

COMMENT

The original 'two-state' solution

Modern Israel is already living in its part of the original 'two-state' solution. And now the Arabs want even more.

• By DAN CALIC

In 1917 Britain issued the Balfour Declaration promising a national homeland for the Jewish people. The land involved comprised 43,000 sq. miles from the Euphrates River to the Mediterranean Sea. In 1922, 76% of this land was given away to form the country of Transjordan [today known as Jordan]. The remaining 24% was divided into two states, one Jewish, one Arab, as a result of UN resolution 181 in November 1947.

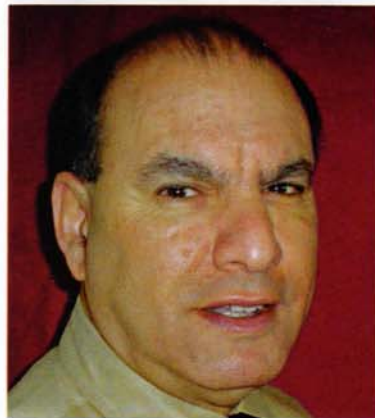
Thus the Jews were given roughly 5,500 square miles, or 12.5% of the originally promised 43,000.

This was the original two-state "solution." The Jews accepted the deal. The Arabs rejected it and attacked newborn Israel, intending to destroy it.

Sixty-three years and five wars later, Israel still exists and the Arabs still refuse to accept it, vowing they will not rest until the "Zionist state is demolished and Palestine is completely liberated." [Fatah charter, article 19].

Today, the reason certain Arabs are willing to discuss a two-state "solution" is because they've been unable to destroy Israel militarily, plus they see it as a needed interim step toward their old ultimate goal of demolishing the "Zionist state" completely, in accordance with Islamic eschatology.

The US has no right to insert itself into a dispute where it does not belong, and needs to stop pandering to those sworn to destroy Israel. President Barack Obama should include additional Jewish voices in his inner circle, unlike the current mix, who are viewed as "good Jews" because they're not being good Jews. They, like so many secular Jews, seem



DAN CALIC

to prefer assimilation and the need to disassociate themselves from standing up for the Jewish people's historical and biblical rights to live in the land God gave us for fear they will be labeled "Zionists." God forbid!

Two Israeli PMs, Barak and Olmert, offered at least 95% of Judea/Samaria, plus land swaps. One even offered to divide Jerusalem. Both offers were rejected. In fact, Abbas never had the courtesy to even respond to Olmert's offer. These slaps in the face conjure up some ironies regarding Israel.

For example: How can someone support national movements, yet oppose Zionism?

Jews living in Judea/Samaria do not demand that the Arabs leave, yet should they get a state on this same land the Arabs say the Jews must leave.

Israel is roughly 8,000 square miles [about the size of New Jersey] with approximately six million Jews. The Arab Middle East consists of 22 countries covering over five million square miles, with a population of over 325 million. Yet when Israel asked to be recognized as a Jewish

state, [including its 20% Arab population], the response from the PA was a resounding "no!"

Innocent civilians living in Sderot endured almost 8,000 rocket attacks before Israel finally responded with Operation Cast Lead, yet Israel stands accused of using "disproportionate force."

Israel engaged an enemy that intentionally positioned fighters within civilian areas, knowing its own people would be killed. In order to minimize such civilian deaths, the IDF made thousands of phone calls and dropped millions of leaflets before going into Gaza. No other army in the history of warfare has made such an effort to protect innocent people, yet Israel gets accused of war crimes! Were the civilians of Sderot given any warnings by Hamas?

If there have ever been more egregious examples of living under a double standard than what Israel faces, I know of none.

And yet the drumbeat of criticism against Israel continues, even from Israel's closest "friends."

Resolving disputes requires negotiations, negotiations require compromise, compromise requires giving in order to get. Abbas doesn't negotiate. He requires that his demands be met before he "negotiates," thus giving new meaning to the term. So far the only side willing to give is Israel.

The combination of Arab hatred, naïve Jews, spineless Western diplomats and anti-Semitism is something to which Israel cannot capitulate. There's an old saying: If I won't speak for myself, who will speak for me?

Israel speaks, yet the world is deaf. •

The writer is a Canadian historian/advocate.