

# Israel – Palestine: Peace Process

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## Lessons drawn by Dennis B. Ross \*

- ▶ The conflict cannot be solved through military actions
- ▶ A peace process cannot be forced on the people; the desire to put an end to a conflict must first come from the peoples and then governments must be won over to this cause – not the other way round
- ▶ If the two peoples are to stop demonizing each other, barriers must be torn down through the multiplication of encounters among individuals
- ▶ It is not enough to recognize the existence of diverging interpretations and points of view; those have to be rectified
- ▶ Mediators should not exercise too much secrecy. In order to create a feeling of commitment on the part of the negotiators, the proposals that they put on the table should be made public
- ▶ Verification systems should be established for each agreement, in order to be able to point a finger at infringers and to force them to comply

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Source: *Als Nachbarn einander fremd geblieben – Tagung über die Kluft zwischen Israeli und Palестinensern*, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 23/06/2001