



Years

May 14: State of Israel declares independence

David Ben-Gurion
Founding father and first leader of Israel



Fifty years of war and peace

1948

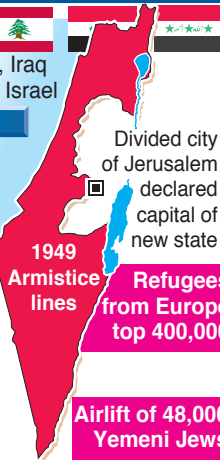


Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon invade Israel

1949

Mar-Jul: Armistice agreed, but Arab states refuse to recognise Israel; clashes go on

'Catastrophe'
Over 700,000 Palestinians flee – under 100,000 return



1950

Law of Return

All Jews granted right to Israeli citizenship

Absentees Property Law

Abandoned Arab land acquired by Israel

Jordan annexes West Bank

Cross-border attacks by displaced Arabs – known as **Fedayeen**

123,000 Jews flee from Iraq, 30,000 from Libya

1951

Arab instability

Prime Ministers of Iran and Lebanon assassinated. Jordan's **King Abdullah** killed by Palestinian in **Al Aqsa** mosque. Military coup in Syria

1952

Jul: King Farouk of Egypt deposed

Aug: King Hussein assumes Jordan throne

Sep: Germany agrees to pay £293m reparation for Nazi war crimes

Influx of 22,000 Iranian Jews

Pan-Arab champion Nasser

1953

Jun: Coup in Egypt led by **Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser** – republic declared
Aug: Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial established



1954

Jan: Moshe Sharett becomes PM after **Ben-Gurion** retires
Secret peace talks with Egypt backfire as government hardliners bungle bombing campaign in Egypt

1955

Arms race and Soviet influence
Egypt turns from U.S. to Soviet bloc to acquire weapons
Nov: Growing clashes on Egyptian border. Ben-Gurion re-elected



1956

SINAI WAR

Jul 26: Nasser nationalises Anglo-French Suez Canal Company

Oct: Collaborating with UK and France, Israel occupies Sinai in six days

