



JNF: A Pillar of Israeli Apartheid

Timeline

1884

Prof Hermann Schapira proposes a “body that would redeem the land of Israel from foreigners in order to turn it into a national acquisition that would not be for sale but would rather be for leasehold only.”

1901

The Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) is established at the Fifth Zionist Congress; it starts to purchase land for Jewish people only in Palestine (then under Ottoman rule).

1917

Balfour Declaration – Britain declares support for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine.

1922

After dissolution of the Ottoman Empire at the end of WW1, British Mandate over Palestine is established, supporting the implementation of the Balfour Declaration.

1930

Hope Simpson Report cautions the British government against KKL-JNF exclusivist land policies.

1932-1948

Yossef Weitz (pictured) is the director of KKL-JNF’s Land Settlement Department.



Late 1930s

KKL-JNF Village Files are largely in place: a road map for ethnic cleansing which took place during the Nakba (1947-49).

1937

Weitz speaks explicitly of forcible “transfer” of Palestinians, as a land-acquisition strategy.

1940

Weitz: “There is no way but to transfer the Arabs from here to the neighbouring countries, to transfer all of them... not one village must be left... for this goal funds will be found.”

1947

UN partition plan passed. Britain is to withdraw from Mandatory Palestine.

Weitz, member of the Consultancy (Ben Gurion’s inner circle), encouraged transfer as “the cornerstone of Zionist policy”.

Weitz is sanctioned by the consultancy to form the Transfer Committee planning the ethnic cleansing tactics adopted by Zionist militias.

1948

The state of Israel is established, during the Nakba, at the end of which over 750,000 were ethnically cleansed from 531 villages.



1949

Resolution 194 enshrines the Palestinian Right of Return. Israel acts to offload stolen land to the KKL-JNF and others, thwarting this right.

1950s

KKL-JNF begins to create parks and forests on ethnically cleansed land.

1953

Land Acquisition (Validation of Acts and Compensation) Law retrospectively tries to legitimise some of the acts undertaken during and following the war, e.g. the transfer of ethnically cleansed village land to the KKL-JNF.

Keren Keyemeth Le Israel Law recognises the KKL-JNF for its “public utility” and formally links it to the new State of Israel.

1960

The Basic Law: Israel Lands incorporates Jewish exclusivity into land laws. All lands held by the Development Authority, the state and the KKL-JNF, cannot be sold.

Memorandum of Association of the KKL-JNF cements the relationship between the KKL-JNF and state.

Following this, a Covenant between the state and KKL-JNF gives KKL-JNF close to 50% representation on the Israel Land Council (ILC), governing the use of 93% of the land inside the Green Line. Thus, the KKL-JNF becomes a parastatal agent of Israel.

1967 and after

Israel occupies more Palestinian land, including the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza and the Syrian Golan Heights. KKL-JNF acquires more land. Canada Park is built over Palestinian villages of Imwas, Yalo and Beit Nuba. Zochrot tells us that KKL-JNF parks cover 86 ethnically cleansed villages.

2004 and 2007

Adalah challenges the KKL-JNF through the Israeli courts. KKL-JNF spells out its ideology of ethnic exclusivity.

2008

A legally binding agreement spells out the terms of collaboration between KKL-JNF and JNF UK – formally separate but functionally integrated bodies.

2011

Prawer Plan seeks to evict Bedouin and to move 1 million+ Israeli Jews to Naqab and Galilee.

Admissions Committees Law controls who can live in new towns, effectively applying selection by ethnicity criteria in areas where JNF UK are active.

2014

JNF UK donates £115K to the “Gaza War effort,” Israel’s 51-day aerial bombardment and ground invasion of Gaza which killed 2,200.

2018

Israeli legislation elevates discrimination to constitutional level, underscoring the inappropriateness of charitable investment there. (*The Basic Law: Israel – the Nation State Law* and the defeat in the Knesset of Basic Law: Equality).

2019

JNF’s 2040 plan seeks to provide infrastructure support



for moving 1.5 million people to Naqab and Galilee.

2020

Himnuta, the KKL-JNF proxy, links with settler group Elad to forcibly remove Palestinians in East Jerusalem, including Silwan.

2021

Avraham Duvdevani appointed global chair of KKL-JNF; announces plans to openly acquire land in the West Bank, without the use of subsidiaries or intermediaries.

Get involved!

Find out more and endorse the call to action on the Stop the JNF website: <https://stopthejnf.org>