

Abstract

**Resumed Palestinian-Israeli Negotiations
of 2013: Scenarios and Repercussions**

The present book is a product of a seminar held by the MESC on September 7, 2013 titled Resumed Palestinian-Israeli Negotiations of 2013: Scenarios and Repercussions and joined by a number of scholars and academics. It consists of two main sections. The first discusses the regional and international context, whereas the second explores the major parties' motives in the current round as well as the likely future chances and challenges.

In Section One, it is argued that the US is key party in the international context of the Palestinian-Israeli talks. Washington has its significant influence and political, military alliances with most of the countries of the region. It also has Russian-European-global support through the international quartet's role in the peace settlement.

Such international context can be employed by the Israelis, Palestinians and Arabs in within two approaches. The first one is associated with global variables connecting talks to the US interests in the region. Although its domination on the world is waning, Washington is still the only superpower capable of displaying its military might around the globe. Furthermore, it has the leading economy as

well as the broadest political and military coalitions in the entire world.

The second approach is related to the Israeli employment of the international context. It has been witnessed since the early 19th century, in contrast with Arab's absence from influence, leaving the region a target for other parties' action.

Section Two addresses parties' motives and targets in the current Palestinian-Israeli round of talks. Due to the interest of the region and world in the Syrian crisis and its complicated impacts on international relations, the Middle East conditions today are different from those 3 years ago. The issue of negotiations became a marginal one for the Palestinians, Israelis and Americans.

The launch of the round is an attempt by the US to show that it is still in control of the situation in the Middle East, in light of its diminishing role in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as the Egyptian crisis, on the one hand. Washington, on the other hand, is trying to consolidate the presence and security of Israel and protect its own interests against all these variables.

As for the principles proposed by US Secretary of State John Kerry, they may be summarized in the 1967 borders and the exchange of territories while bearing in mind the status quo in the West Bank. Another major point is his declaration of two states for two peoples: a Palestinian state next to Israel as Jewish State.

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The Palestinian motives are centered on the desire to move the wheel of talks. The freeze is maximizing the silent or hidden wrath among the Palestinians who could not see any future solution looming in the horizon to improve their conditions. On the other side, the Israelis just aim to show that they were honest in their statements on peace as well as they aspire to achieve peace with the Palestinians without making any significant concessions.

Finally, concerning the future scenarios of the current round, Kerry's initiative does not have anything new for the Palestinians whereas it does not exert any pressure on the Israelis at the moment. As it intends to keep Israel as its base in the Middle East, the US only aims to secure talks with the Palestinians with complete quiet in the West Bank for a while.