The Nakba(Disaster) that Created the Palestinian Refugee Problem

DEIR YASSIN Survivor's story of what happened at the village:

IT WAS FOUR O'CLOCK in the morning of April 9, 1948 when my 96-year-old grandmother, Hajjah Amenah, came to my bed and said: "My son, wake up, the whole village is burning and guns are firing in every direction." I was then 17 years of age, and sound asleep. But as the firing intensified and got closer and closer, my grandmother finally yanked me out of bed, and I got up.

Looking out my bedroom window toward the west side of the village, I saw the village ablaze and heard the sound of heavy cannons and grenades bursting from all directions, in house after house.

On orders from future Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, 80 Irgun terrorists had attacked my village that morning--despite the fact that, a month earlier, Deir Yassin had signed a non-aggression pact with the nearby Jewish settlement of Giv'at Sha'ul. Nevertheless, it was from Giv'at Sha'ul that the Irgun attackers emerged, along with many armed terrorists from the Stern Gang, one of whose top three leaders was Yitzhak Shamir, another future prime minister of Israel. They threw hand grenades into village homes and shot residents in cold blood.

My grandmother and 2-year-old brother, Omar, who had been sitting on her shoulders, were shot dead, and 27 of my relatives, uncles and aunts were killed. All in all, 103 people from the village were dead, two-thirds of them old men, women and children. My 6-year-old sister, Nazeeha, hid between the bodies of my grandmother and brother when they fell to the ground. She was taken captive, and my mother, who had spent the night of attack at the home of one of her relatives, later was taken captive as well.

I escaped by a MIRACLE. Luckily, my father and the rest of his seven sons were in Majdal, a town near Gaza, completing work on a construction contract for the British, who were preparing to end their Mandate in Palestine.

When the massacre was over, the terrorists placed surviving villagers in trucks and paraded them through the streets of Jerusalem in a victory parade.

Following the Deir Yassin massacre, approximately 750,000 Palestinians left their villages or towns and became refugees. Most of them were either expelled by force or fled in fear from their homes and villages.

Today my family's home in Deir Yassin is occupied by a Russian Jew and used as a carpentry shop. I cannot

go there.

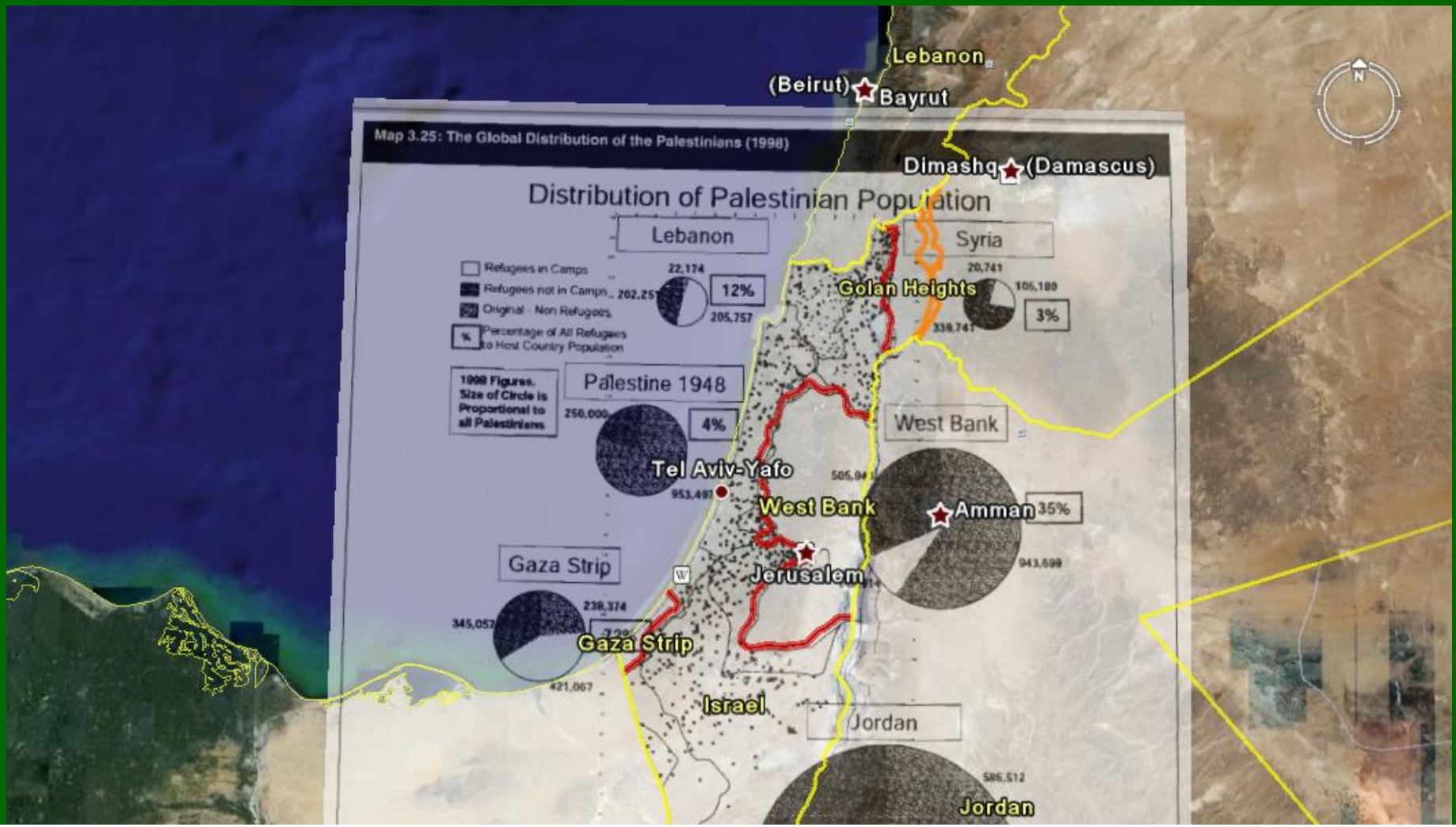
While I might forgive what happened in my village for the sake of peace and to save other human lives--Palestinian and Israeli--I will never forget. All criminals must pay for their crimes. We know that justice will always prevail over injustice and that Palestine will once again be free and that Jerusalem will be our future and eternal capital.

By DAWUD ASSAD, Edison, NJ.

Watch the Animation Map of Palestinian's that left From each District....

This is a map of Palestinian Refugee routes and displacement from thier respected districts. The red balloons represents the number of Urban refugees and the green balloons represents the number of rural refugees that left. For each refugee displaced represents 1km in altitiude. So the higher the balloon, the more refugees displaced, and vice versa. The red arrows on the map shows the direcetion of where did the Palestinians fled to.
To see it on Google Earth, please download this file and save it on your destop. You would need to open it up in Google Earth: Palestinian Refugees Displaced

Below is a Distribution of Palestinian Population Map overlay on Google Earth. It shows Palestinian Populations in the Surrounding areas of Palestine:



This is a map of the distribution of the Palestinian Population in Israel, Gaza Strip, West bank and the surrounding countries. It includes pie charts of these areas and the Pie chart is divided by the proportion of 3 types of Palestinians: Original non-refugees, refugees not in camps, and refugees in camps. The larger the pie chart is correlated with the larger the palestinian population in that region.

1897-Creation of the World Zionist Organization
1898-
1899-
1900-
1901- Jewish National Fund-created to develop and buy land in Ottoman Palestine
1902-
1903-
1904-
1905-
1906-
1907-
1908-
1909-
1910-
1911-**Palestinian newspaper *Filastine* begins to appear; addressing its readers as "Palestinians", it warns about consequences of Zionist colonization.**
1912-
1913-
1914- WW1 Starts
1915-
1916- Sykes Picot agreement secret agreement between UK France and Russia.
1917- Balfour Decleration
1918-Palestine occupied by Allied Forces under British General Assembly
1919-
1920- San Remo Conference
1921- Founding of the Haganah, the Zionist's military program.
1922- Creation of Supreme Muslim Council- Led by Al-hajj Amin Al-Hussein the Mufti of Jerusalem.
1923-
1924-
1925- Arab National Party created and supported the British and had limited influence on the Palestinian people.

1926-
1927-
1928-
1929- **Riot in Hebron**: Arab rioting in Jerusalem spread to other cities. 70 Jews murdered in Hebron.
1930-
1931-
1932-
1933-
1934-
1935- Palestine Arab Party Led by Al-hajj Amin Al-Husseini
1936- Arab Revolt: 1936-1939: Led by Al-hajj Huseini
1937- Peel Commision: Proposed a two state solution: Jewish minority and Arab majority united with TransJordan.
1938-
1939- White Papers (Britan)
1940-
1941-
1942-
1943-
1944-
1945-End of WWII
1946-
1947- Britan Turns over Mandate land to UN UN Partition Resolution created and led by Count Folke Bennadette
1948 May 14, 1948 Israel declared Independance and First Arab/Israeli War. The Year where Al-Nakba was created!
1949-
1950- Tripartite Decleration of 1950- UK, USA, and France declared" unalterable opposition to the use of force or threat to settle Arab-Israeli Conflict

Sources:

http://www.alnakba.org/index.htm

Assad, Dawud. "A survivor remembers.(arab-israeli conflict)." Washington Report on Middle East Affairs 27.4 (May-June 2008): 18(1). General OneFile. Gale. University of Michigan - Ann Arbor. 9 Nov. 2008 <http://find.galegroup.com/itx/start.do?prodId=ITOF>.

http://jerusalem-gate.netfirms.com/store/nfoscomm/catalog/images/palestine-flag-tshirt.jpg

Salman H. Abu-sitta. Atlas of Palestine 1948. Palestine Land Society London, 2004

© 2008 AICE

JEWISH VIRTUAL LIBRARY
A Division of The American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise

World Zionist Organization (WZO)

The Zionist Organization was founded by Theodor Herzl at the First Zionist Congress in Basle in 1897; it was renamed the World Zionist Organization in 1960. Its goals were set forth in the Basle Program: "Zionism seeks to establish a home for the Jewish people in Palestine, secured under public law." The right of membership in the ZO was given to anyone who accepted the Basle Program and purchased the Zionist shekel (dues). The first constitution was passed by the Third Congress in 1899 and amended over the years.

At the First Zionist Congress, the Zionist movement organized itself as a worldwide organization with permanent institutions. The supreme institution was, and still is, the Zionist Congress. The elected institutions that function between congresses are the Zionist General Council and the Zionist Executive; the latter carries out the movement's policies. The Zionist Congress also elects a law court, an attorney and a comptroller. The Zionist Executive is headed by its chairman, who is also the president of the ZO.

Since its foundation, the ZO has established companies and institutions to carry out its policies; these include *Keren Hayesod*, the Jewish National Fund, the Jewish Colonial Trust, and the Jewish Colonial Trust's subsidiary, the Anglo-Palestine Bank.

The Mandate for Palestine accorded Great Britain by the League of Nations called for the establishment of a Jewish Agency to represent the Jewish people vis-a-vis the Mandatory government and to cooperate with it in establishing the national home. The Zionist Organization was initially given the status of a Jewish

Agency.

In 1929, an expanded agency was established as a partnership between the ZO and non-Zionist, public Jewish groups. At the founding conference in Zurich in 1929, half the delegates were representatives of the ZO, and half represented the non-Zionist organizations. Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the ZO, was elected president of the newly founded Jewish Agency.

The Jewish Agency was viewed as a tool for the involvement of the entire Jewish people in the building of the land. It was also hoped that inclusion of the non-Zionist organizations would boost the financial resources available to the Zionist movement, something which did not occur, partly because of the worldwide economic crisis of 1929. The principle of equal representation in the Jewish Agency leadership was also gradually breached. After several years, the Executive of the Jewish Agency became identical with that of the Zionist Organization.

In the pre-state period, the Jewish Agency was an "almost-government" which dealt with organizing immigration - including illegal immigration - and absorbing the immigrants in Palestine. It founded Youth Aliya, maintained labor, settlement and industry departments, and was a senior partner in the establishment of the yishuv's defense force and of the stockade and watchtower settlements. David Ben-Gurion served as chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive from 1935 to 1948, while Moshe Shertok (later Sharett) headed the Political Department.

The goals of the ZO and the Jewish Agency did not change until after the establishment of the State of Israel, when their status was redefined. On November 24, 1952, the Knesset passed the "Zionist Organization - Jewish Agency for Israel Status Law", and later a covenant was signed between the government of Israel and the Zionist Executive, according to which the organizations' main areas of responsibility remained those related to aliya, immigrant absorption and settlement.

In August 1970, an agreement was signed modifying the structure and functions of the Jewish Agency and the WZO. Half the members of the Assembly of the expanded Jewish Agency are representatives of the WZO; 30 percent represent the UJC (U.S.);

and 20 percent represent organizations affiliated with Keren Hayesod in the rest of the world. With regard to immigration, the following division was set forth: the Jewish Agency would deal with immigration from countries of persecution and the WZO would deal with immigration from affluent countries. The Jewish Agency and the WZO signed two new covenants with the government of Israel in June 1979. The Jewish Agency retained its responsibility for initial absorption of the immigrants in Israel; support for educational activities and work with youth; immigrant absorption in rural settlements; immigrant housing; and welfare services. The WZO concentrates on work in the Diaspora and that relating to Diaspora Jewry: Jewish education, work with youth and so forth.

Source: Israeli Foreign Ministry

Balfour Decleration

November 2, Authur James Balfour To Lord Ruthschild (leader of Jews) to the WZO: British Government supported teh Zionist Plan of Jewish home. Which nothing shall be done that might prejudice the rights of existing communities there.

Foreign Office,

November 2nd, 1917

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet.

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country"

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

© 1999-2005 PalestineRemembered.com

© 1999-2005 PalestineRemembered.com

Source: http://www.palestineremembered.com/images/BalfourDeclaration.jpg

© 2008 AICE

JEWISH VIRTUAL LIBRARY
A Division of The American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise

The Haganah

The underground military organization of the yishuv in Eretz Yisrael from 1920 to 1948. The Arab riots in 1920 and 1921 (q.v., see also Tel Hai) strengthened the view that it was impossible to depend upon the British authorities and that the yishuv needed to create an independent defense force completely free of foreign authority. In June 1920, the Haganah was founded.

During the first nine years of its existence, the Haganah was a loose organization of local defense groups in the large towns and in several of the settlements. The Arab riots in 1929(q.v.) brought about a complete change in the Haganah's status.

- It became a large organization encompassing nearly all the youth and adults in the settlements, as well as several thousand members from each of the cities.
- It initiated a comprehensive training program for its members, ran officers' training courses;
- Established central arms depots into which a continuous stream of light arms flowed from Europe.
- Simultaneously, the basis was laid for the underground production of arms.

During1936-1939, the years of the Arab Revolt, were the years in which the Haganah matured and developed from a militia into a military body. Although the British administration did not officially

recognize the organization, the British Security Forces cooperated with it by establishing civilian militia (see Jewish Settlement Police—J.S.P., and also, Jewish Auxiliary Police—ghafirs). In the summer of 1938 Sepcial Night Squads—S.N.S. were extablished, under the command of Captain Orde Wingate (see also Plugot Sadeh, Yitzhak Sadeh).

During the years of the riots, the Haganah protected the establishment of over 50 new settlements in new area of the country (see Homa Umigdal—Stockade and Watchtower Settlements). As a result of the British government Anti-Zionist policy, expressed in the White Paper of 1939, the Haganah supported illegal immigration and organized demonstrations against the British Anti-Zionist policy.

With the outbreak of World War II, the Haganah was faced with new problems. It headed a movement of volunteers, from which Jewish units were formed for service in the British army (see Jewish Brigade Group). It also cooperated with British intelligence units and sent its personnel out on various commando missions in the Middle East. Another example of this cooperation was the dropping of 32 Jewish parachutists in 1943-44 behind enemy lines in the Balkans, Hungary and Slovakia. Europe (see also Hannah Szenesh, Enzo Sereni, Havivah Reik).

At the same time, the Haganah further strengthened its independent basis during the war. A systematic program of training was instituted for the youth of the country. In 1941, the Haganah's first mobilized regiment, the Palmach came into being. At the end of the war, when it became clear that the British government had no intention of altering its Anti-Zionist policy, the Haganah began an open, organized struggle against British Mandatory rule in the framework of a unified Jewish Resistance Movement, consisting of Haganah, Irgun Zevai Le'umi-Etzel, and Lohamei Herut Yisrael-Lehi.

Haganah branches were established at Jewish D.P. [displaced person] camps in Europe and Haganah members accompanied the "illegal" immigrant boats. In the spring of 1947,David Ben-Gurion took it upon himself to direct the general policy of the Haganah, especially in preparation for impending Arab attack. On May 26 1948, the Provisional Government of Israel decided to transform the Haganah into the regular army of the State, to be called "Zeva

Haganah Le-Yisrael"—Israel Defense Forces.

Source: The Pedagogic Center, The Department for Jewish Zionist Education, The Jewish Agency for Israel, (c) 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, Director: Dr. Motti Friedman, Webmaster: Esther Carciente

Copyright 2008 The American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise

Supreme Muslim Council

Muslim institution in Palestine, 1921 - 1948.

During Ottoman rule in Palestine (1516 - 1917), Muslim *waqf* (plural, *awqaf*) and *shari•a* courts were headed by the Shaykh al-Islam, and in the nineteenth century they were administered by the Ministry of Awqaf in Constantinople (now Istanbul). The British occupation of Palestine, which started in 1917, severed all ties with Constantinople, and these Muslim institutions were placed under British officials. Palestinian Muslims were alarmed at the prospect of their religious affairs being controlled by a Christian power headed by Zionists: Sir Herbert Samuel, the first high commissioner, and Norman Bentwich, legal secretary in charge of the *awqaf* and *shari•a* courts. The Muslims complained of religious discrimination and demanded control over their affairs. Anxious lest the 1921 anti-Zionist disturbances recur and wanting to provide the Palestinians with autonomous institutions that the Zionists were granted, Samuel proposed that the Muslim secondary electors to the last Ottoman parliament choose a higher body that would control the affairs of the Muslim community.

Samuel issued an order in December 1921 establishing a Supreme Muslim Council (SMC) constituted for "the control and management of Moslem awqaf and Shari•a affairs in Palestine." It was to consist of a president and four members, two of whom were to represent the district of Jerusalem and the remaining two to represent the districts of Nablus and Acre. All were to be paid from government and *awqaf* funds. In the first election, held on 9 January 1922, the mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al-Husayni, was elected president; his budget was 50,000 British pounds.

Husayni initiated an Islamic cultural revival in Palestine in the 1920s. Through the SMC, he established an orphanage, supported schools, expanded welfare and health clinics, and renovated religious buildings. The most ambitious and impressive project was the renovation of the two dilapidated mosques within the Haram al-Sharif, the third holiest shrine of Islam. The restored structures enhanced the importance of Jerusalem in the Muslim and Arab worlds and asserted Jerusalem's centrality within Palestine. By the end of the decade, the mufti had consolidated his religious power and had increased his political influence throughout Palestine. He used his enhanced political position to advocate Palestinian self-determination. After he led the Palestine Arab Revolt (1936 - 1939), however, the British dismissed him and dissolved the SMC in 1937.

Bibliography

Mattar, Philip. *The Mufti of Jerusalem: Al-Hajj Amin al-Husayni and the Palestinian National*

Movement, revised edition. New York: Columbia University Press, 1992.

Palestine Government. *A Survey of Palestine for the Information of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry.* Jerusalem, 1947. Reprint, Washington, DC: Institute for Palestine Studies, 1991.

— *PHILIP MATTAR*

Reference: *The Supreme Muslim Council: Islam Under the British Mandate for Palestine* by Uri M. Kupferschmidt (Brill Academic Publishers, ISBN 90-04-07929-7)

Actors

This is the list of individuals that were involved with Arab/Israeli War and the Leaders that were responsible with trying to keep peace in Mandate Palestine.

ARAB SIDE

Hajj Amin al-Husayni- leader of Supreme Muslim Council (1922) Mufti of Jerusalem (control waff) leader of Palestine Arab Party (1935) Amin supported Nazi Germany and met with Hitler. Al – hajj- reestablished Arab higher committee declares UN Resolution null and void. 1936-1939: General strikes of Arab revolt: higher Arab command led by Al-hajj violent uprising. Suppression by British Al-hajj fled to avoid arrest; but came back before 1948 war.

Izz ad-Din al-Qassam- Influental preacher during the British Mandate Period Of Palestine. he started the Black Hand militant group that was anti-zinist and anti-british.

Abd al-Qadir al-Husayni-was a Palestinian nationalist and fighter who in late 1933 founded the secret militant group known as the Organization for Holy Struggle, (Munazzamat al-Jihad al-Muqaddas), which he and Hasan Salama commanded in 1948 Palestinian-Israeli war.

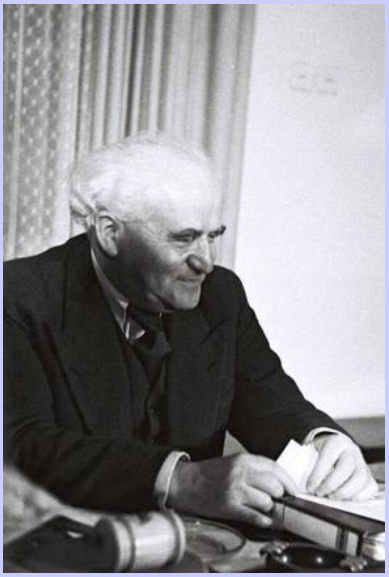
Jewish Side

Theodore Herzl
Started the World Zionist Organization: wrote the book: " State of the Jews" he was an Austrian Journalist. Man of enlightenment. Herzl is one of the first people express Zionism around 1880's in a form of Political Zionism.

Ze'ev Jabotinsky- Russian Jew- was a right-wing Revisionist Zionist Leader, author, Soldier, and founder of the Jewish Self-Defense Organization in Odessa. He was the founder and leader of the clandestine Jewish armed Organization Irgun. He advocated retaliation and not self-defense. He split from the WZO in 1925.

Moshe Dian
Was an Israeli Military leader and politician. He was the fighting symbol to the world of the new state of Israel. During the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, he was the commander of the defense in the Jordan valley. He was extremely well-liked by Israel's founding Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion and became his *protégé*, together with Shimon Peres (a future Prime Minister and President). He became defense Minister and later Foreign Minister of Israel.

Chaim Weizmann- Practical/pragmatic Zionist: he was a Zionist leader, President of the World Zionist Organization, and the first President of the State of Israel. He was elected on February 1, 1949, and served until his death in 1952. Weizmann was also a chemist who developed a new process of producing acetone through bacterial fermentation. In his earlier years he helped in developing agriculture infrastructure to support later migration of Jews.



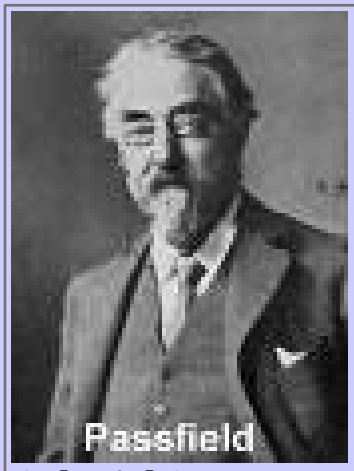
Ben Gurion- was the first Prime Minister of Israel. Ben-Gurion's passion for Zionism, which began early in life, culminated in his instrumental role in the founding of the state of Israel. After leading Israel to victory in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, Ben-Gurion helped build the state institutions and oversaw the absorption of vast numbers of Jews from all over the world.

Actors on the Outside

UN Mediator

FolkeBernadotte: UN Mediator: Following the 1947 UN Partition Plan, on 20 May 1948, Folke Bernadotte was appointed the United Nations' mediator in Palestine, the first official mediator in the UN's history. In this capacity, he succeeded in achieving a truce in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and laid the groundwork for the United

Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. He proposed in modifying 1947 partion by redrawing the boundries between Jewish and Arab Palestine. Palestine will be apart of TransJordan. The Arabs thought of this and opposed to unite with Jordan, and decided on a total rejection of a Jewish state. Through this resolution, Jerusalem was an international site and is divided into jewish controlled west and Arab controlled East.



Colonial Secretary of State Malcolm MacDonald- In 1939 MacDonald oversaw and introduced the so-called MacDonald White Paper which aimed at the creation of a unified state, with controls on Jewish immigration.

Ralph Bunche:
Beginning in 1947, Bunche was involved with the Arab-Israeli conflict. He served as assistant to the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, and thereafter as the principal secretary of the U.N. Palestine Commission. In 1948 he traveled to the Middle East as the chief aide to Count Folke Bernadotte, who had been appointed by the U.N. to mediate the conflict. In September, Bernadotte was assassinated by members of the underground

Jewish group Lehi. Bunche became the U.N.'s chief mediator and concluded the task with the signing of the 1949 Armistice Agreements.

References:
Ralph Bunche: http://flickr.com/photo/39735679@N00/286476833
Moshe Dian: http://www.dodmedia.osd.mil/Assets/19
Malcolm MacDonald: http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/kenanderson/histempsequel/_wp_generated/wp037d4329.jpg
Folke Bernadotte: Portrait of Count en:Folke Bernadotte * Date: Circa 1945 * Locale: Sweden * Photographer: Unknown * Credit: USHMM, courtesy of National Archives, http://www.ushmm.org/ * Copyright: Public Domain copied from DE Wiki
David Ben-Gurion: [http://147.237.72.31/scripts/topsrch/topapi.dll?Issues&H1&1&006610&d:\\web\\wwwroot\\topsrch\\datafile\\wwwi4833.ans&0&file:///d:/web/wwwroot/topsrch/datafile/48330109.gif&2KW:וירוג(ן)ב(דוד
Chaim Weizmann: http://www.trumanlibrary.org/photographs/view.php?id=816
Ze'ev Jabotinsky: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeev_Jabotinsky
Theodore Herzl: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Theodore_Herzl.jpg#file
Abd al-Qadir al-Husayni- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Husayni.jpg Abd al-Kadir al-Husayni (1907-1948) Reproduced from http://www.passia.org with permission (Mahmoud Abu Rumieleh, Webmaster). Free to use with acknowledgement
Izz ad-Din al-Qassam-http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:EzeldinQassam.jpg
Hajj Amin al-Husayni-http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:MAal-Husayni.jpg Mohammad Amin al-Husayni (ca. 1895 - 4 July 1974, أمين الحسيني, alternatively known as al-Husseini, el-Husseini, Al-Hajj Amin or Haj Amin). Reproduced from http://www.passia.org

Below is the full text document of the 1939 White papers. It basically states that Zionist are restricted to 5% of Palestine and only 75,000 Jewish Immigrants, and Britan Promised to Establish an independant Arab State. Malcom MacDonald, Colonial Secretary of State, issues White Paper of 1939 embodying British solution to Palestine problem: conditional independence for unitary Palestinian state after ten years; admission of 15,000 Jewish immigrants annually into Palestine for five years, with immigration after that subject to "Arab acquiescence"; protection of Palestinian land rights against Zionist acquisition.

British White Paper of 1939

In the statement on Palestine, issued on 9 November, 1938, His Majesty's Government announced their intention to invite representatives of the Arabs of Palestine, of certain neighboring countries and of the Jewish Agency to confer with them in London regarding future policy. It was their sincere hope that, as a result of full, free and frank discussions, some understanding might be reached. Conferences recently took place with Arab and Jewish delegations, lasting for a period of several weeks, and served the purpose of a complete exchange of views between British Ministers and the Arab and Jewish representatives. In the light of the discussions as well as of the situation in Palestine and of the Reports of the Royal Commission and the Partition Commission, certain proposals were formulated by His Majesty's Government and were laid before the Arab and Jewish Delegations as the basis of an agreed settlement. Neither the Arab nor the Jewish delegation felt able to accept these proposals, and the conferences therefore did not result in an agreement. Accordingly His Majesty's Government are free to formulate their own policy, and after careful consideration they have decided to adhere generally to the proposals which were finally submitted to and discussed with the Arab and Jewish delegations.

The Mandate for Palestine, the terms of which were confirmed by the Council of the League of Nations in 1922, has governed the policy of successive British Governments for nearly 20 years. It embodies the Balfour Decleration and imposes on the Mandatory four main obligations. These obligations are set out in Article 2, 6 and 13 of the Mandate. There is no dispute regarding the interpretation of one of these obligations, that touching the protection of and access to the Holy Places and religious building or sites. The other three main obligations are generally as follows:

To place the country under such political, administrative and economic conditions as will secure the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish People. To facilitate Jewish immigration under suitable conditions, and to encourage, in cooperation with the Jewish Agency, close settlement by Jews on the Land.

To safeguard the civil and religious rights of all inhabitants of Palestine irrespective of race and religion, and, whilst facilitating Jewish immigration and settlement, to ensure that the rights and position of other sections of the population are not prejudiced.

To place the country under such political, administrative and economic conditions as will secure the development of self governing institutions.

The Royal Commission and previous commissions of Enquiry have drawn attention to the ambiguity of certain expressions in the Mandate, such as the expression `a national home for the Jewish people', and they have found in this ambiguity and the resulting uncertainty as to the objectives of policy a fundamental cause of

unrest and hostility between Arabs and Jews. His Majesty's Government are convinced that in the interests of the peace and well being of the whole people of Palestine a clear definition of policy and objectives is essential. The proposal of partition recommended by the Royal Commission would have afforded such clarity, but the establishment of self supporting independent Arab and Jewish States within Palestine has been found to be impracticable. It has therefore been necessary for His Majesty's Government to devise an alternative policy which will, consistent with their obligations to Arabs and Jews, meet the needs of the situation in Palestine. Their views and proposals are set forth below under three heads, Section I, "The Constitution", Section II. Immigration and Section III. Land.

Section I. "The Constitution"

It has been urged that the expression "a national home for the Jewish people" offered a prospect that Palestine might in due course become a Jewish State or Commonwealth. His Majesty's Government do not wish to contest the view, which was expressed by the Royal Commission, that the Zionist leaders at the time of the issue of the Balfour Declaration recognised that an ultimate Jewish State was not precluded by the terms of the Declaration. But, with the Royal Commission, His Majesty's Government believe that the framers of the Mandate in which the Balfour Declaration was embodied could not have intended that Palestine should be converted into a Jewish State against the will of the Arab population of the country. That Palestine was not to be converted into a Jewish State might be held to be implied in the passage from the Command Paper of 1922 which reads as follows

"Unauthorized statements have been made to the effect that the purpose in view is to create a wholly Jewish Palestine. Phrases have been used such as that `Palestine is to become as Jewish as England is English.' His Majesty's Government regard any such expectation as impracticable and have no such aim in view. Nor have they at any time contemplated .... the disappearance or the subordination of the Arabic population, language or culture in Palestine. They would draw attention to the fact that the terms of the (Balfour) Declaration referred to do not contemplate that Palestine as a whole should be converted into a Jewish National Home, but that such a Home should be founded IN PALESTINE."

But this statement has not removed doubts, and His Majesty's Government therefore now declare unequivocally that it is not part of their policy that Palestine should become a Jewish State. They would indeed regard it as contrary to their obligations to the Arabs under the Mandate, as well as to the assurances which have been given to the Arab people in the past, that the Arab population of Palestine should be made the subjects of a Jewish State against their will.

The nature of the Jewish National Home in Palestine was further described in the Command Paper of 1922 as follows

"During the last two or three generations the Jews have recreated in Palestine a community now numbering 80,000, of whom about one fourth are farmers or workers upon the land. This community has its own political organs; an elected assembly for the direction of its domestic concerns; elected councils in the towns; and an organisation for the control of its schools. It has its elected Chief Rabbinate and Rabbinical Council for the direction of its religious affairs. Its business is conducted in Hebrew as a vernacular language, and a Hebrew press serves its needs. It has its distinctive intellectual life and displays considerable economic activity. This community, then, with its town and country population, its political, religious and social organisations, its own language, its own customs, its own life, has in fact `national' characteristics. When it is asked what is meant by the development of the Jewish National Home in Palestine, it may be answered that it is not the imposition of a Jewish nationality upon the inhabitants of Palestine as a whole, but the further development of the existing Jewish community, with the assistance of Jews in other parts of the world, in order that it may

become a centre in which the Jewish people as a whole may take, on grounds of religion and race, an interest and pride. But in order that this community should have the best prospect of free development and provide a full opportunity for the Jewish people to display its capacities, it is essential that it should know that it is in Palestine as of right and not on sufferance. That is the reason why it is necessary that the existence of a Jewish National Home in Palestine should be internationally guaranteed, and that it should be formally recognised to rest upon ancient historic connection."

His Majesty's Government adhere to this intepretation of the (Balfour) Declaration 1917 and regard it as an authoritative and comprehensive description of the character of the Jewish National Home in Palestine. It envisaged the further development of the existing Jewish community with the assistance of Jews in other parts of the world. Evidence that His Majesty's Government have been carrying out their obligation in this respect is to be found in the facts that, since the statement of 1922 was published, more than 300,000 Jews have immigrated to Palestine, and that the population of the National Home has risen to some 450,000, or approaching a third of the entire population of the country. Nor has the Jewish community failed to take full advantage of the opportunities given to it. The growth of the Jewish National Home and its acheivements in many fields are a remarkable constructive effort which must command the admiration of the world and must be, in particular, a source of pride to the Jewish people.

In the recent discussions the Arab delegations have repeated the contention that Palestine was included within the area in which Sir Henry McMahon, on behalf of the British Government, in October, 1915, undertook to recognise and support Arab independence. The validity of this claim, based on the terms of the correspondence which passed between Sir Henry McMahon and the Sharif of Mecca, was thoroughly and carefully investigated by the British and Arab representatives during the recent conferences in London. Their report, which has been published, states that both the Arab and the British representatives endeavoured to understand the point of view of the other party but that they were unable to reach agreement upon an interpretation of the correspondence. There is no need to summarize here the arguments presented by each side. His Majesty's Government regret the misunderstandings which have arisen as regards some of the phrases used. For their part they can only adhere, for the reasons given by their representatives in the Report, to the view that the whole of Palestine west of Jordan was excluded from Sir Henry McMahon's pledge, and they therefore cannot agree that the McMahon correspondence forms a just basis for the claim that Palestine should be converted into an Arab State.

His Majesty's Government are charged as the Mandatory authority "to secure the development of self governing institutions" in Palestine. Apart from this specific obligation, they would regard it as contrary to the whole spirit of the Mandate system that the population of Palestine should remain forever under Mandatory tutelage. It is proper that the people of the country should as early as possible enjoy the rights of self-government which are exercised by the people of neighbouring countries. His Majesty's Government are unable at present to foresee the exact constitutional forms which government in Palestine will eventually take, but their objective is self government, and they desire to see established ultimately an independent Palestine State. It should be a State in which the two peoples in Palestine, Arabs and Jews, share authority in government in such a way that the essential interests of each are shared.

The establishment of an independent State and the complete relinquishmnet of Mandatory control in Palestine would require such relations between the Arabs and the Jews as would make good government possible. Moreover, the growth of self governing institutions in Palestine, as in other countries, must be an evolutionary process. A transitional period will be required before independence is achieved, throughout which ultimate responsibility for the Government of the country will be retained by His Majesty's Government as the Mandatory authority, while the people of the country are taking an increasing share in the Government, and understanding and cooperation amongst them are growing. It will be the constant endeavour of His Majesty's Government to promote good relations between the Arabs and the Jews.

In the light of these considerations His Majesty's Government make the following declaration of their intentions regarding the future government of Palestine:

The objective of His Majesty's Government is the establishment within 10 years of an independent Palestine State in such treaty relations with the United Kingdom as will provide satisfactorily for the commercial and strategic requirements of both countries in the future. The proposal for the establishment of the independent State would involve consultation with the Council of the League of Nations with a view to the termination of the Mandate.

The independent State should be one in which Arabs and Jews share government in such a way as to ensure that the essential interests of each community are safeguarded.

The establishment of the independent State will be preceded by a transitional period throughout which His Majesty's Government will retain responsibility for the country. During the transitional period the people of Palestine will be given an increasing part in the government of their country. Both sections of the population will have an opportunity to participate in the machinery of government, and the process will be carried on whether or not they both avail themselves of it.

As soon as peace and order have been sufficiently restored in Palestine steps will be taken to carry out this policy of giving the people of Palestine an increasing part in the government of their country, the objective being to place Palestinians in charge of all the Departments of Government, with the assistance of British advisers and subject to the control of the High Commissioner. Arab and Jewish representatives will be invited to serve as heads of Departments approximately in proportion to their respective populations. The number of Palestinians in charge of Departments will be increased as circumstances permit until all heads of Departments are Palestinians, exercising the administrative and advisory functions which are presently performed by British officials. When that stage is reached consideration will be given to the question of converting the Executive Council into a Council of Ministers with a consequential change in the status and functions of the Palestinian heads of Departments.

His Majesty's Government make no proposals at this stage regarding the establishment of an elective legislature. Nevertheless they would regard this as an appropriate constitutional development, and, should public opinion in Palestine hereafter show itself in favour of such a development, they will be prepared, provided that local conditions permit, to establish the necessary machinery.

At the end of five years from the restoration of peace and order, an appropriate body representative of the people of Palestine and of His Majesty's Government will be set up to review the working of the constitutional arrangements during the transitional period and to consider and make recommendations regarding the constitution of the independent Palestine State.

His Majesty's Government will require to be satisfied that in the treaty contemplated by sub-paragraph (6) adequate provision has been made for:

the security of, and freedom of access to the Holy Places, and protection of the interests and property of the various religious bodies.

the protection of the different communities in Palestine in accordance with the obligations of His Majesty's Government to both Arabs and Jews and for the special position in Palestine of the Jewish NationalHome.

such requirements to meet the strategic situation as may be regarded as necessary by His Majesty's Government in the light of the circumstances then existing. His Majesty's Government will also require to be satisfied that the interests of certain foreign countries in Palestine, for the preservation of which they are at present responsible, are adequately safeguarded.

His Majesty's Government will do everything in their power to create conditions which will enable the independent Palestine State to come into being within 10 years. If, at the end of 10 years, it appears to His Majesty's Government that, contrary to their hope, circumstances require the postponement of the establishment of the independent State, they will consult with representatives of the people of Palestine, the Council of the League of Nations and the neighbouring Arab States before deciding on such a postponement. If His Majesty's Government come to the conclusion that postponement is unavoidable, they will invite the co-operation of these parties in framing plans for the future with a view to achieving the desired objective at the earliest possible date.

During the transitional period steps will be taken to increase the powers and responsibilities of municipal corporations and local councils.

Section II. Immigration

Under Article 6 of the Mandate, the Administration of Palestine, "while ensuring that the rights and position of other sections of the population are not prejudiced," is required to "facilitate Jewish immigration under suitable conditions." Beyond this, the extent to which Jewish immigration into Palestine is to be permitted is nowhere defined in the Mandate. But in the Command Paper of 1922 it was laid down that for the fulfilment of the policy of establishing a Jewish National Home:

"it is necessary that the Jewish commun ity in Palestine should be able to increase its numbers by immigration. This immigration cannot be so great in volume as to exceed whatever may be the economic capacity of the country at the time to absorb new arrivals. It is essential to ensure that the immigrants should not be a burden upon the people of Palestine as a whole, and that they should not deprive any section of the present population of their employment."

In practice, from that date onwards until recent times, the economic absorptive capacity of the country has been treated as the sole limiting factor, and in the letter which Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, as Prime Minister, sent to Dr. Weizmann in February 1931 it was laid down as a matter of policy that economic absorptive capacity was the sole criterion. This interpretation has been supported by resolutions of the Permanent Mandates Commissioner. But His Majesty's Government do not read either the Statement of Policy of 1922 or the letter of 1931 as implying that the Mandate requires them, for all time and in all circumstances, to facilitate the immigration of Jews into Palestine subject only to consideration of the country's economic absorptive capacity. Nor do they find anything in the Mandate or in subsequent Statements of Policy to support the view that the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine cannot be effected unless immigration is allowed to continue indefinitely. If immigration has an adverse effect on the economic position in the country, it should clearly be restricted; and equally, if it has a seriously damaging effect on the political position in the country, that is a factor that should not be ignored. Although it is not difficult to contend that the large number of Jewish immigrants who have been admitted so far have been absrobed economically, the fear of the Arabs that this influx will continue indefinitely until the Jewish population is in a position to dominate them has produced consequences which are extremely grave for Jews and Arabs alike and for the peace and prosperity of Palestine. The lamentable disturbances of the past three years are only the latest and most sustained manifestation of this intense Arab apprehension. The methods employed by Arab terrorists against fellow Arabs and Jews alike must receive unqualified condemnation. But it cannot be denied that fear of indefinite

Jewish immigration is widespread amongst the Arab population and that this fear has made possible disturbances which have given a serious setback to economic progress, depleted the Palestine exchequer, rendered life and property insecure, and produced a bitterness between the Arab and Jewish populations which is deplorable between citizens of the same country. If in these circumstances immigration is continued up to the economic absorptive capacity of the country, regardless of all other considerations, a fatal enmity between the two peoples will be perpetuated, and the situation in Palestine may become a permanent source of friction amongst all peoples in the Near and Middle East. His Majesty's Government cannot take the view that either their obligations under the Mandate, or considerations of common sense and justice, require that they should ignore these circumstances in framing immigration policy.

In the view of the Royal Commission the association of the policy of the Balfour Declaration with the Mandate system implied the belief that Arab hostility to the former would sooner or later be overcome. It has been the hope of British Governments ever since the Balfour Declaration was issued that in time the Arab population, recognizing the advantages to be derived from Jewish settlement and development in Palestine, would become reconciled to the further growth of the Jewish National Home. This hope has not been fulfilled. The alternatives before His Majesty's Government are either (i) to seek to expand the Jewish National Home indefinitely by immigration, against the strongly expressed will of the Arab people of the country; or (ii) to permit further expansion of the Jewish National Home by immigration only if the Arabs are prepared to acquiesce in it. The former policy means rule by force. Apart from other considerations, such a policy seems to His Majesty's Government to be contrary to the whole spirit of Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, as well as to their specific obligations to the Arabs in the Palestine Mandate. Moreover, the relations between the Arabs and the Jews in Palestine must be based sooner or later on mutual tolerance and goodwill; the peace, security and progress of the Jewish National Home itself requires this. Therefore His Majesty's Government, after earnest consideration, and taking into account the extent to which the growth of the Jewish National Home has been facilitated over the last twenty years, have decided that the time has come to adopt in principle the second of the alternatives referred to above.

It has been urged that all further Jewish immigration into Palestine should be stopped forthwith. His Majesty's Government cannot accept such a proposal. It would damage the whole of the financial and economic system of Palestine and thus effect adversely the interests of Arabs and Jews alike. Moreover, in the view of His Majesty's Government, abruptly to stop further immigration would be unjust to the Jewish National Home. But, above all, His Majesty's Government are conscious of the present unhappy plight of large numbers of Jews who seek refuge from certain European countries, and they believe that Palestine can and should make a further contribution to the solution of this pressing world problem. In all these circumstances, they believe that they will be acting consistently with their Mandatory obligations to both Arabs and Jews, and in the manner best calculated to serve the interests of the whole people of Palestine, by adopting the following proposals regarding immigration:

Jewish immigration during the next five years will be at a rate which, if economic absorptive capacity permits, will bring the Jewish population up to approximately one third of the total population of the country. Taking into account the expected natural increase of the Arab and Jewish populations, and the number of illegal Jewish immigrants now in the country, this would allow of the admission, as from the beginning of April this year, of some 75,000 immigrants over the next five years. These immigrants would, subject to the criterion of economic absorptive capacity, be admitted as follows:

For each of the next five years a quota of 10,000 Jewish immigrants will be allowed on the understanding that a shortage one year may be added to the quotas for subsequent years, within the five year period, if economic absorptive capacity permits.

In addition, as a contribution towards the solution of the Jewish refugee problem, 25,000 refugees will be

admitted as soon as the High Commissioner is satisfied that adequate provision for their maintenance is ensured, special consideration being given to refugee children anddependents.

The existing machinery for ascertaining economic absorptive capacity will be retained, and the High Commissioner will have the ultimate responsibility for deciding the limits of economic capacity. Before each periodic decision is taken, Jewish and Arab representatives will be consulted.

After the period of five years, no further Jewish immigration will be permitted unless the Arabs of Palestine are prepared to acquiesce in it.

His Majesty's Government are determined to check illegal immigration, and further preventive measures are being adopted. The numbers of any Jewish illegal immigrants who, despite these measures, may succeed in coming into the country and cannot be deported will be deducted from the yearly quotas.

His Majesty's Government are satisfied that, when the immigration over five years which is now contemplated has taken place, they will not be justified in facilitating, nor will they be under any obligation to facilitate, the further development of the Jewish National Home by immigration regardless of the wishes of the Arab population.

Section III. Land

The Administration of Palestine is required, under Article 6 of the Mandate, "while ensuring that the rights and position of other sections of the population are not prejudiced," to encourage "close settlement by Jews on the land," and no restriction has been imposed hitherto on the transfer of land from Arabs to Jews. The Reports of several expert Commissions have indictaed that, owing to the natural growth of the Arab population and the steady sale in recent years of Arab land to Jews, there is now in certain areas no room for further transfers of Arab land, whilst in some other areas such transfers of land must be restricted if Arab cultivators are to maintain their existing standard of life and a considerable landless Arab population is not soon to be created. In these circumstances, the High Commissioner will be given general powers to prohibit and regulate transfers of land. These powers will date from the publication of this statement of policy and the High Commissioner will retain them throughout the transitional period.

The policy of the Government will be directed towards the development of the land and the improvement, where possible, of methods of cultivation. In the light of such development it will be open to the High Commissioner, should he be satisfied that the "rights and position" of the Arab population will be duly preserved, to review and modify any orders passed relating to the prohibition or restriction of the transfer of land.

In framing these proposals His Majesty's Government have sincerely endeavoured to act in strict accordance with their obligations under the Mandate to both the Arabs and the Jews. The vagueness of the phrases employed in some instances to describe these obligations has led to controversy and has made the task of interpretation difficult. His Majesty's Government cannot hope to satisfy the partisans of one party or the other in such controversy as the Mandate has aroused. Their purpose is to be just as between the two people in Palestine whose destinies in that country have been affected by the great events of recent years, and who, since they live side by side, must learn to practice mutual tolerance, goodwill and co operation. In looking to the future, His Majesty's Government are not blind to the fact that some events of the past make the task of creating these relations difficult; but they are encouraged by the knowledge that as many times and in many places in Palestine during recent years the Arab and Jewish inhabitants have lived in friendship together. Each community has much to contribute to the welfare of their common land, and each must earnestly desire peace

in which to assist in increasing the well being of the whole people of the country. The responsibility which falls on them, no less than upon His Majesty's Government, to co operate together to ensure peace is all the more solemn because their country is revered by many millions of Moslems, Jews and Christians throughout the world who pray for peace in Palestine and for the happiness of her people.

Reference: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/brwh1939.asp

Chronology

The Year of 1947

1947

January: London Round Table Conference reopens.

February: Arab delegates and Jewish Agency reject proposal. Bevin announces British submission of Palestine problem to United Nations.

March: Arab League blames Britain and US for deteriorating situation in Palestine.

April: UN General Assembly special session on Palestine problem leads to appointment of eleven-member Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP).

May:

June: Stern Gang claims responsibility for letter bombs addressed to leading British government officials in London.

July:

August: Haganah terrorist attack on Palestinian orange grower's house near Tel Aviv kills twelve occupants including mother and six children.

September: Publication of UNSCOP report and announces the end of Palestinian mandate.Arab League rejects UNSCOP partition

October: Jewish Agency and US announces acceptance of partition.

November: UN General Assembly voted on UNSCOP partition plan and passed by 33 to 13 votes with 10 abstentions. Arab representatives walk out of assembly.

December: Haganah launches Plan Gimmel, designed to destabilize Palestinian population and occupy strategic positions in country.

[Home Page]

Source: Reference: http://www.alnakba.org/chronology/sixth.htm

Fokle Benadette proposed in modifying 1947 partion by redrawing the boundries between Jewish and Arab Palestine. Palestine will be apart of TransJordan. The Arabs thought of this and opposed to unite with Jordan, and decided on a total rejection of a Jewish state. Through this resolution, Jerusalem was an international site and is divided into jewish controlled west and Arab controlled East.

A map of the UN Partion Resolution

As you can see the Land as of Right now is 56% Israli and 44% Arab not including Jerusalem.

Resource: www.mythsandfacts.org/.../1947-partition.jpg

Chronology

The Year of 1948

January:
February:
March:
April:
May:
June: First truce
July: Security Council calls for prolongation of truce and issues indefinite cease-fire orders. Second Truce
August:
September:UN mediator Count Bernadotte proposed new partition of Palestine, rejected by Arab League and Israel. He was murdered by Stern Gang and replaced by Ralph Bunche
October:
November: IDF expels inhabitants from villages 5-15 km inside Lebanese border, followed by expulsions from other Galilee villages.
December: Operation Horev launched to drive Egyptians out of southern coastal strip and Negev and also Israeli troops move into Sinai until British pressure forces withdrawal.

Reference: http://www.alnakba.org/chronology/sixth.htm

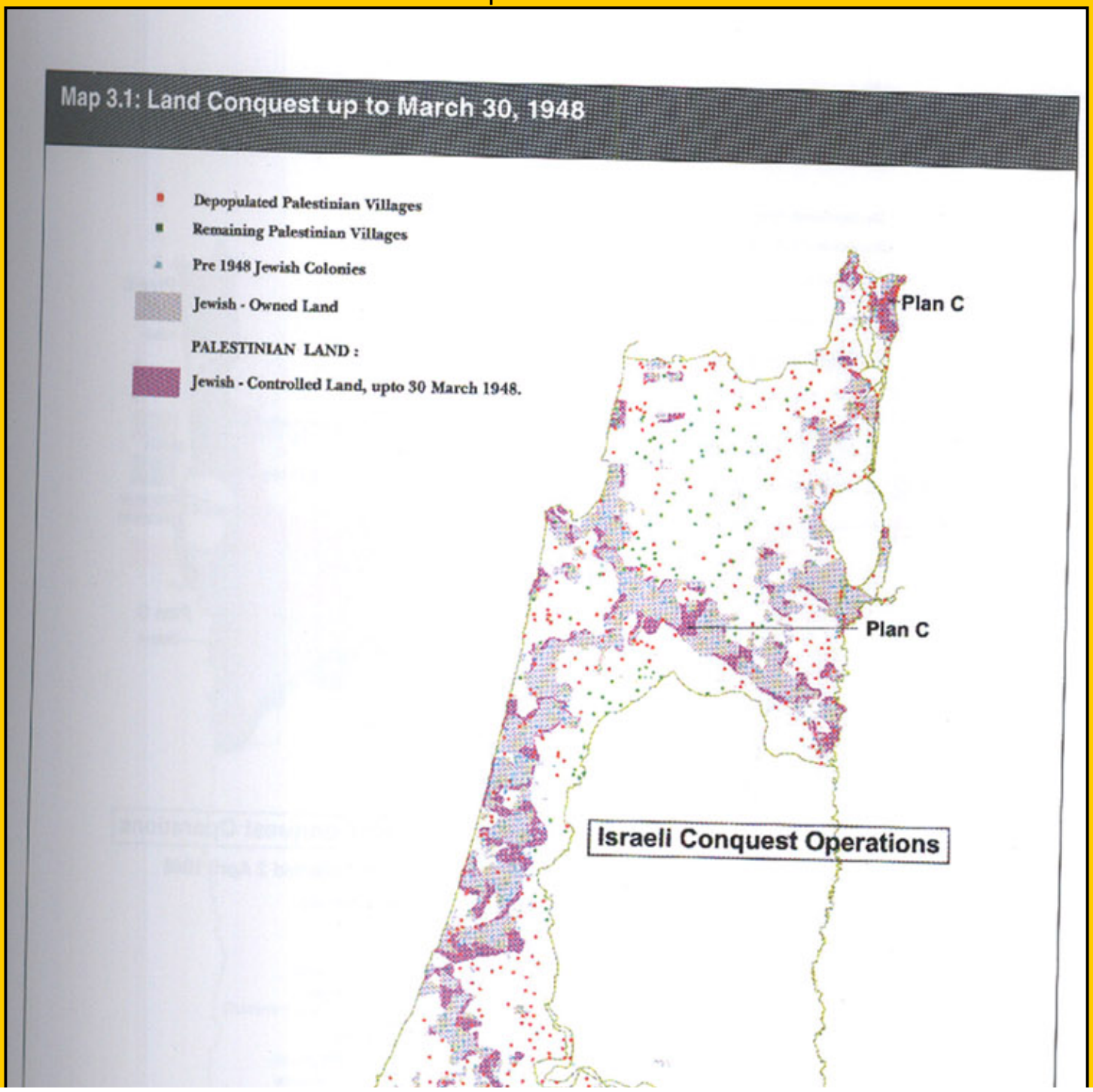
[Home Page]

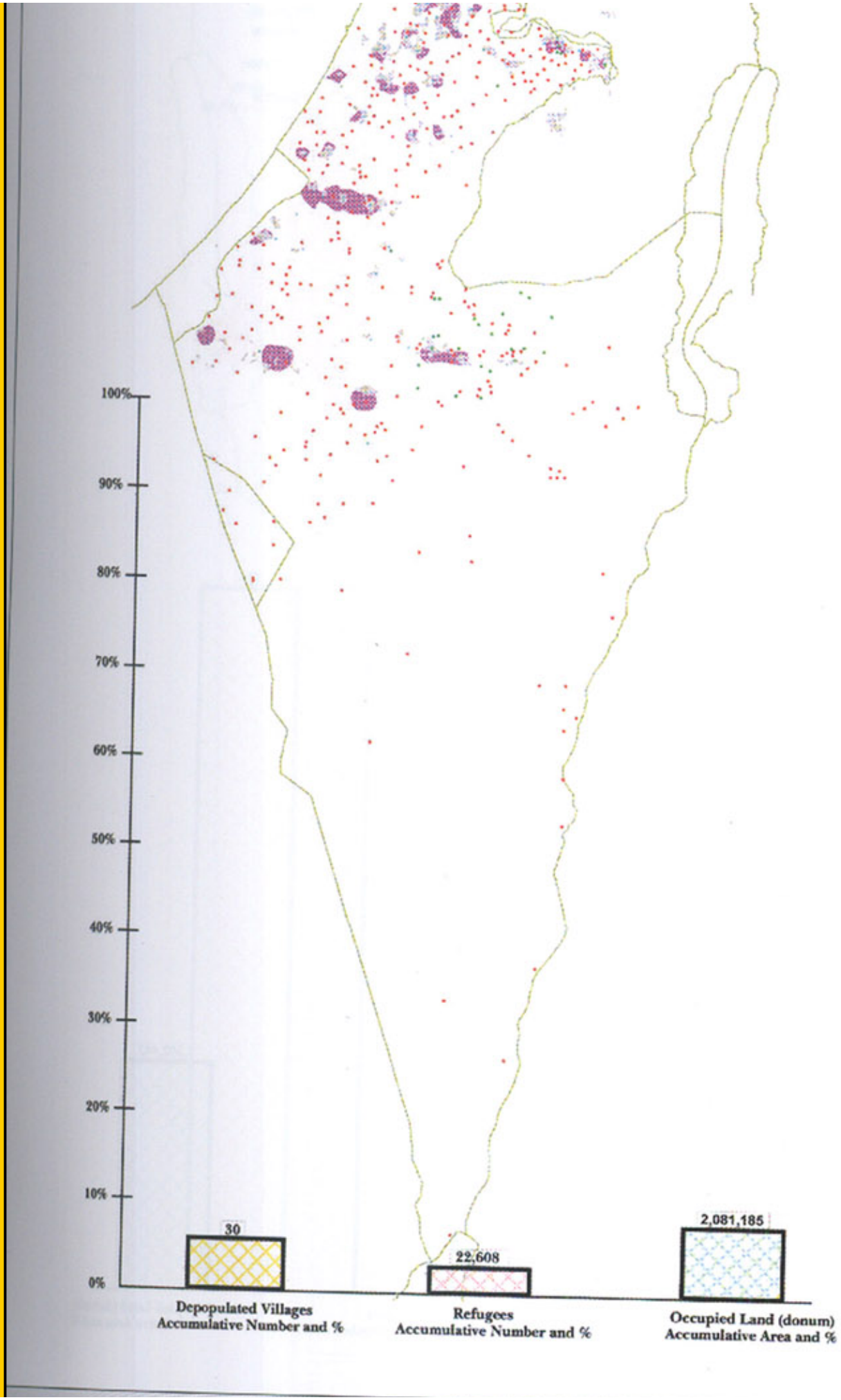
March 30, 1948 Israel Conquest of Land Begins...

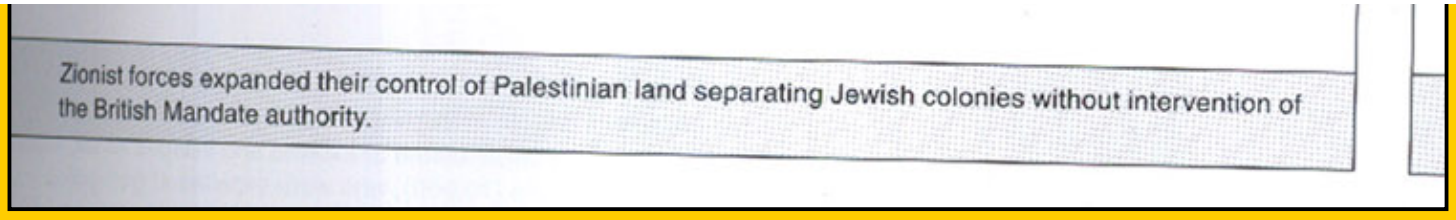
.

Below is a map with the number of depopulated palestinian villages in red, remaining Palestinian villages in green, in baby blue is the existing Jewish colonies before 1948, the grey shaded area is Jewish owned land, and finally the important feature on the is map is the Purple region. It is the Jewish-Controlled Land upto the date of March 30, 1948. A number of military operational plans were prepared by the Haganah. Plan A was prepared in 1945 and Plan B was prepared in May 1947. Plan C was prepared in November 1947. Plan D (Plan *Dalet*) replacing all previous plans, was prepared in March 1948 (2), which Plan C is featured on the map

Please click on the Map to move to the next Map that shows a continuation of this map at a later date!




100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
30
22,608
2,081,185
Depopulated Villages
Accumulative Number and %
Refugees
Accumulative Number and %
Occupied Land (donum)
Accumulative Area and %



This is an Map showing populated Palestinian villages, Israeli Colonies, and depopulated villages Palestinian villages up to March 30, 1948. Plan C is a military operation and on the map it shows where they were first implamented. On the bottom of the map shows a bar graph and gives a number and percentage of the depopulated villages, refugees and occupied land.

Home Page

Source: Salman H. Abu-sitta. Atlas of Palestine 1948. Palestine Land Society London, 2004

Why did the Nakba Occur things that Led up to it? By: Ali Thabet

Part I:

- *Jewish Immigration:*Jewish National fund(kerenkiyemet) an Umbrella organization of World Zionist Organization (WZO)- bought mass amount of lands and settled Jews. Lots of wealthy Arab land owners sold land to the Jewish fund.

- *World War I- San Remo Conference: After WWI set up mandate system. The western countries are like teachers and need this colonialization of the Arab states in order for them to get on their feet after Ottoman rule. This upheld the Belfour declaration. After WW1 the Ottoman Empire was split up to mostly the British and French through the Sykes-picot agreement.*

- *Balfour Declaration -November 2, 1917- Arthur James Balfour to Lord Rothschild (leader Jews) to Zionist Federation: British government support Zionism plan of Jewish Home. Which nothing shall be done that might prejudice the rights of existing communities within them.*

- *1922 White Paper - Wrote the white paper of 1922. This paper helped translate what was being meant by the Belfour declaration. It gave the right of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.*

- *1939 White Paper-During WWII, Zionist restriction to 5% immigration to Palestine and only 75,000 Jewish immigrants under Arab regulation. Also promise of British to establish an independent Arab state.*

- *World War II and the holacuast played an important role in empahty towards the Jews from Western Countries.*

- *UNSCOP majority plan- The UNSCOP Report, submitted on 31 August 1947, unanimously supported the termination of the British mandate in Palestine. The representatives of the other states (except Australia) favored a partition into two separate independent states (the majority plan) with Jerusalem as a corpus separatum under an international regime. On 29 November 1947 the General Assembly adopted Resolution 181, based on the UNSCOP majority plan, by a 33 - 13 vote, with 10 abstentions. The Jewish Agency accepted the resolution, and the rejected it. Majority for Partition in Non contiguous regions, economic union, Jerusalem international. . Arabs rejected Zionist accepted majority proposal. Minority favored binational state.*

This was the plan that became the Partition plan and was favored by the International countries and what was implemented. Arab Higher Commitee

- *UNSCOP minority plan- rejected by all and it was a thought of creating a binationional state. The representatives of Iran, India, and Yugoslavia supported a federal solution (known as the minority plan) that envisaged Arab and Jewish regions within a federal union with Jerusalem as its capital.*

Arab Israeli War 1948: After UN Patition Plan Israel declares Nation and next day the war starts:
1947- britian turns mandate to UN.
May 15, 1948, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq attack ties this in to Nakba
3 phases Israel extened borders: 1949 armistance sighned, Israel with/78% of Mandate rather then 56%.
Backround: The War of 1947-48 is referred to as the al-naaba(disaster) by the Palestinians. The new Jewish state increased its territory by roughly one-third as a result of the fighting, and no distinction was made between the land that they had been granted by the UN partition Resolution of 1947 and the war. the UN set up a team lead by Count folke Benadotte to modify the 1947 Partition Resolution. They proposed ini modifyin ght 1947 partionon by redrawing the boundries between Jewihs and Arab Palestine. Palestine is attached to Trans-Jordan(Name of Jordan at that time). The arabs opposed to unite with trans-Jordan and rejected to recognize a Jewish state.

- *Irgun- defense in Israel was a militant Zionist group that operated in Palestine between 1931 and 1948. It was established as a militant offshoot of the earlier and larger Jewish paramilitary organization Hagana. The Irgun was the armed expression of the nascent ideology of Revisionist Zionism founded by Ze'ev Jabotinsky. He expressed this ideology as "every Jew had the right to enter Palestine; only active retaliation would deter the Arabs and the British; only Jewish armed force would ensure the Jewish state". Initially, a central part of their efforts included attacks against Palestinian Arabs, but it increasingly shifted to attacks against the British. Some of the better-known attacks by Irgun were the bombing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem on 22 July 1946 and the Deir Yassin massacre (accomplished together with the Stern Gang) on 9 April 1948. In the West, Irgun was described as a terrorist organization by The New York Times newspaper, and by the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry. Irgun attacks prompted a formal declaration from the World Zionist Congress in 1946, which strongly condemned "the shedding of innocent blood as a means of political warfare".*

- *Arab League – It was created in Cairo on March 22, 1945 with six members: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria. Palestinian Guerrilla army joined by 7,000 volunteers from Arab lands to join Palestinians in preparation of the 1948 war and a part of the Arab Liberation Army. In the context of Camp David 1, the Arab league*

stated that the PLO is the sole legit group that represents the Palestinians which was a major turning point in the Arab/Israeli conflict. Egypt was expelled from Arab league in 1979(readmitted 1989) and the Islamic conference in 1979 and readmitted 1984 due to the Egyptian Israel Peace treaty.

- *Plan Delat- or Plan D: is a blueprint for preventing the emergence of a Palestinian state and expelling the population. Plan D became official when Israel declared independence. Haganah in Palestine pushed and said it was mostly defensive.*

- *Deir Yasin- The number one cited village that gets broght up and is blamed as the cause of the exodus. It was a village that was destroyed by Israeli forces during the 48 war. 254 civilians. Many bodies killed and thrown into well. One of the main events that occurred and were spread by the Palestinians. This is event is used as one of the causes of why some many Palestinians left their villages during the Nakba due to them being afraid of this attack.*

Part II:

- *The Mass Exodus of the Palestinina refugees: The refugee situation waws so traumatic for the Palestinians because they left on a short notice. They thought they would come back and took very little with them. It was also very tough to move because they realized that they could not go back. Israeli forces often destroyed villages to prepare land for settlement. The situation for internal refugees was not any better. The Palestinians now live in campsand centers which are poorly equipped to care for such a large number of people. They were also unable to aquire a legal title. It was tough to claim absentee property and many were cut off from families. The 1948 war was a political adn psychological watershed. All hope for an Arab state were destroyed which made the whole sitution worse from a palestinian perspective.*

- *UN Partition Resolution of 1947:*

The Arab community thought that the Partition Resolution was unfair. The Arabs thought that the UN probably exceeded its leal competance in adopting a resolution. They also believe that it is illegal for Israel to exercise sovereignty overthose refugees of Palestine which UN allocated to the proposed Arab state. Also the makeup of the UN was unfair because at that time it had few African and Asian members. It was dominated by the U.S. and European Powers. Finally, the Arabs beleieves that there was a Western motivation for establishing Israel because the Arabs thought this creation helped to solve the west countries conscience for teh treatment of Jews during World War II by payn its own debt to the Jews. Arabs point out international law for thier cause and state: a "conquerer" does not in any way accquire soveirgn rights in teh occupoed territory but exercises a temporary right of administration on a

trustice basis.

The Israel resoponse to this is that it was acting with the consent of teh U.N. Assembly. 1949-armistice agreeement Arab achnoleged the rights in areas of each party to the conflict. Lines cannot be modified where you have a permenant peace agreement. Also since the Partition and plan where prevoked by Arab rejection and armed agression from entering into legal opperation, (thus) could not carry any legal efforts binding upon Israel. Israel would have followed if it had not been prevented from taking into effect!

Causes of the Palestinian Exodus:
Hundreds of thousands Palestinians left thier homes during and immediately after teh 1947-48 war. The reasons why the left and what should be done are different from both the Arab and Israeli side.

the Arabs believe that they were threatened by thier life and were affraid that they would get massacred. An event that is highly mentioned is the Deir Yassin village. This village massacred 254 defenseless civilians and many bodies were thrown into wells. The arabs believe that the Israeli motivation was to initate a fear among the Palestinian population. The arabs believe that this is not an isolated incident. It serves as a larger pattern of events that the Hagana (Israeli army) was doing. The Arabs believed that Deir Yassin was an act of revenge of an earlier massacre of Jews in Haifa. At Nasr al-Din, Irregular Jewish Soldiers entered the village and destroyed 45 houses and killed 7 (citation). The Arabs also believe that the Hagana officials ordered the attack of Deir Yassin. the arabs believe that psychological warfare was involved. There believed that Isreal actions were deliberate zionist efforts to drive Arabs out. Arabs cited Plan D as a strategy of total war. Some objectives included Luanching pre-planned counter-attacks on ememy-bases in teh heart of his territory whereever it is, including outside Palestine, occupying important high-ground positions within the Jewish state and within thier territores. Also occupying and controllign the enemy's bases in rural adn urban areas. The Arabs respond to the examples of Israels few instinces of claiming the Arabs to stay are not indicative of Zionist policy elsewhere. They generalize Haifa without citing the cases elsewhere.

The Israeli take on Deir Yassin is that they have a couple. They state that they were met with rebels and asked them to leave the area prior to coming in with the army through a megaphone system. This village was one of several that avoided cooperation due to Israeli intelligence. Israeli's defense of Plan D stated that it is not a political blue print for the expulstion of Palestinians. It is a military consideration and military ends. Also since securing the interior of the Jewish state was the # 1 priority and this meant depoppulation and destruction of villages that were hostile. When Israeli government heard the news of the atrocities, think they were false or initiated. They state that most actions that included violence was from local commanders acting on thier own initiation. This was more common among the Arabs. Most that were telling the stories about these massacres where among Arabs and the stories have been exaggerated. The arabs also did acts of hostility and were wihtout fault in teh eyes of the Israelis. The example the Israeli's bring is the ambush of a

convoy full of Dr, Nurses, teachers were killed by Arabs. They believe the Arab Propaganda spread the Arab atrocity stories. They believe the radio stations aim was to create hatred towards Jews. They are even examples of Jews trying to persuade Palestinians to stay. The decleration of Independance of Isreal calls for Arabs to stay. In the city of Haifa, Jewish workers council tell Arabs not to flee.

Part III:

- *Where did the Refugees Go? (click on the link to see a table of the distribution of refugees after the War and where they are they today!)*

After 1948, Gaza was given to Egypt and Egypt established Gaza as a nominal Palestinian Arab government led by Arab Higher commitee. The West Bank was controlled by trans-Jordan and was considered an extention by transJordan.

- *UNRWA- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is a relief and human development agency, providing education, health care, social services and emergency aid to over four million Palestinian refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, as well as in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and was created after the Arab/Israeli War.*

Initial solutions to the refugee Problem From the Israeli Side:
Solutions proposed by the Israelis:
1) Compostated of lost of property.
2) Lived in Arab lands replaced jewish Population
3) In compatibabel with Jewish state creation. It did not fit with Jewish as being the majority state if Pals return the jewish population will be the minority.

The three main reasons Israelis provided to explain the jewish immigration to Israel were:
1) Refugees result from war resolved with the countries to which displaced population had fled
2) Refugee status was maintained by the government taht they fled to. Denied citizenship to keep palestine idea alive
3) Religous, linguistic, and cultural affinities between palestininas adn other Arabs were such taht palestininas can be absorbed easily by neighbooring states.

- *UN Resolution 181 - was a plan approved by the General Assembly on November 29, 1947 to terminate the British Mandate of Palestine by August 1, 1948, and facilitate the creation of two states, one Jewish and one Arab. The plan was approved by a vote of 33 to 13, with 10 abstentions. The resolution was accepted by the Jews in Palestine, yet rejected by the Arabs in Palestine and the Arab states.*

- *The UN General Assembly resolution 194 (III)United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194 was passed on December 11, 1948, near the end of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. The resolution expresses appreciation for the efforts of UN Envoy Folke Bernadotte after his assassination by members of the Stern Gang. It deals with the situation in the region of Palestine at the time, establishing and defining the role of the United Nations Conciliation Commission as an organization to facilitate peace in the region. It also asked the Israelis to only accept the Palestinians willing to live in peace wiht their Jewish members. The Israelis did not follow this becasue the did not believe that the Palestinians would live in a Jewish society peacefully because they might be influenced by external pressures. This resolution still gets brought up today during peace negotiations when trying to settle the refugee issue. The Palestinians refugees total is now over 4.5 million today and the issue is still unresolved.*

Resource(from my discussion): Mark Tessler. "The Palestinian Disaster and Basic Issues after 1948," in A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. Bloomington, IN: Indiana Universoty Press, 1994, pp. 273-335.

Chronology

The Year of 1949

January-
February: Israeli-Egyptian armistice: Egypt keeps coastal strip Gaza-Rafah and evacuates Faluja pocket. IDF units intimidate 2-3,000 villagers to leave Faluja pocket: violation of thier Armistice Agreement.
March: Israeli-Lebanese Armistice: Frontier of Mandate Palestine accepted; Israel withdraws from most of Lebanese territory.
April: Israeli-Jordanian Armistice: Jordan takes over Iraqi-held Nablus-Jenin-Tulkarem triangle but is forced to cede area around Wadi 'Ara; Israel controls Chadera-Afula road;
May:
June:
July: Syrian-Israeli Armistice: demilitarized zones established around 'En Gev and Dardara (including Mishmar ha-Yarden).
August:
September:
October:
November:
December:

Reference: http://www.alnakba.org/chronology/seventh.htm

[Home Page]

<html> <head><title>webservices@umich.edu</title></head> <body bgcolor="#ffffff" >

Web SERVICES HOME

The Web Environment at U-M

U-M Personal WWW Server

You have reached the personal homepage server for the University of Michigan.

UM Gateway

The UM Gateway, http://www.umich.edu/, is an entry point to networked information created or maintained by units of the University.

Access Statistics

Access statistics for www.umich.edu and www-personal.umich.edu.

CGI Programs

CGI programs available for use on the UM World Wide Web servers.

Please contact: webmaster@umich.edu with questions or comments about the U-M web servers.

Disclaimer: The information and statements appearing on personal Web pages are solely those of the particular individuals who own the pages and do not reflect the view of, or sponsorship or endorsement by, The Regents of the University of Michigan (or The University of Michigan) and its employees and agents.

Timeline For the Month of December 1947

December 1: Arab League organizes Arab Liberation Army (ALA), a voluntary force of Arab irregulars under guerrilla leader Fawzi al-Qawuqji to help Palestinians resist partition.
December 2: Palestinians start three-day strike protesting UN partition resolution. Intercommunal clashes result in death of eight Jews and six Palestinians.
December 3:
December 4:
December 5: US State Department announces US embargo on arms shipments to Palestine and Arab states.
December 6:
December 7:
December 8: Britain recommends to UN that Palestine Mandate be terminated on 15 May 1948 and independent Jewish and Palestinian states be established two weeks later.
December 9: Arab League declares partition of Palestine illegal; it resolves to provide 10,000 rifles, 3,000 volunteers (including 500 Palestinians) and additional 1,000,000 pounds.
December 10:
December 11:
December 12:
December 13:
December 14:
December 15: British turns policing of Tel Aviv and Petah Tikva over to Jews and that of Jaffa to Palestinians.
December 16:
December 17: Jewish Agency Executive reports that American Jews will be asked for $250 million to help Jewish community in Palestine.
December 18:
December 19: Haganah attacks village of Khisas (Safed district) killing ten Palestinians.
December 20: Haganah attacks village of Qazaza (Ramleh district).
December 21: Arab Higher Committee organizes 275 local committees for defense of Palestinian towns and villages.

Source: Reference: http://www.alnakba.org/chronology/sixth.htm

Timeline of January 1948

January 1:
January 2:
January 3:
January 4:
January 5:
January 6: British sells 20 Auster planes to Jewish authorities in Palestine
January 7: Palestinian guerrilla leader 'Abd al-Qadir al-Husseini secretly returns to Palestine after ten-year exile to organize resistance to partition.
January 8: First contingent of 330 ALA volunteers arrives in Palestine.
January 9:
January 10:
January 11:
January 12:
January 13:
January 14: Haganah concludes $12,280,000 arms deal with Czechoslovakia, including 24,500 rifles, 5,200 machine guns and 54 million rounds of ammunition.
January 15:
January 16: British report to UN estimates 1,974 people killed or injured in Palestine from 30 November 1947 - 10 January 1948.
January 17:
January 18:
January 19:
January 20: British administration announces that predominantly Jewish or Palestinian areas will be gradually handed over to local majority group in every area concerned.
January 21: Second and third contingents of 360 and 400 ALA irregulars arrive in Palestine.
January 22:
January 23:
January 24:
January 25:
January 26:
January 27:
January 28: Second and third contingents of 360 and 400 ALA irregulars arrive in Palestine.
January 22:
January 29:
January 30:
January 31: JNF leaders encourage eviction from villages of Haifa area.

Source: Reference: http://www.alnakba.org/chronology/sixth.htm

Timeline of February 1948\

February 13: Haganah office set up in US under name "Land and Labor" for recruitment of professional military personnel (MAHAL).
February 14: Ben-Gurion issues orders to Haganah commander in Jerusalem for conquest of whole city and its suburbs.
February15:
February 16:
February 17
February 18: Haganah calls up men and women aged 25 - 35 for military service.
February 19:
February 20: Ship Independence arrives at Tel Aviv with 280 volunteers under oath to Haganah on board, implementing policy of illegal immigration of military personnel.
February 21:
February 22:
February 23:
February 24: US delegate to UN says role of Security Council regarding Palestine to keep peace, not enforce partition. Syrian delegate proposes appointment of Committee to explore possibility of Jewish
February 25: Agency - Arab Higher Committee agreement.
February 26:
February 27: Jewish Agency announces it will establish state even without backing of an international force.
February 28:

Reference: http://www.alnakba.org/chronology/sixth.htm

Timeline of March 1948

March 1: Transjordanian prime minister Tawfiq Abu al-Huda secretly meets British foreign secretary Bevin. They agree that Transjordanian forces will enter Palestine at end of Mandate.
March 2: US delegate tells Security Council US favors implementing partition by "peaceful measures" only.
March 3:
March 4:
March 5: Qawuqji enters Palestine and assumes command of ALA units in central Palestine.
March 6: Haganah declares general mobilization.
March 7:
March 8:
March 9:
March 10: British House of Commons votes to terminate Mandate on May 15th.
March 11:
March 12:
March 13:
March 14:
March 15:
March 16:
March 17:
March 18:
March 19: Ben-Gurion declares Jewish state dependent not on UN partition decision but on Jewish military preponderance.
March 20: US delegate asks UN Security Council to suspend action on partition plan and to convene General Assembly special session to work on a trusteeship but Jewish Agency rejects.
March 21:
March 22:
March 23:
March 24:
March 25: President Truman secretly receives Chaim Weizmann at White House and pledges support for declaration of Jewish state on May 15th.
March 26:
March 27:
March 28:
March 29:
March 30: Second coastal "clearing" operation carried out by Haganah Alexandroni brigade and other units.

Resource: http://www.alnakba.org/chronology/sixth.htm

April Timeline 1948

April 1: Ship Nora delivers first consignment of Czech arms in Haifa. UN Security Council call for a special session of General Assembly to get a truce between Jewish Agency and Arab Higher Committee.
April 2: Haganah captures Palestinian village of Castel, west of Jerusalem, expelling its inhabitants.
April 3:
April 4:
April 5: Palestinian and Zionist leaders object to US proposals of trusteeship agreement.
April 6: Haganah launches Operation Nachshon (first phase of Plan Dalet); Haganah Giv'ati Brigade and other units capture villages along Tel-Aviv - Jerusalem road from local Palestinian militia.
April 7:
April 8: Haganah starts offensive against Palestinian town of Tiberias.
April 9: 'Abd al-Qadir al-Husseini is killed leading counterattack to recover Castel village. Irgun and Stern Gang massacre some 120 inhabitants in village of Deir Yassin
April 10:
April 11:
April 12: General Zionist Council decides to establish independent Jewish state in Palestine on May 16th.
April 13: Operation Har'el under Plan Dalet launched and carried out from now on starting at Nachshon. Villages along Jerusalem road attacked and demolished.
April 14:
April 15:
April 16: British evacuate town of Safed.
April 17: Security Council resolution calls for military and political truce. Haganah starts offensive against town of Safed.
April 18:
April 19:
April 20: US submits Palestine trusteeship plan to UN.
April 21: British suddenly evacuate residential quarters of Haifa.
April 22: Haganah launches Operation Misparayim to attack and occupy Haifa. Resistance of local Palestinian militia in Haifa collapses and then flee under combined shelling adn ground offensives.
April 23:
April 24:
April 25: Launching of Operation Chametz to conquer Jaffa, Haganah attacks suburban villages of Tell Rish, Yazur and Salameh.
April 26: Launching of Operation Yevussi for conquest of whole of Jerusalem; Haganah attacks Palestinian residential quarter of Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem.
April 27: Haganah announces coordination of plans with Irgun.

April 28: Palestinian ALA unit under Michel Issa succeeds in fighting its way into Jaffa in order to break Haganah siege.
April 29:
April 30: All Palestinian quarters in West Jerusalem occupied by Haganah and residents driven out.

Reference: http://www.alnakba.org/chronology/sixth.htm

Timeline of May 1948

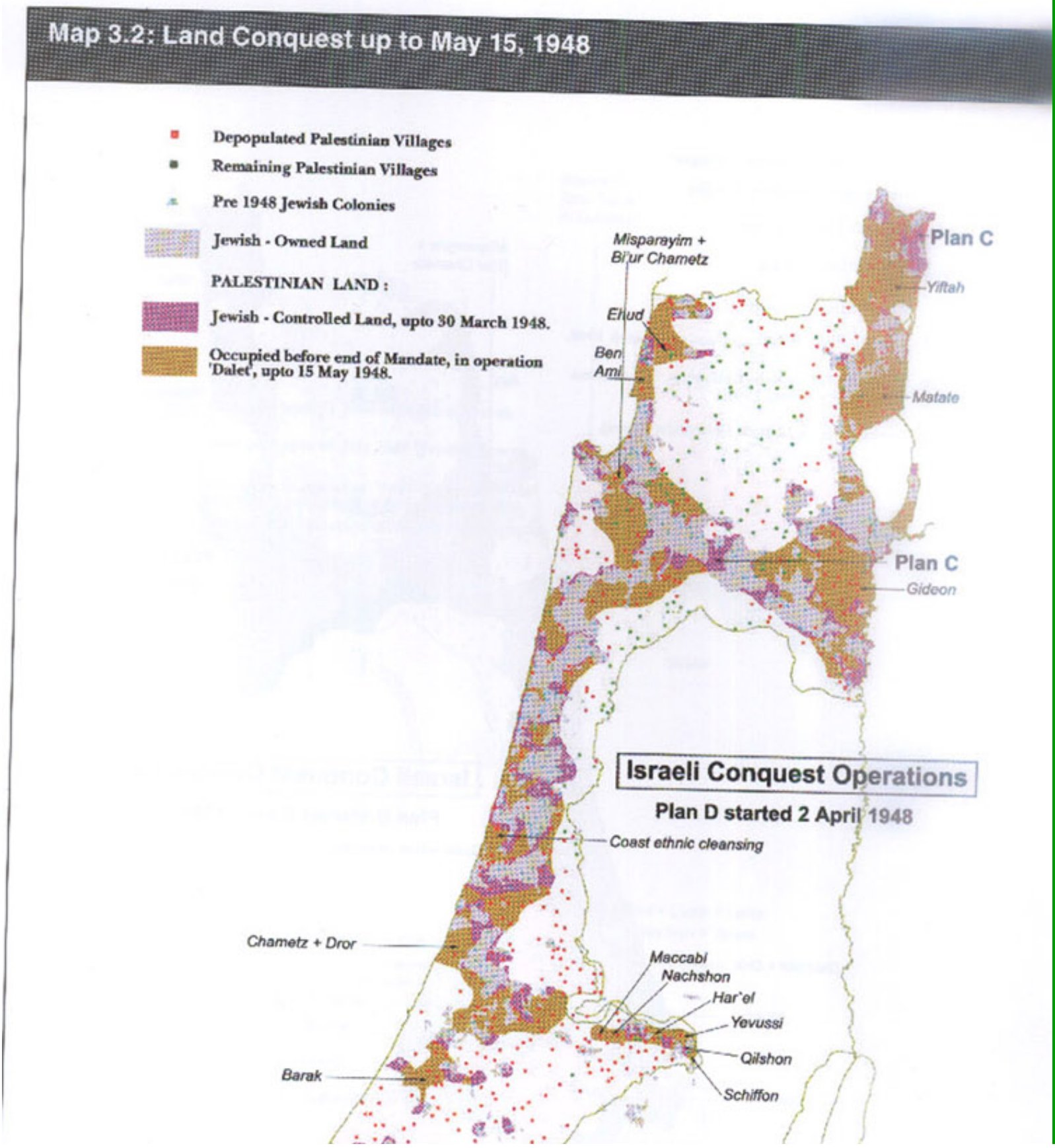
May 1: Lebanon and Syria decide to send troops to Palestine at end of Mandate on May 15th.
May 2: Iraq dispatches troops to town of Mafraq, in Transjordan, en route to Palestine after May 15th. Three planeloads of arms for Haganah arrive from France.
May 3: Between 175,000 and 200,000 Palestinian refugees are reported to have fled from areas taken by Zionists. Jewish colonists from Gush Etzion, south of Jerusalem, ambush traffic on road to city.
May 4: Unit of Transjordan Arab Legion, operating in Palestine under British command, shells Gush Etzion in retaliation for ambush.
May 5: ALA unit under Michel Issa withdraws from Jaffa, ending city's resistance.
May 6:
May 7:
May 8:
May 9:
May 10: Haganah enters Jaffa.
May 11: Haganah captures Safed and surrounding villages.
May 12: State of emergency declared in all Arab countries and able-bodied Palestinian men barred entry to them. Egyptian parliament decides to send troops to Palestine at end of Mandate.
May 13: Arrival of second and third Czech arms consignments for Haganah.
May 14: Arab Legion, ALA and local militia attack and capture Jewish settlements of Etzion bloc, retaliating for attacks on Hebron road. Jaffa formally surrenders to Haganah.
May 15: State of Israel proclaimed in Tel Aviv at 4pm. Haganah launches Operation Schfifon for capture of Old City of Jerusalem.
May 16: British Mandate ends. Declaration of State of Israel comes into effect. President Truman recognizes State of Israel.
May 17: Haganah captures Acre.
May 18: Syrian troops retake Palestinian town of Samakh, south of Lake Tiberias, and capture Zionist colonies of Shaar Hagolan and Masada.
May 19: Haganah breaks into Old City of Jerusalem. Arab Legion comes to the rescue of Old City.
May 20: UN Security Council appoints Count Folke Bernadotte as its mediator in Palestine.
May 21:
May 22: Security Council resolution calls for cease-fire.
May 23:
May 24:
May 25:
May 26:
May 27:
May 28:
May 29:

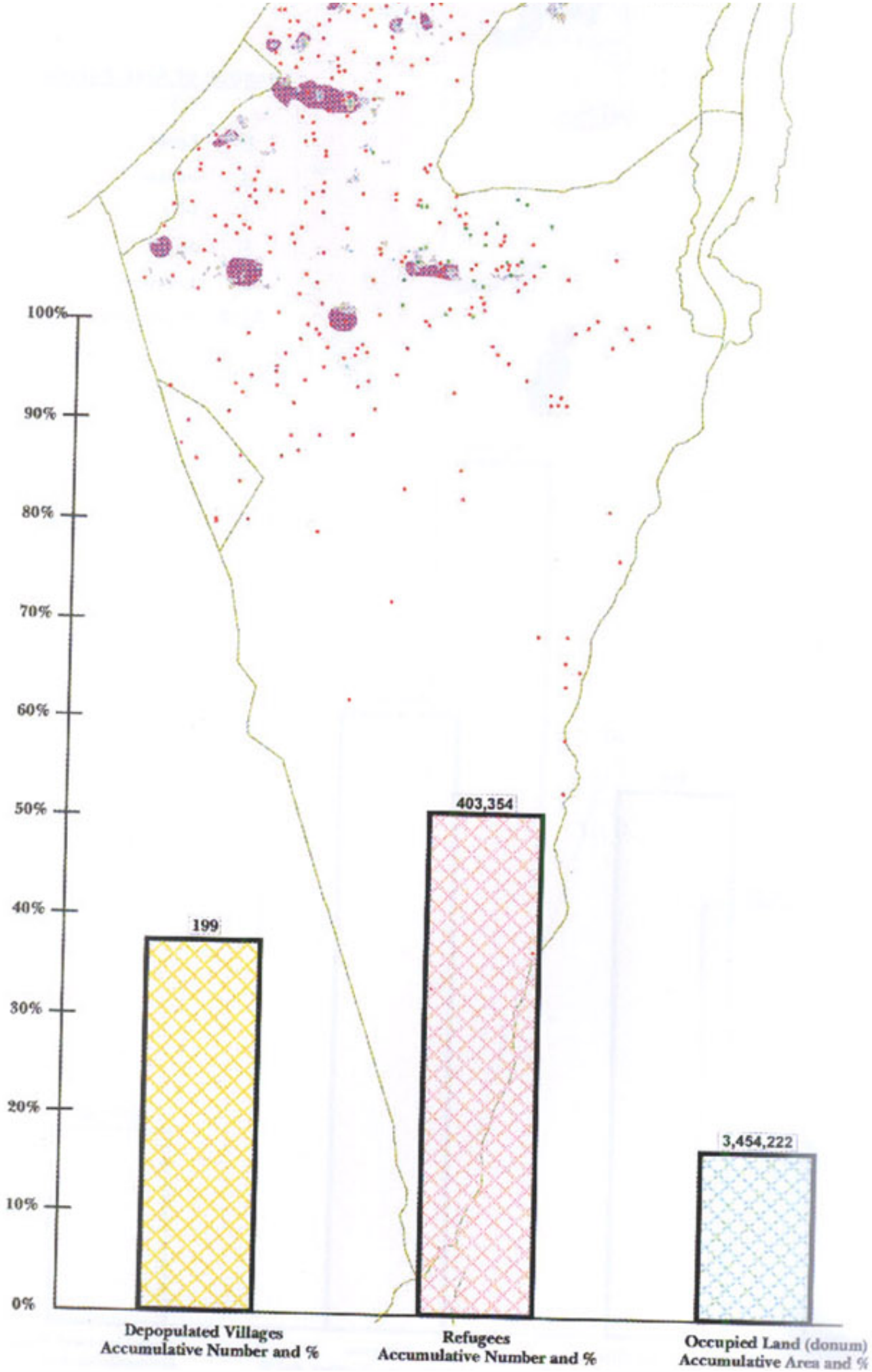
May 30:
May 31:

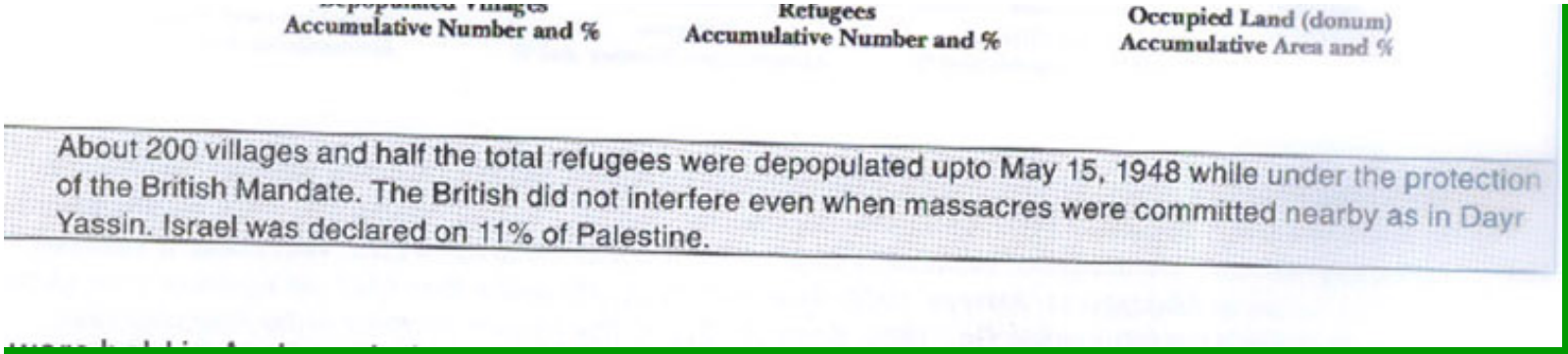
Reference: http://www.alnakba.org/chronology/sixth.htm

Land Conquest up to May 15, 1948

Please click on the Map to move to the next Map that shows a continuation of this map at a later date!




100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
199
403,354
3,454,222
Depopulated Villages
Accumulative Number and %
Refugees
Accumulative Number and %
Occupied Land (donum)
Accumulative Area and %



This is a Map similar to the first one but two months later with the date of May 15, 1948. An increase in refugees and depopulated villages. This time period also includes the Massacre of Deir Yassin. If you noticed, there is an increase in Occupied land of Israeli Military gains. The new detail added to the map is the brown shaded region over the land if Israel/Palestine which represents Land that was occupied by the Jewish military before the end of the mandate through Plan D.

Home Page

Source: Salman H. Abu-sitta. Atlas of Palestine 1948. Palestine Land Society London, 2004

Table 2.3: Jewish Immigration to Palestine (1920-1945)

Year	Authorized Jewish Immigration
1920	5,514
1921	9,149
1922	7,844
1923	7,421
1924	12,856
1925	33,801
1926	13,081
1927	2,713
1928	2,178
1929	5,249
1930	4,944
1931	4,075
1932	9,553
1933	30,327
1934	42,359
1935	61,854
1936	29,727
1937	10,536
1938	12,868
1939	16,405
1940	4,547
1941	3,647
1942	2,194
1943	8,507
1944	14,464
1945	12,751
1946	7,851
TOTAL	**376,415**

Source: *Survey of Palestine*, op. cit, Vol.1, Table 1, p.185 and Supplement; and McCarthy, Table A9-1, A9-2, p.171.

Notes:

Figures include authorized immigrants and others who entered as tourists and subsequently registered as immigrants. Figures do not include illegal/smuggled immigrants.

Table 3

Refugees Registered with UNRWA.

	REGISTERED REFUGEES 1950	REGISTERED REFUGEES 1959	REGISTERED REFUGEES 1979	REGISTERED REFUGEES 1992	REGISTERED REFUGEES 1999	IN CAMPS 1999	IN CAMPS 1999	IN CAMPS 1999
Jordan*	506,200	586,706	699,553	1,042,123	1,512,742	182,000	237,677	274,816
West Bank		321,722	472,473	569,741	82,299	124,307		153,380
Gaza	198,227	245,343	358,898	582,863	798,444	201,672	320,467	437,650
Lebanon	127,600	129,228	219,561	324,219	370,144	103,661	169,321	204,999
Syria	82,194	109,596	203,830	306,042	374,521	57,924	88,924	109,315
Israel **	45,800							
Total	960,021	1,070,783	1,803,564	2,727,820	3,625,592	627,956	904,696	1,118,160

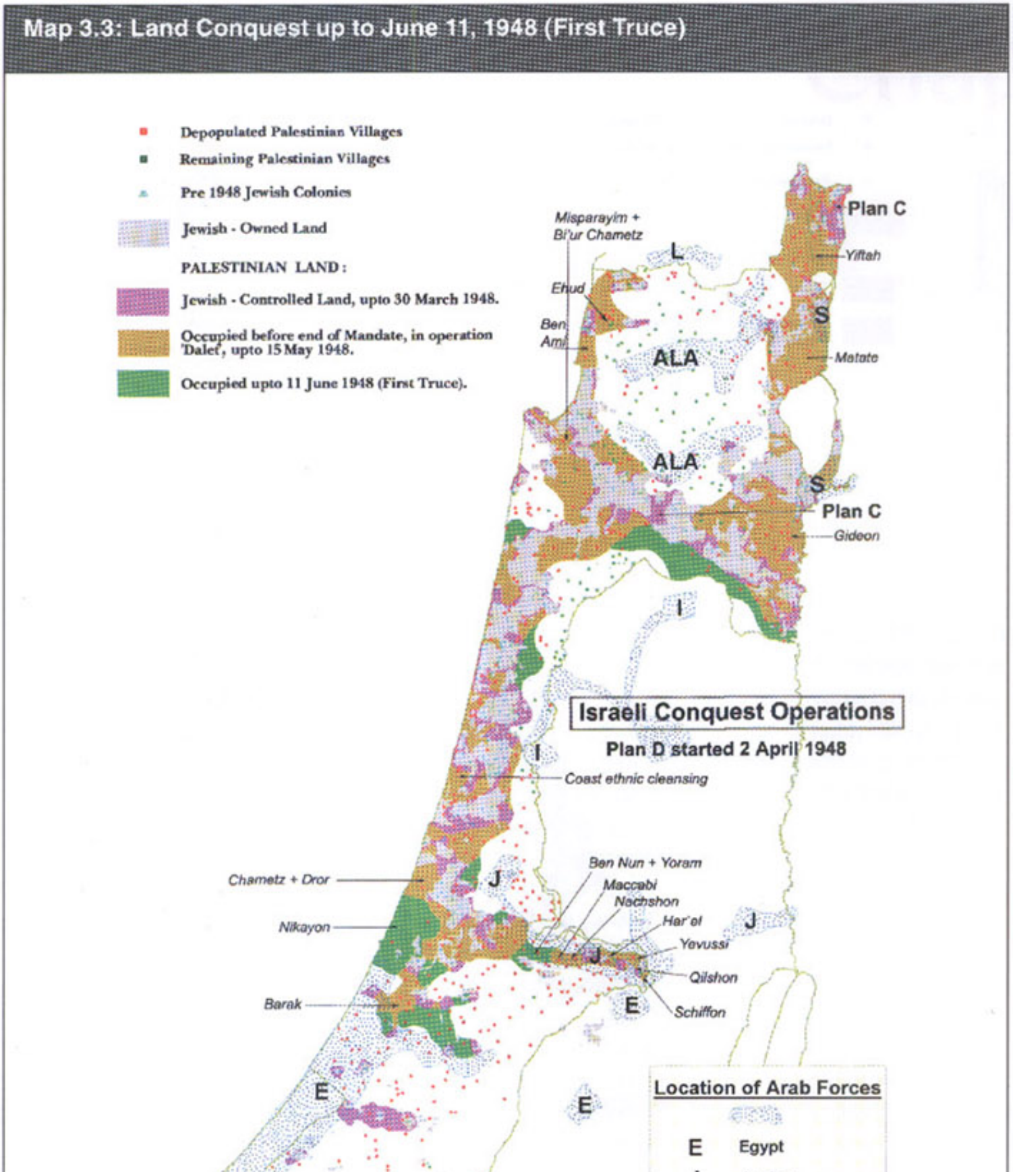
Table 4
Palestinians in 1970, 1990, and 2000 by Country of Residence (De Facto Population)

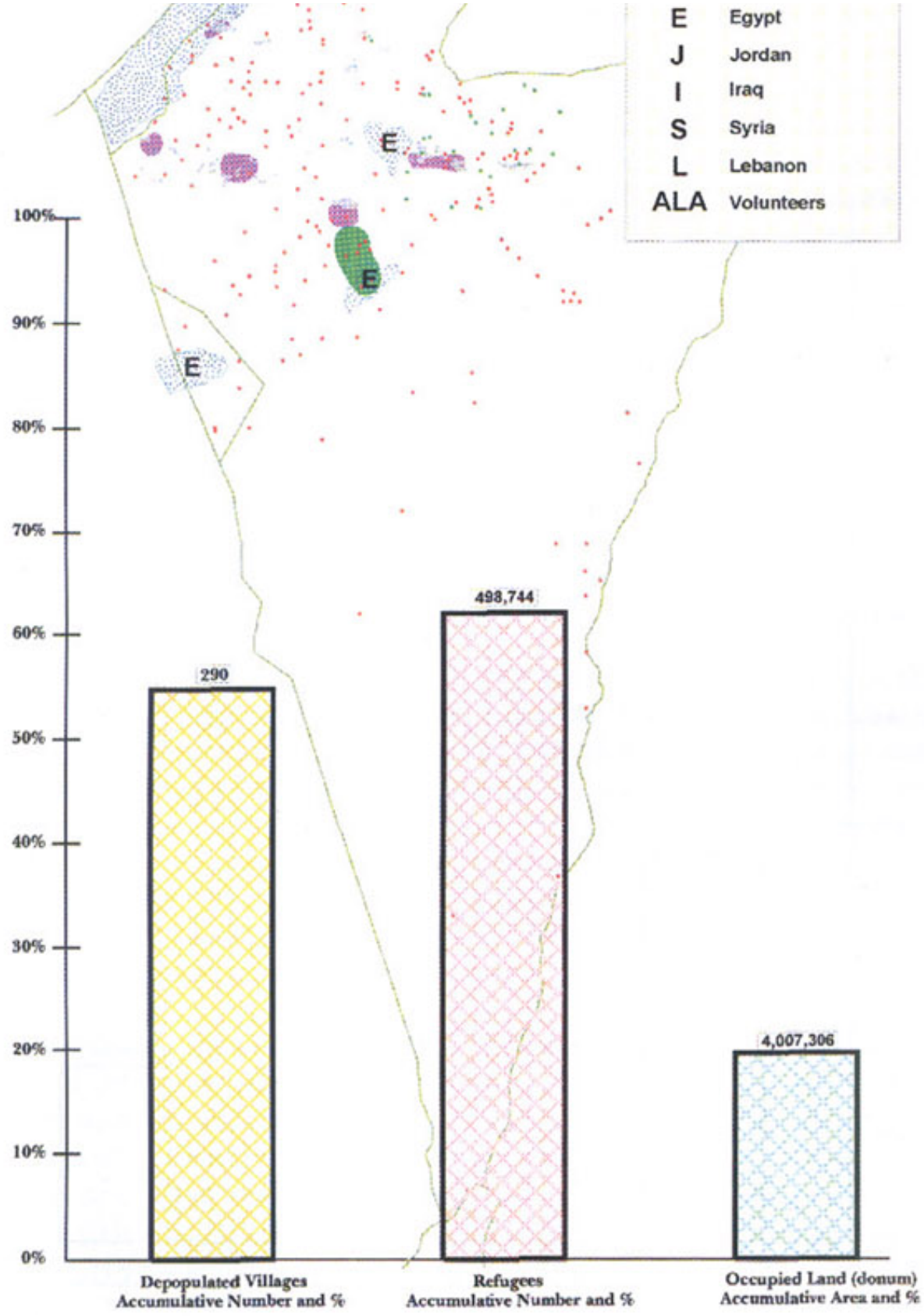
Country	PALESTINIANS 1970	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL	PALESTINIANS 1990	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL	PALESTINIANS 2000	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
Gaza	368,000	13.6	671,000	11.1	1,032,000	12.2
W. Bank	677,000	25.1	1,373,000	22.7	1,836,000	21.7
Israel	367,000	13.6	687,000	11.3	919,000	10.9
Jordan	592,000	21.9	1,524,000	25.3	2,626,000	31.1
Lebanon	247,000	09.1	332,000	05.5	463,000	05.5
Syria	156,000	05.8	302,000	05.0	411,000	04.9
Egypt	33,000	01.2	40,000	00.7	48,000	00.6
Libya	10,000	00.4	28,000	00.5	37,000	00.4
Iraq	15,000	05.2	30,000	00.5	42,000	00.5
Kuwait	140,000	01.1	312,000	5.2	30,000	00.4
S. Arabia	31,00	01.1	206,000	03.4	299,000	03.5
Other Gulf	25,000	00.9	87,000	01.4	105,000	01.2
Other	40,000	01.5	441,000	07.3	606,000	07.2
TOTAL	2,701,000	100.00	6,033,000	100.00	8,454,000	100.00

Sources: Author's calculations, based on national censuses, PLO, 1983, Kossaifi, 1980; U.S. Census, 1991; PCBS, 1997

Land Conquest up to June 11, 1948(First Truce)

Please click on the Map to move to the next Map that shows a continuation of this map at a later date!





Arab regular forces entered Palestine on 15 May to rescue what was left of it. None entered the area designated as Jewish state in the Partition Plan. Sources for Maps 3.3 to 3.8: Adapted from Carta, Jerusalem, 1983; Aref al-Aref, *The Disaster: Disaster of Bayt al-Maqdis and of Paradise Lost, 1947-1952*. 6 Volumes. [Arabic] Sidon: al-Maktaba al-'Asriyya, 1956; Ibrahim Shakib, *Palestine War 1948, an Egyptian View*. [Arabic] Cairo: Al Zahra Arab Information Co., 1986; Kamil al-Sharif, *The Muslim Brothers in the Palestine War*. [Arabic] Zarqa: Maktabat al-Manar, 3rd edition, 1984 and others.

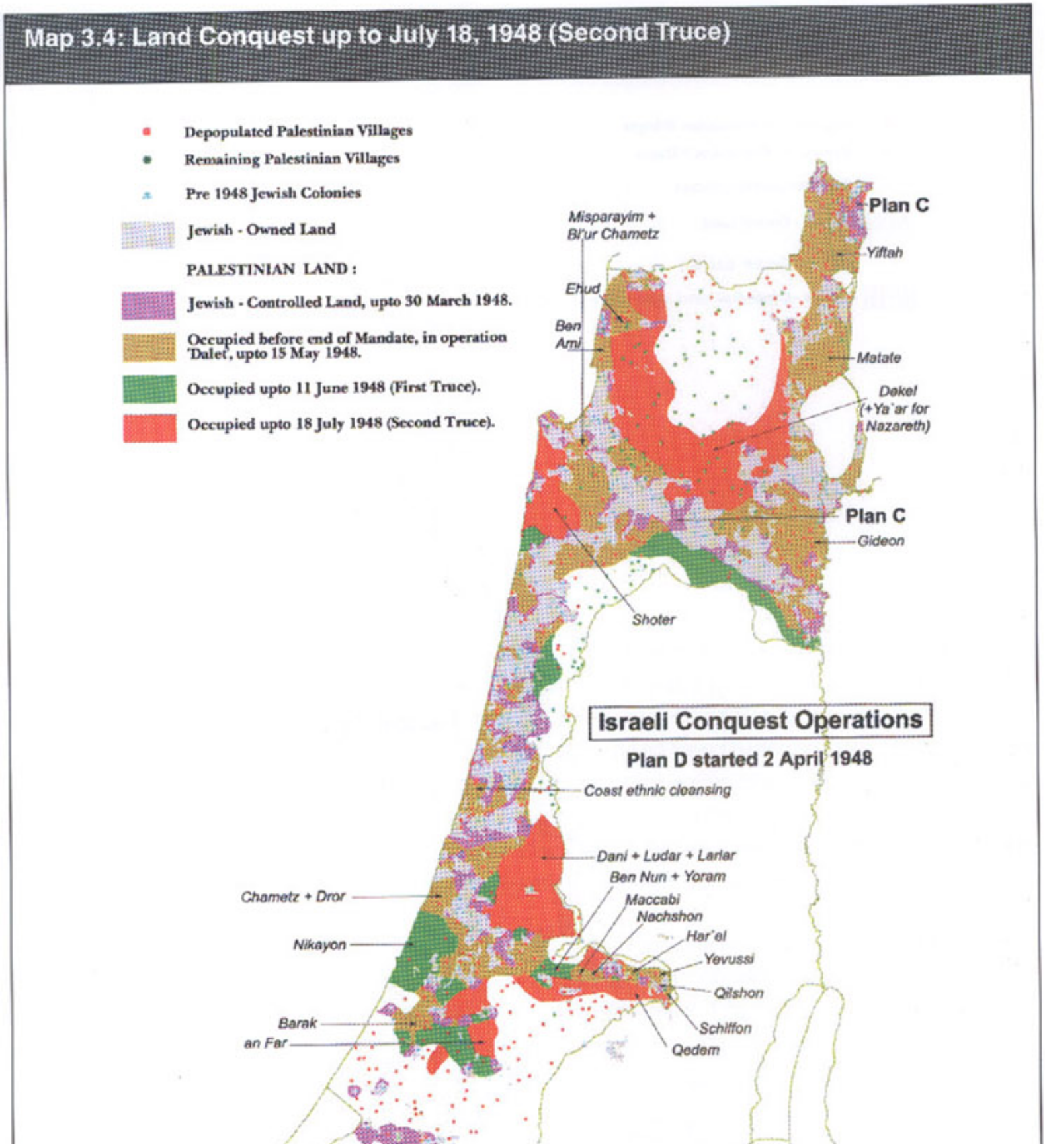
This map continues to accumulate the numbers of Refugees and depopulated villages up until the first truce on June 11, 1948. The green colored area is the new additional area that is Occupied by the Miltary forces. Now there are abbreviation of Arab Forces for they have declared a war on Israel after May 15, 1948 and have entered Israel. The letter represents the Arab forces that were involved in the war.

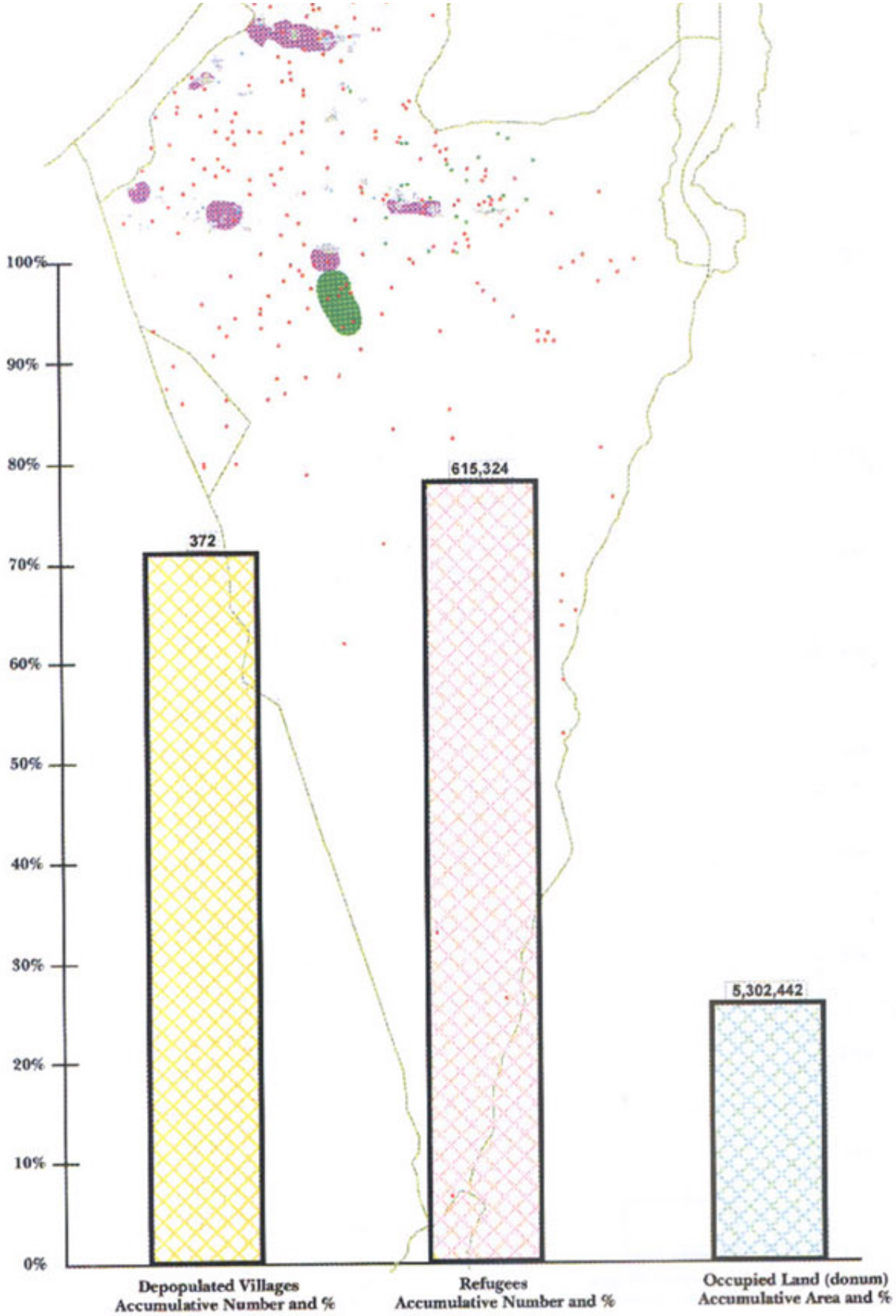
Home Page

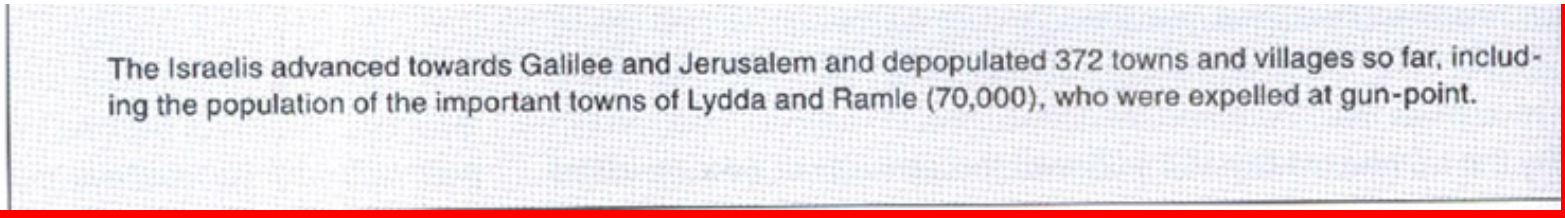
Source: Salman H. Abu-sitta. Atlas of Palestine 1948. Palestine Land Society London, 2004

Land Conquest up to July 18, 1948 (Second Truce)

Please click on the Map to move to the next Map that shows a continuation of this map at a later date!




100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
372
615,324
5,302,442
Depopulated Villages
Accumulative Number and %
Refugees
Accumulative Number and %
Occupied Land (donum)
Accumulative Area and %


The Israelis advanced towards Galilee and Jerusalem and depopulated 372 towns and villages so far, including the population of the important towns of Lydda and Ramle (70,000), who were expelled at gun-point.

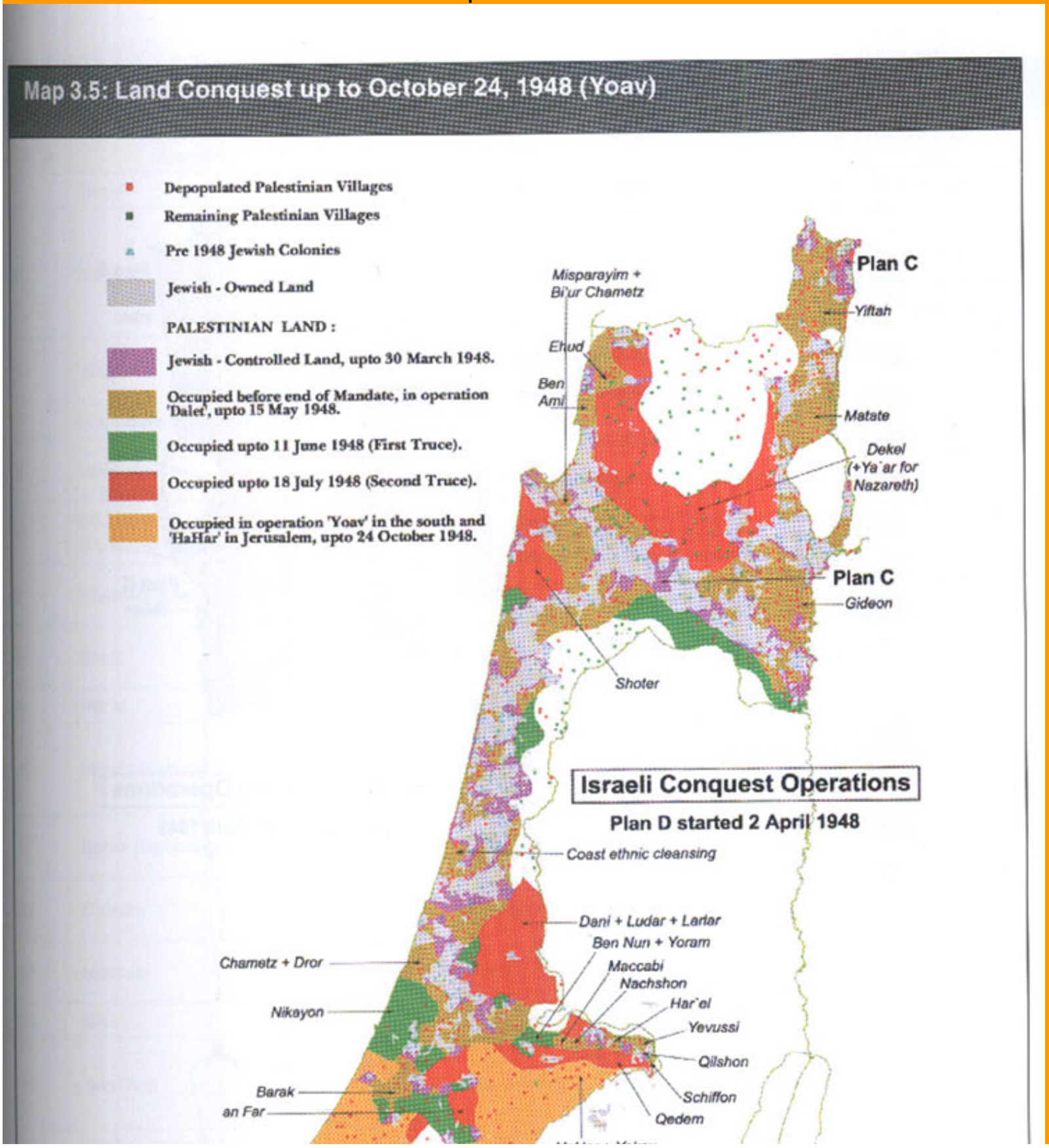
This continues from the previous maps and also shows the increased Land occupied in the color of a light red up until the Second Truce on July 18, 1948. The number of refugees and number of depopulated villages have risen to over 600,00 people and 372 villages respectively.

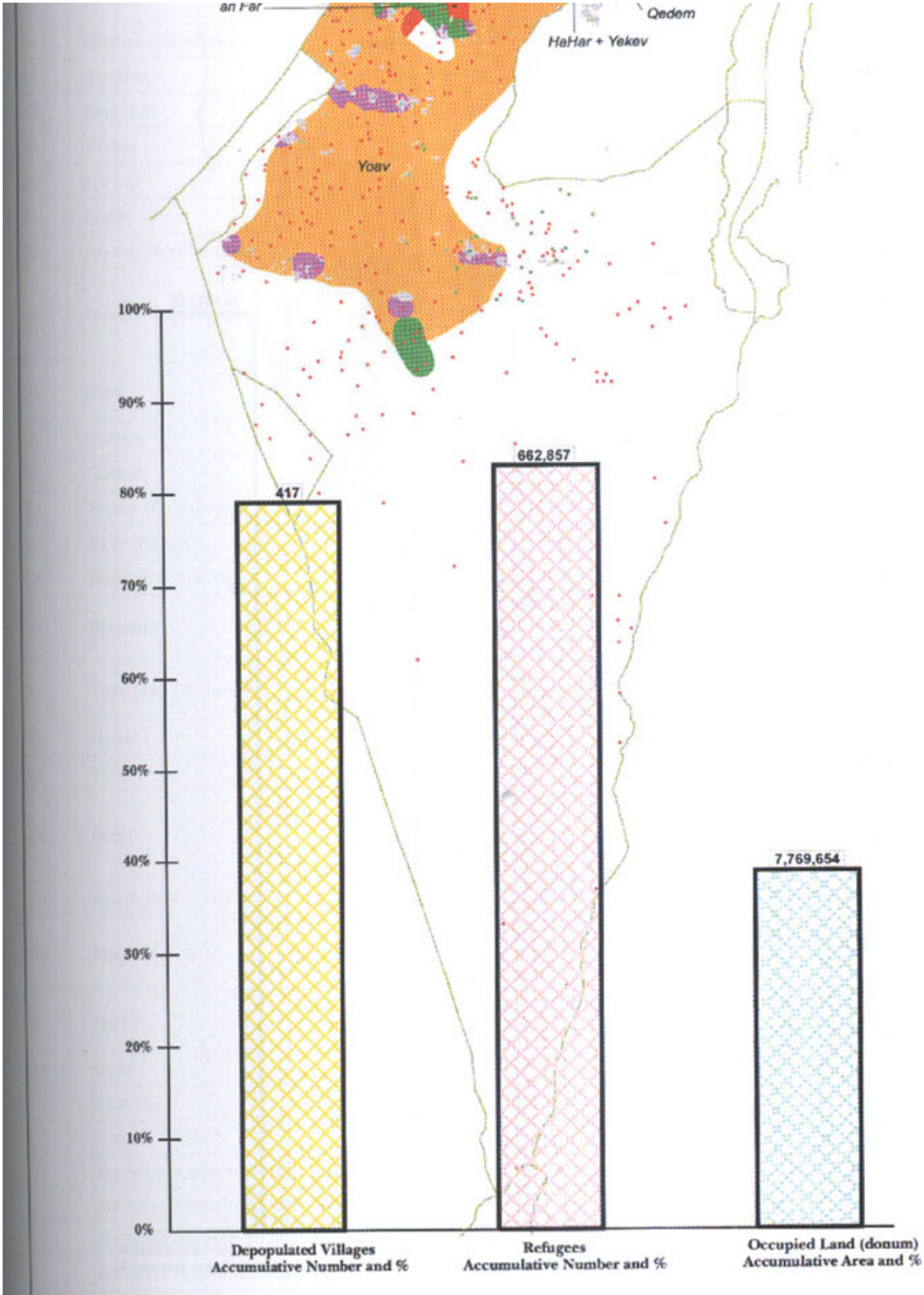
Home Page

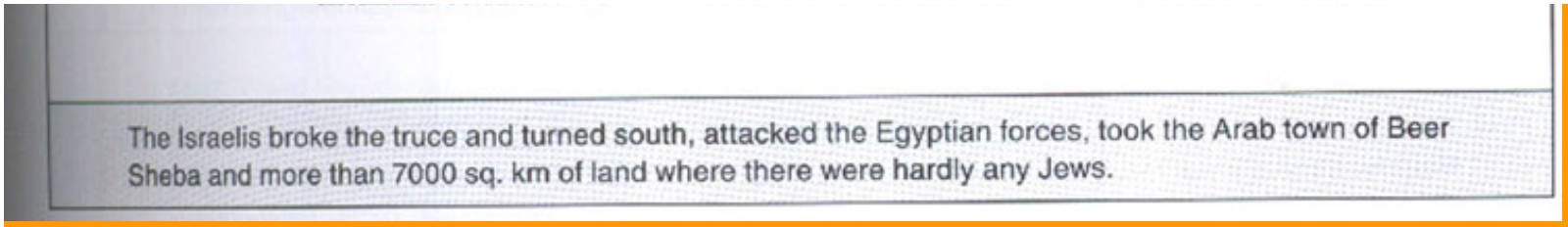
Source: Salman H. Abu-sitta. Atlas of Palestine 1948. Palestine Land Society London, 2004

Land Conquest up to October 24, 1948(Yoav)

Please click on the Map to move to the next Map that shows a continuation of this map at a later date!




an Far
Qedem
HaHar + Yekev
Yoav
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
417
662,857
7,769,654
Depopulated Villages
Accumulative Number and %
Refugees
Accumulative Number and %
Occupied Land (donum)
Accumulative Area and %



The numbers are increasing in the Land being occupied by Israelis, Palestinian Refugees , and the number of depoulated villages. This is an updated map of Israeli military Land conquest up until October 24, 1948. The orange shaded area gained is mostly in the center region of the Land and started to spread to the south.

Home Page

Source: Salman H. Abu-sitta. Atlas of Palestine 1948. Palestine Land Society London, 2004

Early Operations Of Israeli Intelligence

From the time Israel was founded on May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion - the first Prime Minister of Israel - and other Israeli leaders made a conscious decision: Israel would need the finest secret services in the world. Israel is a tiny country surrounded by powerful enemies with far greater numbers and wealth than the Jewish State had then or possesses today. Israel would have to make up for its disadvantage in terms of numbers, land mass and natural resources by the finest armed forces it could possibly construct. For the armed forces to be effective - and to prevent armed confrontation, if possible - the secret services would have to be vigilant, active, and cunning; they would have to be ready to provide information about enemy strengths, weaknesses, plans and initiatives at a moment's notice. They would have to have agents throughout the world, including and especially in the Arab world. As Israeli recruits were told once, during training, "'We are good at our task because the alternative is too horrifying to contemplate.'"

During the British Mandate period (1917-1948) Zionist intelligence agencies were quite good. The Jewish Underground movements - and primarily the Haganah - were often able to obtain advanced reports of planned British actions, which enabled Jewish undergound leaders to hide, escape, or change plans before the British plan became operational. As some of you may remember from last semester, on June 29, 1946 - called the "Black Sabbath" in the annals of the Yishuv, the British raided the Jewish Agency Headquarters in Jerusalem and arrested some of its leaders, while rounding up 2700 members of the Haganah and Palmach.

David Ben-Gurion, then the head of the Jewish Agency and de facto leader of the Yishuv, was in Paris at the time. Many other Jewish Agency leaders and just about all of the Haganah and Palmach high command - such as Yisrael Galili and Yitzhak Sadeh - went into hiding and escaped. They were able to do so because they knew precisely when the British would strike. A British officer serving in the Sarafand Military camp (near Tel-Aviv) handed over to the Haganah's Information Service - Shai - the plans for the impending operation. The British officer refused payment, wishing only to share a room with his Jewish girlfriend. The Haganah covered the cost of the room - about 8 pounds a month. In return, the officer turned over a 600 page document describing not only British plans for the raid in detail, but almost all the material gathered on the Haganah by the British Intelligence Services from the early days of the Mandate until 1946.

Shai, short for "Sherut Yediot" - or the "Information Service" of the Haganah - was officially founded in 1940. Its antecedents went back much further; the NILI spies were a very effective intelligence service working for the British and against the Turks in World War I. As early as the April riots of 1920 in Jerusalem, Jews had warned the British of an impending outbreak of Arab violence. The Haganah was officially founded that year, 1920, and thereafter intelligence always played a major part in the Haganah's planning and activities. Shai itself was divided into three departments; a British department, designated to infiltrate the British Army, Police, and Government in Mandatory Palestine; an Arab Department, headed by a Jewish Arabist, Ezra Danin; and an internal department dealing with

Jews such as Irgun and Lehi members, to the right of the political spectrum, and Jewish communists, to the far left. Isser Harel, who emerged to be a giant of Israeli Intelligence from 1952-63, headed this department. During that period, he recruited and integrated former right-wing dissidents from Lehi and in some cases even from the Irgun, into the Secret Services. His intention was to make them feel like an integral part of the new state. In return, he received their undivided loyalty. One of the former high-ranking Lehi members recruited into the Mossad was former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The three-department system the Shai set up remained in effect, pretty much unchanged, until the Shai was disbanded soon after the state of Israel was created. In the 1930's and 1940's Haganah Intelligence (and after 1940, Shai) scored some notable successes through their network of Arab agents and friendly British contacts. The Yishuv was blessed with a number of Arabic-speaking and Arab-looking Jews, mainly those Jews who had been born in Arab countries. Some of them were sent back to their countries of birth as Israeli agents, and some infiltrated Palestinian Arab villages and towns inside the borders of the British Mandate. There were other organizations performing similar work, such as the Arab Platoon of the Palmach, which (composed of Arabic-speaking and Arab-looking Jews) did similar work to the Shai's Arab department. Beyond that there was Rekhesh, a secret organization charged with obtaining weapons for the Yishuv by whatever means necessary. Finally, the Mossad le-Aliyah Bet organized and brought illegal immigrants to Palestine in "violation" of the British White Paper. Their contacts and sheer organizational magnitude were tremendous.

Once the United Nations voted for partition on November 29, 1947, however, the Jewish secret services lost many of their contacts with Palestinian and other Arabs. Arabs could no longer be contacted due to the fighting that had broken out, which made communication difficult. Many Arabs were no longer willing to work against their own people once hostilities broke out. All in all, Haganah Intelligence from November 1947 through May 14, 1948 was rather poor. They were only able to gain the planned routes of Arab invasion a week before they took place. Many in the Yishuv leadership didn't really believe that the British would leave or that the regular Arab armies would attack. They were woefully mistaken on both counts. As Ben-Gurion remarked, to paraphrase, the young state was fighting with its eyes closed. It knew very little about enemy intentions and plans.

In spite of all that, two Israeli actions in the summer and fall of 1948 stand out, and are early examples of later, phenomenal successes that became the trademark of the Israeli Secret Services in the 1960's, 1970's, and 1980's. And in contrast to many of the more recent Israeli successes, these two operations took place mainly on the sea.

In early February 1948, a plane took off from a Middle Eastern airport. It was a Swissair flight to Paris. A young Syrian Army officer, Captain Abdul-Aziz Kerine, sat in the first class section. He was on his way to Prague, via Paris, as a representative of Syria's Ministry of Defense. He had orders to buy 10,000 Czech rifles for the purpose of driving the Jews into the sea.

A few seats behind the Syrian Army captain sat another passenger on a mission much like Abdul-Aziz Kerine's. His name was Ehud Avriel, one of the moving figures behind the secret Haganah arms purchasing unit, Rekhesh. The Jews were desperately short of weapons. Rifles and machine guns were in short supply. As of May 1948, the Jews in Palestine had no tanks, air force, or navy. (Although they would have a tiny air force and navy once the regular Arab armies invaded in May 1948).

Rekhesh and the Mossad le-Aliyah Bet (The organization for Illegal Immigration) all contributed to the daring, bravado, cunning, and intelligence that came to characterize the Israeli Secret Services. Shaul Avigur stood at the head of Rekhesh and the Mossad le-Aliyah Bet. Based in Geneva and Paris, many Israeli secret agents learned the tricks of the trade under Avriel. "Those who worked for Mossad found themselves arranging escape routes, false passports, safe houses...and chartering ships to take (Jews) to Palestine, all under the noses of the British secret service, then still regarded as the finest in the world." They set up fake corporations which could not be traced, established false identities, and ran a fully operational clandestine organization hundreds, even thousands of miles away from their homes in Palestine.

Rekhesh and the Mossad took part in many dazzling operations, including the stealing of two British planes in while making a war film in England requiring flying sequences. None, however, were as dazzling as " Operation Thief", which began with our discussion of Ehud Avriel and the Syrian Captain Abdul-Aziz Kerine above.

While traveling around the various arms manufacturers in Czechoslovakia, Ehud Avriel became aware that another man was following the same route. After a number of inquiries it was established that this was the same man who travelled with him via Swissair from the Middle East to Paris. Abdul-Aziz Kerine was attempting to augment the Syrian Army's arsenal. There was already a lopsided discrepancy in weapons supply in favor of the Arabs. Trans-Jordan was commanded by British officers and possessed the finest British equipment. Egypt had a lot of materiel left over by the British Army after the desert battles of World War II, climaxing at El-Alemein. The Syrian purchases could determine whether the Jewish State could sink or swim.

Kerine's purchase was not huge - but at the time it would have added a considerable amount of offensive power to the Syrian Army. He bought 6000 rifles and 8,000,000 rounds of ammunition. With the combined forces of the Arabs within Palestine, the Egyptians, the Jordanians, the Iraqis, and even the Lebanese, the Syrian force could prove decisive. A strong Syrian force could overrun the Jewish settlements of the Northern Galilee. Thus when Shaul Avigur (after being tipped of from Avriel) informed David Ben-Gurion of the purchase, Ben-Gurion didn't hesitate. This shipment would be stopped at all costs.

However, it was already on the high seas, aboard an old Italian tramp steamer, the SS Lino. Nobody had much of an idea how to handle it. They thought first of bombing it from the air with one of the recently purchased (and under-equipped) Haganah planes. The Haganah planes had no bomb doors, so the plan was for one of the crew members to roll it out at low altitude and hope for the best. For three days the pilots of the Haganah force combed the seas without success. The mystery was soon cleared up on March 30, 1948, when Shaul Avigur cabled Munya Mardor (another high-ranking Haganah officer) that the ship was in port in Yugoslavia, for unknown reasons.

The SS Lino was soon on the seas again, but on April 1 a ferocious storm erupted in the Mediterranean. Air searches became impossible. An alternative plan was developed by the Haganah to outrun and board the Lino on the high seas with the use of a yacht they had purchased. But before that plan was implemented the Lino developed engine trouble and pulled into the Italian port of

Molfetta in southern Italy. A plan was quickly developed to blow up the ship in port.

Ada Sereni, the widow of the Italian Jew Enzo Sereni, who had parachuted behind German lines during World War II and was subsequently captured and killed in Dachau by the Nazis, was behind the plan. Ada Sereni was now working for Shaul Avigur in Italy. Knowledgeable about the local scene, she took advantage of bitterly contested general elections between the Christian Democrats and the Communists. Both sides were extremely suspicious of the other.

Ada Sereni thus telephoned a friend whom worked for a Christian Democratic newspaper and told him that the Communists were landing and gathering arms. She informed him that there was a ship docked in Molfetta loaded with weapons. "Within twelve hours that news was on the front page of every newspaper in the land. The government feared a Communist coup; the Communist newspapers immediately branded the accusations as provocations." The Communists claimed that the right-wing parties planned to use the weapons to suppress the Communists. The government decided to arrest the crew and tow the ship out of Molfetta, to the military harbor of Bari. In modern parlance, it was a sitting duck.

A small number of Palmach demolition experts quickly moved into action. They had to. The ship's captain soon revealed the true story to the Italian authorities; the arms belonged to the Syrians, and the ship had only put into port due to the weather and engine trouble. The Italians would be eager to defuse the political tensions that had sprung up as a result of the affair, and in all likelihood would release the ship from detention soon.

The sense of urgency became palpable when rumors began circulating that the British were applying pressure on the Italians to release the ship. As some of you may remember from lecture 12 last semester, the British permitted arms to flow freely into Arab countries prior to the war of independence, while they maintained a blockade on the Palestine coast. The Jews were afraid that the British might be involved in the Lino affair as well. As if to confirm that fear, a British naval destroyer had pulled into the harbor near the Lino.

The Haganah hastily prepared a plan of action. They hired a fishing boat and planned to disguise themselves as party revelers, changing into diving gear when out of sight. They would row to the entrance to the harbor, avoiding searchlight activity. Then they were to dive in, fix the mine, and swim back to the boat and row back to shore.

For the rest of the day they worked on preparing a mine. They had to be careful that the mine wouldn't explode too soon after they placed it on the ship, while they would still be swimming away. At 9 p.m. they loaded the truck with the dinghy and the mine and set off for the harbor. Most of the harbor was deserted. "What was alarming, however, was the degree of activity on the British destroyer. Its searchlight was sweeping the harbor, and sailors were busy on its decks. But there was no question of turning back." They had to destroy the ship while in port, or else it would set out to sea again.

The sappers moved into action. The searchlight from the British destroyer combed the area while the sappers swam towards the ship. The dinghy and a few other boats waited for them to return.

They only did so at 4 a.m. They had gotten to within yards of the Lino but they could not get any closer, due to the British searchlights and activity on both the British destroyer and the Syrian ship. "It was as if they had been expected." They removed the detonators from the mine and having no choice, left it there.

The next night they returned with a new mine they had assembled during the day. "If anything, the activity on the British destroyer was greater than the night before. There were lights everywhere, orders being shouted, even a volley of rifle shots..." Only at 1:30 a.m. did the reason for all this activity become clear. With a wail of its siren, the British destroyer was moving out to sea on half engines. They had never even suspected the Israelis were there. With the British gone, the Lino was now an easy target.

The Palmach sappers slipped into the water and within minutes had attached the mine to the ship. They swam away without waiting for the explosion. When the mine did explode, at 4 a.m., they were safely on the road to Rome. The ship went down within ten minutes.

This, however, was not the end of the affair. The Syrians informed the Italians of what had happened, and insisted that that they help dredge up the ship from the bottom of the sea. The Italians agreed to do it. When the rifles, thickly greased, were brought up from the sea, they were still in good condition. They were then thoroughly cleaned and stored in a warehouse for the time being.

By the time the rifles were dredged up the State of Israel had come into being. Ada Sereni by then was officially working for the Israeli secret service. There was no way Israel would let these weapons get to Syria if anything could be done about it. But the Italians were cooperating with the Syrians. More than that, the Italians did not want a similar incident such as the mining of the ship to happen at the warehouse where the Syrian weapons were temporarily being stored. Thus they were maintaining a heavy guard. The Israelis would not be able to get at the weapons in Italy. It would have to be on the high seas after all.

Colonel Mardam, the Syrian who had taken over the purchasing mission, suspected nothing from the Israelis. He looked for another ship, but had difficulty finding one suitable for his purposes - until the owner of the hotel he was staying at suggested a shipping agency in Rome. The Menara Shipping Agency proved very cooperative and Mardam soon bought the SS Argiro. Mardam had no idea that the hotel manager was in the service of the Israelis, and the Menara Shipping Agency had ties with the Jewish Underground from the post World War II period, from gun-running through smuggling immigrants into Palestine.

At the last minute, the captain of the SS Argiro reported that two of his sailors were ill. They were summarily replaced - with Palmach agents.

The boat, purchased in Rome, sailed for Bari in early August. From there Mardam supervised the loading of the arms and set sail for the open sea on August 19. Captain Mardam's job was over and he flew back to Syria. The ship, however, soon developed engine problems. This was not due to coincidence. A fishing vessel offered assistance to the immobilized ship. The two men who boarded

the Argiro were also Israeli agents. With the two other agents already aboard the Israelis quickly overpowered the crew and took control of the ship. Then they radioed their commanders in Israel to tell them the news.

The Argiro was met by two small Israeli Navy boats on the way to Haifa. Both the Italian crew and the Israeli agents were transferred to them while the SS Argiro was summarily sunk. The whole affair ended as a remarkably successful example of intelligence and espionage. All of the Syrian weapons were now in Israeli hands - and no bloodshed had been incurred.

Colonel Mardam was not so lucky. He was accused by the Syrian Government of collaborating with the Israelis and was sentenced to death. The Israelis made the exceedingly rare move of revealing their plans to the Syrians in order to save the man's life. The Syrians spared Colonel Mardam.

In late October 1948, the Israeli Navy performed another feat of daring and resourcefulness. For some days a flotilla of Egyptian vessels had been coming very close to the Tel-Aviv coastline. This included the flagship of the Egyptian Navy, the Emir Farouk. For a number of days the Israeli and Egyptian Navies had been acting in a threatening manner which was liable to escalate at any time. This mini-escalation took place amidst the largest IDF offensive of the war - **Operation Yoav**, which was a major Israeli advance into the Negev, all the way down to Eilat and the Red Sea. The Emir Farouk's actions were seen as a threat to Operation Yoav and the IDF General Staff ordered action. The Emir Farouk was to be sunk.

This would not be an easy operation. The Emir Farouk moved about with two ships for escort, including a minesweeper, "and both usually stayed within protective range of coastal batteries." The small Israeli Navy could not sink it with conventional methods. A small assault force would have to be found. It was - a specially trained group of naval commandos led by Yochai Bin-Nun would undertake the operation.

Yochai Bin Nun was born in Haifa in 1924 and volunteered for service in the Haganah at an early age. By 1942, at the age of 18, he was already a recognized figure in the Palmach - the elite strike force of the Haganah - serving in the Upper Galilee and Jezreel Valley area. He turned out to be "one of the most capable infantry squad leaders in the Palmach", noted for his prowess as "'a sapper with a keen knowledge of explosives'" as he would recall later. He was to trade his land-based service for underwater operations. He would remain in IDF Navy Service for the next thirty years, rising to the rank of commander.

Trained to deal with the freezing cold and to swiftly and silently approach their targets, Yochai Bin Nun's crew was the obvious choice to perform the operation against the Emir Farouk. The operation, however, almost never got off the ground. Yigael Yadin, the IDF Chief of Operations and Deputy Chief of Staff, refused to authorize the operation. Undaunted, the Israeli Naval Commander Gershon Zaq drove to the home of Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion to argue his case. "Ben-Gurion, however, exhausted after a week of touring the front lines, was taking a nap, and Mrs. Ben-Gurion refused to awaken her sleeping husband. Zaq's (refusal) to allow a sleeping prime minister to ruin the (Navy's) golden opportunity to strike at the heart of the Egyptian fleet persisted to the point, according to legend, where Mrs. Ben-Gurion had to reach for a revolver in the nearby dresser and order the navy

commander to back off. The ruckus awoke Ben-Gurion who rubbed his eyes, grabbed a pitcher of water, and agreed to grant a five-minute audience to the stubborn naval officer." At first Ben-Gurion was very much against the plan, but Zaq soon convinced him it could be done. The news was quickly relayed to the wireless set on the main ship they would be using, the Ma'oz.

Bin-Nun and his men went to work right away. They approached the Egyptian flotilla off the coast of Gaza. They had four specially designed crafts filled with explosives which were intended to carry their operator to within 100 yards of their target. From there, the operator would aim his craft at the enemy ship, set the ship speeding off towards its target, and then seconds later, jump out, his legs attached to a flotation device. From there the craft worked something like a torpedo.

The four boats assembled for action. The first one took aim, fired, and the operator ejected well before the boat struck the Emir Farouk and detonated. The operator was safe, and the Emir Farouk was now badly damaged, but not destroyed. A second boat opted to have another go at the Emir Farouk. The impact and detonation broke the ship in two. Minutes later, it sank.

This was a tremendous feat for the young Israeli Navy. But the minesweeper still remained, and the Egyptian soldiers aboard began firing wildly in all directions in the hope of hitting something. But Yochai Bin-Nun, the naval commando leader, was determined to take out the minesweeper. He positioned himself for a headlong rush at the ship. As he did so, a high powered Egyptian searchlight illuminated his boat and the Egyptians focused their fire on him.

Bin-Nun ejected his flotation device but it simply would not eject. He was stuck. "Faced with the prospect of being neck-high in water about to absorb a 300-kilogram blast did not sit well in Bin-Nun's head - neither did driving his boat straight into the mine-sweeper's hull." He tried to manually free himself 100 meters from his target, but the lever wouldn't give. He pulled until the handle snapped. At 40 meters from the minesweeper he jumped, still attached to his boat. Finally at 30 meters from his target he jostled free - just a few seconds before his boat scored a direct hit on the minesweeper, sending it to the bottom of the sea.

Bin-Nun and his four-man crew were picked up in the water and taken safely back to base. They had accomplished an incredible mission. The Emir Farouk had been carrying over 500 Egyptian soldiers as reinforcements for the Egyptian Army in Gaza. "The IDF General Staff was ecstatic about the sinking of the Emir Farouk, though they only authorized the press to release word about the ship's sinking - not how it was accomplished." Israeli Naval special warfare was now on the map. It had scored a remarkable victory. This unit, soon to be called "Shayetet 13" or "Flotilla 13" would be heard from again and again in the years to come. For the time being, however, "Bin-Nun and company were secretive celebrities in the upper echelons of power in the Jewish State. Bin-Nun was granted a private audience with 'The Old Man', Prime Minister Ben-Gurion, who was adamant about hearing every little detail about the raid..."

Yochai Bin-Nun was awarded Israel's highest award for courage under fire for the sinking of the Emir Farouk, the flagship of the Egyptian Navy.

Israel was simultaneously fighting a land war of liberation of far greater magnitude than from what

was happening at sea. Israel, just born, was fighting for its survival - for those Jews who were already there and for those who would come later. Israel would also fight for its existence as an answer to the Holocaust, when those Jews, with no home anywhere in the world, had no one to turn to and no one to look after them. After the war of Independence, that would never again be so. This feeling was always in the minds of the warriors of Israel when they risked their lives for the establishment of the state. Israeli Intelligence, which as shall see in the coming weeks got more and more sophisticated in the years to come, played and continues to play a major role in the defense of the state and its citizens, as well as Jews all over the world. Let us close with a poem written by Yitzhak Sadeh, the commander of the pre-state underground organization the Palmach. I think it emotionally gives expression, more than anything else I have ever read, of the feeling of the young Jewish male's desire to be strong, independent, and a protector of his people -and no less so, in a sexually evocative way, of Jewish women, in the land of Israel.

Bibliography

1). Ian Black and Benny Morris - *Israel's Secret Wars: A History of Israel's Intelligence Service*

2). Ze'ev Venia Hadari - *Second Exodus: The Full Story of Jewish Illegal Immigration to Palestine, 1945-1948*

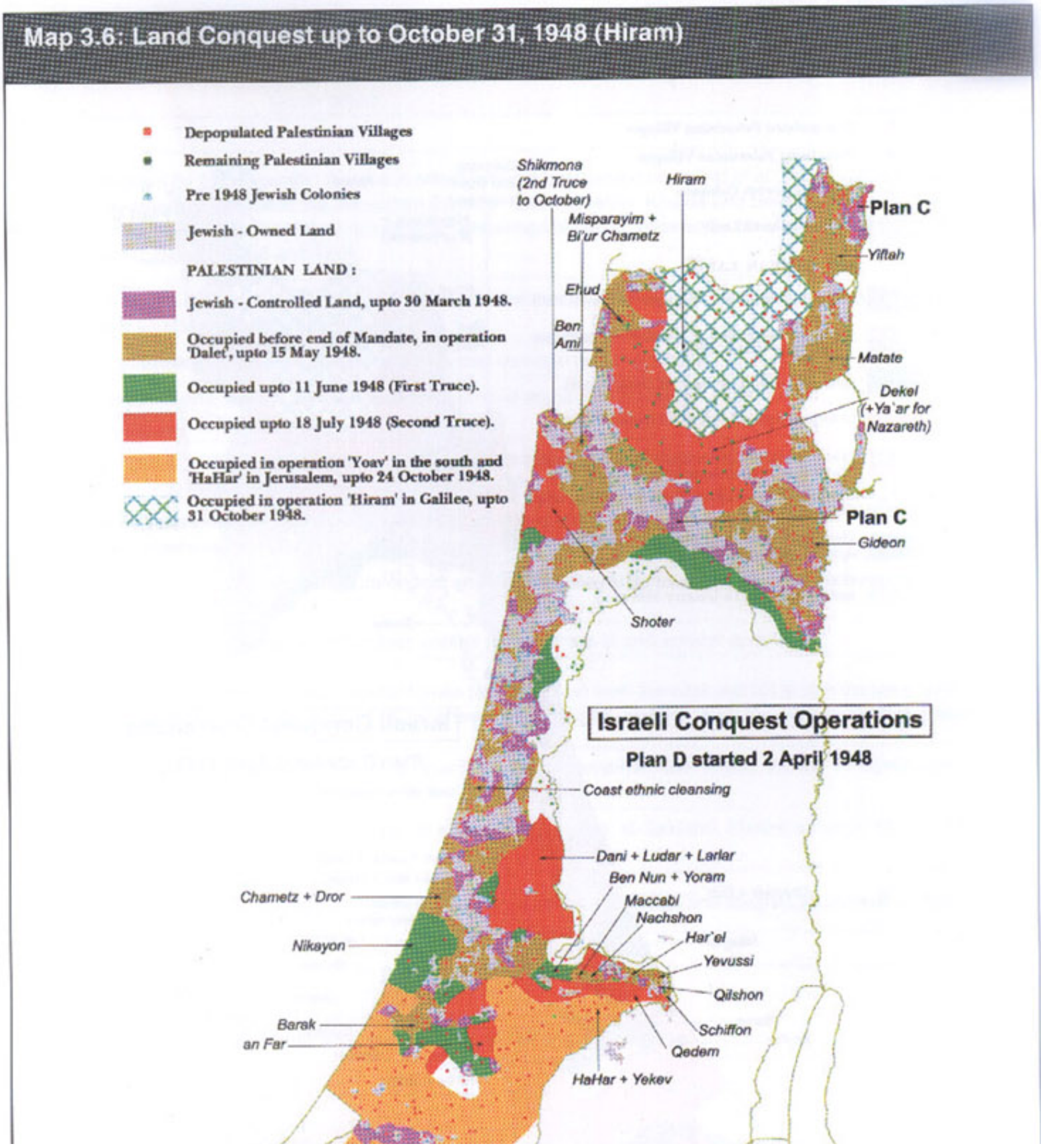
3). Samuel M. Katz - *The Night Raiders: Israel's Naval Commandos at War*

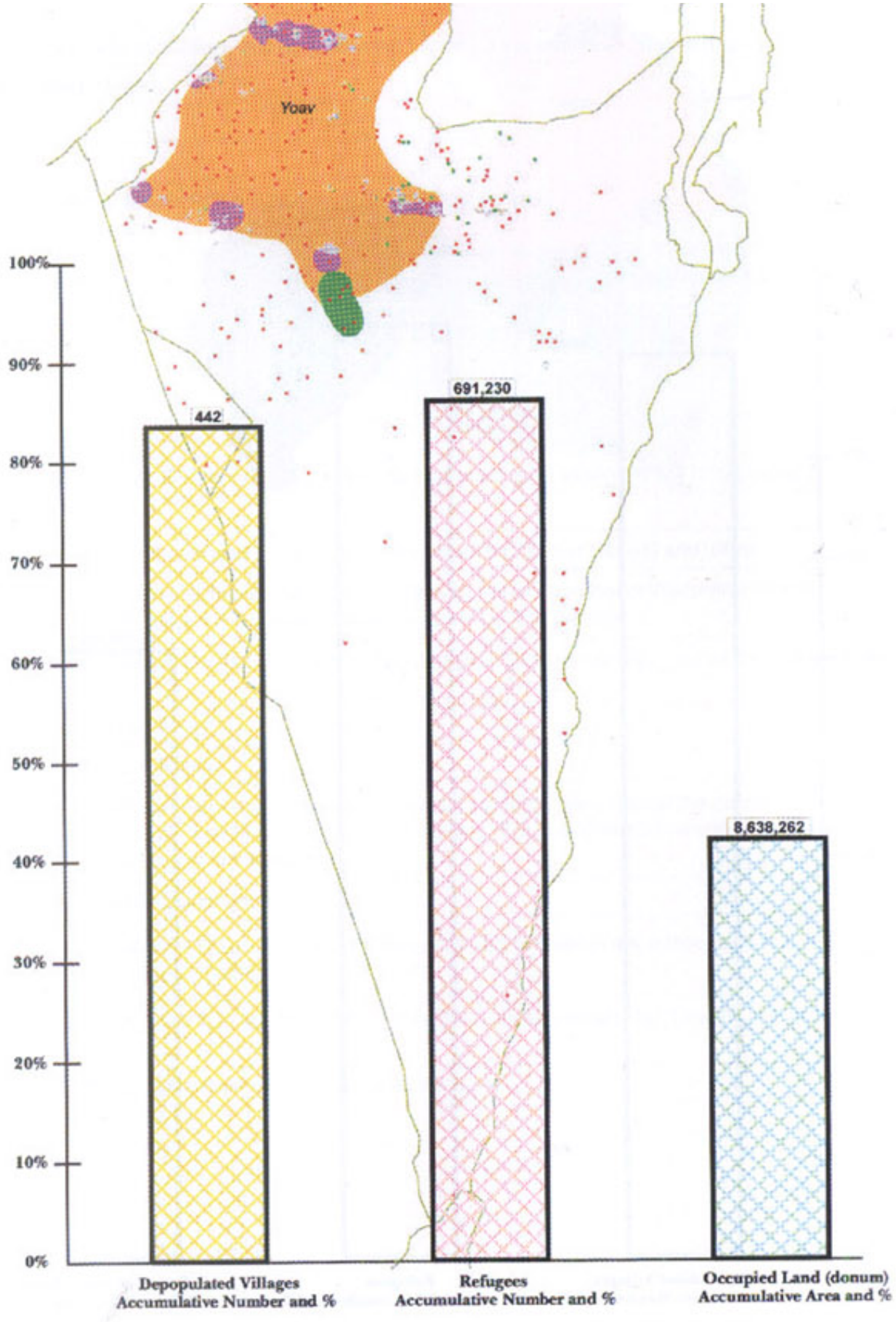
4). Dan Raviv and Yossi Melman - *Every Spy a Prince: The Complete History of Israel's Intelligence Community*

5). Stewart Steven - *The Spymasters of Israel*

Land Conquest up to October 31, 1948 (Hiram)

Please click on the Map to move to the next Map that shows a continuation of this map at a later date!





The Israelis turned north and occupied the densely populated Galilee in addition to a dozen villages in Lebanon.

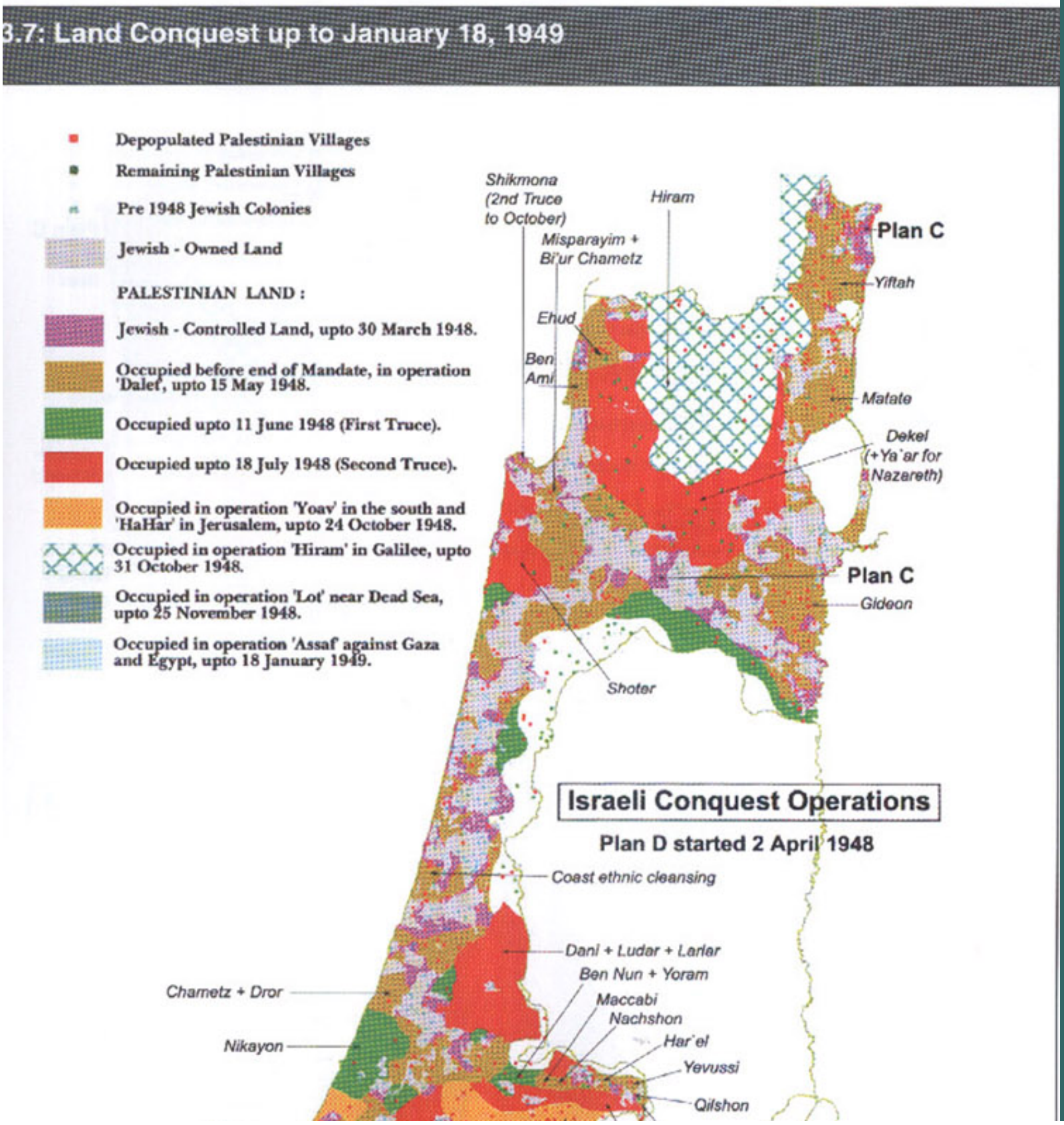
In this map, it shows a continuation of Israeli territory increases in the Northern part of Palestine. This is a continuation map up until October 31, 1948 and this takeover was carried out by Operation Hiram.

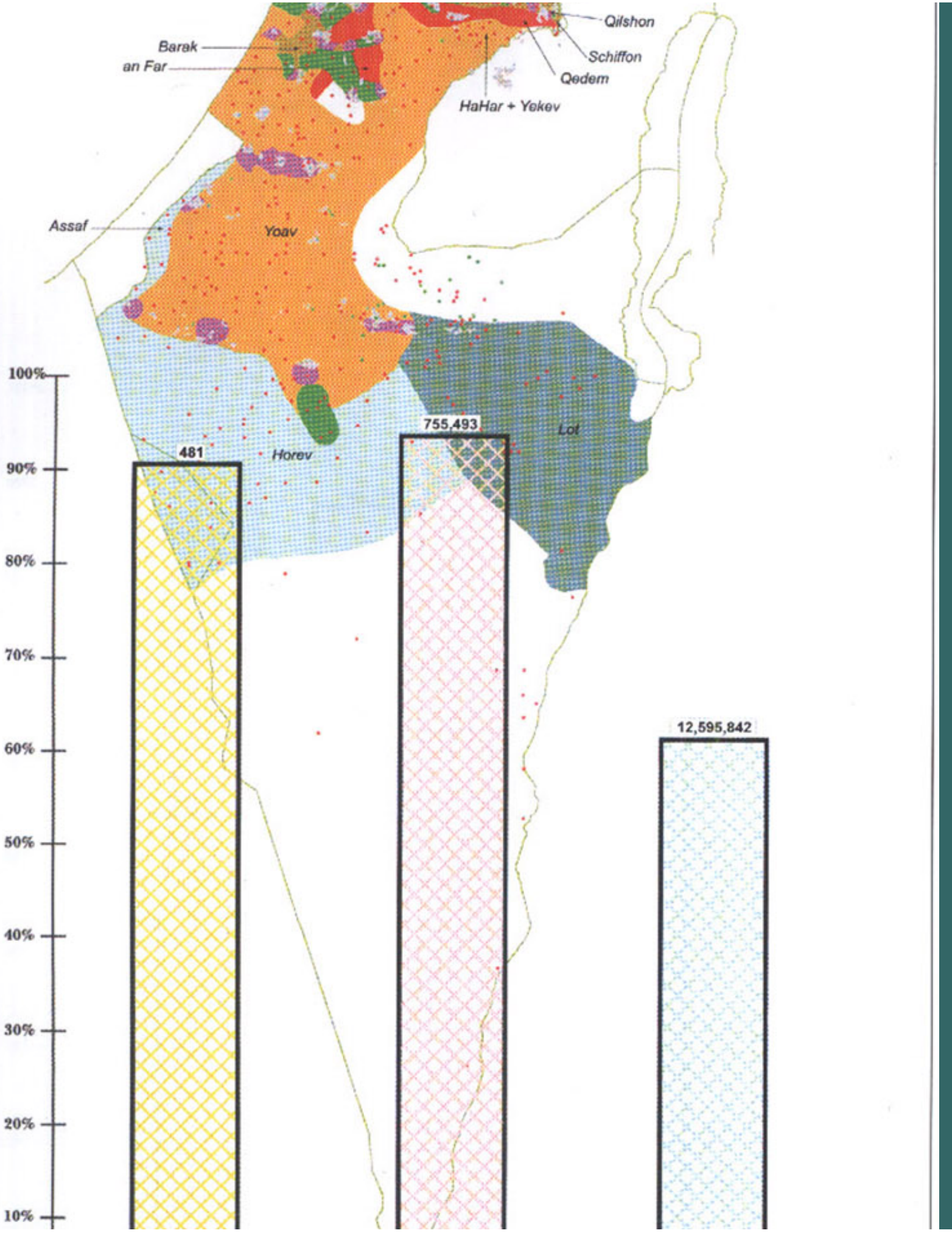
Home Page

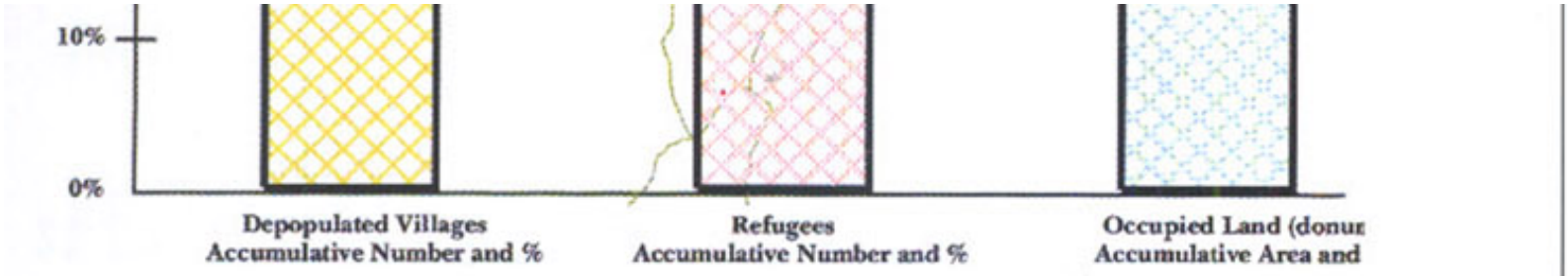
Source: Salman H. Abu-sitta. Atlas of Palestine 1948. Palestine Land Society London, 2004

Land Conquest up to January 18, 1949

Please click on the Map to move to the next Map that shows a continuation of this map at a later date!




Qilshon
Barak
Schiffon
an Far
Qedem
HaHar + Yekev
Assaf
Yoav
Lot
Horev
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
481
755,493
12,595,842



e Israelis occupied more land in the south and attacked Egypt (Sinai) but failed to take Gaza Strip. This ase ended with an armistice agreement with Egypt.

This is a map of Israeli gaining the area lot near the Dead Sea by November 25, 1948 and Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) gaining Horev by January 19, 1949. This area is shaded in dark green area towards the southwestern tip of Israel/Palestine.

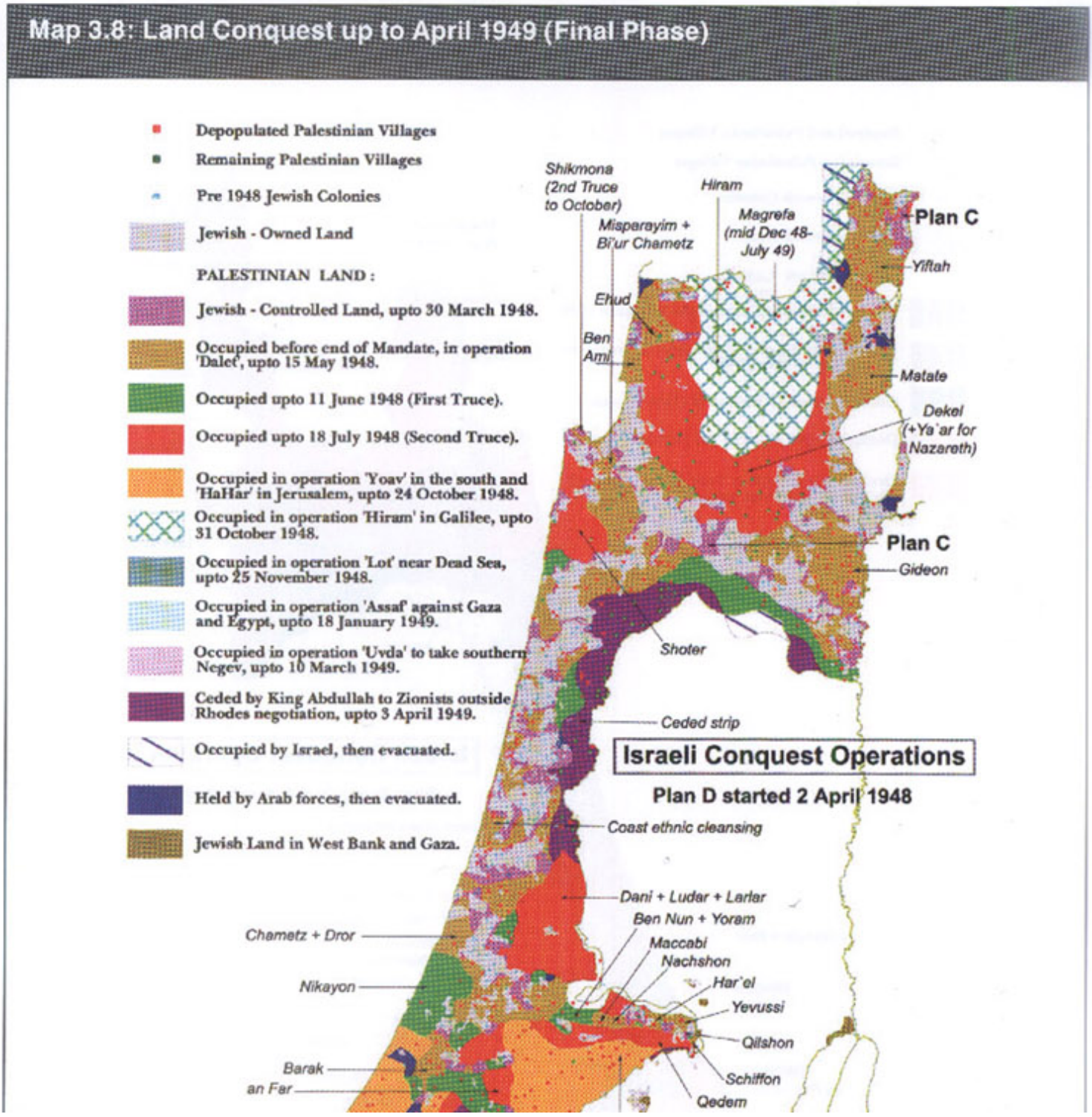
Home Page

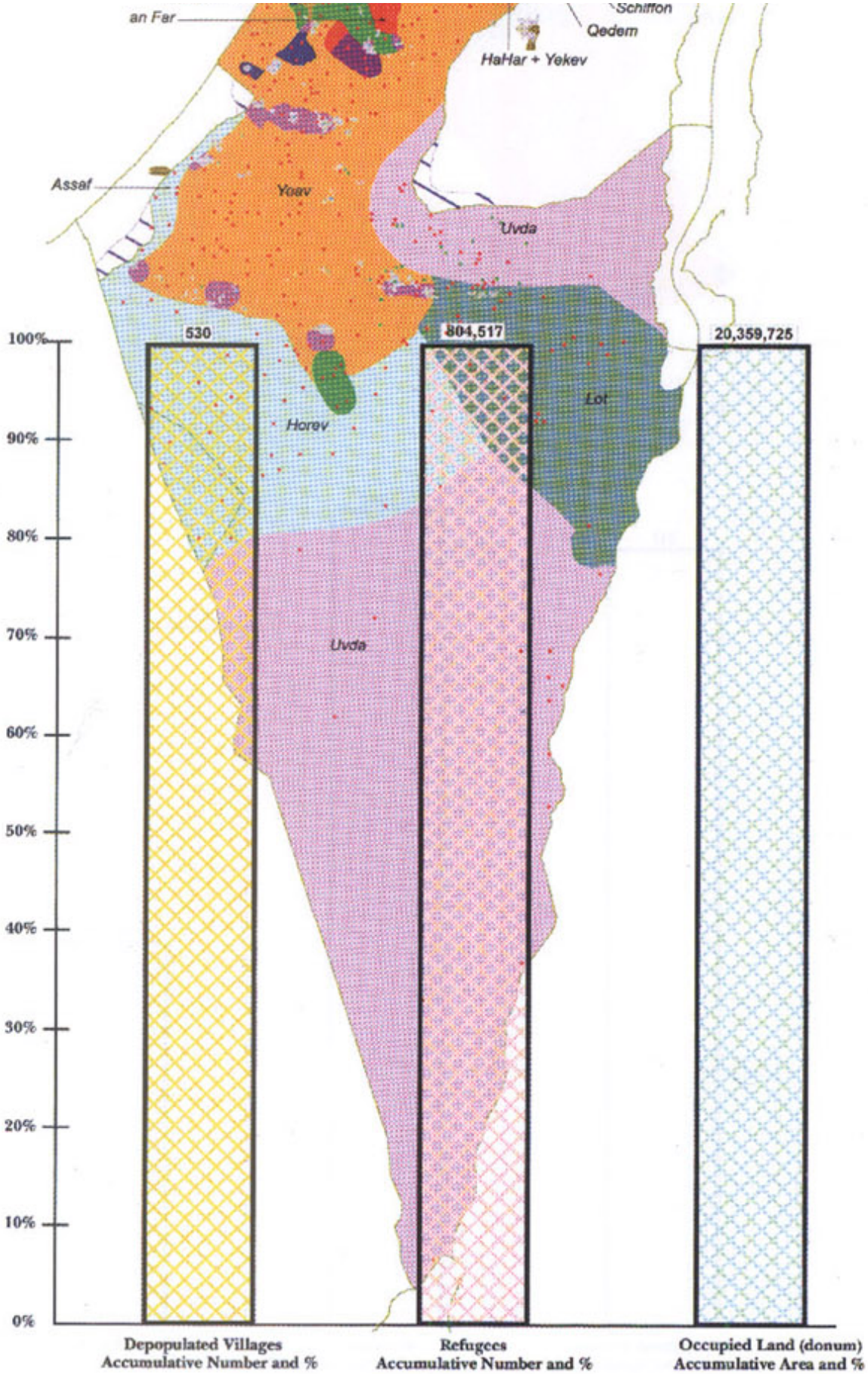
Source: Salman H. Abu-sitta. Atlas of Palestine 1948. Palestine Land Society London, 2004

Map of Land Conquest up to April 1949

This is the Last Map of total 8 Maps. It includes a whole lot of information and please refer to the key grasp all fo the material. If you click on the map, it would go back to the first map of the series of maps. To go back to the Homepage, click on the link in the bottom of the page.

To go back to the first map, just click on the Map. You can also go back to the home page by clicking on the link on the bottom of the page!





The Israelis occupied Naqab till Aqaba Gulf without a shot fired. They also took a big slice from the West Bank by threats to Jordan. They widened the corridor to Jerusalem; this corridor is part of the Arab state in the Partition Plan. They signed armistice agreements with Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. Thus ended 1948 war

Bank by threats to Jordan. They widened the corridor to Jerusalem; this corridor is part of the Arab state in the Partition Plan. They signed armistice agreements with Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. Thus ended 1948 war with 78% of Palestine land in Israeli hands, of which 24% is beyond the limit of the Partition Plan. The occupied area is 14 times the area of Jewish land at the end of the Mandate and 45 times the land they held at the beginning of the Mandate.

This map shows 4 more new terriatorial regions gained by Israel. The took over the southern Negav by March 10, 1949. The dark Purple region was ceded by King Abdullah to Zionists by April 3, 1949. The dark blue areas near the center right of the state were held by Arab forces but were evacuated and absorbed by Israel. The last new dark brown area are gains in the West Bank.

Please Click here to go back to the Home Page

Source: Salman H. Abu-sitta. Atlas of Palestine 1948. Palestine Land Society London, 2004