

Barak's generous offers...



Data in this document are based on the maps Barak showed Arafat in December 2000 and generally termed "Barak's Generous Offers".

The Israeli public, media and academics use this description unwittingly. This document sheds light on the offer and exposes the truth by examining the details - the offer is a pretense of generosity for the benefit of the media!

When the Palestinians signed the Oslo Agreement in 1993, they agreed to accept this 22% for a Palestinian state and recognise Israel within the remaining 78% of the historic Palestinian homeland.

Conceding 78% of the land was a huge Palestinian compromise but one not 'generous' enough for Barak. In his talks with the Palestinians, it became clear that he wanted more...

Barak proposed that 69 Israeli settlements, populated by 85% of the West Bank's settlers, would be annexed as blocs to Israel. Palestinians would thus be expected to relinquish another 10% of their 22%.

The settlement blocs intrude into the existing road network that links the main Palestinian population areas, and would severely disrupt any aspect of daily life in the West Bank that required travel.

"Temporary Israeli control" was a unique concept that showed its face during the talks. It suggested that a foreign power, Israel, would control the sovereign land of another nation, the Palestinians, for an indefinite time. These areas -- yet another 10% of the 22% -- contain many settlements populated by the most extreme Jewish religious zealots. Gush Shalom noted that this would make it highly unlikely that Israel would evacuate them "[even] in 50 years time."



The remaining areas, although appearing to be territorially continuous, would in fact be further broken up by Israeli bypass roads and checkpoints. Finally, in Barak's plan -- which left the Palestinians able only to tortuously navigate throughout 17.6% of their historic homeland -- they were further expected to relinquish control of the land most essential for their trade and tourism development, and for the absorption of refugees in their borders.

This and more..

No nation in the world would accept this as a "peacetime" solution.

This impossible offer, Barak's imperious attitude, the ongoing massive construction in the settlements and Sharon's provocation - all these contributed to the inevitable explosion.

The "generous offer" is a fig leaf that conceals the intentions of those who justify this war against the Palestinians.

In December, no maps of the Gaza Strip were shown, so we cannot illustrate Barak's intentions there. [At Taba](#), Barak presented a much-improved map. The Palestinians consider it a basis for negotiation. But Barak repudiated it after his election defeat so there is no point in bringing it up.

Any future negotiation must be based on the same historical compromise- 78% for Israel, 22% for Palestine.

This is no generous offer. It is a humiliating demand for surrender!

The Taba Agreements

This map was presented by the Israeli team at Taba, January 2001, several weeks before the elections. The most noticeable change, is the disappearance of the "temporary Israeli Control" zones.

The Palestinians accepted the Taba map as a basis for negotiations, although the settlement blocs look stranger in shape and less justifiable than ever.

However, by this time Barak was a "Political corpse". All surveys predicted his unprecedented defeat. He did not dare to present this map to the Israeli public. After all, the man who constantly declared: "Ofra an Beit-El forever!", could not present a map passing these settlements to Palestinian hands.



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The maps are based on publications by:

Foundation for Middle East Peace
<http://www.fmep.org>

Based in Washington D.C.