

and the establishment of the city of Jerusalem as a *corpus separatum* under a special regime to be administrated by the United Nations.⁹

The British then totally withdrew from Palestine in May 15, 1948, and handed over the establishment of the Israeli State on May 14, 1948. On the departure of British forces, a new phase of Arab-Israeli conflict occurred in which the Palestinian got the support from neighboring Arab countries to their struggle. In the war of 1948, the Jews managed to annex seventy eight per cent of the land while the remaining twenty two percent was left for the Arabs.¹⁰

The war of 1948 was really devastating especially for the Palestinians because the Israelis had since embarked on a policy of ousting them their own territories. Many were in dispersion into Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq. This resulted in the problem of Palestinian refugees in the United Nations where the number nowadays is near 15 million, and still remains as unresolved problem.¹¹

During the inter-war period of 1948-1967, the Arab Palestinians vigorously supported Gamal Abdul Naseer and his Arab nationalism; looking assertively for the Arab support in their struggle. The rise of Naseer at this stage really enhanced tension among the Israeli as well as among the Great Powers who viewed him as a potential threat to their strategic interest in the Middle east, particularly after the latter nationalization of the Suez Canal in 1956. This led to the Suez invasion of October-November 1956, coordinated by Great Britain, France and Israel, and which sought to punish and eliminated Naseer.¹² By this invasion, it is clear that Britain once again played a major role in the politics of the Middle East as well as in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and, far worse, they conspired

9. John Norton Moore, op. cit., pg.311.

10. Ian J. Bickerton and Carla L. Klausner, A Concise History of Arab Israeli Conflict, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1995, p. 95.

11. Ismail Raji Al-Faruqi, Islam and the Problem of Israel, London: Islamic Council of Europe, 1980, pp. 68-71.

12. Op. cit., pg.123.