter Palestine until May 15, 1948. At their greatest extent, there were 50,000 of these. The greatest part of these, however, were Transjordan’s “Arab Legion.” These were by far the best equipped and trained Arab military forces, but their leader, King Abdallah, was in collusion with the Zionists and out to conquer and subjugate a part of Palestine for himself
- F. Thus, the Zionist military forces were at all times much larger, much better equipped and trained than all of the Palestinian and Arab forces combined

V. In 1946, 1947, the Zionist proposal for their goal in Palestine was to accept “only”

80%. They “compromised” to accept the Partition Plan’s 55% for a Jewish state

- A. Pappe notes that at the end of the events of 1948, the Jewish State of Israel comprised almost exactly the 80% of the 1946-47 proposal
- B. Plan C versus Plan D (Dalet) for the cleansing of Palestine
- C. Pappe notes that the Israelis claim that the expulsion of the Palestinians was forced on them by the events of 1947 and early 1948: that is, it was not a planned and premeditated policy (compare Simha Flapan on this issue)
- D. Pappe notes that in December 1947 alone, over 75,000 Palestinians had been expelled
- E. Attacks on defenseless Palestinian villages became common from the beginning: the village of Khisas, Dec 18 1947 (middle of the night, blowing up houses with

- people asleep in them (Note Ben Gurion first denies attack, then lists as a “successful” operation)
- F. Early December 1947: the attack on Arab neighborhoods in Haifa (explosives rolled down hill, oil poured and ignited, civilians sprayed with machine gun fire trying to escape flames). Note the extreme vulnerability of the Haifa Palestinians
Because of the UN Partition plan (similar to Jaffa)
- VI. Then “Escalation” of violence: Balad al Shaykh, attack and massacre a large number
of its people “but” refrain from killing women and children (over 60 killed, mainly men but also women
- A. Analysis of Balad al Shaykh by Zionist leadership
1. They decided that it was too difficult to distinguish men from women and children: future operations “allowed” Zionist forces, in attacks such as Balad al Shaykh, against undefended villages attacked in the middle of the night, to kill any Palestinians, men women or children
- B. Joseph Weitz, Dec 31, 1947, after the “success” of the December expulsions
1. “Is it not now the time to get rid of the rest of them?”
- C. In regard to the attacks of the “extremists,” that is, of the Irgun and Stern gangs, the mainstream Hagana would publicly dissociate themselves from their acts but privately, retrospectively, approve them
- VII. The public pronouncements of Ben Gurion and the Zionist leadership characterized the fighting as Arab attacks on Jewish settlements (a “second holocaust”): and using this excuse, “switched” to Plan D (Plan Dalet) in March 1948
- A. All Palestinian villages were to be emptied, by the same extreme violence against defenseless villages that had already become the norm
- B. The attacks and conquests were to be carried out, not just in the 55% of the land of Palestine allocated in the Partition Plan, but in 78% (very close, as Pappe points out, to the Zionist proposal of 1946-47)
- C. Violence, even more extreme than the attacks of December 1947 through March 1948, was unleashed in Plan D, with a corresponding increase in the size and severity of attacks and Arab casualties
- D. Deir Yasin April 1948
- E. Haifa April 1948: Haifa Palestinians driven into the sea, *literally*, Irgun/Haganah
- F. From March through May, another 250,000 Palestinians fled in terror
- G. All of the Above happened BEFORE any Arab government armies intervened in Palestine (after May 15).
- H. All of the Arab government interventions that did take place were to areas allocated to the Arab State by the Partition Plan, but which had been attacked and

invaded by Israeli forces: that is, they didn't attack "Israel" or the Jewish state allocated by the Partition Plan

VIII. Abdallah and the betrayal of the Palestinians

IX. Count Folke Bernadotte and UN Resolution 194

- A. Bernadotte: Savior of European Holocaust survivors
- B. UN Resolution 194; Dec 11, 1948: first recognition of the Palestinians as people
But only as "refugees." Their "right to return" to their homes
- C. Dec 10, 1948: Universal Declaration of Human Rights: the right of people to
return to their homes
- D. Bernadotte: murdered by Zionist terrorists

X. Palestinians denied their right to return by the Israeli government, to this day