

Israel's apartheid system shows Zionism is racism

by Joseph Brewda

In 1975, the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly in favor of a resolution which condemned Zionism as a form of racism. Since that time, the U.S., British, and Israeli governments, among others, have frequently denounced the resolution as outrageous and anti-Semitic. However, the truth of that resolution is proven by the system of harsh apartheid imposed on the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories.

For example, Jews living on the West Bank pay 30¢ for a cubic meter of water. Palestinians living on the West Bank must pay \$1.10. Palestinians living in the Occupied Territories are forbidden to dig new wells or deepen existing ones, whereas Jews have no such restrictions. For such reasons, only 6% of Palestinian land is irrigated, contrasted to 69% of Jewish land. Average annual water use per capita for Jews is 170 cubic meters. Arabs receive only 25 cubic meters per capita, which is below the level the U.N. has determined as necessary to maintain minimum health standards.

That Zionism is a form of racism can be shown by examining information in the public domain. This includes statistics compiled by the Israeli ministries of Agriculture and Housing, the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, and the civil administration, the entity which oversees the Occupied Territories. These data have been broadly published and analyzed over recent years by the West Bank Data Center and the Arab Studies Center of Jerusalem, the source of the data in this article.

Inventing the 'Land of Israel'

The treatment of the Palestinians today is further proof that Israel's policy is imperialist, as the history of the creation and expansion of the state also shows.

During the 19th century, the competing British, Austro-

Hungarian, and Russian empires began patronizing various oppressed subject peoples of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, including the Armenians, Arabs, and Kurds, as part of their policy of dismantling that empire. Zionism in its modern form was simply one ideology cooked up in Europe to justify this imperialist land-grab. According to the cultist belief, European Jews had a God-given right to "Israel," despite the fact that Israel ceased existence in the first century A.D., and despite the fact that no Jews then lived there. The fact that the Ottoman Turkish province of Palestine ("Israel") contained a large Arab population that had resided in that province for 2,000 years, was ignored.

Following World War I, Britain and France carved up the Ottoman Empire. Britain seized control of Palestine, which it made into a "mandate" that it promised to the Zionists. The Zionists were then led by British intelligence official Chaim Weitzmann, later to become the first President of Israel.

Figure 1 shows the British mandate, and its proposed division by the U.N. in 1947.

Figure 2 shows present-day Israel, comprising the lands given to the Zionists by the U.N., additional lands seized following the creation of Israel in 1948, and the lands conquered in 1967 (except for the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt which has been returned). The latter Occupied Territories include the West Bank of Jordan, the Gaza Strip of Egypt, and the Golan Heights of Syria. The so-called "security zone" in Lebanon was seized in 1982.

Figure 3 shows "Eretz Israel" (Greater Israel), the so-called "Land of Israel" as conceived by most of the ruling Likud Party leadership. This territory includes the lands conquered since 1948, and also the entire state of Jordan. As recently as this spring, Housing Minister Ariel Sharon explicitly referred to Jordan as part of Eretz Israel.

FIGURE 1
Palestine according to the U.N. partition plan of 1947

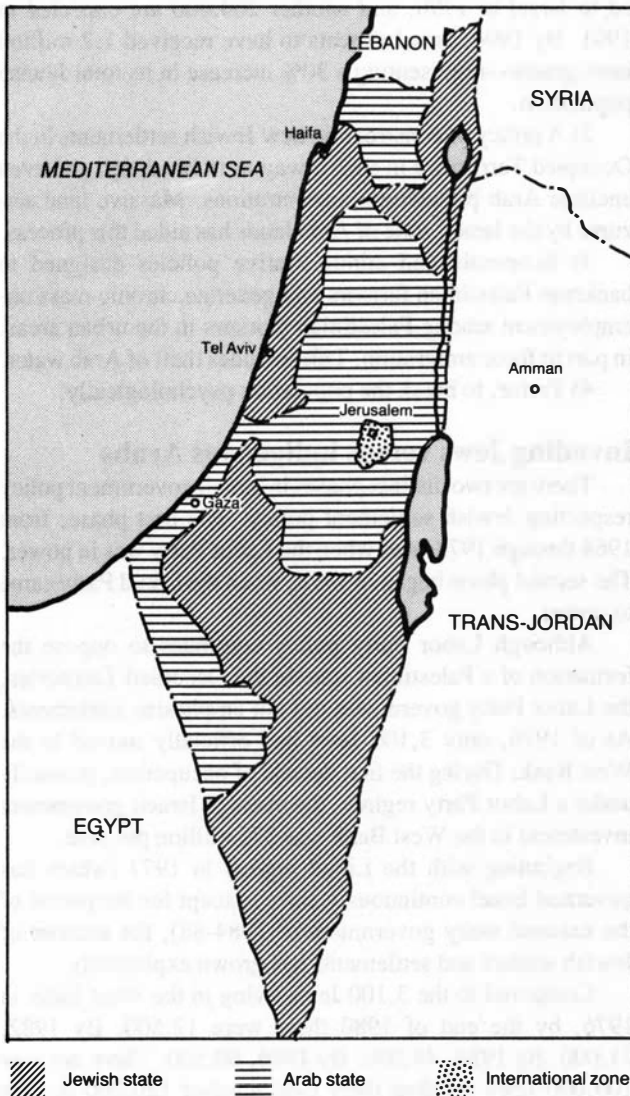
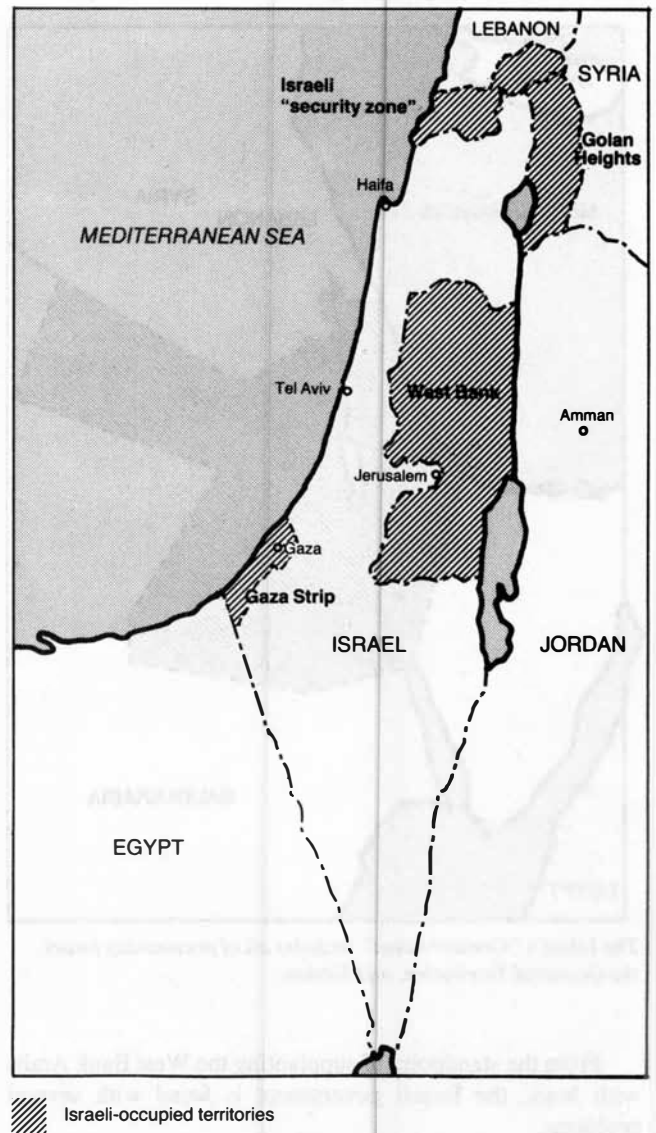


FIGURE 2
Israel and the Occupied Territories today



Yet even this expanded Jewish empire is not the limit of the Zionist imperialist ideal. The 1940s Stern Gang, which current Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir commanded, defined Eretz Israel as all the land between the Nile and the Tigris/Euphrates rivers—Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq, as well as Palestine. In some respects this vision may be realized. The war with Iraq eliminated the only regional military power which could check Israeli expansion.

Stealing the Occupied Territories

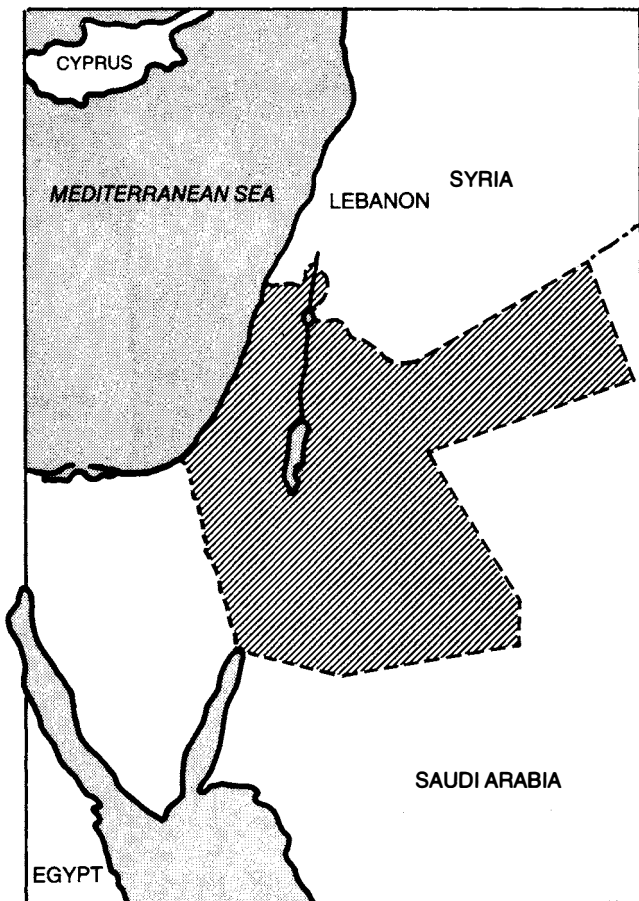
Since 1967, and especially since the Likud government came into power in 1978, Israeli policy has been to ensure that the lands that it conquered in the 1967 war would and

could never be returned. In this report, we will focus on the West Bank as exemplary of overall Israeli policy.

The West Bank, about 5,800 square kilometers in area, is the home of about 1 million Palestinians (not including East Jerusalem, which has been “annexed,” and which we deal with separately). The primary income source for about 35% of this Palestinian population is agriculture. The population resides in some 450 settlements, of which 25 are municipalities. The most important population centers are Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron. The overwhelming number of Palestinians in the West Bank live either along this Jenin-Hebron axis in the west, where all the best agricultural land is located.

FIGURE 3

'Eretz Israel' according to the Likud Party



The Likud's "Greater Israel" includes all of present-day Israel, the Occupied Territories, and Jordan.

From the standpoint of supplanting the West Bank Arabs with Jews, the Israeli government is faced with several problems.

In 1967, the West Bank population was approximately 590,000, all of whom were Arabs. The population lived in a concentrated urban and agricultural region, and had a high birth rate of over six children per couple.

The Jews, on the other hand, had a small population, only 2.3 million Jews in all of pre-1967 Israel, and had a low birth rate of about two children per family. Moreover, there was a marked tendency for Jewish emigration out of Israel, especially to the United States, which was not then counter-balanced by Jewish emigration from Europe and the U.S.S.R.

Since that time, the Israeli authorities have carried out a policy of population warfare which has had the following characteristics:

- 1) An invasion of Jews from pre-1967 Israel into the

Occupied Territories, combined with a massive increase in the emigration of Soviet Jews beginning in 1989. More than 220,000 Jews now live in the Occupied Territories of East Jerusalem and the West Bank; 200,000 Soviet Jews emigrated to Israel in 1990, and another 200,000 are expected in 1991. By 1994, Israel expects to have received 1.2 million immigrants—representing a 30% increase in its total Jewish population.

- 2) A policy of constructing new Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories in such a way as to break up, and even encircle Arab population concentrations. Massive land seizures by the Israeli state of Arab lands has aided this process.

- 3) Economic and administrative policies designed to bankrupt Palestinian farmers and generate chronic mass unemployment among Palestinian workers in the urban areas, in part to force emigration. This includes theft of Arab water.

- 4) Terror, to break the population psychologically.

Invading Jews versus indigenous Arabs

There are two distinct phases in Israeli government policy respecting Jewish settlement policy. The first phase, from 1968 through 1978, was when the Labor Party was in power. The second phase began in 1978, when the Likud Party came to power.

Although Labor Party policy continues to oppose the formation of a Palestinian state in the Occupied Territories, the Labor Party government did not emphasize settlements. As of 1976, only 3,100 Jews had officially moved to the West Bank. During the first decade of occupation, primarily under a Labor Party regime, the average Israeli government investment in the West Bank was \$75 million per year.

Beginning with the Likud regime in 1977 (which has governed Israel continuously since, except for the period of the national unity government of 1984-88), the number of Jewish settlers and settlements has grown explosively.

Compared to the 3,100 Jews living in the West Bank in 1976, by the end of 1980 there were 12,500. By 1982, 21,000. By 1984, 44,000. By 1986, 60,500. There are now 100,000 Jews residing there (and another 120,000 in East Jerusalem).

The average government investment in the West Bank in the second decade of occupation was \$1.7 billion per year.

Current Israeli government policy is to increase the Jewish population of the West Bank another 100,000 by 1994.

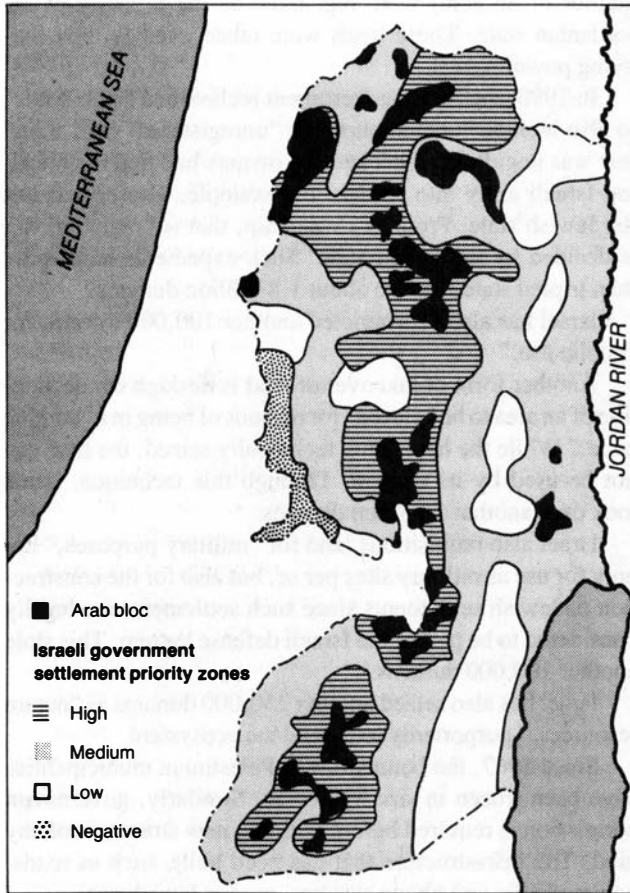
There were 34 settlements on the West Bank at the end of the Labor Party regime in 1976. There are now 200.

Palestinian 'bantustans'

Figure 4 was prepared by the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture and the settlement department of the World Zionist Organization (WZO) in April 1983. The map indicates the Jewish settlement priorities within the region. The map also shows the existing areas of Palestinian population concentration. The plan envisioned the construction of 164 new settlements

FIGURE 4

Israel's official Jewish settlement policy



The Israeli government's official settlement policy in the occupied West Bank, 1983-86. The map shows the deliberate plan to ring areas of Arab population concentration with Jewish settlements, turning the Arab communities into isolated "bantustans," as in South Africa. The plan has essentially been implemented.

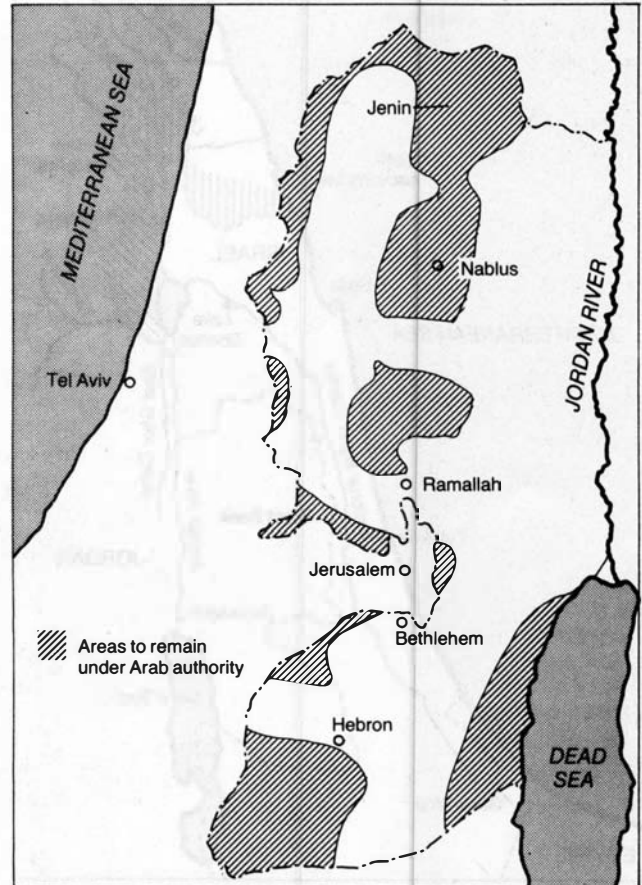
and a network of roads linking the "priority zone" settlements which bypassed Arab population centers. Eighty percent of the settlements and 50% of the roads have been constructed. According to the plan, all water and natural resources in the priority zones would be monopolized by the settlers.

The intent of the policy is indicated by Figure 5, which shows then-Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's 1981 notion of what portion of the West Bank might eventually be subject to Palestinian "autonomy." As can be seen, the Palestinian population will be fragmented into half a dozen "bantustans."

The planning reflected in Figure 4 is intended to create the conditions whereby there is no contiguous strip of Arab land which could become even one "bantustan," let alone a state. This concept was explicitly stated by Mattiyahu Droblless, the head of the WZO settlement department, which prepared the map. As early as 1978, Droblless, in motivating

FIGURE 5

Ariel Sharon's 1981 'Palestinian autonomy' plan



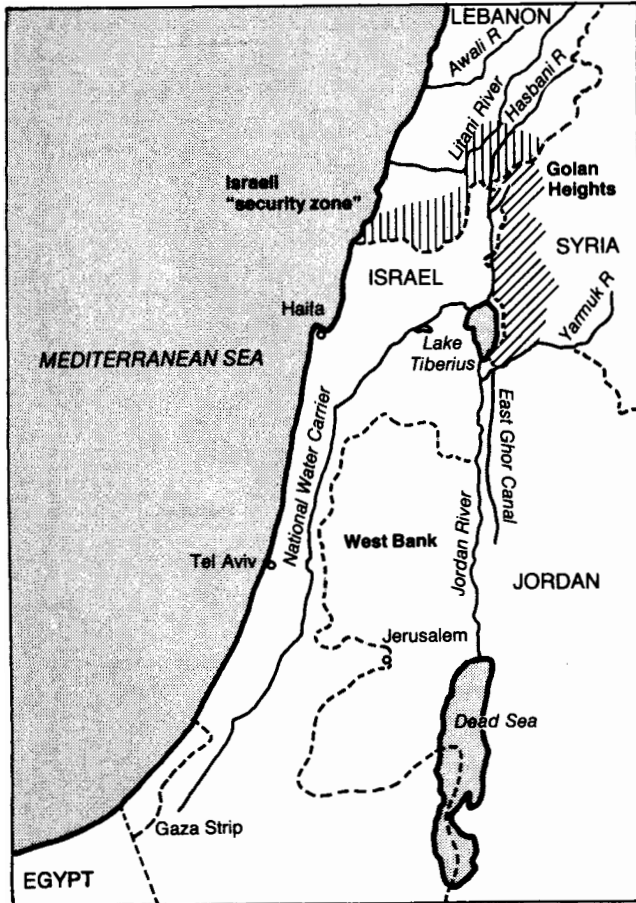
Sharon's "autonomy" plan fragments the Palestinian population, making any concept of a Palestinian state meaningless.

the plan, stated: "There is to be not a shadow of doubt regarding our intention to remain in Judea and Samaria. A dense chain of settlements on the mountain ridge running southward from Nablus to Hebron will serve as a reliable barrier on the eastern front against Arab states. Both the areas between concentration of the minority population [i.e., the planned Arab minority] and the areas around them must be settled, to minimize the danger of the establishment of another Arab state in the region."

A central feature of this plan, not indicated on the maps, is the special case of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is the natural and historic capital of Palestine. "West" Jerusalem was seized by the Zionists in 1948. "East" Jerusalem, then the regional capital of the Jordanian-ruled West Bank, was seized in 1967. Shortly thereafter, Israel formally "annexed" East Jerusalem as forever unified, with Jerusalem as the "eternal

FIGURE 6

Water systems of Israel and the region



capital” of Israel. The rest of the West Bank remains “occupied” or, as the Israelis say, “administered,” and formally part of Israel.

Last spring, General Sharon announced plans to transform Jerusalem into a “megalopolis,” increasing its Jewish population from its present 360,000, to 1 million, while keeping its 135,000 Arab population static or reducing it. Already, 120,000 of this 360,000 Jewish population lives in East Jerusalem. A key feature of the plan is the rezoning of Jerusalem in such a way as to extend deep into the West Bank territories, breaking through the Jenin-Hebron Palestinian “front.”

Palestinian lands seized

In order to facilitate this occupation policy, the Israeli government has been seizing West Bank land outright.

Since 1967, some 52% of all land on the West Bank has been declared the property of the Israeli government or otherwise restricted from use by Arabs. There have been various techniques used.

One form of seizure was simply an Israeli takeover of former Jordanian government state lands. In 1967, some 525,000 dunams of West Bank land (a dunam is about a quarter of an acre) were registered as the property of the Jordanian state. These lands were taken over by the occupying power, Israel.

In 1980, the Israeli government reclassified “state lands” to also include “uncultivated” or “unregistered” land. Land that was uncultivated because its owners had fled the invading Israeli army into Jordan, for example, also reverted to the Jewish state. Proof of ownership, that is “registration,” is decided by the Israeli state. Such expedients have more than tripled state lands to about 1.8 million dunams.

Israel has also expropriated another 100,000 dunams for “public use.”

Another form of takeover of land is through the declaration of an area to be “closed” for reasons of being in a “combat zone.” While the land is not technically seized, the land can not be used by its owners. Through this technique, Israel took over another 1 million dunams.

Israel also requisitions land for “military purposes,” not only for use as military sites per se, but also for the construction of Jewish settlements since such settlements are legally considered to be part of the Israeli defense system. This stole another 100,000 dunams.

Israel has also seized another 250,000 dunams as “nature resources,” purportedly to defend the ecosystem.

Since 1967, the boundaries of Palestinian municipalities have been frozen in size by decree. Similarly, government permission is required before building new structures of any kind. The infrastructure that has been built, such as roads, power plants, and phone systems, are for Jewish use.

Stealing water from Arab mouths

The most outrageous example of Zionist expansionist policy is shown in water policy. One of the major reasons for the Israeli invasion of Arab lands is not merely to seize land, but also to seize water.

Like most states in the Mideast, Israel faces a serious water deficit. In 1990, Israel had an annual water deficit of some 500 million cubic meters. The Israeli government estimates it faces an annual deficit of 2.2 billion cubic meters of water by the year 2000.

The Israeli government remains opposed to a long-standing project which would cut a canal from the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea, and use that canal not only for transportation but also as a source of desalinated water for agricultural purposes. It is opposed to other water development plans.

The Zionist state is also opposed to water development by its neighbors. According to Jordan’s former Prime Minister Mudar Badwan, Israel successfully sabotaged a dam project which had been authorized by the World Bank on the Yarmuk River (see **Figure 6**), which would have tapped 250 million cubic meters of water annually for Syrian and Jordanian use.

Since Israel is opposed to water development, its only alternative to its looming water shortage is further conquest, along the lines indicated by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's vision of "Eretz Israel," the land between the Nile and Tigris/Euphrates rivers.

Figure 6 depicts the main sources of surface water of Israel and of the general region, and the way Israel has positioned itself, through conquest, to steal the region's water.

In Lebanon, the Awali River is not yet under Israeli control, but a section of the Litani River now is. All Zionist definitions of Eretz Israel as far back as the 1920s include both rivers within it. The reason is the need for water. According to reports, the Israeli government has been secretly constructing an underground piping system to transport waters from the Litani River to Israel.

The 1967 Israel war against the Arabs had the following results as pertains to the Jordan River system.

The source of the Jordan River system, the main river system in the immediate area of Israel, rises in Syria's Golan Heights. By occupying the Golan Heights, Israel now controls the Jordan River at its source.

From there, the Jordan River flows south into Lake Tiberius. Further south, the Yarmuk River, which rises in Syria and Jordan, flows west into the Jordan River just south of Lake Tiberius.

Through their seizure of the Golan Heights, the Israelis also control the entire length of the Jordan River, on both sides, from its source all the way down to where the Yarmuk flows into the Jordan. Earlier, they merely controlled one side of the river, at best.

The cease-fire lines also allowed the Israelis to control half of the length of the Yarmuk River, through its control of the Golan Heights, rather than the mere 10 kilometers of the river which it controlled prior to that war.

The 1967 war also led to the occupation of the West Bank of the Jordan, giving Israel access to a large section of the Jordan River which had been entirely within the borders of the nation of Jordan previously.

Taking advantage of these land seizures, Israel siphons off 100 million of cubic meters annually from the Yarmuk River for its use. Additionally, Israel takes all of the water flowing from the Jordan River into Lake Tiberius, through its National Water Carrier system (see Figure 6).

By the time the nation of Jordan gets access to the Yarmuk River, the supply is much diminished. By the time Jordan gets access to the Jordan River, south of the Yarmuk, the Jordan is a trickle and so salty—due to excessive water diversion by the Israelis north of Lake Tiberius—that it has no agricultural value.

Moreover, by seizing the West Bank land, Israel acquired access for the first time to the large West Bank aquifer under that land.

Currently, 40% of the water used within pre-1967 Israeli borders is met by piping water from the aquifer underneath

the West Bank. Another large, and ever increasing amount of water for Jewish settlers on the West Bank is taken from the same source. In 1982, Defense Minister Sharon annexed the aquifer, placing it administratively under the Israel water authority, and out of the hands of the civil administration. In other words, whereas some land may be given back to the Palestinians in the form of a bantustan, the water system underneath the land is forever part of Eretz Israel.

Terror

Terror against the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories is the state policy of Israel. This has been particularly the case since the beginning of the "Intifada," the generally peaceful "uprising" by the Palestinians against their Israeli occupiers. Data gathered by the Arab Studies Center of Jerusalem from Dec. 9, 1987, when the Intifada began, through June 30, 1991, show a continuing pattern of genocide.

In that period, the Israeli police and military killed 956 Palestinians, of whom 247 were children under 16 years of age. Most were shot for such offenses as throwing rocks; often they were shot in the back while fleeing. During the same period, an estimated 113,500 Palestinians were injured—almost one-tenth of the Arab population in the Occupied Territories.

In addition to shootings, the Israelis carry out forms of punishment proscribed by international law, which represent another form of terrorism.

For example, at least 15,000 Palestinians have been subject to "administrative detention" since 1967. To be detained means that one is confined without charges, without the right to trial, without any specified term of confinement, and possibly without the knowledge of one's family.

Uprooting trees is another common form of punishment, especially because of its dire economic effects. Since 1987, the Israelis have uprooted 110,000 trees as a form of punishment for families whose relatives have been caught throwing rocks or related offenses. Most Palestinian farm products are orchard grown.

Similarly, the Israelis have demolished or sealed 1,950 Palestinian homes.

Another method of terror is the imposition of curfews. Since 1987, the Israeli authorities have imposed over 10,000 curfew days on towns and cities in the Occupied Territories. This excludes the period from Jan. 16-Feb. 25, the period of the Gulf war, when all Palestinians were restricted to their homes under blanket curfews. During the war, protein consumption in some towns in the Occupied Territories dropped by an estimated 80%. Since no one could leave their homes to work, there was no money to buy food during the two hours a day that the Israelis allowed women on the streets to shop. New administrative regulations enacted during that period which restrict employment by West Bank Palestinians within pre-1967 Israel, have led to an increase in unemployment to 50%.