

## COLONIZATION OF PALESTINE CONTINUES TODAY

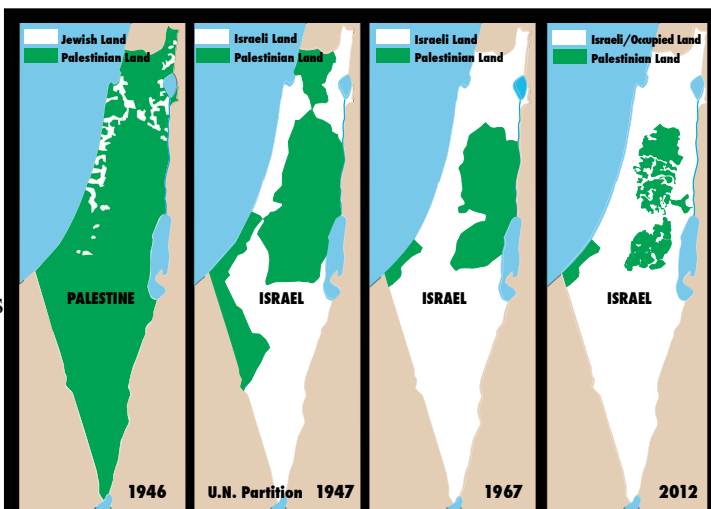
**M**any in the U.S. wish to blame Hamas for all the death and destruction brought on Gaza in the last few weeks. Some commentators have tried to strike a more even-handed approach, blaming both sides for the violence.

These two stances ignore the fact that Israel is a state with one of the most powerful militaries in the world that enjoys the backing of the most powerful state in the world, while the Palestinians have no state and no official military. One side is the occupier, the other the occupied; one side is the oppressor, the other the oppressed; one side is the colonizer, the other the colonized.

In 1917, Jews made up only 7 percent of the population of Palestine. The

British encouraged immigration with the Balfour Declaration, and the Jewish population quickly swelled. When tensions between the new immigrants and the native Palestinians became too heated, the British proposed partition. Palestinian leaders rejected the idea. **What right did foreign powers have to give sovereignty of part of their homeland to a group of recent immigrants?**

The UN passed partition anyway. But the land given to Israel contained too many Palestinians, so Zionist militias — which, like Hamas, were paramilitary groups — executed their premeditated plan of ethnic cleansing. Hundreds of



### Palestinian Loss of Land

1946—2012

**4.7 Million Palestinians are Classified by the U.N. as Refugees**

Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights • auphr.org

Jewish Voice for Peace • jvp-pdx.org

Friends of Sabeel—North America • fosna.org

for more information contact: SimplyEducate@gmail.com

Palestinian villages were destroyed; 700,000 Palestinians were driven from their homes and barred from ever returning. Their houses were given to new Jewish immigrants from Europe.

**T**he colonization of Palestine continues today. Over 500,000 Israelis live in West Bank settlements. Palestinians have been cordoned off into many isolated population zones **akin to Native American reservations and South African Bantustans.**

If it sounds ridiculous to blame the Native Americans or indigenous South Africans for the violence that resulted from European colonization of their homelands, you should find it equally absurd to blame the Palestinians for what is happening in Israel/Palestine.

- Megan Iorio, New Haven

<http://www.nhregister.com/opinion/20140820/letters-to-the-editor-colonization-of-palestine-continues-today>



For now, the bombing stopped, but **the occupation continues.** Call Rep. **DeLauro, Sen. Murphy & Sen. Blumenthal** to demand the blockade of Gaza end and to oppose any attempt to obstruct the UN Human Rights Council investigation of Israel's recent attack on Gaza: **202-224-3121**

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