

# The media, manipulation and Gaza

**Metro**  
'40 BABIES MURDERED BY HAMAS'

**THE TIMES**  
'HOLLY QUITTING THIS MORNING FOR ME AND MY FAMILY'  
'HARRIS: I'VE STOPPED SAYING "HOLLY WENT TO GAZA" - SHE'S THERE TO STAY'  
'HOLLY QUITTING THIS MORNING FOR ME AND MY FAMILY'  
'THREE PATIENTS DIE AFTER SURGICAL FAILURE AT NH'  
'BRING THEM'

**THE SCOTSMAN**  
'An act of sheer evil'

**SUN**  
'FACTS OF GAZA'  
'BRING THEM'

**Mirror**  
'HORROR AT BEHEADING OF BABIES'  
'ROYAL NAVY ON WAY'  
'HORROR IN THE M...'  
'SINK SANDY SHIPS & PLAINES TO BLOCK TRANSFER OF WEAPONS TO HAZZANAH'

**FINANCIAL TIMES**  
'Israel enforces complete siege of Gaza'

**BBC NEWS**  
'Israel's Netanyahu - Downing Street amid p...'  
'Israel's Gaza war'  
'Hamis planned sexual violence as weapon of war - Israeli campaigner'

**Power, not protest'**  
'UK Government pressures BBC to say Hamas "terrorists" in news bulletins'

**Massacre of innocents**

**BBC NEWS**  
'Israel's Gaza war'  
'Hamis planned sexual violence as weapon of war - Israeli campaigner'



This short pamphlet starts within the theoretical approach of Herman and Chomsky. They describe the key filters that affect the decisions of editors. Clearly an owner or controller of some outlet has the ultimate say on whether an editor

works or is sacked. The owner has power. The journalist, Peter Osborne, wrote "The *Telegraph's* recent coverage of HSBC amounts to a form of fraud on its readers. It has been placing what it perceives to be the interests of a major international bank above its duty to bring the news to *Telegraph* readers". He argues that the bank's power to withhold advertising influenced editorial policy. The next filter is the public relation's industry. A journalist's job of writing an article is massively eased if they start from a press release from a well-funded PR company. They can take the key facts, knowing that they will have been checked by a legal team'. 'Journalists require time to make contacts, find new stories, and fact-check. Under time pressure they resort to recycling press releases and wire news, often without fact-checking.'

At all levels, the writer, the editor and legal departments have to consider the amount of flack they will receive if they upset a powerful lobby. Any article about Israel will be the subject of massive scrutiny and perhaps accusations of anti-Semitism. For Herman and Chomsky in the USA a key part of the accepted ideology was anti-communism. Articles that attacked someone as a communist or communist supporter would get a more favourable reception than one that supported them. Theoretically the BBC is not subject to the will of an owner, nor the power of advertisers. At crisis times, however, the need to protect the status quo rises above its mission statement to be impartial. We are at such a time today and we were in 1926.

To see how the BBC works we need to go back nearly 100 years.

## At the time of the general strike



The BBC must be independent

The BBC must be an arm of Government



The outcome - The BBC appears independent but supports Government

In 1926 there was a General strike in the UK. Churchill wanted to commandeer the new BBC. In the absence of normal newspapers, the BBC radio had enormous power. John Reith was the managing director of the BBC (later the Director General). "According to Reith's diary, [he] took the view that the government should be able to say "that they did not commandeer [the BBC], but they know that they can trust us not to be really impartial."

Reith also stated: "We do not believe that any other Government, even one of which Mr Snowden was a member, would have allowed the broadcasting authority under its control greater freedom than was enjoyed by the BBC during the crisis."

Thus Baldwin, the Conservative PM, was allowed to broadcast after the strike, but Labour and the TUC were denied.

In 1967, a journalist put to Reith that the BBC was seen as organ of the respectable people of society. Reith replied "Anything wrong with that?"

This Pattern of reflecting the views of the elite while constantly claiming editorial independence continues to this day.

The Government chooses the Director General of the BBC. Sets the income of the BBC and can alter the structure of the BBC. For example "Margaret Thatcher's government appointed a succession of governors with the apparent intent of bringing the BBC "into line" with government policy".

The view that the BBC has to align broadly with the Government is told by Peter Osborne. He was collecting material showing the systematic lying of Boris Johnson. "I have talked to senior BBC executives, and they tell me they personally think it's wrong to expose lies told by a British prime minister because it undermines trust in British politics."

## Background to the establishment of Israel

Although Churchill lost in the debate over the independence of the BBC. He was winning over support for Empire and its growth. This is what he said in 1920

“If, as may well happen, there should be created in our own lifetime by the banks of the Jordan a Jewish State under the protection of the British Crown which might comprise three or four million Jews, an event will have occurred in this history of the world which from every point of view be beneficial and would be especially in harmony with the truest interests of the British Empire”



Colonialists are not benevolent. Colonialists view themselves as superior to the peoples that they are displacing. This is Churchill: “I do not admit ... for instance, that a great wrong has been done to the Red Indians of America or the black people of Australia. I do not admit that a wrong has been done to these people by the fact that a stronger race, a higher-grade race, a more worldly-wise race to put it that way, has come in and taken their place.”

Others have recognised the link between the British Empire and the need for Jewish State. The Balfour Declaration's purpose was to form a "little loyal Jewish Ulster in a sea of potentially hostile Arabism", according to Ronald Storrs, "the first military governor of Palestine since Pontius Pilate" (his words).

## Birth of Zionism and Israel

Herzl organised the first Zionist conference in 1897. At the time European elites were colonising the world. Colonialism fed the racism of white Europeans in particular racial antisemitism. Colonialism did not have the contempt that it has today.

Herzl responded to both with the belief that Jews needed their own state. He said that the Zionists would create a "wall of defence for Europe in Asia, an outpost of civilization against barbarism"

An early Zionist Vladimir Jabotinsky said "Zionism is a colonization adventure"

The first Zionist bank was called the Jewish Colonial Bank.



Over time many of the ex-colonial powers have apologised for their racism and plunder.

Israel refuses to recognise that its roots are in the settler colonialist framework. BBC's Jeremy Bowen wrote "Zionism's innate instinct to push out the frontier" and "The Israeli generals, mainly hugely self-confident sabras

in their late 30s and early 40s, had been training to finish the unfinished business of 1948 for most of their careers". For this and similar comments, formal complaints were made by the not inconsiderable Israeli lobby.

The majority of Jews rejected the Zionist approach. The Holocaust changed the political landscape.

In my view the Holocaust was one of the most disgusting atrocities in human history. A modern state employed vast resources to exterminate a minority,

the Jews, at a time it needed those resources to avoid losing WW11. How a modern population can be won to accept systematic slaughter of a minority needs to be understood.



**After WW2 most people supported Israel**



A mixture of guilt over the holocaust, racism in the blocking of Jewish refugees, racism against Arabs and geopolitics led to the formation Israel.

In the West, as knowledge of the Holocaust became known, there was a wave of sympathy for the traumatised Jewry.

## Israel won the war in 1948 - the Nakba.



750,000 Palestinians were driven out in the Nakba. For the Palestinians Israel was a settler colonial regime. It was also the time when the first seeds of the Israeli Apartheid regime were sown.



Some on the left recognised the realities of the new state. Tony Cliff was brought up in a Zionist family in Palestine. In 1934 he was at a trades Council meeting in Haifa. When he made his internationalism clear the Zionist stewards twisted his finger till it broke. He went on to help found what became the Socialist Workers Party.

The new United Nations wanted a peaceful world after the horrors of WW11. It constructed a set of laws. One was the right of refugees to return to their homes. Israel fearing that the new state would lose its Jewish majority, refused to allow them to return.



Israel's survival strategy was set down at this time. 1 Claim to be a democracy. 2. Defy United Nations resolutions. 3. Claim anyone that opposes them as Fascist and anti semitic. 4. Stongly ally itself to the USA 5. Treat Palestinians as a group to be dominated.

Over time the USA took over the position of "World Super Power"



from the British. The policy of supporting a "a Jewish state" was taken up by the USA.

As Biden puts it "If there were not an Israel, we'd have to invent one." "It is the best 3 billion dollars investment we make. Were there not an Israel, the United States of

America would have to invent an Israel to protect our interests in the region."

Britain has become tied to USA, Sir Christopher Meyer was on the way to be the UK's ambassador to the USA. He was told 'We want you to get up the arse of the White House and stay there,' by Blair's chief of staff, Jonathan Powell.

## Difficulties, Bias, and propaganda



The conflict between realities of Israel's settler colonialism and Israel's self image as a bastion of European culture and democracy is reflected within the BBC.

In 2003 a BBC program highlighted the lack of international scrutiny of Israel's weapons of mass destruction (which it has) compared to accusations of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq (which it did not have). "Ariel Sharon has barred the BBC from his meeting

with the British press during a visit to London next week amid accusations that the corporation made false allegations against Israel in a report on weapons of mass destruction."

The Israeli government imposed visa restrictions on BBC journalists and refused access to Israeli government officials. The Israeli Government press officer, Danny Seaman, compared it [BBC report] to "the worst of Nazi propaganda".

Jeremy Bowen was attacked for bias. Osborne wrote: "Indeed, even the problematic lines that led the BBC Trust to conclude there had been a breach of accuracy and impartiality, such as "Zionism's innate instinct to push out the frontier" and "The Israeli generals, mainly hugely self-confident sabras in their late 30s and early 40s, had been training to finish the unfinished business of 1948 for most of their careers" are still in Bowen's article on The Jewish Chronicle's website.

Perhaps the BBC Trust's interpretation of due impartiality is different to that of Britain's Jewish community".

Pressure on the BBC is reflected in 2009. "Mark Thomson, director general of the BBC, took the unprecedented decision of breaking away from other broadcasters and refusing to broadcast the Disasters Emergency Appeal for Gaza, claiming it would compromise the BBC's impartiality... We asked Charlie Beckett why the BBC had refused. He replied: "If there was no pro-Israeli lobby in this country then I don't think [screening the appeal] would have been seen as politically problematic."



# Hurdles for journalists



"A study by social mobility charity The Sutton Trust found that 43 per cent of the

UK's 100 most influential editors and broadcasters, as per its News Media 100 list, went to private school...A little under half (44 per cent) of newspaper columnists went to Oxbridge, "



Once employed, a wrong step can get you sacked.



So journalists face the objections from the pro-Israeli lobby. They face their editor's censorship and they face self censorship.

Journalists can also be killed.



Israel says 'high probability' its soldier killed journalist Shireen Abu Aqla - BBC News



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BBC is a British public broadcast service. [Wikipedia](#)

Shireen Abu Aqla was a Journalist killed 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022. According to her employer Al Jazeera, Shereen was deliberately killed.

‘Outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid said: "No-one will investigate [Israel Defence Forces] soldiers and no-one will preach to us about morals in warfare, certainly not Al Jazeera."

Later Israel admitted that there was a high probability that the Israeli military killed her.

Remember all the pinpoint accuracy and high morality

According to Committee to protect Journalists 83 journalists have been killed in Gaza since October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Two Israeli strikes on a group of Lebanese, American, and Iraqi journalists in south Lebanon on October 13, 2023, were apparently deliberate attacks on civilians, which is a war crime.

Human rights watch has recorded as a crime against humanity.

One Journalist was killed, six injured.

There are three categories that the BBC misrepresents the truth of the Gaza war. Category 1. How words are used about Palestinians and Israelis and the frequency. Category 2. The lies Israeli politicians tell, and are unchallenged by BBC (or CBS BBC ally in USA). Category 3. Important questions that are rarely or never asked of Israeli politicians or military people.

**Category 1** Researchers looked at how specific words were used by the BBC as they applied to Palestinians and Israelis.

'This work aims to shed light on bias in BBC reporting on Palestine in a way that is both transparent and reproducible. We analysed a total of 600 articles and 4000 live feed posts on the BBC website between October 7, 2023 and December 2, 2023 in an attempt to surface the systematic disparity in how Palestinian and Israeli deaths are treated in the media'.

Date

Word bank analysis <https://github.com/liet-git/bbc-bias>

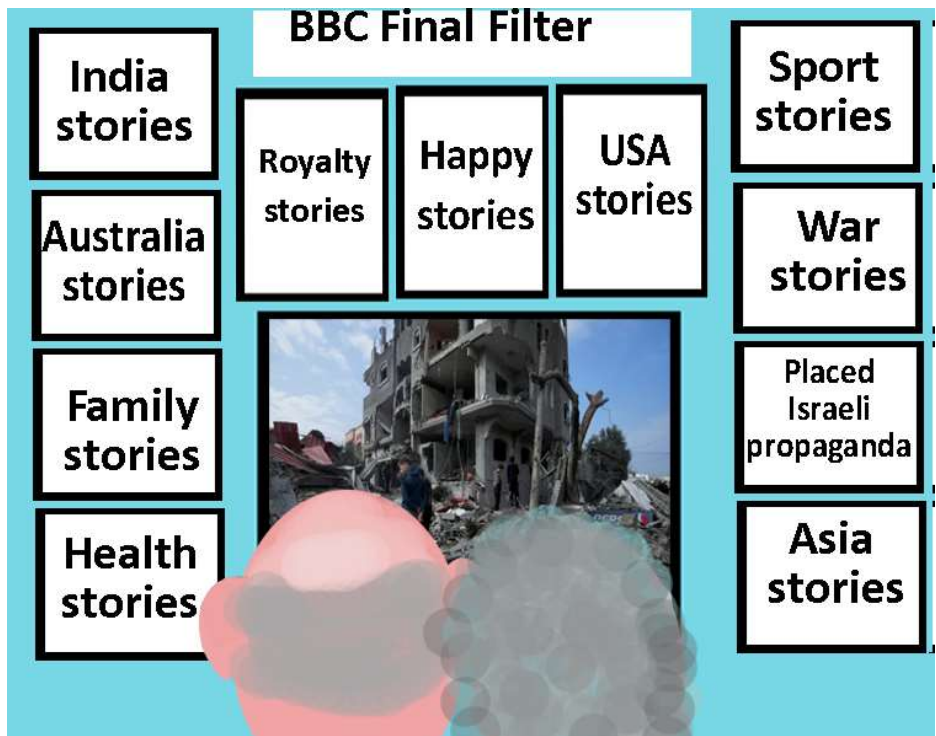
| <i>Word that appears in the article</i> | <i>In reference to Israelis</i> | <i>In reference to Palestinians</i> |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| mother/grandmother                      | 51                              | 32                                  |
| daughter/granddaughter                  | 35                              | 15                                  |
| father/grandfather                      | 33                              | 9                                   |
| husband                                 | 30                              | 5                                   |
| son/grandson                            | 25                              | 11                                  |
| wife                                    | 10                              | 24                                  |
| killed                                  | 1066                            | 1630                                |
| died                                    | 82                              | 201                                 |
| murder(ed)                              | 101                             | 1                                   |
| massacre(ed)                            | 23                              | 1                                   |
| slaughter(ed)                           | 20                              | 0                                   |

Given the fact that the number of Palestinian deaths by December 2<sup>nd</sup> was at least 10 times as many as Israelis unbiased reporting the second column should be ten times the size of the first. Frequency of mentions follows a similar pattern

There is a process of selection of articles.



And bias







We know that governments stress their view of the world. They also lie to us. Remember the lie over Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction?

Israel is very active in lobbying the UK



governments.<sup>i</sup>

Suppose a Russian spy, press office, or army wrote a very warm human piece about how a reservist volunteered for the Russian army. Now, he wonders whether he would return alive. He mentions that he has told his boyfriend, but not his family. It would not get publicised.

Yet a similar story about an Israeli soldier was carried by the BBC. It had the support of the Israeli military. They

gave him permission to speak to the BBC and supplied a supporting photograph. He repeated the idea that the Israeli military avoid civilian deaths (manifestly untrue). He repeated the idea that "You have to

remember; we didn't start this war (manifestly untrue given that in the last 15 years 6,407 Palestinians have been killed 308 Israelis)." The difference between the two cases is that the BBC treats Ukraine and Israel as innocent victims. There are plenty of other stories that were highly likely to be propaganda pieces.

**Category 2. Lies unchallenged** Israeli "Military the most moral army in the world." "We don't target civilians". These are manifestly untrue. The BBC hardly ever challenges this.



# Results of today's bombings



Source: ISW and AEI's Critical Threats Project, 2/11/2009



I stick a label  
where the  
bombs hit

Hamas  
Hamas  
Hamas  
Hamas  
Hamas  
Hamas  
Hamas  
Hamas  
Hamas  
Hamas

'The assessment, compiled by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and described to CNN by three sources who have seen it, says that about 40-45% of the 29,000 air-to-ground munitions Israel has used have been unguided". But Israel likes to pretend it is accurate.

3. **Hide important facts** The final tactic used by the BBC to obscure the truth is to simply not raise key issues. The fact is that there are at least five million Palestinians who live under Israeli control.

“Amnesty International’s new investigation shows that Israel imposes a system of oppression and domination against Palestinians across all areas under its control: in Israel and the OPT, and against Palestinian refugees, in order to benefit Jewish Israelis. This amounts to apartheid as prohibited in international law.”

This is an important issue. Yet the BBC hardly ever raises it.



There can be no democracy in an Apartheid state. Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank are under Israeli rule, but they have no votes. The two million Palestinians with Israeli passports are subject to 60 discriminatory laws.



'For 14 years, Netanyahu's policy was to keep Hamas in power...Much ink has been spilled describing the longtime relationship – rather, alliance – between Benjamin Netanyahu and Hamas. And still, the very fact that there has been close cooperation between the Israeli prime minister (with the support of many on the right) and the fundamentalist organization seemingly evaporated from most of the current analyses – everyone's talking about "failures," "mistakes" and "contzeptziot" (fixed conceptions).'

In March 2019, Netanyahu told his Likud colleagues: "Anyone who wants to thwart the establishment of a Palestinian state has to support bolstering Hamas and transferring money to Hamas ... This is part of our strategy – to isolate the Palestinians in Gaza from the Palestinians in the West Bank."

"To crush the Nazi enemy, before we enter our soldiers, our sons. To crush these Nazis with firepower never seen here before," Bennett

**The BBC never asks Israeli spokespeople why they backed Hamas.**



'BBC Newsnight failed to declare that a military expert it presented as an independent commentator is a director of a charity bankrolled by the Israeli army.'



Fiona Bruce had trouble understanding that many people see the Israeli military as terrorist.

Background ideas that the BBC and the political establishment want to promote are 'Israel is a democracy, Israel has 'our' values, Israel has the right to defend itself'.

But facts are stubborn things. Israel is a settler colonial state, it is expansionist, it has established an Apartheid state.

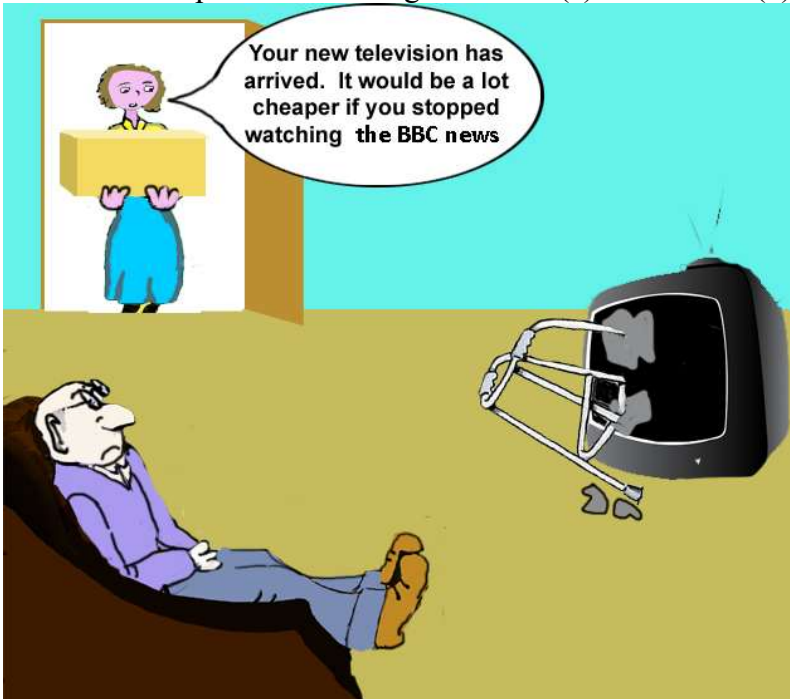
The propaganda and the reality have clashed for over 75 years. Different groups understand reality at different times. Palestinians understood very early the nature of Israel. The ethnic cleansing of 750,000 in 1948-9 is a bitter lesson. Sections of the left understood that Israel was tied to the deployment of US power in the Middle East. Similarly, people in Ireland understand what settler colonialism looks like. Being told that Israel was seen as a little loyal Ulster won it few friends in Ireland. The South Africans also experienced colonialism and Apartheid. It is not an accident that South Africa mounted the case against Israel over its war on Gaza before the International Court of Justice. Journalists also learn the truth that their bosses are trying to suppress.

**Even BBC journalists say BBC lies** 'The BBC has been accused by its journalists of failing to tell the story of the Israel-Palestine conflict accurately, investing greater effort in humanising Israeli victims compared with Palestinians, and omitting key historical context in coverage.

‘In a 2,300-word letter written to Al Jazeera by eight UK-based journalists employed by the corporation, the BBC is also said to be guilty of a “double standard in how civilians are seen”, given that it is “unflinching” in its reporting of alleged Russian war crimes in Ukraine.’

## What is to be done?

How do we respond.= Smashing the tele is (a) useless and (b) expensive



Spreading the idea that the media lie to us is good. The trouble is we cannot reject all and everything the BBC states. We need to be aware of how and why they mis represent the truth.





Israeli government has already established what it wants. A hungry, water starved traumatised, disease-ridden Gaza population.

The BBC and the other media will under report the slow destruction.

Putting in a complaint to BBC

The rich and powerful establishment is unlikely to admit to being deeply biased. However, it is worth making complaints. They are recorded and being a process. The BBC does respond to pressure. The response will be weaker and take longer than we would like. It also tells everyone in the process that they are being watched. It may encourage some staff in the process to break ranks.



## Make a note of past lies by Israeli spokespeople.

The screenshot shows the BBC News website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the BBC logo, a search bar, and links for Home, News, Sport, Weather, iPlayer, and Sound. Below this is a red banner with the word 'NEWS' in white. Underneath the banner, there are several category links: Home, Israel-Gaza war, Cost of Living, War in Ukraine, Climate, UK, World, Business, Politics, and Culture. A video player is embedded on the page, showing a woman speaking. The video title is 'Israel and apartheid 'nothing in common''. The video player includes a progress bar, a play button, and other standard video controls.

There is a game on BBC radio called the unbelievable truth. The aim is to tell a pack of lies on some subject. In amongst the lies is the odd truth. The News is supposed to have a “balanced presentation” of the available information. The guest presents a case, and the interviewer

challenges any lies.

The problem is that BBC presenters rarely seriously challenge Israeli spokespeople.

In July 2015 Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely told the BBC's Kevin Connolly why Israel and apartheid have nothing in common. She claimed

1. BDS leaders don't care about [Israeli] settlements
2. Israel and apartheid have nothing in common
3. Apartheid was a minority movement, Israel is not.
4. Israel not a colonialist state
5. Israelis are not there as occupiers
6. The only people who are not prepared to live side by side are the Palestinians

The answers -

1. We do care about the settlers. The Government arms them and they terrorise Palestinian villagers.
2. The Amnesty report on Israeli Apartheid has 280 pages explaining exactly what Israel and Apartheid have in common
3. Israel is a majority only after the expulsion of 750,000 Palestinians. But majorities can still practice the crime of Apartheid.
4. Zionists like all colonialists used to be proud of the term. The first Zionist Bank was called the Jewish Colonialist Trust.
5. There are about 700,000 illegal occupiers in the West Bank.
6. The Foundation document of the Likud Party "between the Sea and the Jordan there will only be Israeli sovereignty."

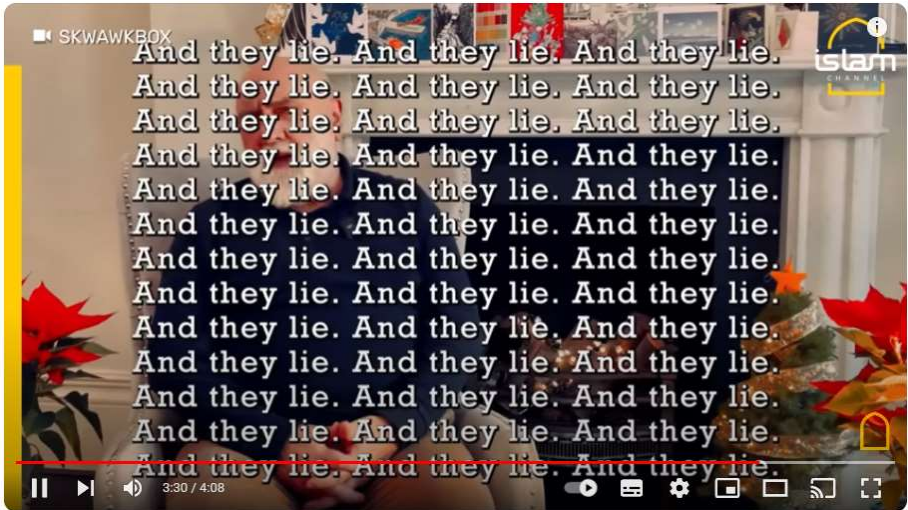
Method 1. We could count the lies. As soon as a politician stated too many lies, they are forbidden to be interviewed on air as a known liar.



Or we could note the lies and start the next interview with asking them to explain why they lied to us.



Then there is Alexie Sayle's approach. This is an image from his Christmas message.



There is battle over ideas. The Palestine solidarity Campaign needs to link with journalists and expose the shameful role of the mass media.



Journalists, campaigners need to expose how our media misleads us.

## We have a bigger problem

I hope you have reached the conclusion that the BBC lied to us over Gaza. The BBC is not the worst. I chose it because it is committed in its mission statement to tell the truth. But all the mainstream media lie at the behest of their owners, their advertisers, and their right-wing journalists. They lied to us over Corbyn being antisemitic. They lied to us over the Iraq having weapons of mass destruction etc.

**Climate change** – This is probably the biggest problem humanity faces “Countries agreed in 2015 to stop the global temperature rising beyond 1.5C as this is the point at which the climate starts becoming dangerously unstable.” Independent 8<sup>th</sup> dec23

‘Critical 1.5C threshold breached over 12-month period for first time’ FT Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 2024

## Wars

‘World military expenditure rose by 3.7 per cent in real terms in 2022, to reach a record high of \$2240 billion. Global spending grew by 19 per cent over the decade 2013–22 and has risen every year since 2015. Russia's invasion of Ukraine was a major driver of the growth in spending’ STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE April 23

## Economic Crisis

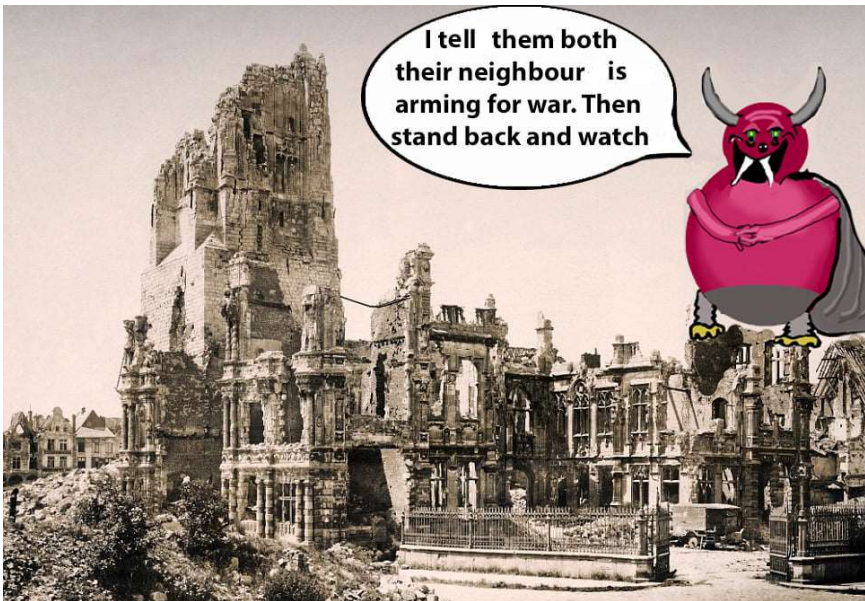


The problem is that the world is highly interdependent. If key decision makers decide that the markets are going down – they go down. This is the sudden drop in World Production in 2008.

**Disease** Human beings live in massive cities. Any disease like Covid, will spread around the world. “Next pandemic may come from melting glaciers, new data shows’ Guardian 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022. As we use anti biotics the various bacteria mutate. They are highly likely not to be as effective in the future.

Nations have passed their sell by date

# The war mongers offer us nothing



## What is to be done?

Progressive Politics is largely dominated by two positions. The reformists focus on the minutiae of peoples' everyday struggles. Lack of housing, waiting lists in hospitals, wages not enough, bullying management, one of a million minor or major injustices. Until recently we could say that the Labour Party held a reformist position. Today it has become Tory light.

The alternative position is the revolutionary one. The media portray us as either a rent-a-mob or a solidary oddball studying till late in a library. They lie over this as they lie over Gaza.

We live under an economic system that threatens the planet. We live under a political system that encourages war mongers and war industries. The structures encourage racism, sexism, trans hatred and so on.



The truth is that in every campaign, in every struggle, there are revolutionaries. We believe that the experience of fighting against one injustice highlights others. When the various battles grow sufficiently big the role of the media, the state, and the rich become clear. Then there is the potential for a revolution.

I am a Revolutionary Socialist and member of the SWP. I have a million criticisms of the organisation. The chief one that they refused to publish this pamphlet. Thanks Paul for all the help. Dickpitt03@gmail.com

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