

## CHAPTER

# 18

## A PALESTINIAN STATE



**S**ince the West Bank and Gaza are not large enough to create an independent viable Palestinian state, and if other Arab states refuse to embrace and welcome Palestinian Arabs as new citizens, the international community will need to determine the location of a new viable Palestinian state.

Consider two possibilities: 1) a state in Jordan, which actually has elements of inevitability, and 2) a state in present day Saudi Arabia that will encounter stiff opposition.

The majority of the Jordanian population already consider themselves to be of Palestinian descent, and there is plenty of empty usable land in Jordan that the world community could help develop. After all, Jordan, as it currently exists, comprises over 77% of the original Mandate that was supposed to be a Jewish homeland.

Recall that Sharif Hussein ibn Ali (1853-1931), Emir of Mecca, and his son, were the last of the Hashemite

Sharifians that ruled over Mecca, Medina and the Hejaz in unbroken succession from 1201 to 1925.<sup>1</sup>

His great grandson is the ruler of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan today. With the majority of Jordan's population self-identifying as Palestinian, it is likely that one day, these people will reject the Hashemite rule originally imposed by the British. Or perhaps, the Palestinians will consider the continued rule of a monarch over a renamed Kingdom of Palestine.

As King Hussein, the former King of Jordan said of Palestinians and Jordanians on Egyptian television in 1977. "The two peoples are actually one. This is a fact."<sup>2</sup> There is no reason to distinguish between people living on one side of the Jordan River from those living on the other side when they share the same heritage, culture, faith,<sup>3</sup> language, and ethnicity. There is no reason that the laudable international goal of having each People achieve self-determination should mean that Palestinians, even if acknowledged as a Nation, should have two states.

Memories are long in Islamic culture and as strange as it may sound, if the King of Jordan is seen as an honorable and a benevolent King, perhaps the restoration of the old order will appeal to the residents of Mecca, Medina and the whole of the Hejaz—home to the Muslim holy sites. Undoubtedly, it would be a great honor, and is an ambition of his family to return to what they must perceive as their rightful place.

This historical twist will not occur easily, but it is not as far-fetched as it seems. It is no more far-fetched than the Ayatollahs coming to govern Iran. A side benefit to humanity of a Hashemite return to Mecca would be the impact on the Saudi Arabian monarchy. The world will be a safer place for limiting the rule over Islamic holy sites by this once British-enabled state. Its teachings of hate and intolerance, spread