

Perceptions and Attitudes towards the Two-State Solution in the West Bank

1- 6 April 2026



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Context

- ❑ The West Bank is experiencing a period of heightened political tension and uncertainty which have affected people's political attitudes and expectations and concerns about the future.
- ❑ The Institute for Social and Economic Progress (ISEP) commissioned and conducted a representative poll in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) between 1- 6 April 2026.
- ❑ Some findings of this research are contingent on the events that are still unfolding and might change over the course of the war and beyond.

Executive summary (1/3)

- This report is made of four sections, together composing a comprehensive picture of the Palestinian public's take on the political reality of the day as well as attitudes and expectations for the future:
 - Section (1) examines support for a two-state solution and preferred political settlements
 - Section (2) explores perceptions of Israeli society, intent, and the prospects for peace
 - Section (3) investigates awareness of and reactions to recent Israeli cabinet decisions on West Bank land and Palestinian Authority powers
 - Section (4) looks at fears and concerns about the near-term situation in the West Bank

Executive summary – main findings (2/3)

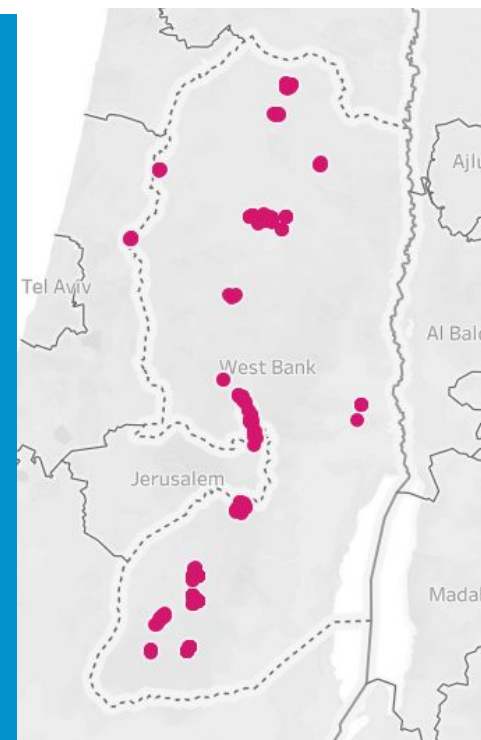
- ❑ A majority of respondents are willing to accept a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders, a position that has remained stable since September 2025. However, the most common reason among supporters is a desire for any outcome that ends the conflict rather than a principled endorsement, and opinions on preferred political settlements are divided, with a significant share preferring none of the options presented.
- ❑ This nominal support sits in sharp tension with profound pessimism about feasibility. An overwhelming majority regard implementation as very unlikely in the near future, few believe Israelis would accept such an arrangement, and roughly one in four believe it would permanently end the conflict. A majority hold that the occupation will not end unless one side completely defeats the other.

Executive summary – main findings (3/3)

- ❑ Skepticism about Israeli intentions is broadly shared. Most respondents do not believe Israelis have a genuine desire for peace, fewer than three in ten see moderate sectors within Israeli society, and a strong majority affirm Palestinians' exclusive right to the land and describe a long history of unfair aggression against them.
- ❑ More than half of respondents had not heard of recent Israeli cabinet decisions on land registration and Palestinian Authority powers. Among those who had, a majority understood their content, two in five expect the impact to extend into Area B, and a majority anticipate effects on their daily life.
- ❑ Fear is pervasive across the West Bank — escalating Israeli army violence is the leading concern, felt most acutely in the South, followed by movement restrictions, economic deterioration, settler violence, internal chaos, and annexation.

Methodology

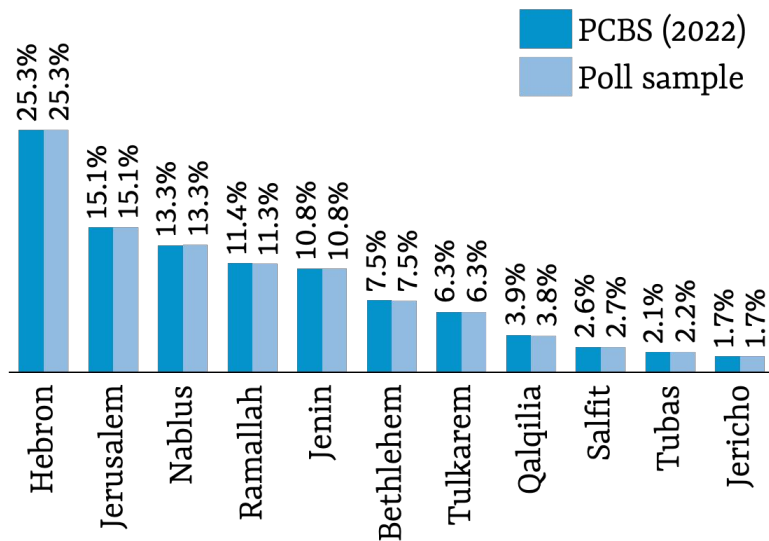
- **Data collection approach:**
 - ◆ Street-intercept surveys within counting areas
 - ◆ Face-to-face interviews
 - ◆ 41 close-ended questions
 - ◆ Stratified random sampling in the West Bank



Sample distribution - Geographical location (West Bank)

Sample distribution

By governorate



Target population:

West Bank (including East Jerusalem)

Aged 15 years or older

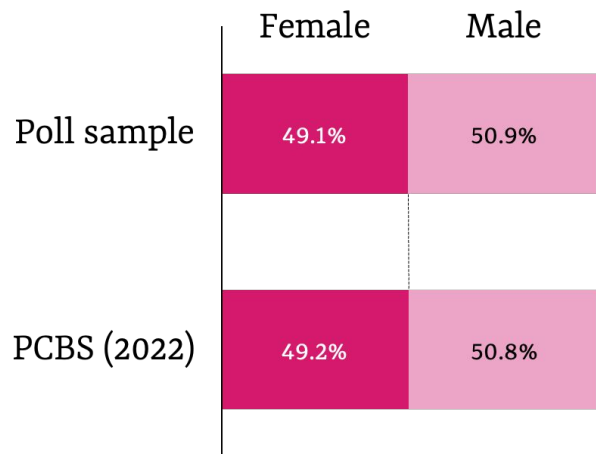
Sample size:

West Bank - 600 respondents from 50 random locations

Sample distribution - Gender and age (West Bank)

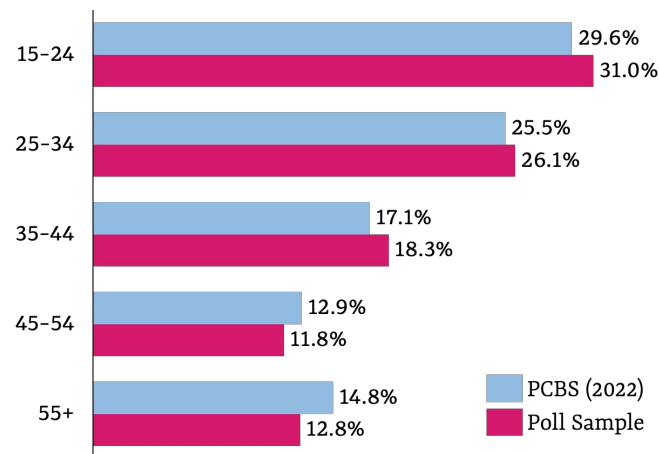
Sample distribution

By Gender



Sample distribution

By age

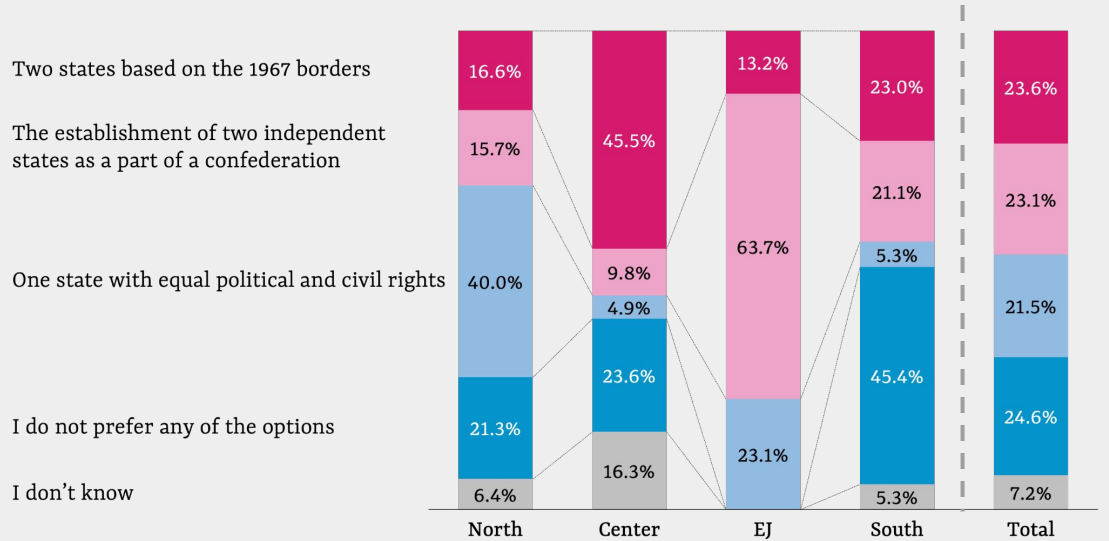


The Two-State Solution

Attitudes & Perceptions

When respondents are asked to choose their preferred solution, no one solution receives majority support and 1 in 4 prefer none

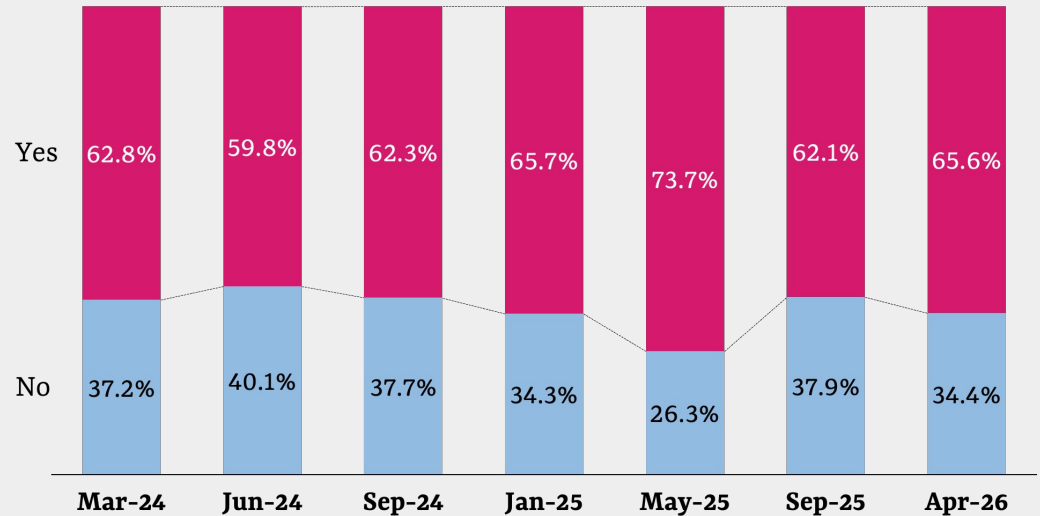
When considering all the possibilities for a future political settlement with the Israelis, which one do you prefer?



* a single-answer multiple-choice question

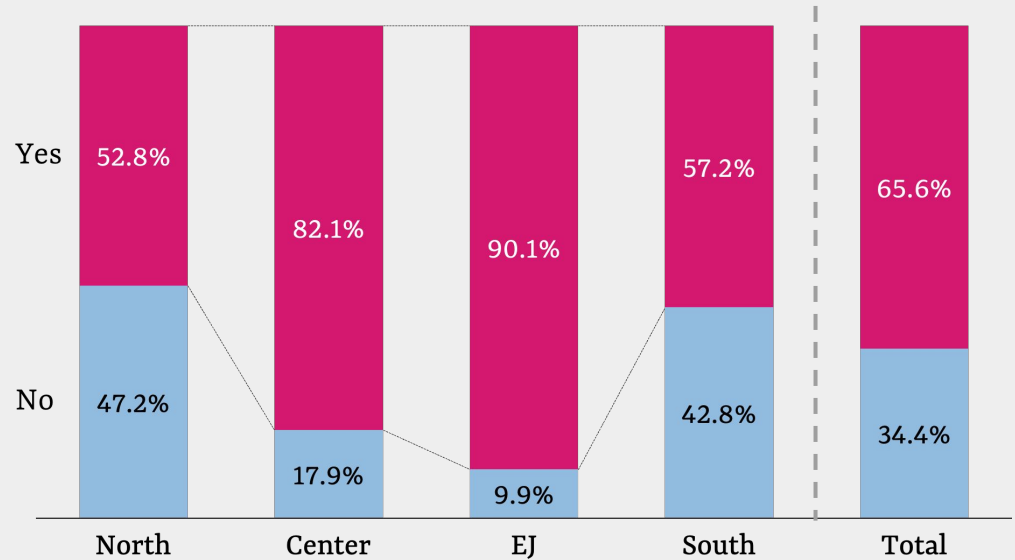
However, when asked if they are willing to accept a two-state in the event of serious negotiations, a majority (65.6%) responds positively

In the event of serious negotiations, would you accept a state on the 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital?



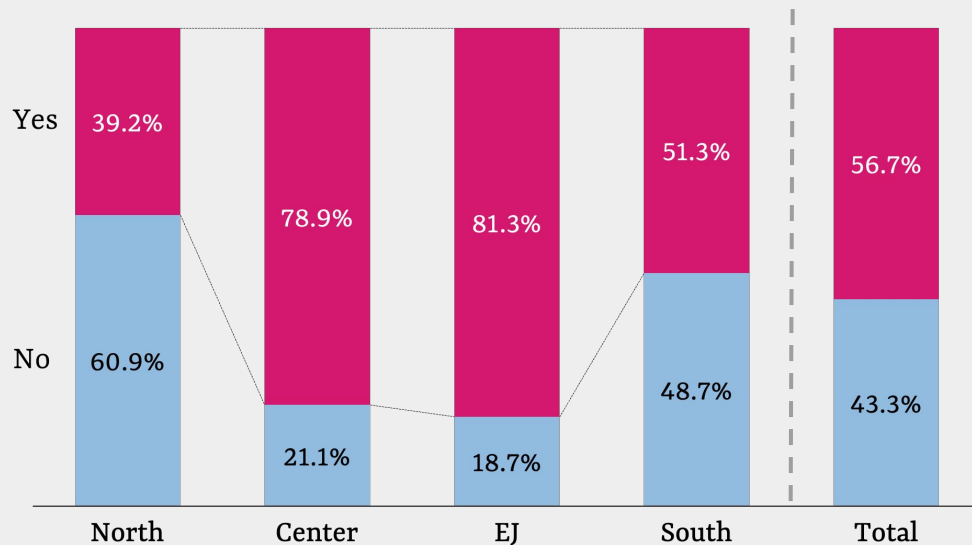
...with willingness to support this solution being strongest in the center of the West Bank and East Jerusalem

In the event of serious negotiations, would you accept a state on the 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital?



Over half (56.7%) believe a two-state solution is suitable for Palestinians, with higher support from East Jerusalem and Center

Do you believe that the two-state solution is a suitable solution for the Palestinians?



Most of those who believe this solution is suitable say they support any solution that stops the conflict; a third believe it is realistic

Why do you think a two-state solution is suitable?

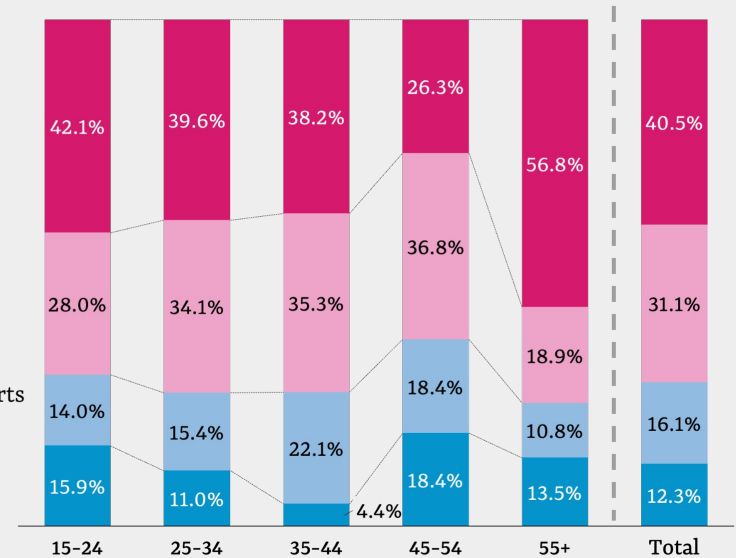
| those who believe the two-state solution is suitable

I support any solution that stops the conflict

It is a realistic solution

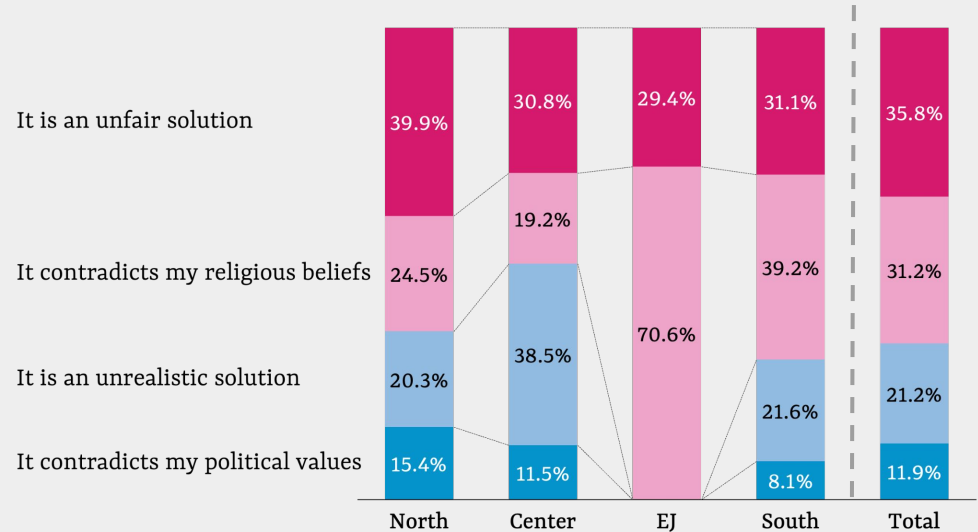
My political stance supports the two-state solution

It is a fair solution



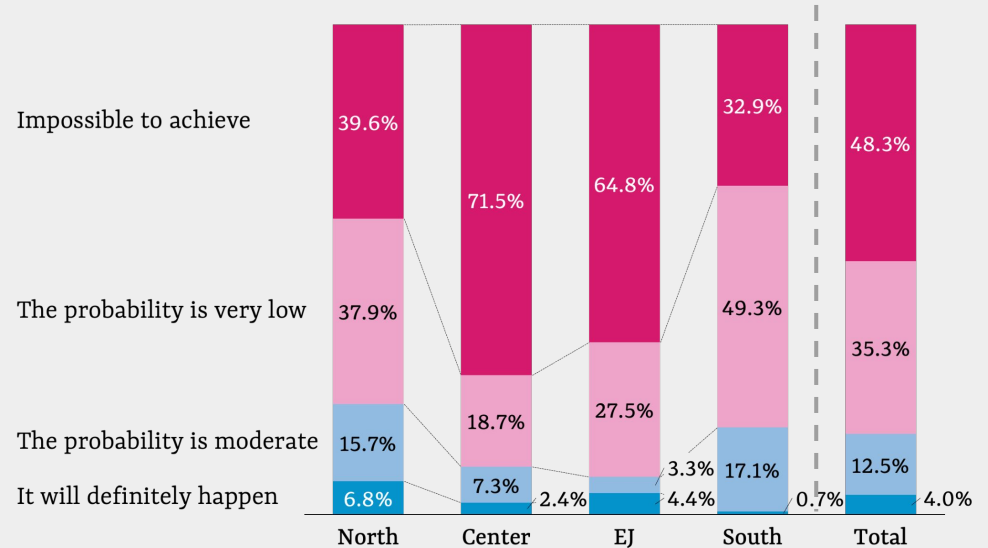
Among those who consider the two-state solution unsuitable, roughly one-third (35.8%) cite its perceived unfairness as the reason

Why do you think a two-state solution is not suitable?
| those who believe the two-state solution is unsuitable



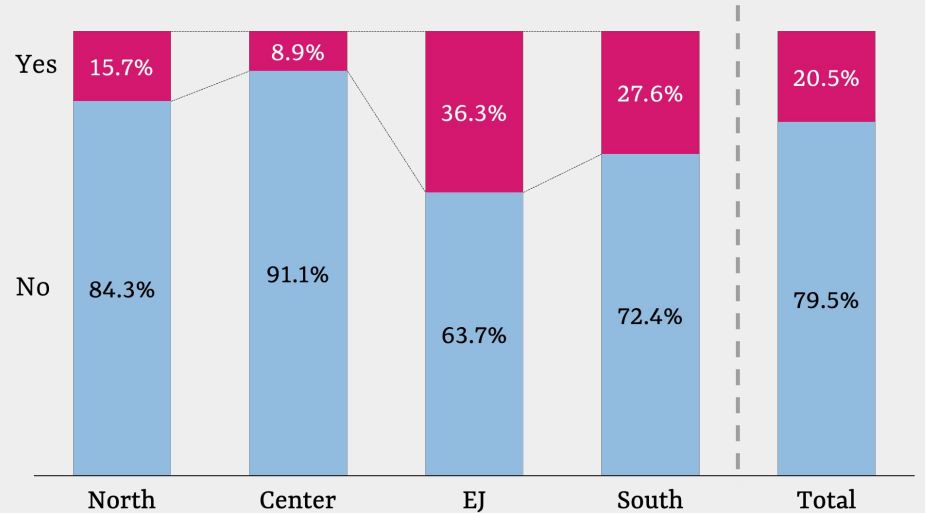
Grand majority (83.6%) of respondents believe implementation of a two-state solution in the near future to be unlikely

Under the current circumstances, what do you think is the likelihood of implementing a two-state solution in the near future?



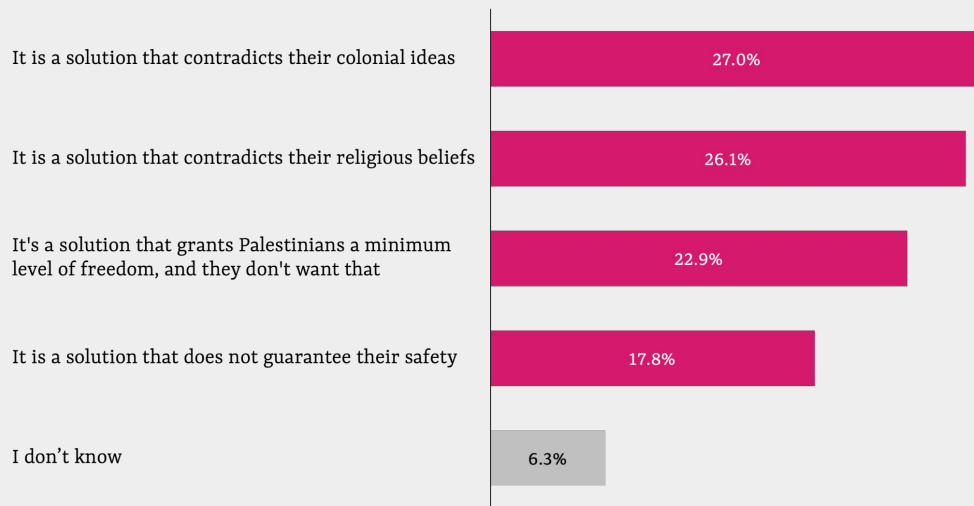
Only 20.5% think Israelis would accept establishment of a Palestinian state on 1967 borders, with the most support in EJ

Do you think Israelis would accept the establishment of a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders?



Respondents think Israelis wouldn't accept a Palestinian state since it contradicts their colonial ideas (27%) or religious beliefs (26.1%)

Why do you think that the Israelis do not accept the establishment of a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders?



Ethos of Conflict Framework

Ingroup & Outgroup Perceptions

Why is the ethos of conflict framework?

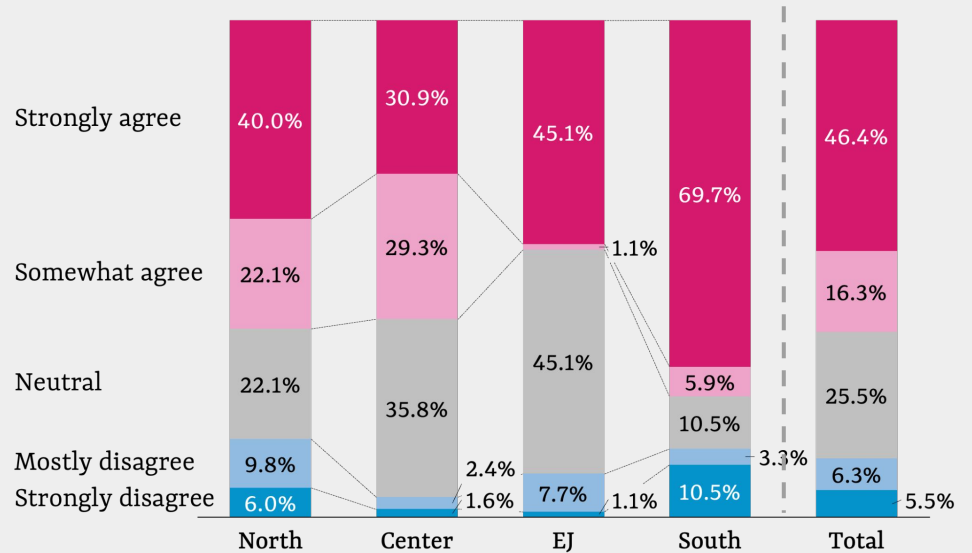
- The concept of an "ethos of conflict," developed by the social psychologist Daniel Bar-Tal, refers to a set of shared societal beliefs that emerge in societies embroiled in prolonged, intractable conflicts.¹ These beliefs serve a psychological and social function — helping people cope with ongoing conflict, justify their side's actions, and maintain solidarity. They typically include beliefs about the justness of one's own goals, the enemy's negative character, one's own victimhood, and the delegitimization of the opponent.
- The concept is useful because it explains how conflict becomes self-sustaining at the level of culture and collective identity, through narratives that shape how societies perceive themselves, their enemies, and the possibility of peace. Once established, an ethos of conflict can persist even when objective conditions change. Bar-Tal drew heavily on the Israeli-Palestinian context in developing the framework, and it has since been applied to examine how both societies have internalized narratives that reinforce the conflict's continuation.

¹ Bar-Tal, D. (2013). *Intractable Conflicts: Socio-Psychological Foundations and Dynamics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Majority of respondents (62.7%) believe that the occupation will not end unless one side completely defeats the other

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

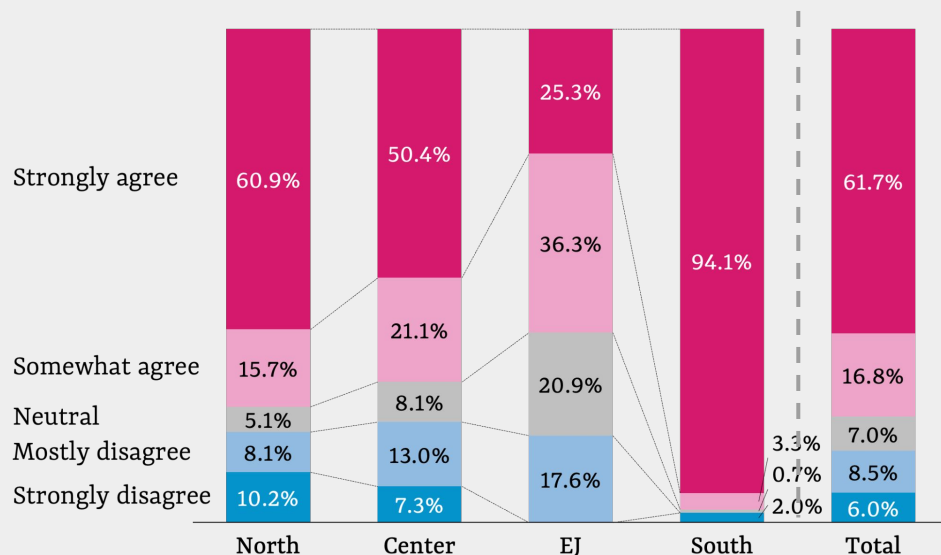
| The conflict with the occupation will not end unless one side completely defeats the other



Four in five respondents (79.5%) believe Palestinians have an exclusive right to the land; nearly 95% of the South strongly agrees

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

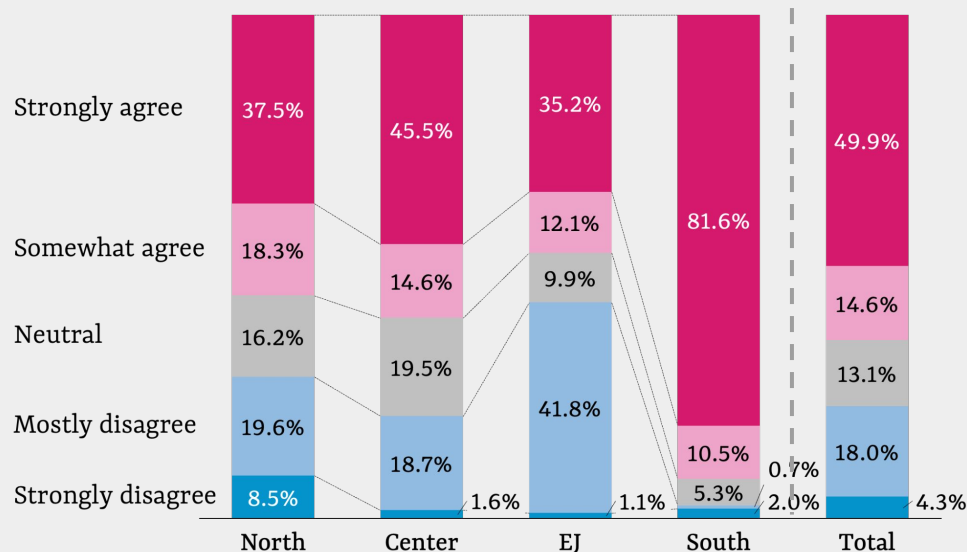
| Palestinians have an exclusive right to the land of Palestine, as it has been their homeland for generations



Over half of respondents (54.5%) believe Palestinians have always aspired to achieve peace

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

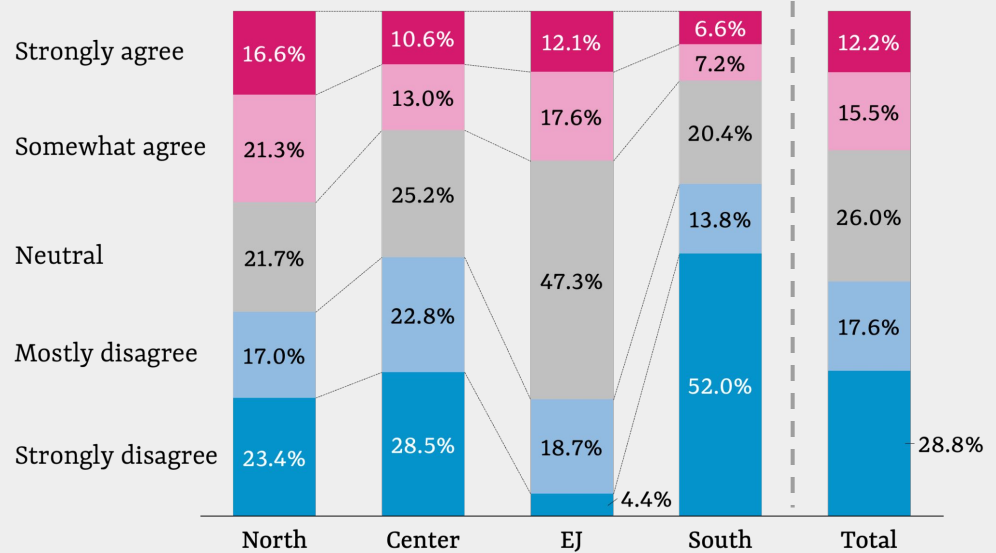
| **Palestinians always aspire to achieve peace**



Only 27.7% of respondents believe in the existence of moderate sectors in Israeli society

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

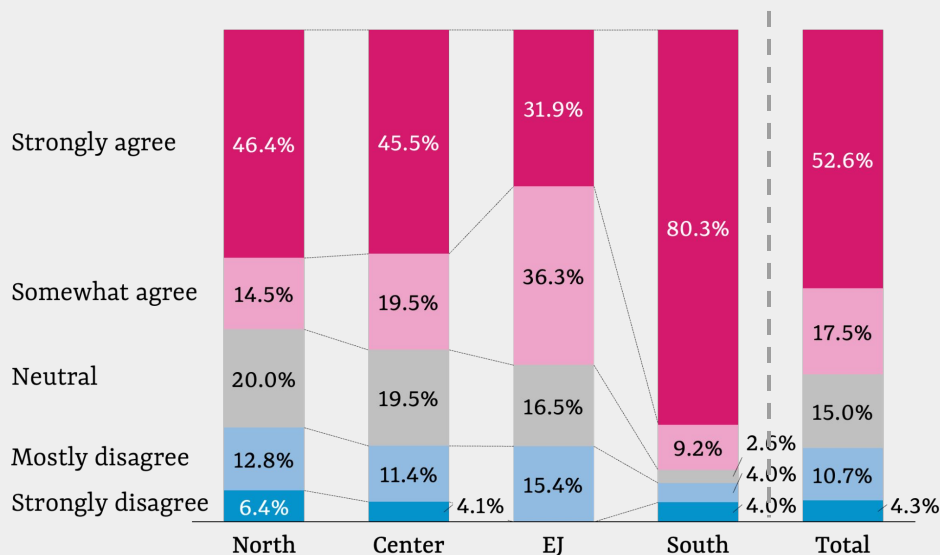
| One can find moderate sectors within Israeli society that genuinely desire a just end to the conflict



Majority (70.1%) say that Palestinians have long been subject to unfair aggression from the Israeli side

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

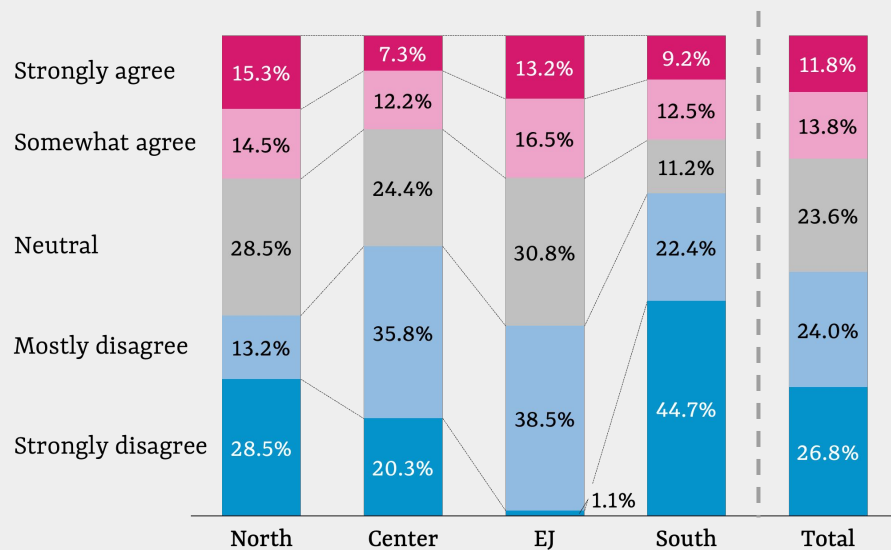
| Palestinians have long been subjected to unfair aggression from the Israeli side



Only 1 in 4 respondents (25.6%) believe the conflict will end if a Palestinian state is established as part of a two-state solution

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

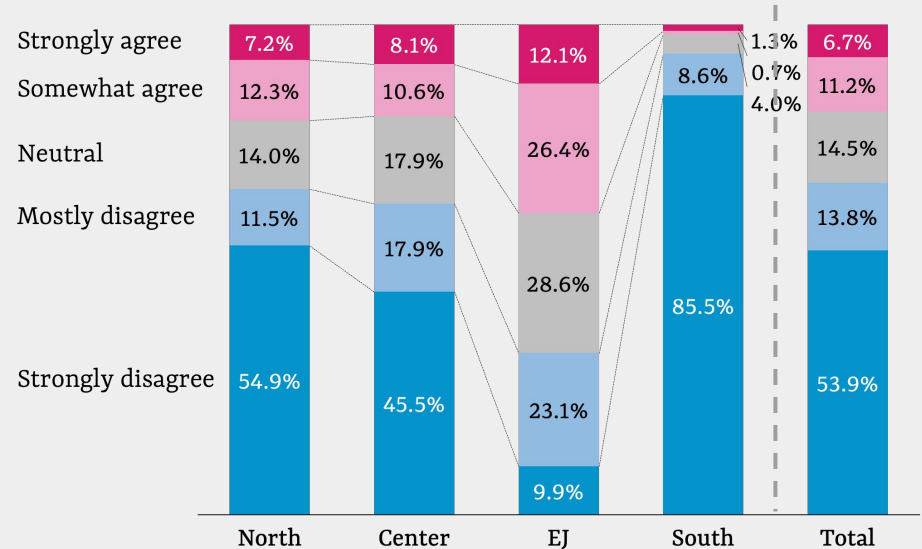
| If a peace agreement is reached based on a two-state solution and a Palestinian state is established, the conflict will end permanently



Israelis are believed to be victims of the conflict by only 17.9% of respondents, with that percentage reaching 38.5% in East Jerusalem

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

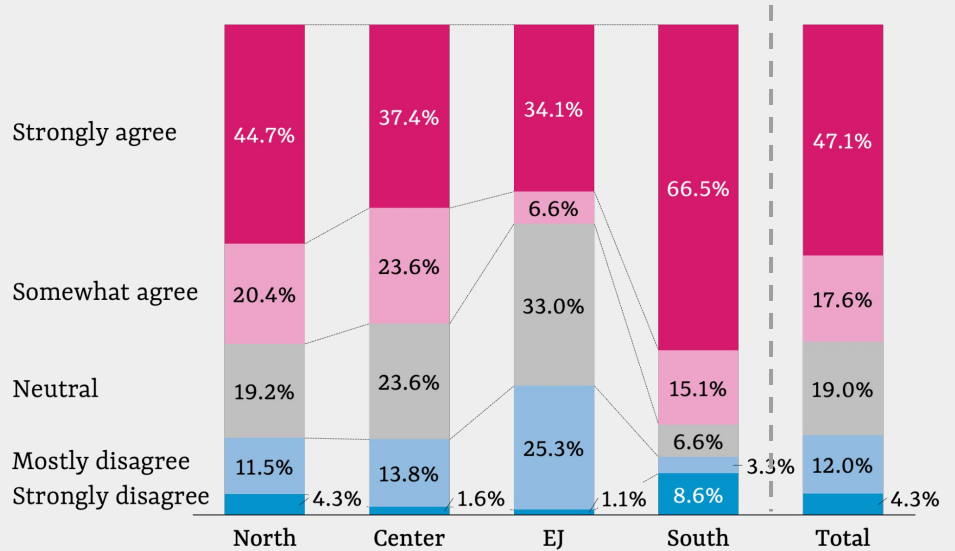
| Israelis are victims of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, just like Palestinians



Two thirds of respondents (64.7%) do not believe Israelis have any intentions for peace

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

| I don't believe the Israelis have any intentions for peace

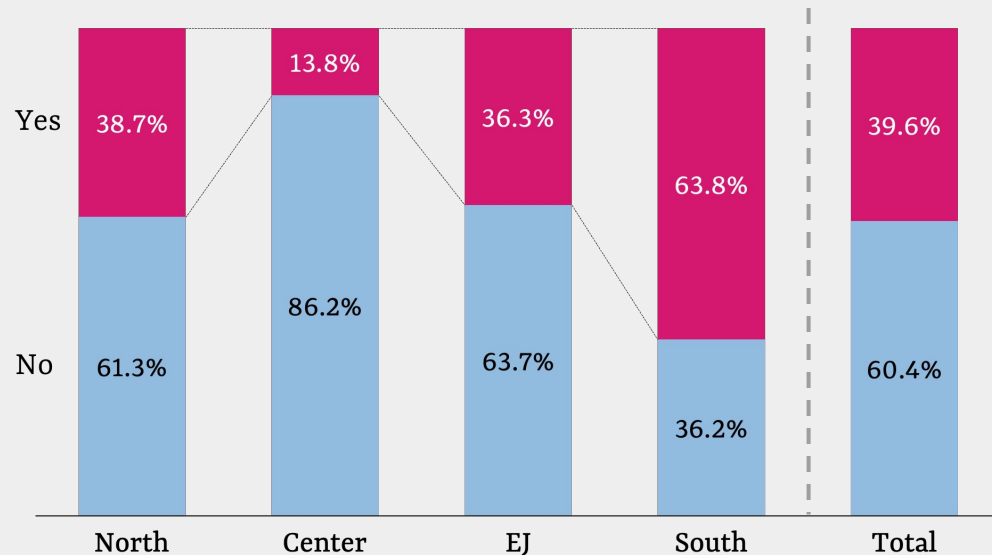


Cabinet Decisions

Awareness & Expectations

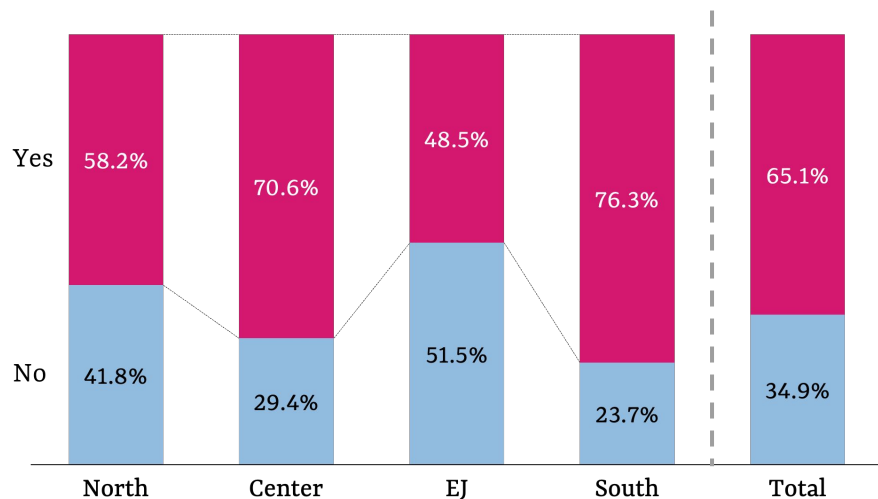
More than half (60.4%) of respondents had not heard of the recent Israeli cabinet decisions regarding West Bank lands and PA power

Have you heard about the recent Israeli cabinet decisions regarding the purchase of land in the West Bank and the stripping of powers from the PA?



Two in three respondents (65.1%) report that they know and understand the content of the cabinet decisions

Do you know the content of these decisions and understand their meaning? | of those who have heard of the cabinet decisions



***The cabinet made several decisions and its decision on the land registry, for example, goes beyond administrative procedures to create a new legal mechanism to strengthen Israeli control in the West Bank, with the aim of facilitating the transfer of land ownership from Palestinians to Israelis or classifying lands whose ownership Palestinians fail to prove as state land, which could accelerate settlement expansion and directly impact the future of Palestinian land and ownership.*

* Al Jazeera Staff. (2026, February 8). Israeli security cabinet approves rules to increase control over West Bank. Al Jazeera. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/2/8/israel-security-cabinet-approves-rules-to-increase-control-over-west-bank>

Two in five of respondents (41.3%) believe that the impact of these decisions is likely to extend to areas classified as (C) and (B)

*In your opinion, which of the following scenarios is closest to being realized in light of the Israeli government's recent decisions regarding the West Bank?**

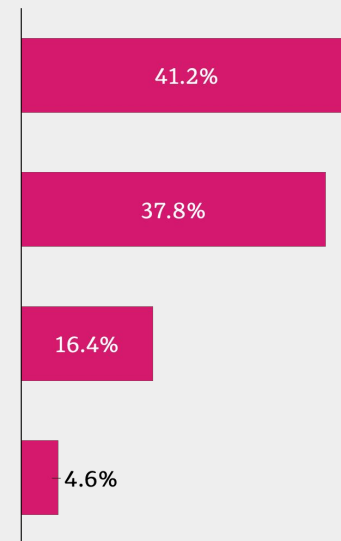
| of those who have heard of the cabinet decisions

These decisions point to a path aimed at imposing a comprehensive de facto annexation that includes areas classified as (A), (B) and (C)

The impact of these decisions is likely to extend to areas classified as (C) and (B), further reducing Palestinian control over them

These decisions are mainly limited to areas classified as (C), and are not expected to extend directly to other areas

Failure to rely on the decisions of international legitimacy and international law

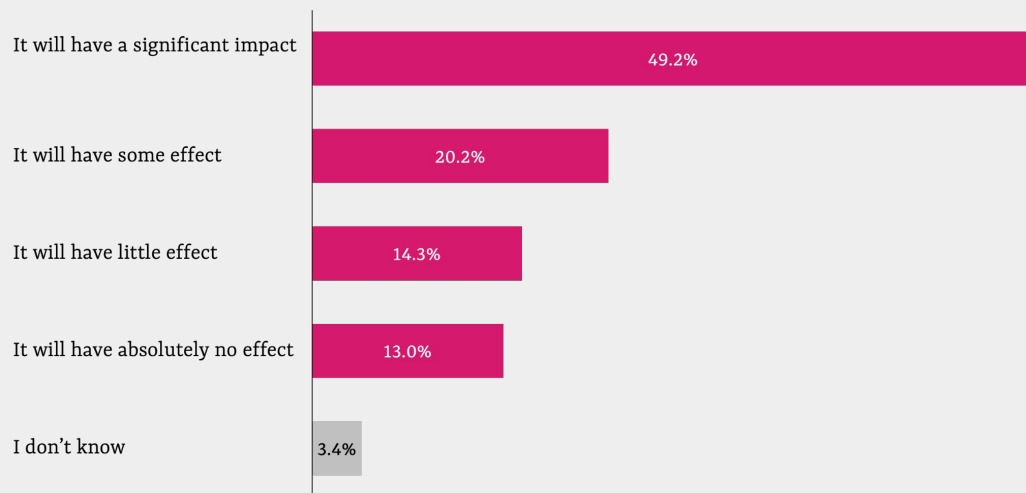


* a single-answer multiple-choice question

Two thirds (61.6%) expect the cabinet's decisions to affect their daily life to some degree, while 26.5% don't know what to expect

To what extent do you expect the cabinet's decisions to affect your daily life?

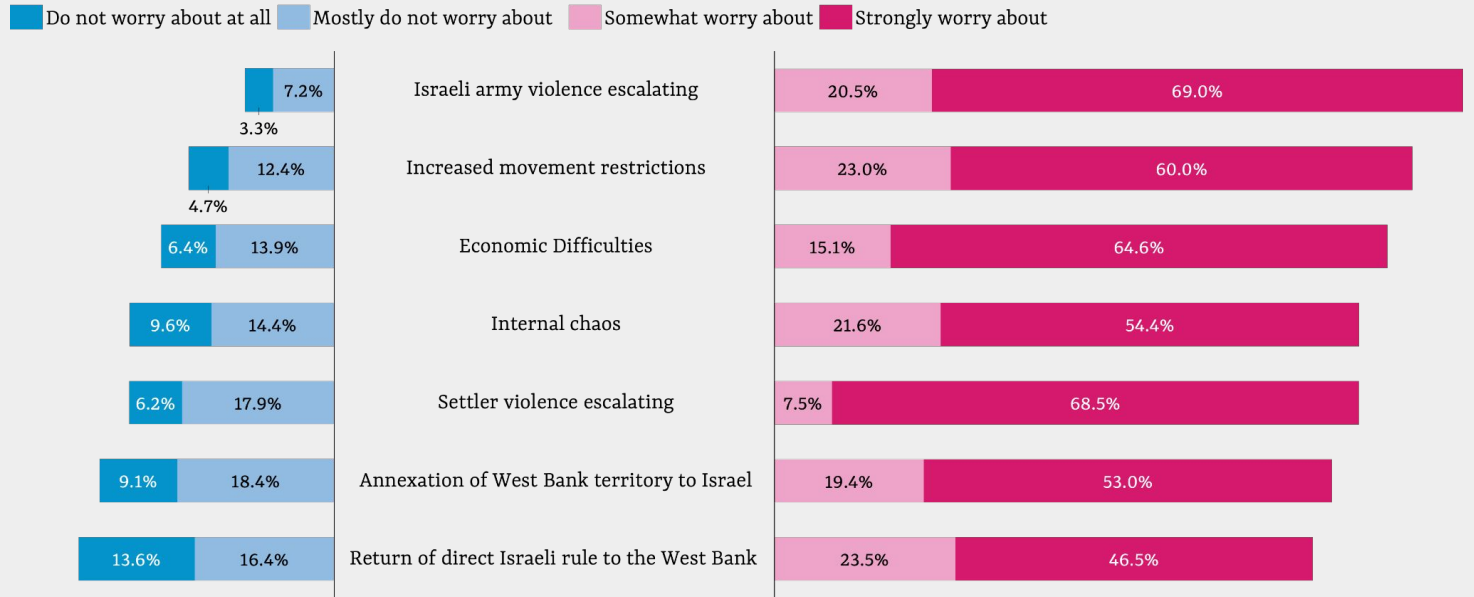
| of those who have heard of the cabinet decisions



Concerns for the Future

Fears & Expectations

The leading fear between respondents is escalation of Israeli army violence, at 89.5%, closely followed by added movement restrictions

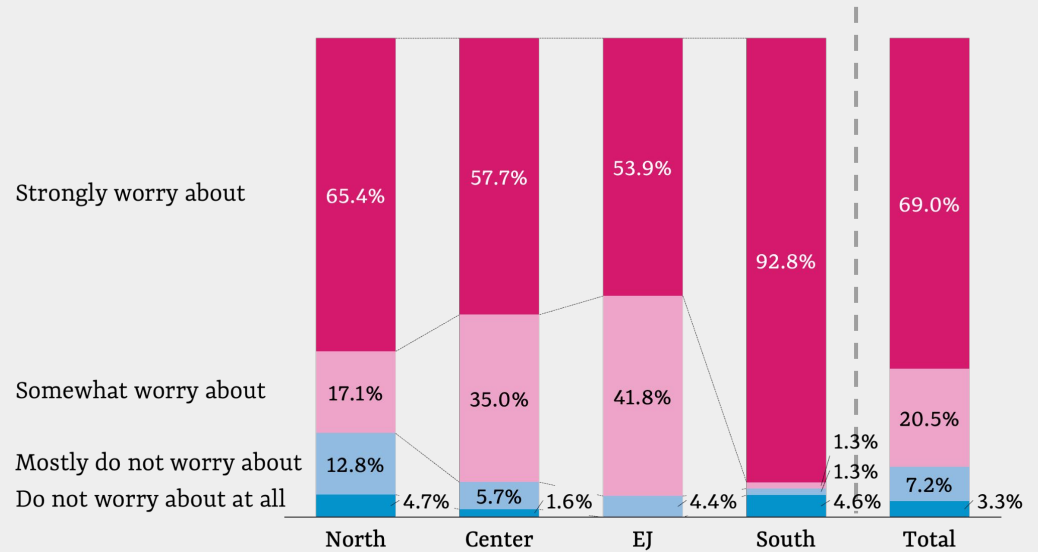


How concerned are you about the possibility of the following events occurring in the West Bank?

Concerns about escalation of Israeli army violence is concentrated in the South, with 92.8% strongly worrying about escalation

How concerned are you about the possibility of the following events occurring in the West Bank?

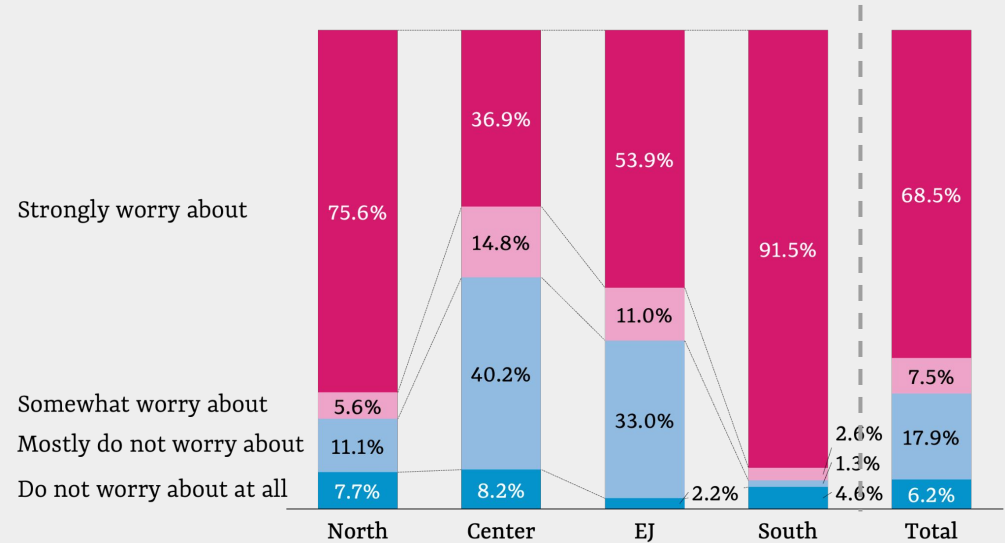
| Israeli army violence escalating



Additionally, fears over settler violence are high, at 76%, but trend lower in the Center

How concerned are you about the possibility of the following events occurring in the West Bank?

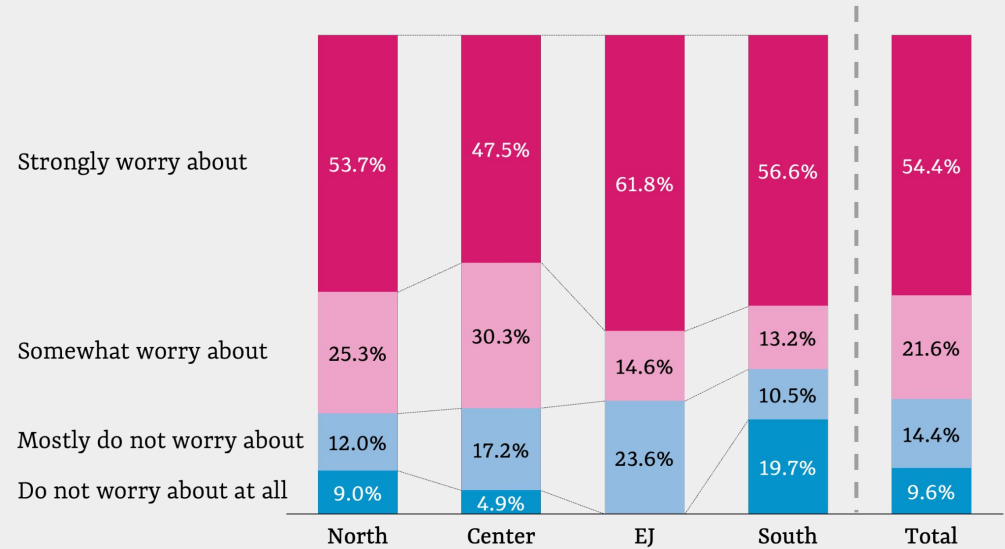
| Settler violence escalating



Fears over internal chaos are also high, at 76%, but trend lower in the 55+ age group

How concerned are you about the possibility of the following events occurring in the West Bank?

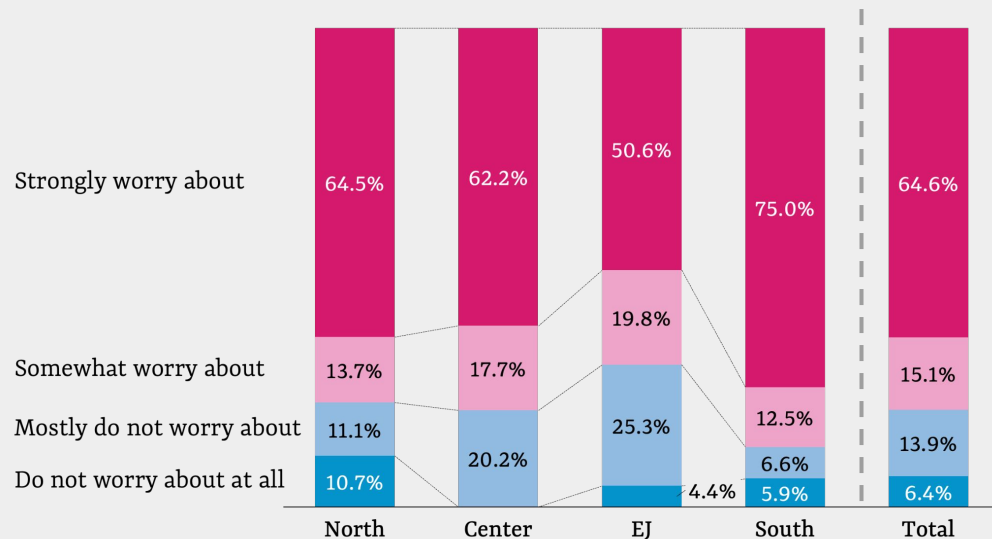
| Internal chaos



Majority of respondents (79.7%) feel that economic difficulties are a concern in the West Bank

How concerned are you about the possibility of the following events occurring in the West Bank?

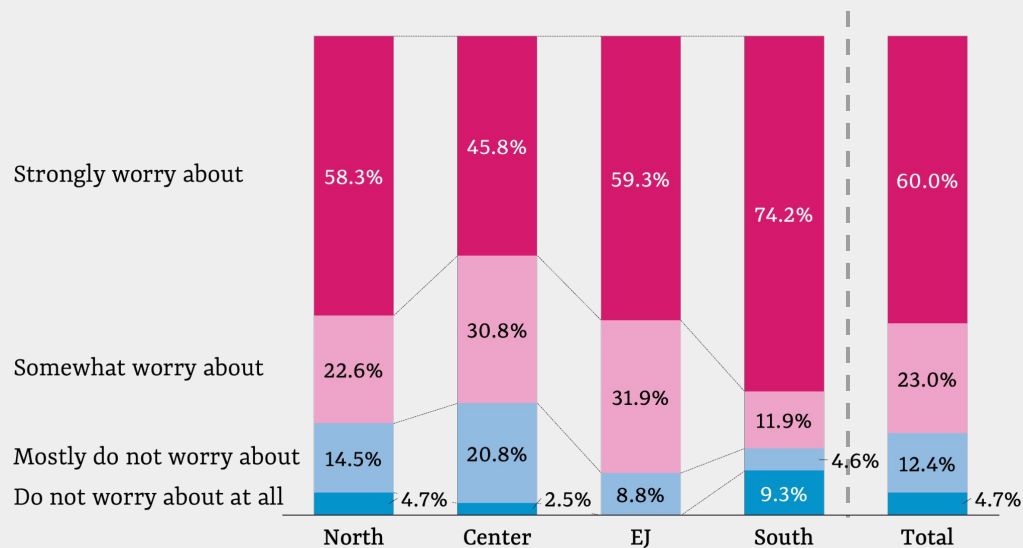
| Economic Difficulties



Fears over increased movement restrictions are felt all over the West Bank, at 83.0%

How concerned are you about the possibility of the following events occurring in the West Bank?

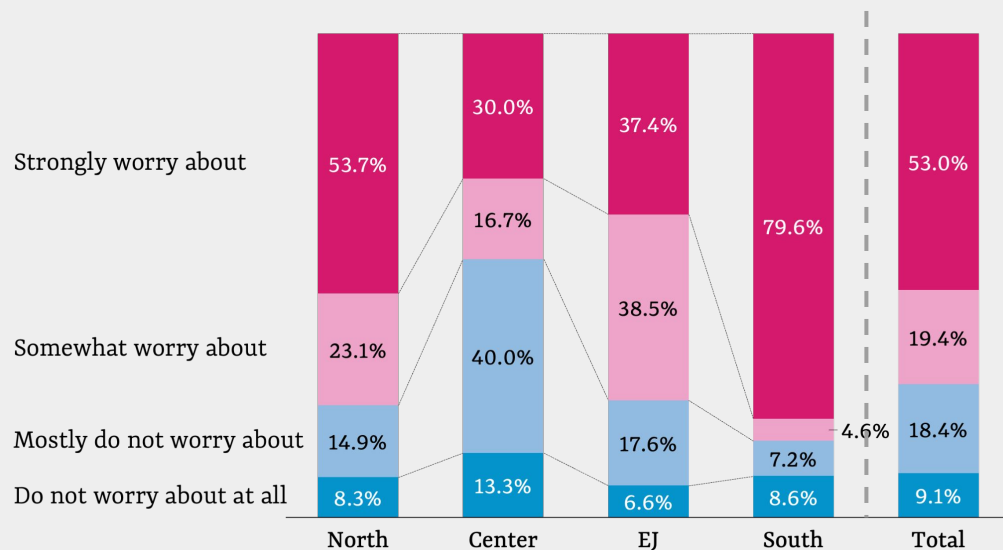
| Increased movement restrictions



Around three in four respondents (72.4%) are concerned about the annexation of the West Bank to Israel

How concerned are you about the possibility of the following events occurring in the West Bank?

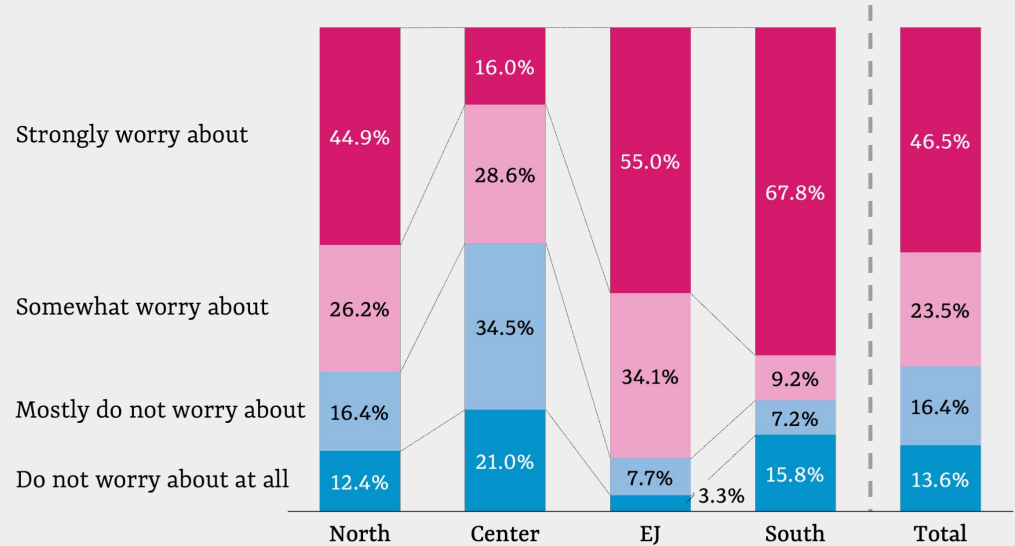
| [Annexation of West Bank territory to Israel](#)



Return of direct Israeli rule to the West Bank is a concern among respondents, at 70.0%, but lower in comparison to fear of annexation

How concerned are you about the possibility of the following events occurring in the West Bank?

| Return of direct Israeli rule to the West Bank



Conclusions (1/2)

- ❑ The findings present a West Bank population that has not abandoned the language of political resolution but has largely stopped believing in its possibility. Willingness to accept a two-state solution is better understood as a pragmatic response to an open-ended conflict than as a deeply held aspiration. It coexists with near-universal doubt about implementation, widespread skepticism about Israeli intent, and little confidence that any agreement would hold even if reached.
- ❑ Perceptions of Israeli society remain overwhelmingly adversarial. Palestinians view the conflict through a lens of historical dispossession and ongoing aggression, and very few believe meaningful voices exist on the Israeli side. Recent cabinet decisions on land and Palestinian Authority powers are seen, once understood, as accelerating dispossession rather than creating any opening for dialogue.

Conclusions (1/2)

- ❑ Most striking is the breadth and consistency of fear across regions, age groups, and political orientations — spanning military escalation, movement restrictions, economic hardship, settler violence, internal instability, and annexation. This points to a population under sustained, multi-directional pressure with limited confidence that political processes will provide relief.
- ❑ The distance between what Palestinians say they could accept and what they believe is achievable has rarely appeared wider. Public willingness to engage with political solutions exists, but it rests on an increasingly thin foundation — one that will continue to erode without credible negotiations, a demonstrable shift in Israeli intent, and meaningful reduction in the pressures defining life across the West Bank.



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