

PREFACE



Today, most people are instinctively dismissive of any person who calls for a larger Israel. So I may have some work to do to convince you to read this book rather than setting it aside.

I do wholeheartedly support Israel, but let me assure you that this book is not the work of a “we’re right, they’re wrong” advocate. It is not hateful in tone. And after reading it, it is not a book about which you can easily say, “but it can *never* happen.”

The book invites peacemakers, negotiators and you to think outside of the box because current approaches to bring peace to the region are not working, and for good reason.

The present-day international consensus solution, two states—one Israeli, one Palestinian—within the confines of Israel, Gaza and the West Bank—is based on flawed assumptions. The single-minded pursuit of this outcome endangers the lives of some, and ruins the lives of many—Palestinians and Israelis alike.

One flaw arises simply because the Arab/Muslim-Israeli conflict has been oversimplified in public discourse to the point where only Palestinian statelessness and Israel's security needs are discussed as keys to peace.

Clearly, Palestinian needs are not being met. And Israel's need to be independently "viable"—a rather vague term that I will dissect for you—has not been considered by the international community since the 1920s, when many Arab states took root, and the much larger original borders of what was to become British Mandate Palestine—a homeland for the Jews—were agreed upon.

But as I will document for you, the Israeli-Palestinian dispute is not the *cause* of the broader Arab/Muslim-Israeli conflict. It is just one part of it.

Creating a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza won't lead to a lasting peace. But with ever advancing technology, and more powerful arsenals, it becomes clearer every day that failure to achieve true peace between Israel and its Arab/Muslim neighbors will eventually explode into a much wider and more lethal war.

This book brings a new approach to the table.

I have taken the long view and believe that I am advocating the most moral and just solution possible to a seemingly intractable problem.

Having said that, in Chapter 3 of the book, *Do Not Expect An Equitable Solution, Expect One Guided by Self-Interest*, I will dispel any notion you may have that justice plays the lead role in crafting internationally inspired solutions; the lead role is played by self-interest.

So I will show you why my vision serves the long-term interests of regional peace and also serves humanity around the globe. I don't hide the fact that there is a cost to Palestinian Arabs, but this cost can be mitigated and outweighed by Palestinian gains.

If this were not the case, the book would likely be dismissed out of hand as fanciful and unrealistic.

Of course, the open political discussion about a larger Israel will not happen overnight because as of yet, no credible statesman in our time has been willing to risk the wrath of being labeled an extremist by presenting an argument to counter those who demand that Israel withdraw to its pre-1967 borders. No one has offered Palestinians a path to better their lives other than to suggest that they settle for becoming citizens of a future non-viable, fractured mini-state. No one has effectively put forth a case that Israel, to be a self-sustaining viable state, must have adequate territory, or it will wither over time.

Finally, it should be noted that for many Muslims, accepting the permanent presence of any Jewish majority state in their midst would require a new view of Islam as it relates to Jews and Israel. Making Israel independently viable and unassailable will hasten this day. As I discuss in Chapter 16, *The Case for a Viable Israel in the Quran*, without the stamp of Islamic legitimacy there will be no true peace between Israel and its Islamic neighbors. That is why none of us should have any illusion that there will be a true peace tomorrow.

Hopefully this book can be a harbinger to a new workable consensus regarding the future of the Middle East. At a minimum, this book will act as a counterweight to Israel's strident detractors.

In the end, simply advancing this case will lead to a more balanced negotiation between Israel and its enemies. By proudly calling for a larger Israel, without denying present-day Palestinian hardship, Israel's full needs are more likely to be taken into account when the time comes to set regional borders. That, in and of itself, will lead to a more enduring peace.