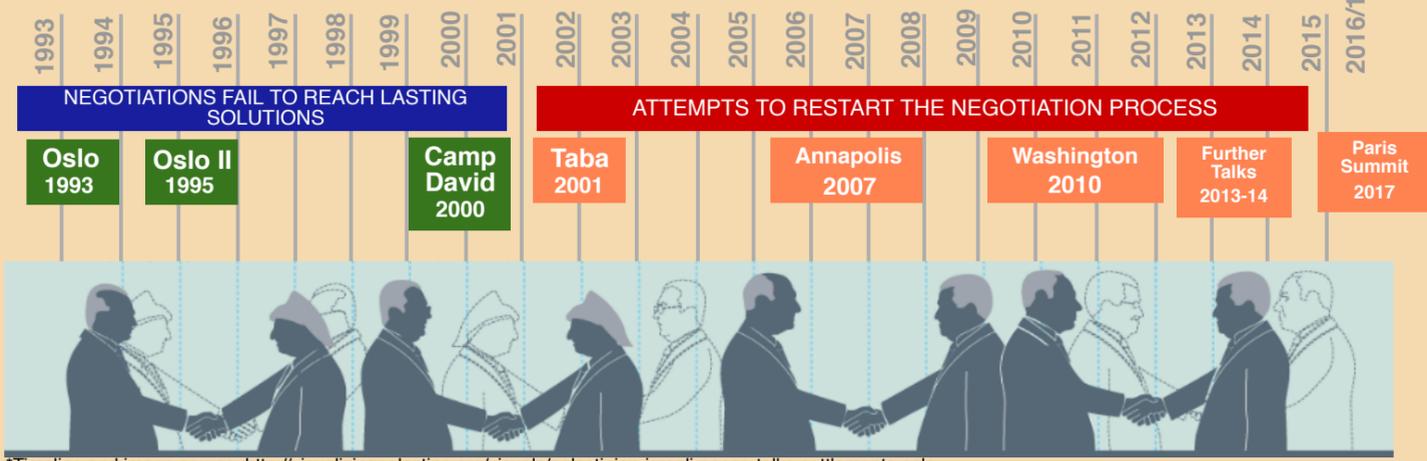




ISRAEL-PALESTINE

AN ELUSIVE PEACE



Since the 2003 'road map for peace', the outline for a Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement has been a two-state solution - though some believe this to now be in jeopardy.

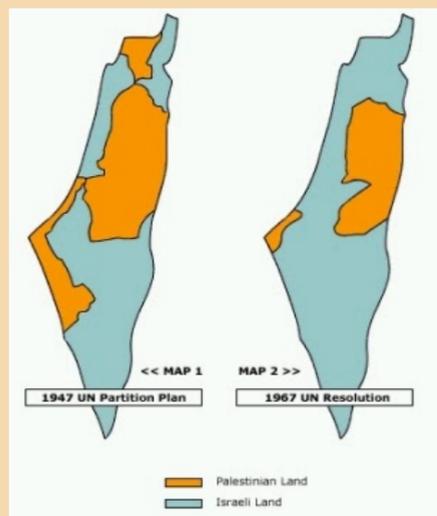
PALESTINIAN ASPIRATIONS

East Jerusalem as capital



Refugees' right to return

Borders according to 1967 lines



ISRAELI OBJECTIVES



Recognition of Israel as a Jewish state

End to violence



CONTENTIOUS ISSUES

The status of Jerusalem



Israeli settlement building

US President Donald Trump has proposed the relocation of the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem - the move would 'legitimise' the Israeli presence and damage Palestinian aspirations



Fate of Palestinian refugees



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS



PALESTINE

18 JANUARY 2017 - MOSCOW

Representatives of rival Palestinian factions announced an 'in principle' agreement to form a national unity government and to establish a new Palestinian National Council - partly prompted by US leadership changes

JANUARY 2017 - GAZA

Mass protests (a rare occurrence) over electricity shortages

ISRAEL



23 DECEMBER 2016 - UN

Resolution 2334 passed - condemnation of Israeli settlements in 'occupied' territory

22 JANUARY 2017 - E. JERUSALEM

Israel accepted building permits for more than 500 settler homes in 'occupied' East Jerusalem territory

24 JANUARY 2017 - WEST BANK

2,500 new settlement homes approved in the 'occupied' West Bank - biggest settlement plan announced since 2013

WAY FORWARD

Perhaps the best way forward is to look back...

"The preliminary meetings of 1986 demonstrated that even at the height of hostilities, Israeli and Arab leaders could find space to allow their representatives to talk directly... among their peoples there has always remained a hope, however dim, that someday things might get better. They understood that getting to that point would eventually require pursuing a relationship between Israelis and Palestinians based on something other than armed struggle.

Eventually, inevitably, the Israeli and Palestinian leaders will conclude - as Peres, Rabin and Arafat did in their time - that there is no way of winning, and that finding a way of living under better circumstances is the only realistic goal."

- Stephen P. Cohen (served as intermediary between Israeli and Arab leaders)