

Why Our Government Supports Israel's Government, and Why We Shouldn't

Virtually all of our U.S. politicians, presidents and the mass media, from right to left, Jewish or not, support Israel's government unconditionally.

The U.S. gives Israel more economic and military aid than any other country; the *Christian Science Monitor* reports that, "Since 1973, Israel has cost the United States about \$1.6 trillion. If divided by today's population, that is more than \$5,700 per person."*

Here Is Why

Israel helps America's rulers control both Americans and people in the Middle East, by fomenting religious war, pitting Jews against non-Jews, and by enlisting U.S. support in that war. This is how it works:

1) A wealthy corporate elite controls our government and mass media,** and works to make our society very unequal and undemocratic. Their power and profits are threatened by ordinary Americans who, if left to ourselves, would make a much more equal and democratic society; our values are the opposite of the elite's values.

2) To strengthen their power over us, the elite use the War on Terror to make us fear a foreign enemy so much that we'll obey our upper class and privileged rulers (whom we would otherwise oppose) because they claim to be protecting us from the "enemy."

To work, the War on Terror needs us to believe Muslims root for anti-American enemies like "Al Qaeda." By supporting extremely anti-democratic, oppressive (and U.S. corporation-friendly) regimes like Saudi Arabia in the Middle East, our government creates the popular Arab/Muslim anger at the U.S. that the War on Terror requires. (If the elite were really trying to protect us from terrorism they would use police methods to arrest the 9/11 criminals, not use that crime as an excuse to launch a war that kills hundreds of thousands of innocent Muslims.)

3) Israel's government, with U.S. support, carries out ethnic cleansing of non-Jews in Palestine in the name of making Israel a Jewish state requiring an 80% Jewish majority population in a region otherwise largely non-Jewish. Naturally this makes the victims of the ethnic cleansing angry and it makes them oppose a Jewish state, just as we would op-

pose a "black" or a "white" or a "Christian" state if racists or fundamentalists tried to turn our region into one. It thereby produces the enormous anger among Arabs and Muslims against Israel, and against the U.S. as Israel's crucial ally, that is necessary to provide the War on Terror with a credible "enemy." Without such an "enemy" the elite could not use the War on Terror to control us.***

4) Were it not for the War on Terror our rulers would have a much harder time making us tolerate all of the other things they inflict upon us, such as a military-industrial complex scam that funnels trillions of dollars from our pockets into those of the corporate elite, NAFTA, unaffordable health care, standardized testing shoved down our school children's throats, tax cuts for the rich, vanishing pensions, the Patriot Act and tapping our phones.

5) Israel also helps elites to control people in the Middle East, and hence to control the oil. For decades the "Jew versus Arab" war, which Israel foments by its ethnic cleansing, has kept Middle East oil in the hands of kings and dictators friendly to U.S. corporations by enabling them to direct the anger of their own people against Israel instead of the Arab/Muslim elites. Our government arms Israel to the teeth (and gives it a pass on having nuclear weapons) for a reason. If Israel is a regional super-power, then the Arab/Muslim elites can denounce Israel verbally in order to gain legitimacy in the eyes of their own people, and at the same time use Israel's overwhelming military might as a convincing excuse for doing little to actually defend Palestinians.

Israel Past and Present: Why Our Media and Politicians Cover Up the Ethnic Cleansing

In 1947 Jewish leaders in Palestine formed an army and violently drove out 85% of the non-Jews living in what became the Jewish state of Israel in 1948. It was ethnic cleansing, pure and simple—a war crime, and apartheid worse even than that of South Africa.

"My family cannot return to our home in Yaffa, solely because we are not Jewish. This is what a Jewish state means to me, and many other Palestinian refugees like me, who still have the keys to the homes from which our families were expelled in 1948 by Zionist soldiers in the Haganah."

- Leila Nabulsi

Jewish leaders said that Jews needed a state in Palestine where the sovereign authority would not be everybody who lived there but “the Jewish people” only, and where the population would have to be at least 80% Jewish even though Jews were only 38% of the population at the time. Jewish leaders did everything they could to make ordinary Jews, who had recently arrived from Europe after surviving the Holocaust, believe that the Arabs were out to “drive the Jews into the sea,” when in fact what Arabs objected to was not the presence of Jews but the aim of Jewish leaders to drive non-Jews out of

Israel is not a democracy. In a democracy the people choose the government, but in Israel the government chooses the people—only “the Jewish people.”

their own country. Tragically, many Jews and others still believe this racist lie.

Israel refused to let the millions of Palestinian refugees return to their homes or to compensate them for their stolen property. Israel ethnically cleansed more Palestinians in 1967, discriminates in law against the few who remain inside what became Israel, and uses the anger of Palestinians at all of this, and their resistance to it, to keep Jews perpetually fearful of Arabs and obedient to the wealthy Jewish elite in Israel.

If Americans knew the truth about Israel’s ethnic cleansing they would sympathize with Palestinian anger at Israel’s government, not fear Arabs and Muslims, and reject the War on Terror. Our elite-controlled politicians and mass media keep the ethnic cleansing a secret so that we will fall for the lie that Palestinians oppose Israel because of irrational anti-Semitic hatred.

Israel’s Leaders Harm Both Jews & Palestinians

Today the Israeli government continues the crime of ethnic cleansing in the name of “security.” Result: Extreme misery for Palestinians, and less security for Jews in Israel, while economic inequality among Jews in Israel soars, and the Israeli upper class is more in control and richer than ever.

Thus the *Jewish Daily Forward* wrote (April 7, 2006) that “a deliberate move by Jerusalem policy-makers to modernize Israel’s economy” has resulted in “a new class of millionaires, and an explosion of poverty and hunger. In just one generation, Israel has gone from the most egalitarian nation in the industrialized world to one of the least egalitarian.” Israeli workers have been forced to

SDP opposes all attacks by anyone, anywhere, and at any time where unarmed civilian casualties are clearly likely, whether the attacks are aggressive or retaliatory. At the same time we support self-defense actions and armed resistance against those who use physical violence to oppress people.

defend themselves with general strikes (December, 1997 and September, 2004) or threats of major strikes (November, 2006 and March, 2007.)

The Israeli ruling class controls Israeli working class Jews by making them fear “the Arabs” more than the Jewish billionaires who are actually destroying their lives.

The ethnic war between Jews and non-Jews that Israel foments disguises the reality of the fundamental class conflict between the great majority who, regardless of their religious beliefs, want a more equal and democratic world, and the tiny minority who want elite rule and domination.

Israel’s ethnic cleansing harms people of all religions in both the Middle East and the U.S., and strengthens anti-democratic rulers. That’s why our government supports Israel, and why WE shouldn’t.

In Summary

Our elite rulers want us to believe that we and Israelis will only be secure if we support Israel’s ethnic cleansing and fight “hateful” Arabs. The truth is that our lives and the lives of ordinary Jews and Palestinians would dramatically improve if Israel allowed Palestinian refugees to return and have equal rights. Then there could be a just peace and an end to the violence.

This requires that we act on OUR values: oppose the ethnic cleansing and support basic human rights. But acting on OUR values this way would weaken the ruling elite’s ability to control us, so they do everything they can to prevent it—like using the media and politicians to make people who want a better world feel all alone and powerless to act.

We need a mass movement of ordinary people that produces a fundamental shift in power: Ordinary people need to take power away from the ruling elites (corporations, racists, the super-wealthy and people with unjust agendas) who are a minority, and make our society a true democracy instead of one controlled and manipulated by elites and their media. This would be a change as sweeping as the American or French Revolution.



References

- * *Christian Science Monitor* at <http://www.csmonitor.com/2002/1209/p16s01-wmgn.html>
- ** In the U.S. “The top 5 percent own more than half of all wealth.” Edward Wolff, professor of economics at NYU: <http://www.nationalmonitor.org/mm2003/03may/may03interviewswolff.html> ; see also http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Herman%20Manufac_Consent_Prop_Model.html
- *** As for the “suicide bombers,” keep in mind that most Palestinians resist by refusing to leave or by fighting back against violent attackers, and only a tiny few attack and sometimes kill unarmed Israeli civilians, just as a very few American slaves—in the 1831 Nat Turner revolt—killed innocent white children. We can’t look at these unfortunate and desperate actions done by very few people and then conclude that either slavery or Israel’s ethnic cleansing is justified.

Somerville Divestment Project

www.divestmentproject.org 617 230-2835

Building Moral Pressure For Justice

(See this leaflet online with links to more background facts and discussion.)