

# Ethnic cleansing of Palestine

◀ The attacks were successful. The British government announced in February 1947 that it would give up its mandate on 14 May 1948, and hand Palestine to the United Nations. In November 1947 the UN General Assembly voted to divide Palestine into two states: a Jewish state (56%) and an Arab state (43%). At the time the population of Palestine was 1,269,000 Arabs and 630,000 Jews.

It was clearly envisaged that the 'Jewish' state would be binational - containing 405,000 Arabs as well as 499,000 Jews – with equal rights for all citizens.

The partition, opposed by Arab countries and the Palestinians, was pushed through particularly by US coercion.

## Plan Dalet

This partition did not satisfy the Zionists' project of a demographically Jewish state. Towards the end of 1947 the Zionist leadership under Ben Gurion – later the first Prime Minister of Israel – developed Plan Dalet. This aimed to secure the borders of Israel by cleansing, expelling and destroying Palestinian towns, villages and urban neighbourhoods.

The plan was implemented by Zionist armed forces. Between 30 March and 15 May 1948, 200 villages were occupied and their inhabitants expelled. Massacres took place, such as Deir

Yassin, and Palestinian towns fell into Zionist hands. 250,000 Palestinians were expelled before the armies of neighbouring countries could intervene.

By the time of the armistice agreement with surrounding Arab countries in 1949 over 700,000 Palestinians – half the population – had been ethnically cleansed, and Israel now occupied 78% of mandate Palestine.

*This was the Palestinian Nakba, the "catastrophe".*

## From an ideology to an apartheid state

Thus, was born the apartheid state of Israel. Despite their right in international law and UN resolutions the Palestinian refugees were never allowed to return, Ethnic cleansing became a permanent feature of Israel both in Israel and the Occupied Territories. Israel is not a binational state, and its Palestinian citizens are not equal.

## A new progressive party?

Any party which claims to be socialist / progressive would necessarily be, in our opinion, anti-racist. Since Zionism is a racist ideology, it follows that such a party must also be anti-Zionist.

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***The illegal occupation of Palestinian Territories, including the siege of Gaza, began long before 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Under international law, an occupied people have the right to resist the occupation, including by the use of force. Targeted attacks on civilians (by both Palestinian and Israeli forces on 7<sup>th</sup> October) are forbidden, but nothing that happened on 7<sup>th</sup> October justifies Israel's continued genocide of the Palestinians.***



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