

The Suez Crisis of 1956 is the perfect example. Unless you read a full account of what caused the conflict between Egypt and Israel (along with Britain and France), you may come away with an understanding that Israel, Britain, and France simply invaded the Sinai Peninsula unprovoked. Not true. Egypt intentionally provoked both Britain *and* Israel, which led to the invasion.<sup>63</sup>

It's important to get all the details.

By 1967, all the pent-up regional hostilities toward Israel came to a boiling point again, with Egypt, Jordan, and Syria forming another coalition to attack Israel.

Unlike 1948-49 when the UN intervened,<sup>64</sup> this time there was no time for international diplomacy.

In 1967, Israel won decisively, and it only took six days.

Again, some revisionists would like you to believe Israel struck first, destroying the Egyptian Air Force without provocation. Not true. As I stated earlier, we must always ask 'why' when we hear Israel acted aggressively.

Israel's aggression was precipitated by a false Soviet report (May 13, 1967) that Israel was massing troops along the Syrian border and would attack within a week.<sup>65</sup>

Egypt jumped to action by simultaneously amassing its own troops along Israel's border in the Sinai Peninsula and forcing the UN peacekeeping troops out of the region.<sup>66</sup>

Understanding the circumstances, Israel initially took their provocation in stride<sup>67</sup> until Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran between the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea, cutting off one of Israel's main international shipping routes via the port of Eilat.<sup>68</sup>

Owing back to the Suez Crisis of 1956, Israel considered the Straits of Tiran closing an act of war,<sup>69</sup> and President Nasser of Egypt knew it.

Nasser is quoted as saying, “Our sovereignty over the entrance to the Gulf cannot be disputed. If Israel wishes to threaten war, we tell her, you are welcome.”<sup>70</sup>

Meanwhile, Egypt mounted a massive propaganda campaign over the airwaves.<sup>71</sup>

By May 30, 1967, King Hussein of Jordan agreed to join forces with Egypt and Syria.<sup>72</sup> Syria already committed to a joint defense agreement with Egypt in November (1966).<sup>73</sup>

By June 2, 1967, Iraqi forces were storming toward Jordan and would be ready to deploy in two to three days.<sup>74</sup>

The anti-Israel coalition was coming together.

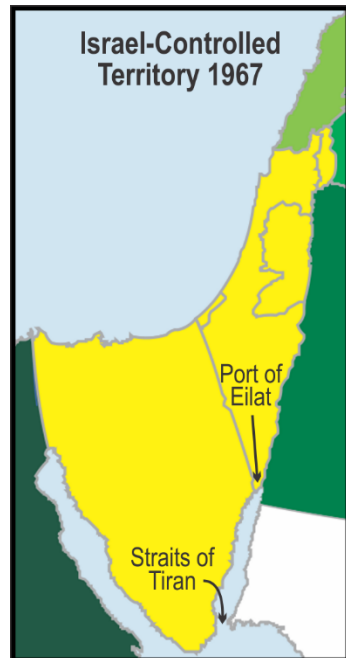
Israel was surrounded.

June 5, 1967, Israel struck first, decimating Egypt’s Air Force in the Sinai. Jordan was next. Then Syria.

The battle raged by air and land for six days.

By June 10, 1967, Israel had pushed Jordan out of the West Bank, captured Syria’s Golan Heights, and pushed Egypt out of the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza. It was a rout.

An urgent UN-brokered ceasefire agreement went into effect the next day.



November 22, 1967, the UN adopted Resolution 242. The entire resolution is below, but the short version is: Israel, remove your troops. You can't keep the territory you conquered. Everyone in the sandbox needs to learn how to play nice by recognizing each other's State rights and sovereignty.

*The Security Council,*

*Expressing its continuing concern with the grave situation in the Middle East,*

*Emphasizing **the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in which every State in the area can live in security,***

*Emphasizing further that all Member States in their acceptance of the Charter of the United Nations have undertaken a commitment to act in accordance with Article 2 of the Charter,*

1. *Affirms* that the fulfilment of Charter principles requires the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East which should include **the application of both the following principles:**
  - (i) **Withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict;**
  - (ii) **Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force;**
2. *Affirms further* the necessity
  - (a) For **guaranteeing freedom of navigation through international waterways in the area;**

- (b) For achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem;
- (c) For **guaranteeing the territorial inviolability and political independence of every State in the area**, through measures including the establishment of demilitarized zones;<sup>75</sup>  
[Emphasis added]

Regrettably, the terms were rejected.

Equally regrettable, I have read far too many accounts that single-out Israel's refusal to remove its troops and relinquish conquered territory as the primary reason the resolution failed and conflict persists. Not true.

Syria rejected the terms of the resolution outright.<sup>76</sup>

Egypt, Jordan, and Israel were more amenable.

Egypt and Jordan initially accepted the resolution, but considered Israel's withdrawal from all territories a prerequisite to negotiations.<sup>77</sup>

Israel also initially accepted, but required the completion of a comprehensive peace treaty before agreeing to withdrawal.<sup>78</sup>

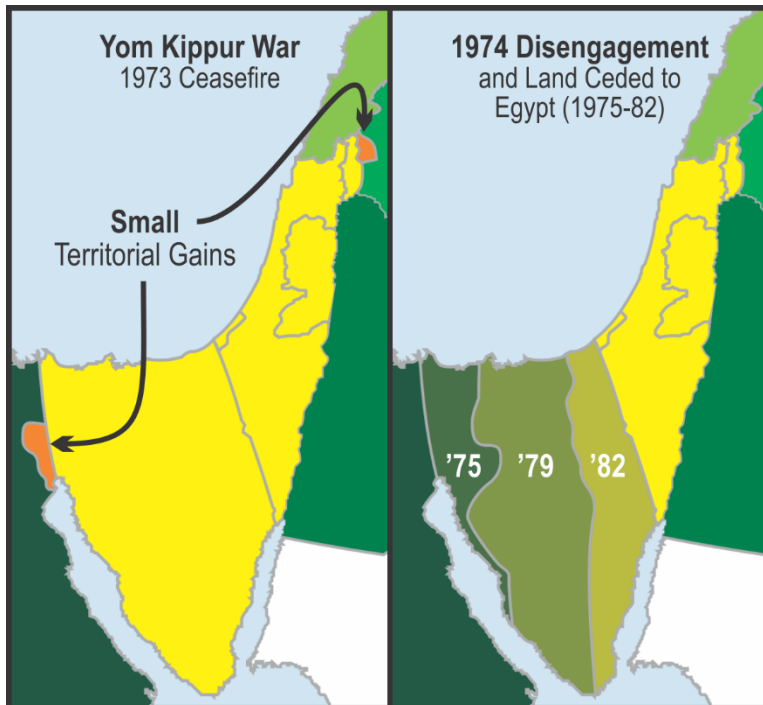
Could their impasse have anything to do with the Khartoum Resolution passed at the fourth annual Arab Summit earlier that year (August 29 – September 1, 1967)?

The Arab Heads of State have agreed to unite their political efforts at the international and diplomatic level to eliminate the effects of the aggression and to ensure the withdrawal of the aggressive Israeli forces from the Arab lands which have been occupied since the aggression of June 5. This will be done within the framework of the main principles by which the Arab States abide, namely, **no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with it, and insistence on the rights of the Palestinian people in their own country.**<sup>79</sup>

Please go back and read the highlighted portions of Resolution 242. Israel's interpretation is accurate. The UN fused *'inadmissible territory acquisition'* to *'lasting peace and security'* by inserting *'and the need'*. No peace, no release.

By inserting *'the application of both'*, the UN ensured Israel's withdrawal of forces is contingent upon the others' recognition of the State of Israel.

Proof of Israel's willingness to relinquish territory came on the heels of the third coordinated Arab attack against Israel. On October 6, 1973, Egypt and Syria coordinated simultaneous surprise attacks on Israel's holiest day, Yom Kippur. The battles were intense, but the fighting ended on October 25<sup>th</sup> after two UN-brokered ceasefire agreements.



Israel won again, pushing back both Egypt and Syria to gain even more territory, as seen in the Yom Kippur War map on the previous page.

After the Yom Kippur War, the UN approved Resolution 338, which simply redressed the terms of Resolution 242.

Beginning in 1974, a long list of agreements was signed between Israel and the surrounding nations based on resolutions 242 and 338, and as a result, Israel relinquished a considerable portion of the territory it acquired in the wars of 1967 and 1973, as seen in the 1974 Disengagement map on the previous page.

Below, is a list of the agreements signed and a summary of what each achieved, along with additional key events.

- 1974 **Syrian-Israeli Agreement on Disengagement:** Established deployment of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force in Syrian Golan Heights in exchange for Israel ceding territory.<sup>80</sup>
- 1974 **Arab Summit:** Jordan recognized the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and ceded control of the negotiations for the West Bank to the PLO.<sup>81</sup>
- 1974 **Egyptian-Israeli Separation of Forces Agreement (Sinai I):** Established deployment of United Nations Emergency Force in the Sinai Peninsula.<sup>82</sup>
- 1975 **Egyptian-Israeli Disengagement Agreement:** Precursor to a full-blown peace agreement. Israel ceded territory.<sup>83</sup>
- 1978 **Camp David Accords:** Produced the "Framework for Peace in the Middle East" and gave a path for Palestinian self-government, but the PLO rejected it.<sup>84</sup>
- 1979 **Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty:** Officially ended Egyptian-Israeli state of war, led Israel's full withdrawal of troops from the Sinai Peninsula, and established recognition of national sovereignty.<sup>85</sup>

- 1988 Jordan officially severed political ties with the West Bank, establishing a path for Palestinian self-government.<sup>86</sup>
- 1993 **Declaration of Principles** (Oslo I): Established the Palestinian National Authority as an interim government leading to self-determination for Palestine.<sup>87</sup>
- 1994 **Washington Declaration:** Officially ended Israeli-Jordanian state of war.<sup>88</sup>
- 1994 **Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty:** Recognition of national sovereignty, and established diplomatic and economic cooperation.<sup>89</sup>
- 1995 **The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip I** (Taba or Oslo II): - Aimed toward full cooperation between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, along with Palestinian autonomy, starting with graduated control over portions of the West Bank.<sup>90</sup>

As you can see from this long list, Israel is willing to negotiate in good faith – and with real results, because they genuinely seek peace. It’s not a charade.

I started this chapter with a map, stating that you would be able to determine whether the claims of Palestinian loss-of-land claims were accurate. They are not.

The world community agreed to establish a National Home for the Jews. The Arabs refused violently. As a result, they were given an opportunity to have a jointly-governed Palestinian State, with a two-third majority representation, but they refused. They were offered a two-state solution, but they refused again.

Instead, they established the Khartoum Resolution, clearly stating its anti-Israel policy forbidding negotiations, recognition, and peace.

Nonetheless, whenever peace talks resume, Israel is blamed when they fail.

In the next section, we'll explore how all of this applies to us today in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.