

## Israel – UAE Peace

Since the formal creation of the Jewish State Israel in 1947, many conflicts in the Middle East were either created or escalated to combat the new country that had been formed in the middle of the Arab world. Israel has been fighting day and night to preserve its freedoms and to be recognized as a legitimate country. In fact, the fighting started long before 1947. We could go back centuries and outline each conflict, but we know the Middle East has been one of the most violent regions of the world for most of Human History. It was forged by conflict and brought together by a common tongue, culture, and possibly the most important, religion. Historically, the 3 Abrahamic religions have always had their differences and have had regular conflicts through the years which is why this Peace Treaty is being so well received around the world. There are nay-sayers who claim they are just trading one set of problems for another, but we will visit that later.

We will be going back in time a bit to get an idea of the world prior to the formation of Israel as an Independent state. For our purposes we will start in 1914 with WW1. While the Great War was raging in Europe, it is also important to remember that the Ottoman Empire was also fighting with British and Australian forces throughout Africa and the Middle East. Britain was attempting to wrestle control of Palestine away from the Ottomans. In 1917, the British made the Balfour Declaration suggesting it was time for a Jewish home to be established in the Palestine region. After a couple of failed attempts, Britain was able to push the Ottoman Empire out of the region and secured Jerusalem in December of 1917. Attempts were made to retake the territory by a coalition of German and Ottoman Troops but was unsuccessful.

Moving into 1919, the Treaty of Versailles stated that the British would remain in control of Palestine. The next few years were very uneasy as multiple clashes between Muslims and Jews broke out leading to deaths and serious injuries on both sides. The League of Nations also gave control of Iraq and Transjordan to Britain and Syria to France. This was to help bring stability to the region. By 1936, the British began requesting help from the Jewish community to assist in policing the community and protecting the lives and property of the Jewish People. They became known as the Notrim (meaning Guards in Hebrew). With Help from the Haganah, a Jewish paramilitary force, they created a new Elite Unit of Police called the Nodedot. Over the course of a few years, these groups posted as guards for the recently formed Iraqi Petroleum Company. They were known as Special Night Squads. The Haganah also created a special force known as FO'SH which carried out raids on Arab villages until it was disbanded in 1939.

In 1941, tensions were mounting as the Haganah created a new unit, the Palmach to replace the FO'SH. In 1946, the Palmach attacked several key Bridges and released an unspecified number of prisoners. Around the same time, Transjordan was involved in the signing of the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty and was renamed Jordan and presumably gained its independence as Emir Abdullah was named King. In the coming months, Israel was becoming militarized and in November of 1947, The United Nations, successor of the League of Nations, voted for a partitioning of Palestine.

It was not long after a Civil War broke out in Palestine and the Haganah were tasked with Securing the areas given to the new Jewish State by the UN. It involved replacing British Troop as they were pulled out of the region. Many villages Jewish and Arab alike depended on supply convoys from the Cities and guerilla warfare became a common sight as groups fought for not only control of the routes, but for the

supplies carried by the convoys as well. Bombing buses and waterlines were common tactics. Raiding villages was a daily activity carried out by both sides and the death toll was constantly rising.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1948, the State of Israel was officially declared. June 11<sup>th</sup> saw the 1<sup>st</sup> truce of the war. It was short lived as fighters from several Arab nations were sent into Israel to help the Palestinians. The fighting went on for some time as the official Armistice was not declared until July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1949. This was not the end of all the fighting, it was primarily a truce between Israel and the various foreign nations of Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. The fight between the Jewish and Palestinian people has never truly stopped.

It was unfortunate as even the Truce was temporary and throughout the 50's, 60's, and 70's relations between Israel and the aforementioned countries took a grim turn and conflict was inevitable. We had the Suez Crisis in 1956 where Egypt took control of the Suez Canal and Israel with the help of England and France was able to take it away from Egypt. The 6 days war where Israel defeated Egypt, Jordan and Syria and took control of several key regions. Egypt and Syria attacked Israel during Yom Kippur in 1973 using airstrikes prompting a war then went on for 2 weeks before the UN stepped in.

Israel has been in many other conflicts since and even today is on rocky ground with their neighbors in the Middle East. These recent Treaties will hopefully help lower tensions in the region as recognition of the Jewish State by the United Arab Emirates is a big step in bringing peace to the Middle East. This is coming many years after the Signing of the Egypt-Israeli Treaty of 1979 and the Jordan-Israeli Treaty of 1994. But what is the relationship of Israel and the UAE going to look like?

Also known as the Abraham Accord, this agreement should help the two countries along the lines of Business relations, Tourism and other economic ventures. Under this new arrangement, trade should flourish, and new business opportunities should be able to grow. We should also see more Scientific Cooperation and hopefully as their relationship grows, more in-depth Diplomatic ties. We have also seen the Accord includes supporting and watching out for one another from actions from Iran and their allies. There seems to be some debate as to what will happen with the West Bank as the Prime Minister Ben Netanyahu has promised Annexation of the region upon reelection while the UAE were very insistent that the agreement was contingent on the West Bank being left in Palestinian control.

President Donald Trump and his Administration along with the State Department had been looking for a way to help settle the tensions in the Middle East. President Trump has been concerned about this for some time as this deal was part of his campaign promises back in 2015. Although there are questions regarding the Israeli Prime Ministers motives considering his word choices towards the occupation of the West Bank Region. It has made the Palestinians uneasy and so far, are rejecting the idea of coming together with the Israeli Government to discuss their own Peace Treaty.

Although this deal may not be exactly what President Trump had in mind, it does seem to be a good place to start. Anything that can bring even a temporary easement of tensions is a welcomed sight. Hopefully, Trump has only just begun, and he is getting a team together to try and build on the foundation that was built with not only this deal, but the Treaties with Egypt and Jordan in the past.

Treaties like this are going to be even more important year after year as shifting allegiances amongst The Arab nations as well as Terrorist Organizations operating in the region. With this new deal, it has also been mentioned that Saudi Arabia and other Arabian Peninsula Nations may now be willing to begin the process of normalizing relations with Israel as well. If this turns out to be true, we may all owe President Trump a pat on the back for getting the ball rolling. Bringing peace and prosperity to this region may have overlapping effects all over the world as the Middle East may become a hotbed of Industry and Trade. The global economy would certainly benefit from the new wealth being generated and I'm sure the people in the Middle East could have easier lives with all the new opportunities that come from economic growth.

With success comes new problems as the Democrats are trying to push the idea that this deal will only serve to weaken and destabilize the region even further and that this deal is not what Trump promised. I think it is crucial that we understand that Rome was not Built in a day and this Region and particularly these two peoples have been warring since before We even kept track of time. These two peoples will have to come to peace on their own terms and although we may have a vision for them, it is important we let them have control as they move into a new phase.

I do not understand why the Left is so determined to keep a wedge between us and I really do wish that we will start reaching across party lines in order to achieve common goals. The world is getting more complex and we need the support of our communities now more than ever. If we cannot get some resolution and start fixing the problems, we may not have a country to pass onto our children and certainly not theirs. Instead of trying to argue with someone, let us try and understand their point of view and see why they believe what they do. It could not hurt to be a little more informed on the opinions and beliefs of people on the other side of the aisle.