



**MARX21**

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# Gaza: Only an end to the occupation can bring peace

**O**n October 7 Gaza broke out of the prison created by the Israeli occupation, waging a new wave of struggle for Palestinian liberation. The unprecedented Hamas attack breached Israel’s illegitimate border, briefly regaining control of occupied towns and Israeli military posts—something that has never happened in the history of the occupation.

Images of bulldozers tearing down Israel’s apartheid wall are a new symbol of the Palestinian resistance. Hamas says their offensive is a reaction to attacks on the al-Aqsa Mosque last month, recent settler violence, and the ongoing Gaza siege. It also takes place in the context of the normalization of Israeli-Saudi relations and over 75 years of Israeli oppression of the Palestinian population.

As of October 19, over 3,000 Palestinians and 1,409 Israelis have been killed. It is an enormous escalation of the conflict. Hamas has taken more than 100 Israelis hostage. Immediately after the attack Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant declared a total blockade of Gaza in retaliation against Hamas, including cutting off electric, water, food, and fuel supplies. Israel is now bombing Gaza—with US-supplied weapons—and threatens a

full ground invasion.

## Violence

It is the most basic, first thought, non-analysis to rebuke Hamas’s actions. It offers nothing to explain the context that has led to this moment, much less a solution. Since 2007 Israel has waged war against the 2.3 million civilian population of Gaza. According to the UN, over 6,000 Palestinians have been killed in the years since. 300 Israelis have been killed, most of them soldiers. 152,000 Palestinians and 6,000 Israelis have been injured.

Liberal journalists, crocodile-crying politicians, and various celebrities have issued statements condemning Hamas’s violence. But it must be said that the scale of violence meted out by Israel is incomparable to the deaths that result from Palestine’s periodic acts of resistance. This kind of selective, abstract commitment to non-violence every time Palestinians dare to fight back is part of a delib-

erate unwillingness to understand where the root of the violence lies: the Israeli occupation.

## Occupation

There is no “both sides” argument about Palestine. Israel has the full military might of US imperialism behind it, as well as the world’s most sophisticated defense technology. They have systematically cut off and undermined almost all forms of resistance. Palestinians have no diplomatic pathway out of their oppression after decades of sham negotiations that never resolved core questions like the right of return for refugees, a divided Jerusalem, the illegal settlements, or full civil rights for non-Jews.

In 2005 Palestinians launched the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement (BDS)—a “non-violent” form of resistance that encourages institutions, governments, and companies to cut ties

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with Israel. It has won substantial victories, while not yet impacting Israel's actions. The international movement has been roundly condemned by western governments, organizers have been persecuted, and legislation drafted to brand the movement as antisemitic.

In the 2018 Gaza "Great March of Return" mass unarmed protests demanded the right of return and end of blockade. They were met with live ammunition by Israeli soldiers, wounding thousands and killing 214, including 46 children.

In other words, Palestinians have tried for decades to get justice through "peaceful" means. All it has delivered is more settlements, regular bombardments, and administrative detention. 60% of Gazans live in poverty without access to safe drinking water or reliable electricity. The instigators of this terror cannot beat Palestine into submission, close every other avenue for resistance, and then turn around wringing their hands, confused as to why Palestinians resort to increasingly desperate tactics.

In fact, Israel has encouraged Palestine to do exactly that. The only time Israel has given up an occupied territory was when they returned the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt during the 1973 war. The only way Israel returns Palestinian prisoners is through exchange deals. The last Hamas-Israel prisoner swap was one Israeli soldier for 1,025 Palestinians. Hamas's calculus this weekend was to kidnap enough hostages to trade in exchange for all 5,200 Palestinians in Israeli jails. In other words, Israel has told Palestinians time and again that violence is the only language it speaks.

## **Hamas**

It is almost compulsory for western media channels to spend the bulk of their reports condemn-

ing Hamas. What they don't share is that the organization itself is an outgrowth of the occupation. There was a secular resistance movement in decades prior. It became a subcontractor in apartheid, accepting concession after concession and working in partnership with the Israeli government to police the West Bank. National liberation organizations also collaborated with surrounding Arab regimes to uphold the occupation. Egypt continues to maintain the Gaza blockade at the southern border.

During the 2014 Israeli onslaught, ordinary Gazans were interviewed on how they felt about Hamas. None of them said they thirsted for terror or that they wanted to eradicate all Jews. They explained that Hamas is one of the only organizations still fighting for an end to the occupation.

There are live strategic debates inside the movement to free Palestine and there are limitations to the tactics Hamas uses. An end to the Gaza siege, a return of Palestinian villages to their original inhabitants, the right for refugees to come back to their homes, and a democratic state where all people in greater Israel/Palestine have equal rights would allow more political alternatives to Hamas to emerge from within Palestine. Anything less only guarantees more bloodshed on both sides of the apartheid wall.

## **Israelis and Jewish people**

This is true for people connected with Israel as much as it is for people connected with Palestine. The establishment of the Israeli state and its ongoing illegal expansion have profoundly alienated Jewish people from other communities in the Middle East, destroying centuries of coexistence. Israel forces teenagers into military service and the price for desertion is high. Its religious right wing gov-

ernment is deeply undemocratic, a fact that many Israelis have protested in recent months (albeit usually ignoring the root cause of these problems—the occupation).

All the resources that go into the military, surveillance, and other high tech ways of brutalizing Palestinians—including the \$4 billion the US sends every year—didn't protect the people at the rave. It didn't save the 900 slain people inside Israel. It didn't prevent the kidnappings. This is because Israel isn't ultimately designed to protect Jewish people. Its purpose is to operate as a colonial outpost in the Middle East.

Around the world Hebrew schools are locking down and synagogues are increasing already-high security, escalating fear among Jewish people. There is no comparison between the everyday experience of Palestinians and Israelis—one lives under constant occupation and the other lives with privilege and supremacy. But it is becoming increasingly clear that Israel is harmful to Jewish people and that the Zionist project cannot actually protect them. The only chance for peace for everyone who lives between the river and sea, and beyond, is an end to the occupation.

## **What next**

The coming days will undoubtedly bring more carnage. Netanyahu announced that Gazans should leave the strip in order to avoid an all out land invasion. It's a patently ridiculous suggestion—if they could, Gazans would have left what everyone describes as the world's largest open-air prison long ago. Everyone knows this, especially Netanyahu, who has led the Israeli state for most of the Gaza siege. The warning is not so Gazans can leave, it is a public threat of ethnic cleansing as collective punishment.

*(continued on page 9)*

# Six reasons why you should support Palestine

## *A Brief History of Israel and Palestinian Resistance*

### **1. Israel was formed out of imperialism**

Western Imperialism played a crucial role in creating Israel to aid in imperial ambitions for the region, predominantly for Britain at first, and then for the United States.

In 1917, the British publicly pledged in the Balfour Declaration to recognize a “national home for the Jewish people.” Sir Ronald Storrs, the first British military governor of Jerusalem, said the Zionist state would be a “little loyal Jewish Ulster in a sea of potentially hostile Arabism.”

The growing importance of oil after World War I, and its abundance in the Middle East, made it especially important to maintain this foothold for Britain (and for the US after WWII)

These political aims also served to satisfy the plans of the Zionist movement, which had begun to emerge in the late 19th century. To escape the violence of European ruling classes, Zionists argued that Jewish people would only be safe in an exclusively Jewish state. Palestine, with its historic and religious roots, was just one suggestion.

Other possible locations for a new state included areas in Argentina, Uganda, Azerbaijan, and “empty” land in the US. Zionism, which many Jewish people rejected, was never about seeking sanctuary for Jewish people. It has always been a colonial project to create a state where Jews are the majority, which is only possible through the expulsion of any other people from the land.

The Jewish population in the region numbered just 8 percent of the population when the British mandate was established. From 1919 to 1923, the number of Jewish settlers doubled.

The British colonists established the Department of

Commerce and Industry to offer generous -long-term loans to Jewish businessmen and farmers.

### **2. Zionism meant ethnic cleansing**

The new Zionist state developed a systematic plan to grab Palestinian land and ensure a Jewish majority.

At least 850,000 Palestinians were forced from their homes during the Nakba, meaning Catastrophe. Half of their villages and towns were “wiped out, leaving only rubble and stones.”

Supporters of Israel still say that no such plan existed. They claim Palestinians fled because of a war with neighboring Arab states. But the Plan Dalet was an approved military operation to clear out Palestinians. The techniques it used were clear—“By destroying villages (by setting fire to them, by blowing them up, and by planting mines in their rubble).”

“In the case of resistance, the armed forces must be wiped out and the population expelled outside the borders of the state.”

Settlers rolled oil barrel bombs into villages, as they drove vans with loudspeakers telling people to flee for their lives. These techniques were developed in the months leading up to Israel’s formal creation, and after.

The Zionist army, the Haganah, carried out atrocities and massacres. In the city of Haifa, where Jews and Arabs both lived, the Haganah besieged Arab areas with heavy shelling and sniper fire. The brigade’s commander Mordechai Maklef—who later became the Israeli army’s chief of staff—gave simple orders. “Kill any Arab you encounter. Torch all inflammable objects and force open doors with explosives.”

David Ben-Gurion, the then-prime minister of Israel, signed Israel’s founding declaration on 14 May 1948. The UN ratified the declaration, stating that 55 percent

# Six reasons to support Palestine (*continued*)

of Palestine would be given to Zionist settlers. At the time of the proposed U.N. partition in 1947, Jews comprised only 33 percent of the population, owned 7 percent of the land.

Before 1948, just 600,000 Jewish settlers were living in Palestine. This number almost doubled in three years following the Nakba. The first country to recognise Israel as a state in 1948 was the United States—Israel's biggest imperialist ally.

### 3. How Palestinian resistance was formed

During the 1950s, the slow process of building a national liberation movement gathered pace in the refugee camps scattered around the region.

Palestinian refugees accessed meager support from UN agencies but were denied political rights by their host countries. Wealthy or middle class Palestinians gravitated towards the Gulf, where they played key roles in public services and the media.

It was among these circles that a new Palestinian movement was born. Fatah was founded in 1959. Among its founders were Yasser Arafat and Mahmoud Abbas. Abbas is the current president of the state of Palestine.

One of Fatah's core principles was "non-interference," i.e. Palestinians should not take sides in the struggles within the Arab countries they live in. Deeply problematic but it meant it focused on Palestinians' armed resistance against the Israeli state, inspired by the guerrilla tactics of other anti-imperialist groups.

The Six Day War in 1967 saw Israel obliterate a coalition of Arab states, including Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. By the end of the war Israel seized control of Gaza, the West Bank, the Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula. Israeli troops defeated and captured resistance fighters, many of whom were exiles.

But it suffered an embarrassing defeat at the hands of Fatah fighters in Karameh in Jordan in 1968. Fatah

began to dominate the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), set up by the Arab regimes in 1964 as the official representative of the Palestinian people.

The Fatah-controlled PLO moved away from the idea that it was possible to liberate the whole of Palestine. It made concessions to the idea that a mini-Palestinian state alongside Israel would be enough and was drawn into false peace negotiations.

The leaders of the PLO, because of their own class position, imagined they could be part of the Palestinian ruling class, closely backed by Arab leaders.

### 4. The first Intifada changed everything

From the 1950s until the 1980s, political and military direction lay with the Palestinian leadership in exile, not within the Occupied Territories themselves.

In 1987 frustration with the misery of life under occupation exploded in an uprising, or Intifada. It took the Israelis, the US and the PLO leadership by surprise.

The First Intifada revealed the brutality of the Israeli occupation to the world. Protests were sparked after Israeli forces rammed their truck into a line of cars, killing four Palestinians in the Jabalia refugee camp in December.

Only a day after their funeral, attended by 10,000 people, Israeli soldiers shot into a crowd of protesters. They killed 17-year-old Hatem Abu Sisi.

Across the Occupied Territories Palestinians rose up and mobilized protests, riots, strikes and created networks of local committees to provide health care and education.

From 21 December, Palestinian workers struck mainly in the fruit and hospitality industry. The Palestinians' ferocity during the First Intifada (lasting over five years) was impossible for the Israeli state to contain.

*continued on page 8*

# As Demonstrations spread through the Middle East, Egyptian protests target Israel—and their own regime

*An Egyptian revolutionary reports from the new outbreak of protests there, ending in Tahrir Square, as Israel's attack on Gaza ignites masses around the region.*

**P**ro-Palestine protests exploded in Egypt on Friday (10/20) as thousands of people showed their anger at the Israel regime and the Western imperialists who support it.

Very significantly, some of the protesters also targeted their own leader, president Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

An anonymous socialist revolutionary in Cairo reported “There were two protests, one that included people from the opposition to al-Sisi. The other was an official one supporting Sisi’s call for Palestinians not to be driven into the Sinai desert.”

“The opposition one ended in Tahrir Square, the historic center of the 2011 revolutionary uprising.”

“The main difference between the two is the tone in the chants directed to the regime. One is answering to the regime and celebrating Sisi’s stand.”

“The other took more of a critical stand saying you should cut all ties with Israel, open the borders and that we are with Palestinians’ right to resist the occupation. There were even some pro-Hamas chants.”

“People chanted that this was a real protest and they were not giving Sisi a mandate for his policies.”

“The protests criticizing Sisi were definitely smaller in size than the state-backed ones. But also it was the first protest in Tahrir in ten years so very significant in terms of breaking the idea that this would never be allowed to happen.”

“As so often, Palestine has become a key arena for opposition to our rulers because it is so linked to the relation not only to Israel but also to imperialism generally.”

In a symbolic moment, banging was heard from inside a police truck full of conscripts. The men normally sent to put down protests signaled their support for a march near Cairo’s Al-Azhar University. Outside the truck, the protesters chanted, “Gaza, Gaza, symbol of glory.”

Protests also took place in Port Said and Alexandria and at the Rafah Crossing to Gaza that the Egyptian government has sealed.

The regime is under pressure because

it has made so many deals with Israel. It has to pose as an ally of the Palestinians or the opposition to its own rule will grow.

It is grudgingly allowing some protests hoping this will act as a safety-valve. But that can come crashing down if anger overwhelms the state-sanctioned limitations, or if Sisi achieves no concessions from the imperialists.

The Revolutionary Socialists said in a statement “Sisi is trying to take over the Palestine solidarity movement in order to rebuild his popularity. This has collapsed as a result of his policies of oppression and impoverishment which are crushing Egyptians. He hopes to avoid suffering a share of popular anger over the crimes of the occupation, although he has participated hand in hand in the siege of Gaza throughout previous years of his rule.”

Sisi’s crisis could grow. Israeli defense minister Yoav Gallant told the Knesset foreign and defense committee on Friday that Israel would no longer have “responsibility for life in the Gaza Strip” once its slaughter in the Gaza war was over. He added that he hoped the conflict would create “a new security reality.”

In any such scheme Egypt will become responsible for two million Palestinians—a prospect that will terrify Sisi.

— October 20th, 2023



# Demonstrations Spread

After the bombing of Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza on Tuesday, October 17th, Lebanese Hezbollah's call for a "day of rage" followed angry protests in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Lebanon, Jordan, Libya, Yemen, Tunisia, Turkey, Morocco and Iran. And the protests are still spreading.

After Friday prayers in Yeman, huge numbers filled the streets for a government-backed pro-Palestine demonstration — reports range from one million to 1.5 million taking part.

Previously, Jordan had been relatively quiet, but protests have raged there all week, sometimes against the regime as well as Israel. Jordanian riot police pushed back thousands of protesters on Wednesday near the Israeli embassy in the capital, Amman. "No Zionist embassy on Arab land," they shouted. The King of Jordan, home to about two million Palestinian refugees, bowed to pressure and spoke on TV of his support for a sovereign Palestinian state on 1967 lines (not even 1948). "The popular position is stronger than the official one" tribal sheikh Mohammad al-Hadid told *Middle East Eye*, adding Jordanian authorities "arrest those who smuggle weapons into Palestine." Protesters demanded the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador and the end of the 1994 peace treaty with Israel, as well as stopping the agreement to buy natural gas from Israel, which Jordan signed in 2016.

In Jordan on Friday, protesters attempted for the second time to march to the Palestinian West Bank. They called to "open the border" and aid Palestinians facing repression there. It was Jordanian security forces who closed roads and kept them away from the border.

Around the region, heads of state are responding to anger from below and denouncing Israeli actions, but also containing the actual struggle for solidarity with Palestinians and attempting to block attacks on Israel.

In Beirut there were two protests on Wednesday. Hezbollah rallied thousands of its supporters in south Beirut where leaders spouted militant-sounding threats and the crowd chanted "Death to America! Death to Israel!" Others protested outside the highly fortified US embassy into the night, lighting fires and cutting through a wire fence. This protest united Palestinian refugees resident there with Lebanese, with a few Hezbollah flags and the red and black flags of leftist factions mixing with the many Palestinian flags. Protesters clashed with Lebanese security forces, who used tear gas and water cannons to protect the embassy.

Saudi Arabia and Turkey have both made approaches to Israel recently, pushed by the United States, but have now put those moves on hold and de-

nounced the attack on Gaza. But in Turkey, hundreds of Turkish police, metal barriers and water cannon still protected the Israeli consulate in Istanbul and embassy in Ankara from angry crowds. Protests are also stirring up fury in Saudi Arabia. This is all a nightmare for Israel and the United States.

President Biden spent the days after Israel started blockading and bombing Gaza backing them 100% and squelching any mention of restraint or cease fire. We then heard he was touring to stop the conflict from spreading. Biden was not countering Israeli escalation; what he feared was opening up other fronts in solidarity with Palestine.

We want to see the Israeli attacks on Gaza stop now. But chants for a ceasefire which would leave the old system of oppression in place are not enough. The conflict with Israel needs to continue and spread. Any successful action by Palestinians inspires the working class around the region. And the struggles of the Arab workers against their own regimes demonstrate the power that can ultimately help win Palestinian liberation.

Today, with over a million displaced inside a besieged Gaza, and thousands dead, pro-Palestine protests are occurring throughout the world. They are often facing opposition and repression but also clarifying attitudes of those in support. That includes the countless demonstrations here in the U.S. (although we have yet to build the kind of coalition that brought close to 300,000 out on the streets of London this Saturday.) Inside Israel's main backer we can play our part demonstrating in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle, and against our own government.

— October 21st, 2023



# A revolutionary perspective on Hamas

*Hamas is the Palestinian organization ruling the Gaza Strip, which launched the raid into Israel October 7th. Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) was formed in 1987, emerging from the Muslim Brotherhood. For decades the Muslim Brotherhood focused on charity, funded by a richer strata of Palestinians. After the Intifada Hamas responded to the mood by joining the resistance. In the 2006 Palestinian election, after the collapse of the Oslo accords, disillusionment with the PLO's compromises, and outbreak of the second Intifada, Hamas won 60% of the vote—but rule only in Gaza. There had been increasing discontent with Hamas in Gaza due to economic conditions and their undemocratic ruling style, but they also won support for their opposition to Israeli oppression. Analyzing how to relate to such an organization depends on a changing context. Socialists do not agree with Hamas over class politics, women's and LGBT+ rights, or many other questions. But we don't make our support for Hamas in the struggle against Zionism and imperialism conditional on their adoption of a socialist position around these issues. We may also disagree on tactics or strategy in the struggle. To explain "unconditional but not uncritical" support, we reprint below "A revolutionary perspective on Hamas" by **Mostafa Omar** of the Revolutionary Socialists of Egypt, written before the October 2023 attack.*

**O**ur perspective does not ever claim that varied "Islamist" movements in different countries at different time periods are all alike. Rather we always attempt to understand Islamist movements in light of the historical context where they arose, their social and class content and their political goals. We always attempt to analyze whether these movements are resisting reactionary and imperialist regimes, even if in a vacillating or distorted fashion.

For example, we consider Islamist movements such as ISIS in Syria and Iraq as reactionary to the core. Their racism and crimes against Shi'a Muslims and Christians are contrary to the idea that the unity of the oppressed is fundamental to resisting dictatorship and colonialism. We consider that such movements necessarily serve the interests of the dictatorial regimes and imperialism and we oppose them on principle. We differentiate between ISIS and Islamist movements such as Hamas and Hezbollah.

The latter two movements came into existence to resist imperialism and entered into many confrontations and struggles with Zionism and imperialism in defense of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the Lebanese people.

Hamas, which originated in the midst of the first Palestinian Intifada at the end of the 1980s, won wide popularity among Palestinians because of its rejection of the concessions and surrender which Fatah offered to the Zionist enemy and the United States, and through its military resistance to the brutal Israeli assault on Gaza. We consider Hamas to be a resistance movement against Zionism and imperialism. From this perspective we unconditionally

support Hamas when it is engaged in military or non-military struggles against Israel.

It weakens the Zionist state and terrifies the Arab regimes and the United States and therefore strengthens the potential for class struggle in the Arab states against this imperialist system.

Our unconditional support for Hamas is not uncritical, however, because we believe that the movement's strategies in the struggle to liberate Palestine – like the strategies adopted by Fatah and the Palestinian left before it – have failed and will fail in the future. Hamas' strategy is to associate itself with some of the Arab regimes (even including Egypt until recently), as well as non-Arab regimes, which are reactionary and repress their people and conspire constantly to suppress the Palestinian struggle.

These regimes realize that Palestinian heroism and steadfastness is and always will be a catalyst for their peoples, who are natural supporters for the Palestinian cause. Hamas' strategy, which reproduces the strategy of Fatah and the Palestinian left since the 1960s, will not liberate Palestine. Instead of standing in solidarity with the struggles of the Arab masses who have an interest in getting rid of imperialism and Zionism, Hamas is pushing a strategy of alliance with regimes which cooperate willingly with imperialism and Zionism.

Secondly, despite the extraordinary heroism of Hamas' fighters, who stand courageously against every Israeli assault in impossible circumstances, igniting hope in the hearts of millions around the world at the very moment of the Arab Spring's defeat, Hamas adopts an elitist approach to dealing with the Palestinian masses.

This is the method which Fatah and the Palestinian left relied on previously, seeing the Palestinian people as tools whose role is limited to supporting the armed struggle and obedience to the revolutionary leadership rather than active participants in the development of a strategy of resistance and in decision-making. This approach weakens the capacities of mass resistance in the long term in the face of an enemy whose weapons are becoming more lethal day by day.

For these reasons, support of the revolutionary forces for Hamas and the Palestinian Resistance is critical as well as unconditional. By the same logic, despite our support for Hezbollah in any confrontation with Israel, we condemn its hostile position towards the Arab Revolutions by standing with the butcher Bashar al-Assad in Syria.

Our support for the resistance in Palestine is unconditional because the Palestinian struggle against Zionism is a thorn in the side of imperialism and because, like all colonized peoples, the Palestinians alone have the right to decide their destiny. That includes the right to choose their own leadership and adopt means of resistance which they see as appropriate to their circumstances.

But our support is critical because the fate of revolutionary change in the Arab world and the fate of the Palestinian Resistance are organically connected.

# Six reasons to support Palestine (*continued*)

The First Intifada ended because of the promise of peace talks with the Israeli state in the early 1990s. The PLO had never seen the road to liberation as being through revolts of ordinary people and was happy to be part of these talks.

## **5. The peace process was an imperialist trap for Palestine**

Supposed “peace deals” brokered by the West have always been a sham. One such was the Oslo Accords signed in 1993.

The true purpose of this was to enshrine Israel’s hold over land under the pretense that Palestine would be handed a state that could exist alongside Israel.

The deal was accepted by the leaders of the PLO after they had squandered the opportunities won by popular struggle through the Intifada. But Palestinian academic Edward Said called the Accords “an instrument of Palestinian surrender.”

PLO officials were satisfied with the weak promise of a small amount of Palestinian self-governance in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These were to be implemented over five years.

Meanwhile the rest of what was Palestine would be kept under Israeli sovereignty. The newly formed Palestine Authority (PA), dominated by Fatah, was handed 18 percent of the occupied West Bank. Around 22 percent would be supposedly governed by the Israelis and the Palestinians together.

The rest—66 percent—would be left to the Israelis, including control of imports and exports. The Oslo Accords made it even more impossible for Palestine to survive without Israel.

Border closures strangled the Palestinian economy. Before the Accords, one third of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip worked in Israel. By 1996 that had collapsed to 15 percent, while earnings from work in Israel dropped from 25 percent of Palestinian GDP to 6 percent.

Today the PA might have some appearance of power. It has an elected body of 132 representatives. It even has its own police force—a condition of the Oslo Agreement.

But Israel still does what it likes in areas assigned to Palestine. The PA, controlled by those who once dreamed of waging armed resistance against Israel, is a mechanism for maintaining colonization.

Hamas soon became the party representing the disillusionment of the Palestinian people, offering a more radical and military alternative that the PA. Hamas was central to the Second Intifada.

This sparked after the Camp David Summit in 2000 between Israeli prime Minister Ehud Barak and Yasser Arafat, PA chairman, failed to achieve anything.

## **6. Only a single state for Arabs and Jews offers a solution**

The Palestinians have suffered more than 100 years of violence, brutality and racist laws at the hands of the Zionist settlers and their backers. Promise after promise has been broken, while Israel has continued to snatch more Palestinian land for its own.

While Palestinians have been left with worse than nothing, Israeli settlers have been emboldened. A so-called two-state solution has failed. It will continue to fail because the Israeli state is still committed to building a Jewish majority and expunging all Palestinians.

Israel will never willingly hand the Palestinians a state from the land it has stolen or allow return for the millions of Palestinian refugees.

Today, the Israeli state continues to strengthen its own one-state solution. Israeli settlers, backed by the Israeli government, seize homes and land from the Palestinians.

Socialists must argue that a secular and democratic state where Muslims, Jews, Christians and others live together is possible. This kind of state existed before

*(continued on page 9)*



## Six reasons to support Palestine *(continued from page 5)*

Balfour's agreement, so it is possible again.

Even if the Oslo Accords had produced a viable Palestinian state and dismantled Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza there would still not be justice.

This would not address the historic crime on which Israel's existence is based. It would also leave in place a racist, colonial state, armed by US imperialism to be its watchdog in the region.

But winning this will take revolutionary upheaval across Palestine and the Middle East region that can upend the Israeli state and its imperialist backers.

## Gaza... *(continued from page 2)*

When the Egyptian revolution began in 2011, Palestinian flags were everywhere in Tahrir Square and across the Arab Spring. They understood that there's a symbiotic relationship between freedom for Palestine and the liberation of all peoples under imperialist regimes. These movements were ultimately defeated. But they showed the power of Middle Eastern and North African working people to topple all oppressive regimes.

This is what Israel, the US, the EU, and all the Arab ruling classes fear most: an international movement from below against imperialism. We should all attend the demonstrations this week for Palestinian liberation, they need the widest possible international solidarity now. None of us can be free until they are.

— Clare Fester, October 9th  
(slightly updated, October 19th)

## Further Reading on Palestine & Israel

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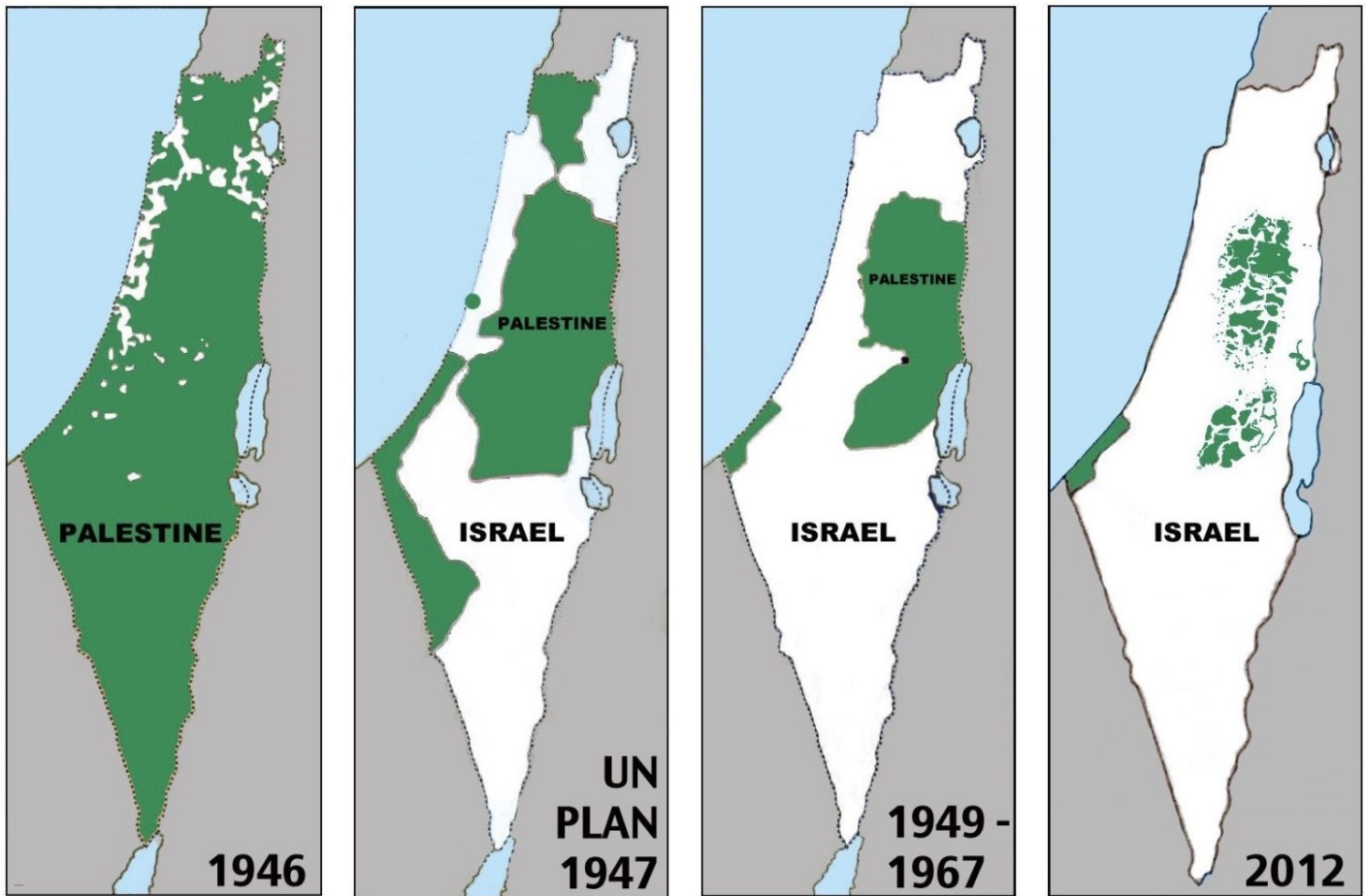
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(For updates see [ElectronicIntifada.net](http://ElectronicIntifada.net) and [SocialistWorker.co.uk/Palestine-2023](http://SocialistWorker.co.uk/Palestine-2023) )



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