

Misleading and Harmful: The “Palestinian Loss of Land” Maps and Ethnic Cleansing



The “maps” shown above have been widely circulated by the BDS movement, and they are misleading and dishonest. They appear in the “Zionism Unsettled” study guide. They appear on the websites of the Israel Palestine Mission Network (IPMN) and the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship (PPF). They also appear in the supporting materials for the BDS overtures submitted to the 2014 Presbyterian General Assembly.

The intent of the maps is clear: to falsely demonstrate an “ethnic cleansing” that did not occur, one perpetrated by the “colonizer” Jews upon “indigenous” Arabs (the incendiary words “colonizer”, “indigenous”, and “ethnic cleansing” are used repeatedly in BDS literature).

In 1946 the area labeled “Palestine” was the *British Mandate of Palestine*. All who lived there were Palestinians, Arab Palestinians and Jewish Palestinians. In the 1946 “map” these terms change. The Arab Palestinians are now simply “Palestinians.” The word “Palestinian” now means “Arab” and no longer refers to all of the people who live there, and the Jewish Palestinians are simply “Jews”. In 1946 Jews paid over 50% of property taxes in Palestine. Almost half of the land was public land, owned by no one and administered by the British. The premise that the land was almost all “Arab land” is nonsense. It was shared land and belonged to no particular ethnic group.

Now let's consider the 1967 map in terms of "ethnic cleansing", keeping in mind that before 1948, both Jews and Arabs lived in *all of the areas* of the British Mandate of Palestine, including the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. Here are some **1967** figures:

Arab population of Israel: 390,000
Jewish population of West Bank: none
Jewish population of Gaza Strip: none
Jewish population of East Jerusalem: none

In 1967, the only land in Israel-Palestine that was "ethnically cleansed" was the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. All three areas were 100% ethnically cleansed of Jews after the 1948 war. For some graphic proof of the expulsion of Jews, take a look at these [1948 historic photos of Jews expelled from East Jerusalem](#) at gunpoint by Jordanian troops.

The 2010 map misses the 1.4 million Arab citizens of Israel, who live and own land throughout Israel, and the thousands of Palestinians who own land and live in areas of the West Bank subject to Israeli security. It also fails to reveal that at the present time, the only "ethnically cleansed" land in Israel-Palestine is the Gaza Strip, which is ethnically cleansed of Jews. The population of Jews in Gaza is zero. Below is another table of interest, describing the "ethnic cleansing" of neighboring countries since 1948:

Jewish Population	<u>1948</u>	<u>2005</u>
Algeria	140,000	0
Egypt	75,000	100
Iraq	135,000	60
Lebanon	5,000	50
Libya	38,000	0
Morocco	265,000	3,500
Syria	30,000	100
Tunisia	105,000	1,100
Yemen	55,000	200
TOTAL	848,000	5,110
Arab Population of Israel	300,000	1,400,000

The Middle East today is the most violent and dangerous place on earth. The BDS movement's use of the "loss of land" maps and the constant reference to Jewish "ethnic cleansing" is reckless, dishonest, and contradicted by the plainly observable facts. It is throwing kerosene on a fire and the very antithesis of Christian peacemaking.