

**Executive
Summary**

Normalization: Context and causes



منتدى البدائل العربي
Arab Forum For Alternatives

Dr. Mudhar Qaissi

Executive Summary

Normalization: Context and causes

Dr. Mudhar Qaissi

This research paper delves into the normalization of relations between Israel and certain reactionary Arab regimes, analyzing the implications of this process for the legitimacy and geopolitical positioning of Israel within the global system. The paper begins with an examination of Noam Schuster's song "Dubai," which critiques the normalization process and highlights the perceived self-serving transformation of Israel's international relations.

The paper asserts that Israel's central role in international relations is a product of the current global system, often referred to as globalization, unipolar world order, or neoliberalism. Historically, Israel has acted as the regional enforcer for imperialist interests, a role that has intensified in the neoliberal era. This era has seen the intertwining of security and capital, with national politics becoming secondary to the security of global capital. Consequently, regional security systems, with Israel as a pivotal center in the Middle East, have emerged to protect these interests.

The decline of the Palestinian national liberation project began around 1990, during the First Intifada. The global forces driving neoliberalism diverted the uprising's trajectory to align with imperialist interests, reducing its impact to benefit a narrow group of Palestinians and the broader neoliberal agenda. The Oslo Accords marked a significant step in normalization, with the PLO agreeing to terms that compromised core Palestinian issues like self-determination, hence effectively turning the liberation movement into a form of surrender.

The paper discusses the fragmentation and internal conflicts within Palestinian liberation movements, leading to a weakened national project. The Palestinian Authority (PA) prioritized self-preservation over national liberation through forging alliances with reactionary Arab regimes and global imperialist powers. These alliances have led to increased cooperation with regional security services, further undermining the Palestinian cause and transforming the PLO into another Arab regime rather than a liberation model.

On the international level, the crisis of the neoliberal capitalist system has reasserted the need for Israel's role as a regional enforcer. The paper highlights Israel's advanced security industries, which have been honed over decades of internal conflict. These industries are now in high demand globally, making Israel a crucial player in training and coordinating security forces for neoliberal imperialism.

The paper examines the motivations behind the overt normalization efforts by various regimes, driven by their need for external legitimacy and security amidst weak internal legitimacy. Examples include Egypt's Camp David Accords and the UAE and Bahrain's

recent agreements with Israel. These regimes, often lacking internal popular support, seek to bolster their stability through external alliances and security measures.

In conclusion, the paper argues that the struggle against normalization is part of broader resistance against the fascist transformations of global capitalism. For reactionary regimes, normalization with Israel is a symptom of aligning with imperialist interests, rather than an independent policy choice. The impact on the Palestinian cause is significant, undermining international support and transforming it from a liberation movement to a contentious issue within the framework of global capitalism. The paper calls for a renewed focus on liberation and solidarity, one that transcends ethnic and religious lines and strives for unity against imperialist forces.