




Reconstructing Gaza, or continuing the war in other ways?

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Arab forum for alternatives AFA

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This paper addresses the issue of reconstruction of Gaza post the ongoing Israeli war over the strip. This is considered one of the most pressing matters, as the war eventually will end but that does not mean that the conflict is going to end. Hence, the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip will pose as the greatest challenge for its people after enduring this brutal genocide, which has devastated the area's infrastructure beyond local capacity to rebuild. Accordingly, international involvement is essential, from funding reconstruction costs to managing facilities and economic activities. Israel is using this reconstruction phase to impose further conditions and pressure Palestinians to support its long-term genocidal agenda. Additionally, Israel aims not only to destroy resistance infrastructure but also to annihilate entire border villages, including their historic neighborhoods and agricultural lands, to weaken resistance capabilities and tighten its control over these areas.

The paper tackles US President Donald Trump shocking announcement for the US plans to control and administer Gaza post-ceasefire, including displacing its people to "safer" areas. This proposal, widely condemned internationally and rejected by Arab countries, reflects Trump's colonial intentions and exemplifies modern American imperialism, characterized as "imperialism without colonies." Trump's approach, influenced by his real estate background, illustrates a broader global trend where wars and disasters are exploited to open new markets and attract investment at the expense of local populations.

Building on Naomi Klein's, "The Shock Doctrine," the paper draws attention to how disasters often serve to deepen class divisions and expand capitalism, with the US historically using crises—such as Chile's military coup and the invasion of Iraq—to impose neoliberal reforms that benefit American and international corporations. In Iraq, restructuring laws favored foreign ownership and investment, while political repression served economic aims. Similar disaster capitalism practices followed natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina and the Sri Lanka tsunami, where reconstruction became profitable for corporations rather than beneficial for affected populations.

Finally, the paper raises significant questions about the excessive violence in the Gaza war: whether it was merely a war consequence or part of a larger plan to control Palestinian territories and erase the Palestinian cause. Trump's Gaza reconstruction vision, aiming to transform the Strip into a "Riviera," faces resistance from Palestinians and Arab nations but signals a dangerous phase where capitalism could exploit, displace, and oppress Palestinians under the guise of reconstruction. Past examples in Iraq and Lebanon show how reconstruction projects often turn countries into commercialized markets, sidelining the rights and welfare of local people, rather than genuinely restoring their land and lives. This underscores the threat reconstruction poses to the future of Gaza and the Palestinian cause overall.

The full paper is available in Arabic on: <https://tinyurl.com/2767doth>



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