

The Palestinian Question: Paving the Road to Sovereignty

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Obstacles to Sovereignty

- Process of diffusion, views of Zionists over the views and reality of Palestine and the Palestinian plight, including misinformation.
- Criticism of Israel is conflated with anti-Semitism.
- Israel's illegal settlement construction.
- U.S. foreign policy in Middle-East skewed by Israel Lobby.
- Israel's intransigence is only possible with the diplomatic, financial, and military support it receives from U.S.

Elements of Sovereignty

- Sovereignty = full control, not just territory.
- Economic Independence, control of natural resources, internal financial resources, free import/export capabilities, and creation of a Palestinian central banking system.
- Territorial integrity, full control of borders and territory within Green Line.
- Governance, the full function of a democratic system of government consisting of three branches—legislative, judicial, and executive.
- Education (medical schools in particular), clinical training for medical students without movement restrictions. Improve delivery and access to healthcare. Education is of significant importance to the Palestinian identity.

Conclusion

A sovereign Palestinian state is vital not only to the Palestinians and the Israelis, but to the entire region that has for decades now been the sight of ongoing instability. Through Israel's cooperation, a final peace settlement may finally be realized. In anticipation of said cooperation, a Palestinian state can succeed if, and only if, the elements above are diligently addressed.

Acknowledgments

To my professor, source of guidance, and inspiration for this project, thank you Dr. Marta Vides Saade for helping me make the Palestinian plight visible to this institution.



Abstract

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the longest-running conflicts in the modern era. It is now one of the most extensively dealt-with conflicts in the world. If history has proven anything to us over the past 45 years, it is that a sovereign Palestinian state, with respect to an already sovereign Israeli state, is the only solution to this protracted conflict. As such, the purpose of this work is to substantiate this assertion by first explaining its inevitability through historical observations of the unacknowledged Palestinian reality and, then constructing a blueprint that outlines certain key and foundational elements that need to be addressed in anticipation of said sovereignty: economic independence, territorial integrity, governance, and education. Through these elements, this thesis conceptualizes the needs and infrastructure necessary for the successful functioning of an independent Palestinian state.



Brief History of the Conflict

1516 Palestine, a predominantly Arab and Islamic region, comes under the control of the Ottoman Empire	1897 First Zionist Congress and the beginning of Jewish Immigration to Palestine	1917 Balfour Declaration	1922 League of Nations Approves British Mandate for Palestine	1933 Mass Protests Against Jewish Immigration to Palestine begin	1947 UN Adopts Resolution 181, A Partition Plan for Palestine, Rejected by Palestinians	1947-1949 The Expulsion of 780,000 Palestinians by Zionist Forces (Nakba), Israel is Created	1967 Six-Day War, Israel Illegally Occupies the rest of historic Palestine, Including the West Bank and Gaza, Illegal Settlement Construction Begins	1967 Cont'd UN Passes Resolution 242, Calling on Israel to Withdraw from Territories it Illegally Occupied	1987 The First Intifada (Uprising)	1993-1995 The Oslo Accords, Self-government arrangements, incomplete sovereignty	2000-Present Full Palestinian sovereignty is denied by a series of obstacles resulting in continuous patterns of violence
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