

Answer to Q. no. 8

Introduction

Palestine-Israel conflict started with Balfour Declaration which encourage Jews to move to Palestine. The tension grew between Arabs (locals) and Jews. Since then, different solutions have been proposed like the UN Partition Plan, Oslo Accord, Geneva Accord, Gaza Disengagement, Abbas Peace Plan, and Trump Peace Plan. Recently, when the conflict escalated UNGA passed resolution in favor of two state solution. EU too recognises Palestine as separate sovereign state. Considering different socio-political and international dynamics the chances of two state solution seem slim; also, Israel's political leadership flooded with far-right hardliners would want to

continue as apartheid state.

Peace Efforts: A Brief Historical Overview

- Proposed UN Partition Plan (56% Jewish state, 43% Arab)
- PLO chairmanned by Yasser Arafat paved way for Oslo Accords (1993 - 1995)
- 2000: Clinton Parameters
- 2002: Arab Peace Initiative
- 2003: Geneva Accord
- 2004: Abbas Peace Plan
- 2020: Trump Peace Plan

The two-state solution:

a proposal to resolve Israel-Palestine conflict

According to the proposal:

- i) Israel would retain sovereignty over its current territory
- ii) Palestine would be established as independent state, based.

on pre-1967 borders (Gaza strip,
West Bank, and East Bank)

iii) The two states would recognize
each other borders

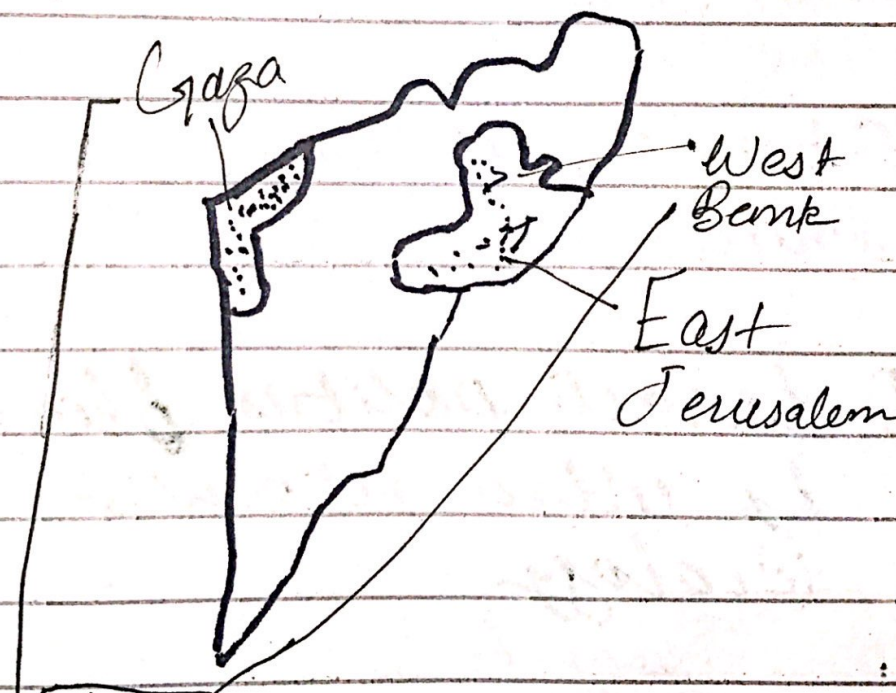
iv) Special arrangements for
Jerusalem

Some of the proponents
of two state solution are:

→ Joe Biden

→ Antonio Guterres

→ Riyad Mansour (Palestinian
ambassador to the UN)



→ (Was left the strip in ruin)

→ (Israel's illegal settlement
in West Bank)

Two state solution: A near reality or a distant dream

One cannot deny, there is a possibility of two state solution. The proposal has worldwide support. Many international and regional organisations, states, public and public opinion (global) stand behind this proposal.

However, the current circumstances and realities show that this solution is difficult to materialize.

Obstacles to two state solution

① Israeli politics, blinded by ultra-nationalist ideology

Very few politicians backed two state solution.

The ministers call for full annexation of Palestinian territory

In speech at the UN (2003)

Netanyahu held up map of Israel that covered whole land

② Public opinion in Israel pressurises government to reject two state solution

This bounds the government to continue the as apartheid state. To secure his political position, Netanyahu will listen to the public and politicians.

③ Settlements in Palestinian areas continued

Israel kept on expanding, going against the agreements. According to a report by The Economist number of settlers doubled between 1993 - 2000.

④ Polarised Palestinian Politics

Palestinian Authority (PA)

in the West Bank, and Hamas in Gaza are divided. Moreover, Hamas is led by the hardliners who reject two state solution
"Sinwar is dead, but a Palestinian state seems more distant than ever"

The New York Times

⑤ The role of the USA:
proponent of two state solution (peace) or protector of Israel (war)

"Only viable path is two state solution"

Antony Blinken

Although the US has been supporting two state solution, its government is more inclined to, and connected with Israel's administration.

It provides Israel economic, military, diplomatic and moral support to Israel.
Joe Biden in his speeches

focus on the "horrors of October 07" and hostages captured by Hamas, but does not say a word against genocide of innocent Palestinians. According to John Mearsheimer, the USA is bound to support Israel due to strong Jews lobby which hold the strings of American politics.

⑥ Arab governments' inaction enables Israel to continue as apartheid state

Iran responded to Israel (although with no harm done). Other than that, the Arab world is fast asleep.

"Arab governments' statements of condemnation are aplenty. But their inaction has served enabler for Israel to continue military aggression"

Maleeha Lodhi

Considering the cruel reality two state solution seems impractical at the moment.

"Oslo paradigm failed on 7th October, and need to rebuild a new one, with no toleration for Palestine"

- Eziqi Hotovely

(Israel's ambassador to UK)

Conclusion

To sum up, the current dynamics jeopardise two state solution. It is limited to proposal and lip service. To materialise it seems a difficult task for now. Israel is likely to continue war crimes and step over the international obligation. To convert the proposal into reality, great cooperation, compromise and political will is needed.