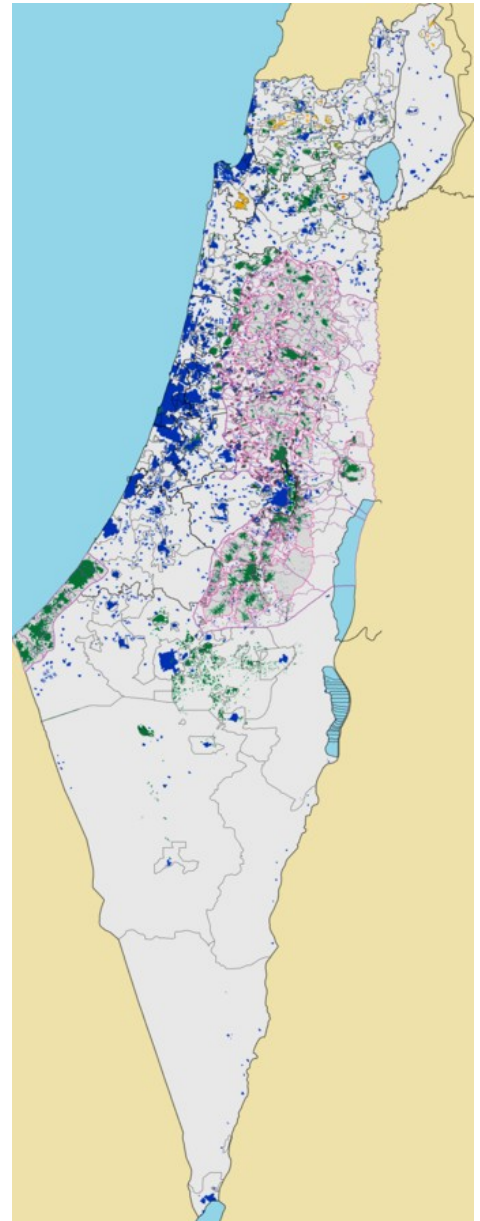


History Behind the Region of Palestine

OVERVIEW: The region was among the earliest in the world to see human habitation, agricultural communities and civilization. In the Bronze Age, the Canaanites established independent city-states that were influenced by the surrounding civilizations, among them Egypt, which ruled the area in the Late Bronze Age.

During the Iron Age, two related Israelite kingdoms, Israel and Judah, controlled much of Palestine, while the Philistines occupied its southern coast. The Assyrians conquered the region in the 8th century BC, then the Babylonians in around 601BC, followed by the Persians who conquered the Babylonian Empire in 539BC. Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire in the late 330s BC, beginning a long period of Hellenization in the region. In the late 2nd century BC, the Hasmonean Kingdom conquered most of Palestine and parts of neighbouring regions but the kingdom gradually became a vassal of Rome, which annexed the area in 63BC. Roman Judea was troubled by large-scale Jewish revolts beginning in 66AD, to which Rome responded by destroying Jerusalem and the Second Jewish Temple in 70AD.

In the 4th century, as the Roman Empire transitioned to Christianity, Palestine became a center of Christianity, attracting pilgrims, monks and scholars. Following the Muslim conquest of the Levant in 636–641, several Muslim ruling dynasties succeeded each other as they wrestled control of Palestine: the Rashiduns; the Umayyads, who built the Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem; the Abbasids; the semi-independent Tulunids and the Ikhshidids; the Fatimids; and the Seljuks. In 1099, the Crusaders established the Kingdom of Jerusalem in Palestine, which the Ayyubid Sultanate reconquered in 1187. Following the invasion of the Mongol Empire in the late 1250s, the Egyptian Mamluks reunified Palestine under its control before the Ottoman Empire conquered the region in 1516 and ruled it as Ottoman Syria largely undisrupted through to the 20th century.



*Palestine today*¹

During World War I the British government issued the Balfour Declaration, favouring the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. The British captured Palestine from the Ottomans shortly thereafter. The League of Nations gave Britain mandatory power over Palestine in 1922. British colonial rule and Arab efforts to prevent Jewish migration into Palestine led to growing sectarian violence between Arabs and Jews, eventually causing the British government to announce its intention to terminate the Mandate in 1947. The United Nations General Assembly recommended partitioning Palestine into two states; one Arab and one Jewish. However, the situation in Palestine had deteriorated into a civil war between Arabs and Jews. The Arabs rejected the Partition Plan, the Jews ostensibly accepted it, declaring the independence of the State of Israel in May 1948 upon the termination of the British mandate. Nearby Arab countries invaded Palestine, but Israel not only prevailed but also conquered far more territory of the Mandate than envisioned by the Partition Plan. During the war, 700,000, or about 80% of all Palestinians fled or were driven out of the territory that Israel conquered, and were not allowed to return, in an event that became known as the Nakba ("Catastrophe") to the Palestinians. Starting in the late 1940s and continuing for decades thereafter, about 850,000 Jews from the Arab world emigrated to Israel.

After the war, only two parts of Palestine remained in Arab control: the West Bank (and East-Jerusalem),

1 – MAP: "Demographic map of Palestine – Israel" by Bolter21, CC BY-SA 4.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>, via Wikimedia Commons commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Demographic_map_of_Palestine_-_Israel.png

annexed by Jordan, and the Gaza Strip (occupied by Egypt), which were conquered by Israel during the Six-Day War in 1967. Despite international objections, Israel started to establish settlements in these occupied territories. Meanwhile, the Palestinian national movement gradually gained international recognition, largely thanks to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO, founded in 1965) under the leadership of Yasser Arafat. In 1993, the Oslo Peace Accords between Israel and the PLO established the Palestinian National Authority (PA) as an interim body to run parts of Gaza and the West Bank (but not East Jerusalem) pending a permanent solution to the conflict. Further peace developments were not ratified and/or implemented, and in recent history, relations between Israel and Palestinians have been marked by repeated military conflicts, especially with the Islamist group Hamás, which also rejects the PA. In 2007, Hamás won control of Gaza from the PA, now limited to the West Bank.²

CONCLUSION: The history of the region of Palestine from 3,700BC-2,024AD shows that the current inhabitants have only been there as a culture for around a few hundred years. The region was occupied over that time by Canaanites, Israelites, Phoenicians, Philistines, Hittites, Babylonians, Egyptians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, various Muslim caliphates, European Crusaders, and the British. What is little known is that with each invasion, new ‘blood’ was brought in. These emigrant inhabitants came from the invading country, while many more were slaves from a multitude of nations. Some empires, such as the Babylonians, rotated the populations in their empire when they first took over and whenever there was an insurrection that they’d quelled.

As a consequence of all this:

- (1) Palestine hasn’t always been ‘from the river to the sea’; &
- (2) the people of Palestine are not a pure tribe, but a hotch-potch of people from the geographical areas around there and from far beyond.

MAP SUMMARY: The following is a geographical history of the region of Palestine using maps.



(EGYPTIAN period, 14th century BC)³

2 – TEXT: “History of Palestine” en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Palestine

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3 – MAP: “Map of the Ancient Near East during the Amarna Period, showing the great powers of the day”

By Alexikoua, from DEMIS Mapserver, which are public domain, other wise self-made., CC BY-SA 3.0

upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/13/14_century_BC_Eastern_Mediterranean_and_the_Middle_East.png



(ISRAELITE period, 700BC)⁴



(GREEK period, 334-323BC)⁵

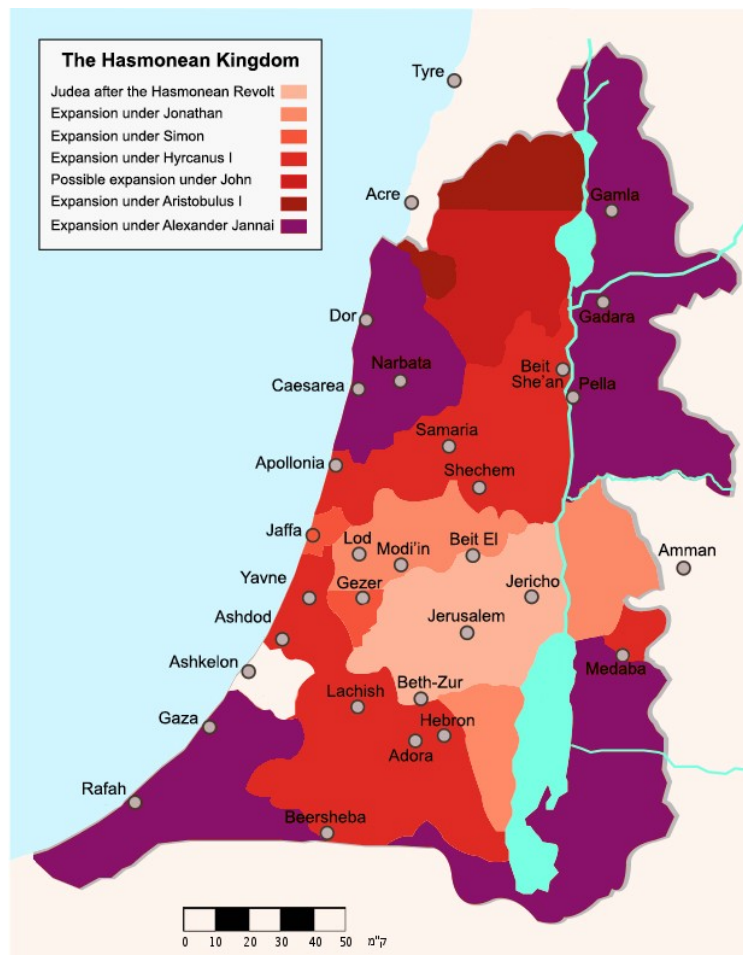
4 – MAP: “Kingdoms of the Levant Map 830”

This file was derived from: Kingdoms of the Levant Map 830.xcf, CC BY-SA 3.0

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Palestine#/media/File:Kingdoms_of_the_Levant_Map_830.png

5 – MAP: “Macedon Empire”

By Generic Mapping Tools, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MacedonEmpire.jpg



(Early ROMAN period, 4BC to 6AD)⁶



(Late ROMAN period, 210AD)⁷

6 – MAP: “Map of the Herodian Tetrarchy as established by Augustus in 4 BCE until 6 CE”

By Rh0809, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Herodian_tetrachy.png

7 – MAP: “Roman Empire with provinces in 210 AD”



(End of ROMAN period, 476AD)⁸



(Early MUṢLIM period, 600AD)⁹

by Mandrak, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_Empire_with_provinces_in_210_AD.png

8 – MAP: “Europe and the Near East at 476 AD”

by Guriezous, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Europe_and_the_Near_East_at_476_AD.png

9 – MAP: “Byzantine and Sassanid Empires in 600 CE”

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commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Byzantine_and_Sassanid_Empires_in_600_CE.png



(MUSLIM period, 9th century)¹⁰



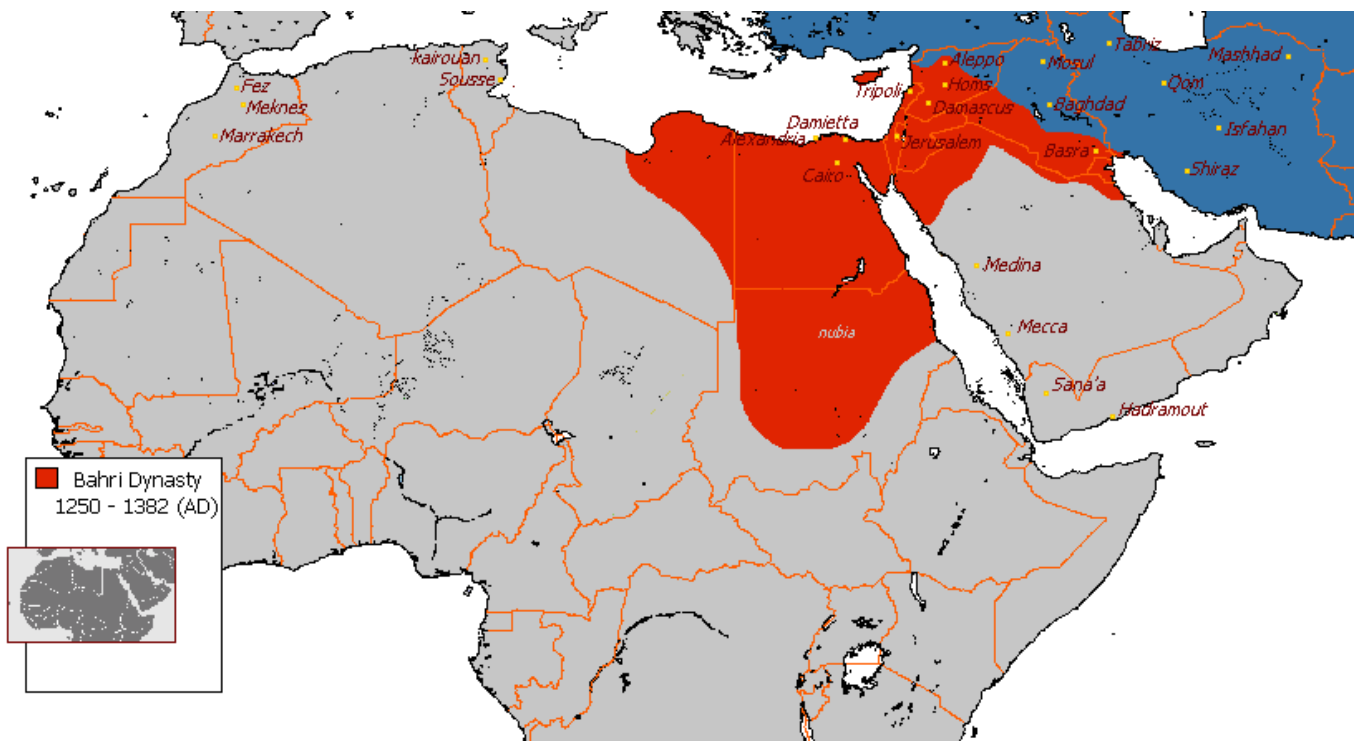
(CRUSADES period, 1135AD)¹¹

10 – MAP: “Syria in the 9th century”

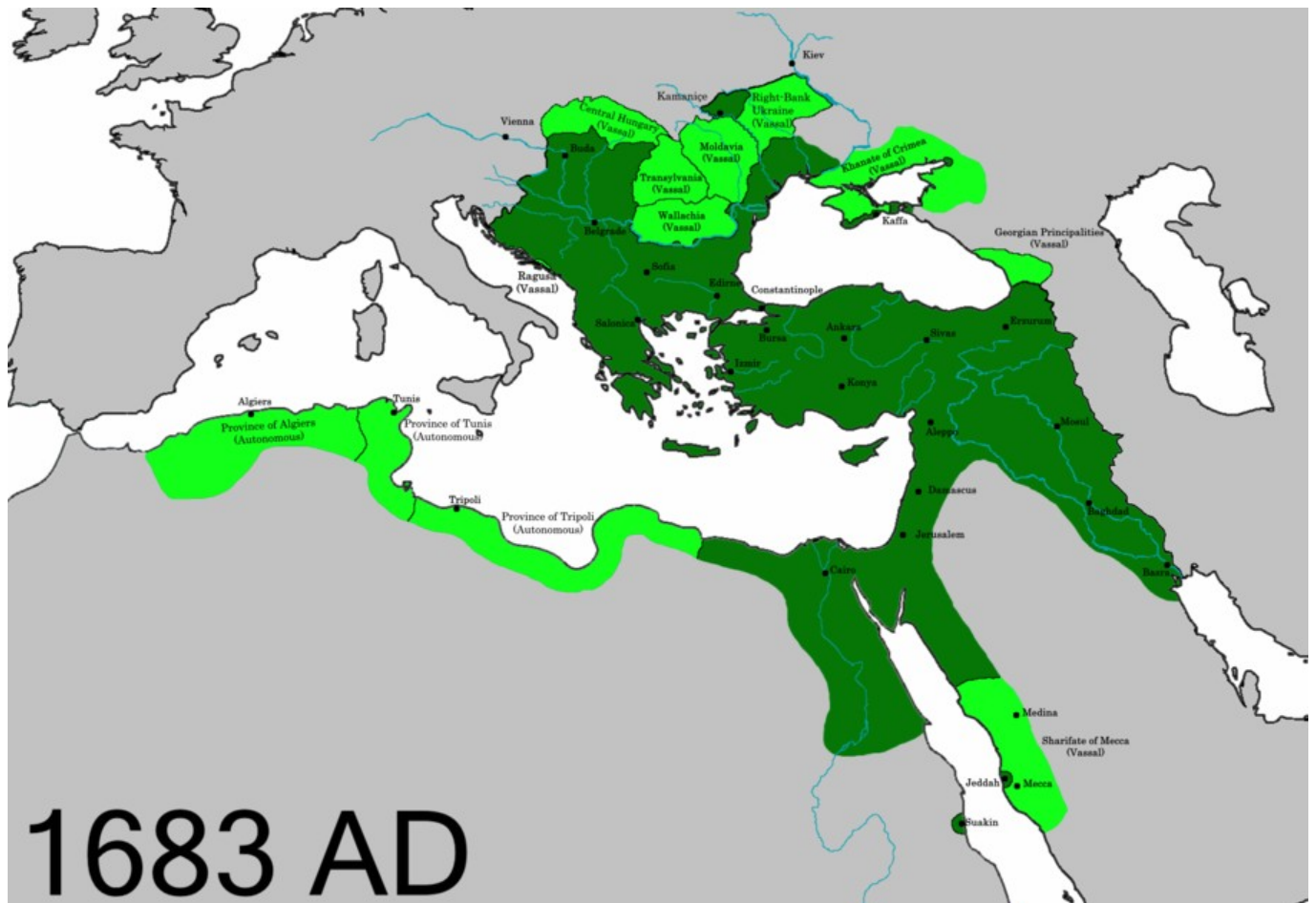
by Constantine Plakidas, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Syria_in_the_9th_century.svg

11 – MAP: “Map Crusader states 1135”

by MapMaster, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_Crusader_states_1135-en.svg



(Egyptian MUṢLIM period, 1250-1382AD)¹²



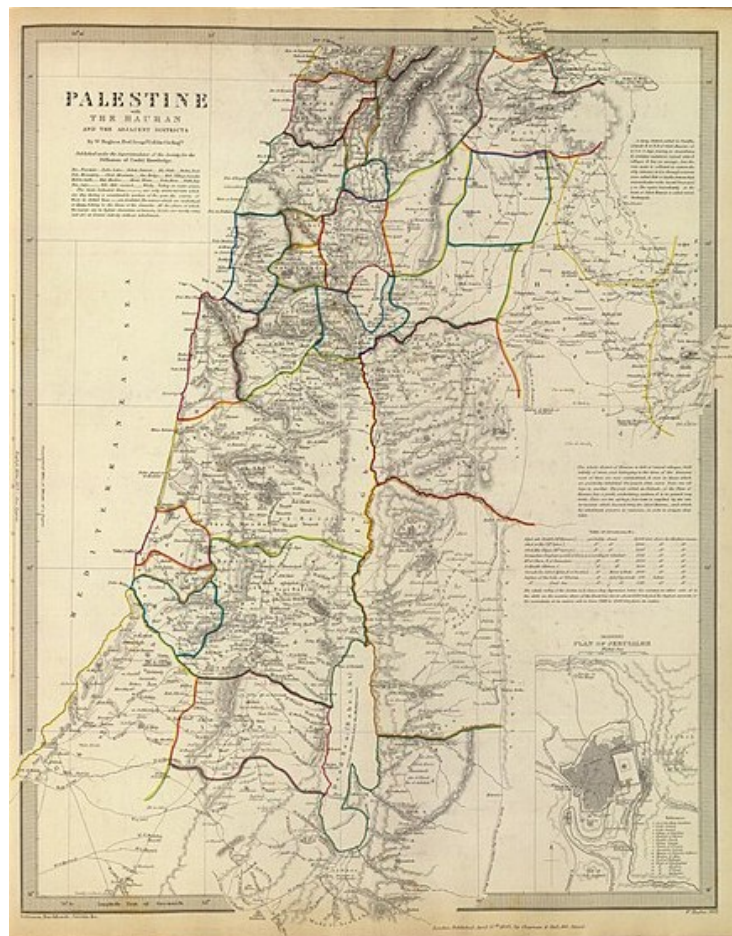
(Ottoman MUṢLIM period, 1683)¹³

12 – MAP: “Bahri Dynasty 1250-1382 (AD)”
by Arab League at English Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons
[commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bahri_Dynasty_1250_-_1382_\(AD\).PNG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bahri_Dynasty_1250_-_1382_(AD).PNG)

13 – MAP: “Ottoman Empire1683”
by Chamboz at English Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons
commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:OttomanEmpire1683.png



(Zahir MUṢLIM period, 1774)¹⁴



(The division of Palestīne in 1845)¹⁵

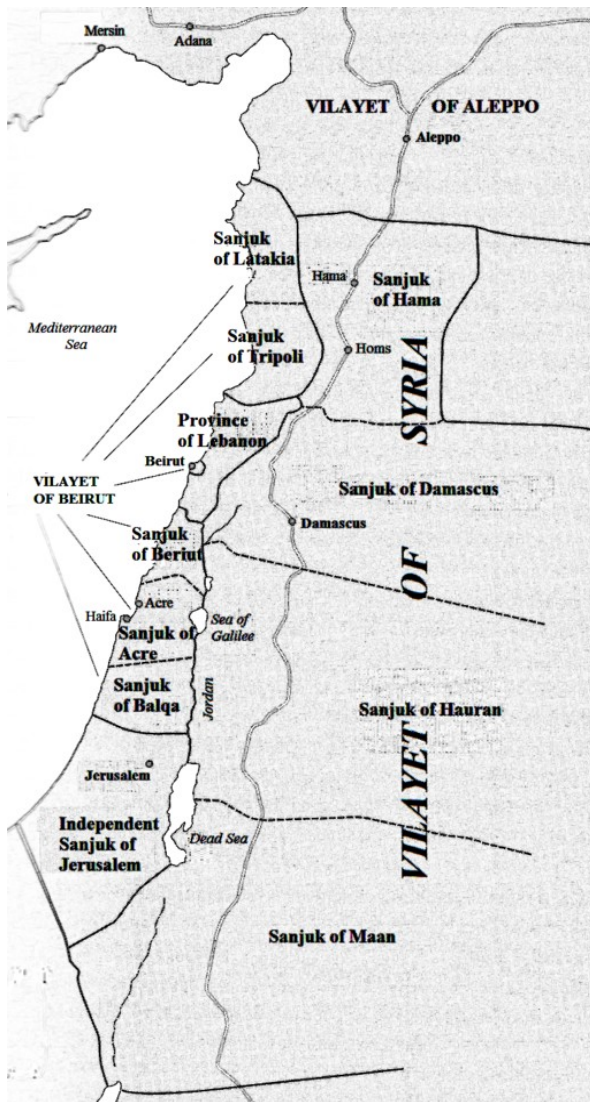
14 – MAP: “Zahir al-Umar maximum extent map” [Zahir al-Umar's autonomous sheikhdom in 1774]

by Goran tek-en, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Zahir_al-Umar_maximum_extent_map.svg

15 – MAP: (1845) “Palestīne with the Hauran and the adjacent districts” By:William Hughes (geographer), Public domain, via Wikimedia

Commons en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Palestine#/media/File:Palestīne_with_the_Hauran_and_the_adjacent_districts_William_Hughes_1843.jpg



(2nd Ottoman MUṢLIM period, prior to WWI)¹⁶



(Palestine as it is in 2024)¹⁷

READ: “History of Palestine” [3,700BC-2,024AD]
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Palestine

Laurence
 2-3-2024
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16 – MAP: “Ottoman Levant before World War I”

by Tallicfan20, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ottoman_levant.png

17 – MAP: “Map of Israel, neighbours and occupied territories”

by ChrisO, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Is-wb-gs-gh_v3.png