

The Roots of Netanyahu's Electoral Victory: Colonial Expansion and Fascist Ideology

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"It is always a meritorious deed to get hold of a Palestinian's possessions" The code of Jewish Law revised and updated by Benjamin Netanyahu

Benjamin Netanyahu's re-election makes him the longest serving prime minister in Israel's history. His 20% margin of victory (30 Knesset seats to 24 for his nearest opponent) underlines the mass base of his consolidation of power.

Most critical commentators cite Netanyahu's racist pronouncements; his rejection of any two state solution and his overt appeal for a mass Jewish voter turnout to counteract the 'droves of Arab voters' for his electoral victories.

There is no question that the majority of Israeli Jewish leaders and parties support Netanyahu's racist pronouncements and 'no-state' solution and joined him in a coalition government. But the larger issue is the positive mass response to Netanyahu's call to action. Nearly three quarters of the electorate turned out (73%) to elect him. Moreover, Netanyahu has been elected prime minister for four terms: between 1996-99 and more recently 2009-20.

What is more, the opposition has not differed from the Netanyahu coalition regime's Judeo-centric policies and pronouncements. In other words, 'racist' ideology per se is not what drives the Israeli majority to repeatedly support Netanyahu.

Jewish-centered racism is an integral and accepted part of Israel's political culture.

Social Colonialism and Netanyahu's Popularity

There is a more fundamental, ongoing material basis which accounts for Netanyahu's electoral victories and mass appeal: His regime's aggressive, perpetual and escalating seizure and dispossession of Palestinians land and his massive financing of Israel's Jewish colonial towns.

In other words, Netanyahu's appeal is rooted in the large-scale, long-term housing which hundreds of thousands of low and middle income Israeli Jews have obtained via his brutal land-grabbing policy. The so-called 'settlers' are in part armed Israeli Jewish colonists who engage in open theft and defend Netanyahu, because they materially benefit from his policies... It is not only those who have already colonized Palestinian land grabbed after 1967 - over 650,000 Jews - who vote for Netanyahu, but there are the hundreds of thousands of others in Israel, priced out of the Israeli real estate bubble, who cannot afford comfortable housing and look to the West Bank and Jerusalem for a 'Jewish solution' at the expense of the Palestinian inhabitants.

Racism, the foul language directed at Palestinians, which pervades Israeli-Jewish culture ('*Arab scum*' is one of many such common expressions) found expression even among the songs celebrating Netanyahu's latest electoral victory. Racism serves to justify the land grabbing. Can the settler mind even imagine that an '*inferior people*' should complain about land grabs by the '*chosen people*'? Modern educated Jewish professionals wax indignant that shepherds and olive farmers should hold back the development of glitzy shopping malls, million dollar community centers (for Jews only, of course), hospitals, sports complexes and high tech industrial parks.

And if they – '*the Arabs*' – object to their own displacement, all the better: Their resistance provides an excellent pretext for armed Jewish settler thugs to invade a village, drive out the inhabitant and call in Netanyahu's bull dozers, as a prelude to establishing an '*outpost*', first steps to a new Jews only colony!

The key to Netanyahu's big vote is that he responds favorably and forcefully in favor of new colonies. The self-styled Israeli Defense (sic) Force (IDF) is dispatched to protect the local vandals and to shoot live ammo at any rock-throwing Palestinian adolescent defending the family patrimony.

Netanyahu acts and speaks for the rapacious Jewish colonial masses. The opposition criticized Netanyahu on the basis of his neglect of socio-economic issues in Israel, especially, the soaring prices of housing in the major cities. But they failed to attract many Jewish voters because Netanyahu offers a more attractive alternative solution – the seizure of more Palestinian land and the construction of Jewish homes, instead of fighting powerful Jewish real estate moguls, land speculators and corporate landlords inside Israel.

Extremism at the Service of Jewish Housing is No Vice

For the mass of Israeli Jews, looking for a cheap, easy and government-financed road to comfortable middle class housing, seizing and occupying Palestinian property is a very attractive and viable '*solution*'.

Netanyahu's '*final solution*' for the Palestinians – *no state* – is a guarantee that land, which is seized and housing which is built, will remain under Jewish jurisdiction. The '*final solution*' for Palestinians is the housing solution for the Jewish masses.

Under Netanyahu, from 2013 to 2015, two-thirds of new housing construction (for *Jews only*) has taken place on stolen Palestinian lands. His regime spends \$252 million dollars a year on *Jews-only* colonies ('*settlements*'). The Netanyahu regime spends \$950 for each Jewish colonist in the West Bank, double what is invested for each Jewish Israeli resident in Tel Aviv. For the most aggressive Jewish colonists, those who destroy the productive olive groves, torch Palestinian homes and who establish '*settler outposts*', Netanyahu spends \$1,483 a year . . . with promises of roads, electricity, schools, swimming pools and air conditioning to come!

Owning the Holy City Secures the Unsavory Vote

Netanyahu's big vote in Jerusalem can be accounted for by the fact that over 300,000 Jews have been the beneficiaries of land grabs and sparkling high-rise condos in what had been centuries-old Palestinian neighborhoods.

Netanyahu assures the Jerusalem Jews that 'their city' is and always will be the capital of Israel, an undivided Jewish city.

Sticking his finger in the eyes of the EU and US officials, who claim otherwise, energizes and emboldens the Jewish voters

Netanyahu's ethnic cleansing is unrelenting: That is why he is re-elected over and over again. Israeli colonial settlements grew by over 5% each year from 2009 – 2015. There is no backtracking with *Bibi* Netanyahu: at this rate of 'erasure' all of historical Palestine will be Judified by 2050 at the latest!

Herr Netanyahu claims that Israeli Jews must have their '*lebensraum*' . . .

Israel and other colonial powers, like England in the 19th century and Germany in the 20th century, 'solve' their domestic social problems and social unrest by exporting populations across borders. The attractiveness of this solution is that it preserves the power and privileges of the domestic economic elite and provides an 'escape valve' for the local disaffected masses.

Emigration to settler colonies requires violent dispossession of the local inhabitants. If stiff resistance emerges – the imperial powers resort to genocide; extermination of native peoples by the English, Slavic peoples by the Germans, Palestinian Arabs and other non-Jews by the Israeli Jews.

Long past is the notion that Israeli Jews would solve their social -economic problems via a collectivist economy and popular struggle against Jewish plutocrats.

Today Jewish-Israeli millionaires flourish alongside orthodox, secular, Sephardic, Ashkenazi, Sabra and Russian emigrant colonists. The former exploits labor and markets, while the latter dispossesses Palestinians. Netanyahu has discovered a formula for uniting quarrelsome Jewish parties, leaders and voters and for winning elections.

Moreover, Netanyahu has secured the financial and political backing of numerous overseas Jewish-Zionist billionaires. He has secured the unconditional support of tens of thousands of middle class *Israel-First* activists, academics and professionals who operate AIPAC and dozens of similar propaganda mills in Washington and Christian Zionists throughout the US. Netanyahu's overseas backers ensure that the US government may grumble and criticize, but will never disrupt Netanyahu's 'plan' of an ethnically pure 'Greater Israel' with Jerusalem as its '*eternal*' capital. Obama may whine and talk to the press about '*reconsidering US-Israeli relations*' but he has assured Israel and Netanyahu that military and economic ties will remain intact.

Conclusion

Netanyahu has succeeded in setting a colonial agenda for all Israeli-Jewish parties (bar one).

He has established the fact that *competitive* elections and *opposition* political parties are compatible and even facilitate violent colonial expansion.

He has established the fact that Israel and its people embrace a racist ideology and receive the endorsement of most Western leaders, and mass media and the unconditional support of its overseas fifth column.

Israel's project for Palestine, the creation of a single Jewish state, is far more than the demented vision of one man. It has been taken to heart by the great mass of the Israeli-Jewish people and their overseas supporters. The victory of Netanyahu and his supporters marks a historic victory for all those regimes and people across the world who believe and fight for an imperial dominated world.

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