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The 1948 'War of ~~Catastrophe~~^{Catastrophe}' for Palestinian people sent ~~the~~ 750,000 refugees into Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank + the Gaza Strip. This caused economic + cultural stress to form in these areas, + inspired the creation of terrorist organisations between 1964 - 1996 to cope with the changing Israeli policies in this period.

~~Through~~ 1964 saw the birth of the PLO, a terrorist organisation determined to bring 'a secular' state to the control of the Palestinian people. At this stage, the PLO's main policies were to bring world recognition to the plight of refugees + to regain the territory lost by Palestine in the 1948 war.

The Israeli government maintained that the refugees had left voluntarily, + therefore should not be allowed to return to their homes. Historian A. Atub records that the refugee camps were 'like prisons! Under

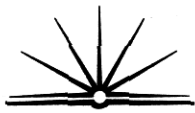


The Jordanian government, the West Bank's conditions were being improved but in the Gaza Strip, which was, until 1967, controlled by Egypt, the conditions were poor + ~~too~~ ^{over-}crowded + no improvement was being made to assimilate refugees into the host country.

The PLO's initial terrorist activities centred around gaining internal support + trying to convince Israel to accept refugees back into what should have been, according to the UN partition, Palestinian territory. However, reprisals had become Israeli policy, and for every Israeli killed the reprisals sometimes killed as many as one hundred times the number in Palestinian Arabs.

This in turn sparked more terrorist attacks, until it became clear that this tactic would not gain the Israeli government's (Knesset) approval to ~~return~~ return.

In 1967 the situation worsened. The

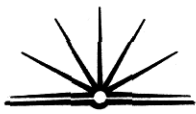


six day war' forced Jordan out of the west Bank & East Jerusalem & Egypt out of the Gaza Strip. Immediately, Palestinian Arabs came under the control of Israel. They were given no political rights + ^{had} tight military control. This enraged the Palestinians, who fought back with a series of terrorist attacks culminating in the PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) bombing of aircraft on Dawson's Field, Jordan.

Fear of the policy of Israel's reprisals, King Hussein of Jordan, exiled the PLO from their bases in Jordan in September 1970, in what became known as 'Black September.'

This, in turn, led to the kidnap & murder of 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics, causing another spate of Israeli reprisals.

Despite the constant pattern of attack & reprisal, the Labour Government did not commit the action which launched three



decade of terrorist uprisings: ~~the~~ Jewish settlement of the Occupied Territories. The Labour Government acknowledged that to do this would be a foolish aggravation of an already tumultuous situation. Although ~~the~~ refusing to accept UN Resolution 242, returning all Occupied Territories to their native owners, they did not wish to create an irreversible situation in these areas.

The extremist Likud party, however, did. Gaining power in 1977, the party announced that all legally unowned land or unused property could be settled by Israelis. The Likud party called this 'altering the reality on the ground.' This action meant that the occupied territories were no longer Palestinian, as they were prior to 1967, but a home to Jews + Palestinian Arabs, making it very hard to order one group to

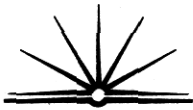


abandon the area.

While only taking up 'unsettled area' sounded profitable + not especially harmful to the Palestinians, not ~~not~~ many could ~~per~~ produce papers claiming legal right to land, thus making this area open to Jewish habitation. ~~Large~~ ^{Small} numbers of Jewish settlers were given relatively large blocks of land. In the Gaza Strip, where overpopulation ~~is~~ was already a major concern causing widespread misery, the result was a worsening of conditions.

Palestinian unhappiness was felt through terrorist activity against Israeli by the PLO, who in 1974 had guaranteed no violence used outside Israel, + guerrilla warfare by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah groups in South Lebanon.

Israeli reprisals, attacking Lebanon in 1978 + again in ~~1981~~ 1982, did not serve



to ease the settlement problem, but merely increased the hatred felt by Palestinians in Lebanon, & encourage a flood of new recruits into the Hezbollah, Jihad & PLO groups active at this time.

Jewish migration had also been a point of contention in the Occupied Territories for some time. The rate of unemployment in the Occupied Territories, the Gaza Strip especially, was high. Though the more intelligent & better educated were able to find work in either ~~countries~~ ^{Arab} countries or Israeli itself, many could not & were forced to take on manual labour or menial jobs in Israel. The trade restrictions placed on The West Bank & Gaza Strip after the 1967 occupation prevented these areas building an economy of their own.

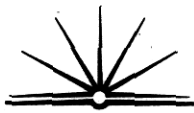
Manual or menial labour stemming from Israel became very important to



the Palestinian people. However, an influx of Ethiopian Jews as part of 'Operation Noah' in the 1970's and 1980's meant severe cut-backs in the demand for Palestinian labour. Falachas, as these Jews were called, were uneducated + well suited to the work.

Unemployment rose sharply, along with the percentage of people living below the poverty line. This state only increased in severity after the collapse of the USSR in 1989 facilitated the migration of several hundred thousand educated Jews into Israel.

In protest to these conditions + as a 'cry for freedom' (Hanan Ashwari, PLO spokesperson), the Intifada began in the Gaza Strip in 1987 + spread throughout the occupied territories. Israeli policies to stop the violence, such as Defence Minister Rabin's 'break bones' policy only caused

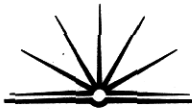


international condemnation. The violence continued. The PLO used this as an opportunity to demand peace.

Despite a set back after the Gulf War, in which the PLO sided with Iraq, a peace agreement was made between labour leader Rabin + Yasser Arafat in Washington in 1993. in an agreement called the Oslo Accords. This stated the introduction of Palestinian autonomy in the ~~West Bank~~ ^{West Bank} + perhaps the West Bank.

The Hamas saw this as a 'sell out' + vowed to 'fight Palestinian autonomy like it was Israeli occupation'. A spate of Hamas violence + the assassination of Rabin by an Israeli extremist in 1995, signalled another change in Israeli policy.

Under Benjamin Netanyahu, the occupied territories were resettled + all



peace processes called to a halt. In response bombings by Hamas + other extremist organisations continued.