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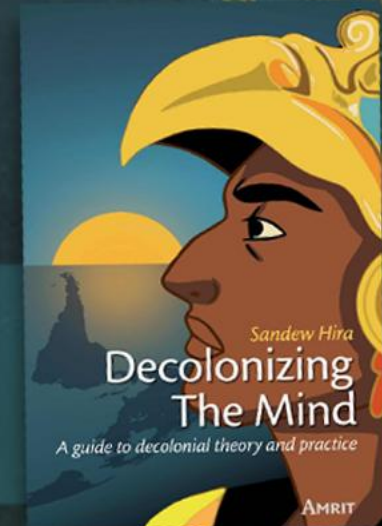
World Affairs

A decolonial analysis of current world affairs

The role of Saudi Arabia



Decolonizing The Mind,
the final frontier of colonialism
with Sandew Hira



#011
9-11-2023

Topics

- ❑ Saudi Arabia and the multipolar world
- ❑ Saudi Arabia, US and Israel
- ❑ Saudi Arabia and Iran
- ❑ Saudi Arabia and Palestine

Vision 2023: launched in 2016

- diversification economically, socially and culturally: less dependent on oil
- 1. make the country the "heart of the Arab and Islamic worlds: Mecca and Medina
- 2. become a global investment powerhouse
- 3. transform the country's location into a hub connecting Afro-Eurasia



Three themes in the vision

- ❑ A vibrant society: culture and entertainment, sports, heritage sites
- ❑ A thriving economy: women in the workforce, international competitiveness, Public Investment Fund, foreign direct investment, non-oil exports
- ❑ An ambitious nation – non-oil revenues, government effectiveness, e-government

Logical conclusion from the vision: link with China

- ❑ New powerhouse in global economy: China.
- ❑ Oil is sold to Chinese in yuan
- ❑ China builds a futuristic city in the desert called Neom for 1 trillion US\$: straight line from the mountains of NEOM to the Red Sea, flying taxis, robot butlers, artificial moon



Logical conclusion: peace in the region

- ❑ Peace with Israel: Palestine is a lost case
- ❑ Peace with Iran: China mediates
- ❑ Stop the lost war in Yemen: since 2015, support from the US and the West

A long time ally of the USA

- ❑ US provides military protection for Saudi family: 10 military bases
- ❑ Stable oil supply by Saudi's
- ❑ Pricing of Saudi oil exclusively in U.S. dollars
- ❑ Saudi support for American foreign policy

A multipolar world

- ❑ Application for membership of BRICS defying US policy
- ❑ Alignment with Russia in war in Ukraine: reduced oil output of OPEC countries in October 2022 in co-ordination with Russia
- ❑ Annoyed by US critique of human rights: October 2018 assassination of Saudi Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi in a Saudi consulate in Turkey
- ❑ Not anti-imperialist, but self interest
- ❑ Blinken visits Mohammad Bin Salman and was sit to wait for hours before he was received by MBS

The Abraham accords

- ❑ Abraham Accords 2020: bilateral agreements on Arab–Israeli normalization between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain
- ❑ Discussions with Saudi Arabia: path of normalization
- ❑ October 7 stopped this path

Palestina

- ❑ For long time: support of Palestine
- ❑ Abraham accords: new path of normalization
- ❑ Before October 7: Saudis want steps toward two-state solution as part of normalization
- ❑ October 7: new direction

Towards a one state solution?

- ❑ Cooperation with Iran: 7 November: Iran and Saudi Arabia call for emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
- ❑ What if there is a real option of reconquering Israel?
- ❑ Link with vision 2030: Link Mecca and Medina with Jerusalem
- ❑ The future might go in a totally different direction and yet in line with Vision 2030

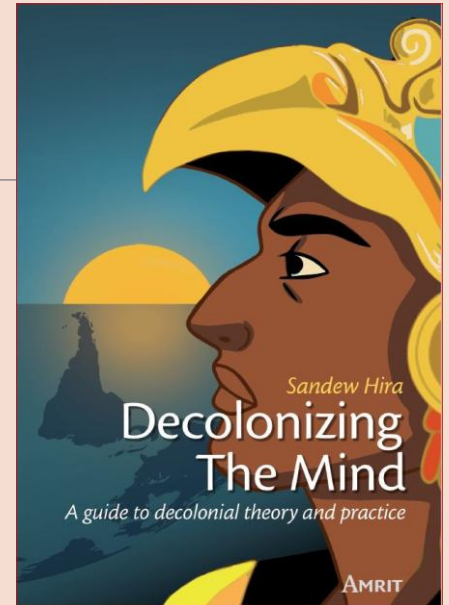
Next episode: the role of Egypt

- ❑ The legacy of Nasser
- ❑ The Muslim Brotherhood
- ❑ The relationship with the US
- ❑ The peace with Israel
- ❑ The view of Palestine



Source in the DTM book

- 13.4.3.6 The US' stance towards Iran and Palestine
- Download the PDF of the PowerPoint on www.sandewhira.com



sandewhira.com

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