**1947 - UN General Assembly by majority vote approves the 1947 Partition Plan.** The plan calls for the establishment of a Jewish and an Arab state in British mandate Palestine with an economic union between them. The plan places Jerusalem and Bethlehem under a separate international trusteeship - corpus separatum - for ten years to guarantee free access for all populations and maintain religious peace.

**16 March 1949 -** After the war in 1948, Israel and Jordan sign an armistice agreement leaving a majority of Jerusalem corpus separatum area under Israeli control. Approximately 11% of the eastern part of Jerusalem is placed under Jordanian control and a 4% no-man’s land is established in between. The boundary under this armistice agreement is called the Green Line.

**13 December 1949** - Following the Agreement, the Israeli Government declares that west Jerusalem is no longer occupied and that it is the new capital of Israel. Over 50,000 Palestinians who had resided in west Jerusalem and surrounding villages are denied return to their properties and homes. This property, including thousands of homes and shops, is seized by the Israeli Government and transferred to Israeli citizens.

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**UN General Assembly Resolution 181, November 29, 1947 - “Partition Plan”** (33 votes in favor, 13 against, 10 abstentions, 1 absent)

"Insofar as Holy Places are concerned, the liberty of access, visit and transit shall be guaranteed... to all residents or citizens of the other State and of the City of Jerusalem, as well as to aliens, without distinction as to nationality, subject to requirements of national security, public order and decorum.”

Part I C, Chapter 1 (2)

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**UN General Assembly Resolution 194, December 11, 1948**

8. Resolves that, in view of its association with three world religions, the Jerusalem area, including the present municipality of Jerusalem plus the surrounding villages and towns... should be accorded special and separate treatment from the rest of Palestine and should be placed under effective United Nations control;...

11. Resolves that the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do at the earliest practical date...;
**BRIEF HISTORY OF THE STATUS OF JERUSALEM...CONTINUED**

### Status

**June 1967** - Following the Six Day War, Israel occupies the West Bank, the Jordanian side of Jerusalem (commonly known as Arab East Jerusalem) and the no-man’s land. The Israeli government expands the Jerusalem municipal boundary to three times its size - from 9,500 acres to 27,000 acres - by incorporating these newly occupied areas.  

Subsequently over the next three years, more than 6000 acres of this land is confiscated from Palestinians to build Israeli settlements.

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### United Nations Position

**UN Security Council Resolution 242, 22 November 1967** *(Adopted unanimously)*

The Security Council,  
...Emphasizing the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace…

1. Affirms that the fulfillment of Charter principles…should include (i) Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict…

**UN Security Council Resolution 267, 3 July 1969** *(Adopted unanimously)*

The Security Council,  
Noting that since the adoption of the above-mentioned resolutions Israel has taken further measures tending to change the status of the City of Jerusalem,  
Reaffirming the established principle that acquisition of territory by military conquest is inadmissible …

2. Deplores the failure of Israel to show any regard for the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council mentioned above;

3. Censures in the strongest terms all measures taken to change the status of the City of Jerusalem;

4. Confirms that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel which purport to alter the status of Jerusalem, including expropriation of land and properties thereon, are invalid and cannot change that status;

5. Urgently calls once more upon Israel to rescind forthwith all measures taken by it…

**UN Security Council Resolution 476, 30 June 1980** *(Adopted unanimously)*

The Security Council,  
...Reaffirms the overriding necessity for ending the prolonged occupation of Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;…

3. Reconfirms that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying power, which purport to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem have no legal validity and constitute a flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention … and also constitute a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

4. Reiterates that all such measures which have altered the geographic, demographic and historical character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem are null and void and must be rescinded in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council;…

**UN Security Council Resolution 478, 20 August 1980** *(Adopted by 14 votes to none with 1 abstention - USA)*

The Security Council,  
5. Decides not to recognize the “basic law” and such other actions by Israel that, as a result of this law, seek to alter the character and status of Jerusalem and calls upon:  
(a) All Member States to accept this decision;  
(b) Those States that have established diplomatic missions at Jerusalem to withdraw such missions from the Holy City;…
March 1993 - The Israeli government institutes the closure policy - prohibiting access to Jerusalem without a permit, to over 3 million Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza.

September 2000 - The second Intifada breaks out which results in a dramatic rise in Palestinian suicide bombings and Israeli military actions in the West Bank. The closure intensifies with a marked increase in checkpoints, roadblocks and curfews.

2002 - The Israeli Government begins construction of the Barrier around the expanded Jerusalem municipal boundaries. Construction plans incorporate most of the Israeli settlements in the West Bank around Jerusalem. Together with the checkpoints, the roadblocks and permits, the Barrier significantly impedes Palestinian access into Jerusalem.

UN General Assembly Resolution, 21 October 2003 (144 in favour, 4 against, 12 abstentions)

The General Assembly…

Condemning all acts of violence, terrorism and destruction…

Particularly concerned that the route marked out for the wall under construction by Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, could prejudge future negotiations and make the two-State solution physically impossible to implement and would cause further humanitarian hardship to the Palestinians…

Reiterating its opposition to settlement activities in the Occupied Territories and to any activities involving the confiscation of land, disruption of the livelihood of protected persons and the de facto annexation of land…

1. Demands that Israel stop and reverse the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around east Jerusalem, which is in departure of the Armistice Line of 1949 and is in contradiction to relevant provisions of international law…

HISTORY ENDNOTES

1 - Government of Israel, Statistical Yearbook for Jerusalem, 2001 at 100.
2 - This figure is based on UN Report of the Security Council Commission Established under Resolution 446 (1970), S/14268 (November 25th, 1980).