

Israel and the Peace Process: Security and Political Attitudes in 1993

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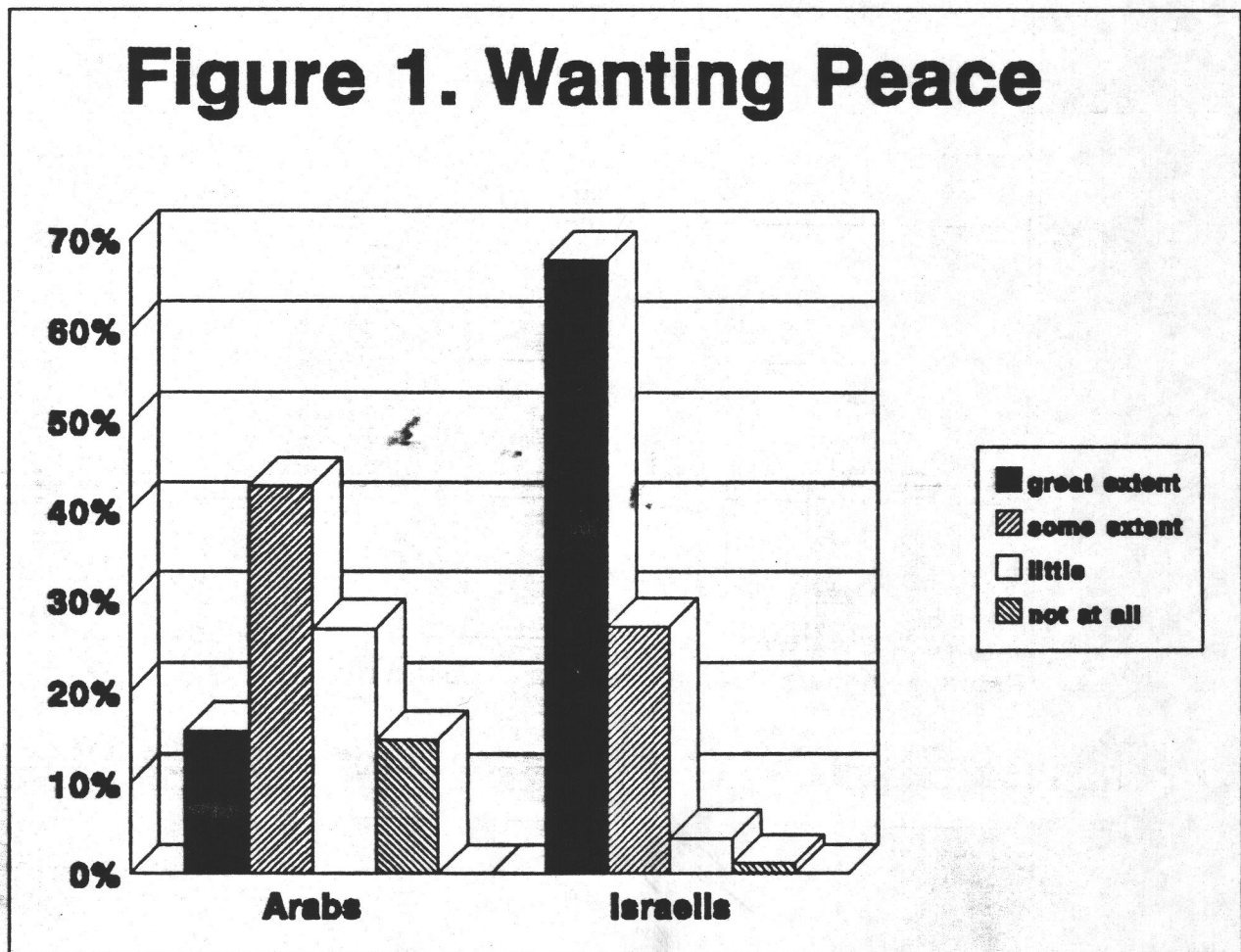
The National Security and Public Opinion Project
Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies

I. PEACE

A. Wanting peace

Almost all respondents think that Israelis want peace, but they are divided about the extent to which the Arabs do (see Figure 1). Fifty-eight percent thought the Arabs wanted peace to a great extent (16%) or to some extent (42%), while 95 percent thought the Israelis wanted peace. ("Most Arabs" was the phrase used to tap the generalized feeling towards Arabs; previous research indicated that "Israelis" were understood as "Jews in Israel" in this type of sample.)

Figure 1. Wanting Peace



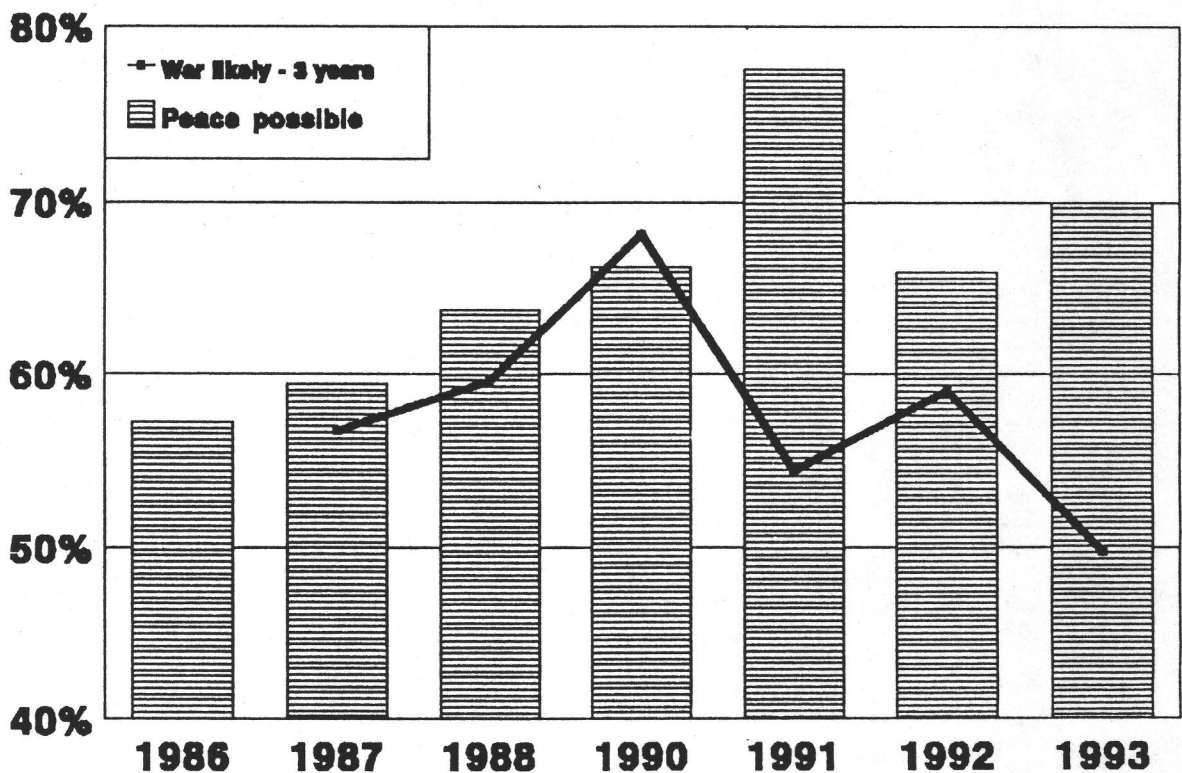
B. The peace process

Israelis are very supportive of continued participation in the peace process. Only 11 percent opposed; 89 percent were either very much in favor (56%) or in favor (33%) of persevering.

Respondents reported very high levels of interest in the peace process: 82 percent said that they are very interested (48%) or somewhat interested (34%). Only 5 percent reported having no interest at all.

Seventy-one percent thought it possible to achieve peace with the Arabs. This was lower than in 1991, but still quite high compared to the other years reported in Figure 3. The likelihood of war was down; Figure 3 shows how these trends seem to go together.

Figure 3. War and Peace 1986-1993



C. The nature of peace

Respondents were asked to identify the minimal conditions to define a situation of peace. [In certain instances, a "no peace" response was legitimate.] The peace prototypes were:

[A. No peace.]

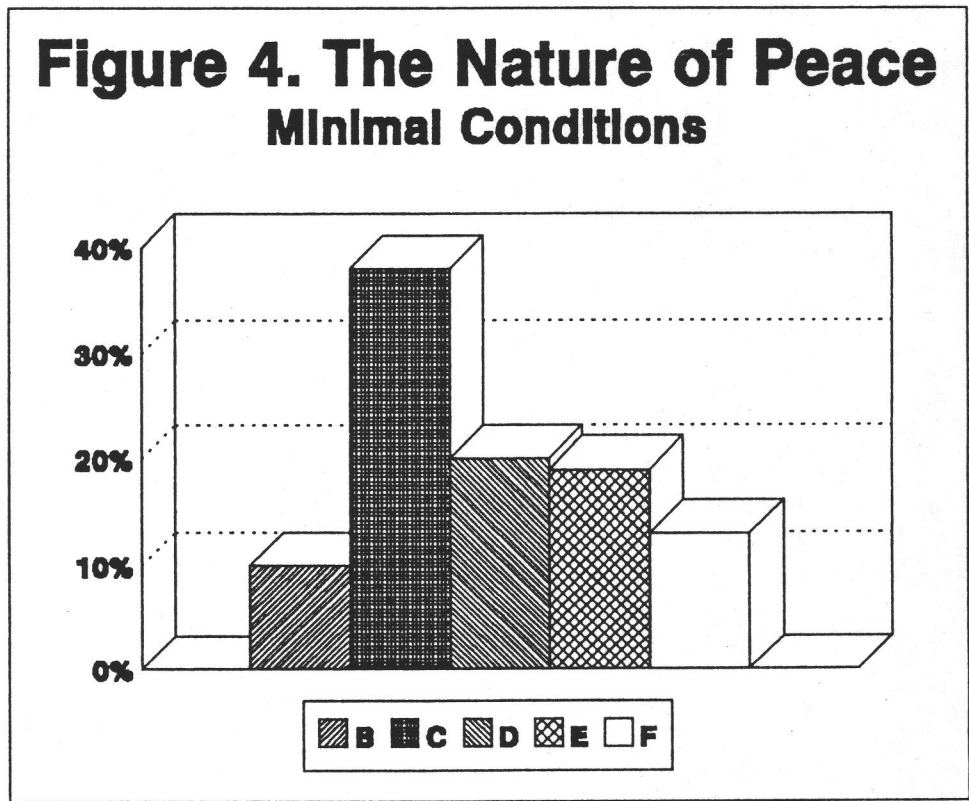
B. **No war**, and no peace treaty

C. No war, and a **peace treaty with security provisions**

D. No war, a peace treaty with security provisions, and **the exchange of ambassadors**

E. No war, a peace treaty with security provisions, the exchange of ambassadors, and **trade and tourism**

F. No war, a peace treaty with security provisions, the exchange of ambassadors, trade and tourism, and a **feeling of closeness between the citizens of the countries involved**



Based on these minimal conditions, the peace with Egypt far surpasses the expectations of peace in the minds of the respondents (see Figure 6). The largest percentages there are D (39%) and E (34%). Peace with Syria, if attained, would more closely fit the pattern of the minimal conditions, although 21 percent do not believe that peace with Syria will be reached at all.

Figure 6. Peace with Egypt and Syria

