

Current Mideast boundaries defined by past wars

President Barack Obama's effort to jump-start peace talks between Israeli and Palestinian leaders has stoked debate about what a proposed Palestinian state would look like. Obama proposes using borders in place before Israel took control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war, with land swaps that would allow it to retain some territory inside the West Bank. Here is a review of how the boundaries of Israel and the Palestinian territories have changed since the late 1940s.

1947

The U.N. votes to partition Palestine, then under British mandate, into Jewish and Arab states; the Jews accept the plan, which the U.S. also supports, but the Arabs reject it

-  Proposal for Jewish state
-  Proposal for Arab state



1948-49

The British give up control of Palestine, and Israel declares itself independent; it's attacked by Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq; U.S. recognizes the new Jewish state but imposes an embargo of weapons to the region; war ends with Israel controlling all of Palestine except the Transjordan-controlled West Bank and Egypt-controlled Gaza Strip

-  Israel



1967

Israel defeats Egypt, Jordan and Syria in a brief war and gains control of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, Golan Heights and Sinai Peninsula; in response, the U.N. Security Council passes Resolution 242, which calls for Israel to withdraw from the conquered land and for all states in the region to acknowledge one another's sovereignty; U.S. supports the resolution

-  Israel
-  Occupied territories



1979

Israel and Egypt sign the Camp David Accords, a peace treaty that provides for the return of the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt, which takes place in 1982; U.S. helps negotiate the agreement

1993

U.S. brokers an agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization for limited Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories; agreement also lays the groundwork for the establishment of a Palestinian state

2000

Negotiations on a permanent settlement between Israel and the Palestinians break down over disagreements on Israeli settlements, Palestinian refugees, borders and the status of Jerusalem



2011

As part of a major speech on the pro-democracy movement in the Middle East, U.S. President Barack Obama urges Israelis and Palestinians to rekindle peace talks, saying "the international community is tired of an endless process that never produces an outcome"

Current map of area

-  Palestinian territories

