

## CURA's 2024-2025 Religion and World Affairs Fellowship

**Title: “A One-State Solution”**

**Warren S. Goldstein, Ph.D.**  
**Center for Critical Research on Religion**  
[goldstein@criticaltheoryofreligion.org](mailto:goldstein@criticaltheoryofreligion.org)

The creation of the Jewish state of Israel in 1948 triggered an ongoing conflict that over seventy-five years later still has not been resolved. The reason for this is that a Jewish state (as well as a Palestinian state) is based on ethnic nationalism, which gives state control to an ethnic/religious majority and prioritizes its rights over others. Theodor Herzl, who first called for a Jewish state, based his idea of it on a Christian state, under which Jews had been discriminated. The creation of a Jewish state resulted in the displacement of 750,000 Palestinians. Whereas anyone who is ethnically Jewish in diaspora has “the right of return,” Palestinians who have a more recent connection to Palestine cannot. Jewish settlers in the West Bank have the right to vote in Israeli elections while Palestinians there cannot. My position is that there should be no state religions—that there should be freedom of religion yet the disestablishment of religion (i.e., a separation of church from state)—for to do so otherwise, tramples on the rights of ethnic religious minorities. The ideology that drives the subordination of Palestinians is Zionism, which is Jewish nationalism—the belief that there is the necessity for a Jewish state. In this paper, I will address the Israeli New Historians and Palestinian perspectives. I will examine not only the events that led up to the establishment of the State of Israel but the many conflicts between Israelis and Arabs afterwards. By doing so, I want to carve out a position that not only provides a critique of the inherent problems in the creation of a Jewish state but also the downfalls of a two-state solution should that occur.

### **Bio:**

Warren S. Goldstein, Executive Director of the Center for Critical Research on Religion ([criticaltheoryofreligion.org](http://criticaltheoryofreligion.org)), is the Editor of *Critical Research on Religion* (SAGE Publications) and Book Series Editor of “Studies in Critical Research on Religion” (Brill Academic Publishers and Haymarket Books).