The “IRON LAWS” of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Beshara Doumani:

1. The Iron Law under which Palestinian operate is their non-recognition as political community (by Great Britain, Israel, & the US).

2. This Iron Law PREDATES the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and it became possible due to the “tension between [Palestinian] land and people.”

3. “Out of phase” manifestations of this tension:
   - (a) Rejection of Greater Syrian Arab state (Absence of nationalist consciousness in Ottoman and most of British times.)
   - (b) Creation of Palestinian state out of Ottoman provinces by League of Nations coincides with denial of Palestinian nationality.
   - (c) Loss of Palestine in 1948 marks creation of Palestinian people.
Ian Lustick: The Logic of the Iron Wall

* Jabotinsky (1923): indigenous people will resist colonizers as long as they see any hope of ridding themselves of the danger of colonization”

* Five stages
  1. constructing Iron Wall
  2. Defense of Iron Wall
  3. Costly defeats leads to moderation of antagonist
  4. As defenders perceive shift among antagonists they also prefer compromise
  5. Negotiated settlement based on mutual recognition
* After 1967 signs of the hoped for Arab moderation
* Unintended consequence: Israel’s conditions for peace expanded as its margin of victory increased.
* After reaching Stage 3, in wake of the 1967 War, Israel abandons Iron Wall strategy.
* 1993 Oslo Accord is an attempted compromise which fails.