

Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (P.L.O.)

Early Years:

- Arafat was born in Cairo, Egypt in 1929.
- Mother died in 1933 when he went to live with his Uncle in Jerusalem
- Would return to Cairo in 1937 to live with his father – not close.
- Back in Cairo he worked at moving weapons to Palestine to help the Palestinians who were resisting Jewish and British rule.
- Left University of Cairo in 1948 to fight with the Palestinians against the Israeli's during the 1948 War.

Fatah:

- Created the Al-Fatah network in 1958 which called for armed resistance against Israel.
- 1964, founded the PLO, a collection of six organizations to combat Israeli rule in Palestine.
- With Israel's success in 1967 with the 6-Day War, Arafat's Fatah seized control of the PLO.
- Became chairman of the PLO in 1969
- Moved PLO to Jordan, overstayed his welcome and King Hussein kicked him out. Set-up in Lebanon.
- From here, they carried out a campaign of violence against Israelis in Israel, as well as abroad, including the killing of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games.
- PLO was driven out of Lebanon in the early 1980's – Arafat adapted and organized the Intifada ("tremor") against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (where many Palestinian refugees were living).

Change for Arafat:

- Arafat would be invited to speak to the UN General Assembly in New York City in 1988. His speech stated that all warring parties could live together in peace.

- 1993 Oslo Accords – allowed for Palestinian self-rule and free elections in the Palestinian territory (Arafat elected President).
- 1994 received the Nobel Peace Prize along with Israel's Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.
- Accords were never brought into effect.
- 1997-2002 – many other road maps to peace agreed upon that were never realized.

Later Years:

- After declaring a 2nd Intifada in 2000, and the Spt. 11th terrorist attacks, Israel confined Arafat to his headquarters in Ramallah.
- October 2004, became ill with flu like symptoms, was flown to Paris where he died on November 11th.
- Nov. 2013 report by Switzerland has argued that Arafat may have been poisoned. Testing of his exhumed body and possessions came back with a possible match to radioactive polonium – however Russian medical examiners have claimed that he died of a virus.