

The Covenantal Promise

B'rieshit (Genesis) 28:14

יד וְהָיָה זֶרְעֶךָ כַּעֲפַר
הָאָרֶץ, וּפְרָצְתָּ יָמָה וְקִדְמָה
וְצָפְנָה וְנִגְבָּה; וּנְבָרְכוּ בְךָ
כָּל מִשְׁפַּחַת הָאָדָמָה,
וּבְזֶרְעֶךָ.

14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south. And in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

The Covenantal Borders of Israel

Bamidbar (Numbers) 34:3-12

ג וְהָיָה לְכֶם פְּאֵת נֹגֵב
מִמִּדְבַּר צֹן, עַל יַד אֲדוֹם;
וְהָיָה לְכֶם גְּבוּל נֹגֵב, מִקְצֵה
יַם הַמֶּלַח קִדְמָה.

3 Thus your south side shall be from the wilderness of Zin close by the side of Edom, and your south border shall begin at the end of the Salt Sea eastward;

ד וְנֹסֵב לְכֶם הַגְּבוּל מִנֹּגֵב
לְמַעַל הָעֲרָבִים, וְעָבַר צָנָה,
וְהִיא (וְהָיָה) תּוֹצְאָתוֹ, מִנֹּגֵב
לְקֹדֶשׁ בְּרִנְעֵ; וַיֵּצֵא חֲצֵר
אֲדָר, וְעָבַר עַצְמוֹנָה.

4 and your border shall turn about southward of the ascent of Akrabbim, and pass along to Zin; and the goings out thereof shall be southward of Kadesh-barnea; and it shall go forth to Hazar-addar, and pass along to Azmon;

ה וְנֹסֵב הַגְּבוּל מֵעַצְמוֹן,
בְּחֵלָה מִצְרַיִם; וְהָיָה

5 and the border shall turn about from Azmon unto the Brook of Egypt, and the goings out thereof shall be at the

Sea. תּוֹצְאֹתָיו, הַיָּמָה.

ו וַגְּבוּל יָם, וְהָיָה לְכֶם הַיָּם הַגָּדוֹל וַגְּבוּל; זֶה יִהְיֶה לְכֶם, גְּבוּל יָם. 6 And for the western border, ye shall have the Great Sea for a border; this shall be your west border.

ז וְזֶה יִהְיֶה לְכֶם, גְּבוּל צִפְרוֹן: מִן הַיָּם, הַגָּדֹל, תִּתְּאוּ לְכֶם, הַר הַהָר. 7 And this shall be your north border: from the Great Sea ye shall mark out your line unto mount Hor;

ח מֵהַר הַהָר, תִּתְּאוּ לְבֹא חֲמַת; וְהָיוּ תּוֹצְאוֹת הַגָּבֹל, צִדְדָּה. 8 from mount Hor ye shall mark out a line unto the entrance to Hamath; and the goings out of the border shall be at Zedad;

ט וַיֵּצֵא הַגָּבֹל זִפְרוֹנָה, וְהָיוּ תּוֹצְאֹתָיו חֲצַר עֵינָן; זֶה יִהְיֶה לְכֶם, גְּבוּל צִפְרוֹן. 9 and the border shall go forth to Ziphron, and the goings out thereof shall be at Hazar-enan; this shall be your north border.

י וְהִתְּאוּיֹתֶם לְכֶם, לְגְבוּל חֲדָמָה, מִחֲצַר עֵינָן, שִׁפְמָה. 10 And ye shall mark out your line for the east border from Hazar-enan to Shepham;

יא וַיֵּרֵד הַגָּבֹל מִשִּׁפְמָה חֶרְבְּלָה, מִקְדָּם לְעֵינוֹ; וַיֵּרֵד הַגָּבֹל, וַיִּמָּחַה עַל כְּתֵף יָם כִּנְנֶרֶת קִדְמָה. 11 and the border shall go down from Shepham to Riblah, on the east side of Ain; and the border shall go down, and shall strike upon the slope of the sea of Chinnereth eastward;

יב וַיֵּרֵד הַגְּבוּל הַיַּרְדֵּנָה, וְהָיוּ תּוֹצְאֹתָיו יָם הַמֶּלַח; זֹאת תִּהְיֶה לְכֶם הָאָרֶץ לְגְבֻלְתֶּיהָ, סָבִיב. 12 and the border shall go down to the Jordan, and the goings out thereof shall be at the Salt Sea; this shall be your land according to the borders thereof round about.'

Another view of the covenantal borders

B'reishit (Genesis) chap. 15:18—21

- 18 : לזרעה, נתתי את הארץ
הזאת, מנהר מצרים, עד
נהר הגדל נהר פרת.
- 18 In that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: 'Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates;
- יט את הקניזי, ואת הקנזי,
ואת הקדמני.
- 19 the Kenite, and the Kenizzite, and the Kadmonite,
- כ ואת החתי ואת הפרזי,
ואת הרפאים.
- 20 and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Rephaim,
- כא ואת האמרי, ואת
הכנעני, ואת הגרגשי,
ואת היבוסי. {ס}
- 21 and the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and the Gergashite, and the Jebusite.' {S}

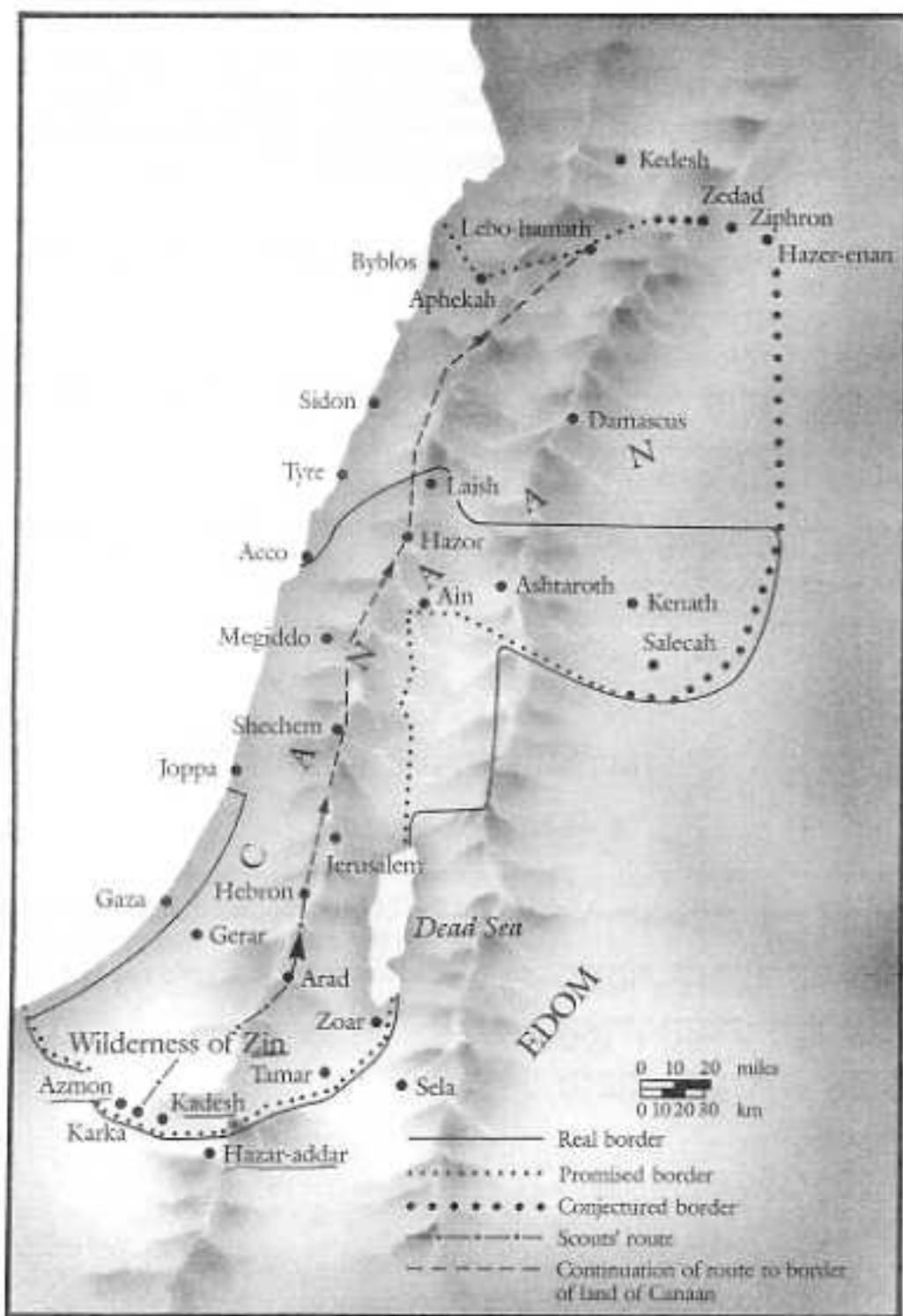
The Triangular Relationship

B'reishit (Genesis) 12:7

- וירא יהוה, אל אברם,
ויאמר, לזרעה אתו את
הארץ הזאת; ויבן שם
מזבח, ליהוה הנראה אליו.
- 7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said: 'Unto thy seed will I give this land'; and he builded there an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

How do you understand the Biblical promise of God to give the land of Israel to Avraham's descendants in light of the different boundaries listed?

3. The Borders of Canaan and the Mission of the Scouts



Adapted from G. J. Wenham, *Numbers*, Tyndale Commentaries, 1981.

"The Land of Israel"

Excerpted from an essay by Rabbi Benjamin J. Segal

Because this land exists in triangular relationship with the descendants of Abraham and with God, it forever straddles the transient and eternal, the real and the ideal. It is both subject to human influence and unalterably divine; these diverse qualities form a grid on which the land is described in the Torah. The human and the divine seek to co-exist in the land.

... This home is not a subcategory of Israelite thought. It is axiomatic: a primary, defining category of the people's existence vis a vis its God.

Numbers

Area of Israel in square miles...

1. In 1947 Partition Plan:	5500
2. 1948-June 1967:	8019
3. Post 1967 War:	26,000
4. 2016 (including territories)	11,200

Questions for Discussion

What are the physical boundaries of the Land of Israel according to the Torah sources here?

Did the Land of Israel ever extend to include those boundaries?
(Check the maps)

How does Rabbi Segal understand the disconnect between the promised borders and the actual borders?

What political issues do the Biblical texts raise today?



אדמתנו היא:

**מני דן ועד באר-שבע
ומגלעד לים...
לנו לנו יהיה
כתר החרמון.**

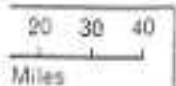


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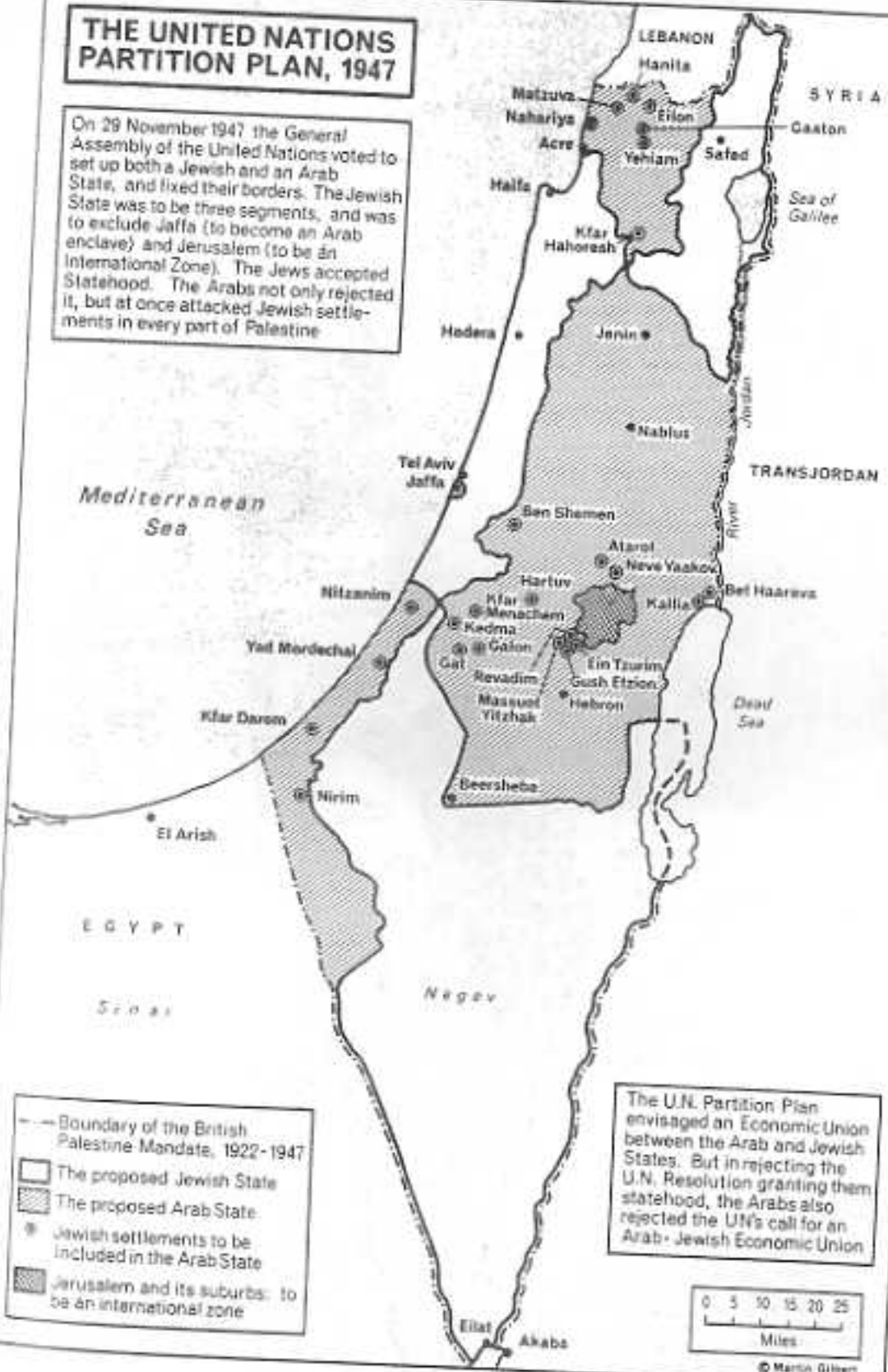
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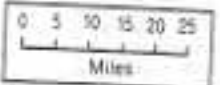
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THE UNITED NATIONS PARTITION PLAN, 1947

On 29 November 1947 the General Assembly of the United Nations voted to set up both a Jewish and an Arab State, and fixed their borders. The Jewish State was to be three segments, and was to exclude Jaffa (to become an Arab enclave) and Jerusalem (to be an enclave) and Jerusalem (to be an International Zone). The Jews accepted Statehood. The Arabs not only rejected it, but at once attacked Jewish settlements in every part of Palestine



The U.N. Partition Plan envisaged an Economic Union between the Arab and Jewish States. But in rejecting the U.N. Resolution granting them statehood, the Arabs also rejected the UN's call for an Arab-Jewish Economic Union



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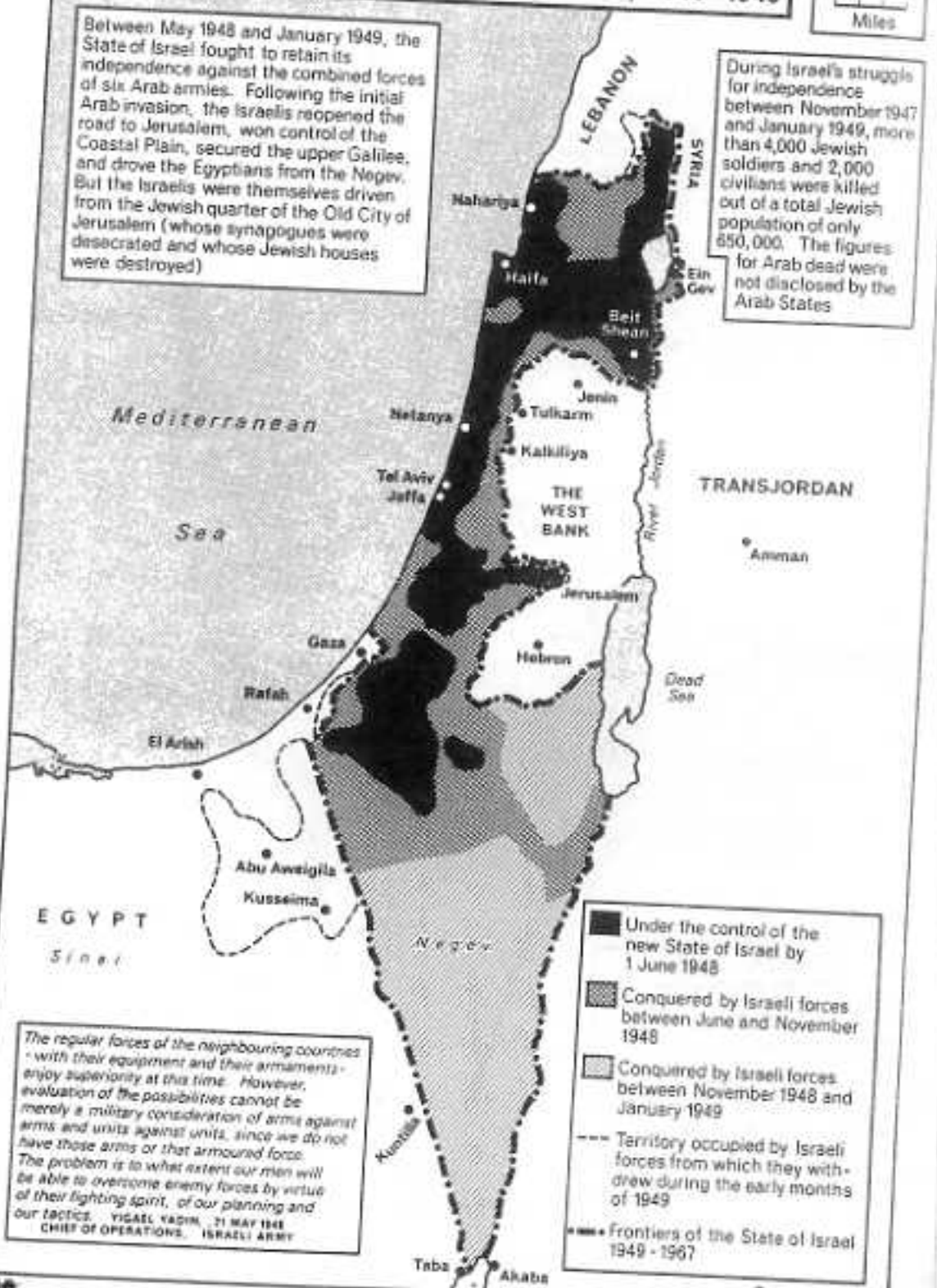
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THE ISRAELI WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, 1948 - 1949

0 5 10 15
Miles

Between May 1948 and January 1949, the State of Israel fought to retain its independence against the combined forces of six Arab armies. Following the initial Arab invasion, the Israelis reopened the road to Jerusalem, won control of the Coastal Plain, secured the upper Galilee, and drove the Egyptians from the Negev. But the Israelis were themselves driven from the Jewish quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem (whose synagogues were desecrated and whose Jewish houses were destroyed)

During Israel's struggle for independence between November 1947 and January 1949, more than 4,000 Jewish soldiers and 2,000 civilians were killed out of a total Jewish population of only 650,000. The figures for Arab dead were not disclosed by the Arab States

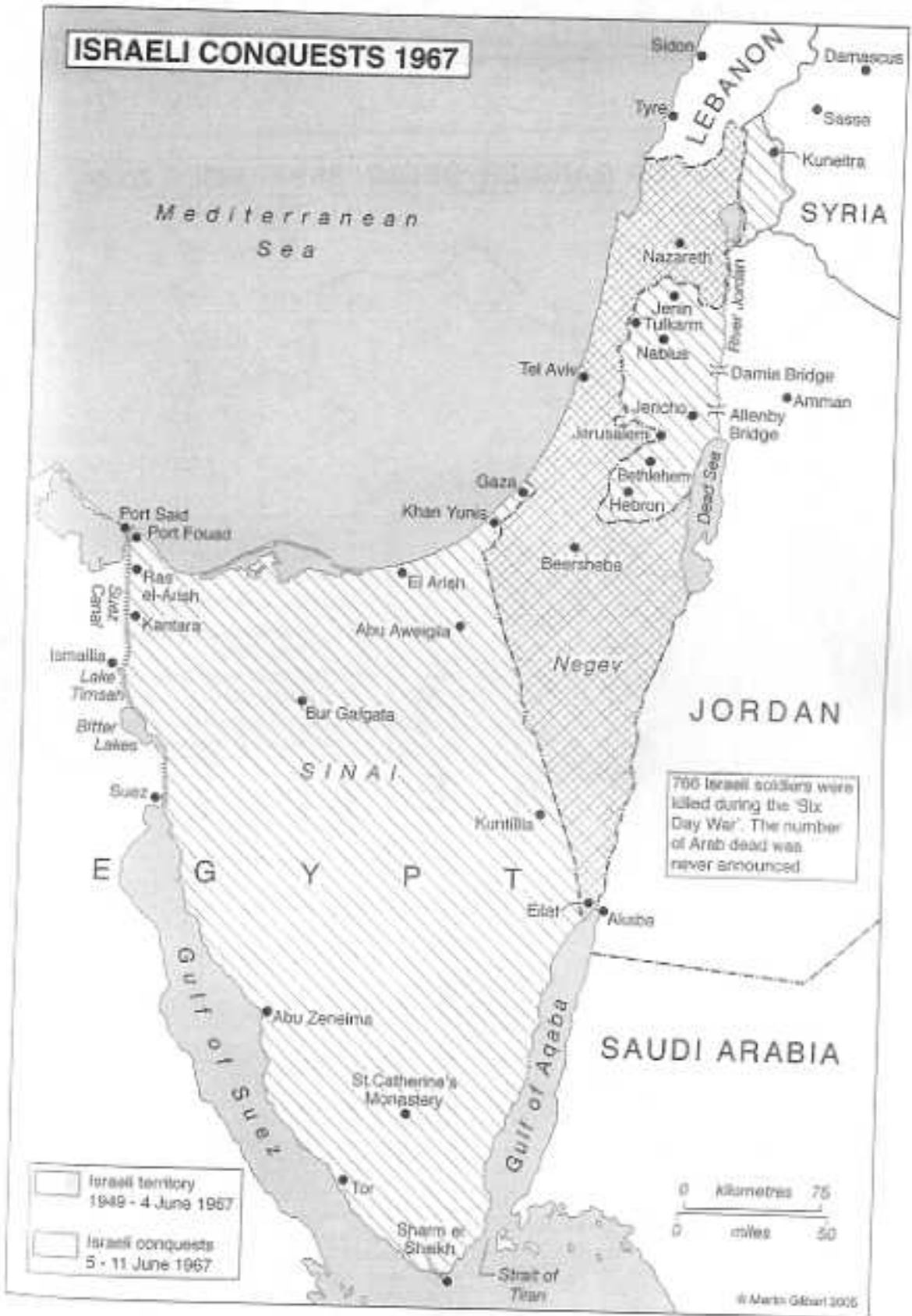


The regular forces of the neighbouring countries - with their equipment and their armaments - enjoy superiority at this time. However, evaluation of the possibilities cannot be merely a military consideration of arms against arms and units against units, since we do not have those arms or that armoured force. The problem is to what extent our men will be able to overcome enemy forces by virtue of their fighting spirit, of our planning and our tactics. YIGAL YADIN, 21 MAY 1948, CHIEF OF OPERATIONS, ISRAELI ARMY

- Under the control of the new State of Israel by 1 June 1948
- ▨ Conquered by Israeli forces between June and November 1948
- ▤ Conquered by Israeli forces between November 1948 and January 1949
- Territory occupied by Israeli forces from which they withdrew during the early months of 1949
- ⋯ Frontiers of the State of Israel 1949 - 1967

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ISRAELI CONQUESTS 1967



Israeli territory 1949 - 4 June 1967
 Israeli conquests 5 - 11 June 1967

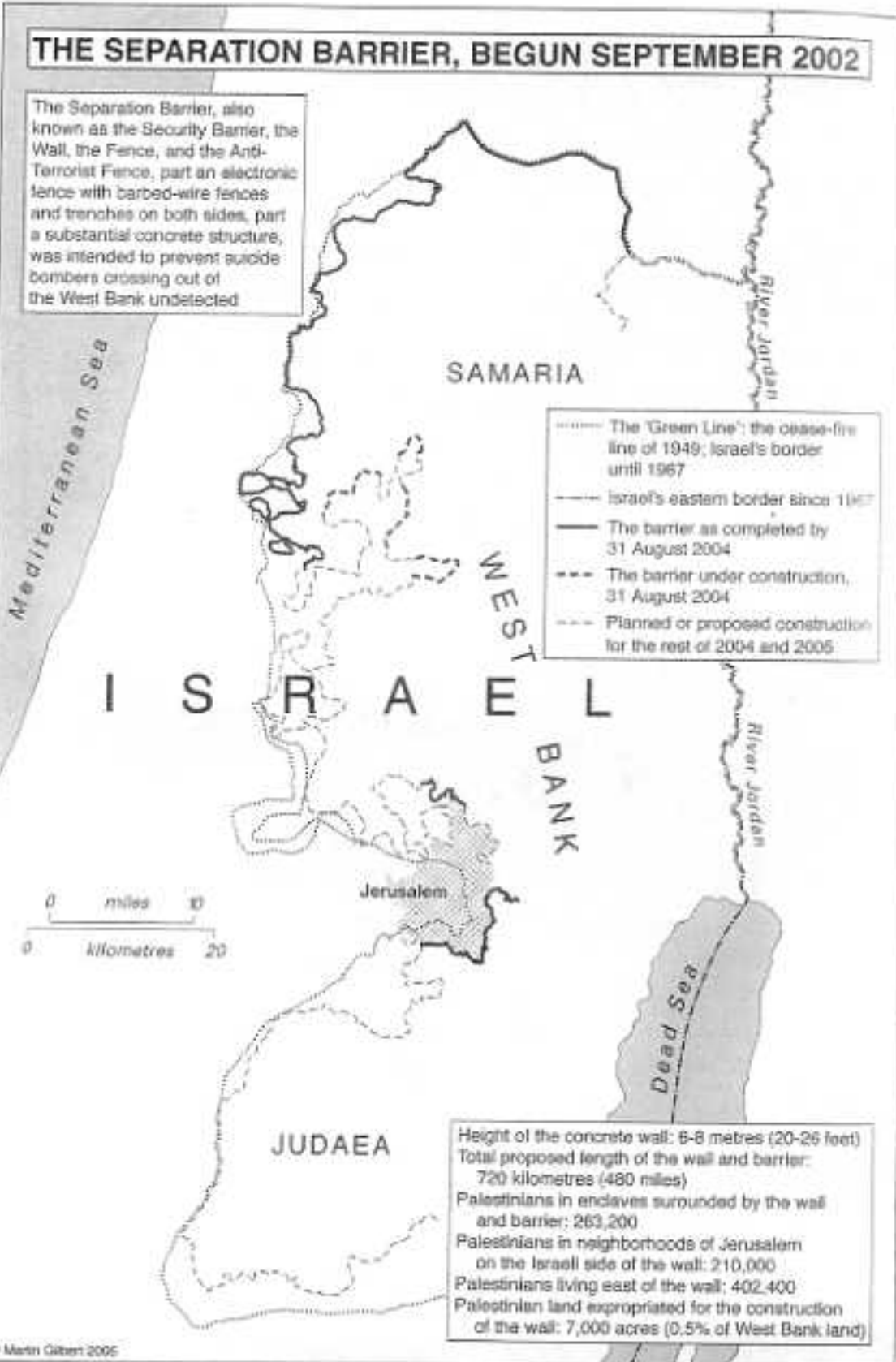
0 Kilometres 75
 0 miles 50

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10

THE SEPARATION BARRIER, BEGUN SEPTEMBER 2002

The Separation Barrier, also known as the Security Barrier, the Wall, the Fence, and the Anti-Terrorist Fence, part an electronic fence with barbed-wire fences and trenches on both sides, part a substantial concrete structure, was intended to prevent suicide bombers crossing out of the West Bank undetected



- The 'Green Line': the cease-fire line of 1949; Israel's border until 1967
- Israel's eastern border since 1967
- The barrier as completed by 31 August 2004
- - - - The barrier under construction, 31 August 2004
- --- Planned or proposed construction for the rest of 2004 and 2005

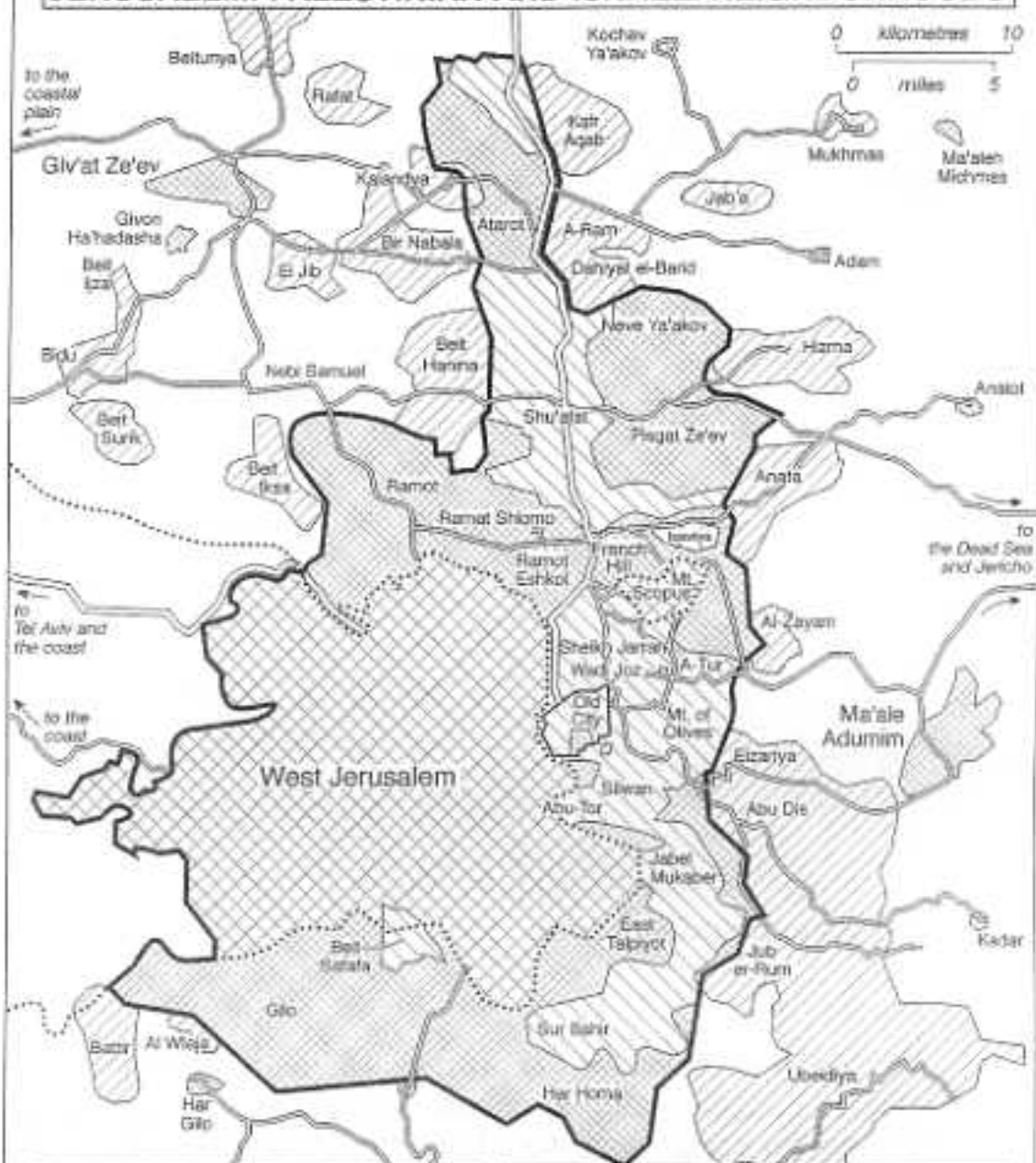
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0 kilometres 20

Height of the concrete wall: 6-8 metres (20-26 feet)
 Total proposed length of the wall and barrier: 720 kilometres (480 miles)
 Palestinians in enclaves surrounded by the wall and barrier: 263,200
 Palestinians in neighborhoods of Jerusalem on the Israeli side of the wall: 210,000
 Palestinians living east of the wall: 402,400
 Palestinian land expropriated for the construction of the wall: 7,000 acres (0.5% of West Bank land)

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JERUSALEM: PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI NEIGHBORHOODS



Jerusalem in 2004 (within the municipal boundary) had a population of 700,000, of whom approximately 450,000 were Israeli Jews and 250,000 Palestinian Arabs. The most intertwined proximity of the respective Israeli and Palestinian neighborhoods was in the area between the 1949 cease-fire line (the 'Green Line') and the Jerusalem municipal boundary established after the Six-Day War, which, with the re-unification of the city, had come under Israeli control. A further 375,000 Arabs lived in the Area B sections shown on this map. Some 50,000 Jews live in the Jerusalem region in the occupied areas beyond the municipal boundaries (principally in Ma'ale Adumim and Giv'at Ze'ev).

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- The 1949-1967 Israeli-Jordanian border ('Green Line')
- The post-1967 Jerusalem municipal boundary
- JEWISH AREAS**
- 'West Jerusalem'
- Jewish areas beyond the 'Green Line', both within the Jerusalem municipal boundary and outside Jerusalem
- PALESTINIAN AREAS**
- Within the Jerusalem municipal boundary
- Palestinian areas beyond the 'Green Line' and outside Jerusalem - 'AREA B' of the Oslo Accords - under Palestinian civilian (but Israeli military) control

12

Borders within Borders

Examine the maps of Israel today—what borders/boundaries do you see?

Jerusalem and Borders

The issue of boundaries is most visible in Jerusalem with the Old City divided into four neighborhoods. Within the Jewish neighborhood stands the Kotel (Wall) and there are boundaries separating Muslims and Jews, men and women. If you have visited Jerusalem, how have you felt when you encountered those boundaries? (The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem is physically divided inside among various Christian denominations).

For a live view, www.aish.com/w/46127727.html

What boundaries do you see?

Dream Map

Suggestions for peace always include a map of how Israel should be divided, mapped, and bordered.

Create your own imaginary dream map of Israel. Feel free to color outside the lines and let your map reflect your dreams and not be bound by rules of cartography.