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## **Abstract**

### **“Deal of the Century”**

#### **Content, Options, Challenges and Prospects**

This book contains papers presented at the Seminar "Deal of The Century and Options to Deal with." It was held by the Middle East Studies Center in Amman on Tuesday, 25/2/2020, with the participation of a group of Experts and politicians from Palestine, Jordan, and the Arab world and two chapters prepared specially for this book.

The book discusses the US President's project about the peace in the Middle East, "Deal of The Century," in terms of its concept, the political circumstances accompanying it and its challenges, and options to deal with by Palestinians, Jordanians, and Arabs.

The first chapter of the book discusses the concept of the "Deal of the Century," the accompanying political conditions at the Palestinian, Arab, Israeli and American levels. Moreover, it discusses the American motives for proposing its new approach, the Trump administration's lines of action regarding the Palestinian issue, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. It also addresses the backgrounds and orientations of Trump's team in charge of the project.

The book explains the circumstances surrounding the declaration time in the region. Moreover, the American administration has paved the way for this announcement to provide a political environment that would ensure its success by exerting diplomatic and financial pressure on the Palestinians and Jordan. They looked forward to forcing them to accept the deal.

They also seek to push Arab countries to disengage from normalizing relations with Israel and resolving the Palestinian issue. The book also outlined the most American current administration's prominent motives to put forward the "Deal of the Century" project.

The first chapter concludes that the region's general political situation may form a virtual environment for the timing and shape of the launch of the deal and its content. Also, this project was based on a transformation in the former US thinking. Moreover, It opened the horizon for negotiations on the application, not on the initiative and its main points, that would mean the

Palestinians to give up their aspirations for independence, the state, and the right of return. It also means they would not enjoy their freedom rather than ending their Land's Israeli occupation and yet not achieving their legitimate national ambitions.

The chapter also concludes that the shift in American policies was not limited to mere stances but rather translated into previous executive actions to announce the deal. Such shift includes the American recognition of the occupied Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Moreover, the recognition of the occupied Golan Heights to be under Israeli sovereignty. The shift also includes the legitimization of the illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian land since 196. It supported the direct normalization between Arab states and Israel away from the Palestinian cause solution.

The second chapter, entitled "The political content of President Donald Trump's project for Peace in the Middle East' Deal of the century," treats the statements and leaks that have been raised about the project before its announcement. It also presents the most prominent actors' positions regarding the new US project for peace in the Middle East. Moreover, it analyses the political content of the announced official document by the US President on January 28, 202.

The chapter reviews the Arab, regional and international reactions to this announcement. The chapter concludes that there are a clear link and consistency between the media leaks and the deal's official content. Moreover, the analysis found that the proposed plan came due to the dialogue and negotiations between the US presidency team for peace in the Middle East and the Israeli government. It also showed that this plan represents a reformulation of the extreme Israeli right's vision in general. The plan's announcement represented a big surprise to all observers, politicians, and leaders worldwide, as per the book.

In the third chapter, entitled" 'Deal of the century': Challenges and Options," the book discusses the Palestinian, Jordanian, and Arab options in treating the problems of Trump's vision for peace, including the main challenges facing the implementation of this project, and its future and expected fate.

The chapter proposes these options as 1) refusing the deal and its outcomes, 2) support the coherence with the official and popular Palestinian position, relying on an Arab and Islamic collective position, 3) refusing to participate in the project's implementation, and refusing to pass it or being silent about it.

The chapter suggested many indicators to show the deal's future. They include: (1) The delay in announcing the plan more than once. (2) The popular and official collective Palestinian firm positions in rejecting the plan. (3) Increasing criticism and rejection of the plan by the international community, especially the European Union and the United Nations, because it exceeds the resolutions of the UNSC and the UNGA. (4) The growing internal parliamentary opposition of the plan in the United States by the Democrats.

The final chapter discusses the future of the deal. It found that the ability to thwart the deal is possible. Moreover, the diplomatic capabilities to convince the world, especially the Europeans, to stand with the rights of the Palestinian people and reject this deal are probable. Moreover, the "Deal of the Century" project will lose the chances of its implementation dramatically with the departure of President Trump the White House, which would make the deal one of the projects on the table that will be bypassed once the president who proposes it departs as happened earlier for other American projects.

The new American president will likely amend some provisions that have been implemented from the project and exceed what was not implemented. Then new negotiations would be launched based on the traditional positions of the American institutions, especially those based on the approach and philosophy of the Democratic Party to resolve the conflict in the region, of which a large part differs from what is in the "Deal of the Century" project.