

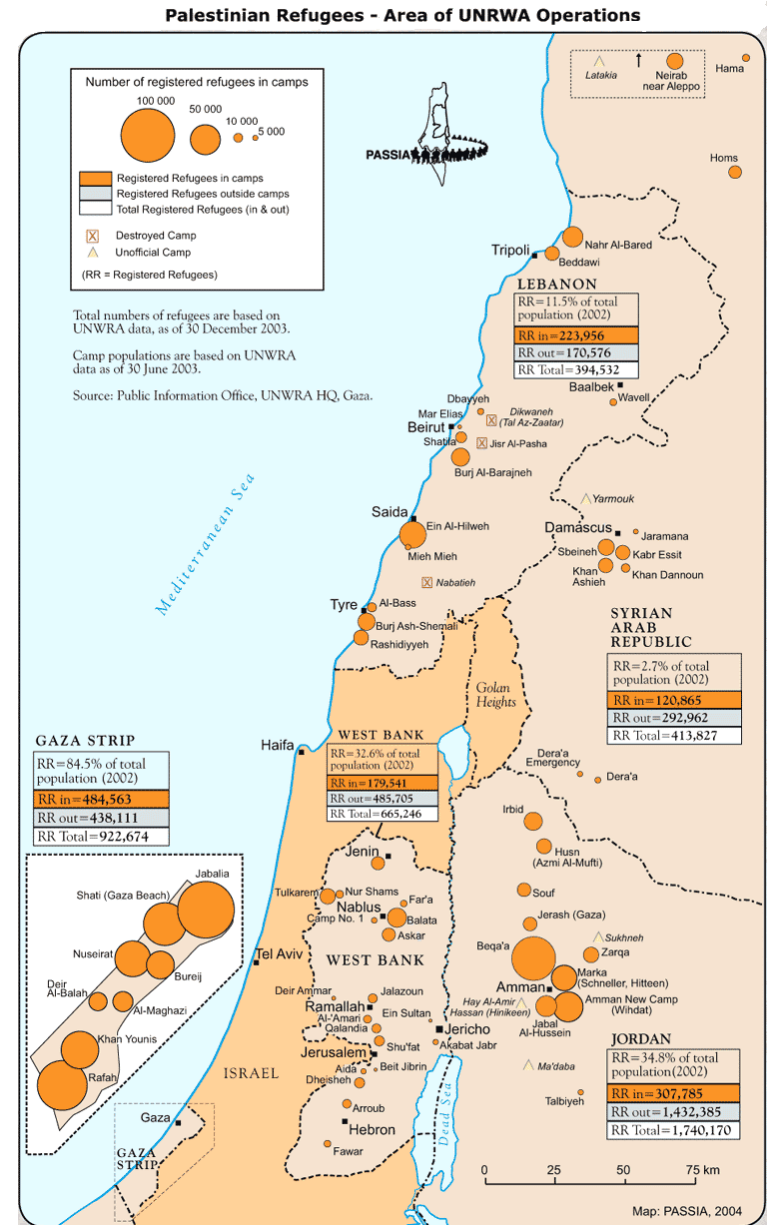
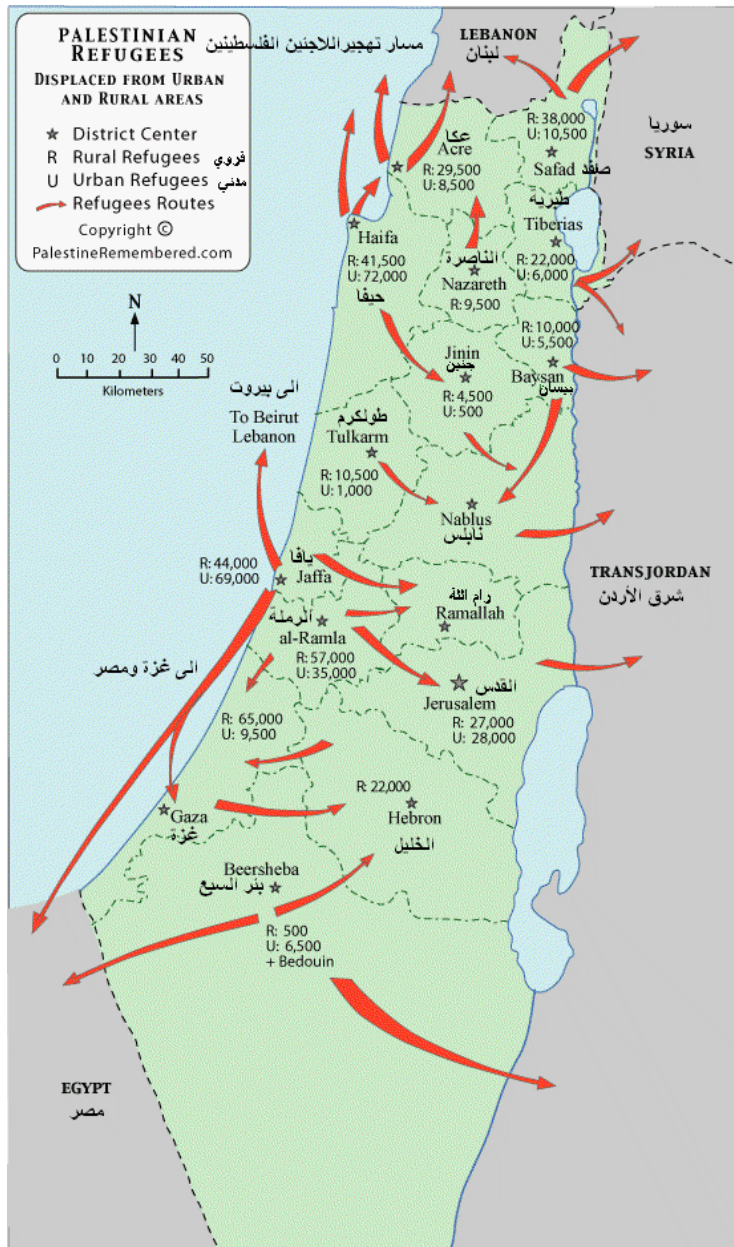
WHY IS THERE A PALESTINIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM AND WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR DEALING WITH IT?

Term 2 Topic 1

ref·u·gee

- noun: **refugee**; plural noun: **refugees**
- a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.
- **Definition of Palestinian Refugees**
- “persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict.”
- In the aftermath of the hostilities of June 1967 and the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, ten camps were established to accommodate a new wave of displaced persons, both refugees and non-refugees.
- Approx. 700,000 by 1949, today Approx. 5,000,000 (Current numbers are mainly the decedents of original refugees)

Refugees





Causes of Refugee Problem

Israeli Perspective

Palestinian Perspective

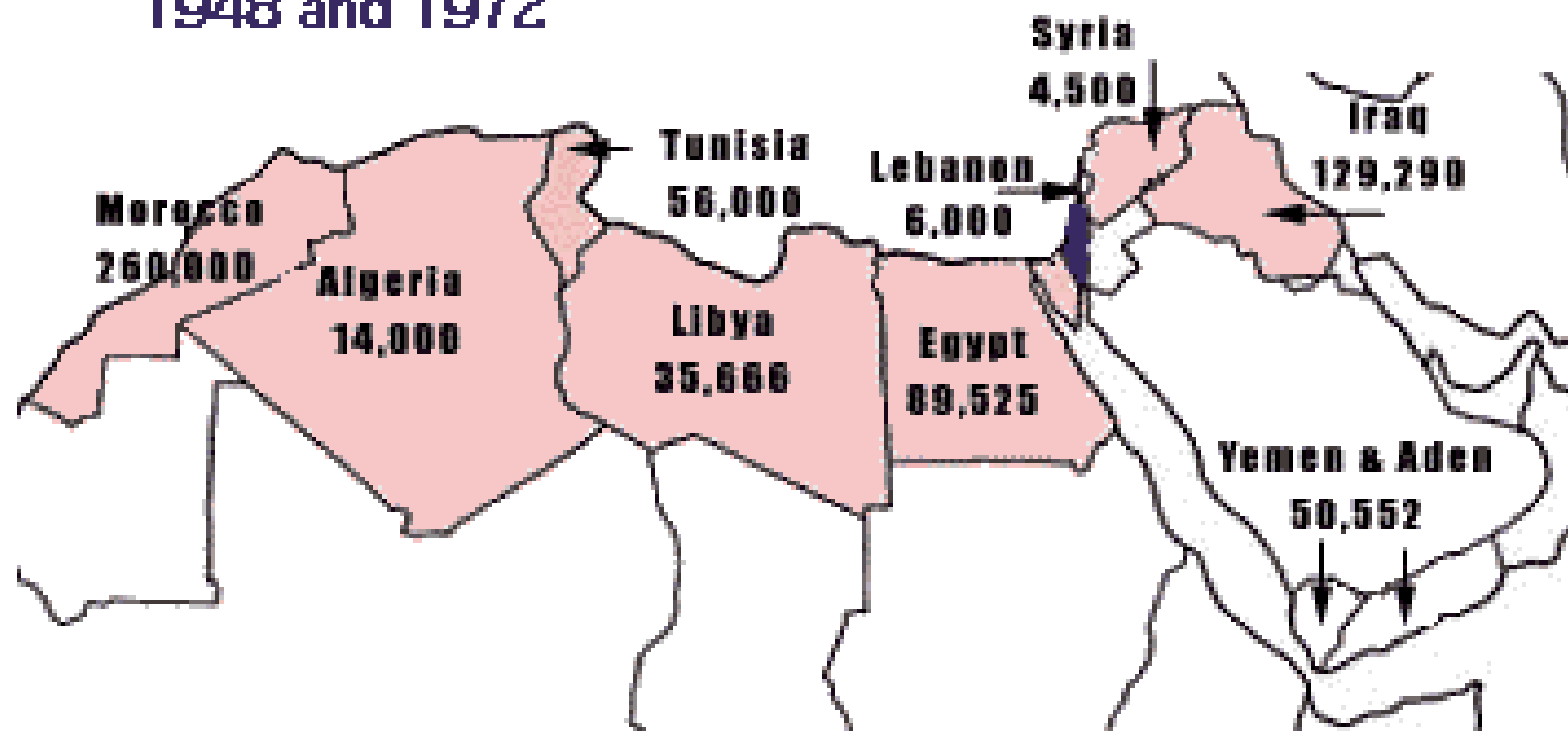
Israel's Declaration of Independence, Friday 14th May 1948 - Erev Shabbat 5th Iyar 5708

- “WE EXTEND our hand of peace and unity to all the neighbouring states and their peoples, and invite them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.”



Arab states, showing
number of Jews who sought
refuge in Israel between
1948 and 1972

Israel between
1948 and 1967



UN General Assembly, Resolution 194 (III)

Having considered further the situation in Palestine,

11. Resolves that the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours *should* be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property which, under principles of international law or in equity, should be made good by the Governments or authorities responsible;

Instructs the Conciliation Commission to facilitate the repatriation, resettlement and economic and social rehabilitation of the refugees and the payment of compensation, and to maintain close relations with the Director of the United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees and, through him, with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations;

- The Arab position was expressed by Emile Ghoury, the Secretary of the Arab Higher Committee:
- It is inconceivable that the refugees should be sent back to their homes while they are occupied by the Jews, as the latter would hold them as hostages and maltreat them. The very proposal is an evasion of responsibility by those responsible. It will serve as a first step towards Arab recognition of the State of Israel and partition. [65](#)

Family Reunification Act Israeli Government Decision #1813 of May 12, 2002

What can be done about the Problem

A War of Survival—Unlike other nations, Israel faces an enemy whose aim is not merely to defeat her army or to conquer a specified area of land. The intention of the Arab governments has been (and continues to be) the liquidation of the Jewish state, making the Middle East conflict a war of survival for Israel. Many nations have lost wars yet continued to exist in one form or another, but Israel assumes that defeat in war would mean an end to the Jewish state—and she wages war accordingly. This concern with survival is also fueled by memories of the Nazi Holocaust, making the IDF and the Israeli people as a whole particularly sensitive about the loss of life. For example, the commanders of the IDF regard extensive losses on the battlefield as a threat to the nation's future, and this is an important consideration whenever the prospect of a prolonged war comes up in discussion.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)



unrwa
الأونروا

the un agency for
palestine refugees

وكالة الأمم المتحدة
للاجئين الفلسطينيين

- <http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/meast/01/25/mideast.al.jazeera.leaks/>