

Continuing Conflict and Middle East Mayhem

1. Semites are speakers of a Semitic language, notably Arabic and Hebrew. The terms Semitic has recently been co-opted in the West to apply exclusively to people of Jewish ancestry or religion. Recently, it has been further narrowed to refer to the State of Israel and its government. Critics of the latter are now being branded as anti-Semitic and pro-Palestinian demonstrators as Islamist extremists.
2. In 1948 Britain and the U.S. under the United Nations divided Palestine to create a home for the Jewish people after the Nazi genocide. Britain, being a partner to this, has a continuing responsibility to work with the international community to guarantee fair division of the land between Israel (Hebrew) and Palestine (Arab).
3. Failure to ensure justice for Palestine risks alienating the Third World and bolstering support for the totalitarian regimes of Russia and China. In particular, the unrelenting bombardment and starvation of Gaza, killing vast numbers of health-workers, journalists and innocents, by Israel with the complicity of U.S., Britain and the West, fatally undermines our moral stand against Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its continuing committal of atrocities there.
4. For reasons of humanity and justice, democracy and world peace, it is incumbent on the U.K. as a member of the Security Council of the United Nations to press for an immediate ceasefire, support for the International Court of Justice, and negotiations to restore a free Palestinian State alongside Israel with international guarantees.

Marnix Wells, Croydon, 29 February 2024