

## Attachment B: Timeline of the Three Monotheistic Religions

Early civilizations, such as those of ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome, invented numerous gods to worship. The idea of worshipping one god was started about 1900 BC by a man named Abraham, to whom Jews, Christians, and Muslims all trace their religious heritage. Each religion has its own holy book — the Torah, Bible, and Koran — which tells the same story of Abraham. Because God told Abraham that God would establish his covenant with Abraham’s descendents, each religion lays claim to the “Holy Land,” which is in the present-day country of Israel. Jews and Christians claim their heritage through Isaac, while Muslims claim their heritage through Ishmael. The Muslims conquered the Holy Land, which at the time was called Palestine, and lived there from about 900 until 1947, when the land was partitioned between the Jews and the Muslims. After the partitioning, a war was fought between the Muslims and the Jews. The Jews won, and Palestine ceased to exist as a country; the country of Palestine became known as Israel. The controversy in Israel has continued since 1947. The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) represents the destroyed nation of Palestine. They have a leader, Yasir Arafat, but they do not have any land/country named Palestine, as their historic territory is occupied by Israeli troops. The goal of the PLO is to reestablish a Palestinian state. Since 1993, the PLO has controlled the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank. They now want to control all of the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights. One reason the Taliban and many Muslim states are angry with the United States is because of the amount of economic aid the United States has given to Israel through the years, which they say has enabled the Jews to hold on to Israel. They are also angry that the United States went into Saudi Arabia in 1991 and desecrated their Holy Land. Most recently the PLO has not been as militant as it once was. It does not condone the actions of 9/11/01.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Tora (Judaism)</b>	<b>Bible (Christianity)</b>	<b>Koran (Islam)</b>
1900 BC	Abraham journeys from Ur, in present-day Iraq, to the Promised Land, Canaan (Israel), with his wife Sarah and her handmaiden Hagar. Ishmael is born to Hagar. Isaac is born to Sarah.	Same as Tora	Ishmael is sent into the Arabian desert.
Time of the Patriarchs	<u>Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob</u> Jacob, son of Isaac, has 12 sons: 10 by Leah and 2 by Rachel. The two by Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin. Joseph is taken to Egypt and put in prison, where he wins the favor of the Pharaoh by interpreting dreams. He predicts a famine, which comes true, and is given a high position in the Egyptian government. The famine and the desire to reunite with Joseph eventually causes the 12 tribes of Israel to move to Egypt, where they are enslaved.	Same as Tora	<u>Abraham and Ishmael</u> Ishmael grows up around the present site of Mecca. The Islamic holy book, the Koran, describes how God cared for them. The Koran tells that Abraham visited Ishmael in the desert.
1200 BC	Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt. Joshua leads the Israelites back to Canaan (Israel) where they have to fight to regain the “promised land.”	Same as Tora	
538 BC	The Persian conquerors of Babylon allow Jews to return to Jerusalem. Many return, but some stay in Babylon	Same as Tora	
63 BC	The Romans take Jerusalem and control Palestine, but they allow religious freedom.	Same as Tora	
4 BC	Jesus is born.	Jesus is born (later to be crucified and rise from the dead). Christianity and the Christian Church is born.	

135 AD	Jews are exiled into other regions particularly Eastern and Western Europe. This migration to Europe was the beginning of a large Jewish population in western Europe in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century.		
313 AD		Roman Emperor Constantine, the first Christian ruler, establishes religious tolerance and accepts Christianity	
570 AD			Muhammad is born in Mecca.
619 AD			Muhammad establishes the Islamic faith. Holy cities of Islam are Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem.
632 AD			Muhammad dies. Islam is spread throughout much of the Middle East and North Africa.
687 AD			Dome of the Rock, a Muslim Mosque, is built on the site where the Temple of Solomon stood. This site is sacred to all three religions.
1099 AD			Muslims lose the Holy Land to the Christians.
1187 AD		Christians lose the Holy Land to the Muslims.	Muslims recapture Jerusalem and remain in Palestine until after WWII (1948).

1945	The Arab League is established: its members pledge cooperation to prevent a Jewish state in Palestine. World War II ends, leaving European Jewry decimated from the Holocaust. Displaced Jews want their ancestral home returned.
1947	The UN votes in favor of partitioning Palestine. Palestine is divided into Jewish, Arab, and international areas (city of Jerusalem)
1948	State of Israel is proclaimed (recognized by the USSR and U.S.) Egypt and Jordan attack Israel. Results: Israel wins three-fourths of Palestine; Egypt and Jordan divide the rest of Palestine. Palestine ceases to exist.
1964	Palestinian Liberation Organization is established with Yasir Arafat as leader. The goal of the PLO is to destroy Israel. PLO terrorism begins.
1967	Six Day War. Israel occupies the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and Jerusalem.
1973	Egypt and Syria attack Israel. Israel wins Sixteen Day War. Arab embargo on oil forces gasoline prices to increase.
1978	Israel invades Lebanon.
1978	Camp David Accords settle the issue between Egypt and Israel.
1979	Shah leaves Iran and Khomeini takes over.
1979	U.S citizens in Iran are seized and become hostages. Attempt by President Carter to rescue them fails.
1980	Iran-Iraq war begins.
1981	Hostages in Iran are freed after Reagan becomes president.
1983	241 Marines are killed in suicide bombings in Beirut, Lebanon.
1986	U. S bombed Libya.
1988	Palestinians National Council states they were willing to negotiate for a Palestinian state in the Israeli-occupied territories. Israel agrees to negotiate but wants a unified Jerusalem.
1988	PanAm flight 103 explodes over Lockerbee, Scotland — terrorist activity
1991	War in the Gulf — world coalition against Iraq
1993	World Trade Center towers in NYC bombed by terrorists
1998	American embassies in Tanzania and Kenya bombed by terrorists
2000	USS Cole off cost of Yemen bombed by terrorists
9/11/2001	World Trade Center towers destroyed and Pentagon attacked by terrorists

