



Down but Not Out - Trump's Deal of the Century in the Shadow of the Coronavirus



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Horizons Spring 2020 / Issue No. 16

The “deal of the century” launched by U.S. President Donald Trump was well-received in Israel after its January 2020 launch in Washington. The two major Israeli political parties, Likud and Blue and White, assessed that it was favorable to Israel and declared their support for it. The proposal’s incorporation of the country’s security requirements and other core interests resulted in a program aimed at separating from the Palestinians and ending the conflict under favorable conditions for Israel.

Yet there was a great deal of uncertainty regarding the function of Trump’s proposal. The president himself and his ambassador to the United Nations, Kelly Craft, described it as a basis for negotiations. Other officials appeared to express an understanding that this initiative was “all or nothing,” meaning that it would be shelved if both parties could not agree to its terms in their entirety. And still others explained it as allowing for unilateral Israeli action following an out-of-hand Palestinian rejection, either in the months following the plan’s release or at the end of the four-year period allocated for the plan’s implementation.

More important than the procedural elements of the “deal of the century,” however, is the question of where it might lead Israel and what vision for the country it advances. Is the aim unilateral annexation, which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hopes to accomplish in the summer of 2020, and precluding the realization of a two-state

solution? Or is it a Jewish, democratic, secure, and morally just Israel existing alongside a Palestinian entity ?This essay has been authored with the objective of averting the former course of action, which would be harmful to Israel's future and international standing, while advancing the latter.

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