

Annexation Talking Points

Israel is considering whether to annex large parts of the West Bank as early as July 1, with the U.S. government supporting and coordinating the annexation. Under President Trump's "Peace to Prosperity" plan, Israel would annex some 30 percent of the West Bank, then negotiate with Palestinians about the future of the rest if they meet various criteria set by Israel and the U.S.

- Specifically, Israel would annex all or part of Area C, some 60 percent of the West Bank, while leaving Areas A and B to Palestinians. The peace process since Oslo set up an Area A of major Palestinian cities, Area B of smaller Palestinian towns, and Area C as mostly Palestinian villages and farmland, but also Israel's settlements and military bases.

The purpose is to annex as many Israeli settlements and land, and as few Palestinian residents, as possible.

- The overwhelming majority of Palestinians would be left in Areas A and B. Around 2.6 million people, not being annexed, would have no rights in Israel. No citizenship and no other rights either, as they would be foreigners. These leftover Areas A and B would be an archipelago of non-contiguous bantustans, spread around only 40 percent of the West Bank's land.
- Without that contiguity, without any link to the outside world save through Israel, and without the other 60 percent of their land, this vast majority of West Bank Palestinians would be condemned to destitution. Eventual statehood for those millions is not guaranteed in Trump's plan or Israel's, and it would be a failed state economically anyway.
- The far fewer 10-15 percent of West Bank Palestinians now living in Area C, still hundreds of thousands, would have other problems. Domestic Israeli law would allow broader confiscation of their lands, much like land has been confiscated in annexed East Jerusalem. It is unclear whether Israel would offer them citizenship, but with or without it they would be discriminated against as the Arab citizens of Israel, and permanent residents in East Jerusalem, already are.

Area C annexation is not a viable or just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

- Israel's settlers would certainly gain more control over their own lives. Palestinians would have even less control than they have now. Their social, economic and cultural ties would be broken up, and movement between Palestinian areas would become even more difficult than today. Oppression would be the certainty for West Bank Palestinians, as Israelis keep control of many aspects of their lives whether annexed inside Israel or left outside Israel (as in Gaza).