



FOR A SINGLE PALESTINIAN STATE

In this time of genocidal aggression by the Zionist apartheid state of Israel against the people of Palestine, many commentators have sought comparisons with the infamous apartheid regime which ruled South Africa up to the early 1990s. Of note is the notion that the apartheid architects of South Africa envisioned a multi-state solution in terms of which “each race would enjoy self-rule in separate-but-equal Bantustans.” The Israeli-Palestinian equivalent would be the so-called two-state solution, whereby the state of Israel continues to exist as an autonomous entity with, effectively, nothing changed, except enhanced legitimacy and security for itself. For the Palestinians, the two-state solution would consign the populations of Gaza and the occupied West Bank as second-class citizens in dependent, poverty-stricken islands of self-rule in perpetuity.

As we have seen, in the case of South Africa, the new dispensation was that of a unitary state committed (at least in theory) to a form of constitutional democracy. While in practice, there are numerous problems associated with the “new South Africa” (actually, after almost thirty years, not so new anymore) the principle of “one South African nation” has always been a non-negotiable demand by the overwhelming mass of our citizenry. Ironically, “One South Africa” has inadvertently created a rationale for bigots in our midst to mobilise against “illegal immigrants”. Also, for bigotry of another kind to survive – that of a small coterie in favour of the Western Cape secession from the rest of the country. Issues such as these notwithstanding, the idea of a single South African nation is unquestioned in left-wing circles, where building a genuine “non-racial people’s democracy” is top of the agenda.

In the case of Palestine and Israel, there can be only one solution, and that is for the creation of a single Palestinian state. In consequence, a number of issues surface, including the following:

- To begin with, Israel is a Zionist creation. It is a



The New Unity Movement on the march. Pro-Palestinian rally 22 October, Salt River, CPT.

settler colonial state, born in the bloody dispossession of the inhabitants of Palestine, with the active support and connivance of Britain, Europe and the USA. As one commentator put it: it was an

Inside this issue

1	For a Single Palistinian State	1
2	Racism and Genocide in GAZA	2
3	The Siya Kolisa Story - Melanie Wagner	3

- 4 easy solution for Europe to solve its “Jewish problem” by clearing the continent of the mass of its Jewish citizenry
- The pro-Zionist propaganda machine has over the years been working non-stop to conflate Zionism, Judaism and the state of Israel, and to legitimate the land-grab as one sanctioned in Biblical writ.
- As RO Dudley, in a trenchant comment back in the 1980s observed, Western imperialism has placed Israel in the Middle East as a “festering sore” – to defend Western interests by dividing the Arab world and snuffing out any resistance to Imperialism’s rape of the territories’ oil and other wealth.
- Previous attempts to sooth tensions in the area have simply postponed the inevitable; these attempts have always sought to install a regime in the West Bank favourable to Zionist Israeli and Western interests, while the Gaza Strip has simply been condemned to open-air prisonhood under Zionist Israeli oppression.
- How will the two-state solution change any of the above? The ongoing resistance on the part of the Palestinian people is in total opposition to this. Any two-state solution will mean the struggle continues.
- While a one-state solution is the only feasible alternative, it is not unproblematic. Various considerations include the following:
 - ◇ In the 75 years since the occupation began, Zionist Israel has been consolidating itself. To quote from a Perry Anderson article in 2015: “The reach of Zion has steadily expanded . . . in 1991, there were about 95 000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank. Twenty years later, there were about 350 000 . . . All told, over half a million Jews now live in the Occupied Territories. Their implantation has been a deliberate and sustained enterprise of the state, which has funded and shielded the flow of settlements to the tune of some \$28 billion.”
 - ◇ From the same Perry Anderson article: “In the new century, Israel has prospered. The injection of a million immigrants from the former Soviet Union, with average levels of education and skills far above that of the post-war Ashkenazi arrivals – half of them professionals: teachers, doctors, scientists, musicians, journalists – has revitalized the economy . . . Israel is now the fourth largest hi-tech arms exporter, at the cutting edge of drones and surveillance . . . Along with a domestic boom in real estate, construction and retail commerce has come a swelling tide of investment from abroad, principally American . . .”
 - ◇ As can be gleaned from the above two points: The rulers of Zionist Israel and their capitalist backers have an enormous amount to lose if Israel is extri-

cated from their hands. They will not give up without a fight – unless the regime of a new single state is totally compliant in the way that the ANC was at the negotiating table in the early 1990s.

- ◇ While Palestinian sovereignty in a one-state solution is non-negotiable, it should be noted that within the Palestinian territories there has been ongoing ideological discord among key organisational players, including Fatah/PLO and Hamas. Such discord will certainly be a factor in the process of building a single nation.
- ◇ But the vision of a single nation should be separated, conceptually, from the challenge it will take to build it. Part of the concept of a single nation would be the need to build an ideological template of it. Such template cannot reproduce the power-structures inherent in the current/old dispensation. In short, the new state cannot be one committed to neo-liberalism or any other form of capitalism. Only a socialist people’s democracy will suffice to ensure long-term peace and prosperity for all the people of the entire area.

As one, Nada Elia argues in a tweet on the social media platform, X, “Justice for Palestine cannot be won with the abolition of Israeli apartheid alone. It must go further, dismantling the supremacist ideology of Zionism itself.” Another tweet, in response to this, commented, “The Zionist idea of a “Jewish state” clearly has no future. A single secular state shared by Jews and Palestinians is clearly the only solution. Obviously some Jews don’t think so, but some Palestinians don’t either. There is more than one ideology out there we need to abolish.”



The NUM at the Sea Point pro-Palestinian protests - 28 October 2023

RACISM AND GENOCIDE IN GAZA

The myth of the existence of different human races was concocted centuries ago when the Europeans crossed the globe in their hunt for resources both human (slaves) and material (gold, spices, cloth, timber). Where they found abundance, they claimed the land by military conquest, drew their own borders and subjected the indigenous people to their rule and reign. These colonisers preached the myth of race with the consequent existence of superior and inferior races, thereby justifying their oppression of the inferior races, glorifying it with another myth of civilising the savage subjects.

The imperialists are the progenitors of the myth of race and were the primary practitioners of racism. Clearly, Imperialism is synonymous with racism and has over the centuries developed it to a fine art.

The foundation of the State of Israel was a racist Imperialist project from start to finish. Britain was granted dominion over Palestine after the 1st World War, declared itself in support of the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine in 1926 after strong Zionist lobbying, and in 1948 the State of Israel was established after a UN resolution on the matter.

Unsurprisingly, the Israeli State excelled in the continuation of the racist Imperialist project. Not unlike Imperialism's racist South African scheme, Israel practised discrimination against the indigenous Palestinians. Israeli military forces uprooted over five hundred Palestinian villages. Fleeing Palestinians became refugees in places like Gaza. Throughout, until the present day, Palestinian homes in Israel are bulldozed and Israeli settlers build new towns with impunity, ever decreasing the size of the land occupied by Palestinians.

For the past seventy-five years, since the formation of the State of Israel, the Israeli government has subjected the Palestinians daily to humiliating arbitrary restrictions of movement and association. Reunification of families separated between the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the Gaza strip is highly restricted.

In South Africa, arbitrary imprisonment without a charge was often used by the Apartheid government. It was known as detention without trial and was the lot of many in the struggle for liberation. In Israel it is called "Administrative Detention" and occurs daily. Even teenagers are incarcerated and kept for years without knowing what it is that they had done wrong.

An outstanding feature of Imperialist racism over the years has been its discriminatory view of the suffering of people. The hardships of the peoples of the previously colonised countries attract less attention and are less alarming than when tragedy befalls citizens of the Western developed nations. The racist nature of this phenomenon is borne out, for exam-

ple, by the foundation of the Black Lives Matter movement; even in the Imperialist countries, is there concern for the disproportionate violence meted out on black people by the state.

This is the case today with the *carte blanche* Israel believes it has to slaughter the citizens of Gaza. The support offered to Israel by the United States, France and the United Kingdom reinforces the belief that the brutality enacted on the lives of Palestinians is somehow less heinous than any harm done to Israelis. This is pure Imperialist racism.

In a supposed hunt for Hamas fighters, Israel is razing existing architecture in Gaza to the ground by incessant bombing raids, and fleeing citizens, instructed by them to clear the areas and to move to the South, are shelled to death along the way. Collective punishment of the worst kind. The devastation is utter, prompting the commissioner general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), Phillipe Lazarini, to say, "The world does not have the will to act on Gaza." Again, Imperialist racism, because the ruin and the killing are not meted out in France, the United States or Great Britain.

The German chancellor remarked that Israel has done everything "by the book". No matter that the precise following of the prescriptions in some international manual on war results in the broken bodies of innocent citizens being pulled from the ruins of flattened buildings. If those bodies were German, Belgian or Dutch, his outrage would have known no bounds.

The Nazis' vile treatment of Jewish people, including the horror of the holocaust, appalled all decent people across the world. All nations said, "Never again". Yet, since 1948, the same scenario has been playing out in Palestine for all to see including the holocaust of death and destruction these past few weeks across Gaza. The double standards scream racism.

Certainly, the racist petticoat of the Imperialist West was clearly showing these last days. Their support for Israel, in giving the green light for the genocide to take place, is proof that the racism with which they crossed the oceans centuries ago, has not diminished one bit.

THE SIYA KOLISI STORY

The following entry was posted on Facebook on 20 February 2023 by education and sport activist, Melanie Wagner. (Reproduced with her permission)

WARNING: THE FOLLOWING POST CONTAINS VIEWS YOU MIGHT FIND CONTROVERSIAL

I'm going to be weighing in on the Siya Kolisi story since it's been plastered all over my tv screen every 5 mins for the last few months.

I'm annoyed. Firstly by the frequency of the marketing of the documentary and secondly by the not-so-subtle reminders underpinning it. I'm annoyed because it's a rhetoric which the public seems oblivious to and one which has not been tackled and interrogated enough. This is my humble attempt...

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME

The year was 2019. That's 25 years after the first democratic elections were held in South Africa. The whole country - or rather most of the country - was dancing on the streets, celebrating the rugby world cup being brought 'home'. Siya Kolisi was hailed as a national hero. The 'first black captain', sealing his leadership with the prestigious silverware.

I detested that rhetoric then and detest it even more so now. Why is it that we are celebrating 'the first black captain' at all? As if it's an achievement. Here are some of my reasons why I am loathe to support the fanfare surrounding this story.

Celebrating a 'black captain' in a sport regarded as historically 'white-dominated' means that we are measuring his success against exactly that backdrop: white sport or white-controlled, establishment sport. This 'milestone' negates the fact that rugby was played by PoC in all corners of South African society for more than 100 years, and further ignores the talent that existed in those corners as well as the many leaders and captains who guided their teams to success, despite the odds stacked against them and the challenges they faced due to the Apartheid laws.

Why is it that 'whiteness' is used as the benchmark or standard? Why is it that PoC have to 'prove' themselves and their talent? Why is it that after almost 3 decades of 'change' we are even acknowledging a 'black captain'?

In this day and age surely we shouldn't be acknowledging the first woman or differently abled individual or first African or black president. In doing so we are doing nothing to break the shackles that enslaved societies and our forefathers but rather holding on to those standards and benchmarks. We are merely perpetuating the old



narrative, ensuring the longevity of the terminology that does its bidding and reinforcing labels, boxes, categories and prejudices that have no place in a modern world.

As far as I'm concerned, there is nothing to celebrate. There is hollowness in that celebration and I refuse to be part of it. To have the audacity to openly and publicly declare and hail it as a significant moment in South Africa's sporting history is a smack in every rugby player's face who hit that glass ceiling placed upon them by the Apartheid government and racist sports administrators.

I detest the puppetry that surrounds the Siya Kolisi story. He is a poster boy and a distraction. And the public the suckers.

Why is it that when PoC mention race or racism when discussing sport, they are told to 'stop living in the past' or to 'move on'. To 'get over it' and to 'stop bringing politics into sport'. Well then, what is this feeble attempt to celebrate the 'first black captain' if not bringing politics into sport? So who gets to decide *when* and *when not* to bring in politics anyway???

And what exactly is being celebrated? That 30 years on we finally have a township kid defy the odds and rise (pun intended) above the obstacles by being given the 'opportunities' - by the powers that be - to use his potential, to be taken under someone's 'wing' and be afforded the chance to climb up the rugby ladder. To be judged as 'good enough'. To meet the standard, the benchmark.

To fully understand my rant we need to cast our glance back into our recent past. To talk about 'unification in sport' in South Africa is to glorify and romanticise a crooked period in our country's sporting history. The word 'development' was bandied about as if there was something lacking, *underdeveloped* or *undeveloped* in the sport managed by PoC. Non-racial sporting structures were swallowed up by the white, richer, established sports federations, and told to 'watch and learn'. The bar was set by the establishment and the proverbial baby was thrown out with the bathwater. The rich history, the accomplishments and successes of non-racial sport were negated, sidelined, ignored. Buried forever. 'It's in the past. Move on. Get over it. Watch and learn how it's done.' Relegated to 'development' which merely disguised the hidden agendas: to maintain cushy positions of power and hold over others in sport, perpetuating the status quo.

The bar, the standard, the benchmark. Kinda like when the kids in the neighbourhood gather in the park to play a game of cricket or soccer and the kid who owns the cricket bat or the soccer ball decides the rules, the teams, when the game ends etc etc. And if he's on a losing streak he has (or rather believes he has) the power to decide when to change the rules or simply abandon the game so he ensures he always comes out tops cos he's able to manipulate the game.

But I digress...

There's so much more I could say about this topic. About what we see in our sport being a microcosm of what we see in South African society. About the inequalities that persist in every facet of our society. About how the claim that 'sport unites' couldn't be

further from the truth. About how the practices in sport, and the powers that be, have done little to level the playing fields or advance the multitude of township talent that exists. About how only a handful get the chance to showcase their skill mostly by being poached or given a scholarship to an ivy league institution which guarantees they'll get noticed. (Craven week is a good example of how things REALLY work in sport.) About how we haven't managed to harness even 1/20th of the talent in our country. About how the wheels of change in sport turn slowly.

So you see why I cannot share the excitement whenever a person of colour is celebrated for having climbed 'the ranks'? It's only a celebration if you play by 'their' rules. If you don't understand my musings, you never will. I guess I march to a different drum...

(Note: All references to race and racial groups are used loosely as I subscribe to the belief that the concept of race has no biological basis.)

THIS WORKER WAS PRODUCED BY THE PUBLICATIONS COLLECTIVE OF THE NEW UNITY MOVEMENT

Address all correspondence to the secretariat PO Box 27561 Greenacres 6057

Michael Steenveld

071 645 1590

mikesteenveld2020@gmail.com

Visit us at: www.newunitymovement.org.za