



## The Destruction of the Olive Tree

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Uprooting, burning, and destroying any olive groves that cannot be easily appropriated by settler-colonialists has been a consistent tactic of Israeli colonialism since 1967.

Since 1967 more than 800,000 Palestinian olive trees have been propped or burned. Many of which were hundreds of years old. Calculated attacks from both the military and settlers, on the trees themselves and the Palestinians who tend to them, spike during every harvest season.

Olive harvest season typically occurs through October and November. Israeli planes are dropping bombs and pesticides on Palestinian groves and farms, and shooting any who try to return to their land for the harvest.

Beyond direct attacks, Israel requires Palestinians to apply for permits to work their own land, which are inconsistently granted and only 24% of permits are ever approved and withholding permits are used to punish the entire families of politically active Palestinians.

Israel also exerts total control over Palestinian water supply. All Palestinian water projects must be approved by Israel. Today Palestinians are allocated a mere 13% of the water resources under Israeli state control.



Climate destruction as a feature of settler-colonialism

## The Bison & The Olive Tree

### Colonialism & Environmental Destruction

Dispossessing people with embedded relationships with the land *requires* environmental destruction. Ecological degradation/climate catastrophe and settler colonialism don't just happen to show up in the same places. Environmental destruction is *integral* to every settler-colonial project.

Settler-colonialists explicitly recognize this fact and act to rupture the network of relationships that sustain Indigenous people's connection to land and their ability to survive on it without dependence on the colonial state that seeks to control and dispossess them.

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In the 19th century the U.S. military and civilian settlers worked in concert to wipe out the Bison population in order to make the land uninhabitable for the Indigenous people resisting their settler colonialist project.

Bison in so-called North America once numbered more than 30 million. By the end of the 19th century there were only a few hundred bison left in the wild.

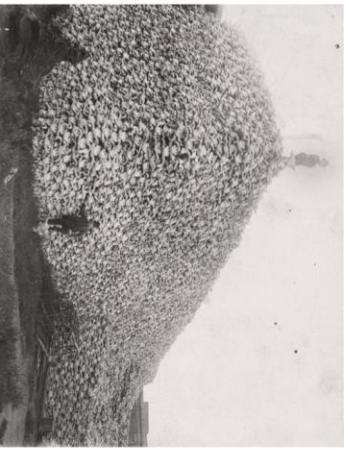


Photo taken in the mid-1870s of a man standing in front of a mountain of bison skulls.

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"Kill every buffalo you can! Every buffalo dead is an Indian gone." - Colonel Dodge, 1867

"Make them poor by the destruction of their stock, and then settle them on the lands allotted to them." - Major General Phillip Sheridan, 1868

"Where there were myriads of buffalo the year before, there were now myriads of carcasses. The air was foul with a sickening stench, and the vast plain which only a short twelve months before teemed with animal life, was a dead, solitary desert." - Colonel Dodge

"Do the Indians make a living gathering these bones?" Yes, replied a railroad inspector, "but it is a mercy that they can't eat bones. We were never able to control the s\*\*\*\*\* until their supply of meat was cut off." Article in Harper's magazine, 1893

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"Our hearts burn over our lands. We wait all year long for the olive season, which is the most beautiful season, but the Israelis have deliberately burned our trees using their missiles and tank shells," - Nisreen Abu Daqqa, Palestinian farmer of Khuza'a, a town in Gaza, 2023

"Over the past years, the land that I cultivate has been subjected to various types of violations from Israeli soldiers. I have been exposed several times to gunfire. The army has also bulldozed the land and sprayed the crops with pesticides to destroy them. This caused me huge financial losses, but after each round of destruction, I return to prepare the land for cultivation again." - Ahmed Qudeih, Palestinian farmer of Khuza'a, 2023

"You have reached the border! Entry is forbidden and dangerous, and anyone who approaches will see burning trees." - message on Israeli leaflet given to farmers trying to reach their farms in the West Bank, 2023