

The partition of Palestine

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The vote at the United Nations was no more than a formality after the “Big Three” had reached agreement, the partition of Palestine was virtually an accomplished fact. British imperialism withdraws in the Near East to a second line of defence, comparable to that which was put in place when India was divided. In the two states, Jewish and Arab, Great Britain retains the whole of its economic and financial positions.

The Arab Legion of the hypothetical Arab state and the Haganah equally will operate in close agreement with the British War Office, as do the armies of the Hindus and the Moslems in India. And, as in India, partition has proved itself to be the most effective way to divert, at one and the same time, the struggle of the Arab masses and the discontent of the Jewish working population from an anti-imperialist explosion in the direction of a fratricidal struggle.

The manoeuvres of British imperialism have been made necessary by its dwindling resources. This obliges the imperialists to reduce its “international commitments”, so as, at one and the same time, to save dollars, manpower and tanks. This is presented under a still more favourable aspect in the specific case of Palestine. The establishment of an Arab state independent of Palestine is, in fact, highly unlikely. For this reason, King Abdullah of Transjordan, the no.1 pawn of the City of London in the Arab world, could very well succeed in unifying Eastern Palestine to his present kingdom, and thereby bring about the first stage towards the formation of the Empire of Greater Syria, the final objective of his dynasty and of the British bourgeoisie in the Near East. London will continue to rule without that

costing the British taxpayer a single penny. The only people to suffer from it, of course, will be the masses of Palestine themselves.

For American imperialism, as for the Soviet bureaucracy, to accept partition means above all the liquidation of the British mandate and the opening of a struggle to inherit the abandoned position. The Kremlin welcomes the opening of a period of troubles in the Near East, through which it will do its best to weaken further the British positions and to prepare its own penetration, whether under the cover of a “Mixed Commission of the United Nations” or of a “trusteeship of the Big Three” over Jerusalem.

American imperialism finds itself placed in Palestine, as earlier in Greece, before the problem of seeking a replacement to occupy the positions on the imperialist front which the British ally finds itself obliged to abandon. After the British troops are evacuated, Haganah will be the only military force in possession of modern equipment, a force foreign to the Arab world and which would serve if the occasion arose, to combat a native insurrection or a Russian thrust threatening the sources of oil.

We should not therefore be surprised from now on if American imperialism attempts, whether by the method of financing or by that of forming a “Jewish League”, to become the predominant influence on the leadership of Haganah and to make it an instrument of its own imperialist policy in the near East. However, it remains evident that the minute Jewish state, like the Zionist movement which preceded it, is considered by the great powers merely as a stake in their power game towards the Arab world.

This state, far from receiving open and permanent “protection” from any one of these powers, will never cease to find itself in a precarious, uncertain position, and for its people from now on will open up a period of privations of terror and of terrible tension, which will only become sharper as the forces fighting for emancipation of the Arab world increase.

The partition of Palestine and the clear overthrow of the Zionist positions – including those of most of the extremists – in the face of British imperialism, have struck a mortal blow to all the impressionist theories which bloomed in the light of the bombs of the Irgun. The fundamental solidarity of the Zionist movement, of Haganah and even of the Irgun with imperialism against the Arab masses has revealed itself in the clearest fashion.

The whole crime of Zionism appears clearly in the fact that, thanks to its reactionary function, the first movements of the Arab masses in favour of a united, independent Palestine, are directed against the Jewish population, and not directly against imperialism. The most reactionary leaders of the Arab Committee for Palestine will thus have the opportunity to re-gild their coat of arms by spilling the blood of the unfortunate Jews who are victims of the Zionist deception. The Zionist leaders throughout the world feted the establishment of the miniature state as a great victory. What a miserable mistake: The trap that Palestine constitutes for the Jews, according to Trotsky’s words, today quite simply has closed.

Without a radical reversal of the world situation and of the Zionist tendency of the Jewish workers’ movement in Palestine, the complete extermination of the

Jewish people, on the outbreak of the Arab revolution, will be the price paid by the Jewish people for the sad victory won at Lake Success. And, by a bitter irony of history, the establishment of an independent Jewish state, which, according to the profound Zionist theoreticians, was definitively to undermine world anti-Semitism, has been the beginning of a savage pogromist outbreak in Aden and a new rise in anti-Semitism throughout the world.

The position of the Fourth International towards the Palestinian problem remains clear and plain as in the past. It will be the vanguard of the struggle against partition, for a united, independent Palestine, in which the masses will supremely determine their own destiny for electing a Constituent Assembly. Against the effendis and the imperialist agents, against the manoeuvres of the Egyptian and the Syrian bourgeoisie, who try to divert the struggle for emancipation of the masses into a struggle against the Jews, it will issue calls for the agricultural revolution, for the anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist struggle, which are essential driving forces of the Arab revolution. But it can only wage this struggle with the possibility of success on condition that it takes up its position, unequivocally, against the partition of the country and the establishment of the Jewish state.

More than ever, it is necessary at the same time to call on the working people of America, Britain, Canada and Australia, the working people of every country, to struggle for the frontiers of their countries to be opened without any discrimination to the refugees, the displaced persons, to all the Jews who wish to emigrate. It is only on condition that we seriously, effectively and successfully carry on this struggle that we can explain to the Jews the reasons for which they should not go into the Palestinian ambush. The terrible experience which awaits the Jewish masses in the "miniature state" will at the same time create the premises for wider layers to break from criminal Zionism. If this break is not made in time, the "Jewish state" will go down in blood.

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It works hand in hand with the Christian Rakovsky International Socialist Centre to establish links between socialists and revolutionaries from these regions.

It aims to link up with revolutionary organisations and militants in the countries of the Mediterranean basin, which has proved its revolutionary potential since the 2010s with different waves of the Arab revolution and the class struggles taking place in response to the havoc wrought by the capitalist economic crisis in Europe. To this end, we provide our analysis of the events in southern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. We try to understand the forces, in particular the class forces, that have gone on to shape the different upheavals in the Arab world, in Palestine, Iran, Turkey, Kurdistan, and Southern Europe so as to be able to draw the correct conclusions regarding the way to move forward in establishing workers' power in the whole region.

We welcome letters, comments, news about struggles, debates, and material in different languages. We are also happy to welcome people who would volunteer to translate different articles and declarations that we publish on the website into their native tongue.

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