

WORDS OF VISIONARIES

Module: Thrilling Operations Jan 17, 2021



Dreamers & Innovators is a knowledge and skill-building platform for 21st century learners. We aspire, design and execute interactive learning experiences where global knowledge relevant to today and tomorrow is brought to young Dreamers. At D&I, 21st century skills are honed, confident communication is developed and independent, informed opinions are nourished.

January 2021 is hallmarked at D&I with the module: **Thrilling Missions**. This module focuses on the epic missions carried out by the forces of nations of global significance. In the first session on the **Operation Thunderbolt** we took the opportunity to not only analyse the mission but expose the Dreamers to the **Israel-Palestine conflict**, an indelible and crucial matter of the century.



THE JEWS OF ISRAEL

By Rohina Mehra

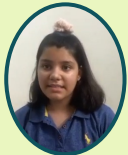
Jews, an ethnic group, practice the religion Judaism and speak the language Hebrew. Judaism rejects Jesus as God but believes that Jesus, a Jew, was an inspirational teacher and a leader. Following the atrocities meted out by Hitler during the WW2, most of the Jews moved to the USA or to a land we today know as Israel, a nation formed in 1948. Israel, a friend of India, is known for its military might and is today recognized as a quality manufacturing, medicine and technology centre of the world. Operation Thunderbolt, executed by the Israeli intelligence-MOSSAD, 50 years ago, still remains as the most diligently planned and executed rescue operations in the world. However, the conflict with Arab Palestinians at Gaza Strip and West Bank is the darker side which the world hopes shall be resolved soon.



JERUSALEM & TIME

By Keith Gomes

The ancient conquests of territory have provided the scaffolding for contemporary geo-political conflicts. Jerusalem is the essential case as example: it is sacrosanct for three of the most practiced religions of the world — Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Furthermore, Jerusalem has been passed down the hands of a myriad of civilizations: from the Canaanite tribes, to the Babylonians, Romans all the way down to the Ottoman's before it fell under the British Mandate of Palestine during the 19th and 20th century period of colonial occupation. It was in the modern 20th century that the Jewish demand to return to a state of their own that marks a ripple which brought about many a tide in the past half of a century. Today, Jerusalem is considered an International zone, while the Old city of Jerusalem is divided into four quarters: the Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Armenian.



OPERATION THUNDERBOLT

by Saayehsa Chandrani, 13yrs

Imagine going on your dream vacation, sitting in the flight and falling asleep but then waking up to your worst nightmare — a hijacking, with terrorists pointing guns at the forehead. This is what happened to the passengers of an Air France airplane 139 in 1976, carrying 250 passengers to Paris from Tel Aviv.

German and Palestinian radicals took over the plane during a planned stop in Athens, Greece, forcing its pilots to carry out a refueling stop in Libya before flying to Entebbe in central Uganda.

The Palestinian terrorists wanted the release of prisoners held in Israel and four other countries. The Israeli mission to rescue these hostages was known as Operation Entebbe or Operation Thunderbolt.



THE BALFOUR DECLARATION

by Aditya Verma, 13yrs

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the ongoing struggle over a specific area of land that both Israelis and Palestinians claim.

In 1917, Britain declared its support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine by passing the Balfour declaration. As a result, the number of Jewish settlers grew fuelling tensions between the Arabs and Jews. Their violence forced Britain to surrender and let the UN take over. The UN then approved a plan to split Palestine into two states — Jewish-Israel and Arab-Palestine. The Jews accepted the partition but neighbouring Arab countries objected to it.

This led to the beginning of the first Arab-Israeli War. Israel was victorious and grabbed 78% of Palestine. This day is remembered as Al-Nakba as 700,000 Palestinians became refugees.



THE SIX-DAY WAR OF ISRAEL, 1967

by Atharv Gupta, 12 yrs

In 1967, the Arab countries refused to recognise Israel as a state, which led to another war — known as the Six-Day War.

Israel won this war and occupied even more parts of Palestine. The West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem — which houses the holy Old City.

Also, post-1967, Israel started to build settlements for its Jewish community in the newly-occupied Palestinian territories, including in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the last 50 years, the Israeli government has transferred between 600,000 and 750,000 Jewish Israelis to the West Bank and East Jerusalem. They live in at least 160 settlements and outposts



WHERE ISRAEL-PALESTINE STAND

by Manek Mehra, 12 yrs

After the Six-day war of 1967, Israelis take over all Palestinian land. More Israelis start settling here, causing more tensions, resulting in the PLO. After many years of fighting, the PLO and Israel divide the land.

But the fight does not end here, more people come to settle in this land, which is considered illegal. The frustration of the Palestinians results in Hamas, a political movement to take over Israeli occupied West bank and Gaza.

Afterwards U.S., Israel and Palestine sign the Oslo agreement, which divides the land into 3 parts:

Land A: Palestine occupied Land, Land B: Israeli and Palestinian land Land C: Israeli occupied land. The differences persist.