

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Global History IV

Homework # \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

**Directions: Read the following excerpt and fill out the charts to answer both Jews and Arab claims to...**

## **To whom does the Land of Israel/Palestine Belong?**

### **A. Claims to Palestine**

#### **1. A Jewish Person Speaks out on Israel:**

“Israel is the homeland of the Jewish people. It has been the Jewish homeland since biblical times when our kings ruled Jerusalem. But, in 70 AD (CE), the ruler, so of the occupying Roman Empire forced my ancestors to leave Palestine. We were scattered throughout the world. We have always had one dream – to return to our homeland.

After our **exile** (to be thrown out), Palestine came under Arab domination. By the 9<sup>th</sup> century, the majority of Palestine’s population was Muslim. The Arabs were later conquered by the Ottoman Turks. The Muslim Turks ruled over them until after World War I, when the victorious Europeans took control of the fallen empire’s territories. Palestine became a British **mandate** (under British administration).

However, the British promised us our homeland in the **Balfour Declaration**. They were influenced by a growing movement of Jews determined to return our homeland. These **Zionists** (determined to return to the land of Mt. Zion in Israel) had begun to return to and settle in Palestine by the late 1800s. They bought land from the Arabs and farmed the land. It is said that they were able to make the desert bloom. In World War II and the Holocaust many millions of European Jews were killed, and many were frightened and left homeless. Returning to our homeland in Palestine offered security and hope. We have the right to our own nation state. God had given us, his chosen people, the land of Israel. The Arabs protested our claims to Palestine and would agree, to Britain’s plan, for the partition (division) of the land. But, the plan was adopted by the general Assembly of the United Nations, and, on May 15<sup>th</sup> 1949, we have proclaimed the state of Israel. At last, the Jewish people have their own homeland.”

#### **2. An Arab speaks out on Palestine**

“Arabs have lived on this land for hundreds of years. The Arab Empire ruled over this land for centuries, and the Arabs remained on this land under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. When the Ottoman Empire fell, we thought we would finally have our own independent nation. The British promised many Arab leaders land and independence, if they helped them win the war against Germany and the Ottomans. But this did not happen. Palestine became a British mandate (under British administration).

After World War I, most of our people were poor from centuries of foreign domination. A small number of rich absentee landlords owned most of the land. The majority of Arabs worked the land and paid rent, to the landlords, who lived in the cities. In many cases, the same Arab family had worked and lived on the same land for many generations.

But, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, Jewish settlers from many countries started to come to Palestine. They claimed that they were returning to their homeland. They claimed that God had promised them the land. They bought up land from the absentee landlords. In the Balfour Declaration, the British promised them a national homeland. But, the same declaration also states that nothing should be done to take away our rights.

We formed the Arab League to unite and protect our people, but we were not united or strong enough. The British began to allow increasing numbers, of Jewish immigrants into Palestine. At one time they favored keeping the Palestinian Arabs a majority and limiting the further immigration of the Jews. Later they suggested the partition (division) of Palestine into Arab Palestinian and Jewish state. We stood against the partition of Palestine. The majority of the Palestinian Arabs felt that the people of different religions could live together in peace. Partition would mean division of our land and our people. It would mean the loss of the most of the important coastal region. The British grew frustrated with the whole situation and handed the matter over to the United Nations. The United Nations General Assembly adopted tire partition plan and withdrew its troops. The Jews immediately declared the creation of the independent nation of Israel on May 15<sup>th</sup> 1948.”





