

Student Example

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Global Cultures

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### Al-Aqsa Intifada

The conflicts between Israel and Palestine have lasted for hundreds of years, and many people of this world worry if the fighting will ever stop. Documents have been signed, wars have been fought, laws have been made, yet problems between these two are still continuing. The Al-Aqsa Intifada is just one of the many historical events that has added onto the tension between these two countries. The purpose of this paper is to inform you about many past events leading up to the Al Aqsa Intifada, the initial stage of the Intifada and constant attacks that followed, and many attempts at peace and decrease of fighting.

The reunion of Israel and Palestine began with the Madrid Conference in 1991 and the Oslo Peace Accord signing on 13 September 1993 (Shattered Dreams of Peace). These historical events, along with other future agreements, were efforts by the Israelis and Palestinians to conquer their complications within each other after hundreds of years of fighting. On 28 September 2000 Ariel Sharon visited the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, and this was seen as an internal political move against Prime Minister Ehud Barak to many Israelis because the site is sacred to both Islamic and Jewish religions. Additionally, the Israelis received some assurances from the Palestinians that Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount would not cause violence. The following day many Palestine's threw stones at Jewish worshipers. Israeli police used rubber-coated metal bullets and live ammunition to scatter the protesters who were throwing

stones, and they killed four and wounded about two hundred Palestinians. After these demonstrations, more protests broke out across Israel, and the Second Intifada was born (Al Aqsa Intifada).

Demonstrations and protests were breaking out daily during the initial stage of the Al Aqsa Intifada. One that got attention from the media and infuriated Palestinian demonstrators was the killing of a twelve year old in Gaza on 30 September 2000, just days after the Al Aqsa Intifada officially began. Another lynching that was consistently broadcasted was the killing of two Israeli reservists on 12 October 2000. Many Israelis were convinced that the Palestinians carried a deep hatred of Jews as a result of this event (Shattered Dreams of Peace). According to the Mitchell Report, "Both sides have made clear a profound disillusionment with the behavior of the other in failing to meet the expectations arising from the peace process" (The Mitchell Report). Both Israel and Palestine are at fault for failing to keep peace with each other. Between September 2000 and January 2005, they continued to view the other as having acted in bad faith, and as having turned the hope of Oslo into the suffering and grief of victims. Many attempts at tranquility, including Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah's peace proposal, were made, yet nothing seemed to stop the rising rage between Israel and Palestine (Al Aqsa Intifada)

In February 2005, Mahmoud Abbas and Ariel Sharon met and decided to end the violence. In March 2005, a tahideya was agreed on, and this was seen as major progress even though it was not an official truce. Unfortunately, July 2005 brought on more fighting after a suicide bombing in Netanya. The Al Aqsa never officially ended, and many people debate whether events after February 2005 are considered part of this historical event (The Second Intifada and After). From September 2000 until February 2005, approximately 3,000-3,300

Palestinians and 950-1010 Israelis were killed. The Second Intifada has just added onto the damaged state these two countries are in (Al Aqsa Intifada).

The Al Aqsa Intifada was an uprising that caused intense violence between Palestine and Israel. Thousands of casualties occurred for these two countries between September 2000 and February 2005. This event, along with many others, has caused innocent people to become victims, and it has torn apart Palestine and Israel. Perhaps the Second Intifada will be one of the last major distractions for their relationship, and Israelis and Palestinians will someday see eye to eye.

## Work Cited

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