Chris Hedges - Beyond Revealing the Depravity of the Ruling Class: The Genocide in Gaza

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> An analysis of how Palestine reveals global power structures, demonstrating how economic and military interests—not independent state decisions—drive the genocide in Gaza, and how ordinary people are trapped within systems that profit from violence.

SAŽETAK

This talk examines Palestine as a 'revealer' of the global order, arguing that states today function as intermediaries responding to concentrated economic, military, and financial interests rather than as independent decision makers. The speaker presents data on extreme global wealth inequality—half the world's population holds one-third the wealth of just 5,000 individuals—and identifies three sectors controlling global power: extractive industries and natural resource control, military force and surveillance, and financial transactions through corporations and banks. The speaker's own sanctioning for research on the 'economy of genocide' illustrates how the genocide in Gaza generates profit: while Israeli families faced economic collapse, the Tel Aviv stock exchange skyrocketed, with military companies like Palantir and Lockheed Martin accumulating wealth. The talk describes how ordinary workers and consumers are trapped within complicit systems, forced to choose between employment in weapons production or unemployment. Finally, the speaker argues that this order can be changed through boycotting, divesting, and sanctions, requiring individual commitment to break ties binding people to the system.

KLJUČNE PORUKE

Palestine serves as a 'revealer' of global power structures dominated by the United States, with Israel functioning as an extension of Western power in the Middle East.

States today are not independent decision makers but instead respond to concentrated economic, military, and financial interests controlled by approximately 5,000 individuals globally.

> According to inequality data, half of the world's population collectively holds one-third the wealth held by just 5,000 people, with power concentrated in extractive industries, military/surveillance, and financial sectors.

> The genocide in Gaza is economically profitable: while Israeli families faced economic collapse, the Tel Aviv stock exchange doubled and tripled in value, with military companies like Palantir and Lockheed Martin accumulating wealth.

> Ordinary workers and consumers are trapped within complicit systems, deliberately made fragile and dependent, forced to choose between producing weapons or losing employment.

> The speaker was sanctioned for publishing research on the 'economy of occupation and economy of genocide,' revealing institutional resistance to exposing profit motives behind violence.

> The global order can be changed through boycotting, divesting, and sanctions, but this requires individual commitment from each person to break complicity with the system.

ČLANAK

Palestine in Global Context

Palestine has been a revealer for understanding the global order we inhabit. It is not that we suddenly woke up in a world dominated by the United States—especially the world we are part of politically, militarily, and strategically. The US is the dominant character here, and Israel functions as a sort of extension of it in the Middle East, serving as an extension of Western power and Western supremacy. While I know that Israelis do not appreciate this characterization, I also believe they do not fully realize how instrumentalized they are by interests that supersede all of us.

States as Intermediaries, Not Decision Makers

We tend to think of states as the ultimate decision makers, whether in democracies or dictatorships. But in fact, states today—more than in previous decades—do not make independent decisions. Instead, they respond to certain interests: economic, military, and financial interests that are connected to the main power holders in the world. This observation may sound like conspiracy theory to those unfamiliar with global inequality, but the data supports it. Thomas Piketty's Institute released a recent inequality report with shocking figures: half of the world's population collectively holds one-third of the wealth that is held by just 5,000 people in the world. How is this possible? Who are these individuals? Clearly, they are not ordinary people like you and I. They control pockets of power connected to three main sectors: those involved in

the extractive industry and the control of natural resources, those securing the use of force through military power and surveillance, and those controlling financial transactions through corporations, banks, and pension funds. These networks form the power structure behind those 5,000 people.

The Economic Machinery of Genocide

Palestine has revealed this world order, serving as its epicenter. This is precisely why I was sanctioned for my report on the economy of occupation and the economy of genocide. While the economy of many Israeli families and individuals was collapsing, the Tel Aviv stock exchange was rising—skyrocketing, doubling and tripling in value. This revelation exposes who was profiting from the genocide. Companies like Palantir and Lockheed Martin, the military industry broadly—not just Israeli and American, but all interconnected—were accumulating wealth as the violence continued.

Because we are all connected within this system, we are all part of it. We are part of it as consumers, we are part of it as producers. Over the past two years, I have spoken with many trade unionists, workers, and consumers, and they express the same reality: it is extraordinarily difficult to extract oneself from this market. Many would prefer not to work for these companies, but they are frightened of losing their jobs. They recognize that their fragility is deliberately woven into the system. They face a choice between producing weapons used to kill children or not working at all. This means we are witnessing pockets of populations functioning as sacrificial entities within the system.

The Possibility of Breaking the System

However, Palestine is also telling us something else: this order can be changed. Through boycotting and divesting, we can break the ties that bind us to the system. Through sanctions, we can curtail complicity with Israel. But this requires individual commitment from each of us.

#Gaza genocide — economic dimensions #Global power structures and inequality #Military-industrial complex and weapons production #Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) #State complicity and economic systems #Palestine and US Middle East policy #Worker and consumer complicity in conflict

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