

IntraSBSMUN 2021

Ad-Hoc Committee



Israel-Palestine Issue with Special
Emphasis on a Two-state solution

Letter From The Executive Board

Greetings Delegates,

We hope you are doing well during these difficult times. It gives us immense pleasure, as the Executive Board, to welcome you to the IntraSBSMUN 2021! Despite the challenges of an online conference we are looking forward to exciting and innovative committee sessions.

This guide is aimed to be a foundation for you to build on, it is in no way a replacement for the extensive research we expect from you. During the MUN we encourage delegates to take up challenges and come up with solutions that have the potential for real change. This committee relies upon your ability to work together and reach a consensus through fierce yet diplomatic negotiations. While preparing for this committee, you must balance your portfolios policy with concessions to progress through the crises faced by this committee.

The EB is available to answer any questions related to the committee via email though we will be setting aside time to clarify doubts before starting the sessions. We look forward to a fruitful debate.

Good Luck!

For any queries you can reach out to us at Divitjain5@gmail.com, Tanmaygarg@gmail.com, Chiragthegreat2004@gmail.com

Best Wishes,

Divit Jain
Chairperson

Tanmay Garg
Vice-Chairperson

Chirag Jain
Rapporteur

Mandate

This Ad Hoc committee is a bipartisan panel set up to provide a viable solution to one of the longest conflicts of the modern world. Any solutions to this conflict would not only require military and political but also humanitarian considerations. As members of this committee, it is our job to evaluate the solutions to the conflict from different perspectives and make recommendations in line with the assigned portfolios.

This committee has the power to draft reports, propose bills and suggest executive orders. Delegates should pay attention to their portfolio to know the positions of their countries or organisations on matters of global importance. This will help representatives understand what form of policy they can draft and submit to this committee for discussion.

Consensus Building

The need for collaboration is key to a committee like this. Delegates will be evaluated on their ability to push their interests forward while making concessions that align with their portfolios.

As such, delegates are expected to be aware of pre-existing blocs concerning their assigned countries and organisations. Policies put forth by the blocs must have overwhelming support from their blocs. We encourage bipartisan collaboration, and hence there will be a strong need for blocs to work together

Introduction to the Conflict

Britain took control of the area known as Palestine after the ruler of that part of the Middle East, the Ottoman Empire, was defeated in World War One. The land was inhabited by a Jewish minority and Arab majority. Tensions between the two peoples grew when the international community gave Britain the task of establishing a "national home" in Palestine for Jewish people. For Jews it was their ancestral home, but Palestinian Arabs also claimed the land and opposed the move.

Between the 1920s and 1940s, the number of Jews arriving there grew, with many fleeing from persecution in Europe and seeking a homeland after the Holocaust of World War Two. Violence between Jews and Arabs, and against British rule, also grew.

In 1947, the UN voted for Palestine to be split into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem becoming an international city. That plan was accepted by Jewish leaders but rejected by the Arab side and never implemented. In 1948, unable to solve the problem, British rulers left and Jewish leaders declared the creation of the state of Israel. Many Palestinians objected and a war followed. Troops from neighbouring Arab countries invaded. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were forced out of their homes in what they call Al Nakba, or the "Catastrophe". By the time the fighting ended in a ceasefire the following year, Israel controlled most of the territory. Jordan occupied land which became known as the West Bank, and Egypt occupied Gaza. Jerusalem was divided between Israeli forces in the West, and Jordanian forces in the East. Because there was never a peace agreement - with each side blaming the other - there were more wars and fighting in the following decades (explained in the timeline).

Israel's boundaries today

■ Palestinian civil control

■ Built-up Palestinian area



Israel occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank, as well as most of the Syrian Golan Heights, and the Egyptian Sinai peninsula. Most Palestinian refugees and their descendants live in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as in neighbouring Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Israel claims the whole of Jerusalem as its capital, while the Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

Situation Today

Tensions are often high between Israel and Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank. Gaza is ruled by the Palestinian militant group Hamas, which has fought Israel many times. Israel and Egypt tightly control Gaza's borders to stop weapons getting to Hamas.

Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank say they are suffering because of Israeli actions and restrictions. Israel says it is only acting to protect itself from Palestinian violence.

What are the main problems?

There are a number of issues which Israel and the Palestinians cannot agree on.

These include: what should happen to Palestinian refugees; whether Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank should stay or be removed; whether the two sides should share Jerusalem; and - perhaps most tricky of all - whether a Palestinian state should be created alongside Israel.



Two-State Solution

The turbulent history of the conflict might lead you to question whether or not peace is possible between Israelis and Palestinians, what that peace would look like, and how feasible it would be. Here, we present already proposed and widely debated potential solutions to resolve this long-standing political issue.

What is the Two-state Solution?

At its roots, the conflict is about the division of territory between two diverse populations. Religion is also involved. The two-state solution seeks to establish an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel — two states for two peoples.

In theory, this would win Israel security and allow it to retain a Jewish demographic majority (letting the country remain Jewish and democratic) while granting the Palestinians a state.

Most governments and world bodies have set the achievement of the two-state solution as official policy, including the United States, the United Nations, the Palestinian Authority and Israel. This goal has been the basis of peace talks for decades.

Why is the solution so difficult to achieve?

There are four issues that have proved most challenging. Each comes down to a set of bedrock demands between the two sides that, in execution, often appear to be mutually exclusive. In committee, delegates would be expected to dive deep into these issues and offer their stances on these key issues.

1. Borders: If a two-state solution is implemented, borders will have to be drawn but there is no consensus about precisely where to draw the line. Obama in 2011 stated that the border should follow the lines before the Arab-Israeli war of 1967, but with Israel keeping some of the lands where it has built settlements and in exchange providing other lands to the Palestinians to compensate. Israel has constructed barriers along and within the West Bank that many analysts

worry to create a de facto border, and it has built settlements in the West Bank that will make it difficult to establish that land as part of an independent Palestine.

2. Jerusalem: Both sides claim Jerusalem as their capital and consider it a centre of religious worship and cultural heritage. The two-state solution typically calls for dividing it into an Israeli West and a Palestinian East, but it is not easy to draw the line — Jewish, Muslim and Christian holy sites are on top of one another. Israel has declared Jerusalem its “undivided capital,” effectively annexing its eastern half, and has built up construction that entrenches Israeli control of the city.

3. Refugees: Large numbers of Palestinians fled or were expelled from their homes in what is now Israel, primarily during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war that came after Israel’s creation. They and their descendants now number five million and believe they deserve the right to return. This is a nonstarter for Israel: Too many returnees would end the Jews’ demographic majority and therefore Israel’s status as both a Jewish and a democratic state.

4. Security: For Palestinians, security means an end to foreign military occupation. For Israelis, this means avoiding a takeover of the West Bank by a group like Hamas that would threaten Israelis (as happened in Gaza after Israel’s 2005 withdrawal). It also means keeping Israel defensible against foreign armies, which often means requiring a continued Israeli military presence in parts of the West Bank. The most recent flare-up occurred in May 2021 After weeks of tension in Jerusalem led to Israeli police raiding al-Aqsa Mosque, one of the holiest sites in Islam, Hamas fired rockets toward the city for the first time in years, prompting Israel to retaliate with airstrikes. The fighting, the fiercest since at least 2014, saw thousands of rockets fired from Gaza and hundred of airstrikes on the Palestinian territory, with more than 200 killed in Gaza and at least 10 killed in Israel.

Different versions of the Two-state Solution

1. **Historic:** The Peel commission of the British Mandate made the first ever proposal for a separate Jewish and Arab state in 1937. However, it was rejected by the Palestinians. The partition was again brought up in the 1947 UN partition plan but with a twist: Jerusalem would be a separate entity, placed under international control. This proposal was accepted by Israel and rejected by the Arab nation again.

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2. **Trump Administration's version:** During his 4 year period as US president, Trump made it abundantly clear that he was in support of Israel. He proposed a concrete plan along with a map of the new two state solution he envisioned. The map gave Israel complete control of Jerusalem. Understandably, Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas reacted in fury saying "Your conspiracy will not pass".
 3. **Abbas version:** The Palestinian president has proposed a Palestinian sovereign capital in East Jerusalem:
 - a. Palestine in Gaza and 97-98% of the West Bank
 - b. 1:1 swap where Israel annexes Latrun and a narrow territorial version of settlement blocs (Efrat, Maale Adumim but not Ariel)
 - c. Israel annexes Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem like East Talpiot and Pisgat Zeev
 - d. Symbolic right of return (5-25K total) but mostly financial compensation for refugees. Israel would close settlements in Palestine.
 4. **Netanyahu's version:** Israel was largely in agreement with Trump's plan as a close ally of the USA. A few details of the partition are as follows:
 - a. Jerusalem united under Israeli sovereignty
 - b. Possibly Palestine could have an office there or something short of sovereignty in an outlying suburb (linking back to something like Abu Dis in the Beilin-Abu Mazen plan of the 1990s)
 - c. Palestinian religious access to holy sites in Jerusalem
 - d. Palestine in Gaza and, say, 50-60% of the West Bank
 - e. Very constrained Palestinian sovereignty
 - f. No Palestinian right of return
 - g. International community could provide compensation for Palestinian refugees
 - h. Jewish refugees from Arab countries are also a live issue. Palestinians must recognize Israel as Jewish state
 - i. Israel might close a few isolated settlements but most would stay in place.



Questions to Consider

1. Can the two-state solution be achieved without significantly depleting the resources of one or both countries?
2. How can the two-state solution deal with Jerusalem while ensuring all 3 religions have equal access to the holy city?
3. How can it be ensured that countries will stick to the promises made under a two-state solution?
4. Is foreign presence essential to maintain long-lasting peace between Israel and Palestine?
5. What would be the role of controversial organisations like Hamas under the new solution?
6. How would the solution address the “illegally” established Israeli settlements allegedly on Arab Land?
7. Does Israel have a moral responsibility to provide resources financial or otherwise to a newly formed Palestine?

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