FACT SHEET

West Bank Annexation

ANNEXATION: PLANS AND COSTS

Full annexation of the West Bank
- $16-$21 billion annually
- Require every active duty IDF soldier to be permanently stationed in the West Bank
- Force Israel to determine the status of over 2.5 million Palestinians and choose between being a Jewish state or a democracy

Area C (60% of the West Bank)
- Require building 169 new security barriers
  - Cost of $7.5 billion, plus $1.5 billion in annual security costs
  - Require calling up 25,000 IDF reservists to patrol and man the new security barriers
  - Create the most indefensible set of borders in recorded history

Select parts of the West Bank
(Jordan Valley, Gush Etzion, Ma’ale Adumim)
- No matter how large or how limited, such plans depend on the Palestinian Authority governing the Palestinian population that remains in the non-annexed territory
- When the PA reaches its breaking point, any partial annexation plan inevitably turns into full annexation irrespective of how Israel wanted to limit it
- Annexing even a limited amount of territory also strengthens the concept of annexation and empowers annexationists to surge ahead with larger plans
- Partial annexation an incredibly risky gamble dependent on variables beyond Israel's control; once the annexation process begins, it will become difficult, if not impossible, to control or limit the eventual outcome

Applying Israeli sovereignty and law to all West Bank settlements
- This is a rhetorical device used by some on the Israeli right, but applying sovereignty is a distinction without a difference from annexation
- Application of sovereignty is the legal status that Israel employed on the Golan Heights, which everyone recognizes as having been de facto annexed

The security, economic, and diplomatic costs of annexation plans would create hurdles nearly impossible to overcome.

Any of these scenarios will create unprecedented stress on the U.S.-Israel relationship.
Why is Annexation so dangerous?
Annexation closes the door on a future two-state agreement. In a one-state outcome, millions of non-citizen Palestinians will live under Israel’s sovereignty, undermining its Jewish and democratic credentials. If the Palestinian Authority ceases functioning after annexation, Israel will also have to assume significant security and budgetary strains.

The Myth of Partial Annexation
The myth of partial annexation refers to the steady shift from absorbing certain settlement blocs to annexing larger parts of Area C (60% of the West Bank) and ultimately extending de facto Israeli control over the entirety of the territory. Some pro-annexation politicians in Israel claim to back “partial annexation,” yet the domino effect suggests this goal is illusory.