



## How to Build Middle East Peace

### Why Bottom-Up Is Better Than Top-Down

Moshe Yaalon / Monday, December 12, 2016

Last May, I resigned from the Israeli government and parliament. I did so largely for reasons of domestic policy, including [differences with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu](#) [1] on issues such as respect for the rule of law and the independence of the Supreme Court. National [policy toward the Palestinians](#) [2] was not central to my resignation, but it is no secret that I differed on that front as well with some in the government and the Knesset in which I served.

There are voices in Israel that favor a large-scale annexation of the West Bank and Gaza, perhaps even the dismantling of the current “political separation” between the two communities and the extension of Israeli citizenship to current Palestinian Authority (PA) voters. I believe such an approach would be a grave mistake, one that would needlessly imperil Israel’s Jewish and democratic character. Although I do not think the prime minister personally subscribes to these views, the mixed signals from within his government only encourage third parties to pursue problematic policies that harm Israel’s interests. On this issue—Israel’s unshakable commitment to the preservation of the country’s Jewish and democratic character—the government and its ministers should speak with one voice.

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*Moshe Yaalon is Rosenblatt Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. He served as Israel’s Minister of Defense from 2013 to 2016 and as Chief of the General Staff of the Israel Defense Forces from 2002 to 2005.*

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