

The Arab-Israeli Conflict

Spring 2010 - LSHV-490-01

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Ralph Nurnberger

202-461-2107

Ralphn@Theamanigroup.com <<mailto:Ralphn@Theamanigroup.com>>

/[_Before _registering for this class, students should consider the time commitment required for this course. In addition to extensive reading assignments, students will be expected to watch approximately 7 videos that deal with the subjects covered. Students will also receive emails virtually on a daily basis that contain current articles from major newspapers and journals that describe current events and opinions of leading analysts Finally, students will receive a packet of maps that should be brought to each class; and a chronology that covers the key events in each epoch.]

Course Objectives

President Barack Obama delivered a major address in Cairo, Egypt on June 4, 2009 in which he discussed a number of issues, including the Arab-Israeli conflict. He stressed that in order to resolve this, or any other conflict, one must seek to understand the perspectives of all involved.

He stated that: “America's strong bonds with Israel are well known. This bond is unbreakable. It is based upon cultural and historical ties, and the recognition that the aspiration for a Jewish homeland is rooted in a tragic history that cannot be denied. Around the world, the Jewish people were persecuted for centuries, and anti-Semitism in Europe culminated in an unprecedented Holocaust. Denying that fact is baseless, ignorant, and hateful.”

President Obama then said: “On the other hand, it is also undeniable that the Palestinian people - Muslims and Christians - have suffered in pursuit of a homeland. For more than sixty years they have endured the pain of dislocation. Many wait in refugee camps in the West Bank, Gaza, and neighboring lands for a life of peace and security that they have never been able to lead....The situation for the Palestinian people is intolerable. America will not turn our backs on the legitimate Palestinian aspiration for dignity, opportunity, and a state of their own.” ---

This course will examine the root causes, evolution and main issues that comprise the Arab-Israeli conflict. Among the issues to be discussed are: Jewish and Arab nationalism and state building; Jewish and Arab diasporas, refugees and migration; armed conflicts; peace processes (both abortive and successful); peace-making strategies and great power involvement.

The Arab-Israeli conflict is an outgrowth of struggles that have gone on for centuries with basic issues hotly contested to this day. The conflicting claims of Jews and Arabs for the same territory was one of the major concerns confronting world leaders prior to World War I and even more at the conclusion of that war. The manner in which land that

had been part of the Ottoman Empire was allocated after World War I has set the stage for most of the conflicts to follow. Many of the current issues trace their origin to pledges and promises made during this period. Thus, we will examine three conflicting pledges made by the British during and after World War I regarding “Palestine” and how these affected the future history of the region.

We will analyze how the British administered these areas during the “Mandate” era, as well as how events in the region and in Europe set the stage for the dramatic events that transpired after World War II. In fact, the future of Palestine was one of the first issues to confront the newly created United Nations after World War II. Despite the efforts of the United Nations, armed conflicts erupted in the late 1940’s. Pro-Israelis and pro-Palestinians have different interpretations of what happened in the late 1940’s to the extent that they even have different words to describe the same events.

The Arab-Israeli conflict was a major point of contention during the Cold War. Wars in the region, including those in 1956, 1967, 1973 and 1982, had major implications for U.S.-Soviet relations. The Arab-Israeli conflict, however, continued even after the collapse of the Soviet Union. It is now one of the main matters raised by “jihadists”; including Osama bin Laden and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The implications of this struggle have consequences not only in the Middle East, but also internationally. It is a factor in the so-called war on terror as well as in the politics of oil. Significantly, President Obama indicated in the first days of his administration that he wishes to make resolution of this conflict one of the primary objectives of his first term.

As Alan Dowty concludes, “the conflict over Israel/Palestine may be the quintessential ‘hot spot’ on today’s globe.”

This course will focus on the history of the conflict as well as current developments. In order to grasp the nature of the conflict, it is important to understand the motivations of people on both sides, as well as to recognize that even these views are not monolithic. There are often conflicting views held by Palestinians and Israelis. We will discuss the motivations of various participants, including efforts made by both regional and world leaders to resolve the disputes.

We will explore why individuals involved in the various conflicts view issues the way that they do and how this has effected their actions. We will discuss the roles played by many of the key participants and attempt to understand their motivations. It is significant to note that there is no commonly accepted historical narrative. People viewed as freedom fighters by one side are often perceived as terrorists by the other. There are often even disagreements over “ancient history”, including the location of the Temple itself and which sites have “legitimate” religious or historical significance.

Countries and their borders are artifacts defined by humans. We will look at the changing borders of Israel/Palestine. Disputes over the location of borders and the nature of who should administer specific areas are additional key factors that will be considered. Students will be provided with a packet of maps—please bring these to each

class session.

In addition to looking at the role of leaders in the region, we will analyze the actions of the United States and other outside parties. We will discuss how various American Presidents, beginning with Woodrow Wilson, have approached these issues.

This course will not take place in a vacuum. While we will discuss many of the historical events in the region, we will also analyze current issues in the region as these develop during the course of the semester. In this regard, the readings listed below will be supplemented on an almost daily basis with articles published in major newspapers and journals.

In sum, we will seek to determine why this conflict has been so difficult to resolve and whether there are any proposals that might lead to a resolution in the future.

Required Readings

Ian J. Bickerton and Carla L. Klausner, *_A History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict_* (Fifth Edition) (Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007)

Rashid Khalidi, *_Palestinian Identity_*, (Columbia University Press, 1998)

Michael Oren, *_Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East_* (Ballantine Books, 2003)

Dennis Ross, *_The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight For Middle East _
Peace)_*, (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2004) (paper back version is available)

Richard North Patterson, *_EXILE_*, (2007)

Aaron David Miller, *_The Much Too Promised Land: America's Elusive Search for Arab-Israeli Peace_*, (Bantam Books), 2008 (paperback version is available)

Please be aware that in addition to the required readings, additional articles will frequently be sent by emails, depending on events in the region and the coverage these receive in the major newspapers and periodicals. These articles will be considered “required” and will be discussed in class as often as possible.

Students will also receive a collection of DVDs which should viewed at home—*and returned at the conclusion of the course!* * *

Highly Recommended Reading

Alan Dowty, *_Israel/Palestine _*(Polity, 2005)

We will use Bickerton and Klausner as the basic text for this course. Dowty covers much of the same material, in a slightly shorter and easier to read format. Please read Bickerton and Klausner as your prime assignment; read Dowty for additional background and explanation.

Walter Laqueur and Barry Rubin (editors), *The Israel-Arab Reader* (6th edition) (Penguin, 2001)

It will be useful, but not required, to look at Laqueur and Rubin. This volume contains virtually all of the various documents and primary sources that are relevant to this course.

Gershom Gorenberg, *The Accidental Empire*, (Holt -Paperback version, 2007)

This work examines the birth of the settler movement in the ten years following the Six-Day War and finds that it was as much the child of Labor Party socialism as of religious extremism. Gorenberg also shows how three American presidents turned a blind eye to what was happening in the territories, and reveals their strategic reasons for doing so.

Benny Morris, *1948: The First Arab-Israeli War* (Yale University Press), 2008.

This book covers both the military and political dimensions of the 1948 War. In addition to detailing the actions of the participants, he looks at the role of Britain, the US and the Soviet Union, the results of the war including the establishment of Israel and the creation of the refugee problem.

Michael Oren, *Power, Faith, and Fantasy: America in the Middle East, 1776 to the Present* (2007).

This is the best new overview of American policies in the region, covering the entire period of American history. It is a fascinating book and well worth the time to read it. Oren taught at Georgetown last year and is now the Israeli Ambassador to the U.S.**

* *

***Recommended Readings* * ***

Richard Ben Cramer, *How Israel Lost the Four Questions* (Simon and Schuster, 2005)

Mathew Levitt, *Hamas: Politics, Charity, and Terrorism in the Services of Jihad* (Yale University Press, 2006)

* *

Bernard Wasserstein, *Israelis and Palestinians: Why do They Fight? Can They Stop?* (Yale University Library, 2004)

Tom Segev, *1967: Israel, the War and the Year that Transformed the Middle East* (Metropolitan, 2007). This is a somewhat controversial book that came out on the 40th anniversary of the June 1967 War. Segev argues that Israel did not have to take preemptive measures.

Class Sessions:

January 20 - Description of the Problem _

Why have aspects of this conflict lasted so long? What are the implications of this struggle for the modern world? What are the implications for American policies? What influence does the US have in the region? What groups in the US are directly concerned about these issues? What are the religious dimensions to this conflict? What does the geography of the land look like? Who are the main leaders (past and current) of the various countries and organizations that have been involved in these struggles?

We will also discuss the events in Gaza. Why did the “ceasefire” end on December 19? Why did Israel begin bombing on December 27? How did the US government respond? How did Obama respond? What did the United Nations say? How did Arab states and Arab peoples respond? Why did Israel begin a land invasion on January 3?

We will also discuss the historical background of Gaza. What was the status of Gaza from 1948-67? From 1967- 1993? From 1993 – 2005? What happened in the summer of 2005? What were the results of Palestinian elections in 2006 and 2007? What was the result of the Palestinian “civil war”? Who are the leaders of Hamas and what do they want? How do they differ from the leaders of the Palestinian Authority?

Who are the overall major (past and current) leaders involved in these conflicts?

Summary of the course in 90 seconds!

<http://www.mapsofwar.com/images/EMPIRE17.swf>
<<https://exweb.prestongates.com/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.mapsofwar.com/images/EMPIRE17.swf>>

Or at:

<http://www.mapsofwar.com/ind/imperial-history.html>

Required:

Bickerton, 1-14

Miller, 1-8; 53-63.

Recommended:

*Cramer, 1- 64; 279-293 *Dowty, 1-20; 217-226 * Wasserstein, 1- 99

January 27 - The Jewish Story _

What is the origin and background of Zionism? Can Jewish claims to the land be traced back to ancient history? What are the origins and consequences of anti-Semitism? How did events in Europe in the late 19th and early 20th century affect Jewish desires to move to Palestine? What role did Theodor Herzl play? What was the significance of the Dreyfus case? Why did Herzl insist that the “Jewish homeland” be located in Palestine? What were the alternatives and how did the delegates in Basel react to these? Who were the first Jewish immigrants to region in the late 19th /early 20th century? What conditions did they find?

Required:

Ross, 15-29 ;Bickerton, 20-26, 31-33

DVD- The Rise of Anti-Semitism

For a “right wing” view of anti-Semitism and the importance of Israel in combating it, please see the following short video: http://kismet.jlove.com/ltw_mbr.html

Recommended: Ami Isseroff, Zionism - Definition and Early History

<http://www.mideastweb.org/zionism.htm> <<http://www.mideastweb.org/zionism.htm>>

(available from MidEastweb for Coexistence <http://www.mideastweb.org>

<<http://www.mideastweb.org>>)

Dowty, 21-44; Laqueur, 1-11 ;Cramer, 139-226

February 3 - The Arab Story _

What is the significance of the “glory of Islam” for today’s events? What are the Arab claims for Palestine? How did the Arabs in the region react when Jews began to arrive in the early 20th century? What is the basis for Palestinian nationalism? Why have most Arab leaders rejected the concept of a Jewish state of Israel? Have the Palestinian leaders served their people well? How do most Arabs (Palestinians) view the 1948 War? What is the significance of Deir Yasin? What is the origin of the Palestinian refugee issue? How many Palestinians left and where did they go? What is the “quality of their lives” and what are their aspirations? What was the impact of the 1967 War? How have Israelis treated Arabs living within (pre-1967 border) Israel and those living in the West Bank and Gaza? Is a Palestinian state possible? Desirable? How do most Palestinians react to Jewish settlements in the West Bank? What are the differences between Hamas and Fatah? Is either of these two main “factions” willing or able to make peace with Israel? How well have the Palestinian people been “served” by their leaders?

Required: Ross, 29 – 45; Khalidi, 1-34; 177-209

Recommended:

Dowty, 45 – 68

Cramer, 65 – 138

February 10- The Emergence of Israel (1900 – 1948) _

What events led to the establishment of the state of Israel? What were conditions in the area like during the reign of the Ottomans? What promises did the British make during the First World War? Why did the British undertake the “Hussein-McMahon Correspondence”, the promises made by General Alenby and T.E. Lawrence, the Sykes-Picot Agreement, and the Balfour Declaration? Were these and similar proposals contradictory or in line with a coherent policy? How was Middle East territory allocated after World War I? What was the mandate system? How well did the British manage Palestine during the mandate period? How did the Jews in Israel react to British rule? How did the Arabs respond? How did the British seek to reconcile the conflicting demands of the Jews and Arabs? How did they deal with the issues involving immigrations? What deal did Winston Churchill and Abdullah arrange in 1922? How did this change the borders of the region? What were the British White papers? What was the impact of the Arab Revolt (1936-39)? What was the conclusion of the Peel Commission? Did the Woodhead Commission improve these results? How did Jewish groups respond to these reports? What was the conclusion of the 1939 White Paper?

What was the impact of the Nazi regime, World War II and the Holocaust on the Middle East? Why did Jews seek to enter Palestine during and after World War II? How did the world seek to deal with so many “displaced persons”? What is the story of “*The Exodus*”? Why did the British determine to leave Palestine? What were their options? How did the United Nations seek to resolve the conflicts and allocate the territory? What were the results of the missions of Count Bernadot and then Ralph Bunche? What was the UNSCOP Majority Report? What events led to Israeli independence? Why did the UN General Assembly approve the partition plan? What was the reaction of Jews within Israel? Arabs within Israel? Arab nations? Where did the Jews who entered Palestine/Israel in the 1940’s come from? Why did Palestinians leave and what became of these refugees? What happened to Jews who arrived from Arab nations? Why did President Truman decide to recognize Israel? What were the political pressures on him to accept/reject this conclusion?

Required:

Bickerton, 15-20; 27-29; 34-95

DVD – Ben Bradley

Recommended:

Dowty, 69 – 104

Laqueur, 11-87

Wasserstein, 99-122

Benny Morris, *1948: The First Arab-Israeli War* (Yale University Press), 2008.

February 17 - The first Twenty Years of Independence (1948 – 67)_

Why do Israeli Jews and Arabs have different names for the same war (War of Independence and Al Nakba) and what do these names signify? What problems did the new state have to overcome? How did Israel's Arab neighbors react to creation of the new nation? How did Israel win the war in 1948 against so many Arab states? Why did many Arabs in the area leave? Where did the Palestinian refugees go? How were they received and treated? What was the significance of Deir Yassin? How did people like Begin justify this? What was the significance of the creation of Israel? Who were its early leaders? What type of society was set up? What happened to the Arabs who remained in Israel? What is the United Nations Works and Relief Agency (UNWRA)? Why was there only an armistice (Rhodes Agreement) rather than a peace agreement in 1949?

Why did various Arab groups continue to attack Israel after 1949? What was the significance of the assassination of King Abdullah of Jordan, and the coups in Egypt and Syria? Summarize British-Egyptian relations up to 1956. How did Gamal Abdel Nasser rise to power in Egypt? How did he seek to become the leader of the "pan-Arab" movement? What was the significance of the Baghdad Pact of 1955? What factors led up to the 1956 war? What were the roles of the British and the French? Why did the Middle East become such a key factor in the Cold War? What were the results of the 1956 War? What led to the creation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and what were its objectives? What factors led up to the war in June 1967? What role did the United States play during that war?

What were the results of the 1956 Suez War? How did the War affect conditions in Israel? What were the implications of this war on the Cold War? What led to the formation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1964? What events led up to the 1967 War? What was the role of the UN? Why was the United States not more involved? What were the results of the war?

Required:

Oren, 1 – 33

Bickerton: 96-140

DVDs – The 50 Years War – Part I; and The 1967 War

Recommended Readings:

Dowty, 105 – 116

Laqueur, 88-103

Wasserstein, 122-128

February 24 – The Aftermath of the 1967 War (1967 – 1973)_

What were the results of the 1967 War? Which territories did Israel occupy as a consequence of this war? When and why did Israelis “settle” in the newly gained territories? What was UN Resolution 242? Why are there still different interpretations on its meaning? What were the stated objectives contained in the PLO’s National Charter (Covenant)? How did the PLO get along with other Palestinian organizations and with Arab national leaders? What were the objectives of the PLO before and after 1967? Why did the PLO determine to resort to violence in and outside of the region? How effective? What was the “War of Attrition”? What was “Black September” in Jordan? What role did Israel and the US play in the events of Black September? What attacks were sponsored or carried out by the PLO and other Palestinians organizations (ie. Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine?) Might “peace” have been possible after the death of Nasser and the coup in Syria that brought Assad to power in 1970? What events led up to the War in 1973? What were the results of this war? How did it affect the regime of Golda Meir? What was UN Resolution 338? What was the impact of the oil embargo?

Required:

Bickerton, 140-177

Oren, 305 – 341

Miller, 129-156.

DVDs -- start The 50 Years War; Part II

Recommended Readings:

Dowty, 105 – 116

Laqueur, 103-182

Wasserstein, 122-125

Gershon Gorenberg, The Accidental Empire

March 3 - The era of Sadat and Begin - The 1970’s

What were the results of the 1973 War? What was the basis of Kissinger’s “shuttle diplomacy”? Could Israel and Syria have resolved their basic differences at this time? What did Arafat stress in his talk to the UN in 1974? What was the significance of the Rabat Conference in 1974? Why were increasing numbers of Israelis eager to move to the West Bank, Gaza and even Sinai? What problems did this present for the Israeli government? Why is water such a key aspect of the overall conflict? What were the basic principles of the Likud Party? Why did Sadat go to Jerusalem? How Arab leaders react? What was the response in Israel? How did their initial meeting lead to the Camp David negotiations? What was the role of President Carter? What were the results of Camp David? How did other nations react? What did Begin mean by “autonomy”? What were the results of the Camp David Accords?

Required:

Bickerton, 178-204

Miller, 157 - 190

Bob Cullen, “Two Weeks at Camp David”*, *_Smithsonian_, September, 2003 available at: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/campdavid.html>

DVD – Continue watching The 50 Years War; part II

Recommended Readings:

Laqueur, 183 - 232

Dowty, 116 – 126

Wasserstein, 125 – 128

March 10 – Week of Spring Break _(Possible meeting outside of class—to be discussed-
- probably to discuss Richard North Patterson’s _Exile; _this session might also take
place at another time)

March 17 – The Regan Years through the end of the Cold War - The 1980’s

How did the revolution in Iran impact the region? What were the implications of the Iran-Iraq War? How did Egypt change after the assassination of Sadat? What were conditions like in Lebanon in the 1970’s? Why were so many Palestinians living in Southern Lebanon? Under what conditions? What caused the Lebanese Civil War in 1975? Why did Israel move into Lebanon (Operation Peace for Galilee’)? What were the consequences of the War in Lebanon? How significant was the assassination of Bashir Gemayel? What happened at Sabra and Shatila? What led to the formation of Hezbollah? What was the Reagan Peace Plan? How was it received in the region? What led up to the First Intifada? What were its consequences? What led to the formation of Hamas in 1988? What were the key points in its charter? What is AIPAC and how effective is it in the US? What was the Reagan peace plan and how was it received in Israel and in the Arab world? What led to the outbreak of the First Intifada? What was the role of the PLO in this conflict? What was the role of Hamas? How did Israel respond to the Intifada?

Required:

Bickerton, 205-236

DVD – Continue watching The 50 Years War – part 2

Recommended Readings:

Laqueur, 232 – 367

Dowty, 120 – 136

Hamas Charter (will discuss this later as well): <http://www.mideastweb.org/hamas.htm>

March 17– Midterm assignment due – 1,200 to 1,600 words!_

Please select one of the two following assignments:

- 1) Draft two op-ed articles on the same topic, but taking two different perspectives.
- 2) Write a book review on any book relevant to this course (that is not part of the assigned readings)

March 24 - Two efforts for peace - Madrid through Oslo_

How did the end of the Cold War affect the Middle East? Why did Saddam Hussein move into Kuwait? How did the world react? Why were President Bush and Secretary of State Jim Baker able to put together such a large coalition for the Gulf War? How did the PLO react to the war? Why did Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir agree not to respond to Iraqi attacks? Why was the Bush administration able to convene a Middle East conference in Madrid? Who attended? How successful was the conference? How successful were the subsequent Israeli-Palestinian negotiations held in the US? Why was Arafat suddenly more willing to consider negotiations with Israel? Was Hamas a real threat to the PLO? What was the impact of the election of Yitzhak Rabin? Why did Israelis and Palestinians meet secretly in Norway? What led to the “handshake” on September 13, 1993? What were the results? Oslo I? Why did so many people believe that Oslo would be a real turning point in the peace process?

Required:

Bickerton, 228-229; 237-271

Miller, 191-242

Ross, 3- 15, 88 – 137

DVDs – Finish watching The 50 Years War; and watch The Road from Oslo

David Samuels, “In a Ruined Country”, The Atlantic Monthly— September, 2005

<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200509/samuels?ca=Q3R6awwJJu%2BvLybYkb6FnD00zBFqntsu9cfBNKTPGcY%3D>

Recommended readings:

Laqueur, 367 - 440

Dowty, 137 – 160

You might wish to access the article on Arafat’s potential involvement in the murder of US ambassador Cleo Noel:

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/013/192ioiwy.asp>

The recently declassified State Department memo on this is at:

<http://state.gov/documents/organization/67584.pdf>.

March 31- The Clinton Years - Oslo through Wye_

What was the Gaza-Jericho Agreement? What is the Palestinian Authority? How effective was Arafat at “governing”? What was the Oslo II agreement? Why did West Bank settlers object to the peace process? What role did King Hussein play in these negotiations? What led to the Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement? Why did West Bank settlers oppose the Oslo process? Who was dr. Baruch Goldstein and why were his actions in Hebron so significant? What was the significance of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin? How effective was Shimon Peres as Prime Minister? Who was “the engineer” and why was his killing a turning point? What was the significance of the election of Arafat as President of the PA? How did he deal with Islamists? What events led to the election of Bibi Netanyahu? How did the Arab world react? What led up to the

Hebron agreement? Why was this so difficult to achieve? What was the controversy surrounding the Hassmonean tunnel? Was there any possibility of a real peace with Syria? What was “Operation Grapes of Wrath”? How did Hezbollah become a significant factor in Lebanon? Did the PLO change its covenant? What was the significance of the Wye Summit? What internal problems did Netanyahu face in Israel? Why did the Wye Agreement fail?

Why did negotiations with Syria not produce an agreement? What led to the Clinton-Arafat-Barak meetings at Camp David? Why did these meeting not produce an agreement?

Required:

Ross, 216-245; 269-322; 398-414. (164 – 494 if you have time!)

Miller, 239 - 278

Bickerton, 272-312

DVD – Elusive Peace

Recommended Readings:

Laqueur, 440 - 555

Dowty, 204 – 216

April 7 – Further peace attempts: Syria, Camp David II, Clinton Plan and Taba_

What was the significance of the death of King Hussein? What led to the election of Ehud Barak? What were Barak’s objectives? How well did he deal with Arafat? What was agreed to at Sharm al-Sheik? Was there a real chance to achieve peace with Syria? What were the border differences between Israel and Syria? Why did they have different maps of the same areas? What were the results of the talks at Shepherdstown, West Virginia? Was Barak serious about the Syrian option or was this a ploy to pressure Arafat? Why did Israel leave Southern Lebanon in 2000? How did the UN react to this? How did Hezbollah respond? What events led up to Camp David II? What transpired there? Why was no agreement reached? Whose fault was it? Why did Sharon go to the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif? What else led to the Second Intifada? What was the “Clinton Plan”? How close did negotiations held at Taba come to resolving the problems? What led to the election of Ariel Sharon? How did he differ from Barak?

Required:

Miller, 278-315

Ross, 509-548; 801-805 (495-711if you have time)

Bickerton, 312-342

Recommended:

Laqueur, 556 – 580

Dowty, 204 – 216

April 14 The Bush/Sharon era; the Arab-Israeli Conflict in the Post 9-11 World_

How did George W. Bush approach these issues? What impact did the Christian Right have on Bush's views of the region? How did Bush differ from Clinton on Middle East issues? What was the impact of Ariel Sharon's election? How did Bush and Sharon get along? How did they view Arafat? What was the Mitchell Commission and what were its conclusions? How did the events of 9-11 impact the Middle East? Why did Bush endorse the concept of a Palestinian state? What was the plan proposed by the Saudi leaders? How was it received? Why did Israel build a "security fence"? What was the "Road Map to Peace"? How effective? What are the "Geneva Accords"? Are they a blueprint for peace? Why did Sharon conclude that Israel should withdraw from Gaza? How was this carried out? What were the domestic repercussions in Israel? What was the impact of Arafat's passing? Who is Abu Mazen and can he be an effective leader? What challenges did Abu Mazen confront?

Required:

Miller, 321-360

Bickerton, 343- 383

Recommended:

Ross, 712-789

April 21 – The election victories of Hamas and Olmert, Hezbollah and the War in Lebanon; the peace efforts at the “close of the Bush era”_

How has the war in Iraq affected Middle East peace prospects? What is the background of Hamas? Why was Hamas successful in the Parliamentary elections of January 2006? What are the implications of their victory? Why did Sharon form the Kadima Party? What factors contributed to the election of Ehud Olmert and the Kadima Party? What challenges did Olmert face? Why was he supportive of further unilateral withdrawals from the West Bank? Why did Olmert wish to continue construction of the security fence? How significant are the challenges posed by Iran? Syria? Why did Hamas attack Israel on June 25, 2006? Why did Hezbollah attack Israel on July 12, 2006? What led up to the Second Lebanon War? What were its consequences? What were the conclusions of the Winograd Commission that looked into Israeli actions in Lebanon? What are the "Mecca Accords"? Why did Saudi King Abdullah bring Abu Mazen and Hamas leaders Haniyeh and Khaled to Mecca? How effective was the eventual "unity government"? What was its nature? What is the Saudi Peace Plan (of 2002) and why was it reintroduced in March 2007? How was it received? What led to the Hamas-Fatah fighting in June 2007? What are the implications of Hamas' take-over of Gaza? What was the background to the Annapolis Conference (November 2007)? What role did Secretary of state Rice and President Bush play in the run-up to the conference and its aftermath? What was the follow-up? Were Abu Mazen and Ehud Olmert able to resolve the differences between the Israelis and the Palestinians? What role did the Bush Administration play in this process? Why did both Olmert and Abu Mazen have difficulties "selling" any deal to their respective constituents? Why did Olmert resign? How did this affect Israeli politics? What is the role of Tzipi Livni? What caused the Israeli incursion into Gaza (Dec 2008 – Jan 2009)? What transpired there? What were the consequences? Overall, how well did George W. Bush deal with the Arab-Israel conflict?

Required:

Ross, 789-800

Bickerton, 394-396

Hamas Covenant -- <http://www.mideastweb.org/hamas.htm>

Robert O. Freedman <#Robert#Robert#Robert#Robert>, “The Bush Administration and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: The Record of its First Four Years”*, *The Middle East Review of International Affairs (MERIA) Journal: Vol.9, No.1 – March 2005
<http://meria.idc.ac.il/journal/2005/issue1/jv9no1a4.html>

Aaron David Miller*, “*The Abandonment; How the Bush Administration Left Israelis and Palestinians to Their Fate”

Washington Post, Sunday, April 29, 2007; B01

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/27/AR2007042702049.html>

David Rose, “The Gaza Bombshell”, _Vanity Fair_, April 2008
<http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2008/04/gaza200804>

Recommended readings:

Hamas use of Mickey Mouse to reach children (brief video):

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=gi-c6lbFGC4>

Levitt, _Hamas_

April 28 – The Obama Administration and the Arab-Israeli Conflict_

What actions did the Obama Administration take in its first few days that were relevant to the Arab-Israeli conflict? What was the significance of the appointment of George Mitchell as special emissary to the region? How important was Obama’s interview with Hisham Melham of /Al-Arabiya/ TV? What were the results of the Israeli elections (February 10) and how is it possible that the person who finished 2nd could become prime Minister (this could NEVER happen in the US!!)? How did former PM Netanyahu form his government? Which parties joined the coalition and which did not? Why did both Obama and secretary of State Hillary Clinton stress their desire for Israel to freeze settlement construction? How significant is this issue? How important was the visit of 2 US diplomats to Syria? How important was the opening of a Lebanese embassy in Syria? What was the significance of Obama’s Nowruz greeting? What was the content and significance of Obama’s April 6 speech in Turkey? What transpired at the first (as leaders of their countries) Obama-Netanyahu meeting? What transpired when Obama met with Abu Mazen a few days later? What is the significance of the efforts of Salam Fayyad to reform the PA? What was the content and significance of Obama’s speech in Cairo on June 4, 2009? How were his remarks received in the Arab world? In Israel? What cause Netanyahu to utter the phrase “two state solution” on June 14? How significant was this? What are his five conditions for such a two state solution? What transpired at the Fatah conference in Bethlehem (August 2009)? What obstacles stood in the way of an Obama-

Netanyahu-Abu Mazen summit? What was the significance of their meeting in New York (September 2009)?

Basically, how well is Obama dealing with these issues?__

May 5 - Is Peace possible?_

What are the main issues that must be resolved? What role, if any, should the United States play in this process? What, if any, solutions are there to the conflicting claims on the same land? Can any agreements be reached with Fatah? Hamas? What should be done about Israeli settlements in the West Bank? Is there a good solution to the issues involving Palestinian refugees? Is any solution possible to deal with Jerusalem?

Required:

Miller, 361-385

Bickerton, 384-394

Recommended:

Dowty, 169-203

Cramer, 227-279