

1. What is your past Model UN experience?

I joined MUN during my sophomore year and have competed at 2 conferences since. I competed at Seton Hall in the Nigerian Cabinet crisis committee as the minister of water resources. My first conference was at Franklin High School where I was part of a general assembly as Spain.

2. What do you believe are the three most important issues related to developing a final framework agreement between Israel and Palestine?

An agreement between Israel and Palestine must consider important issues such as identity, respect and equitable division of land. An agreement must allow both Palestine and Israel to come out with their own identity such as being able to announce himself as a "Jewish State." Both sides must be able to have a formal way to be recognized by the international community. Second, there has to be an understanding of respect to each other religions. This comes with respecting holidays and times of prayer in public. An Israelite or Palestinian must be able to practice their faith in public without the fear of being attacked. Lastly, each side must have a sense of place. There should be an equal amount of space so each side may be able to call a place home. But a home where they are able to be themselves without persecution.

3. How does the unification of Fatah and Hamas affect negotiations between Israel and Palestine?

The unification of Fatah and Hamas will have a negative effect on Israel's and Palestine's negotiations as Hamas consistently strides for the destruction of Israel. Shortly after Fatah and Hamas announced their unification, Israel reacted by calling off their next round of talks. Israel also finds it difficult to negotiate since their unification because Hamas is deemed as a terrorist group by the United States and European Union. Therefore it is unlikely negotiations will progress.

4. Please discuss some of the potential outcomes of negotiations between Israel and Palestine (i.e. joint government in one state, two separate states, etc.), and the costs/benefits of each scenario.

The advantage of a two separate state solution is that each side will receive what they would like which would lead to peace for the years ahead. Each could have their own form of government, anthem and flag to represent themselves to the international community. The only downside to this solution doesn't so much come after its implementation but on the road to this solution. For years the United States and other international entities have tried to reach this goal but we are no closer to it than we were before. It seems impossible to have two countries with such great passion for their beliefs to neighbor one another, especially considering that one of the country's belief is that the other doesn't deserve to be recognized. There needs to be a policy of realism and the reality is this approach has not and will not work. A joint government would allow for citizens to be treated equally regardless of their religious beliefs. Their civic pride from belonging to one big community could possibly surpass their differences.

5. How can Israel balance its stated desire to be formally recognized by the international community as a “Jewish state” with its constitutional commitment to democracy? How does this impact the negotiations process?

The biggest stride Israel can make in becoming a “Jewish state” while maintaining this commitment to being a democracy is by insuring that all citizens receive equal treatment regardless of their religion. Israel can achieve this by avoiding the tyranny of the majority and insuring that minority groups have a voice in political and social law making. The national government may institute the practice of common Jewish beliefs but it must allow others to disobey certain actions due to personal beliefs. In essence Israel may continue its Jewish-oriented activities but it must do so with respect to others. If Israel can achieve this balance it may allow its initiative for negotiation to positively progress.