

# FOCUS ON PALESTINE

## PART 1

In May 1948 the state of 'Israel' was formed. The establishment of Israel required the destruction of Palestine. The majority of the Palestinian people were forcefully expelled from their land by the fascist forces of Zionism.

Geographically, the small country of Palestine (10 000 square miles) was broken into pieces, the largest of which became Israel, or rather Occupied Palestine.

### Jewish occupation

The Palestinian population was systematically expelled and replaced. Jewish immigrants from Europe and elsewhere flooded the country and the Jewish population swelled from less than 1/10 in 1918 to 1/3 of the total population by 1948. In 1948, this immigrant minority waged war against the indigenous Palestinian majority. Palestinian society was dismantled, displaced and scattered. The Palestinian people were presumed to no longer exist.

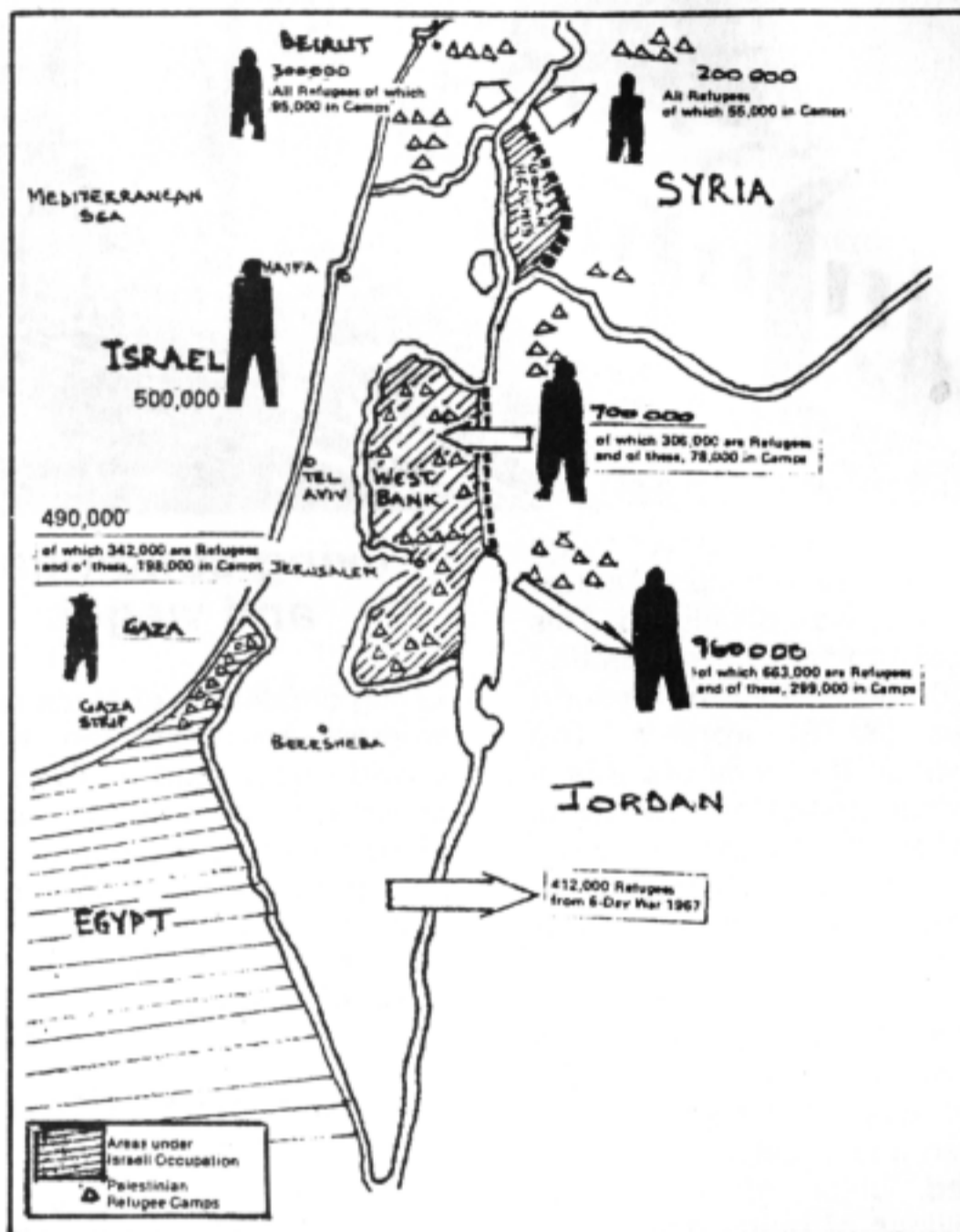
"There was no such thing as Palestinians . . . they did not exist"

Golda Meir, Israeli Prime Minister (1969)

### a nation destroyed

The about 400 Palestinian towns and villages were completely destroyed, the names of others were changed from Arabic to Hebrew. While these were repopulated with Jewish immigrants, Palestinians languished in refugee camps throughout the Middle East. Even the names of mountains, rivers, lakes and streets were changed and Palestinian foods and clothes marketed as Israeli ones. This complete change of cultural character meant the destruction of a nation.

" . . . no other country has been confronted with a plan to liquidate its national identity, as has happened in the case of Palestine, nor confronted a Man to empty a country of its people as has



happened in the case of the Palestinian people. It goes beyond anything previously recorded in modern history".

Yassar Arafat : PLO



The Palestinian masses have since been involved in a struggle to assert their self-respect and basic human dignity as a people, and to return to their homeland. Their

struggle, and our solidarity with it, is against Zionism.

### what is Zionism

Firstly, Zionism is a political philosophy. The first Zionist Congress met in 1897 and agreed on the colonization of Palestine by Zionist settlers. In 1917 the British Cabinet (which had no legal authority over Palestine), according to the "Balfour Federation" promised the Zionist movement the establishment in Palestine of a 'national' home for the 'Jewish people':

**Zionism propagates that Jews are a separate and special "race".** Hence, it calls for the establishment of a separate state with a Jewish majority - even at the expense of the massacre and the terrorizing into mass exodus of the Palestinian people.

# ثورة حتى النصر

## REVOLUTION UNTIL VICTORY

To be anti-Zionist does **not** mean that one is anti-semitic (anti-Jewish). In fact Zionism and anti-semitism have one thing in common – they **both** agree that Jews are a "race" apart and cannot be integrated into non-Jewish society. Zionism, therefore, is racist !! One of the greatest hypocrisies of this world remains the indisputable fact that Zionism thrives on anti-semitism.

### victim of imperialism

Palestine had been under Turkish Ottoman rule for about 400 years. When Palestinians expressed Arabs nationalism they were ruthlessly suppressed by Jamal Pasha, the Ottoman Governor of Syria. During World War 1, Turkey entered the war on the side of Germany. Through a series of secret agreements between the imperialist countries, especially Britain and France, the Arabs were assured an independent Arab state in return for an Arab rebellion against the Ottomans. By the end of the war, Britain was granted a mandate over Palestine in order to decide what is to happen to the former Ottoman territories. At this time the population consisted of

644 000 Palestinian Arabs and 56 000 Jews.

The mandate period lasted until 1948. During this time mass illegal Jewish immigration took place.

The dreadful slaughter and persecution of Jews under the Nazis gave fresh sympathy to the Zionist movements' claims. This resulted in a flood of illegal Jewish immigration so that the Jewish population stood at 700 000 by 1948 and Palestinian Arabs at 1 380 000.

In 1947 the UN recommended dividing up Palestine. This gave the Zionists (1/3 of the total population) about 60% of the land, including the most fertile and rich areas. In 1948 civil war broke out and 960 000 Palestinians were made homeless while the Zionists were in control of an even larger area. Other major Zionist wars took place in 1956, 1967 and 1973. The first two resulted in mass destruction and an expansion of occupied territory. The 1973 war, however, showed that the Palestinian people were capable of fighting back.

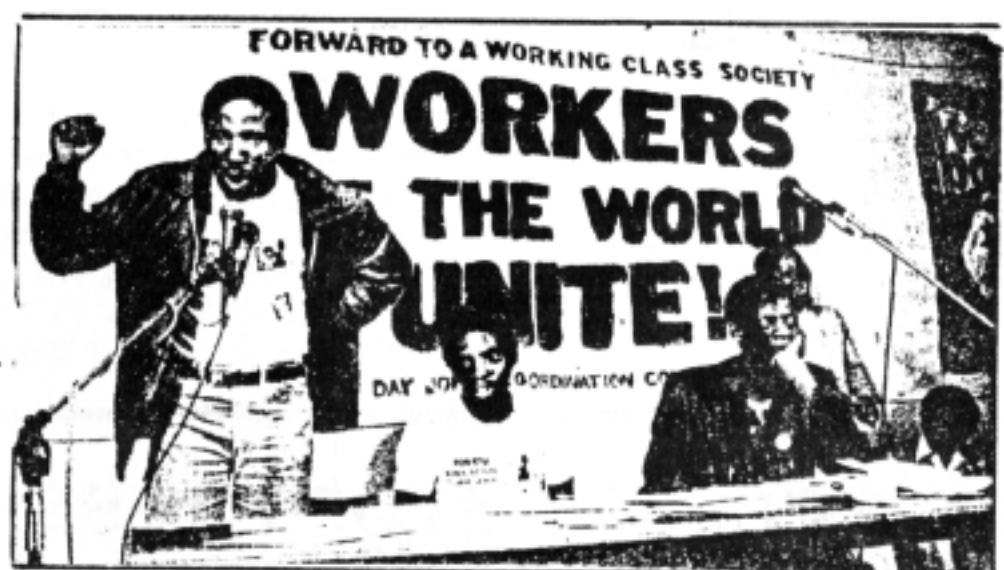


### Israel and South Africa

Having said that Zionism is a form of racism it is necessary to find out in which way Zionism and Apartheid are different and similar to each other. One of the founders of Zionism described it as a movement of "a people without land" in search of "a land without people". Not unlike the settler colonialist that came to South Africa, Zionists also claim that they found the land uninhabited.

*In our next issue we will look at the Israeli-South African alliance, and the different liberation movements presently engaged in the Palestinian struggle.*

# MAY DAY



On Friday, May 1st, workers all over the world celebrated May Day. In S.A., Botha has tried to confuse workers by making the first Friday in May a "workers day". Black worker power has forced Botha to give in to the workers' demand that May Day be a paid holiday. Now he is trying to "save face". P.W. is trying all these tricks because in

reality many unions have already won this holiday from the bosses. Workers have rejected Botha's offer. We say that May Day is not just a holiday. It is about Socialism and the struggle for the working class against Capitalism (exploitation) and apartheid. Workers also say that May Day encourages solidarity of the workers in all

countries against capitalism. In South Africa, many workers have begun calling for Socialism. May Day has seen this struggle for Socialism advancing. Workers in S.A. displayed solidarity and unity with their comrades from other countries in the battle for workers' control.