

1. My past Model United Nations experience includes participating in two Saint Peter's University High School Model United Nations competitions. I have also assisted in several Model United Nations competitions and have been a part of my school's Speech and Debate Team for 3 years. My experience at these competitions has increased my speech and debate skills tremendously; it has also fed my craving to learn more about current issues.
2. The three most important issues related to developing a final framework agreement between Israel and Palestine, in my opinion, have to include: (1) Palestine's absence of a central government, (2) failure on Israel's part to recognize Palestine, and (3) the hostility and strong beliefs of each party and its members. Palestine is lacking the makings of a recognizable state making it impossible for a two-state plan to be implemented because a second Palestinian state would fail. Israel has, in the past, stated that it does not recognize Palestine or Hamas representatives of Palestine. This inability to recognize Palestine makes communications between the two extremely difficult when not impossible. Thirdly, just because an agreement between the two parties may one day be reached does not mean that civilians will not continue the acts of terror on both parts. This violence will only counter any peace and agreements made by the two groups.
3. The unification between Hamas and Fatah affects negotiations between Israel and Palestine because Israel refuses to recognize Hamas as a representative group of Palestine. This makes peace talks close to impossible because the peace talks would have to include Hamas because of its union with Fatah.
4. If Israel and Palestine were to split up into two separate states, there would be a large chance that Palestine may ultimately fail as a state because it is lacking an actual government and recognition by the international community. Tensions between Israel and Palestine would also be high because of the violent acts that have ensued in the past few years of war. Also, whether or not Israel and Palestine agree on a two-state plan or not, conflict may still exist because the Israelis and Palestinians may not be completely satisfied with the final terms of agreement and acts of violence may continue. If Palestine and Israel were to once again join as one unified state, democratic principles and fundamental people's rights would be implemented into the state as a whole. However, because the populations of people living in the separate regions are so imbalanced, there would be an issue with equal representation between Palestinians and Israelis in their newly unified government.

5. Israel can create a balance between becoming a formally recognized democratic and Jewish state by the international community by not forcing everyone in Israel to undertake the Jewish religion. However, they can still be recognized as a primarily Jewish state and can embrace their democratic values by accepting other religions in its state with open arms. This may actually help Palestine see a new light and help to ease peace talks and the idea of a one-state agreement plan.