



## Lesson 110

### Israel and the Conflict with Palestine

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In this lesson, we are going to be looking at the history of Israel and Palestine. We're also going to look at the far-right and why they like Israel, and why the far-left likes Palestine.

## **Extremism**

### **Extremism on the right and left**

You can find extremism on both the right and the left of the political spectrum. We know that the far-right has militia groups and is full of conspiracy theories, and discrimination: like sexism, racism, and white supremacy. But we also saw in a previous lesson (lesson 107, which was about abortion) that a far-left man planned to kill a Supreme Court justice after *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, because - among other things - he didn't like the ruling. From this example, we should be able to see that both the far-right and the far-left are dangerous. As we said earlier, this lesson is about Israel, and we shouldn't be surprised to learn that anti-Semitism is prevalent on the far-right. Anti-Semitism is prejudice, discrimination, hatred, and/or hostility towards Jews. In the far-right you can find Neo-Nazis, Holocaust deniers, conspiracy theories saying Jews run/ran everything from the Black Lives Matter movement to Jim Crow laws. At the "Unite the Right" rally in (Charlottesville) Virginia, August 2017, among other things, people shouted "Jews will not replace us" and on January 6<sup>th</sup> some rioters wore shirts saying the 6 million Jews that died in the Holocaust wasn't enough. But anti-Semitism isn't just found in the extreme far-right, for example on the first Holocaust Remembrance Day of his term, Trump issued a statement that didn't say "Jews" or "anti-Semitism" - all he said was "innocent people". So of course, most of the problems come from the right, but this does not mean that the left is innocent, they both have wrong views of Israel and Jewish people as well; both sides can be extreme.

## **The History of Israel and Palestine**

### **Zionism and Jewish settlements**

The history of Israel's conflict with Palestine dates back far into the 1800s. Back in the 1800s, Palestine was populated mainly by Arab Muslims, with a few Jews and Christians. The majority of Jews lived in eastern and central Europe, which was outside of Palestine. But in the late 1800, Jews began to be more and more persecuted in Europe, and a movement to leave Europe began to form. This was called the Zionist movement; it was formed in 1897, and it wanted to form a Jewish state in Palestine. Zionists believe that this state would become their homeland, and they began to call it the land of Israel; some organizations even formed to buy land in Palestine. As we might expect, the Arabs in Palestine didn't like this idea, and as more Jews began to move in, violence sparked. One of the first violent events happened when a Jewish guard accidentally shot an Arab in 1882. In response, 200 Arabs attacked a Jewish settlement. However, the violence only increased when Britain took control. Previous to World War I, Palestine was controlled by the Ottoman Empire, but as the war was ending the Ottomans were defeated, and Britain took control of Palestine. During World War I, the Allies wanted the help of the Sharif of Mecca to defeat the Ottomans. In return for his help, Britain promised to acknowledge the independence of Arab countries. The Sharif agreed, but unknowingly to him,

Britain was more focused on its own agenda rather than holding up the deal. Britain began to divide up the spoil of the Ottoman Empire, and as a result, they made Palestine an “international zone,” which violated their agreement with the Sharif. Next, Britain made moves to further anger the Arabs. Britain saw Palestine as a buffer for the Suez Canal, and the Jewish leaders in Britain convinced the government that Zionist ambitions would benefit Britain’s ambitions. So, Britain began to support the two-nation theory, the movement to establish a nation for Jews in Palestine. Partly due to support from Britain, and due to the popularity of Zionism, Jewish immigration into Palestine increased. Violence began to increase as well, in 1921 the first major anti-Jewish riots took place in Palestine. The Jaffa riots began as a fight amongst the Jews, but turned into a fight against the Jews by the Arabs. Forty-seven Jews and 48 Arabs were killed. Since Britain controlled the area it was responsible to manage the violence, and even though it saw how impractical so much Jewish immigration was, it didn’t change its pro-Zionist agenda. In 1936, the deadliest riots in Palestine called The Great Revolt began. There were two phases in the riots. The first phase began in 1936. Sixty-thousand Jews immigrated that year, and the Arabs began revolting. The Higher Arab Committee, an Arab organization, organized the riots- they focused on strikes against Jews and other forms of protest. By October, the British had suppressed the first phase of the revolt. The second phase began in late 1937 when another revolt began fueled by the hatred of how the British ended the first phase. This time the British army itself was targeted, as it targeted revolting villages. Just as before, the British ended the rebellion but not without casualties. In total, from both phases, it’s estimated there were around 20,000 Arab casualties: 5,000 deaths and 15,000 injured. These riots prompted the British to provide stronger support for Zionist militias and cause a Prominent Arab leader (Haj Amin al-Husseini) to go into exile.

## **History of Israel and Palestine**

On May 14, 1948 Israel officially became a country. The United States and the Soviet Union recognized the country that same day. This, however, did not end the conflict between Israel and Palestine, instead made it worse. In August of the same year, an Israeli terrorist organization murdered the United Nations appointed mediator for Palestine. In 1956, a massacre took place with Israelis killing Palestinians from three cities. The killings continued and by 1967 Israel occupied most of Palestine. In 1973, the United Nation told Israel to withdraw from the territory for the second time (Israel was first told in 1967). In 1976, Israel took more land from the Palestinians which resulted in brutal protests. In 1995, however, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) signed an agreement that gave the Palestinians some freedom. In 1997, because of the agreement, Israel withdrew some of its troops from Hebron. That progress soon after started to be dismantled because in 2002, Israel sent its troops back to Palestinians cities. In 2008, then in 2012, and again in 2014, Israel attacked Gaza, a city owned by the Palestinians. The 2014 attack took place from July to August and over 2,000 Palestinians were killed, more than half of them being civilians. Clearly conflict between Israel and Palestine is far from over.

# **The Evangelicals Right's Views of Israel**

## **Some in the far-right like Israel**

But, despite what we saw earlier, not all of the right-wing is anti-Semitic: some people in the right-wing actually love Israel. These people are far-right Evangelicals, who believe that Israel is in Bible Prophecy at the end of the world. They think that Israel will be attacked by a northern country - which many think is Russia - with the help of Iran and other Arab countries. But by miraculous intervention (like giant hail and unexplained fighter jet explosions) - they think - no Israeli will die and the attackers will be destroyed (and birds will eat their bodies). After this, these Evangelicals believe "the rapture" will take place where they believe faithful Christians will be taken to Heaven, and then the world will be engulfed in plagues and trouble when more people (including Jews) will be converted and finally Jesus will come back to get them. Because of these views, far-right Evangelicals get excited whenever Iran is in the news and they especially like it when it has something to do with war. Some of these Evangelicals have even called for a war with Iran, and want the United States and Israel to start it. They also support the country of Israel because they believe that Jews have to be in Palestine for their version of prophecy to happen. They call for the United States to support Israel with things like weapons. There is also an organization: Christians United for Israel, with millions of members that supports Zionism. These Evangelicals aren't necessarily anti-Semitic even though they are in the right-wing, instead they support Israel because they believe that it has a role to play in the end of the world.

## **Obama and the nuclear deal**

Obama's administration dealt a big blow to the far-right's hopes of the end of the world. On May 22, 2015, President Obama signed the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act. The act was signed by several countries (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Germany- "P5+1", and of course Iran) and it was formally titled the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The goal of the deal was to prevent Iran from reviving its nuclear weapons program, and thus decrease the threat of nuclear war between Iran and its enemies such as Israel and Saudi Arabia. Iran consented to dismantle most of its nuclear program that it had been working on, and it also agreed to let its facilities be more open to inspection. Previous to the deal, if Iran wanted a nuclear bomb, they could produce one in a few months, so the nuclear deal extended that time to about a year- which gave other countries time to respond. In the deal, Iran also agreed to stop producing uranium or the plutonium that could be used for a nuclear weapon, and that its nuclear facilities would only be used for medical and industrial research, among other things. As we might expect, Iran didn't agree to this without benefiting in some way. President Obama removed sanctions on Iran's oil, letting it export more and make more money. Several countries also unfroze many Iranian assets, which gave Iran access to about \$100 billion. These were the terms and negotiations of the Iran nuclear deal; negotiations began as far back as 2003, with a final decision being made in 2015, and the deal going into effect in 2016. Right-wing Evangelicals opposed this deal because it weakened Iran and reduced the chance of it attacking Israel and bringing about their view of the end of the world.

## Evangelicals and Trump

On May 8, 2018, President Trump announced that he was pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal by stating that he was placing sanctions on Iran's oil. The United States wasn't allowed to put sanctions on Iran as part of the deal, therefore, by placing sanctions on Iran, the deal was essentially broken. Trump said that the deal wasn't actually preventing Iran from making a nuclear weapon therefore he didn't think that the United States needed to be in it. "The problem, though, is that the deal wasn't "rotten": The best evidence we have suggests Iran was actually complying with the deal. Iran has dismantled a huge portion of its nuclear program and given international inspectors wide latitude to make sure it isn't cheating; the country is significantly further from a nuclear weapon than it was when the deal came into force." *Vox* "Trump's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, explained". The two main countries that supported the withdrawal were Saudi Arabia and Israel. "When Trump pulled out of the pact, much of the Israeli public cheered. Netanyahu took credit for making it happen, and Bennett hailed it as 'a great day for the free world.'" *Washington Post* "Israel opposed the Iran nuclear deal, but former Israeli officials increasingly say U.S. pullout was a mistake". The Evangelicals and Trump really ended the deal because it would give Iran the power to bring about the end of the world. On May 14, 2018, the United States opened a new embassy in Jerusalem. This upset the Palestinians while making the Israelis very happy. It was opened on the worst day of the Gaza border protests when over 50 Palestinians were killed. "The initiative was driven by President Donald Trump, after he broke last year with decades of U.S. policy by recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel." *Reuters* "Why is the U.S. moving its embassy to Jerusalem?". By acknowledging that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and not Palestine, then moving the embassy there, Trump and the Evangelicals clearly showed their support for Israel since Jerusalem has long been fought over by Israel and Palestine.

# The Far-Left's Views of Israel

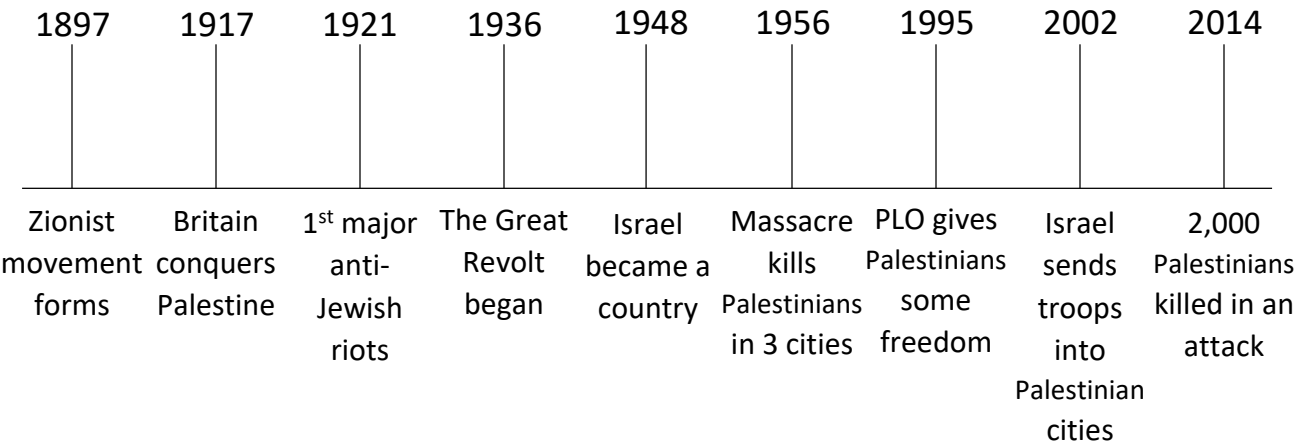
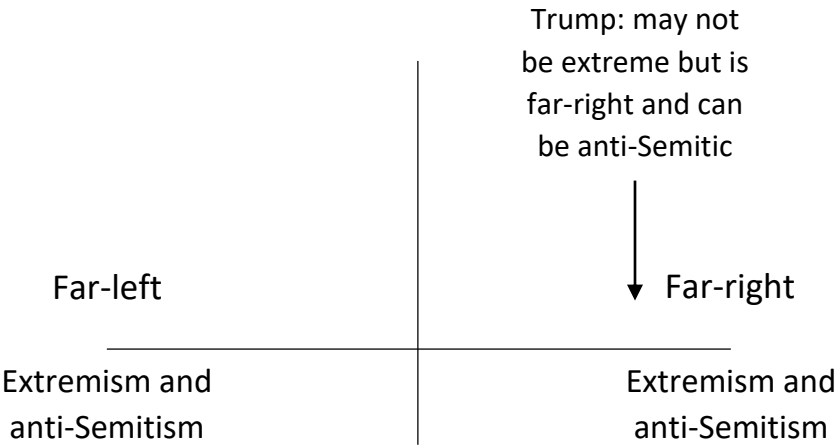
## The far-left can be anti-Semitic too

As we mentioned earlier, there is extremism and hatred on the left as well as the right. Israel is just one example. In July of 2005, a call to boycott, divest, and sanction Israel was put out and endorsed by over 150 Palestinian organizations, trade unions, charities, and people like activists and academics. This became the BDS movement. In 2007, people who supported these ideas came together in a conference and the Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC) was formed. The next year, in 2008, the BNC became the leading organization of the BDS movement, but that only really applies to Palestine because BDS is global and it is purposefully not very organized in other countries. The BDS movement supports the rights of Palestinian people and is deeply opposed to the country of Israel. They believe that Israel is like apartheid South Africa: what is happening in Israel to the Palestinians is the same thing as what happened to Black South Africans in South Africa, and so they believe that Israel needs to be opposed like South Africa was. They have three main goals: two relating to the rights and protections of Palestinians and Palestinian refugees and they also don't want the country of Israel; a co-founder of BDS said he doesn't want a country of Israel to exist in Palestine - but that would leave Jews without any protection from the anti-Semitism of other Arab countries. BDS is anti-Zionist, and they are also anti-Semitic according to several Jewish organizations, Israeli politicians, the US House of Representatives (who passed a resolution that condemned BDS), and even the German parliament (but some Jews do support BDS because they believe that it is anti-Semitic). BDS is anti-Semitic, for example, for a while BDS Boston widely promoted a map that listed many organizations, including directly Jewish ones, saying that these groups supported the occupation of Palestine and therefore they needed to be resisted in any way possible. BDS is mostly supported on the left with almost 50% of Democrats saying they support it (while more than 75% of Republicans - including Trump - do not). The squad is part of the far-left wing that supports BDS: in 2019 Ilhan Omar wrote a resolution that said people have the right to boycott, and while she did not say BDS or Israel, before she published it she said that it would show why she supported the BDS movement. The other three members of the squad (among other representatives) all co-sponsored the resolution. In the resolution Omar gave examples of the boycotts of Nazi Germany and apartheid South Africa - implying that Israel is comparable to those countries. Last year (2021) the Washington D.C. chapter of the Sunrise Movement - a left-wing movement that focuses on combating climate change - said they would not speak at a rally supporting making D.C. a state (a left-wing idea) because some Jewish organizations that support the country of Israel would be there. They were clearly being anti-Semitic, and the national movement leadership didn't really correct them. The far-left hates Israel because they don't like imperialism/colonialism, and they believe that is what the country of Israel is. We saw how Britain helped the Jews (who were Europeans as well) move to Palestine - the left thinks that must be imperialism, and so they don't like Israel. As we can see there is a broad hatred of the country of Israel in the left-wing, and there is also plenty of anti-Semitism.

## **We need to understand the left**

Understanding the far-left is a thing this Movement is starting to do. There's more to the conflict between Israel and Palestine than just external events. When we look at who supports who, we get a glimpse into the far-left. In 2016, we know that there was an election between Trump and Clinton- Clinton was the correct stream of information. But before the Presidential election, there was a smaller election among each political party to choose a Presidential nominee. Clinton went up against Sanders and won. Clinton, as we know, is left-wing, and is more moderate, while Sanders is further left. But Sanders would not have been the right choice to go up against Trump. What we are understanding now, is that we can no longer say left-wing good, right-wing bad. We not only have to watch out for the more conservative liberals that love to compromise, but we now have to understand the far-left, and the problems with their ideology. There are still two streams of information, it's just that the entire left-wing is not the correct stream. Far-left agenda can be just as anti-Semitic as the far-right, and even though racism isn't the test for our time, if you fail the test of race, then you certainly fail the test of gender. So, the more we understand the views of the far-left, the more we will be able to sift to find the correct stream of information; the true stream is a lot narrower than simply being the entire left-wing.

In summary:





## Right-wing Evangelical view on Israel

Right-wing Evangelicals believe that Israel is going to be attacked at the end of the world but no Israelis will die, and Christians will be taken to heaven. Thus they support Israel.

In 2015, the nuclear deal was signed which limited Iran's ability to make a nuclear weapon.



In 2018, Trump backed out of the deal, because he was influenced by Evangelicals and they believe Iran will be one of the countries to attack Israel and bring about the end.

## Far-Left view on Israel

The far-left hates Israel and supports Palestine. They think since Britain helped Israel it was colonialism and imperialism which they don't like. The BDS movement is one of the far-left's anti-Semitic organizations.

## Our view on the Far-Left

The far-left can be extreme and anti-Semitic like the far-right and we don't support them. We should avoid far-left sources of information.

Official Youth Prophecy Group website:

[youthprophecygroup.org](https://youthprophecygroup.org)

If you have any questions or comments on any of the material contact us at:

[youthprophecygroup@gmail.com](mailto:youthprophecygroup@gmail.com)

Find all the YPG lesson videos at:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeltzVajTXgSQRL-o2XOq\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeltzVajTXgSQRL-o2XOq_g)

Link to YPG Zoom meetings which are at 10:00am Pacific Time on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87170293849>