

ESPON “ITAN” project – Palestine

Issa Zboun & Jane Hilal
Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ)



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During the 20th century, the region witnessed various events that effected the geography and demography of the land.

Such events that started with the British mandate of the land in 1920 and continued for approximately 30 years and ended with much debatable exit that resulted in the 1948 war, which its effects continue to the present date.

The following shows the various administrations of the land during the 20th century:

- The British Mandate 1920 – 1948 (Palestine (27,090 km²))
- The 1948 war – (Israeli controlled 20,700 km²)
- The Jordanian Administration of the West Bank 1948 – 1967 (5661 km²)
- The Egyptian Administration of Gaza 1948- 1967 (362 km²)
- The Israeli occupation of all of Palestine 1967 (27,090 km²)
- The Palestinian Authority Administration of oPt (West Bank & Gaza) 1994

Palestine in the British Mandate

Generally, "Palestine" refers to that Political unit designated by the British Mandate that took possession of the region from the vanquished Ottoman Empire in the First World War That 27,090 km² area lying between the Jordan river and the Mediterranean Sea



During the World war 1, British forces Entered Palestine in October 1917 and as a result of the war, Palestine was occupied by Britain.

In that period Palestine was divided into 16 sub-districts according to British Mandate administration (1917-1948)

The first census of the population in Palestine was done in October 1922, during the British Mandate, and counting about 752 thousand people.

The second census conducted By the British in November 1931, where it was Counted 1.033 million people.



In 1944 a demographic survey showed that there was about 1.74 million People Living in Palestine.

After the 1948 war, Jewish forces took control of 20,700 km² (78%) and established the State of Israel on that area.

During and after the 1948 war, a transfer policy was carried out and four Out of every five Palestinians in the area inside Israel became refugees

At least 418 Palestinian villages were depopulated and demolished

The region has witnessed demographic and social changes; as a result of the 1948-war, 78% of Mandate Palestine was taken to form what is presently known as the State of Israel, where around 800,000 Palestinians were evicted from their lands and homes, while Palestinians who stayed thier homeland were effectively naturalized

West Bank and Gaza Strip governorates according to Jordanian and Egyptian Administrations between 1948 and 1967

According to the Jordanian Administrations The West Bank was divided into 3 Governorates

While Gaza Strip remained as one unit Under the Egyptians Administration

During the Management Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the West Bank, Population counting were done and counted about 667 thousand people in the West Bank in 1952



Another census was done in 1961 and was counted about 805 thousand people in the West Bank.

The total number of population in the Gaza Strip for the period 1950-1960 Was estimated to 302,000.)

West Bank and Gaza Strip Governorates According to Jordanian and Egyptian Administrations between 1948 and 1967



West Bank and Gaza Strip governorates according to Israeli Administrations between 1967 and 1994

in 1967, Israel occupied all of the 27,090 km² plus the Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula. Thus all of "Mandate Palestine" came under Israeli control

In that period the West Bank was divided into 7 districts and Gaza Strip into as one

During the Israeli occupation a comprehensive inventory of the population of the West Bank and Gaza was done in September 1967, showing that there were approximately 599 thousand inhabitants in the West Bank and about 400 thousand people in the Gaza Strip.

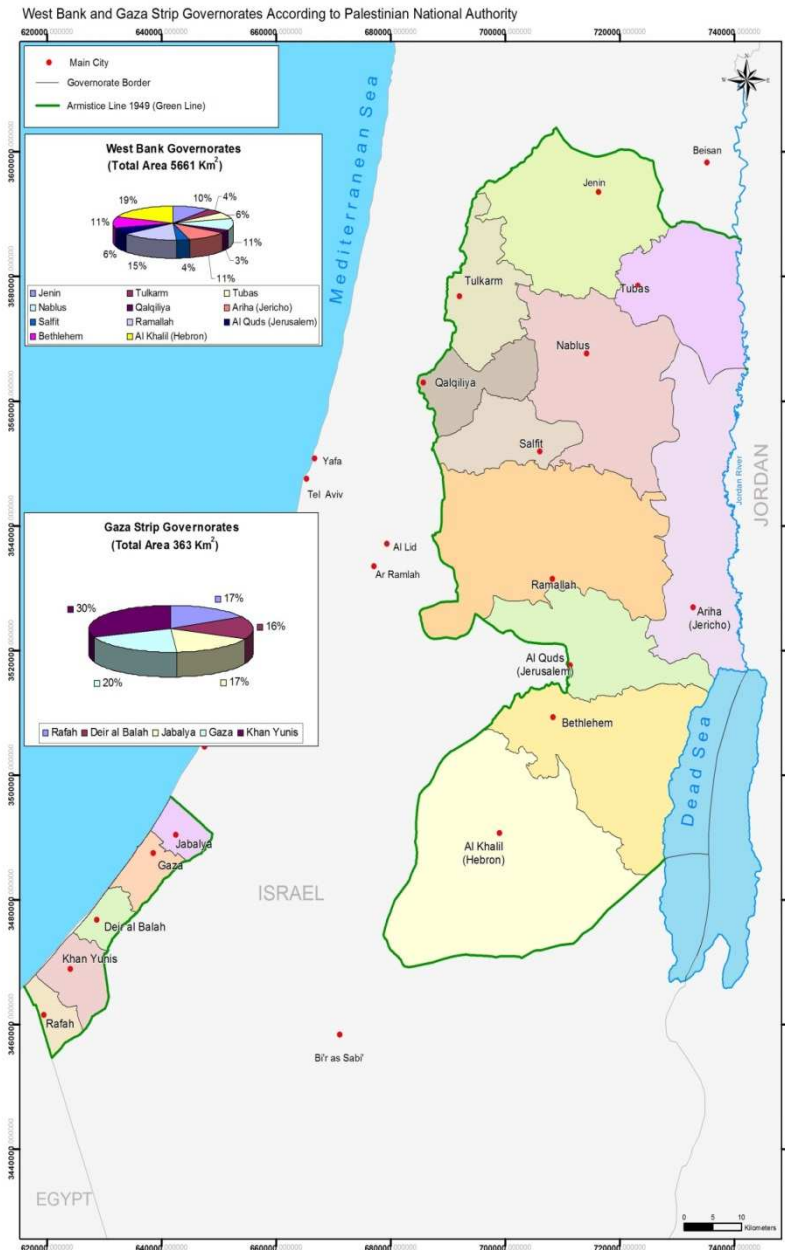
West Bank and Gaza Strip Governorates According to Israeli Administration after 1967



West Bank and Gaza Strip governorates according to the Palestinian Authority Administration after 1994

When the Palestinian Authority (PA) take the Administration in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1994, It divided the West Bank into 11 governorates and The Gaza Strip was divided into 5 governorates

In 1997, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) conducted the First Palestinian Census in the oPt. The results indicated that the actual total population living in the oPt was 2,895,683 inhabitants, of which 1,873,476 inhabitants were living in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and 1,022,207 were living in the Gaza Strip.



In 2007, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) conducted the Second Census in the oPt. The results indicated that the estimated total population living in the oPt at the end of 2010 was about 4.1 million inhabitants, of which 2.5 million inhabitants were living in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and 1.6 million were living in the Gaza Strip (PCBS, 2010).

Based on the 2007-Census data, and annual growth rate of 2.9% the PCBS projected the total population of the oPt at 4.55 million inhabitants in the mid of 2014 (PCBS, 2010).

Approximately:

*73.8% of the total Palestinian population living in urban areas.
16.9% of the population in rural areas and
9.3% in refugee camps (PCBS, 2014).*

Data Reliability

During the British Mandate period:

- Data regarding the Palestinian population are limited and estimated in most of the census done during the Mandate time.*
- The most valuable data on population come from the census taken by the British in 1931.*
- It provide the sort of data needed for accurate demographic calculation, and the statistics are more reliable than any others taken in Ottoman or Mandate times*
- The quality of Mandate statistics declined after the 1931 census. Civil unrest, followed by World War II, made it difficult for the British to do another accurate census.*
- Later on and because of the civil unrest, the British were forced to adopt unreliable statistical procedures, such as estimating the total population by adding registered births and subtracting registered deaths.*

Data Reliability

Census During Jordanian Administrations

- ❑ *After 1948, the statistical situation deteriorated even further in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.*

- ❑ *The Jordanians took censuses of the West Bank in 1952 and 1961.*

- ❑ *The second was more reliable and comprehensive than the first, but neither was complete, Gaza's citizens were not enumerated between 1931 and 1967.*

Data Reliability

Census During the Israeli occupation

- ❑ *The Israeli census in 1967 provided the most valuable data yet collected. Israeli demographers have made valuable surveys and studies of demography and fertility in West Bank and Gaza Strip.*

Data Reliability

Census since the Palestinian Authority

- ❑ *When the Palestinian Authority took over administration in West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1994, it established the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) which aims to develop and enhance the Palestinian official statistical system based on legal grounds that organize the process of data collection and utilization for statistical purposes.*

- ❑ *Moreover, in October 2005 the Palestinian Cabinet approved the adoption of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics by Palestine as set out in ECE decision C (47), but incorporating a revised preamble.*

- ❑ *The First census taken by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in the oPt was conducted in 1997. and the second was in 2007.*

Data Reliability

- The data of the census and surveys in the PCBS underwent a series of tests and editing, procedures to ensure data reliability in all its phases of execution, in addition to the intensive and continuous follow-up that aimed to ensuring data accuracy and comprehensiveness. Also Active steps were taken to improve validity and reliability of the collected data.*
- For example, conducting training for the field workers and pilot study to test and improve validity and reliability of the data collected.*
- In addition, the process of compilation of data in the PCBS depended heavily on processing system that minimizes human errors by applying validation procedures.*
- These procedures aim to ensure minimal non-statistical errors that are probable during any stage of the project including data collection (non-response errors) and data processing (data entry errors).*

THANK YOU