

WASATIA. The term means moderation, mid-ground, justice and balance; the Prophet Mohammed said, “the best way to run affairs is through moderation.” **Wasatia**, launched in Palestine in 2007, is an Islamic movement that endeavors to bring about peace and prosperity through a deeper and more rational understanding of Islam. **Wasatia** strives toward ending the Israeli military occupation through negotiations and peaceful means, by mitigating religious radicalism and reducing political extremism. **Wasatia’s** goal is to teach creative and critical thinking and open-mindedness, to use dialogue and education to deconstruct mythologies, distortions and misinterpretations.

The founder of the Wasatia movement is peace activist and former PLO member Professor Mohammed S. Dajani Daoudi ...

“Palestinians must overcome victimhood and move to reconciliation; it is time for both peoples to seek peace & reconciliation.

“It used to be Palestinians against Israelis, now it is Palestinians & Israelis for peace against Palestinians & Israelis against peace.

“The radicals want to have an exclusive ownership of the land ... while we are seeking a shared ownership of the land.”

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WAR 1. Israel was established for the stateless Jews in Palestine - which had been Muslim since the 7th century - and won the 1947 - 49 war of independence against the Arabs. **S**ince then Palestinians - robbed of their land and living in refugee camps - have fought back as suicide bombers. “Tell me what you want to be,” a child was asked. “A martyr.”

WAR 2. Chris Hedges writes in his book **WAR is a FORCE THAT GIVES US MEANING:** “War is a drug. It is peddled by mythmakers - historians, filmmakers, novelists and the state. **T**hey endow it with qualities it often possesses - excitement, power, exoticism and chances that allow us to rise above our small stations in life. It dominates, distorts, corrupts culture. **T**he enduring attraction of war is this: Even with its carnage it can give us what we long for in life. It can give us purpose and resolve, it gives us a cause ... it allows us to be noble. **B**ut questions about the meaning, or meaningless of our place on the planet are laid bare as we watch those around us sink to the lowest depths; evil lurks below the surface in all of us.”