

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Global IV

period: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Homework # \_\_\_\_\_ - part 2 (20/40 point) counts as quiz grade...answer on a separate sheet of paper.

### Israelis and Palestinians: A Look at the future

**Directions:** Below you will find some background information about the present and future of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Based on what you have learned about the feelings of these people, decide what the most likely outcome of this conflict 25 years from now? Here are five different possibilities. Consider the following:

1. What are the benefits of these solutions?
2. What are the costs?
3. Which is mostly likely?

#### The situation today

Right now Israel controls virtually all the territory that was Palestine before 1948, including the territories occupied by Israel since the 1967 war. Palestinians living in these areas continue to fight for independence. Meanwhile, Israel has built Jewish settlements within these areas. The US provides strong economic, military, and diplomatic support for Israel, and Israel (for now) seems capable of defeating any combination of Arab armies. Leaders of various Arab nations say they support Palestinian independence, but these leaders seem unwilling to use their military forces against Israel.

#### Possible Outcome 1: Status Quo (Things don't change)

The status quo means two things: a) Israel would continue to rule a large Palestinian minority in a non-democratic way (Palestinians have few rights), and b) Israel would continue to control the land captured in 1967. Another form of the status quo would be for Palestinians to have limited self-government under Israeli authority.

#### Possible Outcome 2: One Nation

Could Israelis and Palestinians live in one country? Could they all have equal rights and a government that favors no religion or ethnic group? Under this option, the government would no longer be "Jewish." This was an option favored by certain Jewish groups and leaders before 1948 and it was the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) position between 1974 and 1988. It is still the position of some Palestinians and some Israelis.

#### Possible Outcome 3: Partition into Two Nations

In 1947, the UN partitioned (divided) Palestine into two states (nations), one Jewish, one Arab. The UN assumed that Jews and Palestinians could never live together in a single country. In 1988, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) endorsed this two-state solution. Some Israeli political parties also back this option. This option would give each group its own land, and the US would give money to both sides.

#### Possible Outcome 4: Expelling the Palestinians

In the 1970s, an extremist American rabbi named Meir Kahane moved to Israel and formed a new political party. He called Arabs a "cancer" and "vermin" that had to be expelled. His position (not supported by historical evidence) was that Palestinians were not truly an ethnic group but were Jordanians, Syrians, Egyptians, or Lebanese who should go back where they came from. Kahane was assassinated in 1989. But today, there are two political parties in Israel that call for expelling Palestinians. Some public opinion polls say almost 40% of the Israeli public would consider some form of expulsion.

#### Possible Outcome 5: Elimination of Israel

Radical Palestinians (such as those in **Hamas**) and some other Arabs feel that Israel has treated Palestinians so badly that it cannot be trusted. They believe that a Jewish state should not be allowed. They do not want any kind of settlement with Israel. There are 170 million Arabs and 4 million Israelis. So far, there is only one Arab state (Egypt) that has a peace treaty with Israel. At some time in the future, radical governments could come to power in Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia and other countries. If the US were involved in a war elsewhere, and if the Arab states formed a military alliance to defeat Israel, Jews could be forced to leave the country.