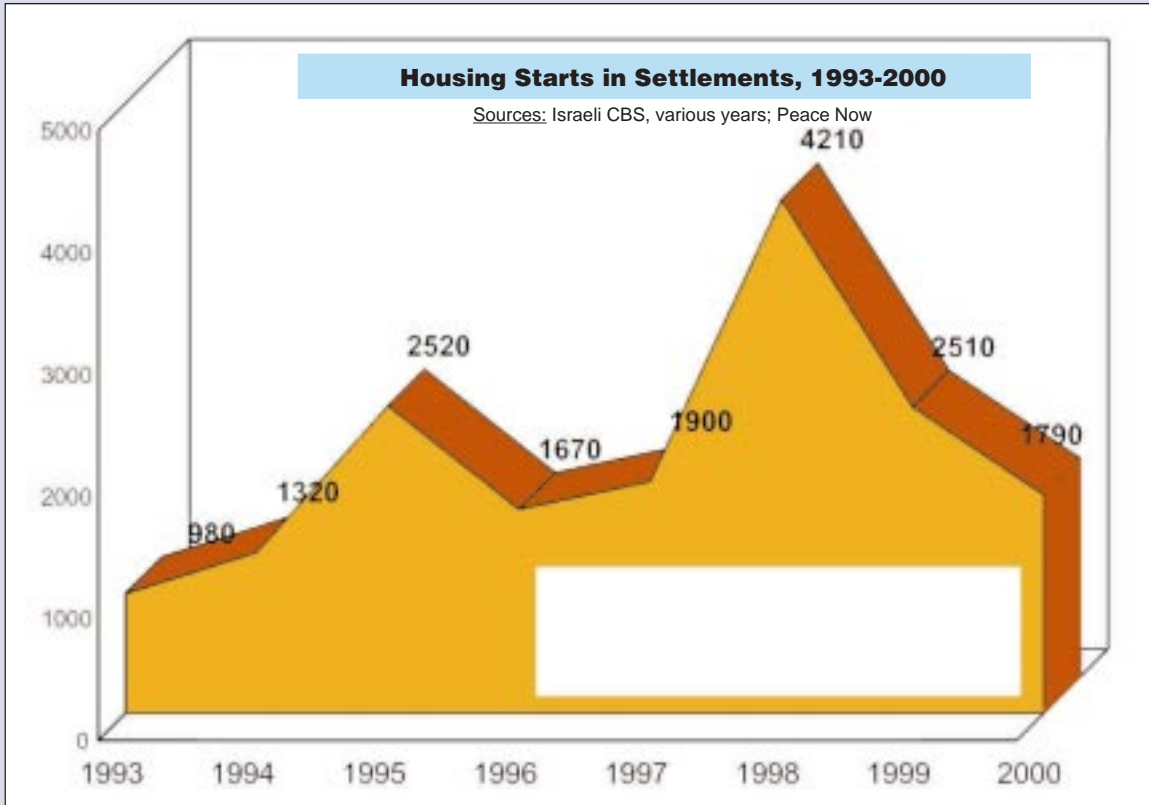


BOX 2:

NUMBER OF SETTLEMENTS:

Figures regarding the number of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip vary according to source:

- According to Peace Now there are 145 official settlements, 17 of which are located in the Gaza Strip and 23 in the Jordan Valley.
- The Palestinian Land Defense Committee counts approximately 190 illegal Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories.
- The Yesha Settler Council details 152 'communities,' of which 18 are in Gaza.



Distribution of Israeli Settlements

Map 2 offers a general overview of the settlements, as they are today, against the backdrop of the current situation, which is characterized by a division of the Palestinian territories into distinctive zones of civil, security and administrative control, as occasioned by the Oslo process.

The map shows the dramatic changes in the position of settlements, adversely impacting on Palestinian territory since Oslo. The situation before Oslo is illustrated on the smaller inset map at left, showing the West Bank and Gaza with a territorial contiguity largely unbroken by settlements, most of which lie scattered over the Palestinian territories in remote locations.

The Oslo II Agreement completely reversed that situation, with territorial integrity and contiguity of the West Bank and Gaza being lost to a rapidly developing strategic chain of Israeli settlements (Area C), including the network of 'bypass' roads. These are instrumental in rendering cohesion to the settlements while simultaneously alienating them from the Palestinian localities upon whose confiscated land they are built.