

The 1948 Arab Israeli conflict had a tremendous influence on its participants, Israel, the Arab states & the Palestinians. The conflict served to radicalise many Arab states, indirectly leading to the next wars & the Suez crisis. It boosted Israel's image, affected politics & attracted migrants. It partially created the dynamic for conflict between Palestinian refugees & Israel. However, the 1948 war had little effect on the stance of the two superpowers in relation to Israel & the Arabs. With the exception of superpower policy, the 1948 Arab-Israeli war had a huge effect on the development of the conflict to 1973.

The 1948 war significantly effected the conflict with through it's effect on Arab states. The Arab States ~~had~~ were comprehensively beaten by the Israelis in the 1948 war. Despite their overwhelming superiority in both men & material they were defeated. This sparked radicalisation in many Arab nations. In 1952 the Free officers movement took power in Egypt. By 1954 Gamal Abdul Nasser was president & eventually leading to the Suez crisis of 1956. In Syria, the Ba'ath party took power in Syria on much the same platform as Nasser. In this way, defeat

In the 1948 war can be seen as the catalyst for the development of pan-arab nationalism. The 1948 war saw the creation of the (comparatively) good relationship between Israel & Jordan. Avi Shlaim suggests that Ben-Curion & King Abdallah negotiated Jordan's takeover of the west Bank, assisted by the British foreign secretary, Bevin. The 1948 war also saw ~~the~~<sup>an</sup> exodus of Jews from Arab countries fearing persecution writes Sachar, ~~but~~ though Arab historians disagree. Furthermore, the war set the pattern of relations between the countries - non-recognition of Israel & a relationship

icy at best & hostile at worse.

The 1948 war had a huge effect on the Arab states & therefore the development of the conflict to 1973.

Likewise, the conflict had an enormous effect on Israel.

The conflict provided one of the founding myths of the state, writes Avi Shlaim, & served to militarise the society. "The army ate the state" remarks Richard Ben Cramer, referring to the overwhelming number of former military men who have become Israeli leaders - effecting Israeli policy in favour of action to this day. Victory in

The war made Israel a more attractive destination for immigrants who fled there in its aftermath. Especially represented were Arab Jews, 'rescued' in operations such as 'Magic Carpet' from Yemen. This profoundly changed Israel & the conflict. In 1948 75% of Israel's were European (Ashkenazi) Jews, by 1961 it was only 55%. The new Sephardic (Oriental) Jews tended overwhelmingly to support the right wing of Israeli politics & favour strong action against Palestinians & Arabs. The war left Israel with a substantial Arab minority of 150,000 who lived under military law until 1966. Even though it increased

Israel's territory by 20% over its share of the mandate, the 1948 war also increased Israeli paranoia. This may have been its single greatest effect on the conflict. Israel was still only 15km wide at its narrowest point & the Arab objective to "drive them into the sea" generated powerful fear in many Israelis. Perhaps the pre-emptive strike of 1967 & the desire for 'secure borders' in the 70's can best be understood through this. The 1948 war had an enormous effect on Israel & its politics & therefore the conflict to 1973.

The 1948 war had a disastrous

effect on the Palestinian  
arabs & would effect their aims  
& role in the conflict to 1973.

The greatest effect of the  
conflict on Palestinians  
was 'Al-Nakba' - the tragedy.

726,000 arabs fled their  
homes in Palestine & became

refugees. Whether they were

pushed <sup>by plan-D</sup>, as Schlain & Gilbert  
maintain or fled, as Sachar

states, is really immaterial. The

exodus of Palestinians shaped

the goals & actions of their

organisations to 1973. The 1948

war made many, like Yasser

Arafat, realise that Israel

would have to be confronted

indirectly - through guerrilla

warfare & terrorism. It's

in turn bred the need for harsh Israeli reprisals, a factor that shaped the conflict with the PLO but also contributed to the 1967 war. The remaining parts of mandated Palestine, Gaza & the West Bank were in the hands of Egypt & Jordan immediately after the war, something which did not stop the first calls for a two state solution in the 1970's. The Palestinian exodus also led to the internal conflict in Jordan in 1970, where, after al-Nakba, Palestinians made up nearly two thirds of the population. The 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict had a significant effect on



the development of the conflict as a whole to 1973 through its effects on Palestinian Arabs & their organisations.

The 1948 Arab-Israeli war however, had little effect on superpower policy. The superpower factor was to become a significant one in the future, with Edward Said labelling the Yom Kippur war a "proxy war." However the events of 1948 did less to superpower policy than those of 1956. In 1948, both superpowers supported the creation of Israel though for markedly different reasons. The USSR, hoping to win a client with the socialist-oriented Jews,

provided the Yishuv with arms from Czechoslovakia. Sefton marks this as the key turning point of the war. However, the superpowers had a greater role as enforcers of peace against Israel in 1956 with Russia stating that it would "use every kind of modern destructive weaponry" ~~to~~ to stop Israel - an exact reverse of its 1948 position. The 1948 war had very little effect on the policies of the superpowers throughout the 60's & 70's, with the USA aligning itself with Israel & the USSR with Egypt & Syria. In 1973, the USA deployed its Mediterranean fleet while the USSR was prepared to

use an airborne division to assist Egypt. The 1948 Arab-Israeli war had very little effect on the policies of the superpowers—a factor that was increasingly important in the conflict to 1973.

The 1948 Arab-Israeli war ~~effect~~ had an effect on every facet of the conflict to 1973, with the exception of superpower involvement. It was the 1948 war ~~conflict~~ that set the scene in the middle East for the future conflicts of 1967 & 1973 between Israel & her neighbours & ~~other~~ the relationship between Israel & the Palestinians.