

The track record of the collective West in regard to human rights and international law

by Alfred de Zayas,* Geneva



Alfred de Zayas.
(Picture ma)

A detached observer who wants to assess where countries stand on fundamental issues of human rights, international law, peace, development and multilateralism need only look at the voting record of States at the United Nations Security Council,

General Assembly, Human Rights Council and other international agencies.



Damage inflicted on a Tehran neighbourhood.
(Picture Avash Media – CC BY 4.0)

Voting is where it's at. This is the bottom line – a reliable litmus test to discover what countries really stand for, how they perceive international law and morals, who promotes the uniform implementation of norms, who practices exceptionalism,¹ who aspires to a multilateral world of cooperation, and who only gives lip service to humanistic values while aggressively weaponizing human rights for confrontational geopolitics. The patterns that emerge are clear: The collective West invokes exceptionalism and systematically undermines the principles and purposes of the United Nations, consistently voting against peace initiatives, demilitarization, economic and social development. I devote a chapter to this phenomenon in my book *The Human Rights Industry*.²

Back in 1984 the General Assembly adopted resolution 39/11, the UN Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace.³ The vote was adopted by 92 in favour, zero against, 34 abstentions. The collective West and its vassals found themselves in the third category. In 2009 the Human Rights Council asked the Office of the High Com-

missioner for Human Rights to convene a workshop on the right to peace, in which I participated as one of the experts.⁴ We produced a strong report.⁵

In 2012 the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council adopted a comprehensive draft of a declaration on the right to peace, which incorporated enormous input from civil society, notably the 2010 *Declaración de Santiago de Compostela*,⁶ including the creation of a monitoring mechanism. The Human Rights Council then entrusted the final drafting to an open-ended inter-governmental working group, in which I participated in my function as UN Independent Expert on International Order.⁷ I watched in disgust the how the collective West, notably the United States, eviscerated the text, so that what the General Assembly finally adopted in 2016 was less than what the world had in 1984.⁸ The forces of militarism had grown too powerful in the Human Rights Council and the legal arguments were twisted and distorted beyond recognition. Orwellian newspeak was the rule, not the exception.

Every year the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council adopt resolutions condemning unilateral coercive measures⁹ as contrary to the UN Charter, international law, freedom of navigation, the prohibition of interference in the internal affairs of States, etc. More than two thirds of the members vote in favour,¹⁰ the collective West votes against. It is instructive to

* Alfred de Zayas is a professor of international law at the Geneva School of Diplomacy and served as a United Nations independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and just international order from 2012 to 2018. He is a board member of the Geneva International Peace Research Institute (GIPRI). He is the author of twelve books, including *Building a Just World Order* (2021), *Countering Mainstream Narratives* (2022) and *The Human Rights Industry* (Clarity Press, 2021).

read the explanation of vote by the European Union, a classic example of cognitive dissonance. Every year the General Assembly adopts a resolution condemning the illegal embargo of Cuba. On 29 October 2025 the 33rd such resolution was adopted. Who voted against? US, Israel, Argentina, Hungary, Paraguay, North Macedonia, and Ukraine.¹¹ Who abstained? Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Czechia, Ecuador, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Morocco, Poland, Moldova and Romania. In 2024 the vote had been 187 in favour and only two votes against, the US and Israel.

On 8 October 2021 the Human Rights Council adopted Resolution 48/7, a landmark declaration on the sequels and legacies of colonialism.¹²

“Recognizing with concern that the legacies of colonialism, in all their manifestations, such as economic exploitation, inequality within and among States, systemic racism, violations of indigenous peoples’ rights, contemporary form of slavery and damage to cultural heritage, have a negative impact on the effective enjoyment of all human rights,

Recognizing that colonialism has led to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and that Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent and indigenous peoples were victims of colonialism and continue to be victims of its consequences,

Expressing deep concern at the violations of human rights of indigenous peoples committed in colonial contexts, and stressing the need for States to take all measures necessary to protect rights and ensure the safety of indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women and children, to restore truth and justice and to hold perpetrators accountable,

1. Stresses the utmost importance of eradicating colonialism and addressing the negative impact of the legacies of colonialism on the enjoyment of human rights;

2. Calls for Member States, relevant United Nations bodies, agencies and other relevant stakeholders to take concrete steps to address the negative impact of the legacies of colonialism on the enjoyment of human rights.”

As expected, the collective West abstained.

On 21 March 2026 the General Assembly adopted a resolution proposed by the government of Ghana on the sequels of the slave trade and the implications for human rights and development today.¹³ Who voted against? The United States, Israel and Argentina. The rest of the collective West and their friends abstained.

“For more than 400 years, millions of people were stolen from Africa, put in shackles and shipped to the New World to toil in cotton fields and sugar and coffee plantations under scorching heat and the crack of the whip. Denied their basic humanity and even their own names, they were forced to endure generations of exploitation with repercussions that reverberate today, including persistent anti-Black racism and discrimination.”

The resolution emphasised “the trafficking of enslaved Africans and racialized chattel enslavement of Africans as the gravest crime against humanity by reason of the definitive break in world history, scale, duration, systemic nature, brutality and enduring consequences that continue to structure the lives of all people through racialized regimes of labour, property and capital.”

Self-serving narratives

Notwithstanding the obvious, the mainstream narrative will have us believe that the “collective West” – the United States, Canada, Australia, and most European States – are the cradle of international law and democracy, that they possess moral superiority over the rest of the world. Is this perception justified and empirically verifiable?

As an American and Swiss citizen, I observe that relentless propaganda and public relations have constructed this self-serving fantasy that schoolbooks and university textbooks dutifully disseminate and reconfirm, not only in the US but also in many European countries. Western culture, folklore, television, movies, internet are all imbued by the almost religious faith that we are “the good guys”, which by implication means that the rest of the world are the “bad guys”, and that we have a mission to bring democracy and human rights to them.

Of course, when we in the collective West use the world “democracy”, we do not mean the correlation between the will of the people and the rules that govern them. There is in fact a glaring disconnect between Western governments and the people. While governments engage in war propaganda and the demonisation of purported “enemies”, the population of the US and most European countries overwhelmingly plead for peace and prosperity, prefer butter over guns.

Part of the disconnect is reflected semantically in the misuse of terminology. For the “elites” of the collective West, “democracy” actually means our economic system. In many texts the words democracy and predator capitalism are

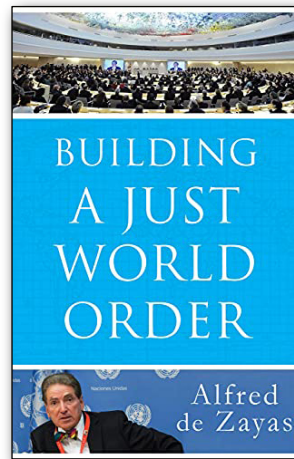
interchangeable. Another problem is one of perception. Average citizens have other priorities and prefer to believe in the honesty and good intentions of our governments, no matter how often they lie to us, no matter how often we have caught them lying. This can be summed up in *Julius Caesar's* famous remark *quae volumus, ea credimus libenter*¹⁴ – we believe what we want to believe. Worse still, we may recall another Latin phrase *mundus vult decipi* – the world wants to be deceived – *ergo decipiatur* – therefore let's continue lying to them.¹⁵

Notwithstanding the rational arguments brought forth by *Bertrand Russell*, *Albert Camus*, *Ramsey Clark*, *Noam Chomsky*, *Naomi Klein*, *Arundhati Roy*, *Mia Mottley*, *Francis Boyle*, *John Mearsheimer*, *Jeffrey Sachs* to rebut phoney government narratives, the power of the mainstream media is such that the majority of Americans, Brits, Frenchmen and Germans are honestly convinced of the purported moral superiority of our “democratic” governments and their right to tell others how to run their affairs.

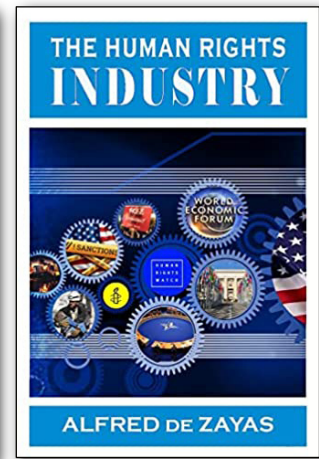
The false image that we in the collective West have of ourselves and our leaders rests on fake news that gradually matured into fake history, subsequently cemented by fake law. Politicians are wont to invent international law as they go along, and this fake law is shaped by government lawyers, who are essentially “pens for hire”, paid to write what the government wants, at least to make a plausible argument in the required legal jargon.

We in the collective West certainly suffer from an underdeveloped faculty of self-criticism. But I fear that this serious human flaw is also shared by many others, including the Chinese, Indians, Pakistanis, and Russians. Conscientious objectors to groupthink and official narratives are seen as dangerous traitors, as heretics. This is not a modern phenomenon. *Socrates*, *Seneca*, *Giordano Bruni*,¹⁶ were eliminated by the very societies they tried to enlighten. Other heretics survived because they recanted at the last minute, e.g. *Galileo Galilei*.¹⁷

Today's “heretics” are our whistleblowers like *Julian Assange*, *Edward Snowden*, *John Kirikakou*, *Daniel Ellsberg* and many others. I dedicated my book *The Human Rights Industry*¹⁸ to forty whistleblowers who have tried to open our eyes to the crimes committed not only by our governments but also by the private sector, by corporations that have profited from war and



ISBN 978-1949762426



ISBN 978-1949762525

thus promoted conflict throughout the world. We should honour whistleblowers as heroes of our time, as courageous persons who have risked their lives and careers to tell us truths that our governments have withheld from us.

Today's “heretics” also include experts like the UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine, the Italian law professor *Francesca Albanese*, who has been sanctioned by the US, and the Swiss intelligence officer and academic researcher Jacques Baud,¹⁹ sanctioned by the European Council in gross violation of the right of freedom of expression,²⁰ freedom of belief and conviction, freedom of academic research. These draconian punishments were imposed arbitrarily, without due process, and are contrary to national and international laws, incompatible with numerous articles of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*,²¹ the *European Convention on Human Rights*²² and the *Charter of Fundamental Rights in the European Union*.²³

A brief shining moment of hope and optimism: the UN Charter as the world constitution

There have been moments in world history, when rationality appears to have overcome propaganda, brief moments that were quickly ruined by the powerful, whose main concern has always been to retain control, increase their power, discredit and demonize potential competitors.

Such a moment occurred in 1945 with the defeat of Nazism and Japanese imperialism, with the adoption of the UN Charter as the new rules-based international order, as the new constitution for the planet, with the International Court of Justice as the world's constitutional Court. It could have worked if the Security Council and General Assembly had respected the wishes of “We the peoples”, whose principal concern was

to spare future generations from the scourge of war.

Political will by the leaders of countries in all five continents could have facilitated the establishment of effective enforcement mechanisms. Indeed, civilization is the ongoing process of establishing rules of the game and strengthening norms by creating effective implementation apparatuses. Countries of the North, South, East and West could have elucidated, nurtured and disseminated the spirituality of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The national, regional and international human rights courts should have been strengthened, their judgments enforced.

Alas, we are all human, plagued by arrogance, ambition, greed and so many contradictions. Soon the incipient system of peace through law was undermined by the world-wide emergence of what became known as the “military-industrial complex”, denounced by US President *Dwight Eisenhower* in his farewell address of 17 January 1961.²⁴ This monster of our own creation continued to expand and destroy any vestiges of democracy, any spiritual commitment to the *Beatitudes* (*Matthew, chapters V-VII*). While we gave lip service to the ideal of peace through social justice, we embraced the old and immoral Latin adage *si vis pacem, para bellum*²⁵ – if you want peace prepare for war, and rejected the motto of the International Labour Organisation: *si vis pacem, cole justitiam*,²⁶ if you want peace, cultivate justice.

While our leaders in the collective West continued giving lip service to “peace”, they rejected the goal of the *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization* (UNESCO)²⁷ that “since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.”²⁸ This commitment required pro-active peace-making and education of peace and empathy. I stress this in several of my reports to the Human Rights Council and General Assembly.²⁹

This duplicity served the ever-growing military-industrial-financial-media-digital-academic complex. All were making profits, while millions of human beings in the world were dying of famine and disease.

The End of the Cold War

Another brief, shining moment of hope was 1989, when Mikhail Gorbachev ended the cold

war by offering to the United States and Europe East-West cooperation rather than confrontation, when the Berlin Wall was dismantled on 9 November 1989,³⁰ when in 1991 the Warsaw Pact was dissolved. The Soviet Union ceased to exist and its republics became members of the United Nations. Here was a moment to build on, to channel the world’s energy and resources toward peace consolidation and genuine multilateralism.

Yes, a different world was possible and achievable, as I explained in my 2014 report to the Human Rights Council.³¹ It required good faith and international solidarity. The world could have implemented measures to convert military-first economies into human security economies; it could have adopted concrete steps for worldwide disarmament. The World Summit for Social Development³² was held in Copenhagen in 1995, long before the Millennium Development Goals,³³ and the Sustainable Development Goals.³⁴ There was much rhetoric, many commitments made, and very few kept.³⁵

The role of academics in supporting war and war propaganda

What were the obstacles to peace and solidarity? There were many obstacles, reflected in the triumphalism of *Francis Fukuyama’s* infamous simplification *The End of History and the Last Man*.³⁶ There was no humanity in this book, but gloating about defeating a “bad guy” – the Soviet Union, as if that had been the source of world poverty and instability. Fukuyama did not ask whether it was the capitalist philosophy of the collective West that was primarily responsible for causing the confrontation and placing the world in grave danger of nuclear annihilation. Was it not the hegemonic ambitions of the collective West that made peace through multilateralism impossible? But many in the US and elsewhere shared Fukuyama’s black-and-white views. The West had won the final victory against the caricature of the “evil empire”. The western mainstream media applauded this fundamentally flawed and uncharitable worldview.

Another university professor who contributed to the intellectual pollution of the 1990’s was *Zbigniew Brzezinski* with his arrogant book *The Grand Chessboard*.³⁷ But it was not just triumphalist academics who misread the signs and bore responsibility for destroying the hope for a better world. There were countless politi-

cians and journalists who got it wrong. And they did not listen to better minds that realized that a unique opportunity was being missed.

Thus, the world failed to solidify peace and work toward international cooperation and proactive solidarity. Add to that the megalomaniac *Project for the New American Century*³⁸ and the incredibly stupid and short-sighted eastward expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a major breach of trust vis à vis Mikhail Gorbachev, since the reunification of Germany and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact were inseparably linked with and based on the promise by US President *George H.W. Bush* and his Secretary of State *James Baker* that NATO would not expand one inch toward the East.³⁹ The Ukraine war resulted from the breach of these fundamental commitments made to Gorbachev.⁴⁰

In the real-world cheating has consequences. Breaking one's word destroys trust, and once it is broken, it takes a long time to rebuild confidence. Every breach of good faith, of the rules of the diplomatic game undermines the prospects of peace. The preponderant guilt falls on one person: US President *Bill Clinton*, who happily promoted NATO's eastern expansion.⁴¹ History will remember him for having deliberately broken trust, of having taken advantage of Gorbachev and *Boris Yeltsin*, for having ruined the future of generations.

NATO: A criminal organization within the meaning of the Statute of the Nuremberg Tribunal

Meanwhile NATO had ceased being a defense alliance, because the enemy had "surrendered" and was prepared to be incorporated into the West, even join the EU and NATO. But no, even though NATO did not have any adversary, it decided to create one – no longer the Soviet Union, but instead the new Russian Federation that wanted nothing more than peace and *Perestroika*.⁴²

NATO morphed into a war coalition. This American *hubris* was condemned by a great American diplomat, George F. Kennan, who warned that the decision to expand NATO was a "fateful error"⁴³ that sooner or later would lead to war.

And indeed, NATO morphed into a "criminal organization"⁴⁴ within the meaning of articles 9 and 10 of the *Statute of the International Military Tribunal for Nuremberg*.⁴⁵ If one were to apply the criteria used by the IMT to condemn Nazi organizations as "criminal organizations", then NATO would also fall in this category, and not

only NATO but other organizations including the CIA, MI6 and Mossad, who are guilty of targeted assassinations,⁴⁶ false flags and terrorist actions including Israel's booby-trapping pagers.⁴⁷

NATO has also flexed its muscles in a number of illegal "humanitarian interventions", e.g. in Yugoslavia, engaged in outright aggression against Serbia and Montenegro without any justification under the UN Charter and absent any approval by the UN Security Council. US and NATO aggressions have continued in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Iran, Venezuela, etc. and have the potential to bring the planet to nuclear Apocalypse.

Terrorism

In a famous 2023 interview, Professor Noam Chomsky stated

"I'm in favour of the Iran negotiations, but they're profoundly flawed. There are two states that rampage in the Middle East, carry out aggression, violence, terrorist acts, illegal acts constantly. They're both huge nuclear weapon states, and their nuclear armaments are not being considered. [...] The United States and Israel, the two major rogue states in the world. I mean, there's a reason why in international polls run by U.S. polling agencies, the main ones, the United States is regarded as the greatest threat to world peace by an overwhelming margin. No other country is even close."⁴⁸

In the same vein, Professor *Jeffrey Sachs* stated in March 2026: "Israel is a terrorist state".⁴⁹ Already in June 2025, Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq condemned Israel's attack on Iran, saying the Jewish state has become a "rogue state and a huge threat to world peace". The bombing of Iran by Israel in which many civilians, including women and children, have been killed is condemnable: "perpetuating genocide on hapless Palestinians and getting away with it", Israel is now putting the whole of Middle East in "peril".⁵⁰

During the Vietnam War *Martin Luther King Jr.* wrote that the United States is

"The greatest purveyor of violence in the world today".⁵¹ He added that "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

Many people do not dare think about what is staring them in the face, although the evidence is all over the internet and even in official declassified documents. It can be said that Israel was

born in terrorism, as the United States was born in genocide. When the Jewish European colonizers came to Palestine they terrorized not only the Palestinians, evicted them from their homes, forced them to flee for their lives, they also terrorized the Brits, blew up the King David Hotel, killing some 100 Brits. When the UN sent an envoy in 1948, *Count Folke Bernadotte*, Zionist terrorists assassinated him.⁵²

If we are looking for another country that practices State terrorism and supports terrorist groups, we will have to think of the US. Many people know, but do not want to draw conclusions from the fact that the United States has worked with terrorists in many regions of the world, notably in Syria. Joe Kent, former US counterterrorism chief, stated this quite clearly⁵³ in his letter of resignation.

The US doctrine of “Manifest destiny” was also a form of ethnic cleansing and genocide. In his famous book *Why we can't wait*, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote:

“Our nation was born in genocide when it embraced the doctrine that the original American, the Indian, was an inferior race. Even before there were large numbers of Negroes on our shores, the scar of racial hatred had already disfigured colonial society. From the sixteenth century forward, blood flowed in battles of racial supremacy. We are perhaps the only nation which tried as a matter of national policy to wipe out its Indigenous population. Moreover, we elevated that tragic experience into a noble crusade. Indeed, even today we have not permitted ourselves to reject or feel remorse for this shameful episode. Our literature, our films, our drama, our folklore all exalt it.”⁵⁴

It is estimated that ten million Algonquins, Crees, Cherokees, Dakotas, Iroquois, Mohawks, Pequots, Sioux were exterminated during the 17th–19th centuries.⁵⁵

The Zionist project

The Zionist project was an anachronism when first conceived in the nineteenth century. It was a philosophy based on antiquated concepts of racial and/or religious identity, buttressed by an aggressive animus to *exclude* others. It was not a progressive or humanistic project, quite the contrary, it was misanthropic in essence.

The project gained support from the European colonial governments that had an interest in establishing a European colony in the Middle East, a base from which European and American

power in the region could be projected. As a purely imperialistic construct, the creation of a “Jewish state” (call it a branch office of European Judaism – with very little genuine links to the Arab or Muslim world), the project was contrary to the philosophy of the League of Nations and incompatible with the UN Charter. However, relentless propaganda and public relations campaigns made it appear just and even somehow historically legitimate. Deep down the Zionist project was a European experiment, ontologically incompatible with human dignity, since it postulated the racial superiority of Jews over the local populations that inhabited the territory of Palestine.

The Zionist project has led to 80 years of violence and war in the Middle East. The US and most European countries are complicit in the imperialist, colonialist violence imposed on the native populations of Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, etc. Personally, I wonder how much time will elapse until the international community looks at the facts, rejects the pro-Israeli propaganda and finally understands that the colonialist plan to impose a European state on the Arabs and Muslims – (90% of the Israelis are Europeans – neither Semitic nor genuinely Middle-Eastern) was a fatal error and that the experiment has failed. It has led not only to perpetual wars – but even to genocide.

The world awaits the final judgment of the International Court of Justice in the urgent case – pending since 2023 – concerning the ongoing genocide of Palestinians in Gaza. It is shocking that the judges at the ICJ have been dragging their feet and not given the necessary urgency to this case, bearing in mind that more than a hundred thousand Palestinians have been and continue being killed. Undoubtedly, this is genocide.

Remembering the fate of Socrates, Seneca, Bruni and others, today's heretics against the Zionist orthodoxy are being defamed as “anti-Semitic”. Among the critics are Professors *Jeffrey Sachs*,⁵⁶ *Richard Falk*,⁵⁷ *Norman Finkelstein*,⁵⁸ *Ilan Pappé*⁵⁹ – all highly respected Jewish academics. None of them are in any way shape or form “anti-Semitic”, they are all proud of their Jewish heritage, and they all condemn the war crimes and crimes against humanity being committed by the current government of Israel. They call it genocide and publicly protest “Not in our name”.

The responsibility of the United Nations for the creation of the State of Israel and the commitment to a “two state solution”

It is time to go back to the General Assembly Partition Resolution 181⁶⁰ and to the decision to admit Israel into UN Membership, which was not gratuitous but conditioned on Israel's acceptance of the Green Line as its borders and the Israeli commitment to respect the right of self-determination of the Palestinians and their right to have their own state. The “two-state” solution is the only way forward.

The current Israeli government, however, reneges on this obligation and continues to occupy Palestine in contravention of Security Council Resolution 242⁶¹ and three Advisory Opinions by the International Court of Justice.⁶² The alternative to the “two-state solution” is the *One-State Solution* as delineated by Professor *Virginia Tilley* in her famous book by the same name.⁶³ However, such a state could not be called Israel and it could not be an Apartheid state.⁶⁴ It would have to be a unitary state or a confederation in which both Israelis and Palestinians would have the same rights and obligations. An *Apartheid* state would be contrary to the UN Charter, to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the crime of Apartheid⁶⁵ and to numerous General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions.

Of course, as long as the United States continues to support Israel in its genocidal projects, it has become impossible for the international community to put an end to the general criminality. It is for the international community to take concrete action to counter the daily violations of international law and human rights law by Israel, which has degenerated into an outlaw entity that aggresses all of its neighbours. In a very real sense, the United States and Israel have morphed into *hostis humani generis*: Enemies of mankind and civilization.

In order to make us accept the atrocities being committed by the United States and Israel, we have been fed with fake news and fake history. The Palestinians, the Iranians, Hamas, Hezbollah have all been dehumanized and demonized in the old Roman tradition articulated by the Latin historian Tacitus in his book *Agricola*: *Proprium humani ingenii est, odisse quem laeseris*. It is proper to human nature to hate those whom we have injured or whom we intend to injure.

Personally, I do not like either Hamas or Hezbollah. I do not like the current Iranian government. But I understand that the Palestinians, Lebanese and Iranians have been repeatedly aggressed, that they have suffered casualties in the hundreds of thousands, that they have a right to exist – no more nor less than the Israelis have a right to exist – and that they have an inalienable right to self-determination. The collective West has no right to tell them what kind of government they should have, nor should the collective West engage in regime change conspiracies or attempts to decapitate the governments of sovereign states. The villains here are Israel and the United States,⁶⁶ with the complicity of many countries in the collective West.

Business as Usual

The reaction to the atrocities by the collective West has been either silence or empty rhetoric. No *erga omnes defense* of the right to life, of the right to self-determination, of the principle of state sovereignty. This raises the issue of complicity – or at the very least moral responsibility – by virtue of culpable inaction. *Qui tacet consentire videtur*. It is impossible to remain indifferent to genocide and crimes against humanity.

The reaction of international organizations has been disappointing. The *International Criminal Court* should have started a thorough investigation of the crimes under articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Statute of Rome. The ICC is failing not only the Palestinian, Iranian and Lebanese peoples, it is failing the international community.

Meanwhile *Mark Rutte*, NATO Secretary General, has called for solidarity with the United States and Israel.⁶⁷ This confirms what was said above, that NATO has morphed into a criminal organization. How can any UN member state endorse aggression, perfidy, a gross violation of the right to life of a hundred thousand Palestinians and thousands of Iranian civilians? Rutte himself should be the subject of an ICC investigation.

States have failed to adopt appropriate countermeasures under articles 49 and 50 of the International Law Commission's Draft Code on State Responsibility.⁶⁸ Most States have chosen to do nothing and adopt a “business as usual” approach. This corrodes the authority and credibility of international law.

As one who has devoted more than fifty years of his life to international law and human rights, I am appalled at the inaction of States. One is

tempted to think that international law no longer exists, that barbarism and the law of the jungle has taken over. But no, we must all persevere and reaffirm human values and the importance of international law and international institutions. We cannot allow the destruction of the international rule of law by politicians who practice “might makes right” and who claim to be *legibus solutus*, unbound by any law, as the Roman emperors once claimed.

The fact that *Donald Trump* and *Benjamin Netanyahu* act as if they were above international law does not mean that they are. What we are witnessing is a revolt against civilization and it is our responsibility to push back. The exceptionalist principle *quod licet Jovi non licet bovi* – what Jupiter is allowed to do is not permitted to the rest of us, the bovines – is irrational, *contra bonos mores*. No, we must reaffirm the continued validity of international law and demand accountability from all who breach its rules.

Thus, it is imperative that the United Nations General Assembly adopt a “Uniting for Peace” Resolution and assume its responsibilities for international peace and security, because the UN Security Council is currently blocked by the misuse of the veto power through the United States.

The UN General Assembly should impose a total arms embargo on Israel and the United States and urge UN member States to BDS both Israel and the US, to boycott, disinvest, sanction. Concretely said, countries should no longer purchase anything from the United States or Israel. No more purchases of F-16, F-35, Boeing, Lockheed/Martin, Raytheon, Carlyle, Caterpillar, General Motors. No more purchases of US Treasury Bonds. Complete divestment of US Treasury bonds and other stocks. Total cessation of sale of “rare earths” to the US and Israel. Indeed, as long as the international community continues to economically support the countries that are at war with international law and civilization, the crimes and atrocities will continue.

There are many precedents of complicity in “business as usual” crimes. Only weeks after the 2003 aggression by the US and the “coalition of the willing” against the people of Iraq, the G-8 rolled out the red carpet for the arch-criminals *Tony Blair* and *George W. Bush* in June 2003. Now in June 2026 Evian-les-Bains will be hosting *Donald Trump* at its new G-7 summit. Have we learned no lessons?

“Business as usual” is nothing but the mantra of criminals and their accomplices.

Conclusion

The track record of the collective West in the fields of compliance with international law and human rights is dismal and getting worse by the day. The artificial image of the United States and Israel as countries respectful of the rule of law is no longer sustainable. Peoples have understood that the collective West is on the wrong side of history.

The cultural colonization of the world by the United States and Europe is a phenomenon of the past. With the enormous advances in technology and the internet, other cultures have freed themselves from the American and European stranglehold and from their purported “values”, from the excessive commercialization and materialism. The American and European pretensions to be leaders in the fields of international law and human rights have collapsed.

In the light of the many wars that the US and Israel have unleashed on the world, it is time to call a spade a spade, a genocide a genocide and to demand accountability. The International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court have formidable tasks ahead of them. As the Roman philosopher Seneca wrote *calamitas virtutis occasio (De Providentia 4, 6)* – a calamity offers all of us an opportunity to exercise courage and virtue. Let’s tackle the challenge. The Global Majority will soon replace the Western imperialist model.

As *Arundhati Roy* wrote: “Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.”

Source: <https://www.counterpunch.org/2026/04/01/405436/>, 1 April 2026

¹ <https://www.counterpunch.org/2024/09/25/exceptionalism-and-international-law/>

² <https://www.streamingclarity.global/sc-categories/international-law-law/the-human-rights-industry-alfred-de-zayas/>

³ <http://www.un-documents.net/a39r11.htm>

⁴ <https://www.counterpunch.org/2022/11/11/peace-as-a-human-right/>

⁵ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/advisory-committee/right-to-peace>

⁶ <https://www.aedidh.org/sites/default/files/DS%20pdf%2024%20marzo%2011.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/ie-international-order>

- ⁸ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/858594?v=pdf>
- ⁹ <https://www.counterpunch.org/2024/03/27/un-charter-un-credibility-and-unlawful-unilateral-coercive-measures/>
- ¹⁰ <https://docs.un.org/A/RES/80/209>
- ¹¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/10/1166213>
- ¹² <https://docs.un.org/A/HRC/RES/48/7>
- ¹³ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/03/1167199>
- ¹⁴ <https://imperiumromanum.pl/en/roman-art-and-culture/golden-thoughts-of-romans/quotes-of-julius-caesar/Commentarii belli civilis II, 27.2>
- ¹⁵ https://gropedia.com/page/Mundus_vult_decipi,_ergo_decipiatur
- ¹⁶ <https://italic.org/man-who-knew-too-much/>
<https://galileo.library.rice.edu/chr/bruno.html>
- ¹⁷ <https://www.history.com/articles/galileo-galilei>
- ¹⁹ <https://www.rts.ch/info/suisse/2025/article/suisse-un-ex-agent-sanctionne-par-l-ue-pour-propagande-pro-russe-29092798.html>
- ²⁰ <https://www.proquest.com/docview/1223428042?sourcetype=Scholarly%20Journals>
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1017/S0165070X12000289>
- ²¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>
- ²² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=LEGISSUM:eu_human_rights_convention
- ²³ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj/eng
- ²⁴ <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/president-dwight-d-eisenhowers-farewell-address>
- ²⁵ Publius Flavius Vegetius Rhenanus, *De re Militari*.
- ²⁶ <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/nobel-peace-prize/ilo-1969>
- ²⁷ <https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/constitution>
- ²⁸ <https://www.refworld.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/en/1945-11/3ddb73094.pdf>
- ²⁹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/02.02.2013/Erklärung-von-Alfred-de-Zayas-unabhängiger-Experte-Förderung-demokratischer-und-gerechter>
- ³⁰ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50013048>
- ³¹ <https://docs.un.org/A/HRC/27/51>
- ³² <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/social-development/copenhagen1995>
- ³³ <https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>
- ³⁴ <https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals>
- ³⁵ <https://www.counterpunch.org/2025/01/27/second-world-summit-for-social-development/>
- ³⁶ <https://dn721609.ca.archive.org/0/items/THEENDOFHISTORYFUKUYAMA/THE%20END%20OF%20HISTORY%20-%20FUKUYAMA.pdf>
- ³⁷ https://openlibrary.org/books/OL22139759M/The_grand_chessboard
- ³⁸ <https://avalonlibrary.net/911/PNAC%20%28Project%20for%20the%20New%20American%20Century%29/Project%20for%20the%20New%20American%20Century%20-%20SourceWatch.pdf>
- ³⁹ <https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/briefing-book/russia-programs/2017-12-12/nato-expansion-what-gorbachev-heard-western-leaders-early>
<https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/document/16132-document-18-record-conversation-between>
- ⁴⁰ <https://www.counterpunch.org/2022/01/28/a-culture-of-cheating-on-the-origins-of-the-crisis-in-ukraine/>
- ⁴¹ <https://www.thethinkingconservative.com/jeffrey-sachs-the-truth-about-the-ukraine-war-in-two-minutes/>
<https://www.peoplesworld.org/article/documents-reveal-clinton-forced-yeltsin-into-signing-nato-russia-pact/>
- ⁴² <https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/briefing-book/russia-programs/2015-03-11/perestroika-soviet-union-30-years>
- ⁴³ <https://www.nytimes.com/1997/02/05/opinion/a-fateful-error.html>
- ⁴⁴ <https://odysee.com/@potkaars:f/20230804-Alfred-De-Zayas:3>
<https://rumble.com/v6yqwo4-deserves-nato-organisations-the-label-of-a-cartel-criminal-organization.html>
<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202307/1294420.shtml>
- ⁴⁵ <https://avalon.law.yale.edu/imt/imtconst.asp>
- ⁴⁶ <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/inside-the-cias-kill-list/>
<https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/briefing-book/intelligence/2025-11-20/cia-assassination-plots-church-committee-report-50-years>
- ⁴⁷ <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/what-kind-booby-traps-has-israel-used-lebanon>
- ⁴⁸ <https://scrapsfromtheloft.com/politics/noam-chomsky-us-is-worlds-biggest-terrorist-transcript/>
- ⁴⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bu0ucwzBcxQ>
- ⁵⁰ <https://www.msn.com/en-in/politics/government/israel-has-become-rogue-state-and-huge-threat-to-world-peace-mirwaiz-farooq/ar-AA1GEmVQ>
- ⁵¹ https://www.democracynow.org/2003/4/4/the_united_states_is_the_greatest
- ⁵² <https://pascallottaz.substack.com/p/israels-terrorist-origin-what-the-2b8>
<https://www.historynewsnetwork.org/article/israel-the-original-terrorist-state>
- ⁵³ <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/zueuh863DDg>
<https://www.facebook.com/radarafrica/videos/former-us-director-of-the-united-states-national-counterterrorism-center-joe-ken/1948941859329124/>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/17/us/politics/joe-kent-shannon-kent-iran-syria.html>
- ⁵⁴ New York, Harper & Row, Neuauflage, 2010, Beacon Press, Boston, S. 141
- ⁵⁵ David Stannard, *American Holocaust*, Oxford, 1992.
<https://www.counterpunch.org/2025/02/13/genocide-files/>
- ⁵⁶ <https://www.jeffsachs.org/>
- ⁵⁷ <https://richardfalk.org/2024/11/05/the-gaza-tribunal-law-conscience-and-compassion/>

⁵⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkraKVOAqOk>

⁵⁹ https://www.linkedin.com/posts/the-palestine-chronicle_not-in-my-name-fantasy-israel-faces-its-activity-7013826889198796800-Y_Qh

⁶⁰ https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/res181.asp

⁶¹ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/90717?v=pdf>

⁶² <https://www.icj-cij.org/case/186>

⁶³ <https://press.umich.edu/Books/T/The-One-State-Solution>

⁶⁴ Jimmy Carter, *Palestine Peace, Not Apartheid*, Simon & Schuster, New York 2007.

⁶⁵ <https://www.un-ilibrary.org/content/books/9789210594844s003-c023>

⁶⁶ <https://caitlinjohnstone.com.au/2026/03/11/we-are-the-villains-in-this-story/>

⁶⁷ <https://www.stripes.com/theaters/europe/2026-03-26/rutte-trump-iran-21187403.html>

⁶⁸ https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/draft_articles/9_6_2001.pdf