

## Waiting for Godot?

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Recently, Bernd Rütters and Clemens Höpfner lamented about a "creeping erosion of constitutional principles." What both legal scholars related to mutations in academic training courses can be applied to politics, either: The priority of the Bundestag to political decision-making is in danger. The executive branch usually acts as a sovereign with the heads of factions in tow. With this invasion into the constitutional provisions of power separation deputies in their constituency are confronted in conversations when it comes to the the delivery of "Leopard 2" tanks to Saudi Arabia or to the governmental refutation to provide Palestine a full-membership status at the United Nations.

As in order to compensate the harmful developments no one would entertain the dream about the charisma of those in government to be bestowed with exceptional qualities. On the contrary, some features a Greek tragedy seem to be apparent, so when Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle utilized the special German-Israeli relations as an argument against Palestinian national independence. How come that Chancellor Angela Merkel has confidence in an Israeli government, after she denied its political trustworthiness in February? Why does the Social-Democratic opposition party reach out to an ethnocentric approach when it "wishes to emphasise that the resolution of the refugee problem must not jeopardise the Jewish character of the State of Israel?" The Arab Peace Initiative repeated in 2002 that the precondition of a "just solution" is the consensual agreement of all parties concerned – not to mention the detailed proposals of the Geneva Accord of 2003.

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The official willingness to "recognize a Palestinian state when it is appropriate" means to abandon sense of proportion and vision. Then, he or she who ignores them should have the courage to give a farewell to the mantra of the two-state solution. And who – as nowadays opined in a paper by the Foreign Office – alleges that a successful transformation of the "diversity and contradictions of the current situation" in Egypt and Tunisia will provide "medium term" a positive impact on the Middle East conflict, is waiting for Godot.

Yes, the Arab upheavals against the old systems of despotism and oppression bear some inherent strategic risks that do not stop at the Israelis borders. But by means to preserve the classical regional conflict a further bloody dramatization is prearranged. When we did not want the PLO, we got Hamas, and he or she who does not want Hamas, will be confronted with Al-Qaeda, Akiva Eldar commented in "Haaretz" –: The political immobility of Benjamin Netanyahu is on the way to support anew the basic slogan "Islam is the solution". Since the transitional governments in Cairo and Amman are more reliant than ever on the emphatic loyalty of their citizens, even the peace agreements with the neighbor are up for debate.

There are some assessments that a Palestinian "non-state member" status will undoubtedly deny the PLO the right to go to Den Haag. Is this the case other states could be inclined to act as "deputies" to lead the procedures at the International Criminal Court to clear supposed Israeli human rights violations according to the UN Charta. Therefore, opponents of Palestine should wage the idea whether Mahmoud Abbas is politically more trustworthy than governments which lack democratic credentials.

Until then Abbas is threatened to be crushed between the antagonistic frontlines. But both peoples – as Abba Eban stressed almost forty years ago – are chained together by the fate of contemporary history and the definitive claim to the same land. Just a small number of governments like in Berlin want to maintain their

political faithfulness to the Israeli prime minister even in the historically notorious "Black September" as Tom Segev noted lately. The misinterpretation of chances for a conflict resolution is complete. To repeat the incantation of "parameters" is not enough.

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