



# The Arab-Israeli Conflict

MOCK SYLLABUS



UICCS



*His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people [...], it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which might prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine [...].*

**Balfour Declaration**

*Zionism is simply a peacemaker. And it suffers the usual fate of peacemakers, in being forced to fight more than anyone else.*

**Theodor Herzl**

*Stand with Israel because Israel is not just defending itself. More than ever, Israel is defending you!*

**Benjamin Netanyahu**

*Is it not the time for the longest occupation in history suffocating our people to come to an end?*

**Mahmoud Abbas**

*I have always said, and I repeat it again, that we have always wholeheartedly supported the political process, which should proceed in parallel with the war on terrorism.*

**Bashar al-Assad**

*In each paragraph in which the expression "West Bank" appears, it is being and will be, understood by the Government of Israel as Judea and Samaria.*

**Jimmy Carter**

*You know, as a deal person, I understand all sides of deals. I understand good deals and bad deals, but this [Iran] deal is not even comprehensible. Beyond comprehension.*

**Donald J. Trump**

*The elimination of Israel is not only a Palestinian interest. It is the interest of the entire Muslim world and the entire Arab world.*

**Hassan Nasrallah**

*If, and as long as between the Jordan and the sea, there is only one political entity, named Israel, it will end up being either non-Jewish or non-democratic...*

**Ehud Barak**

*The Arab uprisings are more than just a part of the politics of the Middle East at the beginning of the twenty-first century; they are also an integral part of the historical legacy spawned by the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire a hundred years earlier.*

**William L. Cleveland**

*If you listen to the politicians, you might think we are all terrorists.*

**Loesje**



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## **CONTENT AND AIMS**

Conflict is ubiquitous. It exists at all levels, within and between individuals, communities, countries and cultures. We encounter it every day. Conflict is in itself neither bad nor good, but a sign that change is needed. The question is: does the way it is dealt with allow for positive or negative change? Does it allow for growth, development, and understanding, or rather destruction, confusion, and polarization? The management of the Arab-Israeli conflict has resulted in many negative developments. It is one of the most intractable and dangerous conflicts of our era that has resisted resolution by generations of regional and international politicians and conflict experts. It has been characterized as the kernel of instability in the wider region and beyond.

In order to be able to examine the present significance of the conflict in international relations, or to try our hands at conflict management in a diplomatic simulation, we must fully appreciate the history of the conflict. The Arab-Israeli conflict has not only been fought in wars, but also in the historical narratives presented by historians, (ex-) journalists and a variety of social scientists. The narrative that informs us necessarily shapes the framework that we apply to view the conflict. Historiography plays an essential role in the shaping of the often-conflicting narratives. The course will therefore begin with an overview of the heated historical debate over the establishment of the state of Israel, where Israeli revisionists have challenged the traditional national narrative, only to be accused of politicized research and flawed methods. [...]

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this course, students can:

1. discuss the historical context of the Arab-Israeli conflict
2. debate the controversies of the historiography surrounding the origins of the conflict
3. demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the political and social dynamics of the Arab-Israeli conflict
4. demonstrate in-depth knowledge of decision making processes on political levels in times of crisis and understand the relationship between political and military decision-making
5. simulate a crisis situation on the political decision-making level and learn the basics of diplomatic conduct
6. plan research, i.e. find the relevant literature, interpret sources and develop a thesis
7. present research results both orally and in writing

**Questions? Want to work together?**

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