

The problems associated with the temple mount have been addressed by many people. Although none of these suggestions have been implemented, they carry the pieces necessary to make a workable solution. No single solution has all of the steps that are essential to make a decent solution.

Attempted solutions

The first example of a peaceful solution to the temple mount problem was suggested by Saeb Erekat, the chief negotiator of the Palestinian Authority, in a 2009 conference with George Mitchell, the US Middle East envoy, David Hale, Mitchell's deputy, and Jonathan Schwartz, the then-U.S. State Department legal adviser. At this conference, Erekat suggested that control of the temple mount be given over to a United Nations committee and that the Clinton Parameters formula be instituted. The Clinton Parameters formula, as pertaining to the temple mount, states that Israel would receive sovereignty over the Western Wall and that Israel would gain "symbolic ownership" of the temple mount with both sides sharing power over the issue of excavation under the temple mount. (Swisher, 2011)

The problem with this solution is that it does not entirely address the issue. The Jews are still left without their temple, which is the main problem. This solution would only create larger problems because angry protests and demonstrations would escalate due to the fact that a deal was made regarding the temple mount that did not end with them getting what they want. This would start armed conflict in the area which could potentially involve much of the region and the world.



Saeb Erekat, taken from the 2009 negotiations:

Erekat: "It's solved. You have the Clinton Parameters formula. For the Old City sovereignty for Palestine, except the Jewish quarter and part of the Armenian quarter ... the Haram can be left to be discussed - there are creative ways, having a body or a committee, having undertakings for example not to dig [excavations under the Al Aqsa mosque]. The only thing I cannot do is convert to Zionism."

Schwartz: To confirm to Sen. Mitchell, [this is] your private idea ...

Erekat: This conversation is in my private capacity.

Schwartz: We've heard the idea from others. So you're not the first to raise it.

Erekat: Others are not the chief negotiator of the PLO.



Rabbi Zalman Baruch Melamed

Another attempt at a peaceful solution was by a Jewish Rabbi, Zalman Baruch Melamed, founder of Arutz Sheva, the Israel Nation News Network. Many Jews will only accept an “all or nothing” solution. Because of that mentality, they have received just that, nothing. Melamed says that unless Jews start taking small steps to achieve the building of their

temple, it would never happen. Melamed suggests that the Jewish people demand that the temple mount be made off limits to everyone in order to prevent the temple mount’s continued desecration by the Muslims. (Melamed, n.d.) The problem with this solution is it creates a lose-lose situation where no one gets what they want. It takes away an important Islamic site and it doesn’t even give the Jews what they want! It is a “spoiled child” type response that says, “If I can’t have what I want, then you can’t either.” All this would do is create another group that doesn’t have access to their holy site on the temple mount.

The last attempt this paper will address was made by Yisrayl Hawkins, a famous Israeli peace promoter, educator and author. Hawkins suggests that it is possible for the two structures, the dome of the rock mosque and the Jewish temple, to share the temple mount. Using biblical measurements from the book of Ezekiel, he has determined that the Jewish temple can be built without necessitating the destruction of the dome of the rock. The two structures would be divided by a “privacy wall”

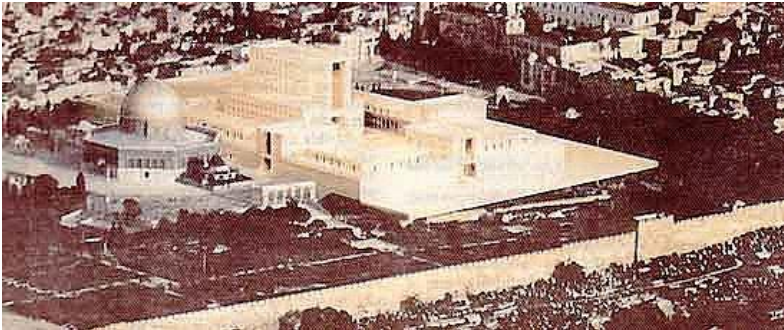


“I believe we must demand the closure of the Temple Mount completely. This is the first step: to do away with the disgrace of the Temple Mount being used as a place for non-Jewish worship. By closing off the Temple Mount, we will have at least cast off the humiliation. We will have erased, to some degree, the disgrace of the Temple's destruction, and of our only-partial sovereignty on the Mount. This is what we must demand of the government.”
– Melamed



Yisrayl Hawkins

to discourage the two groups to intermingle or come into any form of conflict. (Hawkins, 2012) Although this solution sounds great in theory, it shows a very simplistic and naive approach to the issue. Neither side, the Jews and Muslims, are constant in their stance on the issue. There are radicals in power in Jerusalem on both sides which will not allow their side to share the temple mount. Given the current power in Jerusalem, there is great potential for conflict.



“We do not need to fight over the Temple Mount. We can and should build the Temple on the vacant land where the Temple stood before, and we should build a dividing wall to separate the Arab worshipers from the Jewish worshipers. It's that simple!” - Hawkins

The Solution

I propose that control of Jerusalem be given over to a United Nations committee and that the Jewish temple be built next to the existing Dome of the Rock mosque. This would remove the radicals from their seats of power in Jerusalem and give the power to a committee made up of people who are impartial to either side. With the United Nations in charge, they would also be in charge of police forces in Jerusalem. With an impartial police force keeping the peace and guarding both sides of the temple mount, both religions would be free to worship on the temple mount in their own way without being threatened by the other group. (Swisher, 2011) Each group would have what they want and the city would become a more stable region free from oppression and fear.



Control of Jerusalem needs to be given to the United Nations to ensure non-partisan policies



Those who have led others to believe the temple mount can't be shared will not be in major positions of influence in Jerusalem

This represents a better approach to the issue. Both sides will be able to freely worship in their holy sanctuary on the holy mount and an impartial police will maintain peace between them. The wall in between their sanctuaries, guarded by police, will keep them from fighting and from even seeing each other. There will even be separate entrances to prevent them from crossing paths. (Hawkins, 2012) The leaders who have been leading their people to believe that they

can't share the temple mount will not be in power any more, and therefore their opinions will not lead the people to think that way anymore. The only major problem that will arise from this solution is crowd control. (Hawkins, 2012) All members of either of these religions and even tourists will flock to see and to worship at these holy sites as opposed to the other solutions that end with bloodshed.

In conclusion, many people have attempted unsuccessfully to implement various solutions as to who should own the temple mount. I propose that control of Jerusalem be given over to a United Nations committee and that the Jewish temple be built next to the existing Dome of the Rock mosque. From my research, this is the only solution that will satisfy both sides and avoid conflict.

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