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Analysis

Trump Is Delusional and Ignorant About Israel. His Meeting With Netanyahu Proved It -(Ilene Prusher)

There were more than a few bizarro world moments at the White House Wednesday as President Donald Trump met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the first time since taking the oath of office. Trump departed from decades of U.S. policy of all administrations, Republican and Democratic, when he said that America was no longer determined to reach a two-state solution to end the conflict.

"So I'm looking at two-state and one-state, and I like the one that both parties like," Trump said, eliciting laughter. "I'm very happy with the one that both parties like. I can live with either one."

Thinking that they'll find a formula that both parties will "like" is itself delusional. But more perplexing, Trump's comments suggest a lack of knowledge of the complexities and realities of the region. When Trump throws around a "one-state" solution, does he have

any idea what that actually entails?

Of course, Netanyahu does. That's why during his speech he described his red lines. This suggests a vision that is much more expansionistic and less flexible than what he indicated in his 2011 Bar-Ilan speech.

"The two prerequisites of peace - recognition of the Jewish state, and Israel's security needs west of the Jordan - they remain pertinent." Read: Israel must stay in the Jordan Valley forever, and in control of the West Bank as well. It's hard to see where a sovereign Palestinian entity - much less a contiguous one - fits into this picture.

Though it's not a new argument by any means, it does effectively cancel out the viability of reaching a two-state solution. It's also hard to envision an equitable one-state solution that will satisfy Israel's demand for security control and Palestinians' demands for self-determination. Palestinian national aspirations are not going to be fulfilled by simply being made into second-class citizens in an Israel with an annexed West Bank, subject to the whims of the military and the security forces much as they are now, with the right to vote thrown in.

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Unpacking anti-Arab racism in Israel - (Natasha Roth)

There is a building on Michelangelo Street in Jaffa, near where I used to live, which for a while featured the sentiment "We have no other country" graffitied in both Arabic and Hebrew, side by side. One day, the Arabic was painted over, presumably by the municipality, leaving only the Hebrew. Almost immediately, someone restored the Arabic. It was painted over again. This pattern continued until a friend publicly asked the municipality why her taxes were being used to such obviously racist ends; by the following morning, both languages had been painted over.

This sad waltz, and all that it signifies, is a useful parable in light of the so-called muezzin law's reappearance in Israel's parliament this week. The bill, a noise restriction policy carefully designed to partially silence the Muslim call to prayer in Israel, took another step forward on Sunday when a Knesset committee voted to advance the legislation toward becoming law.

Although the intended target of the law is tucked away in the Trojan Horse phrasing of "noise caused by loudspeaker systems in houses of worship," the bill specifies that the restrictions only apply between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. As Adalah - The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel points out, mosques are the sole places of worship that broadcast calls to prayer during these hours.

This rubbing out of Arabic - and above all Muslim - culture, language and memory in the Israeli public space is as much part of the assault on Palestinian history and presence as

home demolitions, expulsions, occupation, and siege. It may be the quieter arm of the enterprise, but it works just as effectively to undermine the foundations of Palestinian society.

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