

## *Gaza and student protests*

*By John M Repp May 22, 2024.*

On October 7, 2023, the military wing of Hamas, attacked the Israeli Defense Force or IDF, some settlements and a music festival inside Israel and caused the worst military setback in the history of the State of Israel. The attack caught the Israelis off guard. On that day, a concentration of IDF was active up around the West Bank supporting Israeli settlers who were harassing Palestinians, taking farms and villages.

Hamas is a political movement that won an election against Fatah in Gaza in 2006. It took control of Gaza in 2007 with the support of Netanyahu whose main goal was to keep the Palestinians divided so they could not form a nation-state of their own.

Tragically, President Biden has been supporting Israel by sending armaments to Israel as they fight Hamas in what is essentially an urban guerilla war. In this fight, Israel is not recognizing **“proportionality and the distinction between active military and civilian”** in their campaign, key concepts in the international law concerning warfare.

At least 35,000 Gazans have been killed while Hamas killed about 1200 in its attack. Of that 35,000, most have been children and mothers. The dropping of 2000 pound bombs on apartment buildings will result in indiscriminate killing. **The “war” is really a massacre** and it appears Israel wants to push all the people out of Gaza into Egypt, but Egypt is not cooperating. Or maybe, the Israelis think if the people of Gaza are punished enough, they won't harbor more terrorists or liberation fighters like Hamas. Actions like Israel is conducting usually causes more resistance over time. We know the deep truth of the phrase: **“No Justice, No Peace.”**

Now Israel has been blocking most of the supplies coming in to Gaza by truck from Egypt. Palestinians are starving in Gaza. Mothers are having to watch their children starve to death. On April 1, 2024, Israelis attacked three times, three different cars marked as belonging to World Central Kitchen, a group trying to feed Gazans. The group told the IDF who they were and exactly where they would be. [Chef Jose' Andres, the leader of World Central Kitchen believes the attacks were intentional.](#)

Most observers believe Israel could not have done what they did without US military and diplomatic support. Our corporate media kept telling us over and over that Israel was attacked on October 7, 2023 by Hamas and they repeated it many times: “Israel has the right to defend itself!” **As if history started on October 7, 2023!**

Looking at **the whole history from 1948** to the present, we see something different. Sadly, few Americans know much about this 76 year-history. We see a regime that has taken villages and land from Palestinians over and over again.

I quote: “During the foundational events of [the Nakba in 1948](#), [dozens of massacres targeting Arabs](#) were conducted and over [500 Arab-majority towns and villages were depopulated](#),<sup>[8]</sup> with many of these being either completely destroyed or repopulated by Jews and [given new Hebrew names.](#)” The Gaza strip was where many thousands of Palestinian people moved after they were pushed out of their land and villages as Israel was established. In short, Israel is a **settler colonial state** now committing genocide against the original inhabitants of Palestine.

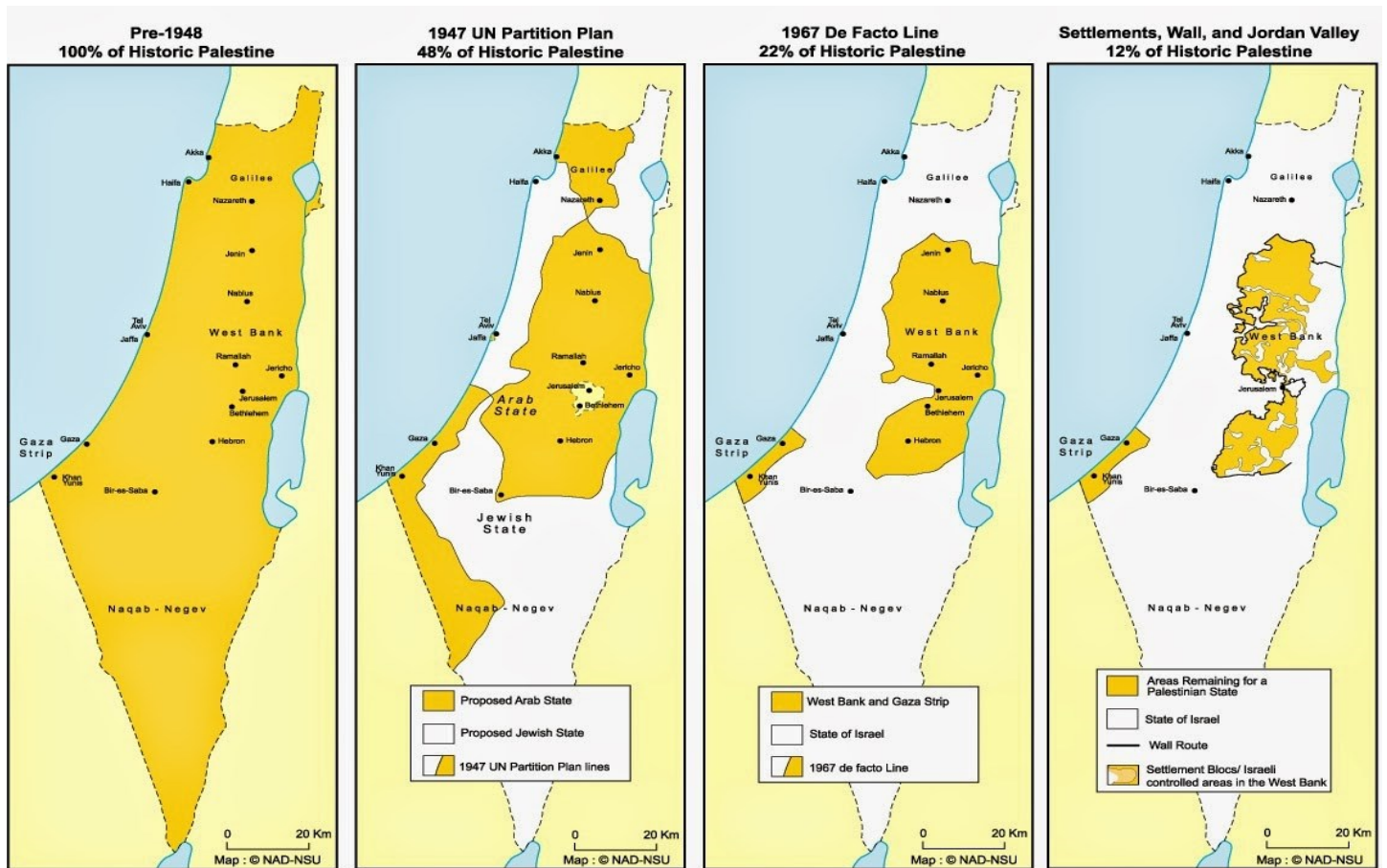
We should know what a settler colonial state is. The USA is one. Our settlement took place over about 500 years and the armed resistance to it has sputtered out. But Israel's conquest and Palestinian resistance since October 7 has been **broadcast on television and the Internet around the world.**

American college and university students are protesting the Israeli genocide. **Pitching tents** and occupying central areas of a campus is a new tactic learned from the Occupy Wallstreet movement. The students demands focus on any role their school endowment fund has in supporting Israel.

University and college endowments are often large pools of money invested for the future of the institution, but the profits of which are used to help the university or college function. Harvard's endowment is \$50 billion, the largest endowment of any American university. Students are wise to focus on endowments as it gives them a local focus for their demonstrations.

Some universities have agreed to take a look at their endowments and the students have taken down their encampments. At other universities, local police forces have been called to campus and have broken up the encampments. The repression against some students involved in protesting genocide in Gaza has been very harsh. This is just helping to create a new generation of peace and justice activists.

Finally, the International Criminal Court's (ICC) prosecutor said on Monday, May 20, 2024, that he is seeking arrest warrants for three Hamas leaders as well as for Netanyahu and the Israeli Defense minister.



These maps are for illustrative purposes only. Boundary representations are not authoritative.