

Palestinian – Zionist Conflict Myths and Realities

Dr. Talat A. Wizarat

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the factors which led to the colonization of Palestine. The roots of this conflict like many others are deeply embedded in history. The inability of Zionists and European Christians to accept each other became the cause of the suffering of Palestinian people. Their suffering started with the beginning of the British Mandate and the subsequent Jewish “immigration” into Palestine.

Jewish control over the economies of European states and the desire to maintain that domination at any cost made things worse. Zionism a political philosophy based on racism was born in Europe. Theodor Herzl who concocted this ill-advised concept approached the Ottoman Empire towards the end of the nineteenth century, but the Ottomans rejected it on grounds of illegality, injustice, and immorality. Zionism is based on the assumption that Jews are a superior race and have a birthright to migrate to Palestine even at the cost of denying and rejecting the rights of people who have been living in Palestine for centuries upon centuries. People who knew Palestine as their only homeland were to be driven out by the use of force for the new arrivals from Europe.

This racist final solution came from atheistic “Jews” who did not believe in any religion. The western leaders readily accepted it as it would rid them of Jewish presence in Europe. It did not solve the problem; it was only transferred to another region.

The British and the US bear primary responsibility for imposing the Zionist scheme on the innocent people of Palestine.

The Zionist entity’s creation by the West is based on five myths:

The first one suggested that ‘Jews were a people without a land and Palestine was a land without people’. This was an absurd claim having no roots in reality. Palestine people were already living in the only homeland for thousands of years preceding the arrival of Jews. Palestinian attachment to their country is the subject of many poets as well as historians who have written volumes on the subject of the presence of Palestinian people on their soil much before the arrival of European Jews.

The second myth is that the ‘Palestinians sold their land to European Jews’. Nothing could be further from the truth. There are innumerable books and articles on the subject.

The fact of the matter is that the British authorities on one pretext or another confiscated Palestinian land and sold it to the Zionists. One of the causes of the War of independence in the South Asian subcontinent was the British policy of confiscating land in the absence of written documents even if there was no doubt about the ownership of land. The British repeated the same folly in Palestine with devastating results for the Palestinian people. If a poor Palestinian family could not pay their

taxes within the stipulated time frame the land was confiscated. The British had ready-made excuses to confiscate Palestinian land. The confiscated land was sold by the British authorities to Zionist organizations.

The third myth promoted by the Zionists that they are the "Chosen people". The Jews were made to believe particularly after the formulation of Zionist "Ideology" that Jews were superior to other people. This concept is primarily responsible for promoting racist tendencies among the Zionists and is the antithesis of democracy. It also negates the concept of equality of humankind.

The fourth myth is that all non-Jews are anti-semitic. Had this been true, western countries would not have supported the Zionist entity and the massacre of Palestinian civilians in recent crises created by "Israel" in Gaza. Humanity demanded that the extermination of Palestinian civilians by Zionists should be condemned. But perceived convergence of interests and concern for the Zionist entity prevented that. Any criticism of "Israeli" policies no matter how justified and rational it appears is treated as an example or "anti-Semitic". It has become a tool or a weapon to silence those who are critical of Israel's repression and genocide of Palestinian people. A book was written by Ilan Pappé, an Israeli Jewish scholar on the subject of Israel's ethnic cleansing of Palestinian people throws light on this sensitive issue. Had it been written by a Muslim or a Christian the label of anti-Semitism would have been applied by now.

Noam Chomsky, another well-known scholar has also written on the mistreatment of Palestinians.

Another myth that needs to be dealt with is that six million Jews were exterminated by Hitler. The figure is considered to be highly exaggerated by many serious scholars. To silence all voices of dissent, laws have been enacted in some countries including Austria against those who either question holocaust or raise doubts about the figure of six million upheld by the establishment.

In Pakistan, the debate is still on as to how many Muslims lost their lives at the hands of terrorist groups while trying to migrate to Pakistan from India. Some historians maintain that one million Muslims were killed, others quote an even higher number.

Others believe that the toll was lower. No government in Pakistan ever tried to impose a narrative or to make it an offence to question any figure. In democratic states, the governments are not expected to impose a particular narrative. When that happens it makes the whole process doubtful.

The myths put together have left a negative impact on the mindset of Zionist Jews which is reflected in the policies framed in Israel with particular reference to Palestinians. There are two separate sets of laws and systems of reference which are applied towards Jews and Palestinians. Any Jew from anywhere in the world automatically gets nationality and all the rights of citizenship whereas Palestinians who were forced out of their country do not enjoy the right of return.

Jewish settlements have been established on Palestinian land after original inhabitants were forced out of their lands and homes without any explanation or justification. The Sheikh Jarrah crisis is the latest in a series of tragedies. The Israeli Check Posts for Palestinians are a daily reminder that

Palestinians have no rights in the Zionist state. However, if any journalist or scholar calls it apartheid then all hell is let loose. David Irving, an eminent British author, faced three-year imprisonment when he questioned the number of actual Jews massacred in the Holocaust.

A violent mindset is also an integral part of the Zionist psyche. 'The Untempered Wind', a book written by a missionary couple about life in Palestine after the arrival of so-called refugees depicts this sad reality. Another book that throws light on the same subject is 'In Search of Fatima' by Dr. Ghada Karmi. The violence perpetrated by Zionist terrorists was preplanned and had a clear purpose i.e to drive the Palestinians out of their only homeland. Dier Yasin massacre is a clear example of Zionist barbarity. Zionist bands of terrorists led by Begin who later became prime minister of the Zionist state went into the village and massacred almost all-male inhabitants from the age of six to sixty-seven: old men, young people, and even children were shown no mercy.

The Shaikh Jarrah crisis shows a combination of all these negative dimensions. The illegal and unwarranted expulsion of civilians from their homes and the attack on worshipers in the Al Aqsa Mosque bring out three major trends (i) complete denial of human rights of Palestinian people (ii) greed for land belonging to Palestinians and (iii) propensity to adopt extremely violent methods against the Palestinian people.

The present cycle of repression and bloodshed against Palestinians can no longer be tolerated. The UN suggested a two-state solution after the US forced some states to change their vote. The UN had no right to allow any outsiders to occupy a foreign nation's homeland. Before discussing the practicality of a one-state or two states solution, one should resolve the immediate issues arising out of the most recent crises.

The humanitarian crisis is looming large after the destruction by Zionist forces of homes and infrastructure in Gaza. There is an immediate need for relief items, like tents, food, clean water, medicines, medical equipment, and also medical staff. Some critical patients may have to be moved to nearby countries for surgery.

Revival of infrastructure, hospitals, and educational facilities need to be undertaken on a priority basis. Many doctors and paramedics lost their lives, there is a need for medical staff from OIC members to work in Gaza. Electricity needs to be restored.

Reconstruction activity should also be undertaken on a massive scale. Dangerous buildings should be repaired to eliminate the risk of further loss of life.

On both sides of the Gaza / Zionist border and West Bank / Zionist border peacekeeping forces should be stationed. It will not serve any purpose if they do not cover both sides of the border.

The Zionist efforts to strangle the economy of Gaza should end immediately. All restrictions on livelihood and access to the sea should end. Maritime activities, like fishing, trade, boat

construction should be relaunched. Poverty created by the Zionist administration should be removed by adopting calculated measures.

Finally after allowing Palestinian right of return and dismantling the Jewish settlements focus should turn to a final settlement of the problem.

According to Dr. Ghada Karmi, the two-state solution initially suggested by the UN is not feasible anymore due to the presence of illegal Jewish settlements. The road networks provided for their exclusive use have cut the land given to Palestinians thus making the two-state solution impossible to implement. According to her, after giving Palestinians the right of return a binational secular state would be better for all.