

At the end of the armed hostilities and subsequent ceasefire talks in 1949, mandatory Palestine was divided into three separate political entities with the following areas:

	<u>Square Kilometers</u>	<u>Percent of total</u>
Israel	20,258 ¹	77.3
West Bank	5,572 ²	21.3
Gaza Strip	362 ³	1.4

The area of the West Bank, as reported above, includes the area of East Jerusalem (67 square kilometers) which was annexed to Israel two weeks after occupation.⁴

In June 1967 Israel achieved a major victory in a brief war with Syria, Jordan and Egypt. In the aftermath of that war, Israel was able to stretch its borders considerably by occupying the Golan Heights, the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula. The new ceasefire lines encompassed an area of 89,359 square kilometers,⁵ which is more than four times larger than the area of pre-67 Israel (see Map No 2).

Topography

The West Bank consists of two major topographic regions: the Palestinian Hills and the Jordan Valley. The Hill Region extends from Jenin in the north to Hebron in the south (see Map No 3).

1. Statistical Abstract of Israel, (Jerusalem: Central Bureau of Statistics, 1980) p 16.
2. Ibid.
3. Census of Population, 1967 - West Bank and Gaza Strip, (Jerusalem: Central Bureau of Statistics, Publication No 1) p ix.
4. Census of Population and Housing, 1967 - East Jerusalem, (Jerusalem: Central Bureau of Statistics) p xi.
5. The Statesman Yearbook 1979-80, (London: The Macmillan Press), p 711.

Map No (2)

PALESTINE

Partition Plan

Post 1967 War

