

The Promised Land of Jordan

From Geoffrey Clarfield, first published in [November 2023](#)

On October 7, 2023 a non-state entity called Hamas, which the U.S. government declared a terrorist organization in 1997 (followed by Canada, under Jean Chrétien, in 2002) attacked the Israeli border, or armistice line, with Gaza in the southwest of the country.

The attackers used motorcycles, boats, paragliders, and drones to overwhelm Israeli border forces. Then they engaged in an orgy of violence, beheading children and killing as many Israeli citizens as they could until the attackers were either killed or captured by late coming Israeli forces. They also took Israeli hostages back to Gaza.

any of the Hamas terrorists, mostly young men in their twenties, were on drugs. They had no problem killing men, raping and torturing women, and massacring children as they had been brought up and indoctrinated to regard Jews as sub-human. Not surprisingly, one of the most widely translated books in the Arab world is Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* (I have seen it for sale in bookstalls in Cairo).¹

Nevertheless, the international left have declared that this latest attack, however Nazi-like, can be justified because, due to Israel's "occupation," the "Palestinian people" do not have a homeland and so, in their eyes, one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter.

But the entire premise, applied by the left in Canada and elsewhere to the Palestinian problem, is false.

For more than one hundred years there has already existed a fully Palestinian Arab Muslim potential state in the faux "Kingdom of Jordan." In this essay I will describe its origin, nature, and potential.

Before I do so, even though it will become clear that the Palestinian people already have a fully functional national homeland in the heart of the modern Arab Middle East and which comprises much of the Biblical Land of Israel, this means little to many in the contemporary Arab world.

That is because the majority of Muslim Arabs are not really nationalists in the modern sense. Most Arabs actively or passively encourage jihad and want to return the Near East back to the first one hundred years of Islam, when Arab dynasties ruled an empire from Morocco (or indeed, some of the time, southern Spain) to Central Asia. Which dynasty is or was in charge does not really matter to jihadis, as long as Muslims are the rulers.²

One of the key elements of traditional jihad is a widespread Muslim belief that any piece of land which was once under Muslim authority, can never be allowed to revert to the authority of its original owners. Or if it does, it must be reclaimed.

And so when one reads the Hamas Charter it is clear that it is a charter for a jihad dedicated to the destruction of the world's sole independent Jewish state, Israel.³

Theirs is a religious war, not one of national liberation, but here's the rub: When the supporters of the jihad against Israel speak English, they usually use Western terms like "national liberation," especially on American and Canadian campuses. And so, at least for Westerners, it is important to show that the people who have recently come to call themselves Palestinians, do actually have a selfdeclared homeland in Jordan.

The land of Israel, on both sides of the Jordan, what Christians and Westerners have referred to as "The Holy Land," is one of the most mapped and studied areas in the entire region. This is largely because during the 19th century,

Britons and to a lesser extent Europeans and Americans turned both secular and religious eyes to the land which gave birth to their religion or religions, various expressions of Christianity.

Western Christians, driven by their faith and their secular-scientific ideals, wanted to use the techniques of modern history, comparative linguistics, and archaeology to learn as much as they could as to the material and historical context of the rise of Judaism and Christianity. And so, they formed the Palestine Exploration Fund, which with Imperial Ottoman permission allowed them to map the region on both sides of the Jordan and to excavate key sites. 4



By the start of the First World War these scholars and excavators clearly understood that the Jewish people had built their nation there, finalized the Torah (Old Testament) there and written the New Testament there (Jesus and his followers being committed Jews). They also realized that the Jews had been a majority on both sides of the Jordan, as a nation for more than 1700 years until the Byzantines and then the Muslim

conquerors made life difficult for them in their homeland, where they were subject to religious and legal persecution.

Today's college students do not study this history – for with the rejection of Christianity, and with it the 19th and 20th century Judeo-Christian ethic, there comes a denial of the historical and legal land rights of the Jewish people to the

land of Israel. In turn there comes a delegitimization of the State of Israel which receives ugly expression through movements such as Israel Apartheid Week, which began at the University of Toronto and has now spread to many colleges and universities in both Canada and the USA.⁵

Nevertheless, Canada is still a largely Christian-based country with a biblical heritage and a sense of being part of the history of Christian nations, its systems of values and ethics ultimately inspired by the Old and New Testaments. 51% of Canadians still self-identify as Christians and therefore believe the Bible has something to teach us and that we are not (yet) a nation of completely ahistorical atheists and cultural relativists.

At the same time, an informed Canadian Christian's sense of history does not stop with the end of the New Testament. They know they are part of the history of Christian nations, and should be capable of understanding that from the point of view of the Ottoman Empire and its subjects the First World War was a jihad against the West. (The Sultan in Constantinople-Istanbul publicly declared it to be so).

Let us now travel back 3000 years to a small strip of land in the Eastern Mediterranean, that is to say the Holy Land.

The rest is here; [follow this link](#)

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1. See the article by Mclure, Chris "Reading Mein Kampf in Cairo" *Jerusalem Post*, Oct. 13, 2007
2. Cf. Raymond Ibrahim, "The Many Faces of Jihad" Aug. 26, 2019.
3. Jeffrey Goldberg, "What Would Hamas Do if it Could Do What It Wanted?" *The Atlantic*, Aug. 2014.

4. David Gurevitch and Anat Kidron, *Exploring the Holy Land: 150 Years of the Palestine Exploration Fund*, Equinox, 2019.
5. Solomon Benzimra, *The Jewish People's Rights to the Land of Israel*, CILR, 2018.