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# World Affairs

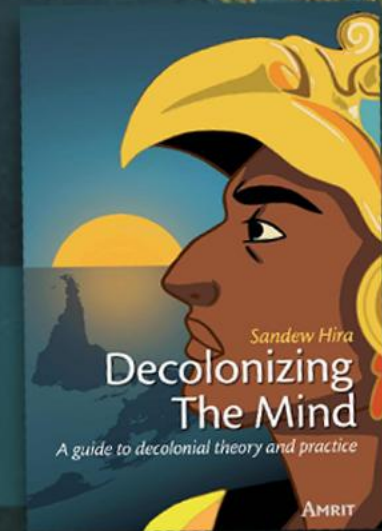
A decolonial analysis of current world affairs



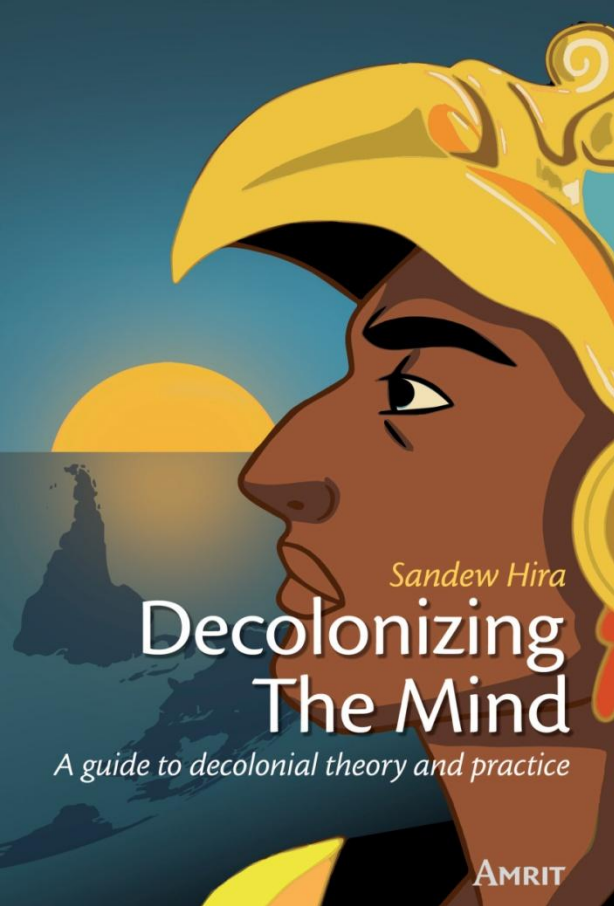
## Palestine and decolonization - a pivotal moment in world history



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



#065  
18-11-2024



## Palestine and decolonization: a pivotal moment in world history



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# Zionist view on the colonization of Palestine

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In 1902 Theodor Herzl, the founder of Zionism, wrote a letter to Cecil Rhodes, the Minister of Colonies of Great Britain in which he asked him for his support for the colonization of Palestine. Herzl wrote:

*“You are being invited to help make history. It doesn’t involve Africa, but a piece of Asia Minor; not Englishmen but Jews... How, then, do I happen to turn to you since this is an out-of-the-way matter for you? How indeed? Because it is something colonial.”*



# The colonization of Palestine before 1948

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The colonization of Palestine for the Jewish population started well before the Jewish Holocaust. Palestine, part of the Ottoman empire, was populated by Palestinians from different faiths, mostly Muslims. In 1917 the British launched an attack against the Ottomans and captured Palestine. On entering the city of Jerusalem British general Edmund Allenby declared: “*The wars of the Crusades are now complete.*” Palestine was now a British colony. From the start there was a religious aspect to colonization.

# The world in 1918

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- ❑ November 1917: Russian revolution a new world order in the making.
- ❑ US was not a global imperial power, Britain was.
- ❑ The global south was still fully colonized.

# The Balfour declaration

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Fifteen years after Herzl's letter the Jewish lobby was able to successfully press the British Foreign Secretary, Arthur Balfour, to make a declaration on November 9, 1917, in which he announced: *“His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object.”*

# The Zionist colonization of Palestine 1917-1945

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In 1917 Jews constituted 3% of the Palestinian population. Under British rule Jewish immigration led to an increase of their share to 30% in 1938.

Already in this period Zionists had purchased land, uprooted Palestinian farmers with the protection of the British and taken control of the economy with the support of capital from the Jewish Diaspora.

This led to repeated revolts by the Palestinians in 1920, 1921, 1929 and a big revolt between 1936 and 1939. A brutal repression of that revolt by the British with the active assistance of Jewish paramilitary forces led to 19,792 Arab casualties, of which 5,032 were fatalities.

# The Zionist terror campaign 1945-1948: Nakba

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After World War II, the Zionist paramilitary forces started a guerrilla campaign against the British army in order to establish a Jewish state and a terror campaign against the Palestinians in order to expel them from their homes and land. On May 14, 1948, they proclaimed the establishment of a Jewish state on Palestinian land. By the end of the Zionist terror campaign, 700,000 Palestinians had been driven out of Palestine. Their houses and lands were taken over by Jews who came from Europe and the US. People who were born and raised in New York, Amsterdam, London or Paris went to Palestine and occupied the land and houses of Palestinians whose ancestors had lived there for thousands of years.



# The world between 1948-1979

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- ❑ The rise of the USA as an imperial power and the decline of the European colonial powers
- ❑ 1967 war between Israel and a coalition of Arab states, (Egypt, Syria, and Jordan) in June 1967. The result: Israel occupied the Golan Heights from Syria, the West Bank including East Jerusalem from Jordan, and the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip from Egypt. 300,000 Palestinians and 100,000 Syrians were expelled from the West Bank
- ❑ 1979: China starts with economic reforms, Soviet Union invades Afghanistan, Islamic revolution in Iran, socialist revolution in Nicaragua

# Palestinian resistance: PLO

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In 1964, sixteen years after the foundation of the apartheid state of Israel in 1948 the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was established to further the liberation of Palestine through armed struggle. The PLO carried out many attacks, but the brutal response of Zionists drove the PLO on the defensive. They had to retreat from Israel, Jordan and Lebanon, eventually moving to Tunisia,. Even there they were not safe, being bombarded by the Israelis in 1982. It eventually led to negotiations that were concluded in the Oslo Accords in 1993 with the two-state solution. It turned out to be a political defeat for the Palestinians. The PLO accepted the idea of the military superiority of Israel.

# Two state and one state solution

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The two-state solution envisioned an independent State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel. From the very start the two-state solution was doomed. It was an agreement on paper only, reached after considerable pressure of the US on Israel. Israel did not accept an independent Palestinian state. It did everything possible to torpedo the Oslo Accords. The Palestinians had no alternative but to struggle for one free State of Palestine in the occupied territories. The initiative to restart the resistance came from the masses. The driving force behind their actions is the daily oppression and humiliation of the Palestinians.

# The Soviet Union and the West

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Gorbachev brought an end to the Cold War. SU and US sign the arms control INF treaty for the elimination of intermediaterange and shorter-range missiles in 1987. In 1989, Gorbachev withdrew the Soviet army from Afghanistan which the USSR had invaded in 1979 to support the communist government of that country. He withdrew support for Cuba and the Nicaraguan Sandinistas and for the liberation movements in Angola and Ethiopia. The Soviet Union saw its long term interest align with the US and the West. Gorbachev introduced the idea of perestroika (restructuring of the economy and society). Restructuring would go hand in hand with opening up society up to public discussion and political participation (glasnost) in clear contradiction to Stalinist political rule. The Soviet Union is pro-Israel and pro-West.

# The Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979

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- ❑ Khomeini: The Islamic revolution is an anti-colonial revolution
- ❑ The struggle for a free Palestine is also a religious struggle for liberating Al-Quds from Western occupation.
- ❑ The struggle for a free Palestine is a struggle for social justice, like the struggle against apartheid in South Africa



# The Western war against Iran: 1980-1988

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A year after the triumph of the revolution, the entire world, led by the West and backed by the Soviet Union, applauded Saddam Hussein when he launched a devastating war against Iran. Iran survived. Saddam Hussein and the Soviet Union did not. An economic boycott crippled the economy. Terrorist attacks claimed the lives of 17.000 Iranians, including nuclear scientists.

Yet, Iran triumphantly rebuilt its society, military and economy. It laid the foundation for an unyielding anti-imperialist struggle. It established a Resistance Front and a support infrastructure to combat Zionism and imperialism. The resistance we witness today in Western Asia would have been impossible without Iran's role.

# 1989: a pivotal year in world history

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- ❑ The collapse of the Soviet Union and the fantasy of the end of history
- ❑ The start of the rebuilding of Iran
- ❑ The take off of the Chinese economy
- ❑ In December 1987 the first intifada began with stone-throwing Palestinians and eventually led to the formation of Hamas as a liberation movement dedicated to armed struggle.
- ❑ 1982: Hezbollah was founded by Lebanese Shia community with the help of Iran in response to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon

# 1999-2022

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- ❑ The meteoric rise of China
- ❑ The growth of the axis of resistance
- ❑ 1999: the start of the Bolivarian revolution in Venezuela
- ❑ The decline and rise of Russia
- ❑ The rise of a decolonial movement that put the colonization of knowledge and the mind on the intellectual agenda. It is a response to the decline of Marxism as a theory of liberation.

# GDP/PPP trillion Int\$

Country Name	1990	2022	Growth 1990-2022
China	1,11	30,34	2623%
United States	5,96	25,44	327%
India	1,05	11,90	1036%
Japan	2,46	5,86	138%
Germany	1,54	5,58	261%
Russian Federation	1,19	5,08	328%
Indonesia	0,56	4,04	622%

# The response of the West

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- ❑ The arrogance of the empire: rule based order. A military power is needed to maintain this order: NATO and perpetual wars
- ❑ Break up Russia, the most powerful nuclear power: extend NATO to the East
- ❑ Fortify Israel as the most important military power in Western Asia
- ❑ Isolate Iran through the threat of a radical Islamic nuclear power: Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action limit the Iranian nuclear program in return for sanctions relief: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, U.S.—plus Germany
- ❑ Use economic boycott to break anti-imperialist governments



# The US policy in Western Asia

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- ❑ Bribe the Palestinian Authority to crush the resistance
- ❑ Use the Abraham Accords to push Palestine from the international agenda and build a ring of Arab support for the Zionist apartheid state; the final defeat of the Palestinian resistance

# Where did it go wrong for the West

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- ❑ The rise of China: belt and road initiative, BRICS. The US weapon of economic boycott is loosing its effect.
- ❑ Russia reached a limit in accepting the eastward expansion of NATO: the war in Ukraine starts on 24 February 2022
- ❑ The massive reaction of the West to the Ukraine war makes it clear: Russia should turn away from the West and look to the East
- ❑ A turn to the East is a turn to China, India and Western Asia, where Iran is a regional power and ultimately the turn towards BRICS (founded in 2006, but became really important since 2022).

# The context of the current genocide

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- ❑ The struggle between the declining West and the rising rest: economic, military, political and cultural
- ❑ The military struggle is now on two fronts: Ukraine and Western Asia. There is a US build-up for a military struggle with China around Taiwan.
- ❑ The economic struggle is around BRICS as the alternative for G7, G20 etc.
- ❑ The political struggle is about whether the UN should be replaced by another international body.
- ❑ The cultural struggle is about decolonizing the mind, education and the media

# How does it impact the liberation struggle?

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- ❑ Key players in world politics regarding Western Asia are Iran, China, Russia and the US.
- ❑ Russia and China's view on Palestine: formally the two state solution
- ❑ Initially Hamas was regarded as a terrorist organization. Russia and China are distrustful about Islam because of experience with "Islamic" terrorism
- ❑ But slow changes are taking place. Russia is more under the influence of the Zionist lobby than China, but China is much on the line of talks can solve all problems.

# The effect of the attack of October 7 2023

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- ❑ It shattered the idea of the military superiority of Israel.
- ❑ The response of Israel is genocide, which is supported by Western governments, but isolates Israel in the eyes of the overwhelming majority of the globe.
- ❑ Israel want a final solution: destroy the axis of resistance, destroy Iran, which is the basis of the axis of resistance
- ❑ Get the US to fight the war against Iran



# The strategy of the axis of resistance

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- ❑ Build a unity with Russia and China against the US
- ❑ Unite the Muslims for the liberation of Al Quds. This is also a religious struggle to liberate the holy place of Islam
- ❑ Build the military capabilities of the resistance
- ❑ Prepare for the war with the US
- ❑ The end result: liberate the land of Palestine with the Palestinian resistance in the lead, physical expulsion of Zionists from the land, maybe a compromise to have part of the population stay.
- ❑ So this is an existential struggle for every party involved.

# The strategy of China

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- ❑ Slowly backing up Iran for the confrontation with the US.
- ❑ China mediation with Saudi Arabia and Iran: economic and military cooperation between them
- ❑ China long term 25-year cooperation agreement: China will invest US\$400 billion in Iran's economy: oil, gas, petrochemicals sectors, transportation and manufacturing infrastructure
- ❑ China mediation between all factions of the Palestinian liberation movement
- ❑ Joint military drills and military cooperation

# The strategy of Russia

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- ❑ For a long time Russia was hesitant in supporting Iran
- ❑ Russia now provides air defense systems and trains personnel
- ❑ Joint military drills and military cooperation
- ❑ What will Russia do if the US attacks Iran?

# The strategy of the solidarity movement

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- ❑ Acknowledge the religious dimension of the struggle
- ❑ Connect the global south with the global north with the concept of decolonizing knowledge and the mind: how to reconstruct philosophies of liberation
  - ❑ In the global North Marxism is replaced by Liberalism (feminism and intersectionality became part of Liberalism)
  - ❑ Start the dialogue of reconstructing knowledge based on contributions from ancient civilization and add creativity from the new world civilization
  - ❑ Decolonize the 8 o'clock news as the 8 o'clock lies.

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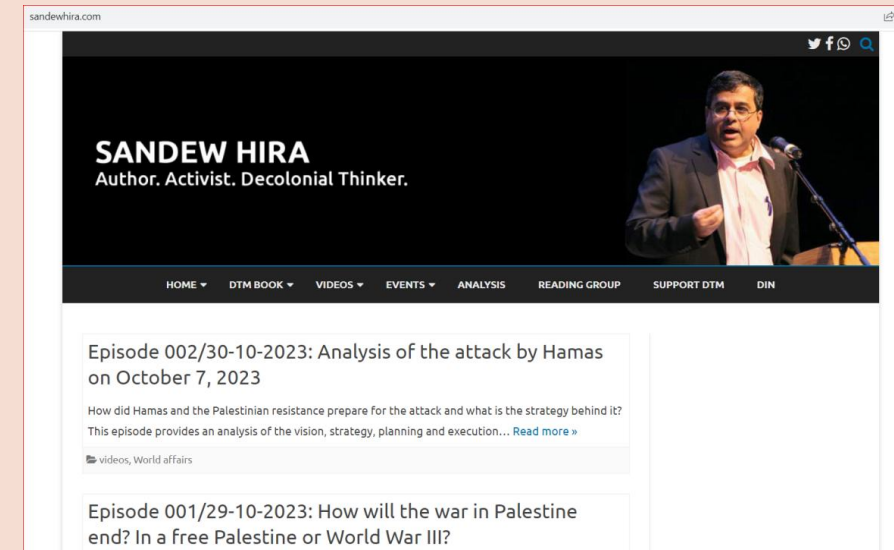
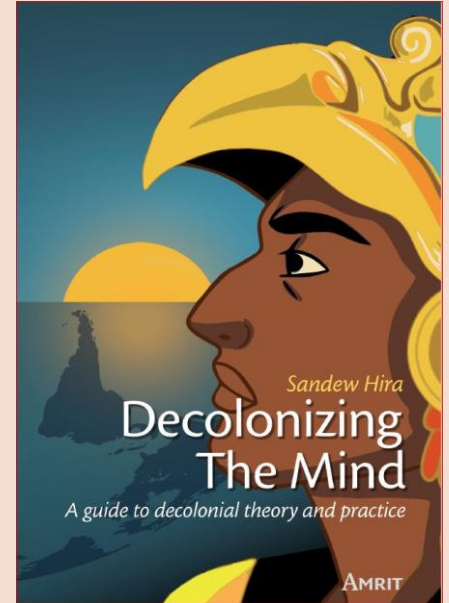
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