



PALESTINE: THE LAND OF MILK AND HONEY

Historic Palestine, roughly the size of Massachusetts, covers an area of about 10,425 square miles,¹ from the Jordan River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. From modern Ramallah to ancient Jericho, from Gaza's seashore to the Naqab, the blood, toil, sweat and tears of Palestine's ancestors are still warmly felt, in the faith and food, in the architecture and the culture of the Holy Land today.

For generations, Muslims, Christians and Jews lived peacefully in the land until foreign meddling and a 64-word, ill-fated letter — the Balfour Declaration — in 1917 set in motion the terrible events that are responsible for the conflict in the Middle East today.



AMERICAN MUSLIMS FOR PALESTINE

EMPOWERMENT through
EDUCATION and **ACTION**

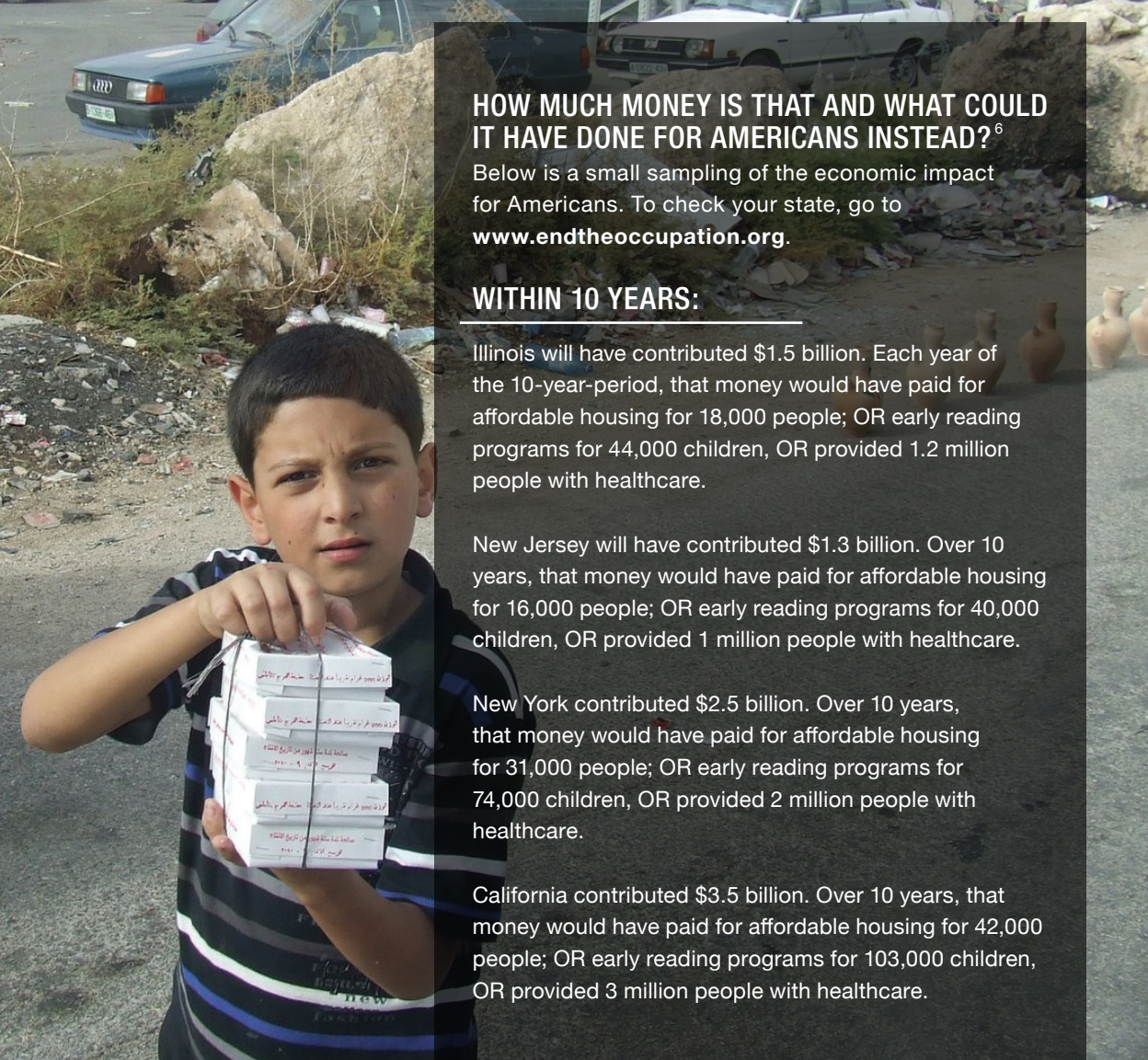
DID YOU KNOW?

- Israel's occupation of Palestine is the only military occupation in the world today?
- 70% of all Palestinians are refugees?
- Palestinian refugees are the largest refugee group in the world?
- The occupation violates international law and United Nations resolutions?
- The "separation barrier" is actually a 30-foot-high concrete wall with armed towers that when complete will be 450 feet long, twice the length of the 1948 armistice line.
- The wall is made of highly electrified razor wire with motion detectors in unpopulated areas?
- The Apartheid Wall snakes through the West Bank and Jerusalem, prohibiting Palestinians' freedom of movement, cutting them off from jobs, fields, schools and for some, even their families?
- More than 600 checkpoints, roadblocks, trenches or debris obstacles cut off the freedom of movement throughout the West Bank?
- Israeli Occupation Forces have demolished about 27,000 homes since 1967?
- More than 500,000 Jewish colonial settlers live in settlements, outposts as well as homes that were confiscated from Palestinians?
- Since 1967, Israel has arrested about 20 percent of the population living in the West Bank and Gaza?
- Each year, the Israeli military arrests about 700 children?
- Jerusalem municipal authorities evict Palestinians from their homes and the city to keep the ratio of Jews to Palestinians in Jerusalem at 70:30?

(Source: AMP Fact Finder)

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE? THE STORY OF US FUNDING TO ISRAEL

In simple terms, Americans are paying for Israel's occupation of the Palestinian people. We are committed to giving Israel \$30 billion over a 10-year period in unconditional military aid, plus millions more in loan guarantees, free weaponry, other grants and aid and millions in the forms of donations from U.S.- based, tax-exempt charities.



HOW MUCH MONEY IS THAT AND WHAT COULD IT HAVE DONE FOR AMERICANS INSTEAD?⁶

Below is a small sampling of the economic impact for Americans. To check your state, go to www.endtheoccupation.org.

WITHIN 10 YEARS:

Illinois will have contributed \$1.5 billion. Each year of the 10-year-period, that money would have paid for affordable housing for 18,000 people; OR early reading programs for 44,000 children, OR provided 1.2 million people with healthcare.

New Jersey will have contributed \$1.3 billion. Over 10 years, that money would have paid for affordable housing for 16,000 people; OR early reading programs for 40,000 children, OR provided 1 million people with healthcare.

New York contributed \$2.5 billion. Over 10 years, that money would have paid for affordable housing for 31,000 people; OR early reading programs for 74,000 children, OR provided 2 million people with healthcare.

California contributed \$3.5 billion. Over 10 years, that money would have paid for affordable housing for 42,000 people; OR early reading programs for 103,000 children, OR provided 3 million people with healthcare.



ISRAEL: AN ALLY OR A LIABILITY?

Even though the U.S. consistently calls Israel a “close friend and ally,” Israel at times has violated American law by misusing weapons obtained from the United States. Israel also has tried to sell American military technology to other countries, some of which are not allied with the United States.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Israel illegally used weapons such as cluster bombs and white phosphorus?
- Israel was caught trying to sell US military technology to enemy states?
- Israel bombed the USS Liberty in 1967, killing 34 US service members?
- Jonathan Pollard, who held both American and Israeli citizenship and was an intelligence analyst for the U.S. Navy, was convicted of spying for Israel in 1985?
- Steven J. Rosen and Keith Weissman, of the AIPAC lobby, were indicted in 2005 for espionage. Prosecutors dropped the charges for “national security” reasons.

(Source: AMP Factsheet “US Aid to Israel,” 2011)





BRIEF HISTORY²

- 1870 Population** – 98% Palestinian/2% Jewish
- 1882** – First Jewish settlement in Palestine
- 1896** – Austrian journalist Theodore Herzl publishes “Der Judenstaat” and political Zionism is born
- 1897** – First official meeting World Zionist Organization calling for Jewish “home” in Palestine
- 1917** - Balfour Declaration
- 1947** – UN Partition of Palestine
- 1948** – The Nakba and creation of the state of Israel
- 1967** – Six Day War
- 1993** – Oslo Accords
- 2011** – Palestinians submit bid for statehood

(For a more in-depth look at Palestine’s history from 1917 through 1967, please see AMP’s brochure “A Synopsis of the Israeli- Palestinian Conflict,” and “Al Nakba: How Palestine Became Israel,” or go to www.ampalastine.org.)

DOES ISRAEL REALLY WANT PEACE?

“It would be better to drown these prisoners [Palestinians] in the Dead Sea if possible, since that’s the lowest point in the world,” *Foreign Minister Avigdore Lieberman*.³

Palestinians are “drugged cockroaches in a bottle.” Rafael Eiten, former head of Israeli *Occupation Forces*.⁴

“... We will have to kill and kill and kill. All day, every day ... If we don’t kill, we will cease to exist.” *Arnon Sofer, head of the Israeli army’s National Defense College*.⁵



AMERICAN MUSLIMS FOR PALESTINE

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Activism for Palestine is happening everywhere and across almost all socio-economic levels in the United States. Coalition-building between diverse groups is occurring because almost everyone can agree on humanitarian law and human rights.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Educate yourself.

Tell your family, friends and colleagues.

Join AMP's email list to receive updates about events, news and action alerts.

Engage with the media and your elected officials.

MORE INFORMATION

American Muslims for Palestine - www.ampalestine.org

FOOTNOTES

1. CIA World Factbook.
2. 1948: Lest We Forget, www.1948.org.uk.
3. "Palestinian PM's leadership at stake when he pleads with Bush to help free detainees," The Guardian, July 25, 2003.
4. "Rafael Eitan, 75, ex-general and chief of staff in Israel, dies," New York Times, Nov. 24, 2004.
5. "I didn't suggest we kill Palestinians," Jerusalem Post on May 24, 2004.
6. "How Much Military Aid to Israel?" U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, www.endtheoccupation.org.