

## Key Events

- **1974:** The Palestine Liberation Organization is allowed to represent the Palestine Arab refugees in the United Nations as their sole political representative organization.
- **15 November 1988:** Palestine Declaration of Independence– The Palestinian National Council, the legislative body of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), in Algiers on 15 November 1988 unilaterally proclaimed the establishment of a new independent state called the "State of Palestine".
- **1987-1991:** The first Palestinian uprising took place in the Gaza Strip against the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories.
- **2000-2005 (unclear)** - The second Palestinian uprising took place in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank against the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories. The uprising which began as massive protests carried out by Palestinians in the Palestinian Territories, soon turned into a violent Palestinian guerrilla campaign
- **June 2002:** Israel began the construction of the West Bank Fence along the Green Line border arguing that the barrier is necessary to protect Israeli civilians from Palestinian militants.
- **29 November 2012:** United Nations General Assembly resolution-- upgrading of Palestine to non-member observer states status in the United Nations.

## Physical Structure



- The State of Palestine is a small region located in the Middle East and includes the land between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River. It is 225 km long and 50-115 km wide
- The geography of Palestine is divided into 4 regions:
  - Jordan Valley and Ghawr
  - Coastal and Inner Plains
  - Mountains and Hills
  - Southern Desert
- The population of Palestine in 1970 was 1.12 million and since then it has grown to 4.55 million.
- The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict has had a major impact on Palestine's population as Jews and Arabs both claimed the land.
- Palestine's population is growing 2.4% per year which is 33% higher than Israel's growth rate.
- The population is also the youngest in the region with a birth rate of 4 children to every woman

## THE STATE OF

## PALESTINE

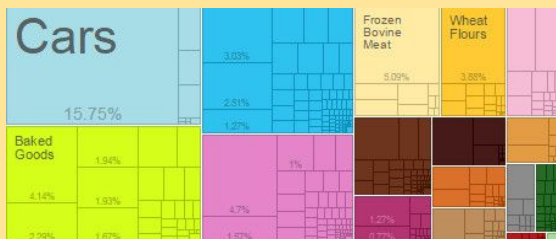
POPULATION: 4.17 MILLION

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## Economics

- Palestine National Assembly a free market policy
- Palestine is the 146th largest export economy in the World.
- The top exports of Palestine include.
  - Building Stone (top export of Palestine)
  - Rolled Tobacco
  - Textile Footwear
- Top Export Destinations
  - Israel (\$803 million)
  - Jordan (\$83.3 million)
  - United Arab Emirates (\$18.7 million)
- Poverty: 25.8% in 2011
- The Palestine economy is built around agriculture and small scale industries.
- The economy relies in Israel, which controls all movement of goods, services, people, and finances in and out of the Palestine territories.
- In 2008 Palestine exported US\$444 million and imported US\$2.7 billion worth of goods.



\* What Palestine Imports\*

## Political Structure

- Palestines political system is a dual political system which is similar to the Europeans government system
- In 1974 the Arab League officially recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the “sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.”
- Palestines parliament (Palestinian National Council) exists in exile but the Palestinian Central Council (smaller version of the PNC) meets in occupied Palestinian territories
- **Palestinian Authority** is a combination of parliamentary and presidential systems of democracy. A president is elected by the people through direct vote. The balance of power is borrowed from the United States system of checks and balances.
- **Legislative Branch:** The Palestinian Legislative Council is responsible for drafting laws and monitoring the performance of the executive branch.
- **Executive Branch:** Includes the cabinet which is the main governing authority of the PA. It also consists of the prime minister and a max of 24 ministers nominated by the President.
- **Judicial Branch:** The judicial branch developed from a very complicated history. The legal system has changed multiple times. It currently consists of 37 courts of law that are divided into magistrate courts, courts of first instance, and three courts of appeal in

## Cultural and Social

### History and Ethnic Relations:

Palestinians are descended from the Arabs. Except for brief periods during the Crusades, Palestine remained in Muslim hands, becoming part of the Ottoman Empire in the sixteenth century. the UN voted to partition Palestine into separate Arab and Jewish states, a plan the Arabs did not accept because they wanted all of the territory. The Jews did accept the proposal. Naming their state Israel, they declared its independence on 15 May 1948.

**Israel vs. Palestine:**The modern-day conflict between Israel and the Palestinians dates back to World War I and the conflicting promises to Arabs and Jews regarding a homeland in Palestine. The years since the war have been marked by enmity, violence, and terrorism as each group seeks to assert its claim to a Palestinian homeland.

**Food in Daily Life :** Palestinians often buy snacks or light meals from street vendors as they go about their daily business. It is customary to eat the main meal between two and three o'clock in the afternoon. Many dine on *onfalafel*, sandwiches made with balls of deep-fried hummus, or grilled lamb sandwiches, called *shwarma*.

**Social Class:** Israeli settlements in the West Bank are separated from Palestinian communities. Most of the best roads, shopping facilities, jobs, and services are found in the Israeli areas.

## Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Gaza Strip.

### Resources

<http://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/world/palestine-region-asia-geography.html>

<http://www.mapsofworld.com/palestine/geography/>

<http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/palestine-population/>

<http://www.jmcc.org/fastfactspag.aspx?tname=12>

[http://www.economywatch.com/world\\_economy/palestinian/export-import.html](http://www.economywatch.com/world_economy/palestinian/export-import.html)

<http://www.everyculture.com/No-Sa/Palestine-West-Bank-and-Gaza-Strip.html>