THE TRUMP NIGHTMARE

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Category: Opinions

By Jirair Tutunjian, Toronto, 12 February 2025

The Jordanian desert was spectacular in David Lean's *Lawrence of Arabia*. But the desert is of zero economic value other than hosting adventurous travelers who enjoy exploring Jordan's desert. Desert covers 75 percent of Jordan, a perennially poor country depending on foreign aid and money sent by Jordanian expats to their families back home. Some 14.4 percent of Jordan's people live below the national poverty line. Unemployment is around 25 percent.

President Donald Trump wants to force almost 2 million Gaza Palestinians to Jordan, increasing Jordan's population to 12 million. The American equivalent would see the admission of 40 million penniless immigrants.

Just as day follows night, once Gazans are deported to Jordan, the 2.9 million Arabs of the West Bank will follow. The American equivalent of this is an increase of 50 million immigrants.

Let's go to Egypt which is also being told to accept Gaza Palestinians. The average annual Egyptian income is $3,636. Egypt also relies on substantial financial aid from the West ($3 billion from the U.S.). Egypt has been a basket case forever. As well, since the creation of Israel, many thousand Egyptian soldiers have been killed in wars with Israel. That is, for the Palestinian cause. The billions of dollars Egypt has lost in these wars is another sacrifice Egyptians have made for Palestinians. In other words, impoverished Egyptians are in no mood to welcome 4.9 million impoverished Palestinians.

Even if the 4.9 million Palestinians are split into about 2.5 million each to Jordan and Egypt, the burden on the two Arab states would still horrendous. And let's not forget that Jordan has accommodated 6 million Palestinians since Israel drove them out of Palestine.

What will King Abdullah II of Jordan do in light of the pressure from the United States which gifts $1 billion annually to Jordan to help keep it afloat? Will Abdullah, his Hashemite clan and hangers on fly out of Jordan in a Boeing 777 heading to Britain? After all, Abdullah's mother, former Toni Gardiner, is English. Abdullah has lots of properties around the globe. Or will he resist the forced move of Palestinians into Jordan?

Egypt's President Sisi has been unpopular since day one. Will he resist the forced migration of Palestinians, go to war against Israel, or accept more greenbacks from Uncle Sam and share the money with his military acolytes? He might also flee Egypt with his billions.

But let's think positively: Gaza will become Trump's Riviera minus Brigitte Bardot while the Old City of Jerusalem will become a Disneyesque Holy Theme Park under Israeli governance. "Come on down…see where Christ turned water into wine, where he slept for three nights before ascending to Heaven, and where Abraham sharpened his knife when God stopped him from killing his son, Isaac. Come one, come all…to Disneyland…err Holy Land but without the deplorable Palestinians."

Comments



Keith Garebian – 2025-02-14 09:33:51
Another strong article from Jirair Tutunjian, shot through with acid satire. Another thought: why doesn't the Trumpery Prez allow Palestinians to migrate (at US cost) to the US, preferably to the Red States where they could educate the hordes of barbarian Americans (including the Republican cult in Congress) about the real state of the Mid-East.

Ara Manoogian – 2025-02-13 22:44:16
It's all just empty chatter from our loudmouth president. What he is proposing violates international law, the UN Charter and various conventions. The Palestinians are not going, and why would they? They are sitting on an estimated 1 trillion cubic feet of oil and natural gas. Over 75% of the UN member states recognize Palestine sovereignty, including Jordan. Bottom line is, President Trump is delusional, and it would seem with age, he is getting worse.



hrayr – 2025-02-13 17:39:18
Tutunjian's writing is priceless.

Levon K. – 2025-02-13 17:07:40
Why doesn't US or Trump send the expropriated citizens to Syria, after all US orchestrated that attack with his friends Turkey. There is plenty of land in Syria.