

BED **TIME** **RADICALISM**

BTR ESSAY ANALYSIS ON _____

Born Palestinian, Born
Black: Antiblackness and
the Womb of Zionist
Settler Colonialism

by Sarah Ihmoud



Photo: Hassan Eslaiha/AP

FREE PALESTINE



END APARTHEID

written by Slim Philomath

INTRODUCTION

WHEN WRITING A ZINE, VERY RARELY DO I HESITATE TO PROPOSE A PROSPECTIVE TOPIC TO THE OTHER WRITERS, UNLESS I DEEM THE TOPIC TO BE EXPEDIENT. IN THE CASE OF THIS ISSUE, I PUMPED THE BRAKES ON WRITING ON THE PALESTINE OCCUPATION SIMPLY BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO "SCARE AWAY" ANY POTENTIAL READERS. IN THE WAKE OF THE 2023 ISRAELI DECLARATION OF WAR DUE TO THE HAMAS "UNPRECEDENTED" MISSILE ATTACKS, I FOUND IT PRESSING TO FINALLY WRITE SOMETHING. REFLECTING ON MY HESITANCY, I HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE TRUTH CAN BE UNSETTLING BUT CRITICAL ANALYSES ARE WORTH UNDERTAKING DESPITE COGNITIVE DISSONANCE. THAT BEING SAID, I DO NOT PLAN ON INTENSIVELY REVIEWING THE BALFOUR DECLARATION, BREAKING DOWN THE HISTORY OF CONFLICTING MILITARY FACTIONS, OR EVEN COMMENT ON AMERICA'S SUPPORT OF ISRAEL (I WILL LET YOU PARSE THAT OUT FOR YOURSELVES). INSTEAD, I WANT TO ANALYZE AN ESSAY THAT ILLUMINATED MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE PALESTINIAN OCCUPATION WHEN I ONCE BELIEVED IT TO BE SIMPLY A CONFLICT.



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IN THE ESSAY, BORN PALESTINIAN, BORN BLACK: ANTIBLACKNESS AND THE WOMB OF ZIONIST SETTLER COLONIALISM, SARAH IHMOUD PLACES BLACK AND INDIGENOUS SCHOLARSHIP IN TANDEM TO ANALYZE HOW THE WOMB- THE RIGHT TO A WOMAN'S BODY AND TO REPRODUCTION- IS ENGENDERED WITH VIOLENCE ACROSS WHITE SETTLER COLONIES. TO CLEARLY CONVEY THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN BLACK AND INDIGENOUS THEORIES, THE AUTHOR BUILDS "ON JOY JAMES'S (2016) THEORIZATION OF THE WOMB AND CONCEPT OF THE 'CAPTIVE MATERNAL'" (IHMOUD, 2021, P 299). THE CAPTIVE MATERNAL, ACCORDING TO JAMES, ARE "THOSE MOST VULNERABLE TO VIOLENCE, WAR, POVERTY, POLICE, AND CAPTIVITY; THOSE WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE ENABLES THE POSSESSIVE EMPIRE THAT CLAIMS AND DISPOSSESSES THEM" (JAMES, 2016, P 255). THIS GROUP IS HISTORICALLY FEMALE OR FEMINIZED AS CARETAKERS. IHMOUD ARGUES THAT THIS POSSESSIVE EMPIRE IS THE ENGINE THAT REPRODUCES THE ANTIBLACK VIOLENCE IN THE ZIONIST SETTLER COLONY.

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**STATISTICALLY, ISRAEL
HAS KILLED ONE
PALESTINIAN CHILD EVERY
THREE DAYS FOR THE
PAST TWENTY-ONE YEARS**

KIKUVRD

You can't unequivocally support Palestinian rights if you simultaneously denounce and condemn Palestinians' legitimate armed resistance against a colonial power.

@poeticpoliticss

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THROUGH BOTH PRONATALIST POLITICS AND AN EMPHASIS ON THE NATIONAL PRODUCTION, THE AUTHOR ILLUSTRATES THE HISTORICAL PROJECT OF ZIONISM TO INCREASE THE JEWISH DEMOGRAPHIC WHILE DECREASING THE PALESTINIAN DEMOGRAPHIC. THIS FEAT STARTS WITH THE FEMALE BODY AS "SYMBOLIC NATIONAL PERIPHERIES" DEMONSTRATED BY ISRAEL'S STATE BACKING OF MULTI-CHILDREN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS. THIS ADVERSELY MEANS THAT THE INDIGENOUS CAPTIVE MATERNAL ARE "VIOLABLE AND DISPOSABLE ENTITIES IN THE MARCH TOWARD SETTLER ACCUMULATION BY DISPOSSESSION" THUS MAKING "THE NATIVE BODY [AS] A LOCUS OF RACIALIZED GENDERED PROCESSES OF COLONIAL DISPOSSESSION." (IHMOUND, 2021, P 388). THIS IS EVIDENCED BY THE NATIVE ACCOUNTS WRITTEN AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS ESSAY IN WHICH A SOLDIER, GUARDING A CHECKPOINT, SHOT A PREGNANT PALESTINIAN 15 TIMES BECAUSE SHE WAS VIEWED AS A THREAT. ALSO, HOW A PREGNANT MOTHER WAS DISREGARDED AT THE MILITARY CHECKPOINT AND DID NOT RECEIVE ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THE ISRAELI FORCES AS SHE GAVE BIRTH ON THE GROUND AND HELD HER LIFELESS BABY. IN BOTH STORIES, THE PERCEIVED THREAT WAS NOT THE WOMEN, BECAUSE UNDERNEATH THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS THEY ARE VIEWED AS CIVILIANS, BUT RATHER THEIR WOMBS. THE CAPTIVE MATERNAL' S ABILITY TO REPRODUCE IS THE THREAT TO TERRITORY DISPOSSESSION.

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IHMOUD FURTHER EMPHASIZES THAT THE ISRAELI STATE VIOLENCE FROM ITS NASCENCY IS AN ANTIBLACK EUGENICS PROJECT. SHE SUPPORTS THESE CLAIMS IN RAFAEL FALKS'S- A GERMAN-BORN ISRAELI GENETICIST- READING OF "ZIONISM AS A EUGENICIST PROJECT" IN WHICH "ZIONIST THINKERS PERPETUATED THE IDEA THAT JEWS WERE A SEPARATE "RACE" ... A RACIAL NATION SHAPED BY 'BLOOD AND SOIL'" (FALK 2006,18-19, CITED IN LENTIN 2008, 8). (AGAIN, I DO NOT WANT TO GO INTO A HISTORICAL DIVE UNRELATED TO THE CAPTIVE MATERNAL, HOWEVER, CONSIDERING THAT RACE IS A MODERN CONCEPT, ZIONIST CONVICTIONS CANNOT HOLD TRUE PRIOR TO THE ADVENT OF RACE WHICH IS PRE-COLONIALISM/ CARL LINNAEUS.) IHMOUD IN THIS ESSAY PULLS AN EXCERPT FROM NOURA ERAKAT (2015) THAT VALIDATES THIS IDEA OF RACE, BECAUSE ZIONIST ABANDONED EASTERN CULTURAL MARKERS, WHICH BECAME SYNONYMOUS WITH THE MIDDLE EAST, IN FAVOR OF REPRODUCING THE "SUPERIOR AND ENLIGHTENED" EUROPEAN IMAGE. THIS IDEA OF A SUPERIOR RACE IS ALL TOO COMMON IN THE HISTORY OF ANTIBLACKNESS IN ALL SETTLER COLONIES, INCLUDING AMERICA, AS NOTED BY HARRIET WASHINGTON IN HER BOOK MEDICAL APARTHEID. THIS DRIVE FOR ERASURE IS COMPARABLE TO THE EVENTS SEEN IN THE HOLOCAUST OR THE NAKBA THUS MAKING ZIONISTS THE VERY ANTAGONISTS THAT ONCE STROVE TO ELIMINATE THEM.

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ISRAELI OCCUPATION

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CHECKLIST:

- GENOCIDE
- ETHNIC CLEANSING
- ANNEXATION
- APARTHEID
- FAKE DEMOCRACY



DECOLONIZE PALESTINE

DECOLONIZE PALESTINE

وسيكون المظلومون أحرارا

A WHIRLWIND OF QUESTIONS MIGHT ARISE AS TO HOW VIOLENCE AGAINST PALESTINIANS CAN BE DEPICTED AS ANTI-BLACK, "I MEAN THEY ARE NOT BLACK THEY ARE MIDDLE EASTERN, RIGHT"? THE ANSWER IS THAT THE ZIONIST STATE-FUNDED VIOLENCE IS NON-DISCRIMINATORY, THUS NOT ONLY IMPACTING ARAB DEMOGRAPHICS. IHMOUD POINTS OUT IN THIS ESSAY, "ZIONISM ABSORBED THE ANTIBLACK LOGICS FUNDAMENTAL TO ENLIGHTENMENT EUROPE" (305). THIS TRANSLATES TO A STEADY POLICING OF JEWS OF MIDDLE EASTERN AND AFRICAN DESCENT BECAUSE THEY DO NOT CONFORM TO THE EUROCENTRIC ZIONIST IMAGE. THE AUTHOR USES THE CASE OF THE YEMENITE CHILDREN AFFAIR IN WHICH THOUSANDS OF JEWISH YEMEN REFUGEE CHILDREN WERE KIDNAPPED FROM THEIR FAMILIES AND SOLD TO EUROPEAN JEWISH FAMILIES. SHE SUPPORTS THESE ANTI-BLACK CLAIMS WITH A SECOND CASE IN WHICH THE ISRAELI MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN 2013 ADMITTED TO DRUGGING UNKNOWING NON-CONSENTING ETHIOPIAN JEWISH IMMIGRANTS WITH CONTRACEPTIVES (305).

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THEREFORE, GIVEN THIS HISTORY OF VIOLENCE IN PALESTINE, IS THIS ATTACK BY THE HAMAS UNPROVOKED? I BELIEVE A PROVOCATION WAS PREVIOUSLY SET AND IS CONTINUALLY UNFOLDING NOT ONLY IN MILITARY ACTION BUT ALSO IN A RAVAGING OF THE MATERNAL BODY OF THOSE NOT CONFORMING TO THE ZIONIST'S EUROPEAN IMAGE. SARAH IHMOUD IN THIS ESSAY DOES A MASTERFUL JOB OF INTERCONNECTING THE PALESTINIAN OCCUPATION WITH BLACK AND INDIGENOUS FEMINIST THEORY THUS DESERVING MORE THAN JUST A SYNOPSIS BUT RATHER A THOROUGH READING.

SO, ANOTHER QUESTION ARISES AS TO WHOM YOU SHOULD SUPPORT IN THIS "CONFLICT". IN MY ZINES, I NEVER WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT TO BELIEVE BUT I WILL TELL YOU WHAT TO **READ**. IN YOUR RESEARCH START WITH THIS QUOTE:

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ALL THAT THE NATIVE HAS SEEN IN HIS COUNTRY IS THAT THEY CAN FREELY ARREST HIM, BEAT HIM, STARVE HIM: AND NO PROFESSOR OF ETHICS, NOR PRIEST HAS EVER COME TO BE BEATEN IN HIS PLACE, NOR TO SHARE THEIR BREAD WITH HIM. AS FAR AS THE NATIVE IS CONCERNED, MORALITY IS VERY CONCRETE; IT IS TO SILENCE THE SETTLER'S DEFIANCE, TO BREAK HIS FLAUNTING VIOLENCE- IN A WORD, TO PUT HIM OUT OF THE PICTURE.

~FRANTZ FANON, THE WRETCHED OF THE EARTH





BTR



**QUESTIONS?
COMMENTS?**

**EMAIL ME YOUR
THOUGHTS AT
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Work Cited

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