

1- Introduction to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

The Israeli Jewish and Palestinian Arab peoples both have thousands of years of history and connection to the land of Israel-Palestine as attested to in history, archaeology, archaeogenetics, and tradition. By the 1800's the Jewish population of the land had been reduced to a small minority following many centuries of wars, expulsions, and genocide. The majority of the population of Israel-Palestine was by then Arabic-speaking Muslims and Christians. Facing a growing tide of discrimination, ethnic cleansing, and genocide in European Christian States and to a lesser extent in the Muslim world, the Jewish people began a movement to return en masse to Israel-Palestine, the land of their ancestors, to seek refuge there. This movement would eventually become known as Zionism or 'Tzionut' which is based on a biblical term for Jerusalem 'Tzion'.

Early Zionism had many forms. Some early Zionists favored the creation of a Jewish cultural center in the land of Israel-Palestine; this was called Cultural Zionism. The Cultural Zionists later founded movements like Brit Shalom 'Covenant of Peace' and the political party Ihud or 'Union', which advocated for a shared Jewish-Arab society in Israel-Palestine. Other Zionist movements fell into the category of Political Zionism which advocated for the establishment of a Jewish Majority State within Israel-Palestine.

In response to the growing presence of Jews in Palestine especially after the British captured Palestine from the Ottoman Empire in World War 2 and later declared the intent to allow the Jewish people to turn Palestine into their National Home, the Palestinian Arabs began to fear that the Jews were going to take over the country and perhaps even attempt to displace them. Despite efforts by both Jewish and Arab groups in favor of coexistence, the tension led to an increasingly violent series of confrontations between the two populations in Israel-Palestine during the period around the British Mandate for Palestine from 1920 to 1948 which ultimately led to massacres perpetrated by both groups and then eventually to an all-out confrontation with each group aiming at large scale displacement of the other.

The Israel-Palestine Conflict is an Ethno-National conflict that is one of the longest ongoing conflicts in the world. It has gone on for at least 100 years. Overall, tens of thousands of people have died on both sides of this conflict and are still dying as of the day this is being written.

The State of Israel was established in May 1948 when the British Mandate for Palestine was formally ended and David Ben Gurion the head of the Jewish Agency declared the establishment of the state. U.S. President Harry S. Truman recognized the State of Israel on the same day. The State of Israel was declared to be the Jewish State and the assumption at the time was that there would also be an Arab State called Palestine declared in the remaining territory of the former Mandate.

This declaration had happened within the context of a civil war between the Jewish and Arab population of the Mandate that had already been going on for 6 months following the UN General Assembly's acceptance of Resolution 181 calling for a partition of the land into a Jewish and an Arab State. On the 15th of May 1948, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States sent a message to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, that "the Arab states find themselves compelled to intervene to restore law and order and to check further bloodshed" Within a few days of this a major war began between the Newly established State of Israel and several Arab States including, Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Iraq.

During the war of 1948, approximately 750,000 Palestinians were made refugees as they fled or were expelled from the conflict zones. Following these events, Israel destroyed over 400 former Palestinian Arab villages and refused to allow the Palestinians who fled to return. Approximately 160,000 Palestinian Arabs remained in

around 77.5% of the territory of the former Mandate of Palestine that became the State of Israel and their descendants are today the Arab Palestinian citizens of Israel.

Following the war of 1948 a large wave of migration of Jews who had been living in Arab and other Muslim countries, known as the Mizrahi or 'Eastern' Jews, came to the newfound State of Israel. They left mainly fleeing various discriminatory policies and expulsions but also because of a desire to be part of the Jewish National State. Today in Israel over 60% of the Israeli Jewish population is of Mizrahi or partial Mizrahi heritage.

In 1967 the State of Israel conquered the territories of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, Shebaa Farms, the Gaza Strip, and the Sinai Peninsula. The war of 1967 was followed soon after with another major war between Israel, Egypt, and Syria in 1973. Following that war, the Sinai Peninsula was ultimately returned to Egypt as part of a peace agreement signed in 1978. The Golan Heights (including the Shebaa Farms) and East Jerusalem were formally annexed by Israel. However, the annexation of the Golan Heights has only been recognized by the United States and no country has recognized the Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem. In East Jerusalem there currently live around 360,000 Palestinian Arabs; the vast majority do not hold Israeli citizenship, as well as around 220,000 Israeli Jewish citizens.

As part of a series of peace agreements with the Palestinian Authority known as the 'Oslo Accords' the territory of the Gaza Strip as well as the major population centers in the West Bank were transferred to the Palestinian Authority, though Israel still maintains a military occupation in the West Bank and in general a blockade in the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, for over 55 years since the conquest of 1967, Israel has settled around 500,000 Israeli civilians, while this territory is largely still under a formal military occupation and the international community considers this a violation of international law. United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 of 2016, which passed 14-0 with the United States abstaining, declared that Israel's settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, "has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law", and demanded that Israel "immediately and completely cease all settlement activities".

As a part of the second round of the Oslo Accords, signed in Taba Egypt in 1995, the West Bank was divided into three regions Areas A, B, and C. Area A on around 20% of the territory consists of the largest Palestinian cities in the West Bank that were to be under full Palestinian control, Area B on around another 20% was the suburban communities surrounding these major cities with Palestinian civil control and Israeli security control, and Area C with around 60% of the territory of the West Bank including a perimeter around all the major population centers, as well as the control of all the major roadways in the West Bank and full control of the Jordan Valley, which is the natural border between Palestine as the State of Jordan to the East.

This agreement was meant to last only five years and to be a transition between full military occupation and the creation of an independent Palestinian State. However, this full agreement never materialized which as the Israelis would argue was because the Palestinian side failed to uphold their part of the agreement, renounce violence, and promote tolerance. The Palestinians would argue it was because the Israelis did not uphold their side of the agreement, continued to build settlements in the West Bank, and did not come to the negotiating table with a fair proposal for dividing the territory based on the pre-67 lines with only minor adjustments. Either way, around five years after the signing of the Second Oslo agreement a major round of violence erupted known as the Second Intifada which caused a serious deterioration in the situation, and since then no significant agreements between the sides were signed and no progress has since been seen towards resolving this situation for over 23 years.

The situation currently in the West Bank is described by critics, which include both Israeli and international human rights organizations, as a type of de facto Apartheid, wherein the area under Israeli control has an Israeli population of around 500,000 as well as approximately 180,000 Palestinians. In the West Bank as a whole today there are around 2.5 million people, meaning that the current division of the territory of the West Bank is seen to be to the unfair benefit of a minority population of around 20% of the population that is ethnically Israeli Jewish as opposed to the majority of the Population which is ethnically Palestinian Arab. This situation is compounded by the military control of the encircling territory and all the major roadways making for a significant control on the freedom of movement of Palestinians within the West Bank and full control of all entry and exit to the territory.

The situation in the Gaza Strip has been one of a nearly total blockade of the densely populated coastal territory where approximately 2.1 million Palestinians live in approximately 6% of the total territory of the State of Palestine. This has been the case since the Hamas political organization took control of the Strip in a coup against the Palestinian Authority in 2008. As of the writing of this document, following the attack on Israel by Hamas on October the 7th 2023 where over 1,200 Israelis were killed, there is an ongoing ground invasion by Israel and so far over 20,000 Palestinians have been killed and nearly an additional 200 Israeli soldiers since the ground invasion in what will likely prove to be the most deadly escalation in the entire 100-year conflict.

Today within the boundaries of Israel and Palestine reside roughly 14.9 million people, around 7.7 Million of whom are Israeli Jews, broadly speaking, this includes Jews, their descendants, and spouses some of whom are considered non-Jews depending on the definition. Spouses and Descendants of Jews are around 535,000 people or about 7% of the "Extended Israeli Jewish Population".

In Israel-Palestine today there are also around 7.2 Million Palestinian Arabs, broadly speaking, this includes those who consider themselves Palestinian Arabs and those Arab populations in Israel including Druze, Bedouin, and others that may not, depending on the definition and situation. Druze and Bedouin Arabs are around 343,000 or around 4.8% of the "Extended Palestinian Arab Population". According to a poll conducted in 2017 around 40% of the Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel prefer to refer to themselves as Arab citizens of Israel a total of around 680,000 people which is around 9.5% of the "Extended Palestinian Arab Population".

In the following proposal the "Extended Israeli Jewish Population" will be referred to as the Israeli Jewish People and the "Extended Palestinian Arab Population" will be referred to as the Palestinian Arab People, for the sake of convenience. We understand that this is a simplification and that the identity of the people of Israel-Palestine is in reality more complex than this.

Two Million Palestinian Arabs in Palestine are considered refugees, or descendants of those Palestinian Arabs who fled or were expelled from Palestine in 1948, around 750,000 of them are living in refugee camps in Palestine. In addition, there are around 750,000 Palestinians who are living in refugee camps throughout the region, particularly in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq. There are an additional 2.5 Million or more Palestinian Arabs who are considered refugees according to the UNRWA, the United Nations aid organization for Palestinian refugees. About two million of these are living as citizens of Jordan and several hundred thousand are living in various countries in the Middle East and around the world, some of whom are citizens of the countries they live in and some are just residents.

Beyond that several million Palestinians are living in the Diaspora who are not considered refugees who would like to have opportunities to easily travel to and visit as well as have the option to immigrate to Israel or

Palestine just like their Jewish counterparts. In total today there are around 14 million Palestinians in the world, half living in Israel-Palestine and half living outside.

In addition, there are around 8 million Jews around the world outside the State of Israel, a total of around 15 million Jews worldwide, as well as several million more who are currently entitled to immigrate to Israel under its 'Law of Return'. The Palestinians claim that this is an unfair situation as they are not allowed to immigrate or return to either Israel or Palestine or even visit without significant difficulty, if at all.

UN General Assembly resolution 194(III), of 1948 calls for the Right of Return to be given to Palestinian refugees, which Israel has never allowed to return. Similarly, Israeli "Mizrachi" Jews who were expelled from Arab countries post-1948 are denied entry from the countries where they once lived. The UN Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967 calls "for achieving a just settlement to the refugee problem". The Arab Peace Initiative of 2002 calls for the "Achievement of a just solution to the Palestinian refugee problem to be agreed upon under U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194."

Israel for its part is concerned that the unlimited application of the Palestinian Right of Return would endanger a Jewish demographic majority in the State of Israel and subsequently, the Israeli Jewish people would lose their self-determination. Israel has also argued that the idea of the right of return does not in most cases apply to descendants of refugees and has not been enforced in other similar cases.

2 The Jerusalem Union Proposal

The Jerusalem Union is a peace proposal for Israel-Palestine that has several key features that resolve issues neither the traditional two-state or one-state solutions address. Any agreed political solution is preferable to the status quo. The Jerusalem Union seeks to find a balance between the level of autonomy provided in a Confederal structure such as the European Union where each member state is still a sovereign independent State in control of its borders and a Federal State where a single sovereign State is comprised of two or more political entities, or sub-units, that have a certain level of autonomy but also a common Federal Government that provides security and protection of rights across the boundaries of the political sub-units.

The Jerusalem Union proposal detailed below is a form of the two-state solution, only with 'Soft Borders', that will allow for free movement between the two states as well as freedom of residency in either state, for all citizens. This will also allow the Israeli Jewish civilians living in the Palestinian State to remain where they are, a significant amount of Right of Return for Palestinians, as well as allow for a shared defense of the whole territory and full economic integration. While this proposal is certainly not without its compromises, we believe that with this format, the Two-state Cooperative Union will prove to be a proposal capable of winning popular support on both sides. This Two-state Union could someday in the future be converted, by the choice of the citizens of the Union, into a full-fledged Federal State, but that will have to wait for a very warm peace to develop over a long time.

3- Summary Description of the Jerusalem Union Proposal

3.1 The Jerusalem Union is a proposed cooperative union between the Constituent States of Israel and Palestine, representing the national aspirations of the Israeli Jewish and Palestinian Arab peoples respectively for maximized cooperation, autonomy, and security. These states will allow for the preservation of Israeli Jewish and Palestinian Arab cultural heritage as integral parts of the fabric of Middle Eastern and world culture.

3.2 This Union will combine elements of confederation and federation, allowing for both states to govern their peoples independently while enabling local regional Semi-Autonomous Electoral Districts to practice a level of self-governance for the various Ethno-cultural communities of Israel-Palestine.

3.3 The State of Israel will come to an agreement with the State of Palestine for partition into two states based on the pre-1967 borders with minor border adjustments and special arrangements for Jerusalem based on the US understanding of UN Resolution 242 and the Clinton Parameters with the Israeli Jewish neighborhoods of Jerusalem being Israeli territory, the Palestinian Arab neighborhoods of Jerusalem being Palestinian territory and the greater old city of Jerusalem region, the 'Holy Basin' being a shared federal territory.

3.4 The State of Palestine Territory will be on around 23.5% of the territory of the former Mandate for Palestine, slightly higher than in the traditional two-state Solution. Within each state's jurisdiction, it will have the power of law enforcement and governance for its citizens and residents and will be bound by the mutual agreements embodied in federal law. The external Borders of each state will be under the control of the State authorities in cooperation with the Federal Government.

3.5 The Union Customs Office will be responsible for import and export laws while each state will be responsible for entrance and exit laws. Entrance and exit laws will be subject to agreements between the States and the Union under the signed agreements at the formation of the Union. No citizen can be barred from entering their state of citizenship.

3.6 The greater Jerusalem area will become an expanded semi-autonomous Federal District and Capital of both States and the Union. The region of the city of Hebron including the old city of Hebron previously known as 'H2' will also become a shared federal District. There will also be two Federal Economic Districts, one between Israel and Gaza and the other Between Israel and the West Bank.

3.7 Each State will be divided into several Semi-Autonomous Districts that will also serve as electoral districts, both on the State level as well as for a Shared Federal Government. The Districts will be distributed such that there will be an even number of Israeli Jewish Majority and Palestinian Arab Majority Districts across the Union as a whole. The purpose of this is to create a Federal Parliament with a roughly even number of representatives from the Israeli Jewish and Palestinian Arab Majority Districts.

3.8 The Jerusalem Union addresses land distribution from both a collective and individual perspective. Collectively, although Israel has a larger area than Palestine, much of that land is in the south, which is predominantly an unpopulated desert, whereas the population centers in the northern part of the country are relatively equally divided between the Israeli Jewish and Palestinian Arab Majority Districts.

3.9 Each state will have a bicameral Parliament of its own, with the same number of representatives from each District in the upper parliamentary house and a lower parliamentary house with representatives from the Districts based on the population in that District. The State of Israel will have 15 parliamentary Electoral Districts, with three of them being from The Palestinian-Arab Majority Districts and the State of Palestine will have 11 parliamentary Electoral Districts with one of them from the Israeli Jewish Majority District of Palestine.

3.10 The Israeli Jewish settlers living within Palestine at the founding of the Union will be permitted to remain and given the option of Palestinian citizenship and will be subject to Palestinian law (with recourse to the Union Supreme Court for protection of fundamental rights). The Israeli Jewish minority living in Palestine will pay Palestinian taxes and contribute to developing the Palestinian economy. Israel for its part will confer citizenship to an agreed number of Palestinian refugees who will come from outside of the Union.

3.11 To reduce demographic tensions, representation in the Union parliament will be based on a bicameral parliamentary system with the same number of representatives from each District in the upper parliamentary house and a lower parliamentary house with representatives from the Districts based on the population in that District. There will also be options for redistricting in the future if needed. A central organizing principle of the Union is that each of the main Ethno-National groups, the Israeli Jewish and Palestinian Arab peoples will have equal representation in the Union.

3.12 This 50:50 Shared Federal Parliament will ensure the protection of human rights, freedom of movement, flexibility of residency, and solutions to common issues in Israel-Palestine.

3.13 At the head of the Federal Government will sit the Federal Council which will be elected by the Joint Federal Legislature which is the combined legislature of the Upper and Lower Houses of the Federal Government. The Federal Council will act as the Executive Branch of the Federal Government.

3.14 The Judicial Branch of the Federal Government will consist of a Federal Supreme Court which will have judicial authority over cases dealing with Federal Laws, the Constitution, Treaties made by the Federal Government, and in such cases of arbitration between the States and citizens thereof.

3.15 The Union will have a democratic Constitution and Bill of Rights that will ensure freedom of speech, Freedom of Religion, the right to education, the right to be free of unwarranted search and seizures and many more individual and collective rights. The Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, will be based on secular democratic law and ensure that the Union is operating at the political standard of a modern liberal democracy.

3.16 Each District of the States of Israel or Palestine will have its constitution created by the people of that District under State and Federal Law. They will have a government consisting of a legislature, an executive, police, and courts.

3.17 In addition there will be local and regional Community Councils for cultural autonomy and protection of the needs and rights of the various minority cultural communities in regions across the Union.

3.18 Any citizen who is a citizen or resident of Israel or Palestine at the founding of the Union or has immigrated to the Union and lived there for at least five years is considered a Union Citizen. A Union Citizen may move to any region or state in the Union and will vote in regional, municipal, and Federal elections from their new residency. They will maintain their Israeli or Palestinian State Citizenship which will enable them to vote for their respective State Parliaments.

3.19 Overall Immigration to the Union will be coordinated by the Federal Ministry of Absorption and by agreement with the constituent states such that a roughly equal number of persons of Jewish and Palestinian Arab origin be permitted to immigrate to the Union as a whole on an annual basis. We are suggesting 100,000 per year from each group for the first five years followed by 70,000 per year from each group for each year after that.

3.20 New Immigrants of Jewish Origin will immigrate to Israel and receive Israeli citizenship and new immigrants of Palestinian Arab origin will immigrate to Palestine and receive Palestinian citizenship. A New Immigrant may only reside in their state or one of the Federal Districts until they receive Union Citizenship and then they may reside in either State.

3.21 There will be an Economic Common Market with the boundary between both states being open for the free movement of people and goods. This will allow for the Israeli Jewish population that is living in what will be the State of Palestine to remain as well as allow for practical solutions to the issue of the Palestinian right of Return. There will also be a common Federal Police Force to maintain security across borders while ending the military occupation of Palestine

3.22 There will be three main police forces, the Israeli, the Palestinian, and the Union Police. The Israeli police force will enforce Israeli laws within Israel's borders, the Palestinian police force will enforce Palestinian laws within Palestinian borders and the Union police force will enforce Union laws over both Israel and Palestine and will have jurisdiction over both states. The Jerusalem Federal District will be the Capital of the Union and will be governed by Union police and State Police.

3.23 The Israeli and Palestinian Police Forces will each be divided into local District Police forces made up of members of the Police from a local district so that each local population may police itself and enforce local District ordinances. There will also be statewide Israel and Palestinian Police Departments responsible for enforcing state law throughout the State.

3.24 Israel will be allowed to maintain and develop the IDF and maintain a presence in the territory of Palestine on the very strict condition that no IDF soldier is allowed to interact with any Palestinian citizen without permission from the Palestinian government. In the very limited situations in which Palestine gives the IDF soldiers permission to operate within Palestine, they must wear a bodycam which is subject to review by a special Union Domestic Military Review Board

3.25 The integration of the IDF into the Union will happen in three phases. In the first phase, Israel will be allowed to keep their current military based in the Palestinian territories and agree to pay rent to Palestine for the usage of Palestinian territory for this purpose. The Union and the State of Palestine will have observer status on the security council of the State of Israel.

3.26 During a second phase; the State of Palestine will be required to pay for the IDF a predefined percentage of the Palestinian GDP as a condition to protect Palestinian international security interests. These interests will be protected by the Union which will have oversight over the IDF for this interim period. During this period the IDF will begin to enlist Palestinian citizens as recruits for military service at an agreed number annually. Moving from the first to the second phase will require among other things that the Union sign a peace agreement with all neighboring states, including Lebanon, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, as well as a statewide referendum in both States.

3.27 The third and final phase will be the full integration of the IDF into the Union as the Israel-Palestine Defense Force, or IPDF. The condition for moving to this phase will require among other things that the Union sign peace agreements with all regional states that were previously hostile to Israel, including Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Yemen, as well as a statewide referendum in both States.

3.28 This agreement may be implemented first in the form of a Renewed Interim Agreement or upgrade to the five-year interim agreement. The parties first need to accept the general outline of terms as described in this document for the framework of an outcome after the five years. They may also choose to conclude the full agreement as described in this document before the conclusion of the five years, in which case that agreement will supersede the Renewed Interim Agreement.

3.29 The Right of Return for Palestinians will be provided both via the exchange of the returning Palestinian refugees to the State of Israel for the allowing to remain of the Israeli Jewish settler population as well as the overall immigration agreements described in the above section on immigration. In addition, visitor visas for Palestinians who live outside of the Union will be provided upon request and based on agreements.

3.30 All Palestinian refugees in Palestine will automatically be provided Palestinian citizenship as part of this agreement. Palestinian Refugees currently living in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq in refugee camps and without citizenship, estimated as approximately 750,000 persons, plus their children born during the implementation of that agreement will be granted a Right of Return to be implemented within the first 5 years of this agreement.

3.31 An agreed number of Palestinian refugees, we suggest 250,000 from abroad will be granted dual Israel and Palestinian citizenship and the immediate right to live in Israel, as Palestine agrees to give Palestinian citizenship to an equal number of Israeli Jews including settlers who choose to remain in Palestine (currently estimated at 220,000) as part of this agreement. As Israeli citizens, these refugees will be afforded all the rights of an Israeli citizen.

3.32 In addition, at the rate of approximately 100,000 persons per year for the first five years and then 70,000 for each year after, Palestinian Refugees will be able to immigrate to Palestine and receive Palestinian as well as Union citizenship. Those Palestinian refugees who would prefer to move to a third country or remain where they are will also have such options provided upon request as part of this agreement. As a result of this agreement over these 5 years all refugee camps in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq can be dismantled or converted into normal residential areas and UNRWA (the UN organization for the support of Palestinian Refugees) will be disbanded.

3.33 As a gesture of reconciliation, the state of Israel will rebuild a symbolic number of depopulated pre-1948 Palestinian Arab villages in Israeli territory, allowing many refugees or their descendants the opportunity to achieve the dream of returning to the area of their ancestral homes. This number can be in the range of 20-40 villages being rebuilt with the carrying capacity of around 2,000 people each. The villages will be located in what are now nature reserves in Israel and a list of possible options will be provided, the most popular options based on the polling will be rebuilt. In addition, a memorial will be placed at the site of every depopulated pre-1948 Palestinian village to honor the memory of those communities.

3.34 Third-party countries supporting this agreement, such as the US, Canada, the UK, and Australia, will provide citizenship to a limited number of Palestinian Refugees as well they will provide education opportunities, including University scholarships, which will provide opportunities for a large portion of the refugees.

3.35 Those Palestinians currently living in countries where they are not citizens but prefer to stay in these countries will be assisted in doing so and the Union will work with these countries to provide citizenship and support for those Refugees who prefer to stay in their current country.

3.36 In addition to the Palestinian Refugees living in Refugee camps, there are many Palestinians throughout the world who do not have citizenship in any country and are living as residents only. Particularly many of those living in Saudi Arabia and those who were living in Syria and Lebanon but have since left to seek asylum in other countries. These Palestinians will also be prioritized, following those who are living in refugee camps, for immigration to Palestine if they should choose to do so as well as prioritized to be given options in the coalition of supporting Third Party countries.

3.37 Regarding land and property that was lost as a result of either the war of 1948 or 1967, in cases where the land/property is not currently in use or owned under Israeli or Palestinian law and is within the limits of a modern municipality, then the property will be returned to the original owner. In cases where this property is within the limits of a modern municipality and is available for sale, the Union government may be able to purchase this property and return it to the original owners. In all other cases, either if the property is currently owned or inhabited or otherwise in use as public infrastructure, then financial compensation will be given. In cases where the land or property is currently zoned as a nature reserve and not part of a municipality financial compensation will be given to the owners.

3.38 The Union will assist in getting the Arab and Muslim countries that expelled the Jewish populations to provide reasonable compensation to those families that lost property in those events. As these expulsions affected the majority of Israeli Jewish families in Israel, for those countries in which this is relevant, making proper restitution either with financial compensation or with the return of the property, will be a requirement for these countries to open relations with the Union.

3.39 The Union will establish a Federal Truth and Reconciliation Commission which will organize media and workshops in communities and educational institutions that will promote the understanding of the narratives of the Israeli Jewish and Palestinian Arab peoples to each other. This Commission will work to help build a Shared Collective Memory about the conflict and promote mutual understanding and peace.

3.40 The Israelis and Palestinians will each recognize their part in the Jewish-Arab conflict from 1920-1948. As well they must take responsibility for all mistreatment and violence carried out by their side towards the other during the entire history of the conflict from 1920 until the current day.

3.41 The Union will criminalize purposeful acts of violence against civilians and any citizen of the Union or lawful resident therein. Acts of violence against either military before the 5-year interim agreement immediately preceding the formation of the Union will be pardoned, however, as long as these acts were under the laws of war and did not constitute a war crime.

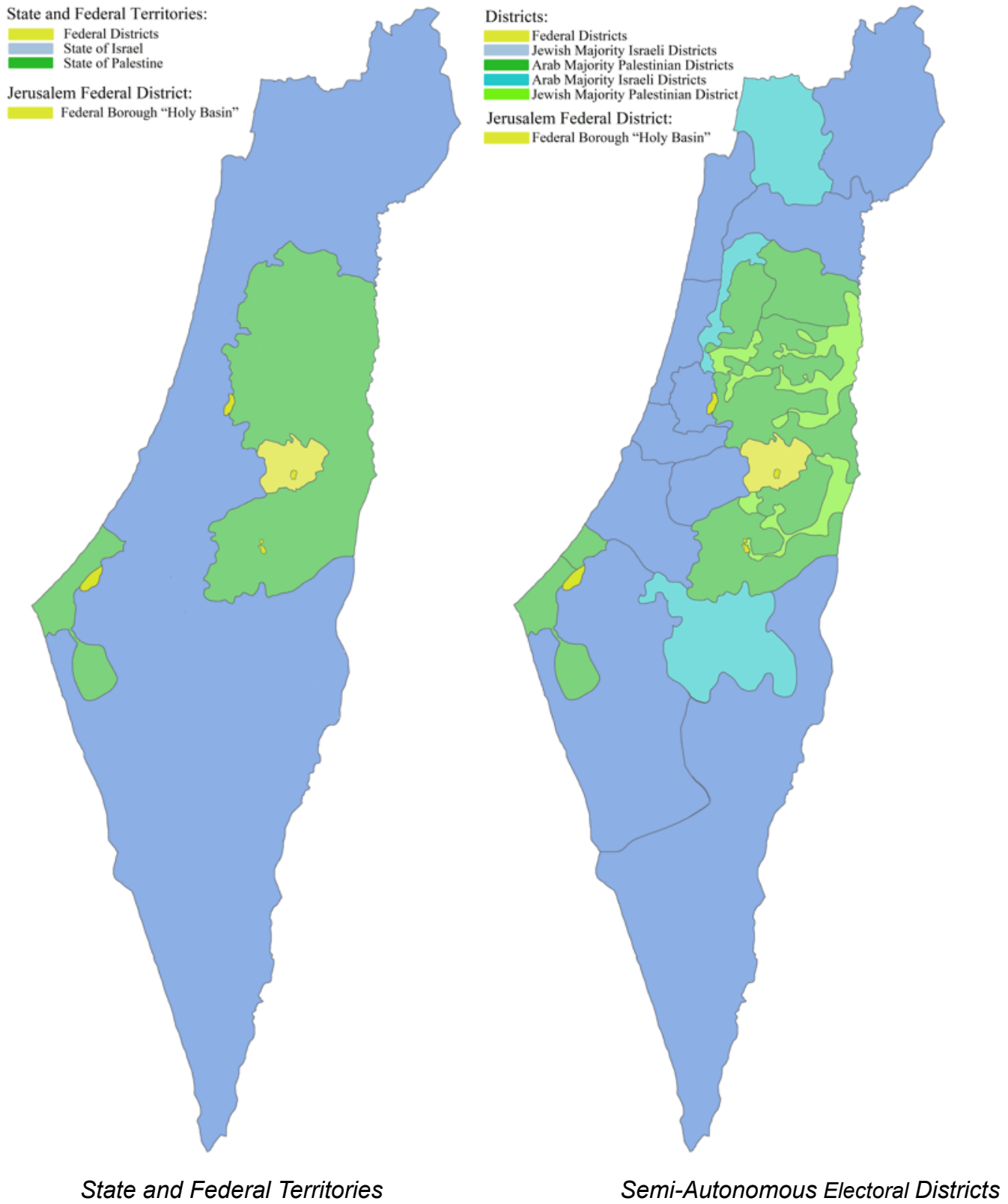
3.42 The Israeli Jewish and Palestinian Arab people will each recognize the historic connection that both people have to the land of Israel-Palestine.

3.43 The future status of the Golan Heights and Shebaa Farms will be resolved in negotiations between the Union, Syria, and Lebanon.

3.44 The Union may someday choose to move to a single citizenship system and to convert into a full-fledged Federal State and may choose to rename itself the United States of Israel-Palestine, or Israel-Palestine for short. But that is a decision for a future generation.

3.45 The Jerusalem Union can be the future headquarters of a new Middle Eastern Union. This can include the countries that have already signed peace agreements with Israel, such as Egypt, Jordan, The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco, as well as other regional countries such as Saudi Arabia, Oman, Syria, and Lebanon. This would lead to greater prosperity and peace in the region.

Figure 1. Diagram of the Basic Structure of the Jerusalem Union



The maps presented in this document do not represent finalized negotiated borders but are meant to fully illustrate the principles of the proposal, for a link to the Google Maps version ([click here](#)).