

## **Borders and Jerusalem POLS 3260 DEBATE**

When thinking about the Israeli borders, most people who take interest in this conflict take a very unelaborate view. They trust that Israel took over land from Palestinians just as the colonial powers took over land from natives in North America during the colonial era. But, in truth, the Jewish claim for their land in the area that is now Israel was recognized by the U.N. After its independence in 1948, the state of Israel recognized its Palestinian neighbors and accepted living in a separate country next to them in U.N. Partition plan (resolution 181). If the Palestinians accepted this resolution, they would have lived side by side with Israel, and none of the existing problems would take place. But instead, those neighbors that Israel recognized, together with the surrounding Arab nations, chose to attack Israel, , and attempt to take it over and expel is Jewish citizens. All of the territory Israel conquered during the 1948 and the 1967 wars were taken in a defensive nature.

Despite a vast Palestinian popular opinion which still opposes the existence of Israel in the Middle East, we are arguing that:

1. **A Palestinian state should exist within the 1967 borders.**

The Palestinian state should retain (approximately) the same land mass as existed before June, 1967. However this will have to be accomplished by way of land swaps. The Palestinian desire to dismantle all the so called settlement is impractical and unrealistic and has so been conceded by the Palestinian Authority.

2. **That the West Bank and the Gaza strip should be connected via a pathway that does not limit Israeli mobility.**

That the West Bank and the Gaza Strip should be connected via a pathway that will be controlled by the Palestinian State but will not infringe on Israeli sovereignty

3. That a future Palestinian state should have a reasonable access to natural resources within its territory.
4. We are arguing that Jerusalem should remain the Capital of Israel, on the basis that its connection to Jewish and Israeli history is inseparable. That being said, we recognize that Jerusalem's holy sites should be accessible to both Israelis and Palestinians and should be administered by both sides accordingly.
5. We also believe that the Eastern part of Jerusalem should be given to a future Palestinian state.
6. Some settlements in the West bank that are remote and severely limit future Palestinian mobility should be disbanded, that being said, the belief that all settlements in the West bank can be simply removed is extremely unrealistic, therefore, we trust that in some cases, such as with the settlement of Mahale Adumim, land swaps are the only realistic solution.