

The underlying Lie of the State of Israel

By Vera Pegna 3 November, 2023

In 1948, when the State of Israel was proclaimed, I was fourteen and lived with my family of Jewish ancestral origins, in Alexandria, Egypt. My father and my grandfather said that the enterprise would have “dire consequences” and that the slogan “a land without a people for a people without a land” was a “double swindle” because my grandfather went often to Palestine on business and because there were Jews all over the world, with different languages, histories and nationalities. Ever since, I have followed with deep interest the unfolding events in Palestine.

I believe that, by its attack on Israel, Hamas aimed at reminding the world of the plight of the Palestinian people, but we still have to understand whether and to what extent the accounts of the Western media of the atrocities committed are true and what our reading of the fact-checking denials is. However, in the meantime the deliberate Israeli genocide of the Gazawis has outclassed all other concerns.

With the exception of the Oslo Accords which turned out to be a trap for them, the Palestinian people were excluded from all the negotiations regarding their future, starting with the partition of Palestine decided by the UN in November 1947, and ending with the recent negotiation between the USA and Saudi Arabia in the framework of the so-called Abraham Accords. Moreover, most historical reconstructions of these last days start from 1948, that is from the proclamation of the State of Israel, as though Palestine - and even more so the Palestinian people - had not existed before that date.

However, in La Repubblica on 14 October, the first date indicated in the chronology of the main stages preceding the present tragedy, is 1896, that is the birth of political Zionism which put forward the idea of a *Jewish state* in Palestine. The Zionist leaders of the time - all European and Ashkenazi - mindful of the centuries of anti-Semitism, ghettos and pogroms suffered in Europe (the Dreyfus Affair dates back to 1894), were convinced that the Jews were destined to be persecuted everywhere and that their only salvation was a state of their own; furthermore, as they lived in the peak of colonialism and saw the European powers carving up the Middle East as they pleased, they probably thought that demanding a piece for themselves was more than plausible.

The Zionist Project of a *Jewish state* in Palestine was presented to the Western governments as a "bulwark of civilization against barbarism", and met perfectly the imperialistic aims of Great Britain and of the powers of the time which happily embraced the idea of having a European wedge in the Middle East in defense of their

interests; and who knows, were their Jews to emigrate there, this might put an end to the eternal Jewish question!

The Zionist Project worked out like a road map and proceeded step after step, occupation after occupation, settlement colony after settlement colony, expulsion after expulsion of the Palestinians, annexation after annexation, until the present day. The final stage of the road map provides for the annexation of the remaining 17% of historic Palestine, the expulsion of as many Palestinians as possible and the continuation of apartheid for those remaining. No effort is spared to make their life impossible: brutal night raids by the army with arrests and killings (over 300 Palestinians dead since the beginning of the year), systematic destruction of their homes while the settlers, with the support of the most fanatical allies and racists of the Netanyahu government, claim the right to appropriate the Land promised them by God and, backed by the army, they cut down the olive trees, fill the drinking water wells with concrete, shoot at defenceless citizens and sow terror.

In Israel no political personality or party has ever dissociated themselves from the Zionist Project except for the small Matzpen party which adopted, in the sixties, the slogan "Zionism or Peace, it's your choice" and, what's more, on the very existence of the Project and its progress everybody was tight-lipped. The reason is that talking about it would have revealed - and would still reveal - the intentionality behind the daily harassments and aggressions of the Israeli governments against the Palestinian people. As for the Israeli media - whose freedom is rated ninetyseventh by the World Press Freedom Index 2023 - the Zionist Project just does not exist and the bitter note is that it does not for the western media either: the Israeli propaganda apparatus - with some European Jewish communities acting as its long arm - watches over the image of the Jewish State which must always be the victim and the only democracy in the Middle East.

Alfredo Tradardi writes: *Palestine is enveloped, torn apart, stifled by the dark mists of the increasingly refined and scientific strategies of lies in contemporary politics.* ("Gaza e l'industria israeliana della violenza", 2015)

Amidst the strategies of lies there are lies by omission: for the State of Israel and its allies, it is essential to conceal as much as possible the persecution (a crime against humanity according to the UN) of the Palestinian people in order to achieve the final objective of the Zionist Project: a *Jewish State* deprived of its native inhabitants and of every trace of them, cultural, religious, historical and geographical. A criminogenic and genocidal project from the start.

The reason for this long premise is twofold: to remind us of the blind complicity of European countries and the USA in the entire Zionist enterprise and to illustrate the inanity of the "two peoples, two states" proposal, supported by the international diplomacy as the only possible solution for a future of peace; an only possible solution

means that every other proposal is rejected outright. This being the case, it is all the more necessary to understand what is actually meant by a Palestinian state, what its borders would be and, above all, how its sovereignty would be configured. Now, since it is ruled out that the State of Israel will renounce both its colonies in the West Bank and the annexation of a large part of that territory, the Palestinians would be left with around 17% of historic Palestine; Gaza would be connected to the rest of the Palestinian state by an Israeli-owned tunnel and 700,000 Israelis would remain in their settlements and communicate with exclusive roads and overpasses also owned by Israel. Therefore, to all intents and purposes, the Palestinian state would not be a sovereign state but a non-state, furthermore totally dependent on the State of Israel for the supply of electricity, mobile telephony, airport and other essential services; the capital would be a suburb of Jerusalem called Abu Dis.

However, a **second proposal** does exist and that is of a single state for the two peoples, the Palestinians and the Israelis; here too international diplomacy remains silent, indeed it ignores it altogether as do the official media.

This proposal differs radically from the first in that it starts with the reality on the ground, i.e. the fact that today the entire territory of historic Palestine is governed by a single authority, the Israeli government which, at its pleasure, annexes pieces of it, erects walls and imposes different political regimes on the residing populations. In fact, the Israeli 2018 Fundamental Act recognizes full citizenship rights to all the Jews, including the illegal settlers in the occupied territories, far fewer rights to the Palestinians of Israel (called *Israeli Arabs, Christians, Druze, Bedouins, Circassians*, so as to confuse their common national identity), Apartheid for the Palestinians of the West Bank, the ghettoization of Gaza and an indefinite limbo for the refugees, whose right to return must be reaffirmed as well as their right to a huge compensation for the theft of their land and properties.

The difference between the two proposals is crystal clear: far from envisaging a lasting solution of peaceful coexistence between the two peoples, the first proposal, that of "two peoples, two state" supports Israel in the completion of the Zionist Project of a *Jewish state* in Palestine in exchange for the defence of Western interests in the Middle East and the geopolitical balance of the region,. The second proposal, that of a two-people state, is taboo as its sole aim is a pacifying perspective, but it goes against the grain with respect to the geostrategic vision of the great powers and their allies, that of a strong and hegemonic Israel in a Middle East of former sovereign states, now anomic and disintegrating (Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya).

In 1939, when Palestine was under the British Mandate and the immigration of European settlers advanced, His Majesty's Government at the time published a White Paper which recommended the establishment of a single state with an Arab majority. Thirty years later, in 1972, during a meeting between Lelio Basso and Yasser Arafat which I had the privilege of participating in, Arafat explained that, according to the PLO

programme, the only solution was the establishment of a single secular and democratic state for Palestinians and Israelis; and, he specified, **not** for Jews and Arabs where the word *Jews* serves to encompass all the Jews of the world and the word *Arabs* serves to deny the existence of the Palestinian nation, but of a single state for the Israeli and the Palestinian people, with the guarantee of the right to return of the refugees; this is also recommended in the March 2017 report on the State of Israel by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

I do not overestimate the growing, albeit still limited, appreciation that this proposal arouses among the people concerned, although it is increasingly clear to Palestinians that fighting for their rights within a single state is preferable to accepting the unconditional surrender to Israel, inherent in the "two-people, two-state" solution.

Among Israelis, the situation is more complex. Over twenty per cent of the population in Israel is made up of Palestinians. Over fifty per cent is of Arab and Sephardic origin (including my ancestors) and only twenty per cent or so is of European and American origin; however, this last group constitutes the establishment, it has always supported the equation between Palestinian and terrorist and despised everything Arab; moreover its real nightmare is the "Levantinisation" of Euro-Israel because of the Palestinian demographic growth which exceeds by far that of Israelis.

I do not underestimate the objections, obstacles, blackmail and, perhaps even worse that the great powers and the Israelis are capable of (we see it today with the genocide in Gaza) at the mere idea of losing their positions of strength, but this does not contradict the fact that the only fair and comprehensive solution is that of a state common to both peoples; not to be implemented tomorrow, of course, but in perspective, because perspective is what it is all about, i.e. a political detoxifying process capable of laying the foundations for peaceful coexistence: not a dream but the utopia that makes you walk (Eduardo Galeano), as narrated by the history of the Levant, which exists like a filigree, and speaks of acceptance and peaceful coexistence between religions and peoples.