



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

**“One of the Greatest Moments in History”**  
from *The New Palestine*, 30 November 1947

**Background:**

National and international media reacted to the vote. *The New Palestine*, the official organ of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), featured several articles on the historic ballot, including one congratulating Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver and Dr. Emanuel Neumann who were crucial in securing support for the vote.

**General Guiding Questions:**

- What type of document is this?
- When was this document created?
- What was happening during the time the text was created?
- Who is the intended audience?
- What is the author’s point in writing this text?
- What ideas are expressed? What does the text suggest?
- What or whose perspective does this text represent?
- What feelings does this text raise? What emotions does it stir up?
- How does the perspective of this text compare with others around the same time and topic?
- What questions does this text raise?
- How does this text impact your understanding or perspective on the historical context or event? How does this text fit into or alter your existing interpretation of the past?

**Specific Guiding Questions:**

- Based on a first look at the articles from *The New Palestine*, what can you determine about the Jewish response to the Partition Plan?
- What are the different responses to the passage of the Partition Plan in the *New Palestine*?
- What was the role of the American Zionist Movement in the process toward the acceptance of the Partition Plan?
- Who might not be happy with the UN acceptance of the Partition Plan? What clues does the article provide, if any?

- The articles refer to the acceptance of the Partition Plan as “a turning point of history” and “a significant moment in Jewish history.” Why? How does the acceptance of the Partition Plan affect what happened between then and now?

**Possible Activities:**

1. Compare/Contrast the statements of Abba Hillel Silver and Emanuel Neumann.
2. Write an article that might have appeared in The New Palestine in response to the acceptance of the Partition Plan.
3. Compare/Contrast the accounts given in the articles in The New Palestine to that of Rabbi Louis Newman.
4. Divide into groups and assign each group a different organization or specific person that worked toward the acceptance of the Partition Plan mentioned in the article (i.e. World Zionist Organization, Zionist Organization of America, The Jewish Agency, American Christian Friends of Zionism, etc.). Have each group present about their group.
5. Create a press release or radio announcement about the acceptance of the Partition Plan. Participants can be divided into groups that represent different constituencies and prepare the release or announcement based on that perspective.