


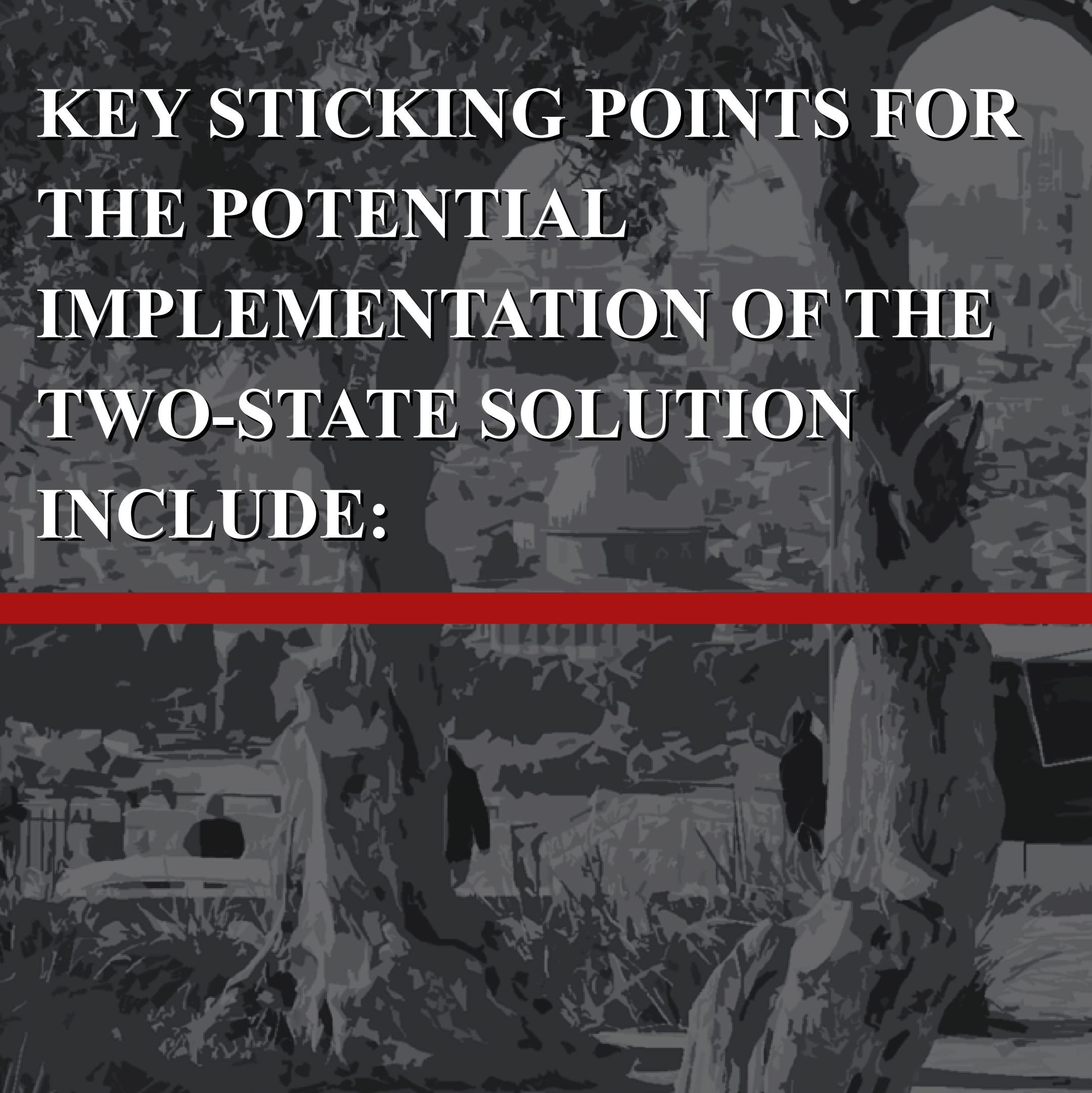
KEY STICKING POINTS FOR THE POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION



The two-state solution refers to a proposed resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that envisions the creation of two separate, independent and viable states coexisting side by side: one for the Jewish people (Israel) and one for the Palestinian people, consisting of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, whose borders are based on pre-1967 lines with mutually agreed land swaps and guarantees for both states' security concerns.

In many aspects, it would be sufficient to apply international law and resolutions to settle all issues for the implementation of the two-state solution – were it not for Israel, which has systematically failed to comply with international law and was able to do so unabated and with impunity like no other country.

**KEY STICKING POINTS FOR
THE POTENTIAL
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
TWO-STATE SOLUTION
INCLUDE:**



1- Jerusalem

For Palestinians, East Jerusalem is part of the occupied territory in accordance with UNSC Resolution 242 and should become their capital, while Jerusalem in its entirety should be an open city with no physical partition that would prevent free movement.

For Israel, Jerusalem, east and west, is its capital under its exclusive sovereignty (as per its 1980 Basic Law).



2- Refugees

Palestinians demand the right of return in accordance with UNGA Resolution 194

This is a contentious issue for Israel, which even refuses to acknowledge responsibility for the refugee issue and is only willing to consider a return to a potential Palestinian state. The crux of the matter here is that while currently about 55% of the world's Jewish population (about 8.6 million) live abroad, and in good conditions with no desire to relocate, the majority of the estimated 50.1% of Palestinians living in the Diaspora (7.3 million) live in bad socio-economic circumstances and cling to the hope to one day return to their homeland.

3- Settlements

The PLO has accepted that the large settlements in Jerusalem are a fait accompli (accounting for about one-third of the settlers), and the option of land swaps for the large settlement blocs, where the majority of the settlers live, has already been repeatedly on the negotiation table. Financial incentives would probably convince most of the remainder to relocate, unless they prefer to become permanent residents of the Palestinian state.

The status and future of the settlements, which are illegal under international law, and settlers, whose number has almost quadrupled since Oslo, are seen by many as the greatest obstacle to peace. On the other hand, Israel has successfully evacuated settlements in Sinai and Gaza.

4- Borders

In accordance with UN Resolution 242 the borders must be the June 4, 1967 lines. Within these, Palestinians want a sovereign, viable, and geographically contiguous state with a permanent territorial link between West Bank and Gaza.

Israel insists on a border line that secures a solid Jewish majority within Israel and guarantees its security, which is why it wants to retain control of the land borders, airspace, and territorial waters of the entire country. The current route of the separation barrier is an obstacle as it runs over twice the length of the 1967 Green Line, to 85% within the West Bank.

However, the International Court of Justice at The Hague has ruled already in 2004 that the barrier's path is illegal and must be torn down and compensation paid to the Palestinians adversely affected by it.

5- Water and natural resources

Palestinians demand their water rights, the fair allocation of water and other natural resources, and compensation by Israel for the illegal use of their resources to date.

Israel, however, insists on full control of all water sources and that additional water for Palestinians must not come out of the Israeli share but through wastewater treatment and developing of new sources.

6- Security

Palestinians do not want any Israeli presence or control over its borders and border crossings, but accept arms limitations and security cooperation. An international presence to protect borders, monitor crossings, and resolve disputes has been accepted by Palestinians, but rejected by Israel.

For Israel, its security takes precedence above all else and requires defensible borders; therefore, it insists on complete Israeli control of the land and airspace and stipulates that a Palestinian state must be demilitarized.