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Mounting Pessimism about Two-State Israeli- Palestinian Solution

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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About the Report

This report assesses whether publics in the Middle East believe that a way can be found for Israel and an independent Palestinian state to coexist peacefully, and how these views have changed over time. It is based on 7,001 face-to-face interviews with adults 18 and older, between April 10, 2014, and May 16, 2014 in Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, Tunisia and Turkey. For more details, see survey methods and topline results.

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Mounting Pessimism about Two-State Israeli-Palestinian Solution

In the wake of yet another breakdown in the Middle East peace process, publics in the region have little faith that a way can be found for Israel and an independent Palestinian state to coexist peacefully with each other. Majorities or pluralities in countries across the region voice the view that peaceful coexistence is not possible. And such pessimism is on the rise among many Middle Eastern publics.

These are the findings of a new survey by the Pew Research Center of 7,001 people in seven nations conducted April 10 to May 16, 2014.

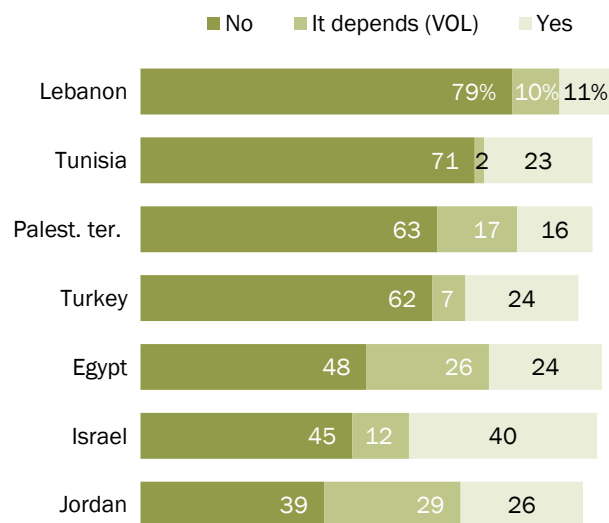
Cynicism about peaceful Israeli-Palestinian coexistence is particularly strong in Lebanon, where 79% of the public say such an outcome is not possible. This includes 93% of Shia Muslims, 72% of Christians and 69% of Sunni Muslims. Just 11% of Lebanese hold the view that the Israelis and Palestinians can live together in harmony.

But grave doubts about an Israeli-Palestinian *modus vivendi* are also expressed by a significant majority of Tunisians (71%), the Palestinians themselves (63%) and Turks (62%). Among Palestinians, 68% of those living in Gaza and 60% living on the West Bank say peaceful accommodation is impossible. Only 16% of Palestinians in the Palestinian territories see Israel and a Palestinian state coexisting peacefully.

Pluralities of Egyptians (48%) and Jordanians (39%) also say that the Israelis and Palestinians cannot learn to live together, while roughly a quarter of both publics think they can. About three-in-ten Jordanians and a quarter of Egyptians also volunteer that prospects for peaceful coexistence depend on circumstances. In Jordan, roughly four-in-ten (42%) Palestinians living there do not

Little Faith That Israelis and Palestinians Can Find Peace

Do you think a way can be found for Israel and an independent Palestinian state to coexist peacefully with each other, or not?



Source: Spring 2014 Global Attitudes survey. Q101.

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believe Israel and a Palestinian state can exist in harmony, while about a third (34%) of ethnic Jordanians are similarly pessimistic.

Israelis, overall, are less negative than their neighbors in the region about prospects for accommodation between Israelis and Palestinians, but even they are divided about such a possibility. Forty-five percent of Israelis say their country cannot coexist peacefully with a Palestinian nation, while 40% express the view that such mutual accommodation is possible.

But views of the future are sharply divided along ethnic and religious lines within Israel. Israeli Arabs (13%) are far less pessimistic about a two-state solution than are Jews (50%). In fact, 64% of Israeli Arabs say coexistence is possible. Only 37% of Jews in Israel agree. And, among Jews, there are deep divisions along religious lines on this issue. Three-quarters (76%) of self-described Orthodox Jews say Israel and an independent Palestinian state cannot coexist.¹ Roughly half (53%) of self-identified Traditional Jews agree. But Secular Jews are more optimistic, with only 38% expressing the view that a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian problem is impossible. Nearly half (48%) of these Seculars say the two nations can live in harmony.

Attitudes about prospects for a two-state solution are in flux. In a number of countries in the region there is mounting doubt about the possibility of peaceful coexistence between Israel and a Palestinian state. Such pessimism is up 15 percentage points in Turkey, 14 points in Tunisia and eight points in Egypt since 2013. Moreover, wariness about a two-state solution has grown among two pivotal publics: Jews in Israel and ethnic Jordanians. In both groups, pessimism is up eight points.

Mounting Pessimism about Israeli-Palestinian Peace

% saying Israel and an independent Palestinian state **cannot** coexist peacefully with each other

	2013	2014	Change
	%	%	
Turkey	47	62	+15
Tunisia	57	71	+14
Egypt	40	48	+8
Israel	38	45	+7
Jews	42	50	+8
Arabs	13	13	0
Jordan	34	39	+5
Ethnic Jordanians	26	34	+8
Palestinians	40	42	+2
Palest. ter.	61	63	+2
West Bank	56	60	+4
Gaza	69	68	-1
Lebanon	80	79	-1
Christians	67	72	+5
Sunnis	78	69	-9
Shias	95	93	-2

Source: Spring 2014 Global Attitudes survey. Q101.

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¹ Orthodox Jews include respondents who define themselves religiously as Haredi or Dati, Traditional Jews are those who define themselves as Masorti and Secular Jews are those who define themselves as Hiloni. Due to sample size, we are not able to analyze separately the attitudes of Haredi and Dati Jews.

Methods in Detail

About the 2014 Spring Pew Global Attitudes Survey

Results for the survey are based on face-to-face interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. Survey results are based on national samples. For further details on sample designs, see below.

The descriptions below show the margin of sampling error based on all interviews conducted in that country. For results based on the full sample in a given country, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus the margin of error. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Country: **Egypt**
 Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by governorates and urbanity
 Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
 Languages: Arabic
 Fieldwork dates: April 10 – April 29, 2014
 Sample size: 1,000
 Margin of Error: ±4.3 percentage points
 Representative: Adult population (excluding frontier governorates, or about 2% of the population)

Country: **Israel**
 Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by district, urbanity, and socioeconomic status, with an oversample of Arabs
 Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
 Languages: Hebrew, Arabic
 Fieldwork dates: April 24 – May 11, 2014
 Sample size: 1,000 (597 Jews, 388 Arabs, 15 others)
 Margin of Error: ±4.3 percentage points
 Representative: Adult population (The data were weighted to reflect the actual distribution of Jews, Arabs and others in Israel.)

Country:	Jordan
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by governorate and urbanity
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	Arabic
Fieldwork dates:	April 11 – April 29, 2014
Sample size:	1,000
Margin of Error:	±4.5 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population
Country:	Lebanon
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by region and urbanity
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	Arabic
Fieldwork dates:	April 11 – May 2, 2014
Sample size:	1,000
Margin of Error:	±4.1 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population (excluding a small area in Beirut controlled by a militia group and a few villages in the south of Lebanon, which border Israel and are inaccessible to outsiders, or about 2% of the population)
Country:	Palestinian territories
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by region and urban/rural/refugee camp population
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	Arabic
Fieldwork dates:	April 15 – April 22, 2014
Sample size:	1,000
Margin of Error:	±4.4 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population (excluding Bedouins who regularly change residence and some communities near Israeli settlements where military restrictions make access difficult, or roughly 5% of the population)

Country: **Tunisia**
Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by governorate and urbanity
Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages: Tunisian Arabic
Fieldwork dates: April 19 – May 9, 2014
Sample size: 1,000
Margin of Error: ±4.0 percentage points
Representative: Adult population

Country: **Turkey**
Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by region, urbanity and settlement size
Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages: Turkish
Fieldwork dates: April 11 – May 16, 2014
Sample size: 1,001
Margin of Error: ±4.5 percentage points
Representative: Adult population

Topline Results

**Pew Research Center
Spring 2014 survey
June 25, 2014 Release**

Methodological notes:

- Survey results are based on national samples. For further details on sample designs, see Survey Methods section.
- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%. The topline “total” columns show 100%, because they are based on unrounded numbers.
- Not all questions included in the Spring 2014 survey are presented in this topline. Omitted questions have either been previously released or will be released in future reports.

		Q101 Do you think a way can be found for Israel and an independent Palestinian state to coexist peacefully with each other, or not?				
		Yes	No	It depends (VOL)	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2014	24	62	7	8	100
	Spring, 2013	19	47	11	22	100
Egypt	Spring, 2014	24	48	26	2	100
	Spring, 2013	26	40	31	3	100
Jordan	Spring, 2014	26	39	29	6	100
	Spring, 2013	29	34	26	10	100
Lebanon	Spring, 2014	11	79	10	1	100
	Spring, 2013	11	80	8	1	100
Palest. ter.	Spring, 2014	16	63	17	4	100
	Spring, 2013	14	61	22	4	100
Tunisia	Spring, 2014	23	71	2	4	100
	Spring, 2013	32	57	7	4	100
Israel	Spring, 2014	40	45	12	3	100
	Spring, 2013	50	38	9	2	100