

WHY UNILATERAL ANNEXATION IS SO DANGEROUS FOR ISRAEL

THE FACTS

1. There is no security need.

Israel has military control over the entire West Bank.

2. There is no civilian need.

Our 430,000 citizens who reside in the West Bank enjoy the full benefits of Israeli citizenship and full protection under the law.

3. The Palestinian Authority (PA) manages the lives of the 2.7 million Palestinians.

Why destabilize it? Why saddle Israel with financial responsibility for their health, education and social welfare?

THE PALESTINIANS

4. Palestinians increasingly prefer a 'one state' solution.

Loss of hope for the two-state solution drives support for a binational state. Do we wish to reinforce this trend?

5. Coordination with Palestinian security forces saves Israeli lives and is a strategic asset.

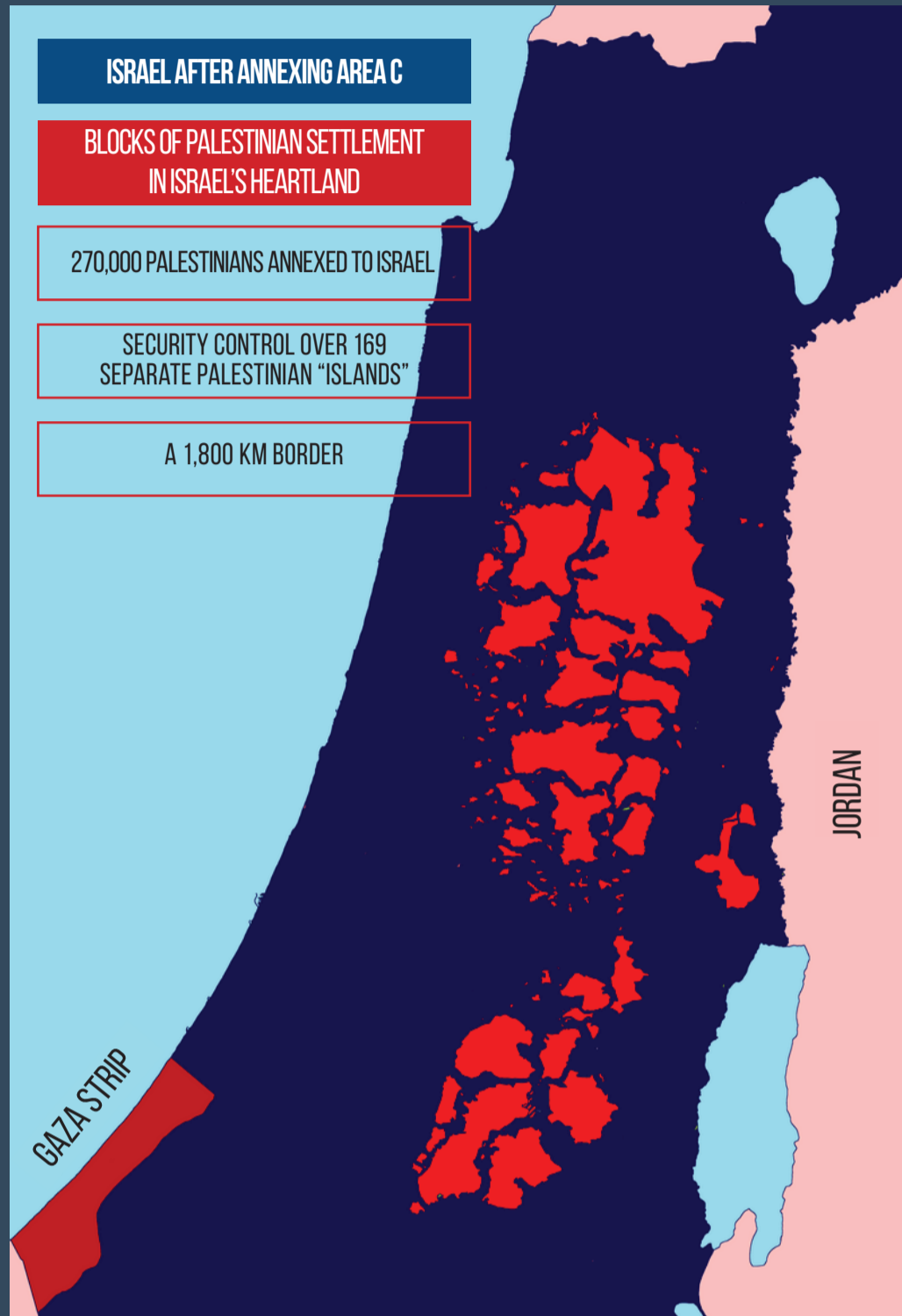
Unilateral annexation will indicate that Israel shutting the door on reaching a negotiated settlement. Even if Palestinian leaders wish for security coordination to continue, popular resentment may force its termination and the PA armed officers to join a wave of violence.

6. Hamas is best positioned to fill the security vacuum should security coordination collapse.

To prevent this, the IDF would have to reassert control over the entire area, including all Palestinian population centers, thereby assuming responsibility for the lives of millions of Palestinians -- all without an exit strategy.

7. Will Gaza remain quiet?

It would be naïve to expect Hamas to sit idly by and not to ignite the southern front, thus forcing the IDF to reoccupy Gaza as well.



The map illustrates that annexing Area C would create a block of Palestinian settlement in Israel's heartland, and a precarious, 1,800 km defense line.

THE BOTTOM LINE

- Israelis -- who will pay the price of a mistake of such historic proportions -- are entitled to be part of the decision process.
- All MKs must demand a comprehensive examination of the impact of annexation and answers to the issues we have raised.
- **A democratic society requires a thorough and transparent discussion of such matters in the cabinet, Knesset, and with the general public before making such a fateful decision.**

Unilateral annexation (partial or full) will forever change the character of the State of Israel. If we grant equal rights to annexed Palestinians - Israel will lose its solid Jewish majority. If not - it will spell the end of Israeli democracy. Either option would betray the values of our Declaration of Independence, the very foundation of the country we have fought for.

SECURITY

8. Seizing control of the Palestinian areas has a prohibitive security price tag.

- It will require 3 – 4 standing divisions and the mobilization of 30,000 reservists.
- Fighting will last for months with no exit strategy.
- Thereafter, most of the conscript army will be deployed for police duties at the expense of readiness for potential conflict in the north (Hezbollah, Syria) and east (Iran).
- It will place a tremendous burden on the reserves hence, on the national economy.

9. Annexing Area C (see map) creates a security nightmare with 169 disconnected 'islands' containing 2.7 million Palestinians, in the center of the expanded Israel. Blocking terrorists from freely entering Israel's population center will require a 23 billion shekel, 1,800 km long security fence with hundreds of security gates to monitor traffic between one island and another, at the cost of 4 billion shekels annually, in addition to mortgaging the IDF to police duties indefinitely.

ECONOMIC COSTS

10. Annexation would be an economic disaster.

Three former general managers of the Ministry of Finance led a team that determined that the annual cost of running services for the 2.7 million Palestinians, will be NIS 52 billion. [Four times the annual US security support for Israel.]

11. Annexation will hurt all Israelis.

The projected 'annexation tax', the additional tax burden for every Israeli family, every year, is NIS 25,000.

THE STRATEGIC PRICE

12. Annexing the Jordan Valley could undermine the peace treaty and security coordination with Jordan, including the loss of the irreplaceable strategic depth for early warning and intersection afforded by its vast territory, which is critical vis-à-vis Iran and other hostile forces.

13. Impact on Israel's other regional strategic interests. How will Egypt, a leading regional player and partner in peace and in fighting terror in Sinai, react to events triggered by annexation? Will the secretly developing cooperation with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states survive this challenge?

PRESENTED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE AND A WARNING TO ISRAEL'S POLICY MAKERS.

(To download our study on the implications of annexation: en.cis.org.il/annx)

