

FACTSHEET: INDUSTRIAL ZONES AND ISRAEL'S COLONIAL STRATEGY



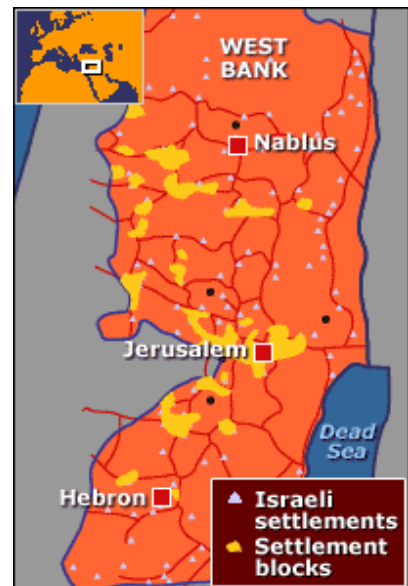
What are Israeli Industrial Zones?

Largely non-residential, Israeli West Bank Industrial Zones are fortress-like hill-top factory complexes connected to nearby hill-top settlements. They are the economic engines of the illegal Israeli settlement blocs. In the best of cases, they provide an industrial base for Israel's illegal colonial development in the territories, exploiting cheap Palestinian labour. In the worst of cases, they offer a particular attraction to industries considered toxic or otherwise undesirable in Israel proper due to the fact that stringent Israeli labour and industrial laws are not applied in the occupied territories.

What are Israeli "Settlement Blocs"?

There is no exact geographic or legal definition of a "settlement bloc." Rather, the term is a practical way to describe the outcome of a longstanding Israeli policy of establishing settlements in roughly contiguous chains and later "thickening" the settlements with infrastructure and buildings to create large swaths of land in which the settlements, and the infrastructure connecting them, are the defining characteristic of the area.

Settlement Blocs are key instruments of colonization. Israel's overall colonial enterprise selects strategic ways to 1) commandeer natural east-west and north-south transportation roots, 2) seize the hilltops from which to oversee and intimidate the local Palestinian populations, 3) appropriate wells, springs and prime agricultural land, 4) divert aquifer water, and 5) control, disrupt and destroy the flow of Palestinian goods services and people throughout the territory. Ultimately, the settlement blocs are a key culprit in the destruction of the territorial contiguity of Palestinian infrastructure.



How are Industrial Zones significant to Colonists?

The many amoeba-like settlement blocs enable colonists to live and work deep within occupied Palestinian territory. The industrial zones lend credibility and permanence to the wholly illegal nature of Israel's colonial regime, perpetuating a cycle of continued colonization. While colonists live and work illegally in the occupied territories, they are nonetheless insulated from Palestinians by massive land-hungry swaths of supporting infrastructures: e.g. colony walls, Israeli-only highways, the Israeli Apartheid wall, "military zones," and similar obstacles.

How big is the problem of Industrial Zones?

It is estimated that at their height, there have been up to illegal 200 industrial factories located within the West Bank. These factories are either located in the industrial zones or inside the colonies themselves. Information about colonial industrial activity in the West Bank is difficult to obtain. While some of their products can be identified, detailed information on industrial output, labour required, and waste generated is not readily available. The major industries within these industrial zones include: aluminium, leather tanning, textile dyeing, batteries, fibreglass, plastics, and other chemical industries. The first table below lists the important industrial zones, while the second catalogues the industries involved.

Industrial Zones in Colonies in the West Bank		
Industrial Zone	District	Area (hectares)
Hinnanit	Jenin	10.99
Barqan	Nablus	14.87
Ariel	Nablus	14.84
Ma'ale Efrayim	Nablus	2.58
'Atarot	Jerusalem	145.78
Mishor Adummim	Jerusalem	109.92
Qiryat Arba'	Hebron	3.35
Total		302.00

Illegal Colonist Industries in the West Bank		
District	Industrial Location	Industry
Nablus	Barqan	Aluminum, fiberglass, plastic, electroplating
	Allon Morieh	Aluminum, food canning and textile dyeing
	Shilo	Aluminum and leather tanning
Ramallah	Halmeesh	Fiberglass and leather tanning
	Givout hadasha	Rubber
	Nili	Aluminum
	Shelta	Fiberglass and plastic
	'Atarot	Aluminum, cement, plastic, food canning and others
Hebron	Qiryat Arba'	Winery, building blocks, tiles and plastic
Jerusalem	Mishor Adummim	Plastic, cement, leather tanning, detergents, textile dyeing, aluminum, electroplating and several others
Jenin	Homesh	Batteries, aluminum, detergents
Tulkarm	Near 1967 border, inside the West Bank	Pesticide, fiberglass and Dixon gas

Is there any further impact on Palestinian Life and Society?

Israel has moved many of its polluting industries from places inside Israel to areas near the 1967 border or inside colonies. For example, a pesticide factory in Kfar Saba which produces dangerous pollutants was moved to an area near Tulkarm, inside the West Bank. The wastewater from this factory has damaged the local citrus trees and polluted the soil in the area, in addition to the likely problem of tainted groundwater

As a further example, the Dixon gas industrial factory which was located in Netanya was moved into the same area near Tulkarm. Solid waste from this industry is burned freely, with no environmental controls. The burn of this waste results in the emission of dangerous black smoke and toxic gases. In February 1997, the Palestinian Ministry of Health tested the solid waste located in the western section of Tulkarm city and reported that fibreglass and polyesters were present.

The western winds move these fumes into residential and public areas in Tulkarm city and the neighbouring villages, causing respiratory problems, and other health risks. It was reported that the Israeli government had moved a military camp from this area because Israeli soldiers had been adversely affected by the industrial fumes.

Since then, 200 dunums of land have been prepared in the Mishor Adummim industrial zone for the purpose of relocating aluminum and copper factories from the area of Giva'at Shaul in West Jerusalem. In addition, it has also been announced that an iron melting factory was built near Al-Nabi Elias Village on the main road from Qalqilya to Nablus.