



those of other Arab nations, most notably Egypt. Until Fatah and Hamas declare peace, there's no entity with whom Israel can negotiate peace.

**3. When will Hamas retract its sworn mission to destroy Israel?** Hamas, the terrorist group that controls Gaza, is today allied with Iran, which itself advocates Israel's destruction and supports the Palestinian terrorists with tens of millions of dollars in annual aid. How can Israel achieve security when the Hamas charter and its every action focus on eliminating the Jewish state by military force?

**4. When will the Palestinians hold national elections?** Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was elected to a four-year term in 2005. He has now served 14 years without standing for election again, and neither Palestinians in Judea-Samaria nor Gaza have held national elections since 2006, effectively making both territories dictatorships. Above all, the Palestinians have no tradition of or institutional infrastructure to support democracy. Is this a sustainable model for the next Arab state?

**5. When will the Palestinians create a self-sustaining economy?** While the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Hamas have received billions of dollars in aid from the U.S., the European Union and Arab states, neither group has invested in economic infrastructure sufficient to create viable industries. Hamas invests a huge portion of aid and tax money in military efforts to wage war on Israel, and Fatah is famously corrupt, making its leaders and bureaucrats wealthy, while choking its economy. Unemployment in the West Bank is 18%; it's 52% in Gaza. The West Bank has no electrical power company; neither territory has an airport or railroad. Without massive international welfare payments, both entities would collapse—hardly a recommendation for statehood.

**6. What would prevent Hamas from taking over a new Palestinian state?** Hamas clearly has superior military might: It violently took over Gaza in 2007, today has 20,000 men under arms and commands tens of thousands of rockets. What's more, it has an extremely well-organized political arm and is supported enthusiastically by Iran—an enemy of the U.S. and Israel. If a Palestinian state were formed with the Palestinian Authority in charge, how could the U.S., Israel, Jordan and Egypt be assured that Islamist Hamas terrorists would not seize the new "country"?

**7. When will the Palestinians institute political freedoms and rule of law?** Like many Middle East totalitarian nations, the Palestinian leadership's current principles of self-governance in Judea-Samaria and Gaza do not include civil rights or fair government. The U.N. Special Coordinator has reported that in Palestinian jurisdictions, "many of the fundamental pre-conditions for rule of law development have yet to be realized." Human Rights Watch reports that the PA is "arresting, abusing and criminally charging journalists who express peaceful criticism of authorities." The security apparatus in both territories is completely outside of civilian control, subject to the whims of unelected leaders. One can only imagine the horror of living under a state governed by these norms.

Perhaps at one time a two-state solution seemed reasonable. But that was before the Palestinians turned down outlandishly generous peace offers by Israel in 2000, 2001 and 2008, before Hamas took over Gaza in a putsch and launched three wars against Israel, before Iran blossomed into a regional cancer, before the Syrian and Yemeni civil wars, before ISIS and al Qaeda, before 14 years of

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corrupt rule by Mahmoud Abbas.

History has changed the region inalterably. These events raise a new set of unavoidable, high-stakes questions. Until every one of these problems is addressed by Western intellectuals, the two-state solution is indefensible—and, worse, irresponsible and dangerous.

I hope in your conversations with friends, family and colleagues you'll explain why the "two-state solution" has ceased to be viable. Very simply, the Palestinians do not have the cultural, economic or political infrastructure to support a state in this region. Worse yet, they seem not to have the *desire*.

Clearly, imposing a Palestinian state on Israel, the Palestinian people or the world at this time—or any time in the foreseeable future—would be a mistake.

In addition to demanding reasonable answers to tough questions about the two-state solution, I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to visit FLAME's lively [new Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new *hasbarah* campaign—a refutation of the myth of "Palestinian territories."

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson

President, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. Critics of Israel, from *The New York Times* to BDS and the United Nations, usually base their condemnation of Israel on accusations that Israel's settlements (or its "occupation of Palestinian territory") are illegal. These accusations are false and deserve to be exposed once and for all. That's why FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[What Is 'Palestinian Territory'?](#)" I hope you'll review this hard-hitting paid editorial, which will begin running in national media this month. It provides a plain-English explanation of the legal issues surrounding Israel's historical and entirely legal presence in its Biblical homeland. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Pence and President Trump. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME's powerful ability to influence public opinion—and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you'll consider giving a donation now, as you're able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate online, just go to [donate](#) now. Now, more than ever, we need your support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and President Trump stay focused on Israel's critical role in protecting U.S. interests in the region—as well as protecting itself.

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# FLAME

Facts and Logic

About the Middle East

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