Comparison for the 1947 Palestine Partition Plan and Israel's 1949 Armistice Lines

If the borders suggested by the UN for two states had been accepted, Israel would have comprised some 5,600 square kilometers less. Put differently, because the Independence War changed realities on the ground, the Jewish state of Israel increased in size from 14,900 square kilometers (as designated in the 1947 Partition Plan) to the 20,500 square kilometers established by the 1949 armistice lines. The first Arab-Israel war resulted in Israel expanding its size by 37% beyond the designated 1947 UN partition lines.

Under the 1947 UN Partition plan, the Jewish state was to be 14,900 square km; the Arab state 11,700 square km. When the war ended in 1949, the area held by Israel was 20,500 sq km (an increase of 37%); the area of the West Bank and Gaza was 5,500 sq km, a 50% decrease of the total land area that was to be the Arab state as proposed by the 1947 UN Partition plan.