

**ANOTHER VIEWPOINT**  
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**A STATE OF PALESTINE CAN BE ECONOMICALLY VIABLE**

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The declaration of an independent State of Palestine has posed a new the question of economic viability of such a state. Until now few have considered the economic question seriously. Assertions and conclusions regarding the economic viability of a state of Palestine have, nevertheless, been fed to the media with great conviction, although with little evidence or documentation. The comments have usually come from two different groups: One group of commentators has tended to defer the economic question altogether, proclaiming the issue of Palestine as primarily political. The implication of this argument is that once the political problem has been solved, the economic issue will be resolved too. The other group, though agreeing on the importance of the political dimension, has not hesitated to conclude that an independent State of Palestine in the Occupied Territories would not be economically viable. Strangely enough this group has sometimes included Palestinian Arabs who dismiss the economic viability question as irrelevant in order to concentrate their emphasis on the political issues.

While these two groups have overshadowed the few serious attempt to study the economic prospects of a Palestinian State economy, evidently neither of them has done any study or analysis of the economy of the projected state. Few commentators have bothered to explain what they mean by economic viability. They have rarely considered the political terms

