

## ABSTRACT

The geographical area now known as Israel and Palestine, which in Jewish term is called The Promised Land, has been a dispute area for centuries. Since pre-historic times the Jews regarded the land as their homeland. The history of Jewish existence in Kan'an has never been forgotten. In reality however, until the turn of the twentieth Century its inhabitants were mostly Palestinians. Until now, both the Palestinians and the Israelis, claim that the land belong to them. This claim has been the main source of conflicts between the two races.

The Jews started to regain their foothold on the land since the France and British agreed to share the colonialization of same areas in the Middle East, including Israel and Palestine in 1916. Since than the Jews systematically expanded their hold on the Promised Land. Through the Zionist Congress they asserted their determination to build a "state" for the Jews on the Promised Land. From all over the world they moved to Israel to develop farming areas. They also bought prime lands from the Palestinians for their settlements in urban areas. Through such activities their holdings of Palestinian lands became wider and eventually they were able to control much of the land now known as Israel.

On the political front they continued their dream to build a nation-state. Initially it was carried out by terrorizing the Palestinians. Eventually their dream was realized when the American supported their cause and the formation of Israel was declared in May 14, 1948. The declaration was followed by an armed conflict between Israel on one side and Palestinians as well as some Arab countries-Egypt, Syria and Jordan, on the other side. This war strengthened the claim of the Israelis on the disputed land.

Dissatisfied with the result of the 1948 war, the Arab continued their efforts to abolish Israel and to provide the Palestinians with a homeland. Since 1948 the two sides have engaged in three major wars, in 1956, 1967 and 1973. The present analysis focuses its attention to the 1967 war between the Israelis and the Arabs.

The 1967 conflict was the result of several military maneuvers by both sides prior to the war. It began in 1966 with the Israel-Syrian conflict sparked by the Israelis accusation that the Syrians help the Palestinian guerillas along their border. To strengthen their military capability the Arab formed military alliances. The first one, on June 15 1966, was between Egypt and Syria. In respond Israel show-off its military might in the military parade on May 14, 1967- on the nineteenth anniversary of its formation. This provoked the Arabs and eventually led to the formation of the second military alliance between Egypt, Jordan and Iraq on May 30, 1967. Worried about this military threat, on June 6, 1967 Israel carried out a pre-emptive attack on Egypt, Jordan and Syria. In this war, Israel was able to defeat the three countries and occupied some of their territories namely Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank and Golan Heights.