

The Economic Conditions of Palestine

Dr. S.M.M. Ismail

Head, Department of Social Sciences - SEU/SE

Palestine historic region on the Eastern Shore of the Mediterranean Sea, comprising parts of Modern Israel, Jordan, and Egypt; also palestine known as the Holy land. This article discusses the physical geography, and history in shortly and economy in lengthy. Palestine historically and religiously important place for Muslims because Majsjidul Aqsa is the traditional site of Prophet Mohammad's ascent to haven. Palestine comprises three geographic zones; a part of the great rift vally, a ridge, and a coastal plain the earliest known settlements in Palestine, e.g, Jericho, may date from 8000 BC An independent Hebrew kingdom was established 1000 BC after 950 BC this kingdom broke up into two states. Israel and Judah Assyrian, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, and Romans in turn conquered Palestine, which fell to the Muslim Arabs by AD 640.

The area was the focus of the crusades in 12th century. By the middle of 20th century, Zionism arose with the aim of establishing a Jewish homeland in Palestine and during world was I the British, who captured the area appeared to support this goal. After the League of Nations approved (1922) the British mandate of Palestine, Jews immigrated there in large numbers despite Arab of position there was tension and violence between Jews and Arabs. British unable to resolve the problem, turned (1947) the Palestine question over to the United Nation. Now, Palestine territory divided in to two parts: west Bank and Gaza strip.

West Bank, territory between Israel and Jordan, Located west of the Jordan River and the Dead sea, 2165 sq. mi (5607 sq. km),



occupied by Israel since the Arab – Israeli war of 1967. Many Israelis refer to it as Judaea and Samaria. It includes the main cities of Hebron, Bethlehem, Jenin, Tubas, Tulkaram, Qalqilya, Salfit, Nablus, Ramallah, Jerusalem and Jericho. After the Partition of Palestine and the formation (1948) of Israel, the territory was annexed (1950) by Jordan. Following the 1967 war, the United Nations security council called for Israel's withdrawal from west bank. The Camp David accords (1978) incorporated plans for Arab self – rule in the region. A peaceful resolution, however, was impeded by the establishment of Israeli settlements in the area by Israeli. PLO hostility (Arab States, including Jordan, recognized the Palestine liberation organization as the sole representative of the west Bank Arabs in 1974).

A 1993 accord between Israel and the PLO led to limited Palestine self – rule in Jericho and the Gaza Strip in mid 1994 an interim agreement in 1995 called for the extension of self – rule to and the withdrawal of most Israeli forces from, all Arab cities and villages in the west Bank (except East Jerusalem) in 1996. Much of this had been accomplished when increased tensions between Israel and the Palestinians put the agreement in jeopardy. However, most of Hebron was turned over to Palestinian control in 1997. Yasir Arafath was elected president of the Palestinian government in 1996. A 1998 accord called for further territorial handover, although those wave delays, this was accomplished by March 2000. Later that year, however, stalled negotiation ultimately led to a new cycle of violence and, in 2002, the reoccupation of west Bank towns by Israel.

Gaza Strip, Coastal region of the middle east 140 sq mi (370 sq km), on the Mediterranean sea, adjoining Egypt and Israel Densely populated and impoverished, it is mainly inhabited by Palestinian refugees. There is also a small minority of Israeli settlers. It includes the main cities of Gaza, Khangunis, North Gaza, Deir Al – Balah and Rafah, The strip was part of the British mandate for Palestine from 1917 to 1948, passed to Egyptian control in 1949, and has been occupied by Israel Since the 1967



Arab – Israeli war. Autonomy for the region, promised by the Camp David accords (1978) has yet to be granted. The Palestinian uprising (intifada) began in Gaza in 1987; the area has been the scene of renewed violence since 2000. A 1993 accord between Israel and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) resulted in limited Palestinian self-rule in the area in mid – 1994, but the Palestinian National Authority in Gaza has been undermined by conflict with both Israel and Hamas, which is especially strong there.

Population the Palestinian territories population in 2002 is estimated at 3419100, the west bank 2227000 and Gaza strip 1192100. In Palestine the inhabitants are mostly Muslim Arab Palestinians and few number of Jordanians, other Arabs and other Nationalities living. More than half of the total population under 15 years. The gender ratios or the number of males more than females population. (Males 1800350, females 1618750) law participation rate of most of the working populations are unemployed. Nearly 100,000 palestine workers are working in the territories in Israel. In Israel several Industries depended on Palestinians Labourers, especially construction and agriculture Large number of Palestinian population working in middle east are confuse when we analyzing the agriculture sector of Palestine the following information will be made known.

Agriculture: Agriculture is one of the Sector in the Palestinian economy, the north part of the Palestinian land is fertile and southern part of territory largely barren land. Although the total land area of Palestine is comparatively small. There are important and striking differences in land use and cropping, patterns because of natural climatic and socio – economic conditions, In Palestine lack of water is major problem. Still they are using very ancient system of Irrigation. The major agricultural crops in Palestine is Olives, fruit citrus and vegetables.

Enterprises: When we take Palestine enterprises in consideration the following facts will revealed. There are no big scale Industries or busi-



ness establishment besides in palestine there are the following economic activities taking place.

Number of Persons Engaged	Economic Activity	Number of Enterprises
65569	Industrial activities	14605
3362	Construction sector	356
82488	Internal Trade	38530
43427	Services Activities	12223
4760	Transport, Storage of Communication Actives	479
203006	Total	66193

As for as the Palastine is concerned tourism has because a important venture in earning foreign Exchange. This is because the palastine has become an important place of Muslims historical Pilgrimage. Besides the Dead Sea is also bordering Palestine. Most of the tourists are in tested in visiting Dead Sea as it is of medical health importance. Wonders of the Dead Sea is high salinity of the water, provides swimmers with natural buoyancy without any efforts; Dead sea is very rich in minerals that one used worldwide as skincare and heath products. Main trade pertness of Palestine are,

When we consider the financial passion of Palestine the following facts will be made known.

01. No proper tax system.
02. They are dependent on foreign aid.
03. Though few Banks and serving institution established after 1994
04. Inflation rate is very high
05. Palestinian currency call lira, It was introduced after 1994.



In Palestine Non governmental organizations are taking important role in the peoples daily activities. Mainly provide primary and secondary education, took part in ongoing health services, in welfare services, and other human needs.

There were several reasons fro the under development of the economy of palestine they are listed below:

01. War economy
02. The lack of Investment
03. Insufficient investment in Infrastructure
04. Administration hurdles set by Israeli Authorities.
05. The lack of banking and saving system.
06. Political Uncertainties.
07. the Lack of Proper legal system
08. The Lack of Communication services.
09. The Lack of water resource.
10. The Poor Health Services.
11. The Education do not come close to standard in middle income countries.

It is very difficult to collect detailed information about Palestine Economy due to frequent war struggle among the people who are still fighting for separate State. However I have collected few facts and fingers to the best of my knowledge.