

# Activities

## Activity 2

### *Analyzing the Impact of Wars and Terrorism with Maps*

#### **Preparation:**

**Estimated Time:** 1 class period • **Materials:** Paper and pencil, *Israel 101*, reference materials

**Lesson Plan:** Students will evaluate and compare the impact of the various wars and terrorism. They will use the *Israel 101* maps on pp. 2-3, 7, and 17 to get a better understanding of those wars and their aftermath and integrate the information from the maps with the listing of wars and terrorism.

**Background:** Israel's size and geographic position have made it fear that defeat in any war would mean its destruction. Since the establishment of the Mandate, Israel has continually faced either wars or terrorism. Often, after major wars launched by neighboring states against Israel had ended, Israel would face terrorist campaigns that were supported by many of these same states. How did the wars and/or terrorism change the boundaries of the Mandate and of Israel, and how did changing the boundaries affect whether there were more wars and/or terrorism? This activity will help students answer these questions.

#### **Activity**

- Explain the background above. Instruct students to take the “wars and terrorism” list and place each entry's occurrence under the appropriate map on p. 7.
- After students have completed this exercise, conduct a general class discussion, raising the following questions:
  - Look at the maps on pages 2-3 and 17. How do these maps help explain why Israel's geographic position has made security a paramount concern? How would you feel and what would you do if your state were the only democratic state in the U.S. and all the surrounding 49 states were hostile dictatorships that wanted your state to be destroyed?
  - Look at the map on pp. 2-3. Which countries have led the main wars against Israel, and how have they changed over the past six decades? Which terrorist groups have led attacks against Israel, and which countries have supported them?
  - How did terrorism affect borders or territorial changes?  
(*Note to teachers:* For example: Terrorism in 1920-21 led to division of the Mandate, with 80 percent going to an exclusively Arab state that became Jordan. Terrorism from Lebanon led Israel to maintain a small security zone in southern Lebanon between 1982 and 2000. Ongoing terrorism from the Palestinian Authority kept Israel from completely withdrawing from the West Bank.)
  - How did major wars (1948, 1967, and 1973) affect borders or cause territorial changes?
  - How did border or territorial changes affect terrorism and/or war? Given the results of Israeli withdrawal from territory, do you think withdrawals lead to less terrorism and more security for Israeli civilians?

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*(Note to teachers: Terrorism and wars against Israel predated the 1948 War and the 1967 War when Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza, the Sinai and the Golan Heights. Since Israel ceded the Sinai to Egypt in the 1979 peace treaty, there have been no major state actor wars against Israel. In contrast, Israel's withdrawal from its security zone in southern Lebanon and from Gaza in 2005 led to more terrorism.)*

- What is the difference between terrorism and war? Do you notice any relationship between terrorism and war? Does terrorism precede and tend to spark war or does it generally follow the wars—or both? Which do you think is more devastating to Israel and to chances for peace—all-out war between state actors or terrorism?
- Some observers have argued that the wars and terrorism against Israel have nothing to do with territory but rather are driven by the refusal to accept an independent Jewish State on any land, no matter how small it is. Would you agree or disagree with this statement, and why?

**Wrap-Up:** Since 1920, Jews in Mandate Palestine and then Israel have confronted terrorism and major wars intended to destroy the Jewish State. Territorial changes have not seemed to affect the incidences of terrorism, though Israel ceding the Sinai in the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty has produced a cold peace with Egypt. There was only a miniscule territorial change when Jordan and Israel made peace in 1994. Negotiators are still searching for a land-for-peace formula that will help bring peace to the region.