Peel Commission (British) Partition Plan Proposal, 1937

Type	Area / km²	%
Arab	20,596	76
Jewish	3,709	14
British	2,723	10

Woodhead Commission (British)
Partition Plan Proposal B, 1938

Type	Area / km²	%
Arab	20,689	76.5
Jewish	5,377	19.9
British	963	3.6

Proposals for the Partition of Palestine

Starting in the 1920s, there was increased resistance among Palestinians against the British Mandate occupation and its increasingly Zionist tendencies, that in 1936 led to the outbreak of a revolt. **(Map 1)** The **Peel Commission** was appointed by the British government in 1936 to find a solution in face of the increasing unrest and suggested a plan for the partition of the country. **(Maps 2 & 3)** The **Woodhead Commission** followed in 1938, ostensibly to further examine and revise the Peel Commission partition plan, but in fact with the intention of rendering partition as unfeasible

– which it fulfilled and justified with a number of reasons. Palestinians refused the partition plans, citing that the coastal areas were most fertile; they produced the vast majority of all citrus production, the main export asset at the time. During the unsuccessful revolt of 1936-9, over 10% percent of the Arab male population aged between 20 and 60 was killed, wounded, imprisoned, or exiled,[i] (which impacted on the outcome of the war in 1948.) **(Map 4)** In 1946, after WWII, with an increased influx of Jewish immigrants, the situation of the British Mandate became untenable. A commission

headed by Herbert **Morrison** (Britain's Labour government) and Henry **Grady** (United States) drew up a plan that suggested semi-autonomous Palestinian and Jewish regions, leaving the British high commissioner in control of defense, foreign relations, customs, and immigration. The plan was rejected by Palestinians and Jews.[ii] **(Map 5)** The Jewish Agency submitted a partition plan in 1947 that among the plans of the time left the least amount of territory to Palestinians. The situation today most resembles this plan. **(Maps 6-7) UNSCOP** submitted two proposals that attempted to divide the country according to demographic concentrations – which proved impossible since the Palestinian and Jewish populations were too intertwined. **(Map 8)** In 1947, the **UN** adopted with Resolution 181 a plan that allocated for Jews 55% of the country, including of the two port cities of Tel Aviv/Jaffa and Haifa, the Sea of Galilee, and the resource-rich Negev – even though they comprised only a third of the country's population (608,225 out of 1,845,559)[iii] and owned only about 7% of the land.[iv] In the area allocated to the Jewish state, only about 57% of the population was actually Jewish (538,000 Jews, 397,000 Arabs).[v] The Jewish community accepted the UN Partition Plan; the Palestinians (except members of the Communist Party) and the Arab countries rejected it. **(Map 9)**

Sent by the UN, Count Folke **Bernadotte** proposed two plans, which included reciprocate recognition of a Jewish and an Arab state, that was rejected by both Arabs and Jews; the count was assassinated by members of a Jewish underground group. **(Map 10)** By the end of the 1948 war – called the War of Independence by Israel and the Naqba (Disaster) by the Palestinians – Israel controlled 77% of the country, including half the territory that the UN had allocated to Palestinians. Some 750,000 Palestinians who had been living in what became Israel were made refugees or internally displaced people, and only 100,000 were able to remain in their homes. More than 418 villages, two-thirds of the villages of Palestine, were systematically destroyed by Israel after their residents had fled or been driven out.[vi] The Arab areas, now reduced to 23% of original Palestine,[vii] were taken over by Jordan (West Bank) and Egypt (Gaza). The 1949 Armistice Line, today known as the Green Line, has de facto demarcated the State of Israel until today. Since 1988, when the Palestinians recognized Israel within that boundary,[viii] it has constituted the basis of the two-state option in which the Palestinians claim a state on all the lands conquered by Israel in 1967: the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza.

Maps courtesy of ARIJ. Caption by Michael Younan.

[i] Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage*, Oneworld Publications, Oxford, pg 107-8.

[ii] http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-3424601875.html.

[iii] Official Records of the Second Session of the UN General Assembly, http://domino.un.org/unispal.nsf/9a798adbf322aff38525617b006d88d7/07175de9fa2de563852568d3006e10f3?OpenDocument.

[iv] The Jerusalem Fund, http://www.thejerusalemfund.org/ht/d/ContentDetails/i/2963.

[v] Jewish Virtual Library, http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/partition_plan.html.

[vi] For a full list, go to Palestine-Israel Journal at http://www.pij.org/details.php?id=224

[vii] Palestine Link, http://www.palestinelink.eu/palestine/timeline/1940-1949/

[viii] Hussein Ibish, "How many times must the Palestinians recognize Israel?", *Haaretz*, Mar 3, 2014.

Woodhead Commission (British)
Partition Plan Proposal C, 1938

Type	Area / km²	%
Arab	8,245	30.5
Jewish	1,056	3.9
British	17,728	65.6

Morrison-Grady (Anglo-American)
Partition Plan Proposal, 1946

Type	Area / km²	%
Arab	12,941	48
Jewish	3,878	14
British	10,210	38

Jewish Agency Partition Plan Proposal, 1947

Type	Area / km²	%
Arab	6,309	23
Jewish	20,720	77

The UN Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP)
Majority Proposal, 1947

Type	Area / km²	%
Arab	10,047	37
Jewish	16,749	62
International	233	1

The UN Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP)
Minority Proposal, 1947

Type	Area / km²	%
Arab	15,131	56
Jewish	11,898	44

UN General Assembly Resolution 181
Partition Plan of Palestine, 1947

Type	Area / km²	%
Arab	11,389	42.1
Jewish	15,454	57.2
International	186	0.7

UN, Second Bernadotte Plan, 16 September 1948

Type	Area / km²	%
Arab	20,669	77.2
Jewish	5,947	22
International	213	0.8

Comparison between land allotted in UN Resolution 181 and
land illegally annexed by Israel following the 1948 war

Type	Area / km²	%
Arab	6,220	23
Jewish	20,770	77