

What about Jerusalem?



Jerusalem

Jerusalem became a “final status” issue in the Oslo Peace Accords of 1993.

This presentation attempts to restore the historical facts about Jerusalem and its status as a sacred city, which should be accessible to all people.

This presentation also will highlight some current ‘facts on the ground’ that reveal the discriminatory and apartheid system Israeli occupation policies force Palestinians to live with.

Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem, October 2010
American Muslims for Palestine



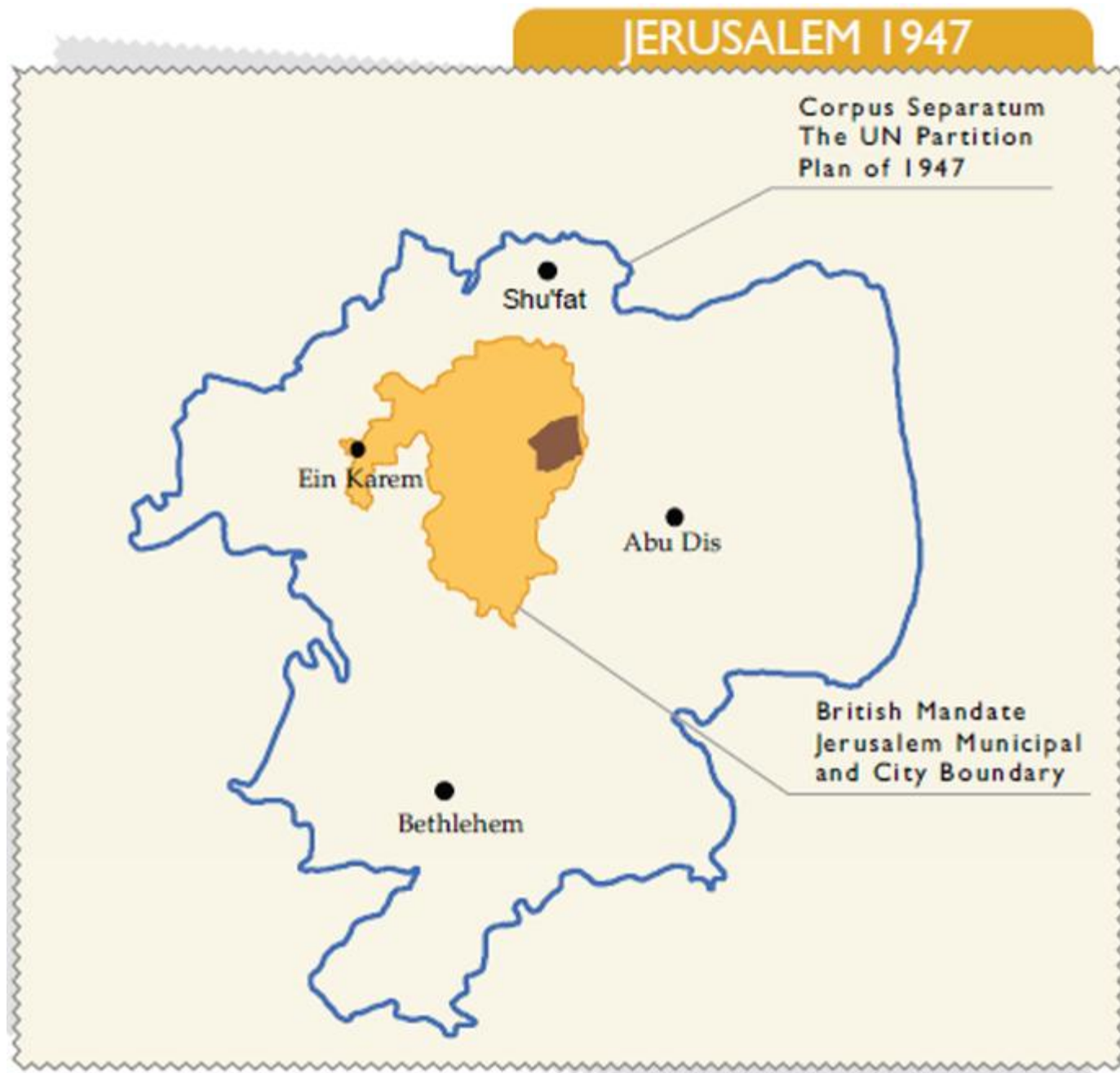
Jerusalem

Quick history

The United Nations 1947 Partition of Palestine set up Jerusalem as an international entity – the Corpus Separatum – which included Bethlehem.

This area was to be neutral and administered by the United Nations Trusteeship Council. The UN would appoint a governor and a legislative body was to be elected

Source: United Nations Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Occupied Palestinian Territories



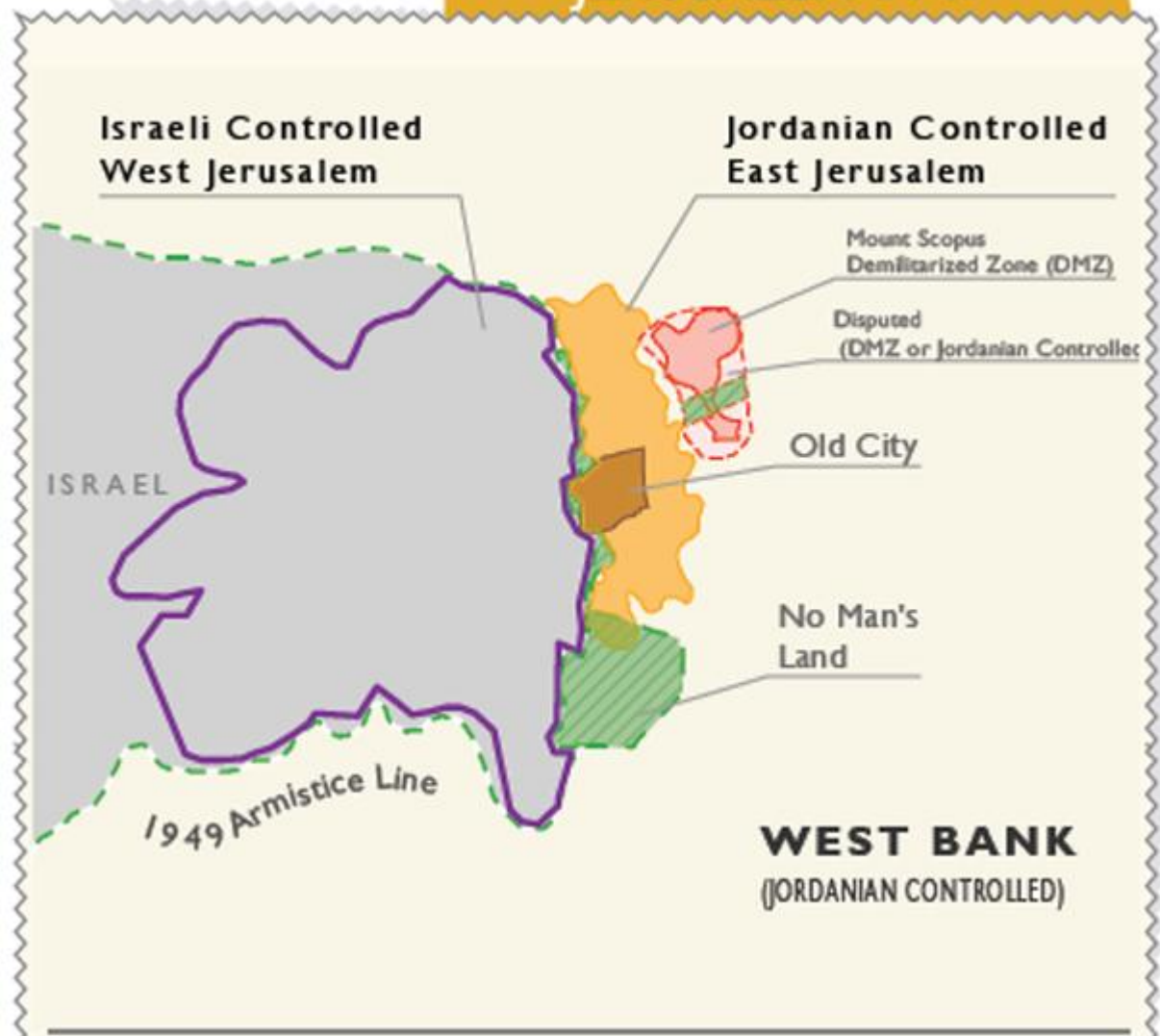
JERUSALEM 1949

In 1948, the Israeli military occupied West Jerusalem; Jordan claimed East Jerusalem, resulting in the de facto division of the city.

UN Resolution 194 (III) reaffirmed the international status of Jerusalem and its surrounding villages.

After the armistice of Jan, 1, 1949, the division of Jerusalem was formalized. But Israel didn't agree to all demarcations, resulting in two "Green Lines" in some areas, with a "No-Man's Land" in between.

Source: United Nations Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Occupied Palestinian Territories



Mount Scopus was given special status.

On Jan. 23, 1950, Israel declared Jerusalem as its capital and established government agencies in the western part of the city.

Source: United Nations Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Occupied Palestinian Territories



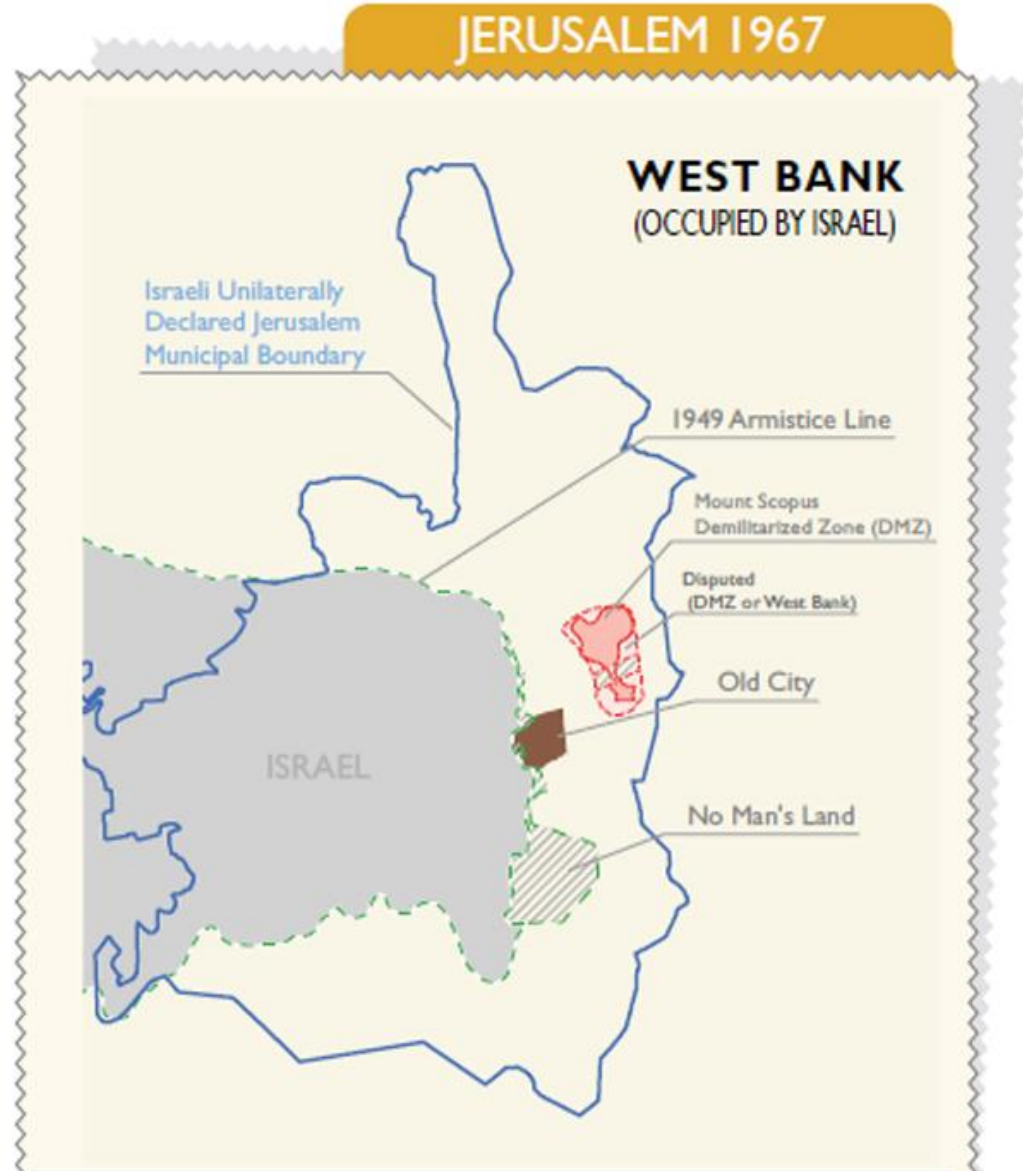
In its 1967 Six-Day War of aggression, Israel occupied what was left of historic Palestine: the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

Israel occupied the city as well as an additional 25 square miles of the West Bank, encompassing 28 villages. The “annexed” area was added to the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem.

The International community does not recognize this annexation. UN Resolutions 252, 267, 471, 476 and 478 all reject Israel’s occupation.

Despite this, in 1980 Israel declared Jerusalem to be the “complete and united capital of Israel.”

Source: United Nations Office of
Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs –
Occupied Palestinian Territories



Jerusalem - Quick history

Israel immediately began building settlement in East Jerusalem after the Six-Day War.

Throughout the last 40 years, it has expanded and changed the municipal boundaries to accommodate settlements and the Apartheid Wall.

The Apartheid Wall is redrawing the boundaries once again, as well as severing East Jerusalem from the West Bank.

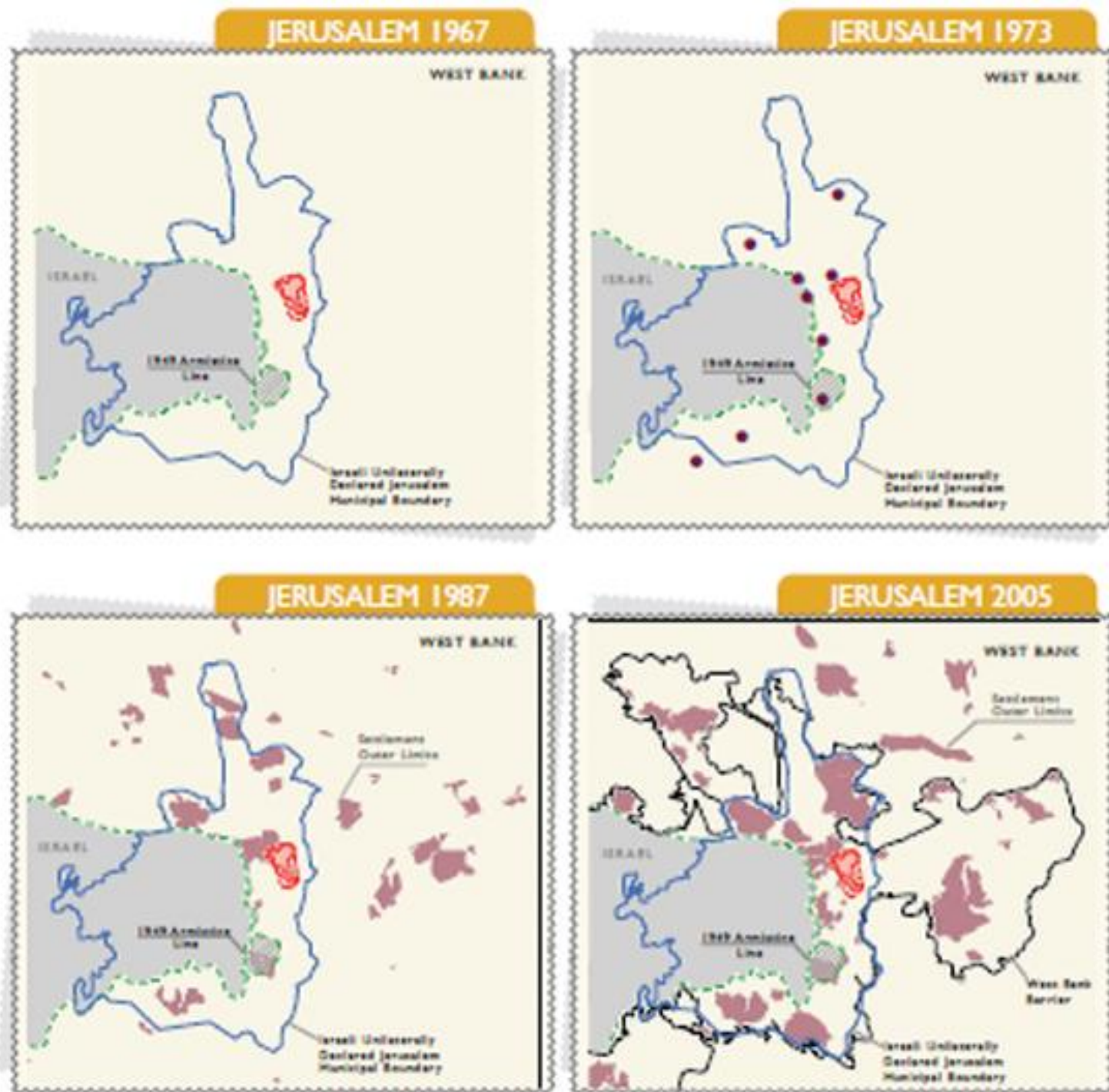
When complete, the Apartheid Wall in have encircled the settlements not only in East Jerusalem but also those in the greater area, pulling them into Jerusalem's boundaries.

The settlements, some of which are actual cities, are Ma'aleh Adumim in the East, Giv'at Ze'ev in the north. In the south about 25 square miles from the Bethlehem district, including the Gush Etzion settlement will fall within the Wall and, therefore, within Jerusalem's boundaries.

These maps show how the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem have changed. Palestinians are increasingly cut off from Jerusalem.

The city that was once the economic and cultural center of Palestinian life has been strangled by the Apartheid Wall and settlements

Source: United Nations Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Occupied Palestinian Territories



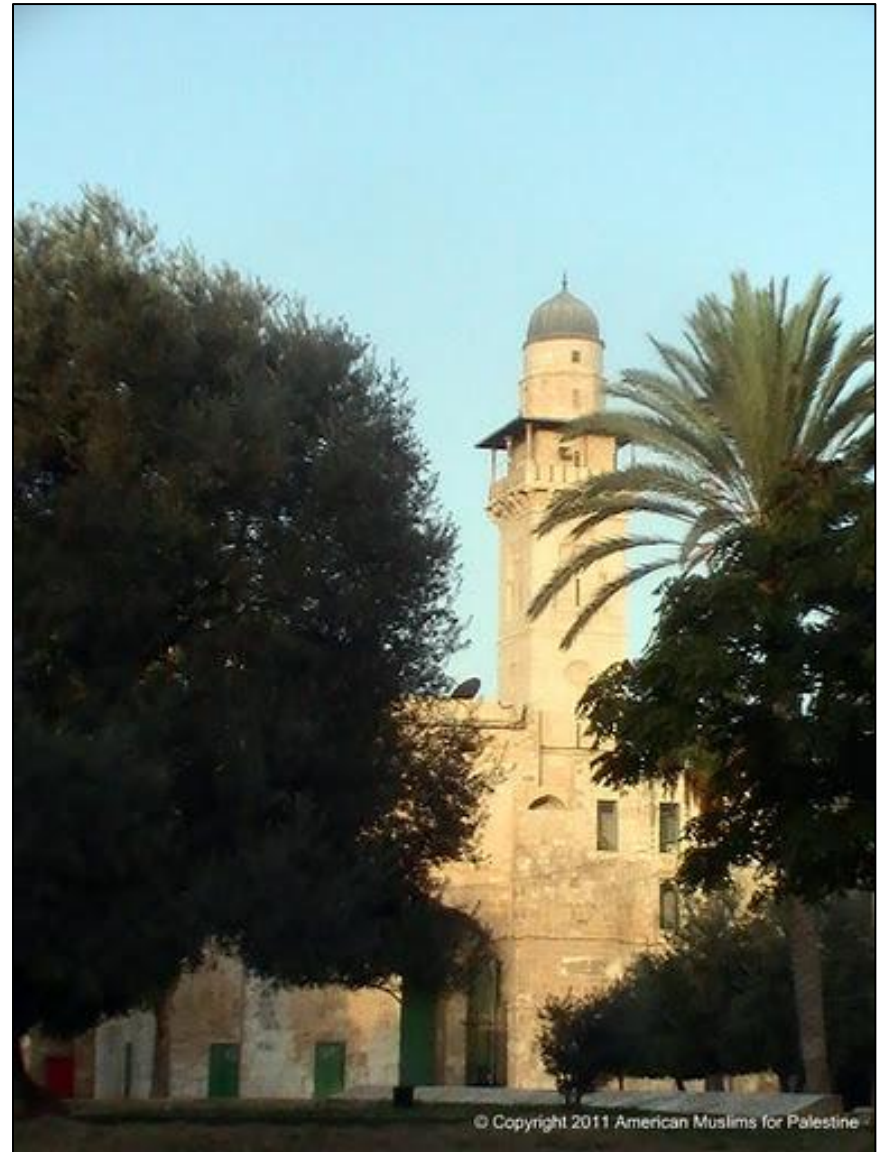
Deconstructing Jerusalem

Immediately after the end of the Six-Day War, Israeli Gen. Shlomo Goren tried to convince a commander to blow up al Aqsa “once and for all.”

4 days after the occupation
of East Jerusalem,
Israeli Occupation Forces bulldozed
135 homes
2 mosques
2 religious schools

Since then, Israel has demolished entire neighborhoods, including Christian structures as well, in attempts to erase the Arab connection to the city.

Source: Al Ahram newspaper; Ir Amin



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Deconstructing Jerusalem

Since 1967, Israel has been struggling to put 'facts on the ground,' via excavations, closing areas as archaeological sites, with settlement construction, and the Apartheid Wall with the express goal of erasing signs of Arab connection to the Holy City and separating Jerusalem once and for all from the rest of the West Bank.



Deconstructing Jerusalem - Excavations



The governments of Israel and Jerusalem, as well as private groups such as the Israeli settler organization, Elad, have been excavating 'archaeological' sites in East Jerusalem. In many cases, they are tunneling under Palestinian homes and also the Al Aqsa mosque compound, causing massive structural and foundational damage.

Elad and the City of David Park

Elad, a conservative, right-wing settler organization, actively settles Jewish families into Palestinian homes after the residents have been evicted. It is the chief contractor of the City of David National Park, built on top of destroyed Palestinian neighborhoods.

Elad also initiated additional excavations in Silwan, including digging a tunnel that is supposed to connect the City of David with the Al Aqsa mosque compound.



Other national parks

In May 2009, Ir Amin, an Israeli Jerusalem watchdog organization, disclosed government plans, done in cooperation with settler organizations, to surround the Old City with nine national parks, gardens, paths and sites, **intended to change the status quo in the city.**

Mamilla Cemetery and the Museum of Tolerance



Construction continues on the Museum of Tolerance, a massive museum and park project in Jerusalem, funded by the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center.



Mamilla Cemetery and the Museum of Tolerance

The museum is being built upon the grounds of the Mamilla Cemetery, which dates back centuries. Some of the companions of Prophet Muhammad were buried there.



In 1967, the shocked Jerusalemites and members of the Islamic Waqf gather the scattered bones left by Israeli parking lot workers in Mamilla, the historic cemetery in the western section of Jerusalem.
(Source: Jerusalem Quarterly)



Mamilla Cemetery and the Museum of Tolerance

“This construction project has resulted in the disinterment of hundreds of graves, and the whereabouts of the countless human remains that have been disposed of are unknown. Israel and the [Simone Wiesenthal Center] plan to continue the erection of the museum atop thousands of more graves. ...

Israel has an obligation to respect and protect the holy sites of its minority religious and ethnic populations, including Mamilla cemetery, under international law, United Nations resolutions and under its own domestic law. ...”

~ The Center for Constitutional Rights, which filed a petition on behalf of Palestinian defendants of people buried in Mamilla to stop construction of the museum

Settlements



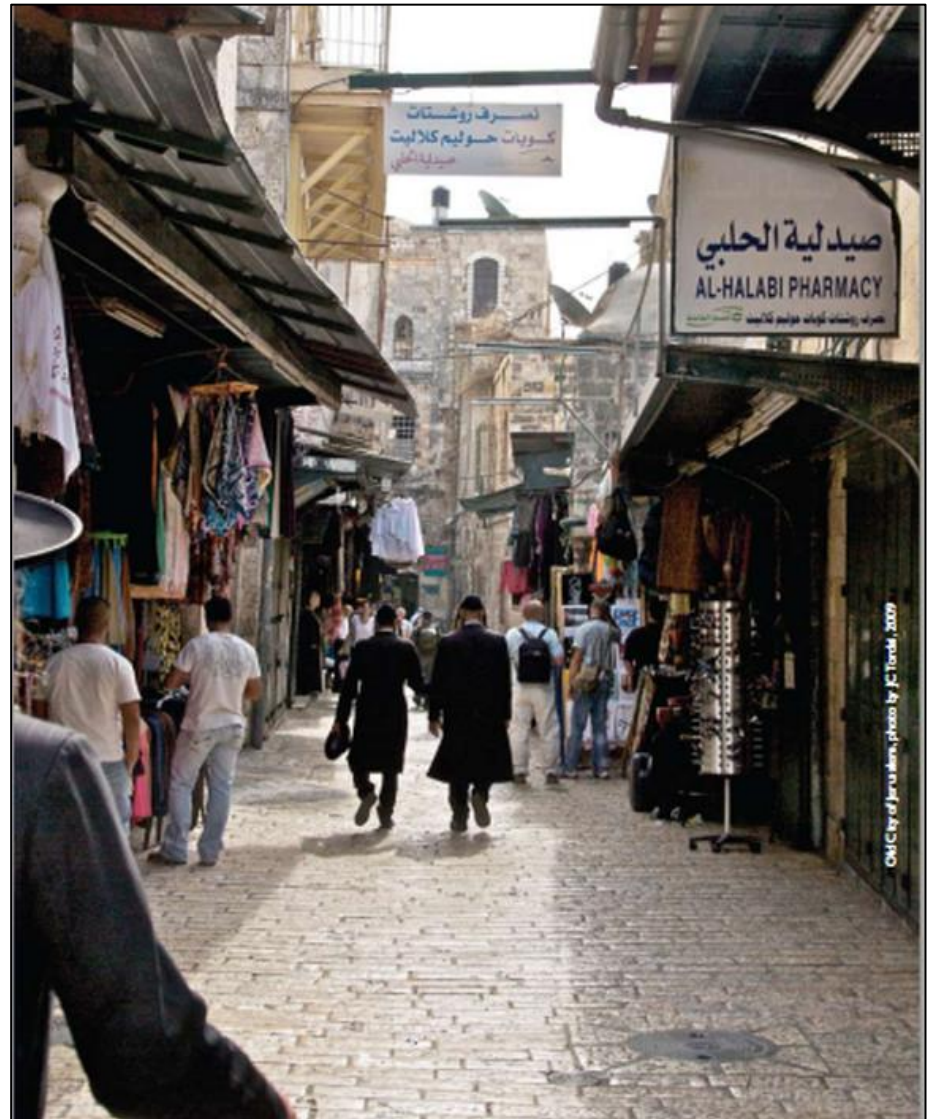
More than 200,000 Jewish colonial settlers are now living in East Jerusalem – in homes confiscated from Palestinians or in settlements.

Palestinians in East Jerusalem are given only 'residency permits,' which can be revoked at any time.

14,000 Palestinians have had their Jerusalem residency revoked between 1967 and mid-2010. The worst year for revocations was 2008, when 4,500 residents lost their ability to reside within – or even visit – Jerusalem. (These figures do not include the dependant children who were also expelled from the city.)

Since 2003, family 'reunification' permits are rarely granted.

(Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.)



Settlements and colonizers (aka settlers)

Sharihan Hannoun, 20, holds the key to her family's home in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of East Jerusalem. Israeli forces evicted the entire family in August 2009 and immediately moved in Orthodox Jewish settlers.



Photo:
Catholicnews.com

Israeli authorities taxed the Hannoun family for the six months they lived in tents on the street outside their home, Sharihan told AMP in October 2010.

Below right: Police barricades have been erected at the entrance to Sheikh Jarrah, because the Palestinian houses are now inhabited by colonizing Orthodox Jewish families and the area is off-limits to Palestinians.



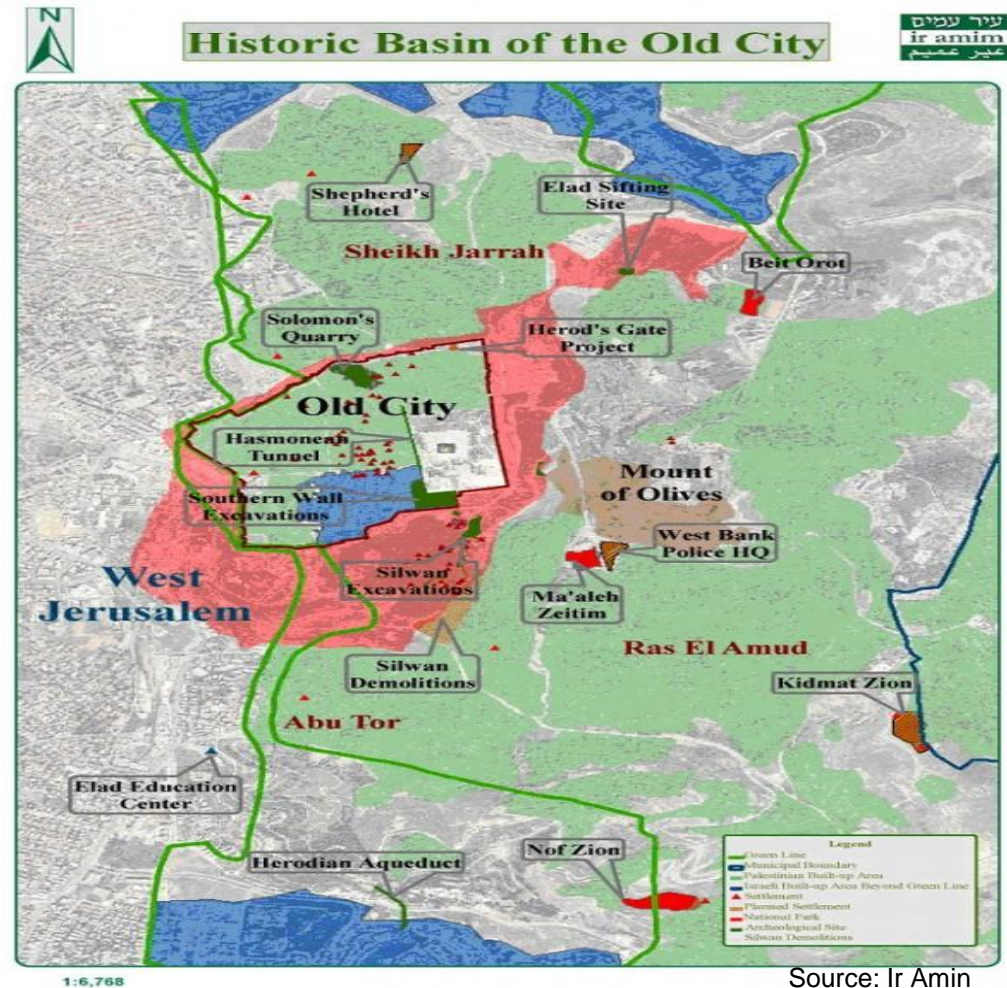
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Since 1967, more than 224 settlements and outposts have been constructed illegally on Palestinian land in the West Bank.

More than 500,000 Israelis are living illegally in colonies on Palestinian land – including 200,000 in East Jerusalem.

In East Jerusalem, settlements are called “Israeli neighborhoods.” They now ring the Old City and its historic religious sites.

Soon, Jewish-only compounds will completely encircle the history Old City – The area in red on the map.

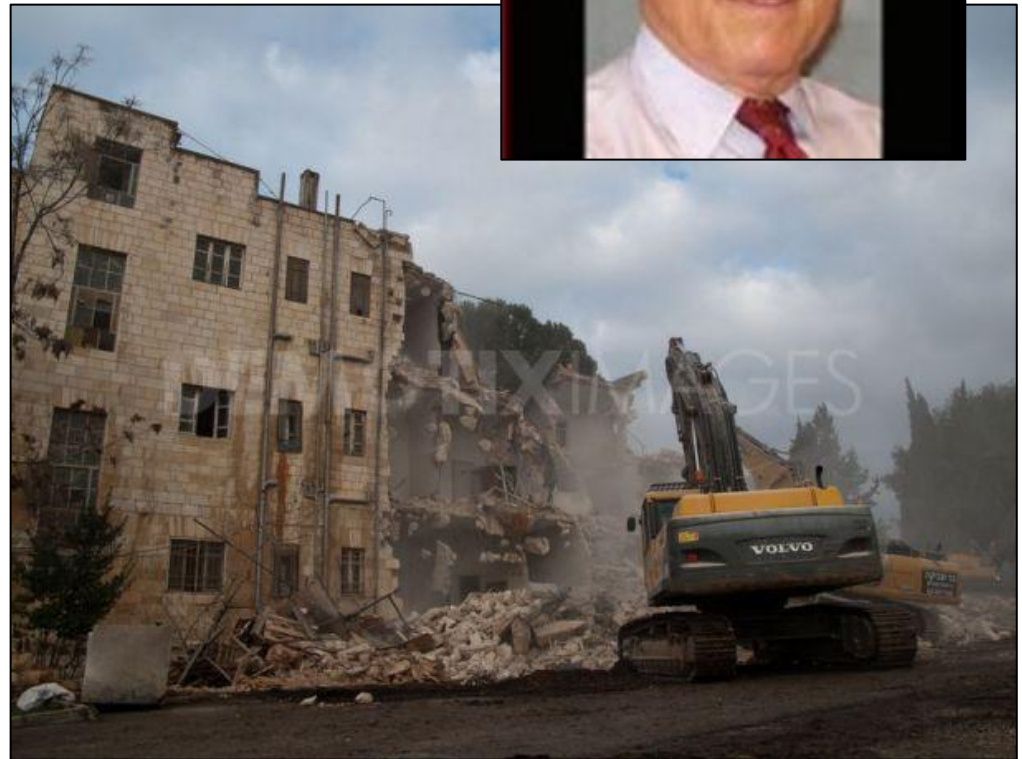


Settlements and colonizers (aka settlers)

Many of the settlement blocs in Jerusalem are being built with the help of American Jewish Bingo and gambling king, Irving Moskowitz. His settlement plans will effectively cut the West Bank in half, and will also sever most Palestinians completely from Jerusalem.

In January 2011, contractors began demolishing the historic King David Hotel in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of East Jerusalem. Moskowitz purportedly purchased the hotel in 1985 and is razing it to make room for settlement construction.

Bingo King
Irving Moskowitz



Apartheid Wall



Construction of the Apartheid Wall in East Jerusalem started in 2002.

The section which runs through the Jerusalem governorate measures 14 miles, with 9 miles running along the Green Line. It deviates nine miles into the West Bank at its widest point.

Construction of the Wall is re-drawing the map: all of the 'municipal' and the majority of the 'metropolitan' settlements are included on the 'Jerusalem' side of the Wall.

Certain Palestinian communities in East Jerusalem find themselves on the 'West Bank' side of the Barrier, and now need to cross checkpoints to access the health, education and other services to which they are entitled as residents of Jerusalem.

Conversely, certain West Bank localities are 'dislocated' to the 'Jerusalem' side of the Wall and face uncertain residency status, impeded access to basic services and risk of displacement.

West Bank neighborhoods and suburbs of East Jerusalem, which were once closely connected to the urban fabric, are now walled out, with devastating social and economic consequences.

The Barrier also separates rural communities from their land in the Jerusalem hinterland, resulting in impeded access for farmers and a decline in their agricultural production and livelihoods

From "East Jerusalem: Key Humanitarian Concerns," OCHA-OPT, March 2011

Discrimination in services

Though Palestinians in East Jerusalem pay the same taxes as Israelis, they do not receive the same services.

Palestinians lack:
Garbage pick-up

Curbs, gutters and traffic lights

Sewer hook-up (there is a shortage of 45 miles of sewer lines in East Jerusalem)

Adequate supply of water

Adequate classroom space (a shortage of more than 1,000 classrooms exist. In 2010, 6% - 5,300 students did not go to school because of lack of classrooms.



Road in
Palestinian
village in
West Bank



Jewish-
only road
in West
Bank

**Palestinian
Forced To
Demolish His
Own Home In
Jerusalem**

Home demolitions



Israeli authorities forced Mahmoud Aramin to demolish his house in East Jerusalem or risk having it destroyed by an Israeli bulldozer, which would have resulted in an exorbitant fine.

~ IMEU, May 29, 2011

Israeli Occupation
Forces have destroyed
25,000 homes in the
West Bank and Gaza
since 1967 and 2,000
in East Jerusalem.

Currently, there are
20,000 demolitions
orders outstanding in
East Jerusalem.

90% of West Bank
residents can no longer
enter Jerusalem and
100% of Gaza
residents are
prohibited.

(Source: Israeli Committee Against
House Demolitions)



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Resources

“East Jerusalem: Key Humanitarian Concerns,” March 2011
United Nations Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Concerns

“Grim Statistics: The Reality of Living Under Occupation,” 2011
American Muslims for Palestine

“The Mamilla Cemetery; A Buried History,” Spring 2009
Jerusalem Quarterly, Institute for Palestine Studies

“Under Occupation: A Report on the West Bank,” Spring 2011
Britain Palestine All Party Parliamentary Group

Institute for Middle East Understanding

www.imeu.net

Ir Amin: For an Equitable and Stable Jerusalem with an Agreed Political Future

<http://www.ir-amim.org.il/eng/>

Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions

www.icahd.org

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