

WHY DID ARAFAT REJECT BARAK'S PEACE PROPOSAL?

Below is a map of the state of Palestine as it would exist under the Barak plan. In newspapers, editorials, commentaries and letters to the editor, one constantly hears that "Barak offered Arafat 93% of the land and he rejected it. This is how we know he secretly desires the destruction of Israel."

The question is: **WHY did Arafat reject this plan?** Perhaps these maps can help you answer this for yourself.

Large contiguous areas which line the border and penetrate deeply into the territory would be defined as "settlement blocks." In essence it would make permanent the many settlements already there — only a few outlying settlements would be abandoned; mostly ones the IDF says it can't defend anyway.

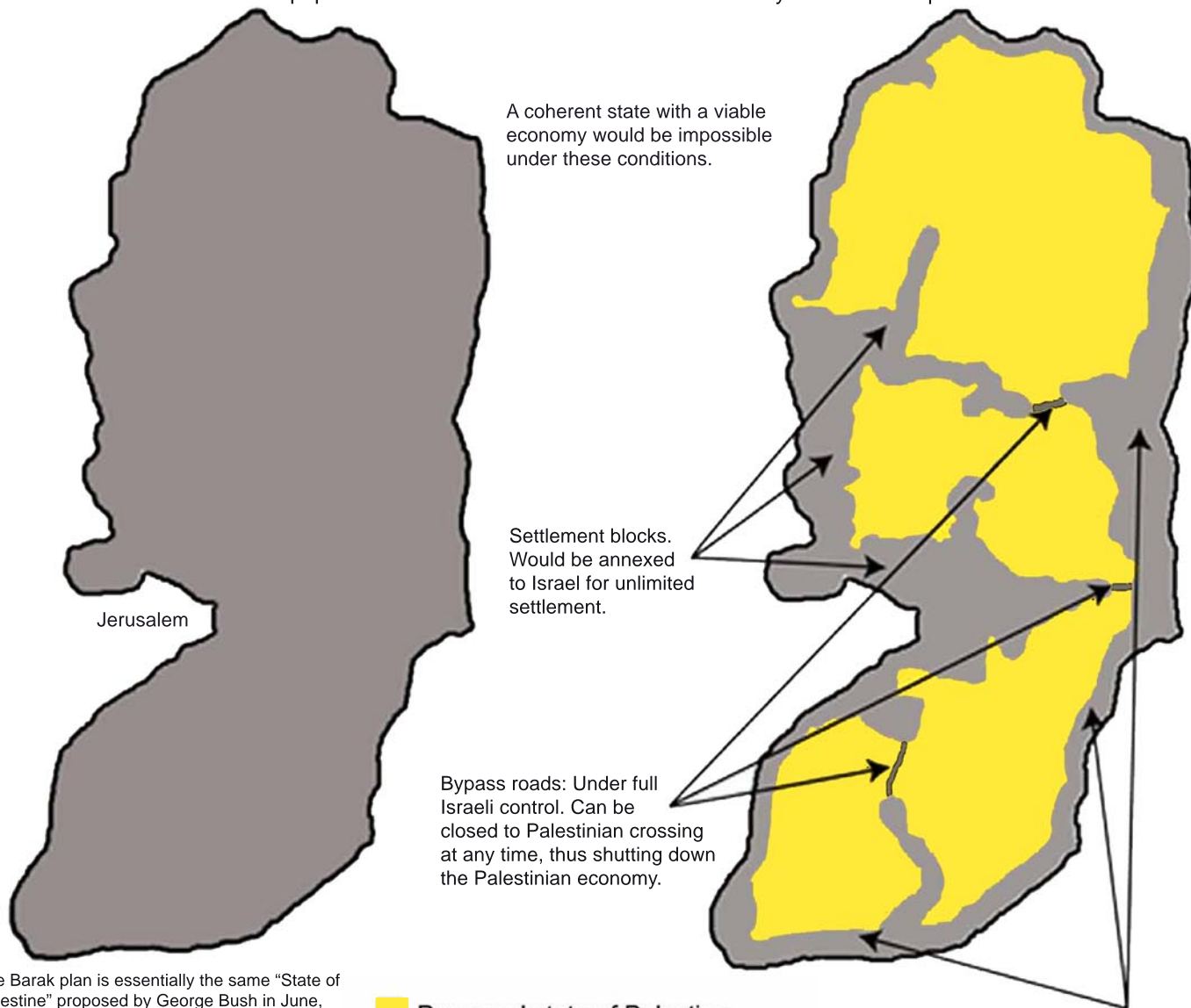
Under this plan, the state of Palestine would consist of four areas separated by settlement blocks, Israeli security zones and access roads, which would be completely controlled by the IDF as the settlement bypass roads are now (off limits to Palestinians). This means that the "state" of Palestine would be only 60% of the West Banks, only 20% of historical Palestine (as it existed in 1900). In other words: Bantustans. The offer was actually for about 78% of the West Bank — why the difference in numbers? Barak did not include the large areas around Jerusalem that were unilaterally annexed to Israel, for the areas populated by Jewish settlers that he considered "de facto" part of Israel. He also included the area of the Dead Sea as part of the West Bank.

In either case, one can say that the inmates control 98% of a prison, but all that matters is what is decided in the 2% the guards occupy.

THE BARAK PEACE PROPOSAL AT CAMP DAVID

The West Bank in 1967.
98% Palestinian population.

The "generous" peace offer made
by Barak at Camp David.



The Barak plan is essentially the same "State of Palestine" proposed by George Bush in June, 2002. It is also the "generous" peace plan now being proposed by the liberal left-wing in the Knesset. All of these plans essentially take the land now occupied by settlements and make them part of Israel — the final completion of the settlement plan Sharon made in 1977: "facts on the ground." Sharon's concept was to surround and fragment the Palestinian areas to make a viable Palestinian state impossible.

Proposed state of Palestine
Annexed or under full Israeli control (reserved for future settlement)

Under full IDF control: reserved for future settlement and possible Israeli annexation.

More settlements were built under Ehud Barak's administration than under any other Prime Minister.

Source of data:
www.btselem.org/English/Publications/index.asp
www.gush-shalom.org/media/barak_eng.swf
www.members.tripod.com/oranzof/
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