

A New Palestinian Political Economy: Surviving Israeli Occupation, Settler Colonialism, and Ethnic Cleansing

KEY MESSAGES 1 - Tectonic shifts in the landscape of the Israeli-Palestinian struggle

We are now in a new era. What Palestinians, Israelis, and the international community do next is crucial for peace and justice between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

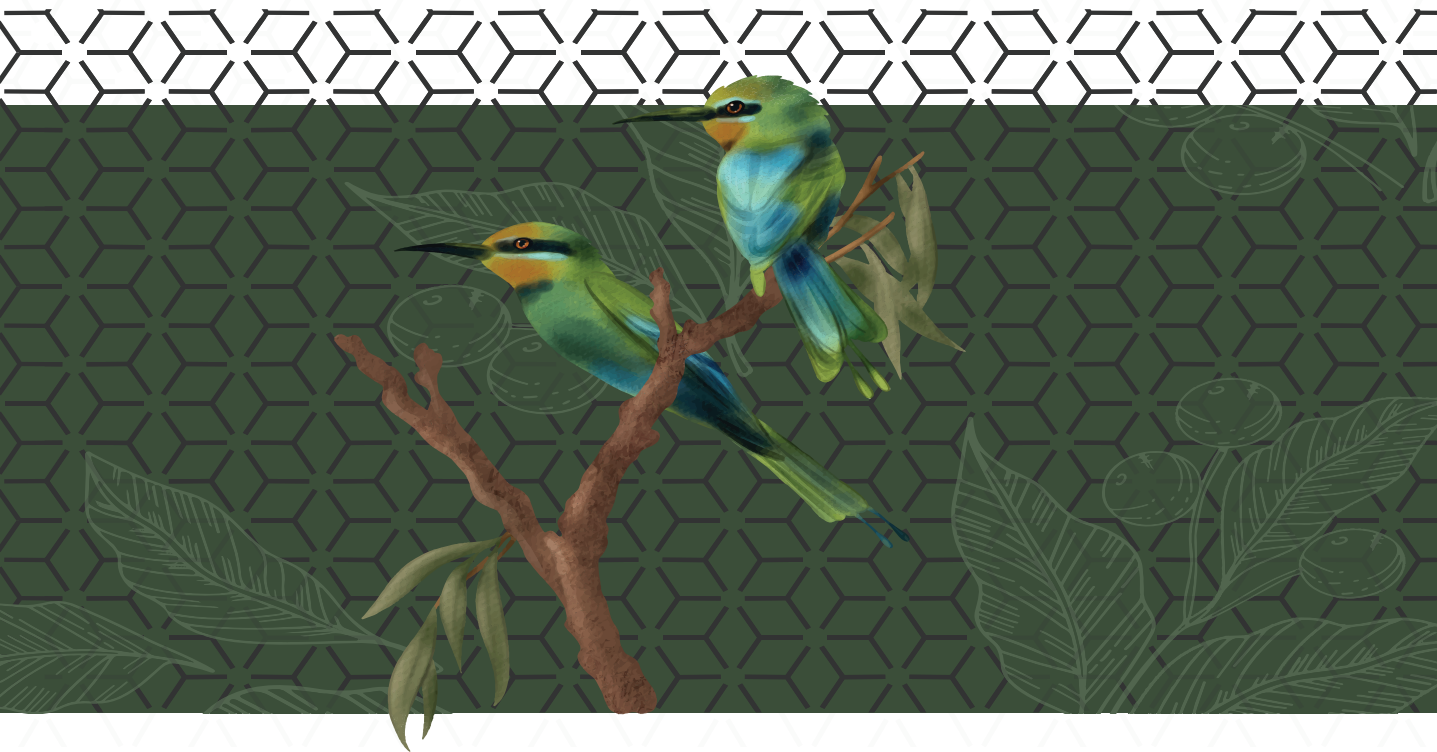
In the Gaza Strip. Since October 2023, Israel has waged a catastrophic war resulting in immense human, economic, social, environmental, and geopolitical costs.

A war against all Palestinians. Israel has accelerated military violence and settler expansion in the West Bank, and more aggressive policing against Palestinians inside the “green line”.

This is a crossroads. We cannot go back to a situation of “business as usual”.

The current war has led to the collapse of past assumptions, particularly the viability of a two-state solution and non-sovereign Palestinian self-government.

The stakes are high. Palestinians demand an end to occupation and oppression, and for national rights. Israel insists on exclusive sovereignty and differential rights for Jews between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.



We need to be clear about Israel and its goals. Zionism is a movement whose key goal is to institute and enforce differential rights for Jews between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea – and beyond, to any lands Israel can control. It is not just a movement for national self-determination, otherwise the two-state solution could have been implemented decades ago.

There are four possible scenarios

1. *Sudden Shock:* A wholesale ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people by Israel through making the Gaza Strip specifically and the West Bank unliveable for Palestinians, so eliminating the “Question of Palestine” from the international agenda.
2. *Protracted Regression:* Low-level generalized violence and attrition of both sides, with no victors and no defeated. Leading to internal strife, the further fragmentation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip into Bantustans with separate power relations and development trajectories. Sparking further growth of grassroots voices calling for the re-orientation of Palestinian national goals towards non-partition and equal rights in one state.
3. *Baseline Recovery:* Low-level generalized violence and attrition of both sides, with no victors and no defeated. A new version of the pre-2023 status quo of no war, no peace. Separate West Bank and Gaza Strip governance arrangements, including a weakened Palestinian National Authority. No political change in Israel towards a peace process.
4. *Emergence Trajectory:* A combination of Palestinian direct power through resistance and national unity, influencing the global and regional policy agenda and longer-term shifts in Israeli and global perceptions. Pushing Israel to cede land for peace, imposing international law, and ensuring equal national rights and justice for Palestine (opposite to current aims of national-religious Zionism).

Essential next steps. A new political strategy for Palestinian national self-determination.