David Makovsky & Ghaith al-Omari

Israel and Palestine: Achieving a Two-State Solution

Wednesday, February 27 / 5:00 p.m. / Free
UCSB Campbell Hall

Using specially commissioned interactive maps to display alternative solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, David Makovsky and Ghaith al-Omari argue that a two-state solution based on land-swaps is the only viable one for the future. The core principle of these swaps is to reconcile the Palestinian demand for a return to the pre-1967 lines with Israel’s desire to include as many of the West Bank’s 300,000 settlers in Israel proper as possible. Any feasible scenario must include Israel’s granting Palestinians arable land from within Israel’s pre-1967 border in exchange for annexed settlement blocs (clusters of settlements). It is essential that, for any land annexed by Israel as part of a deal, Palestinians receive equal amounts of land.

David Makovsky, Ziegler Distinguished Fellow and Director of the Project on the Middle East Peace Process at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, is the author Imagining the Border: Options for Resolving the Israeli-Palestinian Territorial Issue and the co-author with Dennis Ross of Myths, Illusions, and Peace: Finding a New Direction for America in the Middle East.

Ghaith al-Omari, Executive Director of the American Task Force on Palestine, previously served in various positions within the Palestinian Authority, including Senior Advisor to former Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, as well as Senior Research Fellow at the New America Foundation. He has extensive experience with the Palestinian-Israeli peace process.

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