Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict: Jews and Arabs Under the British Mandate
Charles D Smith - Bedford / St Martins 2007

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DOCUMENT 11.2 The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement (Oslo 2) on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, September 28, 1995 493
Synopsis
Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict provides a comprehensive, balanced, and accessible introduction to the multi-faceted history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Smith’s widely respected analysis examines how underlying issues, group motives, religious and cross-cultural clashes, diplomacy and imperialism, and encroaching modernity shaped this volatile region. The book’s narrative and supporting documents, maps, photographs, and chronologies consider high and low politics with perspectives from all sides of the struggle, while the final chapters include the latest developments.

Booknews
The intense emotions generally aroused by this conflict are avoided here in a remarkably even-handed analysis, ideal for undergraduates as well as the lay reader, and now supplemented with photos, original documents for each chapter, and updated to include the second Oslo Accord of 1995 and talks through the year 2000. Smith (Middle East history, U. of Arizona) holds that a better understanding of the conflict is achieved when its historical background is known. To this end, the text provides an overview of Palestine’s earliest history, then devotes chapters to Ottoman society, the origins of Zionism, WWI and the peace settlements that followed, the British Mandate, WWII and the creation of the state of Israel. The remaining half of the book details the subsequent Arab-Israeli conflict. Annotation c. Book News, Inc., Portland, OR (booknews.com)

Biography
CHARLES D. SMITH is professor of Middle East history in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Arizona. He has held numerous grants for research in the Middle East, was a Fulbright scholar in Egypt, and served as a member of the Institute for Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has published scholarly articles on many topics, including Egyptian Islam, Anglo-French imperialism in the Middle East, and nationalism and identity. Author of Islam and the Search for Social Order in Modern Egypt, he is currently writing a study of Anglo-French relations and European imperial goals in the Middle East during World War I.

Reviews
This book is not what you want. You get more sense from using wikipedia. I bought this book originally to gain more knowledge regarding the history of the arab-israeli conflict and that did not happen with this book. Go on to wikipedia type in 'Palestine Occupied Territories' and you'll get more from that than you will from this book. I'm not one to leave reviews all the time but i felt like i had to in this case.

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This is a remarkably judicious and comprehensive account of Palestinian-Israeli relations in the 20th century. Its chapters cover: the Middle East and Palestine to 1914; Ottoman society, Palestine, and the origins of Zionism, 1800-1914; World War One, Great Britain, and the peace settlements, 1914-21; Palestine between the wars: Zionism, the Palestinian Arabs, and the British mandate, 1920-39; World War Two and the creation of Israel, 1939-48; the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict, 1949-57; from Suez to the 1967 war, 1957-67; war and the search for peace, 1967-76; Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Camp David Accords, 1977-84; from pariah to partner: the PLO and the quest for peace, 1984-93; and finally, Israeli-Palestinian/Arab negotiations and agreements, August 1993-March 2000. Key facts, of contemporary relevance, emerge from the narrative: Ben Gurion's aggressive approach was self-defeating - the Gaza raid of 1955 and the invasion of Suez in 1956 both made Israel less secure. The joint British-French-Israeli attack on Egypt, against the will of the United Nations, was a political fiasco. In 1967, the US government encouraged Israel to attack Egypt again, at the same time advising Egypt to hold back until a diplomatic resolution was reached! The first, key, Oslo agreement of 1993 was achieved without US participation, showing that the US is more a hindrance than a help to winning peace. The Netanyahu government of 1996-99, like the present Sharon government, refused to carry out the agreements of Oslo 1, Oslo 2, the Hebron Protocol of 1997 and the Wye Memorandum of 1998. At Wye, Israel agreed not to 'initiate or take any step that will change the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip'. As Smith notes, this was 'a proviso that Israel had consistently ignored and would ignore in the future'. The Palestinians have long recognised Israel's right 'to exist in peace and security', but Israeli governments have consistently refused to reciprocate. Yet the majority of both peoples want peace, and recognise each other's right 'to exist in peace and security'. Both peoples must ensure that their leaders act on this understanding.