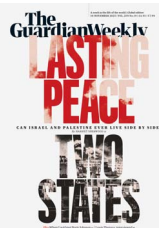


A last hope for peace, engineering glory and a musical refrain

Even as Israeli troops prepared to enter Gaza City and Benjamin Netanyahu said his country would retain “security control” after the fighting ends, the war has brought focus back to the two-state solution - seen by the majority of diplomats and Middle East as experts as the only possible way to bring a stable peace to the region. Former Jerusalem correspondent Harriet Sherwood examines how two states would look, whether the will to achieve such a solution exists and who could broker a deal to turn the hope into fruition in the midst of the bloodiest conflict between Hamas and the Israeli state in decades. **The big story** [Page 12](#) →

Engineering may not be a subject to make everyone’s heart sing, but one of our long-read features this week is a beautiful hymn to the massive structures that help our lives function. Deb Chachra visits a power station buried deep in a Welsh mountain to explain the majesty and sublime complexity of such carefully conceived civic structures that provide us with electricity, sewerage and transportation. **Magnificent megastructures** [Page 34](#) →

Culture this week features one maestro and several maestras. As a virtual concert by Ryuichi Sakamoto is about to take to the stage in London, its creator, Todd Eckart, explains his relationship with the pioneering Japanese composer. And Madrid correspondent Sam Jones explores a ground-breaking exhibition putting overlooked female artists - maestras as they have been dubbed - back on the walls of one of the city’s major galleries. **A master’s profound coda** [Page 51](#) → **Women’s ways of seeing** [Page 55](#) →



On the cover It is the peace plan that has been repeatedly endorsed by world leaders - but whether the two-state solution can ever be implemented in Israel and Palestine remains highly doubtful. As Jonathan Freedland writes this week: “Every step of the way, the men on both sides who want the whole land for themselves will be on hand to derail progress.” *Illustration: Guardian Design*



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