

Having trouble viewing? [View this mailing online.](#)

**SUBSCRIBE TO THE FLAME HOTLINE    DONATE TO FLAME**



May 23, 2023



**Rather than a “colonial project,” Israel is one of history’s greatest fighters against colonialism**

Dear Friend of Israel, Dear Friend of FLAME:

One of the most common attacks on Israel's legitimacy is the false accusation that it is a "colonial settler" state.

This slander misunderstands the definition of colonialism, as well as, ironically, the Jewish people's role as one world history's greatest opponents of imperialism and colonialism.

Over the course of Jews' 3000-year history in their indigenous homeland, they established three commonwealths—two in biblical times, one today—which often defended against colonial invaders. Remember Masada? Remember the Maccabees?

Today's State of Israel liberated its homeland from the British and Jordan. Upon Israel's declaration of independence, it also fought back imperialist attacks by Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon, and, again, Jordan.

The Jews' victory in those conflicts has allowed them to live in the Land of Israel as a sovereign people for the first time in 2,000 years. Today, the Jewish state only seeks to control land to which it is legally entitled. Moreover, it has shown its willingness to exchange land it controls for peace with its Palestinian neighbors.

**Colonialism happens when foreigners conquer indigenous people and their lands, and rule over them.** Common definitions of indigeneity list six characteristics: Unique language, religion, laws, culture, bloodline and historical connection to a specific land. Jews possess all those characteristics.

Palestinians before 1964 never self-identified as a people: They have always claimed they were part of the greater Arab nation, and today they are members of the Arab League. History books do not chronicle any “Palestinian” people, nor does the Koran. Palestinians also have no unique religion, language, laws,

**HOME**

## SUBSCRIBE

**DONATE**

PR FOR ISRAEL

HOTLINE ARCHIVE

## ABOUT

## CONTACT US

**THIS MONTH'S AD  
APPEARED IN  
PUBLICATIONS  
REACHING 10 MILLION  
READERS**

[illegible]

 [DONATE NOW](#)

**IF YOU SUPPORT  
PUBLISHING FLAME'S  
BOLD PR MESSAGES,  
PLEASE HELP US!!**

culture or bloodline.

While some Arab Palestinians have lived in the Holy Land for generations, as a group they have had no sovereignty or ownership over any land anywhere. They cannot be considered indigenous, nor can they claim their land was “colonized.”

On the other hand, Jews have a *bona fide* indigenous identity, and Jews have continuously populated the land of Israel. As such, they have also been the victims of colonizers many times over millennia.

Thus, by no definition can Jews be considered colonists.

**What’s more, during their millennia-old presence in Israel, the Jewish people have consistently fought against colonial powers.** In Biblical times, Israel was occupied by the empires of Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Macedonia and Rome. Later, Arabs, Crusaders, Turks and the British invaded.

Most of these empires attempted to erase the Jewish people from their land. The Romans, for example, attempted to do so by slaughtering most of the Jewish population, destroying their temple—the focal point of their religion—and giving the country a new name: Palestine.

Every visitor knows that Israel’s land is piled high with the archeological remnants proving its own presence, as well as cities, forts, battles, harbors and other remains of colonial invaders.

Many of these colonizers exiled the Jews, who dispersed all over the world—especially to Africa, other parts of the Middle East and Europe.

After defeating the Ottoman Turks in 1917, the British re-colonized the land of Israel—then called Palestine. Later, as millions of Jews were being slaughtered by the Nazis, the Jews of Palestine responded by fighting British rule until the State of Israel was born.

During Israel’s War of Independence in 1948, however, the territory of Judea and Samaria—in the heart of its biblical homeland—was illegally seized by Jordan. In 1967, when Israel again defeated invading Arab states, Israel liberated Judea and Samaria, including eastern Jerusalem, which had been colonized under Jordanian occupation and all Jews ethnically cleansed.

Ironically, while the international community never recognized Jordan’s sovereignty over Judea and Samaria—territory Jordan renamed as “the West Bank”—they didn’t condemn Jordan’s illegal occupation.

Nor was there ever any demand by local Palestinian Arabs to form a state on Jordanian-held land. Only once Israel drove Jordan out of this territory did some members of the international community begin accusing *Israel* of illegal occupation.

**Israel controls only legally acquired land.** Israel’s capture of Judea and Samaria liberated a colonized territory to which Israel was legally entitled. International law dictates that a new country inherits the borders of the former entity. Judea and Samaria were previously the territory of the British Mandate of

FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

**DONATE NOW** »

 **SUBSCRIBE FREE**

**FLAME'S WEEKLY  
HOTLINE  
E-NEWSLETTER**



FLAME's Hotline e-newsletter keeps you up to date on the most important pro-Israel advocacy issues and features our choice of the week's most informative and thought-provoking article on Israel and the Middle East. If you only subscribe to one pro-Israel news service, make it the FLAME Hotline.

**SUBSCRIBE NOW** »

Palestine, meaning Israel was entitled to inherit it.

Above all, Judea and Samaria was never legally part of any other country. An occupation only exists when one country occupies the territory of another. Therefore, there is no Israeli occupation, nor does Israel illegally control “Palestinian territory.”

**The Palestinians claim that they, not the Jews, are the indigenous inhabitants of the Holy Land.** Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas recently told the UN General Assembly that Palestinians are descendants of ancient Canaanites, a people that disappeared around 1150 BCE.

In truth, most Palestinians are descendants of people who migrated to the region from Arab lands. While some Palestinian families have lived in the Holy Land for centuries, many, if not most, of these families originate from other lands.

The prominent Al-Husayni and Shawish families, for example, claim direct descent from the Prophet Mohamed, a native of the Arabian Peninsula. Hence, whereas Jews are the Holy Land’s indigenous inhabitants, Palestinians are part of an Arab colonial project.

**Israel has offered to exchange its legally acquired territory for peace with the Palestinians and the Arab world.** The U.N. Partition Plan for Palestine defined an Arab state in the Holy Land, which the Arabs rejected in 1948, in favor of war with Israel. The Jewish state made several offers of statehood to the Palestinians—in 2000, 2001, and 2008—all of which the Palestinians rejected, choosing instead ongoing war to destroy Israel.

In short, Israel has no interest in colonizing Palestinians. It already has two million Arab-Israeli citizens. Indeed, Israel wants peace and has offered its land to achieve it. Unfortunately, the Palestinians seem to hate Israel more than they desire independence.

I hope you will express to friends, family, colleagues—and in letters to the editor—that Israel is a legitimate nation state. It is a project not of colonialism, but of indigenous self-determination. Today, it continues to be a refuge for Jews fleeing persecution—also allowing the Jewish people to defend themselves from future colonizers.

I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to forward this message to friends, visit FLAME's lively [Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new *hasbarah* campaign —“[Demand Justice for Jewish Students](#)”—which exposes rising attacks on Jewish college students’ identity and how these acts of antisemitism can be defeated.

Best regards,

James Sinkinson, President  
Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. You've surely seen headlines describing increasing attacks on Jewish students—in the classroom and in the public square—by radical anti-Zionist students, as well as faculty members. So far, university administrators have failed to prevent this kind of antisemitism on campus. At the heart of this discrimination, Israel's enemies outrageously claim that Zionism is not part of being Jewish. No wonder more and more Jewish students are hiding their Jewish identities on campus. I think you'll agree that we supporters of Israel need to speak out. FLAME's new hasbarah—explanatory message—“[Demand Justice for Jewish Students](#)”—tells how recent law suits based on Title VI anti-discrimination laws are putting pressure on college administrators to protect Jewish students from such attacks. I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based editorial, which FLAME recently published in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Star Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times* and *Newsmax*. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Harris and President Biden. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to [support us](#).

As of today, more than 15,000 Israel supporters receive the FLAME Hotline at no charge every week. If you're not yet a subscriber, won't you join us in receiving these timely updates, so you can more effectively tell the truth about Israel? Just go to [free subscription](#).



Facts and Logic  
About the Middle East  
PO Box 3460  
Berkeley, CA 94703

Copyright 2023 FLAME. All rights reserved.

[Unsubscribe](#)