



[The Expansion of Israeli Settlements is Ending Any Chance of the U.S. Favored Two-State Solution](#)

The Palestine-Israel conflict has been escalating at an extreme rate. This occupation has had a devastating impact on Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza. Recently, Israel's far-right administration implemented legislation that legalized nine illegal settler outposts in the occupied West Bank. This move was seen by the Palestinian Authority (PA) as an act of war against Palestinians. According to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, this will not be the last encroachment into illegal settlements. These acts continue to obstruct any progress toward a peaceful resolution to the conflict and have made the two-state solution all but impossible. One of Israel's staunchest and at times only ally, the United States, has not yet taken a position on the authorization of Israeli outposts. However, the US ambassador expressed opposition to the creation of settlements last month. The Biden administration has made clear it opposes settlements in the region. Despite this opposition, the American government has done little to stop them from being created.

The Israeli government and military impose limitations and barriers in the West Bank, restricting mobility and access to Palestinians in their territories as well as others visiting there. The Israeli people's patrol of population registration is a key tool used to limit travel. Israel records all new births and uses them to determine who is Palestinian and who is not, something which they have no right to do. In parallel with the new regulations that state that if two people living in Palestine marry and one is not from Palestine but has lived and worked there for 20 years, that person is no longer a resident and cannot live there. However, people visiting Israel have much more ease of access. This allows Israel to decide who may and cannot stay in Palestine. This is apartheid, plain and simple. Different sets of laws are used to govern Palestinians. These restrictions on movement in Palestine not only make it more difficult for Palestinians to exist in their own country but also makes it easier for Israelis to create new settlements. By simply declaring them a non-citizen of Palestine, they can be easily removed under Israeli law.

There is growing concern about the ultra-nationalist extreme religious figures in charge of civil administration in Israel. Netanyahu's administration does not care about respecting international law or the rights of the Palestinian people and essentially seeks to seize all of the regions under Israeli military control. These are the very discriminatory legal systems that Israel has implemented adding more fuel to the flame of the already tense relations between Palestine and Israel. After a lengthy period of bloodshed, families being divided, and a lack of progress toward a more hopeful future, there is a consensus that the two-state solution is becoming increasingly unpopular. Israeli settlement expansion has also led to the displacement of Palestinians from

their homes and land, which has contributed to tensions and resentment. Finally, other world actors are seeing that the two-state solution may not be the most just or equitable solution to the conflict, as it would allow Israel to maintain its occupation of Palestinian territories and perpetuate inequality between Israelis and Palestinians. Due to these and other reasons, there has been a trend in recent years toward looking at different approaches, such as the one-state solution or other systems that emphasize equality, justice, and human rights.

In efforts to address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the United States has played a significant role, particularly by supporting a two-state solution that would establish a separate Palestinian state alongside Israel. The question of whether this strategy is still useful or whether new solutions ought to be sought has been under contention lately. Israeli settlements have made the two-state solution impossible because if they continue, there will not be a Palestinian state at all, but rather a connection of Israeli settlements with enclaves of Palestinians in between. The United States can still play a constructive role by supporting efforts to promote dialogue and find a peaceful resolution to the conflict but must reevaluate the strategy it is employing.