

CONFLICT IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

The Peace Process

WHO IS TO BLAME FOR THE FAILURE OF THE PEACE PROCESS?





Yasser Arafat derailed any prospect of a peace deal

Source 1: Extract from 'The Changing Geopolitical Dynamics of the Middle East and their Impact on Israeli-Palestinian Peace Efforts', Daniel Buckbaum, 2018

'Chief American Middle East Negotiator Dennis Ross recorded that President Clinton lashed out at Arafat, yelling that he had "been here fourteen days and said no to everything." (Ross) At one point, near the end of the summit after Arafat's final rejection, Clinton reportedly banged on the table in anger, and said: "You are leading your people and the region to a catastrophe." (Morris)



Yasser Arafat derailed any prospect of a peace deal

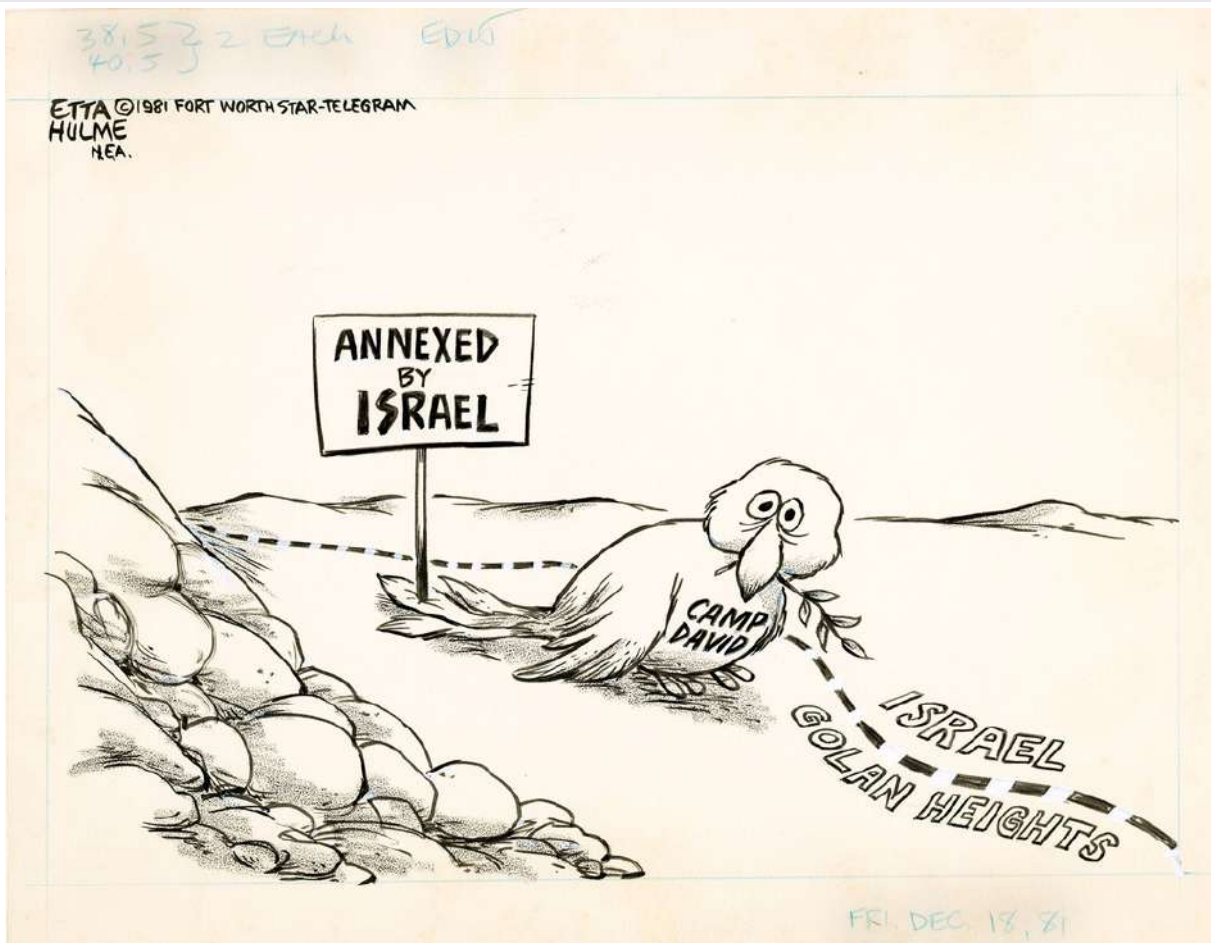
Source 2: Former President Bill Clinton, who negotiated the Camp David peace talks, speaking on the failure of the process at an event in 2016

"I killed myself to give the Palestinians a state. I had a deal they turned down that would have given them all of Gaza... between 96 and 97 percent of the West Bank, compensating land in Israel, you name it,"



Israel will not negotiate a fair deal

Source 3: Political cartoon by Etta Hulme from American newspaper the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 18 December 1981





Israel will not negotiate a fair deal

Source 4: Extract from the UN Security Council briefing on the situation in the Middle East, 27 September 2023

Mister President,

Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) calls on Israel to “immediately and completely cease all settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem” and to “fully respect all of its legal obligations in this regard.” Settlement activity has, nevertheless, continued....

...Demolitions and seizures of Palestinian-owned structures continued across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Citing the lack of Israeli-issued building permits, which are almost impossible for Palestinians to obtain, Israeli authorities, demolished, seized or forced people to demolish 238 structures, displacing 183 people, including 46 women and 91 children. 32 structures were donor funded.

...On 17 August, a Palestinian elementary school in Ein Samiya serving nearly 80 pupils was demolished days before the start of the school year. Fifty-nine schools, serving some 6,500 Palestinian students, are at risk of demolition.

In a continuing trend, many Palestinians, including children, left from their communities citing violence by settlers and shrinking grazing land...



Divisions between Fatah and Hamas

Source 5: Extract from 'Hamas vs. Fatah: the Struggle for Palestine' by Jonathan Schanzer, 2008

'The following morning, however, it was Hamas that was celebrating. The polls had been wrong. Indeed, Hamas had won an overwhelming electoral victory. Frenzied supporters of the group, most known for its headline grabbing suicide bombing tactics against Israel chanted euphorically outside the Palestinian Legislative Council building. In a move that was seen as both disrespectful and audacious, the revelers raised the green Hamas flag over the building. Infuriated Fatah supporters tried to lower the banner. A 30 minute struggle ensued, with the two sides throwing stones and breaking windows until Palestinian security fired warning shots into the air.'



Divisions between Fatah and Hamas

Source 6: Political cartoon entitled 'Palestinian State', by Etta Hulme from American newspaper the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 17 June 2007





Israel does not know what it wants

Source 7: Results of a survey of adult Israelis on how to approach the issue of Israeli settlements during the Peace Process

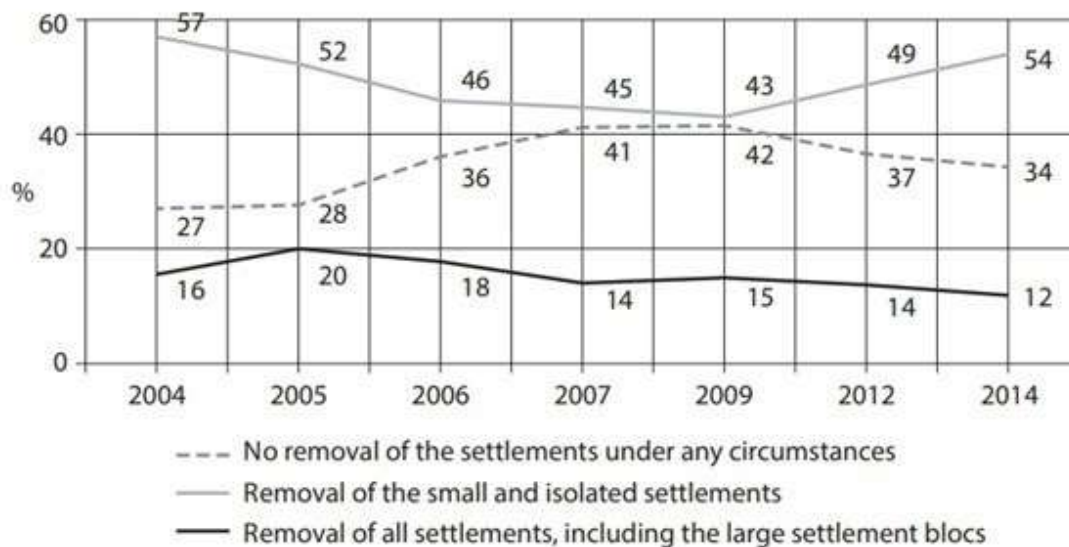


Figure 3. Attitude toward the removal of settlements in the context of permanent agreement, 2004-2014



Israel does not know what it wants

Source 8: Speech made by King Hussein of Jordan to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, 25 September 1995

...Peace is not just the signing of treaties; the signatories must have a genuine commitment to all that peace implies: the free movement of people, goods and ideas across frontiers; the shared commitment to resolve common problems; and respect for one another's interests.

There must be a consensus on common values, respect for human rights and basic freedoms, equality between all citizens, and, above all, the right of children to food, clothing, education and freedom from fear...



Palestinians will not accept the existence of Israel

Source 9: Official Statement of Hamas reiterating the rejection of the Oslo Accords, and outlining their commitment to resistance to Israeli occupations, 13 September 2023

Statement on 30th anniversary of infamous "Oslo Accords"



Thirty years have passed since the so-called Oslo Accords, which were orchestrated to serve the Israeli occupation and its settler colonial project. These agreements have inflicted nothing but more suffering, agony, and tragedies upon the Palestinian people.

Given the devastating aftermath of these accords, which have manifested in the loss of Palestinian lives, forced displacements, abductions, the occupation and seizure of our historic lands, and the ongoing efforts to Judaize Muslim and Christian holy sites, and in the midst of the escalating aggression and atrocities perpetrated by the Israeli occupation government against the Palestinian people, the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas states the following:

First: The Palestinian people's unwavering support for the resistance project conveys a clear message that resistance and struggle are the only way to achieve liberation and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Second: We reiterate our firm stance against all agreements that compromise our principles and national rights and call on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to recognise the failure of the "Oslo" accords and terminate them.

Third: We also call on the PLO to withdraw recognition of the Israeli occupation entity and work towards restructuring the Palestinian house and achieving national unity.

Hamas Movement



Palestinians will not accept the existence of Israel

Source 10: Extract from “Stand up for the Revolution” Palestinian rebel song

Stand up for revolution and revenge
Stand up like a hurricane
Wage war against your enemies with fire
And shout with a roaring voice

Revolution!
Revolution!

Revolution is the path of the free

From Gaza, from Arabic Jerusalem
From the enslavement of hate and exhaustion
Revolt like the wind and do not fear
Oh! Horses of pride and rage

...

And flow like a river of flame

Get up from your knees and spread out
By the water, the rocks, the woods
In your country and hit like rain
Go like a sword towards victory

And start your birth with throwing a stone...



The imbalance of power prevents a good agreement



Source 11:
Political cartoon
entitled "Palestine"
by Brazilian
cartoonist Carlos
Latuff, February
2007



The imbalance of power prevents a good agreement

Air force ¹	
Israel	The Palestinians
875 combat aircraft 84 transport aircraft 286 helicopters 34,000 regular personnel	No air force

Navy ²	
Israel	The Palestinians
Three nuclear-capable Dolphin submarines 15 combat vessels 50 patrol crafts 3 landing crafts 9,500 regular personnel 10,000 reserve personnel 19,500 total personnel	No navy

Tanks ³	
Israel	The Palestinians
3,800	0

Armored vehicles ⁴	
Israel	The Palestinians
6,390	Around 50, nearly all in the West Bank

Artillery ⁵	
Israel	The Palestinians
2,100 artillery units 25 surface-to-air missile batteries 70 surface-to-air missile launchers	Some mobile Qassam and Grad rocket launchers

Nuclear weapons ⁶	
Israel	The Palestinians
70 – 400	0

Comparison of Israeli/Palestinian military resources. Data from January 05, 2009. IMEU (Institute for Middle East Understanding)

Source 12: Comparison of Israeli/Palestinian military resources



Palestinian violence is a threat to Israel, so defence is prioritised over peace-making

Source 13: The remains of a bus in Ramat Gan, Israel that was blown up by a Palestinian suicide bomber. 5 people were killed and 33 injured, 24 July 1995



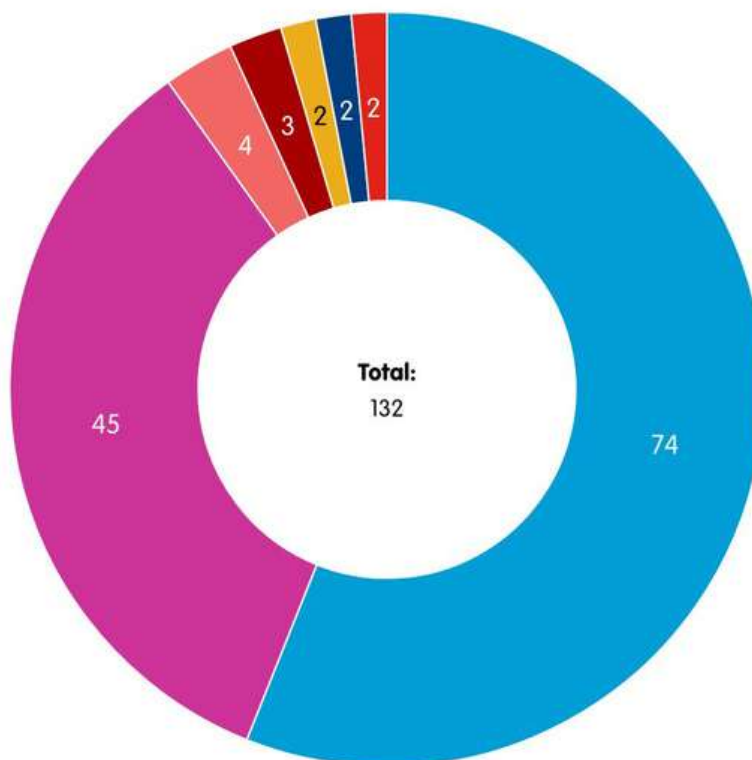


Palestinian violence is a threat to Israel, so defence is prioritised over peace-making

Source 14: 2006 election results for the Palestinian Legislative Council

Distribution of seats in the 2006 Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC)

Change and Reform (Hamas) Fatah Independents Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa (PFLP)
Third Way (Fayyad) Alternative (DFLP, PPP, Fida) Independent Palestine (Mustafa Barghouti)



The 2006 elections used a mixed system of voting. This combines both simple majority (districts) and proportional representation (lists) systems.

Source: Central Elections Commission Palestine
ECFR · ecf.eu



The Israeli government and people lack motivation to pursue peace

Source 15: Results of the 2022 Israeli Legislative elections. The Religious Zionist party base their manifesto around the ethos that there should be no land concessions to Palestinians at all

All 120 seats in the **Knesset**
61 seats needed for a majority

Turnout

70.63% (▲3.19pp)

Party	Leader	%	Seats	+/-
Likud	Benjamin Netanyahu	23.41	32	+2
Yesh Atid	Yair Lapid	17.78	24	+7
Religious Zionist	Bezalel Smotrich	10.83	14	+8



The Israeli government and people lack motivation to pursue peace

Source 16: Comment made by Israeli Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, August 2023

My right and that of my wife and my children, to travel on the roads in Judea and Samaria, is more important than the freedom of movement for Arabs.



Divisions amongst Arab countries and Palestinians impeded negotiations

Source 17: Public opinion poll from the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research

75 years after the Nakba:

- *The weak and conspiratorial Arab role and the British Mandate were mainly responsible for the Nakba*
- *The split between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is most damaging development that has happened to the Palestinian people since the Nakba followed by the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip*
- *The best thing that has happened to the Palestinian people since the Nakba is the establishment of Islamic movements, the two intifadas, the establishment of the PLO and the establishment of the Palestinian Authority*
- *Two-thirds of the public do not fear a repeat of the Nakba*
- *Steadfastness on the land is the most important lesson of the Nakba*
- *66% believe Israel will not celebrate its 100th anniversary and 51% believe that the Palestinian people will be able to recover Palestine in the future.*

On the occasion of the Nakba, the overwhelming majority places the blame for it on non Palestinian parties while only 7% believe that the weakness of the Palestinian people is primarily responsible. The "weak and conspiratorial Arab role" comes first with 38%, followed by the British Mandate with 36%, and Zionist organizations and movements with 16%.



Divisions amongst Arab countries and Palestinians impeded negotiations

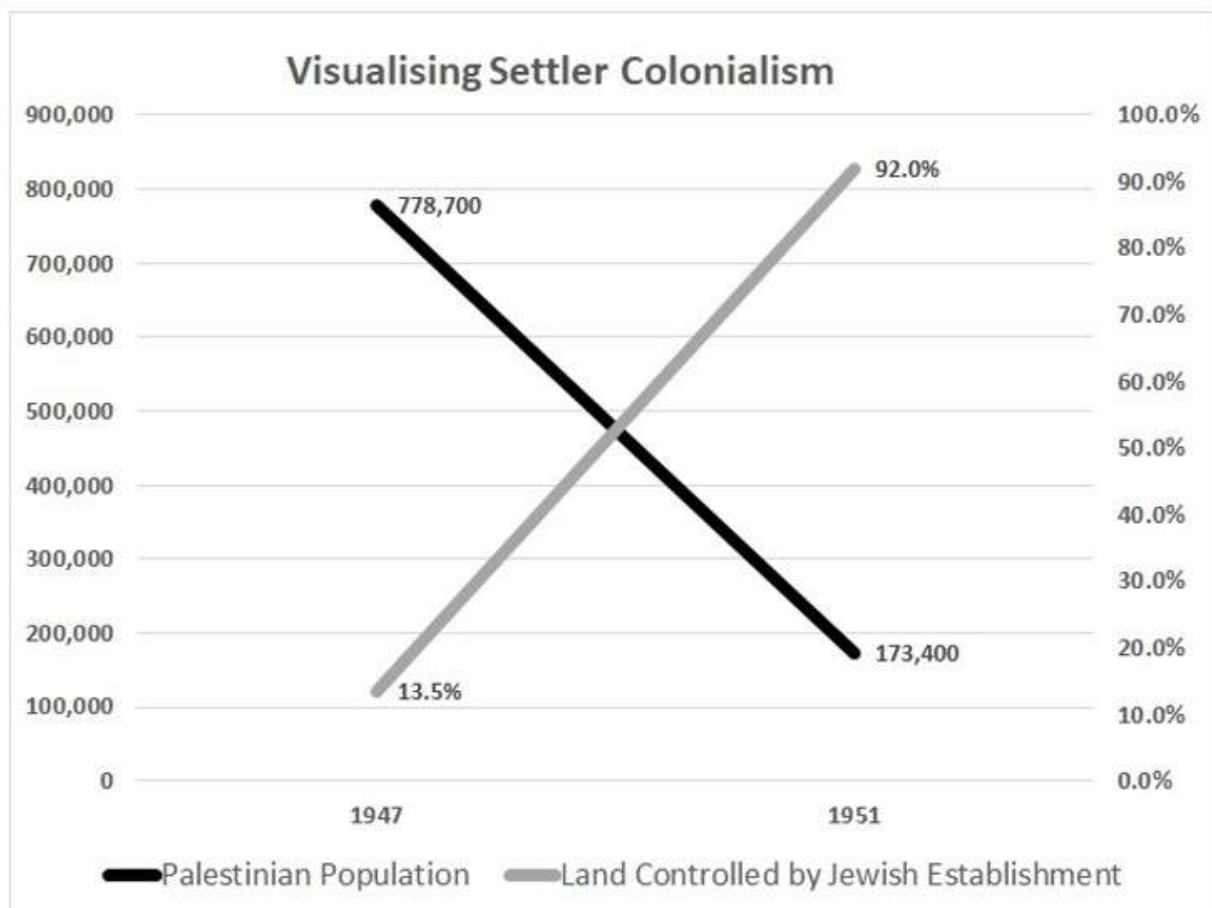
Source 18: Extract from 'A Tightrope Act: Jordan's Turmoil after Gaza', Harvard International Review (Spring 2009), by Owen Barron

'To complicate matters, West Bank refugees of the conflict have flocked to Jordan over the last several decades and may now constitute a demographic majority in the country. The refugees' subsequent entrepreneurial and economic success has not endeared them to longstanding residents who accuse the newcomers of usurping jobs and resources. In recent years, Jordan's King Abdullah II has found it increasingly difficult to uphold even a vaguely defined "Arab consensus." During Israel's war with Hezbollah in 2006, for example, about half the Arab regimes openly supported Hezbollah, while Jordan, Egypt, and the Gulf states took a more moderate stance consistent with their ties to the United States and Israel. Abdullah faced much criticism for this decision at home, as public sentiment in Jordan and in the greater Arab world is overwhelmingly pro-Hezbollah.'



Israel is a colonial settler state with no desire for cohabitation

Source 19: Population shift between 1947–1951 in the Israel–Palestine case compared to land controlled by what Neve Gordon calls the "Jewish establishment"





Israel is a colonial settler state with no desire for cohabitation

Source 20: Diagram by the UN detailing the obstacles that restrict access in and out of the West Bank

MOVEMENT OBSTACLES BY GOVERNORATE AND TYPE

