



FTA Newsletter



The Palestinian body and the decline of the west

Mustafa Qossoqsi, PhD

Senior clinical psychologist and poet
Former psychologist in chief
Psychiatric department, Nazareth hospital EMMS

In Gaza, the Nakbah consecrated its shocking paradox: the repetition compulsion of mass killings against a Palestinian life that never dies. A life that is wounded yet fierce in expressing its unquenchable desire for freedom. A life that, in the time of massacre, is recognized by its pieces, by its ravaged flesh, and by its violated blood.

A life that does not remain silent but instead makes the cry of the "wretched of the earth" its own: a colonized person who rebels, suffers, thinks, speaks, writes, and loves cannot be defeated.

We grieve for the fate of the Palestinian body, which has always been the object of an envious and vicious colonial obsession. Colonial violence methodically carves into and destroys it, as if seeking to reduce it to dust. The Palestinian is expelled not only from their homeland but also from their own skin. They are asked to abandon their own body, to empty it completely of the real and symbolic life that transforms their existence and their death into an idea and a flag. A body stripped of its name, its home, its natural death, and its dignified grievability. confined to collective ghettos or mass graves.

The colonized inhabits a body that cannot be called home, says Cameroonian philosopher Achille Mbembe. It is, instead, a nightmarish laboratory of alienation, suffering, and of the most advanced technologies of death and deportation. The Nakbah is, in its essence, a project of radical deportation. A deportation of the Palestinian from their life, their land, their language, their physical being, their humanity, and their subjectivity. It is the product of a deranged ideology (colonialism is a form of madness, as Fanon affirms) whose fascist traits are becoming increasingly ferocious. A system that seeks to trap the colonized subject in the position of the dehumanized other, who is forced to beg for his own humanity.

The war on Gaza strikes the Palestinians in an unprecedented way, completely depriving them of faith in a human justice system that operates with double standards, turning a blind eye to Palestinian life as it is bombed, killed, flayed, and humiliated.

Colonialism is not limited to military and political violence; it also dedicates itself to manipulating the consciousness of the colonized, undermining their humanity, cultural identity, mental health, and their path to freedom.

Therefore, from a psychological and psychoanalytic perspective of liberation, it is necessary to confront the intergenerational and ongoing Nakbah by resisting the colonial discourse.

Beside understanding and healing the effects of traumatic colonial violence on the psyche of the colonized, and the colonizer, it is essential to analyse and change the political reality that produces the colonial wound.

In Gaza, an idea of the West built on progress and human rights dies of starvation. This is the true decline of the West. After Gaza, humanity is twilight-bound.

Thus, the process of psychological healing must be accompanied by political action. There is no healing for the ongoing intergenerational wound of the Palestinian Nakbah, and for the moral disease of the west, without freedom for Palestinians.

This is what Gaza tells us.



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Accademia di Psicoterapia della Famiglia S.r.l., 34 Via Antonio Bosio 00161 Roma (RM), Roma, 00161 IT RM

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