**Conflict in the Middle East: Israel and the Arabs**

**(Blue Book)**

Jewish Terrorism:

* King David Hotel
	+ The British military headquarters stayed in there
	+ July 22 1946 – **Irgun** members (Jewish terrorist group) dressed up like Arabs and found a way to place explosives inside the building.
* This showed the hatred towards the British rule.
* Because of the **Holocaust**, there were people supporting (demanding) a Jewish independent state – somewhere they could live in peace.
	+ These people were called **Zionists**
* The Palestinian Jews got tired of supporting the British in WW2 and started seeing them as a barrier to their independence.
	+ That’s why terrorism started to spread.
	+ From 1945-1948, over 300 British soldiers/officials were killed in Palestine.

International Pressure on Britain:

* Sympathy in Europe and US for the Jews after the Holocaust.
* Zionists in the US forced Truman to put pressure on Britain.
	+ 100,000 Jewish **refugees** should enter Palestine.
	+ They refused, believing it would result in civil war.
* Continuing the stopping of boatloads of illegal Jews, the British entered world criticism.

Britain Hands over to the UN:

* After WW2, Britain could not afford taking care of Palestine anymore.
* 1947 – After 30 years in Palestine, the British handed the case to the UN.

UN Partition Plan:

* Nov. 1947 – UN votes for the division of Palestine – one state for Jews, another for Arabs: **Partition**
* Criss-cross arrangement – they thought it would work (put picture)
	+ Arabs rejected the idea – the Jews had most of the land.
		- The western powers should find another area for the Jews.
	+ Jews accepted the plan
		- Many were not happy because they didn’t have the holy city of Jerusalem.

What caused the Arab flight?

* After partition, there were more fights between Arabs and Jews.
	+ Many massacres, especially in the roads to Jerusalem
	+ Arabs from Syria and Iraq started to interfere
	+ **Haganah** – organized Jewish defense forces.
* April 1948 – Dier Yassin Massacre
	+ Before Britain left, there were even worse fighting.
* May 1948 – British finally withdrew
	+ By then, over 300,000 Arabs had fled.

The War of 1948 – 1949:

* The Israel state was created and no Arab states recognized it
* There would be 25 years of conflict and 4 major wars.

The Invasion of Israel May 1948:

* May 14 1948 – New state of Israel proclaimed
* Immediate invasion: Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq armies go to Israel.
* The Arab armies were really disorganized and unprepared
	+ Only Jordan’s army (Arab Legion) was experienced and efficient: captured the Old City of Jerusalem.
* June – UN ordered ceasefire.
* Israelis reorganized and acquired new weapons
* By January 1949, Israeli had driven Arabs out and even occupied some of their territory.
* Israelis would not return the territory; Arabs would not accept that Israel existed.
* Truce was made, not peace.

How did Israel survive?

* Jewish soldiers were disciplined and hardened because of the fighting in WW2
* They fought hard because they were protecting their new country.
* They knew they were surrounded by enemies, so they were constantly on alert.
* The army was the key element.
* **Kibbutzim** – cooperative farms
* Received financial help from the US and Germany
	+ Soon they established industries.

A Nation on Guard

* Israel didn’t feel safe from attacks
	+ They knew Arabs would come back for their land at one point
* West Bank and Gaza – Palestinian fighters were using it to carry out raids into Israel.
	+ Israelis hit back fiercely.

Important vocabulary:

* Irgun
* Zionists
* Holocaust
* Refugees
* Partition
* Haganah
* Kibbutzim