

Reading Historical Analysis of the Spirit of Popular Resistance in Gaza the Historical Spirit of Resistance in Gaza

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Abstract

Purpose: This article, with the aim of finding the roots of the unique spirit of resistance of the people in Gaza, investigates how the people of Gaza interacted with the wars that the conquerors and invaders had in Gaza in different historical periods, and the correctness of this statement that the spirit of resistance in the people of Gaza dates back to It has a long history and has been reviewed.

Method: In response to the problem, it was in the stage of collecting library and documentary information and in the stage of data analysis, historical and comparative analysis was used.

Findings: The findings of the research show that according to history, Gaza, relying on the institutionalized culture of resistance, has not bowed down to any aggressor and has not shown softness. Among the prominent features of this culture, which is the key to the stability of the people of Gaza, is courage, bravery, stubbornness and anti-tyranny, which is the legacy of many war situations that Gaza has been involved with in all historical periods from ancient times until now, and has caused people to suffer. Is.

Conclusion: Despite its small area, Gaza has been one of the most important places on earth due to its very important geographical location, which has always been exposed to threats, wars, occupations and conflicts. Therefore, the people of Gaza, generation after generation, have fought to defend their identity and have been stubborn against the invaders, and the qualities of courage, endurance and patience in the face of hardships, and the aversion to accepting humiliation, weakness, and weakness are a legacy that their fathers have inherited.


Key words: Spirit of Resistance, Historical Roots of Resistance, Historical Wars of Gaza, Zionist Regime, Operation Storm Al-Aqsa.

Article type: Research

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Introduction

The exceptional spirit of resistance among the defenseless people of Gaza against the atrocities of the brutal occupying power in Israel, in particular since and after the events of October 7, 2023, indeed demands deeper insight into and an in-depth analysis of this spirit. This piece is an effort to that end.

Gazans are known for their kindness, understanding and respect for neighbors, courage, loyalty, and non-betrayal -- a general characteristic of Arabs. However, unlike most Arabs who are usually considered moderate, the oppressed people living in this tiny enclave are, and understandably so, irascible and resentful.

However, their known characteristic is also fortitude and forbearance. Based on this premise, this study seeks answers to the question: What are the origins of this spirit and the resoluteness and resilience of the Gazans?

Gazans have faced conquerors and invaders since time immemorial. As such, their entrenched resistance is the legacy of many wars in the Middle East from ancient times to the present. Calamity, suffering, agony and misery...has almost always been on the same page with Gaza.

Historians, chroniclers and narrators have sought to write about Gaza by referencing books like "Mu'jam al-Bulandan" by Yaqut Hamwi, "Futuh al-Sham" by Waqidi, "Futuh al-Bulandan" by Baladzhari, "Khut al-Sham" by Muhammad Kurdali, and "Al-Mahfuzat al-Mulkiya al-Masriya" by Asad Rustam.

In contemporary times numerous works have been published in different languages about Gaza and its history that are among the sources of this research, including the books "History of the City Gaza" by A.I. Meyer, and "Gaza: A City Of Many Battles" by the Theodore Edward Dowling, and the works of contemporary Palestinian historians. such as "The History of Gaza" by Aref Al-Arif, "The Unity of the Most Honorable in the History of Gaza" by Sheikh Othman Al-Tabba' Al-Ghazi, "The Story of Medina Gaza" by Hashim Harun, and "Massacres in the History of Gaza" by Murad Salameh, each covering several volumes.

Methodology

This work was conducted with the help of library and documentary information, and in investigating data historical analysis and comparative methods were used. History has it that Gaza is a city that has withstood unending tragedies and disasters. In all fairness, none if any can recall a single day in recent memory when this oppressed land was overlooked by conquerors and occupiers. There is no conqueror in ancient and modern times in the Orient who has not attacked Gaza and its people have not stood against him.

The entrenched spirit of resistance and the courage, bravery and tenacity of the Gazans are not born out of the present era. Rather these defining features are the natural outcome of a chain of calamities throughout history and the legacy of conditions and circumstances imposed on them during wars of aggression, occupation and persecution. Israel being the latest on the long list.

Findings

Despite its tiny territory (360 sq. kms) and population of 2.1 million as of late 2024, the Gaza Strip is of geostrategic significance, yet has borne the brunt of tyranny, threats, forever wars, occupation and aggression.

Canaanites, Hebrews, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Egyptian pharaohs, Alexander and contemporary tyrants did go to Gaza but its people put up heroic defense, the hardships and humiliations notwithstanding.

Gazans have fought almost all armies in olden times to the current tyrants. Gaza has been occupied or captured many times but was eventually liberated. History is witness to the resolve of the Gazans and their adherence to principles, defense of their identity and abhorrence of invading armies.

Persistence and patience in the face of Israeli tyranny, humiliation and untold violence is a legacy they have inherited from their forefathers. Following Operation Storm of Al-Aqsa on October 7, 2023, Gaza demonstrated that it is a key player in the Palestinian struggle for ending the decades of illegal occupation and humiliation and gaining the undeniable right to self-determination.

The strength of its people and their history of resistance is a serious challenge to the Israeli occupiers though they prefer to deny it. In the ongoing genocidal war unleashed by the Israelis, the astonishing resistance has once again exposed the barbarism of the police state known as Israel and the defeat it has been subjected to. All said, Israel has not achieved any of its declared goals in invading the Strip -- namely the complete dismantling of Hamas and the release of all Israeli prisoners.

In this Israeli war, this invasion ranks first in the four indicators of "level of destruction", "level of danger to civilians", "geographical extent of the battlefield", and "number of groups participating in the war", compared to the four war zones in the world.

In terms of the level of attacks on civilians and the average number of victims, the killing in Gaza in this century is considered unprecedented in the world. The scale and scope of air raids and carpet bombings in the current fighting is well over and above the two conflicts in Ukraine and Syria, And it was even more than the bombs dropped on Sydney, Hamburg and London in World War II..

Also, according to Oxfam, the average daily civilian death toll in Gaza is 154, which is 7.5 times the average Ukrainian fatalities in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. The West's unwavering political, economic, diplomatic and military support for Israel and its policy to cover-up its crimes against humanity in Gaza have failed to alleviate Israel's growing political and military predicament at home abroad and the court of world public opinion.

Conclusion

The entrenched culture and spirit of popular resistance in Gaza, the outstanding characteristics of determination, patience, courage, tenacity, and anti-oppression of its people, should be seen as a legacy of the many wars imposed on the Strip throughout history that caused unimaginable suffering to its people. In the current

war, the greatness of the Gazan resistance is clear in that Israel falsely tries to sell it to the world as a "second war of independence" or "war of existence"!

Needless to say, the occupying power is and should be concerned about the impact of its setbacks in the war on the collapse of its security theory that it is a safe land for Jews and that it is the lone "policeman" of the region. In the medium and long term, defeat in the war is considered as a countdown to the future survival of this lawless regime, because the resilience of Hamas, its success in the fighting the imposition of its conditions, in addition to strengthening the popular base of this movement, have major consequences for the future of Palestine, and in the process expose the fiasco of outside compromising formulas.

Steadfastness of the Gazans against the recent Israeli aggression, given the historical background of the people of the enclave, is yet another replay of the historical conduct and context towards invaders, which, above all, stems from the established spirit of resistance against Israel's appalling policy of terror, torture and torment, not to mention the regime's pervasive arrogance and aggression.

Conflict of interest

Author declared no conflict of interest.

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