

# THE MYTH OF OCCUPTION

Fact: Israel Does Not Occupy Arab Land



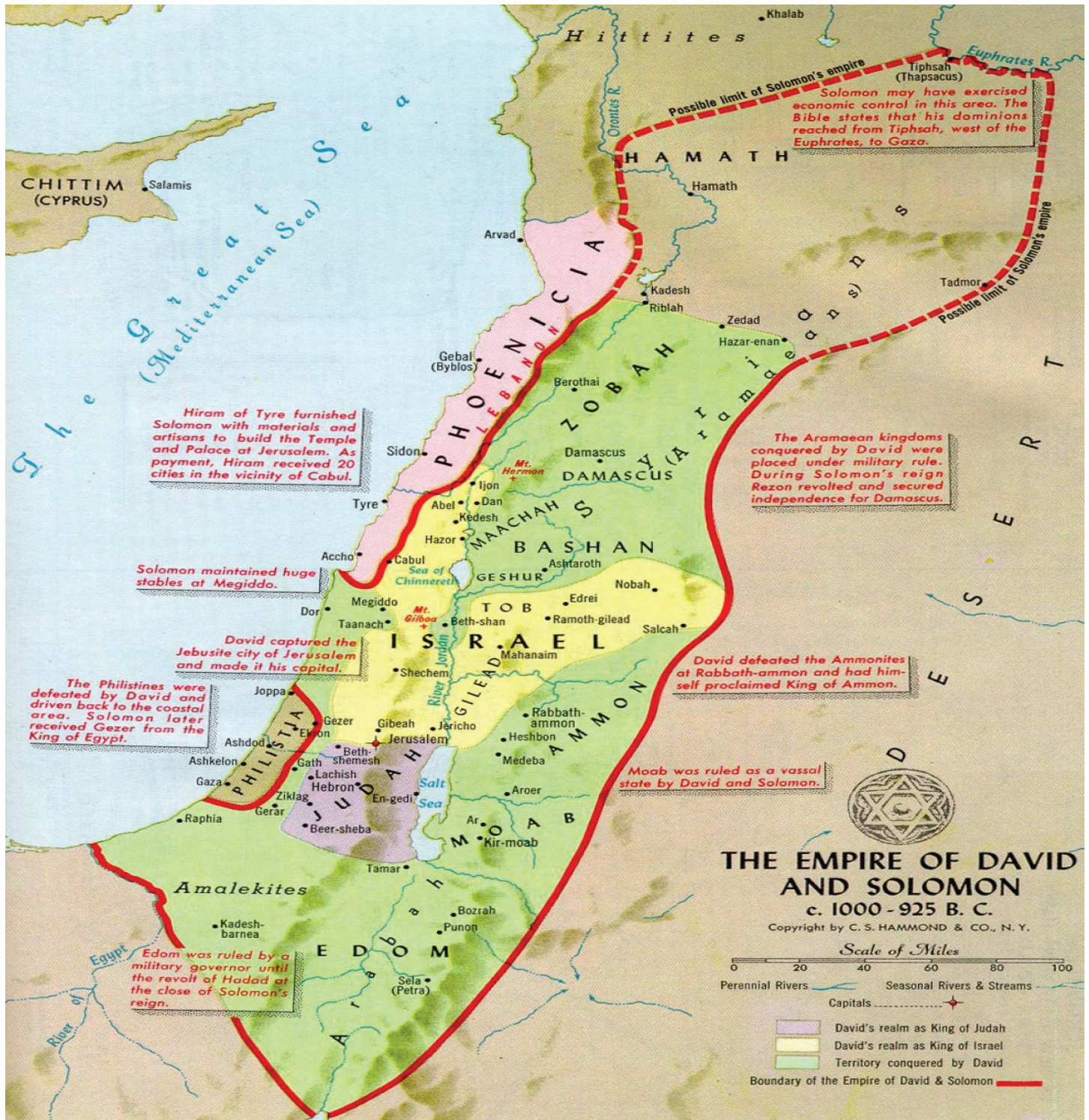
*Founded 1897*



Jews are the indigenous people of Israel, including Judea/Samaria and Jerusalem.

The word "Jew" comes from "Judea"—because this is where the Jewish people lived (Jordan renamed Judea/Samaria "the West Bank").

Jewish kings and kingdoms reigned in Jerusalem Judea/Samaria for hundreds of years (c. 1020 BCE - 597 BCE).



Jews were the largest religious group in Jerusalem since at least the first census in 1844.

Jerusalem is mentioned almost 700 times in Judaism's holy books. Jerusalem is *never* mentioned in Islam's holy book, the Koran.

For millennia, Jews pray for Jerusalem every day and pray facing Jerusalem. Muslims pray facing Mecca, and have no prayers for Jerusalem.

For over 3,000 years, there was always a Jewish presence in Israel, even after conquests and dispersions of the Jewish people.



Jews at Western Wall by Felix Bonfils, 1870s

Some of the many notable events in Jewish history in Israel, include:

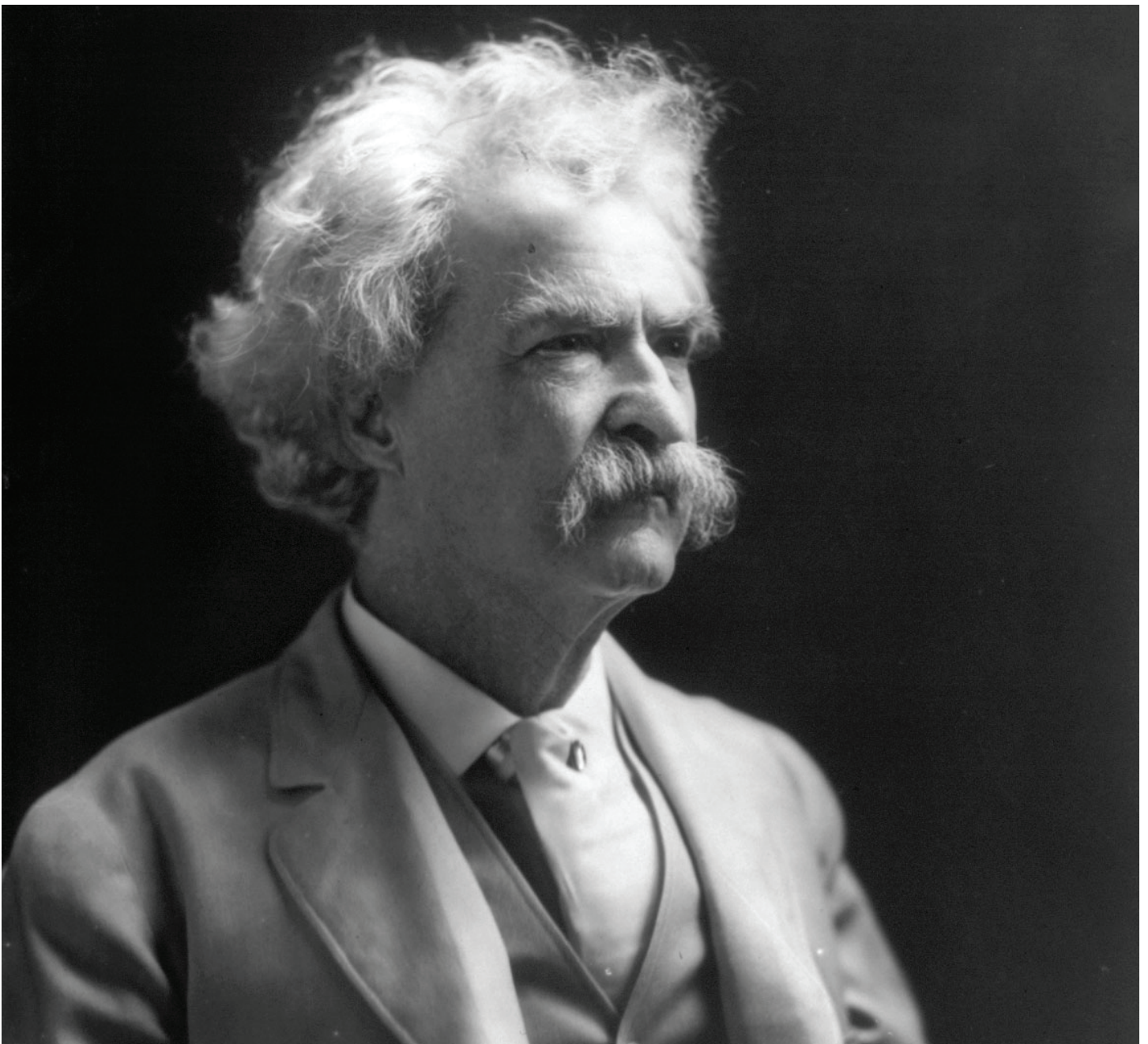
- Jewish patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) and matriarchs settle in Israel and are buried in Hebron, Israel - site of the world's oldest and virtually continuous Jewish community (17th century BCE)
- Exodus from Egypt to Israel (13th century BCE)
- First Temple period (c. 960-586 BCE)
- Building of the Second Temple in Jerusalem after Jews exiled to Babylon in 586 BCE were permitted to return to Israel by Persian King Cyrus (538-515 BCE)
- Second Temple period (538 BCE - 70 CE)
- 25-year-long Maccabean revolt, from bases in Beit El, in Judea (167-142 BCE)
- Maccabees rededicate the Second Temple in Jerusalem (164 BCE)
- Age of the Tanaim (great teaching rabbis, including R. Akiva) (100-200 CE)
- Bar Kochba revolt (132-135 CE)
- Jewish oral law (Mishna) written down in the Galilee, Israel (170-200 CE)
- Jerusalem Talmud is written in Tiberias, Israel (4th century CE)
- After fleeing from Spain, famed Torah scholar Nachmanides (Ramban) builds synagogue and sets up yeshiva in Jerusalem, leads the synagogue in Akko, Israel, and dies in Israel (1267-1270 CE)
- Ramban synagogue is moved to the Old City, Jerusalem (1270 CE) and actively used for hundreds of years afterwards • Jewish community in Sfat, Israel thrives (14th century onwards) and becomes the cradle of Jewish mysticism, Kabbalah (beginning in the 16th century)
- Still standing, active synagogues are constructed in Sfat (beginning in the 15th century)
- Rabbi Joseph Caro writes and publishes the influential Code of Jewish law (Shulchan Aruch) in Sfat, Israel (16th century)
- First Hurva Synagogue is built in Jerusalem (1700) and then destroyed by Muslims (1720)
- Second Hurva synagogue is built (in 1864), becomes a center of Jerusalem's Jewish Quarter, and then is blown up by the Jordanians in 1948.

There was never a Palestinian Arab state or kingdom in Israel, Jerusalem or Judea/Samaria. Ever.

Palestine was a region, not a country. The Romans renamed the area "Palestina" after Israel's enemies, the Philistines, who were not Arabs.

Israel fell into desolation under Ottoman rule (1517-1917), and was sparsely populated then.

Mark Twain wrote in 1867 that Israel was a *"desolate country. . . We never saw a human being on the whole route. . . There was hardly a tree or a shrub anywhere."*



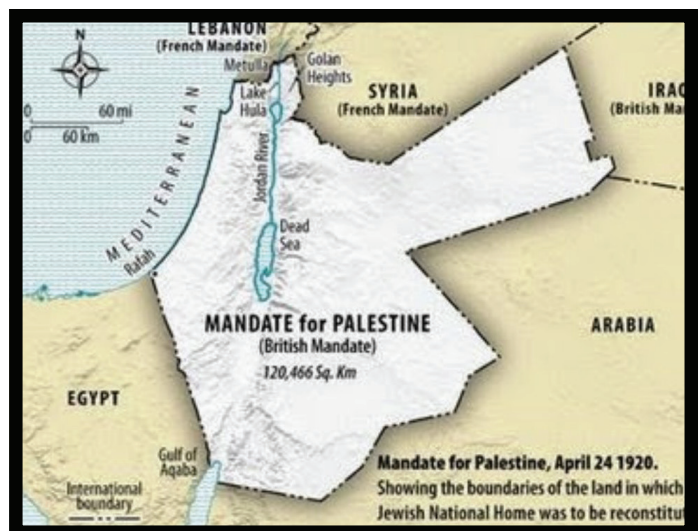
Famed American novelist Mark Twain

Until the late 1960s, the whole world understood that the word "Palestinian" meant Jew and that "Palestine" was the Jewish homeland.

The Israeli Jewish newspaper was called the "Palestine Post." The Israeli Jewish orchestra was called the "Palestine Orchestra." The American movement to reestablish the Jewish State was called the "American League for a Free Palestine." The Israeli Jewish hero of Exodus stated: *"I am a native-born Palestinian."*

Britain's Balfour Declaration (1917) and legally binding international treaties, including the League of Nations British Mandate for Palestine (1922), the San Remo Resolution (1920), Feisal-Weitzman Treaty (1919), the Anglo-American Treaty (1924, a U.S. treaty obligation), designated the area that is now Israel including Jerusalem and Judea/Samaria and present-day Jordan as a sacred trust for close Jewish settlement and reconstituting the Jewish homeland.

However, in 1922, Britain in essence lopped off 78% of the area legally designated for a Jewish homeland, to create Transjordan, later Jordan. The Jews were left with only 22% of the Mandate designated for the Jewish homeland.





Arab leader and Nazi collaborator Haj Amin al-Husseini (left) meeting with Adolf Hitler (right).

## DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1920s to 1940s, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Hitler collaborator Haj Amin al-Husseini, instigated anti-Jewish pogroms in Jerusalem, Hebron, Safed and Haifa, in which thousands of Jews were maimed and massacred.

In 1945, the United Nations adopted UN Charter Article 80, which preserved intact all rights granted to the Jewish people under the British Mandate for Palestine - even after the Mandate would expire in 1948. This meant that the area of present-day Israel (including Judea/Samaria) continued to be a sacred trust for close Jewish settlement and reconstituting the Jewish homeland. As legal scholar Howard Grief has explained, Article 80 prevents the UN from transferring rights over any part of Israel to any non-Jewish entity, such as the Palestinian Authority or a "Palestinian state."



In November 1947, the Arabs rejected the so-called "partition resolution" (UN General Assembly Resolution 181). UNGA Res. 181 contained a *non-binding recommendation* to partition the remaining 22% of the area legally designated for the Jewish homeland into Jewish and Arab states. (78% had already been given to Transjordan.) Arab rejection meant that the partition recommendation had no legal effect. **Instead of agreeing to divide up the Jewish homeland, the Arabs went to war to try to obliterate Israel and murder the Jews.**

In 1948, six Arab nations invaded the newly reestablished State of Israel. **Jordan captured and illegally occupied the eastern portion of Jerusalem** (the "Old City" including the Jewish quarter) and **Judea/Samaria for the next 19 years.**



Jewish girl, Rachel Levy, 7, fleeing from street with burning buildings as Arabs sack Jerusalem's Old City. (May 28, 1948)



**Jordan expelled, imprisoned, and murdered the Jewish residents of eastern Jerusalem (the Old City), destroyed 58 centuries-old synagogues, and vandalized the 3,000-year-old Jewish cemetery (the world's oldest and holiest Jewish cemetery) on the Mount of Olives in eastern Jerusalem.**



Jewish soldiers lying injured in hospital after Jordan captured the eastern portion of Jerusalem. (June 1948)

**During Jordan's 19-year illegal occupation of eastern Jerusalem and Judea/Samaria, Palestinian Arabs made no claim for a state. The 1964 Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Charter said the PLO *"does not exercise any territorial sovereignty over the West Bank or Gaza."***

**In 1967, Jordan attacked Israel again. In the ensuing defensive Six-Day War, Israel recaptured eastern Jerusalem and Judea/Samaria and Gaza, restoring Jewish sovereignty to reunified Jerusalem.**



Arabs looting and burning Jerusalem. (June 1948)

The so-called “pre-1967 lines” (a.k.a. “the green line” or “1949 Armistice lines” or indefensible “suicide lines”) are *not* binding internationally recognized borders. In 1949, Israel and its neighbors (which had tried to destroy Israel), signed armistice agreements establishing “armistice demarcation lines” at approximately the point where the fighting stopped after the 1948 Arab invasion of Israel.

The armistice agreements stated that the armistice lines were “without prejudice” to a future political settlement. Israel is not required to return to the tiny area within “pre-1967 lines.” After the 1967 Six Day War, UNSC Resolution 242 called for Israel to have “recognized and secure” borders, and did not call for Israel to surrender “all” lands captured in 1967.



Israeli paratroopers standing at the Western Wall after Israel recaptured the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, June 7, 1967.

## KEY FACTS:

- The 1949 armistice agreements stated that the armistice lines were “without prejudice” to a future political settlement.
- Israel is not required to return to the tiny area within “pre-1967 lines.”
- After the 1967 Six Day War, United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 called for Israel to have “secure and recognized” borders, and also did not call for Israel to surrender “all” the lands recaptured in 1967.
- The Levy Commission, headed by esteemed former Israeli Supreme Court Justice Edmund Levy, determined that after Israel regained the territories of Judea/Samaria that Jordan had illegally occupied from 1948 to 1967, “this restored the legal status of the territory to their original status: i.e., territory designated to serve as the national home of the Jewish people, which retained its “right of possession” during the period of Jordanian control, but was absent from the area for a number of years due to the war that was forced on it, but has since returned.”



**“There are some who have urged, as a single, simple solution, an immediate return to the situation as it was on June 4 [1967]. . . . [T]his is not a prescription for peace but for renewed hostilities.”**

United States President Lyndon Johnson, 1967



**“The development of the Jewish National Home in Palestine... is not the imposition of a Jewish nationality upon the inhabitants of Palestine as a whole, but the further development of the existing Jewish community... [T]he Jewish people... is in Palestine as of right and not on sufferance.”**

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, 1922

**There are 22 Arab states, covering vast lands.**

**The combined Arab states plus Iran are over 710 times larger than the tiny single Jewish state of Israel.**



Israeli Jewish communities (a/k/a “settlements”) comprise only about 2% of Judea/Samaria. Since 1993, construction has been within the bounds of existing settlements’ building lines. “Settlements” are not an “obstacle to peace.”

In 1988, Jordan relinquished any claims to Judea/Samaria and eastern Jerusalem. The 1994 Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty recognized the Jordan River as the international boundary.

The Oslo Accords (1993-1995), signed by the Palestine Liberation Organization, acknowledge Israel’s territorial jurisdiction over “settlements.” Oslo never spoke of a Palestinian Arab state.

Israeli Jewish community (a/k/a “settlement”) Ma’ale Adumim



**IT'S HIGH TIME TO END THE MYTH OF "OCCUPATION."**

In 1937, 1947, 2000 and 2008, **Palestinian Arabs rejected generous proposals to establish an Arab State** in portions of the area designated for the Jewish homeland. Instead, Palestinian Arabs **maintained their genocidal goal of destroying and replacing all of Israel**, and instituted **war, terror** and anti-Jewish **boycotts**.

The Palestinian Authority, Hamas and their supporters continue to perpetuate the myth of Israeli "occupation" as a pretext for **"justifying" terrorism, attempting to transform Arab terrorists into "freedom fighters," promoting violence over peace**, avoiding peace negotiations with Israel, promoting anti-Semitic boycotts, and ethnically cleansing all Jews from the sovereign Jewish lands that the Palestinian Authority and Hamas seek to seize.

**THE FACTS CLEARLY SHOW THERE IS NO "OCCUPATION."**

Contact ZOA's Center for Law and Justice at ZOA.org or 212 481-1500 if you need assistance with campus antisemitism or anti-Jewish boycotts.

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