

# A Bargain with Israel on Settlements

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**A differentiated approach to settlements could stem the drift toward a binational state, blunt the delegitimization movement internationally, and remove the issue as a constant irritant to U.S.-Israel relations.**

**R**arely has there been a time when less attention has been paid to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict than today. Given the threat from the Islamic State, the humanitarian catastrophe in Syria, proxy conflicts between Iran and Saudi Arabia, and Egypt's struggles with radical Islamists, it is hard to find anyone in Washington or the Arab capitals who is thinking about the Israelis and Palestinians. But the problem is not going away.

For the past five months, there have been more than 100 individual Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israelis. As the risk of escalation grows, both sides are becoming even more doubtful that there will ever be peace. With Palestinians divided and their leaders increasingly discredited, and a right-wing government in Israel, the conflict is not about to be resolved. But that is all the more reason to think about what can be done to preserve the possibility of a two-state outcome, particularly with the Palestinians entering a period of uncertain succession. Any new effort must start with defusing tension and restoring a sense of possibility. Given Palestinian paralysis, the most direct way to begin changing the climate between Israelis and Palestinians may be to affect Israel's settlement policy by adopting a new approach on this contentious issue...

***[Read the full article on the Washington Post website \(https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-neglected-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-neglected-)***

[israeli-palestinian-peace-process-must-be-revived/2016/02/25/aa9d61dc-d715-11e5-b195-2e29a4e13425\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/israeli-palestinian-peace-process-must-be-revived/2016/02/25/aa9d61dc-d715-11e5-b195-2e29a4e13425_story.html)), where it was published under the title "The Neglected Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process Must Be Revived." ❖

Washington Post

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