

AMERICAN MILITARY UNIVERSITY

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE POTENTIAL FOR TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE  
UNITED STATES BASED ON THE UNITED STATES'S INVOLVEMENT IN  
THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE ACCORD.**

By

Jeff Burnette  
Student 98520

IN520  
Spring 2002

During the Cold War, the countries of the world recognized the United States and the U.S.S.R. as the two leading nations or Super Powers. This provided the world with a curious form of balance. If one country or independent political sect had what they perceived as a problem dealing with one Super Power, they were free to go to the other for financial, humanitarian, political and military support. This balance also assisted in attempts to keep world peace. While there were conflicts between nations, it was almost a given that the United States and the U.S.S.R. could be counted on to step in, each taking one side, and some type of agreement would be worked out. With these two nations in the lead, terrorism was kept to a minimum. This is not to say that acts of terrorism did not occur, but one or the other of the Super Powers could be counted on to again step in and, through force or negotiations, stop the acts for a time.

At what people describe as the end of the Cold War, the United States found itself in the awkward position of being the major remaining Super Power. Russia now had internal problems, which were more important, and the United States found itself flooded with requests for humanitarian, political and financial support. The United States has also found itself in the position of receiving the blame from various troubled countries or “hot spots” for many of the perceived wrongs in the world.

One such hot spot in the world is the Middle East. International relations in this part of the world has for many years been volatile due to conflicting political, geographical and religious beliefs. Since World War II there have been numerous armed conflicts in the region, and none has been more of a political hot potato than the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

Both Israel and Palestine have turned to the United States as an ally or at least a source of political and humanitarian intervention at one time or another. And, at one time or another, both have come away disappointed at least, and sometimes angered.

**STEP 1: The issue for which we are trying to predict the most likely future. The potential for escalating terrorist attacks on the United States based on the United State's involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Accord.**

Israel is a current major power in the Middle East and is viewed as an ally of the United States. Within Israel, however, there is instability in various regions due to the political and religious differences with the Palestinians. The United States must examine the region and the potential for terrorist attacks against it due to the United States being viewed as a remaining "Super Power," an ally of Israel and the U.S. attempts at peacekeeping in the region.

**STEP 2: Specify the national "actors" involved.**

The actors involved in this evaluation will include the United States, led by President George W. Bush; the Palestinians, personified by Chairman Yasser Arafat; and the Israelis, personified by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

**STEP 3: Perform an in-depth study of how each national actor perceives the issue in question.**

Politically, Israel was created in 1948 and since that date has battled with the Palestinians. These battles have roots in the historic claim for the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. If one examines the book of Genesis in the Bible, one finds that Abraham allegedly purchased land near Hebron, in the land of

Canaan, from the Hittites to bury his wife Sarah. Many believe this is where the dispute between the Israelis and the Palestinians actually began and it has continued ever since.

In approximately 1250 B.C. the Israelites began to conquer and settle in the land of Canaan. 961 to 922 B.C. saw the reign of King Solomon and the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem. After the reign of Solomon, the land was divided into two kingdoms. In 586 B.C. the Babylonians, who drove the Jewish population into exile, conquered the Kingdom of Judah.

The struggle for the land has continued throughout the centuries with both the Israelis and the Palestinians feeling the antagonism of their detractors.

In 1897 the First Zionist Congress met with 200 participants. Their mission was to discuss and facilitate, if possible, the development of a home for the Jewish people in Palestine. Over the years hundreds of thousands of Jews had immigrated to British Mandate Palestine.

In 1929 the Zionist-Arab antagonism brought about by the mass immigration boiled over into violent clashes in August of that year. It is reported that Palestinians killed 133 Jews and British Police killed 110 Palestinians.

By 1936, Arab discontent turned into widespread civil disobedience. By this time, the militant Zionist group Irgun Zvai Leumi was conducting attacks on Palestinians and British, which were aimed at liberating Palestine and Transjordan.

The following year, a Royal Commission recommended the land be split into a Jewish state and an Arab one. The Palestinians and Arabs, who demanded an end to the Jewish immigration and the safeguarding of a single unified state, met this with

opposition. The opposition turned violent and was put down when reinforcements from the United Kingdom arrived.

In 1947, Israel came into existence. Israel increased its controlled land during the wars of 1954, 1967 and 1973, while at the same time displacing an undetermined amount of refugees.

Since the establishing of Israel, there has been war waged between the Israelis and the Palestinians. On the Israeli side military force has been used, while the Palestinians have resorted to acts of terrorism.

### **ISRAEL:**

Israel sees itself as a nation that has had its existence challenged constantly. Because of this they take pride in and value their geographic and political security. Since its inception, Israel has looked to the United States as an ally. On May 14, 1948, Israel was born and eleven minutes later the United States announced its recognition of the new nation. Time and again, Israel has sided with the United States and asked the United States to side with them through military and political turmoil. Recent events in the United States have given Israel an opportunity to draw closer its ties with the U.S.

“ As a country that has experienced terrorism first hand, Israel is acutely aware of America’s suffering and strongly identifies with the American people. Israel is not the cause of international terrorism – rather, it has been the victim of international terrorism, as the United States. It is unconscionable that the suffering of the American people be thus exploited by certain parties for political gain in the Middle East conflict. Israel strongly supports both the uncompromising fight against terrorism and the ideals of freedom and democracy. Israel will continue to play a role as a natural participant in the coalition against terrorism, as it has been fighting terrorism for more than fifty years. Israel contributes of its experience and expertise in the fight against terrorism, and does so in close cooperation with the United States and its allies in this collective campaign against terrorism in all forms.”

-From MFA.gov, an Israeli website

However, as already mentioned, Israel takes pride in its security and being an ally does not mean Israel would never or has never turned on the United States. Probably two of the most notable examples are the attack on the U.S.S. Liberty and the Jonathan Pollard spy case.

### **PALESTINIANS:**

The Palestinian people see themselves as the displaced victims of Israel. As previously mentioned, the Palestinians feel they have been an occupied society for years and not necessarily without cause. For centuries they have battled for the land, only to find themselves under the control of the British, the United Nations and the Israelis. To end the occupation, the Palestinians have tried political maneuvering and, when they perceived this as failing, they turned to what was available. Like the Irish and the Colonial Americans, they formed militias. And, like the Zionist Irgun Zvai Leumi, they conducted hit and run missions.

In 1964 the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was established. The leader of the PLO, Abu Ammar, better known to the rest of the world as Yasser Arafat, called on the Palestinian people to rise up against the Israeli occupation. Their plan was to emulate the Vietcong, who at the time was giving the United States a hard time in Vietnam. Over the years, splinter groups such as the Hamas and the Lebanon-based Hezbollah formed. Today, Yasser Arafat leads the Palestinian Authority and claims to have no control over the splinter groups. With this claim, Arafat has weakened his chances of negotiating peace with the Israelis. Arafat has turned to the United States to step in and oversee negotiations with Israel. They have done this even though they feel

that the United States has double standards when it comes to the killing of Palestinians by Israelis and, according to the Electronic Intifada dated April 22, 2002, America's credibility in the region is at a point immediately adjacent to absolute zero. According to the June 4, 2002 issue of the Hindustan Times, the PA has even signed an anti-terrorism declaration. Another problem that is faced by the Palestinians is that the Israelis have demanded a stop to all terrorist activities before any negotiations start.

The splinter groups, whether under the control of Arafat or not, present still another problem. The Hezbollah views themselves as a resistance movement against the Israelis and the United States as terrorist for its support of Israel. When asked if the Hezbollah would attack America and American citizens if the United States continued to support Israel politically and economically, Hezbollah Deputy Secretary General Naim Qassem replied with an opened ended statement of "Our current plans have nothing to do with Americans. Of course what happens in the future has to be decided in the future."

The Hamas has it written into their charter under Article Thirteen:

"(Peace) Initiatives, the so-called peaceful solution, and the international conferences to resolve the Palestinian problem are all contrary to the beliefs of the Islamic Resistance Movement."

#### **UNITED STATES:**

The United States for its part recognizes that the division of the land in the Middle East is a very sensitive issue. The U.S. also realizes that it is in the best interests of both parties to reach a mutual agreement and stop the bloodshed. The United States also desires and needs for national security a foothold in the Middle East. The United States wants to bring peace to the region, but has the problem of trying to remain neutral. On

one side are the Israelis. The United States was the first to recognize them as an independent country. The United States has always backed Israel in its battle against terrorism and the United States has always counted on Israel to side with them in any venture the U.S. might take in the Middle East. On June 10, 2002, President Bush was quoted as saying "Israel has right to defend herself, and at the same time that Israel does so, the prime minister is willing to discuss the conditions necessary to achieve what we want, which is a secure region and a hopeful region."

On the other side are the Palestinians. While the United States has placed pressure on Arafat and the Palestinians to stop any action that could be viewed as terrorist, they have also cautioned Israel. "Given that understanding the United States has said before that Israel has a right to defend itself but the United States will be closely monitoring what Israel is doing and the United States again reminds Israel about the importance of remembering the repercussions of any action Israel takes today impacting the broader goals of achieving peace tomorrow," said White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer.

**STEP 4: Specify all possible courses of action for each actor.**

The United States has five options while Israel and the Palestinians each have four.

**UNITED STATES:**

1. Does not become politically involved.
2. Becomes politically involved by applying pressure and/or negotiations.
3. Becomes politically and militarily involved by sending peacekeepers to the region.
4. Militarily allies itself with Israel.
5. Militarily allies itself with Palestine.



ISRAEL:

1. Responds with political pressure on the United States.
2. Responds with covert military (terrorism) against the United States.
3. Responds with overt military action against the United States.
4. Remains neutral regarding United States actions.

PALESTINE:

1. Responds with political pressure on the United States.
2. Responds with covert military (terrorism) against the United States.
3. Responds with overt military action against the United States.
4. Remains neutral regarding United States actions.

**STEP 5: Determine the major scenarios within which you will compare the alternate futures.**

There are three potential scenarios from which we will work.

Scenario 1). Peace. An agreement on land division is reached between the Israelis and the Palestinians and is accepted by the populace on both sides.

Scenario 2). Status Quo. The current situation remains the same with talks being conducted periodically as well as each side conducting military strikes against the other.

Scenario 3). War. No agreement can be reached, tensions continue to build and a state of war is declared between the Israelis and the Palestinian populace.

**STEP 6: Calculate the total number of permutations of possible “alternate futures” for each scenario.**

Using the mathematical formula  $X^Y = Z$ , we have 2 “actors” each having 4 options and 1 “actor” having 5 options. This gives us  $4^2 \times 5^1 = 80$  possible “alternative futures.”

**STEP 7: Perform a pairwise comparison of all “alternate futures” to determine their relative probability.**

For the purpose of conducting the pairwise, we will define “terrorism” as a state-sponsored act of violence, intended to harm and/or frighten those to whom the act is intended against.

Military action taken by Israel and/or Palestine will be construed to mean blockades to prevent U.S. advancement into a territory; as well as any organized combative action taken by a uniformed force.

FUTURE	U.S.	PEACE		VOTES
		ISRAELI	PALESTINIANS	
1	1	1	1	64
2	1	1	2	0
3	1	1	3	1
4	1	1	4	69
5	1	2	1	0
6	1	2	2	0
7	1	2	3	33
8	1	2	4	23
9	1	3	1	13
10	1	3	2	1
11	1	3	3	1
12	1	3	4	1
13	1	4	1	67
14	1	4	2	19
15	1	4	3	22
16	1	4	4	66
17	2	1	1	66
18	2	1	2	47
19	2	1	3	5
20	2	1	4	72
21	2	2	1	9
22	2	2	2	2
23	2	2	3	2
24	2	2	4	3
25	2	3	1	4
26	2	3	2	3
27	2	3	3	3
28	2	3	4	2
29	2	4	1	71
30	2	4	2	6
31	2	4	3	40
32	2	4	4	69
33	3	1	1	60
34	3	1	2	41
35	3	1	3	7
36	3	1	4	59

37	3	2	1	2
38	3	2	2	2
39	3	2	3	1
40	3	2	4	1
41	3	3	1	1
42	3	3	2	1
43	3	3	3	1
44	3	3	4	1
45	3	4	1	65
46	3	4	2	18
47	3	4	3	23
48	3	4	4	69
49	4	1	1	64
50	4	1	2	18
51	4	1	3	17
52	4	1	4	68
53	4	2	1	2
54	4	2	2	1
55	4	2	3	1
56	4	2	4	1
57	4	3	1	1
58	4	3	2	1
59	4	3	3	1
60	4	3	4	3
61	4	4	1	74
62	4	4	2	7
63	4	4	3	5
64	4	4	4	77
65	5	1	1	55
66	5	1	2	0
67	5	1	3	1
68	5	1	4	59
69	5	2	1	3
70	5	2	2	0
71	5	2	3	0
72	5	2	4	3
73	5	3	1	9
74	5	3	2	0
75	5	3	3	1
76	5	3	4	5
77	5	4	1	52
78	5	4	2	0
79	5	4	3	0
80	5	4	4	61

**STATUS  
QUO**

<b>FUTURE</b>	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>ISRAELI S</b>	<b>PALESTINIANS</b>	<b>VOTES</b>
1	1	1	1	49
2	1	1	2	54
3	1	1	3	65
4	1	1	4	70
5	1	2	1	18

6	1	2	2	14
7	1	2	3	26
8	1	2	4	20
9	1	3	1	13
10	1	3	2	4
11	1	3	3	3
12	1	3	4	1
13	1	4	1	37
14	1	4	2	25
15	1	4	3	30
16	1	4	4	23
17	2	1	1	69
18	2	1	2	70
19	2	1	3	62
20	2	1	4	64
21	2	2	1	24
22	2	2	2	6
23	2	2	3	4
24	2	2	4	5
25	2	3	1	49
26	2	3	2	42
27	2	3	3	37
28	2	3	4	50
29	2	4	1	70
30	2	4	2	70
31	2	4	3	63
32	2	4	4	58
33	3	1	1	63
34	3	1	2	62
35	3	1	3	58
36	3	1	4	56
37	3	2	1	4
38	3	2	2	4
39	3	2	3	3
40	3	2	4	2
41	3	3	1	29
42	3	3	2	19
43	3	3	3	14
44	3	3	4	15
45	3	4	1	62
46	3	4	2	60
47	3	4	3	62
48	3	4	4	38
49	4	1	1	74
50	4	1	2	78
51	4	1	3	73
52	4	1	4	66
53	4	2	1	2
54	4	2	2	1
55	4	2	3	1
56	4	2	4	1
57	4	3	1	21
58	4	3	2	9
59	4	3	3	8
60	4	3	4	9
61	4	4	1	75

62	4	4	2	75
63	4	4	3	70
64	4	4	4	55
65	5	1	1	38
66	5	1	2	1
67	5	1	3	1
68	5	1	4	30
69	5	2	1	13
70	5	2	2	1
71	5	2	3	1
72	5	2	4	11
73	5	3	1	24
74	5	3	2	1
75	5	3	3	2
76	5	3	4	22
77	5	4	1	26
78	5	4	2	0
79	5	4	3	0
80	5	4	4	22

**WAR**

<b>FUTURE</b>	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>ISRAELI S</b>	<b>PALESTINIANS</b>	<b>VOTES</b>
1	1	1	1	45
2	1	1	2	22
3	1	1	3	24
4	1	1	4	50
5	1	2	1	0
6	1	2	2	0
7	1	2	3	28
8	1	2	4	15
9	1	3	1	9
10	1	3	2	4
11	1	3	3	2
12	1	3	4	0
13	1	4	1	44
14	1	4	2	20
15	1	4	3	16
16	1	4	4	21
17	2	1	1	56
18	2	1	2	66
19	2	1	3	62
20	2	1	4	44
21	2	2	1	12
22	2	2	2	9
23	2	2	3	8
24	2	2	4	7
25	2	3	1	44
26	2	3	2	48
27	2	3	3	44
28	2	3	4	48
29	2	4	1	52
30	2	4	2	69
31	2	4	3	61

32	2	4	4	42
33	3	1	1	63
34	3	1	2	74
35	3	1	3	69
36	3	1	4	46
37	3	2	1	7
38	3	2	2	9
39	3	2	3	9
40	3	2	4	7
41	3	3	1	46
42	3	3	2	43
43	3	3	3	47
44	3	3	4	43
45	3	4	1	65
46	3	4	2	70
47	3	4	3	71
48	3	4	4	30
49	4	1	1	71
50	4	1	2	79
51	4	1	3	76
52	4	1	4	42
53	4	2	1	1
54	4	2	2	1
55	4	2	3	3
56	4	2	4	1
57	4	3	1	38
58	4	3	2	22
59	4	3	3	17
60	4	3	4	22
61	4	4	1	66
62	4	4	2	78
63	4	4	3	74
64	4	4	4	30
65	5	1	1	26
66	5	1	2	2
67	5	1	3	3
68	5	1	4	16
69	5	2	1	22
70	5	2	2	0
71	5	2	3	0
72	5	2	4	10
73	5	3	1	37
74	5	3	2	1
75	5	3	3	2
76	5	3	4	34
77	5	4	1	15
78	5	4	2	1
79	5	4	3	1
80	5	4	4	11

**STEP 8: Rank the “alternate futures” for each scenario from the highest relative probability to the lowest based on the number of votes received.**

PEACE

FUTURE	U.S.	ISRAELI S	PALESTINIANS	VOTES
64	4	4	4	77
61	4	4	1	74
20	2	1	4	72
29	2	4	1	71
4	1	1	4	69
32	2	4	4	69
48	3	4	4	69
52	4	1	4	68
13	1	4	1	67
16	1	4	4	66
17	2	1	1	66
45	3	4	1	65
1	1	1	1	64
49	4	1	1	64
80	5	4	4	61
33	3	1	1	60
36	3	1	4	59
68	5	1	4	59
65	5	1	1	55
77	5	4	1	52
18	2	1	2	47
34	3	1	2	41
31	2	4	3	40
7	1	2	3	33
8	1	2	4	23
47	3	4	3	23
15	1	4	3	22
14	1	4	2	19
46	3	4	2	18
50	4	1	2	18
51	4	1	3	17
9	1	3	1	13
21	2	2	1	9
73	5	3	1	9
35	3	1	3	7
62	4	4	2	7
30	2	4	2	6
19	2	1	3	5
63	4	4	3	5
76	5	3	4	5
25	2	3	1	4
24	2	2	4	3
26	2	3	2	3
27	2	3	3	3
60	4	3	4	3
69	5	2	1	3
72	5	2	4	3
22	2	2	2	2
23	2	2	3	2
28	2	3	4	2
37	3	2	1	2
38	3	2	2	2

53	4	2	1	2
3	1	1	3	1
10	1	3	2	1
11	1	3	3	1
12	1	3	4	1
39	3	2	3	1
40	3	2	4	1
41	3	3	1	1
42	3	3	2	1
43	3	3	3	1
44	3	3	4	1
54	4	2	2	1
55	4	2	3	1
56	4	2	4	1
57	4	3	1	1
58	4	3	2	1
59	4	3	3	1
67	5	1	3	1
75	5	3	3	1
2	1	1	2	0
5	1	2	1	0
6	1	2	2	0
66	5	1	2	0
70	5	2	2	0
71	5	2	3	0
74	5	3	2	0
78	5	4	2	0
79	5	4	3	0

Under the Peace scenario, alternative future 64 received the most votes, receiving 77 votes. This scenario has the U.S. allied with Israel, with both Israel and the Palestinian nation remaining neutral regarding the U.S. alliance with Israel.

FUTURE	STATUS QUO			VOTES
	U.S.	ISRAELI	PALESTINIANS	
50	4	1	2	78
61	4	4	1	75
62	4	4	2	75
49	4	1	1	74
51	4	1	3	73
4	1	1	4	70
18	2	1	2	70
29	2	4	1	70
30	2	4	2	70
63	4	4	3	70
17	2	1	1	69
52	4	1	4	66
3	1	1	3	65
20	2	1	4	64



31	2	4	3	63
33	3	1	1	63
19	2	1	3	62
34	3	1	2	62
45	3	4	1	62
47	3	4	3	62
46	3	4	2	60
32	2	4	4	58
35	3	1	3	58
36	3	1	4	56
64	4	4	4	55
2	1	1	2	54
28	2	3	4	50
1	1	1	1	49
25	2	3	1	49
26	2	3	2	42
48	3	4	4	38
65	5	1	1	38
13	1	4	1	37
27	2	3	3	37
15	1	4	3	30
68	5	1	4	30
41	3	3	1	29
7	1	2	3	26
77	5	4	1	26
14	1	4	2	25
21	2	2	1	24
73	5	3	1	24
16	1	4	4	23
76	5	3	4	22
80	5	4	4	22
57	4	3	1	21
8	1	2	4	20
42	3	3	2	19
5	1	2	1	18
44	3	3	4	15
6	1	2	2	14
43	3	3	3	14
9	1	3	1	13
69	5	2	1	13
72	5	2	4	11
58	4	3	2	9
60	4	3	4	9
59	4	3	3	8
22	2	2	2	6
24	2	2	4	5
10	1	3	2	4
23	2	2	3	4
37	3	2	1	4
38	3	2	2	4
11	1	3	3	3
39	3	2	3	3
40	3	2	4	2
53	4	2	1	2
75	5	3	3	2
12	1	3	4	1

54	4	2	2	1
55	4	2	3	1
56	4	2	4	1
66	5	1	2	1
67	5	1	3	1
70	5	2	2	1
71	5	2	3	1
74	5	3	2	1
78	5	4	2	0
79	5	4	3	0

Under the Status Quo scenario, alternative future 50 received the most votes with 78 votes. This scenario has the United States allied with Israel, Israel applying political pressure on the U.S., and terrorist actions being taken against the United States by the Palestinian people.

FUTURE	WAR			VOTES
	U.S.	ISRAELI S	PALESTINIANS	
50	4	1	2	79
62	4	4	2	78
51	4	1	3	76
34	3	1	2	74
63	4	4	3	74
47	3	4	3	71
49	4	1	1	71
46	3	4	2	70
30	2	4	2	69
35	3	1	3	69
18	2	1	2	66
61	4	4	1	66
45	3	4	1	65
33	3	1	1	63
19	2	1	3	62
31	2	4	3	61
17	2	1	1	56
29	2	4	1	52
4	1	1	4	50
26	2	3	2	48
28	2	3	4	48
43	3	3	3	47
36	3	1	4	46
41	3	3	1	46
1	1	1	1	45
13	1	4	1	44
20	2	1	4	44
25	2	3	1	44
27	2	3	3	44
42	3	3	2	43

44	3	3	4	43
32	2	4	4	42
52	4	1	4	42
57	4	3	1	38
73	5	3	1	37
76	5	3	4	34
48	3	4	4	30
64	4	4	4	30
7	1	2	3	28
65	5	1	1	26
3	1	1	3	24
2	1	1	2	22
58	4	3	2	22
60	4	3	4	22
69	5	2	1	22
16	1	4	4	21
14	1	4	2	20
59	4	3	3	17
15	1	4	3	16
68	5	1	4	16
8	1	2	4	15
77	5	4	1	15
21	2	2	1	12
80	5	4	4	11
72	5	2	4	10
9	1	3	1	9
22	2	2	2	9
38	3	2	2	9
39	3	2	3	9
23	2	2	3	8
24	2	2	4	7
37	3	2	1	7
40	3	2	4	7
10	1	3	2	4
55	4	2	3	3
67	5	1	3	3
11	1	3	3	2
66	5	1	2	2
75	5	3	3	2
53	4	2	1	1
54	4	2	2	1
56	4	2	4	1
74	5	3	2	1
78	5	4	2	1
79	5	4	3	1
5	1	2	1	0
6	1	2	2	0
12	1	3	4	0
70	5	2	2	0
71	5	2	3	0

Under the War scenario, alternative future 50 again received the most votes, receiving 79 votes.

**STEP 9: Assuming that each future occurs, analyze each “alternate future” in terms of its consequences for the issue in question.**

Under the Peace scenario, we are assuming that an agreement is reached between the Israelis and the Palestinians regarding the division of land. We are further assuming that since this agreement has been reached, it is an agreement that has been accepted and ratified by the majority of the populace. With this in mind, the Israelis would have no need to take military or terrorist actions or place political pressure on the U.S. regarding their situation with the Palestinians.

The same philosophy would apply to the Palestinians, as they would now have the homeland they have desired and, since the agreement is one that is accepted by the majority, there would be no cause for military or terrorism or political pressure to be placed on the U.S. by the Palestinians.

The Status Quo scenario assumes that not only would the periodic outbursts of violence so well known in the area today would continue, but also escalate. With the U.S. remaining an ally of Israel, factions within the Palestinian nation see it as a potential part of the problem. While being allied with Israel, the U.S. would continue to place political pressure on the leadership of the Palestinians. This increase in political pressure, as well as the views held by the Palestinians and pressure received from other Arab nations, will eventually lead the Palestinians to lash out at the U.S. As the Palestinians are not capable of applying humanitarian or economic sanctions on the U.S., and have no military that could stand against the U.S. forces, they will resort to acts of terrorism in attempts to lessen U.S. support of Israel.

The final scenario of War has the U.S. remaining allied with the Israelis. The U.S. will continue to apply political pressure to the Palestinians, as they are doing currently. The Israelis will escalate their “war on terrorism” and, feeling backed against a wall, the Palestinians will lash out with the support of the majority of their populace against both Israel and the U.S. Again, as the Palestinians do not have a formal military presence to stand against the U.S., they will resort to terrorism.

**STEP 10: Determine the “focal events” that must occur in our present in order to bring about a given “alternate future”.**

In the Peace scenario, for Alternate Future 64 to occur, the following focal events must take place:

- Terrorist activity (in particular, the suicide bombings) must be deescalated by the formal governing body of the Palestinians, as well as factions within the populace.
- Israel must loosen their control over the Palestinians by lifting curfews and withdrawing military presence.
- Negotiations must commence and agreement on the distribution of disputed lands must be reached.

For the Status Quo scenario, Alternate Future 50 must have the following focal events happen in order to occur:

- The Israelis will continue (and possibly escalate) their “war on terrorism” with more of a hard-line military stance and further sanctions, military curfews and other restrictive actions against the Palestinians.
- The U.S. continues to apply political pressure to the region while still publicly remaining allied with Israel.
- Palestinians will continue terrorist activity with the potential for escalating.

Under the War scenario, the following focal events must occur for Alternate Future 50 to take place in this manner:

- A continued and escalated military presence by the Israelis in what they Palestinians perceive as “their” territory.
- A complete breakdown of political dialogue between the Palestinians, Israelis and the U.S.

- Continued or escalated pressure by the U.S. on the region and, in particular, the Palestinian governing body.
- Stronger military support for the Palestinians by other Arab nations.

**STEP 11: Develop indicators for the “focal events”.**

For the Peace scenario, the following indicators have occurred recently that could initiate focal events for Alternate Future 64:

- Israel indicated they would lift some of the curfews for humanitarian reasons.
- While the suicide bombings have continued, they have appeared to be lessening somewhat.
- Yasser Arafat has requested in writing the continued assistance of the U.S. in support of the Palestinian people.

Under the Status Quo scenario, indicators that could initiate focal events for Alternate Future 50 to occur include these recent events:

- The U.S. has continued to apply pressure to the Palestinian people, going so far as to recommend the removal of Yasser Arafat.
- High-level talks have been arranged between the Palestinians and Israelis, only to be delayed by one side or the other for political reasons.
- The U.S., Russia, United Nations and European Union have begun meetings in attempts to end the violence in the region. That group is expected to be joined by the Jordanians and Egyptians.

The War scenario has had the following indicators happen recently for focal events for Alternate Future 50 to occur:

- The Palestinians have stated that the U.S. policy demanding a change in their leadership could produce more tensions and aggressions in the Palestinian territories.
- The Israeli military has continued their aggressive pursuit of Palestinians suspected of carrying out or plotting attacks.
- The Israeli military has continued to intercept persons and vehicles laden with explosives coming from Palestinian territory, indicating that the Palestinians are not yet willing to cease their terrorist activities.

**STEP 12: State the potential of a given “alternate future” to transpose into another “alternate future”.**

While examining the three alternate futures, we find that the two most likely alternate futures to occur are **Status Quo to Peace**, and **Status Quo to War**. Let us examine the latter transposition first:

Upon studying the pairwise we conducted, we find that Alternate Future 50 received the most votes for both the Status Quo and War scenarios. As a reminder, this alternate future depicts the U.S. allied with Israel, Israel remaining neutral towards the U.S. stance, and Palestine conducting terrorist activities. As we see in today's headlines, it is obvious that the U.S. is allied with Israel and has been for quite some time, fulfilling the first part of the equation. Israel, for its part, has kept political pressure on the U.S. involvement in the Mideast crisis (by pressure, we are stating not only government-to-government but also citizen-to-government pressure, meaning those of the Jewish faith living in the U.S. This being said, it fulfills the second part of the equation. As for the Palestinians, they have not conducted terrorist acts against the U.S. at this time. However, the potential is there.

As previously mentioned, the Palestinians have stated that the U.S. policy demanding a change in their leadership could produce more tensions and aggressions in the Palestinian territories. Aggression towards the U.S. in this scenario can only come from one of the actors, that being Palestine. We've also mentioned that Palestinians do not have the ability to use boycotts or military actions against the U.S., thereby leaving them with only one form of aggression: terrorism. The Palestinians have also been receiving (at a minimum) verbal encouragement from other Middle Eastern countries to strike, not only at Israel but at the U.S. as well. Therefore, for Alternate Future 50 to slip

from Status Quo to War, about all that is required is a formal declaration of war by either, or both, of the Palestinians and Israelis.

Examining the Status Quo to Peace transposition, we have Alternate Future 50 transposing to Alternate Future 64. The first action in both of these alternate futures has the U.S. militarily allied with Israel. This is already the case, as the U.S. has displayed their willingness to use their military power on behalf of Israel during the Persian Gulf War. The next action is for Israel to shift from applying political pressure to the U.S. to being neutral towards any U.S. actions. This is not going to occur as long as Israel feels threatened by factions within and without their country. The final action is for Palestine to move from conducting terrorist activity to being neutral towards U.S. involvement. With the U.S. allied with Israel and the U.S. political position in the world at this time, the Palestinians will not feel neutral towards the U.S. until they have achieved an acceptable homeland of their own and feel secure in that homeland.

**Conclusion:**

The peace process between the Israelis and Palestinians will continue with periodic negotiations, followed by acts of terrorism. The U.S. will continue to remain allied with Israel, at the same time applying increased political pressure against the Palestinians. Should this fail to bring the Israelis and Palestinians to the bargaining table, the U.S. may be forced to walk the fine line between applying enough pressure on Palestine to accede to the U.S. wishes, and pushing Palestine over the edge, causing them to resort to terrorist acts against the U.S. in retaliation.



## WORKS CITED

A Hezbollah Leader Speaks Out

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/04/17/eveningnews/main506497.shtml>

Almaty Conference Signs Anti-Terrorism Declaration

<http://hindustantimes.com/nonfram/040602/dlfor56.asp>

Current Situation in Israel—Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/go.asp?MFAH0i9o0>

Electronic Intifada, The

<http://electronicintifada.net/features/articles/020422mouin.shtml>

Hamas Charter

<http://www.cdn-friends-icej.ca/isreport/hamas.html>

*Holy Bible* (Teaneck, New Jersey: World Publishing Co., 1962), Revised Standard Version

Laqueur, Walter. *The Age of Terrorism* (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1987)

Raviv, Dan and Yossi Melman. *Every Spy A Prince* (Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Co., 1990)

U.S. Department of State, United States Information Agency Electronic Journal, February, 1997