

Letter to Palestine Think Tank on 'Palestinian options as the Nakba turns 60'

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May 19, 2008.

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May 19th, 2008 at 5:41

Thank you for the Palestinian perspective. Many insightful observations [by [Mazin Qumsiyeh](#)].

I am not sure how to put this [response] very elegantly, so I hope I can be forgiven for putting it rather straightforwardly. The following is a wonderful recipe if I was the Hectoring Hegemon and my pending meal was sold these philosophies:

begin quote

For now, the choice that remains relevant is the one posed by Martin Luther King, Jr.:

“Cowardice asks the question - is it safe? Expediency asks the question - is it politic? Vanity asks the question - is it popular? But conscience asks the question - is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular; but one must take it because it is right.”

And choosing to do what is right must also adhere to that universal wisdom:

“Grant me the courage to change the things I can, the serenity to accept those I

can't, and the WISDOM TO KNOW the difference.”

end quote

I hope one can see why! This does however require more than a few seconds of reflection. In fact, it perhaps requires very carefully studying how the Zionists acquired Palestine as if one is doing a Ph.D. (in a hard discipline), in order to appreciate its import.

The best way for the Palestinian people to analyze their predicament, IMHO, is to study Theodore Herzl, and the systems of power and its many manifestations that were set up by the Zionists in the early twentieth century to realize his plan. Can one observe any of the wonderful prose that is quoted above, in any of the Zionist writings, or in any of the processes that were set up which eventually led to the Balfour Declaration? Did the Jewish scholars, Rabbis, think-tankers and financiers advise their flock to pray to their G-d to *“Grant me the courage to change the things I can, the serenity to accept those I can't, and the WISDOM TO KNOW the difference”*? The only prayers they offered were in deception to sell the otherwise impossible task of relocating them to Zion! The only appeal to G-d (i.e., any sort of spirituality, the *“right”* thing to do stuff, etc.) was to actually achieve the impossible!

And the Zionists did indeed accomplish the impossible!!!!

If one were playing with wooden chess pieces on the 'Grand Chessboard' instead of in real human flesh and souls, one would have applauded them on their gamesmanship!

As strategists, tacticians, institution and organization builders, and of course, also mantra spinners, they have been peerless masterminds. One would be foolish to not learn from the masters themselves!

If a Palestinian can get out of his or her skin for a moment, is able detach oneself from the insufferable pain of one's shattered tabula rasa, and move on to the far distance of the planet Mars to rationally analyze the devilishly sophisticated processes that went into the construction of Israel, one might be able to do a bit more efficacious thinking, and leading.

If one can intellectually recast the problem, of the Palestinians commencing the planning to reacquire their lost Palestine in 2008, after losing it for only 60 years, to be the equivalent of the Zionists planning to acquire Palestine in 1898, after having lost it for 3000 years, what does one get? One can immediately observe that the Zionists started off on an almost intractable problem and overcame it all. Not only that, they were so sure that they will acquire their dream that Herzl had even boasted at the very inception of their plan to seed confidence in the plan: ***“In Basle I founded the Jewish state . . . Maybe in five years, certainly in fifty, everyone will realize it.”*** [quote wording corrected]. Circumstances of course, also helped. But in the writings and methods of the Palestinians' arch nemeses, and in their modus operandi in the 50 years that preceded the onset of the Nakba, possibly lie the efficacious seeds of orchestrating the desired Palestinian solution-space. All Palestinians already know [what] their solution-space is in 2008, just as all the Zionist also already knew what their solution-space was in 1898.

It is how to get there that requires a careful study of power and its incantations. None of which include the lame recipe quoted above. To catch a mere glimpse of the sophisticated intellectual capital that went into the construction of Israel – just look at this statement of [David Ben Gurion](#) – *“What is inconceivable in normal times is possible in revolutionary times”!*

When the Palestinians can come up with such intellectual capital – that is the day when their fortunes will perhaps begin to change!

Thank you.

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The author, an ordinary researcher and writer on contemporary geopolitics, a minor justice activist, grew up in Pakistan, studied EECS at MIT, engineered for a while in high-tech Silicon Valley (patents [here](#)), and retired early to pursue other responsible interests. His maiden 2003 book was rejected by six publishers and can be read on the web at <http://PrisonersoftheCave.org>. He may be reached at <http://Humanbeingsfirst.org>.

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