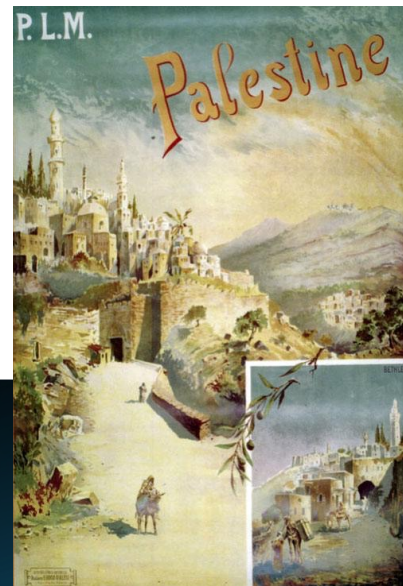


100 years of colonization, dehumanization and erasure of the Palestinian people

And 100 years of resilience and resistance by the Palestinian people

Bassam Hussein  
Professor  
Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering  
NTNU



### Louis Guerry 1898

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## Contents

- Colonization of Palestine ---
  - Context, Imperial complicity
  - Zionism as a colonial project
- Dehumanization of the indigenous Palestinian people
  - Main practice for colonization in Palestine (erasure from time and memory, ethnic cleansing, and genocide)
  - The role of orientalism, Myth of terra-nullis, racism and eurocentrism. Whiteness as the ideological bridge.
- Resilience and Resistance
  - More than 1/2 million Palestinians are killed since 1920 in the fight for freedom (The timeline of resistance)
  - October 7<sup>th</sup>
  - The aftermath of October 7<sup>th</sup> as a turning point in our history
- Why decoloniality and decolonization are urgent?
  - Exposing and challenging the narrative
  - The role of grass-roots movements
  - The failure of the established system across the political spectrum

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-

## Own contributions

- **Bassam Hussein, Palestine liberation through decolonization of the narrative about Zionism and its project Israel. An Essay.**
- <https://bassamh.folk.ntnu.no/Palestine/essay.pdf>
- **Public lecture (in Norwegian)**
  - How media disseminate the Israeli Narrative?
  - I have conducted a media analysis of 31 articles and news stories from *NRK*, *VG*, *Aftenposten*, and *Dagbladet* (Oct 2023–Apr 2025). The findings provide empirical evidence that Norwegian mainstream media function not as neutral observers, but as active participants in legitimizing Israel's settler-colonial violence. These findings were presented publicly on May 3, 2025 ([link to lecture](#)).

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## Own contributions

- Exhibition at KiT (Kunstakademiet i Trondheim) The art of Palestinian resistance (28. februar til 8. mars.)

Curated by: Tove Hilvie Axel-Nilsson Karlsson, KiT

*This exhibition seeks to visually shed light on the evolution of Palestinian resistance movement over the last 100 years, tracing its roots from the infamous Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917, to what many Palestinians calls the beginning of decolonization on October 7, 2023, known also as the "Al-Aqsa Flood". Using the historical trajectory of the Palestinian resistance as a backdrop, we aim to shed the light on key influential persons from resistance movement, artists, painters, poets, authors, singers and show the broader geopolitical contexts that have shaped the Palestinian struggle for decolonization and freedom.*

<https://bassamh.folk.ntnu.no/kit/kit.pdf>

### THE ART OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE



6

KIT



7

## Part 1

Colonialism and imperial support

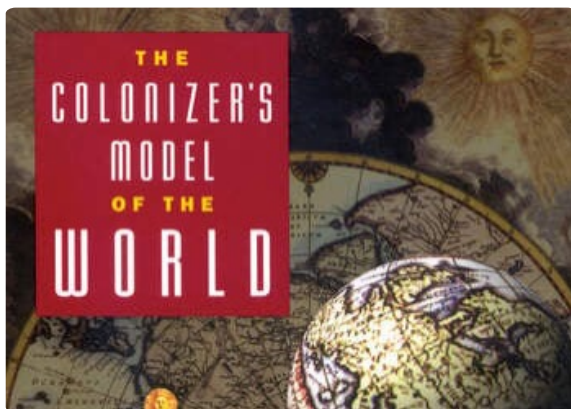
8



- Colonialism still exist (in different shapes and forms) and thriving
  - Colonial taxes in west Africa
- New forms: Soft Colonialism
  - Media
  - Social media
  - Education
  - Medicine
  - Sports



9



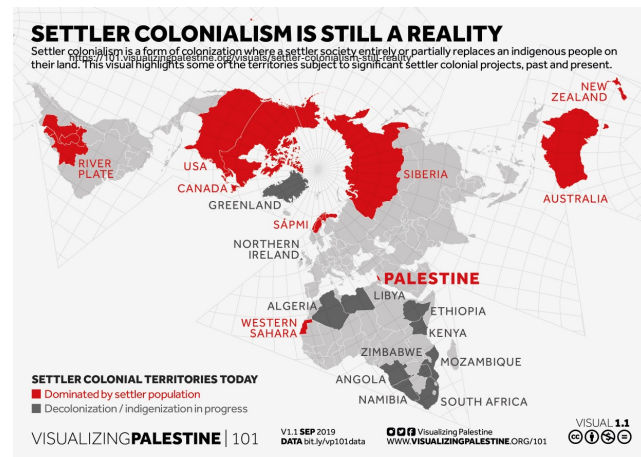
## What drives settler-colonization in Palestine ?

- The Basic Racist Argument
  - 1) The colonizers have unique qualities of **race**, **environment**, **culture** and **mindset** that must be **diffused** to the rest of the world and
  - 2) must **replace** the environment, mindset, culture and of the “others”
  - Jeff Platts 1993 (The colonizers mindset of the world) A trilogy.

10

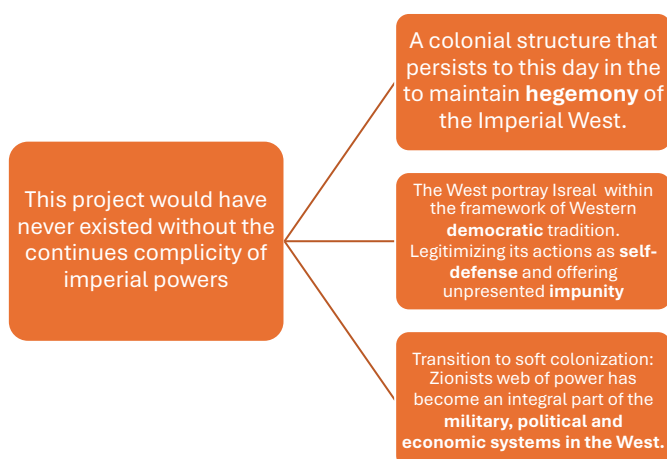
## Colonization

- Classical Colonialism
  - Exploiting
- Settler-Colonialism (on going structure)
  - **Dehumanization**
  - Physical elimination
  - Expelling
  - Isolation
  - Forced Inter-breeding
  - Forced religious conversion



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## The imperial support for Zionism



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# Context of Palestine Colonization

Israel as a settler colonial project was conceived as early as 1799 by Napoléon. The project is a part of a many colonization attempts in many parts of the world.

Between 1885 and 1914, Britain alone controlled nearly 30% of Africa's population



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## A brief Chronology of Palestine Colonization

- 1799- The idea of establishing a Jewish protectorate in Palestine was first proposed by Napoleon.
- 1880-1900 Antisemitic sentiment and attacks on Jews in Europe
- Between 1882 and 1903, 25,000 European Jews, mainly from Eastern Europe, emigrate to Palestine funded by wealthy Jews (Rothschild)
- 1895 Theodor Herzl, an Austrian journalist, publishes Der Judenstaat (The Jewish State) where he advocates the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine or elsewhere as the solution to the "Jewish question"
- 1897 First Zionist Congress
- 1917 Balfour Declaration
- 1920-1946 Massive Jewish immigration to Palestine (374,000 Jews) under British mandate
- 1947 Partition plan (55% to Jews who owned 6% of arable land and 45% to Palestinians who owned 94% of the land)
- Plan D April 1948: 120,000 Israeli soldiers attacked 220 Palestinian towns and villages expelling more than 400,000 Palestinians from their towns
- 1948 Nakba (all together 900,000 Palestinians were expelled and around 500 villages were ethnically cleansed)
- 1967 Six Day War (occupation of West-Bank and Gaza)
- 1993-2023 Oslo Accords: Colonization of the West Bank 700,000 new colonizers
- 2023 Alqaqa flood and the masks off

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## Zionism and its relation to colonialism

- Vladimir Jabotinsky and Theodor Herzl, described Zionism as a form of colonialism
- Jewish Colonization Association (still active but changed its name to Jewish Charitable Association (ICA).)
- Edward Said, Ilan Pappé, Noam Chomsky: Israel's foundation and continued existence are rooted in colonial practices.



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## Part 2

Dehumanization and Erasure

17

## The case of Palestine

- **Examples**
  - **Erasure: Terra nullis, denial of Palestinian existence**
  - **Systematic Erasure of Palestinian culture (culturalcide)**
    - Robbed properties, land and food, renaming cities and villages and streets
  - **Calling the Palestinians destructive elements, terrorists and then human animals**
  - **Creating physical, legal and time barriers between Palestinian communities to prevent developing cultural and physical bonds.**



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## Erasure

- The colonizers engaged in a systematic effort to erase the Palestinian people from the narrative entirely, claiming that we did not exist.
- In public, Zionist leaders have used typical colonial terminology claiming that Palestine was empty:
  - Uninhabited
  - virgin territory
  - terra nullius,
- **“It was not as if there was a Palestinian people in Palestine and we came and threw them out and took their country away from them. They did not exist.” Golda Meir**



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## Replace the word Palestinian with Palestine-Arabs

- They refuse to use the word **Palestinians** to refer to the Arab population of historical Palestine.
- Even the Zionist supporters in the West continue to refuse to use the word **Palestinian** when they refer to any Palestinian. See the screen dump.

KOMMENTAR

Arabisk professor ved NTNU vil utsette



Bente Høyrstad 29.05.2024 09:00



Fra tidligere som Gaza-aktivist har etablert ved NTNU på Glashaugen i mai 2024. Skjermump fra Facebook.

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## Calling Palestinians as destroyers, terrorists or animals

- When the Palestinians resisted:
- Israel labeled the Palestinians **destroyers**
- As resistance continued, Palestinians were then branded as "**terrorists**," a colonial term applied to all who resisted colonization
- Then "**animals**," a term that strips Palestinians of their humanity entirely.

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## Renaming of Palestinian cities and villages

- The erasure of Arab place names and their replacement with Hebrew names began as early as the 1920s, during the British Mandate. A **naming committee** was established for this purpose
- Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion outlined the committee's objectives in a letter to its chairman:
- *"We are obligated to remove the Arabic names for state-related reasons. Just as we do not recognize the Arabs' political ownership of the land, we do not recognize their spiritual ownership and their names."*
- In the Negev, 333 out of the 533 new names decided by the committee were either phonetic translations or similar to the Arabic names.

Yafa Karyon (Yafa, depopulated in 1948; German name)	Jerusalem; Hebrew: 'Vine Spring'
Kfar Bar-Ilan (northern Galilee); depopulated in October 1948; Arabic: 'Budding Village'	Bar-Ilan (Tel Aviv); established in 1949; Hebrew: 'Son of the People'
Nakhal, depopulated in the 1920s	Nakhal (moshav) founded in 1921
Beit, depopulated in the 1920s	Givat (moshav) founded in 1926
al-Ram (Western Galilee) on 18 May 1948	Beit (moshav) founded after 1948
Wadi al-Hawarith, Arabic: 'Valley of Peasantry'	Tanakh Hagar, Hebrew: 'Valley of Digging'; Tan Ha-Harash (moshav) founded in 1911; was one of the first Zionist settlements in the northern part of Wadi al-Hawarith; Hebrew: 'The Flourish of Spring'; notable residents included Israeli journalist Benny Morris
Wadi Sarar or Wadi Sarar (west of Jerusalem, Arabic: 'Pebble Stream')	Nahal Sarad; Nahal Sarad Nature Reserve created in 1961; Hebrew: 'Stream of Pebbles' transferred from the Arabic toponym made to sound like a name from the Mishnah; the body of cognate of the Tanakh
Sel' Berman (Naqab); Arabic: 'Stream of Berman'	Nahal Amram; Hebrew: 'Stream of Amram' recalling the biblical name of the father of Moses and Aaron
Ishai Harif (Naqab); Arabic: 'Mount Harif'	Har Harif; Hebrew: 'Sharp Mountain'
Ishai Dibba (Naqab); Arabic: 'Thump Hill'	Har Dibat; Hebrew: 'Mount Pumpkin'
Tall as-Safi, (northwest of al-Khail); depopulated in July 1948; Arabic: 'The white soil'	Tel Tsafit National Park
Beit Dajan (southeast of Jaffa); depopulated in April 1948	Beit Dagan; founded in 1948; Hebrew: 'House of Grain'
Safar (Upper Galilee); depopulated October 1948	Safar kibbutz; founded in January 1949
Hirsh (Eastern Galilee); depopulated in July 1948	Kfar Hirsh (moshav); established in 1926; Hebrew: 'Village of Walnut'
Al-Khadr, or al-Khadra (central Palestine); Arabic: 'The Green'	Hadrus; established in 1891 as a farming Zionist colony; today a major Israeli city; Israeli toponymists make no use in Hebrew
Melrose or Marrose (5 kilometres west of Safed); depopulated in 1948; the name associated with the ancient Caesarea city of Melos or Marone	Meron (moshav); founded in 1949
Al-Mudal (a coastal town in the south)	Israeli city; remained in the Hebrew-sounding Mital '44 in 1949 and subsequently to the

22



## Other practices of the culturalcide in Palestine

- **Time:**
  - Physical barriers, and bureaucratic processes that drain Palestinians' time, limiting their freedom of movement and ability to thrive economically and **culturally**
- **Family**
  - Imposing barriers that prevent or severely limit Palestinians from maintaining close ties with their relatives or spouses, both geographically and culturally.

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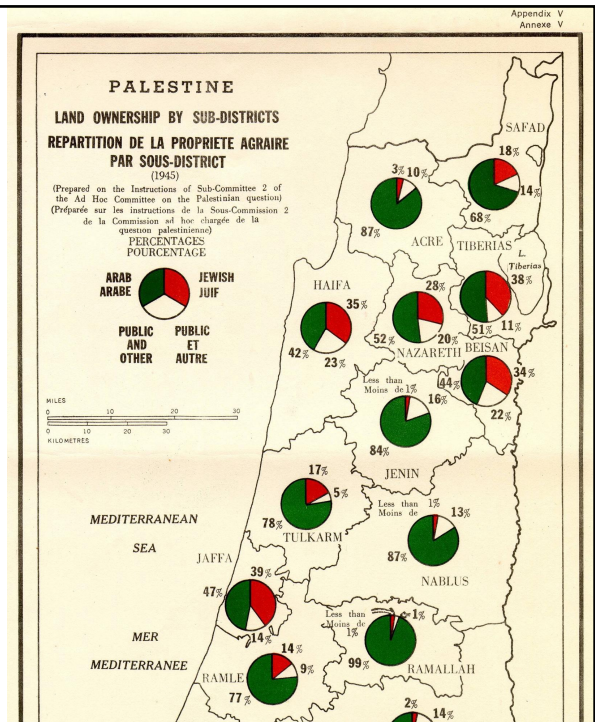


## Other practices of the culturalcide in Palestine

- In 1950, Israel enacted the Absentee Property Law, allowing it to confiscate Palestinian properties whose owners were forced to leave in 1948



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# Deleting memory

The Nakba Law (2011) strips state funding from any public entity, including educational institutions, that commemorates the Nakba or rejects the existence of Israel as a “Jewish and democratic state”.

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## More Evidence of the culturalcide in Palestine

- Physical Destruction (in particular during the war on Gaza and Westbank 2023)
- As of February 2024, they report that 44 people involved with arts and culture were killed and around 200 historic buildings were damaged or destroyed, along with 12 museums and numerous cultural centres.



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## Part 3

Zionism

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## A Chronology of Palestine Colonization

- 1799 while Palestine was under Othman ules, the idea of establishing a Jewish protectorate in Palestine was first proposed by Napoleon. He suggested forming a Jewish state under French protection.



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the Ottoman census of 1878 indicated the following demographics for the Jerusalem, Nablus, and Acre districts

<u>Census Group</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Muslim	403,795	85.5
Christian	43,659	9.2
Jewish	15,001	3.2
Jewish (Foreign-born)	Est. 10,000	2.1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>472,455</b>	<b>100.0</b>

29



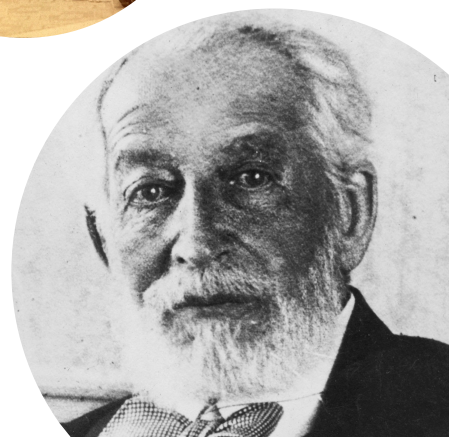
# Antisemitic sentiment and attacks on jews in Europe late 1880-1900



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## Emergence of Jewish Nationalism movement

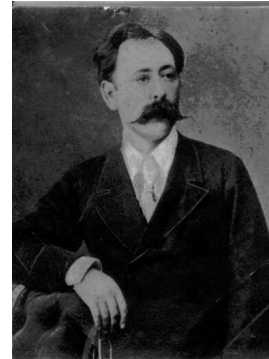
- 1884 Hovevei Zion (Lovers of Zion) groups emerge in Russia and Eastern Europe. They hold their first congress in Kattowitz (now Poland), establish a charity to support Jewish farmers in Syria and Palestine.
- Between 1882 and 1903, 25,000 European Jews, mainly from Eastern Europe, emigrate to Palestine. Wealthy European Jews like Baron Edmond de Rothschild invested 14 million francs to establish Jewish colonies in Palestine.
- Ottoman rulers attempted to limit Jewish emigration to Palestine but was heavily criticized by European Powers at the Time



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# Zionism

- 1885 the term Zionism was coined by Austrian Nathan Birnbaum.
  - The establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine
- 1891 Establishment of the Jewish Colonization Association (JCA) is founded in London by German Baron Maurice de Hirsch to help "establish [Jewish] colonies in various parts of the Americas and other countries for agricultural, commercial, and other purposes."
- The JCA will start supporting Jewish colonies in Palestine in 1896.



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# Emergence of Zionist movement

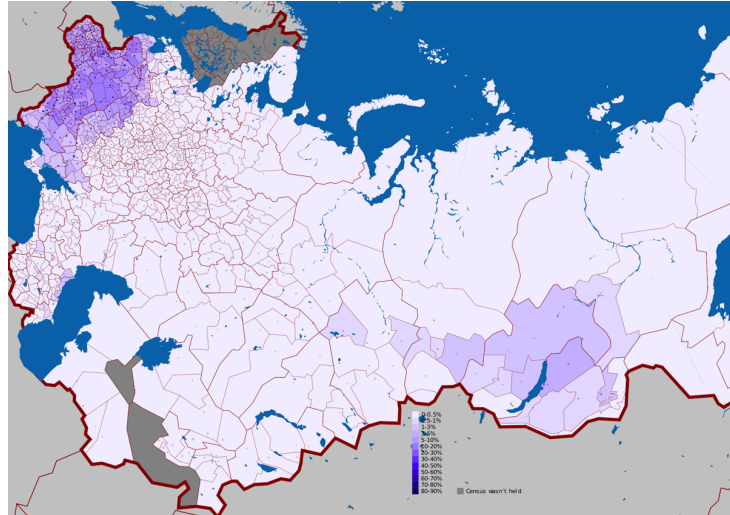
- Theodor Herzl, an Austrian journalist, publishes *Der Judenstaat* (The Jewish State) where he advocates the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine or elsewhere as the solution to the "Jewish question"
- He explains that the state he calls for will "form a portion of a rampart of Europe against Asia, an outpost of civilization as opposed to barbarism." Herzl will be considered the father of modern political Zionism.
- In 1897, Herzl organized the First Zionist Congress, which met in Basel, Switzerland. He also formed and became the first president of the World Zionist Organization.



33

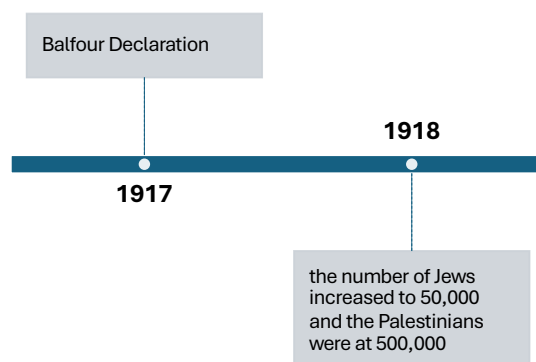
## Jewish State

- Several countries were proposed for the future state
- Max Bodenheimer proposed the Pale of Settlements (Belarus, Moldova, Lithuania, Ukraine, Poland and parts of Latvia)
  - Pale meaning an enclosed area.
- Uganda (5000 kvm)
- Argentina



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## (1918-1947 (Massive Jewish emigration and Colonization)



Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet.

His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, and the political status enjoyed by Jews in other countries.

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## Part 4

Ideological bridge

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### Aiding the colonizer why?

- Zionism did not 'succeed' because of Jewish support but because of 'western' imperial backing,
- The Zionists cleverly slotted themselves into imperial designs, made themselves useful as tools **Britain - in particular - could use in their redesigning of the Middle East. Jeremy Salt**
- Why?
  - Whiteness as ideological bridge
  - Solving the Jewish problem in Europe (another racist dimension)

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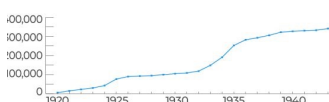




### 1920-1946

#### Jewish immigration to Palestine

An estimated 376,415 Jewish immigrants, mostly from Europe arrived in Palestine between 1920 and 1946 according to British records.



Source: A survey of Palestine (1946)

### 1939-1945

The British Mandate facilitated Jewish immigration from Europe to Palestine in the 1920s and 1930s.

By 1947, the Jewish population had increased tenfold to 33 percent of Palestine.



### (1918-1947 (Massive Jewish emigration and Colonization)

- 1920-1936 Herbert British High Commissioner.
- Self-declared Zionist. He was responsible for the practical establishment of Israel:
  - Laws
  - Education
  - Army
  - Renaming of Palestinian cities and villages

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## Edward Said on the question of Palestine

• Certainly, so far as the West is concerned, Palestine has been a place where a relatively advanced (because European) **incoming population of Jews has performed miracles** of construction and civilizing and has fought brilliantly successful technical wars against what was always portrayed as a dumb, essentially **repellent population of uncivilized Arab natives**.

- For the West, the battle for Palestine is a battle between "civilized" smart, intelligent white Europeans and backward, stubborn and dirty Arabs.

•



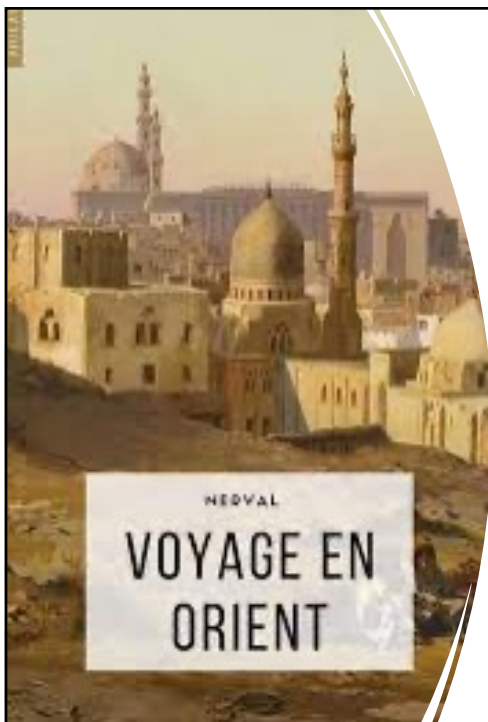
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## Winston Churchill, 1874-1965, To the Peel Commission on a Jewish Homeland in Palestine, 1937

- I do not agree that the dog in a manger has the final right to the manger even though he may have lain there for a very long time. I do not admit that right. I do not admit for instance, that a great wrong has been done to the Red Indians of America or the black people of Australia. I do not admit that a wrong has been done to these people by the fact that **a stronger race, a higher-grade race, a more worldly-wise race to put it that way, has come in and taken their place.**



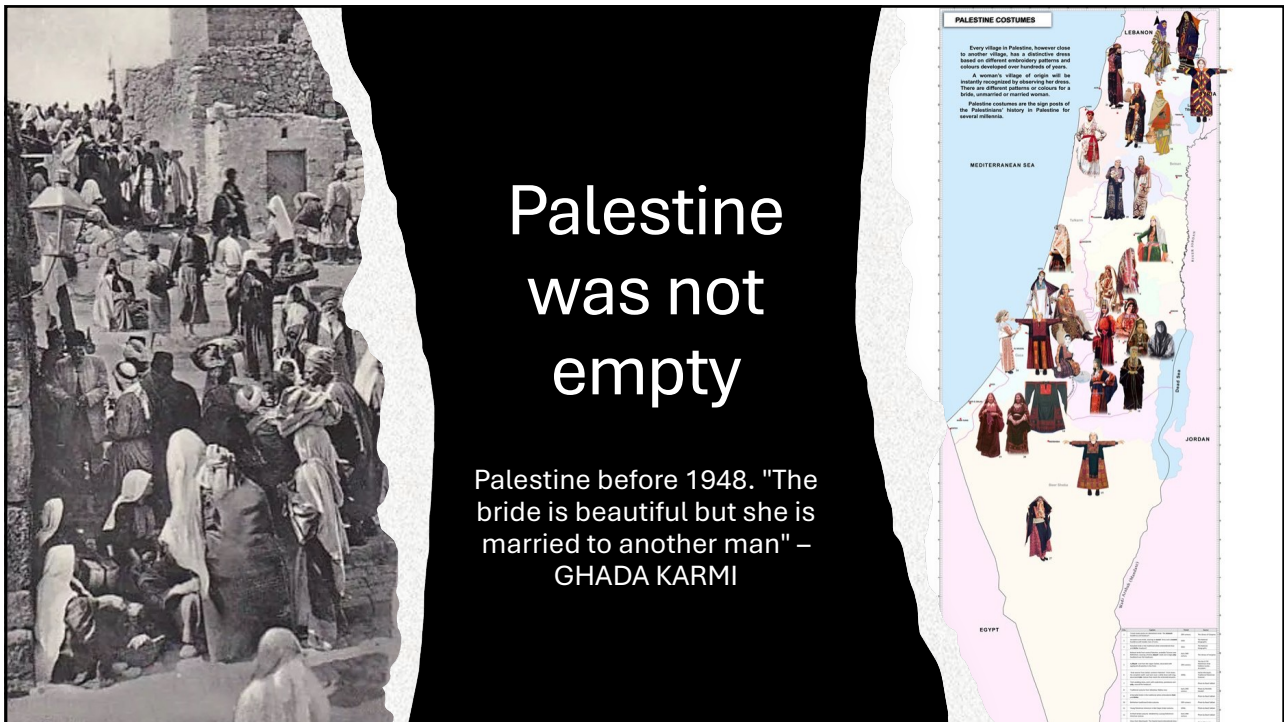
40



## Alphonse de Lamartine *Voyage en Orient. 1833*

- 
- The land (Palestine) is essentially **empty**, it was not a **land** and therefore a fantastic place for an imperialist or colonial project that France could undertake.
  - Like all strands of European colonialism, They considered any territory “empty” and available if its people had not achieved statehood.
  - For them, it was simply a matter of finding this open empty space –In the case of Palestine, it was deemed empty and devoid of culture and the Palestinian people were portrayed as marginal and uncultured.

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## The same mindsett is still dominant

- De-humanizing the others
- Portraying the world as we-OR them
- Putting all the others into boxes
- We know better, we are the model to follow, we are knowledgeable, we are smarter, we have values
- Then continue stealing the land and resources



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# Part 5

## Resistance and Resilience

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### A chronology of atrocities and resistance

1907	Actual implementation of Zionism (taking over the land and expelling locals) 60,000 Palestinian farmers were forced to leave their villages after Baron De Rothschild bought 10,000 dunams in Majd al-Sayid. Start of Nakba
1917	Balfour Declaration: The Balfour Declaration was the promise of those who did not own to those who have no title, giving away the property of the absent lawful owners
1920-1935	Herbert British High Commissioner was appointed. Self-declared Zionist. He was responsible for the practical establishment of Israel. Massive Jewish emigration to Palestine
1935-1936	start of armed Palestinian resistance. Led by Izz al-Din al-Qassam. Al-Qassam was killed by the British in 1935
1936-1939	First Intifada
1947-1948	Start of Nakba 2.0 and partition of Palestine.
1993	The Oslo Accords. Nakba 3.0
2023	The prison break. Beginning of End of Nakba

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## Nakba 1947

- 356 war crimes committed by Israel between 1947 and 1953, including 156 massacres and killings of civilians.
- A total of 530 towns and villages were ethnically cleansed
- 900,000 Palestinians were rendered stateless

Table 1: Israeli War Crimes

Code	Explanation	No Listed
1	Expulsion, Flight of Population	15
2	Killing People. Atrocities, Massacres	159
3	Looting and Plunder	15
4	Destruction of Houses and Villages	124
5	Detention and Forced Labour Camps	7
6	Maltreatment, Starvation, Rape	18
7	Suffering after Expulsion as a Refugee	2
8	Other Wrongdoing	16
Total	Note: These numbers are not exhaustive	356

Source: Abu Sitta, *Atlas of Palestine 1917-1966*

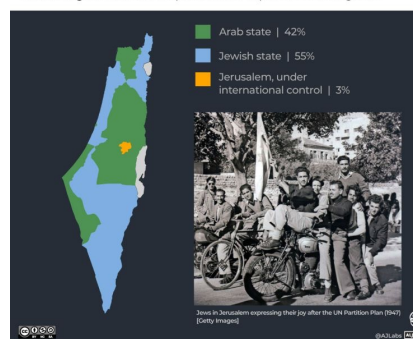
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## Colonization phase 2: Establishing the state and expelling indigenous people 1947- 1949

- Resolution 181 ( 55% of palestine was given to strangers who made up only 33% OF THE POPULATION OF PALESTINE )
- 33 yes
  - Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Byelorussian S.S.R., Canada, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Liberia, Luxemburg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, **Norway**, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Ukrainian S.S.R., Union of South Africa, U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Uruguay, Venezuela.
- 10 abstain
  - Argentina, Chile, China, Colombia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Mexico, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia.
- 13 against
  - Afghanistan, Cuba, Egypt, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Yemen.

### ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT UN Partition Plan

Following the end of World War II, the newly formed United Nations proposed a plan that would grant **55 percent of historic Palestine to a Jewish state** and **42 percent to a non-contiguous Arab state**. The plan was never implemented on the ground.



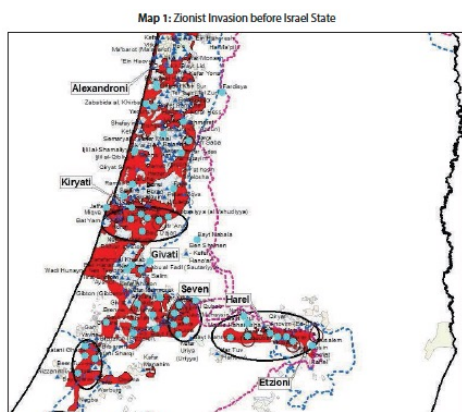
47

## 1947- 1949

- Zionists call this period civil-war (denying that they are colonizers)
- Palestinians did not accept the UN partition plan
- Israel also implemented Plan D by Hagana, which lasted from 1948-1949
  - The goal was to take control of more Palestinian land
  - Ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from the proposed Jewish state / gain more land from the proposed Arab state
  - April 9: Dir Yasin
  - May 14, 1948: British mandate ends
  - May 15, 1948: Israel is declared an independent state

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## Invasjon av Palestina Plan D April 1948



Source: Abu Sitta, Palestine Land Society

- April 1948: 120,000 soldiers attacked 220 Palestinian towns and villages.
- Plan D created half of all Palestinian refugees before the establishment of the state of Israel, before the end of the British mandate, or before Arab soldiers came to Palestine.
- By May 15, 220 villages were ethnically cleansed, and the Zionists took over 3,500 sq km (mostly arable land)
- Major cities were besieged and water and supplies were cut

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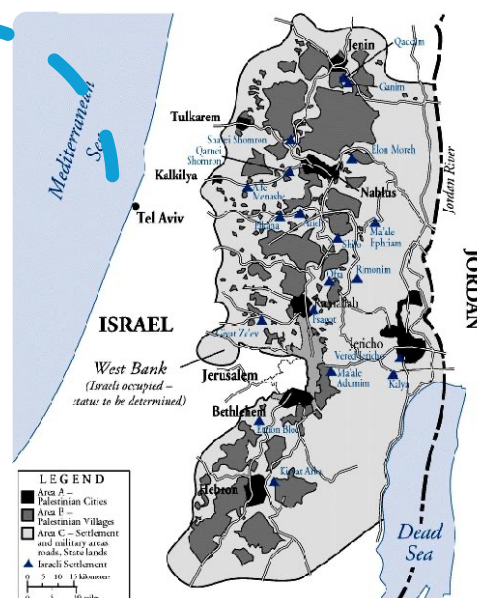
# Oslo Accords

Nakba 2.0

50

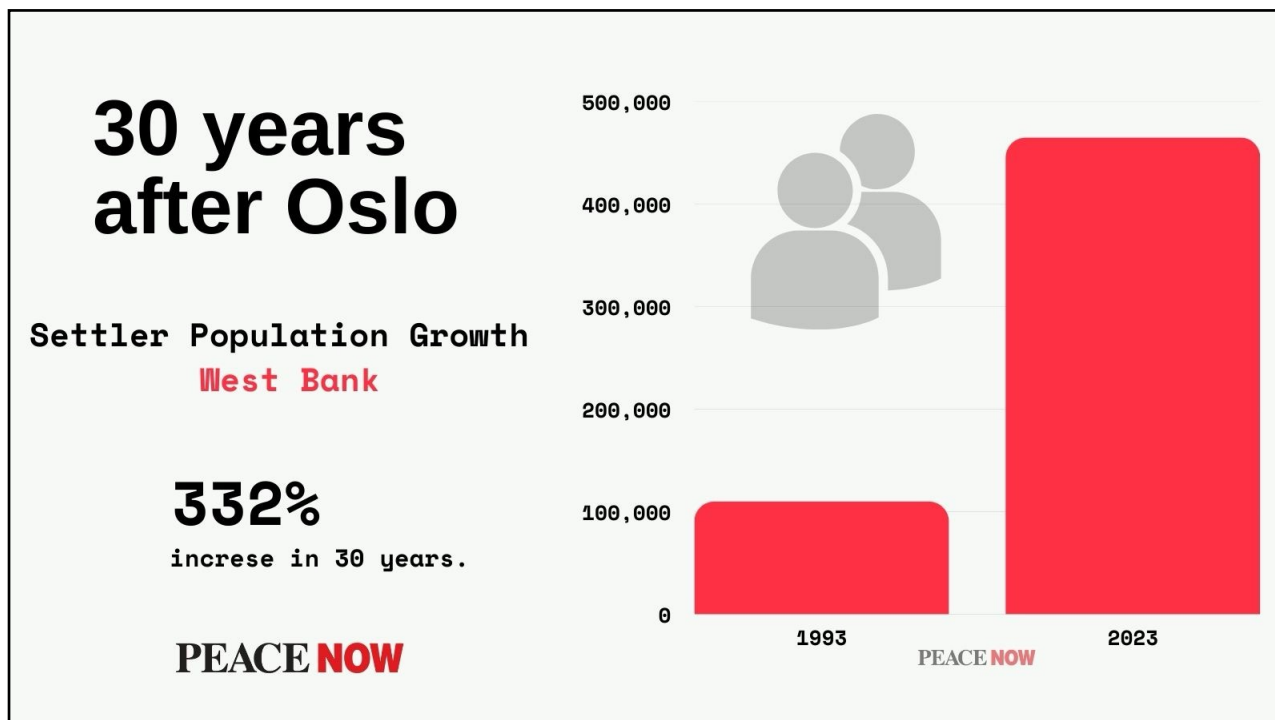
## COLONIZATION OF THE WEST-BANK

- Palestinian forces work to ensure Israeli security in exchange for (self-rule) over 6% of historic Palestine.

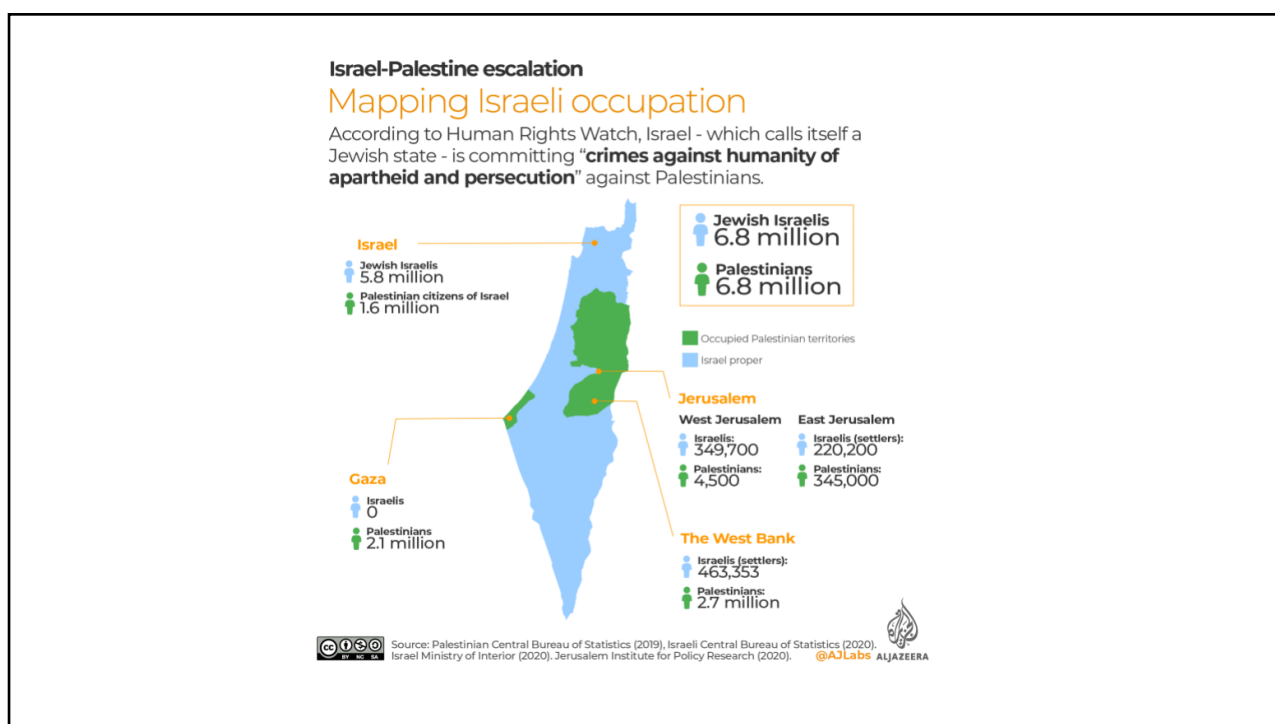


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## Greater Israel from the perspective of their colonial God

- The Israel project will not stop until it takes over the land and force all the people who live between the Nile and Euphorate out.
- The Palestinian people are only the beginning, others will follow one by one
- This project still has full support in many parts of the world specially in the USA

**On the same day the Lord made A covenant with Abraham, saying: To your descendants I have given this Land, from the river of Egypt to to the Great river, the River of Euphrates”**

- [Genesis 15:18](#)

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## Israel was never about Jewish Libration

- *Maxime Rodinson, Israel: A Colonial-Settler State? (New York: Monad Press, 1973), PP40:*
- *It was evident that the early Zionist leaders did not see their project as a Jewish liberation movement; it was, for all practical purposes, a “Jewish colonial settlement in the Orient”*

**Acknowledging that Israel is a colonial entity that must be be replaced by one single state for all its citizens**

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## Turning point



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## Turning point 07.10.23

- It came after 105 years after Balfour, 76 years after Nakba, 30 years after Oslo, and 16 years after blockade of Gaza
- Significance
  - Masks are off
  - Showed that through resistance and Sumud it is possible to make changes
  - It is possible to dismantel the chains of colonization



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## Decolonization and Decolonilaity

- **To undo the injustices committed against Palestine's Indigenous people.**
  - Acknowledging that we are all governed by a system that was not established to end colonialism after the Second World War, but rather to replace the colonial system with another that continues the theft of resources, hegemony, and oppression.
  - Support the Palestinian PERSPECTIVE, it is not complicated or difficult.
  - Please stop advocating the 2-state solution. This will never happen. It is a continuation of the colonial-settler project.



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## Trumps plan: the core strategy of the Zionist ideology

- Nothing new about this plan, it is the core strategy of the Zionist ideology
- **Theodore Herzl**, the Zionist movement's founder. On 12 June 1895, he wrote in his diary, "***We shall try to spirit the penniless population across the border by procuring employment for it in the transit countries, while denying it any employment in our own country.***"

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## Trumps plan: the core strategy of the Zionist ideology

- **Yosef Weitz**, director of the Settlement Department of the Jewish National Fund (JNF ), and later head of the Israeli government's official Transfer Committee, wrote in his diary on 20 December 1940:

*Between ourselves it must be clear that there is no room for both people together in this country.... We shall not achieve our goal of being an independent people with the Arabs in this small country. The only solution is Palestine, at least Western Palestine [west of the Jordan River] without Arabs.... And there is no other way but to transfer the Arabs from here to the neighbouring countries; to transfer all of them; not one village, not one tribe should be left.*

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## Decolonization and Decolonilaity

- Stop applying moral/legal values that are based on the colonizer view of right and wrong
- The Palestinians **fight for their freedom** , and they **are entitled to do so**, by the means **they themselves find fit**.
- The era of Global Sumud and Global Resistance has begun.



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## Gaza as the Great Revealer

- Gaza has not only demonstrated human endurance and Sumud, it has also shattered illusions about :
- Media Bias: corporate and social media platforms censored Palestinian voices and amplified Israeli propaganda. These platforms became tools of digital colonization.
- Myths of Israeli Exceptionalism: Gaza has obliterated claims that Israel possesses “the most moral army.” Israelis have documented their own war crimes, broadcasting scenes of humiliation, executions, and bloodlust. Rather than exemplifying morality, the IDF now exemplifies barbarism in service of a genocidal apartheid state.
- Western Hypocrisy: The same governments that champion international law in Ukraine have weaponized legal exceptionalism to defend Israel’s actions in Gaza. Gaza has become a “geography of transnational refusal,” where indigenous resistance unmasks the empire’s selective application of justice.
- Failure of the International Order: Gaza has laid bare the complicity of a postwar international system that pretends neutrality while endorsing settler-colonialism.
- Arab Regime Complicity: Many Arab states actively suppressed solidarity protests and reportedly collaborated with efforts to dismantle Palestinian resistance. Bob Woodward’s reporting suggests that certain regimes sought to eliminate Hamas to ease normalization with Israel. These governments traded the Palestinian cause for political expediency.
- The Palestinian Authority’s Betrayal: Throughout the genocide, the PA echoed Israeli and Western narratives. It blamed the resistance, arrested fighters, and coordinated security with Israel.
- **Sumud** is not just a reaction, it is a rejection of erasure. It insists: ***We are here. We will remain.***

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