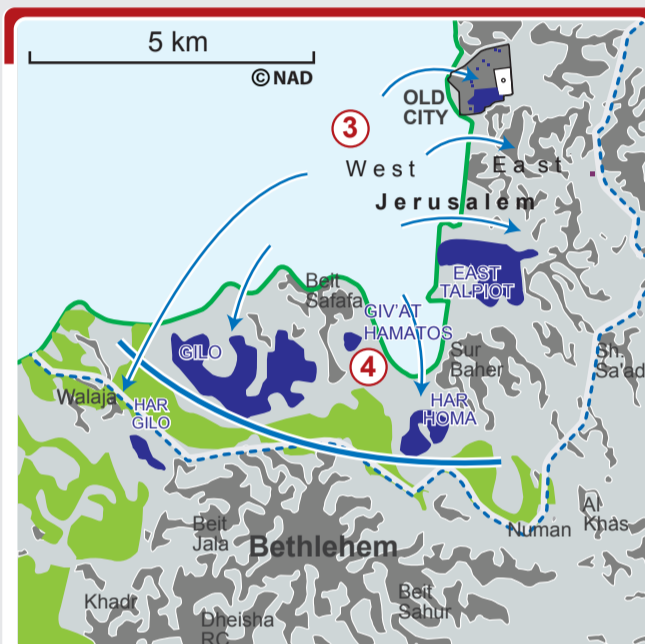
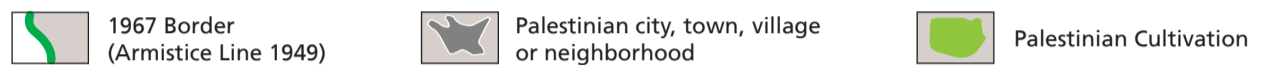


ENCIRCLING OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: CEMENTING ANNEXATION SOUTHWARD



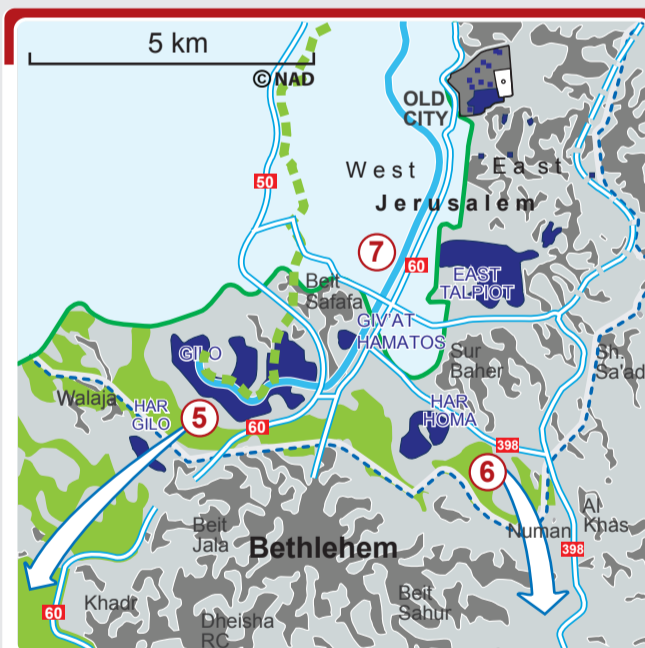
East Jerusalem & Bethlehem: A Natural Link

- 1 Bethlehem governorate spans 660km², with almost 90% agricultural land. This area includes the historic towns of Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, Al Khader, Battir, and Artas, in addition to Bethlehem City. This governorate is home to over 220,000 Palestinians, including 20,000 Palestinian refugees.
- 2 Bethlehem governorate is 6 kilometers south of Jerusalem's Old City. Historically, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Ramallah (located immediately north of Jerusalem) comprise an interdependent economic/cultural unit known as "Metropolitan East Jerusalem," accounting for 35% of all economic activity in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip combined.



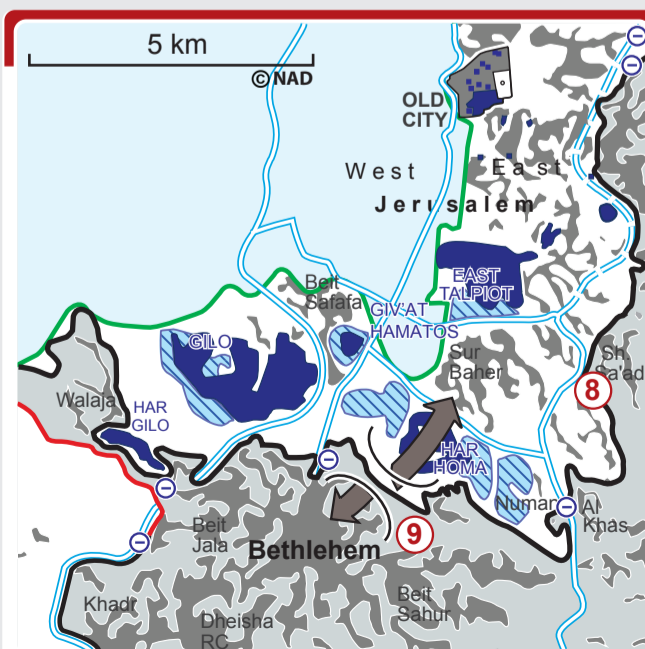
Israel's Colonial Settlements South of Jerusalem

- 3 Many of the largest illegal colonial settlement projects have been conducted between Bethlehem and Jerusalem since 1967, severing the link between the two cities and taking over Palestinian land and natural resources. In Bethlehem's northern area (including Beit Jala and Beit Sahour), Israel has illegally confiscated 18,000 dunums within the so-called boundaries of Israel's Jerusalem municipality for the purpose of expanding the settlements of Gilo, Giv'at Hamatos and Har Homa (population~60,000).
- 4 Once Giv'at Hamatos is expanded, this settlement would have a similar effect to the colonial project E1 expansion of the Ma'ale Adumin settlement. It would further isolate occupied Jerusalem, and Israel would have absolute territorial contiguity over the southern part of the occupied city. While the prospects of integrating Bethlehem with Jerusalem are already slim, the expansion of this settlement will irrevocably prevent any merging of those two twin Palestinian cities.



Israeli Colonial Settlements Infrastructure

- 5 Expanding Route 60, the "Tunnels Road," the main highway from Jerusalem southwards to the Etzion colonial settlements. The road will strengthen the geographical connection of the Gilo - Har Homa axis with the Etzion colonial settlements west of Bethlehem.
- 6 Creating an extension of the Eastern Ring Road to the Tekoa settlements, southeast of Bethlehem, ensuring territorial contiguity between the settlements of Har Homa and settlements in the southeast of Jerusalem while effectively preventing any Palestinian contiguity, and blocking any necessary development and expansion northwards to occupied Jerusalem.
- 7 Advancing the Jerusalem Light Rail that will connect the Gilo settlement, through Givat Hamatos and East Talpiot settlements in the south of occupied Jerusalem, with the French Hill colonial settlement and the Hebrew University in Mount Scopus to the north of Jerusalem (the blue line) and Light Rail that will connect Ramot settlement with Gilo settlement (the dashed green line).

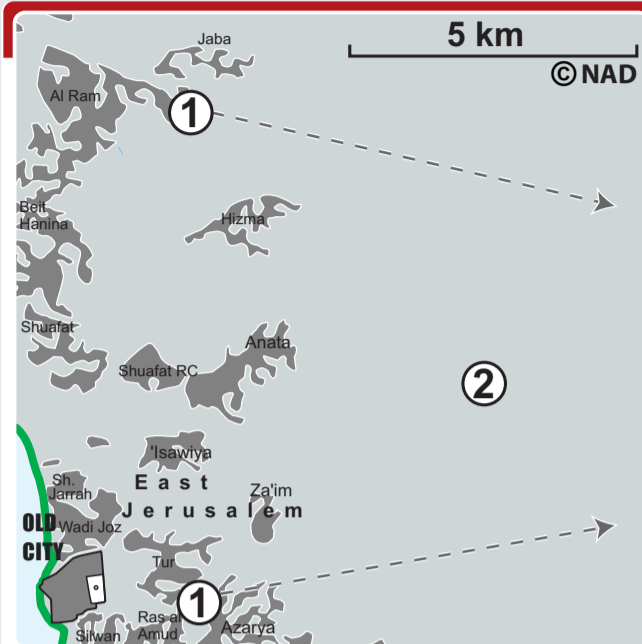


Israeli Annexation Wall

- 8 With an overall length of 80.4 km, the Israeli Annexation Wall surrounds Bethlehem Governorate from the north, west & south. It encloses 176 km² of the Bethlehem Governorate, of which 88% are agricultural lands.
- 9 Bethlehem and Jerusalem have been twin cities for centuries. The Israeli occupation through its policy of colonization, including its illegal Annexation Wall and checkpoints, has separated both cities for the first time in 2000 years of Christian history. The severance of ties between the holy cities, forced by the occupying Power on the indigenous Palestinians, Muslims and Christians, has affected their long-held practices and traditions. It has affected their pilgrimage routes and worship practices, which depend on the connectedness of the holy cities. Checkpoints, the Annexation Wall, the permit regime, and more, stand to alter and even prohibit their right to worship.



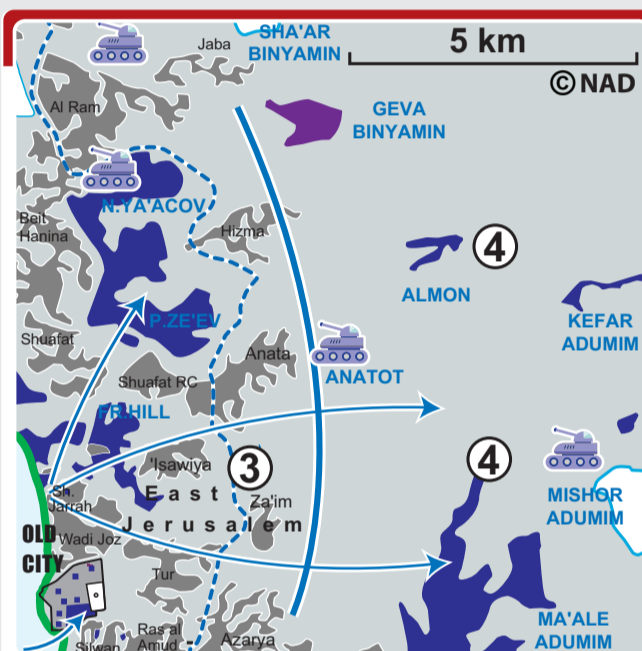
ENCIRCLING OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: CEMENTING THE ANNEXATION EASTWARD



The Potential for Development

- 1 In the Jerusalem Governorate, there are approximately 530,000 people (9% of the Palestinian population), of whom 370,000 live in Area J1 of Jerusalem. A distance of roughly 20 km separates East Jerusalem from the border with Jordan.
- 2 The area between East Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley is vital for Palestinian development and natural growth, as well as for the viability of an independent Palestinian state in the future. Overlooking both the Holy City and the Jordan Valley, it is the geographic center and most strategic area of the West Bank.

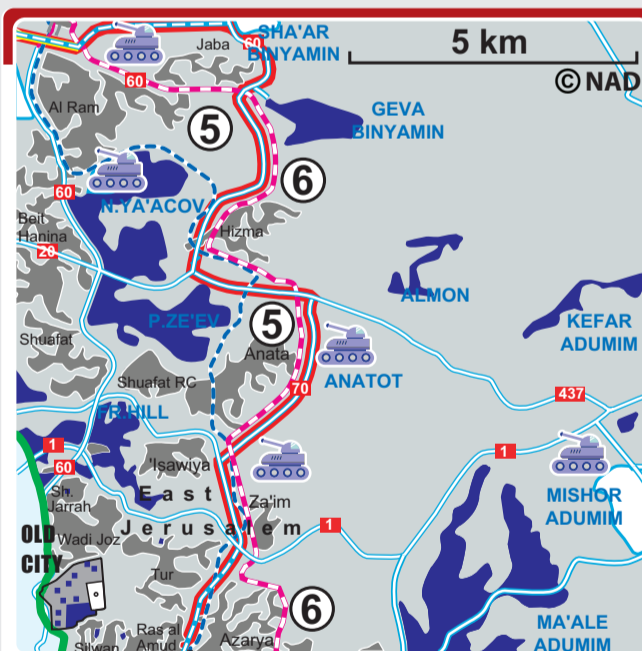
1967 Boundary (Green Line) Palestinian city, town, village, or neighborhood



Israel's Colonial Settlements

- 3 It was after Israel's occupation in 1967 that Israel redrew East Jerusalem's municipal boundary enlarging it by ten times to include the maximum amount of territory with a minimum amount of non-Jewish population. Israel's objective in Jerusalem is to establish irreversible and exclusive control over the city and prevent its partition. It achieves this by ensuring territorial contiguity with Israel proper and a Jewish demographic majority.
- 4 Israel has established several illegal settlements in this area, including Ma'ale Adumim, Almon, Kefar Adumim, Alon, and Qedar, as well as the industrial settlement of Mishor Adumim, with a combined population of 47,000 settlers. The largest (Ma'ale Adumim) has a population of 38,000 settlers and a jurisdictional area of 50 km².

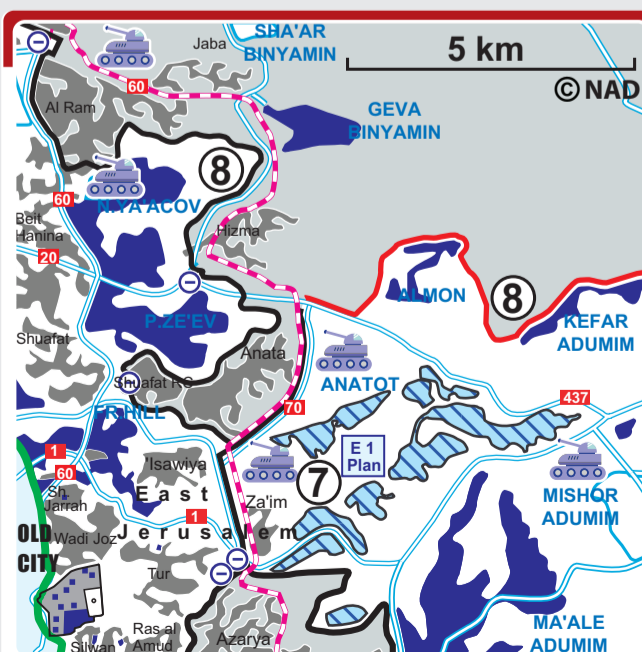
Israeli settlement built-up area Israeli industrial area Israeli defined municipal borders Israeli military area



The Israeli Ring Road and the "Alternate" Road for Palestinians

- 5 As part of the Ring Road, the Israeli Government intends to develop infrastructure that will help expand its illegal settlements massively and connect settlement areas with each other and Israel while dividing and fragmenting Palestinian neighborhoods and the urban continuity of East Jerusalem.
- 6 The "alternate" road for Palestinians linking the northern West Bank with the south will inevitably exclude Palestinians from East Jerusalem. There are also some other roads planned as part of Israel's scheme to build "alternate" roads for Palestinians, while illegal settlers will enjoy the benefits of real territorial contiguity between Israeli settlements and Israel.

Israeli settler ring road Israeli-proposed "alternative" Palestinian road link Israeli settler roads Israeli settler planned/under construction roads Israeli settler planned tunnel



Israel's "E1" Colonial Plan and the Annexation Wall

- 7 The "E1" Plan and the "Adumim" settlements assure Israeli control over the northern West Bank to the south. This area has the highest potential for economic development, habitation, and contiguity for Palestinians. By implementing the "E1" Plan, such contiguity will be impossible, and the development area will be incorporated into Israel, thus disabling any prospect for the viability of East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine.
- 8 The Annexation Wall physically and functionally severs East Jerusalem from the remainder of the West Bank. It will also cut off Palestinian neighborhoods inside East Jerusalem from one another, disrupting the fabric of life for over 530,000 Palestinians in Jerusalem Governorate, threatening their prospects for urban growth, economic development, and the city's contiguity and viability.

Israeli Settlement Expansion Palestinian territory west / east of the Wall Israeli completed Wall Israeli planned/under construction Wall Israeli military checkpoints