## **Balfour Declaration - historical overview** Ninety years ago, a letter by British foreign secretary Arthur Balfour acknowledged for the first time that Britain favoured the idea of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. The Balfour Declaration, as it became known, is seen as instrumental in helping set up the state of Israel 31 years later ▶ 1882-1897: In response to growing anti-Semitism, European Jews found **Zionist** movement with goal to create Jewish homeland in Palestine ▶ 1897-1914: Up to 70,000 Jewish immigrants relocate to Palestine ▶ 1917: Balfour commits Britain to ▶ 1947: Britain hands responsibility work towards "the establishment in for Palestine problem to newly formed United Nations. Arabs reject Palestine of a national home for the proposed UN partition plan Jewish people" ▶ 1920: Britain assumes control of ▶ 1948: State of Israel proclaimed, Palestine and Transjordan after triggering invasion by neighbouring defeat of Ottoman Empire Arab states - repulsed by Israeli forces. in World War I Around 700,000 Arabs flee I FRANON SYRIA ALESTINE TRANSJORDAN Jerusalem **EGYPT** IRAO 1922: Balfour €@ 100km Declaration 60 miles BRITISH MANDATE accepted by FOR PALESTINE League 1920-48 of Nations GAZA ARABIA STRIP ▶ 1936: Three-year Controlled by Arab revolt starts, amid 50km Egypt 1949-67 anger at rising Jewish immigration 30 miles and ongoing colonial rule Jewish state WEST under 1947 UN plan ▶ 1939-45: Jewish refugees from **BANK** Holocaust flood into Palestine during Jordan-Territory beyond controlled World War II. Arab League formed as UN plan conquered 1949-67 counterweight to Zionism by Israel 1948-49 © GRAPHIC NEWS Source: The Arab-Israeli Conflict by Martin Gilbert Picture: Getty Images