Israel/Palestine: Will It Ever End?

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Session: Fall 2018 – Session I

Dates: September 11, 2018 – October 16
Time: Tuesday, 10:30 – 12:30
Location: Leeds building

Schedule of topics:

Week 1 – Introduction
➢ Review of course
➢ Expectations of participants
➢ Basic geography and clarifying terminology
➢ Understanding the two narratives (Israeli and Palestinian)

Week 2 - Who are the Palestinians, why are they unhappy and what do they want?
➢ History/demography/current issues
➢ Presentation based on 6 trips to Israel/Palestine and meetings with dozens of politicians, religious leaders, NGO’s, academics and international observers
➢ 1967 and “the occupation”, the “wall” and the “settlers”

Week 3 – Who are the Israelis, where do they come from and what do they want?
➢ The history of anti-Semitism in Western Europe, and the rise of Zionism
➢ The legacy of the Holocaust
➢ Today’s complex Israeli society

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Week 4 - What does it mean to be a “Jewish State”?

➢ Israel defines itself as a “Jewish and Democratic State”. We will examine the legal framework and practical consequences for both Jews and non-Jews living as citizens of the State of Israel

Week 5 - The issue of the Palestinian refugees

➢ 68 years ago about ¾ million Palestinians fled what became Israel. But today, according to the UN there are still over 5 million Palestinian refugees.
➢ How can this be? What can be done about it? What is the “right of return”? Is it feasible?

Week 6 - Conclusion/discussion

➢ What are the issues that need to be resolved?
➢ Will a 2 state solution really solve the issue?
➢ If so, why can’t they just agree and get on with it?
➢ If not, is there any solution? What would it look like? Could it happen?