

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

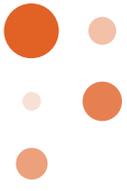
- We learn from Mr. Prager early in the video that, “The Jews accepted the United Nations partition but no Arab or any other Muslim country accepted it;” in fact, “...the armies of all the neighboring Arab states – Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Transjordan, and Egypt – attacked the one-day old state of Israel in order to destroy it.” Why do you think that this was the case? What do you think compelled the Arab countries to actually attack Israel and defy the United Nations?
- We learn that many years later, during another coordinated plan by Arab countries to attack Israel, the Jewish state, “...begged Jordan’s king not to join the war. But he did. And only because of that did Israel take control of Jordanian land, specifically the “West Bank” of the Jordan River.” Further, Mr. Prager reminds us that, “There has never been a state in the geographic area known as Palestine that was not Jewish. Israel is the third Jewish state to exist in that area. There was never an Arab state, never a Palestinian state, never a Muslim or any other state.” Considering that this is proven history, justified by international law and by Israel’s right to defend itself, why do you think that so many people assert that Israel is an ‘occupying force?’ Why do you think that the Palestinians claim the land to be theirs?
- Mr. Prager teaches us that, “...Israel has proposed trading land for peace – as it did in 2000 when it agreed to give the Palestinians a sovereign state in more than 95% of the West Bank and all of Gaza – the Palestinian leadership rejected the offer, and instead responded by sending waves of suicide terrorists into Israel,” but the deal could still happen because, “All the Palestinians have ever had to do is recognize Israel as a Jewish state and promise to live in peace with it.” Why do you think that the Palestinians have refused to take the land offered to them? Why do you think that they refuse to recognize Israel as a nation state? Isn’t the only reasonable conclusion that the Palestinians do not wish to live in peace and to prosper as a nation themselves? Why or why not?
- Mr. Prager explains that, “...Palestinian radio, television, and school curricula remain filled with glorification of terrorists, demonization of Jews, and the daily repeated message that Israel should cease to exist,” thus the Middle East problem, “...is a simple problem to describe: one side wants the other dead – and if it didn’t, there would be peace.” Why do you think that the Palestinians don’t want Israel to exist? Why do you think that the Palestinians focus on and value the elimination of Israel rather than placing focus on and valuing the elevation and prospering of their own nation? Many Palestinians would argue that those two conditions are inextricably linked- that a Palestinian country could not prosper as long as Israel exists. Do you agree? Why or why not?
- Mr. Prager ends the video by asking, “...why can’t the one Jewish state the size of El Salvador be allowed to exist?” How would you answer his question?

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: Palestinian Suicide Bomber

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Palestinian suicide bomber kills 20 and shatters peace process,” then answer the questions that follow.

- What happened in this incident? What were the short-term consequences? What were the long-term consequences?
- How many children were killed in the attack? Why do you think that Palestinians would rather murder Israeli children than work through diplomatic means to achieve their goals?
- Mr. Prager conducts a thought experiment in the video by asking, “If, tomorrow, Israel laid down its arms and announced, “We will fight no more,” what would happen? And if the Arab countries around Israel laid down their arms and announced “We will fight no more,” what would happen? In the first case there would be an immediate destruction of the state of Israel and the mass murder of its Jewish population. In the second case, there would be peace the next day.” Do you think that the numerous incidents such as the one in this article prove Mr. Prager’s explanation of the Middle East problem? Why or why not?



QUIZ

THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM

- 1. In a nutshell, the Middle East conflict is this:**
 - a. The Israelis are occupying Palestinian land.
 - b. The Palestinians are occupying Israeli land.
 - c. One side wants the other side dead.
 - d. The conflict is too complicated to be summed up in one line.

- 2. Majority of Palestinians do not believe:**
 - a. In a God.
 - b. That the Jewish state of Israel will ever have a right to exist.
 - c. In peace.
 - d. In Islam.

- 3. On May 15, 1948, which 5 countries attacked Israel?**
 - a. Lebanon, Iran, Jordan, Syria, and Saudi Arabia.
 - b. Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Transjordan and Egypt.
 - c. Syria, Iran, Iraq, Transjordan, and Egypt.
 - d. Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Egypt and Syria.

- 4. The reason the Israelis took control over the West Bank is because:**
 - a. Jordan got itself into the 1967 war and Israel occupied it in a time of war.
 - b. They wanted more land for Israelis.
 - c. The land really belonged to the Israelis.
 - d. Israel was trying to conquer the Middle East.

- 5. There was never an Arab state in the land of Israel.**
 - a. True
 - b. False



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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Palestinian suicide bomber kills 20 and shatters peace process

[Chris McGreal](#) in Jerusalem

Tuesday 19 August 2003 21.27 EDT

A Palestinian suicide bomber blew apart a bus in the heart of Jerusalem last night as it carried religious Jews from a visit to the Wailing Wall, killing at least 20 people, including children, wounding more than 100 and inflicting the most serious blow yet to the six-week-old ceasefire.

[Israel](#) immediately called off a plan to withdraw from four Palestinian cities on the West Bank and said it was freezing all other negotiations with the Palestinians. "The talks are frozen, as is the handover," a government source said.

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility in a phone call to Associated Press. The organisation had threatened retribution "like an earthquake" for the Israeli army's killing of Ahmed Sidr, its commander, in Hebron last Thursday.

The blast came shortly after 9pm Israeli time as the bus travelled through Shmuel Hanavi, an orthodox Jewish neighbourhood on the western side of the 1967 border with Palestinian East Jerusalem.

Within minutes, Israelis were confronted with a familiar sight that many had hoped, but not quite believed, was behind them with the declaration of the ceasefire by Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah at the end of June.

The blast devastated the articulated bus, scattering body parts, and blew the windows out of another bus nearby. Frenzied paramedics piled inert bodies up beside one of the ambulances that rushed to the scene.

Shocked survivors, including several crying children with blood-smearred faces, were led away from the scene. A paramedic cradled a little girl in his arms, and two others led away an older woman.

Police pushed spectators away from the scene as military engineers searched for more explosives.

"I knew immediately what it was," said Samuel Litva, who was walking a little further up the same street when the bomb went off. "You know, you just know without really seeing. I ran toward the bus. I suppose there could have been another explosion, but I never thought about it, and there were these people lying there. I couldn't tell if they were dead or alive. No one seemed to be moving.

"But then I could see that some people were still breathing even though they were very bloody.

"Everyone ran out to try and help the living. The terrible thing was to see the children. I don't think the small ones knew if they were alive or dead."

The explosion bulged the bus out like a blow fish, shattering the windows and warping the body. The dead were hanging from their seats. Dozens of wounded, some with terrible injuries, lay silent and shocked in the road with body parts of the dead scattered among them.

Few of the survivors made any sound. Many appeared to be orthodox Jews. As dozens of ambulances converged on the scene, their crews grabbed the children first.

Officials at Hadassah hospital said it taken 50 casualties from the bombing, including 15 children.

Some people had been travelling on a second bus which happened to be in front of the vehicle the suicide bomber boarded and caught some of the blast.

Jerusalem's police chief, Mickey Levy, described the explosion as large.

The authorities were exploring the possibility that the bomber was dressed as an ultra-orthodox Jew, a favoured tactic in recent such attacks.

A helicopter hovered over the area, running a strobe light along the streets perhaps in search of a second bomber.

A Palestinian legislator, Saeb Erekat, condemned the bombing.

The explosion went off as Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, was meeting Islamic militants in the Gaza Strip to persuade them to halt attacks on Israelis. The militants had declared a unilateral three-month truce on June 29, but have said they would continue taking revenge for Israeli killings of their operatives.

Hamas said it was not involved. "We are committed to the truce. I don't know who carried out this action," said Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a Hamas leader.

But Israel swiftly called off a plan to hand back four West Bank cities to Palestinian control.

Qalqilya and Jericho were supposed to be transferred in the coming days with Ramallah, the Palestinian capital, and Tulkarm to follow within a fortnight "if there were no terror attacks".

The Israeli government acted with relative restraint to two suicide bombings last week. But the scale and target of last night's attack is likely to draw a more substantial reaction, which could see an end to the ceasefire altogether.