

Simon Darke 11L3 Question 2

In 1993 the Israelis and the Palestine Arab signed a peace agreement. It failed because of long-term events. Like the 'Six Day War' and the creation of Israel in 1948.

Arafat, the leader of the P.L.O, agreed to fight against the Palestinian terrorists, or help the Israelis gain security and Rabin, the prime minister of Israel, agreed to pull back from Gaza and the West Bank or give the Palestinians land or autonomy.

On the May 14th 1948 the Jewish State of Israel was made. The Arab countries around Israel, or Palestine, did not accept this and attacked Israel the next day. The Israelis defended the country very well and managed to attack the Arab armies and increase their land by a quarter. Three quarters of a million Arabs had to flee their homes in Palestine because of this attack. This gained the Israelis security but it was only temporary. The countries made truces to end the fighting, which lasted for over a year. There were never any peace talks between them. Even though the Arabs were not at war with the Israel, they boycotted and blockaded so that supply ships could not go down the Egyptian controlled Suez Canal. Arab businesses refused any Israel firm or firms that had dealings with the Israelis. They stopped tourists whose passports showed that they had been to Israel. Israel was on siege for almost 30 years. Every Israeli was called in to the Armed Forces at one point and a large amount of the nations resources was spent on creating a powerful war machine that could defend their country. This is one of the long-term events that caused the 1993 peace agreement because the Arabs had lost a large amount of land and had been humiliated by the Israelis. The Israelis on the other hand had their businesses damaged.

In the Six Day War in 1967 surrounding Arabs states had many resistance groups, which became known as the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Another resistance group called Al- Fatah began raiding Israel. Israel decided to attack first. The Israelis had taken another victory and some more land. It gained Sinai, Gaza Strip, West Bank, the Arab Quarter of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. This increased their land by three and a half times. Also it gained 'natural frontiers' which made it easier to defend their land. The Arabs on the other hand lost many men and military equipment. A bigger refugee problem and more Palestinians under Israeli control. This caused the 1993 peace agreement because the Arabs had lost the support of the Palestinians; they had put their trust in the P.L.O and had even more Palestinians under Israeli control. The Israelis were now surrounded by enemies and had gained an enemy, the P.L.O.

Another event that caused the 1993 Peace agreement was the building of Israeli settlements on captured Arab land. More Jewish people immigrated to Israel and the settlements were built in the West Bank and Gaza. The West Bank was an important area of ancient Israel. Also the Israelis controlled the city of Jerusalem. Many Israeli's thought that the Arabs that remained in Israel should be treated as second-class citizens. These settlements continued to be built

through the 1970's even against the will of Israel's allies. This gave the Israel some security and they built them for religious reasons. This would have quite greatly caused the 1993 Peace Agreement because the Palestinian Arabs were treated as second-class citizens and lost land, whereas the Israeli's secured land and gained even more Jewish citizens.

In 1993 Prime Minister Rabin of Israel and Yasser Arafat Chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation or P.L.O signed a peace agreement. This gave the Israeli's security and the Palestinian's land or autonomy but from 1993 to the present day there have been many short-term events, which has caused the collapse of the 1993 Peace Agreement.

The assassination of Prime Minister Rabin of Israel. He was killed by a Jew, which showed that the Israeli people were not happy with what he was doing with Israel.

In 1996 Islamic extremists launched a double suicide attack in Israel on two buses. Peres, the new Prime minister, stopped all contact with Yasser Arafat and threaten to retaliate. This was a big blow to the peace agreement as Arafat had promised security and had not shown any results of doing this. The Islamic extremists group was called Hamas. This scared the people of Israel and they changed their minds on what they wanted and decided on a tougher leader. This new leader was Binyamin Netanyahu who took over the Likud party. He opposed the peace process and distrusted the P.L.O. He feared for the Israeli's security and was unwilling to give up any Israeli-controlled land.

In 1997, two suicide bombs killed 12 Israelis. Netanyahu condemned Arafat saying that he was not cracking down on the Palestinian terrorists. This again caused fear in the Israelis and also they questioned Netanyahu's promises.

In the 1999 elections a man called Ehud Barak won. He was a tough yet willing to compromise with the Palestinians. He was going to give them 60% of the West bank. None of the Arab Jerusalem would be given also no Palestinian refugees were allowed back. These refugees were the ones from the 6-day war and the 1947 war.

In 2000 the people of both nations were not happy, the Israelis noticed that Mr. Barak had almost the same attitude as the despised predecessor, Netanyahu. He has built more settlements on occupied territories. Mr. Barak's final offer was to make a Palestinian state, north and south of Jerusalem. This was only slightly better than Netanyahu's offer.

Again the Israeli's changed views and decided to vote in a new leader called Sharon, he was very anti-Palestinian.

The leaders of Israel and Palestine have both lost support from their people and Israel is on the brink of war.

This is why the 1993 peace agreement failed and why Israel is constantly in fear of attack. There will be no future plans for peace as they are never happy about each other's view on what should happen.