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Two States for Israel and Palestine: A Reappearance of an Old Chimera Taken from the Dustbin of History

The support of the Western powers is subject to substantial changes in the tenor of the global balance of forces between the traditional and emerging powers, China and Russia in particular.



The proposal put forward this week by the European Union and apparently also supported by Washington does not differ fundamentally from the proposal that was approved at the time, which was never carried out and which failed because more than two states (Palestine and Israel), it was and has been until today a formula imposed by the Western powers and which was nothing more than the consolidation of the colonialist project through the use of the European Union. Which the Europeans (particularly) supposedly

showed the intention of compensating the Jews for the persecution to which they were subjected for centuries and which had its bloodiest point in the Holocaust. It is striking that in order to do so, the Western powers sacrificed another people – the Palestinians. Nor was anything done in the Old Continent to compensate other minorities, victims of racism, as happened with the so-called Gypsies (Rrom and Sinti), of whom about 25% were exterminated by the Nazis in Europe; It also happened with other smaller groups, who were also considered people of inferior nature and therefore deserving of extermination. An idea similar to Zionism's arguments in relation to the Palestinians.

In any case, it seems very difficult for the two-state proposal to have a real chance of succeeding, at least if it depends only on Israel; it is essential that its sponsors, particularly the United States, intervene. Without the help – in all terms – of Washington and Europe, Israel would be forced into some kind of negotiation with the Palestinians. A new version of the original idea of the two states – which was never fulfilled – would only generate a pause, a ceasefire, but the central motives of the conflict would remain until the dynamics of the conflict led to another war. It is useful to consider some elements that make the two-State solution very difficult, if not impossible.

How much of today's Israel would the Zionists be willing to return to the Palestinians? What compensatory measures would you give to the millions of Palestinians who were violently expelled and who are now trying to survive in countries like Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and many others, not excluding Europe itself or the United States? What is to be done with the so-called "settlers" who openly illegally and violently occupy many territories in the West Bank, who systematically attack the Palestinians in order to obtain their expulsion and have the complicity of the Zionist government? If the Israeli authorities were to agree to a peace conference, sponsored by the Western powers and their allies in the Arab countries (which are not exactly examples of democracy and in so many ways are as reactionary as Zionism). Would the Palestinian state be a real entity – in all respects – and not the grotesque caricature of a state like the West Bank and Gaza are now, in reality another form of Zionist colonialism? It would therefore be essential to begin by identifying the direct protagonists of the proposed peace plan that would culminate in the creation of two States, Palestine and Israel.

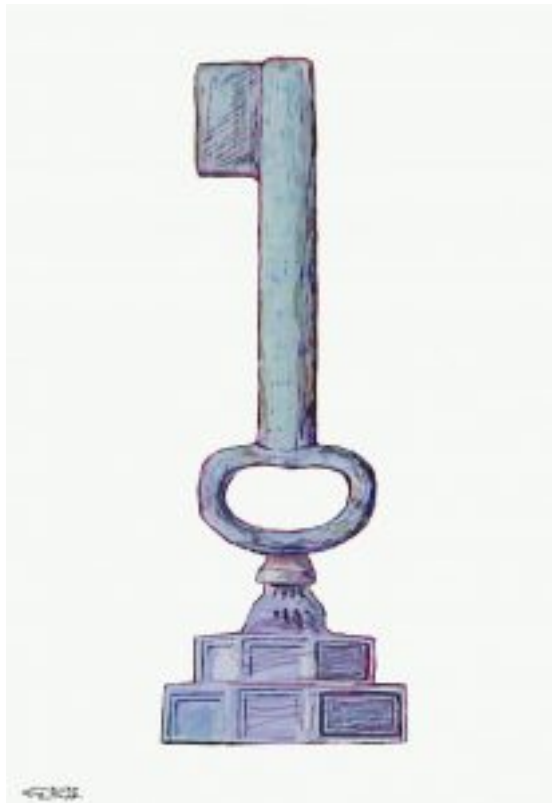


Naji al-Ali

It does not appear that the so-called Palestinian National Authority is in a position to adequately represent the population if Hamas and other Muslim-inspired organizations (both right-wing and left-wing) are excluded. Israel's strategy has been very successful in ensuring that the Palestinian National Authority lacks a representation that would fully legitimize it in a peace negotiation process; Israel has literally destroyed the Palestinian National Authority, fomenting strife among the various social and political groupings of the Palestinians. Would it be feasible to ignore Hamas and other similar groups in this peace process if in fact they are already in the majority in the Gaza Strip and seem to have also gained great support in the West Bank, among the same Palestinians who live in Israel, no less than in the rest of the Arab and Muslim world? The West should forget about considering these political groupings – and the social bases that sustain them – as "terrorists", probably in the same way that in their day it stopped considering Nelson Mandela or Jomo Kenyatta, or more directly Arafat himself, when the real correlation of forces forced us to consider them for what they really were. patriots who fought for the independence of their peoples, sometimes using very violent methods, as violent as those used by the British and the South African racists or the Zionist state, and not very different from those used in their day by the Zionist movement when it was an underground grouping.

It should not be ruled out that the groups considered to be the most radical among the Palestinians - Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front - would greatly moderate their positions by admitting to living with the Israelis in the two states if the proposal has sufficient basis and credibility; Israel would have to offer a lot to achieve an agreement on

solid foundations that opens the way not only to solutions for the most dramatic forms of the current situation but also to advance towards the real coexistence of both communities and, why not, that culminates in the constitution of a single state in which Jews can peacefully coexist. Muslims, Christians, non-believers and other minor groups who are equally discriminated against and persecuted today. In Israel, it seems that the percentage of the Jewish population that would accept a type of solution of this modern and democratic nature is increasing: non-religious Jews, not a few of the elderly people who survived the Holocaust and watch with horror as Zionism repeats with the Palestinians actions similar to those that the Third Reich had with them. and even a part of Orthodox Jews, who for religious reasons do not accept the State of Israel, considering the very idea of a Jewish state as heresy, and are willing to coexist peacefully with the Palestinians.



The Palestinian holy symbol: Nakba. By Mohamed Afefa

Israeli society is thus far from identifying completely and unconditionally with Zionism, particularly its most aggressive and criminal forms. It is only a matter of time before the unfolding of events reduces the social and electoral influence of Zionism – at least in its most extreme forms. The support of the Western powers is subject to substantial changes in the tenor of the global balance of forces between the traditional and emerging powers, China and Russia in particular. The conflict affects them, no doubt; and in these cases it

seems prudent not to forget that in the relationship between nations there are no friends but interests, so that the fate of Israel - at least in its present form - depends much more on the global correlation than on its internal forces. Israel was born and has been maintained for 75 years thanks to the permanent support of those Western powers that always saw Israel as a military base in their competition first with the Soviet Union and now with Russia and China. By the same token, if the West does not at a certain time like an Israel of extreme Zionism like the current one, it has enough weapons to press for substantial changes so that its two-state proposal has a chance. But nothing is clear at the moment; one can only conclude that a state like Israel, in its present form, is not exactly a factor of tranquility for the West, nor is it a safe and peaceful home for Jewish families who, for whatever reasons (religious or cultural), wish to live in Palestine, in the land that more than two thousand years ago was supposedly the land of their most remote ancestors.

At the same time as it favours and advocates the "return of the Jews to their land of origin", Israel can no longer prohibit Palestinians from returning to the ancestral places from which their grandparents were hunted, keeping the keys to their homes, now in ruins or occupied by settlers.

Piedad has left us, but she and her legacy will remain forever as an example of dedication to just causes. May he rest in peace.

Juan Diego García for La Pluma, January 25, 2024

Edited by [Maria Piedad Ossaba](#)

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