

PALESTINE IS BOILING AGAIN. SO WHAT? WHO ARE THE REAL TERRORISTS? (2023.12.03)

A. My view

A1. A string of mistakes: The establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 was a serious mistake for the following reasons:

- a) British and US leaders supported the establishment of a state of Israel against the advice of their own administrations and diplomats. The United Nations was also temporarily dominated by them to get the decision made. The basic mistake: No consultation of the existing residents. So: colonialism in the imperialist tradition as by Rhodes, Kitchener, and Churchill.
- b) British and US leaders underestimated the Muslim-Arab resistance. So: An unsolvable battle.
- c) This led to the expulsion of more than 800,000 Jews from Arab countries (1949 and later). So: The unlikely peaceful coexistence of then and for centuries before has now been transformed into cultural tension and alienation.
- d) It led to the destabilization in the lives of half a million Palestinians in 1948 (more are currently disrupted in the extended political game and the growth of the population over seven decades).
- e) It led to the use of crude oil as a political weapon. So: price increases.
- f) It led to an overvaluation of parts of the writings of Muhammad and reversed the separation between government policy and clerical powers, already underway in Muslim-dominated states.
- g) It increased political tension in the Middle East which could lead to an Armageddon. So: Not at all as God's plan, but as the outcome of Western arrogance and provocation.

A2. Regardless of the tragic events above, the following must be added about the SA government's statement of 7 October 2023: The statement is rightly a balanced statement that is more focused on peace than on the designation of villains and angels. But just like the statements by all other governments, they failed to ask about the following:

- a) *Surrounding Arab countries:* Cancel the ban on the migration from Palestinians. All governments with a majority of citizens in the Islamic tradition must be challenged to humane action, but like the rest of us, within limitations, not only accommodate refugees but also give them a new future. How do they justify using people, for generations, as human shields?
- b) *Hamas Covenant 1988, Article 32:* According to this, it is treason to leave "the circle of confrontation" and this explains the migration ban. It is about time that Hamas and similar liberation organizations are confronted from the Koran about the inhumanity of their position.
- c) *To lose a war:* The Islamic countries conquered large parts of Africa and parts of Europe since the 7th century. But they were also driven out of certain areas again. The Arab countries must now be confronted with the reality that wars are also lost. Japan found out in 1945 that the emperor did not have a protocol of surrender. It took two nuclear bombs to convince the Japanese that even though the emperor did not have a protocol of surrender, he would eventually do so. Is this what Hamas and its Islamist supporters are heading for with calculated coldness? The kamikaze of an entire community?

A collection of statements about the Israel-Hamas war is available:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_reactions_to_the_2023_Israel%E2%80%9393Hamas_war .

(Readers in a hurry can now skip to the Conclusion in Section D, page 10).

B. My view expanded

There is so much more that could be added about the tragic battle Israel-Hamas confrontation:

i. A better future?: Of course, we could speculate that a disaster can be averted: In terms of regional diplomacy, it may be that Israel finally obtains, in a more realistic approach, greater diplomatic recognition from surrounding Arab countries - probably led by Saudi Arabia, one of the countries with the least religious freedom. If the Palestinians in addition are accepted as immigrants by the Arab countries, the humanitarian disaster would be solved. It sometimes works in such a way that after 100 years, that is three to four generations, people become "at home" in the circumstances - as the majority of Afrikaners in South Africa accepted the English as fellow citizens. Besides, the individuals who are responsible for the circumstances are long gone. Israel can therefore be accepted as the de facto government. The possibility therefore always remains that the state of Israel can eventually contribute to the general economic prosperity of its neighbors in the Middle East. This will be the real miracle and what I believe is God's real intention for us, not just for Israel. But there is always the deep-seated and evil vindictiveness in people who believe that only a bloodbath can bring the way to peace – the misguided romanticism of a violence with which history can be corrected, like the South African rebellion of 1914. How this evil could be overcome in Arabic resistance will be the heart of the miracle. Sid Lukkassen (see references) thinks no good ending is possible. Hamas's program of principles (see "Covenant" in the references) contains mission statements fueling a never-ending extermination of Jews - motivated from the writings of Muhammad (yet contradicting other parts of the Koran). Revenge - Revenge: The British military and diplomatic staff of the mandate period knew this.

ii. A struggle to death? Hamas' program of action as the extermination of the Jews is well-known. And they are integrated into the Gaza population: any (every?) citizen is militarily activated. Can we hope that the population in rebellion will so secularize that Muhammad's limited incitement of violence against the Jews is ignored or rejected? How can this happen? We see how it did not happen in France with Charlie Hebdo. But what about another picture: While not impossible, the demythologizing of the writings of Muhammad through the emergence (restoration) of mere good humanity may take centuries to happen. What we see in the Christian communities is that fundamentalists always survive, they are just not extremely violent, nor dominating. However, in the Palestinian Muslim community, the fundamentalists become the instigators of murder of moderate dissidents. This is an outcome of the colonization of Palestine and was strengthened by the Iranian takeover in 1979 by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Meanwhile, among the 55 countries with a majority of Muslim citizens, already 20 countries which are known as "secularized" which means that Islam is not imposed on the population. There is also a list of texts in the Koran itself that promote tolerance. But around Israel, a different code applies with a different set of quotes from the works of Muhammad, as can be seen in the Hamas

covenant. Is the love for Muslim people in Gaza so great that we Judeo-Christian people must turn the cheek forever? There are probably already Israelis who now ask: Isn't the only solution then just to wipe out the Palestinian population of Gaza down to the last child? If an atomic bomb was needed to shock the Japanese out of their lack of a surrender protocol, what is needed for the population of Gaza?

Extermination could perhaps have been a justified solution if the establishment of the state of Israel was beyond suspicion. Then one could argue: If you are begging for blood and death, here it comes. But state of Israel contextually lacks integrity. It remains a colonialist outpost, long after Western colonialism has gone out of fashion. The United Nations resolution of 1947 was a sad anachronism.

iii. The Bible? The so-called election of the state of Israel is still strongly preached in certain Christian circles and opportunistically repeated by certain politicians. We who are Christians can hardly help but sympathize with the Jews. We continue to cherish a romanticism about Jewish history. But be careful, it is 2024. Israel's unique contribution to God's plan was completed in the first century AD. After that, the people of God are infinitely greater: Qahal, the people of God, formerly mainly children of Jacob, became ekklesia. The elected ones (ekklesia) are international, now the children of Jacob are only a small minority. There is no longer Jew or Greek in the people of God, Paul writes this at least twice. All who believe like Abraham are now Israel: To argue otherwise is to opportunistically want to turn history around. There is no longer a holy land - the whole world must now become holy. A Jerusalem and a Zion and a temple are no longer needed, the Body of Christ (ekklesia) now replaces the temple, Zion and Jerusalem. These are the words of the renowned New Testament specialist: NT Wright. (In South Africa, Philip Du Toit, a New Testament scholar from NWU, is someone who critically examines texts used by Christian Zionist promoters). Even the Old Testament asks for repentance first, then reward, e.g. from a restored country, not the other way around. But what then of Paul and John and their texts about which Thomas Fretwell of the Ezra Institute very expertly argues against Wright? My answer to this, insofar as Fretwell's criticism of Wright is valid, is that the Bible writers were only human and not everything written in the Bible is salvation revelation or equally important. Some of the arguments of Paul and John about the Jews may tend to be narrowly nationalistic, as we all in our weaker moments let our love for our own culture and people get the better of us. Sympathetic pronouncements must be viewed in the real strong language of an ekklesia without Greek or Jew.

I find Sid Lukkassen's view from a European right-wing perspective both fascinating and disturbing: We must no longer be nationalist and colonialist in post-war Europe. Therefore, we transfer those repressed ideals to Israel, who, purified by suffering, has now acquired the right to be territorial, terrorist, and even colonialist. They are justified in exercising our own desire for being a political bully while we cheer on the pavilion! Do we now also give them the right and freedom to act as the Gestapo

of the international community? (See: *We moeten mythisch zijn*). Perhaps he is right about our repressed longings. Is there in all of us a twisted longing for blood sacrifices, now through a structured provocation such as the establishment of the state of Israel as a second season for the perverse Crusades, or a second chance for the children of Jacob to clean up the so-called "promised" land?

iv) What should we pray then? Many Christians think we should pray for Israel. Certainly, I pray for peace but never ever for Israel alone. Both ordinary Israeli families as well as Palestinian families are the victims of imperialist manipulation by American and English powers under the influence of the Zionist interest groups. We should also not forget about the ideological instigators of Muslim-Arab unity - those who refuse to accept the Palestinian refugees in exchange for the thousands of Jews they kicked out. While I prefer a US dictatorship to a Muslim or Chinese dictatorship, the integrity of the US has long been a joke. The state of Israel must not be pitied. The Israelis are only paying the price of systematic occupation behaviour, provocation, and terrorism over a period of more than 80 years. And the fact that the US is sponsoring Israel does not make their case right. Over the same 80 years, the USA has built up a solid record of destabilization and warmongering that has led to the death of millions of civilians (For a left-wing extremist view, see: *Noam Chomsky on the Crimes of US Presidents*). The displacement and death of thousands of Palestinians since 1945 is only a part of the US instigation of violence. The list for Britain's destruction spree is equally terrifying.

News reports are usually sensational in nature since the industry lives in the myth of the moment. Thus, it detaches the barbaric cruelty of the 9/11 disaster or the latest Yom Kippur invasion from the preceding history. The moment this happens, one's judgment easily swings in favor of Israel or the USA. In the amnesia of "the moment alone." We then become like the constable who arrests the man who ran down the pickpocket - the constable does not know what happened beforehand. So, it is very easy to become memoryless in the power of the moment. But the British governments of the years 1900-1956 and the US governments of 1945-2023 are the culprits. The state of Israel (1948-present) and its political predecessors (1920-1948) behaved provocatively. The Palestinian death toll has already exceeded the Jewish toll approximately 20-fold.

The tragic thing is that all the violence on both sides was born out of desperation. A "last" resort for some previously-persecuted ethnic Jews; the "only" resort for a currently-oppressed or otherwise disrupted approximately 11 million Palestinians. So let us mourn that which overpopulation as well as the greed, pretense, and obsession for power of the so-called Christian and other peoples have brought the world to. But let us be especially careful not to get excited too quickly about violence as a short-cut solution - such as the extermination of 2-3 m Palestinians in Gaza. Let us especially not surrender ourselves to a religion of violence (See: *René Girard - Violence and Religion*). We cannot

reverse history. We also have no power over the bluntness with which those in power (Arab, American, Jewish, Hamas leadership) treat ordinary people. Let us not be equally blunt.

But we can care about ordinary families on both sides, those who lost family members, those who are just the pawns of an evil power game. Let us suffer with them in our prayers, those who carry the merciless burden of an unfortunate history that, humanly speaking, cannot be erased and which, like the flood from a broken dam, drags countless along. And let us pray for the calming of international aspirations, deliverance from the bullying by the neo-liberal world order of the West, the oppressive traditions of the Arab world, from the sly planning of many other wolves and vultures.

I will now give a collection of background facts and problems on the following pages.

C. Background considerations: How the mistake was made

Over the past 120 years, Jews moved to Israel. Most of them have been gone almost 2 000 years ago, others even earlier. Since 1948, 3.3 million Jewish immigrants have settled there. The total population is currently 9.8m of which more than 2m are Palestinians in Gaza. And it's not like there were not plenty of other places to go. Australia and Canada received many millions of immigrants during that time. The USA in 2022, counted more than 40 m people born elsewhere, that is one fifth of all immigrants worldwide. The USA has always been a popular place for Jews to live. And this is the logical thing to do, given the US advertising image as a "fighter" for human rights. There are currently about as many ethnic Jews in the US as there are in Israel: More than 7 million. This is only 2% of the US population. There are approximately 15 million Jews worldwide, of which 84% reside in the USA and Israel. In the early 20th century, there were limits on the number of Jews the US was willing to accept. Palestinians: There are a further 2 million Palestinians in the West Bank but they are not added to the state of Israel's population because they are under the administration of Jordan. A further approximately 7 million Palestinians are in other countries. Some were therefore able to escape the "circle of confrontation." And there are Christians among them, something that is easily forgotten in the comfortable black-and-white thinking of Western Christians.

Then why select Israel when there are plenty of other "safe" places? Safe is a relative term. In his **A History of the Jews**, Paul Johnson gave a detailed description of the extremes to which the Jewish communities in France, Germany and England went to adopt the national culture. And some of them even renounced the Jewish faith - many Israeli citizens today are described as secular: not serious about synagogue events. But all these efforts to integrate into the culture of "safe" countries, the cradle of personal and community rights, did not help. In Russia, Ukraine, Poland and Hungary there were wave after wave of communal persecutions (pogroms) in the run-up to the second World War. The French, they of liberty, equality, and fraternity: The Dreyfuss Affair (1894) and more. And then of course Nazi Germany. The combined effect was that streams of Jewish refugees wanted to come from

Europe - the opposite of the current influx of Arab refugees to Europe - another bartering of people? The persecution of the Jews is firstly racist and secondly it is fueled by envy of their success. Due to a particular history, the Jews have built up a special set of skills. But unfortunately, there is in each of us a human, but actually an evil inhuman urge that calls for the sacrifice of a scapegoat. This malice, fueled by envy, targeted the Jews, who are always in the minority, an easy target to unload on. They are therefore firstly demonized, and this serves as "justification" for oncoming persecution actions. René Girard masterfully analyzed this evil urge of humanity, and how it created a scapegoat/sin offering.

The run-up to the state of Israel was as follows: A Zionist conference at the end of the 19th century, led by Theodor Herzl, set the romantic ideal of occupying Israel. It was also the time when European countries agreed on who would get which part of the world. Palestine was then still under Ottoman (Turkish) rule. But after a British company struck a massive oil reserve in Iran in 1908, the British politicians, pressured by the naval command, for the next 50 years tried everything to manipulate the Middle East for its oil interests. They also made many impossible promises to Arab leaders to gain their support in the war against the Ottomans. When it became clear that the Ottoman power will crumble in Palestinian territory, the Zionist leader Chaim Weizmann during the First World War, conducted continuous and successful negotiations with the British politicians, especially Lloyd George and Lord Balfour. And Winston Churchill. Stephen Sizer (2004:11-22) gives a more complete and longer built-up to the Balfour declaration than Johnson, specifically the rise of Christian Zionism in Britain. At the end of the First World War in 1917, the British government announced its support for the idea of a safe Jewish homeland, not a state. But Britain had serious conditions. The White Paper of 1939 basically curtailed the 1917 declaration by restricting the migration of Jews to Israel because the British feared it would upset the balance of power in the area. In 1948, a ship with 4 000 illegal Jewish immigrants on its way to Israel was shouldered repeatedly by a British warship, probably to make the message of British opposition clear to prospective Jewish immigrants. It was just one of several ships carrying illegal immigrants. The British attitude was roughly as follows:

(a) Certain British politicians wanted to reduce the number of applications from Jews to migrate to the UK. It was even speculated that a colony could be established for them in East Africa.

(b) Yet the British wanted to use the later Israel territory for two strategic reasons: To have an additional protection force near the Suez Canal and to obtain a pipeline port for crude oil on the Mediterranean. The Kirkuk–Haifa pipeline of more than 900 km fulfilled this function from 1935-1948. In 1956 when Egypt blocked the Suez Canal, Jewish soldiers along with the Franco-British forces participated in the re-occupation. The 1956 event had two negative consequences: Arab politicians could irrevocably present the state of Israel as a representative of Western imperialism. The other negative consequence was that the USA moved closer to its client countries (oil suppliers) and became

less sympathetic to Europe. But under Truman, the US government's strong financial support for the state of Israel began.

(c) The third leg of the British view was do not permanently upset the Arabs with too many Jewish immigrants in Israel.

How did terrorism start in Israel? A small number of Jews lived alongside Arabs for hundreds of years in the current Israel territory. But from 1905 an influx began. In 1917 numbers were about 80 000 in a total population of 600 000. This peaceful coexistence, which seems unlikely today, came under pressure with more migration to Israel, following the 1917 Declaration. At the end of the 1920s the Jewish numbers stood at about 160 000. Land was acquired by a purchasing organization, and this brought unhappiness to the Arabs.

Initially there were many moderate Arabs. But from the mid-1920s, a Palestinian Hajj Amin al Husayni, who became the Mufti of Jerusalem, began to massacre the moderate Arabs, and thus gained greater unity in the Palestinian resistance against the large Jewish land purchases. This is how the first murders of Jewish settlers were committed, who were of course not innocent themselves. They systematically chased the Palestinians from their land and thus the violence and political tension escalated to what we see in 2023 (Afq, Chomsky, Sizer).

Jewish groups also committed sabotage against British institutions. Under the leadership of another extremely capable but ruthless leader, Menachim Begin, a war was practically waged against Britain since 1944, to such an extent that British soldiers, on withdrawing gave arms and ammunition to the Arabs in 1948! A British military plane was shot down in 1948, which almost led to a formal military confrontation with Jewish forces. In general, the method towards Palestinians was just as we in South Africa drove many black and colored people from land that was inhabited by them and their direct ancestors. A Jewish terrorist organization, the Irgun-Stern gang brutally exterminated at least 100 people in a Palestinian town of Deir Yassin in 1948. The incident is included under the Palestinian idea of Nakba and was a major contributing factor to the flight of the Palestinians in the 1948 war. Although the circumstances are complicated, it has simply never been true that the poor Jews were the victims of evil Arab terrorists. From the beginning, the establishment of the state of Israel was an overbearing and provocative colonial occupation and thousands of Palestinians were systematically expelled from their natural territory. The list of Palestinian villages that were taken over has been widely known since 1997 as it appears from the Israeli archival study (See: *The expulsion of the Palestinians re-examined*). Nevertheless, the Israeli propaganda machine keeps grooming the image a Jewish population in Israel as the innocent victims (See: *Myths & Facts*).

The British made many mistakes in their administration of the area (1917-1948). But the officials there were right that excessive immigration would only lead to increased tensions. The connection between

oil interests and the establishment of the state of Israel emerged clearly when the US supported Israel in the 1970 Yom Kippur war. This brought the Arab oil countries (OPEC) to the point of using oil prices as a political weapon. Together with the global economic growth, it brought a time of instability and much higher oil prices into the world. Then one remembers East Africa and even Argentina, which were presented on various occasions as alternative places for a Jewish homeland. The left-extreme atheist Noam Chomsky as well as the Palestinian Christian pastor, Naim Ateek, rightly ask the following: If there had to be restorative actions towards the Jews, why choose the Palestinian territory for a "safe" place? Surely, the Palestinians had nothing to do with the insecurity of the Jews? Why not Bavaria, Massachusetts, or New York? (**Fateful Triangle**, 178-179). The occupation of Palestine thus created new enemies for the Jews where there never were. For instance: In his book **Winston Churchill: His Times, His Crimes** (2022), Tariq Ali argues that when Jews were persecuted in England in the 13th century, many of them fled to Arab countries where they found a new future – until 1948.

This presence of Jews in Arab countries brings us to the next important matter mentioned by Johnson (1987, 528-529) but which does not figure often, and which enforced a historical reversal of political morality and showing the integrity of the Arab countries as seriously under suspicion. Israel brought it to the attention of the UN again in 2019 (Read: *Israel to seek \$250b compensation*). After the 1947-1948 war, it became untenable for more than 850 000 Jews in Arab countries, and they had to flee. Israel received these refugees and 500 000 were systematically settled. They probably considered it a bonus. The 850 000 is much more than the Palestinians who fled Israel in the same period. However, these Palestinians were not accepted by Arab countries but had to be maintained in refugee camps by the United Nations, in the words of Johnson, "pending a reconquest of Palestine." After more than 70 years this has not happened, but these people remain in a vacuum as far as their lives are concerned. The Hamas curse on those who leave the "circle of confrontation" is a strengthening factor. I am not sure what the freedom of the West Bank Palestinians is to migrate elsewhere in Jordan. However, the residents of Gaza are Jewish citizens, and it is to be expected that Israel will not have a problem in letting them emigrate. But apparently Arab countries refuse to accept them, and this has an unfortunate history. Certain Arab rulers prefer to keep them there as human shields, and possibly force them to commit acts of terror or aggression: At the expense of the UN refugee budget. The unreasonable bluntness of Arab countries to make this exchange is indicative of the struggle. And the Arab unity leaders are convinced that in this "holy struggle" no life on either side is worth anything. Of course, we can also ask if the US cares. Remember the useless but life-destroying wars in Vietnam and Iraq. Are there innocents who can afford to point fingers?

It could be expected that for this well-publicized conflict, the casualty figures would be accurate. It is only partially so: A total of 308 Israeli citizens and soldiers died in the period January 2008-August 2023. In approximately the same period, 6 407 Palestinians died. It is not clear how many of them are

civilians since the boundaries are blurred. In the period 1920–1948, Palestinian sources claim casualties of 20 631, of which 6 092 were deaths. In the period 1948–2021 there were 63 543 casualties of which 31 227 were deaths. A separate report on how the violence began in 1917-1930 and what the leading causes were is probably more important than just the mere "scoreboard."

Since 1984, Israel has developed into a highly developed free market economy. Importantly, in 2022 Israel spent a total of USD 23.4bn on military expenditure. The per capita military budget in Israel is only slightly larger than that of the US. The US contribution of USD 3-4bn per year to Israel is therefore approximately 13-17% of the overall Israel military budget for that year. Israel also has a strong export market for weapons, especially to India. Critics, even in the US, believe that the time of special support for Israel is over since Israel can stand on its own feet. Israel is referred to as a "high-maintenance partner." With the establishment of the state of Israel, the US made it possible to get a country there artificially - direct support since 1948 already stands at US\$158 bn (without inflation). In the years 1950-1970 and 1980-2000, a very large part of this was support for economic development, but from 2000 economic support fell continuously and since 2005 there is no more economic support. Economic support included the settlement of new immigrants. Since aid already started in the 1940s when Israel was not yet economically as strong as it is now, it was enabled to win the 1948 war. There was also logistical support to Israel. Israel is the single largest recipient of US foreign aid since World War II. The State of Israel was approved by the UN in 1947 with the support of the UK, the USSR, and the USA. President Roosevelt, the US administration, the UK administration, and some of the biggest oil companies were against the establishment of state Israel. The death of Roosevelt in 1945, was most untimely.

So how does the cultural empathy of US leaders work with Israel? I assume wealthy US Jews in a personal capacity financially support family relatives in Israel to settle with immigration. But there is more: After the Second World War, the idea was proclaimed that the Jews should return to "their" country. This is of course fictitious and opportunistic because the rest of the world people like my ancestors left France but after a few generations no ties remained. This myth of "their country" was nevertheless continuously preached, also by American presidents, e.g. Ronald Reagan in the 1980s. A series of end time Christian preachers repeats the same lie. Under such delusional propaganda, it is therefore no surprise that the US government as well as the US media as a matter of course, conceal, mitigate, or defend Israel's bloody occupation history and its current violation of human rights and international war principles. Fortunately, it is not possible to hide this shame forever. At the end of this review, several internet sources are included that expose the details of Israel's history and current practices. It is also pointed out how the presentation of Middle Eastern news manipulates public perception through choice of words and silence (See: *Why Israel Matters to Americans*).

The international situation at the end of 2023 was and remains serious. The war in, Gaza and Ukraine are worrying. China could decide at any time it is time to take back Taiwan. Will the US ever be able to, at this scale, handle several crises simultaneously? The chance of a massacre of Armageddon proportions in the Middle East as foreseen in the Bible always remains high. For many, such Bible texts reveal a plan and intent of God that the people of Jewish descent must eventually return to Palestine. As Christians also ignore large parts of the Bible, this matter would perhaps be better regarded as totally non-essential. Prominent New Testament specialists have repeatedly rejected this view: Tom Wright (specialist in Jesus and Paul) and Gary Burge (specialist in John). And then there is Steven Sizer.

D. Conclusion

The provocative and colonialist establishment of the state of Israel is now a fact. The initiative was built, among others, on the opportunistic use of some Bible texts. Overall, it was also politically extremely unwise to allow the shared multicultural relationship between communities in Palestine to become as strained as today. This has set back the secularization of public administration in several countries with a Muslim majority. However, all colonialism eventually and unfortunately is accepted, and the original criminal atrocity is finally considered part of history. Over time, a point is reached where a reversal or moral correction of history, as with all colonialism, becomes not only unproductive but also self-destructive. That chance to have prevented the formation of state Israel in Palestine directly after the Second World War is now long past, forever.

Christian communities will be dishonest if they forget the injustices by the US and UK governments, and not confess their support by neglect of such injustices. They must also make sure that the criminalist intent of the Zionist movement towards the Palestinians is properly documented. However, they must also assist the Palestinians and the Muslim activists and Muslim populations to find a way to move on. Life and international politics have never been fair and in a world of increasing conflict it will never be any different. This is what was emphasized in section A of this piece.

It is clear now that, once again, we as Christian communities have been exposed as the subservient and useful idiots of colonialism. Bepuzzled, we must reflect on how it happened that we could not timely withdraw ourselves from much cheap manipulation. How come we were not a knowledgeable and informed voice, not having a life of resistance to injustice, not showing outrage until too late?

For that, a completely new outlook on the current world is needed. But we don't know if there is any time left to put such a change into practice. In the end, as usual, we might just plead guilty as we brace ourselves for the storm we helped create. The one thing we should not do is claim that the formation of state Israel was God's will. It was not. It was the creation of human beings with no respect for others.

Piet Cronjé - 2023.12.03. piet.cronje907@gmail.com

Translated from Afrikaans with some editorial changes: **2024.03.10**

E. Background referencing

How Israel Was Created <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6foH3Zc82ZQ>

Myths & Facts www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/myths-and-facts-the-refugees

"Winston Churchill: His Times, His Crimes" with Tariq Ali <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guqF9yc2Fdk>

Blogging Theology [What Churchill Thought About the Palestinians and Jews](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANHw2qytXGM)

https://youtu.be/vU5O9zfH9fE?si=eE2C3m4_66BJrslk

Hajj Amin al Husayni <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/hajj-amin-al-husayni-the-mufti-of-jerusalem>

<https://time.com/4084301/hitler-grand-mufti-1941/>

Hamas Covenant 1988 https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp

Why Israel Matters to Americans <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIXaDgmM8Fs>

Noam Chomsky on the Crimes of US Presidents updated version to 2023

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANHw2qytXGM>

The expulsion of the Palestinians re-examined <https://mondediplo.com/1997/12/palestine> (archive data)

Girard - Violence and Religion <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDxCWcmqAwU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTdvSnj5LBk>

"We moeten mythisch zijn" | Een gesprek met Sid Lukkassen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nh4vLlfmqk>

Slavoj Žižek on Israel Palestine <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zkQOvEYry20>

#1390: Israël: een blanco cheque? | Een gesprek met Jaap Hamburger https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_5jsXy0ONs

Het Begin van Palestina en Israel (Kasim Tekin) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWWdJgjfOoM>

<https://discerninghistory.com/2017/08/the-fourth-crusade-a-shame-to-christendom/>

<https://arabcenterdc.org/resource/brief-report-on-the-population-of-palestine-at-the-end-of-2021/>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/4/9/the-deir-yassin-massacre-why-it-still-matters-75-years-later> ('n Arabier wat Nederlands praat!)

Why-Do-The-Nations-Rage <https://comment.org/why-do-the-nations-rage/>

What-Comes-After-Liberalism <https://www.noemamag.com/what-comes-after-liberalism/> (classic neoliberalism fading)

The Expulsion of the Jews from Muslim Countries, 1920-1970: Prof. S Trigano 2010 <https://icpa.org/article/the-expulsion-of-the-jews-from-muslim-countries-1920-1970-a-history-of-ongoing-cruelty-and-discrimination/>

Israel to seek \$250b compensation <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-said-set-to-seek-250b-compensation-for-jews-forced-out-of-arab-countries/>

Why Egypt, other Arab countries are unwilling to accept refugees from Gaza 2023 <https://www.voanews.com/a/why-egypt-other-arab-countries-are-unwilling-to-take-refugees-from-gaza/7316575.html>

UN-Watch <https://unwatch.org/item-7/claim/claim-5-palestinian-refugees-have-a-right-of-return/>

Hermeneutics of the Bible

Stephen Sizer: Defending Christian Zionism: A Response (to David Pawson).

<https://www.stephensizer.com/2020/05/defending-christian-zionism-a-response/>

Philip du Toit Hermeneutics <https://theology.nwu.ac.za/christian-ministry-and-leadership-ancient-language-and-text-studies-ancient-texts-text-context-and>

Books:

Paul Johnson 1983 **A History of the Modern World 1917-1980s**;

Paul Johnson 1987 **A History of the Jews**

Noam Chomsky 1999. (Updated Edition) **Fateful Triangle -The United States, Israel, and the Palestinians**

Peter Collier & David Horowitz (eds) 2004. **The Anti-Chomsky Reader** (Rightist-critical)

Sizer SR 2004 **Christian Zionists: On the Road to Armageddon**

Peter Frankopan 2015. **The Silk Roads: A new history of the world**;

Gregory Harms with Todd M. Ferry 2017. **The Palestine-Israel Conflict** (Fourth Edition) (A useful introduction)