

QUARTER TO EIGHT TEACHER'S GUIDE TO THE FILM

By Dr. Philip Sieradski, Ph. D.

INTRODUCTION

This is a two-part unit on the Middle East and Israeli History for high school students. This discussion guide and classroom plan is designed to assist teachers in exploring history and current events in Israel through the eyes of those who participated in them. By studying the life of one of those people, Major General Mordechai (Motti) Hod, a pioneer and founder of the Israeli Air Force (1926-2003), we can arrive at a better understanding modern Israel and the Middle East.

The first part consists of a 30-minute film, Quarter to Eight, produced by the Ollendorff Center and Jakov Sedlar with the assistance of the Foreign Ministry of the State of Israel. This film would be shown on the first day, with homework assignments chosen from the list below, at the teacher's discretion.

The activities and discussion suggestions listed below should be used as a menu of ideas. Teachers can tailor activities to suit the needs of the class, pick reading assignments they deem appropriate and tailor assignments to student abilities.

The second unit would be a full class session devoted to going over homework assignments and classroom discussion on some of the topics suggested below.

This packet contains:

A brief summary of the film
A brief biography of General Mordechai (Motti) Hod

Classroom Activities

A list of websites to visit
Name and vocabulary lists to identify
Class discussion topics
Essays and Research topics
An unlabeled map of the Middle East
A timeline of Israeli history

Supplemental readings
a. An article by Joseph Farah on the Six-Day War
b. An extended summary of the film with additional information about strategy, causes of the war and how Hod engineered the theft of a Soviet fighter jet

An extensive bibliography

SUMMARY OF THE FILM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

General Hod was a colleague and dear friend of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and other legendary pioneers of Israel: David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, Itzhak Rabin, Ezer Weizmann, Levi Eshkol, Moshe Dayan, and Shimon Peres. His story and theirs are all woven together in the story of Israel's remarkable birth and survival, as depicted in the film.

At the end of January 2003, as Israeli astronaut and fighter pilot Ilan Ramon whirled around Earth in NASA's shuttle, the U.S.S. Columbia, he sent an e-mail to Hod, then a frail man in his seventies, living in Israel. Ramon described how, at 13, Hod had inspired him to become a fighter pilot, a decision that allowed them to share the wondrous experience of communicating from outer space to Earth.

Hod was a founder and commander of the Israeli Air Force and its first pilot. During the 1967 Six-Day War, he implemented an innovative, simple, logical strategy that won the war and saved Israel from destruction.

Hod later became the president of Israel's airline, El Al; founder of an air cargo company and CEO of Israel Aircraft Industries. He was a man who took risks worthy of the best Hollywood action heroes, and the film tells these stories in his own words and in the words of prime ministers, Nobel Prize winners, family members and friends.

Ramon and the crew of the Columbia were killed in a fireball as they came back from their mission. Then in June of that year, Hod, whose life and daring air force career so inspired Ramon, died after a long illness. Two extraordinary men of such different generations, with so much in common, were gone within six months of each other. Both were linked by their love of flying and their dedication to protecting Israel and its people. Both left their mark on history.

AFTERMATH OF THE SIX-DAY WAR HOW ONE MAN CAN CHANGE HISTORY

By devising and carrying out his successful Quarter to Eight strategy in the Six-Day War in 1967, Motti Hod dramatically changed the political, economic, geographic and religious climate in the Middle East. That war proved Israel was able and willing to initiate strategic strikes to change the regional balance. After the war, in November 1967, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 242, the land for peace formula, which called for Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967 in return for the termination of all claims or states of belligerency.

The framers of Resolution 242 recognized that some territorial adjustments were likely and deliberately did not include words *all* or *the* in the binding English language version of the text when referring to "territories occupied" during the war, although it is present in other, notably French, Spanish and Russian versions. It recognized the right of every state in the area - Israel in particular - to live in peace within secure, defensible and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force.

Eventually, Jordan and Egypt withdrew their claims to West Bank and Gaza, the Sinai was returned to Egypt via the Camp David accords in 1978. The Golan Heights are still under negotiation. Approximately 100,000 of Israelis moved into the territories and created settlement blocks in Gush Etzion, Gush Katif and other areas. Israel returned captured East Bank territory to Jordan in the mid-1990s and disengaged completely from the Gaza Strip in the summer of 2005.

MOTTI HOD'S EARLY LIFE AND CAREER

Metullah, the northernmost village in Israel, was founded in 1896 by Baron Edmund de Rothschild and young settlers who were chosen for their ability to defend it. Motti Hod's grandfather was one of those settlers, and his father, Joseph Fein, was born there and later served in the Haganah.

His father was one of the founders of the first kibbutz, Kibbutz Deganya (1910), in the northern Galilee, where Motti was born in 1926. Motti describes his father as teaching him to think "out of the box" and credited him with teaching him patience and tenacity.

While attending the local agricultural high school, Hod was distressed by the Second World War and the constant battles with the Arabs in his own land. At 17, he left home and made his way to Haifa, where he volunteered for the British Army. Approximately four weeks before war's end, in 1945, he was posted to Italy as a truck driver, where he was quickly recruited by the Palmach and moonlighted secretly as a driver for Aliyah Bet, the illegal immigration to Palestine. At one point, he was arrested and jailed for two weeks for "illegal activities."

In 1946, he spent Passover at the Displaced Persons Camp at Bergen-Belsen, a former concentration camp run by the Nazis. It shook him to his roots and made him determined to serve his country to the best of his ability. In 1947, he took flying lessons in Italy and then continued training in Czechoslovakia.

Hod taught other Israelis how to fly and then on December 22, 1948, he led them as they flew the first six war-surplus Spitfires from Czechoslovakia to Tel Aviv, just one month after the British partitioned Palestine on November 28, 1948. The flight took seven hours, and though the fighters were equipped with reserve fuel tanks, they barely made it. During the trip one plane crashed in the sea and two made emergency landings on the island of Rhodes.

Hod said this was one of the most difficult missions in his long military career. He trained in Israeli Air Force's first flying course and in March 1949 was the first to earn his wings.

In 1950, the IAF sent Hod to England to learn how to fly fighter jets, and when he came back to Israel was promoted to squadron leader.

During the 1956 war in the Suez, he led 12 sorties that helped defeat the Egyptians in the Mitla Pass and won the war for Israel. As a result, the UN placed a peacekeeping force in the Sinai to prevent guerrillas from crossing the border into Israel and to maintain a semblance of peace. At the time, no Arab state recognized Israel's right to exist.

Then 1960, Hod was appointed IAF chief of operations and planned “out of the box” air war strategies that were suited to Israel’s unique geographical and defense needs.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL: SPY VS. SPY

How and Why to Steal a Soviet MiG-21

In 1966, when he was just 40 years old, Motti Hod became the commander of the Israeli Air Force. He followed the philosophical footsteps of his predecessor in the early 50s, General Dan Tolkowsky. Tolkowsky believed in a basic principle of warfare: when you know your enemies’ weaponry, you have already won the war. Hod, who succeeded him, asked Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, to give him weaponry updates and suggested stealing a Soviet built MiG fighter jet from one of the Arab air forces. The Israelis would then have access to the most advanced strike aircraft in the world—essential components of Egyptian, Syrian and Iraqi defenses that were under Soviet control.

The Soviets were responsible for on-site security, crew training and maintenance of the air bases in the Arab lands and used the conflict with Israel to test their weapons in case the Cold War with the United States ever heated up. This arrangement bred resentment against the Soviets among Arabs, but not enough to make it easy for the Israelis to bribe defectors into stealing a MiG. Those who tried to do that in Egypt were caught and hanged in December 1962. Two more attempts with Iraqi pilots failed. Then, in 1963, Meir Amin became chief of the Mossad and consulted the military to help define Mossad objectives. Hod again asked for a MiG-21.

Late in 1964, Joseph, a Jewish man in his late 50s—who had been enslaved by an Iranian Christian family from the age of 10—told the Israelis in Iran and Europe that if they wanted a MiG-21, he could probably arrange it because he knew a disaffected Iraqi pilot. They contacted a beautiful American-born Mossad agent in Baghdad to draw out Munir Redfa – the pilot who happened to be a member of Joseph’s “family.”

In July 1966 the spy asked Redfa to join her in Europe, where she gave him a new passport and plane tickets to Israel. Once in Israel, Hod and Redfa went over the escape route. Redfa would fly a zigzag route to avoid Iraqi and Jordanian radar. Hod advised Redfa not to lose his nerve or he’d be a dead man. (From the Jewish Agency website, see below.)

Redfa was amazed the Israelis knew almost as much about his Iraqi airbase as he did. He returned to Baghdad and, on August 16, 1966, had the Iraqi ground crew fill his MiG’s tanks to capacity—an act that normally required a Soviet sign off. When Israeli radar picked up his blip, a squad of IAF Mirages flew up to

escort him to a base in the Negev. Mossad agents picked up the remaining members of his family in Iraq and smuggled them to Israel.

The Soviets were furious with the Israelis, who had seriously compromised their military secrets and demanded the plane's return. Immediately, the United States, France and Britain pressed the Israelis for access to the MiG-21. The Israelis ignored the Soviets and turned the jet fighter over to the United States for testing a few months later. By then Hod and his crew had figured out how to outsmart Soviet technology.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL: CAUSES OF THE SIX-DAY WAR

After the 1964 Arab Summit, Syria and Jordan began diverting the headwaters of the Jordan River in Lebanon for their own use. This threatened to deplete Israel's fresh water sources by 35% and would increase the salinity of the Sea of Galilee to unacceptable levels. As a result, Hod directed four bombing raids against the dams and pipelines in Syria and Jordan between 1965 and 1967. Israel and Syria exchanged artillery, tank and aircraft fire in other skirmishes that increased tensions.

On April 7, 1967, when Hod sent a team to stop the shelling of Israeli villages, the incident escalated into a full-scale aerial battle over the Golan Heights, with the IAF shooting down six MiG-21s—two of them over Damascus—all because the Israelis knew how the MiG-21 worked.

Then, in May 1967, Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser blockaded the Straits of Tiran, which controlled Israel's access to its port in Eilat. According to the Geneva Convention, blockade, even partial blockade, is an act of war.

Nasser also ordered the UN to remove its peacekeeping troops from the Sinai, recalled units from the war it was fighting in Yemen, and massed Egypt's army on Israel's southern border. The other Arab countries around Israel joined him. Between them, Arab forces had more than 600 aircraft, most of them Soviet fighter jets, against approximately 200 Israeli aircraft. That meant the Israelis had to make the most of what they had.

Additional Strategic Planning

A basic IAF method of operation was rapid turnaround time (an average of seven minutes) for each aircraft. Hod's pilots and ground crews trained extensively to quickly tend to their planes so that they could sortie up to four times a day. Arab air forces sortied only once or twice a day, on the hour and half hour, just before dawn and just before dusk—First Light, Last Light—a pattern that came to Hod's attention and helped him devise the brilliant strategy that later won the war for Israel. Because of its standard operating procedure, the IAF was able to send

several attack waves against Egyptian airfields on the first day of the war, overwhelming the Egyptian Air Force in less than three hours.

Hod had planned such defense operations for years. He realized that if Operation Focus (Moked) were to succeed, he had to follow his father's "out of the box" thinking. He looked at the usual flight patterns of the Arab defense forces and realized that there was a shift change between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. Israel time, when the enemy planes and men were vulnerable.

To guarantee surprise and success, Hod determined that the Israeli pilots had to break standard protocol and leave precisely at A Quarter to Eight a.m., Israel time. An unconventionally timed surprise strike during a shift change, using almost all of Israeli's planes, was Israel's only hope of winning the war. President Levi Eshkol and IDF General Yitzhak Rabin fully understood his plan, and they agreed to let him carry it out.

Nearly all of Israel's 196 combat aircraft were committed to the strike and only twelve were held back to patrol Israeli airspace. Hod's first wave attacked eleven Egyptian bases, catching much of the Egyptian Air Force off guard while they ate breakfast and refueled their planes. The Israelis bombed and strafed the parked aircraft and destroyed the runways, preventing undamaged planes from taking off. It helped that the Egyptians had turned off their air defenses because one of their key people was being ferried to the front and they didn't want him hit by friendly fire.

The Mirages returned to Israel, were refitted in seven minutes and flew off in a second wave that destroyed fourteen Egyptian bases. Then third wave went back and hit them again. The huge Soviet war machine was humiliated. In three hours, in three waves of attacks, the Six-Day War was won, leaving the IAF in almost complete control of the skies, able to effectively assist Israel defense forces on the ground. After several smaller air battles over the course of six days, the tally was 452 enemy aircraft destroyed, most of them on the ground. Israel lost 19 planes, mostly due to operational failures.

On June 8 the IAF destroyed hundreds of Egyptian convoys in the Sinai and trapped thousands of troops in narrow passes. By the end of the third day the Jordanian military was no longer in the fight. By the 11th, Syria lost the Golan Heights and approximately 100 combat aircraft—and signed a ceasefire agreement.

Overall, Israel's territory grew by a factor of three and included more than one million Arabs under Israel's direct control in the newly captured territories. In six days, Israel took control of the old city of Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula. They destroyed the water diversion construction in Syria and Jordan; controlled the Jordan River's

headwaters, the length of the river and the three major aquifers in the region. The status quo held until October 1973.

Egypt and Syria had learned tactical lessons from the war in 1967, but launched the Yom Kippur War in 1973 in an attempt to reclaim lost territory. Earlier that same year, Hod had retired with the rank of major-general, but was recalled as an adviser to the IAF for the course of the war.

Once that war was finally over, Hod returned to civilian life for good. He had earned his Ph.D. in 1969, and was now free to enjoy family life with his wife Pnina. They had married when he was a trainee pilot and she an air force sergeant. They had two sons, Yossi and Yuval and a daughter, Nurit. At the time of his death in 2003, they had been married for 50 years.

Motti Hod dedicated his life to Israel because though he was not a religious man, he believed that the Bible declared that ancient Israel belonged to the Jews. Though there were other attempts to establish a Jewish State, he said, he believed there was no alternative to Jewish life in Israel. Said Hod, “My generation built a home for the Jews. We had no time for family—we had to do what we did with one hand, while holding a sword in the other. We had faith and hope.”

CLASS ACTIVITIES

VISIT THE INTERNET

Have the students visit these sites on the internet and write a one paragraph review of each one.

<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hangar/2848/>

A site devoted to the Israeli Air Force, its history and its current projects

<http://www.yije.org/israel/6%20day%20war.pdf>

Who started the Six-Day War?

www.israeli.weapons.com

A very interesting website about what Israel uses to defend itself

<http://www1.idf.il/DOVER/site/homepage.asp?clr=1&sl=EN&id=-8888&force=1>

A site devoted to all the Israeli Defense Forces--English Homepage

ISRAELI AIR FORCE VIDEO GAME

http://www.download.com/Israeli-Air-Force-demo/3000-7551_4-894998.html?tag=lst-0-7

Jane's Israeli Air Force is a realistic simulation that lets you dogfight through canyons at low altitude with fast game-play and graphic detail that approaches photo-realism. Fly the real Israeli planes with accurate avionics, realistic cockpits, and detailed 3D shapes. Use real tactics, including radar evasion and pop-up attacks, and coordinated air assaults using multiple formations, in both historical and hypothetical missions. The only way to get a more realistic experience is to join up.

<http://www.palmach.org.il>

The history of the IDF from its beginnings.

WHO ARE THEY?

Look up three names and write one paragraph about each person you have chosen and their impact on Middle Eastern history.

Direct students to the “encyclopedia” to find this information—on the Internet—including Encarta.com, the Encyclopedia Judaica on-line, Jewish Virtual Library and other sources.

Discuss the issues concerning open source encyclopedias like wikipedia.org—are they accurate or biased?

David Ben-Gurion – founding prime minister of Israel
Moshe Dayan – former foreign minister and war hero
Haafetz El Assad – former president of Syria
Levi Eshkol – former president of the State of Israel
King Hussein – former King of Jordan
Joseph – former slave and middle man for a MIG
Golda Meir – former Prime Minister of Israel
Mufti of Jerusalem – leader of the Arabs during the War of Independence
Gamal Abdel Nasser – former president of Egypt
Shimon Peres – former Prime Minister of Israel and Nobel Peace Prize winner
Ilan Ramon – Israeli astronaut killed in the Columbia Shuttle explosion and Israeli war hero
Munir Redfa – Syrian spy who stole a MIG for Israel
Ariel Sharon – former Prime Minister of Israel and Israel war hero
Ezer Weizmann – former president of Israel and first commander of the Israeli Air Force.

WHAT DO THESE WORDS MEAN?

Look up three words and write one paragraph about each.

Aliyah Bet – the illegal immigration to Palestine before the founding of the State of Israel
Balfour Declaration – a British document that promised the Jews a homeland in Palestine
British Mandate Palestine – the land allotted by the Balfour Declaration
Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp – where Holocaust survivors lived until they were ready to settle into permanent homes, a former concentration camp that later became a NATO base in Germany
Geneva Convention – international laws governing the nations of the world
Golan Heights – an area on Israel’s northern borders that belonged to Syria
Haganah – the Israeli army before the establishment of the State of Israel
Headwaters – where fresh water supplies are generated

Infitada – the unofficial war of the Palestinians against the Israelis
Kibbutz Deganya – Israel's first kibbutz
Land for Peace – a policy whereby Israel gives the Palestinians land in exchange for a cease-fire and no suicide bombings
Metullah – the northernmost town in Israel
Mitla Pass – a critical area in the Sinai Desert
Mossad – The Israeli Secret Service
Palmach – established May 15, 1941, the regular fighting force of the Haganah, the underground army of the Jewish settlers in Mandate Palestine
PLO – Palestinian Liberation Organization
Quarter to Eight Strategy – the strategy devised by Motti Hod that destroyed the Egyptian Air Force in less than four hours.
Resolution 242 – Passed by the UN, Israel has the right to secure and defensible borders
Sinai – the desert south of Israel that was returned to Egypt by Israel.
Suez – the canal connecting the Red Sea and the Mediterranean in the Sinai
Zionism – the philosophy and ideology that led to the creation of the State of Israel

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Choose a topic your class would be most interested in dissecting.

1. What is Aliyah Bet? When was it started, and when did it end?
2. Why did Motti Hod smuggle Jews into Mandate Palestine during Aliyah Bet?
3. When did the UN vote to establish the State of Israel? Why did they do so?
4. Which countries attacked Israel after the Jews declared the establishment of the State of Israel? What did they hope to accomplish?
5. What was the risk in flying Spitfires from Europe to Israel?
6. Why did the Israelis steal a Soviet jet fighter from the Arabs in 1966? How did it help the Americans?
7. Why is control of air space so important during wartime?
8. Why did Israel attack Egypt on June 5, 1967? What did Egypt do to bring this about? What other countries joined the war, and what were the results? What did these countries lose as a result of the war? What did the Israelis do with the land they won?
9. Why would the Soviets instigate military confrontation between Israel and her Arab neighbors?
10. Why did the Israelis bomb the Iraqi nuclear reactor? At the time, the American government was angry at Israel for doing so. Why do some American government officials now think the Israelis were right in bombing the reactor?
11. What is a hero? What is the difference between a hero and a heroic act? What motivates someone to take risks? Are they ordinary people or unique individuals? If they are special people, how could we ever hope to be like them? Why would they often feel reluctant to be in the limelight? Are fire fighters and lifeguards heroes?

A CLASS DEBATE: DO YOU GO TO WAR OR NOT?

Egypt blockaded the Straits of Tiran, preventing Israel's access to its ports. They have ordered the UN peacekeepers out and they have massed their troops on Israel's southern border. In the north and west, her allies, Syria and Jordan are stealing Israel's drinking water and massing their troops. They have 600 airplanes, Israel has 200.

Do you go to war for these reasons or not?

Divide the class and have them debate the issue, pro and con.

Are there alternatives to war under these circumstances?

What was Egypt's objective and what message would non-response from Israel have sent?

Discuss with the students what they feel about what they saw in the film.

RESEARCH WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

Have students pick a topic, or assign according to ability and interests.

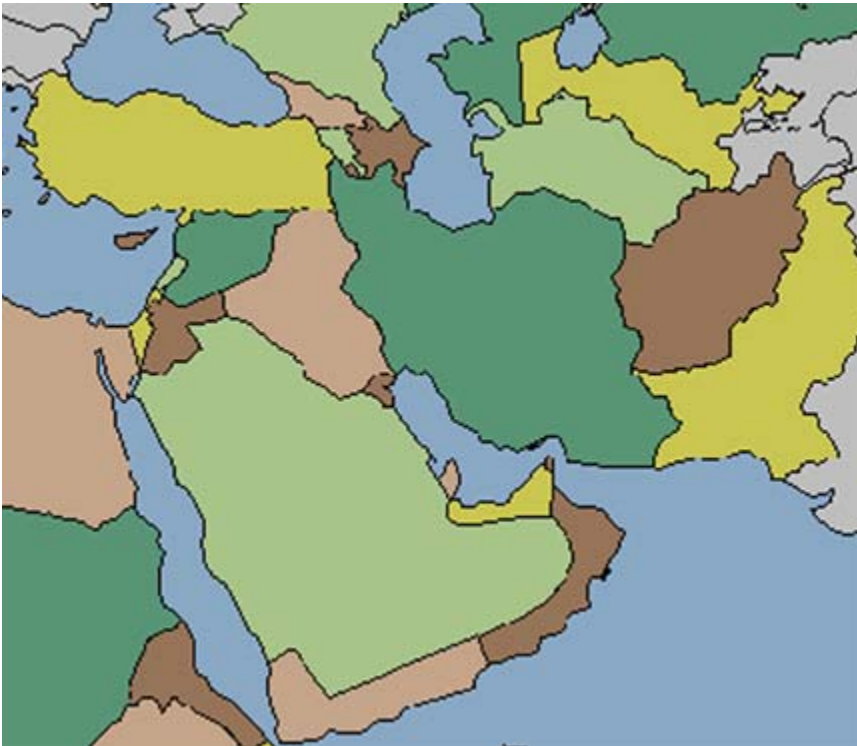
1. Explain the differences in the way Israelis uses aircraft today and the way they did then.
2. What was the impact of Arab countries on Israel in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982, 2005?
3. How did Motti Hod affect these countries during his years in the IAF?
4. How did he affect France, England, the Soviet Union and the United States?
5. Review the film as if you are Rogers and Ebert

PRINT OUT A MAP AND LOCATE THESE COUNTRIES

Israel
Egypt
Syria

Lebanon
Jordan
Yemen
Iran
Iraq
Saudi Arabia

Track where fresh water in the region comes from, where it goes to and show how it would be possible to steal it. Map out a battle plan to go with it.



TIMELINE

Concise Overview of recent Israeli-Palestinian History

Allow students to pick one day from this timeline, except 9/11/01, and have them write an essay about why that day is important.

SOURCE <http://www.mideastweb.org/timeline.htm> (modified for this course)

- Nov 2, 1917 British issued the Balfour Declaration, viewed by Jews and Arabs as promising a “National Home” for the Jews in Palestine.
- May 15, 1948 Israel War of Independence (1948 War). Declaration of Israel as the Jewish State; British leave Palestine; Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia declared war on Israel. Egyptian, Syrian and Jordanian invasion began.
- April 3, 1949 Armistice - Israel and Arab states agree to armistice. Israel gained about 50% more territory than was originally allotted to it by the UN Partition Plan.
- Oct. 29, 1956 Suez Campaign. In retaliation for a series of escalating border raids as well as the closure of the straits of Tiran and Suez canal to Israeli shipping, and to prevent Egyptian use of newly acquired Soviet arms in a war, Israel, France and Britain invade the Sinai peninsula and occupy it for several months,.
- May, 1964 PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) founded with the aim of destroying Israel. The Palestinian National Charter (1968) officially called for liquidation of Israel.
- May, 1967 Jordan and Syria attempt to hijack Israel’s fresh water supply, Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser closes the straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, the dismisses UN peacekeeping force, masses his troops on Israeli borders, and calls for an invasion. Negotiations with US to reopen the Straits of Tiran fail.
- June 5-10, 1967 Six-Day War Israel destroys the Egyptian air force on the ground, conquers and occupies Sinai and Gaza, then conquers the West Bank from Jordan, and Golan Heights from Syria. UN Resolution 242 called for Israeli withdrawal, establishment of peace.
- Oct. 6, 1973 Yom Kippur War (October War). In a surprise attack on the Jewish Day of Atonement, Egypt retook the Suez Canal and a narrow zone on the other side. Syria re-conquered the Golan Heights. Following massive US and Soviet re-supplying of the sides, Israel succeeded in

pushing back the Syrians and threatening Damascus. In Sinai, the IDF crossed the Suez Canal and cut off the Egyptian Third Army.

Sept. 5-18, 1978 Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Menachem Begin, Prime Minister of Israel, met with Jimmy Carter, President of the United States of America, at Camp David from and agreed on a framework for peace in the Middle East

March 26, 1979 Peace treaty signed between Egypt and Israel.

June 7, 1981 Israel destroys Iraqi nuclear reactor in daring raid.

Oct. 6, 1981 Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is assassinated in Egypt while on the reviewing stand of a victory parade.

June 6, 1982 Massive Israeli invasion of Lebanon to fight PLO.

Sept. 13, 1993 Oslo Declaration of Principles – U.S. President Bill Clinton gets Israel and the PLO to agree to mutual recognition. Rabin and Arafat shake hands in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Sept 28, 1995 Oslo Interim Agreement signed. Palestinian Authority to be established.

Nov. 4, 1995 Israeli PM Yitzhak Rabin assassinated by right-wing Israeli fanatic Yigal Amir. Rabin is replaced by Shimon Peres.

June, 1996 Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu elected Prime Minister in Israel, replacing Shimon Peres.

Sept, 1996 "Al-Aksa tunnel riots - Arab sources spread the false rumor that a gate opened in an underground tunnel tourist attraction by the Israeli government, endangered the foundations of the Al-Aksa mosque. This caused several days of rioting and numerous casualties.

Jan 18, 1997 Israel and Palestinians reach agreement on Israeli redeployment in the West-Bank city of Hebron

Oct. 1998 Wye River Plantation talks result in an agreement for Israeli redeployment and release of political prisoners and renewed Palestinian commitment to correct its violations of the Oslo accords including excess police force, illegal arms and incitement in public media and education.

May 17, Israel elects Labor party leader and Former General Ehud Barak as

- 1999 Prime Minister in a landslide. Barak promises rapid progress toward peace.
- March, 2000 Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations fail when Hafez Assad rejects an Israeli offer relayed by US President Clinton in Geneva.
- Sept. 28, 2000 Palestinians initiated riots after Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon visited the Temple Mount, which is also the location of the Haram As Sharif which is holy to Muslims.
- Sept. 11, 2001 Terror attacks on World Trade Center in NYC and the Pentagon carried out by fanatic Islamic Al-Qaida group headed by Osama Bin Laden initiate US war on terror. Israel and Palestinians agree to a ceasefire, but it is not implemented.
- Feb 6, 2001 Likud leader Ariel Sharon elected Prime Minister in Israel replacing Ehud Barak and promising "peace and security."
- March-April 2002 Israel conducts operation Defensive Wall in the West Bank, following a large number of Palestinian suicide attacks on civilian targets. Saudi peace initiative adopted at Beirut summit.
- Jan 28, 2003 Elections in Israel give wide margin (40 seats) to Likud party, returning PM Ariel Sharon for another term.
- March 19, 2003 US begins invasion of Iraq by a strike against a building where Saddam Hussein and other leaders are meeting. Baghdad falls, April 9.
- July 9, 2004 International court of Justice (ICJ) rules that the Israeli security barrier violates international law and must be torn down. Later, the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that the barrier is legal and that only certain sections need repositioning.
- Nov 11, 2004 Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat dies.
- Jan 9, 2005 Mahmoud Abbas elected President of the Palestinian National Authority.
- Jan 10, 2005 Ariel Sharon forms unity government with Labor and United Torah Judaism parties in Israel.
- April 2005 Ariel Sharon visits US President George Bush at his Texas ranch. Syrian Army leaves Lebanon, officially ending Syrian occupation.
- May 26, 2005 Mahmud Abbas visits US President George Bush at the White House, an important symbolic gesture signaling US backing for Abbas and Palestinian aspirations. Israel releases 400 Palestinian prisoners

including some with blood on their hands. Britain confirms "low level" negotiations with Hamas.

June, 2005 Violence flares in Gaza. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visits Palestinian and Israeli leaders to ensure coordination of Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. Israeli PM Ariel Sharon and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas meet in Jerusalem June 21. Sharon announces that Palestinians have promised to coordinate regarding Gaza withdrawal. PM Abbas postpones Palestinian legislative elections in order to change the election law, amidst growing concern that Hamas will trounce Abbas's Fatah party in the elections. Lebanese elections give a decisive majority to the opposition to Syria, led by Saad Hariri, son of slain leader Rafiq Hariri.

Aug. 15, 2005 Disengagement - Israeli evacuation of Gaza settlements and four West Bank settlements began on August 15 and was completed August 24.

*Jan, 2006 (added) Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffers a stroke after announcing formation of moderate Kadima Party. Ehud Olmert becomes acting Prime Minister and HAMAS trounces the PA in legislative elections.

*March 2006 (added) HAMAS refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist. Kadima wins Israeli election, begins to finalize borders with US.

SOURCE: <http://www.mideastweb.org/timeline.htm>

OPTIONAL READING FOR THE TEACHER:

Revisiting the Six-Day War By Joseph Farah

Posted: January 23, 2003
1:00 a.m. Eastern

© 2003 WorldNetDaily.com

Occupation, occupation, occupation.

If you listen to Arabs, that's the cause of the conflict with Israel – occupation.

They blame all their ills – from refugees living in squalor for the last 50 years to Yasser Arafat's bad breath – on the so-called Israeli "occupation" of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Arabs say the Israelis grabbed this real estate in a war of aggression in 1967. In fact, Israel did not start that war. Israel did not want that war. Israel merely defended itself – very, very effectively – from coordinated attacks by Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Arafat's terrorists.

This is not opinion. This is fact. A friend of mine, Sol Jacobs, did something very simple – something very obvious – to document this fact, which seems to elude so many today. He went back and looked at what newspapers were reporting about the crisis before June 5, 1967 – before there was any alleged "Israeli occupation."

Here's what he found on his month-long timeline leading up to the Six-Day War:

On May 7, the New York Times reported Syria had shelled the Israeli village of Ein Gev.

On May 17, the New York Times reported that the Palestine Liberation Organization, headed by Arafat, pledged to "keep sending commandos" into Israel.

On May 19, the Los Angeles Times reported Egypt stood accused of using poison gas in Yemen.

On May 19, the New York Times reported Egypt had deployed its forces along the Israeli border.

On May 20, the New York Times reported Egypt forced U.N. peacekeeping troops to leave the Sinai Desert in anticipation of its attack on Israel.

On May 21, the New York Times reported Egyptian soldiers were massing in the Sinai.

On May 22, the New York Times reported that the PLO would be stepping up its attacks in Israel, that Cairo was calling up 10,000 reserves and that Iraq would be sending aid to battle Israel.

On May 23, every newspaper in the world reported that Egypt took the provocative action of closing the Gulf of Aqaba to Israel.

On May 24, every newspaper in the world reported that the U.S. declared Egypt's military blockade of the gulf "illegal."

On May 25, the New York Times reported that Jordan would admit Saudi and Iraqi forces into its country to do battle with Israel.

On May 27, every newspaper in the world reported Egypt's fiery threats to destroy Israel.

On May 29, the New York Times reported the Egyptian buildup of military forces in the Sinai was continuing.

On May 29, the Washington Post reported that despite all of this provocation, Israel was still reluctant to have a showdown with its enemies.

On May 29, the New York Times reported new Syrian attacks on Israel.

On June 3, the New York Times reported that Britain declared the Egyptian blockade could lead to war. It also reported that four Syrian commandos were intercepted in Israel.

On June 5, 1967, the Six-Day War began. Israel rolled up all of its enemies faster than anyone would have believed. It took control of East Jerusalem from Jordan. It took control of Judea and Samaria on the west bank of the Jordan River from Jordan. It took control of the Golan Heights from Syria. And it took control of the Gaza Strip and Sinai Desert from Egypt.

[You can read these news reports for yourself thanks to the work of Sol Jacobs.](#)

Clearly, the so-called "occupation" of these territories came about as a result of Arab war-making on Israel. Israel merely defended itself well. Israel also proved it was willing to give these territories back to neighbors who would live in peace with the Jewish state, as demonstrated with the return of the Sinai to Egypt.

All of this raises a few questions: If Israel is occupying those territories today, who was occupying them until 1967? If the West Bank and Gaza belong to "Palestinians," why were they under the control of Jordan and Egypt until June 5, 1967? If Arab "Palestinians" just want their own state, why didn't they ask for it before 1967?

And, lastly, why is it, according to many of these articles written in 1967, that when the Arabs talked about "occupied territories" then, they meant all of Israel?

Joseph Farah is founder, editor and CEO of WND and a nationally syndicated columnist with Creators Syndicate. His latest book is "Taking America Back." He also edits the weekly online intelligence newsletter Joseph Farah's G2 Bulletin, in which he utilizes his sources developed over 30 years in the news business.

READING MATERIALS: SOME SUPPLEMENTAL READING IS INCLUDED WITH THIS PACKET.

The briefest, easiest to read guide to the Middle East is

Bard, Mitchell G. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Middle East Conflict*. New York: Alpha Books, 1999

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Avineri, Shlomo *The Making of Modern Zionism: The Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State*. New York: Basic Books, 1981.

Bard, Mitchell G. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Middle East Conflict*. New York: Alpha Books, 1999

Bregman, Ahron and Jihan El-Tahri, *Israel and the Arabs, An Eyewitness account of War and Peace in the Middle East*, NYC, TV Books, 1998.

Cohen, Michael J. *Palestine: Retreat from the Mandate*. New York: Holmes and Meier Publishers, Inc. 1978.

Cohen, Michael J. *Palestine to Israel: From Mandate to Independence*. London: Frank Cass, 1988.

Collins, Larry and La Pierre, Dominique, *O Jerusalem*, Touchstone Books, 1988.

Eisberg, Dennis; Dan, Uri and Landau, Eli - *The Mossad: Inside Stories*

Gilbert, Martin. *Israel: A History*, New York: William Morrow & Company, 1998.
_____. *Exile and Return: The Struggle for a Jewish Homeland*. Philadelphia and New York: J.B. Lippincott, 1978.

Gorny, Yosef. *Zionism and the Arabs, 1882—1948: A Study of Ideology*. New York: Oxford, 1987.

Halkin, Hillel, *Letters to an American Jewish Friend: A Zionist's Polemic*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1977.

Hammel, Eric (October 2002). "Sinai air strike: June 5, 1967". *Military Heritage* 4 (2): 68–73.

Harsgor, M. and Stroun M. *Israel-Palestine: L'Histoire au-dela des mythes*, Editions Metropolis, 1996 (also published in Hebrew by Givat Haviva 1997).

Hertzberg, Arthur. *The Zionist Idea: A Historical Analysis and Reader*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1997.

Herzl, Theodore, *The Jewish State*, Dover Publications, 1989.

Eisberg, Dennis; Dan, Uri and Landau, Eli - *The Mossad: Inside Stories, The Palestinian People: A History*, Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 2003.

Laqueur, Walter and Barry M. Rubin, Eds. *The Israel-Arab Reader: A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict*. New York: Penguin, 1995.

Lewis, Bernard, *The Middle East: A Brief History of the Last 2,000 Years*, Touchstone Books, 1997.

O'Brien, Conner Cruise. *The Siege: The Saga of Israel and Zionism*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1986

Oren, Michael, *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East*, Oxford University Press, 2002.

Rabinovich, Abraham. *The Yom Kippur War: The Epic Encounter That Transformed The Middle East*. New York: Schocken Books, 2004.

Rabinovitch, Itamar, *Waging Peace: Israel and the Arabs, 1948-2003*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2004

Raviv, Dan and Melman, Yossi - *Every Spy a Prince: The Complete History of Israel's Intelligence Community*.

Ross, Dennis, *The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for Middle East Peace*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, N.Y. 2004

Sachar, Howard M., *A History of Israel from the Rise of Zionism to Our Time*, Alfred A. Knopf, 1998.

Shalom, Danni, *Like A Bolt Out of the Blue: How the Arab Airforces were destroyed in the Six-Day War*, BAVIR - Aviation Publications, 2002, 650 pages, hardcover.

Sharon, Ariel, with David Chanoff. *Warrior: The Autobiography of Ariel Sharon*. New York: A Touchtone Book, 2001.

Shulewitz, Malka Hillel ed., *The Forgotten Millions: The Modern Jewish Exodus from Arab Lands* New York: Continuum, 2000

Stein, Kenneth W. *The Land Question in Palestine, 1917—1939*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1984.

Swisher, Clayton, *The Truth About Camp David: The Untold Story About the Collapse of the Middle East Peace Process, Thunder's Mouth*, Nation Books, 2004.

Tessler, Mark A. *A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Indiana Series in Arab and Islamic Studies)*, Indiana University Press, 1994.

Weizmann, Chaim, *Trial and Error*, Hamish Hamilton, 1949; Schocken, 1966

SOURCES for this guide:

Encyclopedia Judaica, Keter, Jerusalem, 1972

Larry Collins, Dominique LaPierre, *O Jerusalem*, Simon and Schuster, NY 1972

The Jerusalem Post, Front Page Israel, Major Events 1932-1979 as reflected in the front pages of the Jerusalem Post, Arno Press, NY 1979

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/haganah.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2003/07/02/db0202.xml&sSheet=/opinion/2003/07/02/ixoprigh.htm>

Independent, The (London), Jul 5, 2003 by Eric Silver

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qn4158/is_20030705/ai_n12709989

Time, 7/26/71

Air Force Historical Studies Office, the Pentagon

<https://www.airforcehistory.hq.af.mil/index.htm>

<http://www.jafi.org.il/education/juice/service/week7.html>

<http://www.communa.org.il/dgania.htm>

http://www.palmach.org.il/show_item.asp?itemId=8096&levelId=42798&itemType=0

<http://www.american.edu/ted/ice/westbank.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War#Preliminary_Air_Attack