

Response Questions for the BBC Documentary: *The Birth of Israel* (58 min)

Instructions: After viewing the BBC documentary entitled *The Birth of Israel*, respond to the following questions. Responses will be evaluated on the depth of understanding displayed as well as the thoughtfulness of questions posed. Please type.

1) What events led to creation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict began with the migration of Jews to the Middle-East during and after World War II. This "Zionist" movement started building tensions and when the United Nations granted land to the Jews that the Palestinians previously owned, things erupted.

2) What is the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is the conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis over land. Both claim ownership of the same land which the Jews took by force in their many wars with Palestine.

3) In what ways did WWII foster the Zionist Movement?

The Zionist Movement started in World War II in response to the Nazi concentration camps that were systematically killing Jews. This made people realize that the Jews, who had been oppressed for such a long time, needed their own homeland. They wanted the land of their Ancestors which includes Jerusalem.

4) What role did the United States play in establishing a Jewish homeland?

The United States thought it its moral obligation to the Jews to grant them their own homeland because of how they were treated during World War II. It was mainly the U.S. that pushed the U.N. to recognize the need and grant it.

5) Why is the United States still a key mediator in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?

The United States is still Israel's best, if not only, ally. Therefore, the U.S. is still obligated to help them when needed, and has been working to mediate the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

6) What is the current state of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict today?

Currently, negotiations are at a stalemate. Palestine is trying to get their land back, but they are only willing to negotiate if Israel will concede to the 1967 line. Israel is unwilling to make that bargain anymore and will only negotiate if Palestine will recognize their national security issues and admit that they need strategic bases within the 1967 state of Palestine. The U.S. is working on getting both sides back to the negotiating table.