



The Acceleration of the American Decline: From Self- Aggrandizement to Self-Mutilation

Cyrus Bina*

Professor Emeritus of Economics, University of Minnesota, USA

Hell is empty and all the devils are here.

The Tempest: Act 1, scene 2

--William Shakespeare

*Corresponding Author: *Cyrus Bina, Professor Emeritus of Economics, University of Minnesota, USA.*

As was precisely pointed out in *Globalization and the Decline of American Power* (Routledge, 2023), the United States has long been going down the primrose path of precipitous decline since the collapse of the *Pax Americana* (1945-1979); and as we predicted in a lengthy analysis, in all likelihood, the US, as a great power, would go down with a bang rather than a whimper. And more importantly, such a catastrophic trajectory should be a consequential matter of first order for the new global polity in the making. At this juncture *inter alia* the caricature of Cold War, the cartoonish US visits to Beijing and elsewhere, and the unbecoming parody of asking the Chinese to produce less and to diminish their production of goods and services by the US Secretary of Treasury Janet Yellen, stand out as embarrassing features of the management of decline by the Biden Administration.¹ The doublespeak of US “one-China policy” while openly being in cahoots with the descendants of Chiang Kai-shek over Taiwan - as this frequently provokes receiving across-the-face symbolic slap by Chinese leaders - is not a sign of a great power that stand on its own feet and feel comfortable in its own skin. Has the *emperor* any marbles at all to realize what happened to *his* very constitution, so to speak? As pointed out in details (e.g., Bina 2023) the United States had long ago forfeited the mantle of hegemonic leadership of an interstate *order* that now both materially and socially has no scintilla of existence. Hence speaking of American hegemony in the dawn of the post-Pax Americana era is not unlike the parody of Elvis’ sightings in the advent of his afterlife. Yet, this defunct hegemon does not appear to let go, so to speak, of temper-tantrum, devilish misconduct, and dangerous undertaking tantamount to self-destruction and destruction of others.

As we elucidated in detail in the above volume and elsewhere, the trajectory of the ascent of American political power in the postwar era and its subsequent descent and disintegration effectively transpired through the impact of globalization. In other words, the time for the postwar American interstate system crossed the Rubicon toward the sunset of history sometime before the collapse of the Soviet Union despite the superficial observation and perfunctory pontification of the many on the left and the right, and more importantly in contrast with jubilation of Cold Warriors in Washington, London, and elsewhere in the West, pertaining to the latter’s disintegration. An offshoot of this thesis shows that the so-called *reshaping* of the Middle East (really West Asia!) with an eye to the “Project for the Next American Century,” which was once adopted by the Bush-Cheney administration and which embraced by the Biden and Trump administrations, is not only a sign of US political infirmity at the moment but also the tip of much larger US historical demise evidenced by the last three decades of pitiable and destructive behavior.

¹ See “China, US discuss key economic issues as Yellen visit continues,” by staff reporters, *Global Times*, April 6, 2024: <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202404/1310090.shtml>. Retrieved: July 8, 2024. Janet Yellen is a familiar face in orthodox economics or what the late John Weeks called, *fakeonomics*. This should remind us that neither the weaponization of the US dollar nor US dollar itself is able to withstand (and meaningfully survive) the universal potency of globalization. Such use (and abuse) is but a sign of a beleaguered power that is no longer in charge.

In the interlude since the publication of *Globalization and the Decline of American Power*, so much in the daily life of our planet has changed. In particular, Doomsday Clock gained an upward of 10 seconds, and as of January 23, 2024 stood more dangerously at 90 seconds to midnight. This measure now stands at 89 seconds to midnight as of January 28, 2025.² As to the dynamics of American decline and the panicky US reaction thereto, no discernible change has materialized that would make a difference for world peace. If anything, the United States is further engulfed in a de facto war further against Russia in Ukraine's civil war-cum-proxy war and, as anticipated by astute observers, it resulted so far in more than a million Ukrainian dead, over two million Ukrainian casualties, several million displaced Ukrainian refugees, with a potential rump state with grim, uncertain, unresolved future, that should invoke our memories of Brzezinski's insular and obtuse post-Soviet prognosis, and to no avail.³ The proxy war in Ukraine, besides being a predictable pattern of defeat for NATO, is also a window into the Europe's yet unsettled political state of affairs – being a sliver of the dilapidated postwar order - with an old habit of leaning on the US, a defunct hegemon that itself could hardly keep up with the changing balance of power and thus coping with the new challenges. In the meantime, one should not overlook the fall of Berlin Wall and significance of the fall of Soviet Union, an awesome historical sequence that essentially spawn Europe's political disorientation vis-à-vis the mirage of American “unipolarity,” that in turn led to the latter's gross miscalculation, nostalgic compulsion, and above all belittling the *indivisibility* of security across the political landscape of Eurasia.⁴

The crumbling foundation of US position, preconditioned by 9/11 and culminated *inter alia* by defeat after defeat in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen, is now smashed to smithereens in Palestine where the US and the apartheid outpost of Israel are mutually embroiling in genocide. Here, holding onto the visages of bygone era, is one thing, and playing active role in genocide against Palestinians – in broad daylight - by supplying weapons, providing intelligence, facilitating logistics, allowing public deception, and giving diplomatic cover, all to assign *exceptional* status to Israel, despite these interlaced, despicable crimes against humanity; is quite another. Ironically, in this theatre alone, though, the true face of American “value,” American “free world,” and American “rules-based” (dis)order, now in its ugliest manifestation are on display for billions of the people across the world to see.⁵

This is a naked face of desperate and doomed political class that bankrolled the ugliest form of exceptionalism, namely, genocidal Zionism, and thus elevated the level of material and moral bankruptcy of declining America to a new high.⁶ Contrary to the fragmented outlook of the crisis in Europe and crisis in Palestine, and despite their respective historical variations, these calamities are an organic part of a trajectory that manifest the dynamics of bygone (postwar) order in conjunction with

² On January 20, 2022, Doomsday Clock by the Science and Security Board of *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* set at 100 seconds to midnight. On January 23, 2024, it was kept at 90 seconds to midnight – displaying the elevation of conflict across the world and danger of nuclear exchange. This measure is now at 89 seconds, closer to midnight as of January 28, 2025.

³ See Brzezinski, Zbigniew. 1997. *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Strategic Imperatives*. New York: Basic Books. The author was a Cold Warrior and rabid Russophobe who served as the National Security Advisor in the Carter administration. This book is a prime example of how illusive, irrelevant, and ill-founded the orthodoxy in international relations has turned out to be.

⁴ It should be noted that the original sin that lured Ukraine into the predicament that it finds itself in today unfolded in the Bush-Cheney Administration in April of 2008 at NATO summit in Bucharest. Georgia too, nominated in the same summit, was met with similar subsequent devastation. There's a thing called redline; and the US just crossed it. See Luke Harding, “Bush backs Ukraine and Georgia for NATO membership,” *The Guardian*, April 1, 2008: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/apr/01/nato.georgia>. Retrieved: July 11, 2024; see #23 of “Bucharest Summit Declaration,” *North Atlantic Treaty Organization*, April 3, 2008: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_8443.htm. Retrieved: July 11, 2024.

⁵ The “free world,” a proselytizing phrase, was neither well founded during the Cold War nor true afterwards. Yet, this fictitious phrase is continuously planted onto the vernacular of certain Western journalists whose job is to downgrade the tsunami of change, to cover the US desperation and atrocities, and to proclaim that the United States is still in charge. Weaponizing “democracy” is another (popular) gaslighting technique in the business of propaganda. The so-called National Endowment for Democracy, for instance, is a neocon outfit that stands as a destabilizing force and proxy for CIA's obtrusiveness in domestic affairs of other nations.

⁶ Aside from the US (and Britain) as the principal protector of Israel, Germany's triple-crown of shame for conducting genocide, once, against Namibians (the 1900s), twice, against Jews (the 1940s), thrice, against Palestinians, in collaboration with Israel, in Gaza, is extraordinary.

their turbulent after-effects.⁷ The parallelism of these two conflicts is (1) in their intrinsic dependence on the receding order,⁸ (2) in their very characteristic as the symptom of Western decline, and (3) in there being both at the receiving end of the blind and belligerent American foreign policy, owned and operated by Zionist ideologues in the West.⁹

The US attachment to the fossilized postwar institutions, particularly to the old political and military alliances from the bygone eras, mirrors the outdated and obsolete attitude of the American political class in the recognition and appreciation of present realities. This misperception cannot be more conspicuous than holding onto NATO¹⁰ - (a counterpart of the long-liquidated Warsaw Pact) - while imagining that the fall of the Soviet Union were analogous to the rise of the United States, which the latter “won the Cold War without firing a shot.” Unmoved by awesome shifts in the tectonic plates of unprecedented change, and blind to the massive forces beneath the surface of the globalizing world, the political class in the US literally swaddled itself in the daydream of “unipolarity.” Given the mindset, motivation behind the US sabotage of the Nord Stream Pipeline (I & II), on September 26, 2022, which carried Russian (liquified) gas from the Baltic Sea to northeastern Germany, is a case in point.¹¹ This provocation alone is a remarkable burst of arrogance and an instance of the American capacity for *self-destruction*: (1) it wrecked the German economy rather predictably, without inflicting a smidgen of dent on Russia and (2) it inflicted injury on an allied member of NATO, an alliance that ordinarily should rise and fall on *cohesion*,¹² and (3) it caused self-injury by exposing the United States for what it really is: a self-absorbed, unbecoming, defunct hegemon.¹³ In this case, what comes to mind is the idiocy of someone who’s cutting a branch that he/she is sitting on.¹⁴ Yet, a more pertinent question is: given the irreversibility of American decline - aside from taking part in the earlier American interventions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, etc. - what is in Europe's advantage (or lack thereof) to

⁷ A fragmented mind is unsuitable to view the infused and ideological dilemmas that interlock the predicament of Ukraine and Israel into a unified whole. Both are the de facto protectorate in their own ways and both are the very sign of American bleeding and deepening decline.

⁸ Investigative journalist Max Blumenthal reveals the Biden Administration’s aim at Israelization of Ukraine. Max Blumenthal, Ukraine to become 'Big Israel'? *The Grayzone*, September 18, 2023: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmICm4qO3i4>. Retrieved: July 8, 2024; see his observation on Gaza: Blumenthal, Max. 2015. *The 51 Day War: Ruin and Resistance in Gaza*. New York: Nation Books.

⁹ It is important to note that Judaism and Zionism are different kettle of fish, consequently it is a grave error to conflate the two. Watch Rabbi Yisroel Dovid Weiss’s interview, *Al Jazeera English*/October 17, 2023: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIX368TtOJs>. Retrieved: July 9, 2024; Sir Alan Duncan, ““Get out of Palestine, it's not your country,” *Middle East Eye*/July 17, 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GaUwsfkzU4&t=4s>. Retrieved: July 17, 2024.

Zionism, besides being a racist settler colonial ideology in the apartheid state of Israel, also plays front and center within the neoconservative view of world politics. Neocons gained traction within the US foreign policy establishment in the 1990s; after 9/11 they catapulted to the stage by the deception of “war on terror” in the Bush-Cheney Administration.

¹⁰ The so-called G7 is a feeble façade of the lingering fragments of defunct *Pax Americana* whose facile unity provides a semblance of normalcy in the absence of an order. And NATO is but a caricature of the American deterrence, i.e., security under the so-called nuclear umbrella, which is now visibly failed in Europe.

¹¹ This story is purposely shrouded in mystery across the corporate media and sanctioned by the Biden Administration. The latest revelation that Ukraine was the instigator in this case is absolute nonsense. There are a handful of countries in the world that have access to such (deepwater) technological capacity. I believe the investigation by Seymour Hersh is accurate and the closest in revealing the truth in this case. See “Seymour Hersh: The US Destroyed the Nord Stream Pipeline: An Interview,” *Jacobin*, February 15, 2023: <https://jacobin.com/2023/02/seymour-hersh-interview-nord-stream-pipeline>. Retrieved: July 10, 2024.

¹² NATO is a miscellany of Cold War leftovers that lumped together with the breakaway part of the Soviet Union and bits and bobs of former Yugoslavia floating under the US thumb in an anachronism and pitiable state of self-destruction in Europe. Cohesion is thus an anathema for a medley of unstable, untimely, and ill-suited participants that have no objective other than go on as an acquiescent partner. See a critical review of recent books on NATO by Tom Stevenson, “Ill-Suited to Reality,” *London Review of Books*, 6 (15), August 1, 2024: 15-18.

¹³ As elucidated in this book, the postwar order under American hegemony (1945-1979) and period that follows its collapse, together with loss of the US hegemony, are two different kettles of fish; this distinction is critical for validation of American decline in the latter period, where the emerging world is increasingly weary of the US destructive conduct.

¹⁴ “Lavrov’s Bold Speech at the UN Causes Shockwaves Globally,” *The Africa News Network*, July 16, 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C60vswMHd64>. Retrieved: July 17, 2024.

put all one's eggs in the proverbial basket of NATO against Russia whose latter's political security is thoroughly indivisible with Europe.

In the meantime, the insistence on defeating Russia by proxy in Ukraine and through the last Ukrainian is now replaced the destabilization of Russia à la Brzezinski, extended and echoed in an unmistakable rendition in a comprehensive RAND study¹⁵; yet, since the ouster of Victor Yanukovich in the 2014 US coup (euphemized as Maidan uprising), the Ukrainian military, built by NATO, after no less than three rounds of outright destruction and subsequent rebuilding, now in the fourth round, is substantially diminished and destroyed by the Russian forces.¹⁶ To be sure, despite the massive inflow of Western military equipment, multinational NATO training, and the provision of direct technical intelligence, Ukraine is now suffering from the shortage of trained military combatant, inadequate ammunition, lack of command and control, absence of air defense, and any military fortification worthy of merit. Meanwhile, Zelensky's regime and the cluster of neocon-infested, Azov-oriented (i.e., neo-Bandera/Nazi ideology) political elite in shattered and shrunken Ukraine are still carrying-on at the behest of puppet masters in Washington, London, and Brussels, presumably to carry off Brzezinski's short-lived, post-Soviet hallucination.¹⁷

Today, shifting gears to Gaza, the awakening and massive demonstrations by Palestinians in the diaspora and the groundswell of global support for Free Palestine, on the one hand, and indubitable and coordinated universal stance against the ongoing Israeli genocide, on the other hand, are indeed unprecedented. The deliberate mass starvation, target killings of civilians, ethnic cleansing, and thus an intended annihilation of the entire culture across Gaza by Israel,¹⁸ condemned by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), are all part of a new chapter in the tempestuous history of Zionism.¹⁹ And most agonizing, American complicity with this very genocide, in material, diplomatic, and pretextual cover (and indeed lobbying), exposes the depth of the decay and extent of the US decline in stark terms and in dreadful and dark image of this crumbling and doomed outpost.²⁰

¹⁵ The assessment of confrontation with Russia for policy implementation by the Pentagon's RAND Corporation can be seen in James Dobbins et al. (2019). *Extending Russia*. RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, CA. ISBN: 978-1-9774-0021-5.

¹⁶ On the cause of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and its aftermath, watch "Full Speech: Putin, Lavrov, and Conditions for Peace in Ukraine (June 14, 2024)," *Neutrality Studies*, June 15, 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcNji4H0H84>. Retrieved: June 15, 2024.

¹⁷ Misleading context of *imperialism/anti-imperialism* and superficial view of Ukraine's post-Soviet history is a lethal cocktail that often places the liberal (and radical?) left side by side the most reactionary proponents of NATO in Ukraine. For an example, see Stephan Zunes, "Getting Ukraine's History Right is Crucial for Anti-Imperialist Politics," *Truthout*, February 28, 2024: <https://truthout.org/articles/getting-ukraines-history-right-is-crucial-for-anti-imperialist-politics/>. Retrieved: March 1, 2024.

¹⁸ The Netanyahu Bible-babbling incitement to commit genocide in Gaza is but a crisis-ridden version of the same deceptive magic that with a sleight of hand turned the European Jews into not only owners of Palestinian land but also possessors of native's lived history in historic Palestine. Thus, allusion to such eschatological hocus-pocus, especially by secular Zionists, must be viewed as a desperate incitement toward the aim of *ultimate solution*, so to speak.

¹⁹ These are verdicts of ICJ in three consecutive occasions in the genocide case against Israel:

(a) The PDF text of ICJ Order (Jan. 26, 2024):

<https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/e9d8337ab5ae1d92/72977573-full.pdf>.

Retrieved: January 28, 2024.

(b) International Court of Justice, ORDER of March 28, 2024:

<https://www.icj-cij.org/node/203847>. Retrieved: July 17, 2024

(c) Gaza: World Court Orders Israel to Halt Military Operations in Rafah, ICJ, United Nations, March 24, 2024:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShyWUEMJgkA>. Retrieved: May 24, 2024.

Text of ORDER: International Court of Justice/May 24, 2024 (Retrieved: May 24, 2024):

<https://www.justsecurity.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/just-security-icj-ruling-may-24-2024-.pdf>. 2024.

²⁰ This is an irreversible blowback for Zionist Lobby at large. A newly published volume covers over a century of lobbying on behalf of Zionism and articulates a comprehensive history of interruptions that overwhelmed the entire political geography of the Middle East; see Pappé, Ilan. 2024. *Lobbying for Zionism on Both Sides of the Atlantic*. Oneworld Publications. The immediate effect of blowback can be viewed through Pappé, Ilan. "The Collapse of Zionism," *Sidecar* (NLR online), June 21, 2024: <https://newleftreview.org/sidecar/posts/the-collapse-of-zionism>. Retrieved June 29, 2024.

Against the backdrop of globalization, the story of long-defunct *Pax Americana* and American illusion following the collapse of the Soviet Union are investigated in this book.²¹ And far from the axiomatic, tautological, and speculative orthodox theories,²² we establish that it is precisely social relations that both underpin and undermine international relations in the epoch of globalized capitalism. This implies that, in spite of everyday challenges at the international level, any change in global distribution of power is not only limited but also ultimately defined by social relations. After some three decades of indocility, bravado, and uninhibited rampage, today, the United States is descending further and faster into the abyss with genocidal Israel in her lap, ruined and rump Ukraine dangling in front of her nose, while in much frustration also daydreaming about island of Taiwan.²³

Now, those who remember the militarization of the Persian Gulf and Arabian Peninsula under George H. W. Bush, should also recall that he (and his Administration) was instrumental in coercing the UN General Assembly to dismantle the remarkable UN Resolution 3379, a prompt recognition that *Zionism is racism*. This, together with complete militarization of the Persian Gulf, renewed the old strategy for “normalization” of the settler colonial state of Israel, at the expense of subjugated Palestinians, overnight. Between December 16, 1991 (date of the revocation of UN Resolution 3379) and October 7, 2023 – well over three decades – although plenty of water had passed under the proverbial bridge of time, the resilience, steadfastness, and resistance of Palestinians against the prolong Israeli occupation, relentless ethnic cleansing, and blatant apartheid, did not diminish.²⁴ October 7 was a moment when accumulated magma in this crowded, clobbered, and closed concentration camp, known as Gaza, blew the top of the volcano of indignation, which in historical terms is but a stark reminder of the 1943 Jewish uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto under Nazi occupation in occupied Poland.²⁵ October 7 snatched the persisting question of national liberation of Palestine from the abandoned attic of the infused amnesia and precisely placed it at front and center of world’s attention.²⁶ This of course was quite a quashing act against “normalization” of Zionism, in general, and contrary to the *de facto* zero-sum deracination of Palestine and Palestinians by the Israelis, in particular.

In the larger context, October 7 (and its revealing, if heartbreaking, aftermath) shed more light than any, since Oslo (a pretended accord in 1993), on the Zionist “peace process,” a drawn-out US parody of *false*

²¹ The brief US rampage of post-Soviet interlude neither was a “unipolar moment,” as insisted by the orthodoxy, nor was there a genuine ascendancy for the United States. This was a disorderly episode that in absence of the USSR the declining hegemon (i.e., the US) *appeared* in charge; thus, speaking of unipolarity, given the hitherto collapse of the *Pax Americana* (1945-1979) vis-a-vis the rise of globalization, is quite silly.

²² To name one, the so-called realist theory of international relations simply erected its foundation upon the axiomatic construct of “anarchy” and obligation of states (euphemized as “great powers” without any reference to specific history) to initiate *order* and thus to be able to manage the international polity based on national interest. This idealized scaffolding is not unlike the proverbial Procrustean bed that set the standard for cutting down or stretching bodies of real persons who are unfortunate enough to be submitted to such an arbitrary, unreasonable, and random ploy.

²³ It should be disconcerting that certain self-identified leftists should blindly speak of the solidity, even the rise, of the United States; a quintessential example is Leo Panitch and Sam Gindin, 2012. *The Making of Global Capitalism: The Political Economy of American Empire*, New York: Verso. Sam Gindin, a known syndicalist and co-author unremorsefully holds the same *tautological* (and ideological) position and to the same effect. See “Morbid Symptoms, Premature Obituaries: The American Empire,” *The Bulletin*, November 22, 2022: <https://socialistproject.ca/2022/11/morbid-symptoms-premature-obituaries/>. Retrieved: July 17, 2024.

²⁴ It is remarkable that a sensitive scholar like Toscano does not give a hint of neo- colony of Israel that perfected the art of ethnic cleaning and ongoing systematic murder of natives in the land of Palestine in his otherwise momentous book. See Toscano, Alberto. 2023. *Late Fascism*. London: Verso.

²⁵ See Finkelstein, Norman G. 2018. *Gaza: An Inquest into Its Martyrdom*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press; Pappé, Ilan. 2018. *The Biggest Prison on Earth: A History of Gaza and the Occupied Territories*. Oneworld Publications. For larger issues surrounding deliberate conduct of Israel against Palestinians see Loewenstein, Anthony. 2023. *The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation Around the World*. New York: Verso; Bresheeth-Zabner, Haim. 2020. *An Army Like No Other: How the Israel Defense Forces Made a Nation*. New York: Verso.

²⁶ Here’s the caliber of Israeli atrocities in Gaza: “War on Gaza: UN Special Rapporteur Accuses Israel of ‘Genocide,’” Al Jazeera English/March 26, 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epKY2ZzjZUc>. Retrieved: March 28, 2024; Francesca Albanese, *Anatomy of a Genocide*, March 25, 2024: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session55/advance-versions/a-hrc-55-73-auv.pdf>.

equivalence in which (1) the occupier allow to coerce the occupied through “negotiation” and (2) the smokescreen of “negotiation,” sidestepping and abrogating the UN Charter, whereby allows the Israelis to create “facts on the ground” (i.e., continuing further illegal settlement, further ethnic cleansing, further land grab, further bloodbath, etc.)²⁷ - as Americans (usually Zionist Jews at the helm), in the words of Rashid Khalidi, acted as “Israel’s lawyer” in the court of public propaganda and watched the time went by.²⁸ Come to think of it, this kind of “brokering” is best described as a parody of “putting foxes in charge of chickens,” in front of a captive or stoned audience. The crisis of Zionism is both an integral part and symptom of the American decline. And this blowback perfectly dovetails with a wider trajectory of further American decline, as the time goes by.²⁹

At this historical juncture, the critical issue on the status of Palestine is the question of national liberation and support for the forces that diligently put their lives on the line toward such a basic, yet excruciatingly formidable objective.³⁰ We have to remember that the eradication of Palestinians (as a nation) by all necessary means has always been the goal of settler Zionist Jews in Palestine.³¹ And we should not let go of the fact that particularly since 9/11, Zionism exerted persistent hold on the political and ideological structure of American politics (and economics) as Israel’s manner of surveillance, control, and labeling was embraced and played chiefly in what is known as *war on terror* by the Bush-Cheney Administration.³²

Israel is a dystopian experiment of virulent cradle-to-grave indoctrination, masquerading as its very opposite: *Judaism*.³³ That is why there are thousands upon thousands of Jews at large who have taken Palestinian’s casus to their heart and literally put their bodies on the line along with Palestinian protestors against this genocide. On the other side of the ledger, though, there’s no daylight between liberal Zionism and genocidal Zionism in Israel as these variations are part and parcel of the same racist (ideological) theme that allows occupation, authorizes ethnic-cleansing, and sanctions genocide. Liberal Zionists though appear less interested in dipping their hands all the way in the blood of Palestinians; yet, when it comes to the survival of this *untimely* colonial project, they are all hellbent on the business of concealing, distracting, diverting, inverting, prolonging, normalizing, and indeed pandering to this

²⁷ It is very important to see what role the Israeli universities played and how deep they have been involved in occupation, destruction of culture, and state-mandated ethnic cleansing against Palestinians through the lens of a knowledgeable and objective Israeli investigator. Here’s a delightful book on the role of academy in Israel: Wind, Maya. 2024. *Towers of Ivory and Steel: How Israeli Universities Deny Palestinian Freedom*. New York: Verso.

²⁸ See Khalidi, Rashid. 2013. *Brokers of Deceit: How the US Has Undermined Peace Process in the Middle East*. Boston: Beacon Press.

²⁹ Particularly after 9/11, Israel has given rise to a twofold troubling tendency levelled, particularly at its principal supporter, the United States: (1) the *internalization* of repressive Israeli repressive political norm across the US civil society, and more broadly Anglo-sphere, and (2) the *externalization* of Zionism as a tool for fragmentation, devastation, and remaking of the entire Middle East in the image of Israel. On October 7 (2023) this desperate (neocon) scheme was boomeranged and decisively blown-up in the face of their architects and sponsors. Israel’s genocide in Gaza, and display of its real-time broadcast across the world, instantly ripped apart the edifice of this double-headed mendacity; it exposed: (a) Israel’s harmful effect on civil liberties in the United States, and (b) Israel’s irreversible injury on hitherto slipping US toehold in the region.

³⁰ To see how interconnected and organically related we’re in this world, watch these brief clips from Palestinians under bombardment in Gaza: "Palestinians Thank US Protesters for Supporting Gaza Cause," *Al Jazeera English*, May 1, 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Fe2WLEsFG0>; "Palestinians in Rafah Express Thanks to US University Protesters," *Al Jazeera English*, April 28, 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWATApHhdYI>; "Gaza Extends Gratitude: Students & Displaced Palestinians Thank Protesters," *Al Jazeera English*, April 28, 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1ayMgEYqWo>; all retrieved on July 15, 2024.

³¹ See Pappé, Ilan. 2006. *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*. Oneworld Publications.

³² See Chapter 2, Bina 2023, for a further examination of the subject. I must add that, from the outset and by design, *Islamophobia* was an integral part of the “global war on terror,” introduced by the Bush-Cheney Administration. And this alone should alert us to the Zionist footprints on its peculiar design and its sweeping scope in both domestic and foreign policy.

³³ Here is a piece on the enchantment of almost all US university administrators with Zionism and the Zionist narrative, and deliberate erasure of Palestine on their campuses. See Ussama Makdisi, "Overwriting Palestine," *Sidecar* (NLR-online) August 6, 2024: <https://newleftreview.org/sidecar/posts/overwriting-palestine?pc=1620>. Retrieved: August 10, 2024.

criminal enterprise.³⁴ While indeed, today, the ethnocentric and apartheid state of Israel (and Zionism in both crystalized Christian and Jewish versions) is the quintessential cause of anti-Semitism across the board.

In this light and within this context, it doesn't matter at all whether you and I are in agreement, in ideological terms, with those Palestinians who had no choice but to take up arms against occupiers, ethnic cleansers, and cultural erasures in their homeland. What is critical in this day and age is to fully recognize, as the UN Charter does, the right of self-determination (and expulsion of the Israeli occupation) for all Palestinians of all creeds and ideology without exception; be it Hamas or any other resistance group, before October 7, on October 7, or after October 7 *tout court*. Within this very context, bogus accusations against Hamas and other resistance forces of "systematic rape,"³⁵ "beheading babies," and "cutting off fetus from mother's womb," concocted, choreographed, and conducted by the Israeli war-machine and Zionists supporters, and echoed by Joe Biden himself and his Zionist foreign policy team (without a shred of evidence), must not be taken seriously.³⁶ These accusations are as fraudulent as the accusations against Saddam Hussein, namely, snatching babies from their incubators during the war in Kuwait, which was stage-managed and mouthed by Kuwaiti Ambassador's daughter to provide emotional fuel to George H.W. Bush in the period leading up to the invasion of Iraq. The hang-up on Kuwait, of course, on the cusp of the Soviet collapse, was part of a larger plan for an indefinite militarization of the Persian Gulf and Arabian Peninsula in the early 1990s.³⁷

In the meantime, the right of self-determination knows no "ifs" or "buts"; it needs neither *permission* from the occupier nor *negotiation* with the occupier's partner in crime in Washington.³⁸ The ICJ advisory opinion, issued on July 19, 2024 on Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) since 1967, is a landmark international judicial ruling against occupation, annexation, apartheid, racial segregation, and with explicit demand for reparation, all in one coherent whole. As legal scholar Michael Lynk argues, this ruling *prima facie* has two outstanding findings: (1) that occupation *itself* (in contrast to *aspects* of occupation) is unlawful and (2) that occupation has to end completely and as rapidly as possible; thus,

³⁴ See Bernard Avishai, "Israel's War Within," *Harper's*, vol. 348, no. 2085 (February 2024): 25-32. This is a typical diverting technique that reduces the problem of Zionist settler colonialism in Palestinian to a mere family feud, between different factions of Zionist colonists, while the author is completely aware that genocide in Gaza is ongoing.

³⁵ Accusation of rape against male natives is commonly the most egregious aspect of colonialism. See Dougherty, Cristy A. 2021. *Rape: A Settler-Colonial and Anti-Black Project*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Denver. Retrieved: July 20, 2024: <https://digitalcommons.du.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2905&context=etd>.

³⁶ Below are several unimpeachable pieces of investigative reports on incursion of October 7 by Hamas: October 7 | Al Jazeera Investigations (2024), March 20, 2024: <https://rumble.com/v413fu0-october-7-al-jazeera-investigations-2024.html>; "London Times is First Mainstream Outlet to Debunk Israel's 'mass rape' Hoax," *The Electronic Intifada*, June 15, 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZTTBuWgn0o&t=7s>; "Times of London Call BS on Major Oct. 7 Hoax," *The Grayzone*, June 14, 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izMIBJEdWwU>; "How an Israeli Colonel Invented the 7 October Burned Babies Lie," *The Electronic Intifada*, June 11, 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7I49LnJXd5I&t=17s>; "Debunking 'Screams Before Silence', Sheryl Sandberg's 7 October 'mass rape' film," *The Electronic Intifada*, March 2, 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TApiok-KiRc>; "Scandal Grows around Fraudulent New York Times 'mass rape' investigation," *The Electronic Intifada*, February 29, 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfE3vasBQyE&t=30s>. All retrieved on July 20, 2024.

³⁷ See "How False Testimony and a massive US Propaganda Machine Bolstered George H.W. Bush's War on Iraq," *Democracy Now*, Dec. 5, 2018: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkRyIMGLPMU>. Retrieved: July 20, 2024.

³⁸ The cluster of rulings by ICJ related to Occupied Palestinian Territories since 1967 is a decisive legal guideline on self-termination. ICJ quashed both Israel's occupation and *any complicity* (including the dawdling, obstructing, and angling drama of acting on behalf of Israel by Washington) with respect to Occupied Palestinian Territories. The court properly confirmed and authenticated the rights of Palestinians to self-determination *tout court*. See Israel's Continued Occupation of Palestinian Territory 'Unlawful,' *Int'l Court of Justice (ICJ)-full*, July 19, 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-3vkHXNRDI>. Retrieved: July 19, 2024. ICJ: *Summary of the Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024*: <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/summary-of-the-icj-order-icj-19jul24/>. Retrieved: July 19, 2024.

unequivocally in legal terms, for instance, doing away with the artifice of “Oslo Peace Process.”³⁹ ICJ also found illegal any direct or indirect collaboration of the third-party states in connection with the foregoing activities. This advisory opinion brings about a sea change of significant magnitude on the question of Palestine that also force Israel Lobby’s hand and burst open its *despotic* hold on domestic affairs of the nations that often and ironically preach *democracy* to the rest of the world.⁴⁰ ICJ’s immediate impact and straightforward clarity also on the question of BDS – Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, particularly in those countries that Zionists excruciatingly are at work. The right of self-determination is an unalienable right belonging to all Palestinians across the board and by all means necessary.⁴¹ Again, what October 7 has done *inter alia* was to nullify the possible normalization of Israel (i.e., a normalization of notorious and ongoing neo-colonial project of Israel) broadly in the region and, more importantly, to restore the question of national liberation in Palestine on public record, in public memory, and explicitly at the United Nations. The armed resistance also forced the American hand deep into genocide in Gaza, thus let the skeleton of American tyranny out in the sunshine, and ripped the veneer of Zionist “legitimacy” off the face of Israeli Zio-fascism, all in one single stroke. Here, as genocide livestreamed through the social media, both the parody of American *values* and monomania of Zionist foreign policy placed the United States to a new nadir toward a rapid descent.⁴² Finally, the dept of American tragedy can be seen in the recent Israeli/US attack on Iran (June 13 – June 24, 2025) in which, despite the initial terror and decapitation, it boomeranged rather remarkably and indeed devastated Israel both physically and psychologically in short order.⁴³

The foregoing exploration was an attempt to shed some light on the consequence of the American decline which effectively generated critical repercussions in international relations across the globe. At the deeper level of analysis, we wish to remind the reader that neither orthodoxy in international relations nor heterodoxy in political economy fully comprehends the significance of the present moment in world history. Within orthodoxy, the so-called *realists*, like John Mearsheimer of the University of Chicago, tell us that the United States is now competing with China, namely, its “peer competitor,” and that nationalism (disguised as “great power politics”) is at the core of this conflict. This of course shows how fragmented, speculative, and superficial, this view has come to be. This proposition, however, is not more than a concealed *tautology* that mentally wrapped in sense perception; yet, with more inspection this perspective hinges upon military power and *axiom* of a transhistorical state (i.e., a (nation)state from time immemorial to the present) and thus devoid of a solid foundation in specific distinction of nation-state and social relations today.⁴⁴ To be sure, Mearsheimer’s (and orthodox

³⁹ Watch: "World Court Deals Israel Another Major Blow, with Michael Lynk," *The Electronic Intifada*, July 26, 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGKbzbvxhbM>. Retrieved: July 27, 2024.

⁴⁰ A glimpse of heavy-handed propaganda by Zionist Lobby in the US can be seen in this quadripartite documentary below:

The Lobby - Episode 1 (The Covert Plan), *The Electronic Intifada*, November 3, 2018: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lSjXhMUVKE&t=179s>; The Lobby - Episode 2 (Managing Elites),

The Electronic Intifada, November 3, 2018: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XytkI7afHcQ>; The Lobby - Episode 3 (The Witch Hunt),

The Electronic Intifada, November 6, 2018: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mm-Dm4pO0xY>; The Lobby - Episode 4 (Marketing Occupation), *The Electronic Intifada*, November 6, 2018:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1OgxfCT044; all retrieved on July 16, 2024.

⁴¹ Listen to the renowned Israeli historian Ilan Pappé on liberation of Palestine: Ilan Pappé, "Hope for the End of Israel and the Creation of Free Palestine from the River to the Sea," *Middle East Eye*, June 15, 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vx0QUTui6GY>. Retrieved: June 20, 2024.

⁴² Deep down, the core of American *value* can be viewed through the lens of “cowboy” movies produced in the 1940s and 1950s, a goldmine of reenactments for coldblooded transgressions of bygone eras that just like ghost of Hamlet’s father point to the actual acts. The same pedigree is now acting the same toward Gaza. Watch "The Night Won't End' - Biden's War on Gaza" (documentary), *Al Jazeera English*, June 21, 2024; retrieved: 6/30/24: <https://www.aljazeera.com/program/fault-lines/2024/6/21/the-night-wont-end-bidens-war-on-gaza-2>.

⁴³ See Bina, Cyrus. “The Bang and Stunning Boomerang,” *Z Magazine* (online), August 15, 2025; retrieved: December 28, 2025, <https://znetwork.org/znetarticle/the-bang-and-stunning-boomerang/>. This article describes and deeply situated this terror attack within the sub-structure of American decline and the dark delusion of Israelis toward the region as a whole, particularly toward contemporary Iran.

⁴⁴ Within orthodoxy, there are those who *misuse* the term “globalist” in order to pin down the liberal interventionists and neoconservatives and their virulent expansionist posture in spousing an imperial foreign

views in general) distorts the inner structure that fuses today's multipolar world of geopolitics within a complex and collective whole; it simply misses the metabolism of power (and its projection), as an inner force in contradistinction with military adventure.

As demonstrated in our most recent book (Bina 2023), China does *not* compete against but *negates* the United States by virtue of negating universal order of globalization. On the other hand, hanging onto *imperialism* and, by implication, to nationalism and consequently to the reduction of international relations to inter-imperialist rivalry, the radical left routinely foists a tautological template upon the freshly materialized and intricate perplexities of contemporary geopolitics. Here, the right and the left (including radical left) are both blinded by the surface of reality; the right look at the relations among nations in circularity, aside from the pretext of *axiomatic fiat* and thus replicate what they can see; the left conflate the premature and rudimentary capitalism of the yesteryears with that of the full-blown, globalized social relations of today and put the cart of international relations before the horse of social relations, so to speak. Consequently, neither the right nor the (radical) left is equipped, so to speak, with a meaningful theoretical foundation to perceive and authenticate the dynamics of today's international relations. As established in Bina 2023, it was globalization that *inter alia* led to decomposition of hegemonic power (inclusive of erosion of its direction, composition, and distribution) that once anchored the institution of the Pax Americana. This meant that edifice of the postwar polity and international relations turned out to be unnecessary, irrelevant, and indeed incompatible with the world of today.

The early, rudimentary commercial capital imbued with colonial world market under the unmediated control of a somewhat developed capitalist mode of production (CMP), say, in England, is often lumped together by the many traditional leftists with today's world market *mediated* by social capital; this negligence manifests the innocence of those who speak of the law of value in Marx, yet exhibit little awareness about its purpose and application for today's development. The *raw* history of colonialism and imperialism is inundated with multitude of *unmediated* control and encounters that long subsisted side by side the mediation of social capital. Therefore, the embryonic form of world market entwined with so-called *primitive accumulation* should not be mistaken for and conflated with a fully-developed *social relation* under capitalism. This runs counter to romanticized view that, despite universalization of social relations in capitalism, hold imperialism in perpetuity and thus brings it into play as modifier for globalization.⁴⁵

On the same theme elucidated in Bina 2023, mesmerized by Hobson's imperialism (1902), certain radical leftists attempt to reconcile (if not supersede?) Marx's (mediated) evolution of capitalist mode of production (in *Capital* and elsewhere) with those of Hilferding (1910), Lenin (1916), and Luxemburg (1913), among others.⁴⁶ Aside from hanging onto *domination*, still other leftists by means of assembling numbers (abstract entities in themselves) and by deploying what we identify as surreptitious reduction and sheer *empiricism*, attempted to reconcile Marx's theory of value with Lenin's version of Hobson's imperialism. This of course betrays both the vision and methodology of Marx on the notion of "overcoming the barriers" and the organic nature of "mediation" in internalization as well as universalization of capital as the emerging social relation. Obsessed with imperialism to the point of

policy. This silly label was even thrown at Joe Biden who is absolutely oblivious to the origin of American decline and upset in the appellation of American order.

⁴⁵ The ill-perceived view of the radical left misread Marx's notion of *capital* (as a social relation) by invoking pre-capitalist fabric of the world market and obscure (and reverse) succession and sequence of what Marx calls "conquest of the mode of production" across the world. For a remarkable example of this oversight, see Pradella, Lucia. 2016. *Globalization and the Critique of Political Economy: New Insights from Marx's Writings*. New York: Routledge. Despite her noteworthy research through Marx's archival materials, Pradella, all the same, appears neither able nor willing to appreciate methodological sagacity and origins of globalization in Marx; she thus falls back on imperialism and misconception of what is known as "uneven and combined development" a toxic amalgam of which effectively demolishes the true meaning of *globalization* in title of her book. For a complete critique see Bina 2023, Ch 5.

⁴⁶ The most bizarre variation within the subject of *imperialism* is parody of "sub-imperialism," fashioned by those who use their eyes while their imagination is out of focus. As a variant of Monthly Review School, an example of this perspective can be viewed in "US Imperial Dominance, BRICS sub-Imperialism and Unequal Ecological Exchange: An Interview with Patrick Bond," *Committee on Abolition of Illegitimate Debt*, January 10, 2024: <https://www.cadtm.org/US-imperial-dominance-BRICS-sub-imperialism-and-unequal-ecological-exchange>. Retrieved: July 22, 2024.

illness, some even have gone as far as to liken the transfer of surplus value between sectors à la Marx, to imperialism. Perplexed by the everlasting surface of *imperialism* and dazzled by the inverted image of capitalist accumulation in “unequal exchange” and misperception of “monopoly” (and oligopoly?) and so-called barrier to *technology* and - not to mention - “domination,” so many radical scholars sell themselves short, shoot themselves in the foot, and muddy the waters on Marx’s theory of competition and universalization of value in this day and age; and central in our criticism in this book, these scholars similarly turn a blind eye to a germane theory of *periodization* in capitalist mode of production.⁴⁷

The effect of impulsive blending of pre-capitalist and capitalist social relations that long was portrayed as “Marxism” by the many post-Marx traditional leftists, is key to placing “the international” *before* international, so to speak, and thus an excuse for ideally holding onto a presence of something that has yet to be materialized as *social relations* in capitalism, which then in due time begin to overcome the boundaries of nation-states. And this is nothing short of putting the cart before the horse in one of the most critical issues of our time concerning globalization, a stage in which material foundation of *domination* - antithetical to the law of value – was shattered by diffusing, mediating, displacing, and transmogrifying forces of *social capital*. At this juncture, speaking of “domination” is little more than an empty rhetoric that normally lingers a while by the deposed dominant powers themselves and their opponents in a spontaneous act of *mutual* nostalgia. This very context (and the accompanying dynamics) has a profound implication for today’s geopolitics, that is, international relations in the epoch of globalization. The foregoing rationale is also relevant to hegemony (and hegemonic power), albeit with specificities and subtleties of their own, as is clearly expounded throughout this book. Capitalism is a mediating universal structure perceived by the multiplicity of fetishized, organic *social forms*. As a result, the knowledge of foundation (including the significance of understanding *real* competition) is a precondition for de-fetishizing and deciphering forms of expression in globalized capitalism. To be sure, corollary of *capital* (as a social relation) should not be mistaken with miscellany of preconceived and obfuscating sensations about capitalism in its rudimentary, premature, and *pre-mediated* states belonging to early history of capitalism. As explicated in this volume, globalization displays a complex collection of specific social forms that confirm periodization as well as universalization of capitalism.

⁴⁷ For a quintessential example of this attitude see Guglielmo Carchedi and Michael Roberts, “The Economics of Modern Imperialism,” *Historical Materialism*, 29 (4), 2021: 1-47: https://brill.com/view/journals/hima/29/4/article-p23_2.xml?language=en. Retrieved: July 21, 2024. This is old wine in a new bottle that bluntly as well caricatures Karl Marx to the level of Groucho Marx. The authors claim that “domination is the consequence of technological [sic.] and thus economic superiority” (footnote 2, p. 1) in an age that the transnational competition hand in hand with technological change had readily overcome the barriers, including borders of the nations-states. In this article, heterodoxy is joined at the hip with orthodoxy, the least of which is emulating market-structure theory of competition à la neoclassical economics. This alone should alert the reader to inspect and scrutinize these authors on all their previous writings on Marx’s value theory.

AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHY



Cyrus Bina is Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of Minnesota (Morris Campus), USA. He was formerly a fellow and associate at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University (1990 - 1995). He is a pioneering theorist of globalization of oil and the unification of the energy sector, globalization of world economy and decline of the Pax Americana, and a specialist on modern Iran and the contemporary in the Middle East. His work is also published in Chinese, German, Japanese, Italian, Persian, and Spanish, among others. He is a Fellow of Economists for Peace and Security.

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