CALL FOR PAPERS/PANELS:

The Inaugural CSIPS Annual Middle East Peace Conference

“One State”, “Two State” and “Third Way” solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: paving the way to a functional Palestinian state

The Centre for the Study of International Peace and Security (CSIPS) is proud to announce a call for papers and panels for its inaugural Annual Middle East Peace Conference to be held at the University of Westminster in London on Friday 12th May, 2017.

Negotiations of the Middle East peace process have traditionally focused on one of two plans. The ‘Two-State Solution’ dates back to UN resolutions of 1974, and proposes that an independent and sovereign state of Palestine - the precise geographical demarcation of which is disputed – should be established bordering Israel. The ‘One-state Solution’ dates even further back, although it has seen renewed interest since the turn of the 21st century, and proposes that all Palestinian and Israeli citizens should be granted equal rights irrespective of ethnicity or religious belief. However, neither of these processes have been successfully implemented to date, Israel continues to occupy significant areas of the Palestinian Territories as defined under the Oslo Peace accords, and in a recent interview following the passing of UNSC resolution 2332 (2016), Norman Finkelstein claimed that “the Palestinian cause has died.”

At its first level, therefore, this conference seeks to examine ways in which either of these two peace plans can be revived and implemented. Issues of settlement activity, demarcation of borders, the status of Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinians outside their homeland, violations of international law, and questions of both terrorism and appropriate responses to such under international humanitarian law continue to provide seemingly insurmountable obstacles to a lasting peace. From a pragmatic perspective, with an estimated 600,000 Israeli residents of settlements living in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, the situation on the ground is radically different from that which formed the backdrop to the roadmap in 2003, and even more so the Oslo II Peace Accords in 1994.

Most recently, rhetoric from the president of Israel’s strongest ally – the United States – on the relocation of its embassy and the appointment of a pro-settlement US ambassador to Israel hints that any concessions being pushed for under previous administrations are likely to wane. In light of the current political environment, where even key neighbouring Arab states such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia appear to have turned their backs on the Palestinian cause, what prospects are there for a

---

continuation of the Two-State solution? What are the roles of new figures in the US administration, Quartet leadership, the UN, and the international community in the coming years? Is it time to abandon the Two State-based roadmap for peace and find an alternative direction?

For this reason, this conference also seeks to examine alternative methods of peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict beyond the typical one and two-state discourse, questioning whether it is time for the introduction of a “Third Way”. What might this “Third Way” entail and how would it differ from the One/Two-State solutions? What internal and external factors need to be taken into consideration? What regional and international players must be involved, and what incentives need to be offered in order to bring relevant parties to the table? What is to be done about the disputed delineation of borders and settlements that have already been built? Where do armed resistance movements such as Hamas and Hezbollah fit? How might the Israeli public respond to a renewed push for peace in a different direction?

Finally, this conference also seeks to examine the technical structure of a Palestinian State. To date, the Palestinian Authorities have been overwhelmingly dependent on the Israeli authorities from tax collection to provision of basic utilities, a situation that is certain to last for many years even in the event of a peace agreement being reached and which arguably has exacerbated the leverage held over the Palestinian Authorities. Beyond the political negotiations of reaching an elusive peace settlement, this conference seeks to examine what capacity-building is needed to create a functioning, independent Palestinian state. A future state of Palestine lacks not only infrastructure, but human resources: civil servants, policy leaders, technocrats, and capacity in many other fields. Where does responsibility for assistance in this respect lie – with Israel as the former occupying state, with the Palestinians alone as a future sovereign state, or other sides and entities? What steps would be needed to create working administrative, legislative, and judicial branches of a Palestinian state, to provide water and electricity, to create international trade, to construct an economy? Put simply, how might Palestine get “up and running” as a state?

CSIPS is therefore especially interested in panels and papers that discuss the following themes:

1. Analyses of the One/Two State peace process:
   - Merits and disadvantages of each
   - Factors in lack of success
   - Comparative analyses and feasibility studies

2. The impact of an increasing shift to the political right in Israeli governance:
   - Trends in Israeli popular sentiment
   - “conflict resolution” vs. “conflict management”

3. The impact and role of the wider region on prospects for peace in Israel
   - Foreign influences e.g. Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey
   - Foreign threats e.g. Daesh, Al Qaeda
   - Foreign events e.g. Arab Spring, Syrian conflict
   - Shifts in regional leaderships e.g. Sisi, Erdogan, Assad
4. The role of international organisations and groups in peace processes:
   o The United Nations e.g. Security Council, Human Rights Council
   o The European Union
   o The Arab League
   o The Quartet

5. International sentiment
   o The role of the media
   o International pro-Israeli initiatives
   o The Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) and other pro-Palestinian movements

6. International legal avenues for bringing about peace or maintaining international legal standards
   o Constitutional theory
   o Domestic legislative proposals
   o The reach and efficacy of international courts and tribunals

7. Theoretical alternative methods of bringing about peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict

8. The realpolitik of peace in Israel and the OPT

9. Analogous situations and/or comparative approaches to conflict resolution

10. Post conflict capacity acceleration and peace-building

This is a non-exhaustive list of themes that might fall within the scope of this conference; other subject material participants might feel inclined to submit under the scope of this conference would also be welcome.

Submission Procedure:
CSIPS welcomes individual paper proposals as well as full panel proposals.

Papers
In addition to an abstract of 500 words including title, scope, and methodology, please send an abridged CV/resume (max 2 pages) for the attention of CSIPS Director Dr. Sherif A. Elgebeily at admin@csips.org by 15th February, 2017.

Panels
Panels should comprise a total of 4 papers, a discussant, and a chair (or a chair/discussant) submitted for the attention of CSIPS Director Dr. Sherif A. Elgebeily at admin@csips.org by 15th February, 2017. Panel proposals should present the abstracts of all papers to be presented (max. 500 words each), as well as the CV/resume of each speaker and the chair/discussant. Proposed panels are expected to have a balanced gender representation. Panel proposers are requested to collate all abstracts into a single document with a brief introduction as to how the panel fits within the parameters of the conference’s scope.

Successful speakers and panellists will be notified by Friday 24th February, 2017 and will be expected to register online by Friday 24th March; kindly note that speakers will not be confirmed on the final programme without having registered.
Upon acceptance of an abstract or panel by the organisers, the author(s) will be invited to submit draft paper(s) of 8,000 words by 30th April 2017. It is envisaged that selected papers will published either as an edited volume or as a special edition of a journal following appropriate stages of peer-review.

All speakers, chairs, and discussants must register at the below registration rates, and are to arrange their own travel and accommodation. CSIPS is happy to prepare formal letters of invitation to assist with travel arrangements for overseas participants but is unable to provide visa assistance.

Any further enquiries should be directed to the conference organisers at admin@csips.org.

**Registration rates:**
(Rates include delegate materials, lunch and coffee breaks)

- *Full/part-time student:* £20
- *Full/part-time academic:* £30
- *Individual:* £40


**Key dates:**
- Abstract/panel proposal deadline: 15th February
- Successful speakers notified: 24th February
- Registration deadline for speakers: 24th March
- Draft papers (8000 words) due: 30th April
- Conference date: 12th May