Response To Common Inaccuracy: Palestinians and UN Partition Plan

Inaccuracy: The Palestinians were justified in rejecting the 1947 U.N. Partition Plan.

Response
The rejection of the Partition Plan in 1947 – the United Nations proposal to divide British-Mandate Palestine into a Jewish State and an Arab State with Jerusalem made an international city – by the Arab nations demonstrated an unwillingness to accept the existence of a Jewish state in the region.

Neither the Jews nor the Arabs were fully satisfied with the plan and there was much internal opposition. Giving the Jews only 12 percent of the land promised to them in the Balfour Declaration, and drawing borders for the new state which were virtually indefensible, the plan was a difficult compromise for many of the Jews of Palestine.

On the other side, the Arab nations desired full control over the land of Palestine and the Arab people in the region.

Yet, the Zionist leaders accepted the partition plan despite its less-than-ideal solution, understanding the need to compromise. It was the Arab nations who refused the plan, refused to accept the establishment of a Jewish state and gathered their armies to wage battle against Israel.
Had the Arabs accepted the plan in 1947 there would today be an Arab state alongside the Jewish State of Israel and the heartache and bloodshed that have characterized the Arab-Israeli conflict would have been avoided.