

The Struggle for Peace: Examining Peace Movements in Israel

Undergraduate Research by
Sarah Gentry, Senior
International Studies Major

Research Question

- What factors allow a group movement to achieve its aims in just a few years, as opposed to a generational long struggle and only limited success?

Case Studies

- Four Mothers Movement
- Parents Circle-Families Forum



Four Mothers Movement

- Founded in 1998
- Goal: unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon
- Disbanded in 2000 because their goal had been accomplished
- Mobilization
- Framing in the media



Four Mothers (continued)

- ◉ Political support
- ◉ Benefits from political sectarianism
- ◉ Goal formation: narrow, focused
- ◉ Evidence of group's influence on public opinion
- ◉ Election of Ehud Barak and the unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon

Parents Circle-Families Forum

- Founded in 1995, still an active and growing organization today
- Goals:
 1. “To create a framework of reconciliation between two peoples that takes into account that any peace agreement must include an infrastructure for the process of reconciliation”
 2. “To work towards an end to violence and towards achieving an accepted political agreement”
 3. “To influence the public and the political decision makers to choose dialogue and the path of peace over violence, in order to achieve a just settlement based on empathy and understanding”
 4. “To avoid the use of bereavement for further violence and retribution”

Parents Circle (continued)

- Programs and activities



- 2011 Gallup Poll



Findings

- The Four Mothers Movement, because of their effective strategies and single, concrete goal, was able to achieve its aims within only two years of its formation
- The Parents Circle-Families Forum, while certainly not failing, still has a long struggle ahead of them to achieve peace between Palestinians and Israelis, an effort that may take many generations

Sources

- "About the Reconciliation Center." *Parents Circle Reconciliation Center*. United States Agency for International Development (USAID), n.d. Web. 30 Oct. 2012.
<<http://center.theparentscircle.org/Content.aspx?ID=10>>.
- Amenta, Edwin, and Neal Caren. "The Legislative, Organizational and Beneficiary Consequences of State Oriented Challengers." *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*. Ed. David A. Snow, Sarah Anne Soule, and Hanspeter Kriesi. Mauden, MA: Blackwell, 2004. 461-88. Print.
- Ben-Dor, Rachel. "Behind the Story." OSU Library, n.d. Web. 30 Sept. 2012.
- Ben-Dor, Rachel. "The Cry That Became a Movement." OSU Library, n.d. Web. 30 Sept. 2012.
- Ben-Dor, Rachel. "'Four Mothers' Letters to and from Israeli Parliamentary Members." *"Four Mothers" Letters to and from Israeli Parliamentary Members*. OSU Library, n.d. Web. 15 Nov. 2012.
<http://library.osu.edu/projects/fourmothers/Documents/is_parliament.htm>.
- "Crack in the Wall." *The Parents Circle Families Forum*. Parents Circle-Families Forum, n.d. Web. 3 Oct. 2012.
- Friedman, Thomas L. *From Beirut to Jerusalem*. New York: Anchor, 1990. Print.
- Frucht, Leora Eren. "The Movement That Shaped the Lebanon Pullout." *The Jerusalem Post* 8 June 2000: n. pag. *JPost.com*. The Jerusalem Post, 8 June 2000. Web. 5 Sept. 2012.
- Grunpeter, Aviva. "Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue at Youth Summer Camp." *NTD News, Israel* 24 July 2012: n. pag. *The Parents Circle Families Forum*. Parents Circle-Families Forum. Web. 20 Oct. 2012.
- "The Lebanon War: A Limited Operation in South Lebanon That Escalated into an 18-year Military Involvement." *Ynetnews*. Yedioth Media Group, 01 Aug. 2006. Web. 30 Sept. 2012.
- Lieberfeld, Daniel. "Engendering Protest: The Four Mothers Movement and Israel's Lebanon War." *Academic Search Complete*. EBSCO, 2007. Web. 5 Sept. 2012.
- Lieberfeld, Daniel. "'Mission Accomplished?: Israel's 'Four Mothers' and the Legacies of Successful Antiwar Movements'." *Academic Search Complete*. EBSCO, 2008. Web. 20 Sept. 2012.
- Lieberfeld, Daniel. "Parental Protest, Public Opinion, and War Termination: Israel's Four Mothers Movement." *Academic Search Complete*. EBSCO, Nov. 2009. Web. 5 Sept. 2012.

- Marullo, Sam, and David S. Meyer. "Antiwar and Peace Movements." *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*. Ed. David A. Snow, Sarah Anne Soule, and Hanspeter Kriesi. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub., 2004. 641-65. Print.
- Omer-Man, Michael. "This Week in History: Lebanon and the Mothers." *JPost.com*. The Jerusalem Post, 20 May 2012. Web. 30 Sept. 2012.
- "The Parents Circle Families Forum - Exhibitions." *The Parents Circle Families Forum*. Parents Circle-Families Forum, n.d. Web. 1 Nov. 2012. <<http://www.theparentscircle.org/Exhibitions.aspx>>.
- "The Parents Circle Families Forum - Dialogue Meetings." *The Parents Circle Families Forum*. Parents Circle-Families Forum, n.d. Web. 15 Oct. 2012. <<http://www.theparentscircle.org/Content.aspx?ID=9>>.
- "The Parents Circle Families Forum - History Through the Human Eye." *The Parents Circle Families Forum*. Parents Circle-Families Forum, n.d. Web. 5 Oct. 2012. <<http://www.theparentscircle.org/Content.aspx?ID=25>>.
- "The Parents Circle Families Forum - Introduction." *The Parents Circle Families Forum*. Parents Circle-Families Forum, n.d. Web. 15 Nov. 2012. <<http://www.theparentscircle.org/Content.aspx?ID=2>>.
- "The Parents Circle Families Forum - Our Mission Statement." *The Parents Circle Families Forum*. The Parents Circle-Families Forum, n.d. Web. 15 Nov. 2012. <<http://www.theparentscircle.org/Content.aspx?ID=29>>.
- "The Parents Circle Families Forum - Women Creating Reconciliation." *The Parents Circle Families Forum*. Parents Circle-Families Forum, n.d. Web. 15 Sept. 2012. <<http://www.theparentscircle.org/Content.aspx?ID=10>>.
- Saad, Lydia, and Steve Crabtree. "Opinion Briefing: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict." *Gallup.com*. Gallup Inc., n.d. Web. 15 Oct. 2012. <<http://www.gallup.com/poll/153548/Opinion-Briefing-Israeli-Palestinian-Conflict.aspx>>.
- Shah, Anup. "The Middle East Conflict-a Brief Background." *Global Issues*. N.p., 16 Oct. 2000. Web. 15 Sept. 2012. <<http://www.globalissues.org/article/119/the-middle-east-conflict-a-brief-background>>.
- Silvers, Emma. "Grieving Israeli Mom to Palestinians: 'Can We Talk?' ." *Jweekly.com*. San Francisco Jewish Community Publications Inc, 26 July 2012. Web. 20 Oct. 2012.
- Tongeren, Paul Van. "Leaving Lebanon: Four Mothers Movement in Israel." *People Building Peace II: Successful Stories of Civil Society*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2005. N. pag. Web.
- Trounson, Rebecca. "Israeli General's Lebanon Stance Ignites Furor." *Latimes.com*. Los Angeles Times, 29 Nov. 1997. Web. 5 Oct. 2012.