

# Israeli Policy in Occupied Palestine

## What is the Conflict?

The conflict between Palestine and Israel is **fundamentally a dispute involving both states claiming the historic land of Palestine as their homeland**. Although both Palestinians and Israelis are able to make historically legitimate claims that would justify the continuation of their presence on the land, **the blatantly discriminatory and destructive policies instituted by the Israeli government against the Palestinian people are clear violations of international law** (Wallis). The Israeli government prides itself on its democratic principles but the policies enacted to continually occupy the historic Palestinian territory through military force are indicative of strong Zionist motivations and a complete disregard for the sanctity of Palestinian life.

## Illegal Human Rights Violations

- Palestinian people and property can be **searched without warrants** and the warrants that are issued are considered all-inclusive and **not subject to the same limitations that protect the rights of Israeli settlers in the same jurisdictions** (Husseini).
- Any **suspicion of an offense constitutes detention** and the **right to an attorney once detained can be prevented** for up to a 90-day period (Husseini).
- Palestinians must stand trial in **military courts that lack the due process rights** of Israeli civilian courts (Husseini).
- **Incarcerations** take place in **Israel** (a violation of international law), family visits are severely restricted, **public defense is rarely available**, and investigations as well as court proceedings are conducted primarily in Hebrew with no regard for translation (Husseini).
- Israeli **military courts have a nearly 100% conviction rate** and frequently have hundreds of children detained for suspected stone-throwing (Roth).
- Palestinians are subject to **racial oppression** through special restrictions within civil law (**1.7 million** affected), permanent residency law for residents of Jerusalem (**300,000** affected), military law (**4.6 million** affected), and policies preventing the right of return for **millions** that are refugees or involuntary exiles (Falk).
- Israeli forces have consistently implemented the use of **excessive lethal force** against Palestinians. In 2019 this resulted in the **deaths of hundreds and injuries to thousands** within months in both Gaza and the West Bank (Roth).
- The Israeli government has been responsible for the displacement of upwards of 20,000 Palestinians through the destruction of homes (Roth).

## Economic Implications

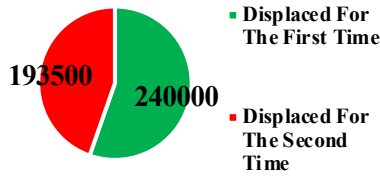


- Trade restrictions established borders that increased sales in Israel and eliminated the labor border. Palestinians did not benefit from open labor border. There was no monetary policy and the banking system was closed for Palestinians (Arnon).
- Uprisings resulted in the Intifada imposing curfews leading to a **severe economic crisis** but the impact remained relatively limited for Israel as there weren't severe limitations on the movement of capital (Arnon).
- The 1993 Oslo Accords were signed and precipitated an **economic crisis** as they failed to implement a legitimate one or two state solution. The Paris Protocol in 1994 resulted in **further separation and restrictions that harmed Palestine's economy** (Arnon).
- Israeli policy ultimately succeeded in **preventing the construction of two stable economies ensuring that Palestinians were not able to achieve economic prosperity** under Israeli occupation.
- Checkpoint policies, restrictions on movement, mandatory permits, and the separation wall have **fragmented Palestinian economic sectors**. The lack of autonomy has rendered the cost and ability of conducting business impossible for Palestinians.

## Refugee Crisis


- By the end of the 1967 war **more than one-third** of the population of the occupied territories **experienced displacement** (Halabi).

Displaced Palestinians in 1967



- Of the 15.2 million refugees registered with the UN in 2009, 4.8 million, **nearly one-third, were registered Palestinian refugees** (Feldman).
- Displacement** is compounded by house demolitions, deportations, land confiscations, settlement construction, and the creation of the separation wall.
- Thousands of refugee shelters have been destroyed affecting over 100,000 refugees (Halabi).
- The right of return is vehemently opposed by Israeli forces as it would cause a major demographic shift in the Jewish character of the region (Halabi).

## Struggles of Identity

- The construction of a **separation wall** in the West Bank along the green line was found in **violation of international law** by the International Court of Justice for the disproportionate harm it caused to Palestinians. Israel was ordered to dismantle the wall and make reparations, they **failed to comply** (Dana).
- Over **56.3%** of **Western** Palestinian households and over **70.9%** of **Eastern** Palestinian households experienced **sociocultural restrictions** due to the construction of the wall (Dana).
- 91.8%** of **Eastern** Palestinian households were also prevented from visiting holy sites (Dana). 
- A Palestinian survey found that **73.35%** agreed **women are more affected** by occupation than men and **71.56%** agreed that occupation made Palestinian society **more conservative and afraid** (Dana).
- The dehumanization of the Palestinian people and the occupation of their homeland has resulted in a complete loss of autonomy, separated families, and caused irrevocable generational damage.

## Policy Solutions

### One State Solution

**Advantages:** The foundation of a single state will be more conducive towards ensuring that a **collective decision to promote peace and justice** can be achieved. Those who question the feasibility of this solution are urged to consider the fact that South Africa was able to achieve success with a single state model following apartheid, despite the difficult odds. The current conditions facilitate and incentivize the Zionist motivations to establish a Jewish state and the **only way to combat this is to create a state founded upon principles of justice and equality for all citizens** (Gada).

**Disadvantages:** The successful establishment of a single state would be contingent upon the complete departure of Israelis from their colonial character and the **abandonment of the desire to establish a purely Jewish state**.

Considering the highly polarized rhetoric that the Jewish people will not have security without the establishment of a Jewish state, this is **highly unlikely**. Moreover, for most of the proponents of this resolution, there is **no single agreed upon understanding of a single state**. For most Palestinians a one-state solution would result in a **democratic nation** that would provide equal rights to Arabs and Israelis. For the majority of Israelis a single-state solution would provide the opportunity to establish a **Greater Israel** that would essentially subjugate Palestinians to lesser status under an apartheid-like regime. These ideas are irreconcilable for both sides and the one-state solution could ultimately result in **continued stagnation** (Wallis).

**Solution:** There are considerable advantages and disadvantages to both solutions and either could be capable of success only if the necessary concessions were made.

### Two State Solution

**Advantages:** The best way to **achieve justice** for the wrongs committed against the Palestinian people would be a return to the recognition of the Palestinian state according to the borders agreed upon in 1967. Jewish settlements would remain in place provided they were acquired legally; if not, Israel would be obliged to reverse the settlement projects (Isaac). The fact that the populations of both dissenting groups is nearly equal and that both groups refuse to accede to the other ensures that the **only viable option is to allow both groups to establish their own states**.

**Disadvantages:** The two-state division has currently lead to a **dead-lock** situation where both states are unable to reach a mutually beneficial solution and there are no factors that are unexplored; therefore, the only way to implement the two-state solution would be following significant ideological **change that has been unachievable** for over 50 years. The current stagnation has also contributed to the increasing socioeconomic and political disparity between the states which could continue. The separation of the region into two states will **heavily be influenced by Zionist motivations** which would be particularly concerning due to the vast amount of land currently in Israeli possession (Gada). The **continued failure** of the two-state solution essentially dictates that it is **no longer a viable option** as Israeli actions have repetitively undermined any hope for justice and equality between the states through **blatant disregard for committing crimes against humanity and refusal to comply with international law**. The two-state solution has been **undermined** through Israeli policies of **land seizure, home demolition, debilitating restrictions on movement, and economic upheaval** (Isaac).

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