

Bob Avakian on The Middle East, Israel and the Revolution – and World – That’s Needed

To put it in basic terms, Israel is a colonial-settler state which was imposed on the region of the Middle East, at the cost of great suffering for the Palestinian people (and the people of the region more broadly), Israel could not have come into being without the backing of imperialism, and it acts not only in its own interests but as an armed garrison and instrument of enforcement for U.S. imperialism.

The essence of what exists in the U.S. is not democracy but capitalism-imperialism and political structures to enforce that capitalism-imperialism. What the U.S. spreads around the world is not democracy, but imperialism and political structures to enforce that imperialism.

—*Basics*, from the talks and writings of Bob Avakian, 1:3

What we see in contention here with Jihad [Islamic fundamentalism] on the one hand and McWorld/McCrusade [increasingly globalized western imperialism] on the other hand, are historically outmoded strata among colonized and oppressed humanity up against historically outmoded ruling strata of the imperialist system. These two reactionary poles reinforce each other, even while opposing each other. If you side with either of these “outmodeds,” you end up strengthening both.

While this is a very important formulation and is crucial to understanding much of the dynamics driving things in the world in this period, at the same time we do have to be clear about which of these “historically outmodeds” has done the greater damage and poses the greater threat to humanity: It is the historically outmoded ruling strata of the imperialist system, and in particular the U.S. imperialists. —*Basics* 1:28

After the Holocaust, the worst thing that has happened to Jewish people is the state of Israel. —*Basics* 5:12

There's a very important example negatively, that we should all learn from, in the state of Israel. The experience of Jewish people throughout centuries, in Europe and other places, of being bitterly discriminated against and viciously persecuted; and then under the rule of the Nazis during the time of World War 2, being literally exterminated with six million annihilated by the Nazis, certainly ranks at the very top of the whole history of crimes against humanity. But in response to this, among Jewish people—including those who survived that Holocaust—there have been two different and opposite responses. One is “Never Again! Never again must this happen to any people anywhere.” But the other is, “Because of what has been done to our people, anything we do from now on is justified.” So you find them founding the state of Israel on the basis of bloodthirsty ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people who lived there which is now reaching genocidal proportions. No! Our answer has to be the first. Never again shall this happen to any people anywhere, we need to move to a world beyond all that!”

—from the film *Revolution and Religion: A Dialogue Between*
Cornel West & Bob Avakian

Internationalism—
The Whole World
Comes First.

—*Basics* 5:8

There is a place where epistemology and morality meet. There is a place where you have to stand and say: It is not acceptable to refuse to look at something—or to refuse to believe something—because it makes you uncomfortable. And: It is not acceptable to believe something just because it makes you feel comfortable.

—BASics 5:11

This system of capitalism-imperialism has been built on, and continues to perpetrate, slavery and white supremacy and all manner of atrocities against Black people, other oppressed peoples, and the masses of humanity throughout the world, including the half of humanity that is female. Some claim that the answer to this is Islam, and in particular fundamentalist Islamic jihad. But that is not the answer—it is not a radical alternative to this system and its monstrous crimes—it is itself another form of enslavement, oppression, and atrocity, against women and the masses of people overall. The answer is an actual revolution—a really radical and emancipating revolution—communist revolution, to bring an end, at long last, to all oppression, everywhere.

—Bob Avakian

American Lives Are Not
More Important Than
Other People's Lives
—BASics 5:7

Let's get down to basics: We need a revolution. ***Anything else, in the final analysis, is bullshit.*** Now, that doesn't mean we don't unite with people in all sorts of struggles short of revolution. We definitely need to do that. But the proffering of any other solution to these monumental and monstrous problems and outrages is ridiculous, frankly. And we need to be taking the offensive and mobilizing increasing numbers of masses to cut through this shit and bring to the fore what really is the solution to this, and to answer the questions and, yes, the accusations that come forth in response to this, while deepening our scientific basis for being able to do this. And the point is: not only do we need to be doing this, but we need to be bringing forward, unleashing and leading, and enabling increasing numbers of the masses to do this. They need to be inspired, not just with a general idea of revolution, but with a deepening understanding, a scientific grounding, as to why and how revolution really is the answer to all of this.

—BASics 3:1

The **Bob Avakian** Institute

TheBobAvakianInstitute.org | info@TheBobAvakianInstitute.org

Bob Avakian is a revolutionary leader and architect of the new communism, a whole new framework for human emancipation. He has authored the *Constitution for the New Socialist Republic in North America*.

The Bob Avakian (BA) Institute is a nonprofit institute whose mission is to preserve, project, and promote the works and vision of BA with the aim of reaching the broadest possible audience.

Make a donation and learn more at TheBobAvakianInstitute.org.