

Conflict and Independence

*The 20th Century since 1945: Promises
and Paradoxes (1945–Present)*



India and South Asia

China and Southeast Asia

The Middle East

Africa

Latin America

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about conflict and its causes in the Middle East and understand these key developments:

- The origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict
- The Six Day War and the Yom Kippur War
- The Camp David Accords and Oslo Accords
- The Iranian Revolution and Gulf Wars.



The **Arab-Israeli conflict** has been an important part of global affairs since the mid-20th century.
Watch this animation to find out about the origins and early years of the conflict.
Press **start** to begin.

start





The Six Day War

In 1967, Syria and Israel engaged in skirmishes along Israel's northeast border, the Golan Heights. Egyptian intelligence warned that Israel was massing troops on its border.

Although this information later proved to be false, Egypt responded by deploying troops in the Sinai Peninsula and closing the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping again.



On May 30, Jordan and Egypt signed a defense pact. Israel prepared for war and, in a massive preemptive strike, launched air attacks against the air forces of Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Iraq on June 5, starting the **Six Day War**.





Outcome of the Six Day War



Israel then launched ground attacks on Egypt, Syria and Jordan. These assaults succeeded quickly due to the preemptive air strikes. All four nations signed a ceasefire on June 11.

The Six Day War left Israel with a much larger territory, including Sinai, the Gaza strip, the West Bank and the Golan Heights. Over a million Arabs were now under direct Israeli control in the new territories.



What were the political effects of the Six Day War for the Middle East?



The Yom Kippur War

On October 6, 1973, Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack against Israel, now called the **Yom Kippur War**. They chose the date to coincide with Yom Kippur, Judaism's holiest day, in the expectation that Israel would be vulnerable then. Complacent after the Six Day War, Israel was unprepared.

Egypt attacked the Sinai Peninsula while Syria invaded the Golan Heights. The invasions were initially successful, but the Israeli forces soon rallied and the war became a stalemate.



A ceasefire was called on 22 October, but fighting continued.





Outcome of the Yom Kippur War



The U.S. supported Israel and the Soviet Union supported Egypt and Syria in the war. Tensions mounted as the Soviets accused Israel of violating the ceasefire and threatened to intervene.

The U.S. declared that if the Soviets intervened, then it would too. Both superpowers put pressure on their allies to agree to a new ceasefire on October 25, 1973. Very little territory changed hands after the war.



How did the war damage the U.S. economically?



The question of oil



As a response to American support of Israel during the Yom Kippur War, many Arab nations declared an oil **embargo** on the U.S. This caused a significant increase in the price of oil.



The embargo lasted from October 1973 to March 1974 and caused an energy crisis in the U.S. as supply was reduced, but demand remained the same, causing oil prices to soar and gas to be rationed.

This represents the first time Arab nations had used oil as a political and economic weapon.





After decades of fighting, President Carter helped to negotiate peace between Egypt and Israel. The **Camp David Accords** were an important milestone for peace in the Middle East. Press the buttons to find out about the Camp David peace talks and the two agreements.

Press **start** to begin.

start



Why were the Camp David Accords so important?

The problems in Israel and Palestine continued after Camp David. The **Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)** fought for recognition of Palestine, and engaged in terrorist activities during the 1970s and 1980s.



In 1993, the PLO and Israel signed the **Oslo Accords**. This was an historic agreement in which the PLO recognized Israel's right to exist in peace for the first time and abandoned violence and terrorism.

In return, the Palestinians were granted self-government in some contested areas of Israel.



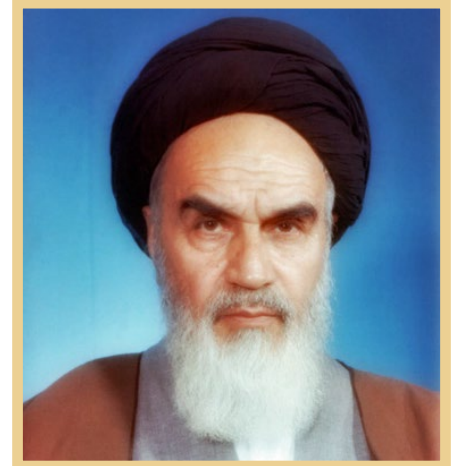
What has happened since the Oslo Accords?





In 1979, a revolution in Iran led by Ayatollah **Ruhollah Khomeini** overthrew the existing regime and replaced it with a fundamental Islamic government. Khomeini made many changes in Iran, resulting in human rights violations and a loss of rights for women.

Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, the former ruler, was an American ally, so was allowed refuge in the U.S. In response, armed revolutionaries seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran and took 66 people hostage.



The revolutionaries wanted to trade the shah for the release of the hostages. After failed negotiations and rescue attempts, there was a year-long standoff.

How was the hostage crisis resolved?



Wars in the Persian Gulf



The Persian Gulf has seen three major wars since the Iranian Revolution. Iran, Iraq and the U.S. have been the main countries involved in these conflicts.

Can you match each conflict to the correct description?

Press **start** to begin.

start

