

**The Determining Factors Behind Building the Apartheid Wall  
In Jerusalem and the West Bank**

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**Abstract:**

This research sheds lights on the motives behind the Israeli apartheid wall mapping, which extends in the West and the territories occupied by the Israeli occupation in 1948. The mapping is designed to cut specific areas in the West Bank and the 1948 occupied territories. It is far from reaching the Green Line territories. The research presents the main ten determining factors behind the mapping of the apartheid wall, which are: security and military concerns, annexation of territories for the sake of settlement expansion, confiscating Palestinians lands as much as possible, controlling the historical and holy sites of Palestine, controlling mountain areas, controlling fertile lands especially the ones that are rich with natural resources and water, including not the cities with enumerated population, expanding the borders of Jerusalem city as planned and called the 'Greater Jerusalem', and securing settlers main road networks and transportation.

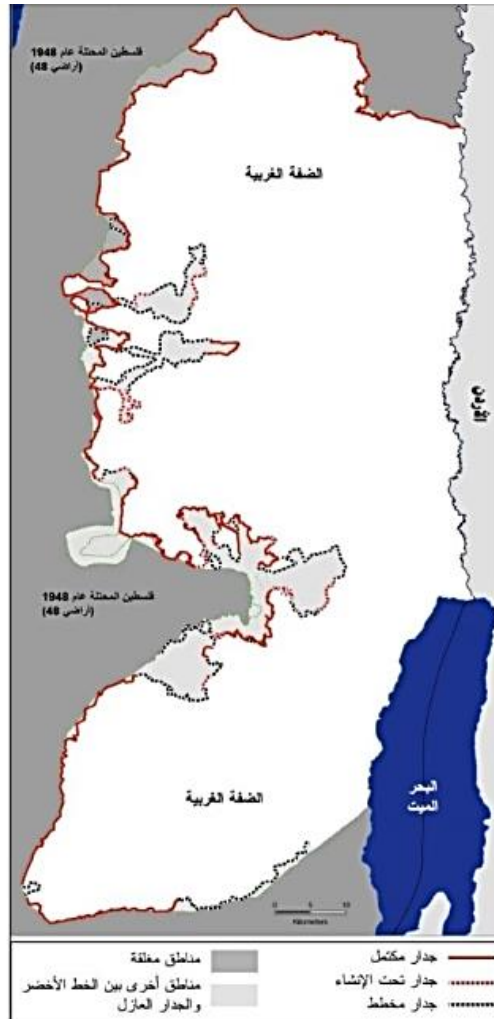
The research concludes that the Israeli planners were extremely clever in mapping the apartheid wall. This was the result of in-depth study and examination of each area in the West Bank reaching the end point of it. The apartheid wall is paralyzing the life of Palestinians in the West Bank; it cuts it in violation of international laws.

## **Introduction:**

Israel apartheid wall plan coincides with the negotiations of Oslo Accords and the evolvement of the two-states solution in the early 1990's. This is when all started when the Israeli forces began to enforce their control over the West Bank. The fifth Prime Minister of Israel Yitzhaq Rabin proposed, back then, his intention of building the apartheid wall in the West Bank in 1995. Israeli planners started working since his proposal; however, Rabin's plan was not achieved back then. In the late 1990's, the Israeli forces started placing various checkpoints in the West Bank, Jerusalem, the 1948 occupied territories. After the out break of the second Intifada in 2020, which has led to the instability of the region, and after the increase of martyrdom operations in the Israeli territories, Israeli leaderships started working on how the apartheid wall should be built. This is in order to cut Palestinian lands in the West Bank from each other. On June 2002, the Council of Ministers of Israel, which was under the leadership of Ariel Sharon, issued resolution number (2077) which gives the permission to build the apartheid wall. This decision was issued along with the announcement of the two-states solution, which was internationally proposed to solve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

The mapping of the apartheid wall was based on building it to separate the Palestinian territories from the Israeli ones, especially the border lines of 1948 territories that is also known as the 'Green Line' zone. There are specific areas which were kept under the control of the Israeli forces under an agreement between them and Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon. The agreement was later violated after the 1967 war when the Israeli forces invaded the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. However, it has been noticed that the direction of the wall is turning into a more curved one ten years after building the wall. In other words, the direction of the wall is totally different from what is proposed in its original mapping, especially in the West Bank. According to the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the length of the apartheid wall will reach up to 712km, which means that its length is as twice as the length of the Green Line borders. They added that 85% of its length will be in the West Bank instead of building it close to the Green Line borders.

This research discusses and presents the major determining factors, which the Israeli politicians opt for, in order to build the current apartheid wall as seen today.



Map (1): this map shows the entire length of the apartheid wall in the West Bank.

Source: OCHA.

### **First: The Apartheid Wall and the So-Called Security and Military Concerns:**

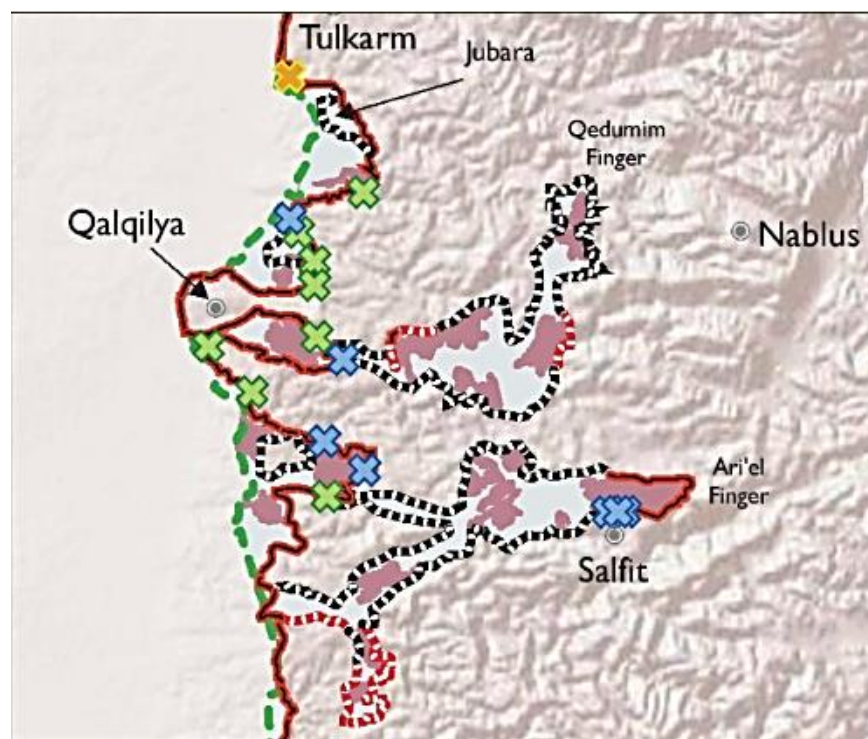
Security and military concerns were the main reason behind building the apartheid wall in the West Bank, especially after the outbreak of the second Intifada in 2000. It all started when Sharon and tens of Israeli soldiers broke into Al-Aqsa Mosque in 2000. Worshipers could not stand still; they had to defend and protect this holy site. This is when the second Intifada outbreaked. The numbers of martyrdom operations increased and so was the resistance movements. As a result, the Israeli authorities had to think of a way to end the situation; this is when they came up with the idea of building the apartheid wall. Although the idea of building the apartheid wall was proposed in the nineties during the leadership of the late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and before the leadership of Sharon, they did not start the project immediately in order to prove to the international community that the reason behind building the apartheid wall is for the sake of protection. They took advantage of the outbreak of the second Intifada to build the apartheid wall. This way, they succeeded in connecting the settlements with the 1948 occupied territories. According to the Supreme Court of Justice in Israel, one of the reasons behind building the apartheid wall is to “create a buffer zone near the settlements to use to prevent any Palestinian from passing the wall”.

The ones who are keeping up to date to the Israeli military orders for building the apartheid wall will notice that: most of these orders are a result of security and military concerns. This depends on who the leader of the military is in Judea and Samaria Area. The Israeli forces use this to their advantage by considering it as a legal thing. According to B'tselem organization (2017), the major method that Israeli opt for to seize control over Palestinians lands to build settlements is claiming that the land they want is for military purposes. The security and military motives are considered as the most common and used when deciding to control a specific area. Therefore, they changed the course of the apartheid wall to serve their ideological purposes. The security and military concerns include various factors, which are: being near to the settlements, considering the height of the area, being close to the settlers' road networks, joining the strategic and vital areas, and more...



The OCHA confirms that joining the Israeli settlements is one of the fundamental objectives behind changing the original mapping of the apartheid wall. It is worth mentioning that in 2005, Sharon's government proposed a law for joining the settlements as part of the Israeli state, which explains why the apartheid wall is built. The settlements that will be joined are located in: Ariel western Salfit, Modi'in western Ramallah, Ma'ale Adumim eastern Jerusalem, Gush Etzion western Bethlehem, and Kedumim in Qalqilia.

Map (2) clearly shows how the settlements that are included within the apartheid wall borders. It extends all way though Salfit and Qalqilia cities from the North of the West Bank. The map also shows the settlements of Ariel which are 12 and Kedumim settlements which are 8.



Map (2) shows the apartheid wall crossing Qalqilia and Salfit's cities.

Source: OCHA 2007

According to the OCHA, the number of settlements in the exclusion zone in the West is 71 settlements out of 149. The apartheid wall includes 85% of the total number of settlements in the West Bank.



On the other hand, the number of settlements that are not included within the borders of the apartheid wall is 78 settlement. Most of them are in the middle area of the West Bank, and 15% of the settlers live there. It is said that during the last negotiations, these settlements were supposed to be evacuated to set the final borders for the two-states solution and building the apartheid wall is supposed to make this process succeed.

### **Third: The Apartheid Wall and Land Confiscation to Seize Control Over Palestinian Lands:**

Since the establishment of the Jewish state, seizing control over the rest of Palestine was, and still is, the dominant objective in the minds of the Israeli politicians. The existence of the Jewish state was based on a famous saying by the Israeli leaders: “A land without a people and a people without a land.”. The Israeli forces were able to turn this saying into reality after the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948. As a result, military control was imposed on the areas of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by 78% of the Palestinians lands. Since 1967, and after controlling the West Bank and the Gaza Strip which form 22% of the lands of Palestine, the Israeli authorities focused on inhabiting settlers more in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria Area. These two areas are of highly religious and historical importance to the Jews, for which they emphasized gradually on first as they are part of the Israeli Project. This way, they maintain their control over these areas demographically, not to mention military control. The founders of Israel believe that what really protects them is not the military but rather the existence of Jews on earth. The founders were able to develop the National Project of the Israeli state in the hills of the West Bank. They used wires which became later part of the apartheid wall project that massively cut Palestinian lands.

B'tsleem and Bimkom organizations has conducted an analytical study for various settlement cases. They proved via the study that the main factors behind building the apartheid wall in the West Bank have helped in expanding settlements.

The researcher of this study Jamal Jum'a, specialized in settlement affairs, argues that the Israeli authorities used the apartheid wall to confiscate the Palestinian lands for the sake of settlement expansion. Project E1 is the perfect example for that, it is an expansion of Ma'ale Adumim settlement from Jerusalem. The apartheid wall included part of that area to join it with Jerusalem to extend the settlement.

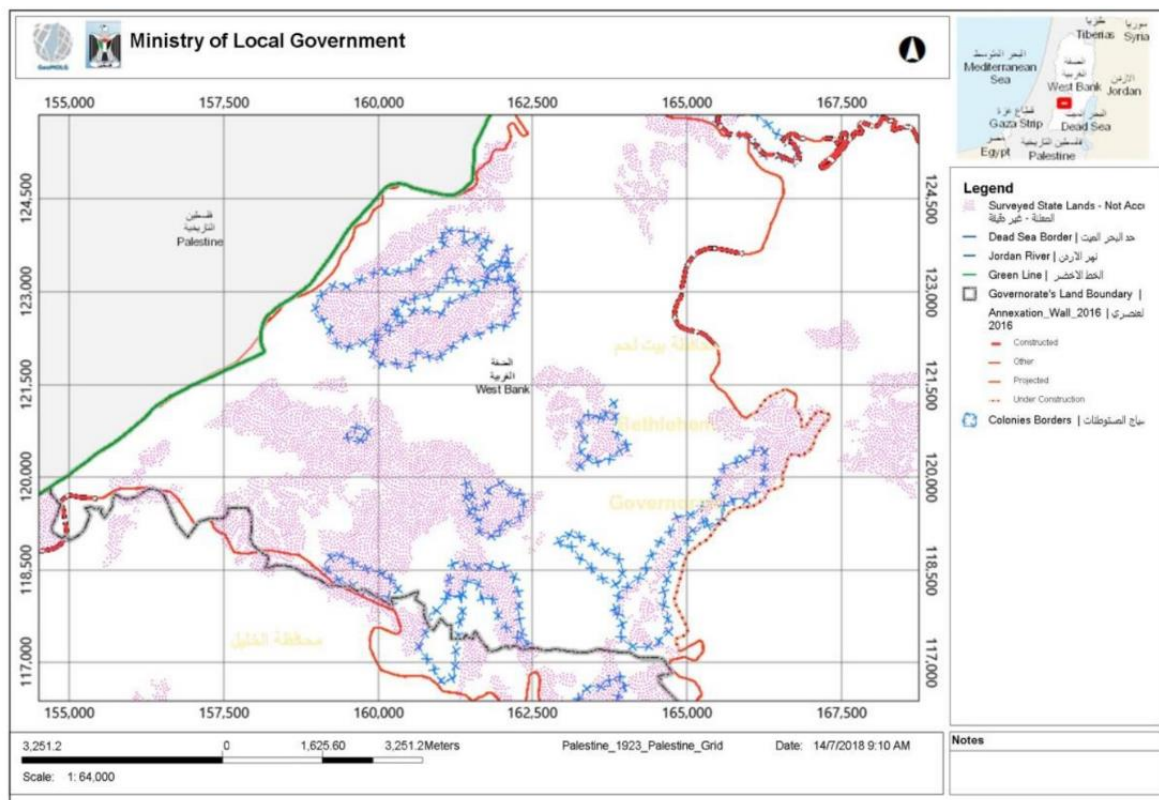
Building the apartheid wall has cut 13% of the lands in the West Bank; these 13% are the exclusion zones located in the West and close to the Green Line zone.

The new mapping of the apartheid wall that is away from the Green Line zone is in the heart of the West Bank and Jerusalem. Building it has subjected Palestinians to a new, horrific reality as the future of the state was predicted. There will be no two-states solution but rather Israel's seizing control over entire Palestine.

One of the main reasons that prevented cutting more lands after building the apartheid wall is the Palestinian existence. The wall is supposed to cross deeply in the West Bank and end by the borders of Palestinian cities, towns, and villages then to head far from them. This was their plan first to think later of another way to control the rest of the Palestinian lands. Throughout the years, Palestinians were prohibited from urban expanding via restricted laws imposed by the occupier. These laws impose a certain type of building in cities and villages. What made things worse is the Oslo Accords between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Israeli government in 1994. It concluded that the Palestinian authority could control only 36% of the Palestinian lands in the West Bank, which are areas (A) and (B). this way, 64% of the lands in the West Bank became under the control of the Israeli administration which are referred to as area (C) that include natural reserves. Generally, Palestinians are prohibited from building in that area unless if they received an official and legal approval from the Israeli civil administration, which is extremely rare.

What helps the Israeli authorities to expand their settlements on the Palestinian lands is knowing lands property. The Israeli authority has the archive of owners of the lands before occupying it. These archives were written back to the Ottoman, British, and Jordan's control over Palestine. This information helped the Israeli authorities to figure out the best plan to seize control over Palestine, to build settlements, and to build the apartheid wall. According to the 'Arij' Institution for Applied Studies, using the archive was a crucial tool to control Palestinian lands. Through

this analytical study that was published by Arij institution on the reality of the Israeli settlements in the West Bank, the findings show that 51% of them were built on lands that are classified as ‘state property’, 49% as Palestinian private property. However, the lands that are classified as ‘private property’ have been confiscated for no reason. For example, map (3) shows the western rural area of Bethlehem that is isolated from due to the apartheid wall. This is where Gush Etzion settlements are built.



Map (3) shows the rural area in west Bethlehem where Gush Etzion settlements are built on. They appear in a blue line in the map. The lands were confiscated after announcing that they are ‘state property’. They are presented in a pink line.

Source: The Ministry of Local Government, 2018.

According to 'Arij' institution, 37.8% of the occupied lands in the West Bank are classified as a state property of Israel. These lands are sub-classified as the following: 11.2% are 'registered' lands back to the Jordanian era, 14.9% were announced since occupying them as the lands and the state of Israel, which were officially announced to be theirs in 1979, and 11.7% are classified as 'unregistered' lands.

Furthermore, according to B'tsleem organization, the land areas that are classified as state property are 527,000 donums. Most of these lands are in the Jordan valet; however, this was not enough for the Israeli authorities. They took advantage of the Ottoman laws to seize control over the private lands to change them into a state property lands. In 1979, they were able to transfer the property of 900,000 donums into state property lands.

Therefore. The Israeli authorities were able to justify the reasons for controlling these lands for the sake of settlement expansion. It is undeniable that building the apartheid wall helped the Israeli occupation to control the confiscated lands. This way, they make sure to build on these lands more settlements providing protection for. This for sure is illegal and violates international laws.

#### **Fourth: The Apartheid Wall and The Evacuation of Palestinians in Jerusalem:**

The Israeli authorities built the apartheid wall to control the demographics of the lands, especially in areas surrounding Jerusalem. Many Palestinians were forced to leave Jerusalem especially in east and north Jerusalem. The total number of the neighborhoods where people forced to evacuate is 30 neighborhoods. The number of Palestinians who were evacuated from these villages were estimated as 150,000 Palestinian, 38% of them are from Jerusalem city itself. In addition, the boarders of Jerusalem municipality have been expanded in order to include more settlements in the city borders. Subsequently, the demographic issue in the city was solved quickly. Most of the population in Jerusalem are Jews not Palestinians, Jews represent 63% of the population whereas Palestinians only represent 37%. The Israeli authorities are trying to reduce the percentage of Palestinians to 20% and increase the percentage of Jews to 80% by 2025.

If you look at the map that shows the borders of the municipality of Jerusalem, you will clearly see how these borders go along with the direction of the apartheid wall except for two areas that are part of the its borders. However, the wall excluded them, which are: Shu'fat camp and the surrounding neighborhoods, and Kafr Aqeb in the north and its neighborhoods. These two areas are the most overpopulated areas in Jerusalem where random building constructions are common there. The number of people who are living in these two areas are estimated at over 50,000 Palestinians. They were isolated from Jerusalem city via the apartheid wall; however, they managed to hold their right of residency in Jerusalem, they are having Jerusalemite IDs. Administratively speaking, they are living in the borders of the municipality in Jerusalem; geographically and physically speaking, they are not. The Israeli authorities called for excluding more neighborhoods out of Jerusalem. For this reason, the borders of the municipality were expanded to meet the needs that serves building the apartheid wall.

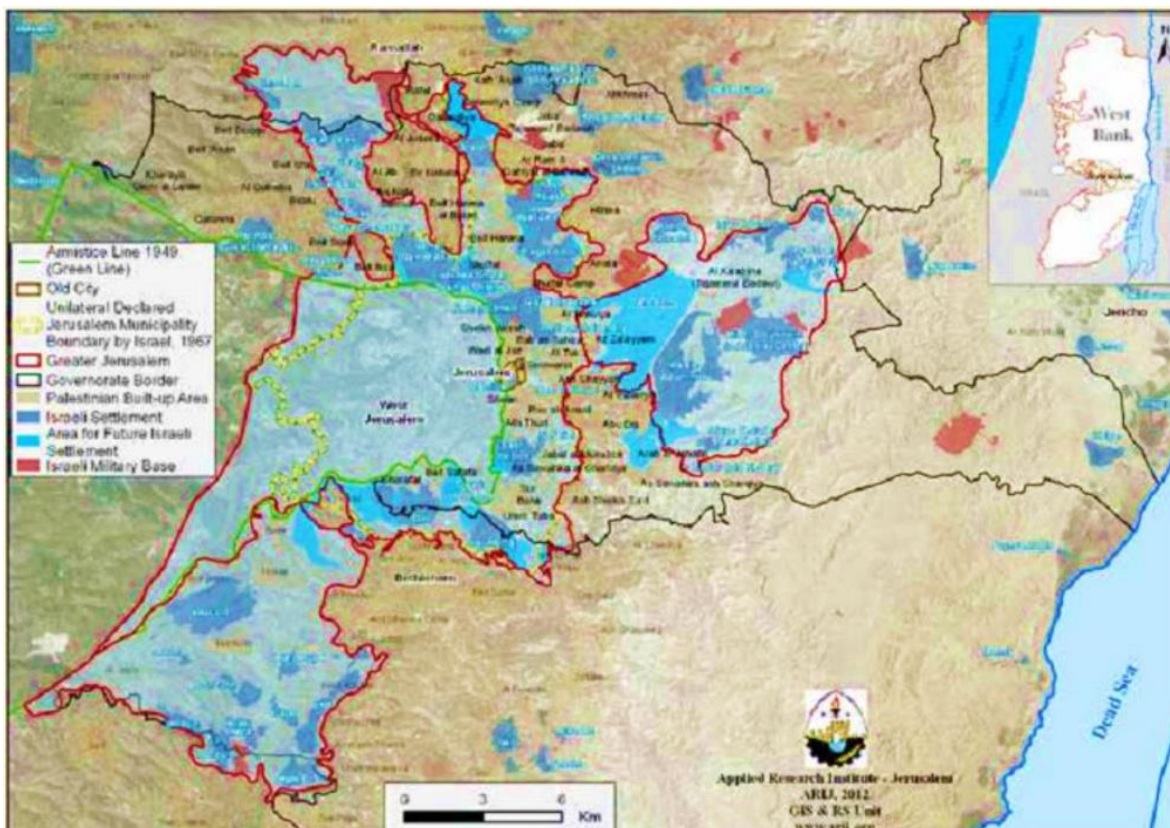
#### **Fifth: The Apartheid Wall and 'Greater Jerusalem':**

It is clearly noticed that the municipality of Jerusalem is cooperating with the Israeli authorities to form endless claims and strategies to serve the Israeli project and building the apartheid wall is one of them. It not a mere coincidence that the borders of the municipality go along in harmony with the borders of the apartheid wall. This is clear through the direction of the municipality's expansion for the sake of creating 'Greater Jerusalem', which is its main objective from the beginning for which it expanded and controlled more and more Palestinian lands in the West Bank.

According to 'Arij' institution , the project of 'Greater Jerusalem' includes four main settlement blocks that Israel seeks to join within the borders of the municipality of Jerusalem. These four blocks are: Ma'ale Adumim in the east, Giv'at Ze'ev in the north, Gush Etzion in the south, and Modi'in Illit in west Ramallah. The most important block of these four is Gush Etzion that is located south Jerusalem and west Bethlehem, it includes 11 settlements populated as 60,000 settlers where most of them are living in Beitar Illit, the biggest and most populated settlement in

the West Bank. The Israeli authorities separated Gush Etzion from Bethlehem via the apartheid wall, it cut about 10 km of Bethlehem to join them with the ‘Green Line’ zone. (Map 3).

It is worth mentioning that expanding the borders of the municipality of Jerusalem aims at changing the borders of the Palestinian villages and neighborhoods rather than controlling them. This is through evacuating as many Palestinians as possible outside the borders of the municipality to Judaize the area.



Map (4) shows the ‘Greater Jerusalem’ mapping that is expected to finish in the future.

Source: ‘Arij’, 2020.

## **Sixth: The Apartheid Wall and the Religious and Historical Sites:**

One of the crucial objectives, probably, for the Israeli occupation is to transfer Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. For this reason, they spread a motto which says, 'there is no Israeli without Jerusalem, and there is no Jerusalem without the Solomon's Temple'. After seizing control over Jerusalem, there are fears that the Israeli forces will be able one day to control Al-Aqsa Mosque. However, the outbreak of the second Intifada in 2000 has massively affected them which made them build the apartheid wall.

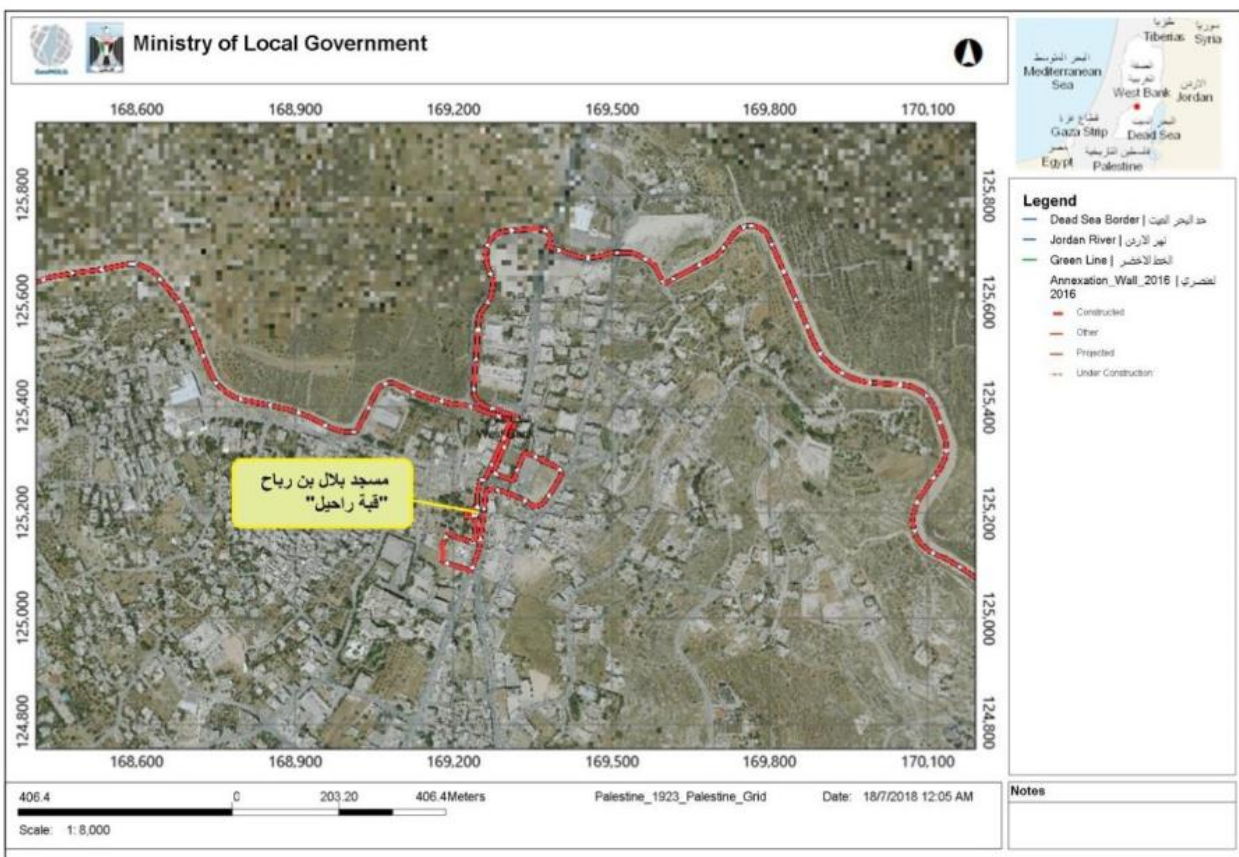
Everybody knows that all the holy and historical sites occur in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Hebron. These cities were, and still are, a destination for religious and historical tourism. This explains why these cities are the most targeted ones.

Most of the holy and historical sites are centered in Jerusalem, especially in the old city of Jerusalem. The sites include mosques, minarets, museums, churches, schools, nooks, gates, and most importantly Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Church of Resurrection.

Jerusalem and its neighborhoods were the most affected ones of the Israeli brutal policies. They did not only target the holy and historical sites but also the entire city and its neighborhoods. They also targeted Ramallah borders from the north, Bethlehem in the south, and Jericho in the east in order to join the settlements together within the borders of the apartheid wall. This explains why the length of the apartheid wall in Jerusalem is 140 km only, which cuts 144,000 dunums of the lands that constitute 42% on the lands of Jerusalem. The distance between the apartheid wall and the 'Green Line' borders is 9 km, whereas the distance between the apartheid wall and Ma'ale Adumim is 13 km. The nature of the apartheid wall varies between a cemental wall, wires, control areas equipped with security cameras, and unfinished parts of the wall. The existence of Palestinians in Jerusalem has not prevented the Israeli authorities from building the apartheid wall; they had to include several parts of neighborhoods in Jerusalem within the borders of the apartheid wall. Although this has affected the demography of the city, they managed to increase the numbers of Jews in the city by expanding the borders of the municipality of Jerusalem.



As for Bethlehem city, it has its own special religious importance for Christians. It has the Church of Nativity and many religious and historical churches that are in the center of the city, away from the apartheid wall. However, the Israeli forces has controlled and joined two sites claiming that they are of such importance to the Jewish religion, which are: Bilal bin Rabah Mosque which called by Jews as 'Tachel's Tomb' and Herodion Mountain which is called by Jews as 'Fureidis'. A complicated drawing of a map was designed to make it impossible to reach those two places. They are about 4 km away from the 'Green Line' zone as showed in map (5). Heridion Mountain, which in the east of Bethlehem and 15 km away from the 'Green Line' zone, is not included within the borders of the apartheid wall. To solve this problem, they formed a military base and a settlement blocks near to it, which are: Nekodem, Tuqu', and David settlements.



Map (5) shows how the apartheid wall goes across north Bethlehem cutting Bilal bin Rabah Mosque from and goes across Jerusalem to isolated within its borders.

Source: Ministry of Local Government, 2018.



As for Hebron city, it is known for being the most overpopulated city in Palestine. It has the Sanctuary of Abraham known to Jews as the Cave of Machpelah. According to the Jews' beliefs, the sanctuary has four tombs of four prophets: prophet Ibrahim and his wife, prophet Isaac and his wife, prophet Yaqoob, and prophet Yousuf peace be upon them. Hebron was not able to avoid Israel's plans. Hebron comes in the second place as the most targeted city. The Israeli forces were able to include the Sanctuary of Abraham as one of their religious and historical sites, and they were able to divide between them and the Muslims. They imposed a complete control over the area and surrounded it with settlements, Kiryat Arba is the most famous one there.

Due to the location of the Sanctuary of Abraham in the center of Hebron city, due to its far distance from the 'Green Line' zone that is estimated as 15 km, and due to the fact that the city is surrounded by many villages, the Israeli forces failed to include the city within the borders of the apartheid wall. Hebron city is different from the rest of the cities in Palestine. The Israeli forces knew that earlier which made them opt for an agreement called 'Hebron Protocol' or 'Hebron Agreement'. The agreement concluded that the city must be divided into two parts: (H1) area belongs to the Palestinian authority, whereas (H2) belongs to the Israeli authorities. In (H2) area, hundreds of Palestinians were forced to leave their homes, which enabled the Israeli forces to seize control over the area fully. After that, they started working on strengthening the presence of settlers in that area, making roads that lead to the heart of the city, surrounding the area with wires, and making sure that these roads are connecting and leading to Jerusalem and the 1948v occupied lands.

### **Seventh: The Apartheid Wall and Mountains for Protection:**

The West Bank is considered as the mountainous part where the west and north of the coastal area, the east of Jordan valley, and the south of desert area can be seen. The highest mountain in the West Bank is in Hebron city, Halhoul Mountain. It is about 1025 meters high, and the height of mountains increases by 800 meters in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Ramallah. Therefore, these areas are of strategic importance for the Israeli authorities, which explains why they always make sure to subject these areas under their control. This is in order to protect the settlements

located in the middle, north, and in the south of the West Bank. Most of the settlement projects took place on the mountains and hills. Then, the apartheid wall was built to separate them from the Palestinian land to join them with the 1948 lands. It is worth mentioning that there is a motive behind choosing mountains and hills, which is a religious motive. The Torah says that it is preferable for Jews to build their own houses on mountains and hills. They took advantage of this belief to serve their ideology.

According to B'tselem organization, the Public Prosecutor of Israel justified the change of the mapping of the apartheid wall by saying that it was for a topographic reason. He added, "The wall cannot protect the soldiers who are guarding it, and it will not protect those who are considered of a less topographic degree". In 1998, Ariel Sharon said during his government, "Each person must move fast, each has to build on the mountains and hills because everything that we will take now will be ours forever. And, everything that we leave, will be left for them".



Photo (2) shows the apartheid wall in East Jerusalem.

Source: al-Jazeera.net

There are many examples that show how the direction of the apartheid wall leads to the mountains where there are only settlements. In Jenin, for example, the number of settlements is few. Despite that, the apartheid wall goes through Jalbun village and Metula village east Jenin.

This is in order to control the eastern hills of the city away from the 'Green Line' zone. Then, the wall cut the lands of Umm ar-Rayhan in the western area of the city in order to control the western hills, also away from the 'Green Line' zone. As for the occupied territories such as East Jerusalem and the West of Bethlehem, the apartheid wall has joined the strategic heights there within its borders. This explains why the apartheid wall has been designed to serve this purpose.

### **Eighth: The Apartheid Wall and the Fertile Lands:**

The western part of the West Bank is considered as one of the most important areas for its fertile lands. It is rich with agricultural lands, trees, and forests; it is rich with trees, bushes, and clear air. It is known that human beings tend to live in such areas. That is why these areas were also parts of the Israeli Project; they managed to include these areas within the borders of the apartheid wall along with settlements and mountains.

The exclusion zone has an area of 733 km; 48% of this area constitutes of fertile lands and woods; that is to say 348 km out of the 733 km full of fertile lands and woods. The fertile lands that are outside the borders of the apartheid wall, yet still near, are threatened to be confiscated. This is because the Israeli authorities started imposing laws that hinder farmers from reaching their lands, unless if they have an official permission for that. Also, they have specified gates for them to pass through to reach their lands. OCHA organization was able to find out that the Israeli authority has approved 46% of the applied permissions of the Palestinian farmers in 2015, and they had approved 58% of the applied permissions in 2016 in the north of the West Bank. What is serious about that is the fact that the Israeli authorities have asked from these farmers to bring a proof that they are the owners of these lands that are near the wall. They asked them to do this in order to allow them to seed and harvest their lands. They do this also to serve the Israeli settlements enterprise. According to OCHA, the majority of lands in the West Bank are unregistered officially; their property has transferred from generation to generation without registering it officially and legally to guarantee the owners' rights.

One the example of these unregistered lands behind the wall are the lands that are in West Jerusalem and West Bethlehem. These two areas are the most damaged ones due to the settlement enterprise. Statistics show that the agricultural lands and woods in Jerusalem are

around 87,000 donums. They constitute 60% of the exclusion zone area, which is about 144,000 donums. As for Bethlehem, agricultural lands and woods constitute about 109,000 donums. They constitute 62% of the exclusion area zone there, which is about 176,000 donums.

There are other example sin Umm el-Rayhan in west Jenin city, where it is known for having the biggest natural reserve in the West Bank. It is an area of 14,000 donums which has been later isolated behind the apartheid wall.

### **Ninth: The Apartheid Wall and The Area Rich of Natural Resources:**

It is known that mountains in the West Bank are located on three main groundwater resources, which are: the eastern groundwater, the western groundwater, and the northeastern groundwater. Not to mention that Israeli has controlled 85% of the these groundwater. This is a result of the Oslo Accords. The new borders that the apartheid wall formed has controlled the Palestinian lands and their natural resources, especially the western groundwater. It is said that the western groundwater has that the largest amount of water in the West Bank, about 362 million cups. That is to say that the western groundwater constitute about 53% of the groundwater in the West Bank. Studies predict that the Israeli forces will take over another 50 groundwater that are located in Tulkarem and Qalqilia.

Another example, the Israeli army changed the direction of Waljah checkpoint near Jerusalem for about 1.5 km close to Waljah. This is because it has a main groundwater called 'Ein Hinya', and it has a historical and religious importance to the inhabitants of the village. Therefore, the Israeli forces think of including it within the borders of the apartheid wall to forbid Palestinians from reaching or even using it.

## **Tenth: The Apartheid Wall for Settlers' Main Road Networks and Transportation Protection:**

Road networks are fundamental in the success of the Israeli Project in the West Bank. The Israeli forces use these roads as vital points to connect settlements together and with 1948 occupied lands. They were able to control Palestinian road networks between cities and made some of them for settlers use only. Not to mention the fact that they placed hundreds of checkpoints and road blocks to prevent Palestinians from moving.

The Israeli authorities built the apartheid wall and made reach some areas for protection purposes. For example, road (60) that is connecting Jerusalem with Bethlehem is under the Israeli control. The apartheid wall goes across the road by 5 km near al-Khader village in west Bethlehem. The cement wall was designed there in a way that is different from the ones that cut other Palestinian lands. It is high and curved to prevent seeing what is behind the wall, and it gives protection to the military vehicles from being hit with stones.

On the same road, the Israeli forces made two tunnels connected by a bridge to reach Beit Jala. The bridge is about 2 km long. To protect it from other roads leading to Jerusalem, they managed to head the apartheid wall to reach Beit Jala to be near road (60), and to protect the military bases there.

In Salfit's city north the West Bank, the apartheid wall was also designed to be near road (5) that is under the Israeli control. This is in order to protect the military bases and the settlements near. This road connects the middle and the north of the West Bank with Yaffa city and Tel-Aviv. The wall's length in that area is about 18 km long reaching from Kafl Hares to the 'Green Line' zone.

The apartheid wall was also a mean got targeting the means of transportation. For example, the wall cut Qalandia's airport area in north Jerusalem and included inside Jerusalem. The rest of the area was excluded from the wall and several military bases were built on.



Map (6): colors red represents the apartheid wall and how it goes around Beit Jala to protect Road 60 that leads to Jerusalem. The road is represented with yellow and black colors.

sourceL 'Arij' institution



Photo (3) shows the apartheid wall in Beit Jala to protect Road 60 for protection as well.

Source: al-Jazeera.net



## **Conclusion:**

This research presented the main determining factors and motives behind the alterations that occurred in the original mapping of the apartheid wall direction in the West Bank and the 1948 occupied territories. The wall was away from the 'Green Line' zone. The findings of this research show that security and military purposes were the among the main excuses used for building the wall. Building the apartheid wall enabled the Israeli forces to achieve more strategic objectives, such as: including as many settlements as possible together and confiscating as many lands as possible. The holy and historical sites were also targeted and to be included within the borders of the apartheid wall, especially the ones in Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

The research has also discussed another major determining factors that should be considered, such as: controlling the mountains, fertile lands, and areas rich with water and natural resources, evacuating the areas where Palestinians are overpopulated especially in Jerusalem, expanding the borders of 'Greater Jerusalem', including as many settlements as possible, and protecting the main roads.

The research concludes that the choice of the Israeli planner to build the apartheid wall the way it is now was so clever and accurate. It was a result of deep studying of the areas of the West Bank through which they had this mapping of the wall. Although it achieves their objectives, it suffocates all aspects of life in the West Bank, not to mention that building which is a violation to international laws.

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