

The path to Climate Security Passes Through Gaza

October 22, 2023.

I wrote this 12 years ago, but it is more relevant than ever, given the current Israeli genocidal war on the Palestinian people, mainly in Gaza but also in the West Bank. Israeli state terrorism/ Hamas terrorism, the vicious cycle reproducing Israeli Apartheid. Hamas has long been a Zionist asset, Palestinian children their sacrifice, for documentation see:

<https://theintercept.com/2023/10/14/hamas-israel-palestinian-authority/>

<https://portside.org/2023-10-20/time-free-palestines-nelson-mandela>

Perhaps this time, growing out of the massive demonstrations now protesting this genocide, a new Arab Spring will finally topple some of the reactionary oppressive regimes, such as Egypt. The struggle for climate security, or at the very least having the chance to not breaching the 1.5 deg C warming limit, must include a path to global demilitarization, a defeat of militarized fossil capital with their imperialist agenda, including the dismantling of Israeli Apartheid.

CEASEFIRE NOW!

Jewish National Fund – Colonizing Palestine Since 1901 Greenwashing Apartheid:

The Jewish National Fund's Environmental Cover Up

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4. The Path to Climate Security Passes through Gaza: a Prologue to Rethinking Strategy [p.38-41]

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4.1 Abstract

The stakes are very high for a just and peaceful resolution of the struggle for full recognition of the individual and collective rights of the Palestinian people. Achieving this goal is not only critical for the securing of life, rights and sustainability of all living in Palestine and the broader region. The struggle for justice in Palestine also lies at the heart of global movements against imperialism, occupation, war and militarization of the global political economy that threatens us all. The Israeli occupation of Palestine and military aggression in the region is a central part of the US-European imperialist agenda. Only global equity and cooperation made possible by the termination of this agenda will create the possibility of preventing catastrophic climate change. Thus, the convergence of the climate security, environmental and ecological justice, peace, anti-occupation, Palestine solidarity, and anti-imperialist movements is imperative while we still have time to act.

4.2 Introduction

Preposterous, some readers may object, what possible connection could the struggle for justice in Palestine have with confronting the challenge of mounting carbon emissions to the atmosphere which will lead us to climate catastrophe unless these emissions are radically curbed in the near future? I argue here that the connection is profound, with the challenge of achieving a just resolution of this conflict being the potential lever that will make global prevention of C3 possible. And only convergence of the climate security, environmental and ecological justice, peace, anti-occupation, Palestine solidarity, and anti-imperialist movements has any hope of success for C3 prevention.

The climate security and peace movements remain divided, the former gaining global momentum while the latter, at least in the global North, is just beginning to wake up from the illusions generated by Obama's election just two years ago. No surprise here, since while the right wing is the bastion of global warming denial, even the anti-imperialist left has its ill-informed advocates (e.g., Alexander Cockburn), as well as those who acknowledge the reality of anthropogenic climate change while still refusing to prioritize this issue of critical significance to the survival of human civilization. Nevertheless, the realities of the Afghan War combined with global economic distress and alarming new signs of climatic instability are now forcing a rethinking of strategy.

Let's start with the historical context. The US-Israel client state relationship has been a critical component of US imperialism. Its central objective has been the control of the petroleum resources in the Middle East, with extension to the Near East, including Iran. Even conservatives commonly admit to this agenda as central to the preservation of the American way of life.

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As Haddad (2004), put it in his discussion of the Iraq war and occupation:

"Of course it is no secret that oil is at the heart of the occupation's objectives. American and world dependence on Gulf oil will increase precipitously over the next twenty years. Veteran Middle East analyst Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)—well connected to the U.S. intelligence community—describes this dependency in a document written before the occupation of Iraq:

We need to remember what our key strategic priorities are. The U.S. is steadily more dependent on a global economy and the global economy is steadily more dependent on Middle Eastern energy exports, particularly from the Gulf. We tend to take this so much for granted that we sometimes fail to consider just how serious this dependence is and how much it is estimated to grow in the future. There also is still a tendency to view the issue in terms of American import dependence, our normal peacetime dependence on given countries for imports, and dependence on direct imports. These are all false approaches to the problem. We are steadily more dependent on global imports; what affects the global economy affects us and

our direct level of oil imports is no measure of strategic dependence. Similarly, we compete for oil on a world market. Any shortage or price rise in a crisis forces us to compete for imports on the same basis as every other nation. Finally, focusing on direct imports of oil ignores the fact that the U.S. has steadily shifted the pattern of its manufactured imports to include energy dependent goods, particularly from Asia. These, in turn, are produced by economies that are critically dependent on oil imported from the Middle East. Estimates of import dependence that only include direct imports of crude understate our true net dependence on oil imports to the point where they are analytically absurd.²

This client-state relationship was founded in 1967, with Israel becoming a willing instrument of U.S. imperial power. This type of relationship was first built in the Middle and Near East, attacking Arab nationalist regimes and movements, and then elsewhere such as in Central America, Iran and even in continued support of the U.S. blockade of Cuba. The U.S. had become completely isolated in the world community aside from Israel's obsequious loyalty (e.g., latest General Assembly vote, October 27, 2010, 187 against the blockade, 2 in favor (U.S. and Israel).

4.3 My Summary Thesis

A just resolution of the struggle for Palestinian rights will terminate the US-Israeli imperial axis, thereby undermining US imperialism that acts as the dominant military arm of transnational capital.

This agenda is the actual policy of the MIC, the Military Industrial [Fossil Fuel Nuclear Terror] Complex, with the Pentagon & Israeli military acting as its "Petroleum Protection Service." As

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such, MIC is the biggest obstacle to achieving climate security in the face of the looming threat of catastrophic climate change. I will not make the case here for the reality of climate change and the real potential for climate catastrophe in this century, if not in a few decades (see documentation in Schwartzman, 2009).

Thus, I submit: The path to climate security must pass through Gaza, i.e., Climate Security for humankind will only be achieved with the end of the Israeli blockade of Gaza, termination of the Israeli Apartheid regime, and the full realization of the individual and collective rights of the Palestinian people. As Evo Morales, President of Bolivia, put it:

"The budget of the United States is \$687 billion for defense and for climate change, to save life, to save humanity, they only put up \$10 billion. This is shameful. The budget for the Iraq war, according to the figures we have, is \$2.6 trillion for the Iraq war, to go kill in Iraq. Trillions of dollars. But directed towards paying the climate debt, \$10 billion. This is completely unfair. These are our deep observations of what's going on. That's why—for the war, while trillions are

going to the wars, on the other hand, to save humanity and the planet, they only want to direct \$10 billion.”³

Thus, I argue that the struggle for justice in Palestine is a transcendent challenge for the global human rights, peace, ecological and environmental justice, anti-war and emerging climate security movements. On one hand, it is the nexus of potential escalating conflict, even nuclear war. On the other hand, it’s just resolution is likewise an immense opportunity to create the “other world that is possible.”

4.4 New developments that may enhance our struggle

We now witness growing isolation of Israel in the world community, translating into growing weakness and contradictions in the US-Israel alliance. The ruling elites of U.S. and Arab/Near East Client states, such as Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan, increasingly risk losing their legitimization with the potential for regime change unfavorable to U.S. imperialism. The current popular uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen and Bahrain have brought this possibility closer to reality. This poses an increasing threat to the US agenda in the Middle and Near East. The current, now frozen, negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority forced by Obama are simply a delaying action, postponing the inevitable rupture in U.S. foreign policy that will come to recognize the necessity of a just resolution of the conflict. The alternative is unthinkable: escalating conflict in this region, with the real potential of war, even nuclear war. US-Israel imperialism has no sustainable future.

The decision in May 2010 of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference called for a nuclear-free Middle East. This development exposes the pure hypocrisy of the US-Israel campaign against Iran’s nuclear program for peaceful use. Israel rejected the NPT conference for nuclear-free Middle East, even while its sponsor the United States was forced to sign the conference document.

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4.5 Conclusion

Already a component of the global human rights and peace movements, the mushrooming Global BDS movement should now seek convergence with the newly emerging climate security movement growing out of the historic World People’s Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, held in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Likewise we should encourage leaders and activists in the climate security, anti-war, and environmental and ecological justice movements to support the global BDS movement. We have a common challenge that requires broad unity.

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² Footnote 14: "The U.S. Military and the Evolving Challenges in the Middle East," Anthony Cordesman, Center for Strategic and International Studies, March 9, 2002, 5.

³ President Evo Morales, Interviewed by Amy Goodman, Dec. 16, 2009, for Democracy Now!: http://www.democracynow.org/2009/12/16/bolivian_president_evo_morales_shameful_for.