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Subject: AICE Update: Did the Jews Create the Palestinian Refugee Problem?

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The American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise

Our 20th Year
E-Newsletter



May 6, 2015

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THIS WEEK IN JEWISH HISTORY

[Birthday of Jewish Psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud \(1856\)](#)

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AICE PROJECTS



Myths & Facts: Online Exclusive

Did the Jews Create the Refugee Problem by Expelling the Palestinians?

Had the Arabs accepted the 1947 UN resolution, not a single Palestinian would have become a refugee. An independent Arab state would now exist beside Israel. The responsibility for the refugee problem rests with the Arabs.

The beginning of the Arab exodus can be traced to the weeks immediately following the announcement of the UN partition resolution. The first to leave were roughly 30,000 wealthy Arabs who anticipated the upcoming war and fled to neighboring Arab countries to await its end. Less affluent Arabs from the mixed cities of Palestine moved to all-Arab towns to stay with relatives or friends. By the end of January 1948, the exodus was so alarming the Palestine Arab Higher Committee asked neighboring Arab countries to refuse visas to these refugees and to seal their borders against them.

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[Myths & Facts: 2012](#)

Mitchell Bard in the Times of Israel

The Unraveling of One of America's Principal Middle East Interests

For many people the Cold War is a distant memory, but scholars of the Middle East and military strategists remember that one of America's primary interests was to minimize, if not eliminate, Soviet influence in the region. It took decades of bipartisan effort, and an unflinching commitment to cultivating and protecting our allies, but this goal was accomplished. In less than six years, however, President Obama has succeeded in unraveling what had been one of the most important foreign policy successes of his predecessors.

The Soviet Union is no more, but Russia has never abandoned its desire to expand its influence in the region and to exploit any perceived weaknesses in

the U.S. position. Up until the Iranian revolution, the United States was very successful in marginalizing the Soviet Union and later Russia.

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Fact of the Week

Tel Aviv Ranked Best City in the Middle East for Young People

Tel Aviv is the best city in the Middle East for young people to live in, according to the YouthfulCities Index. Overall, Tel Aviv was ranked in fourteenth place among the best cities in the world for people aged between 15 and 29.

The index rated cities from across the globe using 101 different indicators. Over 10,000 young people answered a survey that examined aspects of city life such as music, film, fashion and nightlife. Each city was also judged on wider factors such as environment, safety, affordability, diversity and employment.

[Read More about Tel Aviv at the Jewish Virtual Library](#)

U.S. General Martin Dempsey Praises Israel for its Efforts to Avoid Civilian Casualties

[U.S. Gen. Martin Dempsey, praised Israel for its efforts to avoid civilian casualties in Gaza.](#)

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AICE Executive Director



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