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June 14, 2022



Three Tough Questions About the Two-State Solution: It's Time for Honest Answers

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Pundits and politicians—especially in the West—have reflexively called for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict for so long, the idea has lost any literal or useful meaning.

One of the two states—Israel—already exists, and its 74-year history provides us clear definition. In a relatively short time, the Jewish state has become one of the world's oldest and strongest democracies. It wields eminent political, economic and military influence globally. It is a staunch U.S. ally.

But what would “Palestine” look like? We have few referents for defining the opposite side of the two-state equation. We don't know who would negotiate a Palestinian state or who would be in charge of it. We don't know what the terms of a second state would be—like borders and peace agreements with Israel. We don't know what the vision would be for the new state's political, military and economic structure.

Why? We don't know these very fundamental characteristics of a future “State of Palestine,” because none of its proponents reveal them. We don't know what the U.S. or European Union envisions. Likewise, we don't even know how the Palestinians imagine their new state.

Yet the answers to these questions—and many other hidden specifics—demand to be explained before rational people can embrace the heartwarming concept of a two-state solution.

How Many Palestinians Support a Two-State Solution?

What we know about Palestinian attitudes toward two states is not encouraging. In a November 2021 poll, only a paltry 29% of all Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and Judea and Samaria (“the West Bank”) believe a two-state solution is the best way to resolve the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

The Palestinian Catastrophe

Palestinians mourn Israel's birth with Nakba Day, but the real catastrophe then, as now, is their failure to share the land—and seize the chance to form a state.

Throughout U.S. Representative House proposals to legislate in favor of Palestinian Arabs ("Catastrophe") Day is national observance, not the event commemorating the refusal of Palestinians to accept a Jewish state and share the Holy Land as two states for two peoples. Unfortunately, the refusal continues.

What are the facts?

The actual Nakba Day papers to Israel's Jewish statehood in 1948. But actually, Nakba Day represents a mythical history of victimhood in which "Palestinian Arab land" was stolen by colonizing Jews. In fact, the catastrophe was the Palestinian own making, specifically their refusal to accept a Jewish state or any other kind of state, and a rejection of the peace.

Not only does Nakba Day present itself as a rejection against Israel and Jews, but it also continues the Palestinian rejection of the last 74 years—since Israel's birth—except that it is a rejection and even less opportunity to create a state today.

Nakba Day's fundamental premise is fiction. It blames Israel for Palestinians' losing their chance to acquire land and establish a state, which was first caused by Arab-state rejection of the 1947 United Nations Partition Plan, dividing the territory into two states—one Arab, one Jewish. Unlike the Palestinians, Israeli leaders (gradually) but finally embraced the UN offer. Thus, Palestinians' casting of blame for their situation depends should not rest on Israel, but on their failure to follow Arab wishes—and on Palestinian own rejection.

Despite the misleading Palestinian narrative, Israeli view of independence was not to state Arab land. After all, no Arab state ever existed in Palestine, and Israel had purchased and negotiated possession of most of the land in its future country. In fact, if independence was different—against wishes of the Arab Jewish majority and the UN's solution of Jewish Palestinian Arab relations.

In fact, the Palestinian state could have been established on the original date of the "Nakba" but Israel, Egypt, Syria and other Arab states would have had just said "No" to the UN plan. Palestinians would have been celebrating the 75th anniversary of their State of Palestine.

But their answer was "No!" Palestinians Arabs launched a bloody guerrilla campaign against Jewish communities. Palestinian Arabs were expelled by the Arab invaders (that Israeli death would follow soon, and many fled). Unlike Palestinians were also expelled by the Israeli army.

When Arab states let the war to deter Israel, they drove out or killed all Jews resulting in mass they expelled—some known as "the West Bank" and "Yamit" (Lah, Arab states).

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expected since 1948 that of their own Jewish citizens. Once the UN's great war armistice was done, the new Palestinian Nakba—the nation of the Islamic King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan and Jewish of Egypt and their statehood—was what they have been the world's first state "Palestinian state." What Palestinians lost in 1948 was not about Israel's war and by Jordanian and Egyptian interests.

The catastrophe never became long term, because the Arab League pushed hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arab refugees into equal refugee camps, adding money for Israeli destruction and their suffering to the Nakba myth. So other World War II refugees suffered such despair.

The UN established UNRWA to serve Palestinian Arab camps (temporarily) in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Gaza, yet it still exists. Other than Israel, no Arab state has offered citizenship and resettlement to the Palestinian refugees. Specifically, no national movement of Palestinians ever arose against their Arab oppressors—only against the Jews.

Nakba Day mythologizes Palestinian self-destruction

Arabs resulting in Israel, however, were given land, citizenship, and statehood.

Especially Nakba Day with Israeli state to peace with Palestinians is possible via a land-for-peace treaty. As long as they recognized the right of the Jewish state, Israel knows that in 1947, capture of the West Bank and its borders are not the way to state. Rather, the problem is Israel's existence.

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FLAME

Facts and Logic About the Middle East
P.O. Box 2000, Berkeley, CA 94702
Phone: 415-871-1111
Email: flame@factsandlogic.org
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We should then ask those who advocate a two-state solution to explain: Why do you support something a majority of Palestinians do not? And: How do you propose to convince Palestinians that your opinion is smarter than theirs?"

We should also note that the Hamas-led dictatorship in Gaza—home of some two million Palestinians—violently opposes the two-state solution. Their solution, as defined by the Hamas charter, is to destroy Israel.

*Thus two-state proponents must also answer: How realistic is a two-state solution if the militant jihadist group that rules 42% of the Palestinian population objects to it *in principle*?*

Who Will Be in Charge of a Palestinian State?

When we talk about peace with “the Palestinian people,” we have to acknowledge that there is no such political unit. The Palestinian Arabs of the region live in two disconnected areas and are ruled by two distinct, warring political groups.

The two Palestinian ruling parties—both dictatorships—are bitter enemies, whose attempts to reconcile over the last 17 years have failed utterly. Neither group—Fatah in the “West Bank” nor Hamas in Gaza—has held elections since 2006.

When the U.S. and other mostly Western diplomats have attempted to conduct peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, they assumed that Fatah represents the “real” Palestinians. They also assumed that in case of successful negotiations, Hamas would somehow “come along”—join the peace party. However, Hamas rabidly denies this, and there is zero evidence the assumption is true.

This raises a huge question for those who advocate a two-state solution: Even if the Fatah party were to accept peace with Israel—which they have refused to do for some 55 years—what makes you think Hamas would a) accept a peace deal in which they had no part and b) would not start a war to conquer the new “state” negotiated by Fatah?

Before we leave the key question of who speaks for the Palestinians, we really need to ask who represents the Palestinians in the “West Bank.”

Last time there were elections among the Palestinians in 2006, Hamas won the majority of votes. They immediately seized the Palestinian territory in Gaza and threw Fatah out (they also threw many off rooftops).

While current Palestinian president, the Fatah’s Mahmoud Abbas, theoretically holds power in the West Bank, he is currently serving his 17th year of a four-year term. Since West Bank Palestinians have a bankrupt economy, they are propped up by financial contributions from Western nations. Most analysts agree, too, that if Israel did not assist in security in the Palestinian areas, Hamas would quickly take over.

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Did we mention that Mahmoud Abbas is 87 years old and has no heir-apparent? Did we mention he cancelled the elections he originally called for this April and that 70% of his constituents want him removed from office?

Thus, it's entirely possible that when Abbas dies, Hamas will simply start ruling the West Bank's 2.7 million Palestinians as a thugocracy, just as in Gaza.

What Will a Palestinian State Look Like?

We know that Gaza is run by a designated Islamic terror organization, driven by jihadi ambitions and governed by Sharia law. We know Hamas doesn't believe in democracy, nor in civil liberties, including elections. We know two of their written precepts: Kill Jews; destroy and conquer Israel.

We know that Fatah is equally undemocratic and equally opposes rule of law and basic civil freedoms. What's more, we know the Palestinian Authority is notoriously corrupt—governed by nepotism, bribery and siphoning Western aid into the pockets of PA officials.

In short, the Palestinians have no tradition of Jeffersonian democracy, nor any leader who advocates it. Logically, we would expect the new Palestinian state to look like a toxic mix of the two current governments.

Thus, our final question for supporters of the two-state solution: What facts convince you that a new Palestinian state on Israel's borders would be a responsible nation that honors freedom for its people and peace with its neighbors?

Who would trust—who honestly would want to risk—a brand new “State of Palestine” like this just a few miles from Jerusalem on Israel's western border? Under current circumstances, not many Palestinians . . . and surely not many Israelis.

Please express to your friends, family, colleagues, and elected representatives that the idea of a two-state solution has become empty rhetoric—a shallow proposal that raises more questions than it answers. Emphasize, too, that when we answer those tough questions honestly, rather than portray an inspiring dream of liberation, they portend a nightmare—for the Palestinian people . . . and *especially* for Israel.

I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to forward this message to friends, visit FLAME's lively [Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new *hasbarah* campaign—“The Palestinian Catastrophe”—which exposes the false narrative of “Nakba Day,” commemorating Palestinians' missed opportunity for independence.

Best regards,

Ken Cohen, Editor
Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. U.S. Representative and “Squad” member Rashida Tlaib has introduced a bill that would make Palestinian Nakba (“Catastrophe”) Day a national observance. The resolution promotes the false narrative that Israel’s statehood in 1948 prevented Palestinian Arabs from achieving independence. I think you’ll agree that truth is the only antidote to this lie. FLAME’s new *hasbarah* message called “[The Palestinian Catastrophe](#)”—shows it was in fact Arab refusal to accept the U.N. proposal of two states for two peoples that created the problem. I hope you’ll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which is scheduled to run in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Los Angeles Times* and other media nationwide. It spells out how it was actually Arab states who stole the land designated for Palestinians. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Harris and President Biden. 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 Biden stay committed to fighting antisemitic actions by individuals, politicians and commercial companies.

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PO Box 3460
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