



Distribution of population by district showing percentages of Jews and Palestinians

% Jews



- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
|  | Fishing waters |  | Some shepherding |
|  | Sea ports |  | Fruit |
|  | Cereal crops |  | Cotton grown for clothes |
|  | Vegetable farming |  | Chemical industry |
|  | Citrus growing |  | City of Jerusalem, holy to Islam, Christianity and Judaism |
|  | Olive growing | | |

Draw your borders for a fair solution

It's 1947. The British are pulling out of Palestine. You're working for the newly formed United Nations, and you need to work out the fairest way to divide the land between Arabs and Jews. Armed groups from the two communities are already fighting each other and clashing with the British forces. You've got some information about who lives where already, and what resources are available. Can you draw a fair border?

Your partition plan

Fill in this table with your plan for partition, considering the impact on people.

	Palestine (Arab state)
What percentage of land?	
Total population:	
What proportion of the population?	Jewish:
	Israel (Jewish state)
What percentage of land?	
Total population:	
What proportion of the population?	Arab:
Why have you divided the land like that?	



Journaling

- How easy was it to divide the land?
- What effect will it have?

RESOURCE 7-A

Reality: here's what the UN actually proposed in 1947

The partition plan was never realised. At the time, Jews made up 33% of the population, but the new Jewish state was offered 56% of the land. Arab leaders in Palestine and neighbouring countries rejected the plan, saying it took away the right of the population to self-determination promised by the United Nations. Many ordinary Palestinians are believed to have supported partition because they did not trust Arab leaders to give them independence either.

War broke out when the UN voted for partition in November 1947 and continued in 1948 and 1949. This period is remembered as the War of Independence by Israel, and as the Nakba (catastrophe) by Palestinians. Israel gained control of 78% of Palestine in the fighting and 700,000 Palestinians were displaced from their homes, becoming refugees. Their descendants today have the "right of return" to their ancestral homes under international law, though the Israeli government says this is only a claim.

The Jewish forces defeated the armies of six Arab countries, and Jewish leaders declared the state of Israel, which was quickly recognised by the USA's President Truman. At the end of the war, Jordan stayed in control of East Jerusalem and the West Bank, and Egypt controlled the "Gaza Strip".

A new border was defined by the ceasefire in 1949, known as the "green line". For most of the international community, this armistice line defines the border of the West Bank and Gaza today, but the Israeli government does not accept it as a border.



Journaling

- Could the United Nations have drawn a border that made peace?
- Partition has divided other places, including Ireland, India and Sudan. What do you think about the drawing of borders?

What percentage of land?

What important land and places?

Israel
(Jewish state)

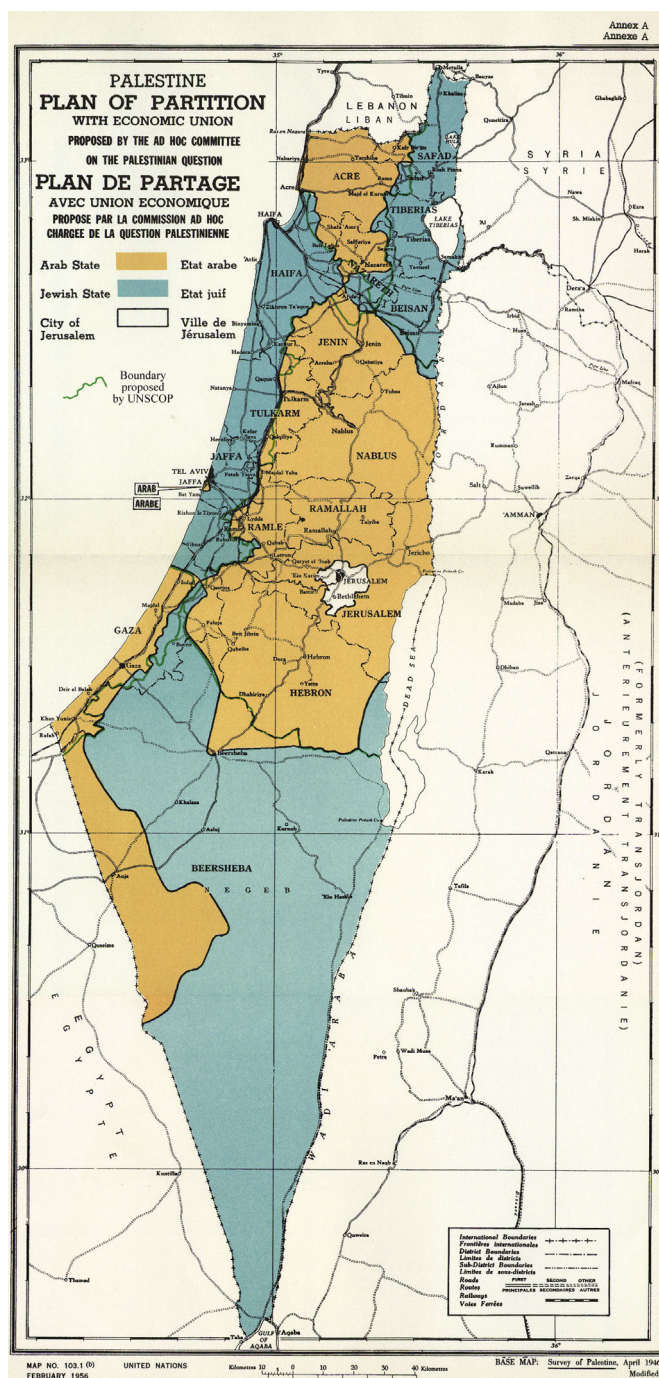
55%

(Jerusalem is a shared city)

Palestine
(Arab state)

45%

Gaza
(Jerusalem is a shared city)



Map of armistice line