

The Palestinian

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In millions, and billions, we are all Palestinians !

by Ben Seattle -- December 16, 2023 -- (d16.945.am) -- posted at: <http://communism.org/Ben>

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Hi everyone, people at the weekly Palestine protests tell me that they will only keep reading my leaflets--if I keep writing new and useful material. I will need your help. Email me with your questions, criticisms and comments!

box401@WeaponOfTransparency.com

The War at Home:

How the Palestinians are shattering decades of illusions about the brutal imperialism behind our "democracy"

While we work to help free Palestine--we should know that the Palestinians are working to free us. The Palestinians are freeing us--of **illusions** in all the bullshit which is shoved down our throats on a daily basis: all the shallow, escapist and self-centered celebrity influencer culture--and all the illusions that we live in a "**democracy**" where we (supposedly) decide what happens. It is all being revealed as a monstrous lie.

The deliberate murder of hundreds of civilians a day, most of whom are women and children, week after week and month after month, with weapons



supplied by the Pentagon--proves that all of "our" politicians--Democrat and Republican alike--are nothing but **organized gangs of criminals**.

The distortions of our **news media**--liberal and MAGA alike--which describe forcing two million people in Gaza to drink contaminated water, and endure starvation and disease--as a **war on terror**--and which also endlessly repeats the lie that our ruling class is concerned about "protecting civilians"--shows how we are deceived every day.

The **censorship** on our social media--which throttles down or shadow bans posts about the ongoing slaughter in Gaza--while promoting Israeli apartheid--helps to show that we live in an economic and political system--in which **all institutions must obey the rule of capital**. The use of Israel as a rabid guard dog for U.S. economic and political interests in the strategic and oil-rich Middle East also shows that the rule of capital is **inseparable** from the system of **imperialism**. ►

► This all helps us understand the difficult road ahead. In a world of justice, the plug would be pulled on the Israeli murder machine--and people like "Genocide Joe" Biden would be marched to the guillotine. The people of France did things like this in the 1790's. That period of time is worth **serious study**: an accumulation of necessary change--that had been blocked for far too long--burst forth and could not be controlled. Sometime in this century--something similar is likely to happen here. ■

Letter from a reader:

How do we win the support of the Israeli working class?

My leaflet # 2 attracted the attention of this week's guest reader, Jason, who made some astute observations and asked me some thoughtful questions. (*edited for concision and clarity.*)

Ben, you don't address the issue of how to win the support of the Israeli working class for this secular non-racial democratic state you advocate. If we're still talking about a capitalist state, wouldn't this lead to a drop in their living standards at a time when their living standards are already suffering a decline anyway due to austerity, and by no coincidence a diminution of their democratic rights? We will need a stronger emphasis on class struggle and we will need a workers' revolution to solve these problems.

I don't think the Zionist ideology is the only reason why Israelis mostly support the existing state, or why it's seen outside of its territory as more legitimate than the Palestinian resistance groups: People tend to support the existing state until they find it unbearable.

We have already seen the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa, so that proved possible without destroying the existing state. But by the time it happened, it had become an objective economic necessity for all classes and ethnic groups, which isn't the case in Israel right now and separately from the need to overthrow capitalism, I don't foresee it. Besides, it didn't really lead to an end to the racial oppression even of the black majority, let alone other non-white groups. People can have equality before the law without having real economic and social equality.

You also don't address the issue of whether of whether a formally separate Palestinian state -and UN recognition for that state, would be step forward from the present situation. I think we should argue Palestinians have every right to demand this, while also arguing that the two state solution is a trap, including because the very idea of it is bound to divide the Palestinian resistance.

On the other hand, those Zionists who reject the two state solution have deliberately made it impossible. It now seems more like a fantasy dreamed up by Gerard Kushner than a practical idea that ANYBODY in Palestine/ Israel is willing to accept.

Ben replies

As far as how to win over the Israeli working class to give up some of its privileges, I think you are right that this is a complicated question, and also that this would be a much bigger change to Israel and its institutions than what took place in South Africa. There is also the additional factor that without apartheid, the country would no longer be so isolated and it would be less dependent on and a captive of US imperialism.

On the objective side of the question--in terms of standard of living, I would think that the Israeli working class would be better off in an integrated state that is not at war internally or externally. An integrated state, at peace, would also mean that the working class would have more opportunities and ability to be independent of the ruling class in Israel. As Engels said: **no nation can be free if it oppresses others**. The labor movement in the US became stronger when it overcame segregation. So I think you are right about the need to bring in the question of class struggle.

There is also the factor that a major part of the struggle against apartheid, I believe, will come from the struggle, here in the U.S., to cut off support for Israel. The logic of the struggles in Ireland, Algeria and Vietnam was that the colonial oppressing power eventually realized that it could not win.

On the subjective side--I discuss, in point 10, the need to create a **democratic media platform** (and information war organized on a larger scale) that will help accelerate the raising of consciousness of workers everywhere. Many people today look at the war of ideas on social media as something more or less static, as if it were a factor that remains constant. But my conclusion is that **the social and political impact of social media is actually growing in a geometric way**. Social media is a big part (if not the main part) of why the younger generation in the US tends to support Palestine. There is no doubt in my mind that this will grow. ■