



The role of Palestinian and International civil society, International Community and International Solidarity movement in supporting the steadfastness of Palestinians

The Impact of the International Aid and Policy Prescriptions on the Palestinian Steadfastness and Development

Alaa Tartir

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...And you know the story!

PALESTINIAN LOSS OF LAND 1946 TO 2010



Road Gates

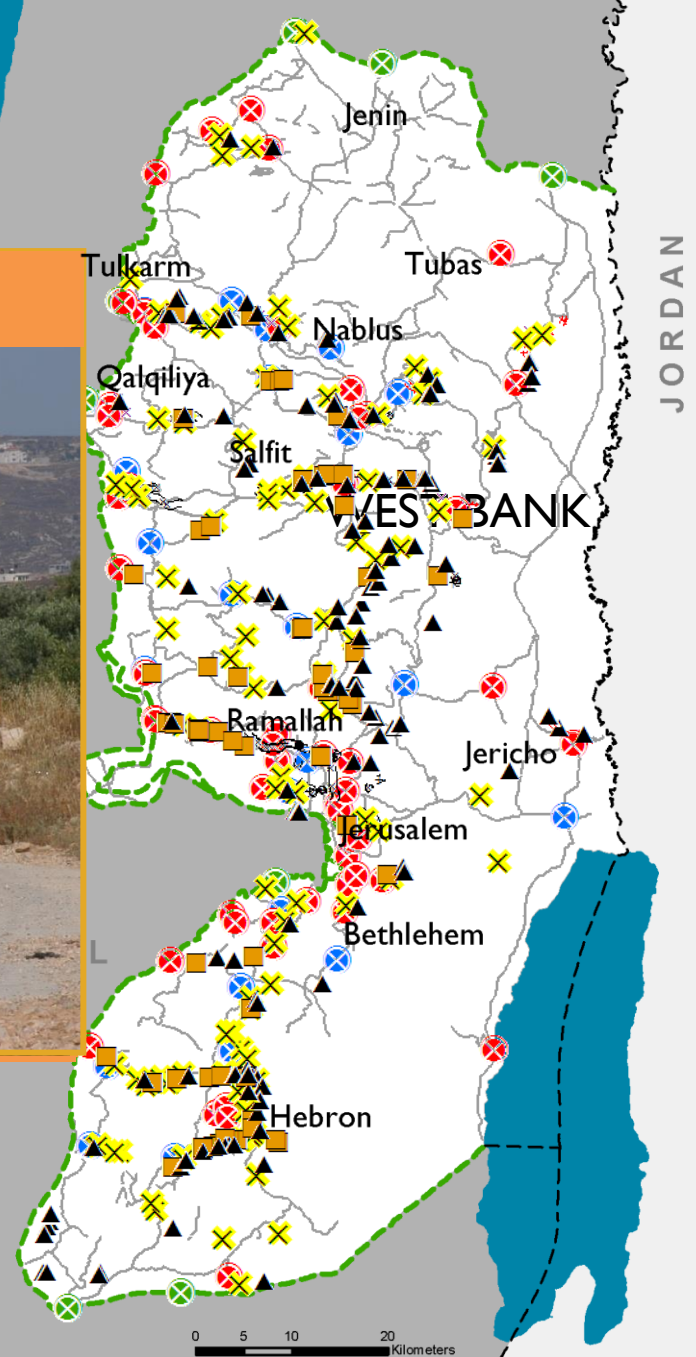


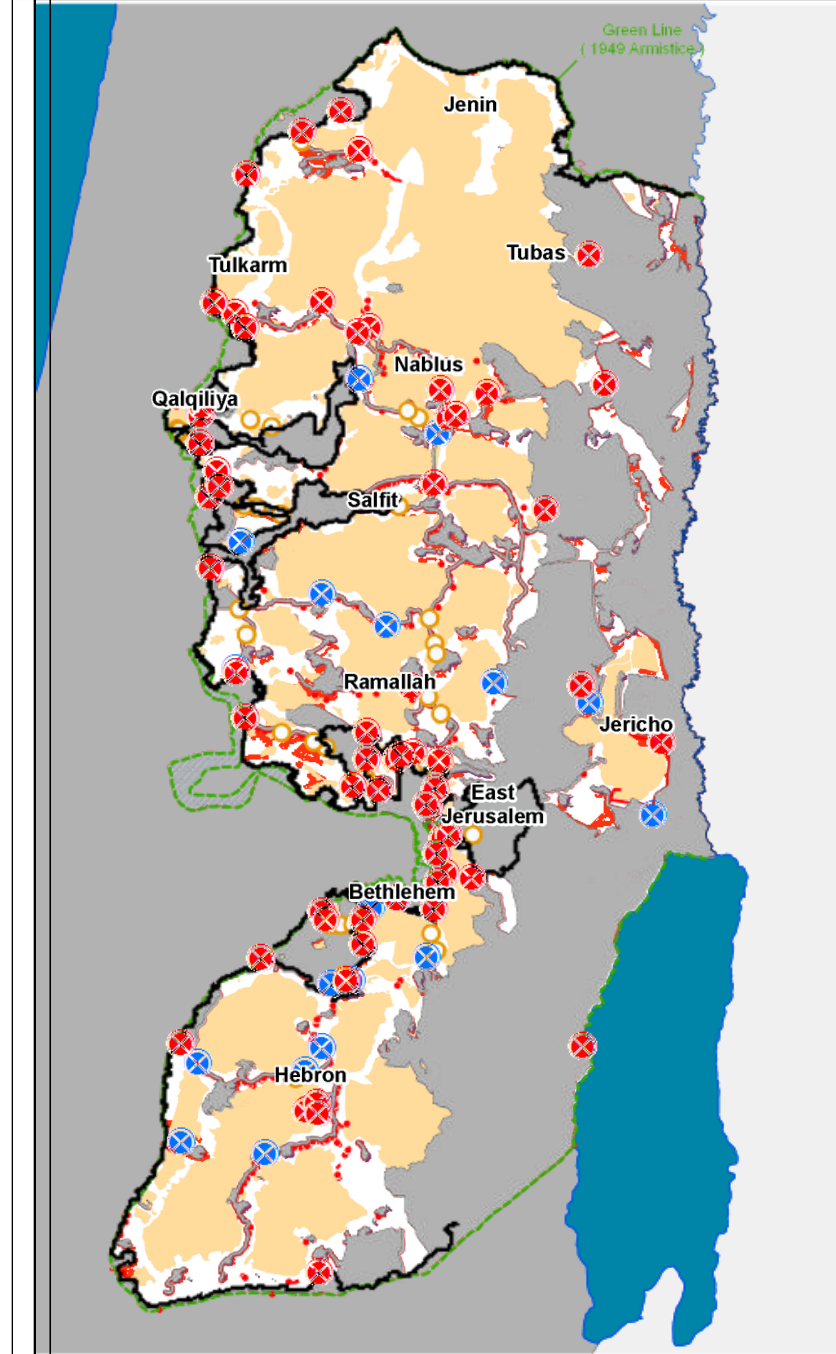
DDDD are used to construct movement across the roads.

DDDD

EARTH WALLS

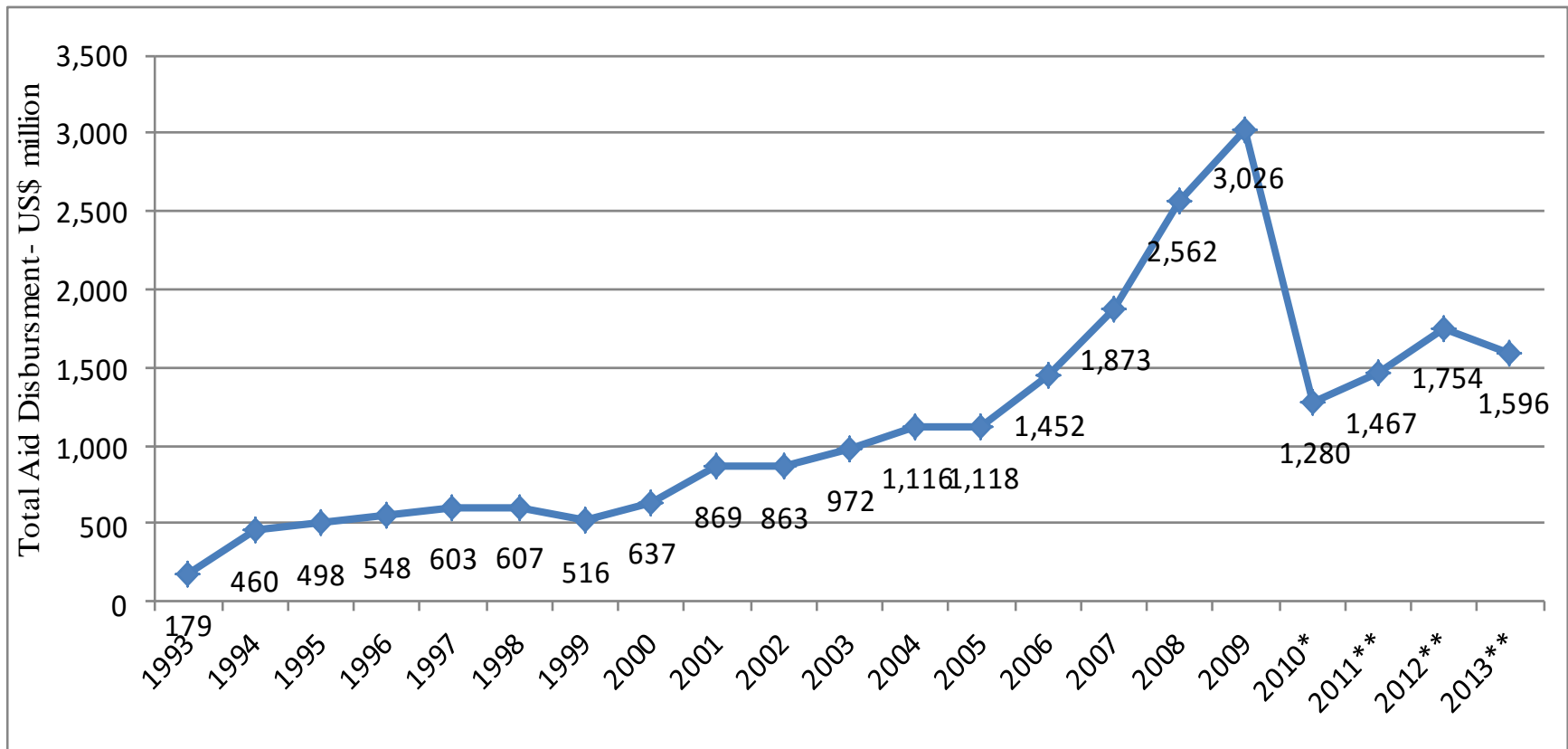
A continuous wall or series of earth mounds.





Is there an 'aid-development' puzzle in Palestine?

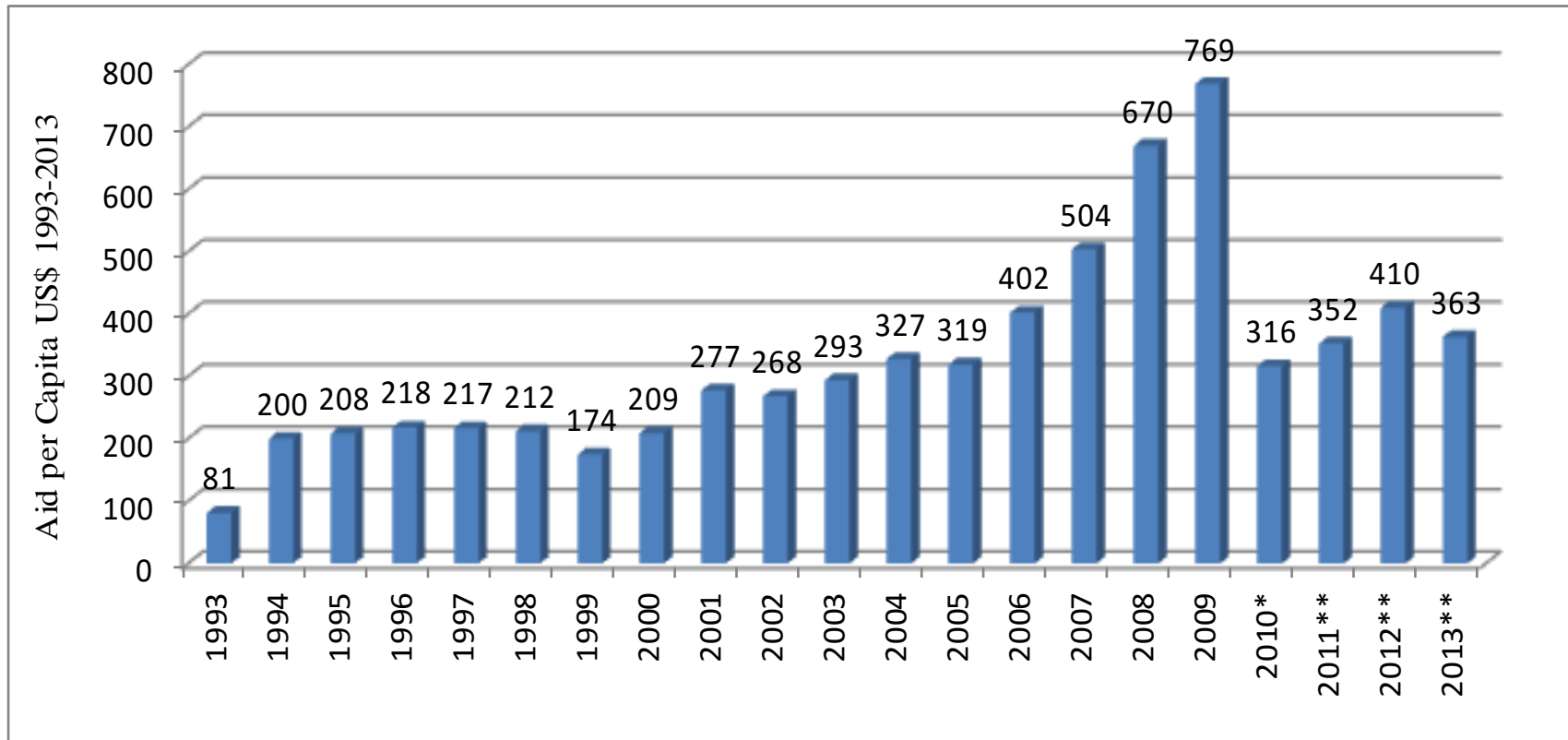
Total International Aid to Palestinian 1993-2013



Source: Compiled by Authors based on OECD/DAC, World Bank-WDI, and PAMS Databases, IMF (2011), World Bank (2011), NDP (2011), PNA (2011), PCBS (2011). Notes: (*): Estimated figure. (**): Amounts requested from donors by the PA according to the NDP.

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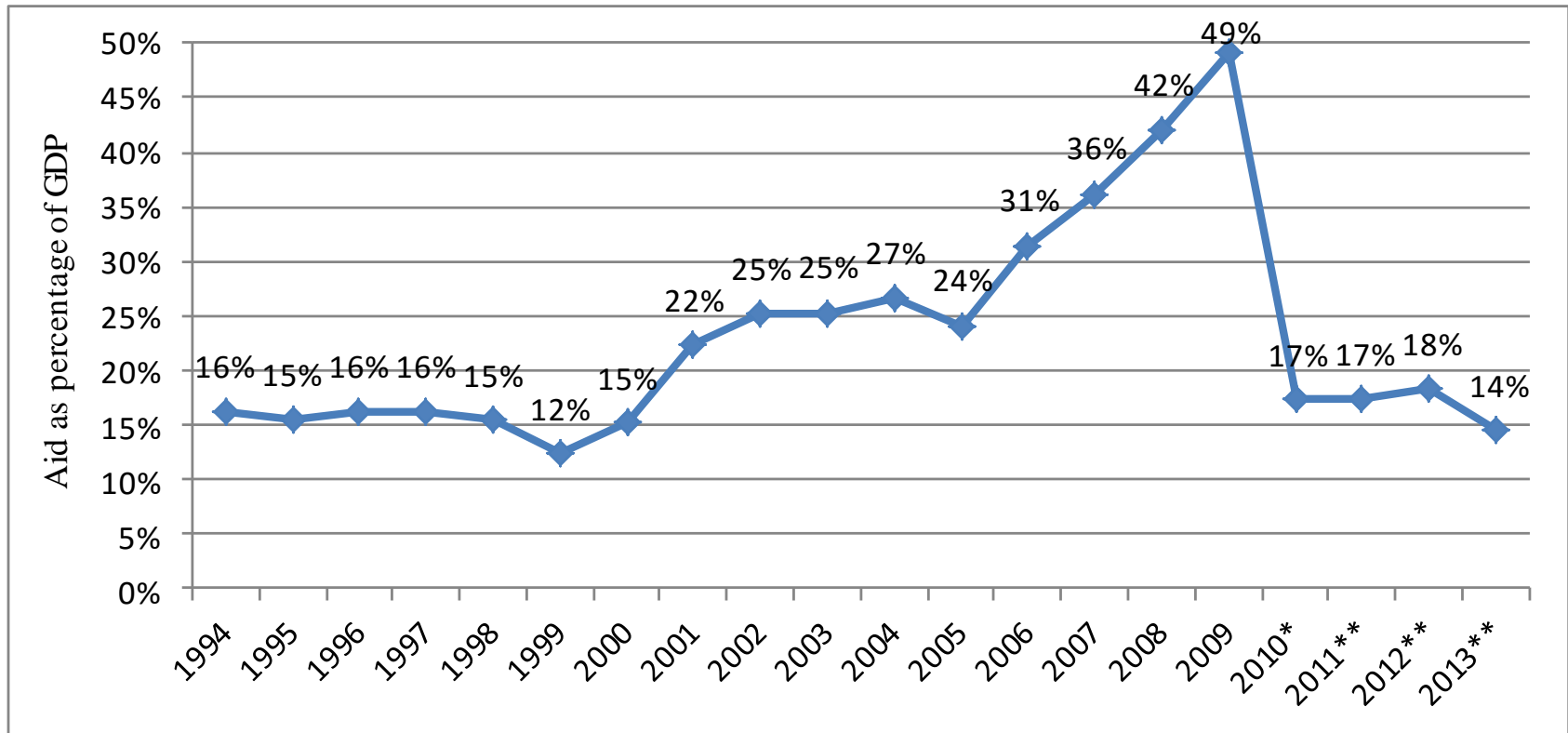
International Aid Per Capita in West Bank and Gaza 1993-2013



Source: Compiled by Authors based on OECD/DAC, World Bank-WDI, and PAMS Databases, IMF (2011), World Bank (2011), NDP (2011), PNA (2011), PCBS (2011). Notes: (*): Estimated figure. (**): Amounts requested from donors by the PA according to the NDP.

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Aid as percentage of the West Bank and Gaza's GDP 1993-2013



Source: Compiled by Authors based on OECD/DAC, World Bank-WDI, and PAMS Databases, IMF (2011), World Bank (2011), NDP (2011), PNA (2011), PCBS (2011). Notes: (*): Estimated figure. (**): Amounts requested from donors by the PA according to the NDP.

Is there an ‘aid-development’ puzzle in Palestine?

The socio-economic indicators reveal a gloomy picture:

- Using the consumption-based definition, 26% of the Palestinians lived in poverty in 2009 and 2010 (19% WB, 38% GS). Using the income-based definition, 50% of the Palestinians lived in poverty (38% WB, 70% GS).
- 50% of Palestinian households were impacted by food insecurity.
- Unemployment has remained at around 30% since 2009 (47% in Gaza, 20% in WB). Unemployment rate for Palestinian youth under 30 is 43%.
- The income and opportunities inequality gap continues to widen not only between the West Bank and Gaza, but also within the West Bank.
- The manufacturing and production capacities continue to erode, while the agriculture sector remains neglected.

Is there an ‘aid-development’ puzzle in Palestine?

The socio-economic indicators reveal a gloomy picture:

- Public debt doubled, while the private debts, thanks to the easier credit facilities, expanded to extraordinary rates.
- Real income per capita needs a proper deconstruction noticing the unbearable increase in the cost of living.
- The celebrated economic growth is a jobless, aid driven, with an eroded productive base (de-industrialization), non-Jerusalemite, anti-poor, and reflects an economy recovering from a low base.

Why?? Partly because the aid industry’s actors forget that:

‘Receiving aid is not just like receiving an elephant but like making love to an elephant; there is no pleasure in it, you run the risk of being crushed and it takes years before you see the results. Aid is twice cursed: it curses him who gives and him who receives’ (Streeten 1976).

Synthesizing/Problematizing the so-far Impact of International Aid

- Aid as a gap filler and fire extinguisher solution for persistent crisis; as major pillar to guarantee the existence of the PA, and rescued the Palestinian society from deeper deteriorating conditions.
- This role of sustaining the status quo was an outcome for the diplomatic failure and political guilt; the inability to understand or acknowledge the de-development process; the unwillingness to address the main problem (the occupation); and the adoption of an irrelevant post-conflict conceptual framework.
- Two consensuses in the critical literature:
 - Aid sustain occupation
 - Aid will not work without addressing the fundamental barriers to development.

Re-Inventing Int'l Aid: Do No Harm, please!

- The masking of realities will continue and aid will continue to be wasted, filling gaps, sustain the occupation and invest in the creation of a papier-mâché Palestinian state.
- A future aid fatigue can be avoidable if the donors-PA adopt a different development paradigm that acknowledge the Palestinian rights.
- It is the time now to bring real accountability to the aid industry and only accept aid that do no harm.
- Otherwise, the current aid-development paradigm will remain not able to walk on the water, but doing an almost miraculous job of not drowning.
- The basic premise is simple: the role of aid in the development process is dependent in the first place on the adopted development paradigm and approach.
- Support development to support steadfastness: Not straight-forward equation!

Aid can contribute to the development in Palestine, but few preconditions and prerequisites need to exist:

- Understanding the development process as resistance, rights and freedom;
- Adopt a politicized version of Senian development model;
- Respect the self-determination and dignity in aid intervention paradigm;
- Move from the apolitical technical development models that definitely do harm toward a paradigm that acknowledges the colonial dominance and the asymmetry of power;
- Bring politics back in to the aid industry and stop using aid as a smoke screen for political failures;
- Support the resistance and steadfastness economy;
- Stop addressing the symptoms of the problem and move to address the root cause, the Israeli occupation.

Re-think Neutrality and Remember Colonialism: The World Bank's policy prescriptions as a case

- De-contextualized policy recommendations.
- Minimizing the meaning of the occupation and settler-colonialism.
- Keep in manoeuvring around the “conflict” and never address it.
- Entrenchment of asymmetric containment and dependency.
- OPT as a post-conflict context: ignoring reality!
- Irrelevant and ridiculous suggestions: OPT to emulate Asian Tigers and create one of the best business environments in the world.
- Deepening poverty and economy structural deficiencies: persistent de-development and failure.

How we can succeed together?

- First and foremost, carry on in helping Palestinians in ending the occupation and colonization of their land.
- Governments accountability: your taxes can sustain the Israeli occupation.
- Push for alternative development and aid paradigm: rights-based approach.
- Coalitions towards reforming the international financial institutions as the World Bank and IMF.
- Shift from supporting the trapped peace process , to support the steadfastness and resistance economy.
- BDS can be very powerful!

