**Annexation will undermine the foundation upon which the Jewish state was established**

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It was a package deal in which its two parts are tied together. The Balfour Declaration, which this week marks 101 years, clearly emphasized the package deal proposed to the World Zionist Organization: the establishment of a Jewish national home "on the clear condition that nothing would be done that might prejudice the civil and religious rights of non-Jewish communities in the Land of Israel'. In other words, the Jewish state will be a democratic state that grants equality to all its inhabitants. This is an inseparable package deal; The absence of the democratic part nullifies the international justification and support given to the establishment of the Jewish state.

The Balfour Declaration serves as the political-legal basis for the Zionist movement's demand for the establishment of a Jewish state in Mandatory Palestine: "His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people". Its inclusion in the British Mandate was completely different from the realization of the concept of mandates ("assistance and training" to the "weaker nations" in their own country), and legitimized the exclusion of Palestine from the principle of self-determination ("the land belongs to its inhabitants and not to its occupiers.") , In other words, the Balfour Declaration gave the Jewish people, who did not live in their homeland at the time, the right to establish their own state, and this right was denied to the Arabs of Israel, even though they constituted more than 90 percent of the country's population, and controlled more than 90 percent of its private lands.

Almost a century later, in 2012, it was Edmond Levy, a Supreme Court justice who, in a report commissioned by the Netanyahu government, justified the construction of the illegal outposts "on state land." In his position, the Mandate text, with the Balfour declaration at its hart, is the last political-legal document valid for the West Bank. The Mandate states explicitly in Article 6 that "the administration in Palestine ... will assist in the proper conditions for the advancement of Jewish immigration, and will encourage, in cooperation with the Jewish Agency, a dense Jewish settlement on the ground, including state lands and lands that are not required for public use".

This presentation of things is heard and written at every opportunity by those who reject the final status agreement and the two-state solution. However, those who want to pass laws to annex large parts of the West Bank under the leadership of Bennett, Shaked, Smotrich and Kish, present only half of the package deal of the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate Charter, and are leading to their undermining as the political-legal basis of the Jewish state.

In October 2017, Jonathan Allen, the British deputy ambassador to the United Nations, referring to the fact that Israel has been in control of the territories for 50 years and is preventing residents from achieving equal rights, claimed that "remember there were two parts to the declaration, the second part has not been carried out". Even if this statement can be rejected on the grounds that Israel, within the 1967 borders provides equality to its residents, the future plans for the annexation of territories from the West Bank, which will lead to an accelerated process of full annexation without granting citizenship to its Arab residents, will not meet this test.

The Government of Israel, which is promoting a series of laws that are supposed to serve as legal foundations for the enactment of annexation and for the legitimization of illegal outposts established on privately-owned Palestinian land, ignores the clear stipulation in Article 6 of the Mandate: "The administration in Palestine will assist (the Jews) while ensuring that the rights and positions of other parts of the population are not harmed". The law of regulation, which was denied by the Attorney General, was far from fulfilling this condition, but the government continues to act, and in June the preliminary draft for the completely discriminatory law of 'the status of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency' passed: Land in occupied territories will be managed by the Settlement Division and no payment will be made for rural land on which the houses of the settlements in Judea and Samaria were built from 1967 until now. That is, erase past debts of hundreds of millions of shekels, which will be taken from the public coffers.

These biased interpretations, which ignore the clear conditions set forth in the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate, critically injure the Zionist narrative and the foundations of Zionism, as Menachem Begin said in 1972: "Zionism ... its foundations in the Land of Israel are ... that there will be a Jewish majority, an Arab minority and equality for all. We did not deviate from this Torah, and we will not deviate from it, in which the justice of our case is folded". The desire to expand the State of Israel into the entire Mandatory territory of the Land of Israel, without preserving the democratic police and its Jewish majority, ignores these principles and international conditions, whose realization justifies the unique process of the establishment of the State of Israel.

The Palestinian narrative sees the Balfour Declaration as "a declaration that can not be forgotten and is not something to be celebrated, especially when one nation experiences suffering and ongoing injustice. The establishment of a national home for one people has resulted in the dispossession and continued persecution of the other people", as Mahmoud Abbas wrote last year in The Guardian. The Netanyahu government will turn this narrative into a historical truth with its own hands.

In order to ensure the validity and moral character of the Balfour Declaration, Israel must make a U-turn from the policy of annexation and return to the idea of ​​two states for two peoples. The past 101 years have turned the Zionist vision of a democratic state with a Jewish majority into an existing fact. Now we must take the additional step to a solution based on a historic compromise that does not cancel the Balfour Declaration. As Abbas went on to write in the Guardian: "The celebrations should wait for the day when everyone who lives on this land will enjoy freedom, honor and equality. The physical act of signing the Balfour Declaration was in the past, and it can not be changed. But it can be fixed. It requires humility and courage. This will require dealing with the past, recognizing the mistakes made, and taking concrete steps to correct these mistakes. This is the time ... concrete steps that will bring an end to the occupation on the basis of international law and international resolutions ... recognizing the state of Palestine within the '67 borders and East Jerusalem as its capital, may bring about the fulfillment of the political rights of the Palestinian people".