

The Telegraph

Western leaders have a vision for a future Palestinian state

Many dream of two democratic states after the conflict, but it will take many steps to reach it

By Paul Nuki, Global health security editor. London / October 18, 2023

Here's the dream: Israeli special forces stage a lightning raid from the eastern Mediterranean coast and free its hostages, all 199 of them. The Israeli Defence Force then rolls in and, over a period of six to eight weeks, buries Hamas and its ability to wage war in the vast subterranean tunnel network beneath Gaza.

[...]

"I tell you what many of us will want to happen, and we then need to have a reality check," says **Prof Manuel Trajtenberg, an economist and executive director of the Institute for National Security Studies** in Tel Aviv. "The idea is to take this terrible event, and turn that into an opportunity; to do something that was unthinkable just before ... a long term settlement with the Palestinians."

With missiles raining down on Gaza, the Arab street erupting from Beirut to Tangiers and US aircraft carriers manoeuvring within striking distance of the Iranian capital Tehran, you could be forgiven for thinking that a dream is all it is.

It's not for nothing that the UN's Middle East peace envoy warned yesterday that the region was on the brink of a "deep, dangerous abyss" that could change the trajectory of Israeli-Palestinian conflict, if not of the Middle East as a whole.

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