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The Israeli Future Plan (2050) in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Dimensions, Objectives, and Strategies

Introduction:

Future studies have witnessed rapid growth in developed countries that produce science and technology as well as possessing the reasons for economic progress and military power. It is rare to find an advanced capitalist country that does not rely on future forecasting studies in making its economic, political, or military decisions, and to find a large company that does not have a research department or center for future studies and strategic planning. Europe, the United States, and Israel are primarily interested in training and preparing scientists and researchers working in future studies in government universities and various research centers, and establishing many think tanks, scientific bodies and specialized institutes in futurology ⁽¹⁾.

The Aim of the Study

The study strives to monitor, analyze, and dissect the system of prospective studies in Israel, especially in the fields of political and social sciences, with an application to the future plans of the Hebrew state in the coming years. This is done through identifying the foundations and principles of building national immunity for the Hebrew state in its regional and international environment.

Methodology

The descriptive method is considered one of the most prominent and important types of scientific research methodologies. It is used to study and analyze problems and topics with a descriptive inclination that has non-numerical

information available, and almost no scientific research can be conducted without it, especially social research. The steps associated with the descriptive method involve identifying the research problem, collecting the maximum amount of data and information about it. Based on that, hypotheses or questions are formulated as guesses for solving the problem. Then explanations are presented, statistical analysis is conducted, and results and evidence are extracted. The hypotheses are tested to ascertain their reliability.

First: The Conceptual Framework of the Study:

Prospective Perspective: It is the one that has already begun but has not yet been fully realized. An example of this is the population

number, the educational level, and the economic orientation in a certain field.

Unperceived Prospective: It is not apparent but can be predicted based on specific events or information.

The Past in the Future: History repeats itself according to recurring phenomena.

Supportive Prospective: It is related to the scale of ongoing developments that reflect reality and possibilities for expansion ⁽²⁾.

There are four characteristics that distinguish prospective studies from other forms of future studies:

Action Orientation:

Prospective studies are not just an analysis or contemplation of future developments. Theoretically, analytical studies of futurism (i.e., future studies) cannot be considered a process of prospective without being linked to possible future actions.

Alternative Future:

Prospective assumes that the future is not predetermined, and therefore the future can evolve in different directions. These directions can be somewhat shaped by decisions.

Participatory/Interactive Future:

Prospective is not carried out by a small group of experts alone but includes a larger number of different groups interested in the issues at hand. The results of the prospective process are disseminated among a large audience seeking their reactions.

Multidisciplinary and Multitasking:

A Prospective is based on the principle that the problems we face cannot be properly understood if we connect them to a single dimension and divide them along with presenting the prospective in a way that captures the facts as a whole, taking into account all variables.

In this context, Israel faces significant internal and external challenges in the early decades of the century. These challenges shape and define the most important future scenarios and comprehensive plans that can achieve diverse national objectives in several areas directly related to Israeli national security. These areas include security and peace with neighboring countries, military superiority, scientific research and technological development, agriculture, water security, infrastructure, industry and economy, internal Israeli society, and Israel's global image, which is a crucial pillar of its national security.

It is worth noting that there is a difference between future foresight and strategic planning. The foresight extends over a 25-year period, representing long-term planning based on imagination and innovation. It serves as an input for strategic planning and focuses entirely on future trends. On the other hand, the strategic planning covers a period of five to ten years and involves short-term operational and implementation planning. It is considered an outcome of foresight and focuses on future orientations in a simplified manner.

Second: The applied framework of the Israeli strategic plan:

The applied framework of the Israeli strategic plan is based on the 2020 Israel's plan and aims to reach the 2050 plan. If the main scenario of Israel achieving a peaceful environment and becoming a state that enjoys external peace and increased international cooperation is realized, it is highly likely that the Israeli economy will become a regional hub for business and financial services. This is attributed to its modern services and expertise in knowledge and technology industries. Additionally, it is expected that in the case of stable peace and the absence of external conflicts, internal conflicts within Israeli society may intensify.



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Therefore, the agenda of Israeli internal planning will encounter new challenges, with a focus on enhancing border areas and connecting them to the central core of Israel through improved infrastructure and urban planning across borders. Furthermore, there will be an emphasis on exploring real opportunities to confront future challenges faced by institutions or companies. This will involve examining future uncertainties using present indicators and data. This process will aid in determining future directions and building strategic plans for these companies, institutions, and governments ⁽³⁾.

Priorities Raised:

Israel is currently and expected to build a more cohesive and present vision in the region based on a well-planned vision, based on fixed and specific variables that have been formulated according to the security and strategic needs of the state at all its official levels, and away from partisanship or the conflicts of the far-right, which is expressed politically in the current government with its right-wing coalition. This indicates that political Israel will impose its presence in the face of ideological Israel, which the Hebrew state has surpassed for years for a state that has not yet reached 100 years. Therefore, the state's greatest goal, with all its thinkers and experts, will remain to plan for the future with a more present and existing vision, and through a series of successive strategies from 2020 to 2028 through 2035 until 2075. These are the timings of strategies that Israel has set and is working to implement to build the state's capabilities and strengthen its national immunity in the face of the challenges and dangers facing the state, not to indulge in internal issues where immersion in extremist ideas, and the construction of new beliefs in the current political and strategic environment ⁽⁴⁾.

The Israeli political system moved towards determining its own destiny and achieving

real goals. It also aims to become an accepted member of the region eventually, despite the developments of the current situation in the Gaza Strip. Regardless of the denials of the right-wing parties and forces, the Israeli political system does not object to negotiating with the Palestinian side. Israel withdrew from Gaza under the unilateral disengagement plan, and it will also withdraw from the West Bank in time, with the real Palestinian acceptance of what will happen in the near future. Israel has already established its borders with any future Palestinian entity through the separation wall. It has also drawn its borders with Egypt through the peace treaty, and with Jordan through the Wadi Araba treaty. The message is that Israel is working to build its presence in the region as an acceptable state, with its entity recognized by its neighbors, and in light of real changes taking place on the Israeli side internally, despite the recognition that there are risks from organizations that want to continue the confrontation.

Israel's political system believes that continuing to build military power and transforming into a professional army of 100,000 personnel (currently it is 170,000) will deter the forces that want to exhaust Israel in open confrontations. Israel is well aware of this and is working to contain and marginalize its impact, especially since it realizes that the state has its own priorities and major tasks in the coming period. Israel will not hesitate to confront Iran if it actually threatens its national security after Iran's approach to the nuclear threshold. It will not wait for the position of the US administration, as it previously struck the Iraqi nuclear reactor and entered into real confrontations on the settlement and aid file with multiple US administrations. The message is that Israel will continue to build its real capabilities to face what will happen and will continue to

build peace partnerships. It will neutralize the threats of hostile organizations and will ensure that it adopts its major security and strategic measures to defend its national security. It will also move towards adopting military measures to protect its existence in the region.

Key elements of the future plan:

The most influential settlement activities in Jerusalem and the neighboring Palestinian cities were those represented in the establishment of settlement belts. The aim of these belts was to surround the city and besiege it from the inside, on the one hand, and to isolate it from the outside, such as the neighboring Arab surroundings in the West Bank - on the other hand. As for the number of neighborhoods and communities, it is as follows:

10 neighborhoods within East Jerusalem:

These are 10 Jewish residential communities or neighborhoods, with a built-up area of about 69,636 dunams (one dunam equals 1000 m²) and a total of 52,810 settlers living in them. These neighborhoods are as follows:

- ***The Jewish Quarter:*** Established in 1968 inside the Old City on a confiscated area of 116 dunams and contains 468 housing units accommodating 1,800 settlers.

- ***Ramat Ashkol Neighborhood:*** Established in 1968 on land confiscated from Arab citizens, with an area of over 600 dunams. It is located in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood northwest of Jerusalem and includes 20,200 housing units with a population of about 7,500 settlers ⁽⁵⁾.

- ***Ramat Eshkol Extension:*** Also known as “Givat HaMivtar”, was established in 1968 on land in Sheikh Jarrah and owned by several Arab families and the Aminah al-Khalidi and Aref al-Aref Waqf. The neighborhood has an area of about 270 dunams, on which 2,400 housing units have been built, with a population of 4,500 settlers.

- ***Sanhedria Neighborhood:*** Another extension of Ramat Ashkol, established in 1973 on confiscated Arab land. It accommodates about 1,000 housing units with a population of 3,200 settlers.

- ***Givat HaMivtar Neighborhood:*** It is an extension of Ramat Ashkol from the northwest, and is established in the “Tel HaZikara” area on confiscated and expropriated Arab land. 500 housing units have been built, with an estimated population of 1,500 settlers.

- ***(Neve Yaakov) Neighborhood:*** It is the nucleus of a settlement colony, established in 1973 on the road connecting Jerusalem to the city of Ramallah, on Arab land located northeast of Beit Hanina. The area of the confiscated land for its establishment was about 30,000 dunams, on which more than 4,000 housing units were built by 1981, with a population of over 12,000 settlers. The neighborhood soon accommodated an additional 1,000 housing units, bringing its capacity to 17,000 settlers.

- ***French Hill Neighborhood:*** Also known as the “Shapira” neighborhood. Construction began in 1969 east of Mount Scopus on the Jerusalem-Ramallah Road. The area of Arab land confiscated for its establishment was more than 15,000 dunams, owned by Arab citizens, the Jordanian state, and the Latin Monastery. 5,000 housing units have been built in this neighborhood, with a population of over 12,500 settlers ⁽⁶⁾.

- ***Tel Beit Hakerem East Neighborhood:*** Established in 1972 on the land of Mount Mukabber and Sur Baher south of Jerusalem. The area of the confiscated Arab land for its establishment was about 20,000 dunams. Its housing units were built in two phases:

- o The first phase, up to 1981, included 2,342 units with a population of 7,820 settlers.
- o The second phase, between 1981 and 2000,



included more than 5,000 housing units accommodating over 15,000 settlers.

• **Tel Anatot Neighborhood:** Located northeast of Jerusalem on the land of the Arab villages of Anata and Shuafat. Established in 1974 on a confiscated area of 3,650 dunams. It has 500 housing units, with about 2,000 Jews living there.

• **Hebrew University Neighborhood:** Construction began in 1969 on Mount Scopus with the aim of expanding the old Hebrew University and its hospital. Housing for professors and students, new offices, a lecture hall, and a university hospital were built. This neighborhood accommodates about 31,500 students and university staff living in 109 housing units built on confiscated Arab land. In addition to these neighborhoods, there are 15 settlements or colonies in the vicinity of East Jerusalem ⁽⁷⁾.

The Greater Jerusalem Project:

The “Greater Jerusalem Project” was approved to expand the boundaries of the Jerusalem municipality to include areas extending from the city of Ramallah in the north to Bethlehem in the south. This project was called the “Father Project”, and it represents the second settlement belt around the city of Jerusalem. The first belt was represented by the 10 neighborhoods that were established within the scope of the 1967 Jerusalem Municipality, as previously mentioned. The second belt consists of 15 settlements surround the city in the form of a settlement ring from all sides. (The built-up areas of these settlements exceed 195 dunams, with 5266 housing units accommodating about 31,600 settlers). The third belt consists of 15 additional settlements or colonies in the vicinity of East Jerusalem. On September 30, 1975, the Israeli government announced its approval of the Greater Jerusalem map, which extends the

boundaries of the municipality between Khan al-Ahmar to the east, Latrun to the west, Deir Diwan and Beitin to the north, and the suburbs of the city of Hebron (Kiryat Arba settlement) to the south. This expansion aims to annex nine cities, 60 Arab villages, and approximately 30% of the total area of the West Bank. This project constituted the final expansion of the boundaries of Greater Jerusalem, and its practical translation was the establishment of 15 new settlements that form the third belt of settlement belts around Jerusalem.

The settlements were established in the north around the cities of Ramallah and Al-Bireh and include the following settlements:

- Kokhav HaShahar • Ofra
- Beit El • Kfar Ruth
- Neve Tzuf • Beit El

To the south, they were established in the areas extending from the north of the city of Hebron to the areas of Bethlehem and Beit Sahour, and they include the following settlements:

- Tekoa • Kfar Etzion
- Tekoa (B) • Elazar (A) and (B)
- Efrat • Migdal
- Rosh Tzurim • Alon Shevut
- Metsudot Yehuda

The Goals of Establishing the Settlement Blocs:

- A. Geographic and demographic fragmentation of the West Bank:** Encircling the West Bank from within, especially the urban centers, in preparation for its fragmentation into two areas surrounded by Jewish settlements: the Hebron area in the south and the Nablus area in the north.
- B. Annexing large areas of land in the West Bank:** The area ranges between 400 and

500 Km², in addition to the areas that were annexed to Greater Jerusalem according to the structural plans, the last of which was in July 1980.

- The Jewish Municipality of Jerusalem approved the annexation of 63 Km² of land from the West Bank to be used in the service of the structural plan for Judaizing the city.

C. Transforming Greater Jerusalem into the central capital of the State of Israel:

Concentrating all the attractive factors to attract investment, tourism, industrial, and agricultural activities for Jews from all over the world.

Some of the most prominent Israeli goals for the Judaization process that was and is still being implemented in Jerusalem are:

A. Concentrating a Jewish majority population in Jerusalem:

- Giving the city a Jewish character that makes it impossible to discuss the fate and future of the city under any settlement or peace negotiations.

B. Imposing spatial, demographic, structural, political, and urban realities:

- Making it difficult to ignore the Israeli presence in the city, thus preventing the Palestinian references from demanding that East Jerusalem be the capital of the proposed Palestinian state ⁽⁸⁾.

C. Isolating East Jerusalem from other urban and rural centers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip:

- Surrounding the city with human settlement belts.

D. Putting pressure on the Arab citizens of the city to push them to live outside the municipal boundaries of Greater Jerusalem:

- Joining the Palestinian diaspora abroad.

Third: The Pillars of the Judaization Plan 2020/2050:

The “Jerusalem 2020” project is a continuation of previous Jewish plans, declaring Jerusalem the capital of the Jewish people worldwide. It is considered the most dangerous for Jerusalem and its Palestinian inhabitants. It aims to reduce the Arab population to between 10% and 12%, and to displace Muslim and Christian citizens. If the plan is completed, the area of “Greater Jerusalem” will equal 10% of the area of the West Bank, which is about 600 Km², and East Jerusalem, which was about 72 Km² when it was occupied in 1967, will be erased. The remaining area for Palestinians will be limited to 9.5 Km². It is expected that about one million Jews will live in Greater Jerusalem, while the Palestinian presence will be limited to 100,000 people, who will be gathered in “cantons” according to the occupation plans. To consolidate the “Capital of the Jewish People” plan, the government is proceeding with the transportation and road network project to connect Jerusalem, not only to central Israel and the coast, but also to the West Bank and the settlements.

The first steps of the project were completed years ago, when the occupation began building a separation wall around East Jerusalem to annex an area of about 230 Km² inhabited by 150,000 settlers, and thus isolating about 250,000 Jerusalemites from the city.

As part of expanding the influence of Jerusalem, the Israeli government has completed plans to build about 60,000 housing units, about 85% of which will be built in East Jerusalem, to be added to the tens of thousands of housing units that have been built in the city since the occupation, to create an attractive environment for Jews who have built 70 settlement outposts in the heart of Palestinian neighborhoods ⁽⁹⁾.



The remaining land area for Jerusalemites for building purposes was limited to about 13% of the area of the eastern city that was annexed after the occupation, while 33% of its land area was used for the settlement project. To ensure the success of the plan, successive Israeli governments have worked to empty Jerusalem of its Palestinian inhabitants by withdrawing residency from about 15,000 families, with a population of 50,000, while the separation wall project affected about 150,000, as well as the military crossings adjacent to Shuafat, which caused the isolation of 70,000 Jerusalemites from the city.

The Knesset approved the annexation decision, and Arab Jerusalem was annexed to Israel politically and administratively by order number 2064. The process of transferring the offices of Israeli ministries and other government institutions to East Jerusalem began. The law issued by the Knesset stated the following:

- A. United Jerusalem, in its entirety, is the capital of Israel.
- B. Jerusalem is the seat of the President of the State, the Knesset, the Government, and the Supreme Court.
- C. The holy sites will be protected from any desecration or damage, or anything that could affect the free access of all religions to their holy sites.
- D. The Government will oversee the development, growth, and well-being of Jerusalem by allocating funds to the Jerusalem Municipality with the approval of the Knesset Finance Committee. Jerusalem will have special priorities in the activities of government departments for development in economic and other rights.

Fourth: Strategies of Future Plans:

Successive Israeli governments have developed many procedural urban, demographic, economic, political, diplomatic, cultural, and

sports plans to seize Jerusalem and empty it of its original Arab inhabitants. These plans, programmed by Israeli parties, have ranged from short-term to medium-term to long-term plans over 65 years.

In addition to the Greater Jerusalem Judaization Plan, there is a medium-term Jewish 10-year plan that deals with infrastructure, economy, settlements, security, religious, health, educational, demographic, geographical, tourism, public services, and others. It was officially adopted in 2009 for the Holy City of Jerusalem, with its western and eastern wings, and its actual implementation began from 2010 to 2020 ⁽¹⁰⁾.

Israel has followed several paths to implement the Greater Jerusalem Judaization Plan and has allocated huge sums of money amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars, with government funding and a large donation from some wealthy Jews, to transform it from a theoretical plan into an actual achievement on the ground. Some of the most prominent of these paths are:

- A. Doubling of Jewish settlement construction, especially in the areas of North and South occupied Jerusalem, and the annexation of large Jewish settlement blocs, including: Ma'ale Adumim, Givat Ze'ev, and Gabl abuGhanym (Har Homa). According to the comprehensive 10-year future plan for the Ma'ale Adumim settlement, it will be expanded to cover an area of at least 53 km² (which is larger than the area of the Tel Aviv settlement) and will extend between the cities of Jerusalem and Jericho as part of the Greater Jerusalem plan.
- B. In addition to the plan to annex the Kedar settlement to Ma'ale Adumim, to expand the Ma'ale Adumim settlement by 12,000 new dunams by annexing the Kedar colony located 3 km to the east, this means

annexing all the lands that separate the two Jewish colonies in the Palestinian Wadi Abu Hindi area.

- C. Working on building new settlements near the Qalandiya Airport to accommodate 11,000 Jewish settlers and build other Jewish settlements. In contrast, besiege Arab neighborhoods and isolate them from each other, and make them limited Arab “ghettos”.
- D. Seeking to house one million Jews in Greater Jerusalem (the number of Jews in this area is now about 500,000).
- E. Digging Jewish tunnels under Palestinian villages and towns to connect Jewish settlement blocs, such as digging an underground tunnel under the Palestinian village of Kafr Aqab to connect the new settlement near the Qalandiya Airport to the eastern settlement bloc (Kochav Yaakov), and to shorten the distance between the Beit El settlement east of the city of Al-Bireh and occupied Jerusalem.
- F. Establishing a railway network and operate light trains to facilitate the movement of Jewish settlers throughout Greater Jerusalem⁽¹¹⁾.

This policy followed by Israel has led to a doubling of the number of settlers, and at the same time reducing the percentage of the Palestinian population, which constitutes a third of the population of Jerusalem, about 220,000 people, including the annexed part of 380,000 people, knowing that the number of settlers in the city of Jerusalem is equal to the number of settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (180,000 settlers).

Fifth: The current and future status of the settlement blocs around Jerusalem:

As a result of the existence of these settlement blocs, namely the Gush Etzion bloc: which consists of the settlements of:

Alon Shegot, Kfar Etzion, Migdal Oza, Nevi Daniel, Gibaot, Bat Ayis, Rosh Tsudem, Beitar Illit, Ma’ale Adumim bloc: comprising: Ma’ale Adumim, Elmon, Givat Benjamin, Mishor Adumim, Alon, Neve Prat, E1, Modi’in bloc, and the bloc of settlement blocs northwest of Jerusalem: Givat Ze’ev, Giv’ot Hadshah, Haradam, and Harshmuel. In addition to other measures taken by the Israeli authorities, The Palestinian communities in Jerusalem will turn into isolated areas (ghettos) in exchange for Jewish settlement continuation.

- Ghetto (mini-Jewish communities) northeast of Jerusalem includes the Shuafat refugee camp, Dahiyet al-Salam, Anata and Hizma, and is home to about 40,000 people.

- The ghetto north of Jerusalem: It includes the suburb of Al-Bareed, and the town of Al-Ram is home to about 60,000 people.

- The ghetto northwest of Jerusalem includes 14 villages with about 60,000 inhabitants.

- The ghetto southeast of Jerusalem includes the towns of al-Sawahra, Abu Dis and al-Eizariya, with 60,000 inhabitants.

The Strategic Plan for Multi-Sectoral Development in East Jerusalem: “Marom 2050”

The “Marom 2050” plan is a strategic government initiative for the development of East Jerusalem. It aims to promote Jerusalem as a world-class city leading in commerce and quality of life. The plan is implemented by the Jerusalem Development Authority, acting as a primary planning entity for the Jerusalem Municipality, the Land Administration, and other organizations involved in housing and employment.

The plan includes a vision and project proposals for Jerusalem until 2050. It serves as a major transformation plan for the city that can be implemented through collaboration with



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municipalities and other national government agencies. The plan is divided into several independent projects that can be implemented individually ⁽¹²⁾.

As part of the 2050 plan, the Israeli government has allocated approximately \$42 million to support Jerusalem as an international tourist destination. The Ministry of Tourism is expected to allocate \$21.5 million for hotel construction in Jerusalem. The Israeli government has also offered specific incentives for business owners and companies to establish new hotels or expand existing ones in Jerusalem. These incentives include organizing cultural events to attract tourists, such as the Jerusalem Opera Festival and tourism industry events like the Jerusalem International Tourism Convention. The plan aims to strengthen the tourism sector, which is at the core of the vision for Jerusalem as a global city and a prominent tourist, environmental, spiritual, and cultural center. The plan targets attracting 12 million tourists (10 million foreigners and two million local visitors) and increasing the resident population to over four million residents. To make Jerusalem a major tourist destination in the Middle East, the Jerusalem 2050 plan aims to:

- Increase private investment and hotel construction.
- Build rooftop gardens and parks.
- Convert areas surrounding the Old City into a car-free hotel zone.
- Construct high-quality transportation infrastructure, including a railway line, a comprehensive public transportation network, and new and expanded highways.
- Build a new airport in the Horqanya Valley between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea to serve 35 million passengers annually. The airport will be connected to Jerusalem, Ben-Gurion Airport, and other cities by roads and railways.

The makers of the Jerusalem 2050 plan present it as a non-political plan that promotes peace through economic prosperity. However, it also has demographic goals. The plan aims to generate an additional \$120 billion in revenue and create 75,000-85,000 jobs. This would reduce poverty rates, attract more Jews to Jerusalem, increase the number of Jews living in the city, and tip the demographic balance in favor of Jews. The plan also seeks to attract Jews from around the world to Jerusalem by developing two advanced industries: higher education and advanced technology. The development of the higher education industry is closely linked to the development of advanced technology, information technology, and the biotechnology industry. Therefore, the plan calls for the establishment of a university for management and technology in the center of Jerusalem, as well as government support for research and development in the fields of advanced technology and biotechnology.

In this context, the Jerusalem Development Authority established the Jerusalem Bio-Park to promote medical biotechnology companies in Jerusalem as a potential driver of economic development. To attract these companies to Jerusalem, the Israeli government has offered various incentives, including tax breaks, grants for hiring new workers in Jerusalem, and special grants for companies involved in research and development or in the construction of physical infrastructure. The advanced technology and healthcare industries are also expected to be among the biggest beneficiaries of the plan ⁽¹³⁾.

While Israel is working to transform Jerusalem into a commercial center that attracts Jews and provides them with job opportunities, the problems facing East Jerusalem are widespread. These include the shrinking of the Palestinian business and trade sector, the weakness of the education sector, and the weakness of the

infrastructure. As a result of the restrictions on the potential of East Jerusalem, poverty rates have increased. In 2016, 75% of all Palestinians in East Jerusalem and nearly 84% of children were living below the poverty line.

Although the plan appears on the surface to be concerned with developing Palestinian areas equally, it is actually discriminatory. It does not take into account the Palestinian growth rate in East Jerusalem or the accumulated housing shortage. It allocates only 2,300 dunams (2.3 km²) for Palestinian construction compared to 9,500 dunams for Israeli Jews. In addition, most of the new housing units proposed for Palestinians are located in the northern and southern areas of East Jerusalem, not in the Old City.

State institutions are not the only ones involved in the Judaization of Jerusalem; NGOs and religious organizations are also involved in reshaping urban space. For example, the right-wing Elad organization dedicated its main goal to settling Jews in the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan, and operating tourist and archaeological sites, especially in the neighborhood of Silwan, where Elad seeks to re-establish Jerusalem as a Jewish city dominated by Jewish history and heritage by erasing the physical and historical Palestinian presence⁽¹⁴⁾.

What is the solution?

As events in Al-Aqsa Mosque escalate on a regular basis, the Likud bloc has adopted a Knesset law that aims to expand the area of influence of the city of Jerusalem and declare it a metropolis, to which five large settlements will be annexed, in exchange for the removal of the Palestinian refugee camp Shuafat and the towns of Kafr Aqab and Anata from it. Within the framework of a phased plan that aims to annex these settlements from a municipal aspect to Jerusalem only, and not to Israel.

Some government ministries have planned to transform Jerusalem into a large city that includes 150,000 Israelis living in five settlements located in the West Bank areas, namely Ma'ale Adumim, Givat Zeev, Gush Etzion, Efrat, and Beitar Illit. Although the law was aimed at annexing these settlements to Jerusalem, it affects more than 100,000 Palestinian citizens in East Jerusalem, as it stipulates that the residents of the Shuafat refugee camp, Kafr Aqab, and Anata will be removed from the responsibility of the Jerusalem Municipality and will become independent local authorities, which will lead to a large Jewish majority in Greater Jerusalem. It has become clear that the Israeli government is working with all its sectors and through the executive, legislative and judicial authorities to serve settlement projects and control Jerusalem in order to reach a solution of the Jewishness of the state and impose a fait accompli policy.

Perhaps the most dangerous focus on Jerusalem in the next 35 years, scheduled for completion in 2050, is called the "Jerusalem 5800 Plan." The year 2040 corresponds to the Hebrew year 5800, when the project will begin. Preparations for the project began about five years ago, and 5 million shekels have been invested in it so far. According to the plan, a large international airport will be built between the Dead Sea and Jericho, a train from Ramallah, a large industrial and commercial area near Qalandia, and dozens of new hotels. The plan will expand the area of Jerusalem to include Jericho, Gush Etzion, Ramallah, and Modi'in. The plan includes a proposal to build a large international airport capable of handling 35 million passengers annually in Horqanya between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea. The head of the planning team, Shlomo Groth, said: "There is no other place in Israel suitable for building another airport like this place. It is as if God created it, but in our planning, we



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discovered that the Palestinians also planned to build an airport there. It could be a joint airport used by both Palestinians and Israelis”.

- It is clear that the matter is not only related to a long-term project, such as the Judaization plan for 2020 or 2050, but also to supporting the ambitious Israeli plan to build the “Temple”, according to known Israeli claims, and the opportunity is fully available in Jerusalem.

The new Israeli plan 2050 is based on a complete change of the status of the city, including the Islamic holy sites, headed by the Al-Aqsa Mosque, by opening the road leading to the Western Wall, building the Jewish Quarter in the Old City, and activating life on Mount Scopus and connecting it to Jerusalem by residential buildings, and building another wall around Jerusalem as part of a defensive work, and settling 7,000 Jews as a first batch in the new facilities.

Settlement construction activities have recently focused on the governorates of Jerusalem, Salfit, Bethlehem, Hebron, and Ramallah. In this context, the “Greater Jerusalem Project” was approved - within the framework of targeting Islamic holy sites - to expand the borders of the Jerusalem Municipality to include the areas extending from the city of Ramallah in the north to Bethlehem in the south. This project was named “The Father Project”, and it represents the second settlement belt around the city of Jerusalem, after the first belt became clear in the 10 neighborhoods that were established within the Jerusalem Municipality in 1967, while the third belt includes 15 additional settlements in the vicinity of East Jerusalem.

- The “Jerusalem 2050” plan aims to increase private investment, build high-quality transportation roads, including a railway line, a comprehensive network of transportation and public transportation, create expressways and

expand existing roads, and high-speed roads that cross Israel from north to south ⁽¹⁵⁾.

Conclusion

It is clear that Israel has actually begun to intensify the implementation of the stages of the “Plan 2050” to Judaize Jerusalem and completely end the Palestinian presence in it. This strategic plan is not just tourism or development projects, but rather a large plan that aims to carry out Judaization and “transfer” of dozens of Palestinian communities outside Jerusalem to other areas and completely change the demographic features and work to resettle thousands of settlers, which explains why the Israeli government supports the course of what is happening and allows the settlers to concentrate next to the Al-Aqsa Mosque while continuing with the excavation and search plans for the “Temple” underneath it.

- Despite the Israeli anticipation, the government has proceeded - jumping over the expected security and political developments - in the framework of implementing the strategy of the fait accompli, as evidenced by the establishment of a “Settlement Administration” that will work to legalize the random settlement outposts and promote the settlement project during the current government’s term. The “Settlement Administration” will be responsible for working to dissolve the Civil Administration of the Israeli Authority in the West Bank and transfer its powers to the various government ministries. A special legal department will also be formed for the new administration to develop legal plans aimed at legalizing settlement projects in the West Bank.

In connection with the above, Netanyahu’s government approved the formation of a department to promote the settlement project under the Ministry of “Development of the Negev and Hebron.” Building permits were also

granted for approximately 12,943 settlement units in the West Bank and Jerusalem, while 901 homes and structures were demolished ⁽¹⁶⁾.

- Israel has moved to a dangerous stage whose main strategic objectives are to move from managing the conflict to resolving it. It is therefore not surprising that the extremist minister Smotrich has put forward a comprehensive plan entitled “Resolution Instead of Conflict Management.”

- With the declaration of Israeli sovereignty over the entire West Bank, especially in the West Jordan River where there is a single Jewish nation, non-Jews will live as individuals and not as a nation, and will enjoy their rights as individuals, including holding local elections in six governorates: Hebron, Nablus, Jericho, Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Jenin.

- In contrast, Israel’s population, which currently stands at 9.2 million, will reach 15.68 million by 2050, including 8.62 million non-ultra-Orthodox Jews, 3.8 million ultra-Orthodox Jews, and 3.24 million Arabs, by 2050.

- According to the assessments, 3.7 million people will live in the Tel Aviv metropolitan area by 2050. The Tel Aviv area will continue to grow from 1.48 million people now to 2.26 million in 2050. More than 5.7 million people will live in Greater Tel Aviv and the central region, representing 37 percent of Israel’s projected population ⁽¹⁷⁾.

- What matters to Israel in the upcoming years, after beginning to achieve peace with the Arab countries, is to gain acceptance in its neighborhood. This has become a priority for Israel, especially since Israel does not work for the present but focuses on the future. I recall that I wrote a book more than 10 years ago about “Israel’s Plan for 2028,” in which I discussed the plan for development and construction in all sectors of the state, from education to

culture, from developing military capabilities to developing the administrative sector. Israel has succeeded in implementing many of the ideas included in the plan. At the time, I pointed out the need for us, as Arab countries, to work on foresight and not leave the arena to regional countries to shape the future of the region. I stressed the need for joint Arab efforts to monitor and anticipate what is happening on the Israeli side in order to have a complete vision.

The main issue in Israel focuses on its survival as a developed country. Therefore, it has discarded the outdated data that Israeli society has lived with for years and has moved towards rationalizing society and building on science and excellence. It has even called for the need to engage in more important military and strategic relations. This was evident in Israel’s entry into the maritime alliance to confront regional threats, its move to deepen peace with Egypt by accepting amendments to the governing protocol of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, its export of gas to Jordan and Egypt, and its participation as an active member in the East Mediterranean Gas Regional Organization. This confirms the fundamental change taking place in Israel away from the previous situation, which focused on presenting an incorrect image of the Israeli civilian and military interior. In light of the real state of flux in the state, which requires serious monitoring and studies at the Arab level to understand how to deal with Israel in light of its new political, strategic, and social reality, and in order to build the correct vision, we must start by studying the priorities and tasks that Israel puts at the top of its Arab and regional agenda in the present and future.



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Israel's future plan (2050) in the occupied Palestinian territories (Dimensions - Objectives - Strategies)

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Abstract:

Future studies have witnessed rapid growth in developed countries that create science and produce technology, as well as possessing the causes of economic progress and military power. It is rare to find an advanced capitalist country that does not rely on studies to anticipate the future in making its economic, political, or military decisions. Europe, the United States of America, and Israel are primarily interested in training and preparing scientists and researchers working on future studies in government universities and various research centers, and establishing many think tanks. This research aims to monitor and analyze the system of forward-looking studies in Israel, especially in the field of political and social sciences. With application to the future plans of the Hebrew state throughout the coming years, by studying Israel's future plan 2050, and this strategic plan is not just tourism or development projects, but rather a large plan aimed at carrying out Judaization and "transfer" operations for dozens of Palestinian communities outside Jerusalem to other areas and changing demographic features in full and work to resettle thousands of settlers.

Keywords: Israel Plan 2050, Palestine, Israel

خطة إسرائيل المستقبلية (٢٠٥٠) في الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة (الأبعاد - الأهداف - الاستراتيجيات)

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مستخلص :

شهدت الدراسات المستقبلية نمواً متسارعاً في الدول المتقدمة التي تصنع العلم وتنتج التكنولوجيا، فضلاً عن امتلاكها أسباب التقدم الاقتصادي والقوة العسكرية. ويندر أن تجد دولة رأسمالية متقدمة لا تستند إلى دراسات لاستشراف المستقبل في صنع قراراتها الاقتصادية أو السياسية أو العسكرية. كما يندر أن تجد شركة كبرى لا يوجد بداخلها قسم أو مركز بحثي للدراسات الاستشرافية والتخطيط الاستراتيجي. وتهتم أوروبا والولايات المتحدة الأمريكية وإسرائيل في المقام الأول بتدريب وإعداد العلماء والباحثين المشتغلين بالدراسات المستقبلية في الجامعات الحكومية ومراكز البحوث المختلفة، وإنشاء العديد من مراكز التفكير (Think Tank) والهيئات العلمية والمعاهد المتخصصة في علم المستقبليات.

ويهدف هذا البحث رصد وتحليل منظومة الدراسات الاستشرافية في إسرائيل خاصة في مجال العلوم السياسية والاجتماعية، مع التطبيق على الخطط المستقبلية للدولة العبرية طوال السنوات المقبلة، وفي إطار التعرف على مرتكزات وأسس بناء المناعة الوطنية للدولة العبرية في محيطها الإقليمي والدولي.

وذلك بدراسة خطة إسرائيل المستقبلية ٢٠٥٠، وهذه الخطة الاستراتيجية ليست مجرد مشروعات سياحية أو تنموية، بل هي خطة كبيرة تستهدف إجراء عمليات تهويد و«ترانسفير» لعشرات من التجمعات الفلسطينية خارج القدس إلى مناطق أخرى وتغيير الملامح الديموغرافية بالكامل والعمل على إعادة توطين آلاف المستوطنين، وهو ما يضر سبب دعم الحكومة الإسرائيلية مسار ما يجري والسماح للمستوطنين بالتمركز بجوار الأقصى مع الاستمرار في مخططات التنقيب والبحث عن «الهيكل» تحته.

الكلمات المفتاحية : خطة إسرائيل ٢٠٥٠، فلسطين، إسرائيل