



Why the Arc?

Friends of the Arc, Inc. ("FOTA") is a non-partisan, non-profit organization registered in the State of Illinois, established by individuals interested in a successful two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Like many others, we find the RAND Palestine Arc project inspiring, and established FOTA because we believe the Arc can meaningfully catalyze progress towards Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace, security, and prosperity.

FOTA tries to bring the Arc to the attention of the general public, to leading public officials, journalists, and academics, and to students and young people - who will either enjoy the benefits of peace or suffer the harmful consequences of continued conflict. The Arc is not a substitute for tough political negotiations, but we believe that its adoption by the Palestinian and U.S. governments (and the wide publicity that would accompany its adoption) can put a strong wind of popular support at the back of politicians, all of whom will need to make unpopular choices if a two-state solution is to succeed.

We believe government policymakers and others involved with the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict seriously underestimate the Arc's persuasive power: its ability to convince large numbers of otherwise uninvolved or skeptical people that a prosperous and successful Palestinian state - living in peace with a secure Israel - can be a reality. This is why we support Palestinians who recognize that the Arc is more than an infrastructure project. Likewise, we seek to encourage the Obama Administration to embrace the Arc as a diplomatic tool which can create diplomatic progress without provoking the usual backlash. The Arc is not only an infrastructure project for the day after peace, but a visionary concept for getting there in the first place.

It seems like such a waste not to harness the enthusiasm and hope the Arc generates to move forward towards a two-state solution, especially when other movement has been stymied. The Arc's potential creation of 150,000 productive jobs adds a powerful economic argument - imagine the positive political impact of that many new jobs in the United States.

Please watch the Arc videos at www.friendsofthearc.org, join us on Facebook and invite your friends and colleagues to do so too!

FOTA is not affiliated with the RAND Corporation, which produced the original Arc study. FOTA does not seek to raise funds, nor does it have any financial interest in the adoption and implementation of the Arc project.