

## War of Independence Armistice Lines (1948-1949)

The War of Independence began after the UN partition plan in 1947, with Arab militias and Arab states attacking Jewish communities. Following Israel's declaration of independence on May 14, 1948, armies of Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq invaded, aiming to destroy the new state. Despite being outnumbered, Israeli forces defended the nation, securing West Jerusalem, the Negev, and Be'er Sheva, while enduring heavy losses. By war's end, Israel expanded its territory beyond the UN partition plan.



In 1949, armistice agreements were signed between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, with the 'Green Line' setting the de facto borders. Jordan controlled Judea and Samaria (the 'West Bank.') Egypt held the Gaza Strip.

The armistice lines were intended to be temporary, with plans for permanent borders set through negotiations. However, Arab states refused to recognize Israel, leaving the lines in place and shaping the region's geopolitics for decades.

The war transformed the nation's demography. In 1949, its population of 1,013,900 was 86% Jewish, mostly Holocaust survivors and Jews fleeing persecution in Arab countries. This created a mix of Ashkenazi and Mizrahi communities.

Muslims, Christians, and Druze, made up 14% (around 156,000) of the total. Hundreds of thousands of Arab residents were displaced before or during the war.