What is a settlement?

→ Towns and villages established by Jews in the West Bank and Gaza (before disengagement in 2005)

3 Waves of settlement

1. from 1968 to 1977 Labor governments built the first settlements with the goal of securing a Jewish majority in strategic areas of the West Bank.

2. Ideologically and religiously motivated settlers. Many believe that the historic land of Israel should be returned to the Jewish people.

3. Economically motivated settlers. The government provided incentives to move to the area. Many of these people are religious Jews who moved because of housing shortages in religious communities in Israel proper.

More than 3 million people live in the West Bank, 86% of them are Palestinians.
Are Israeli Settlements Illegal?

The international community widely considers settlements illegal, asserting that they are in violation of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Israel asserts that settlements are not in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention because, in its view, were not deported or transferred to the West Bank, and it can't be considered occupied because there was no internationally recognized sovereign prior.

Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention

Are West Bank Settlements Illegal? Who Decides?

The United States declared that Israeli settlements on the West Bank are "not inconsistent with" international law, despite decisions by world bodies like the International Court of Justice.

In fact, the Israeli settlements were never illegal

The old effort to legitimize Palestinian claims to the land with a false historical account erases Jews' right to their ancestral territory won in a modern defensive war.

Peace and Settlements?