**The Arab-Israeli conflict 1945-1949  
(Benny Morris Book)**

The Last Years of the British Mandate:

* A committee was created with the purpose of seeking a resolution for the issue between Arabs and Jews. They heard Jew, Arab, British, and outsiders’ claims also in order to find the best solution for the conflict.
* Regarding Jewish colonization in Palestine and the Arab resistance towards this, the committee was convinced that the Jews who lived in Poland and surroundings were in an `atmosphere of terror’ and that they should be moved to Palestine, but they weren’t sure of what to do about the Arab resistance to this.
* June 29th 1946 – British launched the operation Agatha which aimed in reducing and controlling Jewish military capacity because of rioting.
* Jews wanted statehood and the Arabs wanted independence without land changes.
* Morrison-Grady Plan – attempt to create two separate countries for Arabs and Jews = FAIL
* October 4th 1946 – President Truman announces US support to partition and Jewish statehood.
* Nor the Arabs or Jews wanted a resolution that gave them less than Palestine as a whole as their independent country.
* February 14th 1947 – the British cabinet decided to leave the Palestine issue to the United Nations putting an end to their mandate over Palestine.
* August 12th 1947 – There was an all-party consensus to quit Palestine quickly because of the many revolts that killed British citizens.

UNSCOP partition plan:

* United Nations Special Committee on Palestine was given power to take care of the DP conflicts
* At the general assembly on September 1st proposed the partition plan of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. Jerusalem and Bethlehem would be international cities. Britain would continue to administer the country for two years and during those 150 000 Jews would be allowed to enter the country. And Palestine was supposed to be given independence as a federal state.
* September 20th 1947 – British decided to evacuate Palestine completely.
* After Britain announced their future withdrawal USA and Soviet Union immediately publicly restated their support for partition.

The outbreak of civil war:

* (better on the power point presentation)

British withdrawal:

* November 13th 1947 – Britain announced that by August 1st 1948, they would have withdrawn all its troops from Palestine.

Establishment of Israel:

* The United Nations votes to partition of Palestine into two sovereign states - one Arab, one Jewish. Under this plan Jerusalem would be internationalized. The transition from British rule would occur on Oct. 1, 1948.
* Jews accept the U.N Partition Plan. Arabs, resenting another instance of Western imperialism, reject it.

Arab Response:

* [Immediately after the adoption of United Nations Resolution 181 (II) on November 29, 1947, to partition the country into Jewish and Arab states with Jerusalem as a corpus separatum](http://www.palestinefacts.org/pf_independence_un_role.php), Arab delegates declared their opposition to partition and their determination to fight it by force if necessary.
* On the day that Israel declared its independence ([May 15, 1948](http://www.palestinefacts.org/pf_independence_israel_date.php)), Azzam Pasha, Secretary General of the Arab League, at Cairo press conference, (reported in the New York Times, May 16, 1948) declared "jihad", a holy war. He said that the Arab states rejected partition and intended to set up a "United State of Palestine."
* The early Arab attacks resembled the [Arab Revolt of 1936-9](http://www.palestinefacts.org/pf_mandate_riots_1936-39.php), with attacks on villages and terrorism in the cities. A volunteer "Arab Liberation Army".
* The Muslim view is that Israel is a *Naqbah* (catastrophe), an affront to their religious faith.
* Israel must be resisted by all available means and eradicated as soon as possible.

1948/49 war:

* Israel invaded by the regular forces of Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, and Syria.
* From 1945 to 1948 Zionists waged guerrilla war against British troops and against Palestinian Arabs supported by the [Arab League](http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/history/A0804481.html), and they had made substantial gains by 1948.
* As independence was declared, Arab forces from Egypt, Syria, Transjordan (later Jordan), Lebanon, and Iraq invaded Israel.
* The Egyptians gained some territory in the south and the Jordanians took Jerusalem's Old City, but the other Arab forces were soon halted.
* In June the United Nations succeeded in establishing a four-week truce.
* Fighting erupted again in August and continued sporadically until the end of 1948. An Israeli advance in Jan., 1949, isolated Egyptian forces and led to a cease-fire (Jan. 7, 1949).
* Protracted peace talks resulted in armistice agreements between Israel and Egypt, Syria, and Jordan by July, but no formal peace.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymh1BojleMo&feature=related>