



Let's call Trump's plan what it is: Oslo C

By: Gilead Sher / Jan. 29, 2020

President Donald Trump went to great lengths on Tuesday to present his Israeli-Palestinian peace plan — his “deal of the century” — as novel and even groundbreaking. But if you take a closer look, you’ll notice that we’ve seen much of it before.

It has considerable overlap with plans laid out by three previous U.S. presidents: Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. In fact, Trump’s plan has so much in common with Clinton’s agreements in the 1990s — known as “Oslo A” in 1993 and “Oslo B” in 1995 — that honestly, it should probably be captioned “Oslo C.” Because, ultimately, there is almost nothing new in this peace plan.

That’s not to say Trump hasn’t had an impact at all, nor is it to say that Trump’s “Oslo C” is useless. For one thing, he has drastically changed the internal balance established by each of the previous US-sponsored accords, and officially placed the American position in favor of Israel at the expense of Palestinians. Moreover, he has legitimized Israel’s abolishing of international law in the Palestinian territories.

What we should do with Trump’s plan is use it as an anchor for future negotiations. And Palestinians should use the plan as a reminder that time is not in their favor.

As in the past, Israel swiftly accepted the plan, while the Palestinians rejected it even before its release. What’s different this time is that Palestinians might not receive the same Arab solidarity as they have in the past. The Middle East has shifted significantly, demonstrated by Saudi-Arabia and Qatar’s support of Trump’s plan.

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