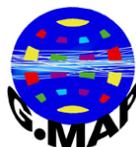


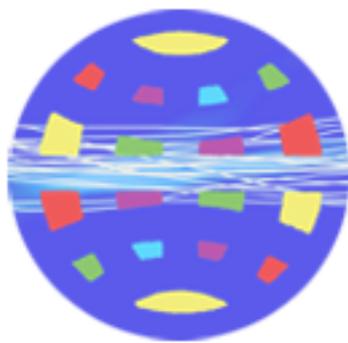
THE PALESTINIAN STATE RECOGNITION



PROSPECTIVE AND FABRIC OF REALITY

Valerie Fert
Chairman of GMAP





THE PALESTINIAN STATE RECOGNITION: PROSPECTIVE AND FABRIC OF REALITY

*By Valerie Fert
President of GMAP*

Will the recognition of a Palestinian State, as a full member of the United Nations, occur tomorrow, in the next months, the next years or have to be envisioned in some decades? That is a question, which a cognitive system cannot yet answer. On the other hand, by addressing the issue, a cognitive system can reveal underlying trends that are not visible in the immediate information, by working over the long term and weaving a fabric of possible realities.

Ultimately, it is in this fabric of possible realities, regardless of whether events come together sooner or later that the outstanding events will be forged in ten or a hundred years, whatever the unexpected phenomena, these *black swans* whose sudden occurrence can lead into another reality.

CONTINGENCIES AND CONSTANTS

Nevertheless, whatever the reality, there are contingencies and constants. In the analytical framework submitted to the cognitive system Globe Expert, we distinguished them. In the first category, all the matters related to politics, economy, social and international issues are sorted. Political parties are born, cling to power, loose elections, downslide and disappear. Economy is subject to upheavals. Social impacts ensue. Alliances shift. The destiny of powers does not unfold in eternity while the game of influences and stakes varies. Conversely, other elements do not fit only into a long period of time, but an anthropological one. In the present case, these are two physical issues - water and land - and two cultural ones: religion and Jerusalem.

DYNAMICS OF EMOTIONS

To this set of items, emotional factors are added. Indeed, as emphasized by Urs Luterbacher, professor of international relations at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and initiator of the research program "*Dynamics of Emotions and Fear in Conflicts and Reconstruction*", if war initiation was only rational, as it is usually considered by the classical approach of international relations, then armed conflicts would not necessarily lead to tragic consequences since a few battles or even skirmishes would

be sufficient to establish the superiority or equality between two bargainers who would decide to fight. In the present case, stressing the critical nature of emotions is a truism. Emotions are part of the religious factor beyond even both main protagonists' natures and positions. They are crystallized in the image of a symbolic Jerusalem, secularized in expressions of sympathy or antagonism in which the stakeholders have often forgotten their actual roots.

Moreover, emotions are an inseparable part of the situation on the ground for Palestinians and Israelis, who respectively oppose the trauma of *Nakba* to that of *Shoah*, both experiences of extreme violence committed against them, their essence, history and existence. Added to this are emotions and fears generated by more than sixty years of conflict.

Therefore, emotional factors are included in the analytical framework. Regarding Israel, a distinction is made between the emotions and fears related to that country specificity, notably questions concerning security and attacks, and those inherited from history: the spectre of a repetition of extermination, the conviction of the others' detestation, a belief in isolation and abandonment among the nations and difficulty of resilience.

COMPLICATED EAST, “STUTTER” IN THE FIELD OF REALITY AND EMOTIONAL INFLUENCES

Any prospective is based on the current situation, notably the analysis of the interactions between the different involved topics. The map below displays an interweaving of issues and could be entitled “Welcome to the Complicated East”. Actually, it is structured into a triptych: Israeli emotions and fears, contemporary as well as inherited, the General Assembly of the United Nations, the countries bordering Israel and Palestine, and the Palestinian issue itself, connected with questions related to land and international organizations, more particularly the International Criminal Court.

If a cognitive system such as Globe Expert had existed in November 1947, when the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181 on Palestinian partition was adopted, one may wonder if the results would have been identical. If history does not repeat itself, the issue of recognition of a Palestinian State has the appearance of a “stutter” in the field of reality. As in the past, the General Assembly of the United Nations, along with Arab and neighbouring countries again face this crucial question. From a Palestinian standpoint, the question is as simple as the relationship between land and justice while, from the Israeli perspective, the age-old emotions - persecutions, pogroms, anti-Semitism - and memory of the Shoah still occupy centre stage.

What is new is the presence of Turkey. Events of the Turkish flotilla to Gaza strained relations between those two countries and rekindled the Israeli feeling of isolation in a hostile environment. This will be especially true if an open crisis puts Israelis and Iranians face to face. Still in the current framework, an upgrading to the status of 'non-member State' observer in absence of recognition as a full-member State would allow Palestinians

to use the International Criminal Court. An appeal there would only be symbolic since Israel has firmly signified its refusal to ratify the Rome Statute of June 2002. In summary, the state of the issues' interactions in 2011 shows a situation, which has basically changed little in 64 years and is paved with obstacles in matters of international law. The key factor is emotional, particularly from the Israeli perspective.



Map 1 - The game of the core interactions in 2011. © Globe Expert.

NOTHING NEW IN THE EAST?

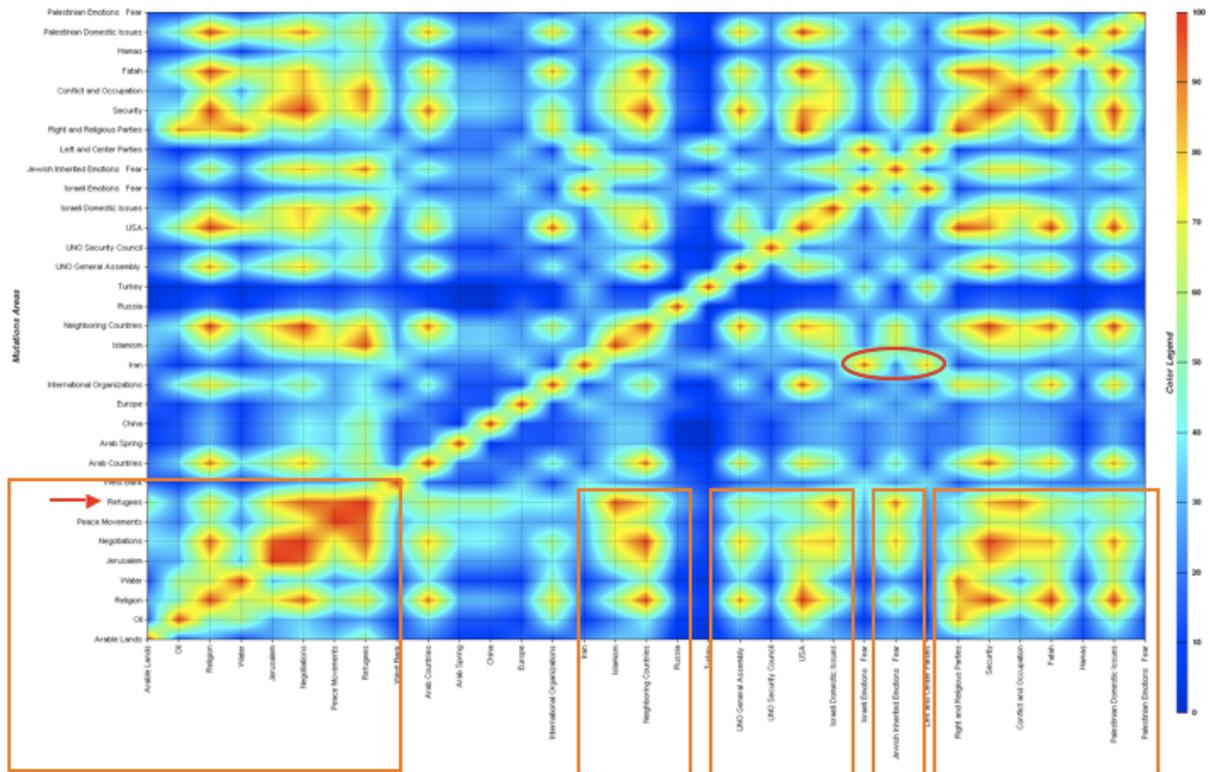
In a constant perimeter and all things being equal, how does Globe Expert map the future? At first sight, nothing seems very new. The diplomatic game is played by the USA, Israel, countries bordering the Israeli and Palestinian area, Arab countries and the General Assembly of the United Nations. It should be noted that no change occurs as regards both the Security Council of the United Nations and the major international players such as the European Union, China or Russia. The Israel-Palestine conflict and the question of a Palestinian State are dominated by the American position and America's relations and interests with the Arab countries. This is hardly surprising given the divergences within Europe, but can be considered as unfair since the European Union is heavily committed as the main founder of the Palestinian Authority.

Still at first sight, the stakes are well known. As the cartography of current interactions points out, in the projection of 2030, water constitutes the main issue, notably that of the exploitation of Western and North-Eastern groundwater aquifers, the central one being Jerusalem. Let us recall that this problem is crucial enough to have been the subject of Annexes III and IV of the Oslo Agreement and of a dedicated annex of the Geneva Initiative. The Israel-Palestinian conflict has often been described as a water conflict and the perspectives - whether creating a Palestinian State or not - both in terms of climate change and economic development do not offer any solution in the absence of regional cooperation, particularly with Lebanon with a Litani river coveted by Israel. Furthermore, this regional cooperation should include Syria whose water resources are provided fifty percent by Turkey and twenty percent by Lebanon.

The Jerusalem issue, which converges with religious factors and emotional factors inherited from the Jewish past, also appears as another “hot spot” when considering recognition of a Palestinian State. Where will the capital be? The status of Jerusalem as the one and indivisible capital of Israel is one of the Israel’s basic laws, a decision to which the Security Council of the United Nations reacted on August 20, 1980 through Resolution 478, stating that this specific basic law constitutes “a violation of international law”? Moreover, in a context where religion is an emotional and high political risk factor, the question arises as to which authority would control the Holy Places and more specifically the Temple Mount, this *Haram Al-Sharif*, Holy of Holies of the Temple of Jerusalem where the *Kotel*, or Wailing Wall, is all that is left.

In addition to the questions of water and of Jerusalem, a third factor, that converges with the other “hot spots”, appears: the case of the Palestinian refugees. In a projection by 2030, the map of the convergences asks us the following question: in the event of the recognition of a Palestinian State, would the refugees - more actually their descendants - choose to settle in this new State and obtain its citizenship or would they claim a right of return to their ancestral town or village whether it is located in the new Palestinian State or in Israel? Thus, the particularly strong convergence of the refugee issue and Jewish inherited emotions heightens the substance of a problem which was never hidden by Israeli leaders, that is to say a demographic imbalance, which would call into question the very nature of a State defined in its Declaration of Independence (May 14, 1948) as a Jewish State and also referred to as such in the Resolution 181 of the United Nations. That is why, for the Palestinians, the refugee issue can only be solved through a comprehensive solution where they would abandon their claim for a right of return in exchange for: one, indemnities; two, an Israeli statement that Israel caused the problem, notably during the 1948 war.

Lastly, this prospective cartography also identifies two small “hot spots”, which are not insignificant: a convergence of contemporary Israeli emotions and fear, the left and centre parties, and Iran. Here we have a weak signal that the analysis of the behavioural model called “Prey and Predator” will clarify.



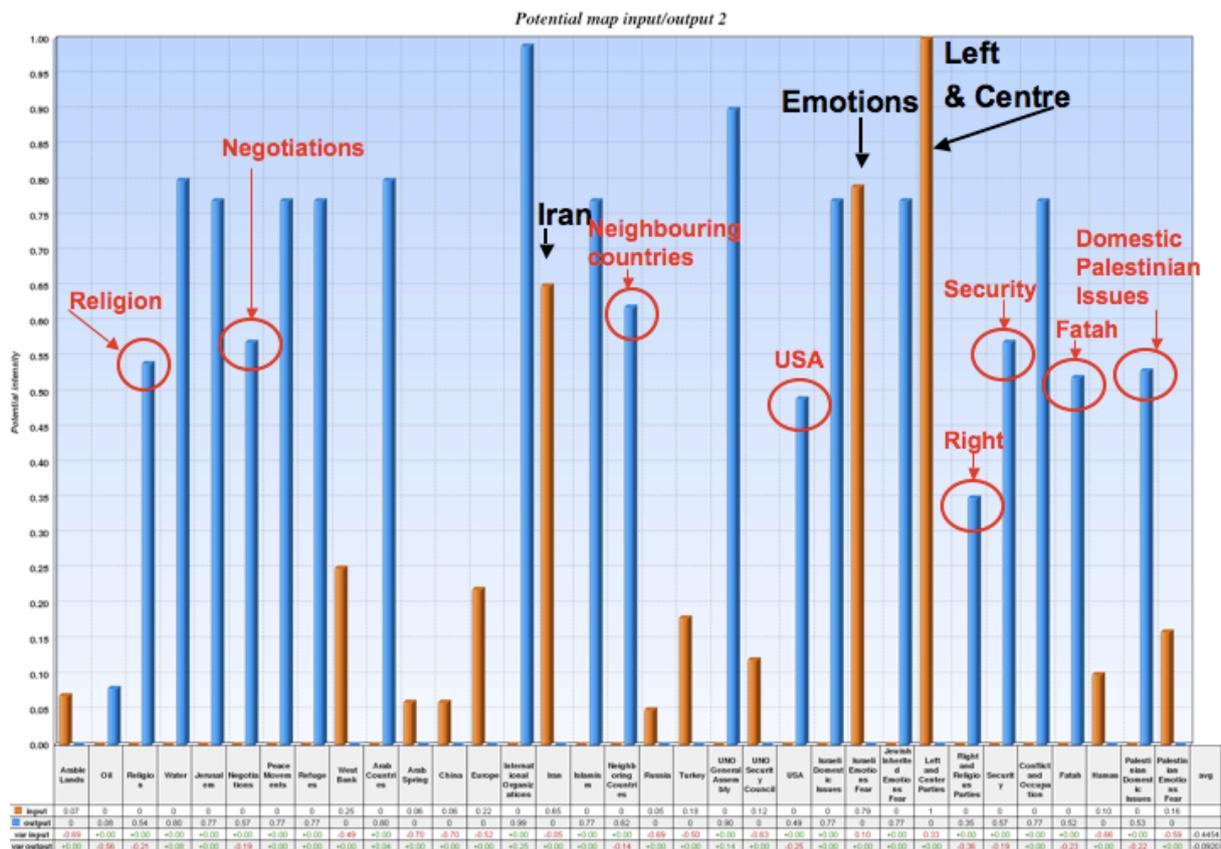
MAP 2: prospective by 2030, convergence of the concepts manipulated by information. The red rectangles outline the main “hot spots”: USA, United Nations General Assembly, international organizations, Arab countries, neighbouring countries, Fatah, negotiations, Peace movements, domestic Palestinian issues, domestic Israeli issues, Israeli right parties, religion, Islamism, Jerusalem, emotions inherited from the Jewish memory, security, water and refugees. The convergence between the left and centre Israeli parties, the contemporary Israeli emotions and fear, and Iran is red-circled. © Globe Expert.

THE IRANIAN “GUEST”

The “Prey and Predator” model, based on the Lotka - Volterra equation, reveals - at constant perimeter and all things being equal - a “guest” in the debate: Iran. The cartography produced by the Artificial Intelligence system Globe Expert is quite clear. It points out three “predators”, that is to say three matters of which the influence prevails: Iran, the left and centre Israeli parties and contemporary Israeli emotions and fears. In a possible context of “information warfare,” one does not need to be a great scholar to understand the impact on the issue of recognizing a Palestinian State. The official announcement of an Iranian military nuclear program by IAEA would certainly obstruct and even block this recognition whatever the actuality of a Persian nuclear bomb.

The reaction of the “Israeli street” would be particularly strong facing such an announcement and even if the left and centre Israeli parties, one of the three influential elements, separated both cases, the creation of a Palestinian State and the Iranian threat, it is obvious that public opinion, driven by emotions and fears, would put security first, resorting to arguments of the nationalist and religious parties and thus strengthening the current American position.

Putting the Iranian position at centre stage would provoke reactions from countries that are marked by a certain immobilism regarding the Palestinian matter. Europe, China, Russia and Turkey could then speak out and use their influence, even if this one predator appears low compared to levels reached by the three main “predators”. In order to clarify the trend of these reactions, notably concerning Russia, China and Turkey, further analyses will be necessary. The essential aspect is the disruptive factor represented by an Iranian nuclear threat.



Model called “Prey and Predator”: in red, the predators, in blue, the preys. The predators represent the topics of which the influence prevails. The preys are the topics impacted by the predators’ activity. © Globe Expert.

Globe Expert points out a situation about which we can say, “the more the things change, the more they stay the same”, especially when Jewish and Israeli emotional factors are determinants. Whatever the future, the Palestinians, if they want to achieve recognition and independence of their own State, will have to take into account this aspect and try to reassure the Israelis, notably concerning their position concerning Iran. Beyond this issue, which we will know about in the coming months, the question of the viability of the future State posed in terms of water and demography remains. Regional water cooperation and refugee issues will therefore be crucial for a Palestinian State.

TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BLACK SWANS

The Topology of Fear - Columbia University, 2005-2006, Graciela Chichilnisky.

“Avoiding Extinction Equal Treatment of the Present and the Future” - *economics ejournal* No. 2009-8 January 12, 2009, Graciela Chichilnisky.

New Ways of Measuring Catastrophic Risks: The Foundations of Probability and Statistics with Black Swans - Centre de Recherche Mathématique, Université de Montréal, 2010, Graciela Chichilnisky.

“Subjective Probability with Black Swans” - *Journal of Probability and Statistics*, 2010, Graciela Chichilnisky.