



## The End of the Peace Process: Oslo and After

*By Edward W. Said*

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### **The End of the Peace Process: Oslo and After** By Edward W. Said

In this important collection of fifty pieces, Edward Said questions the very foundations of the Oslo accords. Signed in September 1993 on the White House lawn by Israel and the PLO, the accords were immediately hailed as a success and a breakthrough for peace in the Middle East, but Said realized that the imbalance of power between the signees would set up a problematic dynamic, bringing only an illusionary stability. The later interim agreements of Taba, Hebron, and the Wye Plantation would already limit the next phase -- the final-status negotiations set to conclude this year, when the future condition of refugees, Jerusalem, borders, water and compensations must be decided.

Incisively cutting through the hyperbole in the press surrounding the accords, these pieces document the historic content but also give otherwise unreported accounts of what has really gone on in the occupied territory since the signing. The continuing expansion of Israeli settlements, the repressive leadership and inflated bureaucracy of Yasir Arafat, Said's own return to Jerusalem after forty-five years, the subsequent banning of his books by the Palestinian Authority, and Oslo's inability to recognize Palestine's self-determination are among the issues of peace and justice he discusses.

Together these essays are an eloquent and courageous statement for peaceful coexistence and equality between two peoples, and for an end to the separation of Jews and non-Jews -- the only hope for a lasting solution in the Middle East.

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## **The End of the Peace Process: Oslo and After** By Edward W. Said Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In his 18th book, Palestinian writer and Columbia University literary scholar Said (author of the highly praised memoir *Out of Place*) once again brings acute insight to a controversial subject. In 50 essays (most of which were originally published in the Cairo *Ahram Weekly* and London's *al-Hayat*), he offers a bleak and somewhat cynical view of the Middle East peace process since Oslo. Deeply concerned with the fate of the Palestinian people, and without mincing words, Said probes their relationship to the Israeli government and their lives under Arafat's Palestinian Authority. He skewers the Oslo Agreements--arguing that Palestinians merely surrendered to the Israelis--as well as the Palestinian Authority and Arafat. (Peace, he points out, can only exist if equality and respect exist; as a result, he urges Palestinians to resist Israeli settlements with nonviolent demonstrations and to create stable, democratic institutions that can coexist peaceably with Israel.) Throughout, Said also comments on the role of intellectuals in political discourse, the Holocaust and, in a particularly poignant essay, the political development of his son, Wadie. Although they're stimulating, because these essays originated as newspaper columns, they're also occasionally repetitive, and some of the events that inspired them have receded into oblivion. Still, on the whole, this is a potent analysis--one that refuses to follow a party line--of the complexities and stark realities of Middle Eastern politics. (Apr.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

The Oslo "peace process," which resulted in the signing of an agreement between Israel and Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat, has been the subject of numerous books, articles, and commentaries. In this refreshing and intelligently argued book, Palestinian American Said (English and comparative literature, Columbia Univ.; *Orientalism; Culture and Imperialism*) provides a sobering analysis of the pitfalls of the Oslo agreement. Most of the essays in this collection have appeared in Cairo's *al-Ahram Weekly* and *al-Hayat*, London's Arabic-language daily. Each essay is Said's reflection on a dimension of the Palestinian predicament. Said convincingly explains why the "peace process" has had damaging effects on the fabric of Palestinian society and polity. (It puts nothing in writing, for instance, about the further expansion of Israeli settlements.) He is as critical of the corruption, incompetence, and authoritarianism of the Palestinian Authority as he is of American and Israeli postures. In his vintage style, Said forces the reader to look beyond clichés, sound bites, myths, and conventional thinking about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Highly recommended for public and academic libraries. DNader Entessar, Spring Hill Coll., Mobile, AL Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

As he did in *Peace and Its Discontents* (1996), Said gathers four-dozen essays on the Mideast. Most first appeared between 1995 and 1999 in *Cairo Ahram Weekly* and (in Arabic) in London-based *al-Hayat*; "On Visiting Wadie" and "Truth and Reconciliation," were written for the *London Review of Books* and the *New York Times Magazine*, respectively. Readers familiar with Said's work will not be surprised that he is more critical of Arafat and the Palestinian Authority than of Israel's leaders, nor that he views Oslo-based negotiations in the context of U.S.-dominated globalization. Some of Said's essays respond to current events: announcement of the Oslo accords and, later, the Wye agreement; specific negotiations; actions by the Palestinian Authority; and visits to the Mideast by U.S. leaders. Other pieces take a longer view, such as "The Role of the Private Sector," "Modernity, Information, and Governance," "Isaiah Berlin," "Mandela, Netanyahu, and Arafat," and "Art, Culture, and Nationalism." An always provocative commentator. *Mary Carroll*

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#### **Kenneth Matson:**

The reason? Because this The End of the Peace Process: Oslo and After is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will jolt you with the secret that inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who write the book in such amazing way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book possess such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

#### **Gary Carter:**

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