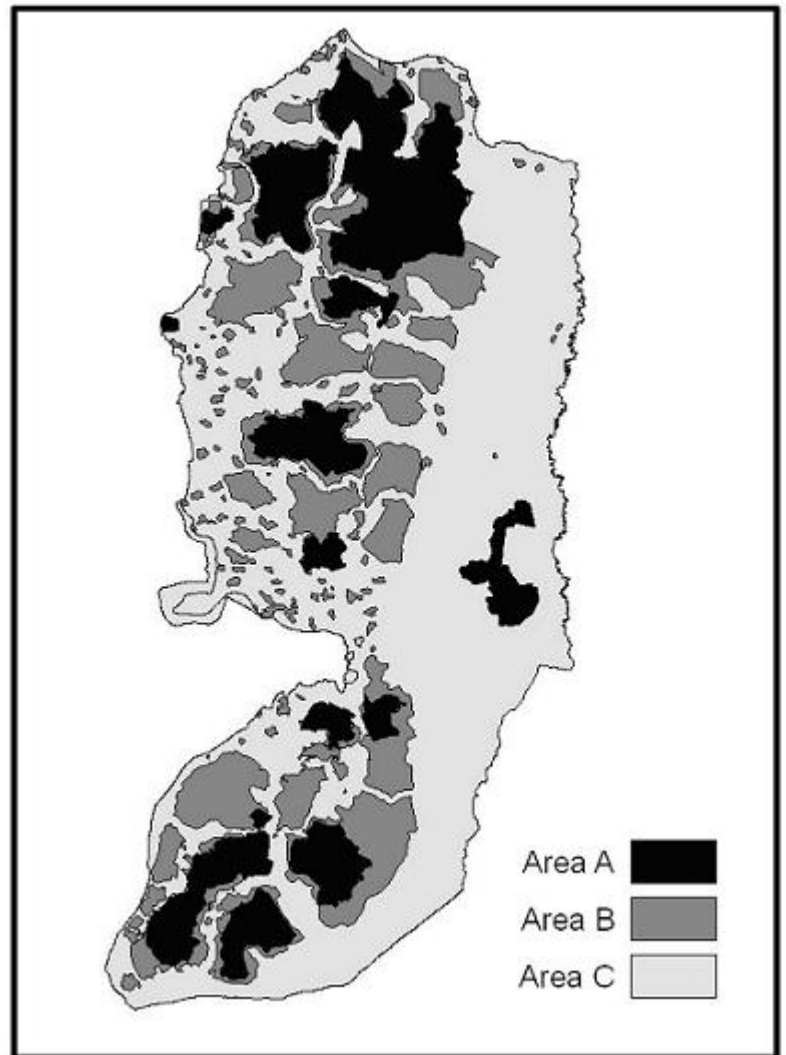


# Israeli settlements

“**Israeli Settlements**” are towns built by Israel on Palestinian land in the West Bank. Palestinian families may hold deeds to the land or the land is locally recognized as belonging to particular families. Israel began building settlements after the Six Day War in 1967 and has continued to expand them to this day.

Settlements are illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 49, which prohibits a country from moving its citizens onto land it occupies. By moving its own citizens to settlements in the West Bank—land which would become a Palestinian state—Israel undermines peace efforts.

- Settlers move to the West Bank for two reasons: 1) because they believe God has given them the land, 2) because private and government subsidies make this an inexpensive and attractive place to live.
- After the settlements are built—with housing, schools, recreation facilities, and parks—more land is confiscated to serve as buffer zones for security, for future expansion and for Israeli-only roads, constructed to facilitate travel between Israel and the settlements.
- Since 1967, Israel has established about 150 settlements in the West Bank, in addition to about 100 “outposts” erected without official Israeli authorization. There are now over 600,000 Israelis living in these settlements, continually changing the “facts on the ground”. 43% of the West Bank is now allocated to settlements.
- Israel has declared 27% of the West Bank to be “state land.” Virtually all of this land has been allocated to settlements, rather than for the benefit of the local Palestinian population.
- About one-third of the land within the outer limits of settlements is privately owned by Palestinians, according to Israeli land records.
- Approximately 540 internal checkpoints, roadblocks and other physical obstacles impede Palestinian movement within the West Bank; these obstacles exist primarily to facilitate settler movement.
- Israeli settlers in the West Bank consume six times the water used per person by Palestinians.
- Settlements limit the growth of Palestinian towns; Palestinians cannot get permits to build, even to remodel.
- Because daily life is a struggle, with settlements limiting growth of Palestinian towns and closing roads, Palestinian Christians fear that the Holy Land may soon be emptied of Christians.
- Settlements built on their land are an obstacle to ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land—schools and other institutions they have created to minister in their communities.



**MAP:** The 1995 Oslo interim agreement divided the occupied West Bank into Areas A, B, and C. Israel was to retain control over Area C—60% of the West Bank. **Area C** contains all Israeli settlements and substantial amounts of the West Bank's water sources, grazing and agricultural land, and the land reserves required for developing cities, towns, and infrastructure. The remaining **Areas A (Palestinian control) and B (Joint control)** are shown above. Almost all Palestinians are now limited to these areas, with very limited access between the areas. The interim agreement was intended to be temporary, leading to a Palestinian state within five years, but it still remains in effect.

Sources: [www.btselem.org](http://www.btselem.org) - [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)  
[www.peacenow.org.il/eng](http://www.peacenow.org.il/eng) - [www.elcjh.org](http://www.elcjh.org)  
[www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha\\_opt\\_settlements\\_factsheet\\_december\\_2012\\_english.pdf](http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_settlements_factsheet_december_2012_english.pdf)

**VOTE TO OPPOSE ISRAELI SETTLEMENT-BUILDING**

[www.Isaiah58.info](http://www.Isaiah58.info) ✦ Twitter: @Isaiah58ELCA  
✦ FB: @Isaiah58ELCA