



ZIONISM & ANTI-ZIONISM: The history of two opposing ideas

EPISODE 4: THE MIDDLE EAST ISLAMIC AND ARAB ANTI-ZIONISM & THE BIRTH OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

The creation of the modern State of Israel was met with Arab and Islamic anti-Zionism. We learn about the historical place of Jews in Arab society, the mass expulsion of Jews from the Arab world in the 20th century, and the role of anti-Zionism as a unifying force in the Arab world ever since. We also discuss the struggles and successes of the establishment of the modern state of Israel.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How did Arab and Western history impact the creation of the modern Middle East? | **Timecode: 4:13 - 9:40**
2. How were Jews treated in Muslim lands over the centuries? | **Timecode: 10:50 - 13:58**
3. What was the Partition Plan and how did it develop? | **Timecode: 16:17 - 21:01**
4. How did anti-Zionism and pan-Arabism influence the Muslim world? | **Timecode: 25:23 - 29:38**
5. How is the Nakba typically understood? What is its true meaning? | **Timecode: 30:01 - 31:51; 40:20 - 41:49**
6. Why are Palestinian refugees unique among the waves of refugees created by 20th century events? | **Timecode: 35:16 - 40:00**

OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

1. Dr. Wilf argues that Zionism is not a “post-Holocaust phenomenon.” What are the best arguments for Dr. Wilf’s view? What are the arguments for specifically understanding Zionism in light of the Holocaust?
2. Should Mizrahi Jews argue for a right of return to Arab lands? Why or why not?
3. How does Islamic and Arab anti-Zionism continue the trends we’ve seen in previous weeks? How does it differ?

PRIMARY SOURCES FOR CONVERSATION

1. [Ernst Bevin’s 1947 report on Palestine, with responses by Winston Churchill and other British leaders](#)
2. [Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel](#)
3. [PLO Charter](#)
4. [“The Meaning of Nakba” by Constantin Zureiq](#)
5. [Khartoum Resolutions](#)