

The Two State Solution won't work, for two reasons: Israel will never agree to a Palestinian State; and in any case, that would enshrine the enmity between the two sides — endless war.

Here's another approach:

Persuade Israel to make a fresh start. Israel would say to the Palestinians ....

We Jews have suffered over centuries: Jewish Diaspora and loss of our lands in Arabia, then pogroms throughout Europe where many of us settled, culminating in the Nazi Holocaust killing millions of us. In 1917 when Britain had influence over the crumbling Turkish Empire, their Foreign Minister Balfour wrote to Rothschild, leader of the Zionists, expressing favour for the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, **it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine.** Disastrously, in what followed, the words above in red were not paid sufficient attention — and so began the strife between our peoples.

In our current conflict you began by killing over a thousand of us — so then we killed over twenty thousand of you. We were angry. We are still angry. Since the Holocaust we have been determined that that will never happen again. And it never will. Nevertheless, we regret that in setting up the current political structure in Arabia, the red words above were forgotten. We wanted a Jewish Homeland — but it could have been a homeland for Arabs too. We would have had much to offer to a jointly shared country. We Jews are hard-working and clever: perhaps that is why no-one likes us? You have your strengths too. We could have worked together for prosperity and peace, together. As an example, consider Daniel Barenboim, who is a Jew. Daniel Barenboim established his West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, combining the talents of Arabs and Jews, working together to produce music. They play Beethoven together. Beethoven was a German. But we Jews admire his music, even though it was German people who tried to kill us all in our Holocaust. Listen to Arabs and Jews playing music together [here](#).

Can we all learn a lesson from this triumph and work together to overcome the disaster that now befalls us all? We want to offer you a peace: a peace in which we all share, like the West-Eastern Divan orchestra. We will never again allow the Jewish people to be exposed to annihilation. Equally, we understand why you Arabs will never accept a situation in which your ancestral lands are stolen from you. We can understand your anger. We ask you to consider a One State Solution, in which we each contribute our talents and efforts to work together for peace. The details need to be worked out. Perhaps this is an impossible dream? You might think that we are such different people it could never work. But listen again to the orchestra playing Beethoven together [here](#).