

Middle East Dialogue 2015...Glorious Past, Uncertain Future

PAST AND PRESENT;THE ROLE OF HISTORIC NARRATIVES IN THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT

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The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is a multi –dimensional confrontation, about land, refugees,holy places and many other added elements, a situation which turns any lasting solution almost an impossible task.

Not least in the long list of issues, is the question of historic narratives, in fact

The battle over these narratives, something which may not have received its due attention, when dealing with possible solutions.

As more rounds of Palestinian-Israeli talks have collapsed, and the situation on the ground [late October, 2014], seems to be on the brink of another explosion, perhaps the third full –scale Intifada, this paper will try to show the importance of this issue

In the shaping and cementing of the collective national identities of the two peoples,

Will indicate the role this issue played in the failure of such negotiations, and will then move on to suggest ways to deal with the problem, perhaps to diffuse it, so that

Future rounds of negotiations will focus mostly, if not exclusively on the future, rather than the past.