B.C.E.

ca. 1300–931  The Hebrew tribes and the Philistines migrate into Canaan. The Hebrew tribes defeat the Canaanites and, after a struggle, the Philistines. The kingdom of Israel is established with Saul as the first king. King David establishes Jerusalem as the capital and King Solomon builds the first Temple there.

c. 931  The kingdom splits into the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah).

c. 721  The Northern Kingdom falls to Assyria.

c. 587/586  The Southern Kingdom falls to Babylon, which destroys the Temple and takes many of the people into exile.

c. 539  The Babylonian Empire falls to the Persian Empire. Persian emperor Cyrus allows some Jews to return from exile.

c. 520–515  The temple in Jerusalem is rebuilt as the Second Temple.

c. 331  Alexander the Great defeats the Persian Empire. Following his death, the land is subject to rule by Egypt and Syria.

c. 166–160  The Maccabeans lead a revolt against the ruling Syrian Hellenists because of restrictions on the practice of Judaism, the desecration of the Temple, and the imposition of Greek religion.

c. 142  The Hasmonaeans (Maccabeans) begin a period of Jewish rule with varying degrees of autonomy at various times depending on relationships with other powers.

c. 63–61  The Romans conquer Jerusalem.

c. 20  Herod begins improvements on the Temple in Jerusalem

c. 4  Jesus is born. His crucifixion by Rome takes place between 31 and 33 C.E.

C.E.

66–73  The First Jewish Revolt against Rome takes place. Jerusalem and the Second Temple are destroyed in 70.

133–135  The Second Jewish Revolt against Rome occurs. Roman forces crush the rebellion. The emperor Hadrian renames the province Syria Judea as Syria Palaestina and forbids Jews to dwell in Jerusalem.

313  Emperor Constantine recognizes Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire. Throughout the period of the Roman Empire, Jews are periodically subjected to varying degrees of persecution.

570  The prophet Mohammed is born.

ca. 638  Muslims from the Arabian Peninsula conquer Jerusalem. Caliph Omar provides the Christians of Jerusalem with a covenant guaranteeing their protection and allows Jews to return to Jerusalem.

705  The Dome of the Rock mosque is completed by Caliph Abd al-Malik ibn Marwan.

715  The Al-Aqsa Mosque is built by Caliph Walid.

1071  The Seljuk Turks invade and capture Jerusalem.

1096  Participants in the First Crusade massacre Jews as they pass through several European cities. Over the next centuries Jews face persecution to varying degrees in various European countries including restrictive laws, pogroms, and expulsions.

1099  The Crusaders conquer Jerusalem, killing many Jewish and Moslem inhabitants and expelling surviving Jews.

1187  The Muslims, under Saladin, conquer Jerusalem.
**TIMELINE**

1291  The Crusaders are evicted from Palestine.

1517  The Ottoman Empire conquers Palestine. Small Jewish communities flourish.

1537–1541 Under Suleiman the Magnificent, walls are built around Jerusalem.

1843  The first writings of modern Zionism appear.

1856  The Ottoman Empire requires people to register land and pay taxes.

1860  The first modern Jewish settlement outside the walls of Jerusalem, Mishkenot Sha’ananim, is built.

1878  The first Zionist settlement, Petah Tikvah, is built.

1897  The First Zionist Congress meets in Basel, Switzerland.

1908  The first Arabic newspaper in Haifa, *al-Karmil*, popularizes opposition to selling land to Zionists.

1909  The first kibbutz, Degania, is founded. Tel Aviv is founded as a Hebrew-speaking Jewish city. Hashomer, the first Jewish self-defense organization, is founded.

1914  World War I begins. The Ottoman Empire enters the war on the side of Germany.

1916  The Sykes-Picot Agreement divides the Ottoman lands into French and British spheres of influence.

1917  Britain signs the Balfour Declaration supporting the “establishment of the Jewish national home . . . and safeguarding the civil and religious rights of all the inhabitants of Palestine.”

1918  World War I ends, bringing the defeat of the Ottoman Empire.

1919  The first Palestinian Congress advocates the incorporation of Palestine into greater Syria.

1920  The League of Nations divides the lands of the Ottoman Empire into entities called mandates that are intended to lead to the creation of nation states. Britain accepts the mandate for Palestine. The Haganah is organized for Jewish self-defense.

1933  Hitler rises to power in Germany.

1936–1939  While previous incidents of violence have occurred, the Arab Revolt is the first major outbreak of Arab-Jewish hostilities.

1939–1945  The Holocaust takes place during World War II. Jewish migration into Palestine increases.

1942  Zionist leaders meet to discuss postwar plans with the aim of founding a Jewish commonwealth.

1944  Arab leaders meet to discuss postwar plans for independence and ways to prevent the implementation of Jewish control over Palestine.

1945  The Palestinians receive representation in the newly formed League of Arab States.

1947  The UN General Assembly passes Resolution 181, which would partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states and establish Greater Jerusalem as an international city. The Jewish state would receive 56.47 percent of the land of the Palestine Mandate, the Arab state about 43.53 percent. Numerous skirmishes, road ambushes, riots, and bombings take place organized by both Jews and Palestinians.

1948  Violence escalates. The British mandate ends. Israel declares statehood on May 14. Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia declare war on Israel. The war results in a divided Jerusalem and some 650,000 to 750,000 Palestinian refugees. The UN General Assembly passes Resolution 194 calling for the cessation of hostilities and establishing the Right of Return for refugees who wish to live in peace.
1949–1950 At the end of the war, Israel holds about 78 percent of the territory of the Palestine Mandate. The Green Line, set at the 1949 armistice, establishes the borders between Israel and the Arab lands. Jordan annexes East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Egypt controls the Gaza Strip. The UN Relief and Works Agency is established to care for the Palestinian refugees until they can return to their homes.

1950 Israel enacts the Law of Return stating that every Jew has the right to become a citizen.

1964 The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is established. At the time, its aim is to destroy Israel. Leaders of the Arab states largely control the PLO which operates out of the Gaza Strip.

1967 The Six-Day War occurs. Israel conquers the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, the Sinai, and the Golan Heights, creating additional Palestinian refugees. The PLO moves its headquarters to Jordan. The UN Security Council passes Resolution 242, which calls for Israeli withdrawal and establishes the “land for peace” principle.

1968–1969 Fatah gains formal control of the PLO and Yassir Arafat becomes chair of the PLO.

1969–1970 The War of Attrition takes place between Egypt and Israel. Jordan moves against the PLO, whose members flee to Lebanon. Israel begins the policy of establishing settlements.

1973 Egypt and Syria attack Israel, beginning the Yom Kippur War. Israel pushes back both armies.

1974 The Arab League declares the PLO to be the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The UN recognizes the Palestinians’ right to sovereignty and grants observer status to the PLO.

1978 Egypt and Israel agree to the Camp David Accords, which create peace, provide for the return of the Sinai to Egypt in exchange for recognition of Israel, and set a framework for settling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel invades Lebanon, occupying its southern border in response to the violence of the PLO.

1980 Israel declares Jerusalem its eternal, undivided capital, affirming the annexation of East Jerusalem.

1981 Israel annexes the Golan Heights.

1982 Israel invades Lebanon a second time, laying siege to Beirut. The PLO moves its headquarters to Tunis.

1985 The Israeli government orders the withdrawal of its troops from most of Lebanon.

1987 An Intifada, a Palestinian popular uprising, begins in Gaza and spreads to the West Bank. Stone-throwing Palestinian teens attack Israeli soldiers.

1988 The PLO accepts UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, implicitly recognizing Israel. The United States opens dialogue with the PLO. The Hamas Islamic Brotherhood is founded with a charter based on the forged anti-Semitic Protocols of the Elders of Zion and advocating the destruction of Israel.

1992 President George H. W. Bush’s administration holds up ten billion dollars in U.S. loan guarantees to Israel (fiscal years 1993 to 1997) in an attempt to limit Israeli settlement building.

1993 Israel and the PLO sign the Oslo Declaration of Principles, which provide for mutual recognition. The PLO renounces violence and the use of terrorism and agrees to revise the PLO Charter to remove chapters referring to the destruction of Israel.

1994 The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is established in Gaza and the West Bank. The PLO and Yassir Arafat arrive in Gaza. Jordan and Israel sign a peace treaty.

1995 The Oslo Accords establish three areas of control in the West Bank: Area A under Palestinian control, Area B under Palestinian civilian control and Israeli security control, and Area C under exclusive Israeli control. Prime Minister Rabin is assassinated in Tel Aviv.

1997 Israel and the PLO sign the Hebron Protocol dividing the city of Hebron. Israel starts building a settlement, Har Homa, on a hill overlooking East Jerusalem resulting in widespread protests. Israel imposes closures on Palestinian communities in the West Bank and Gaza.
### Timeline

**2000**
Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Palestinian Chairman Yassir Arafat, and U.S. President Bill Clinton meet at Camp David in a failed attempt to negotiate a settlement on final status issues. The Al-Aqsa Intifada begins following a visit to the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif by Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon. The violence escalates rapidly and continues, involving rock-throwing, machine gun and mortar fire, suicide bombings, and road ambushes.

**2002**
In retaliation for a series of suicide bombings, the Israeli army reoccupies Palestinian areas. Yassir Arafat is placed under house arrest. Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah proposes a peace plan, endorsed by the Arab League, which promises recognition of Israel for ending the occupation. The UN Security Council passes Resolution 1397 affirming a two-state solution. President George W. Bush declares a vision for a “viable Palestinian state next to a secure Israel.” Israel begins construction of a security barrier in the West Bank.

**2003**
The United States, the European Union, the UN, and Russia release the Road Map to Peace, which contains a process to guide Israelis and Palestinians toward peace. Israelis and Palestinians acting as individuals, and not as representatives of any government, release the Geneva Initiative, containing a vision for a two-state peace.

**2004**
The International Court of Justice (ICJ) rules that the Israeli security barrier violates international law. The UN General Assembly votes to order Israel to dismantle the barrier. Israel announces that it will ignore the ruling but changes the barrier route according to rulings of the Israeli High Court. Yassir Arafat dies.

**2005**
Mahmoud Abbas is elected president of the PNA. Israeli settlers and troops evacuate Gaza Strip and four settlements in West Bank. Ariel Sharon quits Likud Party to form a new party Kadima.

**First months of 2006**
Ariel Sharon suffers massive stroke and Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert assumes power. Hamas, which is on the U.S. State Department’s list of terrorist organizations, wins majority in the Palestinian Legislative Council elections.

### Sources