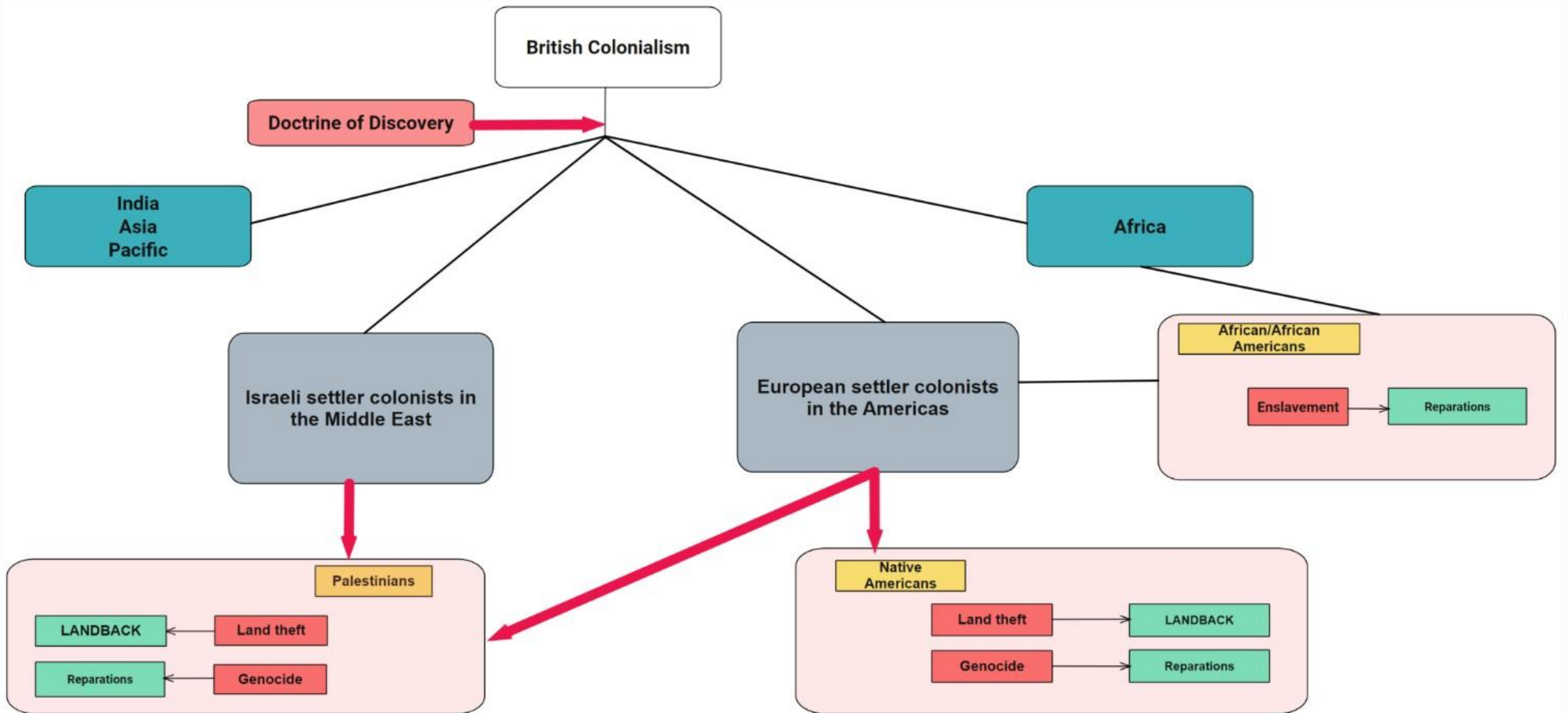


# **A Comparative Analysis of Settler Colonialism: The United States and Israel/Palestine**

Decolonial Repair Network

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# **Settler Colonialism**

## **A Comparative Analysis of the United States & Israel/Palestine**

Settler colonialism is not a single historical event, but an ongoing structure aimed at replacing indigenous populations. This analysis explores the profound parallels and key divergences between two of the most examined cases.

## **The Blueprint for Dispossession**

Both projects were built on powerful ideologies that justified the displacement of native peoples by portraying their lands as empty and their societies as inferior.

## United States: Manifest Destiny

A 19th-century doctrine asserting a divine right for American settlers to expand across North America, spreading democracy and capitalism.

“

*The fulfillment of our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying*

”

*millions.*

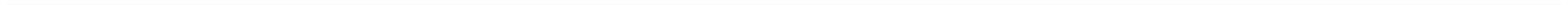
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## Zionism: "A Land Without a People"

A foundational slogan that imagined Palestine as an empty landscape, erasing the existing Arab population to justify creating a Jewish state.



*A land without a people for a people without a land.*



# **Mechanisms of Elimination**

Dispossession was not accidental; it was systematically executed through legal frameworks, forced removals, and cultural destruction.

## **Mass Displacement: The 1948 Nakba**

During the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, a catastrophic event known as the "Nakba" unfolded, fundamentally altering Palestine's demography.

**~750,000**

**Palestinians Displaced**

(~85% of the Arab population in the territory)

Over 500 Palestinian villages and towns were depopulated and largely destroyed.

## US Land Loss: The Dawes Act of 1887

This act broke up communal tribal lands into individual plots, selling "surplus" land to non-natives and causing a devastating loss of territory.





## **Legal Instruments of Dispossession**

### **US: Indian Removal Act (1830)**

Mandated the forced relocation of ~100,000 Native Americans from eastern states to lands west of the Mississippi, opening 25 million acres to white settlement.

### **Israel: Absentee Property Law (1950)**

Legally expropriated all land and property of Palestinians who fled during the 1948 war, transferring it to the state and preventing their return.

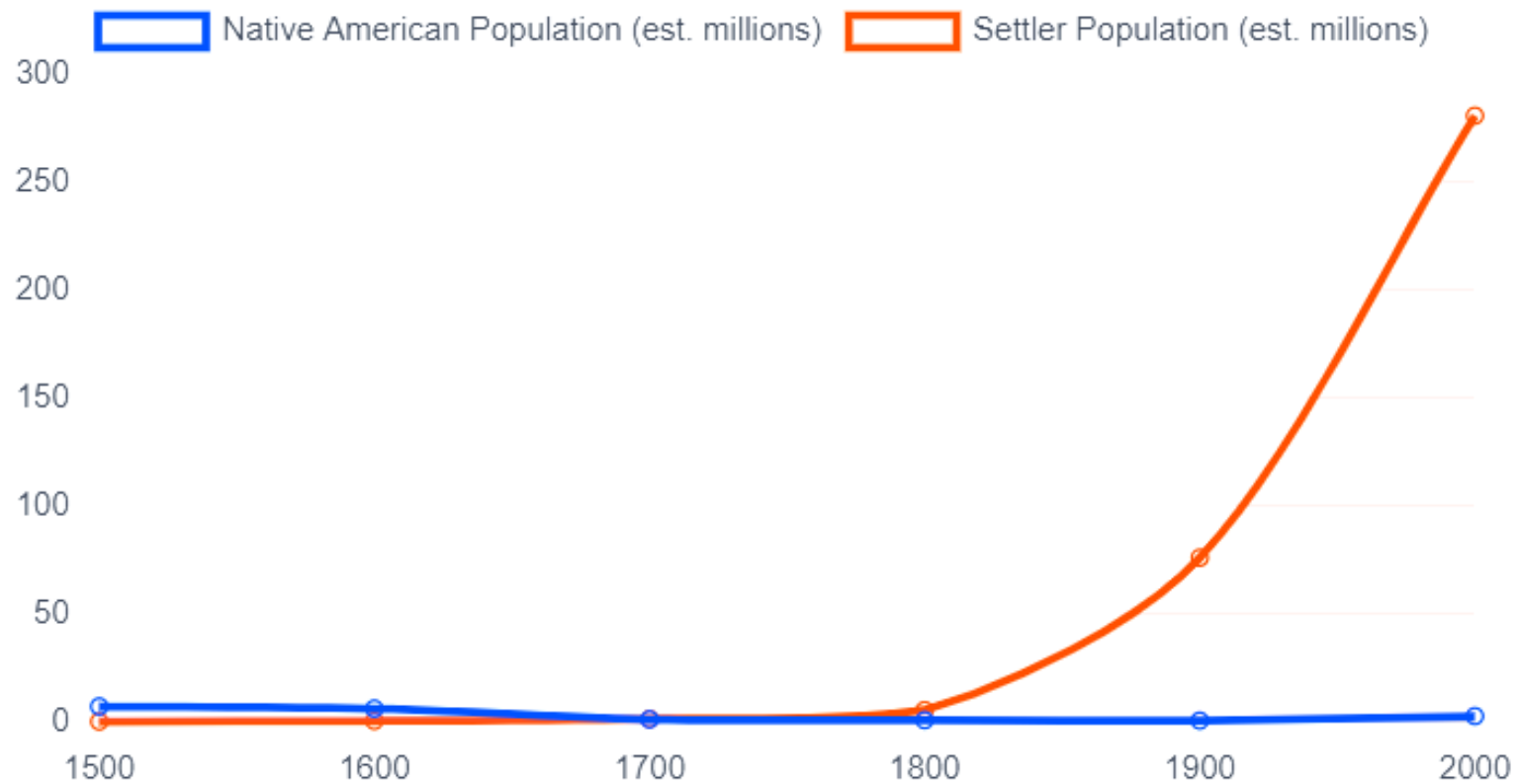
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# **Divergent Outcomes: A Tale of Two Demographics**

The most significant difference lies in the demographic outcome. While the US project nearly annihilated the native population, Palestinian resistance and survival created a different reality.

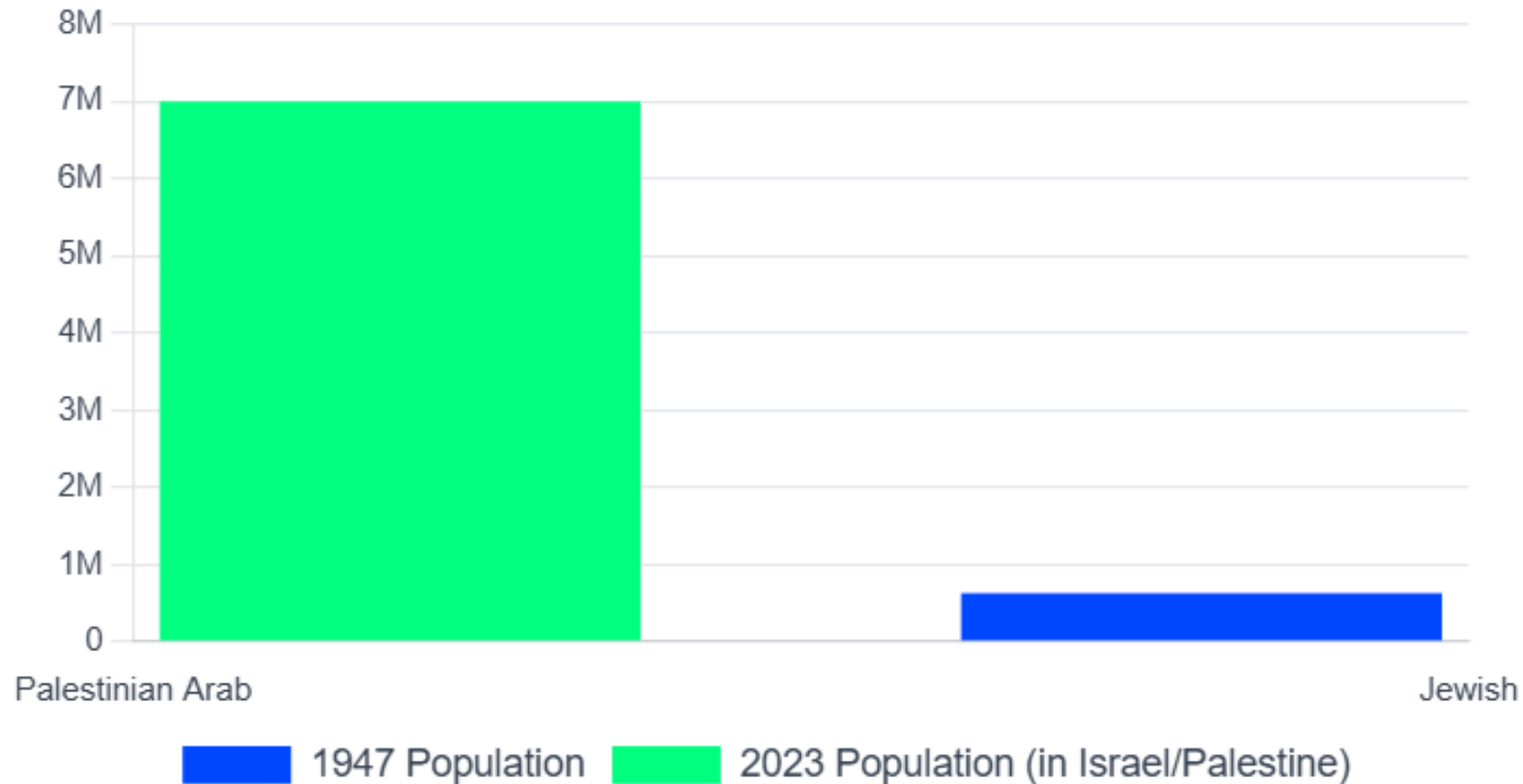
## US: Indigenous Population Decline

Centuries of violence and disease led to a catastrophic decline in the Native American population relative to the explosive growth of the settler population.



## Israel/Palestine: Enduring Presence

Despite the Nakba, a significant Palestinian population remains, challenging the settler project and necessitating ongoing systems of control.



## The Consequence of "Incomplete" Elimination

### Indigenous Survival

Does a significant native population remain?

↓  
NO

### US / Australia Model

Near-total annihilation allows for a more "complete" settler state where overt racial laws are less necessary.

YES

### Israel/Palestine Model

Ongoing native presence necessitates overt systems of control, segregation, and management (Apartheid).

# An Unbroken Spirit of Resistance

In both contexts, indigenous peoples have never been passive victims. Their continuous resistance—military, political, and cultural—defines the "incompleteness" of the settler project.

## 1680: Pueblo Revolt

An uprising of Pueblo people against Spanish colonizers in present-day New Mexico, successfully expelling them for 12 years.

## 1973: Wounded Knee Occupation

A 71-day standoff by American Indian Movement (AIM) activists to protest failed treaties and government corruption.

## 2016: Standing Rock Protests

A massive movement led by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to halt the Dakota Access Pipeline, uniting indigenous nations and allies.

## 1936-39: Arab Revolt in Palestine

A nationalist uprising by Palestinian Arabs against British Mandate administration and mass Jewish immigration.

## 1987-93: First Intifada

A sustained series of Palestinian protests, civil disobedience, and riots against the Israeli occupation.