

The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-1949

(Cambridge Middle East Library)

Benny Morris (1987)

UEA HV640.5.A6 MOR

Contents

Acknowledgements page vi

Abbreviations vii

Map 1 The United Nations Partition Plan, November 1947 ix

Map 2 Arab settlements abandoned in 1948-9 x

Map 3 Jewish settlements established in 1948-9 xii

Introduction 1

1. Background 4

2. The first wave: the Arab exodus, December 1947 - March 1948 29

3. The second wave: the mass exodus, April-June 1948 61

4. Deciding against a return of the refugees, April-December 1948 132

5. Blocking a return 155

6. The third wave: the Ten Days (9-18 July 1948) and the Second Truce (18 July - 15 October) 197

7. The fourth wave: the battles and exodus of October-November 1948 217

8. Clearing the borders: expulsions and population transfers, November 1948 - July 1949 237

9. Solving the refugee problem, December 1948 - September 1949 254

Conclusion 286

Appendix I: The number of Palestinian refugees 297

Appendix II: Biographical notes 299

Notes 303

Bibliography 365

Index 371

Back cover

'Mr Morris ... is a rare combination of journalist and painstaking research historian, whose thorough use of Israeli, British and American archives - many of the materials unavailable until now has enabled him to present a definitive history of his subject.'

The New York Times Book Review

'.. The most comprehensive and detailed study yet published on the Palestinian refugees.' *The Economist*

'.. a book of extraordinary power and integrity . . . Benny Morris takes that great tale of flight and conquest and tells it as it has never been told before: with precision and moral economy, with awesome detail and honesty, drawing from recently declassified archival and private papers.' Fouad Ajami in *The Washington Post*

'In page after page crammed with hard data and play-by-play descriptions of what was going on in each period - December 1947 to March 1948, April to June 1948- . . . Morris details the bloody conflict between Arabs and Jews and what was going on behind the lines. He takes us back, into offices of the Arab League and the Haganah, into the councils of the National Committees set up in Arab towns, into meetings of the Jewish Agency and, later, the fledgling Israeli government.' *The Christian Science Monitor*

'This latest addition to the Cambridge Middle East Library is a book of exceptional importance It will be required reading for anyone who professes a serious interest in the Arab-Israeli Conflict over Palestine. Its conclusions, which invalidate many of the assumptions commonly made about the origins of the conflict, need to be taken into account in any attempt to devise a solution to it. *Arab Affairs*

'This excellent myth-debunking book... deserves a wide readership among those who want to understand what has happened in Israel over the last 40 years rather than repeat discredited propaganda which serves only to prolong the war.' *The Spectator*

Benny Morris. This book is the first full-length study of the birth of the Palestinian refugee problem. Based on recently declassified Israeli, British and American state and party political papers and on hitherto untapped private papers, it traces the stages of the 1947-9 exodus against the backdrop of the first Arab-Israeli war and analyses the varied causes of the flight. The Jewish and Arab decision-making involved, on national and local levels, military and political, is described and explained, as is the crystallisation of Israel's decision to bar a refugee repatriation. The subsequ