WEST BANK: Israeli Strategy in the West Bank: Divide et Impera

The West Bank is a land-locked area sealed off by Israel to its north, south and west; and Jordan to the east. It was entirely occupied by Israel in 1967 (including East Jerusalem), with over 200 settlements illegal built today supporting a total Jewish population of over 600,000. Israel has further annexed thousands of hectares of Palestinian land to build houses, checkpoints, roadblocks, and Jewish only access roads to fragment Palestinian areas and to control it. Moreover, Israel’s planned 712 km Israeli separation “Barrier”—85% of which constructed on occupied Palestinian land totaling nearly 10% of the West Bank — further fragments the West Bank, cuts off Palestinian communities from their farmlands, and severely curtails Palestinian freedom of movement and right to work, education and medical care. Overall, the West Bank now effectively comprises 165 non-contiguous and disconnected areas, with the Palestinian Authority in control over about 18% (mainly the concentrated urban areas) and partially in a further 22% (rural areas). In total, Israeli settlements (and their regional councils) control 40% of the West Bank. The International Court of Justice has ruled the barrier unlawful; and a host of UN resolutions and overall body of humanitarian and occupation law have maintained the occupation of the West Bank and the building of settlements are illegal. The total unemployment rate in West Bank is nearly 20%, and for adults under 30 it is 40%.

OSLO INTERIM AGREEMENT

AREA A *
AREA B *
AREA C *

PALESTINIAN COMMUNITIES

Built-up area

ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

Built-up area
Municipal area
Israeli military base

WEST BANK BARRIER

- Constructed
- Under construction or planned
- Trench
- Border crossing to Jordan
- Governorate capital

* Note: Israel has full military control over all Palestinian territories, while the PA has limited administrative authority over certain areas. Area A is under nominal Palestinian control. Area B is under nominal Palestinian civilian control but with formal joint Israeli-Palestinian security control. Area C is under full Israeli control with no Palestinian authority at all.

1947
Proposed borders under the UN Partition Plan

1948
Israel is formed

1967
After the Six-Day War
Israel forces occupy the West Bank, Gaza, the Sinai Peninsula & Golan Heights

1982
Israel invades Southern Lebanon and will not withdraw until 2000

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