

John Kerry's Absurd Charade Will Accomplish Nothing

Today the Israeli state continues to occupy Palestine and suppress the people. Flying in the face of world wide opinion, Israel refuses to withdraw its troops and continues to demolish Palestinian homes and to uproot people from Jerusalem and throughout the West Bank. Israeli military rule still prevails throughout Palestine. The aggressive Israeli state is fully supported by U.S. imperialism, which arms it and provides it with billions of dollars in aid.

Under such conditions U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's repeated suggestion that he could be seen as an opponent of Israeli expansionism is worthy of the utmost contempt. Kerry hopes to use this sham to give currency to "final status" negotiations carried out behind closed doors and without the consent of the Palestinian people.

Already – wearing the chauvinist facade of paternalistic "friend" to the Palestinians – John Kerry has repeatedly used the forum of "peace talks" to insist that "good Palestinians" must prove themselves, not only by pledging allegiance to "moderation" and Western values (i.e. renouncing resistance) but also by helping to suppress the just struggles of the people, including for an end to Israeli military occupation, the removal of Israeli settlements from Arab east Jerusalem as well as from the West Bank, and the return of these lands to the Palestinian people. As in the past, Kerry continues to condemn Palestinian resistance as "terrorist" while endorsing Israeli occupation and genocide.

None of Kerry's gimmicks will do a thing to alter the stand of the overwhelming majority of the world's people who firmly support the restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to their own independent state in their historic homeland. Already peoples and leaders throughout the Middle East and the world are denouncing the cynical maneuvering of U.S. imperialism and are making preparations for stepped up struggle against U.S.-Israeli aggression.

The creation of a genuinely independent Palestinian state, organized according to the will of the Palestinian

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Palestinian Landscape Rapidly Changing – Two Structures Demolished Every Twenty Four Hours

These days it is the official state policy of Israel to demand remuneration from Palestinians after demolishing their homes. In recent months Israel has dramatically stepped up the number of demolitions undertaken by its forces. According to the "United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs," from January to June, 630 people were ejected from their homes as a result of Israel's destruction of 344 structures in Arab east Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Such moves by the Israeli government are a blatant violation of the Palestinian people's rights, and a clear indication that the state of Israel is determined to keep escalating its war against the Palestinian people and annexation of Palestinian territory. In occupied Palestine and throughout the world, people are denouncing these latest crimes.

The extent and ferocity of Israel's demolition program also show clearly the real significance of the U.S.-sponsored Middle-East "peace" process. Today, Obama and U.S. imperialism are again talking about "negotiations" and trying to

present themselves as "neutral peacemakers." But these are only empty words designed to divert the attention of the peoples from the fact that Israeli Zionism is nothing but the creature of U.S. imperialism and that it is U.S. imperialism which is waging war against Palestine.

After declaring Palestine the "second front in the war on terrorism," U.S. imperialism has advertised the "peace" process far and wide, even while it has worked feverishly to 1) expand its direct military presence in the region; 2) strengthen its alliances with various reactionary Arab regimes; and 3) further consolidate the positions of its "strategic ally," the expansionist state of Israel. Over the last few years, U.S. imperialism has pre-positioned numerous tactical units equipped with heavy armor and supported by advanced fighter aircraft in the region, while permanently maintaining an armada of warships in the Gulf. The U.S. has signed new military pacts and alliances with several Arab regimes and repeatedly staged joint war games and "training exercises" with these regimes. The U.S.

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Engels on the State

The following material is excerpted from Frederick Engels' classic work, "The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State." This book was originally published in 1884.

The state is therefore by no means a power imposed on society from without; just as little is it "the reality of the moral idea," "the image and the reality of reason," as Hegel maintains. Rather, it is a product of society at a particular stage of development; it is the admission that this society has involved itself in insoluble self-contradiction and is cleft into irreconcilable antagonisms which it is powerless to exorcise. But in order that these antagonisms, classes with conflicting economic interests, shall not consume themselves and society in fruitless struggle, a power, apparently standing above society, has become necessary to moderate the conflict and keep it within the bounds of "order"; and this power, arisen out of society, but placing itself above it and

increasingly alienating itself from it, is the state. . . .

The second distinguishing characteristic [of the state] is the institution of a public force which is no longer immediately identical with the people's own organization of themselves as an armed power. This special public force is needed because a self-acting armed organization of the people has become impossible since their cleavage into classes. The slaves also belong to the population; as against the 365,000 slaves, the 90,000 Athenian citizens constitute only a privileged class. The people's army of the Athenian democracy confronted the slaves as an aristocratic public force, and kept them in check; but to keep the citizens in check as well, a police-force was needed, as described above. This public force exists in every state; it consists not merely of armed men, but also of the material appendages,

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The State

prisons and coercive institutions of all kinds, of which gentile society knew nothing. It may be very insignificant, practically negligible, in societies with still undeveloped class antagonisms and living in remote areas, as at times and in places in the United States of America. But it becomes stronger in proportion as the class antagonisms within the state become sharper and as adjoining states grow larger and more populous. It is enough to look at Europe today, where class struggle and rivalry in conquest have brought the public power to a pitch that it threatens to devour the whole of society and even the state itself.

In order to maintain this public power, contributions from the state citizens are necessary – taxes. These were completely unknown to gentile society. We know more than enough about them today. With advancing civilization, even taxes are not sufficient; the state draws drafts on the future, contracts loans, state debts. Our old Europe can tell a tale about these, too.

In possession of the public power and the right of taxation, the officials now present themselves as organs of society standing above society. The free, willing respect accorded to the organs of the gentile constitution is not enough for them, even if they could have it. Representatives of a power which estranges them from society, they have to be given prestige by means of special decrees, which invest them with a peculiar sanctity and inviolability. The lowest police officer of the civilized state has more "authority" than all the organs of gentile society put together; but the mightiest prince and the greatest statesman or general of civilization might envy the humblest of the gentile chiefs

the unforced and unquestioned respect accorded to him. For the one stands in the midst of society; the other is forced to pose as something outside and above it.

As the state arose from the need to keep class antagonisms in check, but also arose in the thick of the fight between the classes, it is normally the state of the most powerful, economically ruling class, which by its means becomes also the politically ruling class, and so acquires new means of holding down and exploiting the oppressed class. The ancient state was, above all, the state of the slave-owners for holding down the slaves, just as the feudal state was the organ of the nobility for holding down the peasant serfs and bondsmen, and the modern representative state is the instrument for exploiting wage-labor by capital. . . .

The highest form of the state, the democratic republic, which in our modern social conditions becomes more and more an unavoidable necessity and is the form of state in which alone the last decisive battle between proletariat and bourgeoisie can be fought out – the democratic republic no longer officially recognizes differences of property. Wealth here employs its power indirectly, but all the more surely. It does this in two ways: by plain corruption of officials, of which America is the classic example, and by an alliance between the government and the stock exchange, which is effected all the more easily the higher the state debt mounts and the more the joint-stock companies concentrate in their hands not only transport but also production itself, and themselves have their own center in the stock exchange. . . .

The possessing class rules directly

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by means of universal suffrage. As long as the oppressed class – in our case, therefore, the proletariat – is not yet ripe for its self-liberation, so long will it, in its majority, recognize the existing order of society as the only possible one and remain politically the tail of the capitalist class, its extreme left wing. But in the measure in which it matures towards its self-emancipation, in the same measure it constitutes itself as its own party and votes for its own representatives, not those of the capitalists. Universal suffrage is thus the gauge of the maturity of the working class. It cannot and never will be anything more in the modern state; but that is enough. On the day when the thermometer of universal suffrage shows boiling-point among the workers, they as well as the capitalists will know where they stand.

The state, therefore, has not existed from all eternity. There have been societies which managed without it, which had no notion of the state or state power. At a definite stage of economic development, which necessarily involved the cleavage of society into classes, the state became a necessity because of this cleavage. We are now rapidly approaching a stage in the development of production at which the existence of these classes has not only ceased to be a necessity, but becomes a positive hindrance to production. They will fall as inevitably as they once arose. The state inevitably falls with them. The society which organizes production anew on the basis of free and equal association of the producers will put the whole state machinery where it will then belong – into the museum of antiquities, next to the spinning wheel and the bronze ax.

Palestine

has continued to provide Israel with billions in military assistance, including advanced aircraft and missile systems, and to support its occupation of Palestinian and Arab land.

At the same time, U.S. imperialism has labelled anyone and everyone who opposes its "peace" initiatives – that is, who opposes U.S. domination of the region – as "rogues" and "terrorists." For the Palestinian people, the widely advertised "autonomy" amounts to nothing more than apartheid-like Bantustan conditions. The Palestinians remain under the political domination and military rule of Israeli zionism, denied their inalienable national right to their own sovereign state.

The Middle East, with its vast oil reserves and strategic location, remains

one of the most prized parts of U.S. imperialism's world empire. By continuing to support the expansionist state of Israel, U.S. imperialism is creating new tragedies and great dangers for the people.

The American people must not be disarmed by imperialist pacifism and empty promises. Rather, we must work to support the just demands and struggles of the Arab peoples. A genuine and lasting peace can only come to the region when U.S. imperialism, as well as all the imperialist powers, are forced out of the region, when Israel ends its aggression against the peoples and its occupation of southern Lebanon and Syria's Golan Heights, and when the Palestinian people win their sovereignty and national independence.

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people alone and without any foreign interference, is a historic task to which all of humanity is demanding a solution. The right to self-determination, independence and liberation is an inherent right that belongs to the Palestinian people by virtue of their humanity; it is not a privilege to be "bestowed or denied" on the whims of U.S. imperialism.

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