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## **‘Zionisation’ and its consequences.**

This week the world marked the second anniversary of the momentous events of 7 October 2023. Who could have imagined but two years ago that on this date the Israelis’ daily aggressions against the Palestinians of Gaza would enter their third year? I recall well the shock exactly a month later, when the Gaza Health Ministry reported that the death toll among Palestinians had reached 10,000. Who thought it would now approach 70,000 by the ministry’s very conservative count, and well more than 200,000 if we extrapolate from a figure published in the summer of 2024 in *The Lancet*, the British medical journal?

Who thought two years ago that apartheid Israel, condemnable as its conduct has long been, could now be justly compared with the Reich, and its atrocities against Palestinians with the Holocaust? How many of us knew then what numerous polls have since shown—that the majority of Israeli Jews are through-and-through racists who fully support the extermination of the Palestinian population not only in Gaza but also in the West Bank? That Israel is a deeply pathological nation?

Nearly coincident with this grim anniversary, Israel agreed in the early hours of Thursday formally to commit to a “peace plan” Bibi Netanyahu and Donald Trump made public at the White House on 29 September. If the historical record is any guide, Hamas will hold to the terms of this accord and the Zionist state will betray them. And if this proves dreadfully so, this third year of Israeli terror will go on as the past two have. The terrible continuity of Israel’s conduct, the terrible consistency of it.

The daring incursion of Palestinian militias into southern Israel in the early hours of 7 October 2023 was not the beginning of anything. All was not well on 6 October 2023, the incessant misrepresentations we find in Zionist-controlled media notwithstanding. The Israelis’ oppression of Palestinian populations was seven and some decades long by that morning—longer depending on how one reads history. What has ensued is a “war” only to Israel’s apologists. It is, by very

clear legal and scholarly criteria, a genocide. These two years differ from all of those before them only in the degree and visibility of their savagery and the numbers of the dead.

But two years on, the events of 7 October now suggest themselves as the end of something. Turning our thoughts back upon ourselves, who understood, in the autumn of 2023, the devastating impact the Israelis' terror spree would have on the Western post-democracies? Even a brief survey of the wreckage of these past two years imposes other questions. Has the Zionist state destroyed the West as it was until that fateful morning? Will the Atlantic world, which was in serious decline well before 7 October, ever come back from this?

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It was clear even in the early months of the Israelis' terror campaign in Gaza that those who purport to lead the collective West would drag their populations into a state of abject moral depravity. Two factors ruled. The geopolitics of the Atlantic alliance's support for "the Jewish state" had been evident more or less since the State of Israel was founded in 1948. On the underside of the policy considerations, the Israelis have over many years bought and paid for the loyalty of the West's leadership elites, so consolidating their material and political support and their diplomatic cover. This, too, was known. But there were two post-7 October discoveries to be made.

One, not even the Israeli military's daily rampages of murder and destruction, reported and videoed in real time, have proven enough to break these allegiances. No, the major Western powers, the United States in the lead, went swiftly from supporting a genocide to full, and I would say criminal complicity in it. This goes beyond even the most craven pre-7 October displays of Western servitude to the Zionist cause, of which there are countless many.

Two—and this was a revelation to many—Americans and Europeans have suddenly been confronted with the bitter reality that the political institutions intended to give them democratic voice render them silent. As their governments finance, supply, and arm the Israelis' annihilation campaign against Palestinians, the post-democracies' citizens have been forced to accept their own complicity in the Israelis' crimes. People who thought they were citizens, to turn this point another way, discover they are in effect subjects.

The decay and corruption of Western institutions is nothing like a new story, and there are many ways to explain it that have nothing to do with Israel. But the post-7 October years confront us with the shocking extent to which Zionists, especially but not only in the United States, have systematically infiltrated these institutions by way of incessant propaganda (*hasbara*, as the Israelis call it), grotesquely powerful lobbies, money and coercion, and intelligence operations. “Zionization” is our newest noun. It is our frightening new reality.

This is evident now far beyond the counsels of government and the courts in Washington and the European capitals. Anti-democratic Zionist influence is rampant in American and European universities, media, and cultural institutions of many varieties. With popular support for the Zionist cause collapsing across the West, especially among young people, Israel has now begun an extensive effort to exert yet more control not only over the corporate press and broadcasters but also over social media such as Tik Tok and “X.” Free speech and other civil and democratic rights are under dangerous attack on both sides of the Atlantic.

As perniciously as all this, the Israel lobbies and the Zionist *hasbara* machine have sought to define criticism of Israel as a form of anti-Semitism at least since 2005, when an organization called the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia published a corrupted definition of this term after intensive and coercive lobbying by various Jewish organizations, among them the American Jewish Committee and the European Jewish Congress. This definition is not yet universally recognized by governments, universities, and other such institutions, but it is headed swiftly in that direction. The implications here should be obvious. I wrote about this phenomenon in *The Floutist* last July. The headline atop that column was “[Darkness descending](#).”

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I have been struck in recent days by the vast demonstrations in European cities—London, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Genoa, Rome, Athens, and so on—in support of the much-remarked aid flotillas sailing the Mediterranean toward Gaza’s shores and altogether in support of the Palestinian cause. While you do not see protests of this size in America—the American consciousness is more atomized, privatized, and quiescent—in my reckoning sympathies among Americans for the plight of Palestinians are comparably animated.

What do we witness here?

I am not a demographer or any kind of political poll-taker, but what seem to be growing majorities on both sides of the Atlantic are stirred by a number of post-7 October realities. Citizens in the post-democracies are faced daily not only with the unspeakable suffering of Palestinians. They are also confronted with the creeping Zionisation of their societies and, concomitantly, the utter indifference of corrupted elites who have deprived them of their morality and their humanity. Such a turn as this is bound to have enduring consequences.

I come to my point about the lasting impact of the 7 October events. The Zionists' depravities and the West's official participation in them have broken open an incipient breach in the post-democracies between the governing and the governed, or—better put—the ruling and the ruled. This is not altogether a bad thing. Many illusions shatter as we speak. The necessity of resistance becomes more evident, and along with it the necessity to act.

In the best outcome, the Zionist state has indeed destroyed the West as it was before 7 October 2023. This is no bad thing, either. A space opens—you can see it in the streets and squares of Amsterdam and Rome—for the making of something new.

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