

Doug Clark – Political Science / History

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palestinians and israelis

Workshop One Assignment

Papers will be due on Wednesday, Nov. 3

Sources and Resources:

General Resources:

[Jeff Halper, *A Middle East Confederation*](#)

[1947 UN Partition Plan Map](#)

[BBC Country Profile](#)

[Balfour Declaration](#)

[Peninsula Library System](#)

[The Search for Peace in the Middle East](#)

[A Win-Win Approach](#)

[Bitter Lemons--"Palestinian State"](#)

[Bitter Lemons--"A Viable Palestinian State?"](#)

[The Conflict Over Jerusalem](#)

[The Geneva "Initiative" or Accord](#)

Two-State Option:

[Israeli/Palestinian ProCon.org](#)

Federal Bi-national Option:

[Israeli/Palestinian ProCon.org](#)

[Alternative Configuration](#)

One-State Option:

[One-State](#) (*Jeff Halper*)

[Palestinian Nationhood](#)


[Bitter Lemons--"One-State Solution"](#)

Regional Confederation Option:

[Voices for Israel-Palestine Confederation](#)

[Jeff Halper, *A Middle East Confederation*](#)

Other pages in this section: [Peace Studies](#) | [Political Science, Summer, 2007](#) | [PS375 Readings and Assignments](#) | [PS375 Resources](#) | [PS375 Syllabus](#) | [PS375, Civil Rights and Public Policies](#) Other sections in this website: [Syllabi](#) | [History](#)

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Workshop One:

What? Our first workshop takes off from the “working paper” by the Israeli Jeff Halper. He positions the topic as follows:

The time has come to begin “imagining” a truly New Middle East. Bereft of a peace process... ..faced with an Occupation spewing violence and suffering in all directions, the inhabitants of both Palestine and Israel have sunk into fatalistic hopelessness. It is precisely at this juncture, when there seems to be no way out, that both a vision and a practical solution are called for, if only to dispel the almost mystical notion, held by many, that the conflict is irresolvable.

Since we are at the stage of brainstorming, of trying to cope with the seeming endlessness of the conflict, the downward spiral of violence, death, suffering and repression, I thought I would toss my own thoughts into the pot. They are meant to contribute to the emerging discussion.....

In turn, we have spent three weeks now getting a grasp of the make-up and character of international relations in the modern (post-1648) world. At its center, we have learned, is the most powerful actor: the state. Remember the four characteristics of states: *territory, a central government, a loyal population, and the recognition by other states.* The characteristic that distinguishes states from other actors is *sovereignty*.

If, like Halper, we are thinking about solutions to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, some kind of state or arrangement of states that confers sovereignty on the two peoples who are competing at this point for the same territory seems to be a place to start. Halper helps us to begin by identifying the basic menu of possible solutions:

1. a two-state option
2. a federal bi-national option
3. a one-state (inclusive unitary) option
4. a regional confederation option

How? A workshop is an activity in which a group of people, together, address and grapple with a problem or issue. The products of the workshop are the learning that is gained as a variety of minds focus on a common issue **and** possible solutions to real problems in the real world.

For Workshop One:

- We will create four groups---one for each of the options listed above.
- All of us will use reading assignments for Week #4 including Halper’s article as the basic reading for the workshop

- Each member, of each group, will briefly research their option and prepare a paper (approximately 2-3 typewritten pages in length). The paper should explain the option, summarize its pros and cons and show what problems it does and doesn't solve. Each paper and the group should comment on the option and make a recommendation to the workshop as a whole-----does it represent the best solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict? Be sure to define what "best" means and justify your recommendation. (50 points)
- Internet resources for each of the options are posted on the workshop assignment page.

When? The calendar for the workshop begins today Wednesday, October 20, and ends on Monday, November 1.

Wednesday, October 20: Overview of the assignment; introduction to the history and issues of the conflict.

Monday, October 25: Summary examination of discussion #4 and nationalism. Focus on Halper's article and initial group meetings.

Wednesday, October 27: Groups meet, Doug consults, options are clarified, outlines of papers are constructed, method of presenting results planned.

Monday, November 1: Workshop is completed by each group reporting to the larger group. Options are evaluated and consensus is sought on best option. **Papers are due by the end of the day in my office (AHSS-206)**