

# **The Middle East Peace Process in the 1990s**

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## **Abstract**

The decade of 1990's can be regarded as a period in which necessary action was taken to negotiate a permanent solution to Israel-Palestine conflict. From 1948 onwards several terrorists' movements appeared and hostilities became aggravated in the Persian Gulf region. The UNO and the USA intervened to bring about a peaceful solution, but most efforts were fruitless until 1990.

Following talks in Madrid and subsequent Norwegian mediated negotiations, Israel and the PLO established mutual recognition on 10th September 1993. Later Israel and the PLO officially signed "Oslo Peace Accord" at the White House in Washington D.C. referred to as a declaration of principles on interim self-government arrangements. The agreement opened the way for an interim Palestine self government and successive Israeli withdrawals from the occupied Palestinian territory. The transfer of power from Israel to the Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho began 1994. Elections for the Palestinian council and Presidency of the Palestinian Authority were held in 1996. Israel pledged to support the Palestinians effort to build their economy.

The peace process however, remained deeply problematic.. The extremists on both sides continued to undermine the peace process. The Jewish extremists refused to leave the Jewish colonies in occupied areas. The Palestinian militant group Hamas charged Arafat with betraying the Palestinian cause and threatened violence. The Jewish extremists assassinated Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister who was dedicated to the peace process .Successive Prime Ministers Netanyahu and Sharon refused to parley with Palestinians and reversed the peace process.

***Key words - PLO , Hamas***