

A Proposal for the Federated Nation of Palestine

*“There comes a time
When we heed a certain call
When the world must come together as one”*

What's Past is Prologue

All nations of the world have an interest in a durable, political resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Beyond an altruistic desire for peace and an end to suffering, each nation of the world, and those nations collectively, are exposed to material risks to their safety, security, and prosperity by the perpetuation of this conflict. The proliferation of nuclear weapons combined with the geopolitical reality of the region and its impact on global geopolitics should be obvious to the reader, even if the intermediate risks are less understood by the casual observer.

This proposal represents a political solution in which all of the natural, human rights of all of the affected parties are preserved and protected into the future. Hardline Zionists, Islamists, and Ethnocentrists might not fully appreciate this plan. Their right to hold and express their views must be upheld and protected, while these views will not be considered in the formulation of this order.

The Bitter Pill

The one idea being eliminated by this proposal that some will have difficulty accepting is that the State of Israel will no longer exist as an ethno-/religious-state. No Israelis will be displaced, nor will any Israeli lose any rights that they currently enjoy. The government of the State of Israel will continue to exist, although the context of that existence will change, and all laws that differentiate citizens based on ethnic or religious biases will be abolished. There will be no element of punishment, retribution, or reparation assigned to the State of Israel. To the contrary, the State of Israel will become even more important and more empowered within the new governing structure.

High Tides Raise All Ships

The primary interests that might feel threatened by this new arrangement should have no fear that their opportunity for power and prosperity will be threatened by this model. As stated, the current State of Israel government will continue to exist, and all of those currently engaged with its administration will retain their right to seek and retain public office. The capitalists and industrialists that currently earn profit from the continuation of the conflict, in this region and globally, will find more potential for profit than the current model offers. This endeavor will represent the largest building and development project conducted in recorded history, ripe with opportunity for government, humanitarian, and capital interests, worldwide.

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This project must be adopted and coordinated by the global community, presumably under the coordination of the United Nations. The funding of this initiative must be shared by the global community. The most prosperous and powerful of the member states of the United Nations, NATO, and BRIX will bear a greater burden of funding, and all states should contribute in proportion to their relative financial strength in the global economy. The current State of Israel should bear only the proportion of the financial burden relative to its ranking among the member states of the United Nations. It is important to the success of this plan that the State of Israel is not unduly and disproportionately burdened with funding the building of the infrastructure required to implement this new government structure, including the development that will be required to satisfy the *Right of Residency and Return* aspect of this proposal (*The Articles of Federation for the Nation of Palestine* - Article 6 below).

National Identity

The author of this proposal is a Georgian by virtue of being a citizen of the State of Georgia. He is an American by virtue of Georgia being a member of the federated United States of America. Israelis will be Israelis by virtue of the state within which they reside, and they will be Palestinians by virtue of this federation of states. Gazans will be Gazans, and Gazans will be Palestinians. A Samaritan will be a Samaritan and a Palestinian, regardless of ethnic background, origin of birth, or religious affiliation. Israeli does not equate to Jew, and Palestinian does not equate to Arab. These monikers indicate residency and citizenship. (*The Articles of Federation for the Nation of Palestine* - Article 1 below)

Illustrating the Model

In order to illustrate the model of this proposal, an initial draft of ***The Articles of Federation for the Nation of Palestine*** is included below. The ultimate wording of these articles will be the first step in implementing this proposal. The United Nations should spearhead a structured dialog between the current State of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and popularly elected Community Panels representing the current residents of Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank. The United Nations should form a panel of leading figures in all fields of international law to ensure that the results of this dialog can be codified into durable documents that form the new nation and establish a constitution to direct the ensuing legislative process. Upon the formation of these new governments and the associated federal system, the new, federated nation must be granted immediate membership into the United Nations, and all member nations must enter into a treaty recognizing this new state as a permanent member of the world community.

The Articles of Federation for the Nation of Palestine

We, being a partnership of Believers and Humanitarians, hereby establish a federation of States to be known collectively as The Nation of Palestine. Some among us assert the enemy of humanity to be evil; some among us assert the enemy of humanity to be a lack of ethical framework. We mutually assert a noble vision of justice and of freedom for all of humanity, collectively and as individuals. We hereby assert the right of each person to equal treatment under a fair and just law.

Article 1 - State Structure

With the formation of The Nation of Palestine, three States are hereby created.

The State of Gaza and Negev
The State of Israel
The State of Samaria and Judea

The governance of each State shall be carried out by three branches of government, the occupancy of each selected by the citizens of the respective State through fair and open elections.

The Executive of the State

Elected directly by the people.

The State Legislature

The House of Domestic Concern - Elected directly by the people.
The House of Federal Concern - Elected directly by the people.

The State Judiciary

Elected by the State Legislature

Article 2 - National Structure

The governance of The Nation shall be carried out by three branches, the occupancy of each selected by the federated States and their citizens through fair and open elections.

The President of the Nation

Elected directly by the people.

The National Legislature

The House of Domestic Concern
Elected directly by the people.

The House of International Concern
Elected by the State Legislatures

The National Judiciary
Elected by the National Legislature

Article 3 - The Conditions of Federation

The legitimacy of each of the three States of Palestine is contingent upon their participation in the federal system and compliance with these Articles of Federation and the Constitution of the Federal Nation of Palestine.

Article 4 - The Nonconsideration of Individual Characteristics

Government forms of inquiry, laws, policies, regulations, and decisions must not acknowledge nor differentiate based upon ethnic origin, religion, gender, or any other individual characteristic. Race, ethnic origin, religion, gender, and sexual preference must not appear on any government form nor in any official document.

Article 5 - The Supremacy of Individual Rights in Government

These Articles of Federation and the Constitution of the Federal Nation of Palestine stipulate the limits of authority of government entities, and all other authority and sovereignty belongs to the individual. Individual rights of free thought, expression, and action must not be restricted except when an action infringes upon the rights of another individual or violates the terms of these Articles of Federation and the Constitution of the Federal Nation of Palestine.

Article 6 - The Right of Residency and Return

1. All current residents of the territories of Gaza, Israel, and the West Bank, including the Golan Heights and greater Jerusalem, retain the right of residency within the greater Nation of Palestine.
2. All individuals and their first generation of descendents resident in the territories of Gaza, Israel, and the West Bank, including the Golan Heights and greater Jerusalem, as of 14 May 1948 retain the right to return to residence in the greater Nation of Palestine.
3. Returning residents who were displaced from their homes without proper due process, whose homes still exist, have the right to reoccupy their homes.
4. Returnees whose homes no longer exist and existing residents that must be displaced in the fulfillment of Article 6.3 have the right to be provided with a home by *The Project to Establish the Nation of Palestine and the Three Federated States*.
5. *The Project to Establish the Nation of Palestine and the Three Federated States* will be conducted within a defined scope of scale and duration. This project will be established with funding and oversight by the global community, as led by the United Nations.