

THE TRUMP DEAL'S APARTHEID MAP



Commentary

The map is entirely based on the <u>source document</u> attached to Trump's 'Deal of the Century' Plan. The lack of details in the original does not allow to understand the full impact of the proposed plan. It obscures crucial elements and the oversized Tunnel-Bridge symbols hide what is underneath. This has called for sensible interpretation based on field trips and knowledge of the reality on the ground.

The Bantustan project

- The map shows that Israel's project, fully reflected in the Trump administration's 'Peace to Prosperity' plan, negates Palestinian statehood: it is the creation of isolated enclaves, ghettos or Bantustans, a structure invented by the South African apartheid regime to relegate the Black population into unsustainable, segregated areas.
- It violates basic principles of international law, such as the prohibition of annexation of territory
 by force and the right to self-determination and reinforces Israel's illegal apartheid regime.
- The fragmentation of Palestinians visible in the map is a divide and rule strategy: The Gaza Strip
 will stay isolated, the annexation of the E1 area (east of Jerusalem) will divide the northern and
 southern West Bank. This reinforces the annexation and demographic engineering in Jerusalem in
 favour of Jewish settlers.
- Most of the annexed areas are of strategic geopolitical importance to guarantee Israel de facto sovereignty over all of Mandate Palestine and its resources.

De facto/de jure annexation:

- After the de jure annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights and Jerusalem in the early 80s, Israel refrained from de jure annexation but measures of de facto annexation have continued.
- The entire settlement project as well as the rules and regulations that de facto treat Palestinian occupied territory as Israel's sovereign territory are such measures. The International Court of Justice in its verdict confirming the illegality of the Wall stated that "The Court considers that the construction of the wall and its associated régime create a "fait accompli" on the ground that could become permanent, in which case, and notwithstanding the formal characterization of the wall by Israel, it would be tantamount to de facto annexation."
- The passing of a law of annexation, would only heighten existing international responsibility.



The apartheid Wall and roads

- Israel's apartheid Wall is a fundamental part of the plan.
- The Wall has always been a measure of de facto annexation. Where the proposed boundaries of annexation are overlapping with the wall's path, the wall has already created the reality of annexation. Where the plans of annexation go further into the West Bank (see in particular the villages in Northwest Jerusalem, east of Jerusalem in the E1 area and in western Ramallah district), it is a fundamental tool to hem in larger Palestinian population centers in an isolated 'noman's land' to avoid any possibility of integration into the Israeli state that annexes them. Eventually, the population is to be forced out of these areas.
- The Plan's transportation system, based on tunnels and bridges to keep Palestinian segregated
 further develops the existing apartheid road system. Palestinians travelling from Ramallah to
 Nablus have to pass through Salfit (through an underpass), apparently in order to avoid their
 passage through the Shilo settlement bloc to be annexed. The same logic applies to the
 connections between Nablus and Qalkilya/Tulkarm or between Hebron and destinations in the
 central West Bank.
- The annexation of the area west of Road n.446 (Modiin-Ariel) and south of Road n.45 (Modiin-Jerusalem) despite the large Palestinian population there, shows Israel is determined to seize key strategic land areas and transportation lines, irrespective of the Palestinian inhabitants.

Displacement / the ongoing Nakba

- Around 75 Palestinian villages, Bedouin and Semi-Bedouin communities with roughly 118000 inhabitants are located in the areas to be annexed according to the Trump plan. These people are already suffering annexation measures, preparing for de jure annexation. This includes the ban on construction and the non-recognition of entire communities that has resulted in over the last 10 years in 4906 structures being demolished by Israel (displacing 6921 people) in Area C and 1226 demolitions (displacing 2003 people); measures of isolation and a permit system to access and reside on the land; denial of access to natural resources.
- The future status of Palestinians living in these areas remains unclear but the Israeli government
 insists they will neither be given Israeli citizenship, nor a 'permanent residency' status as given to
 Palestinians in East Jerusalem but will remain under full Israeli security control. Israeli apartheid
 will continue to treat Palestinians as non-citizens while treating illegal Israeli settlers as citizens in
 an area over which it has expanded full legal control.



Social, economic and cultural destruction

The prevention of social, economic and cultural development is another element of the international crime of apartheid, reinforced by the annexation policies and plans.

- Denial of access to water: Major water resources are situated in the areas that would be annexed according to the Trump plan; 60% of the West Bank's water resources are located in the Jordan Valley, 90% of its spring water is located in the Jordan Valley. Today Palestinians have to buy 80% of the water they consume from Israel's national water company, Mekorot at high prices. The de jure annexation would entrench this dependency.
- The annexation of all of the Dead Sea would allow Israel to further exploit the minerals from the sea, leading to more environmental destruction.
- Destruction of agriculture: Almost 50 thousand hectares of arable land are in the areas to be annexed. The lack of access to water would not allow the cultivation of lands even in the remaining areas.
- Almost all the land for animal husbandry (Jordan Valley, east of Jerusalem, south of Hebron) will be annexed.
- Fragmentation through Jewish-only roads, settlements, the apartheid Wall and the Green Line gives Israel absolute control over the movement of goods and people.
- The destruction of farming, animal husbandry predominantly carried out by Bedouin communities
 and the impossibility of trade will further damage Palestinian social, economic and cultural
 structures. Israel would be the ultimate beneficiary of the destruction of the Palestinian economy in
 the West Bank as Palestinians would be completely dependent on its economy.

Compensation areas

- The concept of 'land swaps' under occupation <u>infringes international law</u>, among others because
 they imply the recognition of the illegal settlements, which the international community has a duty
 to refrain from.
- Beyond this, the areas south of the Hebron district and those close to Gaza are desert areas.
- The 'Southern Triangle' area in the Galilee (Kafr Qara' villages, Baqa al-Gharbiya, Ar`rah, Umm al-Fahm, Al-Tibbiya, Al-Tirah, Qalansuwa, Kafr Bara, Kafr Qasim, Jaljuliya), with a population of approximately 260 thousand Palestinian citizens of Israel is supposed to be part of the 'Palestinian State'. Seven decades of dispossession have <u>deprived these villages</u> of most of their land and their transfer to the Bantustans essentially follows the racialized demographic logic of Israel to control as much land as possible with as few Palestinians as possible.