

The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-1949

(Cambridge Middle East Library)

Benny Morris (1987)

UEA HV640.5.A6 MOR

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'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*

The birth of the Palestinian refugee problem, 1947-1949. Item Preview. remove-circle. 10 - Solving the refugee problem, December 1948 - September 1949. Benny Morris, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel. Publisher: Cambridge University Press.Â

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 The Palestine refugee problem was created in the course of the 1948 Israeli War of Independence. The war, and the flight of the refugees, known in Arabic as the Nakba (disaster), were central formative events that determined the national character of Israel and of the Palestinians, and helped to define the conflict in its present terms. When the UN voted to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states in 1947, Palestinian Arabs opposed the plan, and immediately initiated riots, a blockade of Jewish Jerusalem, and ambushes of buses and other transport throughout the British Mandate territory. 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, 1947-194...*