The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem Revisited. Cambridge Middle East Studies. 18. Cambridge University Press. pp. 602–604. ^ Morris Birth Revisted, p602: “The director general of the Israel Foreign Ministry, Walter Eytan, in a private letter in late 1950 referred to the UNRWA registration in 1949 of 726,000 as ‘meticulous’ but thought that the real number was close to 800,000.” ^ Abu-Sitta, Salman (7 August 2001). “The Unfolding of the Holocaust”. The Palestinian refugee problem and its consequences have shaken the Middle East and acutely troubled the world for more than five decades. Terrorist or guerrilla incursions into Israel by these refugees have helped trigger at least three conventional Arab-Israeli wars, in 1956, 1967 and 1982, and Palestinian terrorism, especially attacks on airline passengers and aircraft hijackings during the 1970s and 1980s, have caused chaos and instability worldwide. The centrality in the conflict of the refugee problem was convincingly demonstrated in the Israeli-Palestinian-American negotiations of July 2000-January 2001 (Camp David and after), when the refugees emerged as the single most important and intractable issue.