

CHAPTER

11

THE ONLY LONG-TERM VIABLE ISRAEL IS A LARGER ISRAEL



It bears repeating that there are twenty-one Arab League member states and fifty-seven member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. There is one tiny Jewish state.

Yet many people still suggest that if only Israel gave back the land it captured in the 1967 war, there would be peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors. This suggestion does not take into consideration the need for Israel to become a self-sufficient viable state.

But setting aside Israel's long-term viability, the suggestion that Israel's return to its pre-1967 borders will bring peace doesn't stand up to historic reality. If Israel gave back every inch of land it captured, it would neither end hostilities nor end terrorism.

As President Lyndon Johnson said a year after Israel

was forced into war, “We are not the ones to say where other nations should draw lines between them that will assure each the greatest security. It is clear, however, that a return to the situation of June 4, 1967 will not bring peace.”¹

The notion that all problems in the Middle East flow from Palestinian oppression, that Palestinian oppression flows from Israel’s occupation of “Palestinian lands,” and that if the occupation were ended, all problems in the Middle East would end, is false.

Arab countries refused to make peace with Israel when they controlled the West Bank and Gaza before 1967. Palestinians refused to make peace, or even offer a counter-proposal to Israel when Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered to dismantle settlements and withdraw from most of the territories.

Think of it. If the central Palestinian aims were truly the end of Israeli “oppression” and the fulfillment of Palestinian self-determination, the status of Jerusalem and the so-called “right of return” of Arabs to Israel would be minor points. They are not, so it can be reasonably deduced that the creation of a Palestinian state in the territories would not end the conflict.

Terrorism against Israelis existed long before it captured the territories. Terrorism has been a tactic of choice of the Palestinian Arab leadership. In the 1920s Jews were targeted, in the 1930s Jews were targeted, and in the 1940s Jews were targeted. Between 1951-1955, nearly 1,000 Israeli civilians were killed in cross-border attacks.² What makes anyone think the terror would stop with the creation of a Palestinian state limited to the West Bank and Gaza?

One poll found that eighty-seven percent of Palestinians are in favor of liberating *all* of Palestine.³ That is, wiping out Israel. Neither the occupation nor settlements are the cause of trouble between radical Muslims and Arabs,