

Two Walls One Struggle

A structural comparison of colonization,
territorial loss, and racist aggression in
Mexico and Palestine

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Continents apart, separated by oceans, and of distinct cultural development, Palestine and Mexico have a history of colonization, settlement aggression, land seizures, ethnic cleansing, and of racist oppression.

This presentation will seek to go beneath the superficial similarities between Palestine and Mexico, and uncover structural patterns of oppression that are common in every struggle for self-determination and national liberation movement against colonization and occupation.

The Third World Coalition of the AFSC hopes to open new avenues of international solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for self-determination. In doing so, we will also liberate ourselves.

Mexico

- Spaniards invade the “New World” in the 1500s shortly followed by other European empires
- Mexico becomes a possession of the Spanish Crown

Palestine

- After various Eurasian empires rule the “Middle East” Palestine is ruled by the Ottoman Empire
- Palestine becomes a British Mandate after World War I

Mexico

- 1821 Mexico gains independence from Spain
- 1830s U.S. slave state expansionists begin to settle in the Mexican state of Tejas
- Campaigns of ethnic cleansing ensue

Palestine

- In the late 1800s the European Zionist movement plans to colonize Palestine
- Zionist violence terrorize Christian and Muslim Palestinians in the early 1900s
- Campaigns of ethnic cleansing ensue

Mexico

- The “independent” Republic of Texas is annexed by the U.S.
- Provoked by settler aggression Mexico declares war on the U.S. in 1846
- US invades Mexico

Palestine

- 1947 UN Partition plan is approved with the support of Western powers
- Arab nations are not consulted and reject partition
- Under the UN plan 55% of historic Palestine is apportioned to a “Jewish State”

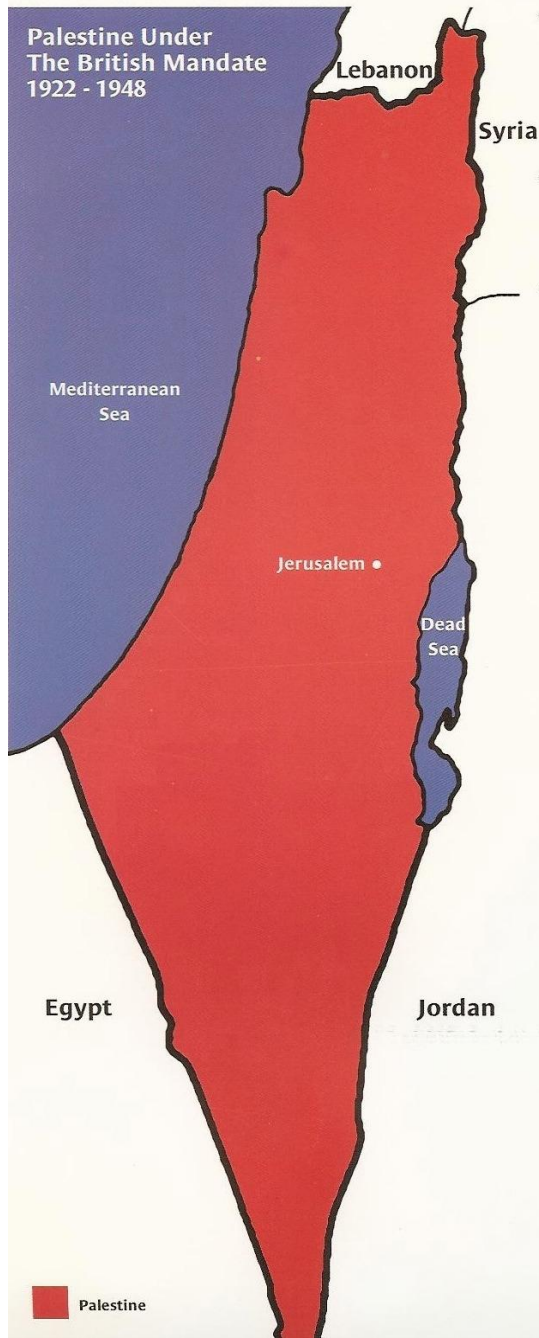
Treaty of Guadalupe y Hidalgo and Al Nakba

Treaty of Guadalupe y Hidalgo

- 1848 Mexico loses 50% of its national territory to the U.S.
- Newly acquired territories include the current states of Texas, Colorado, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and California

Al Nakba

- 1948 Palestine loses 78% of its land to the “Jewish State”
- 750,000 Palestinians are dispossessed of their homes and land. Thousands become internal refugees in their own land, others flee to neighboring countries.



**Palestine Under
The British Mandate
1922 - 1948**

- Palestine, which was part of the Ottoman Empire until 1918, came under the British Mandate at the end of World War I.
- In 1920, 92% of the population was Muslim and Christian, and 8% was Jewish.
- Jerusalem was an open Palestinian capital under British Mandate. The old city had been for years composed of four main quarters: Armenian, Christian, Jewish and Muslim.

 Palestine



MAP OF MEXICO,
INCLUDING
YUCATAN & UPPER CALIFORNIA,

exhibiting
THE CHIEF CITIES AND TOWNS, THE
Principal Travelling Routes &c.

PHILADELPHIA
Published by S. Augustus Mitchell,

N.E. CORNER OF MARKET AND SEVENTH STS.
1847.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1847, in the Office of the Register of the District of Pennsylvania.

**UN Partition Plan of
Palestine (UN Res. 181)
29 November 1947**



- The 1947 UN Partition Plan (UN Res. 181) was accepted by representatives of the Zionist community in Palestine. It was rejected by the Palestinians and the Arab States for its injustice. It stipulated:
- The creation of a Jewish state in 55% of Palestine. Yet, by 1947, Jews owned less than 7% of the land and comprised less than 33% of the population (650,000).
- The creation of an Arab state in 45% of Palestine. By 1947, Muslim and Christian Palestinians owned 93% of the land and represented more than 76% of the population (1,300,000).
- Jerusalem was designated as a "corpus separatum" to be administered by the UN, i.e., an international city.



Division of Palestine & Creation of Israel 1948



- The first Arab-Israeli war erupted in May 15, 1948. Israel took control of 78% of Palestine (rather than the 55% allotted to the Jewish State under UN Partition Plan, Res. 181).
- Jerusalem was divided: Israel took control of the Western part of the city.
- The rest of Palestine (22%) was split: the West Bank and East Jerusalem came under Jordanian control, and the Gaza Strip under Egyptian administration.
- 750,000 Palestinians were expelled or made to flee their homes. They became refugees living in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the rest of Palestine.
- UN Resolution 194 (December 11, 1948) guaranteed the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes, to compensation, and to repatriation. Israel's admission to the UN on May 11, 1949 followed its acceptance of all previous UN resolutions, including 194.



University of Texas Libraries, University of Texas at Austin

<http://gomexico.about.com/od/planningandinformation/ig/Maps-of-Mexico/Relief-Map-of-Mexico.htm>

Israeli Occupation of Remainder of Palestine 1967



- On June 6, 1967, the war erupted and Israel occupied the West Bank, E. Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.
- UN Security Council Resolution 242 (November 11, 1967) called for the retreat of Israel from the land it had occupied. It emphasizes “the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war.”
- The West Bank and Gaza Strip were placed under Israeli military control.
- Israel annexed East Jerusalem and declared the city the “eternal capital of Israel.” To date, this annexation has never been recognized by any international body or country.

Manifest Destiny & Zionism

Manifest Destiny

- Expansionist
- Racist notion of “civilizing the West”
- Presumes racial superiority of white people over Native Americans and Mexicans
- Justifies Ethnic Cleansing

Zionism

- Expansionist
- Racist notion of a “A land without a people, for a people without a land”
- Presumes racial superiority of Jews over Palestinians and other Arabs
- Justifies Ethnic Cleansing

Two Walls

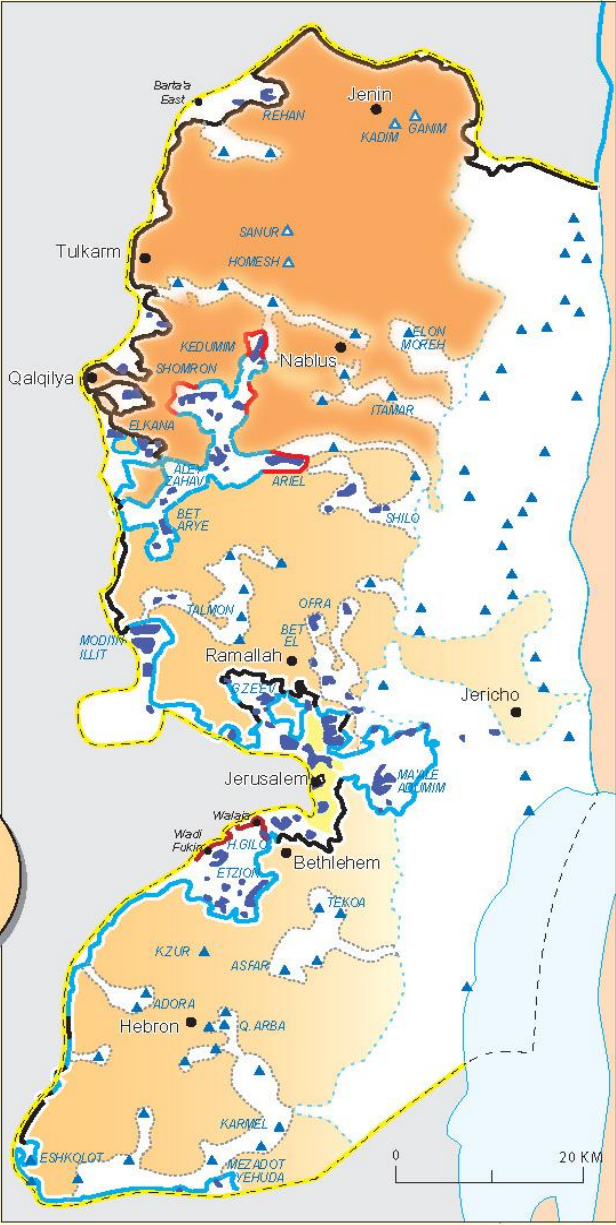
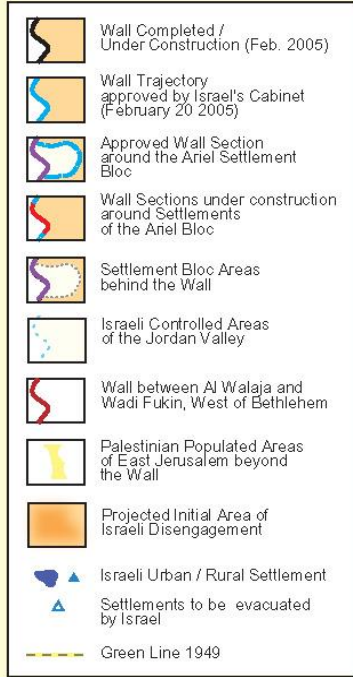
US/Mexico Border

- In 2006 the US Congress passed the Secure Fence Act which will expand the wall between Mexico and the U.S. by 700 miles
- Kollsman Inc. of NH, a wholly owned US subsidiary of Elbit Systems of Haifa Israel builds the high-tech portions of the US / Mexico Wall

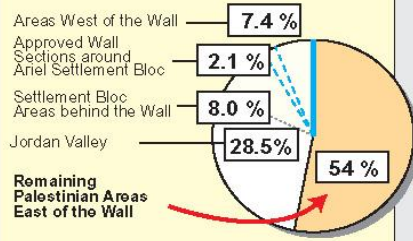
West Bank, Palestine

- In 2005 the Israeli Knesset approved a plan to build an Apartheid Wall well within the West Bank
- Elbit Systems of Haifa, the largest private military contractor in Israel, is the principal contractor building the Apartheid Wall inside the West Bank

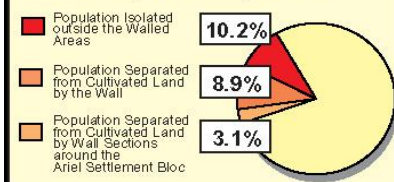
The Wall and Projected Israeli Unilateral Disengagement - February 2005



West Bank Area Percentages After the Wall



Percentages of Palestinian West Bank Population Directly Affected by the Wall



The Walls Must Fall

Third World Coalition's discussions with Palestinians

- We learned that the Apartheid structure of cantons and Bantustans are being applied to the West Bank
- We discussed Israel's political, economic, and military relations with Apartheid South Africa and the right-wing military dictatorships in Central America during the 1980s
- We discussed the impunity US police have in killing people of color, incarceration rates, and military style ICE raids
- We learned that the idea of "Transfer", the forceful removal of Palestinians from their land to "other Arab nations", is common political discourse among Israeli Jews
- We learned that the idea of "security and terrorism" justifies check points, arbitrary arrests and detentions, and border militarization
- We learned that together we have **One Struggle**

One Struggle

- We witnessed the every day resistance to occupation in the West Bank and racist discrimination in Israel.
- We found that there is hope in the local organizing efforts in small villages, and by community organizations in the cities.
- We looked into a mirror and at times we saw the past, present, and future.
- We have a moral and political responsibility to end the racist Zionist occupation and genocidal siege of the Gaza

Appendix

- Acknowledgements
- Restrictions of Use (common copyright)
- “autonomy” graphic
- Photos of TWC delegation in New Orleans
- Chronology leading to TWC-AFSC delegation to Palestine

Acknowledgements

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AUTONOMY

استقلال

AUTONOMIA



Darryl Jordan TWC-AFSC



Gaza's Mohammad Al-Farra of Palestine Rapperz



NOLA's Arabian Outlaw

Chronology of Two Walls One Struggle

- **2004 TWC Annual Meeting** San Diego - 10th anniversary of "Operation Gatekeeper" Border tour of militarization, walls, check points, drone craft, heat & motion sensors....
- **2005 American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)** National Board Meeting San Diego - AFSC San Diego office conducts border tour for national ADC Board members
- **2006** (June) **ADC National Convention** - Adopts resolution against the expansion of US / Mexico Wall (Secure Fence Act of 2006)
- **2006** (October) **Border Social Forum**, Ciudad Juarez, MX - Final resolution calls for "*Acts of Solidarity with the Peoples of Mexico and Palestine, along with educational activities relating to their Common Struggle*".
- **2007** (February) TWC Adopts proposal to send a delegation of Color to Palestine
- **2007** (July) U.S. Social Forum, Atlanta - Arabs, Muslims, So. Asians, and Latin@s conduct meetings & workshops on our common struggles
- **2008** (January) National Network of Immigrant and Refugee Rights conference, Houston TX - Arabs, Muslims, So. Asians, and Latin@s conduct meetings & workshops on our common struggles
- **2008** (February) TWC, Tucson AZ - Tour of border wall & check points. Palestine sub-committee works on program for delegation (Darryl Jordan, Benjamin Prado, Gabriel Camacho, Merrie Najimy)
- **2008** (May 27 - June 6) TWC Delegation to Palestine
- **2008** (June) TWC Annual Meeting, New Orleans - Post Katrina: House Demolitions, Ethnic Cleansing, Right of Return, Al Nakba Commemoration & 60 Years of Resistance with local Palestinian, Arab, & Muslim Communities