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Rogue Palestinian terrorists take part in a military parade in a village near Jenin, in Judea and Samaria (aka, the West Bank). Thuggish jihadis like these will likely rule the streets of a new state of "Palestine" if Biden and other world leaders choose to unconditionally recognize one.

Threats to instantly recognize Palestinian statehood likely to backfire

Dear Friend of Israel, Friend of FLAME:

President Biden threatens to recognize a Palestinian state—likely as an initiative to salvage his re-election by appealing to anti-Israel voters. Other leaders like British Foreign Secretary David Cameron and EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell have also hinted at recognizing Palestinian statehood. These rumblings erupt despite a preponderance of evidence that the Palestinians are not ready for statehood—nor do they deserve it.

Above all, recognizing “Palestine,” will do nothing to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—or in any way help the Palestinian people. To the contrary: It would exacerbate the situation by alienating Israel, rewarding terrorism, and imposing a two-state solution that neither Israelis nor Palestinians support. Indeed, the main obstacle to an Israeli-Palestinian peace was never the absence of a Palestinian state, but object Palestinian refusal to accept a Jewish state.

Mr. Biden's proposal makes no mention of Palestinians embracing a Jewish state. Nor does it require reforming the dysfunctional Palestinian dictatorships, which are corrupt, brutally repressive, and lack a sustainable economy. Nor does the U.S. require a cessation of Palestinian terrorism against Israel.

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Moreover, the Palestinians lack even the most rudimentary requirements for statehood—a defined territory and a functional government.

The President and U.S. Secretary of State Blinken ignore these obstacles, continuing to assert the problem is Israel's refusal to accept a Palestinian state—despite Israel's many generous offers of a state in the last 25 years—all rejected by the Palestinians.

Finally, perfunctory recognition of Palestinian statehood would violate international law, including the Oslo Accords and UN Security Council resolutions, which state that final resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be through negotiations.

Advocating for creation of a Palestinian state—let alone unconditionally proclaiming one—would be irresponsible, without first providing solutions to five massive obstacles blocking such a state:

1. An “instant” state would increase the suffering of the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian economy is bankrupt—and has never been self-sufficient. It is fully dependent on billions of welfare dollars from world powers, as well as cooperative relations with Israel. Made perfunctorily “independent,” the Palestinian economy would collapse even further—creating an economic and humanitarian disaster. Unemployment, already high, and the standard of living, already low, would both deteriorate.

In addition, since there are no stable governing or policing institutions—except those provided by Israel—Palestinian society would likely sink into bloody chaos. Thuggish jihadi militias would rule the streets, as security coordination with Israel would end. A future Palestinian state would likely resemble Somalia, Iraq or Syria, which lack effective governments that fully rule their countries. Already corrupt and repressive Palestinian rulers would likely become more so—or be deposed by Islamist terrorists like Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

2. International recognition of Palestinian statehood would resolve no outstanding issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In fact, 139 of the United Nations' 193 members already recognize Palestine as a state, but this has changed nothing on the ground—since declaring a state does not create a state. In addition to the obstacles above, such critical unsettled issues—such as borders, Jerusalem's status, and the bogus right of return of *descendants* of Palestinian “refugees”—would remain sources of conflict.

3. Recognizing a Palestinian state today would reward and incentivize terrorism.

From Israel's perspective, a state with no negotiations would reward Hamas's October 7 massacre, sending a message to both the Palestinians and terrorist groups globally that terrorism pays. Palestinians would be incentivized to continue their attacks on Israel—hoping to “finish the job” of destroying the Jewish state.

A unilaterally-established Palestinian state would also pose an existential threat to Israel and to the entire Middle East. It would likely become an Iranian satellite state, similar to Lebanon and Syria—right at the doorstep of Israel, America's strongest Middle East ally.

Moreover, U.S. sponsorship of a Palestinian state now would severely alienate Israel and compromise U.S.-Israel cooperation in the Middle East. Israel would also be less likely to accept a Palestinian state as part of an Israeli-Palestinian peace.

4. Recognizing a Palestinian state violates international law.

This includes the Oslo Accords, which specifically state, “Neither side shall initiate or take any step that will change the status of the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) and the Gaza Strip pending the outcome of the permanent status negotiations.” Imposing a Palestinian state would also violate UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which, like the Oslo Accords, call for a negotiated settlement to the permanent status of Judea and Samaria and Gaza.

5. The Palestinians do not meet fundamental requirements for statehood.

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FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid editorial *hasbarah* messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

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The Montevideo Convention, which took effect in 1934, specifies basic necessities for statehood: A permanent population, a defined territory and a government. The Palestinians do have a permanent population, but lack a defined territory or stable government.

In fact, Palestinians claim the entire land of Israel as their own, but this claim is not substantiated by international law. The Palestinians never had sovereignty or control over any territories. Palestinian claim to Judea and Samaria (aka the West Bank) is disputed by Israel since this land was designated for a Jewish state by the Mandate for Palestine. Israel now controls this territory by virtue of defeating Jordan's occupation and a Jordanian peace treaty.

Finally, Palestinians' only semblance of a government is the Palestinian Authority, which has disbanded its parliament, holds no elections, and lacks control over the territory assigned to it under the Oslo Accords. Hamas seized control of Gaza from it in 2007, and the PA's control over large stretches of Judea and Samaria has been erased by terrorist militias.

Demanding recognition of "Palestine" assumes the two-state solution is a cure-all for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But lack of a Palestinian state does not block the conflict's resolution. Rather, it is Palestinians' refusal to accept a Jewish state. Indeed, a majority of Palestinians reject a country existing peacefully beside Israel. Their goal is actually to destroy the Jewish state and replace it with "Palestine," "from the river to the sea."

Please make the point when speaking with family, friends, colleagues—or in letters to the editor—that instead of unconditionally recognizing a Palestinian state, Team Biden should demand the Palestinians demonstrate their a) ability and b) willingness to exist side-by-side with Israel in peace and security. Until now, they've shown no evidence of either.

Best regards,

Jason Shvili, Contributing Editor

Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. The events of October 7 have changed our world forever—and especially the world for Israel and the Jewish people. Likewise, the words "Never Again" will never be the same for us. October 7 has shown us that despite all promises of equity and commitments against hate on campus and on our streets, we can never depend on it. We will likely never be free of the scourge of antisemitism, fueled by the most outrageous slanders. I hope you'll agree that we opponents of Hamas and its savage massacre—and of all who support Hamas, against all humanitarian values—need to speak out. FLAME's new *hasbarah*—explanatory message —"**Enemies of Israel Tell Five Big Lies**"—refutes today's most vicious lies against Israel and the Jewish people. I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based editorial, which FLAME published in the *Washington Post*, *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune* and *Los Angeles Times*. 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** with a donation.



Facts and Logic
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