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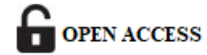


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THE BEGINNING OF THE END

A Comparison Between the Apartheid (South Africa Vs. Israeli Occupation)

Mohamed Buheji

Founder, Socioeconomic Institute for Advanced Studies (SIAS), Rwanda

Aamir Hasan

Advocate, India

ABSTRACT

This paper compares the systemic practices of apartheid South Africa and Israeli occupation. The authors leverage the perceived similarities between Israeli policies in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and apartheid-era South Africa to foster global empathy for Gaza and Palestine. By synthesising the deeply reviewed literature, a list of the different forms of institutionalized oppression and segregation from both historical and contemporary examples is set in a table.

The authors then examine the mechanisms and the consequences of the apartheid practices on affected populations and the possibility of extending this to Gaza. The study aims to understand the time framework that such apartheid practices would bring more international solidarity and empathetic commitment towards ending the Israeli occupation. Therefore, this work is meant to resonate through creating new sustained waves of social justice that would help to inspire solidarity among the oppressed population of Palestine and stop possible spreading such regime into Gaza. It also heralds the beginning of the end of the occupation regime, taking an analogy of the apartheid in South Africa previously.

Keywords: Apartheid South Africa, Israeli Occupation, Palestine, Gaza, Global Empathy, Institutional Segregation, Human Rights.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Apartheid is the system which means the superiority of one class of minority foreign settlers' people over the majority of local people. It can be stated as a homogenized system of suppression and supremacy by one ethnic group over the other. It constitutes an enormous violation of human rights, which is barred in international law. (Amnesty International, 2022).

According to Article 1 of the international convention held in 1965 on termination of racial discrimination, racial discrimination means based on colour, ethnicity, nationality or race, any sort of distinction which annul the equality of freedom social, economic, cultural or political life. The word 'Apartheid' means separation in the Afrikaans language. The word was often used in South Africa between 1948 and 1994 for racial discrimination. Apartheid is a fusion of ethnic brutality, separation and deprivation. The origin of Apartheid is dominion. Europeans have used apartheid practices for a long to take advantage of the local population in countries where they ruled.

South Africa and Israel are examples of countries using a modern approach to the apartheid regime with a history of using tactics such as captivity and restricting the mobility of the people. Israel has been executing the Apartheid policies used by South Africa just as the Africans used the reservation policies of Canada. However, now Apartheid is considered a crime against humanity, and it violates the international law adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1973. The definition of Apartheid, as per the approved international convention, focuses on the suppression and punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

Apartheid practices include denying members of the racial group the right to liberty, work, form trade unions, education, to leave and return to the country, freedom to give an opinion, peaceful assembly, and to move and reside anywhere in the country. The difference between the Apartheid practices followed in South Africa and the occupied territories of Palestine is that South African Apartheid is based on the colour of skin, while Israeli Apartheid targets a particular community, such as Muslims or Arabs. (UN, 1973).

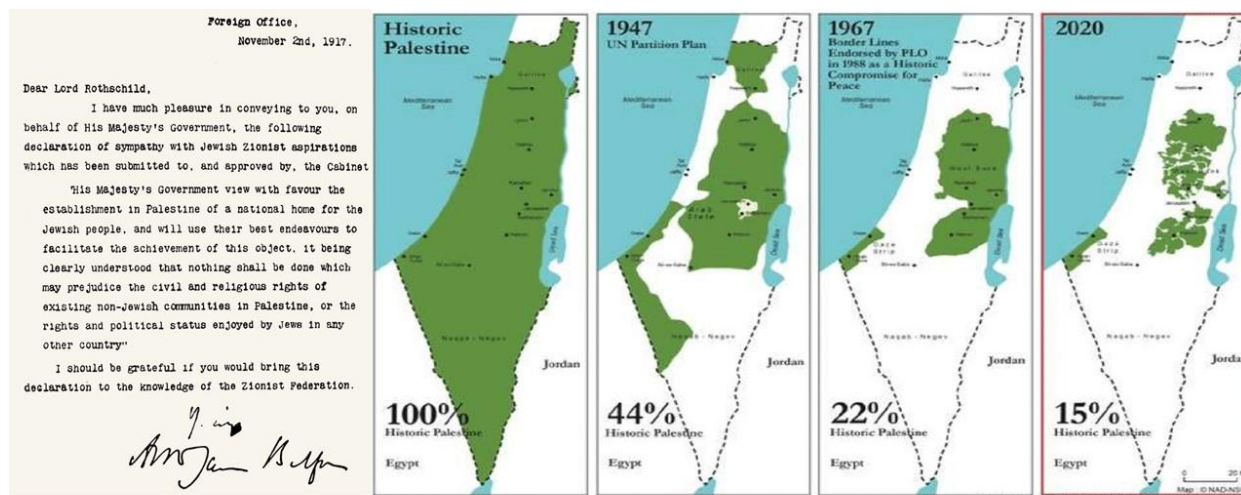
2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Brief History of Occupation of Palestine

It has been more than 100 years since the occupation of Palestine, which started with the occupation of the British, followed by the Balfour Declaration on (November 2, 1917) which had a statement of British support for "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people." Followed by the large exodus of Jews to Palestine. This led to the gradual formation of the State of Israel in 1948. This state worked to force the citizens of Israel to live prosperous where the Palestinians were deprived of their lands, the basis of life and many were forced to migrate or become refugees of neighbouring countries. Those who stayed became citizens living under consistent agony, and some with extreme conditions of poverty where international agencies support their living.

While Israel today is a United Nations member, it never followed any of the United Nation's declarations in relevance to Palestinians' rights, (UN, 2024). Actually, the 1967 six-day war as a result of the United Nations partition plan saw a huge territorial loss to Palestine. On the grounds of the Apartheid system, Israel imposed further racial discrimination on Palestinians by constructing walls, and restricting the movement of goods and Palestinian people by establishing military barricading.

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1917 Territorial space of Palestinians declined due to the United Kingdom official support to Israel occupation and to the recent USA support since **October 2023**

Figure (1) Showing the Loss of the Palestinian Land and the Segregation of Palestinians in the Green Areas

Source: PSC Disappearing Palestine Maps (2008) and (2020)

<https://palestinecampaign.org/resources/factsheets/psc-disappearing-palestine-maps-2008/>

<https://palestinecampaign.org/events/balfour-declaration-100-years-betrayal-palestinian-people/palestine-map-balfour-nakba-occupation/>

2.2. Realising the 'Israeli Apartheid'

The term "Israeli Apartheid" is used by some critics to describe the situation between Israel and the Palestinians. This comparison draws on the apartheid system that existed in South Africa until the early 1990s, which was characterized by racial segregation and discrimination against the native Black South African population by the ruling White South African government. In the context of Israel and the Palestinians, the term is used to highlight policies and practices that these critics argue establish and maintain a regime of systematic discrimination and segregation based on ethnicity to the detriment of Palestinians.

One of the main characteristics of the Israeli Apartheid' is its focus on territorial fragmentation. For example, the West Bank is divided by a series of checkpoints, barriers, and the separation wall, which restrict the movement of Palestinians. Critics argue this fragmentation is akin to the "Bantustans" of Apartheid South Africa, where black South Africans were confined to specific areas.

The other approach used in Israeli Apartheid is legal discrimination, which is based on the assertion that Israel operates two legal systems in the West Bank: military law for Palestinians and civil law for Israeli settlers. This dual legal system is seen as a form of institutionalized discrimination.

Critics point to differences in rights and legal status between Jewish citizens of Israel, including settlers in the West Bank, and Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They argue that such differences are part of a broader system of ethnic discrimination.

Israeli settlements in the West Bank are other forms of cited examples of discriminatory land use. These settlements are considered illegal under international law. The expansion of settlements and related infrastructure (such as roads that Palestinians are not allowed to use) are causing an appropriation of Palestinians' land and resources.

Restrictions on the movement of Palestinians in the West Bank, through checkpoints and the separation barrier, is another part of the consistent segregation and control reminiscent policies of the Israeli Apartheid.

2.3. Israel's Denial of being an Apartheid regime

Israel, despite its historical support for the previous South African apartheid regime, always denied the term "Israeli Apartheid", arguing that the situation is fundamentally different from Apartheid South Africa, primarily because the conflict is nationalistic and territorial rather than racial. They point to the Arab citizens of Israel, having the same legal rights as Jewish citizens, including the right to vote and be elected to the Israeli parliament, as evidence against the apartheid analogy.

2.4. How is Israel using Apartheid tactics on Gaza specifically?

Israel's practices in Gaza, similar to the wider Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) have drawn intense scrutiny and criticism, with numerous human rights organizations and experts drawing parallels to apartheid systems. These practices include systemic discrimination, segregation, and policies aimed at controlling and oppressing the Palestinian population.

Amnesty International (2022) highlights the deep discrimination embedded within Israel's policies towards Palestinians, including home demolitions, forced evictions, and a legal and political system designed to privilege Jewish Israelis at the expense of Palestinians. The organization points to Israel's strategies of fragmentation, dispossession, segregation, and economic deprivation as central to maintaining this system of oppression.

Human Rights Watch's analysis underlines that the crime of Apartheid involves three primary elements: an intent to maintain domination by one racial group over another, systematic oppression by one racial group over another, and inhumane acts carried out pursuant to these policies. It notes that Israeli policies towards Palestinians, including forcible transfer, expropriation of land, and creation of separate reserves, fit within these criteria, Human Rights Watch (2021).

The United Nations has also voiced concern, with a UN expert on human rights stating that Israel's 55-year occupation of Palestinian territories constitutes Apartheid. The expert described a dual legal and political system privileging Israeli settlers over Palestinians, severe restrictions on Palestinian movement and access to resources, and the intentional engineering of demographic and geographic realities to maintain Jewish Israeli domination over Palestinians. UN (2022)

These reports and findings suggest a concerted effort by the international community is necessary to address and dismantle these apartheid-like practices. They call for global recognition of these issues and the implementation of accountability measures to end the occupation and ensure equal rights and dignity for all individuals in the region.

2.5. Sample of the Daily Hardship due to the "Apartheid Roads"

"Apartheid roads" is a term used to describe a network of roads in the West Bank of Palestine that serve the Israeli settlers, often at the expense of Palestinian mobility and access. These roads are part of the infrastructure that supports Israeli settlements in the West Bank, which are considered illegal under international law, though Israel disputes this. In apartheid-era South Africa, the term "apartheid roads" did not specifically refer to a set of roads as it does in the context of the West Bank today. Instead, Apartheid in South Africa was characterized by comprehensive segregation in all public spaces, including roads, but more prominently in residential areas, public transportation, education, and healthcare facilities, based on racial classification.

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However, the concept of separate infrastructure, which could metaphorically be extended to include "apartheid roads," was indeed a reality in South Africa under Apartheid. The apartheid policies manifested spatial segregation through what is called the Group Areas Act of 1950. This Act was one of the cornerstones of Apartheid. It led to the forced removal of non-white South Africans from their homes to designated racial areas. This Act, among others, created physically segregated spaces, which naturally led to segregated infrastructure, including roads that served different racial groups. Buheji, and Mushimiyimana (2023a).

While not exclusively about roads, apartheid policies severely restricted the movement of black South Africans. Pass laws required non-white South Africans to carry passbooks and obtain permission to travel outside their designated areas or work in white areas. These restrictions inherently affected how and where individuals could travel, including the use of roads and public transportation systems. Even the infrastructure development during Apartheid was highly unequal, with the best resources, including road networks, being allocated to white neighbourhoods. Non-white areas, particularly in the Bantustans (homelands) and townships, were often neglected and underdeveloped, affecting everything from road quality to access to essential services.

The segregation in public facilities extended to buses, trains, beaches, parks, and even pedestrian sidewalks in some areas, dictated by racial classifications. While roads per se were not labelled "for whites only" or "for non-whites only," the broader transportation and infrastructure systems were deeply impacted by Apartheid's segregative policies.

Meanwhile, roads and transportation also played roles in the resistance against Apartheid. Notably, the 1953 protest against bus fare increases in the Alexandra township and the 1976 Soweto Uprising, which began as a march against the imposition of Afrikaans in schools, saw significant movements and clashes occurring on the streets and roads of South Africa.

The so-called 'apartheid road' system was invented first in the West Bank to facilitate the easy and secure movement of Israeli settlers between the West Bank settlements and Israel, while restricting Palestinian access to these roads. Palestinians often must use alternative, longer routes to travel between different parts of the West Bank, significantly impacting their mobility.

The road network for settlers is complemented by a series of checkpoints and physical barriers that further restrict Palestinian movement. Palestinians may need special permits to use certain roads or cross-checkpoints, which can be difficult to obtain. This system contributes to the fragmentation of Palestinian territories, making travel and economic activities more challenging.

The road network, along with the associated checkpoints and barriers, effectively divides Palestinian communities from each other. It limits access to agricultural lands, schools, healthcare facilities, and workplaces, undermining the social and economic life of Palestinian communities. The existence of these roads and the restrictions placed on Palestinians have raised significant legal and human rights concerns. Critics argue that the system amounts to racial segregation and violates Palestinians' right to freedom of movement, equality, and access to services. International bodies and human rights organizations have criticized the road system as part of a broader critique of Israeli policies in the occupied territories.

The Israeli government justifies the road network and the restrictions on Palestinian movement as necessary for the security of Israeli settlers and citizens. Israel argues that these measures are needed to prevent attacks and ensure the safety of its citizens living in and travelling to the West Bank settlements. However, the international community, including the United Nations, has expressed concern over the impact of the road system on the rights and livelihoods of Palestinians. The road network is often cited as an example of policies contributing to the ongoing conflict and undermining the prospects for a two-state solution.

2.6. Solidarity of Post-Apartheid South Africa with a Free Palestine

South Africa's unique history with Apartheid has led it to a position of solidarity with Palestinians, recognizing similar forms of segregation and oppression. This perspective has even led South Africa to approach the International Court of Justice (ICJ) under the Genocide Convention regarding acts committed by Israel in its conflict in Gaza, highlighting a shared experience of systemic injustice and the importance of international solidarity.

The comparison between the Israeli military actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the South African apartheid regime's treatment of black South Africans reveals both similarities and differences, particularly in the context of systematic oppression and the use of military force.

In Apartheid South Africa, the regime implemented policies of racial segregation and discrimination against the majority black population, controlling them through various means, including legislation and law enforcement, rather than regular military strikes. The apartheid government used its security forces to enforce segregation, suppress dissent, and maintain control, often leading to violence, such as the Sharpeville Massacre in 1960 and the Soweto Uprising in 1976. These actions were part of a broader system of institutionalized racial discrimination designed to maintain white minority rule over the black majority, Pillar (2011).



Figure (2) Illustrates the sharing of the Pain of the Palestinians by the South African due to experiencing Apartheid regimes.

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On the other hand, in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Israel's military actions, including airstrikes, ground operations, and the enforcement of movement restrictions through checkpoints and the separation barrier, are often justified by Israel as security measures against terrorism. These actions are part of a complex conflict characterized by territorial disputes, national security concerns, and cycles of violence and retaliation. Observers have noted that the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories shares elements of systematic oppression with Apartheid, such as the control over and segregation of a population based on ethnicity, leading to significant disparities in rights and access to resources, White (2013), IMEU (2013).

While the South African apartheid regime did not typically use regular military strikes against its black population in the same way that has been observed in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, both systems have been characterized by the systematic oppression of a group based on ethnicity or race. In the case of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, this has involved significant military actions and a complex system of control over the Palestinian population, which has drawn international criticism and comparisons to Apartheid.

It's important to note that the historical and geopolitical contexts of apartheid South Africa and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are distinct, and the term "apartheid" carries specific legal and historical connotations. The comparison often focuses on the broader concept of systematic oppression and segregation rather than a direct equivalence of policies and actions.

2.7. Palestinians treated as cohort menace to Israel

The Israeli state was formed in 1948, and since then, it has promoted the policy of creating and conserving a Jewish majority state and expanding control over land and assets for the upliftment of the Jewish community and damaging the Palestinians. Israel has always treated Palestinians as a cohort menace and has taken drastic steps to command and reduce the presence of Palestinians and deny the Palestinians the ingress of the land in the Palestinian-occupied territories. The objective of Israel is to Judaize the Palestinian-occupied territories, forcing ethnic cleansing of Palestinians. Amnesty International (2022).

To overcome the Palestinian threat, Israel applied the 'Law of Return' in 1950, where the Israeli parliament or the Knesset allowed all the Jews in the world, irrespective of their current residence, to be entitled to citizenship of Israel. The Apartheid in South Africa also brought the same type of Act where they brought Act in 1913; the blacks would not be able to purchase land outside the notified areas. The white population would hold 87 per cent of the total land available, Natives Land Act (1913).

The Apartheid South African regime continued to bring different laws and regulations, seeing the blacks as a menace to them. Also, the Urban Areas Act of 1923 regulated the properties the Blacks could have in urban areas and which property they could rent (Britannica). The Population Registration Act followed in 1950 categorized the entire South African population, either whites and blacks or Bantu. It demarcated the commercial and residential establishments for Bantu or black and whites. As a result, the blacks could not enter the areas meant for whites (Britannica).

2.8. Similarity between South African Apartheid and Israel Apartheid

2.8.1. Introduction South African & Israeli Apartheid Similarities

Israel was created in 1948, and at the same time, apartheid policies were implemented in South Africa. The military alliance was created between Israel and South Africa in the 1960s, resulting in the 1967 Israel war. In the 1970s, both Israel and South Africa collaborated to form nuclear weapons. (IMEU, 2013).

Israel and South Africa are identified with the political debarring of suppressed people and the economic superiority of the occupied people. Both the National Congress of Africa in South Africa and the Palestinian Liberation Organization in Palestine were not armed militants, but both nurtured the anti-apartheid movement through their campaign, Schock (2005). After the Intifada, labour became the pioneer in the anti-apartheid movement in Palestine, similar to the lines of South African Apartheid, where labour was instrumental in the anti-apartheid movement, Dajani (1994).

Israel wanted the Palestinian land only and not the people of Palestine; however, South Africa wanted both the land as well as the people of South Africa. The difference in the Palestinian case was the wars of 1948 and 1967. In the war of 1948, Palestinians were forced to flee from their homeland, however in the war of 1967, the Palestinians did not flee, which changed the demographic index of the occupied territories of Palestine, and its population continued to grow by more than 2.3% per annum, Farsakh (2005).

The policy of Israel to amalgamate its territory while separating the communities and allowing the resettlement of Israeli immigrants in occupied territories was in contradiction to the Geneva Convention, Geneva (1949). The anti-apartheid promoters did not choose the course of action at random. However, based on the political situations and the role of different players, the reformers organized their activities, making some strategies more viable than others, Meyer (1999). There would hardly be any risk involved while protesting against the apartheid regime if the government were more tolerant. If the government is less tolerant, then there are fewer chances of protest, and the protests would be violent if they happen. This was the case in the apartheid movement of South Africa after the Sharpsville Massacre of 1960, in which the paradigm changed from non-armed to armed struggle, but even both were useless, Zunes (1999).

Similarly this was the case after the first *Intifada* in 1987 in the Palestinian-occupied territories; after some period of peaceful protest, the Israeli army came heavily on the protesters; consequently, the popularity of Hamas began to grow. The proposed Palestinian autonomy by Israel is similar to the Bantustan policy of South Africa, through which the Bantus were allocated only 13% of the total land available.

2.8.2. Suppression without Boundaries

The wars of 1948 and 1967, started more focused militarization of Palestinian-occupied territories. Since then there has been a political and geographical separation of Palestinians who they are subjected to various degrees of intolerance based on where they live.

The ethnic distinction between Jews and Palestinians is seen all over Israel and Palestinian-occupied territories. The Palestinian origin citizens living in Israel are not given nationality as compared to Jews who are Israeli citizens by birth. In the Palestinian-occupied territories after the 1967 war, Israel has controlled the population registers, whereas the Palestinians are denied citizenship, and for the Palestinians to stay and work in the Palestinian-occupied territories, they require an identification card from the Israeli army. Palestinian refugees have been subjected to ethnic cleansing as they are denied access to return to their homeland. Amnesty International (2022)

On the other hand, the apartheid regime in South Africa managed to bring the Pass law, which made it mandatory for the blacks to carry identification papers. It restricted the blacks from entering the areas where whites lived. The Natives (abolition of Passes and co-ordination of Documents) Act 1952 ended the pass system, and it was changed to carrying reference books. (Britannica)

2.8.3. *Inferior Citizenship*

The Palestinians consist of about 19 per cent of the Israeli population but are subjected to various degrees of intolerance. Israel declared itself a Jewish state in 1948, promoting the construction of Jewish colonies and disregarding the Arabic language. Amnesty International (2022).

Since 1948, Israel has implemented the policy of Judaization of the Naqab region, such as militarization and expanding the Jewish colonies. Israel does not recognize many villages and consequently, there is no water and electricity in those villages. Their houses are repeatedly dismantled, and their rights to franchise have been denied. They have been denied primary healthcare and education rights, resulting in a large amount of exodus of the Palestinian Bedouins. Amnesty International (2022)

The Apartheid in South Africa a Group Areas Act, 1950 divided the country of South Africa into clusters based on race. Whites did forced displacement of blacks. The government of South Africa passed an order that District Six, a neighbourhood near Cape Town, would be a white population area; consequently, 60,000 people were relocated mainly outside the city. (Britannica)

2.8.4. *Exodus of Palestinians*

The Apartheid Convention forbids such measures which restrict the participation of a particular racial groups in the social and economic existence of a country. Since the formation of the state of Israel in 1948, the Israeli government has been allocating the houses of displaced Palestinians to the Jews, Don Peretz (1958). The taking over of the homes of a particular racial group has been considered as Apartheid under the apartheid convention. The government establishments have been selling the houses exclusively to the Jews. (Tanne, 1958). The Housing Ministry of Israel has also been selling homes to Jews only. (Ya'acov Friedler, 1986).

The exodus of Palestinians from the occupied territories of Palestine is an important feature of the apartheid system of Palestine. Destruction of the homes of Palestinians has been part of the policy of Israel since the formation of the state of Israel. The people living in the occupied territories of Palestine are not given the permit to construct the houses, and hence, their houses are demolished again and again as they are illegally constructed. (Amnesty International, 2022)

In the Apartheid South Africa, Sophia Town in Johannesburg and District Six in Cape Town were one or two places in South Africa where the non-whites could purchase land, however using Group Areas Act, the South African government forcibly separated the white and non-white communities. The administration used heavy machinery to destroy the homes of the blacks, and they were forced to far-off places from their place of employment. (Michigan State University, 2024)

2.8.5. *Higher Education Apartheid*

In Israel, the law says that it does not discriminate against students on the basis of sex, religion and race, but Israeli universities deny admission to Arab students (Zureik, 1996). At the same time, the South African apartheid government brought the Bantu Education Act of 1952, which restricted the education received by blacks. The black schools were given less money by the Department of Education. The percentage of teachers with teaching certificate was less in black schools (Stanford University, 2004)

2.8.6. Child Support Payments Apartheid

In Israel, only Jews are entitled to child support programs and not Arabs, which restricts the social and economic life of Arabs and is considered an act of apartheid convention.

In the South African apartheid government, the whites were given some sort of security of income, whereas the blacks were excluded under the State Maintenance Grant Act 1930, which was replaced by the Child Support Grant, Act of 1998 to provide income support to all irrespective of their race. (International Social Security Association, 1998)

2.8.7. Right to Franchise Apartheid

The apartheid convention restricts the debarring of one racial group from the franchise option (Apartheid Convention, supra note 12, article 2). All Jewish citizens who are living beyond the green line have the right to vote. However, the people living in the occupied territories of Palestine are not allowed to vote.



Figure (3) Illustrated the Length and the Way Israeli Separation Wall dividing the Palestinian Land and Territories.

Source: Al-Jazeera (2020)

<https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2020/7/8/in-pictures-israels-illegal-separation-wall-still-divides>

After the passing of South Africa Act in 1909 by the parliament of Britain, blacks were denied the right to vote. In 1994 blacks voted for the first time in the history of South Africa in more than 300 years. Newyork Times (1994)

2.8.8. Access Restricted Areas

In Israel, the buffer area was defined after the disengagement plan of 2005, where nothing could be constructed within 300 meters east and west of the Gaza Strip. The agricultural land covered under the Area Restricted Area (ARA) of Gaza is 35%, and 85% is the maritime land of Gaza. The restricted land area has been divided into three categories. Under the first category comes the land, which stretches to 100 meters where no movement is allowed. The second category of land stretches from 100 to 300 meters; in this land, the farmers are allowed to move on foot only. The third category of land extending from 300 meters to 1000 meters is the land with restricted use. The army can cut the plants and trees, reducing the visibility of the Israeli army. (Première Urgence Internationale, 2023)

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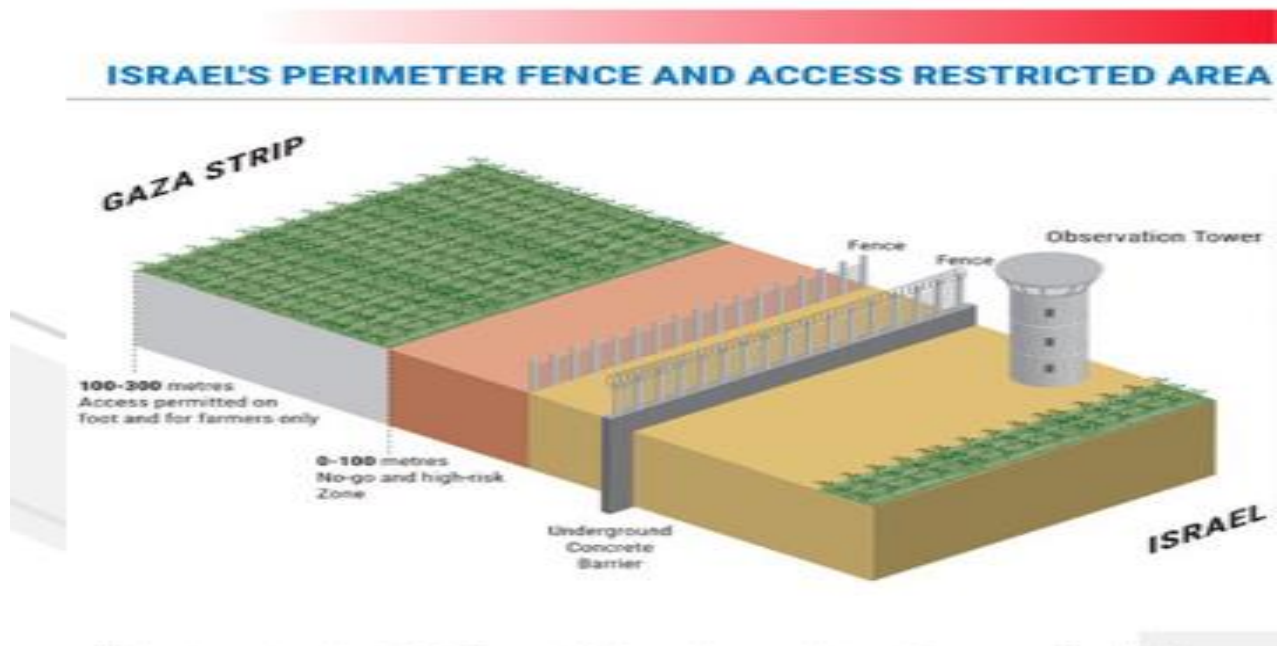


Figure (4) Schematic Diagram of the Israeli Fence towards Gaza

Source: Premiere-urgence (2023) The Impacts of The Enforcement of The Access Restricted Areas at Land And Sea In The Gaza Strip, April

<https://www.premiere-urgence.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Access-Restricted-Area-Study-EN.pdf>

2.8.9. Restricted Sea Areas Apartheid

The Israeli northern governorate allows fishing up to 6 nautical miles, and the southern and middle governorates allow fishing up to 15 nautical miles.

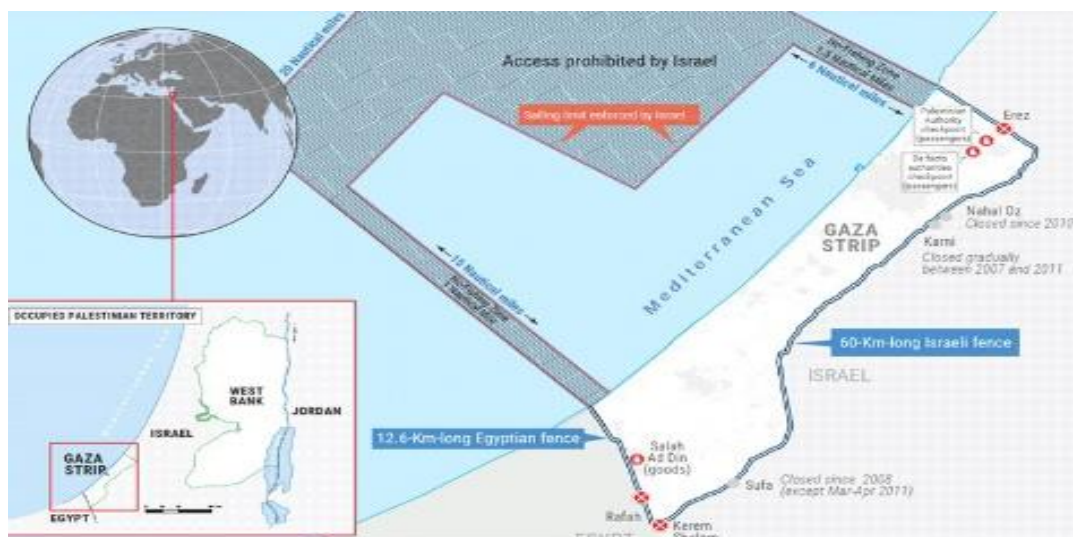


Figure (5) Schematic Diagram showing the limited access to the sea by the Apartheid Israel

Source: Premiere-urgence (2023) The Impacts of The Enforcement of The Access Restricted Areas at Land And Sea In The Gaza Strip, April

<https://www.premiere-urgence.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Access-Restricted-Area-Study-EN.pdf>

2.9. Oppressive Approaches to Restrain Movement Curtailment

2.9.1 Introduction to current Israeli Apartheid Approaches

Israel army uses military checkpoints, fences, walls and other methods to curtail the movement of Palestinians in the occupied territories of Palestine where the citizens require the specific consent of the Israeli authorities to travel within the city. Besides the Palestinians are not allowed to travel freely to Israel and to the other parts of the world. (Amnesty International, 2022)

The Apartheid government in South Africa brought what they called the Black Homelands Citizenship Act, 1970 stated that the blacks were not citizens of South Africa but only citizens of their charter. The villagers were not allowed to move out to urban areas to find the job but were confined to the villages where there were limited or no jobs. The prohibition of mixed marriage act was passed in 1949 which restricted the marriage between white and blacks. The blacks could not enter the public transportation system, churches, hospitals meant for whites. The blacks were banned from any protest or forming any political party. (Byju's)

2.9.2. Israel Looking for Huge Amount of Land with No Palestinians

The policy of the Israeli government has been to increase the strength of Jews, and hence, the practice of genocide and ethnic cleansing has been followed by the Israeli government to eliminate the Palestinian population.

The Palestinian struggle is an anti-colonial struggle,, whereas the South African apartheid movement was a civil rights movement, where whites should recognize the blacks, and they should be incorporated in the society along with the protection of their rights. The blacks could purchase or rent property in limited areas; the blacks who were living in the areas of the whites before the passing of the Land Act of 1913 continued to live there, which were called black spots, however after the passing of another act in 1939 the blacks were forcibly removed from the black spots and were moved to Bantustan. (South Africa History Online)

2.9.3. Economic Dependence of Occupied Territories of Palestine

From 1967 to 1983, the policy of the Israeli government was to restrict the investment in occupied territories of Palestine, thereby reducing the competition from Palestine and turning the occupied territories of Palestine into the dump house of Israeli products.

The Palestinians could not open or grow their business as it required a lot of licenses and permits. After invading Palestine in 1967, Israel ordered the closure of all banks in the occupied territories of Palestine and, later on, ordered the opening of two Arab banks under prohibitive conditions. (UNCTAD, 1989).

Only 15 to 20 per cent of the water originally produced in the occupied territories of Palestine was used by them; rest of the water was diverted to Israel, violating international law. (World Bank,1993a). The increase in water consumption of Israel after 1967 comes from the water of the Jordan River (Gleick,1994). The Palestinian population grew by 100 percent between 1967-1983; however consumption increased by 10 percent. This was very insignificant in comparison to the water consumption in Israel. (Elmusa, 1997). This water imbalance led to less water being allocated to the agricultural fields in the Palestine-occupied territories. (Kramer, 2008)

From 1994 to the present, the economy of the occupied territories of Palestine grew very sluggishly due to the unstable political environment after the signing of the Oslo Accords. Data on occupied territories of Palestine from 2021 indicates that per capita income has come to a standstill, the production capacity has been depleted, public debt is increasing, and unemployment is increasing. (World Bank, 2022c).

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The restrictive policies of Israel continued in the occupied territories of Palestine; they started building highways and bridges to connect the occupied territories of Palestine with Israel (Haaretz,2007). Israel took control of the natural resources of occupied territories of Palestine and restricted trade in occupied territories of Palestine and outside the occupied territories of Palestine. World Bank (2015).

Gaza's economy suffered heavy losses as well due to the war imposed by Israel (Rabbani,2014). The Paris Protocol, signed in 1994, proved costly to the occupied territories of Palestine as Israel regulated the customs and taxes and often breached the laws (Husseini and Khalidi,2013).

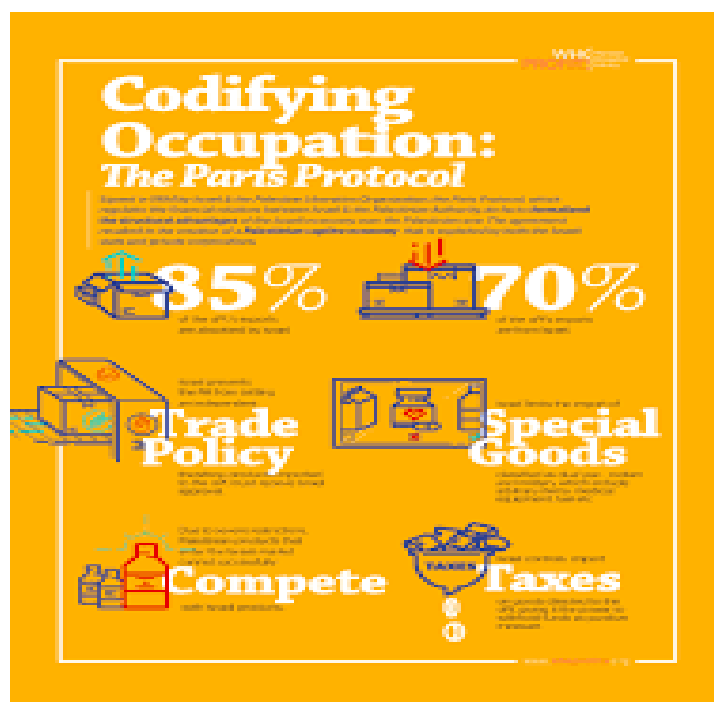


Figure (6) Other Types of Israeli Apartheid Practices that are Imposed on Palestinians

Source: <https://www.whoprofits.org/publications/report/21?codifying-occupation-the-paris-protocol>

Starting in 1890's the black labourers in Apartheid in South Africa were in surplus, especially in the mining sector, and hence, white labourers, fearing their jobs, started treating the black labourers badly; with the passage of the Pass law supply of black labourers in the white areas was reduced. During the Apartheid, the South African economy was very restricted, and trade between South Africa and other countries was very little. There was uneven distribution of wealth, education etc, as the black population was neglected and was not allowed to participate in mainstream economics. It was illegal for the Blacks to be in the area where whites lived for more than three days without any job. This led to grand Apartheid, where Blacks had restricted political and land rights. (South African Market Insights,2019)

2.9.3. How to Proceed Towards Destroying Apartheid

Apartheid policies of Israel today are more advanced than that of South Africa. The barbaric process of destroying houses and forced eviction should come to an end. The international community must enforce a complete arms ban, including weapons of mass destruction and bombs on Israel. The international community must impose sanctions on Israel and should freeze all its assets.

Following the ideologies of humanitarian and international laws, the Palestinians living in Israel and Palestinian-occupied territories must be granted the same rights as any other citizen. Besides, the Palestinian refugees must be allowed to return to their homes safely while stopping the ethnic cleansing. The way the international community looks towards the human rights issues in Israel and Palestinian-occupied territories should be changed. The Palestinians must be conferred the same rights as any other citizen, or else peace and security in Palestinian-occupied territories would be a remote distance (Amnesty International, 2022).

2.10. How was Apartheid used to create hunger and poverty in South Africans?

Apartheid in South Africa, which lasted from 1948 to the early 1990s, was a system of institutionalized racial segregation and discrimination enforced by the National Party government. This regime not only stripped non-white South Africans of their basic rights but also had profound and deliberate economic implications that exacerbated hunger and poverty among the majority black population.

The apartheid policies help to create this hunger by creating land dispossession and the Bantustans. Under Apartheid, the 1913 Land Act and subsequent legislation limited black South Africans to owning land within designated "homelands" or Bantustans, which constituted only about 13% of the country's land. This land was often the least fertile, undermining agricultural productivity and the ability to sustain livelihoods. Overcrowding and overuse of this land led to further degradation of the soil, exacerbating food insecurity.

Millions of black South Africans were forcibly removed from areas designated as "white-only" under apartheid laws. These forced removals often relocated communities to less fertile areas or to the overcrowded Bantustans, where it was difficult to engage in productive agriculture or find employment.

Apartheid's labour laws were designed to ensure a supply of cheap black labour for white-owned farms and industries. Black South Africans were often paid far below living wages, and the pass laws restricted their movement, limiting their ability to seek better employment opportunities. This economic exploitation directly contributed to poverty and hunger among black families.

The apartheid government invested significantly less in infrastructure and services (such as health, education, and housing) in black areas compared to white areas. This neglect meant that black South Africans had less access to the resources and opportunities necessary to improve their living conditions, perpetuating cycles of poverty and hunger.

Apartheid policies excluded black South Africans from participating in the broader economy beyond menial and low-paying jobs. Restrictions on education and skill development for black people meant limited access to well-paying or skilled employment, further entrenching economic disparities.

The apartheid regime's neglect of healthcare and sanitation services for black South Africans, combined with limited access to nutritious food, resulted in higher rates of malnutrition and preventable diseases within these communities. Children, in particular, were vulnerable to stunted growth and development due to inadequate nutrition.

The legacy of Apartheid's deliberate economic marginalization and discrimination has had long-lasting effects on South Africa. Even after its end, the country has continued to grapple with high levels of inequality, poverty, and unemployment, particularly among the black population. Efforts to redress these disparities and promote inclusive economic growth remain ongoing challenges for South Africa.

3. METHODOLOGY

Based on the synthesis of reviewed literature, the comparison between apartheid-era South Africa and the current situation in occupied Palestine (Israel) a table is drawn to summarise the similarities and differences of the apartheid practices of the two countries.

The authors then capitalise on the Israeli regime's apartheid practices to create a global empathetic movement for Gaza and Palestine. The authors then map the beginning of the end of the Israeli occupation, which is foresighted to come faster due to the sharp increase in apartheid policies and practices.

4. SYNTHESIS OF LITERATURE REVIEWED

4.1. Comparison Between Apartheid-Era South Africa and The Current Situation in Occupied Palestine (Israel)

The comparison between apartheid-era South Africa and the current situation in occupied Palestine reveals several parallels, as well as significant differences, rooted in their unique historical and geopolitical contexts.

Apartheid South Africa had different laws for different racial groups, leading to unequal access to justice. Similarly, in the occupied Palestinian territories, there are separate legal systems for Israeli settlers and Palestinians, creating disparities in legal rights and protections, Radar Africa (2023).

Just as the apartheid regime controlled the movement of Black South Africans with a passbook system, Palestinians face checkpoints, roadblocks, and barriers that restrict their movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Both Apartheid South Africa and Israel have policies that resulted in the displacement of people from their ancestral lands—Black South Africans were confined to townships, and Palestinians have been displaced due to settlement expansions. In both contexts, segregated education systems perpetuated inequality, and discriminatory laws reinforced segregation—apartheid South Africa had the Group Areas Act, while Israel had the Nation-State Law. Also, the suppression of dissent and the use of violence against civilians have been features of both regimes.

Table (1) Illustrates the Authors' developed Comparative Study using the framework of the ItsApartheid Organsiation

	South Africa	Israel
Apartheid Laws	South African Apartheid was divided into petty and grand apartheid laws	Palestinians live today in colour-coded zones or colour-coded people where the Israeli Parliament designs laws according to a situation or the type of government control.
Bantustans	South Africa divided the country into 10 Bantustans, where the blacks would reside and could hold only 13% of the total land available. They would lose their voting and citizenship rights.	Besides the besiege of Gaza, the Israeli regime divided the West Bank into 12 zones. In the occupied territories of Palestine, the land is being used for the construction of the wall and the Palestinian construction is destroyed to make way for Israeli soldiers and settlement.

	South Africa	Israel
Racial/Religious differences	Whites/Blacks (Its Christian vs. Christians, i.e. the racial difference)	Jews/Palestinians (It Jews vs. Muslims, i.e. religious difference)
Land Control	According to the Group Areas Act 1950, the blacks were confined to Bantustans, which was the most horrible part of the country. The blacks would be driven out of the areas reserved for whites.	In Israel, the Palestinians have access to only 8% of the land. Before the creation of Israel, Palestinians held about 90% of the land, but in the present circumstances Palestinians are almost landless having access to less than 3% of the total land. In Israel there is complete demarcation where the Palestinians would stay and their children would go to separate schools, and the Palestinian-occupied territories have been divided into 12 zones.
Ethnic Cleansing	With the creation of Bantustans blacks would live in separate neighborhoods and would not be allowed to enter the areas where whites live.	During the war of 1947, more than seven lacs, which is about 60% of the total Palestinian population and more than 500 villages were destroyed; as a result, Palestinians had to flee Palestine, which is in violation of the humanitarian laws, the Palestinian refugees have still not been able to return home
Control of Movement	The passes were issued, and if blacks were found outside the Bantustan without the passes, they could be arrested.	In the Palestine-occupied territories, there are more than 600 checkpoints, walls, separate roads, separate license numbers, and ID cards, for Palestinians. Palestinians would not be able to travel without permits.
Land Appropriation	The blacks were to live in separate Bantustans and would have to evacuate the area where whites lived.	The best areas in Israel and Palestinian-occupied territories would be meant for Jews to stay and the Palestinians would be evacuated whenever Israel has to make Jewish settlement.
Criminal offences	Blacks could be arrested without passes and would be detained without trial.	Palestinians can be detained for six months without trial, which can be extended.
Labour	In South Africa's Apartheid the black labourers were exploited	Under Israeli Apartheid if the Palestinians would want to work in Israel, they would need specific permits. The Palestinians

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	South Africa	Israel
		would be paid lower salaries as compared to Israelis.
Citizenship	According to the Black homeland act 1970, the blacks would not be the citizens of South Africa.	Palestinians living in Israel have different citizenship rights than the Jews. Israel grants citizenship to anyone who is a Jew.
Apartheid Roads	In apartheid-era South Africa, the term "apartheid roads" did not specifically; instead, Apartheid in South Africa was characterized by comprehensive segregation in all public spaces, including roads, but more prominently in residential areas, public transportation, education, and healthcare facilities, based on racial classification.	Separate roads are there for Jews and Palestinians in the Palestinian-occupied territories. The Palestinians are made to travel on muddy roads.
Militarization		The Palestinians in the Palestine-occupied territories are subjected to army strikes on a regular basis.

Note Source: Developed by the Authors after following the format of <http://www.itsapartheid.org>

From the comparison in Table (1), one could conclude that the consistent and huge takeover of the land and property of the Palestinians, mass killing, massive transfer, confined movement as well as not granting citizenship to the Palestinians would constitute Apartheid under humanitarian and international law. According to both the Rome Statue and Apartheid Convention, it would be considered as unlawful against humanity, Amnesty International (2022)

5. DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

5.1. Capitalising Israeli Regime Apartheid Practice to Create Global Empathetic Movement for Gaza and Palestine

To use the similarity between Israeli practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the apartheid regime of South Africa to enhance empathy towards Gaza and Palestine, one can focus on education, advocacy, and the promotion of dialogue.

We can share documentaries, books, and articles that draw parallels between Apartheid South Africa and the situation in Palestine. Highlight personal stories of Palestinians living under occupation to humanize the conflict and make it more relatable. Also, we organize or participate in public speaking events, seminars, and webinars where experts can discuss the similarities between the two regimes. Focus on the human rights implications and the everyday lives of people affected by these policies. Another alternative Use of social media platforms is to spread awareness about the situation in Palestine and how it mirrors Apartheid. Use hashtags, infographics, and short videos to reach a wider audience.

The Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement aims to end international support for Israel's oppression of Palestinians and pressure Israel to comply with international law. Drawing parallels with the successful anti-apartheid movement in South Africa can galvanize support for BDS. People can also be encouraged to sign petitions or write letters to their government officials asking them to recognize the parallels between Apartheid and the situation in Palestine and to take action accordingly.

One of the techniques to spread knowledge about the Israeli Apartheid is to get artists, musicians, and writers to create works that highlight the parallels between Apartheid and the situation in Palestine. Art can be a powerful tool for fostering understanding and empathy. Besides, more academic research should be published to explore the legal, social, and political similarities between apartheid South Africa and Israel's policies in the Occupied Palestinian Territories should be supported. Academic conferences can help disseminate this research to a broader audience.

We should help share the stories of Palestinian families, their dreams, challenges, and daily lives under an occupation that follows Apartheid approaches. Personal stories can be powerful in building empathy and understanding. Apartheid should not be given any place in this world, and those countries which are supporting Israel and supplying arms and ammunition to Israel are supporting Apartheid of Israel. According to Amnesty International, the Apartheid of Israel on Palestinians is equal to a crime is adverse to humanity. (Amnesty International, 2022)

5.2. Beginning of the End of Israeli Occupation

Before its failure, Apartheid in South Africa was significantly weakened by a combination of internal resistance, economic sanctions, and international isolation. Internal resistance included widespread protests, strikes, and defiance campaigns led by groups like the African National Congress. Economic sanctions and divestment from countries and corporations worldwide exerted financial pressure. International isolation grew as countries increasingly condemned Apartheid, leading to South Africa's exclusion from global events and organizations. These factors, combined with the leadership of figures like Nelson Mandela, ultimately led to the negotiation process that ended Apartheid.

As the "Israeli apartheid" practices and policies increased sharply, especially after the 'Flood of Aqsa' that the devastating War on Gaza followed Unless the Israeli policymakers change their Apartheid, practices and control the Israeli settlers, Israel is going towards potentially significant political and social pressure that would lead to sanctions and not only boycott movements from the international community. This pressure is similar to what was seen in earlier South African regimes, and this might contribute to the beginning of the end of what is termed as the 'Israeli occupation'. The acknowledgement of such practices and a concerted effort to address them could pave the way for a future-free Palestine.

If Israel were to increase practices that are seen as akin to Apartheid and extend such policies to Gaza, it could lead to heightened tensions and exacerbate the violation of human rights and would move the increasing international condemnation to a level that would potentially lead to further isolation of Israel. This isolation would lead to economic repercussions, such as sanctions or divestment efforts. Additionally, such actions could galvanize Palestinian resistance and international solidarity movements, potentially leading to greater instability for Israel and the Israeli occupation, or it might be the start of its end, as shown in Figure (7).

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The curve shows that since the British Occupation, followed by the Belfour Declaration 1926, then the War of 1947, then the 1990s after the first Intifada till the second Intifada in September 2000, the Apartheid have been escalating and reached its peak when compared with the previous South Africa regime. Now, with the further apartheid practices that came with the War on Gaza since October 2023, the Israeli atrocities in the West Bank and even in the Gaza Strip have surpassed what earlier South African regimes have done or created all over the years. The current Israeli practices have lots of similarities actually with the practices at the start of the end of the South African Apartheid regime.

Rise of Israeli Apartheid System

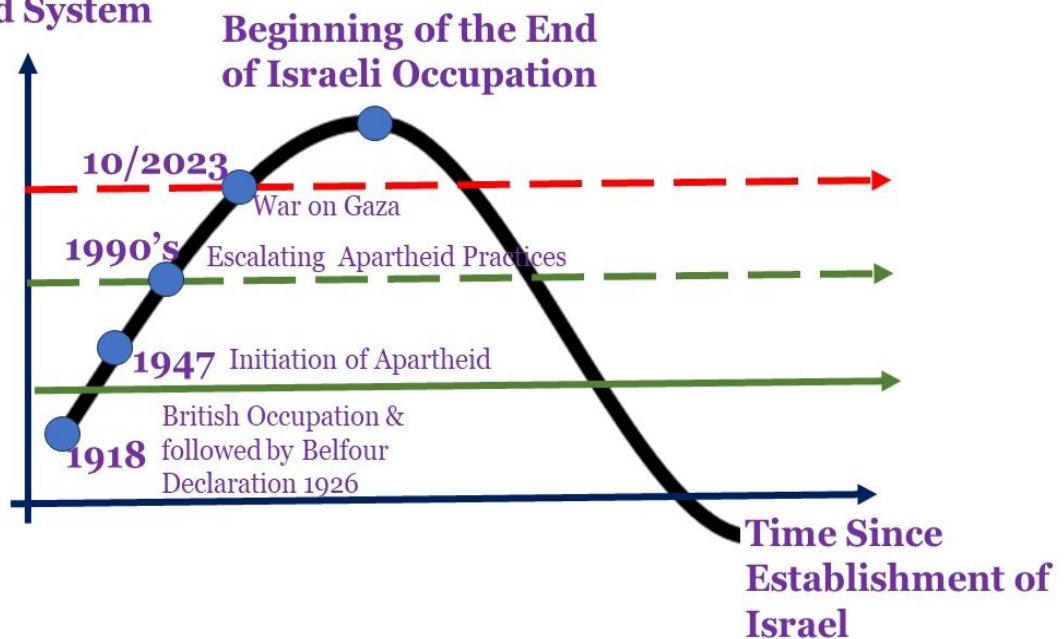


Figure (7) Curve Illustrates the Relationship between the Rise of Israeli Apartheid and the Beginning of the End of Israel's Occupation

5.3. Keeping the Momentum of Exposing the Israeli Apartheid Practices to the World

Despite the double standard followed by the Western Governments when it comes to the Israeli apartheid practices, there are huge movements all over the world that are escalating and exposing this extra-violent Apartheid. Buheji (2024a) mentioned that the Generation-Z is even more exposing such apartheid practices. Besides, the nature of this Z-generation boycott movement gave more exposure the Israeli Apartheid and brought many empathisers together, Buheji and Ahmed (2023). Buheji et al. (2024) confirmed that the momentum for empathy is available as long as practices of Israeli Apartheid continue to increase and violate the Palestinians' human rights. In the meanwhile, the Palestinians need to focus on internal economic development and self-reliance to reduce dependency on the occupying economy.

5.4. Implication of the Study

The implication of this study is that it could potentially influence international policy, galvanize advocacy groups, and impact public opinion. The study may encourage greater support for sanctions or other measures against policies deemed as Apartheid.

Academically, it may enrich the discourse on ethnic segregation and institutional discrimination of debate on international law's role in addressing and resolving such apartheid practices and resonate to create more social justice movements worldwide, inspiring solidarity and action to support the oppressed population of Palestine.

5.5. Final Words

In conclusion, this comparative study underscores the urgency of addressing and dismantling the apartheid Israeli occupation, drawing significant parallels with historical apartheid in South Africa. It calls for a concerted effort from the Palestinian community and international actors to employ diversified approaches including legal, diplomatic, and non-violent resistance to challenge and mitigate these practices. The study advocates for increased global solidarity and a commitment to the principles of human rights to foster a just and equitable resolution.

The potential extension of such practices to Gaza signals a critical juncture, emphasizing the necessity for immediate and proactive measures to prevent further entrenchment of systemic segregation and discrimination.

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