

Chapter 24

One State Solution

Arguably the simplest and most just solution would be a single state, encompassing modern day Israel and the Occupied Territories where all permanent residents are citizens enjoying equal rights and treatment under the law. The precepts of Zionism are the only arguments against this solution. While practical challenges exist with this option, including the Palestinian refugee problem, which is common to all potential solutions, there are fewer nuances to be negotiated in the formulation of a one-state solution. The example of how the world community addressed the apartheid government of South Africa, including the pressure to affect change, as well as the mechanical process of the transition, provide a working example of how this solution might be implemented.

The fundamental characteristics of a one-state solution is that the current borders of Israel would be expanded to encompass the Occupied Territories, and all residents of these areas will become citizens of one, democratic nation, and all citizens would enjoy equal protection under the law. Race, ethnic origin, and religion would have no bearing upon the treatment of individuals nor the rights and freedoms that each enjoys.

The world community does not yet have the will to implement this solution. Until significant proportions of the world community, the governments and their populations, recognize the true nature of the State of Israel and the unsustainable nature of it, Israel will persist as an ethno-/religious-state, existing exclusively for the Jewish people. As such, the most likely step in the pathway to peace will be a two-state solution.