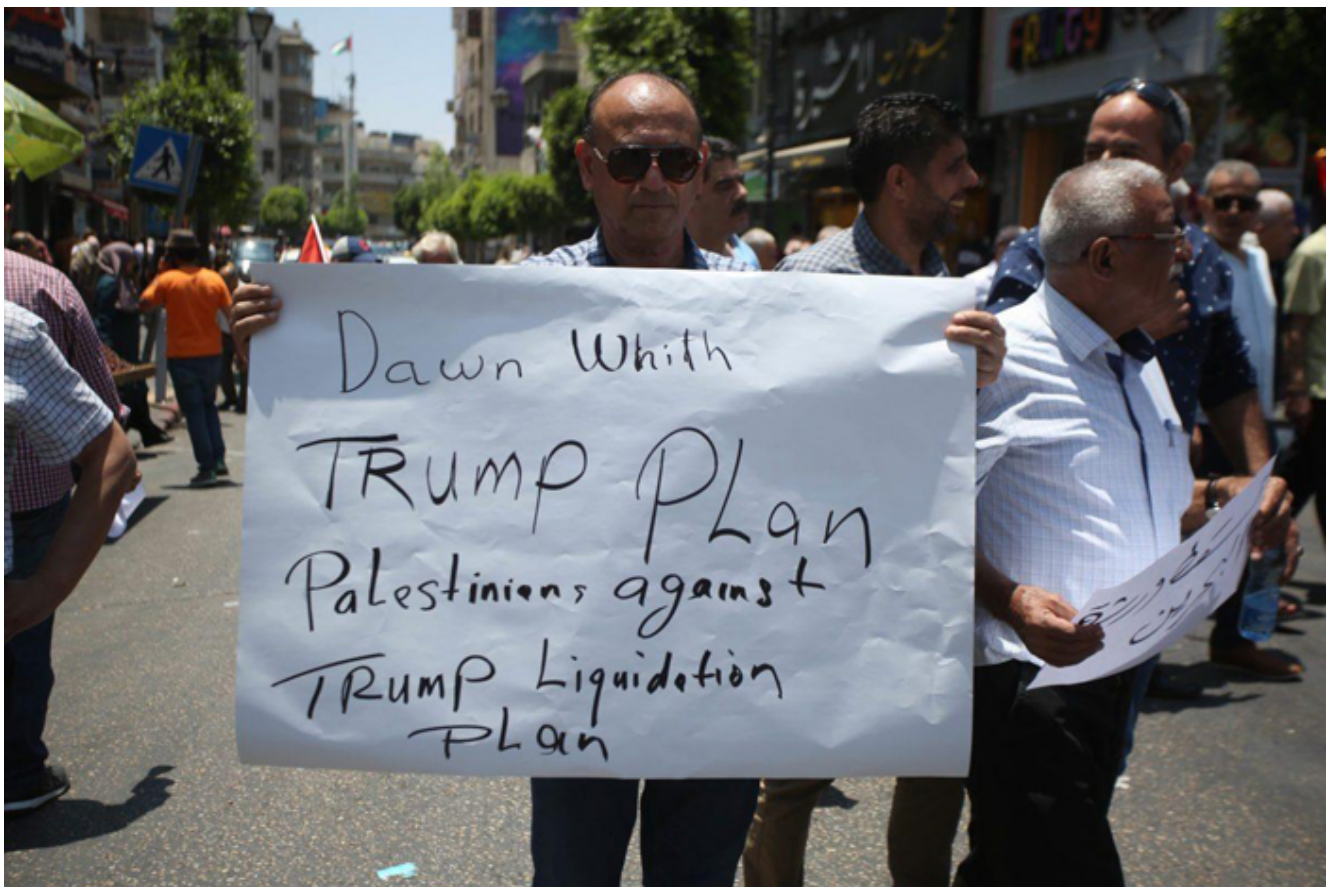


Bahrain Conference Prioritizes Iran Threat over Palestinian Grievances

An Interview with Dan Diker

by [Jerry Gordon](#) and Rod Reuven Dovid Bryant (August 2019)



Palestinian Protesters of Trump Plan

'Snow job' was the [comment](#) of Palestinian Authority (PA) spokesmen over the [release](#) of President Trump's Peace to

Prosperity, A New Vision for the Palestinian People and the Broader Middle East prior to the long awaited two day workshop in Manama, Bahrain, held June 25-26. Special Presidential Assistant Jared Kushner and Special Envoy for International Negotiations Jason Greenblatt were invited by Bahrain Foreign Minister, Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa. They presented the 40-page \$50 million 10-year economic 'opportunity of the century' to an important assemblage of seven Sunni Arab countries and emirates. Among those who attended the Bahrain workshop were Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan and Morocco. Oman, which has friendly relations with Israel, did not attend.

The Bahrain workshop coincided with a Trilateral Summit of US, Russian and Israeli National Security Advisers which was [convened](#) in Jerusalem on the matter of Iran's encroaching presence in Syria. A helicopter [tour](#) over the Jordan Valley with US National Security Adviser John Bolton and Israeli PM Netanyahu illustrated the country's narrow mid-waist and the necessity of Israel's control over the Samarian Judean ridgeline in any peace plan. The message for the Trump Peace team was only Israel could secure its own security.

Kushner's [pitch](#):

My direct message to the Palestinian people is that despite what those who have let you down in the past say, President Trump and America have not given up on you.

To be clear, economic growth and prosperity for the Palestinian people are not possible without an enduring

and fair political solution to the conflict—one that guarantees Israel's security and respects the dignity of the Palestinian people.



The \$50 million economic plan would create an estimated 1 million jobs for Egyptians, Palestinians and Jordanians. The Plan offers a radical economic shift in the region. R. Glenn Hubbard, Columbia University Graduate School of Business Dean and former Bush Economic Adviser calls it a '[Middle East Marshall Plan](#),' as it emphasizes private business and not charity access to create jobs. That might have been a bit of stretch as the Marshall Plan bolstered the recovery and unification of Europe post WWII with countries that ostensibly share the same values. That's not the case with the Palestinians.

There was one exception to the Trump Economic plan. The

infrastructure portion of the plan [proposed](#) building a corridor between the West Bank and Gaza. That was objected to by Israeli security officials as imperiling the country's national security.

Palestinian leaders, Mahmoud Abbas and Saeb Erekat continued to bewail the transfer of the US Embassy to Jerusalem depriving them of a future Palestinian State capital. Further, they objected to the Administration curtailing US financial support for the UNWRA refugee program. They also objected to the US reducing funding over the continuation of the PLO 'pay for slay' program of payments to Palestinian terrorists and their families. That didn't prevent a contingent of Palestinian businessmen from attending the Bahrain workshop. However, upon their return, a Palestinian businessman from Hebron, Saleh Abu Miala was [arrested](#) by Palestinian Security on alleged charges of sedition. It took the [intervention](#) of US Special Envoy Greenblatt to have the PA release Miala.

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