

Land, The Central Issue of Zionist Strategy

March 30th marked the eighth anniversary of the Day of the Land. The historical background of this day relates to the struggle against land confiscation in the Galilee. In the commemoration of this day, the Galilee symbolizes all Palestinian and Arab land. On this day, we also commemorate the martyrdom of six Palestinians, who were killed by the Zionists on March 30, 1976, in the Galilee. They in turn represent the hundreds of martyrs who have fallen in defense of their land and national rights.

The question of land has always been the central theme of Zionism's strategy and plans. The Zionists' ambitions for controlling the land and resources of the area have been cloaked under their basic myth: the false concept of «a land without people for a people without a land». In its search for a state, the Zionist movement eventually chose Palestine as opposed to other proposed sites. This choice was in accordance with imperialist aims and interests in the Middle East. Yet the Zionists still adhere to their myth, and this has led to five wars and subjected the entire region to chronic instability, which threatens world peace.

Since its establishment in May 1948, the Zionist state has derived the bulk of its socio-economic and military policies from the principle of land appropriation. This includes the promotion of Jewish immigration, the expulsion of native Palestinians and the waging of expansionist wars. From the time of the first Zionist Congress in 1897, the Jewish Agency employed all its resources to buy land in order to establish Jewish settlements. The original Zionist land acquisitions were from feudalists and absentee landlords, such as the Lebanese Sursok family, who made the biggest single land sale. Since the Palestinian peasants on the whole refused to sell, only about 8% of Palestine's land was owned by Jews by 1947. Thus, Zionism's built-in logic of violent aggression came into force as the primary means of obtaining «a land without a people». The ultimate thrust of this logic is genocidal, as has been evidenced by repeated Zionist massacres from Deir Yassin in 1948, to Sabra-Shatila in 1982.

Immigration - expansion - emigration

Through collaboration with the British colonialists, Jewish immigration to Palestine increased in preparation for usurping and colonizing the land. To this day, Jewish immigration and emptying the land of the original inhabitants is the most important element of Zionist strategy, which aims to control the land in order to create «Greater Israel». The Zionists' adoption of this goal made all Palestinian and Arab land a target. The concept of «Greater Israel» was not born in an era of Israeli 'supremacy', nor as a result of the 1967 expansion, but was present prior to the establishment of the Zionist entity. In 1937, Ben

Gurion, who was to become the first Premier of 'Israel', submitted a report to the Zionist Congress, which outlined the boundaries of the planned state as including:

- South Lebanon to the Litani River
- Southern Syria passing through Homs, Hama and the Assi River
- The east bank of the Jordan River
- All of Mandate Palestine
- The Sinai

The successively adopted laws, which serve as the Israeli constitution, make no mention of the state's boundaries. Obviously, Ben Gurion, and the Zionist leadership generally, viewed the borders established in 1948 as only a step towards the boundaries of «Greater Israel».

Zionist strategy has proceeded in accordance with a clear formula: immigration (of Jews) - expansion - emigration (of Palestinian Arabs). Between immigration and expansion comes aggression and land confiscation to impose a new de facto situation until the next cycle starts. Since expansion is a central aim, military power is a central means. Besides being used to drive Palestinians out, aggression draws large contributions from Jews around the world and the imperialist states, who extend economic support prior to a new war. Aggression also increases the flow of immigration which may have been receding. Thus, the flow of immigration on - expansion - emigration is applied; military power confiscates the land; the money contributed is invested; and the new immigrants settle in the newly usurped land.

If we quickly review the reasons for the June 1967 aggression and ensuing aggressions, we find the following specific reasons in addition to Zionism's inherent racism and expansionism:

- the Israeli state's small geographical area;
- the noticeable decrease of immigration prior to the 1967 invasion;
- the decrease in Israeli exports;
- the rise in unemployment and financial deficit, and the decrease in economic growth.

Ever since the 1967 aggression, the Israeli authorities have been working to confiscate the occupied land, especially in the West Bank, chiefly under false «security» pretexts or