**BETHLEHEM INFORMATION SHEET**

Bethlehem means “house of bread” in Hebrew and “house of meat” in Arabic. The name refers to either:

1. 1. The city of Bethlehem.
2. 2. The Bethlehem metropolitan area, including the contiguous cities of Bethlehem, Beit Jala (to the west) and Beit Sahour (to the east).
3. 3. The Bethlehem Governate or regional district. The district includes 64 villages surrounding Bethlehem that form an economic unit.

**Regional Population (2016):**

Bethlehem Governorate

**Palestinian Municipalities Include:**

Al Walaja - 2569  
Battir - 4,993

Aida Refugee Camp - 3311

Beit Jala - 14798  
Husan- 6986  
Wadi Fukin - 1470  
Bethlehem - 31799

Beit Sahour - 15565

Khallet Sakariya -233  
Urban Total - 155607  
Rural Total - 49965  
Refugee Camps Total - 16230  
Total Bethlehem Gov - 221802

**Refugees:**

UNRWA reports 5,149,749 registered Palestinian refugees. An estimated 16,230 refugees live in three refugee camps within the Bethlehem metropolitan area: Deheisha, Aida and Beit Jibrin (Azza).

Source: UNRWA (www.un.org/unrwa/) and Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (www.pcbs.gov.ps)

**Politics:**

Bethlehem is governed by a 15-seat Municipality Council. Local law requires that the mayor, deputy mayor and a majority of council members be Christian. The Mayor is Vera George Musa Baboun and the Deputy Mayor is Issam William Elias Juba. Ms. Baboun is the first female mayor of Bethlehem. Source: Bethlehem Municipality Website (www.bethlehemcity.org)

**Religious Sites:**

The Church of the Nativity in the center of the city stands where Christians believe Jesus was born. There are many other churches in the city including the Shepherd’s Field Church in Beit Sahour, believed to be the place where Jesus’ birth was first announced. At the northern end of the city is Rachel’s Tomb, believed to be the burial place of the matriarch Rachel.  
Source: Bethlehem Municipality Website (www.bethlehemcity.org)

**Economy:**

Bethlehem’s primary industry is tourism, accounting for 65% of the local economy. Other industries include agriculture, embroidery and construction. Bethlehem is home to the only professional winery in the West Bank, Cremisan, located in a monastery in Beit Jala. Source: Bethlehem Municipality Website (www.bethlehemcity.org)

[Last updated: January 2017]

Aida Refugee Camp Beit Jala  
Husan  
Wadi Fukin  
Bethlehem (Beit Lahm) Beit Sahour

Khallet Sakariya  
Urban Total  
Rural Total  
Refugee Camps Total  
Total Bethlehem Gov.  
Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (www.pcbs.gov.ps)

**Areas of Jewish Residence/Israeli**

**Settlements Include:**

3,311 14,798 6,986 1,470 31,799 15,565 233 155,607 49,965 16,230 221,802

An estimated 70,000 Jewish Israelis live in the 22 settlements/communities of Gush Etzion in the Bethlehem District, including Efrat, Beitar Illit, Migdal Oz and Teqoa. An additional 46,000 live in Gilo and Har Homa, just north of Bethlehem in the Jerusalem municipality.

Source: Gush Etzion (www.gush-etzion.org.il), Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (www.cbs.gov.il)

**Religious Demographics:**

In 1947, Bethlehem was about 75% Christian and 25% Muslim. By 1998, the demographics were estimated at 40% Christian and 60% Muslim, and today some report Bethlehem to be 28% Christian and 72% Muslim, while others report it as 18% Christian and 82% Muslim.

Sources: Andrea Pacini, IMEU (www.imeu.net); Bethlehem Municipality Website (www.bethlehem-city.org).

**EAST JERUSALEM INFORMATION SHEET**

Jerusalem in Arabic is Al-Quds, meaning “The Holy Sanctuary”. “East Jerusalem” can mean the following:

1. 1. From 1949 to 1967, it referred to the 6.4 km2 (2.5 sq mi) Jordanian part of the city, including the Old City. “West Jerusalem” referred to the Israeli controlled part of the city.
2. 2. In 1967, Israel re-drew the Jerusalem municipal boundaries, to include land captured by Israel, and expanded to the north, east and south. The term “East Jerusalem” was applied to the area of the expanded Jerusalem municipality and since 2000 has come to refer to Palestinian areas.

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**Regional Population (2014):**

All of Jerusalem - 849,800

East Jerusalem/Areas of Jerusalem annexed after 1967 - 502,800

Source: Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies (www.jiis.org)

**Old City Neighborhoods Include:**

Muslim Quarter - 30,328

Christian Quarter - 4,577

Jewish Quarter - 3,329

Armenian Quarter - 1,630

**Palestinian Neighborhoods Include (2012-14):**

Beit Hanina 37,630

Shu’fat 21,900

Ras el-Amud 25,000

Mount of Olives 25,000

Al-Izzariyya 20,582

Jabel Mukaber 23,500

Silwan 45,000

Sheikh Jarrah - 2800  
Kafr Aqab – 60,00  
Shu’fat Refugee Camp\* - 24,000  
Abu Dis – 10,721  
Beit Safafa – 12,200  
\*Shu’fat Refugee Camp is the only refugee camp within the Jerusalem municipal boundaries.

**Areas of Jewish Residence/Israeli Settlements include:**Pisgat Ze’ev – 40,700  
Neve Ya’akov - 21,300

Ramot – 44,100  
Gilo – 30,300  
East Talpiyot - 14,000

Har Homa - 18,900

Sources: Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies (www.jiis.org); Palestinian Bureau of Statistics (www.pcbs.gov.ps); Ir Amim (www.ir-amim.org.il), Grassroots Jerusalem http:// www.grassrootsalquds.net/, OCHA https://www.ochaopt.org/, Applied Research Institute Jerusalem arij.org

**Demographics of East Jerusalem (2014):**

Jewish: 39% Christian: 2.7% Muslim: 57% Other: 1.3%  
Source: Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies (www.jiis.org)

**Residency:**

Following the 1967 war, Israel conducted a census in East Jerusalem and granted permanent residency to those Arab Jerusalemites present at the time  
of the census. Those not present lost the right to reside in Jerusalem. Those currently residing in East Jerusalem may not change their center of residency without fear of a change in status. East Jerusalemites were permitted to apply for Israeli citizenship, provided they met the requirements

for naturalization - such as swearing allegiance to Israel and renouncing all other citizenships - which most refused to do. At the end of 2010, 95% of the Arab population of East Jerusalem had permanent residency and 5% had Israeli citizenship. East Jerusalemite permanent residents have the right to vote in municipal elections and run for municipal office but are not permitted to run for mayor. Residents pay taxes and, following a 1988 Israeli Supreme Court ruling, East Jerusalem residents are guaranteed the right to social security benefits and state health care.

Sources: Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies (www.jiis.org); Jerusalem Post (www.jpost.com); Ir Amim (www.iramim.org.il)

**Economy:**

25% of Palestinians living in Jerusalem and its immediate surroundings are employed in the hotel and restaurant sector; 19% are in education; 19% are public service providers.  
Source: The Palestinian Bureau of Statistics (www.pcbs.gov.ps)

[Last updated: January 2017]

**Palestinian Neighborhoods Include (2012-14):**

Beit Hanina 37,630 Shu’fat 21,900 Ras el-Amud 25,000 Mount of Olives 25,000 Al-Izzariyya 20,582 Jabel Mukaber 23,500 Silwan 45,000

Sheikh Jarrah  
Kafr Aqab  
Shu’fat Refugee Camp\*  
Abu Dis  
Beit Safafa  
\*Shu’fat Refugee Camp is the only refugee camp within the Jerusalem municipal boundaries.

**Areas of Jewish Residence/Israeli Settlements include:**Pisgat Ze’ev  
Neve Ya’akov

Ramot  
Gilo  
East Talpiyot Har Homa

40,700 21,300 44,100 30,300 14,000 18,900

Sources: Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies (www.jiis.org); Palestinian Bureau of Statistics (www.pcbs.gov.ps); Ir Amim (www.ir-amim.org.il), Grassroots Jerusalem http:// www.grassrootsalquds.net/, OCHA https://www.ochaopt.org/, Applied Research Institute Jerusalem arij.org

**RAMALLAH INFORMATION SHEET**

The name Ramallah comes from the Aramaic word for “hill,” which is “Ram” and the Arabic word for “God”, which is “Allah.”

1. 1. Located 10 kilometers (6 miles) north of Jerusalem, adjacent to al-Bireh.
2. 2. Currently serves as the de facto administrative capital of the Palestinian National Authority.
3. 3. Historically a Christian town, but today Muslims form the majority of the population, with a strong Christian minority.

**Regional Population (2016):**

Ramallah + al-Bireh Governorate - 357,968

Ramallah City - 35,140

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (www.pcbs.gov.ps)

**Ramallah City Religious Demographics:**

According to the 1922 British Mandate census, Ramallah had a population of 3,067, which included 10 Jews. In a 1945 survey, the population stood at 5,080, with Christians forming the majority of the population. By 1967, only just over half of the city was Christian. In the 2007 Palestinian Central Bureau  
of Statistics census, there were 27,460 people living in the city with sources varying about the current Christian population in the city, hovering around 25%. Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (www.pcbs.gov.ps)

**Politics:**

Yasser Arafat established his West Bank headquarters, the Mukata’a, in Ramallah. Although considered an interim solution to final capital status in Jerusalem, Ramallah has become the de facto capital of the Palestinian National Authority, hosting almost all governmental headquarters. During the second intifada, Arafat was confined to the Ramallah compound. The site still serves as the Ramallah headquarters of the Palestinian Authority, as well the official West Bank office of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. The site  
also hosts Arafat’s tomb after he died in November 2004. Ramallah is a seat of both local and national government. The structure of the local Ramallah municipality has grown over time from a town to a city government. Candidates compete in Ramallah local elections for the 15 seat municipal council for a four-year term. Currently, Moussa Farah Hadid is mayor.

Source: Ramallah Municipality (www.ramallah.ps)

**Economy:**

The residents of Ramallah traditionally worked in agriculture cultivating grapes, figs and olives, and raising cattle. Residents have also worked as traders. In the early twentieth century, young people began to emigrate from the area to the United States and send back money to relatives in the city. Educational opportunities also increased during this time. Most of the city’s residents left in the war of 1948; only 12% remained. Modern Ramallah has become a major destination for Palestinian migration, particularly from the surrounding areas. Agriculture has declined as a major sector in Ramallah. Ramallah now has hundreds of restaurants, commercial buildings and industries. The city is considered the most affluent and cultural and liberal of all Palestinian cities, boasting a lively nightlife. Ramallah hosted its first annual international film festival in 2004.

Source: Ramallah Municipality (www.ramallah.ps) [Last updated: January 2017]

**GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS & CONCEPTS**

This list contains definitions of basic terms and concepts that may come up on the Encounter program. It is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather to provide a reference and to provoke questions during and after your trip.

**1948 War**

The first Arab-Israeli War, often called the War of Independence by Israelis. There were two distinct phases to the conflict. The first, from November 1947 to May 1948, was a civil war between the Jewish population and local Palestinian Arabs. Following the end of the British Mandate and the declaration of the State of Israel in May 1948, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq joined the war with small forces from other countries, making it an international war. The war ended in January 1949.

**1967 War**

Also called the Six-Day War or the June War. During this war, Israel came into control of territories it had not previously controlled, including the West Bank, Gaza, Sinai and the Golan Heights. Israel holds that Egypt initiated the war by blockading the Straits of Tiran; the Arab countries hold that Israel initiated the war by bombing the Egyptian Air Force.

**Arab League**

The Arab League was formed in 1945 as a regional organization, similar to other organizations, such as the European Economic Community, which were established later. Its first coordinated action was the military intervention in the struggle between Jews and Arabs in Palestine following the British withdrawal in 1948. In the 1960s, the Arab League decided that there should be a delegation representing the Palestinian people, and thus formed the PLO.

**Areas A, B, and C**

As part of the Oslo Accords, territory throughout the West Bank was divided into these three administrative categories. In Area A (city centers), the Palestinian Authority (PA) would control civil and security-related matters; in Area B, the PA would exercise civil authority and Israel would control security; and in Area C, Israel would exercise both civil authority and security control. Under Israeli law, it is currently illegal for Israelis to travel in Area A, except for relevant military purposes or with special dispensation.

**Balfour Declaration**

A 1917 declaration of the British government favoring “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.”

**British Mandate for Palestine**

Following World War I, the League of Nations granted Britain a mandate over Palestine, a form of government intended to steward the local population to independence. The mandate originally included what is now Jordan; the British split the mandate into Palestine and Transjordan to exclude present-day Jordan from the scope of the Balfour Declaration. Local Jewish and Arab populations competed over whose national aspirations would be realized in a future state.

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**Checkpoint**

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) reports that, as of April 2015, there were 96 fixed checkpoints in the West Bank. Of the fixed checkpoints, 57 are located well within the West Bank; 39 are the last inspection point before entering Israel, most of which are located several kilometers east of the Green Line, or just outside the entrance to Jerusalem. Full checkpoints vary greatly in size and sophistication but they include any apparatus that restricts vehicular movement and are staffed by security personnel who may check documentation or search vehicles. There are also “flying”, or temporary, checkpoints. In April 2015 OCHA counted 361 flying checkpoints as compared with 456 in December 2014, 256 in December 2013, and 65 from September 2008 through March 2009. The first checkpoints were established in 1993 as part of a policy of closing the territories off from Israel, in response to a spike in attacks.

**Civil Administration**

An Israeli military department tasked with administration of all civilian affairs for Palestinians living in Area C (including zoning and land use), coordination with the Palestinian Authority, and issuing identification documents for all Palestinians along with work permits, travel permits and permits for entry to Israel.

**Disengagement**

Israel’s August 2005 removal of Israeli civilian settlements from the Gaza Strip. Israelis often point to the disengagement, Gaza’s subsequent control by Hamas, and ongoing rocket fire into southern Israel as indications that any territory ceded could become a security threat.

Palestinians hold that the removal of settlers does not itself end the occupation, which they claim continues because of ongoing Israeli control over many aspects of life and economy.

**Fatah**

An Arabic acronym for “The Palestinian National Liberation Movement,” an organization founded in 1959 by a group of Palestinian refugees including Yasser Arafat. Fatah joined the PLO in 1967, and quickly became its dominant faction.

**Gaza Strip**

The UN Partition Plan of 1947 allotted a significant portion of land to the Arab state along the southern portion of the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. In the war of 1948, Israel pushed Egyptian forces beyond those lines, leaving the territory now known as the Gaza Strip in Egyptian control. The Gaza Strip is an area of 139 square miles with a population of approximately 1.9 million, most of whom are refugees. The built-up areas of the Gaza Strip have some of the highest population densities in the world.

**Green Line**

The 1949 Armistice Line between Israel and the Arab armies at the end of the 1948 War, and the defining line of the West Bank and Gaza, which formed the de facto border before 1967. The Green Line was not intended as a final international border, but has become a point of reference for negotiations. page5image5857440page5image5780896page5image5774240page5image5876368

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**Hamas**

An Arabic acronym for “Islamic Resistance Movement,” an organization founded in 1988 during the First Intifada by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin as an offshoot of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood. Since that time, Hamas has won popularity among the Palestinian people for providing key social services and notoriety internationally for its violent attacks against Israelis, including civilians. In 2006, Hamas won a majority of the seats in the Palestinian Parliament. Hamas seized power in the Gaza Strip during factional fighting in March 2007. The current leader of Hamas is Khaled Meshal.

**Judea and Samaria**

Latinization of the Hebrew terms for the West Bank, Yehuda and Shomron, emphasizing the Jewish people’s biblical ties to the land. Samaria refers to the area north of Jerusalem, and Judea refers to area to the south.

**Nakba**

Arabic for “the Catastrophe.” Typically refers to the Palestinians’ losses in the 1948 War and the displacement of Palestinian refugees. While many Palestinians describe the Nakba as a historical event, some use the term differently; for example, Greg Khalil, a Palestinian-American, writes that “the Nakba is not just a historic event. It is not past tragedy; it is current reality. It is a condition of prolonged insecurity — of dispossession, disenfranchisement, and disempowerment — that for many never ended.”

**Naksa**

Directly translated from Arabic as “the setback” or “the reversal.” The term is used to refer to Israel’s defeat of the Arab armies and its occupation of the Palestinian territories that resulted from the 1967 War.

**Occupation**

A concept in international law that refers to a state’s control of territory beyond its borders and establishes legal norms for the occupying power’s administration. Often contrasted with “annexation,” by which a state extends its borders to incorporate new territory.

**Oslo Accords**

Beginning in September 1993, Israel and the PLO signed a number of agreements collectively known as the Oslo Accords. At the time of the Oslo Accords, Yitzhak Rabin was Prime Minister of Israel and Yasser Arafat was Chairman of the PLO. The accords were intended to yield a final status agreement within five years, but this proved elusive. One of the final attempts to reach a final status agreement in this process was at Camp David in 2000.

**Palestinian Authority (PA)**

Founded in 1994 under the Oslo Accords as a five-year placeholder government to be replaced by the permanent government of Palestine following a final peace deal. The PA has limited authority over civil affairs and internal policing; it does not maintain a military or conduct foreign policy. The PA’s legislative branch is the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), the President is Mahmoud Abbas and the Prime Minister is Rami Hamdallah.

**Peace Process**

The attempt to reach and implement a final status peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians by means of direct negotiations, starting with the Madrid Conference of 1991 and continuing to this day. Sometimes used as a synonym for the Oslo Accords, an early milestone in the negotiations.

**Refugees**

According to the 1951 UN Refugee Charter, refugees are those who “owing to... fear of being persecuted... is outside the country of his nationality and is unable... to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence... is unable... to return to it.” UNRWA (See page 6) further defines Palestinian refugees as “people whose normal place of residence was Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948, who lost both their homes and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 Arab- Israeli conflict.” An estimated 500,000 to 850,000 Palestinian refugees were displaced as a result of the 1948 War. With their descendants, along with additional refugees from the 1967 War, they now constitute  
a refugee population estimated near five million. Palestinian refugees have often faced discrimination and exclusion in their host states. There is disagreement about what conditions are necessary to end a person’s refugee status, but citizenship in a state is typically a prerequisite. Where the Palestinian refugees ultimately obtain citizenship is one of the most contentious issues in the conflict. The official Israeli position is that  
there is no legal precedent requiring it to allow the refugees to return, and that it would jeopardize the Jewish character of the state, while most of the Arab host governments have denied the refugees citizenship and other rights claiming that doing so would absolve Israel of its responsibility for the situation.

**Refugee Camp**

Areas designated for shelter and humanitarian aid for refugees. Following the 1948 War, refugee camps for Palestinians were established in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria, including in the West Bank and Gaza. While once tent grounds, and originally intended to be temporary, over the decades the refugees have built up their camps, which can be hard to distinguish from the cities around them. UNRWA is responsible for certain services in the camps, such as education and social services while security is the domain of the host government or entity.

**Right of Return**

UN General Assembly Resolution 194, passed on December 11th, 1948, states that Palestinian Refugees “wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return.” Some argue that this resolution obliges Israel to respect a general right of Palestinian refugees from the 1948 War to return to Israel. Others claim that the language in the resolution does not obligate Israel to acknowledge a general right of return and that the resolution grants Israel significant discretion over who and how many refugees would be allowed to return - only after the conflict is peacefully resolved. This issue is highly politicized due to the fact that the refugee communities are often associated with some of the most radical trends among Palestinians and because of the impact a mass return of refugees would have on Israeli demography and the Jewish character of the State.

**Separation Barrier**

A barrier in the West Bank, often between areas where Palestinians live and the Green Line or Israeli settlements. Terms for the barrier vary, often with political implications. The most common term in Hebrew  
is “separation barrier/fence” (*geder ha-hafradah*) and Israelis often describe it as an anti-terrorist or security measure. Palestinians typically call it “the wall” (*al-jidaar*), and often criticize it as a land grab or an attempt to unilaterally set borders outside of negotiations.

**Settlements**

The term most commonly used for Israeli civilian communities inside the West Bank and, until 2005, Gaza. The Hebrew term is hitnachluyot (literally, “claiming one’s inheritance”). Israelis and Palestinians disagree about what constitutes a settlement. Furthermore, while Palestinians hold that international law prohibits all settlements, Israel holds that some of the settlements are legal. Some people reject this term, suggesting that the word “settlements” implies illegitimacy; the term is commonly used by the Israeli government in additional to United States officials and other international bodies.

**UN General Assembly Resolution 181**

Also known as the Partition Plan. A November 1947 proposal to partition the territory under the British Mandate for Palestine into two states, a Jewish State and an Arab State. The plan was never implemented: the 1948 War started soon after it was adopted.

**UN General Assembly Resolution 194**

A resolution passed in December 1948 during the 1948 War, calling on the involved parties to ensure certain protections. The most cited of its 15 articles call for free access to holy places, free access to Jerusalem, and for the return of refugees displaced by the conflict.

**UN OCHA**

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs was created in 1991 to facilitate consolidated responses to humanitarian crises arising from natural disasters and conflicts. Its various branches therefore serve as a liaison between the UN, humanitarian organizations and sometimes governments. The OCHA “oPt (occupied Palestinian territories)” branch was established in 2000 when violence between Israel and the Palestinians was escalating.

**UN Security Council Resolution 242**

A resolution passed in November 1967 concerning the outcome of the 1967 War. The Resolution calls for Israeli withdrawal and secure borders, but in ambiguous language that has prevented the sides from agreeing on how it should be implemented.

**UN Security Council Resolution 2334**

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, adopted in December 2016, condemns the “establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem.” The resolution passed in a 14-0 vote by members of the UN Security Council (UNSC); the United States, which has veto power, abstained.

**UNRWA**

The United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. Established by the UN in December 1949 following the 1948 War, UNRWA continues to provide education, health care, social services and other aid to approximately five million registered refugees in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. UNRWA is distinct from the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), established in December 1950, which is responsible for refugees from other conflicts.

**War of Independence**

Israel’s term for the 1948 war, indicating that Israel was established during and as a result of the war.

**West Bank**

One of the disputed areas in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The term “West Bank” was coined by the government of Jordan when it annexed the territory in 1948, and refers to its being the western shore of the Jordan River. Israel gained control over the West Bank in 1967. Today, the term is used as a neutral, geographically-based term to refer to the region.

**A SELECTION OF NEWS SOURCES ON THE CONFLICT**

One of the best ways to stay informed about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is by reading multiple news sources representing a variety of narratives, editorial positions and audiences. This list of 15 news sources includes Israeli, Palestinian, Palestinian-American, Jewish-American and Arab websites and newspapers.

We invite you to try reading a sampling of these outlets in order to expand your understanding of the diverse perspectives that exist among stakeholders in the conflict.

**Al Jazeera:** “A Doha-based broadcaster owned by the Al Jazeera Media Network, which is funded by the House of Thani, the ruling family of Qatar.”

**Al Quds:** “An independent pan-Arab daily newspaper, published in London since 1989 and owned by Palestinian expatriates.”

**Electronic Intifada:** “A not-for-profit, independent online publication which covers the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from a Palestinian perspective.”

**Jewish Daily Forward:** “An American newspaper published in New York City for a Jewish-American audience.” **Jerusalem Post:** “A broadsheet and online newspaper based in Israel. It appears in English and French.

Formerly regarded as left-wing, the paper underwent a noticeable shift to the right in the late 1980s.”

**Ma’an News Agency:** “A large wire service created in 2005 in the Palestinian territories. It is part of the Ma’an Network, a non-governmental organization media network created in 2002 in the Palestinian territories among independent journalists throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip.”

**Mondoweiss:** “A news website devoted to covering American foreign policy in the Middle East, chiefly from a progressive Jewish perspective... Its founder describes himself as a progressive and anti-Zionist.”

**Tablet:** “An online publication of Jewish life, arts, and ideas.”

**Times of Israel:** “An online newspaper published in English, Arabic, French and Chinese, which covers ‘developments in Israel, the Middle East and around the Jewish world’. In addition to publishing news reports and analysis, The Times of Israel hosts a multi-author blog platform.”

**Wafa News Agency:** “Also known as the Palestine News Agency and the Palestinian News & Info Agency, is the news agency of the Palestinian National Authority and was “the P.L.O.’s news agency” in the years before the formation of the PA.”

*The descriptions for all of these media sources are direct quotes from their Wikipedia articles. The descriptions are intended as a helpful tool in identifying what type of content you’re likely to encounter on each site. We encourage you to reflect on whether these descriptions match your own experiences of reading these sources.*