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Palestine is the Spark



Image: *Palestinian protesters during a confrontation with Israeli forces in the Shuafat camp for Palestinian refugees, neighbouring the Israeli settlement of Ramat Shlomo, in Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem. AFP*



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The capitalist world system is riddled with contradictions,

and "Palestine crystallizes nearly every contradiction within the current order."

Source: *Max Ajl, Palestine's Great Flood: Part I (2024).*

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Capitalism:
between the ruling class and the working class

The Palestinian popular classes are amongst the most oppressed and exploited in the world. Tens of thousands of Palestinians work dangerous jobs in Israel, and, even before October 2023, unemployment was extremely high in both Gaza and the West Bank.

Source: *Max Ajl, Palestine's Great Flood: Part II (2024); Humaid, Al Jazeera (2023).*

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Settler colonialism:

between the settler nation and the colonised Indigenous nation

Israel is the least consolidated settler-colonial state in the world. Since its violent establishment in the territory of historic Palestine in 1948, it has continued to take over remaining Palestinian territory. This encroachment has always been met with resistance by the Palestinian people.

Source: *Max Ajl, Palestine's Great Flood: Part I (2024).*

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Militarism:

between the state monopoly on violence and human wellbeing

To maintain its colonial control, the Israeli state threatens and exerts extreme violence, for instance through border militarisation, mass incarceration, destruction of Palestinian land, and regulation of caloric intake. Furthermore, Israel is a major arms exporter, with the Palestinian people, land, and built environment serving as testing grounds to prove their efficacy.

Source: *Max Ajl, Palestine's Great Flood: Part II (2024).*

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Imperialism:
between imperialist and oppressed nations of the world system

The oppression of the Palestinian people, including the ongoing genocide in Gaza, is politically and materially backed by Western powers because Israel is a key partner in securing imperial economic interests in the region and beyond.

Source: *Max Ajl, Palestine's Great Flood: Part I (2024).*

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Ecological breakdown:

between infinite capital accumulation and socio-ecological integrity

Settler colonialism and capitalism require breaking down Indigenous and traditional systems of socio-ecological (re)production, for example by replacing Palestinian agricultural ecologies and practices with ones stemming from Europe and North America.

Source: *Ajl, A People's Green New Deal (2021).*

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Ethno-nationalism and racism:

between Israel as an ethno-religious state and the self-determination of Palestinian communities

Israeli law states that the right to exercise national self-determination in Israel is unique to the Jewish people.

Source: *Berger, Vox (2018).*

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Liberalism:

between the mirage of international law and the absolute necessity to not change the capitalist world system in any fundamental way, no matter how much death and destruction it gives rise to.

The US repeatedly vetoed an immediate ceasefire in Gaza in the UN Security Council despite public opinion and widespread social mobilisations in favour of it.

Source: *Max Ajl, Palestine's Great Flood: Part I (2024).*

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The Palestinian resistance has brought these contractions into sharp relief.

As they continue to sharpen and we, as political organisers, apply pressure to them, the exploitative, oppressive world system is brought closer to a breaking point.

We are living in a world-historical moment in which radical change is increasingly possible. ✊