
The “Set-Up” of Settler Colonialism: From the U.S. to Palestine

Collective Liberation

Settler colonialism was (and still is) a set-up, one in which a small western European ruling class found manipulative and violent ways to dislodge the European masses from their traditions of political, cultural, and religious resistance to domination, and enlist them as foot soldiers of a growing global capitalist empire.

Like racism more broadly, settler colonialism functions as a tool of this capitalist class to divide and rule over the global 99%—in this case, by using some of us to displace, supplant, police, and genocide others.

Settlers are certainly given some skin in this imperial game and significant advantage as compared to the colonized, yet their ultimate safety and economic well-being, as well as their humanity itself, are not served by this system. Their primary purpose is to secure land, resources, labor, trade routes and military outposts for their rulers.

“I was in the East End of London and attended a meeting of the unemployed. I listened to the wild speeches, which were just a cry for ‘bread! bread!’ and on my way home I pondered over the scene and I became more than ever convinced of the importance of imperialism... In order to save the forty million inhabitants of the United Kingdom from a bloody civil war, we colonial statesmen must acquire new lands to settle the surplus population... The empire, as I have always said, is a bread and butter question. If you want to avoid civil war, you must become imperialists.”

– Cecil B. Rhodes



The General Duty Act of 1761, disturbingly described by one right-wing historian as, “An ingenious scheme by the tidewater planters to protect their lives and investments.”

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

The
Hundred Years'
War on
PALESTINE

A History of Settler Colonialism
and Resistance, 1917–2017

Rashid Khalidi

Author of Palestinian Identity



PALESTINE

A SOCIALIST INTRODUCTION



Edited by Sumaya Awad and brian bean

Shireen Akram-Boshar writes,

“Britain saw the imminent downfall of the four-hundred-year-old Ottoman Empire as an opportunity for them to occupy and exploit the region’s resources, with an eye to newly discovered oil and the trade routes and access to the markets and colonies of Asia provided by the Suez Canal.”



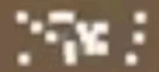
Richard Boyd Barrett, 2023. [Video link](#).

1948:
The Nakba or “Catastrophe”

“The West is none too happy about its relations with states in the Middle East. The feudal regimes there have to make such concessions to **the nationalist movements... that they become more and more reluctant to supply Britain and the United States with their natural resources and military bases....** Therefore, strengthening Israel helps the Western power maintain equilibrium and stability in the Middle East. Israel is to become the watchdog. There is no fear that Israel will undertake any aggressive policy towards the Arab states when this would explicitly contradict the wishes of the US and Britain. But **if for any reason the Western powers should sometimes prefer to close their eyes, Israel could be relied upon to punish one or several of the neighboring states whose discourtesy to the West went beyond the bounds of permissible.**”

— The Israeli Newspaper, *Haaretz*, 1951

5 June '86



It's about time
we stop

The Results of the US-Israel Relationship

For Palestinians:

- Military occupation.
 - Forced separation from homeland.
 - Regular mass killings by the Israeli military.
 - Significant impoverishment.
 - Deep discrimination, loss of democratic rights, family separations, loss of freedom of movement, walled off communities, and checkpoints
 - The suppression of liberation movements in historic Palestine and the broader region.
 - Suppression of culture, history, and language within educational curriculums in the region. Flags, cultural symbols and cultural events criminalized. Arabic place-names erased.
 - What was already an “open air prison” and human rights catastrophe in Gaza turned to rubble, an entire population displaced, brutalized, strategically starved, and targeted with a full-scale genocide.
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The Results of the US-Israel Relationship

For Jewish Israelis:

- Membership in such a settler class entails mandatory military service, homes that are required by law to have bomb shelters, forced participation in unnecessary wars to serve the interests of US and Israeli elites, the suppression of protest, and legitimate fear of attack from a surrounding region that has been so violated by the Israeli military over the course of decades.
 - Despite the risks associated with Israeli citizenship, the poverty level in Israel is even higher than that of the incredibly unequal United States
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The Results of the US-Israel Relationship

- **For Jewish Americans:** When antisemitism is conflated with anti-zionism, the primary threats to Jewish safety go unaddressed.
 - **For the American Left as a Whole:** Suppression of the Palestine solidarity movement in this country is now meant to be a blueprint for criminalizing all dissent from the left. The power of AIPAC weakens progressive power in government more broadly.
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The Results of the US-Israel Relationship

For all of us in the US:

- Billions of tax dollars annually go to the Israeli military (much of which is then given back to US weapons manufacturers) while economic insecurity, inadequate health care, and housing instability skyrocket here.
 - As Israel has been turned into a laboratory for militarized policing and border control, US police forces are trained and equipped by the Israeli military to suppress protest here. Technologies developed to control and blockade Palestinians are being put to use on the US-Mexico border.
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