

On 25-Jan-09, the CBS news program *60 Minutes* astonished me by showing a segment called "Time Running Out For A Two-State Solution?" depicting what is really going on in the occupied territories. **You can (and should) watch the program here:**  
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/01/23/60minutes/main4749723.shtml#ccmm>

When I posted my first comments soon after the show ended, there were already over 600 and there were over 2000 when I added more nearly 3 days later. I was going to add some further thoughts but they shut down the board after 72 hours.

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Comments I posted 30 minutes after the show finished

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Thank you, thank you CBS! Finally the daily humiliation of Palestinians under Israeli occupation is shown to Americans.

The soldiers in the Palestinian house are particularly instructive - if there was a real military need, the IDF would just build a tower and leave the family alone. Clearly their real aim is to make life so utterly impossible for the family that they are forced to leave and as the Palestinian doctor found, once you leave, you are never allowed back - slow-motion ethnic cleansing.

The PLO recognized Israel and renounced violence so it could participate in the Oslo accords with the aim of securing a Palestinian state but rather than help lay the foundations of a Palestinian state, Israel made its intentions clear by accelerating construction of Jewish. Many Palestinians therefore took away the lesson that talking was a ruse to keep them quiet and therefore the only option is to fight but then they are labeled "terrorists".

Jewish groups have been successful recovering art stolen by the Nazis and bank accounts stolen by the Swiss. Why can't they recognize that the Palestinians want their land and houses back? Until the dispossession of the Palestinians is addressed, there can never be peace. If Israel refuses them the Right of Return, it needs to compensate them so they can make a new life wherever they are now. Instead of bombing infrastructure as they just did in Gaza, they need to be building it for the people whose land they have taken.

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Comments I posted three days later (limited to 1500 characters so had to do 2 posts)

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To ot1234 at 10:28 PM : Jan 27, 2009:

"the Palestinians were offered a partition plan back in 1947"

Absolutely. I'm pleased you raised the issue and everyone take note of this. Here is the map:

<http://domino.un.org/maps/m0082.gif>

A few things to note:

\* Arabs and Jews were allocated roughly equal areas (even though there were about 600,000 Jews and 1.2 million Arabs at the time and Jews owned a mere 7% of the land, up from 3% when the British took control after the Ottoman Empire collapsed)

\* No area is cut off from the others belonging to the same ethnic group as they meet at crossroads (unlike the situation now where Gaza is physically separated from the West Bank)

\* The unique status of Jerusalem as sacred to three religions was recognized and so it was to be under international supervision.

As you say, the Arabs rejected this proposal, Israel unilaterally declared their independence, fighting broke out and in the end, the Jewish state ended up with 78% of the land, the rest of which they captured in 1967 and "settlers" moved in.

Let's bring it up-to-date ... (in my post below)

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To ot1234 at 10:28 PM : Jan 27, 2009 (continued from what I'm about to post):

ot1234, I don't know where you live but I assume it is somewhere in the US. For the sake of discussion, let's say that 2000 years ago, the Zapatista indians who now live in Mexico were predominant in the state where you now live. Further, in recent times, the Zapatista have suffered terribly at the hands of the Mexican government so in the last 15 years a great many Zapatista have moved to your state and want more of their people to be allowed in. The U.N. proposes that they are going to offer 50% of YOUR STATE to the Zapatista as a homeland and that this area includes YOUR HOUSE. They once ruled this area of course and have sacred sites there. Indeed, their god has told them that your state was given to them.

Would you be in favor of this partition plan? Do you still have sympathy for the long-suffering Zapatistas?

To continue, the U.N. was to hold a referendum but the Zapatistas seize the moment and declare their independence. The US government sends troops to quash the rebellion but they fail. What if YOU fled the fighting and ended up in a refugee camp in a

neighboring state? The Zapatista now won't allow you to go home. What if your grandchildren are STILL IN A REFUGEE CAMP 60 YEARS LATER.

How do you feel toward the Zapatista now? Don't you want the destruction of the country of Zapatista? That's how the Palestinians feel. Deal with the dispossession and the violence will end.