

Why do negotiations in the Arab-Israeli conflict work?

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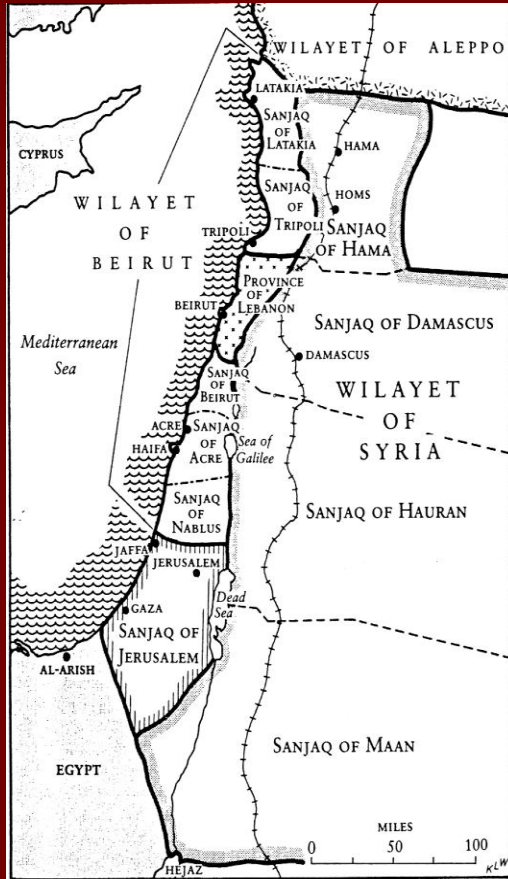
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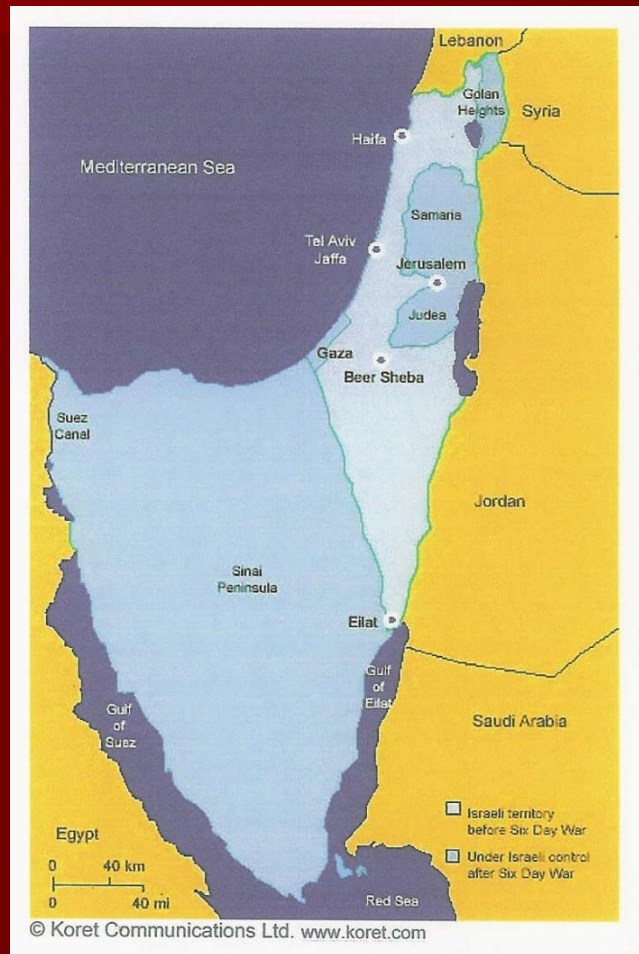
Middle East and Asia



1860s – June 1967



Israel after the June 1967 War

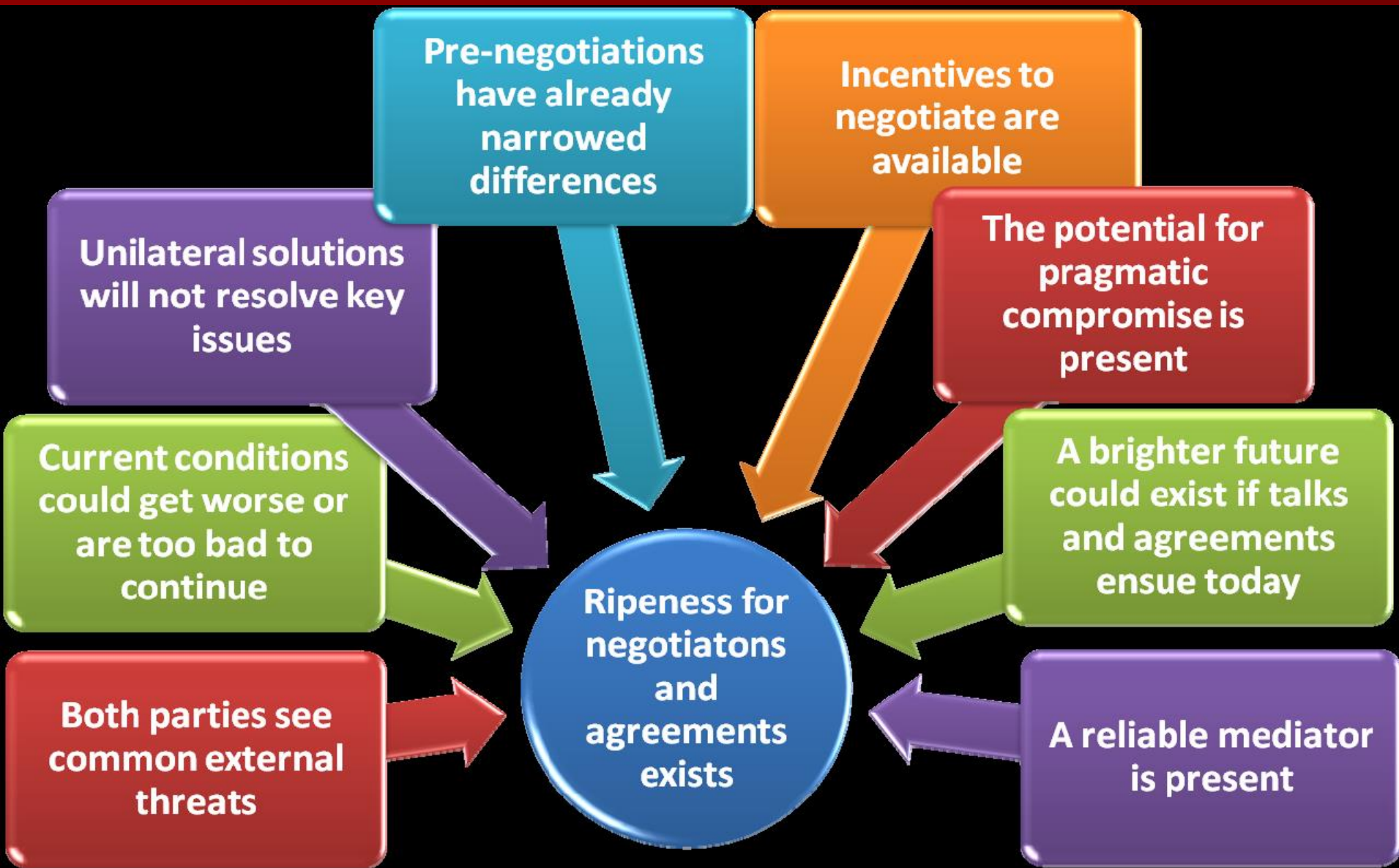


Stages from War to Peace

- These are the stages that Egypt and Israel passed through in the 1970s to reach agreements? – By comparison, where are Israel and the Palestinians or Israel and Syria in these stages? What of these stages are not yet present? What is required to allow for unimpeded movement toward some agreement or series of agreements?
- Why Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations are not Ripe?
 - Enmity - Abhorrence
 - Fighting – War
 - Acceptance of the other's legitimacy
 - Truce – Non-War
 - Building Trust --Pre-Negotiations
 - Negotiation-Recognition
 - Normalization
 - Peace

Eight preconditions to ripeness

- Both parties have a common external threat
- Current conditions could likely get worse
- Unilateral solutions will (not) resolve key issues
- Pre-negotiations narrow differences, or offer path or road map to conclusion desired
- Incentives are available
- Leaders “can/must lead” domestic politics
- Mediator is available and trusted
- Leaders believe pragmatic results are possible
- Brighter future is on horizon— make the case..
- Trust between the sides exists-



Palestinian commentators and Arab commentators on the Palestinian political community, 2021-2022

“January 5, 2022 ” There has been a continued drop in the legitimacy, credibility and effectiveness of the Palestinian leadership in the eyes of the people, exacerbated by the indefinite postponement of Palestinian elections, ostensibly over the uncertainty of whether Jerusalemites could participate. Many Palestinians believe the real reason is the PA's fear of losing the election. Hani al-Masri, January 5, 2022; <https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/palestinian-authority-prisoner-own-illusion-how>

- February 26, 2021 - “The Palestinian leadership has failed on three fundamental, crucial issues that have produced regression, attenuation, and weakness in the face of a superior national, ethnic, religious, and human enemy, Israel. First: It failed to contend with the bloody [Hamas/Gaza] 2007 coup and its fallout; second, It failed to utilize practical methods of confrontation on the ground so as to raise the cost of the occupation, and as a result, it failed to combat Israel's settlement expansion, and its gradual multi-stage programs that seek to Hebraize, Israelize, and Judaize Jerusalem and the Palestinian West Bank; Third: It failed to maintain Fatah's internal cohesion and unity as a party and organization and did not heed the brotherly Arab advice and friendly international input highlighting the need, first, to maintain Fatah's unity so as to confront Hamas's recalcitrance and unilateral inclinations.” Hamada Fara'neh, Amman daily *al-Dustour*,

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Palestinian commentators and Arab commentators on the Palestinian political community, 2019-2020

– September 19, 2020 --Farouk Youssef (Iraqi), "The Palestinians failed to establish their state. They failed because they did not want to establish a state. Here I mean the political leaders, some of whom still insist on repeating revolutionary phrases. And here I mean the political class. The establishment of a Palestinian state will be a burden on the Palestinian leaders and will prevent them from practicing corruption.... The Palestinian Authority is no longer suitable to represent the Palestinian people. It does not want the establishment of a Palestinian state, it does not want an Arab-Israeli understanding. That is what refreshes it with money..." [Al-Arabiya, September 19, 2020.](#)

December 25, 2019, Saeb Erekat, Secretary General of the PLO Executive Committee, "I said that to normalize relations [with Israel] is to stab the Palestinians in the back and to sanction the spilling of Palestinian blood. It is to lose one's shame. We will not accept any change to the Arab peace initiative. The Arab peace initiative states that Israel must withdraw from all the occupied Arab lands – including East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan Heights – and that the refugee issue must be resolved on the basis of Resolution 194. [Only then] will we start normalizing relations." [Al-Jazeera Network, December 25, 2019.](#)

Arab-Israeli Theater

