

One State, Two States – Resolving the Israel/Palestine Conflict by Benny Morris.  
Yale University Press 2009.

Professor Benny Morris is a courageous and honourable historian who has never been afraid of courting controversy in pursuit of the truth.

One State, Two States is a sober consideration of the history of solutions to the Israel-Palestinian conflict and a ruthless evisceration of those who do not allow the facts to get in the way of their apologetics. The book is divided into three sections: The Re-emergence of One-Statism, The History of One-State and Two-State Solutions (the largest of the three) and Where To?

Morris not only considers the pitfalls and promises of the various proposals, but also exposes the double speak that is often just below the surface, particularly with regard to the One State solution. The tone of the book overall is angry and disappointed, although this adds to rather than diminishes its power.

Anyone hoping for a radical new peace proposal which cuts through the existing ones will be disappointed, and Morris's conclusion that the only viable solution is an Israel with a Gaza-West Bank-Jordan confederation as its nearest neighbour is a depressing reminder of the dangerous pass to which years of procrastination, dishonesty, lack of vision and common sense have brought all the inhabitants in the region.

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