



*The construction of the Freedom Road. Photo courtesy of Salam Fayyad.*

## Salam Fayyad and the Politics of Palestine

*This month we feature two more segments from our policy memoir series with former Palestinian prime minister Salam Fayyad. The first is about improving public safety in 2007, after Hamas broke with Fatah and a unity government collapsed. The second is about crafting an economic strategy in the context of an occupation.*

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“Security was the toughest part of the job,” Salam Fayyad said, reflecting on his first two years as prime minister of the Palestinian Authority. The second intifada, a five-year uprising against Israeli occupation, had just wound down, leaving in its wake an epidemic of crime and lawlessness in the West Bank. To restore order and to demonstrate that authority could fulfill this most primary function of a state, Fayyad worked with security chiefs to revive the mission of the Palestinian Security Services and enhance their professionalism, to deploy the civil police, and to get gunmen off the streets... [Read More](#)

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Upon assuming office in mid-2007, Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad faced an economy in shambles. To demonstrate that the Palestinian Authority could manage a socioeconomic crisis in a manner befitting a sovereign state, Fayyad and his colleagues created a detailed development plan that helped secure financial resources from international donors. With that money, the government undertook an ambitious community development program, building thousands of small-scale infrastructure projects across the West Bank. It also negotiated an easing of some of the Israeli-imposed movement restrictions that were stifling both commerce and investment... [Read More](#)



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