

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Annexation: What it means for Israel, the Palestinians, and peace

Why We Wrote This

Mideast peace initiatives through the years have always had their detractors, and the Trump plan is no exception. Perhaps its most explosive idea is that Israel could unilaterally annex portions of the West Bank.

February 5, 2020 / By [Joshua Mitnick](#) Correspondent / [@joshmitnick](#)

[...]

“In every criteria that I’m trying to assess it, it’s disastrous. In security, in diplomacy, in Israel’s legitimization in the international community, in the internal schism that he would create in Israel,” says **Gilead Sher**, a fellow at the **Institute for National Security Studies** who was a peace negotiator two decades ago under former Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

“The meaning” of annexation, he says, “is a divergence from the founding vision of the State of Israel as a Jewish, democratic, secure, and moral state; with recognized borders and international legitimacy.”

Amid enormous pressure from Israeli settlers to act, Prime Minister Netanyahu initially had planned a cabinet vote on annexation on Sunday, but the U.S. administration persuaded him to hold off until after Israel’s March 2 election. On Tuesday, Mr. Netanyahu promised to immediately bring annexation to a vote if he wins, saying, “We won’t let this great opportunity slip from our grasp.”

[...]

But, Mr. **Sher** argues, since unilateral annexation would be rejected by the Palestinians and preclude formation of a Palestinian state on the remaining land, it would create a one-state reality between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean. And that, he said, would force Israel to choose between offering citizenship to 2.2 million Palestinians residing in the West Bank – creating a binational state – or relegating them to a permanent autonomy akin to apartheid.

“Zionism never aspired to govern another people,” he says.

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For full article:

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2020/0205/Annexation-What-it-means-for-Israel-the-Palestinians-and-peace>