

The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-1949

(Cambridge Middle East Library)

Benny Morris (1987)

UEA HV640.5.A6 MOR

Contents

Acknowledgements page vi

Abbreviations vii

Map 1 The United Nations Partition Plan, November 1947 ix

Map 2 Arab settlements abandoned in 1948-9 x

Map 3 Jewish settlements established in 1948-9 xii

Introduction 1

1. Background 4

2. The first wave: the Arab exodus, December 1947 - March 1948 29

3. The second wave: the mass exodus, April-June 1948 61

4. Deciding against a return of the refugees, April-December 1948 132

5. Blocking a return 155

6. The third wave: the Ten Days (9-18 July 1948) and the Second Truce (18 July - 15 October) 197

7. The fourth wave: the battles and exodus of October-November 1948 217

8. Clearing the borders: expulsions and population transfers, November 1948 - July 1949 237

9. Solving the refugee problem, December 1948 - September 1949 254

Conclusion 286

Appendix I: The number of Palestinian refugees 297

Appendix II: Biographical notes 299

Notes 303

Bibliography 365

Index 371

Back cover

'Mr Morris ... is a rare combination of journalist and painstaking research historian, whose thorough use of Israeli, British and American archives - many of the materials unavailable until now has enabled him to present a definitive history of his subject.'

The New York Times Book Review

'.. The most comprehensive and detailed study yet published on the Palestinian refugees.' *The Economist*

'.. a book of extraordinary power and integrity . . . Benny Morris takes that great tale of flight and conquest and tells it as it has never been told before: with precision and moral economy, with awesome detail and honesty, drawing from recently declassified archival and private papers.' Fouad Ajami in *The Washington Post*

'In page after page crammed with hard data and play-by-play descriptions of what was going on in each period - December 1947 to March 1948, April to June 1948- . . . Morris details the bloody conflict between Arabs and Jews and what was going on behind the lines. He takes us back, into offices of the Arab League and the Haganah, into the councils of the National Committees set up in Arab towns, into meetings of the Jewish Agency and, later, the fledgling Israeli government.' *The Christian Science Monitor*

'This latest addition to the Cambridge Middle East Library is a book of exceptional importance It will be required reading for anyone who professes a serious interest in the Arab-Israeli Conflict over Palestine. Its conclusions, which invalidate many of the assumptions commonly made about the origins of the conflict, need to be taken into account in any attempt to devise a solution to it. *Arab Affairs*

'This excellent myth-debunking book... deserves a wide readership among those who want to understand what has happened in Israel over the last 40 years rather than repeat discredited propaganda which serves only to prolong the war.' *The Spectator*

Drawing on recently declassified state papers in Israel, Great Britain, and the United States, as well as on Israeli private papers, Morris has written the first scholarly account of this most contentious issue, the Arab exodus from Palestine. Until now, two irreconcilable viewpoints have dominated the debate: the pro-Arab, which contends that the Arabs were expelled; and the pro-Israeli, which holds that the Arabs left of their own accord, under instructions from their leaders. Morris endorses neither of these simple positions. Instead, he analyzes in minute detail the varied circumstances in which they occurred. They recorded the doings during late 1947-1948 of the Palmah, the strike force of the Haganah, the main Jewish underground militia in Palestine. They were still classified but I had been given access. Some of the documents, such as Lieutenant-Colonel Yitzhak Rabin's order to the Yiftah Brigade of July 12 1948 to expel the inhabitants of the just-conquered Arab town of Lydda, shed light on the creation of the Palestinian refugee problem. The faces and the documents together sparked my interest and I began to research and write my book, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-1949*. 10 - Solving the refugee problem, December 1948 - September 1949. Benny Morris, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel. Publisher: Cambridge University Press. International efforts at the end of 1948 and during the first half of 1949 to solve the refugee problem proceeded along two crisscrossing avenues - one, as conducted by agencies of the United Nations, primarily the Palestine Conciliation Commission (PCC), and the other, as conducted by the Great Powers, meaning, primarily, the United States. Both sets of efforts were guided in large measure by Bernadotte's testament, the interim report of mid-September 1948, and its "doctrinal" postulate that the right of the refugee to return to his home and land was absolute and should be recognised by You can write a book review and share your experiences. Other readers will always be interested in your opinion of the books you've read. Whether you've loved the book or not, if you give your honest and detailed thoughts then people will find new books that are right for them. 1. Bentornata realtà - il nuovo realismo in discussione. Einaudi. De Caro, Mario, Ferraris, Maurizio (eds.) Year: 2012.