

## **Episode 18: Conflict History from Balfour to 1967**

**Guest:** Dr. Muriel Asseburg

**Hosts:** Efe & Mert

**Bio:** Dr. Muriel Asseburg is one of Germany's most respected Middle East experts and a leading authority on conflict analysis and policy advising. She is a Senior Fellow in the Africa and Middle East Research Group at the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), where she also leads the thematic area "Autocratization as a Challenge for German and European Politics." Dr. Asseburg regularly advises the German government on foreign policy questions and is frequently consulted as an expert in the media. Her extensive research on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, regional security, and political developments in the Middle East is highly regarded for its depth, clarity, and policy relevance.

**In this Episode:** This episode explores the conflict history from the Balfour Declaration to 1967. Topics include the role of the British Empire, the origins and escalation of the conflict, including the UN Partition Plan and the Nakba, and the parallel Jewish exodus from Arab countries and Iran. Dr. Asseburg also examines the rise of Palestinian movements such as the PLO and Hamas, and developments on the Israeli side including the emergence of the Likud party and the religious right. The discussion highlights the lasting impact of historical decisions and international actors on current regional dynamics, providing listeners with a nuanced understanding of this phase of the conflict history.

### **Links:**

Dr. Muriel Asseburg / Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik: <https://www.swp-berlin.org/en/researcher/muriel-asseburg> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Asseburg, Muriel. Der 7. Oktober und der Krieg in Gaza: Hintergrund, Eskalation, Folgen. München: C.H.Beck, 2024.

<https://www.chbeck.de/asseburg-7-oktober-krieg-gaza/product/37890657> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Asseburg, Muriel, and Jan Busse. Der Nahostkonflikt: Geschichte, Positionen, Perspektiven. München: C.H.Beck, 2016.

<https://www.chbeck.de/asseburg-busse-nahostkonflikt/product/39820426> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Asseburg, Muriel. Palästina und die Palästinenser: Eine Geschichte von der Nakba bis zur Gegenwart. München: C.H.Beck, 2021.

<https://www.chbeck.de/asseburg-palaestina-palaestinenser/product/38057897> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

### **Other Publications:**

<https://www.swp-berlin.org/en/researcher/muriel-asseburg#publications> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

<https://www.bpb.de/themen/kriege-konflikte/dossier-kriege-konflikte/54655/nahost/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

### **Further Resources suggested in the Podcast interview:**

Shlaim, Avi. *Three Worlds: Memoirs of an Arab-Jew*. London: Oneworld Publications, 2023.

[https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Three-Worlds/Avi-Shlaim/9780861548101?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Three-Worlds/Avi-Shlaim/9780861548101?utm_source=chatgpt.com) (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

### **Please also check our other episodes to explore multiple perspectives:**

On the Balfour Declaration: Simon Fuchs, Michael Brenner, Awad Halabi, Victor Kattan, Gudrun Krämer

On the partition plan: Derek Penslar, Gudrun Krämer

On the role of the British Empire: Simon Fuchs, Michael Brenner, Derek Penslar, Oren Kessler, Awad Halabi, Victor Kattan, Adel Manna, Gudrun Krämer

On 1948: Derek Penslar, Adel Manna, Gudrun Krämer

On the flight and expulsion of Jews from the Middle East and North Africa: Norman Stillman

On 1967: Moshe Zimmermann

On Hamas (and Hezbollah): Joseph Croitoru, Johannes Becke, Volker Weiss, Omri Boehm, Gudrun Krämer

### **Dedication:**

*We dedicate this Podcast to all victims and survivors of October 7, the hostages and their families, to all innocent civilians killed and injured in Gaza and their grieving families and friends. To our dear guests Udi Goren, Khalil Sayegh, Sima and Mai who shared their losses so powerfully with us. To their families: Tal's wife Ella Haimi, their children Nir, Einav, Udi and Lotan, who never got the chance to*

*meet his father. To Khalil Sayegh's mother and siblings, to Mai's and Sima's family, to her mother Bushra.*

*To the blessed memory of: Tal Haimi, Lara Sayegh, Jeris Sayegh, Mahmoud, Danny Darlington and Haim Perry.*

**Disclaimer:**

In each episode of this podcast, the invited guests speak on their own behalf. They share their experiences, assessments, and expert perspectives. These contributions are central to the multiperspectivity of the project but do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team or producers.

**Legal & Historical Anchor Episodes:**

This podcast may include controversial legal terms of specific technical significance. Their legal applicability requires a thorough expert contextualization; for this, we refer to our legal chapter. All relevant terms of international law, its institutions, current controversies, and the state of jurisprudence are explained in the anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Claus Kreß LL.M. (Cambridge) (Episode 36). He is co-author of the Rome Statute, Special Advisor to the International Criminal Court, and Judge at the International Court of Justice in the parallel Gambia vs. Myanmar genocide case.

Historical matters are discussed from multiple perspectives in this podcast. Please check the cross-references in the shownotes of the respective episodes for details. All historically contested issues are addressed in the history anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gudrun Krämer (Episode 21), author of the comprehensive work *A History of Palestine: From the Ottoman Conquest to the Founding of the State of Israel* (Princeton 2008), a standard reference in the field. For her scholarly achievements as a historian, she was awarded the *Preis des Historischen Kollegs* in 2025, the highest distinction in her discipline in Germany.