Why the Israel/Palestinian conflict will not be solved soon

The news of the continuous conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians is white noise to the world these days. While everyone looking in from the outside is hopeful that a resolution will come, the people that are directly involved have a different opinion.

Being thrown into a simulation created by The Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, a private university in Israel, my eyes were opened to the issues surrounding the conflict. I was told that I was one of two people acting as the United States and was to mediate a discussion between the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

I can’t say that I thought it would be easy considering if I have learned anything in my last two weeks it’s that the problems surrounding the conflict are a lot more complicated then they appear to be.

The simulation stretched my knowledge though as I was presented with two sides that refused to give anything without proof that the other wouldn’t break their promises.

On top of this, I found that as soon as we would try to approach one problem ten more appeared (when I pointed this out I was promptly told “welcome to Israel”).

To make a long story short, we were unable to come to a solution, which just added to my growing belief that this conflict is not going to be solved in the near future.

With a number of speakers, all with varying opinions, coming in to talk to us recently all have come to a similar conclusion. Some list different things that will need to be done in order for peace to occur, all think it’s going to take quite a bit of time.

Most of these opinions identified the root of the problem though; the mindsets of the Israelis and the Palestinians don’t acquiesce.

There is too much history involved that neither side is willing to forget. While some consider it self-defeating to hold onto the past so dearly there is no way that it can be justified to ask either side to do this.

The fact of the matter is that this is how it is and neither side sees it as something that can be resolved. Until they see a way to move forward, history and all, the friction between the two entities is not going to change.