



Temple B'nai Torah  
Israel Current Affairs Discussion Group

# The Settlement Debate *(Continued)*

December 2011

# Agenda

- I. What & where are the settlements?
- II. A spectrum of opinions
  - The official Israeli, Palestinian and American views
- III. The path to peace

*Also available*

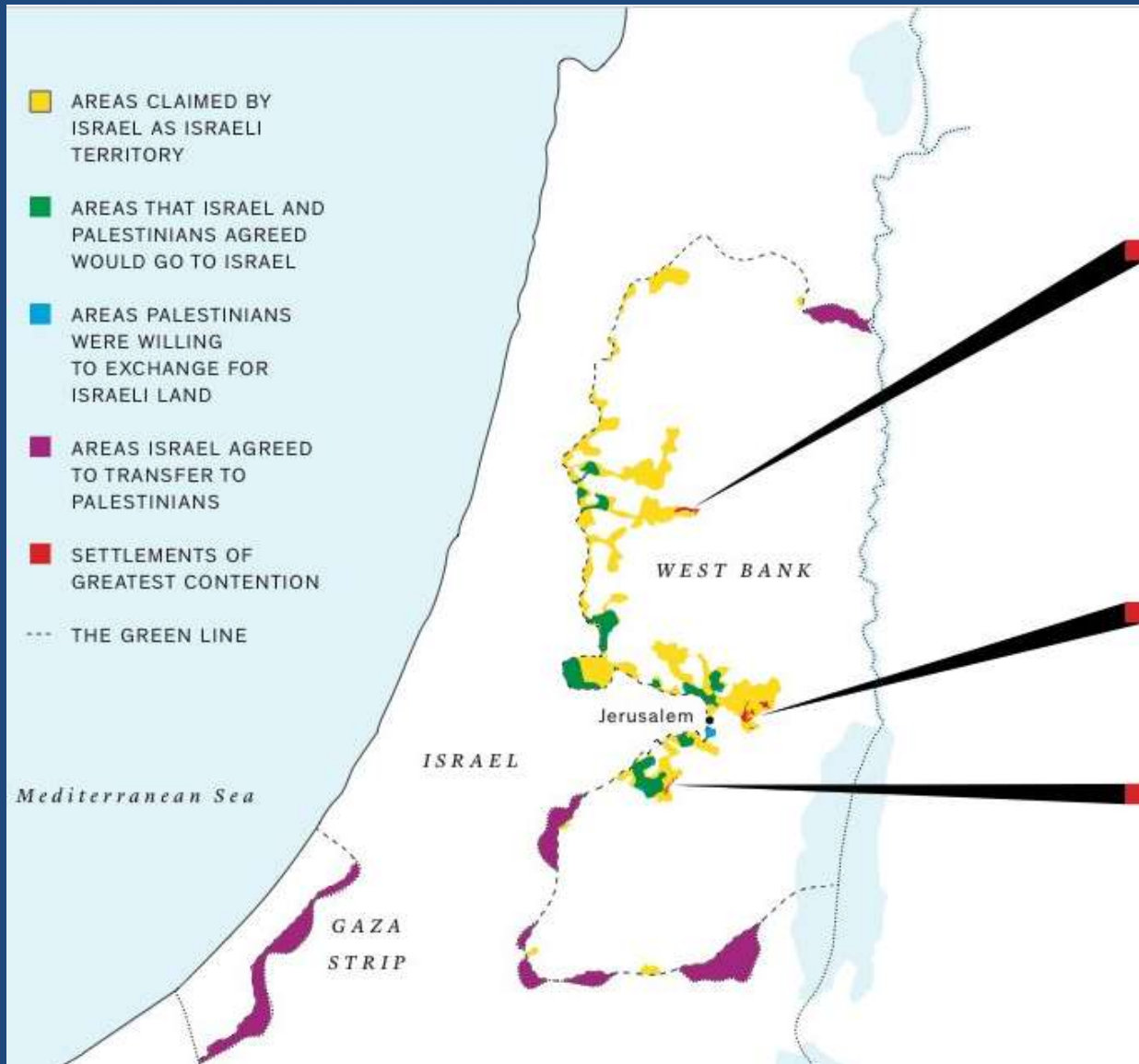
- *Why were settlements built?*
- *Legal background*
- *Interview with Ambassador Michael Oren*



# I. What Are “Settlements”?

# Jewish Communities on the West Bank (Judea & Samaria)

- Major Jewish cities
- Former Jewish areas of the West Bank
- “East Jerusalem” neighborhoods
- Isolated Jewish communities and outposts



# Lands of Contention

**ARIEL** Within some areas claimed by Israel there are now substantial towns inhabited by Jewish settlers. Negotiating in 2007 and 2008, the Israeli prime minister, Ehud Olmert, wanted the settler outpost of Ariel — a town of 18,000 between Ramallah and Nablus — to remain part of Israel, although it is deep within the West Bank. Ariel was established in 1978; a large percentage of its residents are post-1990 immigrants to Israel. For Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority, the settlers of Ariel would have to leave. One possibility was to defer a decision on Ariel, allowing the larger agreement to go forward.

**MAALE ADUMMIM** With a population of 35,000, Maale Adummim is the third-largest Israeli settlement in the West Bank. It is near Jerusalem, to which many residents commute. An Israeli plan in 2008 to build more housing in Maale Adummim was opposed by the Bush administration.

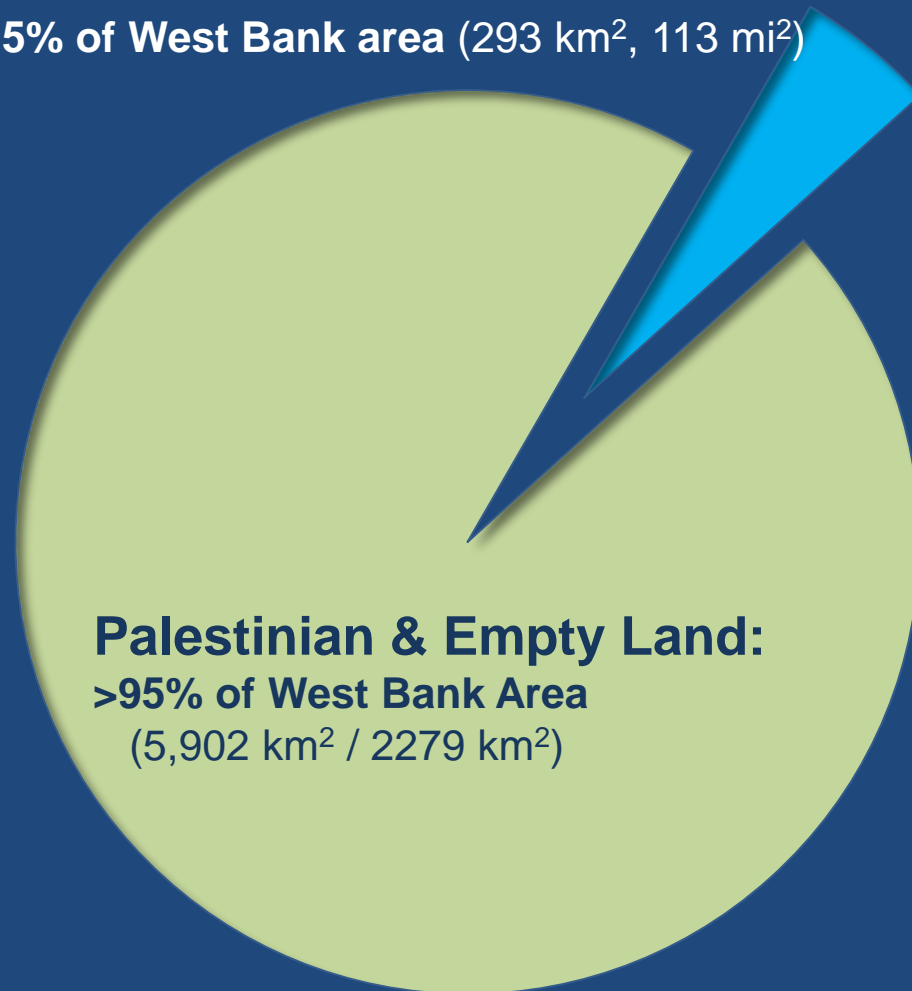
**EFRAT** Established as a settlement in 1983, Efrat now has around 8,500 residents. A suburb for commuters to Jerusalem, it is at the eastern edge of territory claimed by both Israel and the Palestinian government. Conflict over Israeli building in eastern Jerusalem and its suburbs has intensified since the Olmert-Abbas talks broke off in 2008.

*This map is based on records of the Olmert-Abbas negotiations and interviews with participants.*

# How Much Land Is At Stake?

## Israeli Settlements:

< 5% of West Bank area (293 km<sup>2</sup>, 113 mi<sup>2</sup>)



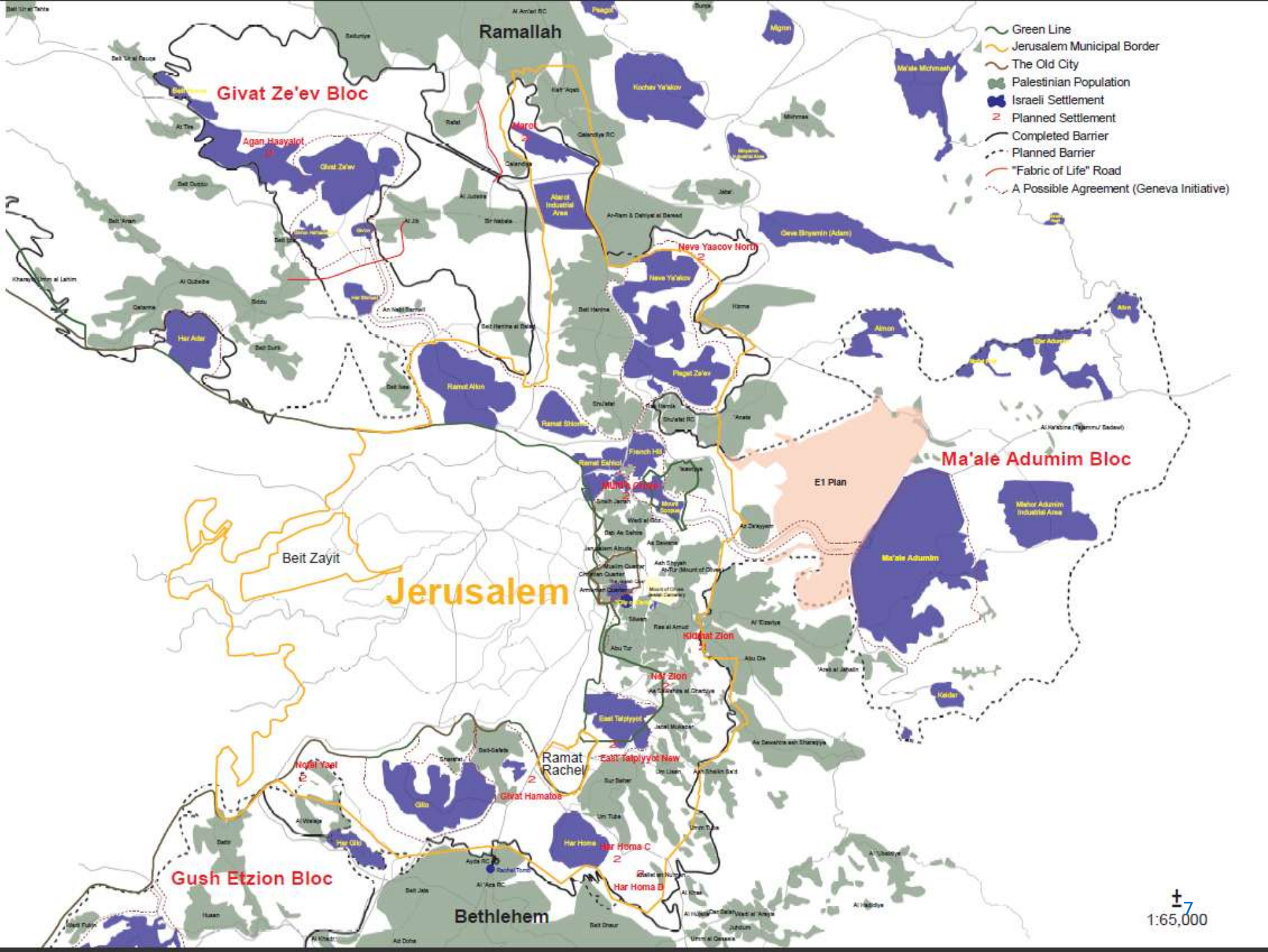
## Palestinian & Empty Land:

>95% of West Bank Area

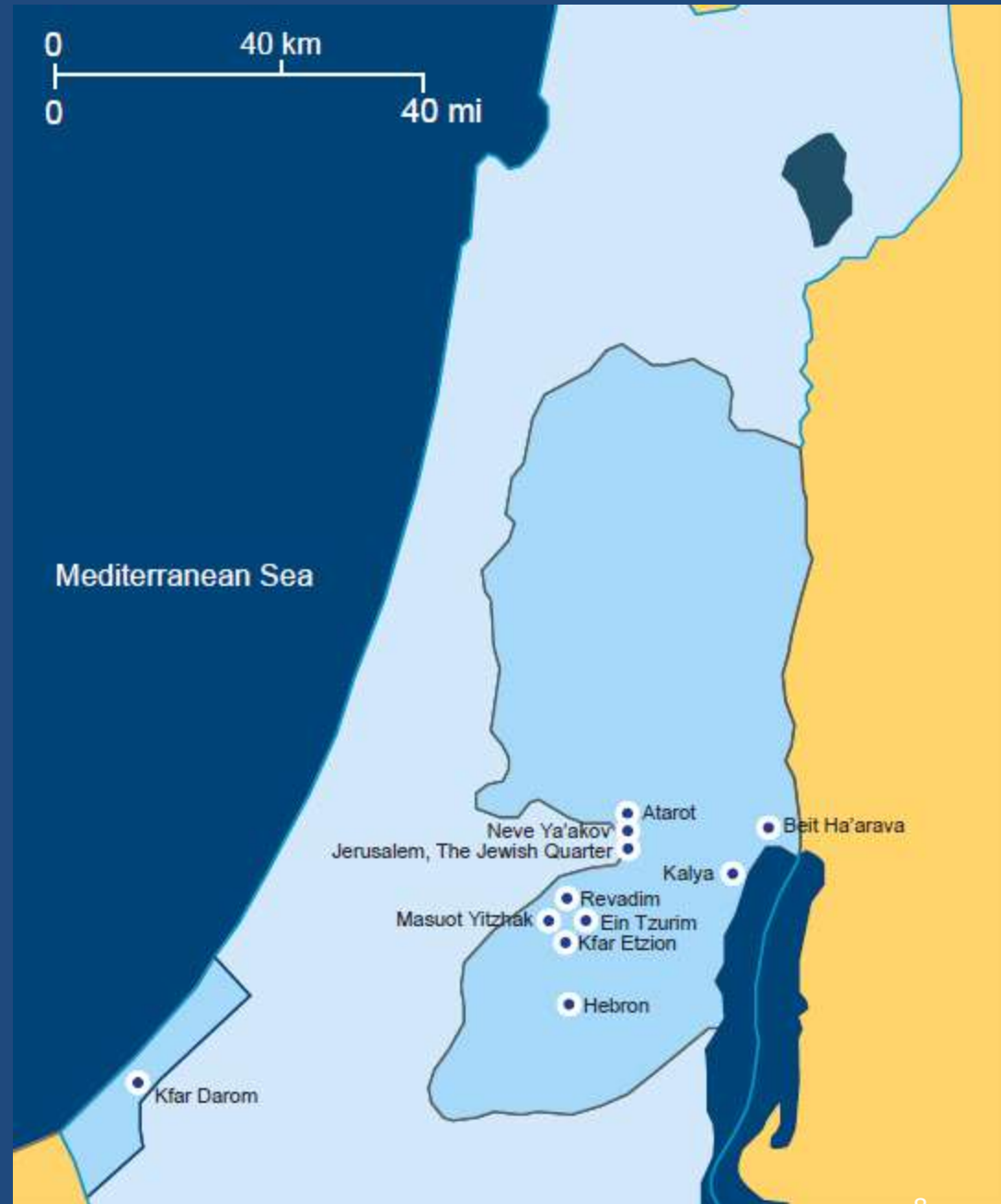
(5,902 km<sup>2</sup> / 2279 km<sup>2</sup>)

*80% of Jewish settlers live in 43 communities adjacent to "Green Line"*





# Jewish Communities Lost in the War of Independence (1947-1949)





# New Construction

## Residential Construction Update in Israel and the West Bank\*

	Starts			Under Construction			Completions		
	West Bank	Israel	%	West Bank	Israel	%	West Bank	Israel	%
2008	2,107	32,381	7%	3,192	60,908	5%	1,601	30,454	5%
2009	1,958	35,063	6%	3,295	64,052	5%	2,063	32,732	6%
2010	630	39,675	2%	2,215	70,559	3%	1,666	33,128	5%

\* Includes Israel and all occupied territories.

**Source:** Central Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Construction Bulletin.

## II. A Spectrum of Views

*“1967 lines”  
(1949 Armistice)*

*Mandatory  
Palestine (1922)*



*Tel  
Aviv*

**Jewish  
Quarter,  
Jerusalem**

**Gilo,  
J'm**

**Ma'ale  
Adumim**

**Efrat**

**Migron**

**All of Eretz  
Yisrael is the  
Jewish  
homeland**

*Jordan*

# Jewish Quarter, Jerusalem



# Hebrew University of Jerusalem

## Mount Scopus Campus





# Gilo Neighborhood, Jerusalem





# Pisgat Zeev Neighborhood, Jerusalem





# Ma'ale Adumim (pop. 34,000)





# Ariel (pop. 19,000)





# Beitar Illit (pop. 26,000)



# Efrat (pop. 8,500)





# Kfar Etzion (pop. 400)



# Kibbutz Kalia (pop. 300)





# Kibbutz Beit HaArava (pop. 100)

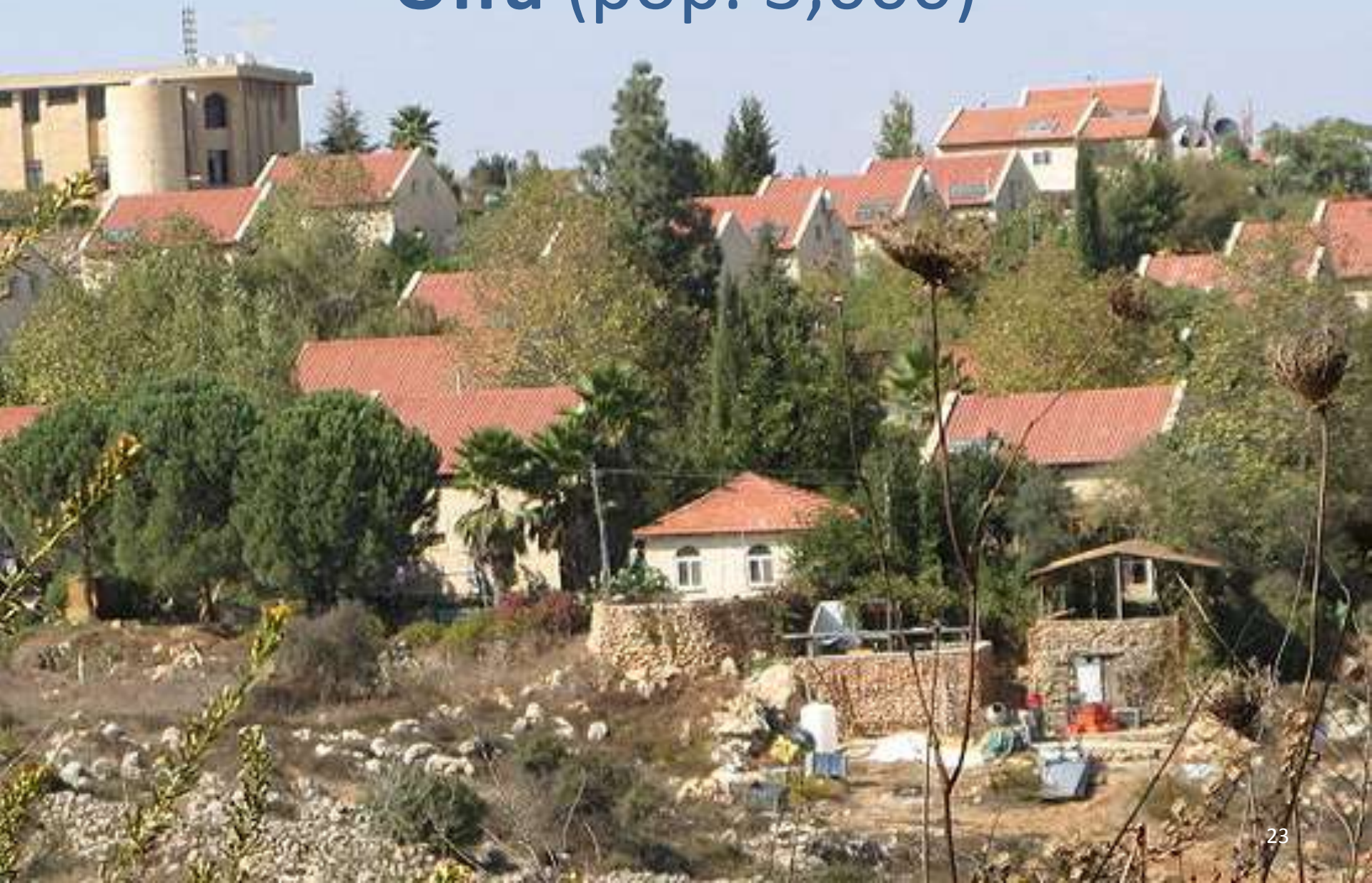


# Kiryat Arba (pop. 6,000)



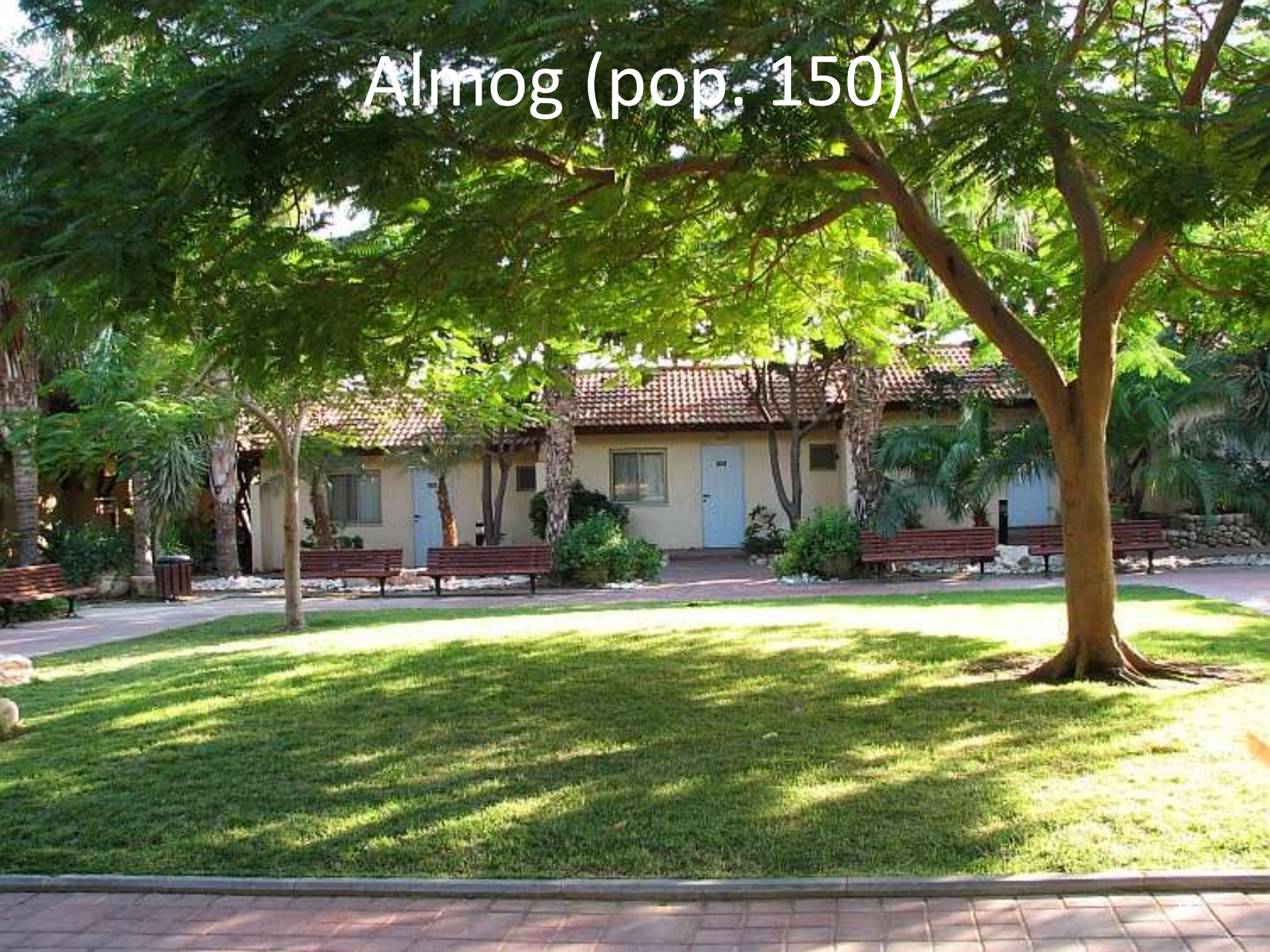


# Ofra (pop. 3,000)





# Almog (pop. 150)





# Kfar Eldad (pop. 14 families)





# Migron (pop. 50 families)





# Yamit, Sinai (evacuated 1982)



# Ofira, Sinai (evacuated 1982)





# Neve Dekalim, Gaza Strip (evacuated 2005)





# Kfar Darom, Gaza Strip (evacuated 2005)



# A Painful Sacrifice







## III. Official Views

*(Subject to change without notice!)*



# The Israeli Position

- Legal, historical, and moral claims to the land
- Willing to make sacrifices for peace
  - Will be reached only through direct negotiations
  - No concessions for *entering* negotiations
- Not building new settlements or expanding their “footprint,” no land appropriations
  - Construction only in “consensus blocs”
- Jerusalem is the undivided capital of Israel

# The Palestinian Authority

- All land captured in 1967 is the future Palestinian state
  - Jerusalem (“Al Quds”) is the capital of Palestine
- No Jews will remain in Palestine
- Continued settlement construction undermines or preempts negotiations
  - Prejudices outcome, or simply bad faith

# The U.S. Administration

- Direct negotiations are the only way to achieve peace and the two-state solution
- Negotiations should be based on 1967 lines “with mutually agreed land swaps”
- Continued settlement activity is ~~[illegitimate]~~ an unnecessary provocation



## IV. The Path to Peace



# What Will Happen To the Settlements Under a Future “Two-State Solution”?

*When a Palestinian state is established, West Bank Jewish communities may be....*

- Incorporated into Israel
  - With land swap?
- Remain in Palestine
- Be evacuated and removed

# Incorporated Into Israel?

Letter from President George W. Bush to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, April 2004:

*“In light of new realities on the ground, including already existing major Israeli populations centers, it is unrealistic to expect that the outcome of final status negotiations will be a full and complete return to the armistice lines of 1949...”*



# Imagining the Israeli-Palestinian Border

Option 1       Option 2       Option 3       Geneva Land Swap       Triangle Land Swap

Israeli to Palestinian      Israeli to Palestinian      Israeli to Palestinian      Israeli to Palestinian      Israeli to Palestinian

Palestinian to Israeli      Palestinian to Israeli      Palestinian to Israeli      Palestinian to Israeli      Palestinian to Israeli

Slider controls for each option.

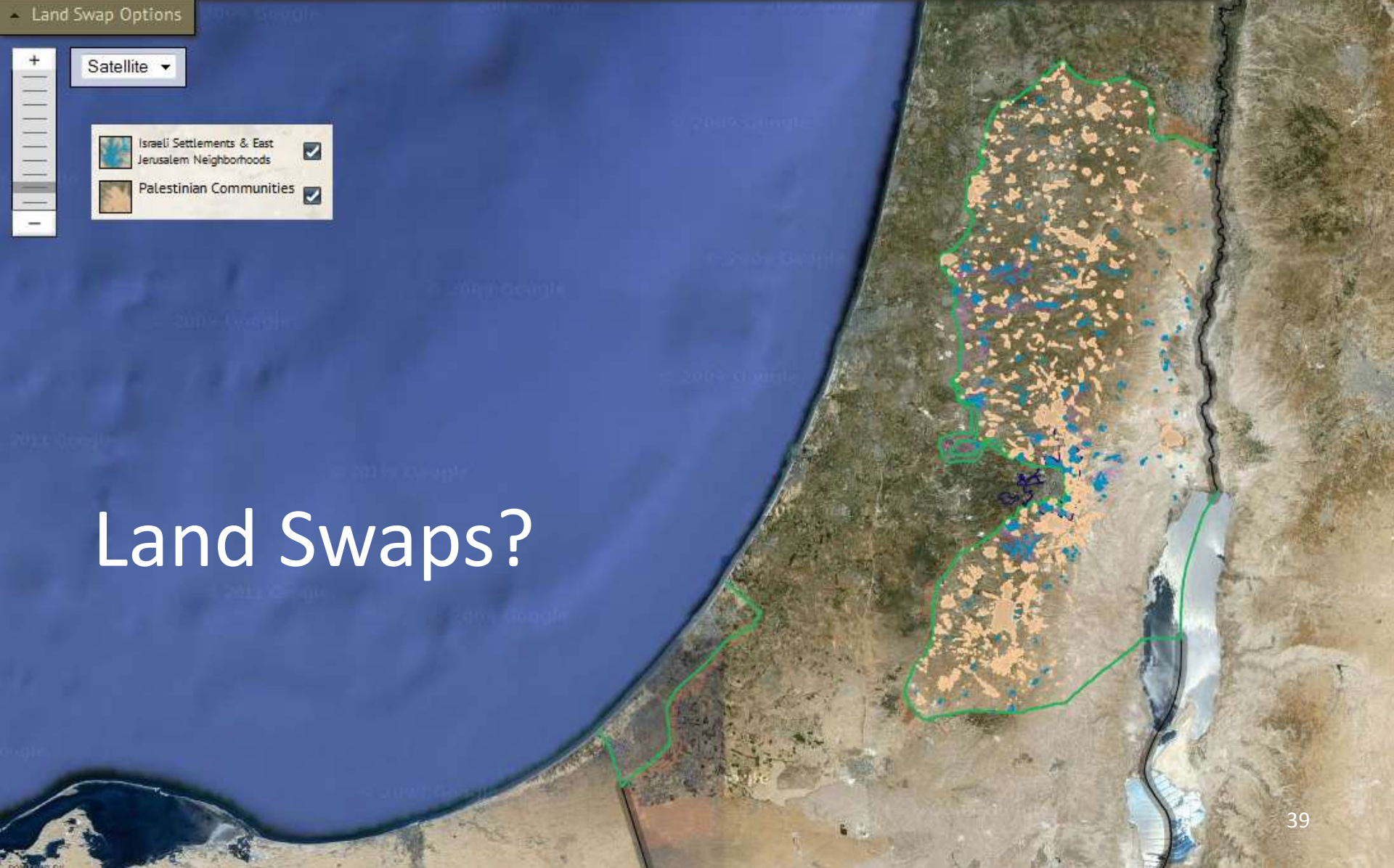
Land Swap Options

+  
-  
Map navigation controls.

Satellite

Israeli Settlements & East Jerusalem Neighborhoods

Palestinian Communities



# Land Swaps?



# Remain in a Future Palestine?

- Many examples of ethnic minorities in nation-states, usually in and near border regions
  - 2 million Hungarians in Romania
  - >1 million Germans in Russia
  - 800,000 Turks in Bulgaria
  - >1.5 million ethnic Albanians in Kosovo
- 1.5 million Palestinian Arabs are Israeli citizens
- Should Palestine exclude Jews?
  - Population exchange?

# Evacuated?

Yamit 1982



Ofira 1982



Neve Dekalim 2005



Kfar Darom 2005





# Summary

- Settlements are Jewish cities, towns and communities in the West Bank
  - “Realities on the ground”
- A spectrum of opinions:
  - All, some, or none of the settlements are unwise or illegitimate, should not be expanded, or should be removed
- In a future two-state solutions, settlements...
  - might be annexed to Israel, possibly with land swaps
  - might remain in Palestine
  - might be evacuated

