

Psychosocial Aspects of the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict

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Much is debated about resolutions to the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians from a political point of view, but until deeper psychological issues are addressed, the conflict can continue to be intractable. Several psychological dynamics that need to be addressed include personal and collective identity, the role of humiliation/shame and pride, and use of “coping” or “defense” mechanisms as projection and identification with the aggressor. Several valiant attempts to effect reconciliation and mutual understanding have been made applying psychosocial techniques like storytelling, dialoguing, and even mind-body connection, as well as using print and electronic media. These projects have met varying success and faced many challenges.

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