

This far and further?

Israel and Palestine, origins and recent history in brief

In the 10th century BCE, the Israelite kingdoms of Judah and Israel emerged (1). The history of Israel covers an area of the Southern Levant also known as Canaan, Palestine or the Holy Land, which is the geographical location of the modern states of Israel and Palestine.

'Ancient Palestine' is a region in ancient Canaan that includes the present-day states of Israel and Palestine, as well as parts of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon (2).

July 4th, 2009, [Salaam Fayad](#) spoke about the critical process by which people must engage in building each and every institution that eventually makes up a viable state and the [Israeli Ambassador to the US](#) talked about settlements, the need for Israel to be recognized as a Jewish state and examples of existential threats to Israel's existence.

Contemporary events

"The figure of Peace personally recites her complaint about the fact that she is not being heard", typified Erasmus in 1517 in one of the earlier pacifist writings. The complaint has still not been resolved.

Who instructs me and who decides what deeds I going to commit? In DC were demonstrators attempted to breach the White House fence and there were unannounced, unfacilitated demonstrations and scenes at universities and around ministries. But is this of help to a process of healing? No, anger, activism and destruction are not the means through which solutions emerge or can be found: anger is a basic survival mechanism and slogans in protests with the same talking points are being told and repeated without any regard to if they have any philosophical or factual basis in reality.

Is the violence and protest going about land claims, partly based on historical revisionism? Ancient and contemporary religious, ethnic or cultural differences? Because both parties both claim rights to so-called or empty promises or to exclusive rights that do not exist? Or is it manipulation created by evil to increase chaos?

A search for a common premise doesn't get off the ground, which leads to further escalation. In The Hague, students, teachers and others no longer feel free, but intimidated. Activist students were removed and escorted away by the security far from the building of the university. But vicious disagreements persist and the concept of freedom seems to be understood more absolutely than relatively.

How further?

One can take the path of either deeds acting contrary to the law, internal regulations or generally agreed rules of conduct, or the path of decency, healing, reconciliation, discussion, cooperation, peace and justice. Diversity and inclusivity has been worked on for a long time. But to be able to take in cases decisive action, protocols and plans in the event of derailments are missing.

Only by choosing for means to prevent and to de-escalate (3) does help to give peace a chance.

A university

A university is a place where scientific education is provided and conduct scientific research. It provides academic training and awards academic degrees. Leiden University has as its motto 'Presidium Libertas' and actually provides almost boundless space for discussions on all topics. But freedom comes also with responsibility and duties. Then you can think of discipline, the extent to which you show solidarity with your fellow man and your level of tolerance, a gift we give each other (or not).

It cannot be the case that groups themselves commit deeds contrary to the law and condemn deeds without guilt being proven, and without realizing damage is done instead of using the rule of law, appropriate existing platforms and bodies, such as international law courts and the UN. That's outside legal and global order and towards an environment where anarchy comes in.

1. The Hebrew Bible states that these were preceded by a single kingdom ruled by Saul, David and Solomon;
2. From the first century AD until the 1970s, the name Palestine has always referred to the area of Palestine originating from the ancient people of the Philistines and in no way to a people or other specific ethnic composition in the latter 2,000 years. The inhabitants consisted and exist, from a historical point of view, of Jews, Bedouins and in later times also of Arabs.
It was only with the rise of the PLO led by Yasser Arafat, who came from Egypt, that the claimed name Palestine came to be heard more and more as an appellation for the Arab population;
3. creating mutual understanding, more reason, the spreading of a lot of evidence-based knowledge and academic science, pursuit of truth and wisdom, the capacity to listen to each other, to conduct dialogue together, and to make evidenced-based arguments. View ideas and initiatives - such as new policies, reforms, negotiations and economic development proposals - that could ease tensions, strengthen relationships across borders and perhaps even help effect a lasting peace.