

Greater Israel's Bleak Future: A Lecture by John Mearsheimer

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INDIANAPOLIS, April 10 — Internationally renowned University of Chicago professor John Mearsheimer held a public lecture this afternoon at IUPUI entitled “Greater Israel’s Bleak Future.” Sponsored by Christians for Peace and Justice in the Middle East, Mearsheimer’s lecture dealt with issues of a future for Palestinians achieving an independent state in Gaza and the West Bank.

Currently, Palestinians in Gaza are experiencing a similar oppression felt by minorities during the Separate but Equal period of US history. Israel refers to the segregated culture as the two-state solution, but its strong resemblance of apartheid-plagued South Africa is nowhere near a solution.

Mearsheimer argued that the majority Palestinians must be given the legitimacy of participating in a democratic bi-national state. This theory presents a conflict in that Palestinians’ greater numbers will dominate their Israeli counterparts. Amongst the proponents of a sovereign Jewish nation, Mearsheimer’s argument falls on deaf ears. Today’s lecture shed a realistic light on the issue, as Mearsheimer is looking at the issue practically. Seeing as two of the world’s major religions oppose Israel, it can be concluded that it is anti-Hasidic sentiment that seems to fuel so much violence in the Middle East.

The US has long advocated for Israel, acting as their chief ally in a world that seems to hold little respect for the Hebrew nation. Surrounded by Islam, Judaism is attacked physically, politically, socially, culturally, and verbally on a daily basis. Fundamentalist Christians share a similar sentiment. They believe their savior, Jesus Christ, cannot return for his second coming (as stated in the Bible) until his native land (Jerusalem, a city in Israel) is no longer occupied by non-Christians. Please note that it is a small fragment of Christians that feel this way.

According to Mearsheimer, the most probably outcome of this situation is that Gaza and The West Bank will become part of a “Greater Israel,” which will expand and intensify the growing apartheid government.

Literature provided at the lecture explained how Israel is in fact an apartheid state. According to the literature, written by Frances H. Remillard and provided by a legal study commissioned by the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa, Israel does show characteristics of an apartheid state, particularly the three pillars of apartheid.

These pillars are as follows:

- *The state codifies into law a preferred identity.* In the case of Israel, the preferred identity is that of Jewish heritage.
- *The state segregates the population into geographic areas based on identity.* Palestinians are confined to impoverished areas that have insufficient resources.
- *The state establishes security laws and policies designed to suppress any opposition to any regime.* The military occupation requires that Palestinians are tried in military courts, while Jewish citizens are tried in civic court.

Mearsheimer discussed the present state of Gaza and The West Bank, referencing

Though there is no easy solution, the professor gave examples of possible scenarios, favoring the two-state solution, but its inevitability Palestinian majority rule is preventing Israel from agreeing to this solution.

Mearsheimer serves as co-director of University of Chicago's Program on International Security Policy. His most recently published book, "Why Leaders Lie: The Truth About Lying In International Politics," hit shelves earlier this year. He is best-known for an influential paper he co-authored with Stephen Walt concerning the Israel lobby and US foreign policy.

Other parties involved in today's lecture were IUPUI Council for Strategies and International Affairs, the IUPUI Muslim Student Association, and the IUPUI Office of International Affairs.



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