



## Who are Fatah?

*"Founded by Yasser Arafat in the 1950s, Fatah was once the cornerstone of the Palestinian national cause, but its power has since faded. [Fatah is the reverse acronym of Harakat al-Tahrir al-Filistiniya (Palestinian Liberation Movement). The name means "conquest" in Arabic.]*

*Under Arafat's leadership, the group originally promoted an armed struggle against Israel to create a Palestinian state. But it later recognised Israel's right to exist, and its leaders have led Palestinian peace talks aimed at reaching a two-state solution.*

### Profile: Fatah Palestinian movement



The yellow banner of Fatah flies next to the Palestinian national flag

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*Arafat signed the first interim peace deal with Israel in 1993 in Oslo, but a full accord has proved elusive, despite decades of on-off negotiations - the latest round launched by President Barack Obama at the White House last September.*

*Yasser Arafat shakes hands with Israeli PM Yitzhak Rabin in 1993, as US President Bill Clinton looks on*

*Since Arafat's death in 2004, Fatah has fallen from its position of dominance and, in 2006, lost parliamentary elections to rival Palestinian movement Hamas. In June 2007 it was effectively driven out of the Gaza Strip after violent clashes between the two factions.*

*Now led by another of its founders, Mahmoud Abbas, Fatah has also seen its power*



*steadily eroded by internal divisions.*

*The party has been dogged by claims of nepotism and corruption in government and critics say it is in desperate need of reform."*

*Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.*



### Questions.

1. Underline key information.
2. Sum up the main points\* to do an oral presentation.

\*foundation – ideology – territorial influence – role in the Arab-Israeli conflict/peace process. political allies/rivals – etc.