

Difference and sameness in a democracy

Learning Outcomes

- ◇ To devise an argument on a given side in a debate using evidence provided
- ◇ To evaluate the arguments of others
- ◇ To reach a conclusion based on arguments presented

National Curriculum

1.1b, 1.1c, 1.2a, 1.2d

Motion to debate:

“This house believes it is easier to be democratic when people are the same”

Think about this motion in relation to Israel-Palestine. To help you there are 2 short readings. Think about the following statements and questions:

- ◆ Do people have the right to rule themselves? But how do you define people? Sometimes it is simple but sometimes there are people who have been living in the same country for years and they speak different languages.
- ◆ Everyone in a country should share the same identity (identity can be defined in many ways eg ethnicity, race or religious affiliation)
- ◆ Having the same identity doesn't matter as long as there are certain things that can be agreed on
- ◆ It's ok for citizenship in a country to be based on your race or religion. If you are the wrong race or religion you don't belong. Being amongst your own people brings security

There are two short readings – each side should read both.

[Against the One-State Solution](#) – an article by Raafat Dajani, head of an organisation based in America dedicated to bringing about peace in the Middle East by establishing the state of Palestine alongside Israel.

[The One State Declaration](#) – a statement in support of establishing one state for Palestinians and Israelis written and signed by Palestinians, Israelis and other supporters of the idea

Some definitions you might need while you read...

Parity – equivalence or being on the same level

Colonising state – a state that is seeking to inhabit and control another state or people. This can include different kinds of control and power – including economic, political, social and cultural.

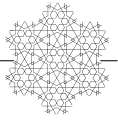
Viable – workable, capable of functioning. Whether a future Palestinian state would be viable is a key issue. Israel has shown no signs of dismantling the settlements which would break any future Palestinian state into many disconnected parts, and therefore make it non-viable and simply an illusion of independence.

Non-sectarian – Sects are groups of people with different views, usually used in a religious sense. A sectarian government would treat one group or sect better than the others. A non-sectarian government would treat them all equally.

Diaspora – the people who have been dispersed outside their homeland. Most Palestinians live in the Diaspora (ie outside of what used to be Palestine) and are unable to go home.

Mandatory Palestine – refers to the time when Palestine was a British mandate, ie ruled by the British Empire

Existential – to do with existence, so an existential threat is a threat to your existence, and an existential need is a need you have in order to exist



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