

SOC188i/POLI124

# Settler Colonialism

# Characteristics of settler colonialism 1

1. Veracini: Settler colonialism is a distinct form of colonialism that “is autonomous of the colonizing metropole” (p.6) and embeds “a settler colonial sovereign capacity” (p.2)
2. “Emigrants joined someone else’s society, a settler colonist remade his own.” Settler colonies, therefore, “are made by conquest, not just by immigration” (p.3)
3. “Primary goal of settler-colonization is the land itself... [its] “dominant feature is not exploitation but replacement.” (p.8)

## Characteristics of settler colonialism 2

4. “Settler colonialism obscures the conditions of its own production.” (p.14)

- a. hides behind metropolitan colonizer
- b. is seeking refuge in a new land
- c. hides behind settlers labor & hardship
- d. hides behind settlement as a non-violent act
- e. hides behind the future citizen.

5. While excuses are or might be true, as long as these characteristics’ association with settler colonialism remain hidden, conflict resolution remains problematic. (p. 12)

# Where to Settle?

1. Major lacuna of Zionism: lack of territorial concentration
2. Debate over Uganda (1905)
3. Other alternatives
4. Palestine - “The burden of legacy”

# How to acquire land?

\* In 1903, one of the Zionist leaders, M. Ussishkin asked:

“As the ways of the world go, how does one acquire landed property? By one of the following three methods: by force --that is, by conquest in war, or in other words, by robbing land of its owner; by forceful acquisition, that is, by expropriation via governmental authority; and by purchase with the owner's consent.”

\* He ruled out the first method as being "totally ungodly," and added "we are too weak for it." He also thought it unlikely that Jewish settlers would receive a charter to expropriate land owned by either Arab peasants or landowners. "In sum, the only method to acquire Eretz Israel, at any time and under whatever political conditions, is but purchase with money.



# Methods of Colonization

Type of Colony	(Control over) Land	Labor	examples
Occupation (military)	-	-	Spain & Netherlands: South East Asia, coastal Africa
Mixed	+	native	Spain: Latin America
Plantation	+	imported	Portugal & England: American South
Homogeneous - pure settlement	+	White colonial	England: N. America & Canada, Australia

# OPEN FRONTIER: theory

- Frontier v. border
- Formative impact of frontier (F.J. Turner)
- Colonization: presence → ownership → sovereignty
- Stages of frontier dynamic:
  - (a) initial contact,
  - (b) competition, conflict & conquest,
  - (c) closing of frontier.





# Implications of Zionist Colonization Method

1. “Conquest of labor” & “conquest of land”  
(purchase with military meaning)
2. Jewish National Fund (closed shop)
3. Supremacy of Labor Settlement Movement (LSM)
4. Territorial partition (combining militancy & moderation)

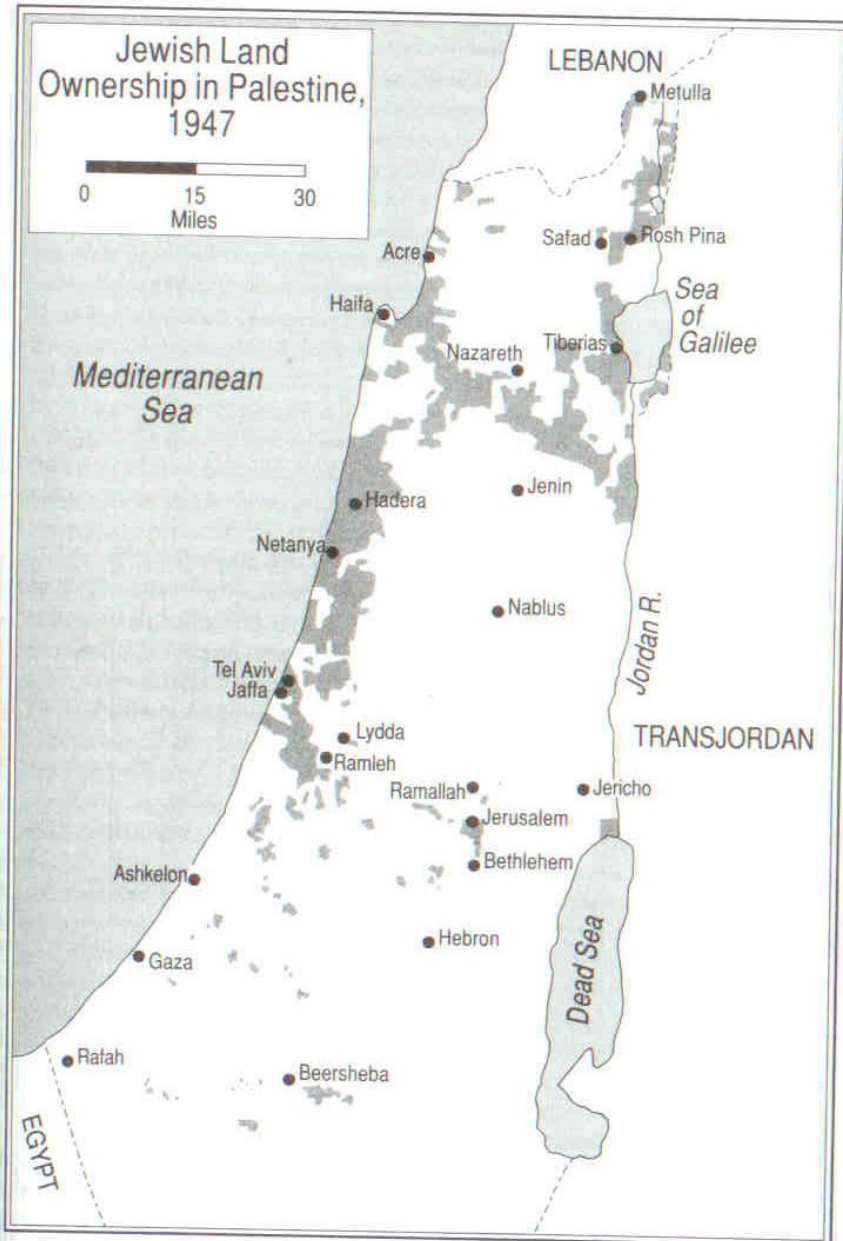
# Similarities and Differences between Zionism and other colonization movements (1)

- 1. Usually undertaken by Great Powers; Jews have no colonial metropole.
- 2. Land chosen for economic potential; Jews chose for sentimental/historical/religious reasons.
- 3. In most pure settlement colonies native population nomadic; in Palestine only a small section.
- 4. 'Free Land' v. purchased land in Palestine. (70%)

## Similarities and Differences between Zionism and other colonization movements (2)

- 5. Menial labor is reserved for slaves or indentured workers; LSM has its own immigrant working class.
- 6. Larger share of poorer workers or smaller share of wealthy landowners
- BUT: Many of unique characteristics of Zionist colonization undertaken to compensate for adverse conditions in land and labor markets.
- BUT: emphasis on intentions or consequences?

# Jewish land purchases



7

7 % of land

# Palestinian “Iron Law:” Doumani

1. The Iron Law under which Palestinian operate is their non-recognition as **political community** (by Great Britain, Israel, & the US).
2. This Iron Law PREDATES the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and it became possible due to the “tension between [Palestinian] land and people.”
3. “Out of phase” manifestations of this tension:
  - (a) Rejection of Greater Syrian Arab state (Absence of nationalist consciousness in Ottoman and most of British times.)
  - (b) Creation of Palestinian state out of Ottoman provinces by League of Nations coincides with denial of Palestinian nationality.
  - (c) Loss of Palestine in 1948 marks creation of Palestinian people.