

# \*The “IRON LAWS” of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

# \*PALESTINE/IAN IRON LAW

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 I

\* \* 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

# Ian Lustick: The Logic of the Iron Wall II

- \* \*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.