

(ARIJ) Commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Palestinian 'Nakba Day'



Al-Nakbeh, Recalling the Partition Plan: UNGA Resolution 181

On May 15 of each year, of each year and since 75 years ago Palestinians recall the infamous United Nations Security Council vote 181 of November 29, 1947 to partition the land of Palestine. Following a strenuous pressure from the United State President, Harry S. Truman; 33 out of 57 members of the UN General Assembly at the time voted on November 29, 1947 in favor of the proposed partition plan of Mandate Palestine between



the Jewish population to establish a “Jewish State” and the Palestinian population to establish a Palestinian State; while Jerusalem to go under a special status called “Corpus Separatum”, which is to be administered by an international body. However, this was not the first attempt to execute the partition plan. The Palestinian rebellion between 1936 and 1939 reflected the Palestinians’ deep-rooted history in it; otherwise the “disgraceful” promise made by the British Foreign Secretary, A. Balfour, on November 2nd, 1917, to the Zionist movement to establish a Jewish state in Mandate Palestine would have been easily made it happen. After the Palestinian rebellion in 1936, the British government dispatched the Peel

Commission (1937) to Mandate Palestine to look into the grounds of the Palestinians’ violence. The Peel Commission resolved that the Palestinians wanted a State of their own

and they categorically refuse the idea of a “Jewish” State to theirs. Upon which, the Commission advised the partition of Mandate Palestine into a Jewish and Palestinian States and an area to remain under the British Mandate.

The commission recommendation brought about eruption of violence of the Palestinian population who were already aware of the Zionist and the British ploy for Palestine. In light of the commotion brought about by the peel commission recommendation, the British deployed the Palestine Partition Commission (April 1938), which came to known as the Woodhead Commission to revise the Peel Commission plan and recommend a detailed proposal, including new boundaries and the missing economic and social aspects in the Peel plan.

The Wood head Commission submitted three proposal plans, which were called Plan “A”, “B” and “C”; exhibited as the following:

Plan “A”: This plan was basically similar to the Peel plan as it suggested:

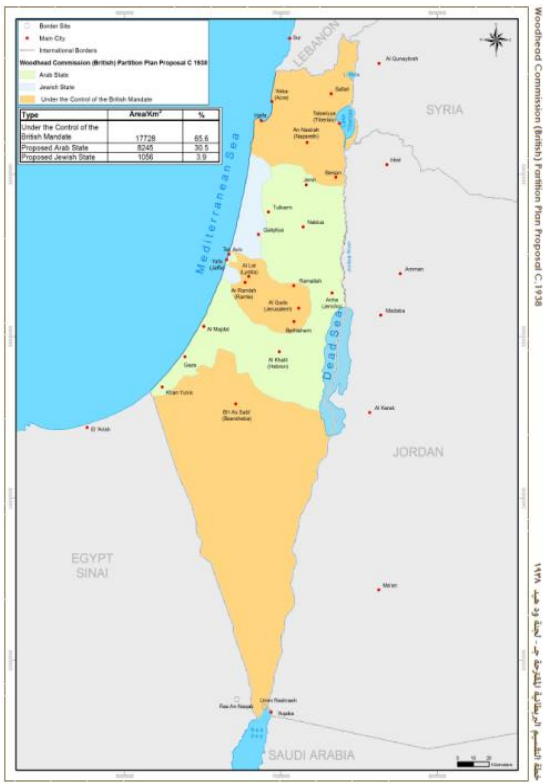
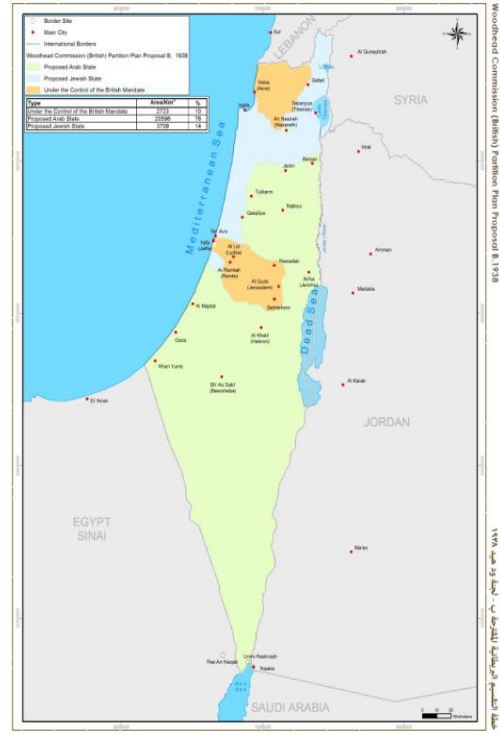
Proposal	Area Percentage
a coastal Jewish State,	19.9
a British-mandated corridor from Jerusalem to the coastal city Jaffa,	3.6
remaining Mandate area to merge with Transjordan into an Arab State	76.5



Plan “B”

This plan brought about some modifications to Plan “A”; as it reduced the area allocated to the Jewish State by assigning the Galilee district to the mandate area and the southern part of Jaffa to the Arab State.

Proposal	Area Percentage
A coastal Jewish State,	14
A British-mandated area from Jerusalem to the coastal city Jaffa and the area at the north	10
Remaining Mandate area to merge with Transjordan into an Arab State	76



Plan “C”:

Under plan “C”, further modifications were suggested pending a final agreement between both sides. Meanwhile the plan would reduce the size area of the Jewish State to a coastal strip and the Arab State would spread within the heart and northeastern territory. The Mandate would continue to administer the Jerusalem area to the coastal city Jaffa area, the northern area and all the semi-arid part of southern Palestine.

Proposal	Area Percentage
A coastal Jewish State,	3.9
A British-mandated area from Jerusalem to the coastal city Jaffa and the area at the north	65.6
Remaining Mandate area to merge with Transjordan into an Arab State	30.5

The Anglo-American (Morrison-Grady) Committee of Inquiry,



This committee was established following the end of World War II (in 1946) by the British and the Americans. Its purpose was to look into the various aspects (mainly economic and social) within Mandate Palestine and repercussions of the Jewish in-flux of immigrants settling there on the well-being of the indigenous of the land. The committee submitted a report dealing with issues concerning land regulation (annulling restrictions on Jewish land purchase of Arab land), admission of 100,000 displaced Jews among others. The proposed land allocation was rejected and eventually, the issue was referred to the United Nations.

Proposal	Area Percentage
A coastal Jewish State,	14
A British-mandated area from Jerusalem to the coastal city Jaffa and the area at the north	38
Remaining Mandate area to merge with Transjordan into an Arab State	48

Several other plans were put out for consideration but failed to meet the expectations, wants and the needs of those involved.

- The Jewish Agency proposal came in early of 1947 with clear insolence to the indigenous Palestinian rights as it proposed a dominant control for the Jews over Palestine.
- In the same year (1947), another proposal by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestinian (UNSCOP)-Majority Proposal, and was rejected.
- Proposal by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestinian (UNSCOP)-Minority Proposal, was also rejected.

The Jewish Agency proposal



The Majority Proposal



The Minority Proposal

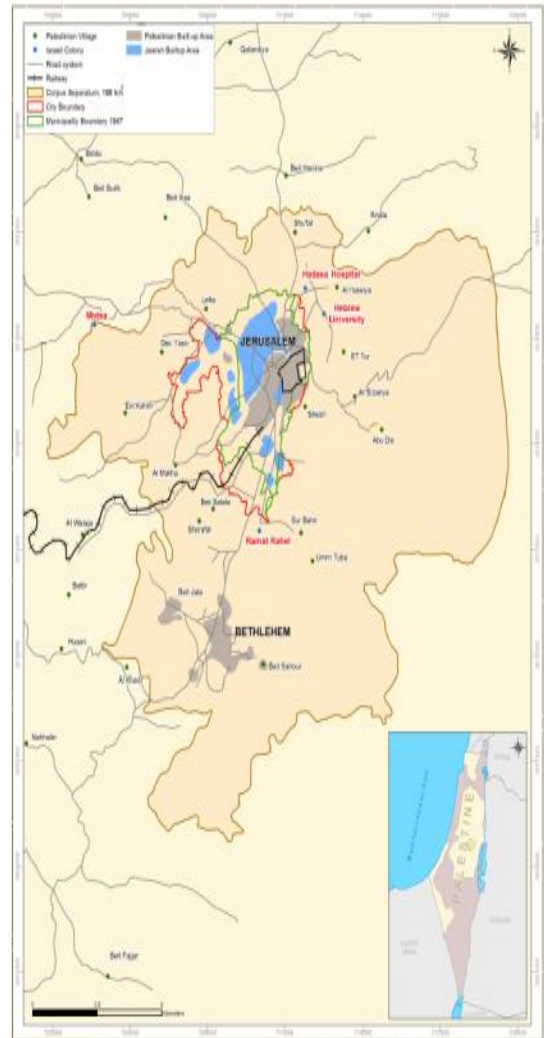


The fourth proposal of 1947 came later on, when it became more evident that the British days in Mandate Palestine in a countdown status. On November 29, 1947, the United Nations adopted and voted in favor of resolution 181 with the full support of the United States and the endorsement of US President Truman. The partition plan was set to proceed in phases; starting with actual termination of the Mandate and the gradual withdrawal of the British Army in parallel to marking the boundaries between the two states to be. the partition designated territory equal to 57.2% of Mandate Palestine for the Jews to establish their State and 42.1% for the Palestinian to establish their State; while identifying the remaining 0.7% for Jerusalem, which was set to fall under international administration.

The United Nations resolution 181



Jerusalem special statuses “Corpus Separatum”



However; as the partition plan was not formulated on a consensual bases, the plan was rejected by the Arab States based on unmerited proportion of land distribution and natural resources as they already owned 94% of the land and formed 67% of the population. At the time, the Jews owned less than 7% of the land and constituted only 33% (650,000) of the total population, which disintitle them to such sizable proportion of the land. Moreover, the Jewish State to be was to incorporate strategic territories, including the maritime coast, the fertile lands and the strategic accesses of trade.

The Jews at the time expressed symbolic concession of the partition plan; still the Jewish militias have led an offensive and brutal war against the Arab population who rejected the UN partition plan months before the 1948 war that led them to seize lands exceeding (78%) the UN partition Plan and the proposed territorial distribution.

On September 16, 1948, the United Nations put forth the “Second Bernadotte” plan, which was not considered at the time.

The aftermath of the November 29, 1947 and the 1948 war rendered the Israeli militias to expel more than 700,000 Palestinians out of their lands and homes and more than 500 Palestinian villages were depopulated and leveled down to the ground. Refugees camps were established in the neighboring countries were Palestinians fled the Israelis aggression. Between the 1948 war and 1966, there were 74 Palestinian refugees’ camps, of which 14 classify unofficial by the UNRWA while the remaining 60 camps are officially registered with the UNRWA. Moreover, six refugees’ camps were destroyed and two were closed down.



Consequently, Jordan and Egypt administered the 22% of what remained of Mandate Palestine out of Israel’s control, the West Bank (5661 km2) including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip (362 km2) respectively. This lasted for the following 19 years; to the time Israel occupied the West Bank including East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, the Syrian Golan Heights and the Egyptian Sinai peninsula.

Seven decades later, the international community remains in puzzlement on how to materialize the UNGA resolution 181 or the other 60 plus UN resolutions concerning the Israeli violations of the international laws and human rights conventions. Today Israel as an occupation practice apartheid and segregation against the indigenous population to the fullest as they administer the occupied Palestinian territory with two different set of laws; one for the Palestinian indigenous land owners and the other for the illegal Israeli settlers living in the illegal settlements as indicated by the international law and the Resolution 338 and 242.

It’s time to end the Israeli occupation of the territory it occupied in 1967.