

Abbas: 'Jordan and Palestine are One People in Two States'

Palestinian Authority leader makes statement likely to overjoy Israeli nationalists during meeting with Jordanian soccer head in Amman. [granted the Jews a state](#) from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River, and reserved the eastern side of the River for one of 22 independent Arab states.

But instead of handing over control to the local Arab population, the British government – which previously occupied both sides of the Jordan River – installed the Hashemite tribe of Jordan's King Abdullah I (grandfather of King Abdullah II), which was sympathetic to British imperial interests. That ushered in an era of autocratic, minority rule which lasted until today, and left the local Jews and Arabs to continue to fight over the remaining 23%.

Despite being the majority, Palestinians in Jordan are subject to widespread discrimination and repression by the government. Recently, sensing the growing threat from disgruntled Palestinians, the Jordanian government began stripping large numbers of their Jordanian citizenship, dealing another blow to their collective civil rights, and illustrating how it relies on their disenfranchisement to survive.

While that history has been largely forgotten or ignored by advocates of a "two state solution," Israeli nationalists have long pointed to it as proof of the illegitimacy of establishing a 23rd "Palestinian" Arab state in Judea and Samaria.

Many Palestinians – including not just Rajoub but Abbas himself and Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal – have Jordanian

citizenship.