

# Imperialism and Israel

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## Is the enemy of our enemy always our friend?

The Palestine solidarity movement is broad, embracing people with different views – and that’s fundamentally good! Here’s how some of us in the movement see some issues we believe are important.

Israel is a settler-colonial capitalist society whose establishment in 1948 was only possible because the rulers of the US and the USSR supported it. Today Israel is able to carry out its genocidal violence against Palestinians because it’s backed by the US as well as by other Western states including Canada.

Why do Western governments back Israel even when there’s friction with its government? It’s not because of Zionist lobbying. It’s not because Israel controls those governments (an antisemitic idea). It’s because Israel is a reliable tool for the US and its allies to dominate the Middle East. As Joe Biden said to the US Congress in 1986, “Were there not an Israel, the United States of America would have to invent an Israel to protect our interests in the region.”

There’s a hierarchical order of wealth and power in our capitalist world – imperialism. Ruling classes in the countries at the top benefit most from this. The US is at the summit. Canada is an imperialist junior partner of the US. The US’s rivals China and Russia are weaker than the US, but they’re imperialist powers too. All imperialist domination should be opposed: *From Ukraine to Palestine, Occupation is a Crime!* The main enemy is at home – our own ruling class. Our stance to people resisting imperialism and settler colonialism should be unconditional solidarity.

But just because a state or movement clashes with the US or Israel doesn’t make it a reliable ally of the Palestinian cause or deserving of our political endorsement. This is true of the Iranian and Syrian governments, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Ansar Allah in Yemen that belong to the so-called “axis of resistance.” They’re all conservative forces. They repress struggles in their societies to improve the lives of workers, peasants, cis women, queer and trans people, and oppressed minorities including the Kurds. *We should support such struggles just as we support the Palestinian freedom struggle.*

## SOME RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR LEARNING ABOUT THESE ISSUES:

- *Palestine: A Socialist Introduction* (available as free ebook from [haymarketbooks.org](http://haymarketbooks.org))
- B. Raine, “Is the Enemy of My Enemy My Friend?” at [breachmedia.ca](http://breachmedia.ca)
- R. Bernabe, “The Left and Ukraine: Anti-Imperialism or Alter-Imperialism?” at [newpol.org](http://newpol.org)

## VARIOUS ARTICLES ON THESE SITES:

- [tempestmag.org](http://tempestmag.org)
- [againstthecurrent.org](http://againstthecurrent.org)
- [newpol.org](http://newpol.org)
- [syriafreedomforever.wordpress.com](http://syriafreedomforever.wordpress.com) (articles in English, French and Arabic)
- [leilashami.wordpress.com](http://leilashami.wordpress.com)
- [gilbert-achcar.net](http://gilbert-achcar.net) (articles in English, French and Arabic)
- [peoplenature.org](http://peoplenature.org)
- [midnightsunmag.ca](http://midnightsunmag.ca)
- [allianceofmesocialists.org](http://allianceofmesocialists.org) (archived)

## THESE PODCASTS:

The Fire These Times  
Victor’s Children