

Jordan

Ethnicity in Jordan

Group selection

Three main ethnic groups in Jordan are the Palestinian Arabs, the Transjordanians (Jordanian Arabs) and the Christians, which comprise by far the smallest percentage of the population. Existing estimates on the number of Palestinians in Jordan differ because a relevant percentage of Palestinians holds the Jordanian citizenship. In relation, the UNRWA (¹⁶⁷¹), for example, identified 1.9 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan (December 2009), which would only make up 30 Percent of the whole Jordanian population (¹⁶⁷²). There is no doubt that the influx of Palestinians into Jordan has led to immense demographic changes. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), most of the estimates on the number of Palestinians in Jordan range from 50 to 70 Percent. For our case, we rely on Fearon's (2003) number which is in line with the majority of the data estimates, hence: Palestinians Arabs 50 percent and the Transjordanians with a share of 40 percent. For the relative population share comprised by Christians, we can refer to the Bertelsmann-Stiftung Index, which indicates they make up 6% of the population.

¹⁶⁷¹ [UNRWA]

¹⁶⁷² [CIA, 2008]

Power relations

Palestinian Arabs: When the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was established, "neither Israel's nor Jordan population was homogenous (...). Both countries had a large minority of Palestinians" (¹⁶⁷³, 52). During this period, Palestinians lived in the two different states and thus experienced separate socialization processes. In both states, "they were marginalized and denied full participation in the social, economic, and political life" (ibid). Since 1988, the Jordanian government, in violation of Jordan's Nationality law of 1954, "has been arbitrarily and without notice withdrawing Jordanian nationality from its citizens of Palestinian origin, making them stateless" (¹⁶⁷⁴). As a result of this withdrawal, "children lose access to free primary and secondary education, and university education may be out of reach due to vastly higher costs for non-nationals" (ibid.). Further on, „non-Jordanians cannot be employed by the state, and have greater difficulty on the private job market“ (ibid). Still, for existential reasons, most of the Jordanian Palestinians emphasize their

¹⁶⁷³ [Nasser, 2005]

¹⁶⁷⁴ [Human Rights Watch, 2010]

loyalty to the Jordanian state while at the same time demanding equal rights to political participation. However, as Transjordanian nationalist elites question this propagated loyalty due to the conflictual Jordanian-Palestinian past, Jordanian Palestinians suffer from “concrete political discrimination” (¹⁶⁷⁵, 303). „Through the exclusion of Palestinians, Jordan emerges and becomes a nation“ (¹⁶⁷⁶, 112). Based on these assessments, the Jordanian Palestinians are coded here as "discriminated".

¹⁶⁷⁵ [Perthes, 2002]

¹⁶⁷⁶ [Nasser, 2005]

Transjordanians (Jordanian Arabs): Jordan consists of two culturally imminent, but still separate Arab Peoples: on the one hand, of the Palestinians who had developed their urban culture even before the founding of Israel and Jordan, and on the other hand, of the Transjordanians, first and foremost defined through their tribal character and distinct by a Bedouin origin and traditions. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is named by its royal elite. During the establishment of this kingdom, prominent Palestinians have very well played a political role. However, this does not mean that they were granted the same political rights (cf. ¹⁶⁷⁷, 303). The key positions in the public administration and the security apparatus were occupied by Transjordanians. Especially since the beginning of the 1970s, King Hussein “has made use of the tribal culture” (¹⁶⁷⁸, 303), as he has exclusively recruited tribal kins and loyals to form crucial elite troops, and through the allowance of a far-reaching practice of “tribal nepotism” (ibid) in the public sector. Based on these assessments, the Transjordanians are coded as enjoying monopoly power.

¹⁶⁷⁷ [Perthes, 2002]

¹⁶⁷⁸ [Perthes, 2002]

Christians: Although article 2 of the Jordanian constitution stipulates that Islam is the state religion, the Christian community, can exercise its faith freely and without intervention by the state. (¹⁶⁷⁹) The law reserves nine seats in the lower house of parliament for Christians. During parliamentary elections, 10 Christians won seats, one of them on the national list that is not restricted to a particular religion. Eight Christians are also serving in the upper house of parliament. (¹⁶⁸⁰) However there is no evidence that this is real executive power, therefore they have been coded as 'Powerless'.

¹⁶⁷⁹ [Bertelsmann-Stiftung Index]

¹⁶⁸⁰ [US Department of State, 2013]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Jordan

From 1946 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Palestinian Arabs	0.5	DISCRIMINATED
Jordanian Arabs	0.4	MONOPOLY
Christians	0.06	POWERLESS



Figure 404: Political status of ethnic groups in Jordan during 1946-2013.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Jordan

From 1946 until 2013

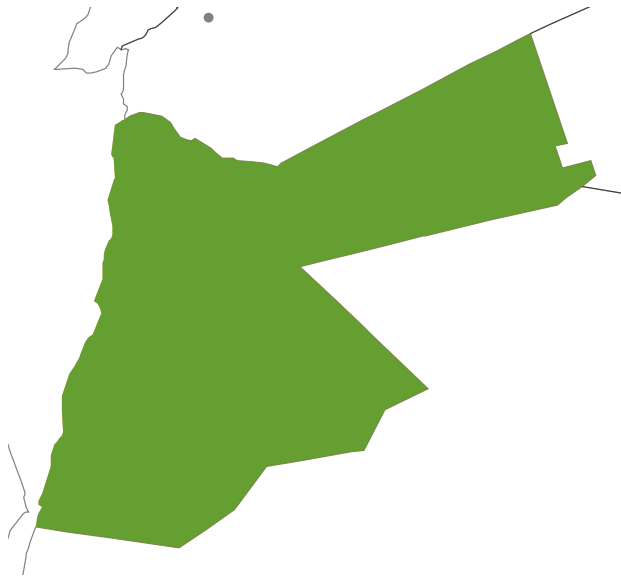


Figure 405: Map of ethnic groups in Jordan during 1946-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Jordanian Arabs	89 297	Statewide
■ Palestinian Arabs	89 297	Statewide
■ Christians		Urban

Table 121: List of ethnic groups in Jordan during 1946-2013.

Conflicts in Jordan

Starting on 1948-04-15

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Egypt	Government of Israel		1948-04-15			
Government of Iraq	Government of Israel		1948-04-15			
Government of Jordan	Government of Israel		1948-04-15			
Government of Lebanon	Government of Israel		1948-04-15			
Government of Syria	Government of Israel		1948-04-15			

Starting on 1967-06-05

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Israel	Government of Jordan		1967-06-05			