

TRUTH RESTORED

Chapter One: The Map That Stole a Homeland

It began with a letter.

A single page from a British official, Lord Arthur Balfour, addressed not to the people of Palestine, but to a prominent Zionist leader in London. The Balfour Declaration of 1917 was only 67 words long — and yet, it planted the seed for one of the longest and most painful conflicts in modern history.

In those few lines, the British Empire pledged support for “a national home for the Jewish people” in a land where 96% of the population was not Jewish. The voices of the indigenous Palestinians — Muslims, Christians, and Jews alike — were not consulted. They were not counted. They were simply dismissed. That letter was not a beginning, but a betrayal. And it would not be the last.

Palestine was promised — but not to the people who lived there. In the decades that followed, waves of European settlers arrived under British protection. Land was purchased, villages were surveyed, and Zionist militias began to form. For the Palestinians, this was not the return of a long-lost people. It was the beginning of displacement, dispossession, and destruction.

Then came 1948.

The year Palestinians call al-Nakba — the Catastrophe. More than 750,000 people were expelled from their homes. Over 400 villages were destroyed. Families fled with only the clothes on their backs, believing they would return in days. They never did.

Their keys and deeds remain — passed from generation to generation — as silent proof of what was stolen. But the catastrophe never stopped.

The world watched as refugee camps became permanent. As Gaza was fenced, bombed, and blockaded.

As they continued to build and courts legalized what