

Possible Israeli Annexation of Disputed Territory

12th May 2020

On the basis of the American peace plan, the new coalition set to govern Israel has agreed that, from 1st July 2020, Benjamin Netanyahu will be allowed to have the government and/or the Knesset vote on annexing parts of the disputed territory generally referred to as the West Bank.

Concerned about this, on 1st May 2020, a group of 127 British MPs and parliamentarians wrote to Boris Johnson appealing for the British government to take action against such annexation, including the threat of sanctions against Israel.

In their letter, they describe the Israeli plan as:

- egregious (i.e. shockingly bad),
- a serious breach of international law,
- parallel to the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014,
- likely to prompt other states to take similar action,
- an alarmingly dangerous precedent.

However, all those points raise serious questions of bias against Israel. For example:

- (1) Is it egregious for a nation to seek control over territory to which it has been granted legal ownership? See the 15-minute documentary '**Give Peace a Chance**'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubDhnM0MUmY>
- (2) Is it correct to describe such annexation as a breach of international law when Israel has presented a clear case to the UN Security Council on their rights to ownership of the land? See the 18-minute speech by Israel's Ambassador to the UN:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqgchSV2cn8>
- (3) Is it appropriate to liken any Israeli annexation to the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014, when the Six Day War in 1967 was a defensive operation by Israel against three enemy armies that were poised to attack? See, for example, the 9-minute documentary '**Drumbeats of War**':
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6vbzI8F61M&list=PLybiLakVppIKmYheyFBBYie7OaXJrfubu>
- (4) How can Israeli annexation set 'an alarmingly dangerous precedent' when the Jewish people were granted the territory in international law and recovered it in a defensive operation?
- (5) What justification could be made for British sanctions against Israeli annexation when the British Government recognised Jordan's annexation of the whole area after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War?