


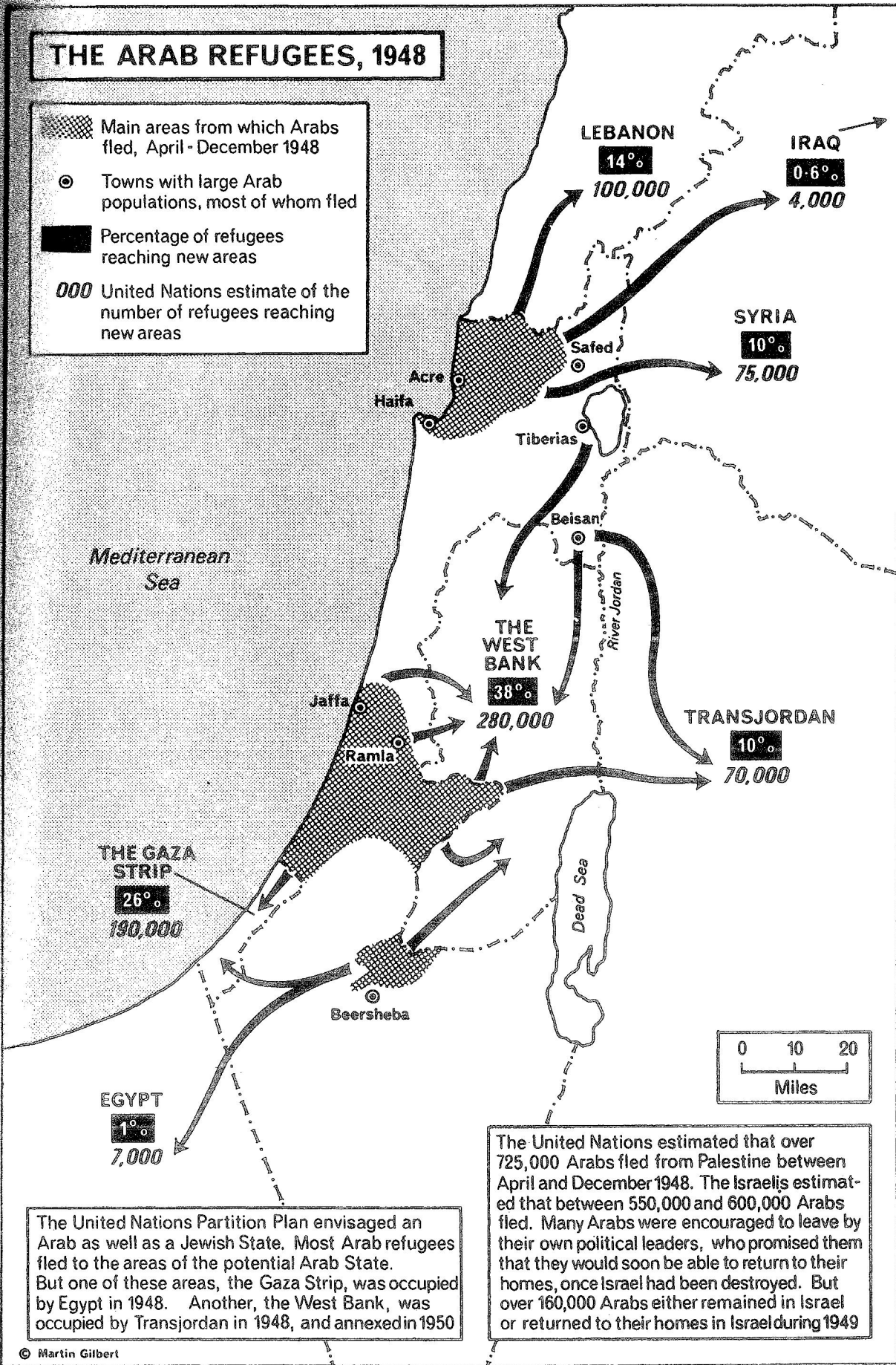


THE ARAB REFUGEES, 1948

-  Main areas from which Arabs fled, April - December 1948
-  Towns with large Arab populations, most of whom fled
-  Percentage of refugees reaching new areas
- 000** United Nations estimate of the number of refugees reaching new areas



The United Nations Partition Plan envisaged an Arab as well as a Jewish State. Most Arab refugees fled to the areas of the potential Arab State. But one of these areas, the Gaza Strip, was occupied by Egypt in 1948. Another, the West Bank, was occupied by Transjordan in 1948, and annexed in 1950

The United Nations estimated that over 725,000 Arabs fled from Palestine between April and December 1948. The Israelis estimated that between 550,000 and 600,000 Arabs fled. Many Arabs were encouraged to leave by their own political leaders, who promised them that they would soon be able to return to their homes, once Israel had been destroyed. But over 160,000 Arabs either remained in Israel or returned to their homes in Israel during 1949

© Martin Gilbert