

# Zionist Immigration

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Due to the liberalization of Soviet emigration rules and the US decision to close the door to Jews arriving from the USSR, hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants are expected to arrive in occupied Palestine over the next few years. This mass influx has increased Israel's hostile position towards the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories. In addition to threatening the future of the Palestinians, it also paves the way for many successive wars which could change the political, geographic and demographic map of the whole region. Immigration on this scale means, effectively, the elimination of the Palestinian people and everything non-Jewish about the Israeli state, as indicated by Theodor Herzl in his book *The Jewish State*: «If we, one day, capture Jerusalem, and I am still alive and capable of doing anything, then I will destroy everything in it not sacred to the Jews» (quoted by The Arab League, *Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Arab Territories*, 1985, p.170).

## Immigration and Israel's racist policy

Much has been said about immigration and the dangers it poses to the region in general and the Palestinian people in particular, stemming from the idea of a «Greater Israel.» «We took an Arab country and made it a Jewish one,» thus Moshe Dayan summarized the meaning of the whole Zionist enterprise in 1970, adding, «Do not say, the journey is over! It is still long...» (quoted by Ilan Halevi, *A History of the Jews: Ancient and Modern*, 1987, p.233). The Zionist enterprise, then, has no end. For the Zionists, the road is long, and immigration opens the door to their endless dreams. It was not enough that Palestine was dismantled and its people dispersed. They hope to see all the Palestinians leave the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Jewish settlers come from all over the world. This objective remains an essential part of Zionism's plan to transform Palestine into «Greater Israel,» although the rulers of Israel know in their hearts that they have no historical rights to Palestine.

Aiming to fulfill their racist aim of a «state of all the Jews of the world,» the Zionists, from the day Zionism came into being, pursued a dual program of «ingathering all Jews» and expelling the Palestinians for the simple reason that they are not Jews. The modern day embodiment of this goal is effectively forcing Soviet Jews to go to Israel against their preference, while Palestinians are denied the right to return to their own homeland. The purpose of this discrimination, of course, is to dispossess the Palestinians of their national identity. From then to the present day, racism has been the dominant characteristic of Zionism's theory and practice. This is evident in Israel, where Zionism is the official ideology shaping the political practice of the ruling parties. Zionism's racist essence is manifested in the treatment of the Palestinians; Arabs are humiliated in the economic, political, cultural and social spheres. Such Israeli practices and many others forced the UN General Assembly on Nov. 10, 1975 to regard Zionism as a form of racism.



When Israel was established in 1948, it was founded upon a lie. Its founding declaration contained the pledge that the «State of Israel will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex» and appealed to «the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to...participate in upbuilding the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship...» (quoted by T.G. Fraser, *The Middle East, 1914-1979*, 1980, pp.67-68). This declaration should mean that Palestinians and Jews are equal in the eyes of the law. But this is neither the case in theory or practice, as revealed by Israel's policies in occupied Palestine.

To prepare the way for expelling the Palestinian population and confiscating their property, Israel passed a series of administrative measures and laws. It opened the door for new immigration by passing the «Law of Return» in 1950, which gave any Jew, wherever he might live, the right to immigrate to Israel, settle there and acquire Israeli citizenship. Jews, of whatever nationality, have the automatic right to become citizens, while Palestinians, the rightful owners of the land on which the Zionists settle, are denied the same right. Palestinians in Israel have to fulfill many conditions to qualify for Israeli citizenship in accordance with the «Nationality Law» of 1952, whereas these conditions are automatically waived for Jews. In this regard, Alfred M. Lilienthal wrote: «While the Arab born in Palestine is thus deprived of equality of citizenship, the American Jew, or the Jew from any other country residing in Israel is automatically endowed with Israeli citizenship regardless of whether or not he renounced his original citizenship» (*What Price Israel?*, 1969, p.205).

Israel renamed the Palestinians who remained in 1948 occupied Palestine «Israeli Arabs,» attempting to subvert their Palestinian identity. Those Palestinians who were expelled or forced to flee during the 1948 war, or again in the war of 1967, lost any chance to establish a claim for permanent residency. Israel has consistently prevented Palestinian refugees from returning to their homeland in spite of