

Can America afford to neglect the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict?

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Before President Biden took the oath of office in January 2021, it had become known that he decided to avoid the traps to the [Palestinian-Israeli conflict](#). His 48 years of experience as Vice President and member of Congress seem to have convinced him that trying to negotiate an Arab-Israeli agreement to settle the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is fruitless; all attempts to solve this problem since 1973 have failed. But is the conflict unsolvable and must be avoided to save time and credibility? The answer is NO. No conflict has no solution, but some conflicts are more complicated than others. Since President Dwight Eisenhower, no American president, except for Clinton, tried to end the conflict peacefully. Clinton found an opportunity to be a peacemaker after Palestinians and Israelis reached an agreement on their own in 1993; President Clinton hosted a ceremony for signing the Oslo Accords in the White House. Though most American presidents expressed interest in dealing with the Arab Israeli conflict, they concentrated on conflict management rather than on conflict resolution.

American policy since 1922 has supported the Zionist movement in its quest to establish a Jewish state in Palestine. American and British leaders knew that any Jewish state in Palestine has to come at the expense of the Palestinian people because when the Balfour declaration was made in 1917, Jews owned 3% of the Palestinian land only. "As of 1944, Jews acquired only 6% of the land in Palestine." The organizations that controlled most of this land were the [Jewish National Fund](#) and the [Palestine Jewish Colonization Association](#). ([Jewish Land Purchase in Palestine](#)). For the Zionist Jews to name an association "Palestine Colonization Association" is in itself a clear acknowledgement that the Jewish plans were to colonize Palestine and not to return to a "promised land" that has never was theirs.

Having made this commitment, American efforts to negotiate an agreement to settle the conflict were used to give Israel more time and larger space to confiscate more land, build new settlements, and make the establishment of a Palestinian state impossible. Two cases of American involvement in other conflicts prove this point.

In 1956, Britain, France, and Israel conspired and attacked Egypt, they occupied the Sinai peninsula and the Swiss Canal. President Eisenhower got angry because he was neither

consulted nor informed of the attack; he, therefore, ordered Britain, France, and Israel to withdraw their forces, and they did. Eisenhower had then an opportunity to solve the Palestinian problem and earn the honor of achieving peace, but he did not because solving that problem was viewed as contrary to American interest in the Middle East. The second case is US involvement in the civil war in former Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

The Serbs, particularly the Bosnian Serbs, committed untold crimes against the Bosnian Muslim people that resulted in the killing and raping of thousands of men, women, and children and ethnically cleansing millions more. After trying several options to stop the massacres without success, President Clinton decided to take decisive action. He started his action by linking diplomacy with military force because he realized that “success in Bosnia required a clear sense of how the conflict would be resolved as well as a willingness to impose [US vision] on the parties involved in the conflict. The endgame strategy provided the vision; Holbrook’s diplomatic efforts produced an agreement based on that strategy,” and the military intervention forced the Serbs to negotiate. (Ivo Daalder, *Decision to intervene: How the war in Bosnia ended*, Brookings, December 1, 1998)

If President Biden fails to take decisive action regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, others will take it for him, and America will lose its influence in the Middle East. The Islamic forces in Gaza, Lebanon, and Yemen, backed by Iran’s military technology and money will move sooner rather than later to attack Israel in a massive display of military power that could destroy Israel’s ports, airports, highways, bridges, military bases, and means of communication in probably 24 hours. And this will encourage millions of Palestinian refugees to reclaim their homes in all parts of Palestine, creating a chaotic situation beyond anyone’s control. Palestine is too small for a traditional, long-lasting war; its size is about 40 times the city of Houston only.

Antony Blinken, US Secretary of State, said that “The United States is committed to advancing prosperity, security, and freedom for both Israelis and Palestinians in tangible ways in the immediate term, which is important in its own right, but also as a means to advance towards a negotiated two-state solution.” But providing \$150 million to boost the UNRAW budget that serves 5.7 million Palestinian refugees is hardly enough to build and equip a decent hospital in Gaza or the West Bank. If this money were to be divided among all refugees, each person will get \$26 only, not enough to buy the required books for a high school student.

Antony Blinken also said that the US will provide \$75 million for “economic development projects” in the West Bank and Gaza whose population is about 5 million people, making the share of each Palestinian \$15 only. If this money were to be used to build little houses for the Palestinian refugees living in Gaza to replace some of the thousands of houses which the Israeli army had destroyed during the last few years, it will probably build about 5,000 units and create about 4,000 jobs over a two year period. Is this enough to “advance prosperity, security, and freedom for both Israelis and Palestinians,” as Secretary Blinken claims? Blinken cannot deceive any knowledgeable person in the Middle East or in Europe; he can only appease the criminal Israeli leaders, deceive himself and mislead the American public and cause the day of reckoning for Israel to come sooner rather than later.

President Biden needs to gather whatever courage he has and do what President Eisenhower did in 1956, or what President Clinton did in 1995 in case of Bosnia; of course he would not bomb Israeli airports or ever stop giving them billions of dollars annually. Therefore, the US government should prepare itself for another Middle Eastern catastrophe that will come in a few years, rather than in decades, and America should be held responsible for all the crimes that are expected to be committed by both sides.

In 2017, the US decided to build its second largest embassy in the world after the US embassy in Baghdad, Iraq. The embassy in Baghdad is about ten times the US embassy in China. Now the US has decided to build its second largest embassy in the world in Beirut, Lebanon. The land on which the embassy is being built is 43 acres which is equal to 174,000 square meters, and it will cost about \$1.2 billion and should be completed later this year (2023). The huge size of this embassy makes it hard to understand its purpose and mission. While some people think it is intended to protect Israel and enable it to complete its colonization of Palestine; others think that it is intended to oversee US interests in the Middle East in the post-Israel era. Intensifying US attacks on Syria will hasten the process of ending the US-Israeli game on the global stage and pave the way for the post-Israel, post-America era.

Prof. Rabie is a distinguished professor of International Political Economy; he attended 5 universities and taught at 11 others on four continents. He has published 61 books, about 200 scholarly papers, and over 2000 newspaper articles. Books are 16 in English, one in Albanian, and the rest are in Arabic. English Books include *Saving Capitalism and Democracy*; *Global Economic and Cultural Transformation*; *A Theory of Sustainable Sociocultural and Economic Development*; *The Global Debt Crisis and its Socioeconomic Implications*. (Palgrave Macmillan

2013-2017) One of the English books, "History of Racism", was translated and published in six other languages: German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Polish. Arabic Books include 3 poetry collections, 3 novels, and a story; the rest is mostly academic books and collections of ideas and reflections. Prof. Rabie is president of the Arab Thought Council in Washington, DC, a member of the Arab Thought Forum, and a fellow of the Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation since 1992. Grants and scholarships financed his education from high school to receiving his Ph.D. in 1970 from the University of Houston; grants covered studies in Jordan, Egypt, Germany, and America. He is the winner of the State of Palestine Lifetime Achievement Award for scholarly publications and other awards. His writings and positions reflect a strong commitment to peace, social justice, freedom, human development, and social, cultural, economic, and environmental sustainability.

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