

## A 'State of Palestine' even more mayhem and bloodshed



JEWISH BRIGADE SOLDIERS 1944-1946

**THE SOLDIERS PICTURED HERE** were recruited into the British army from Mandate Palestine. They fought largely in Italy and following the end of the Second World War they returned to Palestine, and certainly some of them will have participated in Israel's War of Independence 1947-1948. This followed the partition of Palestine by the United Nations between Jewish and Arab territory. The Arabs of Palestine, along with the Egyptians, Jordanians, Syrians, Iraqis, and Saudis, rejected the partition and launched an invasion of Jewish territory with the explicit intention of destroying the newly minted State of Israel.

All subsequent wars and intifada launched by Arabs from 1948 until the present have pursued the same objective: the destruction of the Jewish state. This is because the dominant Arab view is that all the lands

between the River Jordan and the Mediterranean are Muslim lands bequeathed to the Arabs by The Almighty. The Jews (if a few are permitted to remain), should be subordinate to Islamic law. All the institutions of the Jewish state would be violently destroyed or peacefully dissolved. This is what the overwhelming majority of Arab religious, cultural, and political leaders in Palestine seek to achieve.

They do not want a “two-state solution”. The Arabs in Palestine rejected the idea of two-states in 1947, and have done so at every opportunity, and turn of events since.

So, it is curious why so many political leaders in West should believe that the foundation of a new Arab state, to join the nineteen other states that Arabs already have, will resolve the present war. How could it prevent all subsequent wars, between Arabs in Palestine and the Jewish state? I can only conclude that President Macron and many others in Europe think that the Arab-Israeli conflict is about the equitable division of the land between Arabs and Jews.

Here the diplomats and politicians in Europe wilfully ignore what Arab leaders and the Arab street in Palestine is telling them. The Arabs do not want to apportion or share the land between peoples, they want what they have always insisted upon, the dissolution of the “Zionist Entity”. The reason that Macron and his allies insist upon misreading the situation is because they cannot contemplate the continuation of the present mayhem or the transfer of Arabs from the West Bank – Judea and Samaria – across the river to Jordan, or the ‘return’ of millions of Arabs to ancestral lands in Israel.

Instead, the Western diplomatic solution is the creation of a state out of a few fragments of territory on the ‘West Bank’ and the Gaza Strip, separated as they are by Israeli territory and Jewish settlements. This is not conceivably a recipe for stability or peace.

The ‘recognition’ of the State of Palestine is the recognition of a phantom. There is no coherent or united political leadership for such a ‘state’ amongst the Arabs of Palestine. There is no agreed or recognised territory for such a ‘state’. There is no history of a struggle for self-determination amongst the Arabs of Palestine demanding

or calling for such a 'state'. The 'State of Palestine' is a fiction got up by the United Nations and supported by the diplomats of numerous countries in order to attack the State of Israel.

It is an antisemitic plan which seeks to isolate Israel in an attempt to erode the stability of the Jewish state, and threaten its entire existence.

What will happen when this phantom 'State of Palestine' is recognized by the Republic of France and a raft of other prominent states? What will happen is this: disputes about the extent of its territory and borders. Calls for the ethnic cleansing of Jews from the West Bank. The demand for aid to finance the formation of a Palestinian Army and police force. Insistence upon the sovereignty of the 'Palestinian State' to act without regard for Israel's independence or security.

All this will occur in the full knowledge that the dominate view of the Palestinian political, religious, and cultural leadership, is that Israel should not exist and consequently must be destroyed. To the extent that any significant Arab institution accepts the recognition of the 'State of Palestine' it will be seen as a transitional state which seeks to establish the "right of return" to Israel for the so-called refugees that fled the fighting between the Arab armies and Jewish fighters for the fledgling State of Israel in 1948.

Now, this "right of return" is a key issue for the Arabs of Palestine. It applies to the three quarters of a million Arabs who fled during the invasion and war of 1948, and to the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of the original families that fled Jewish territory. This "right of return" of the so-called 'refugees' would, if granted, in an instant – *in one fell swoop* – transform Israel from a majority Jewish country to a majority Muslim territory, and involve Arabs seizing houses, land and other property during a violent 'litigation' in which they sought to gain back the property their ancestors lost seventy-seven years ago.

The reason I put the word 'refugees' in inverted commas is because these so-called refugees are not refugees, and have not 'lost' anything. The grandparents and great grandparents certainly lost a great deal, but the

subsequent generations lost nothing at all. One does not *inherit* refugee status; it is not a birth-right.

But this is exactly what the Palestinian Arabs say it is. They insist that all the generations since they lost the war in 1948 – the generations of children, of those who fled the fighting – and all the subsequent offspring of those who ran from the fighting, or were expelled by Jewish forces, are ‘refugees’ in perpetuity. This fiction is maintained by Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, Hamas, and Hezbollah. Consequently, Palestinians have been denied the right of full citizenship in many Arab lands. They have been denied the right to fully settle and establish a free life, free from refugee status. As a result, they’ve been denied access to educational and employment opportunities. This artificial *refugee* status imposed upon millions of Palestinian Arabs is unique in the world. Elsewhere, those who have fled during state formation and related wars have been fully incorporated as citizens in neighbouring jurisdictions.

Following the formation of modern Turkey in 1922 millions of Greeks were driven out of Anatolia, where they had lived for many generations. They fled to Greece where they settled and were incorporated as full Greek citizens. This happened again in 1945-1946 when twelve million ethnic Germans were expelled from their ancestral lands across Eastern Europe – they settled as full citizens in Germany. This happened to the millions of refugees who fled their homes in India and Pakistan at the partition of British India, and the creation of two new states. Time and again refugees have been incorporated and resettled after wars and ethnic strife have torn their societies asunder.

This has not happened for the Palestinian Arabs because the refugee status and the so-called “right of return” has been maintained by Palestinian Arab authorities and other Arab nations as a stick with which to beat the Israelis. The refugee status is maintained, as an open wound, which signals above all else, Arab refusal to accept the legitimacy and sovereignty of the Jewish state.

The only basis for the existence of a State of Palestine is the rejection of the “right of return”. Peace can only come when the Arabs of Palestine accept the permanence and sovereignty of the Jewish State.