The Israeli-Palestinian Negotiating Partners: 2010 Strategic Re-assessment
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Israelis vs. Palestinians: Background

-The Israeli-Palestinian situation has been taking place for centuries in the Middle East and it is the world's longest religious and geographical conflict.

-The groups involved in this conflict are Israelis and Palestinians. It is a conflict that started as a religion versus religion (Judaism vs. Islam) but has grew into a government versus people issue.

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The main factor that has triggered the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was the religious tension between Jews and Muslims that occurred more than 1,400 years ago. The Children of Israel were generally referred to as the Chosen People by Allah (God), but their failure to follow Moses (Prophet Musa in Islam) made them lose this title and ownership of the Holy Mosque in Jerusalem. The fact that Muslims emerged and implemented the laws of Islam gave them authority over the Holy land. This angered the Israelis because they realized that their power that they've had for years is now slipping away. As a result, Jews have been fighting to regain control over the sacred land.

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WHY PALESTINE?

Palestine is a region that is prominent for its ancient history. Its capital is Jerusalem (Al-Quds in Arabic), a holy cite that is significant to the three Abrahamic religions: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Jerusalem is of vital importance to Muslims because it is the setting where Prophet Muhammed (Peace and blessings be upon him) performed his night journey to the heavens where he received the commandment for prayer (Salah in Arabic). Furthermore, Jerusalem is regarded as the holiest site for Jews because they have been living in the city for more than 4,000 years. The Western Wall in the Temple Mount (how the Jews refer to Al-Quds) is known as the Wailing Wall where Jews perform their prayers. Jerusalem's importance to both religions is the foundational factor of the modern tension between Israelis and Palestinians.
Between 1516 and 1917, the Muslim Ottoman Empire had executed complete authority over Palestine. After World War 1, the empire was defeated and Great Britain gained control over Palestine under a mandate from the United Nations. During the few years that Britain controlled the Arab land, they permitted Jews to return to it. However, Britain was not able to maintain its control over Palestine as the conflict between the Arabs and Israelis heightened after World War 2. Hoping to resolve the solution, the United Nations voted to divide Palestine into two independent states. In 1948, Israeli Jews declared ownership over the portion of Palestine that the UN promised them. However, Palestinian Muslims were not happy, so they waged war on their enemies.