

## Abstract

The city of Jerusalem plays a unique and special role in the religious, historical and cultural life of the Muslims, Christians, and Jews. It is considered the most important city in Palestine and perhaps in the world. For this reason, the city was a field of conflicts, and invasions through its history, which witnessed a continuous conflict between the Arab countries and Israel during the last five decades. Since, Arabs and Israelis claimed the city, the United Nations issued a resolution (number 181) in 1947 which gave Jerusalem a special international position and did not include it in Palestine or Israel.

The United States of America played an essential role in the construction of the United Nations resolutions which are concerned with Jerusalem. Despite this fact, The United States policy concerning Jerusalem was influenced by its internal and international concerns, and by the fact that it wanted to play the role of mediator between the Arabs and the Israelis. For this reason, the United States wanted to maintain its interests in the Middle East, by avoiding the Arabs and Muslims counter reaction against its position. At the same time, the United States avoided the anger of Israel or the pro-Israelis in the United States.

The United States supported the resolution of dividing Palestine (number 181) which included the internationalization of Jerusalem. When Israel occupied East-Jerusalem in 1967, and later included the city under its borders, the United States continued considering East Jerusalem as part of the occupied land, therefore it regarded the Israeli activities in the city unacceptable. It rejected the transfer of its embassy from Tel-Aviv to Jerusalem in accordance with other nations. It rejected the transfer of the embassy in spite of the fact that this issue was one of the main elements that were included in the United States presidential election campaign promises.

Despite the decision that was taken by the Congress in the beginning of the 1990's which rules the embassy transfer, the American interests in the Middle East region were the motivation for such position, despite the great pressure in which Israel, Congress, and their correlation's have exerted on the United States.

During the peace process, the United States motivated the direction towards delaying and leaving the Jerusalem case as a secondary subject of negotiation. It has rejected exerting any pressure on Israel to comply with the International resolutions. Where it gives the excuse of its position by stating that the peace deal must be reached through the conflict parties without external pressure.

After, Madrid conference was set out, and the signing of Oslo agreement in 1993, and the subsequent agreements, the United States concentrated in its policy on regarding the agreements as a frame-reference for the discussion of the Jerusalem case, as a substitute for the International resolutions. It is well known, that the done agreements include no solution of this case, but only has treated it with time element of postponing its discussion and negotiation.

The extent of the discussion reached its maximum, about Jerusalem, when the United States brought the Palestinians and Israelis into Camp David for fourteen days of discussion. All the reports that were coming out of the negotiations have agreed that the United States concentrated its pressure on the Palestinian side. This is to accept suggestions that are in contradiction with international resolutions through dividing East Jerusalem into shared, and separate dominance. Those negotiations have failed, and the Issue of Jerusalem still waiting to be solved.