

GAZA IS A CONCENTRATION CAMP: FINAL SOLUTION OR PEACE DEAL?

Is it not interesting that a bare fortnight ago tens of thousands of Israelis were regularly protesting against their 'Crime' Minister and his attack on their democratic rights. A gentle civil war between secular and religious jews was in progress. Then the Jewish ultra-nationalists deliberately desecrated the Al-Aqsa mosque during their festival of Sukkoth while being protected by the Israeli army knowing full well it would provoke Muslims around the world. And when Hamas retaliated, suddenly all the differences amongst the Jews were forgotten as they rallied behind Netanyahu. Once again this proves that Israel cannot be reformed because its preservation as a colonial state is all consuming.

Israel was heralded as a refuge for Jews ending centuries of persecution. In fact it has been the worst thing that could have happened to the Jewish people. Prior to this oppressive settler state, jews were renowned for being in the forefront of the progressive struggle for democracy and against oppression, especially racial oppression. Israel, however, represents the victory of the exclusive trend within Jewry at the expense of the inclusive trend, with the former elevating the interests of the jews above others and the latter the interests of all. The triumph of the exclusive trend of Judaism has turned a whole section of Jews, the Zionists, into the agents of imperialism disrupting and brutalizing the whole region.

Gaza has been described as an open air prison. This is wrong. It is a concentration camp. Prisons exist within a nation; concentration camps exist between nations in this setting. Prisons are home to those who broke the law within a nation, concentration camps exist for those who broke no law. In a prison the maximum sentence is life, in Gaza it is generations. Prisons are for the few, concentration camps for the many including entire peoples.

To preserve the semblance of peace the Israeli authorities have always had to walk the impossible line between granting a degree of autonomy to Gaza, therefore something to lose, and outright terror. Such a line was predicated on a single factor, a demoralized and humbled Palestinian people accepting their lot and seeking to make the most of it. In this the Zionists have failed. History will remember the inmates of Gaza as a proud and unbroken people. It is their admirable determination to end their incarceration that has generated such creative resistance, and for the Israelis, insurmountable problems.

The war between brothers.

The sole origin of the human race over two hundred thousand years ago is found around a lake in the African rift valley. Over the course of thousands of generations our species has come to walk every continent encountering different climatic zones on the way, evolving to survive its rigors through superficial adaptations to skin colour, hair textures and facial features, but never becoming genetically apart.

Some areas of the world, because of geography and major rivers, became the crossroads over which humanity flowed this way and that. One of the intersections which has been so historically consequential was the Levant, that lateral horseshoe which describes the shape of the Eastern Mediterranean stretching from Greece to Egypt and taking in coastal Turkey. It was an arena of settlement, of invasion, of conquest, of dispersion and of return, centuries of friction which abraded the differences between the distinct peoples who passed through or settled there.

The Jews were not immune from this melting pot. This can be seen from all the genetic assays conducted over the last twenty years since when it became possible to analyze the genomes of the different peoples

who populated this area. The best the apologists for an unbroken Jewish lineage can muster is to postulate that the genetic evidence shows that all Jews came from a small group of men originating in the Middle East, and that any differences within Jewish males is smaller than the difference between Jewish males and the local populations found in the Middle East. However, despite their best efforts no unique Jewish phenotype has been found.

The above observations are clearly influenced by patriarchy. The maternal lineage shows the opposite especially amongst Ashkenazi Jews. Maternal DNA because of *semiconservative reproduction* is the more accurate lineage as it preserves changes. Even if this was not the case, Judaism reproduces itself through the female line not the male line. [The Code of Jewish Law](#) clearly states that a child of a Jewish mother is Jewish, regardless of the father's lineage (or whatever else may show up in a DNA test), while the child of a non-Jewish mother is not Jewish. Matrilineal descent has been a fundamental principle of Torah since the Jewish people came into existence. Some aspects of Judaism, like the priesthood, are clearly patrilineal. But the entry line into Jewishness has always been through the mother—or conversion.”

When looking at the results from Maternal and Paternal DNA histories, opposite conclusions can be drawn: “[Several studies](#) estimate that between **50% to 80%** of Ashkenazic Y-chromosomal (paternal) lineages originate in the Near East, with some estimating that at **least 80%** of their maternal lineages originated in Europe. Most researchers now believe that the early Jewish communities of southern Europe, which are the forebears of Ashkenazi Jews, are descended from both the ancient Israelites and from European converts to Judaism.” In turn mitochondrial DNA reveals that the earliest origin of the Ashkenazi Jews can be traced back to the first century of the Common Era, no earlier. This suggests both the voluntary movement of Jewish male missionaries into areas such as [Mesopotamia](#) during this time to convert pagans to Judaism, (and yes, there were times when Jews engaged in Proselytizing), as well as the double expulsion of Jews by the Romans with many ending up in Southern Europe.

As the Table below shows, for 1,600 years or 80 generations, Jews, from being the majority in the region became the minority.

Overview of Palestine's demographics from the 1st century to the Mandate Era. Figures in thousands.

Year	Jews	Christians	Muslims	Total
1st c.	Majority	—	—	~2,500
4th c.	Majority	Minority	—	>1st c. ^{[1][2]}
5th c.	Minority	Majority	—	>1st c.
End 12th c.	Minority	Minority	Majority	>225
14th c.	Minority	Minority	Majority	150
1533–1539	5	6	145	157
1690–1691	2	11	219	232
1800	7	22	246	275
1890	43	57	432	532
1914	94	70	525	689
1922	84	71	589	752
1931	175	89	760	1,033
1947	630	143	1,181	1,970

Estimates by Sergio DellaPergola (2001), drawing on the work of Bachi (1975). Figures in thousands.^[3]

They became a nation without a nation, and one which aspired to nationhood only in the 19th century when economic forces gave rise to nationalism as a political movement. Given that the Ashkenazi Jews formed the largest Jewish population in the 19th and 20th Century despite the Holocaust, and given their scant genetic links to the region, the question is posed as to whether they remain a people of the region.

The politicization of race, ethnicity, nationalism, and class.

Race is the crudest demarcation in the human race so to speak. It is also the only involuntary demarcation as the newborn does not get to choose its physical features. Jews have been called a race. This is wrong. World Jewry does not share common features despite the caricatures of the hooked nosed Jew relished by antisemites. Jews range from the beautiful Ethiopian black to the charming pale East European white, from curly to lanky hair. All of this shows the out-breeding between Jews and local populations over many centuries.

Ethnicity on the other hand is voluntary but only in the loosest sense. Socially constructed, it has been formed by the prevailing economic conditions. Most ethnicity preceded capitalism and was derived from the confines in which localized small-scale production and trade took place. The unifying culture thus formed tends to be parochial and slow moving. It bows to tradition. It centers on religion, customs, foods, and song. In the case of the Jews, ethnicity abounds even in religious custom, due to the dispersed nature of world Jewry, their association with local societies including urban ones, and the absence of a unifying center.

The impulse for changes to ethnicity or at least its subordination comes from without, in modern history, this is the result of the rise capitalism and its requirement for a unified national market unrestricted by regionalism. Thus distinct dialects are subsumed into a national language, a common currency is borne, market conditions and even time are harmonized, movement which is often forced expands and so on. If being determines consciousness which it does, capitalism and the material conditions it brings about, stamps national consciousness over regional or ethnic variation without eliminating them entirely. Cultural change has always been sticky due to the way the brain develops in early childhood.

Until the 19th century, when a minority of Jews were swept up by the nationalist movements in Europe in particular, what held them together previously was Judaic law, antisemitism and the prominent role played by Jews in commerce where religious ties were an advantage. The glue that held Jews together was definitely not political nationalism, the vision of their own state. This only emerged in the second half of the 19th century, gaining traction only in the 20th century with the rise of fascism in Europe.

In fact the biggest political organisation amongst world Jewry was the secular and socialist Jewish Labour Bund which emerged around this time in Eastern Europe and Russia where the density of Jews was highest and their exclusion from society most severe. By the end of the 19th Century, the Jewish population in Russia exceeded 5 million or one in two Jews when taking the [highest estimates](#) of world Jewry at the time into account.

This class schism within the Jewish population reflected the proletarianization of sections of Jews with the advance of capitalism. Thus alongside the rise in nationalism and national identification, came its antithesis, growing class consciousness. The Bund was socialist rather than communist, was more concerned with democratic reforms than with revolution, but it represented an inclusive movement, one which saw Jewish workers as part of the broader struggle for democratic rights and social justice. It was

opposed to all forms of separatism and also assimilation, instead envisaging societies which did not discriminate against culture, religion, or ethnicity.

And it was antagonistic to the richer non-proletarian layer of Jews whom they recognised harbored class interests which were hostile to that of Jewish workers. It was also opposed to the 'Yeshiva' Jews whom it labelled as parasites. Needless to say it was opposed to the Zionist project of achieving statehood in Palestine. They correctly saw Zionism as an abdication of the struggle to achieve equal rights for Jews in their own countries. This has lessons for today in the age of economic migrancy. They also recognised the rights of the Palestinians, the settled inhabitants in the region.

Thus there was little support for a Jewish state even amongst upper class Jews who understood that support for such a project would give rise to charges of 'disloyalty to the motherland' thereby compromising their commercial relations. Nor was there widespread support amongst the Yeshivas who believed Israel could only be delivered by the hand of God, not by the hand of man. Nor was there widespread support for a Jewish state in Western Europe, Britain and the USA where assimilation was greater and living standards higher than found in the impoverished Middle East.

Three factors led to the formation of the State of Israel.

The first was the defeat of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination between 1936 and 1939 called *The Great Palestinian Revolt*. This revolt had both economic and demographic causes including the arrival of 60,000 Jews fleeing persecution in Europe bringing their population to 320,000 in 1935. The British ruthlessly suppressed this uprising and it is said one in ten adult Palestinian males were killed as a result. They were ably supported by the incipient Jewish settler army the Hagannah proving that Zionism was willing to cooperate with Imperialism when it suited their interest. The more important consequence of the defeat of Palestinian nationalism before the war was that it ensured that conditions after the war would favour the Zionists. Had the Palestinian struggle achieved autonomy from Britain before WW2 it is unlikely the Jewish settler state would ever have come into existence despite the Holocaust.

Enough has been written about the Holocaust whose name the Zionists seem to have patented except to say it was the Palestinians who would pay for the crimes committed in Europe. It should also be added that the Holocaust can be traced back to the failure to internationalize the Russian Revolution, to 'socialism in one country' and subsequently to the Devil's Pact between Stalin and Imperialism, whereby in return for respecting the territorial integrity of the USSR he would sabotage the world proletarian movement. In the case of Germany this took the form of turning the German workers against each other by branding the SPD and its supporters as 'social fascists' creating the opening for Hitler to seize power. We may also add that Stalin's decapitating of the anarchists in the Spanish Civil War ensured that Hitler's first military expedition was successful, further emboldening him.

The final reason was the changed world order after the Second World War resulting in the eclipse of the dominant imperial power in the region, Britain. At first the [US State Department](#), untouched by public opinion and Zionist lobbying, was opposed to the formation of a Jewish State in the region knowing it would antagonize the relationship between the USA and the oil rich Arab nations. But they were overruled by the politicians, by Truman in particular. One of the factors influencing the US position was the behaviour of the USSR. Stalin saw the Zionists, many of whom were Russian, as potential allies in a region where the USSR was shunned by Arab politicians. In fact Russia was the first power to recognise the newly formed Israeli state and it was the country which primarily armed the Zionist forces in 1948, often, and ironically,

with arms confiscated from the defeated fascist army in Europe. Like all things Stalin, this project blew up in his face as the new Israeli government turned to the USA. The victory of the Israelis against the combined Arab armies changed the mind of the US state department. With the rise of pan-Arab nationalism it came to see Israel as the ideal instrument for disrupting this movement, which had it succeeded could have exploited the oil wealth in the region challenging US economic interests there.

The perennial problem facing the Zionists.

During the Nakba or ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian population over 80% of the Palestinian population, or up to 700,000, were chased beyond the new borders of the victorious State of Israel. Those that sought to return were butchered with estimates ranging between 2,700 and 5,000 killed. Many of the remaining Palestinians who refused to leave became internally displaced as Israeli settlers grabbed their land and eradicated their villages.

Many Palestinians fled to Gaza whose city was 5,000 years old. The Gaza Strip which had been previously under Egyptian administration following the war in 1948 was captured by Israel in 1967 and colonized by the Zionists. In 2005 the remaining Zionist settlements in Gaza were dismantled and Gaza was now populated solely by Palestinians. By agreeing to a degree of legislative autonomy following the Oslo Accords, the Israeli Government mistakenly believed the Palestinians would accept their lot and abandon their aspirations of reclaiming their country from the Jewish settlers.

They were mistaken, and everything that follows, arises from this underestimation of the undying national aspirations of the Palestinian people. This is what the Israeli government now seeks to remedy in this the fifth war on Gaza (the previous assaults were in 2008-09, 2012, 2014 and 2021). This war is different. Israel is carpet bombing Gaza seeking for the first time to ruin it and drive out its population. The intention is not only to defeat Hamas but to break and demoralize the Palestinians for the foreseeable future.

No doubt the USA has given the green light for an all out war despite Blinken trying to cover the US's tracks by asking the Israeli army, navy, and air force to respect the civilian population. It seems he is backing up his words by ferrying thousands of bombs to Israel with which to burn Gaza. The fact is that the US requires a stable Middle East which in turn requires the destruction of Hamas and Hezbollah in order to focus undisturbed on China, and this at a time when its NATO nose is being rubbed into the Ukrainian mud by a rampaging Russian and Donbass army.

With China making diplomatic gains in the Middle East, the US is forced to fall back on its Zionist rottweiler. The USA is complicit in all the Zionist crimes because it is the enabler of these crimes. The barbarism we are seeing on the Mediterranean coast results from the decay of US imperialism. Israel belongs to the US century and Israel knows this, hence its desperate diplomatic efforts in the region to strike deals with its neighbours, before the sun finally sets on the US Empire.

However, besides being a military embarrassment to Israel, the incursions from Gaza has blown up Israeli ambitions in the region aimed at normalizing its relations with the Gulf States particularly with Saudi Arabia whom Israel has been courting for years. Now these duplicitous Gulf Leaders have to contend with popular support for the Palestinians amongst their own populations. It cannot be ruled out that some may even be overthrown because of their fraternization with Israel.

Finally, the rise and the growing domination of the religious ultra-right in Israel makes the Zionist state an unreliable and unpredictable asset for US imperialism. Despite this, the die is cast, the US cannot abandon

its bastard child without significant political damage to itself. The decay of US imperialism and the degeneration of the Zionist state mirror each other. It was always likely to be thus.

Conclusion.

The Israeli government was taken in by its own hype about the prowess of Israeli technology, technology they were quick to sell abroad. They thought that automating the fences around Gaza with sensors, deploying drones, refining algorithms, using electronic eavesdropping, with computers and autonomous machine gun towers, all this would be enough to secure Gaza. This over reliance on technology was their undoing. Two Israeli soldiers with a pair of binoculars and a phone would have provided more warning. Here is a lesson for revolutionaries worldwide. Technology is not invincible. Made by humans, it can be unmade by humans. Once opponents of the state understand how it works, they can turn it against their users. And the more our oppressors rely on this technology the more the tables can be turned.

Another aspect of this war is the Zionist tropes launched against the Palestinians. Images of babies being slaughtered and women violated is an echo of the same images used by the anti-Semites centuries ago, not only to justify the pogroms that devastated Jewish ghettos but to intensify these attacks by deliberately arousing the bloodlust of the attackers. So too today. Many Palestinians and many of their supporters including myself, condemn the shooting or execution of unarmed civilians anywhere and everywhere including the musical festival on the border of Gaza.

That said the matter is not so straightforward. Israel is one of the most militarized societies on this planet. Most Jews are conscripted into the army and taught to fight even to kill with their bare hands (Krav Maga). In addition no congregation of Jews ever goes unprotected whether it is in their canyons (malls) or festivals. There are always armed guards present and it is probable that all the festival goers had their bags searched for weapons before being allowed to enter. Viewing the burnt out cars it is likely that some firefight took place between these armed guards and Hamas fighters, unless the Hamas fighters were stupid enough to waste their precious bullets on rubber and steel, or the guards all ran away.

Whatever the case, these images are being used to obscure the massacres taking place in Gaza. Hamas is portrayed as the Nazis and the Israelis as the freedom fighters. That these images can become so prominent is a product of racism. It seems an Israeli can do no wrong and a Muslim can do no right. That the life of an Israeli is worth more than a Palestinian life. This is the legacy of imperialism, this identification with the oppressor not the oppressed. These allegiances are about to be tested as never before because Israel is unleashing terror on a scale not seen before.

There can be no political resolution to the conflict. Israel cannot concede even a two-state solution given the rise of religious ultra-nationalism in the country. Therefore it has no recourse but to declare an all out war on Gaza. We in the West are duty bound to solidarize with the Palestinians by breaking the support of our governments for the Zionists. Israel always was and always will be dependent on Western Imperialism. The US is sending two fleets in support, Britain one, and even the Germans, despite their history, are supplying drones to Israel. This war is becoming a micro world war as Europe, Britain and North America all become involved. It requires an equivalent international response; it requires workers across the continents rallying to support the just cause of the Palestinian people by standing up to their imperialist bosses. Only then can this terrible massacre be prevented.

Brian Green, 13th October 2023.