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The Hundred Years' War in Palestine, an anachronistic tragedy but with a future?

In six weeks of war on Gaza, Israel has killed more Palestinians than in 106 years of Jewish presence in Palestine... The genocide in Gaza, "is the epicenter of a cataclysm that will divide humanity in a lasting way... This event inaugurates the century of confrontation between the colonial race and the colonized world."



In the Middle East, an anachronistic tragedy is taking place: the attempt to solve a situation that is happening in the twenty-first century with methods from past centuries. Israeli colonialism is a very specific colonialism in which the colonized population has no use as an exploited labor force. For the Israeli colonizer, "the best Palestinian is the one who is dead or has left," in the words of Edward Said, quoted in Rashid Khalidi's wonderful book on the Hundred Years' War against Palestine.

The total elimination of the indigenous population and its replacement was feasible in the past, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, in North America or Australia, but Israel is late to that "final solution" of which the Jews of Europe themselves were victims in the greatest of the racist crimes of modern history. That tragic paradox leads to the insane aggressiveness of Zionism with its amalgam of old-school colonial violence, state-of-the-art weapons, and a supremacist ideology wrapped in primitive biblical scenes.

Rooted in a horrific and centuries-old history of persecution, the thirst for security of a small town of nine million inhabitants, without natural resources and surrounded by hostile states and populations radicalized by decades of injustice and double standards, translates into a suicidal policy of aggression with all its enormous environment, unsustainable without the support of the United States. A support that won't last forever. An entire society of insecure migrants has been brought up in this aggressiveness. With its politicians, military and civil society openly and openly calling for the massacre of civilians, never has the evidence of moral suicide had so many spectators. (See in this regard [the account of genocidal statements made by Israeli officials](#), compiled by Yaniv Cogan and Jamie Stern-Weiner.)

"The thirst for security of a people of nine million inhabitants translates into a suicidal policy, aggressive towards everything around them"

Israel's overwhelming military superiority, amplified by the U.S. airlift, has made this conflict "one of the most destructive and deadly of the 21st century." Walid Al Khalidy, a renowned historian and founder of the Institute for Palestine Studies, estimates that, as of December 4, Israel has killed nearly 20,000 Palestinians, most of them civilians, in eight weeks of war against Hamas in Gaza, more than in 106 years of Jewish presence in Palestine, which began with the Balfour Promise to create a "Jewish National Home in Palestine" in 1917. For his part, Haytham Manna, President of the Scandinavian Institute for Human Rights (SIHR) and dean of Syrian political opponents, pointed out that the war to destroy Gaza had claimed twice as many civilian casualties in 55 days as in the two years of war in Ukraine (2022-2023), and that the number of journalists, doctors and UN agency personnel operating in the enclave and who have died is infinitely higher than the number of deaths of these groups in 20 years of the Vietnam War (1955-1975) or in 8 years of the Iraq War (2003-2011). More specifically, [50 journalists had been killed in 45 days in Gaza](#), 11 of them in the line of duty: one of the highest death tolls this century.

Presentation of the book "Palestine, One Hundred Years of Colonialism and Resistance"
Diffusée en direct le 16 mai 2023. On Tuesday, May 16, Casa Árabe and the publishing house Capitán Swing will present this book by the award-winning writer and academic Rashid Khalidi, holder of the Edward Said Chair of Arab Studies at Columbia University, who will be present at the event. More information: <https://www.casaarabe.es/eventos-arab...>

The attitude of Western governments to the spectacle of a massacre supported militarily and politically, justified and concealed by their media and broadcast live, has widened the gap between the West and the global South as never before, even in Western metropolises, in some of which demonstrations in support of the massacred are banned and criminalized. Suddenly, the denial of the principle of equality between human beings practiced by the enlarged West has become clear. The compatibility of "European values" and all the semantic instruments on democracy and human rights with this denial has become clear. The historical memory of the South has recalled in Gaza that colonialism spread "civilization" on the basis of genocides perfectly compatible with enlightenment, separation of powers and parliamentarism. The mirror of European historical memory has also recalled the coexistence of Renaissance humanism with the wars of religion, and of Auschwitz with German "great culture". In Germany and France, the successors and descendants of Hitler and Petain, and in the European Union *establishment* as a whole, an entire army of politicians, civil servants and communicators, have turned their backs on the reality of genocide in a way that is reminiscent of conformity to the genocidal wave of the 1930s and 1940s. At the height of incongruity, the current support for Israel, and the corresponding Islamophobia, are based on responsibility for the Judicide of the time. And that moral suicide suggests that the continuation of that infamous historical series is perfectly possible today and that it has a future.

"The historical memory of the South has reminded Gaza that colonialism spread 'civilization' on the basis of genocides"

The attitude of Western governments, their media and propagandists, contains a clear warning about how the privileged part of this world can solve the impasse to which the capitalist system has led us in this century. In the absence of "new worlds" to which to export demographic surpluses and vital metabolisms that are unsustainable and incompatible with the principle of equality between human beings, the horizon that is drawn is a "planetary Gaza", creating islands of well-being and law strictly protected by armies and navies for, say, 20% of the world's population, and confining the rest in

humanly and environmentally disastrous areas. As Immanuel Wallerstein observed, this is not a very different plan from the one Hitler and his contemporaries had in mind. For those who try to escape from those areas: walls, shots and shipwrecks. This is illustrated, as a foretaste of the great environmental migration that awaits us, by the 28,000 deaths recorded in the Mediterranean alone since 2014. If this pattern works politically and in the media, it can also work in other latitudes and situations that are to come.



Gustavo Petro: For whom do the bells toll? The bells toll for you
Colombian President Gustavo Petro has referred to this by pointing out that "what the barbaric military power of the north has unleashed on the Palestinian people is the prelude to what it will unleash on all the peoples of the south when, as a result of the climate crisis, we run out of water; the prelude to what will be unleashed on the exodus of people who will go by the hundreds of millions from the south to the north." The genocide in Gaza, the [Italian philosopher Franco Berardi](#) has said in CTXT, "is the epicenter of a cataclysm that will divide humanity in a lasting way: the south of the world and the suburbs of the great Western metropolises surround the white citadel with a wall of hatred that will fuel revenge in the months and years to come. This event inaugurates the century of confrontation between the colonial race and the colonized world."

Rafael Poch de Feliu, for La Pluma

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