

Navigating The Complexities Of The Israel-Palestine Conflict – OpEd

Eurasia Review

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Body

The Israel-Palestine conflict is one of the long-standing disputes between Israelis and Palestinians over land, self-determination, and security in the region.

The origin of the conflict can be traced back to the late 19th century when a movement called Zionism emerged, advocating for the establishment of a Jewish homeland. In 1947, the United Nations proposed a partition plan dividing Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states that was rejected by the Arabs leading to a series of conflicts.

On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was established, and neighboring Arab states immediately launched a military intervention to prevent its creation. This resulted in the 1948 Arab Israeli War, known by Israelis as the War of Independence and by Palestinians as the Nakba (catastrophe), leading to displacement and refugee crises on both sides. Since then, the conflict has witnessed several major wars and unfortunate events further exacerbating tensions.

These wars have led to territorial changes, with Israel occupying the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, which are territories Palestinians claim for their state. The conflict has also witnessed a period of negotiations and attempts for peace, such as the Camp David Accord in 1978, and the Oslo Accords in the 1990s. However, the peace process has been marred by a lack of trust, competing claims to land and resources, security concerns, and divergent visions for the future.

The aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians for self-determination, access to resources, security, and a peaceful coexistence remain at the heart of the issue that have contributed to its complexity and longevity. The core issues that have made the conflict complex and difficult to resolve are following:

The issue of territory and borders: The issue of territory lies at the heart of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Both Israelis and Palestinians claim historical, religious, and cultural ties to this land, particularly in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. During many wars until 1967, Israel occupied the West Bank and East Jerusalem

(previously under Jordanian control) and the Gaza Strip (previously under Egyptian control) and the Golan Heights from Syria. These territorial gains significantly altered the borders of Israel and the occupied territories, effectively extending Israel's control over territories. The new borders established de facto Israeli control over the West Bank, East Jerusalem (including the Old City), the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights. These territories are seen by Palestinians as the basis for their state. However, Israel has established settlements in the occupied territories, leading to disputes over land and the viability of a contiguous Palestinian state.

The issue of self-determination: The issue of self-determination also lies at the heart of this conflict. Both Israelis and Palestinians have a deep-seated desire for self-determination, which encompasses their right to establish their own independent and sovereign states. For Israelis, self-determination represents the fulfillment of the Zionist movement's goal of creating a Jewish homeland in response to centuries of persecution and the horrors of the Holocaust. On the other hand, Palestinians seek self-determination to address historical grievances, regain control over their homeland, and establish an independent Palestinian state. The clash between these two national aspirations has led to competing claims and struggles for territorial control. Efforts to achieve a two-state solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security, have been at the center of international peace initiatives. The right to self-determination is a fundamental principle enshrined in international law and the United Nations Charter. The international community has recognized the legitimate aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians and has called for a just and lasting resolution to the conflict that respects the self-determination of both peoples.

The status of Jerusalem: Status of Jerusalem is one of the most contentious and complex issues in the Israel-Palestine conflict. Both Israelis and Palestinians claim Jerusalem as their capital and consider it a vital part of their national and religious identities. The city holds significant religious sites for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, including the Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. After the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, Jerusalem was divided between Israel and Jordan, with Israel controlling West Jerusalem and Jordan controlling East Jerusalem, including the Old City and its holy sites. In 1967, during the Six-Day War, Israel captured East Jerusalem from Jordan and subsequently annexed it, a move that has not been internationally recognized. In the 1980, it passed the Basic Law declaring Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. However, the international community, including the United Nations, does not recognize Israel's sovereignty over East Jerusalem and considers it occupied territory. The Palestinians view East Jerusalem as the capital of their state. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) officially declared East Jerusalem the capital of Palestine in 1988, and it remains a central demand in peace negotiations. Efforts to resolve the status of Jerusalem have been a key focus of peace negotiations, such as the Oslo Accords in the 1990s. The issue of Jerusalem has sparked numerous protests, clashes, and violence over the years, and any attempts to alter the city's status quo or make unilateral decisions regarding its future have consistently heightened tensions between Israelis and Palestinians.

The issue of Israeli settlements: Israeli settlements is one of the major points of contention in the Israel-Palestine conflict. Israeli settlements are Jewish communities built in the occupied territories. The international community widely considers Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as illegal under international law. They are seen as violating the Fourth Geneva Convention. The establishment and expansion of settlements have been viewed as a significant obstacle to achieving a negotiated two-state solution. The growth of settlements is making the creation of a Palestinian state increasingly challenging. The growth of Israeli settlements has led to an increase in the Jewish population in the occupied territories. This raises concerns about the demographic balance and the ability to establish a future Palestinian state with a significant Palestinian majority. The presence of Israeli settlements has resulted in various human rights violations and discriminatory practices against Palestinians. These include restrictions on movement, access to resources, and unequal treatment under Israeli law. Palestinians often face difficulties in obtaining building permits and face demolitions of their structures, while Israeli settlers receive preferential treatment and enjoy rights and services not available to Palestinians. Efforts to address the issue of Israeli settlements have been a vital component of peace negotiations and diplomatic initiatives. However, settlement expansion has continued over the years, making the resolution of this issue increasingly complex.

Security and violence: Security in the region have been persistent and deeply entrenched aspects of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Both Israelis and Palestinians have faced threats, acts of violence, and ongoing security

challenges, contributing to a cycle of retaliation and mistrust. Acts of terrorism and violence have been perpetrated by individuals and groups on both sides. The conflict has witnessed multiple military operations and large-scale clashes. Israel has conducted military campaigns in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, aiming to combat militant groups and prevent attacks on its citizens. These operations have often resulted in civilian casualties and infrastructure damage, while Palestinian rocket attacks from Gaza have led to Israeli retaliatory strikes. Israeli settlements in the occupied territories have been a focal point for security concerns. Settlements are often guarded by Israeli security forces, which has led to confrontations with Palestinians living nearby. Additionally, settlers themselves have been involved in clashes with Palestinians, resulting in violence and property damage. The conflict has also fueled radicalization and extremism on both sides. Extremist factions within Palestinian society have embraced violence to resist Israeli occupation, while some far-right Jewish groups in Israel have engaged in acts of violence against Palestinians. These radical elements further complicate efforts to achieve peace and perpetuate a climate of fear and hostility.

The issue of refugees and the right of return: Refugee problem is a significant aspect of the Israel-Palestine conflict. The conflict has resulted in the displacement of a significant number of Palestinians, creating a refugee problem that has spanned generations. Understanding the historical context and differing perspectives on this issue is crucial. During the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, a large number of Palestinians were forcibly expelled from their homes. They became refugees, seeking refuge in neighboring Arab countries. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was established to aid and support to Palestinian refugees. Palestinians argue that the right of return is an inherent right recognized under international law, specifically United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194, which calls for the return of refugees and the compensation of those who choose not to return. On the other hand, Israel contends that implementing a full right of return for Palestinian refugees would undermine the Jewish character of the state. It is important to note that the refugee issue is not solely a Palestinian concern. Jewish refugees who fled or were expelled from Arab countries following the establishment of Israel also seek recognition, compensation, and redress for their displacement. Ultimately, resolving the refugee issue requires a comprehensive and negotiated solution that considers the legitimate rights and concerns of both Palestinians and Israelis. It necessitates addressing individual claims, providing options for restitution, compensation, resettlement, and creating conditions that enable a just and durable resolution to the conflict.

The issue of water resources: Water resources in the region are another significant aspect of the conflict due to water scarcity in the region and the competing needs of Israelis and Palestinians. The Jordan River and underground aquifers are the primary sources of freshwater in the area. Israel has implemented advanced water management techniques, including desalination plants, wastewater treatment, and efficient agricultural practices. As a result, Israel has been able to meet its water needs. However, Palestinians in the occupied territories face significant water shortages and difficulties in accessing sufficient and clean water. Moreover, restrictions by Israel on drilling wells, limited access to water sources, and unequal distribution, have disproportionately affected Palestinian communities. Water scarcity and inadequate infrastructure have adverse effects on Palestinians' daily lives, including limited access to clean water for drinking, sanitation, and agriculture. It also impacts economic development and agricultural productivity. Efforts have been made to address the water issue, such as joint water management projects and cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian authorities. However, progress has been slow, and disagreements over the allocation and control of water resources persist.

Efforts have been made in the past to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and are still being made but rejectionist extremists from both sides have not let the peace process complete. Serious efforts are required to address this complex aspect of the conflict. It's very unfortunate that in this age of organizations and rhetoric for human rights and peaceful world the issue of Israel Palestine is unresolved and the Palestinians are facing extreme human rights violations. Issue requires a serious joint effort by organizations, major world and regional powers to address the complex dynamics of the conflict so that a viable peace should be ensured in the region where both Israelis and Palestinians could live a peaceful life.

UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine: Israel has turned all of Palestine into 'an open-air prison' to further annexation plans

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Body

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In her June report to the UN Human Rights Council , Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine, details how, through 'a system of control composed of multiple and interrelated levels of confinement,' Israel 'has turned Palestinian life into a carceral continuum '—amounting, as she writes, to a constantly surveilled open-air prison.

Her report documents the many physical, bureaucratic, military, and surveillance means which enable Israel's 'arbitrary seizure of land and Palestinians' forcible displacement'—features, she writes, of settler colonialism.

In her presentation of the report to the UN Human Rights Council Monday, Albanese said, 'These offenses appear to be part of a plan to de-Palestinianize the territory. They threaten the existence of the Palestinians as a people, as a national cohesive group.'

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An expert in international law, Albanese takes the reader into the weeds to describe the relevant international humanitarian, human rights, and criminal laws, which, taken together, clearly point to the illegality of Israel's actions related to Palestinians in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza.

'It is critical,' she told members of the Human Rights Council, 'that the international community recognizes the illegality of Israel's occupation naturally leading to apartheid. This cannot be rectified. This cannot be made more humane by merely addressing some of its most severe consequences. It is to be brought to an end, to restore the rule of law and justice.'

Israel has always denied that international law applies to its actions in the occupied territory, maintaining that the territory is disputed, not occupied. Israel's rejection of the applicability of international law, the Special Rapporteur reports, 'has led to violations of fundamental principles governing situations of occupation, including the non-acquisition of sovereignty, duties to administer the occupied territory for the benefit of the protected population, and temporariness.'

UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine: Israel has turned all of Palestine into 'an open-air prison' to further annexation plans

In a press conference that followed the release of the 21-page report, Albanese said that she wrote her report on the theme of arbitrary deprivation of liberty 'because of the magnitude of the situation on the ground.'

Her report updates the UN's documentation of Israeli policies and practices familiar to many: arbitrary detention and arrest without warrants; night raids apprehending children; the two-tiered legal system in the West Bank, one for Israeli citizens living in illegal settlements administered in civil courts, the other for Palestinians created, administered and adjudicated by the occupation forces; the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip; an arbitrary permit system lacking transparency; 270 colonies and military bases encircling Palestinian cities, towns and villages, preventing expansion; the Wall, checkpoints, roadblocks and segregated roads; and the fragmentation of Palestinians into separate areas with varying laws governing almost every aspect of their lives. 'The multi-layered architecture of confinement,' she calls it in her report.

One of the significant contributions of the Special Rapporteur's report is her description of Israel's digital surveillance. Interference with the right to privacy, such as the use of surveillance technologies, is prescribed by international law and is to be used only when strictly necessary.

Albanese writes,

Instead, digital surveillance pervasively entrenches Israel forces' control over the space and life of the occupied population. Palestinians are constantly monitored through CCTV and other devices at checkpoints, in public places, social gatherings and protests. Their private spaces are often intruded without their knowledge, through monitoring of online platforms like Facebook, calls, and online conversations considered 'threatening,' and tracking the location and connections of mobile phones to establish networks and potential associations, or even through their medical records.

'The occupation,' Albanese reports, 'has advanced Israel's development of powerful surveillance technologies, including facial recognition, drones, and social media monitoring.' She describes the use of Israeli systems—such as Blue Wolf, Red Wolf, and Wolf Pack—that contribute to Israel's database of imagery, personal information, and security rating of West Bank Palestinians, including those in Jerusalem neighborhoods such as Silwan and Sheikh Jarrah. They have 'created a 'gamified surveillance',' Albanese writes, 'whereby Israeli military units photograph Palestinians without consent and even engage in disturbing competitions.'

'Digital surveillance ultimately serves to facilitate colonization,' she writes.

Charged in her mandate to document 'the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories,' Albanese also lists violations of international law by Palestinian authorities that 'contribute to tightening the grip of the regime imposed by the occupation.'

'Arbitrary arrests and detention carried out by the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and the de facto authorities in the Gaza Strip have contributed to stifling Palestinians' rights and freedoms,' she writes. 'Human rights groups have documented abusive practices, taunts, solitary confinement and beatings often to elicit confessions, punish and intimidate activists,' she reports.

Albanese describes how the security coordination between the Palestinian Authority and Israel 'has pioneered a direct connection between Palestinian and Israeli detention apparatuses.' Palestinian victims, she writes, refer to a 'revolving door policy'—a cycle in which 'Palestinians are first arrested, interrogated, detained and often subjected to ill-treatment by the Palestinian Authority and then, upon release, by the occupation forces, or vice versa.'

While the Palestinian Basic Law, amended in 2003, is expected to protect fundamental rights and freedoms, Albanese writes that other Palestinian laws still 'define some crimes broadly [and] may include insulting or slandering a public official or a higher authority, libel in print, or establishing 'sectarian strife'.'

'Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel face even more severe treatment,' she writes, 'and in the Gaza Strip they can be punished with the death sentence.'

UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine: Israel has turned all of Palestine into 'an open-air prison' to further annexation plans

The Special Rapporteur points as well to how the Palestinian Authority has mirrored Israel's repression of students on Palestinian campuses, 'detaining students and others for dissenting political opinions, including those shared on social media.'

Among the conclusions in her report:

'Under Israeli occupation, generations of Palestinians have endured widespread and systematic arbitrary deprivation of liberty, often for the simplest acts of life.'

'By depriving Palestinians of the protections afforded by international law, the occupation reduces them to a 'de-civilianized' population, stripped of their status of protected persons and fundamental rights. Treating the Palestinians as a collective, incarcerable threat erodes their protection as 'civilians' under international law, deprives them of their fundamental freedoms, and expropriates their agency and ability to unite, self-govern and develop as a polity.'

'By shifting from 'the security of the occupying power' to 'the security of the occupation itself', Israel has disguised 'security' as the permanent control over the territory it occupies and tries to annex. This has entrenched segregation, subjugation, fragmentation and, ultimately, the dispossession of Palestinian lands and Palestinians' forced displacement.'

'Under the UN Charter and international law, particularly the law of state responsibility, third States have a duty not to contribute or condone Israel's settler-colonial apartheid.'

Albanese cites several ways to achieve the first of her report's two recommendations: that 'Israel's system of arbitrarily depriving Palestinians of their liberty in the occupied Palestinian territory be abolished tout court.' The second recommendation calls on the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to examine, as part of the investigation into the Situation in Palestine, the possible commission of the international crimes she has described.

Asked by Mondoweiss to respond to the Special Rapporteur's report, Jonathan Kuttab, international law expert and human rights activist, said, 'Unlike other commentators, Ms. Albanese applies international law with directness and specificity and does not allow her observations to be skewed by the silence of others or their apparent acceptance of the continued violations of international law by Israel. Others act as if such continued and lengthy silence have somehow normalized or legitimized what is clearly illegal behavior and blatant violations of the norms mandated by international law to be applicable for the behavior of an 'occupying power' towards a 'protected civilian population'.'

Having been refused entrance to the occupied territory by Israel, the Special Rapporteur conducted her six-month study remotely, including visiting Jordan, virtual meetings and tours, reviewing primary and public sources, and reports from Palestinian civil society organizations.

As of the writing of this piece, we have yet to see a response from the State of Israel. But criticism is expected unless, as at the Human Rights Council meeting Monday, Israel simply ignores the report.

In a piece published earlier this month, Avi Shlaim, Professor Emeritus of International Relations at the University of Oxford, defended Albanese following charges against her of antisemitism in response to her September report. Shlaim wrote that Israel's approach toward the UN, often defined by disdain, turns to 'derision [which] gives way to relentless vilification' of those who investigate Israel practices and seek to hold it to account.'

'Albanese is an outstandingly competent and conscientious international expert,' Shlaim wrote. 'She deserves nothing but credit for the courage and commitment that she has demonstrated in discharging her UN mandate. She can even wear most of the attacks on her from Zionist quarters as a badge of honor.'

'The three main pillars of Judaism are truth, justice, and peace,' Shlaim wrote. 'Albanese personifies these values to a remarkably high degree. And there will be many Jews worldwide, disturbed by Israel's betrayal of these core

UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine: Israel has turned all of Palestine into 'an open-air prison' to further annexation plans

Jewish values, especially since the formation of the aggressively anti-Palestinian, far-right, xenophobic, homophobic, and openly racist coalition government headed by Benjamin Netanyahu, who may have reason to thank her for upholding these values at a critical moment in Israel's history.'

Advocates for a just peace may want to print the Special Rapporteur's report, add a brief personal note, and mail highlighted copies to their elected representatives and local media.

[Link to the original story.](#)

Notes

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Palestinian Self-Determination Through the Lens of Lenin

The Palestine Chronicle

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Body

We can understand some fundamental features of the Zionist settler-colonial project through Lenin's teachings, specifically that Israel was founded and continues to exist on the basis of violating Palestinian self-determination.

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870-1924) was an outstanding Marxist, revolutionary, and theorist. In addition to his immense historical role in the Russian Revolution, Lenin was one of the greatest thinkers of the 20th century.

His profound theories are invaluable to understanding the world today; in particular, Lenin's writings on the right of nations to self-determination provide an indispensable tool for analyzing the question of Palestine from a Marxist perspective.

A Theoretical Outline

Lenin was a fierce advocate for the self-determination of all oppressed nations. His teachings on the topic, often in the form of theses and polemics, are where we can find brilliant analysis which can be abstracted and reapplied to contemporary Palestine. As in the totality of his thought, Lenin was immensely influenced by the writings of Marx and Engels on the national questions of their day.

He developed their positions to suit better the age of imperialism, i.e., the highest stage of capitalism, that the world had entered in the 1890s, after the death of Marx and Engels. By the mid-1910s, Lenin staunchly argued for "an anti-imperialist alliance between the working class in the advanced countries and national liberation movements in the colonies" and made sure to emphasize the "division of nations into oppressing and oppressed ones [as] a fundamental, most important and inevitable fact."

He did not make moral arguments while supporting the right of liberation for oppressed nations (not to say he did not care for the long-suffering oppressed nations, which he most certainly did), instead, he outlined his positions in a scientific, principled, and pragmatic manner which stressed the importance of linking democratic revolutionary movements in oppressed nations to socialist ones in the oppressor countries:

"We must combine the revolutionary struggle against capitalism with a revolutionary programme and tactics on all democratic demands: a republic, a militia, the popular election of officials, equal rights for women, the self-determination of nations, etc."

Palestinian Self-Determination Through the Lens of Lenin

It is important to note that while Lenin recognized self-determination as a part of the "many-sided, consistent and revolutionary struggle for democracy" he still correctly asserted that the "domination of finance capital, as of capital in general, cannot be abolished by any kind of reforms in the realm of political democracy, and self-determination belongs wholly and exclusively to this realm."

et, Lenin crucially emphasized that "The domination of finance capital...does not in the least destroy the significance of political democracy as the freer, wider and more distinct form of class oppression and class struggle." Complete liberation can only come through in the victory of socialism, yet national liberation is a progressive development towards that aim.

Zionist Colonization and Palestinian National Liberation

It is a great shame that Lenin was not alive to see the development of anti-colonial theory (which was greatly influenced by his work) and concepts like settler-colonialism that are now essential to understanding the nature of Zionism and Israel. Despite this, crucial elements of Lenin's thought on self-determination still apply to a contemporary analysis of Palestine.

We can understand some fundamental features of the Zionist settler-colonial project through Lenin's teachings, specifically that Israel was founded and continues to exist on the basis of violating Palestinian self-determination. After decades of steady colonization and military buildup, Zionist settlers annexed 78% of historical Palestine in 1948, later in 1967, capturing the whole region and the Syrian Golan Heights.

To Lenin, socialists are to be against annexations above all else "because annexation violates the self-determination of nations, or, in other words, is a form of national oppression." As Lenin elaborated, annexation "is the establishment of state frontiers contrary to the will of the population."

In the case of Israel, its foundation came through the ethnic cleansing of Palestine and the establishment of a new settler state against the will of the native Palestinian population. Israel exists entirely on the grounds of denying a nation, the Palestinian Arab people, their right to self-determination. This fact is crucial to understanding why Israel and Zionism must be swept into the dustbin of history.

Lenin's work also provides many lessons for socialists outside of Palestine, particularly those residing in imperialist countries.

To be in solidarity with the oppressed:

"Socialists must not only demand the unconditional and immediate liberation of the colonies without compensation—and this demand in its political expression signifies nothing more nor less than the recognition of the right to self-determination—but must render determined support to the more revolutionary elements in the bourgeois-democratic movements for national liberation in these countries and assist their rebellion—and if need be, their revolutionary war—against the imperialist powers that oppress them."

Applying this to Palestine, socialists around the globe must demand the unconditional liberation of Palestine from Zionist colonial oppression while simultaneously supporting the revolutionary national liberation movements in Palestine, not reformist organizations which seek to collaborate with Israel. This would also entail particular support for socialist organizations like the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in addition to agitation supporting the broader Palestinian resistance.

Lenin also importantly proclaimed that "The Socialist of a ruling or colony-owning nation who fails to champion [the right of nations to self-determination] is a chauvinist." It also has to be added that the right of return for all families forced out of their homeland must be part of Palestinian national liberation. If not, the whole of the Palestinian Arab nation would still not be guaranteed their right to self-determination.

Palestinian Self-Determination Through the Lens of Lenin

Lenin additionally differentiated between an imperialist war, "when both belligerents not only oppress "foreign peoples" but are fighting a war to decide who shall have a greater share in oppressing foreign peoples" and national liberation movements of the oppressed and colonized.

He emphatically supported the "just," "defensive wars" of the oppressed fighting for liberation, in our case, the Palestinian resistance. Simultaneously he correctly renounced "'defense of the fatherland' in an imperialist war" like that of the present war in Ukraine, which is ultimately a conflict between two imperialist blocs (Russia and NATO). On the other hand, the struggle of Palestinians against Israel (and its imperialist patrons) is anti-imperialist.

Ultimately to Lenin, the struggle for self-determination is part of the progressive battle for political democracy. In discussing the need for such national revolutionary movements, he stated: "that it is necessary to formulate and put forward all [the democratic] demands, not in a reformist, but in a revolutionary way; not by keeping within the framework of bourgeois legality, but by breaking through it; not by confining oneself to parliamentary speeches and verbal protests, but by drawing the masses into real action, by widening and fomenting the struggle for every kind of fundamental, democratic demand, right up to and including the direct onslaught of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie, i.e., to the socialist revolution."

This remains just as relevant today, specifically concerning the question of Palestine, as it was when Lenin wrote it in 1916.

The post Palestinian Self-Determination Through the Lens of Lenin appeared first on Palestine Chronicle.

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Israel: after strong riots over judicial reform, Biden advised Netanyahu "not to rush".

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The **President of the United States, Joe Biden**, pronounced himself on the judicial reform that **Benjamin Netanyahu** seeks to approve in **Israel** and **urged** him **not to "rush"** with this measure that generated massive demonstrations throughout the country.

The president referred to the crisis that Israel is going through in an interview with The New York Times and said that **Prime Minister Netanyahu should act with caution**.

"Obviously, this is an area where Israelis **have very strong views**, including with a protest movement that **is demonstrating the vitality of Israeli democracy**, which must remain at the core of our bilateral relationship," Biden told analyst and writer Thomas Friedman.

"**Finding consensus in contentious policy areas means taking the necessary time**. For meaningful change that is essential. So my recommendation to **Israeli leaders is not to rush**," the Democrat added. I think the best outcome is to continue to seek **the broadest possible consensus** here," he said.

What does the judicial reform in Israel consist of?

Netanyahu 's ultra-right Netanyahu's coalition government tried to reduce the judiciary and its proposed law has already begun to advance in Parliament. **The Reasonableness Law** would eliminate the power of the Supreme Court to **overturn government decisions** it deems "unreasonable".

The initiative **divided Israeli society** and sparked one of the largest **protest movements in** the Middle Eastern **country's history**, with thousands of demonstrators again taking to the streets this week to protest against what they see as an attack on democracy.

According to government plans, it **will be passed in the Israeli parliament next week, in second and third readings**.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog, with a mainly protocol role, but with a record of being more conciliatory than Netanyahu, met with Biden yesterday and today gave a speech to the US Congress, which was boycotted by some Democratic congressmen who oppose Israel's policies against Palestine.

"I am no stranger to criticism among friends, including some expressed by respected members of this House. I respect criticism, especially from friends, although it is not always necessary to accept it," he told a joint meeting of the U.S. House and Senate.

Israel: after strong riots over judicial reform, Biden advised Netanyahu "not to rush".

He further argued that "**criticism of Israel should not cross the line into denying the State of Israel's right to exist.**" "**Questioning the Jewish people's right to self-determination is not legitimate diplomacy**, it is anti-Semitism," he said.

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US House passes Israel 'not a racist state' resolution

TRT World

July 19, 2023 Wednesday

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Body

The passed resolution also said that the US will always be a partner and supporter of Israel.

The US House of Representatives overwhelmingly has passed a resolution saying that Israel is not a "racist state," in a move directed at recent remarks by Congressional Progressive Caucus Chair Pramila Jayapal.

Tuesday's resolution passed in a 412-9 vote, with one lawmaker voting "present" and nine Democrats, including Representatives Rashida Tlaib, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Jamaal Bowman, Summer Lee, Cori Bush, Ayanna Pressley, Andre Carson and Delia Ramirez voting "no."

The resolution, which was introduced by Texas Republican August Pfluger, says "the State of Israel is not a racist or apartheid state" and rejects "all forms of antisemitism and xenophobia, and the United States will always be a staunch partner and supporter of Israel."

It came days after Democratic Representative Jayapal, who opposes Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policies, criticised Israel as she was addressing pro-Palestine protesters who interrupted a Netroots Nation conference in Chicago on Saturday.

"Hey guys, can I say something? Can I say something as somebody that's been in the streets and has participated in a lot of demonstrations?" Jayapal said. "I want you to know that we have been fighting to make it clear that Israel is a racist state, that the Palestinian people deserve self-determination and autonomy, that the dream of a two-state solution is slipping away from us, that it does not even feel possible."

She faced criticism from many at the conference following the circulation of a widely-shared video of her remarks on social media.

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Lawmakers to boycott Herzog's speech

On Sunday, Jayapal released a lengthy statement to address and clarify her remarks while also defending the underlying sentiment behind them.

She said her intention was to de-escalate the tense situation at the conference and apologised to those who may have been hurt by her remarks.

US House passes Israel 'not a racist state' resolution

On Tuesday, Jayapal voted "yes" for the resolution, which she said "had clear political motivations."

"I will not play into Republicans' political games of distraction that they clearly prefer over doing the work of real legislating to help working families and poor people across our country," she wrote on Twitter.

The resolution came hours after President Joe Biden's meeting with Israeli President Isaac Herzog at the White House. Herzog, who arrived in Washington on Tuesday, will deliver a joint address to Congress on Wednesday morning.

The speech will be boycotted by progressive Democrats, including prominent lawmakers Tlaib, the first Palestinian American female lawmaker in Congress, Ocasio-Cortez and Omar.

The decision to protest the Israeli president's speech comes amid growing rifts among Democrats over maintaining the US's unwavering support for Israel.

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