

# **Held Hostage to Israeli's neo-Doctrine of Discovery *aka Divinely Ordained Settler Colonization***

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UltraOrthodox Jewish settlers are embracing today their own perverted version of divinely ordained settler colonization of indigenous land, an extreme contemporary Jewish tributary of that mighty river of Euro-Christian domination flowing from the infamous Christian Doctrine of Discovery that was finally rejected this year by the pope, a racist doctrine that justified European settler colonization of indigenous peoples' land during the so-called Age of Discovery. The Age of Discovery or the Age of Exploration, part of the early modern period and largely overlapping with the Age of Sail, was a period from approximately the 15th century to the 17th century, during which seafarers from a number of European countries explored, colonized, and conquered regions across the globe. The Vatican in April of this year finally responded to Indigenous demands and formally repudiated the "Doctrine of Discovery," the theories backed by 15th-century "papal bulls" that legitimized the colonial-era seizure of native lands and form the basis of some property law today.

The doctrine of discovery originated in papal bulls which authorized various European powers to conquer the lands of non-Christians. In 1452, Pope Nicholas V issued the bull *Dum Diversas*, which authorized King Afonso V of Portugal to "subjugate the Saracens and pagans and any other unbelievers and enemies of Christ", and "reduce their persons to perpetual servitude", to take their belongings, including land, "to convert them to you, and your use, and your successors, the Kings of Portugal." The Doctrine of Discovery originated with the Christian church and was based on Christian scripture, including the Great Commission, the divine mandate to rule based on Romans 13, and the narrative of a covenantal people justified in taking possession of land as described in the Exodus story.

A majority of white evangelical Protestant American Christians and Republicans who support the core tenet of the Doctrine of Discovery, that "God intended America to be a new promised land where European Christians could create a society that would be an example to the rest of the world" embrace the UltraOrthodox Jewish settler movement.

Compared to white Americans who reject it, white Americans who agree with this core tenet of the Doctrine of Discovery are: two and a half times as likely to believe that the impact of America's history of slavery and racism on the present is exaggerated (58 percent vs. 23 percent); more than three times as likely to believe in the so-called "great replacement theory" which contends that immigrants are "invading our country and replacing our cultural and ethnic background" (68 percent vs. 21 percent); and most disturbingly, whites who embrace the core tenet of the Doctrine of Discovery are nearly three times as likely as those who reject it to believe that "true American patriots may

have to resort to violence to save our country" (26 percent vs. 9 percent). Source "The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy"- By Robert P. Jones.

Whites who embrace the core tenet of the Doctrine of Discovery identify with the most radical and combative fringe of the ultra Jewish nationalist settler movement, known as the "hilltop youth," long considered the vanguard of the Jewish state. After/all, they believe it is their God-given right to be in the West Bank, and they are willing to take it by force if the government will not do it for them. It is reminiscent of the thinking of the American Christian white settlers movement that led to the "Trail of Tears", the forced removal of the Choctaw people west of the Mississippi River to Indian Country. Ultraorthodox Jewish settlers seem to view Palestinian linkage to olive trees in the present in the same light as their ancestral legacy Christian settler counterparts viewed the eradication of the American buffalo. Palestinian farmers in Qusra found that 500 olive trees, passed down through generations, had been destroyed; their agricultural land covered with cement and settlers burned olive trees between the villages of Burin and Huwara. The notion that the lighter skin of white Christians or Jews signifies their place in a divine pecking order, is a notion that justifies an ethnic hierarchy over an indigenous people's land. It is a racist notion that supports the dehumanization of those living on the land and their dispossession, murder, and forced assimilation. A dehumanizing notion that connects the legacies of extreme white settler colonization of America's native reservations of yesterday to the exploitation of Palestinian enclaves today.

To date the International Court of Justice has advised that 144 Israeli settlements including over 100 Israeli illegal outposts (not sanctioned by the Israeli government) in the West Bank, and 12 settlements in East Jerusalem are unlawful. The unlawful settlements are housing units for Jewish Israelis built by Israel's government on occupied Palestinian land in the West Bank and East Jerusalem (and occupied Syrian land in the Golan Heights). All Israeli settlements built in the occupied West Bank (and East Jerusalem and Golan) are illegal under international law, and have been repeatedly condemned as such by the United Nations Security Council, the International Court of Justice, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and human rights organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. It's important to note that all Israeli settlements in the West Bank are considered illegal under international law, as they violate Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Despite this, the settlement enterprise continues, often with the support of the Israeli state.

The UN Human Rights Office has reported on several American companies that have been involved in activities related to Israeli settlements in the West Bank, that include: Airbnb; Booking.com; Expedia Group; Motorola Solutions. These companies are among 112 business entities that the UN Human Rights office has concluded had reasonable grounds to be involved in activities related to illegal settlements. The activities included supplying equipment and materials facilitating the construction and expansion of settlements and Israel's West Bank barrier, supplying equipment for the demolition of housing and property, providing services and utilities supporting the maintenance and existence of settlements, including transport, and banking and

financial operations helping to develop, expand or maintain settlements and their activities.

It would be difficult to ascertain specific information on whether any University endowment included Airbnb, Booking.com, Expedia Group, Motorola Solutions or any other companies that support the establishment of Israel's illegal settlements . The endowment may be managed by an external Investment Management Company that invests in diversified portfolios across various asset classes. Thus it would be more pragmatic to call for direct national boycotts of such companies and closure of Government policies that facilitate companies that engage in the support of illegal settlements in Israel. A blanket call by students for divestment by their individual universities from companies that do business with Israel is more likely than not to have a greater destructive impact on the economy of the University and their student body than exact any meaningful damage on the economy of Israel.

**ACTION ITEM: The current student activist encampments and demands that their institutions slash financial ties to Israel and manufacturers supplying the Netanyahu government has allowed the media to redirect its live streaming of the atrocities in Gaza that was having a universal worldwide positive humanitarian egalitarian impact to a backlash sympathy for problematic injuries and alienation to their university's Jewish student body and Israel's ability to defend its existence. Progressive student activists should adapt their tactics to counter the mainstream media's mislabeling of their movement for humanitarian justice in the Gaza conflict. Progressive student activists significant impact on exacting realistic changes for humanitarian justice would be more effective if they would focus their divestment protest movement to pressure their Government to implement policies that sanction American companies that aid and abet Israeli divinely ordained illegal settlements. Strategic divestment tactics focused on Israeli illegal settlements would insulate such activism from specious charges of antisemitism, and preclude the media from labeling them as "pro-Palestinian demonstrators", "pro-Palestinian encampments" or more insidiously "pro-Hamas agitators". Furthermore, it would pressure the current administration to be a more effective advocate for Palestinian rights in alignment with its stated anti-settlement policies.**

West Bank settlement expansion is a priority of Netanyahu's government. The Netanyahu administration has supported settlements that are considered illegal by international standards. In the coalition agreement between Likud and Religious Zionism, Netanyahu promised to annex the West Bank and pledged to legalize wildcat settlement outposts considered illegal even by the Israeli government. The Trump administration supported Netanyahu's government settlement policies in the West Bank. In a significant shift from previous U.S. policy, Secretary of State Michael Pompeo announced on November 18, 2019, that the Trump administration no longer viewed Israeli settlements in the West Bank as inconsistent with international law. This announcement was seen as a reversal of a U.S. policy dating back nearly 50 years that held Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories as "illegitimate" under

international law. The Biden administration reversed the Trump administration's policy and restored the US policy deeming settlements inconsistent with international law. This policy views new settlements as counterproductive to reaching an enduring peace and inconsistent with international law.

To President Biden's credit, he is the first American president to unambiguously call out a minority Jewish version of our White Christian Nationalism. Biden has sanctioned Israeli settlers accused of attacking Palestinians and peace activists in the West Bank. Biden has issued an executive order that targets Israeli settlers in the West Bank who have been accused of attacking Palestinians and Israeli peace activists in the occupied territory, imposing financial sanctions and visa bans in an initial round against four individuals. Those settlers were involved in acts of violence, as well as threats and attempts to destroy or seize Palestinian property, according to the order. The penalties aim to block the four from using the U.S. financial system and bar American citizens from dealing with them. U.S. officials said they were evaluating whether to punish others involved in attacks that have intensified during the Israel-Hamas war. The Israeli leader Netanyahu has denounced Biden's sanctions. Progressive activists should pressure Democrats and call out the Biden administration to expand these positive policies to pave the path for a total dismantling of illegal Israeli settlements, while denouncing the Republicans' policy positions supportive of illegal Israeli settlements.

The irony of the outsized public outrage and media headlines chastising illegal campus encampments advocating for egalitarian humanitarian justice with problematic slights to Jewish students, in contrast with the public's acquiescence and media silence to government sponsored illegal settlements with real injuries to the welfare of Palestinians is not lost on the sensibilities of our youth. Donald Trump has called Campus activists protesting Israel's war in Gaza "Radical Left Lunatics". The Republicans who threaten to use federal power to compel D.C. to clear out the George Washington University encampment, are indifferent to a call upon our federal power to compel Netanyahu's government to clear out Israeli illegal encampments. Federal lawmakers, declared at GMU's encampment that they will hold hearings to compel more aggressive police action at the demonstrations. Student activists should counter with demands that the House Republicans hold hearings on illegal Israeli West Bank encampments and actions by the Israeli military that are counterproductive to reaching an enduring peace. The Israeli military has been involved in the West Bank and has been accused of either participating in or not protecting Palestinians from violent settler attacks. After October 7, Israel's National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir instructed police not to enforce the law against violent settlers. In the past two decades, the deployment of Israeli security forces to the West Bank to help "secure" the illegal Israeli settlements has expanded. So-called "territorial defense units" comprised of settlers have been created, trained, and armed by the Israeli military.

ACTION ITEM: GWU's student activist "Liberation Zone" encampments protesting Israel's war in Gaza should be repurposed as an activist model to liberate illegal Israeli occupation zones. The international community considers Israeli settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories illegal under international law, violating the Fourth Geneva Convention's prohibition on the transfer of a civilian population to or from occupied territory. Each encampment in GWU's "Liberation Zone" should adopt the name of an illegal Israeli settlement and declare it will dismantle as a campus protest encampment upon verification of the dismantlement of its adopted illegal Israeli encampment's population. By way of example, campus "Liberation Zone" encampments may adopt from the following list of city settlements in the West Bank: Ariel(20,520) ; Beitar Illit(64,016); Ma'ale Adumim(38,0460); Modi'in Illit(83,356). Other settlements, excluding East Jerusalem: Alfei Menashe (7,975); Beit Aryeh-Ofarim(5,517); Bait El(6,108); Efrat (Efrata) (11,853); Geva Binyamin(5,913); Giv'at Ze'ev(21,097); Karmel Shomron(9,920); Kiryat Arba(7,490); Kokhav Ya'akov(9,794); Shilo(5,072); Talmon(5,379). East Jerusalem: East Talpiot(15,104); Gilo(30,820); Har Homa(19,950); Neve Yaakov(21,780); Pisgat Ze'ev(44,512); Ramat Shlomo(15,070); Ramat Alon(41,410). Golan Heights: Katzrin(7,876).

On Oct. 7 Hamas executed a terrorist massacre of the Be'eri Israeli Kibbutz that included perverse sexual violence and killed about 1,200 Israelis. Be'eri is located within the internationally recognized borders of Israel and is not considered an illegal settlement. Be'eri, considered one of Israel's wealthiest kibbutzim, has resisted privatization as most of its kibbutzim kin, and retained its original socialist cooperative model. Israel's disproportionate response to the horrific Oct. 7 Hamas attack has resulted in over 34,000 mostly civilian Palestinians dead, destruction of infrastructure, created a humanitarian crisis with mass displacement and has caused many supporters of Israel to judge Israeli reaction as overly broad militarily and morally unjustified.

ACTION ITEM: { Proposal: One Hostage release for every dismantling of a West Bank Israeli settlement advised by the International Court of Justice to be unlawful. This will position Israel as having to take the politically untenable position of demonstrating their value of maintaining an illegal settlement over the value of the release of an innocent hostage. This will position Hamas as having to take the politically untenable position of demonstrating their value in retaining an innocent hostage over the value of repatriation of Palestinian territory. Rejection of such a proposal will expose the political corrupted values of Israeli and Hamas representatives to reaching a just and lawful resolution that respects the lives and aspirations of the constituents they purport to represent. }

Acceptance of the Jewish right to exist, does not include endorsement of state sponsored support of ultranationalist divinely ordained settler colonization. There is no place in our time for a reprised Doctrine of Discovery, a divinely ordained settler colonization of nonbelievers be it of Christian, Jewish or Islamic origin, God is not a real estate agent for the faithful.





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The Doctrine of Discovery is a legal and religious concept that has been used for centuries to justify Christian colonial conquest. It advanced the idea that European peoples, culture and religion were superior to all others. The Racist race to possess the goods, preceded any class struggle over the resultant loot. This is what purist radical white progressives have never grasped and why they have been the bane of the victims of supremacist Eurocentric settler colonization since time immemorial. IT is why they have never understood the nature of indigenous communal relationship with nature vs the survival of the fittest relationship with natural resources is at the core of an ever evolving state of human suffering and environmental disaster. This is why they cannot understand that the perceived existential threat to hierarchical survival of the fittest is at the core of the conflict over natural resources which aligns with a fear of the loss of racial status in an evolving multiracial democracy. Since they are members of the perceived fittest race, their ultimate status in the racial hierarchy is not at risk.

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