



The Rise of the Intifadas.
How do both Israelis and
Palestinians view the
causes and the effects of
the Intifada?

Poem in Palestinian Textbook on the topic of the first Intifada

*The 1967 War was over
All the land of Palestine was occupied
In every patch of land there was a tragedy
In every house a sad old man
In every village there was poverty
And in every camp an orphaned child!
They reckoned the case was over
And thought they had gotten rid of us
Once and for all!
They thought that after all the suffering
We had lost our patience
Or given up our steadfastness.
A million times did we tell them:
No to Camp David*

*A million NOs to it and to all those behind it
No to autonomy:
It is futile and deformed!
No to elections
They take our rights away
They replace our rulers
And divide us more and more.
Our demand is one:
An independent state
That only—will last forever.*

Spark which began the Intifada

On 8 December 1987, just one day before the eruption of the intifada, an Israeli truck driver in Gaza deliberately hit an Arab car, killing several of its passengers and seriously wounding the others. The next day, over 6,000 people from Jabalia refugee camp, from which three of the people killed in the truck accident had come, participated in the funeral procession. The procession turned into a huge demonstration. As usual, the Israeli military forces met the demonstrators with live ammunition, tear-gas bombs, beating, and arrest. Scores of demonstrators were injured and one was killed; Hatem Al-Seesi was the first martyr of the intifada. When news of this incident leaked out, sweeping demonstrations erupted all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Spark which began the Intifada

On December 8, 1987, an Israeli truck crashed into a Palestinian car in Gaza and four Palestinian passengers were killed. The Palestinians claimed that the collision was intentional—that it was malicious murder. At the funeral of those killed, the crowd attacked an IDF post in Gaza and threw stones; the rioting resumed the next day and continued over subsequent days. This incident is said to have marked the start of the Palestinian war against Israel: the intifada (uprising).

[Article 1](#)

[Article 2](#)

[Article 3](#)

Actions of and Responses to the Intifada

Although the intifada was totally nonviolent, Israel responded with very cruel oppressive measures, including bone breaking, expulsion, and imprisonment without charge or trial.

The intifada initially featured throwing stones and Molotov cocktails at IDF soldiers and vehicles, crowds gathering to confront the IDF in Gaza, blocked streets, snatched weapons, and so forth, on a daily basis. The intifada

Initially, the IDF adopted a military policy that directed its soldiers to batter the demonstrators with all possible force. The army issued clubs to the

Later, the IDF issued restrictions on the use of violence,

Conclusions

The intifada was a turning point in the relations between Israel and the Palestinian people. For the first time, the two peoples stood face-to-face as partners in the necessity to resolve the conflict between them. This accelerated the opening of channels of dialogue between the two peoples, which eventually led to the signing of the Oslo Accords.

The second phase started with the end of the first Gulf War until the Oslo Accords. At this time the intifada had started to wither away because of the Israeli suppression, and because of the seclusion policy imposed on the Palestinians and the damage inflicted on the Palestinian economy. This phase was marked by a change in the center of power from ordinary people who had started the intifada to the higher Palestinian leadership, who were involved in the Arab-Israeli peace process initiated by the United States, first in the Madrid conference and later in the bilateral agreements in Washington.