

NAKBA

The Process of Palestinian Dispossession



Palestinian Uprisings

1920: The Nabi Musa riots in Jerusalem were a consequence of Arab frustration at the failure of the international community to honor the promises of independence made to the Arab leaders during WWI. As a result of the riots, Musa Kazem al-Husseini was deposed as mayor of Jerusalem by the British and replaced with the much more accommodating Ragheb Nashashibi.

1921: Arab anti-immigration protests in Jaffa turned into clashes with Jews, leading British High Commissioner Samuel to declare a state of emergency.



Demonstration in Jerusalem, 1920

1929: Breaches of the code of conduct for Jewish and Arab worshippers at the Al-Buraq (Western) Wall led to demonstrations and clashes in Jerusalem that quickly spread around the country. When the disturbances finally settled, the Hope-Simpson Royal Commission investigated the causes of the riots and recommended limiting Jewish immigration.

1930s: Seeing the futility of diplomacy and appeals to the British authorities, the first armed militias, such as Izz Eddin al-Qassam's *Black Hand* group, began taking up arms against Zionist settlers. Qassam, through his dedication to the resistance movement and his death in combat at the hands of the British in 1935, became the first hero of Palestinian nationalism and an inspiration to generations of resistance fighters.



Izz Eddin al-Qassam

1936: "The Great Rebellion" arose from Jewish-Arab clashes, a nationwide Arab strike demanding an end to Jewish immigration and land sales to Jews, and the establishment of an Arab national government. The popular national committees refused to pay taxes until the British fulfilled their demands for representation, and the British declared the AHC an illegal organization. The riots resumed in 1937 in the wake of the report by the Peel Commission recommending partition, and the British arrested and deported prominent AHC members and stripped Hajj Amin al-Husseini of his titles as Chairman of the *waqf* and President of the Supreme Muslim Council. The uprising ended only in 1939 with the issuing of the MacDonal White Paper abandoning the recommendations of the Peel Commission.



Arab fighters in the 1936 revolt

The main Palestinian parties

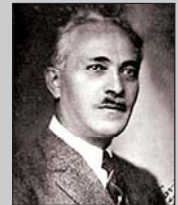
Istiqlal (Independence) Party under Awni Abdul Hadi

- established in 1932 as the first regularly constituted Palestinian political party, reflecting the frustration of educated nationalists over the national movement's failure to effectively confront Zionism and its British sponsors. It called for an end to the Mandate and advocated Arab unity close to Emir Faisal and independence of all Arab countries. It was critical of the divisive effect of the Husseini-Nashashibi rivalry but was unable to challenge either camp.



National Defense Party under Ragheb al-Nashashibi

- established in 1934 by the Nashashibi family and its followers. It opposed Jewish immigration and land sales to Jews, but favored compromise with regard to the British and Zionists. It maintained close relations with Emir Abdullah and was the only political group to formally accept partition, with the Arab state linked to Transjordan.



Palestine Arab Party under Jamal al-Husseini

- established by the Grand Mufti and his supporters in 1935 and close to the Saudi family. It opposed the Balfour Declaration, the British Mandate, Jewish immigration and land sales to Jews, calling for complete Palestinian independence. Many of its leaders were exiled after the 1936 revolt.



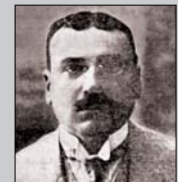
Reform Party under Hussein al-Khalidi

- established in 1935. It accepted the British-proposed Legislative Council as a step towards greater influence and eventual independence, but rejected the 1939 White Paper proposal which abandoned the idea of partition and advocated a single state with proportional representation for Arabs and Jews in Palestine.



National Bloc under Abd al-Latif Salah

- established in 1935. It stood for the political independence of Palestine but was unable to mobilize sufficient support, remaining weak due to its wavering policies of co-operation and resistance towards the British.



Facing the Threat of Jewish Funds



During the 1920s and 1930s, Palestinians set up financial institutions to safeguard the Palestinian land and economy. The first major Palestinian banks were founded, such as the *Palestinian Agricultural Bank*, the *Egypt-Palestine Bank* (both 1928), the *Umma Fund Bank* and the *Arab Bank* (both 1931). In addition, in 1943 the *Arab National Fund* was established by AHC treasurer Ahmad Hilmi Abdul Baqi (photo) with the aim of purchasing land and safeguarding it from acquisition by Zionist bodies.