

## Is a Palestinian State Still Possible?

Today we live in a globalized, postmodern interconnected world, governed by corporate capitalism. Palestine is a tiny piece of land of big importance, as it's the world's compass. It indicates the level of stability worldwide and is an indicator to respect towards human rights. The importance of the Palestinians living in peace is an international matter. Theoretically and in the hearts and minds of all Palestinians, a Palestinian state is not only possible but it is a must, practically on the other hand, there are many obstacles. The essential requirements of statehood are a stable population, territory that population lives on, a sovereign government, and consequently recognition by the other states, or the capacity to have relations with other states.

Starting with the population as the most essential part of a state, according to *The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics*, Palestine's population in 2019 is 4.976.684. The approximately five million Palestinians who reside in the West Bank and Gaza live in what resembles city prisons, or ghettos, set apart from each other and the world by Israeli checkpoints and the apartheid wall. In addition to the Palestinians who live in diaspora and the Palestinians on the occupied lands in 1948.

Because it is impossible to deny the existence of the Palestinians in Palestine and abroad, they are negatively portrayed and stereotyped by media and Hollywood, all Arabs are. Jack Valenti, the former Chairman of the Motion Pictures association once said that “Washington and Hollywood spring from the same DNA.”. This quote was used in the documentary *Reel Bad Arabs* by Jack Shaheen where he presents Hollywood’s movies as a tool American politicians use to vilify Arabs through stereotyping them over decades. The purpose of that is to legitimize dehumanization of the Palestinians, but that is not easy, and it leads us to the second requirement of a statehood.

Palestine has relations with other states. The international recognition of the State of Palestine has been the objective of PLO since the Palestinian Declaration of Independence in 1988, and it has had official embassies in other states. It has been internationally recognized by over 130 United Nations member states, and has been accorded the status of a non-member observer state in 2012. The Palestinian capacity of making relations with the other states goes back to before the PLO. During the British Mandate, Palestinian coastline cities were both the cultural and economic center of the region, hosting cultural events, and importing and exporting goods across the Mediterranean. In addition to the political recognition of Palestine, it has been culturally and intellectually present worldwide through its thinkers like Edward Said, writers like Mahmoud Darwish, exchange school and university students, the participation of Palestinian *dabkeh* dancers, sport teams, the Palestinian circus, and musicians in international arenas.



The third requirement of statehood, the territory, was present from the Mediterranean to the West, to Jordan River and the Dead Sea to the East, but it is gradually shrinking. Palestinian lands have been confiscated, illegal Israeli settlements have been built, and for decades Palestine has been losing parts of its lands for Israel. The Palestinian land is not only the political or material territory they still do live on, but it's a vital part of their heritage and culture.

The problem lies in Palestine's sovereignty. Ever since the end of the Ottoman Empire, passing by the British Mandate, the Jewish immigration to Palestine before and after the British Mandate, the establishment of Israel, up until today, the Palestinians have relentlessly been seeking sovereignty through negotiations, popular revolutions, two intifadas, and finally the Palestinian National Authority. The issue of Palestinian sovereignty, is an international one, involving the interests of the world's biggest powers in breaking down the region, controlling it and using its natural resources.

The Palestinian government, or the Palestinian National Authority does exist, but has limitations and restrictions regarding most, if not all aspects of Palestinian life, economy, education, natural resources, health, communication, commute, and more. As long as the world's biggest powers' interests lie in having the state of Israel as their ally in the Arab region, and as long as Israel is used as a tool for instability of the region, a blind eye will be turned on the Israeli illegal settlements, Palestinian lands will keep on shrinking, and the issue of Palestinian sovereignty will be postponed.



All in all, the possibility of the Palestinian state is a global issue. Although the population, the territory, the relations with other states are present, the problem is in the fourth component, the denied sovereignty which contributes into making one part of the world overpower and dehumanize the other. The question is, how much longer will the over 70-year occupation last? How much longer will we humans favor power over humanity?

