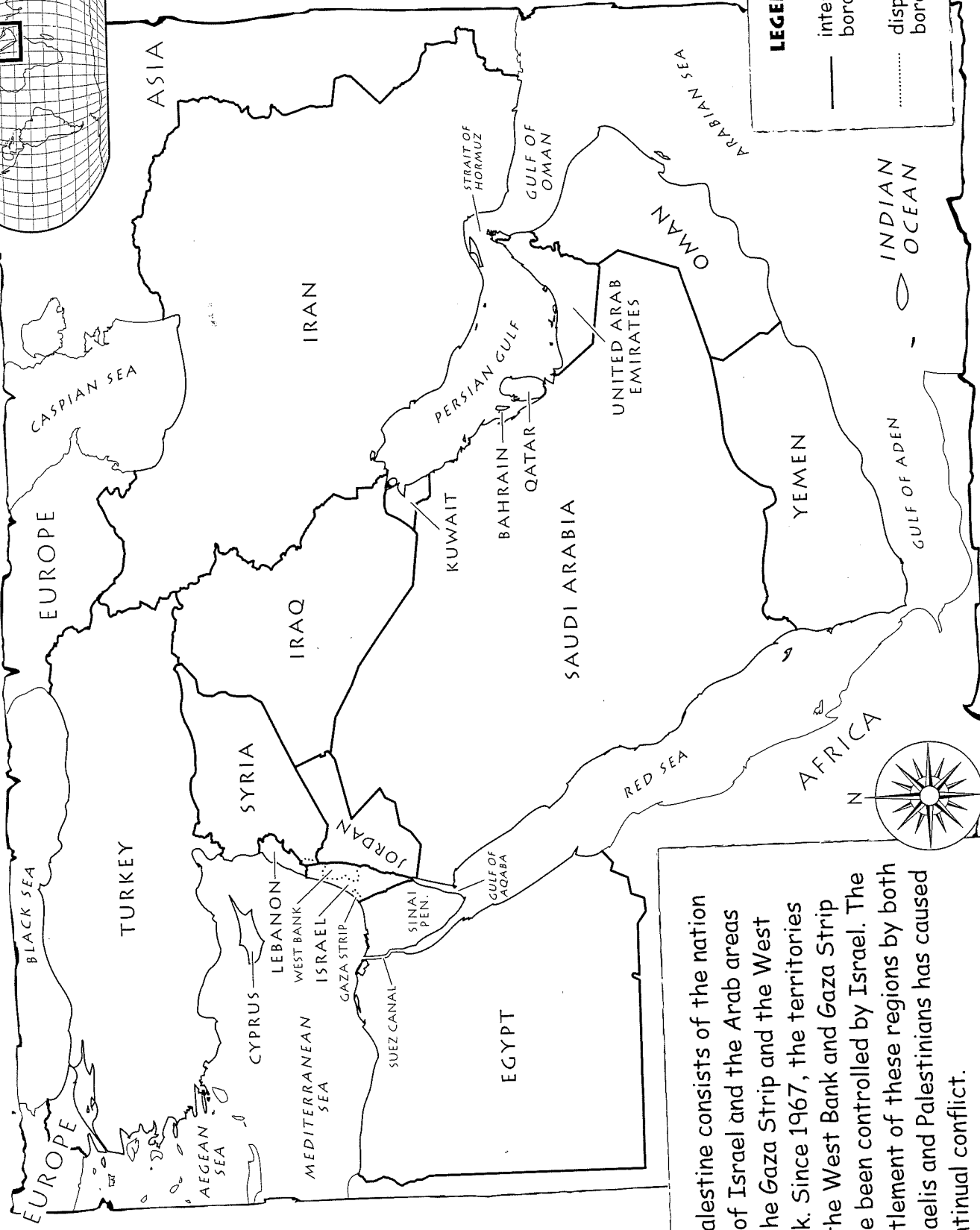
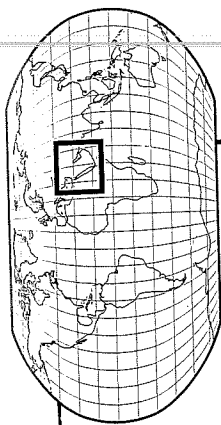


THE MIDDLE EAST REGION



Palestine consists of the nation of Israel and the Arab areas of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Since 1967, the territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been controlled by Israel. The settlement of these regions by both Israelis and Palestinians has caused continual conflict.