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can be a two-state outcome. Here, Netanyahu used Obama's words defining his goal.

This is critical: a two-state solution is not a present given at the start of negotiations but a reward for the proper compromises ensuring peace succeeds.

Netanyahu points out another deep-seated Israeli concern: A bad

“solution” can make things far worse. Israel doesn't want to end up with a Palestine that functions merely as “another Gaza.”

Why should anyone be confident this won't happen? Wishful thinking or faith that being in power makes people moderate – an argument proven incorrect about Yasir Arafat and his colleagues almost twenty years ago?

“If, however,” says Netanyahu, “the Palestinians recognize Israel as the Jewish state, if they...fight

terror, if they educate their children for peace and to a better future, then I think we can come at a substantive solution that allows the two people to live side by side in security and peace and I add prosperity, because I'm a great believer in this.”

He's right. What's the point of a two-state solution which could easily:

- Make Palestine a radical state tied to Iran and Syria.
- Leave the Gaza Strip in Hamas's hands which means, in

effect, a three-state solution. Short of a U.S.-led multinational invasion force—rather unlikely—there's no way Gaza can be included in a peace agreement with Israel. Talking about a two-state solution while the Palestinian Authority doesn't even control Gaza is unconnected to reality.

- Create a Palestine in which all schools, mosques, and media teach Palestinians that all Israel is theirs and they must conquer it, a Palestine full of incitement to violence inspiring hundreds to become terrorists, thousands to help them, and hundreds of thousands to support them. In some respects, this describes the Palestinian Authority today, despite its real efforts to limit cross-border attacks.

- Set off a new cross-border war, with Palestine's government and security forces either looking the other way or actively assisting terrorists.

- Create a Palestine that invites in Iranian, Syrian, or other armies, or obtains missiles from them targeted at Israeli cities.

- Extend the conflict another generation by using the state as base for a “second stage” to finish off Israel.

Israel has good reason, based on the 1990s' peace process experience, to believe its own risks and concessions won't be reciprocated and that U.S. and European promises of support in that event won't be kept.

And so Netanyahu and his country says: Peace? Certainly! But only if it's real, lasting, and stable, making things better rather than worse: a real two-state, not big-mistake, solution.

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less than one-half per cent of “Arabia.” The West Bank-Jordan confederation would be almost five times larger than Israel.

Q: I've read on and on about what's wrong with the proposed solutions for Israelis and Palestinians, and everyone's delusions. I must have missed something. What's your solution?

R: The answer is hard for the West to take. It may be that the precious Palestinians won't have a state, at least not yet. It's the “solution” that the Kurds, the Basques, the Tamils, and others live with. The Palestinians are divided between nationalists and Islamists who don't cooperate with each other, to say the least. The two areas, Gaza and the West Bank, are separated by Israel, a further complication. Two autonomous areas might be the best choice for now, absent some sort of Arab confederation.

It's obvious that the West wants to quiet down the Muslims by placating them with a Palestinian state. Unfortunately, they're not ready to have one. An effort to engage with Hamas, by softening the conditions which excluded them from negotiations, won't work. Israel can't be forced to sign a “peace treaty” with an entity that exists solely to bring about Israel's destruction.

The Muslim problem won't go away with the creation of a Palestinian state anyway. The huge number of unemployed, disaffected young Arab men is problem number one. What will they do if they fester in their home countries? What will they do if they manage to get to Western countries, where they have become problematic for the native Europeans (at least the ones who don't bond with them)? Consider the probability that there will be as many as 100 million young Arabs emigrating from Arab countries in the next two decades.

Some problems don't have answers, short of something revolutionary. That's what the West has to worry about - not giving the Palestinians a state that mortally threatens Israel, America's closest ally in the Middle East. The Palestinians may deserve a state, as do some of the other nationalities mentioned above. But they don't deserve it yet. The status quo must remain until the Palestinians show that they can live peacefully with their law-abiding neighbor, Israel. Israelis already favor a two-state solution. It's the Palestinians and other Arabs who have to learn to live with a Jewish state in the Middle East.

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