A strategic perspective for the liberation of Palestine

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> "The farther we move from what has befallen
> the Palestinian people since the Hamas-led operation
> on October 7, 2023, the clearer becomes the magnitude
> of the disaster triggered by what I have described as
> 'the most catastrophic miscalculation ever in the history
> of anticolonial struggle,'"

-- Gilbert Achcar, October 2016

Contents:

1. The verdict of history
2. We need a clear path forward
3. A democratic platform for public information
4. Accelerate the self-organization of common work
5. Bring the best ideas and best people into closer proximity
6. How will Palestinians win their national and democratic rights?
7. The protective bubble of Pax Americana is popping
8. The productive forces will change everything
9. Who will support the Palestinian people?
10. The war at home -- Israeli Apartheid
11. The war at home -- the imperialist "mothership"
12. This is the Century of Information War
13. Notes and references

Hi everyone,

I read with great interest the articles by Gilbert Achcar [1] and John Reimann [2] and the related MarxMail thread [3]. I would like to thank everyone for their thoughtful and informed comments. It reminded me of the **wealth of knowledge** and experience contained on this listserv.

1. The verdict of history

Gilbert Achcar's article, it appears to me, will be widely circulated and discussed. It represents the verdict of history on the October 7 catastrophe.

Ralph Nader did the math [4]. The genocide in Gaza is ten times larger than is being nearly universally reported: nearly **700 hundred thousand dead** by bombs, drones, starvation, disease and lack of sanitation, medical facilities, shelter or basic infrastructure. And the death toll continues to rise.

We need to be able to **openly talk** about **everything**.

2. We need a clear path forward

John Reimann's article gives clarity to a number of important questions that Gilbert carefully avoids--and also includes thoughtful speculation about larger questions. John argues that a *"revolutionary working class socialist approach"* is essential to Palestinian liberation. The main thing we need to do--he argues--is to **find people** to whom we can give this **precious knowledge**. John may be correct. Or not.

The problem is that the phrase "revolutionary working class socialist approach" can mean **different things** to **different people**. Sometimes people see phrases such as this--and it all just looks like a bunch of **hot air** in a movement full of cargo cults in *cutthroat competition* with one another over the *warm bodies of activists* who are new on the scene and looking for experienced forces with which to hook up.

My conclusion is that our **responsibility** is to **look deeper** and reach certain **clear conclusions**. This is not only **possible**--but **necessary**.

Everyone has the ability to help.

3. A democratic platform for public information

A democratic platform for public information (ie: something like a "**digital public utility**" that could be used by all activists) would be of great assistance to the struggle of the Palestinian people. It would allow activists to **share experience** and **lessons-learned** with one another. It would allow activists to work together--in the **public sphere**--in conditions of **transparency**.

We are living in the **century of information war**. Capitalist development has created and put in our hands--the perfect tool--the **perfect weapon**. We only need to use this weapon with the **skill** and **determination** of our class.

Activists will use this digital infrastructure to build:

-- **forums for ideas,**
-- news channels for the masses, and
-- **platforms** for **projects** and **organizations**

that are structured to support **transparency** and **accountability**.

4. Accelerate the self-organization of common work

Everyone on this listserv has the ability to give thought to how such a democratic platform for public information could **accelerate** the **self-organization** of the **discussion**, **debate** and **common projects** our movement needs--as well as facilitate the **emergence** and **democratic interaction** of the **competing political trends** necessary for the **consciousness** and **will** of the working class and oppressed to find expression in **organized concrete actions**.

5. Bring the best ideas and best people into closer proximity

Such a platform could serve as a vehicle (ie: a **digital nervous system**) that brings the **best ideas** and the **best people** in the movement into **closer proximity** to one another.

Everybody here has the ability to **ask intelligent questions** related to (1) **how will this work?**, (2) what would this **look like?** and (3) how can we **help make this happen?**

6. How will Palestinians win their national and democratic rights?

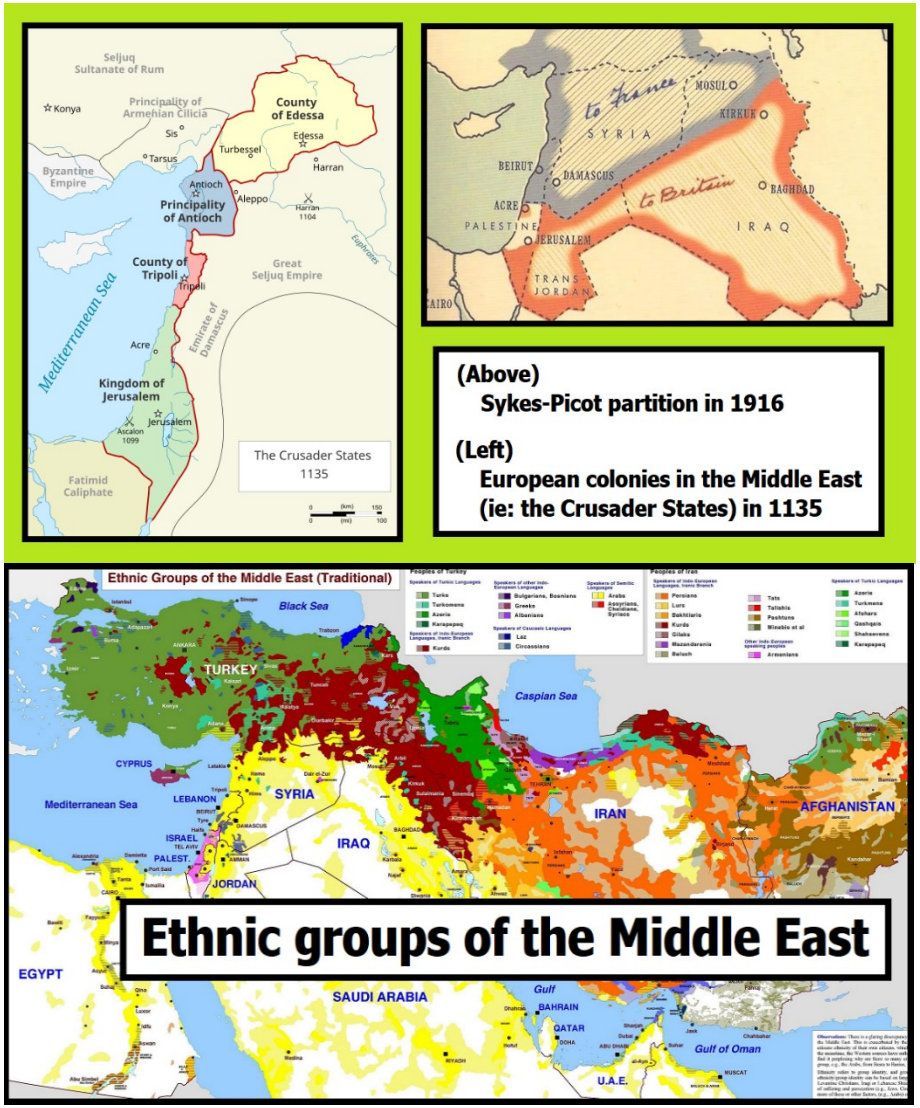
We can learn from the national liberation struggles in **Vietnam**, **Algeria**, **Ireland** and elsewhere, as well as the struggle against apartheid in **South Africa**.

7. The protective bubble of Pax Americana is popping

We can also learn from the history and geopolitical considerations which led Britain, the U.S., and other countries to support the establishment of the **colonial garrison state** of Israel--along with the **massacres** and **violent expulsion** of **Palestinians** who were driven from their homes and into **crowded refugee camps** in **1948**--from which they would be **beaten**, **starved** and **bombed** for generation after generation.

Israel was designed as a **military ally** (and **regional enforcer**) for US imperialism--in the same tradition as motivated the **Crusades** 800 years earlier--control of the **strategic trade routes** between East and West--as well as control of **petroleum** and natural gas deposits--and the **cold war rivalry** between US imperialism and the **Soviet camp**.

Israel was encouraged to commit a lot of massacres and atrocities against the Palestinians--as this is a standard **divide-and-rule** colonial tactic and serves to keep the **Israeli population terrified of reprisals** and completely **dependent** on its imperialist patron.



(Above)
Sykes-Picot partition in 1916

(Left)
European colonies in the Middle East (ie: the Crusader States) in 1135

However, the historical period of ***Pax Americana*** **has ended**--and new **rising** powers, including **China**, Russia, India and Iran are emerging on the scene.

The scale of the **genocide in Gaza** cannot be hidden forever, and **public opinion** will make it increasingly difficult for US imperialism to prop up Israel--which was born as a **strategic asset** to US imperialism but is now becoming a **strategic liability.**

Israel will face **increasing economic and political isolation** and **pressure** and will eventually be forced to **concede rights** to the Palestinians--including giving the Palestinians **democratic space** and the right to **choose their own leadership**. Once this process begins--there will be increasing opportunities for struggle by the masses and it will be increasingly difficult to maintain the existence of **Apartheid**. And once **democratic rights for all** are established--Israel will no longer be Israel--since there is no Israel without Apartheid.

Israel will likely be remembered as a temporary colonial-imperialist project (like the **Crusader states** in the 1100's) which was born under the **protective shelter** of Pax Americana -- and was never fated to **survive** without this protection.

Today, some are arguing that other "artificial" countries in the Middle East that were carved out (in total disregard for the boundaries of existing regional ethnic groups) in the **1916 Sykes-Picot agreement** (including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iraq, Syria and Jordan--which Winston Churchill boasted he drew up in a single afternoon) will be **swept away** as the **old system collapses** in one area after another.

8. The productive forces will change everything

And we can learn from changes in technology, and the development of the productive forces, including **digital technology** -- where cheap and deadly accurate drones are changing the nature of war--and **emerging forms of social media** (liberated from control by **ruling class gatekeepers**) appear poised to **transform the terrain** of the class struggle itself.

9. Who will support the Palestinian people?

These are the 5 main social supports of the Palestinian struggle:

(1) The Palestinians themselves
(2) Arabs in the region - working/toiling classes, youth, etc
(3) Israeli working class, youth, oppressed, etc
(4) Colonial "mothership" (ie: U.S., Britain, etc) working class, etc
(5) Global -- working class, youth, oppressed, etc

All of the above are important.

10. The war at home -- Israeli Apartheid

Why would Israeli Jews support the struggle of the Palestinian people? What do they gain by this? They gain a **secure future**--and a powerful ally against the **reactionary Arab rulers** and their own **ruling capitalist class**. The historical precedent for this is, as Gilbert noted in his article, their support for Palestinian rights in the wake of the first intifada in 1988.

Similarly, the struggle of the Palestinians, as it **discards reactionary national leadership**, will **gain an ally** in sections of Israeli society. Statements of Israeli youth who burned their conscription notices (ie: "draft cards") and accepted prison are reminiscent of activists in the US antiwar movement in its early stages.

11. The war at home -- the imperialist "mothership"

Of particular interest is how the struggle of the Vietnamese people against U.S. imperialism was based on a **defacto strategic alliance** with sections of the working class, oppressed and youth here in the belly of the US imperialist beast--who opposed the war in **solidarity** with their class brothers and sisters in Vietnam. This was summed up by Muhammad Ali, world heavyweight boxing champion, who in 1967 refused induction into the U.S. armed forces, declaring: "I ain't got no quarrel with them Viet Cong. No Viet Cong ever called me nigger."

And, in the U.S. (and Britain) today, there is growing disgust, in particular in the under 35 demographic, with U.S. imperialist support for the genocide in Gaza. This **culture war** is reflected in the music scene, where in June of last year in Britain, Bob Vylan led a crowd of 30 thousand people at the Glastonbury music festival in chants of "death, death to the IDF" and the recent controversy here in the U.S., where Macklemore was pulled from Ed Sheeran's tour for shouting "Free Palestine".

12. This is the Century of Information War

The struggle of the Palestinian people is aimed, not only at the liberation of Palestine itself--but at the **liberation** of the **workers** and **oppressed** of the **entire world** from **illusions** about the economic and political system of **imperialism** that grows, organically, out of modern **capitalism**.

The **digital utility** that I describe in sections 3, 4 and 5 above outlines concisely how such a platform would be useful in helping activists effectively sort out, in the **public arena**, important questions of strategy, tactics and organization--as well as bringing **news** of the aspirations and struggle of the Palestinian people to millions. I have written about this at length elsewhere [5, 6] -- so if anyone has questions, comments--or criticisms--fire away.

Ben Seattle
Fate leads the willing,
the unwilling are dragged

13. Notes and references:

[1] **Gilbert Achcar** - (article)
https://world-outlook.com/2026/10/12/on-the-strategy-for-palestinian-national-liberation/
[2] **John Reimann** - (blog post)

https://oaklandsocialist.com/2026/10/13/palestine-support-for-a-revolutionary-working-class-socialist-approach/

[3] **MarxMail thread** - (ListServ discussion - 16 posts)
https://groups.io/g/marxmail/topic/on_the_strategy_for/121725605

[4] **Ralph Nader** - (article)
https://nader.org/2026/06/19/fatalities-from-israels-vast-gaza-genocide-deliberately-undercounted/

See also excerpts and list of references here:
https://groups.io/g/marxmail/message/43577

[5] **A Place To Stand** - A public information platform will be a place for activists to gather and a powerful weapon of mass transparency -- http://communism.org/node/4058/4058.pdf (May 2026)

[6] **MarxMail thread** -- Movement recovery requires independent and democratic information platform (September 2026)
https://groups.io/g/marxmail/message/43479





