

The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-1949

(Cambridge Middle East Library)

Benny Morris (1987)

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'Mr Morris ... is a rare combination of journalist and painstaking research historian, whose thorough use of Israeli, British and American archives - many of the materials unavailable until now has enabled him to present a definitive history of his subject.'

The New York Times Book Review

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'In page after page crammed with hard data and play-by-play descriptions of what was going on in each period - December 1947 to March 1948, April to June 1948- . . . Morris details the bloody conflict between Arabs and Jews and what was going on behind the lines. He takes us back, into offices of the Arab League and the Haganah, into the councils of the National Committees set up in Arab towns, into meetings of the Jewish Agency and, later, the fledgling Israeli government.' *The Christian Science Monitor*

'This latest addition to the Cambridge Middle East Library is a book of exceptional importance It will be required reading for anyone who professes a serious interest in the Arab-Israeli Conflict over Palestine. Its conclusions, which invalidate many of the assumptions commonly made about the origins of the conflict, need to be taken into account in any attempt to devise a solution to it. *Arab Affairs*

'This excellent myth-debunking book... deserves a wide readership among those who want to understand what has happened in Israel over the last 40 years rather than repeat discredited propaganda which serves only to prolong the war.' *The Spectator*

The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem Revisited. Cambridge Middle East Studies. 18. Cambridge University Press. pp. 602-604. ^ Morris Birth Revisited, 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 50 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