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Years of strife and turmoil between the Israelis and Palestinians has persisted largely due to support by large Western powers. Hoping to allow Israelis to achieve a sovereign state in a large-scale movement known as Zionism, the displacement and war crimes committed against Palestinians has hardly gone unnoticed. However, Israeli powers have not just occupied Palestinian land, but they have repeatedly subjected Palestinians to lower standards of life, committed heinous war crimes, and have attempted to subjugate the natives while pushing them out of their homes and cities. This painfully deliberate show of discrimination demonstrates an example of modern-day colonialism where the Israelis have abused their current military and political power to occupy and displace existing communities as opposed to creating an all-encompassing and inclusive state for all its residents.

There are numerous examples of large colonial powers subjugating natives and conquering land to support their own selfish ideals. When the British and other European powers arrived at the New World, one of their first decisions was to enslave the Native Americans and use them as a labor force for their own needs. As Professor Hatem noted, when Native Americans fell victim to diseases or lacked the skills to fulfill labor needs, European powers

turned to Africa and initiated the European Slave Trade, better known as the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. This large-scale enslavement of African men and women not only disrupted the cultural and political history of Africa, but it also forcibly removed any remnant of culture, religion, and language from the African slaves that were carried across the Atlantic.

The plight of African slaves in the New World draws vivid similarities to the current Palestinian crisis. As Professor Hatem states in his Medium article “Fanon’s Palestine & the Colonial Dividing Line”, there is a disgusting inequality between the amenities, shelter, and basic life necessities that Palestinians living within Israel’s borders receive and what Israelis receive (Bazian 4). The Israeli population is slowly encroaching further and further onto historically Palestinian land. Coupled with the aggressive and discriminatory Israeli military and government, it is life-threatening for Palestinians to fight for their land and hold onto a semblance of a regular life. Rather, Palestinians are forced to wake up wondering whether their life is in jeopardy and wishing to be treated like human beings.

Furthermore, the European and colonial support that Israel has received shares clear similarities with colonial propaganda that helped old colonial powers justify their inhumane actions and native subjugation. Both in the New World and in the Israel/Palestine conflict, war crimes, human rights violations, and unethical decisions have all been glossed over or ignored due to European biases fueled by a history of colonialism. Thus, this Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be viewed alternatively as the continuation and facilitation of European colonialism and the lasting damages as a result.

Works Cited

- Bazian, Prof. Hatem. “Fanon’s Palestine & the Colonial Dividing Line!” *Medium*, The official pub for FACE, 12 Oct. 2023, medium.com/foundation-of-african-americans-for-civic/fanons-palestine-the-colonial-dividing-line-a79b4c9ec203