Facts & Figures

- Population 2019 est. 3,459,000
  - Of that, 385,000 are Israeli Jews
- 2,183 square miles
- Controlled by Jordan from 1948 to 1967
- 80-85% Muslim (mostly Sunni), 12-19% Jewish, remainder are Christian

The Green Line (1949)

- De facto border of Israel from 1949 to 1967
- Also known as "pre-1967" border
- Agreed upon by Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria as part of the 1999 Armistice Agreements, following the 1967 war

What Happened in 1967?

- Six Day War, June 5-10
- Israel fought neighbors Egypt, Jordan, and Syria
- Israel seized the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, the Golan Heights from Syria, and the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) from Jordan → re-shaped Israel's borders

See ADL's guide to the Six Day War.
The Oslo Accords

On September 13, 1993, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Negotiator Mahmoud Abbas signed a Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, commonly referred to as the “Oslo Accord,” at the White House. Israel accepted the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians, and the PLO renounced terrorism and recognized Israel’s right to exist in peace. Both sides agreed that a Palestinian Authority (PA) would be established and assume governing responsibilities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over a five-year period. Then, permanent status talks on the issues of borders, refugees, and Jerusalem would be held. While President Bill Clinton’s administration played a limited role in bringing the Oslo Accord into being, it would invest vast amounts of time and resources in order to help Israel and the Palestinians implement the agreement. By the time Clinton left office, however, the peace process had run aground, and a new round of Israeli-Palestinian violence had begun.

Know Your ABC's

**Area A** → Palestinian Authority (PA) has political and security jurisdiction.

**Area B** → Israel and the PA share control. Israel has exclusive jurisdiction over Jewish inhabitants and authority over security over all inhabitants. The PA has political and administrative jurisdiction over Arab inhabitants.

**Area C** → Israel has political and security jurisdiction.
Occupation?

1. What is occupation?

Article 42 of the 1907 Hague Regulations (HR) states that a "territory is considered occupied when it is actually placed under the authority of the hostile army. The occupation extends only to the territory where such authority has been established and can be exercised."

According to their common Article 2, the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 apply to any territory occupied during international hostilities. They also apply in situations where the occupation of state territory meets with no armed resistance.

The legality of any particular occupation is regulated by the UN Charter and the law known as jus ad bellum. Once a situation exists which factually amounts to an occupation the law of occupation applies – whether or not the occupation is considered lawful.

Therefore, for the applicability of the law of occupation, it makes no difference whether an occupation has received Security Council approval, what its aim is, or indeed whether it is called an “invasion”, “liberation”, “administration” or “occupation”. As the law of occupation is primarily motivated by humanitarian considerations, it is solely the facts on the ground that determine its application.

Apartheid?

Apartheid refers to the implementation and maintenance of a system of legalized racial segregation in which one racial group is deprived of political and civil rights. Apartheid is a crime against humanity punishable under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Read “Responding to common inaccuracy: Israel is an Apartheid State” and “New Jerusalem: Apartheid Road’ Opens, Separating Palestinians and Jewish Settlers”