

True-False Definitions Quiz regarding Israel/Palestine

1. Al Haran al Sherif: local law enforcement agencies in areas of the occupied territories that permit local control; in reality they often collaborate with the Israeli Defense Forces to maintain the occupation.
2. Antisemitism: Discrimination against or persecution of Semitic people. The term was first used with specific reference to Jews in the 1880s, although for hundreds of years and in many countries Jews and Arabs, who are also Semites, have been denied full rights as citizens and have suffered economic discrimination, social ostracism, and persecution.
3. Areas A, B, and C: A 1995 agreement divided the Palestinian territories, excluding East Jerusalem, into three zones: Area A, 17% of the West Bank and Gaza, is under full security and civil control of the Palestinian Authority; Area B, 24% of the occupied territories, is under Israeli security control, while the PA is responsible for some civil and social services; Area C, 59% of the West Bank and Gaza, is under full Israeli military occupation.
4. Bypass roads: Illegal roads built by Palestinians to avoid Israeli checkpoints. They are often also used to facilitate attacks against Israeli settlements in the West Bank.
5. Checkpoint: A barrier built by the Israeli Defense Forces or Border Police to limit the movement of Palestinians. Normally, Israeli citizens and foreigners move freely through the checkpoints. Palestinians with permits frequently experience extreme delays and humiliation at these barriers.
6. Christian Zionism: For more than a century, some evangelical Christians have supported the development of a Jewish commonwealth in the belief that the Messiah will return when Jews are restored to the land of Israel. Current advocates of Christian Zionism include Rev. John Hagee and current Speaker of the US House Mike Johnson.
7. Fatah: A sect within Judaism that resists Zionism and believes that, while Palestine is the rightful Jewish homeland, it should also welcome other peoples and seek to coexist peacefully.
8. Foreign Aid to Israel: The US has been the biggest financial supporter of the state of Israel for decades, currently providing \$3.8 billion per year, plus several billion more since Oct. 7. Other Western nations contribute lesser but very significant amounts.
9. Hamas: Established in 1987 as an outgrowth of the Muslim Brotherhood in Palestine, Hamas engages in social-communal activities as well as armed struggle against Israel's occupation.
10. Home demolitions: Practice of forcibly removing Palestinian families from their homes and destroying their dwellings.

11. Intifada: A Christian-Muslim-Jewish reconciliation program begun in the late 1990s after the failure of the Abraham Accords. Seeks to apply shared tenets of the three Abrahamic faiths to promote peaceful strategies toward recognition of full humanitarian rights for all in the Holy Land.

12. Jewish National Fund: A subordinate body of the World Zionist Organization, the J.N.F in the U.S. is a tax-exempt corporation that raises millions of dollars annually. It owns 13% of the land inside Israel, most of which was confiscated unjustly from Palestinians.

13. Jihad: Incorrectly translated “holy war,” jihad is more precisely a “striving,” or “struggle” of a Muslim to keep the faith, to achieve self-control or personal development, or to improve the quality of life in society.

14. Law of Return vs. Right of Return: In 1950, the Israeli Knesset (parliament) adopted the “Law of Return” giving any Jew in the world the right to move to and settle in Israel. The “Right of Return” is the right of all Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The state of Israel, however, opposes the return of Palestinian refugees. Thus a Jew from Chicago can settle in Israel on land taken from a Palestinian, who is barred from returning to his home.

15. Nakba: Al Nakba (the catastrophe) is the term used by Palestinians for the impact on them and their national aspirations of what Israelis call their War of Independence, 1947-48.

16. Occupied territories: Territories occupied by Israel in 1967, specifically Gaza (which had been governed by Egypt), the West Bank and East Jerusalem (which had been under Jordanian jurisdiction), the Golan Heights (which had been part of Syria), and the Sinai (which was later returned to Egypt).

17. Oslo Accords: Diplomatic initiative during the Trump Administration to align Middle East countries such as Saudi Arabia in alliance with Israel and the West against Iran. Included moving the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

18. Settlements: Originally any new Jewish development in Israel, but now more frequently used to describe the ring of residential communities constructed around Jerusalem and scattered in strategic areas throughout the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights.

Answers:

1. False. Arabic name for the plaza in Jerusalem where the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque are located. Muslims revere the site as the area where Prophet Muhammad broke his miraculous night journey from Mecca to heaven. Jews revere the area as the location of the First and Second Temples. Some Jewish radicals advocate the construction of a third Temple there.
2. True.
3. True.
4. False. They are paved highways built by Israel on confiscated Palestinian land within the West Bank to facilitate travel for Jewish settlers to Jerusalem, other Israeli cities, and other settlements. They often divide Palestinian communities and make it impossible for some farmers to reach their fields.
5. True. On occasions, deaths have occurred at checkpoints when individuals, including pregnant women in labor, have been unable to reach hospitals.
6. True. Israeli leaders welcome the huge financial support from Christian Zionists, but generally ignore their theological position that in the end days all Jews will be killed, save for 144,000 who accept Christ.
7. False. Fatah is the party that formed the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1959 and currently controls the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.
8. True. According to the Council on Foreign Relations, total U.S. aid to Israel since 1948 is around 310 billion dollars.
9. True.
10. True. The government of Israel has carried out home demolitions as punishment for an alleged criminal act by a member of an extended family or because the house was constructed or enlarged without a building permit. (Some 98% of building permits are denied). Demolitions are carried out with the help or supervision of the Israeli army or police. Home demolitions are a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions estimates that Israel razed 55,048 Palestinian structures as of 2022.
11. False. Arabic word meaning "a shaking off," used as the designation of two periods of uprising by Palestinians, from 1987-1993 and 2000-2005. These periods resulted in the deaths of 7800 Palestinians and over 1000 Israelis.
12. True.

13. True. The Qur'an also speaks of a jihad of arms, the "smaller jihad," which permits fighting as a means of self-protection, not unlike what Christians call a "just war," which is fought against tyranny or oppression. There is no such thing as "holy war" in Islam; the word was adopted by a political movement, the Islamic Jihad.
14. True.
15. True. At that time, 757,000 Palestinians became refugees and 530 villages were destroyed. The Nakba is marked by ceremonies each year on May 15. The Israeli analyst Meron Benvenisti has used the term "ethnic cleansing" to describe the actions of Israeli troops in more than 30 documented massacres.
16. True. Under terms of the Fourth Geneva Convention, no occupying power may legally seize territory by war nor transplant its own population into the occupied territories.
17. False. That is a description of the Abraham Accords. The Oslo Accords were a series of agreements made during the 1990s following secret negotiations between Israel and the P.L.O. Those agreements have never been fully implemented
18. True. Most settlements were constructed on confiscated Arab land and at least partially at the expense of the Israeli government. They are strategically located to control natural resources and to make any contiguous land for a Palestinian state next to impossible.