

Israel-Palestine 101

Setting the Stage:

Rise of Zionism to Partition

Historic Zionism

**The desire to create a Jewish
homeland in ancestral Palestine**

Persecution of Jews

- Modern political Zionism emerges in late 1800s in Europe
 - French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars fueled nationalism
- 1881-1884 | Pogroms in Eastern Europe (primarily Russia)
 - 1882-1884, First *Aliyah*
 - major immigration to Palestine and establishment of first Zionist settlements



Figure 40. Five of the 49 victims of the Kishinev Pogroms in 1903. From a memorial album, J.N.U.L., Jerusalem.

Persecution of Jews

- Many Western European Jews also wanted assimilation
 - Much societal resistance
- Desire strengthens for homeland safe from discrimination and persecution



Figure 40. Five of the 49 victims of the Kishinev Pogroms in 1903. From a memorial album, J.N.U.L., Jerusalem.

Theodor Herzl

Father of Political Zionism



- Journalist, living in France
- 1894 – Dreyfus Affair
 - Jewish officer falsely accused of treason and banished
- 1896-published *Der Judenstaat*
 - Called for the creation of a Jewish state in historic Palestine
 - Gives voice and momentum to Zionism
- First Zionist Congress meets in 1897 in Basel, Switzerland
 - 200 delegates
 - Palestine confirmed as location for future Jewish home



Telegram from Rabbis after Zionist Congress:

*The bride is beautiful
but she is married to another man.*

Israel Zangwill's popularized phrase:

*Palestine is a land without a people for a
people without a land.*

(1901, New Liberal Review)

(Did not invent this phrase, borrowed it from Lord
Shaftesbury, 1850s)

Zangwill later wrote...

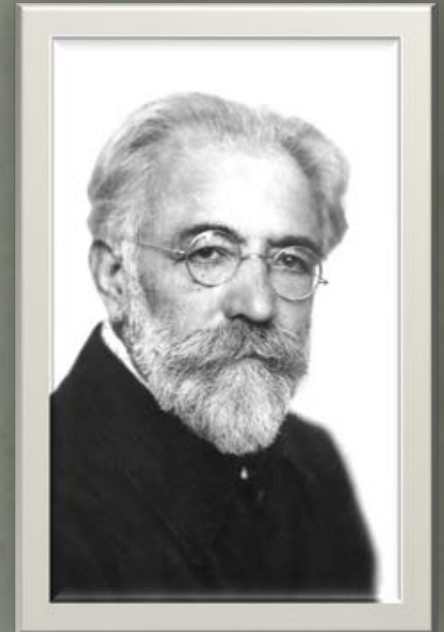
“Palestine has already its inhabitants. The *pashalik* of Jerusalem is already twice as thickly populated as the United States, having fifty-two souls to every square mile, and not 25 per cent. of them Jews; so we must be prepared either to drive out by the sword the tribes in possession as our forefathers did, or to grapple with the problem of a large alien population...”

(The Voice of Jerusalem, 1921)

Yitzhak Epstein, 'A Hidden Question' 1905

Chided the Zionist leadership for:

“overlooking the ‘marginal’ fact – that in our beloved land there lives an entire people that has been dwelling there for many centuries and has never considered leaving it.”





- Israel/Palestine is c. 10,000 sq. mi.; about the size of Maryland or Vermont
- The Negev desert is c. 6,000 sq. mi.; the inhabital area is smaller is than Connecticut.
- Middle Tennessee is 17,000 sq. mi.





- The official 1878 Ottoman census:
447,454 Muslims
and Christians
15,011 Jews
- The official 1922 British census:
589,177 Muslims
71,464 Christians
83,790 Jews

How do we create a Jewish homeland
in a land with other people?

Quotes from Leaders

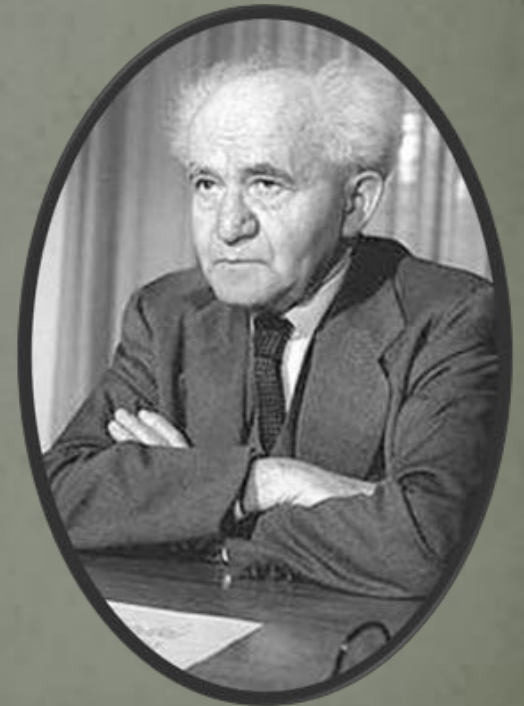


“We shall try to spirit the penniless population across the border by procuring employment for them in the transit countries while denying any employment in our country. Both the process of expropriation and the removal of the poor must be carried out discretely and circumspectly.”

- Theodor Herzl, diary entry, 1897

1904-1914

- Herzl pursues diplomacy
 - Ottomans – land for debt payment
 - British – Uganda as temporary solution
- 1901 – Jewish National Fund declares that all land purchased must always remain Jewish
- Second *Aliyah* – another wave of pogroms
 - Among these immigrants was David Ben-Gurion
 - Come with socialist leanings and desire for egalitarian agricultural society
 - *But run solely on Jewish labor*
- Unrest among indigenous Arabs begins festering
 - Emerges frequently in violent form



WORLD WAR

1914

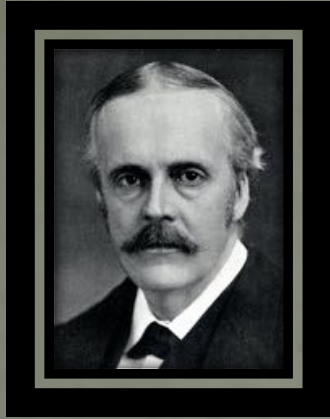
Ottoman Empire on verge of
collapse

Hussein-McMahon Correspondence

1915

Sharif of Mecca to British High Commissioner of Egypt requesting British aid if Arabs revolt against Turks

McMahon pledged that Britain supported
“independence of the Arabs in all the regions within
the limits demanded by Sherif of Mecca.”



Balfour Declaration

1916

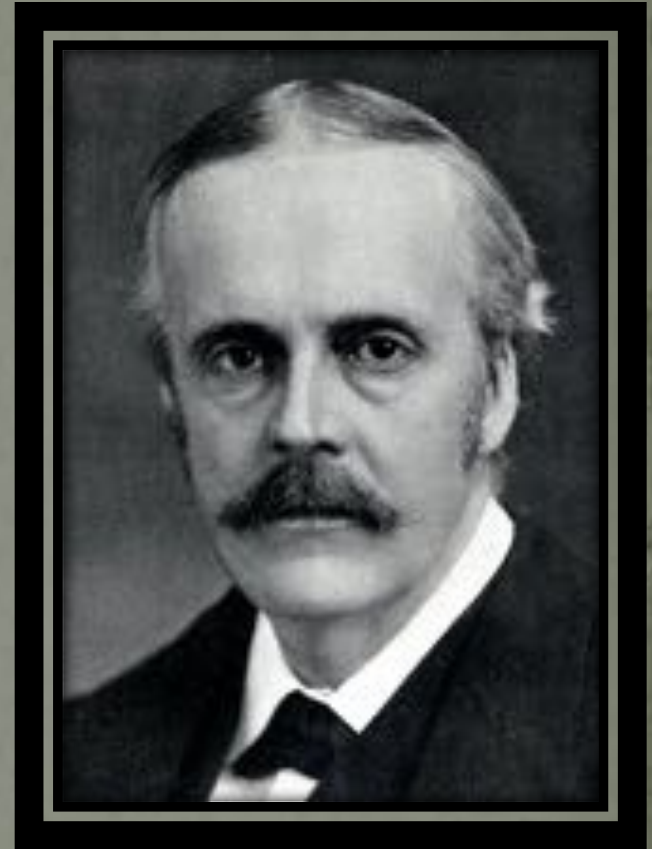
British Foreign Secretary to Lord Rothschild:

The British government “views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

Quotes from Leaders

“In Palestine we do not propose to go through the form of consulting the wishes of the present inhabitants ... The four great powers are committed to Zionism and Zionism ... [is] of far profounder import than the desires and prejudices of the 700,000 Arabs who now inhabit that ancient land.”

- Lord Balfour, 1919



Quotes from Leaders

“Zionist colonization, even the most restricted, must either be terminated or carried out in defiance of the will of the native population.”

**- Vladimir Jabotinsky, early
Zionist leader, 1923**





King-Crane Commission

1919

- Appointed by Wilson to inform American policy regarding the post-Ottoman people and their desired future regarding League of Nations divide of territory
- First-ever survey of Arab public opinion

King-Crane Commission

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“No British officer, consulted by the Commissioners, believed that the Zionist program could be carried out except by force of arms”

“recommend that only a greatly reduced Zionist program be attempted”

“Jewish immigration should be definitely limited, and that the project for making Palestine distinctly a Jewish commonwealth should be given up”

King-Crane Commission

1919

- Publication
suppressed



"would not be compatible with the public
interest"

1920s-1940s

- Arabs in Palestine begin resisting
 - Two major revolts – 1929 and 1936
- Britain draws up partition plan
 - Peel Commission 1937
- 1938 - Reconsidered partition – “impracticable” to create Jewish and Arab state side by side in same land

THE PEEL COMMISSION PARTITION PLAN, JULY 1937

MAP 3



The White Paper

1939

- New British policy
- Met many Arab demands
 - Controlled Jewish immigration, restricted land purchases
- Zionists and Arabs reject it
 - Resulted in still more Arab loss of land, did not guarantee an Arab state in Palestine
- Jewish response three-pronged:
 - Illegal immigration
 - Switching imperial sponsors from Britain to U.S.
 - Around 1945, Zionist paramilitary sabotaging, bombing, and assassinating British

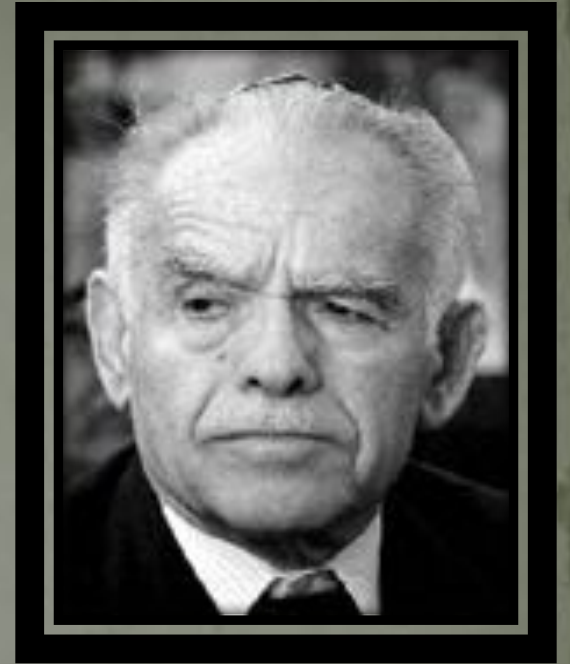


90 dead

Quotes from Leaders

“Neither Jewish ethics nor Jewish tradition can disqualify terrorism as a means of combat ... First and foremost, terrorism is for us a part of the political battle being conducted under the present circumstances, and it has a great part to play...in our war against the occupier.”

- Yitzhak Shamir, in 1943 regarding Zionist resistance to British occupation; later became 7th Israeli Prime Minister



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- Khaled Meshaal, Hamas leader,



Quotes from Leaders

“We are not fanatics, we are not fundamentalists. We are not actually fighting the Jews because they are Jews per se. We do not fight any other races. We fight the occupiers ... I'm ready to coexist with the Jews, with the Christians and the Arabs and non-Arabs. However, I do not coexist with the occupiers.”

- Khaled Meshaal, Hamas leader,
July 26, 2014



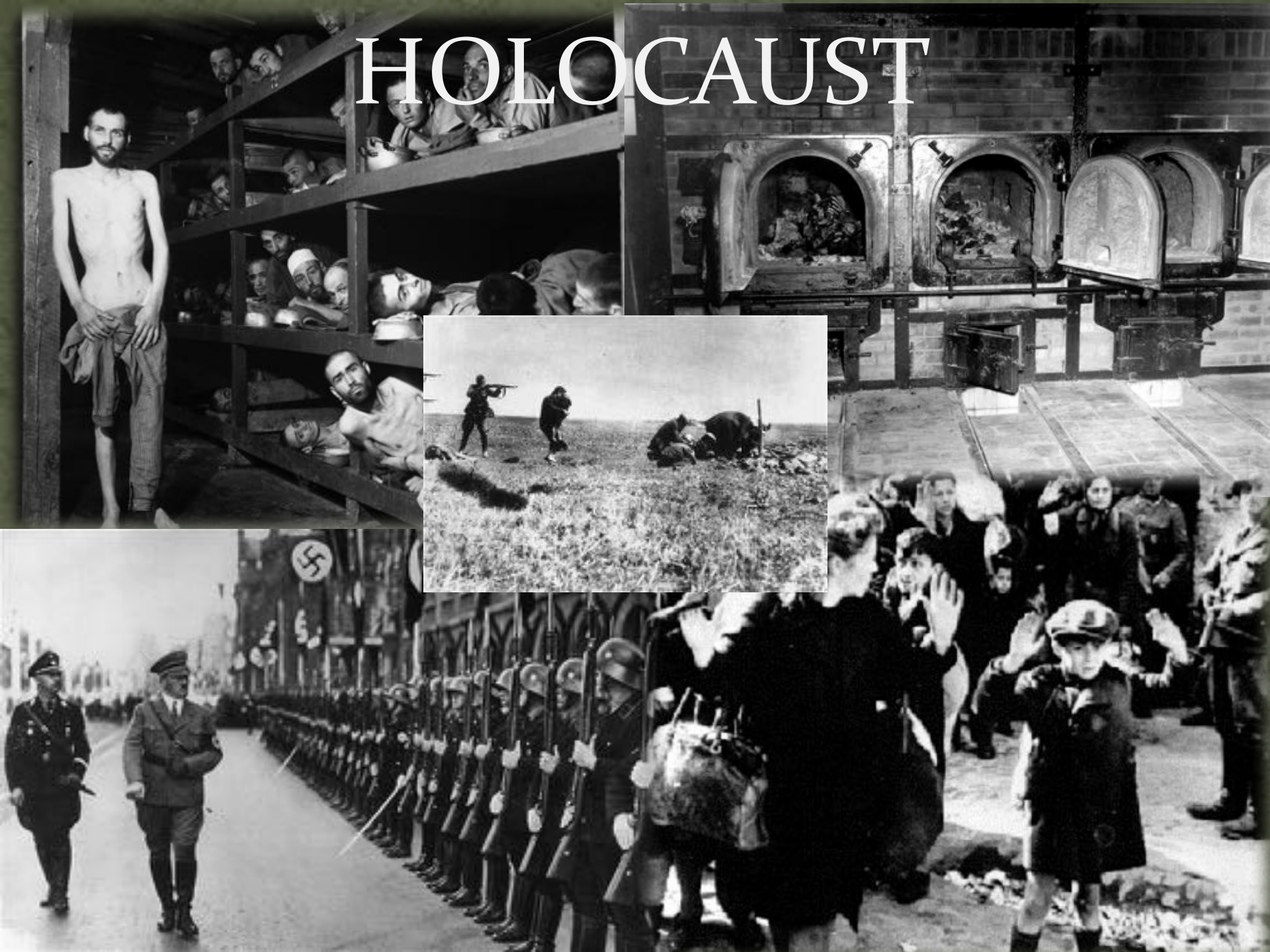
Ben Hecht, May 15 1947, *New York Herald Tribune*
“Letter to the Terrorists of Palestine”

“Every time you blow up a British arsenal, or wreck a British jail, or send a British railway train sky high, or rob a British bank, or let go with your guns and bombs at the British betrayers and invaders of your homeland, the Jews of America make a little holiday in their hearts ... Brave friends we are working to help you. We are raising funds for you.”

Goldman denounces it as ‘disgusting’

Winchell responds that these ‘Palestinian patriots’ are no different than ‘our Minute Men’

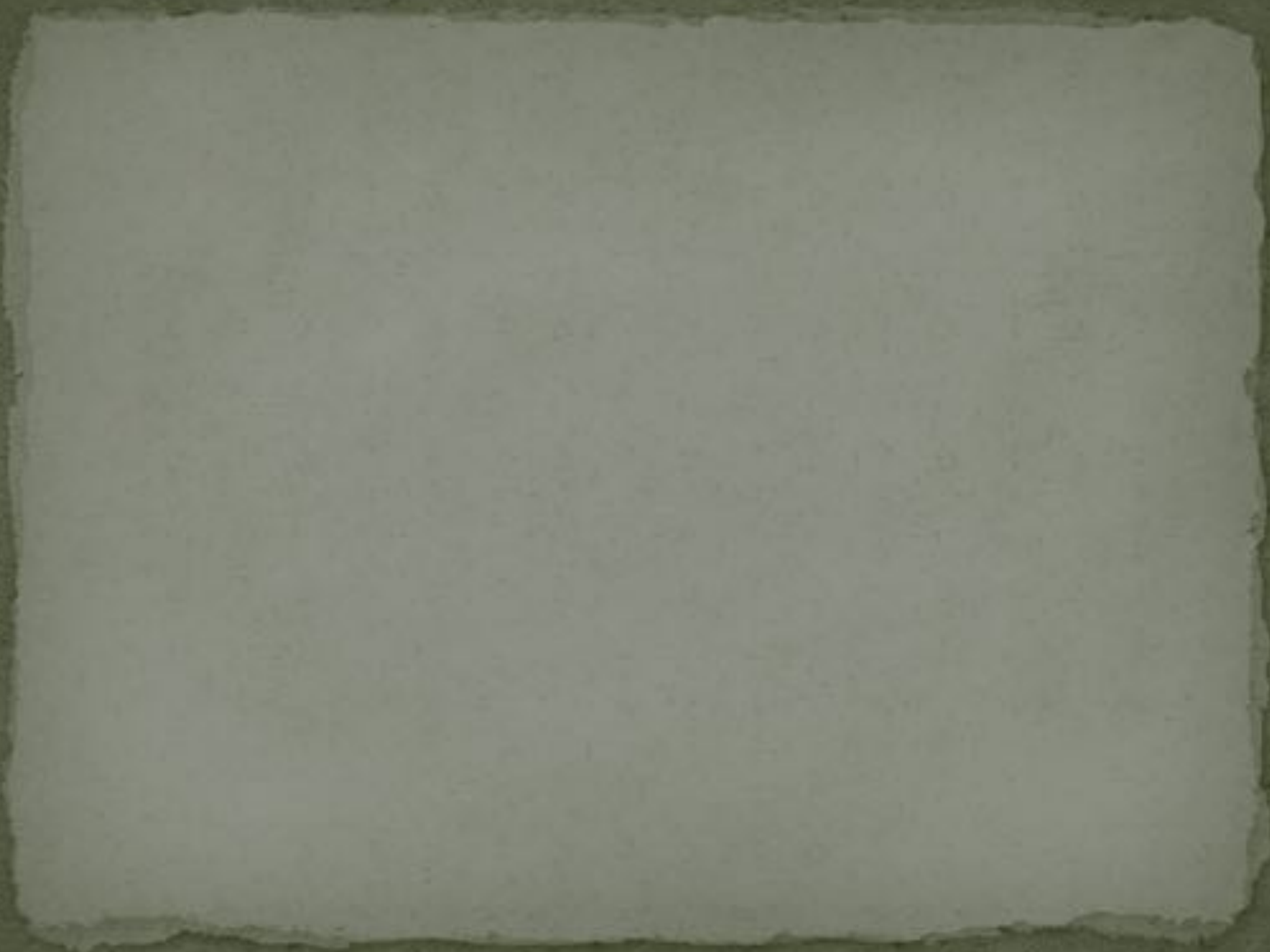
HOLOCAUST



Partition 1947

- During and after Holocaust, Jewish immigration drastically increases
- February 1947 – Britain decides to turn problem over to UN – plans withdrawal
- Nov 29 1947 - United Nations Resolution 181





Partition 1947

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- Nov 29 1947 - United Nations Resolution 181
- Vote tally (needed 2/3 majority):
 - Yes – 33 –
 - The United States
 - No – 13
 - All the Arab States
 - Abstained – 10
 - Great Britain



Partition 1947

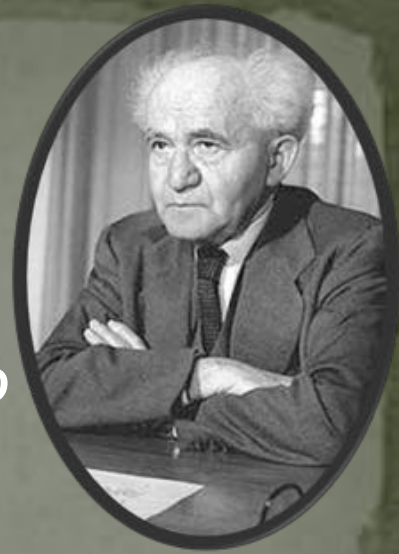
- Gave over *half* the land (55%) to the Jewish *minority* (37%)
 - At time, only owned 7%
 - 500,000 Jews with 400,000 Arabs
 - *But isn't the Negev uninhabitable?*
- What about the Negev?
 - Originally earmarked for Jews
 - U.S. State department frantically lobbied for Arab control
 - Weizmann personally intervened with Truman and secured Negev in exchange for Be'er Sheva and strip along Sinai



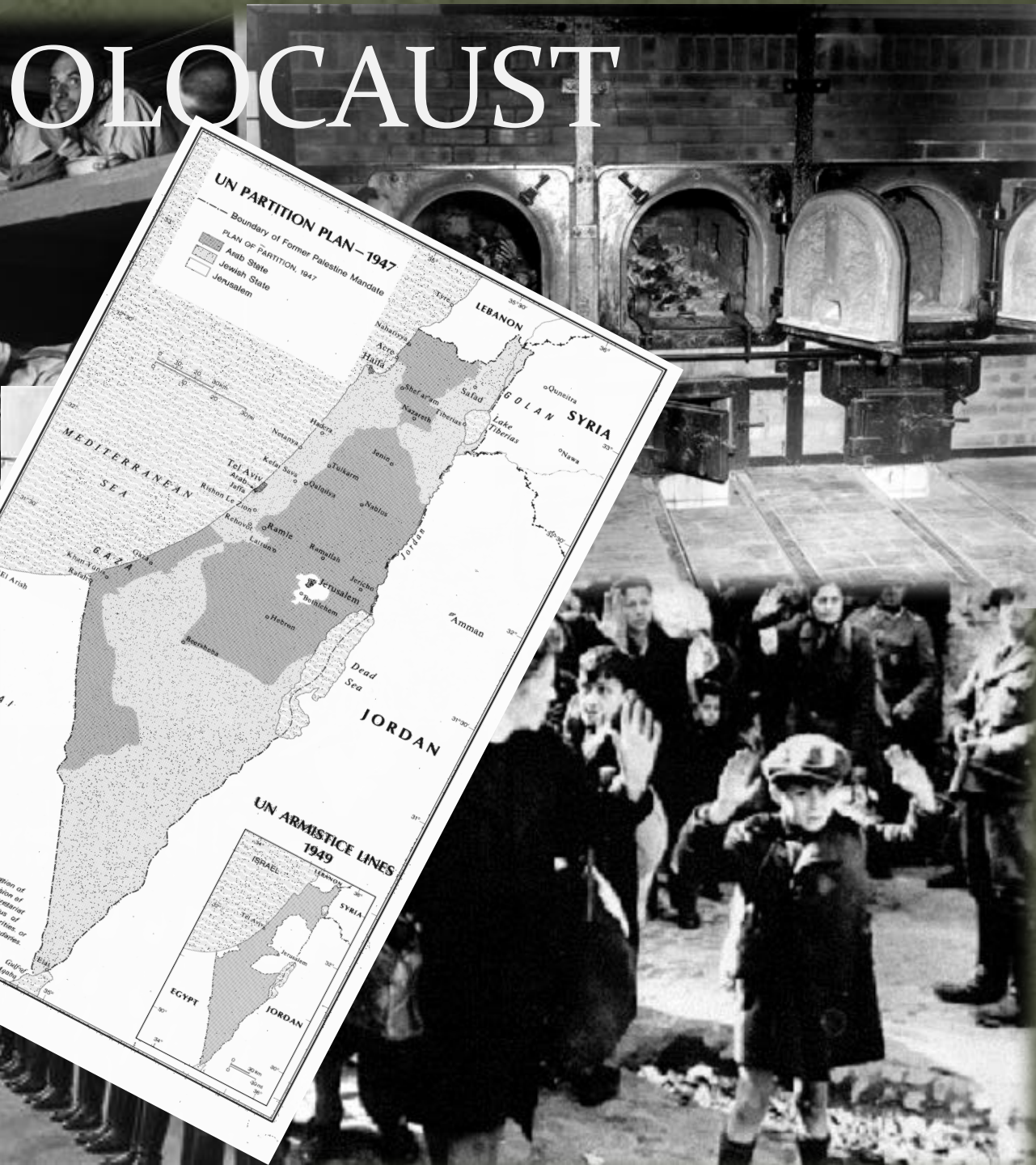
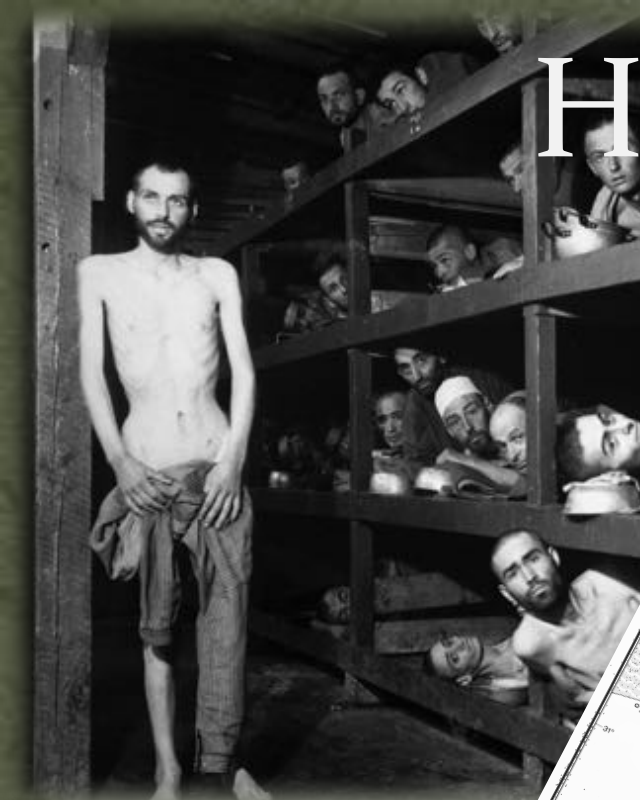
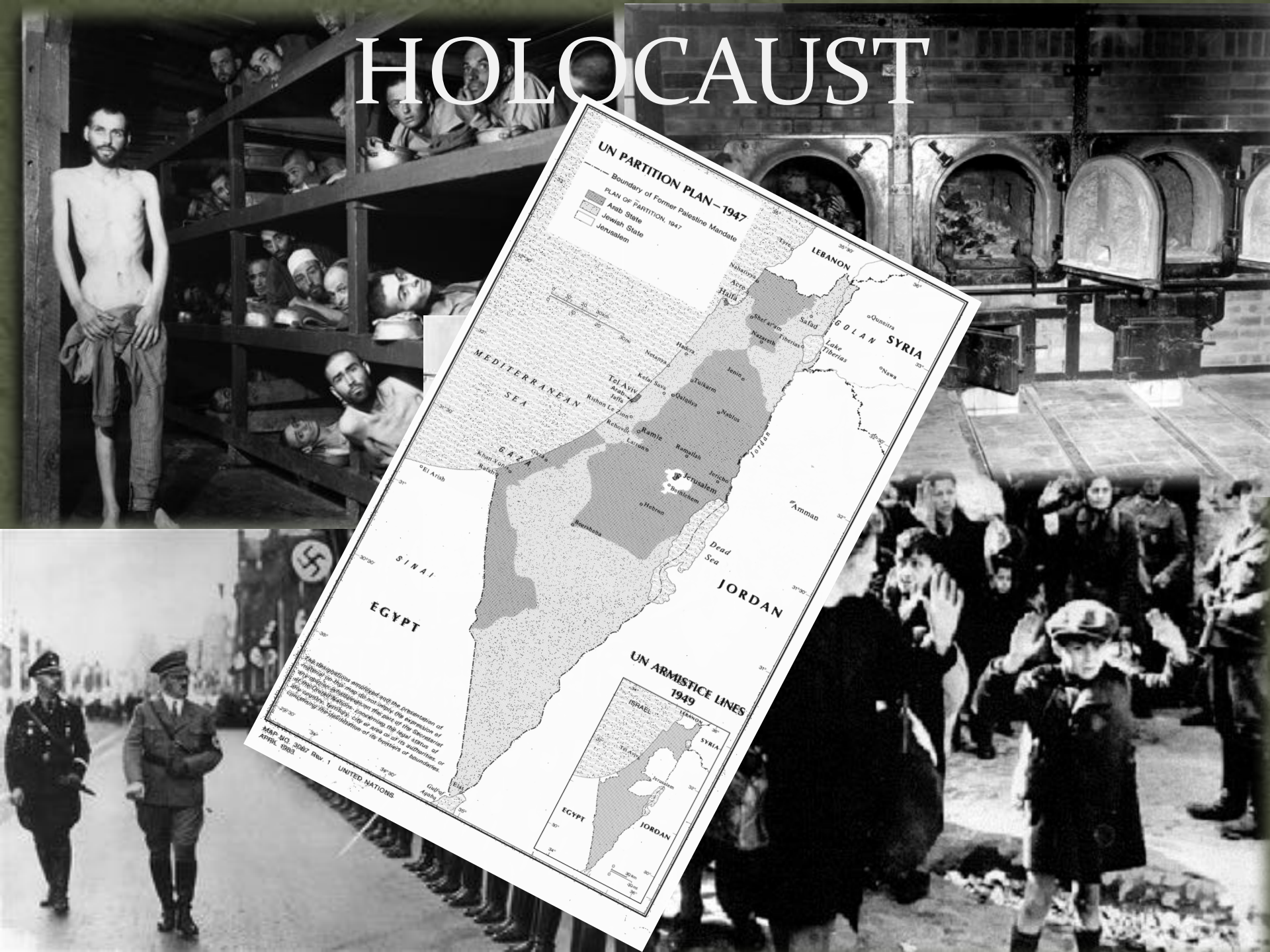
Quotes from Leaders

“If [the Arabs receive the Negev in partition and do not cultivate it], we will have to talk to them in a different language ... because we can no longer tolerate that vast territories capable of absorbing tens of thousands of Jews should remain vacant ... We must expel Arabs and take their place. Up to now, all our aspirations have [assumed] ... there is enough room in the land for [all]. But if we are compelled to use force – not in order to dispossess ... our force will enable us to do so.”

- David Ben-Gurion, Letter to son Amos, Oct 5 1937



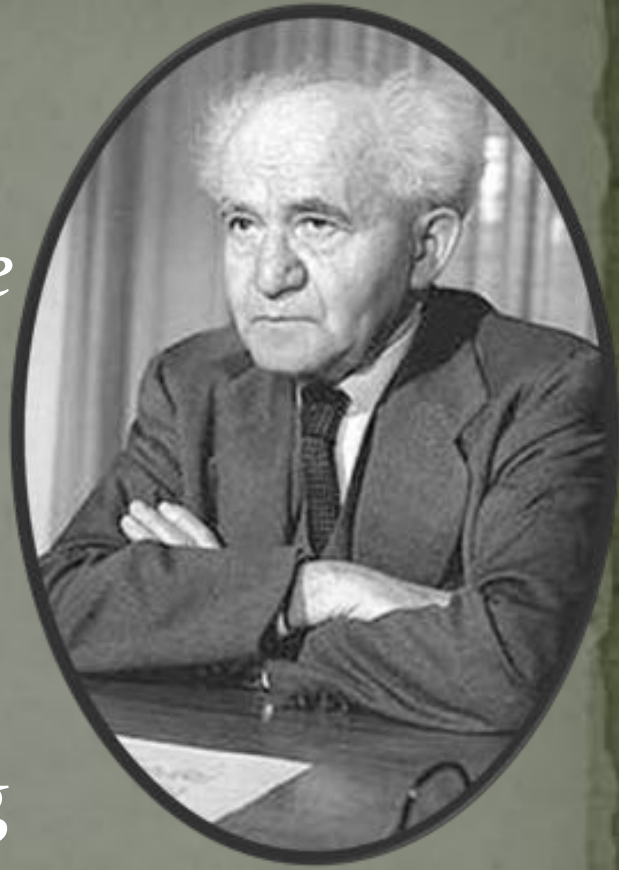
HOLOCAUST



Quotes from Leaders

“After we constitute a large force following the establishment of the [Jewish] state—we will cancel the partition of the country and we will expand throughout the Land of Israel.”

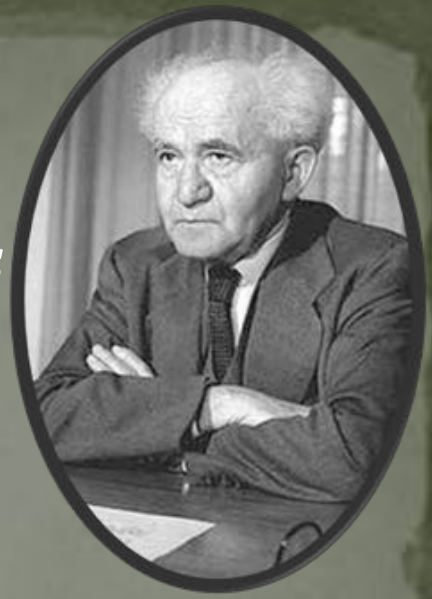
– David Ben-Gurion, following Peel Commission of 1937



Quotes from Leaders

“Of course the partition of the country gives me no pleasure. But the country they are partitioning is not in our actual possession; it is the possession of the Arabs and the English. What is in our actual possession is ... less than what they are proposing for a Jewish state. If I were an Arab I would have been very indignant ... My assumption ... is that a Jewish state on only part of the land is not the end but the beginning.”

– David Ben-Gurion, letter to son Amos, Oct 5
1937



Quotes from Leaders

“A Jewish state must be established immediately, even if it is only in part of the country. The rest will follow in the course of time. A Jewish state will come.”

- David Ben-Gurion, Letter to son Amos, Oct 5 1937

