

The Oslo Process

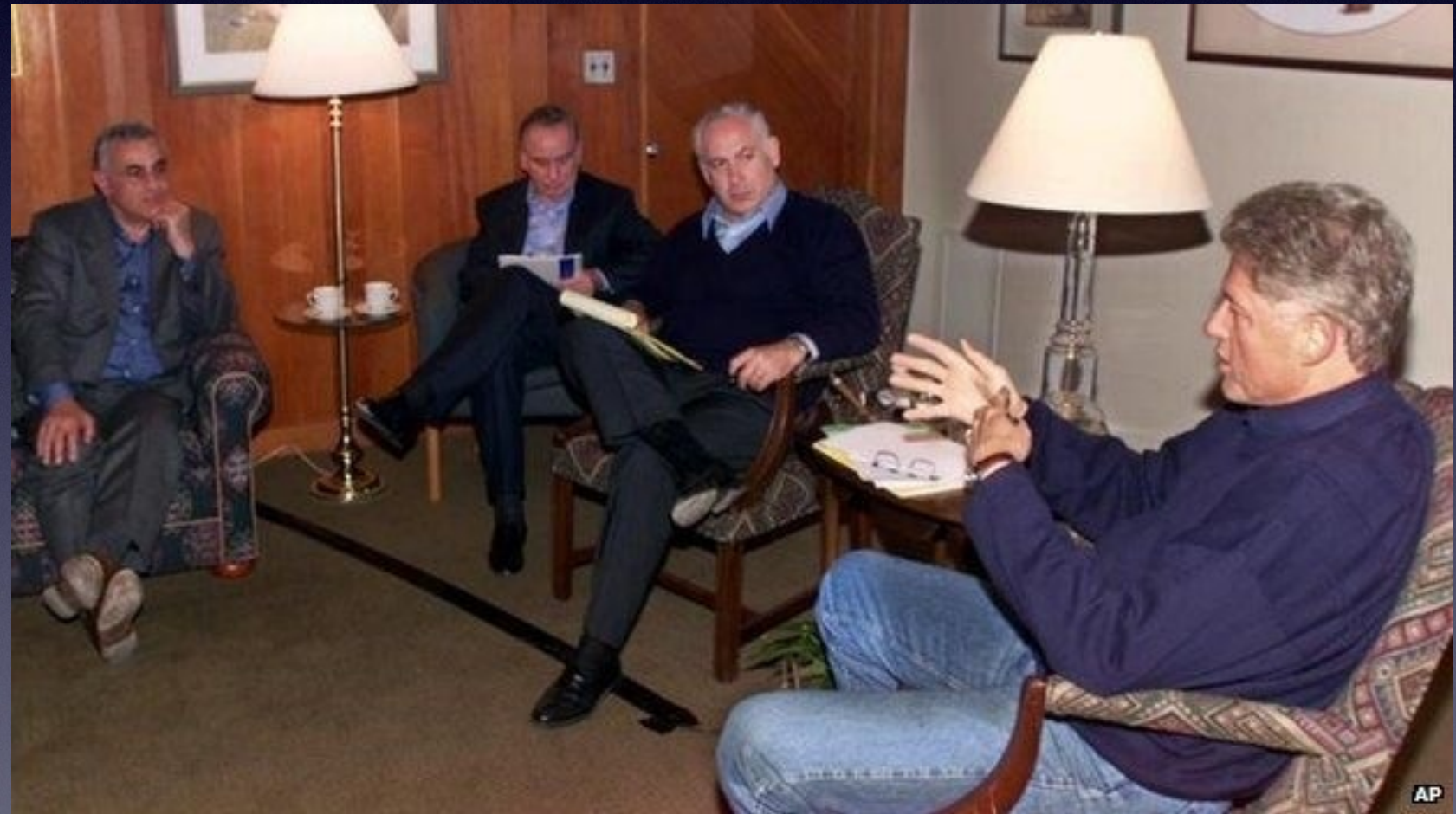
Mediation and Handicap

Mediation

- U.S. late actor (September 1993/January 1)
 - Madrid 1991
- Norway change agent
 - neutral and private
- Pursuit of “holy grail”
 - Clinton = Don Quixote

U.S. Foreign Policy And the Peace Process

- Since 1979
- Clinton era



Mediation

- The Oslo Process
- Political advantages vs. genuine intent
 - Hebron (1996)
 - Wye River (1998)
 - Camp David (2000)

Hebron

- Netanyahu and Arafat agree to control over Hebron and redistribution of IDF (H1 & H2)
- Completed part of Oslo II (1995) and signed in January 1997
- Both sides never ratified agreement

Wye River

- Memorandum agreed upon and signed by Netanyahu and Arafat.
- It was aimed to resume the implementation of the 1995 Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip (Oslo II Accord)
 - security
 - economy
- By end of 1998 little progress made on points.

Camp David

- Ehud Barak and Arafat met and attempted negotiated peace agreement in July 2000
 - Territory
 - East Jerusalem
 - Refugees and “right of return”
- No agreement was signed.

Dry Bones



<http://drybones.org.il>



Handicap

- Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin (1995)
 - death of dream
 - interpretation of true intention
- Election of Likud (1996)
- Election of Labor (1999)
- Scandal and corruption with PLO
 - finances
 - faux elections

Handicap

- Financial aid limited use in statecraft
 - unlike in 1970s
- Intent to build constituencies to support Oslo
 - bandage to Palestinian economy
 - Crutch to keep Israel engaged
- Scott Lasensky, "Paying for Peace: The Oslo Process and the Limits of American Foreign Aid," *Middle East Journal*, Vol. 58, No. 2 (Spring, 2004)

Handicap

- Power
 - IDF
 - Labor, Likud, Kadima
 - PLO/PA
- Status quo
 - political support
 - religious groups
 - Hamas/Hezbollah

Handicap

- Reality on ground different than on paper and has been since 1993.
- “Rainbow” lines interpretation over decades
 - Green line (1967)
 - “Blue line” (1949 Armistice Line)



Conclusions

- The U.S. has spent international and domestic political capital to reach a final agreement.
- Israel, regardless of government has sought some peace though often blinded by reality on ground, reciprocal violence and prejudice.
- Palestinians, are divided. Peace sought and small success achieved by PLO/PA is overshadowed by inter-party (Fatah) fighting and violence by Hamas, whom rejects the Oslo process.

Readings

- Scott Lasensky, “Paying for Peace: The Oslo Process and the Limits of American Foreign Aid,” *Middle East Journal*, Vol. 58, No. 2 (Spring, 2004)
- Yehuda Avner, “An inept attempt at a flawed peace,” *Jerusalem Post*, December 2, 2008.
- Stuart E. Eizenstat, “Loving Israel. Warts and All,” *Foreign Policy*, No. 81 (Winter, 1990-1991), pp. 87-105.
- “Elusive Peace: Israel and the Arabs,” PBS Documentary, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50ZktlhxsgY>

