

PALESTINIAN WEST BANK CITIES AND ISRAELI SETTLEMENT POLICY

Around 50% of the Palestinian population of the West Bank lives in one large urban agglomeration stretching from above Ramallah to down below Bethlehem.

The combination of high fertility and relatively low mortality rates results in a Palestinian population growth which is among the highest in the world. The estimated population of more than 2 million West Bank Palestinians is expected to double by the year 2020.

Several hundred thousand new dwellings are needed, in addition to at least a similar number of jobs within that time span. Given the ongoing and intensifying expansion of Israeli settlements across the West Bank and the alienation of living and working space caused by the construction of the Israeli separation wall, it is unlikely that such needs will be met.

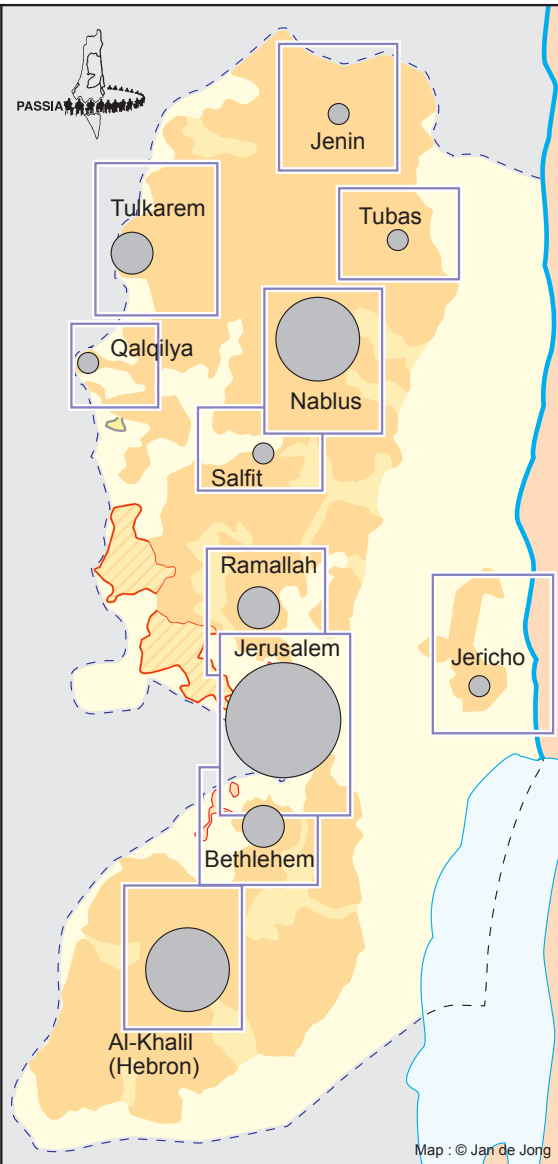
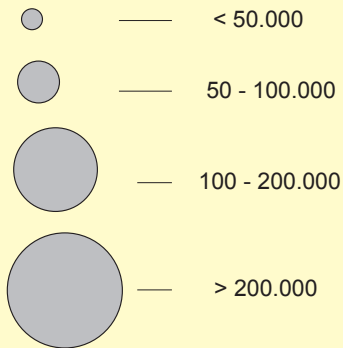
The following sequence of Palestinian city maps (see city frames) offers an insight into this spatial contest on a local scale.



Currently and Projected Walled-in Palestinian Areas (see next map)

Palestinian District Capitals

City sizes according to number of inhabitants



Map : © Jan de Jong