

Abstract

The present research examines and answers the question of why was Norway successful in mediating the Palestinian - Israeli conflict where other powers failed? By a careful examination of the foreign policy of Norway as a Small Power concerned with its security, and by examining the principal actors in the formation of Norway's foreign policy especially regarding its policy toward Israel, Palestine and the Arab Israeli Conflict it become clear that Norway's historic (since the 1940's) interest and support for (1) the Zionist movement , (2) Israel and the personal involvement of the Norwegian Labor leadership with that of the Israeli labor leadership placed Norway as an ally of Israel in its conflict with the Palestinian. Israel thus was confident of Norway's support as a mediator. The Palestinians, not Knowing much about Norway's policies, accepted her as a mediator thinking that it would pursue a " neutral " policy.

To carry out this research , this writer utilized written sources in Arabic and English, and examined unpublished papers on Norway's foreign policy, and interviewed a number of Palestinians with Knowledge of Oslo process.

The first chapter of the thesis provides background information about the historical development of Norway and its political system. The second chapter deals with the foreign policy since WW II to illustrate its general political trends. The third chapter discusses the factors that affect the Norwegian policy as to the Palestinian issue. In chapter four, the

researcher illustrates the actual implementation of the Norwegian policy towards the Palestinian issue. In chapter five, the researcher tackles the Declaration of Principles, and how and why it was achieved.

The Norwegian policy vis-a-vis the Palestinian has always been in the Israeli interest, and is still so.