

# The 5 Percent Solution

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Sep 1, 2003

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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**B**y almost any measure, the Israeli settlement movement has failed. Despite religious, ideological, and financial incentives, only around 5 percent of Israel’s Jewish population has relocated to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since the land was captured in the 1967 war. Moreover, polls indicate a majority of Israelis are now prepared to evacuate the settlements and accept the establishment of a Palestinian state if doing so would bring lasting security. At the Camp David summit convened by then U.S. President Bill Clinton in 2000, a plan emerged that would have allowed Israel to annex land accommodating 80 percent of the settlers while creating a contiguous Palestinian nation. A closer look at the settler movement suggests the Clinton plan remains feasible. Approximately 63,800 people, or just 1 percent of Israel’s Jewish population, would need to be uprooted to make a two-state solution possible. Habitually described as a “major obstacle to peace,” the settlement issue can be resolved by using a careful hand to redraw just 5 percent of the West Bank map—and by summoning the ample political will required to see the process through.... ❖

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