BIG PRISONS

A study for the effects of the Israeli wall on Ni’lin village, in comparison with the effects of Berlin wall on Leipzig through Human Rights perspective
Abstract

George Gregory wrote in his book ‘The Colonial Presents’ in defining the Post colonialism; since the last decades of the 20th century, Andreas Huyssen suggested that the ‘present future to present pasts’ became the post-colonialism, which is a whole commitment to a future that is free from colonial power, and the growth in the disposition is part of the criticism of continuity between the colonial past and present colonial rule. But they almost denied the capacities that belong to the colonial past are confirmed and activated again in the colonial present. And this is appearing in many histories of the colonialism, but post-colonialism came to distinguish from these projects or histories by the tight relation between culture and power.

Building up Apartheid walls is a result to the colonial and Post colonial projects. As wall entered the political concept, we can see many built Apartheid walls through history.

The Essay’s main aim is to study two selective walls; the Israeli wall in Palestine and Berlin wall, from human rights perspective, which can let readers to have fair information about those two walls, and their effects on people’s lives that live or lived beside those walls.

A discussion will follow the illustrated information which I took them from many references which include direct information about those two walls.

My results are that these two Apartheid walls affect and undermine people’s rights who are living beside and around those walls.
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**Introduction**

The main aim of building walls is the separation, we can find that walls in the houses are made or built in order to separate rooms, and the inside of the house from the outside. Walls can create private spaces also and staying in the both sides of the walls is optional and personal. Walls mark and broad possession and help to find privacy.

Walls entered the political concept also, as there are many built walls through history that had been built in the mean of separation such as; China wall, Berlin wall, the Israeli wall in Palestine, Cyprus wall which separate Turkish and Greek parts, and Belfast wall. These walls can separate people physically, ideologically as in Korea, in a religious way as in Israel, and nationalistic as in Cyprus.

Two main walls I consider them the most important walls in the world, which are the Israeli wall in Palestine and Berlin wall, so I chose to write this essay about those two main walls. First, I will describe, discuss and study these two walls, and I will try to answer few questions about them and the people who lived and live around these walls, how these walls affect people, surroundings and the world in general.

I will concentrate in this working on two main geographical territories that have direct link to this essay which are Leipzig that located in the east of Germany, and Ni’lin a village that located near Ramallah in Palestine. I will also discuss if there are similarities or differences between those two walls concerning those questions which can let me make the suitable comparison between those main walls.

**Background**

My interesting to write this essay about the Israeli and Berlin walls and making that comparison between the effects of these walls on Ni’lin and Leipzig through human rights perspective lies behind my study of Colonialism and the Post-Colonialism in the book of ‘The
Colonial Present’ which is written by Derek Gregory. I read what Gregory had written about the Israeli wall, its reasons, its description and its effects on the Palestinian people. His illustrating of the wall’s facts, make me think to take this topic seriously and study it in comparison with the other important wall in the world which is Berlin wall.

**The main aim**

The main aim of this study is to compare the Israeli barrier in Palestine with Berlin wall. These two walls had many reasons in causing their building. The aim of this essay also is to highlight some facts of the reasons of building the Israeli barrier in Palestine and comparing these reasons with the reasons of building Berlin wall.

I will also focus on the effects of the Israeli wall on the Palestinian people in their daily life and compare these effects with the effects of Berlin wall on German people who lived under that period.

**Questions to answer**

1. What are the reasons behind the building of the Israeli wall?

2. Has the Israeli wall contributed in dividing people in Ni’lin of one group into groups, and what are the effects of this dividing?

3. Did the Israeli undermine people’s rights in Ni’lin? If yes, how?

4. What are the general and global reactions of building the Israeli wall?

5. How do the Palestinians in Ni’lin resist against the walls?

6. How similar or different are the reasons of building the Israeli wall with the reasons of building Berlin wall?

7. How similar or different are the effects of the Israeli wall on undermining people’s rights, dividing them in Ni’lin, with the effects of Berlin wall on Leipzig people?
**Demarcation**

In order to delimit this study, I will focus on the Human Rights side of the people who lived in two main geographical territories that are lying in the space of the two walls, especially in Palestine as the wall still exists. These two areas or territories are Leipzig in the East side of Germany, and Ni’lin that lies in the middle of the West Bank, near Ramallah. I will research if the walls undermine human rights or not. I will focus also on Palestinian’s way of living and on people who are living under certain conditions of political life in surrounding the wall.

**Methods**

In order to explain and discussed these issues and facts concerning these two walls, it demands to collect information for the two walls, information also about the people who lived and still living under walls atmosphere, and also some rules and facts concerning human rights in how people can live their lives without blocks.

This information I took it from books which are literatures of ‘Human Geography C’ course, and some other books which I read almost of them before and found direct relation information that making my research rich, these books are; The geography of the war and peace: From Death Camps to Diplomat, The Colonial Present, Interventions, Kulturgeografi, en ämnesteoretisk introduction, and A generation divided: German children and the Berlin wall, and Yearbook of the International Humanitarian law.

I searched the internet with Google seek bar for some internet references (reports, articles, and formal documents) to have some real information from them to find more specific items and articles in order to help me to answer the questions, and I chose the formal sites to make may essay be more convenience.

In this essay I made some interviews, I collected live information of the Israeli wall and the Palestinian people who are living beside the wall through these interviews, these interviews are not the basic information to the essay, but they are some examples to the real life of the Palestinians who are living beside the wall. The study will begin with explanation for the two walls, their reasons of building and then their effects on the people.
Theoretical framework

Colonialism and Past-Colonialism

This assignment will deal with the political geography approach, the framework that has dominated in this side is known as the theory of Colonialism and Post-colonialism. Since the last decades of the 20th century, Andreas Huyssen suggested that the ‘present future to present pasts’ became the post-colonialism, which is a whole commitment to a future that is free from colonial power, and the growth in the disposition is part of the criticism of continuity between the colonial past and present colonial rule. But they almost denied the capacities that belong to the colonial past are confirmed and activated again in the colonial present. And this is appearing in many histories of the colonialism, but post-colonialism came to distinguish from these projects or histories by the tight relation between culture and power. ¹

En argument concerning the Theoretical framework of this essay:

‘The imaginative geography that dominated Israeli policy dispensed with their dualism altogether. Instead, it resurrected the opposition between ‘civilization’ and ‘barbarism’ that had been a foundational weapon of Zionism and which the White House had also deployed in its ‘war on terrorism.’ Palestinians were represented as denizens of barbarian space lying beyond the pale of civilization. When Barak had described Israel as ‘a villa in the middle of the jungle’ and as ‘a vanguard of culture against barbarism’, he was not only degrading and brutalizing Palestinian culture and civil society: he was also rendering its spaces inchoate, outside the space of Reason. .... It will be recalled that, for Agamben, homo sacer is constituted through the production and performance of the space of the exception, but in Palestine this process assumes an ever more physical form. On one side, a strategy of consolidation and containment continues to bind Israel to its illegal settlements and to separate both from the reminder of the occupied territories; on the other side, a strategy of cantonization institutionalizes the siege of Palestinian towns and villages.’ ²

People and Place

I would like to connect this essay also with the relations between people and places as this essay explain how the Israeli wall respective Berlin wall helped in the process of separation between people themselves and between people and places they like and lived in or worked in.

¹ Derek Gregory. 2004. P. 7,8
² Derek Gregory. 2004. P 121, 122
Using the concept of place is that it was relevant to what has been the man’s identity to do. Places were an integral part of what it means to be human, and coordinate humanitarian thought that people build their identities by those who live in places where the sense of development. Places restructuring of everyday life, so-called phenomenology the physical world. Most of our daily routine takes place in specific locations and through the movement of clergy from Lens and between different sites on which we base our daily lives.³

People’s have emotional ties to both places as individuals and groups. As individuals, we have emotional relationships in the house we grew up in, or to other locations with more or less collective emotions. This was the coordinates of humanistic concern in the modern society, with the construction of placement. In a step to preserve the authenticity and unique places in the province is not far away. Places criticism intrigued and became part of the legacy of socially created a ‘cultural heritage’.⁴

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³ Martin Gren, Per-Olof Hallin. 2003. P. 143
⁴ Martin Gren, Per-Olof Hallin. 2003. P.145
• Palestine through History and Human Geography

In order to put the light on the roots that aimed to build the Israeli wall in Palestine, I want to introduce the Israeli – Palestinian conflict from both sides; historically and through the Human Geography. This will continue two points; first, a brief history for the Israeli – Palestinian conflict from 1948, and second an introduction to this conflict through Human geography perspective were I will explain this conflict through Post-colonialism and Orientalism concepts.

A brief history of the Israeli – Palestinian conflict

In the military campaign where Israel is against Palestine, after al-Nakba in 1948, the Palestinians who transferred from their lands by the Israeli army and the Zionist gangs lived in refugee camps in Gaza, West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and Syria. A ‘Green Line’ was established around Gaza which became administered by Egypt and West Bank and East Jerusalem were administered by Jordan. Those transferred Palestinians became ‘redundant shadows exiled from space and time’ so the Zionism’s colonial project of establishing ‘Israel’ is a postcolonial state. Israel nowadays held 78% of the territory that was mandated of Palestine and 95% of the arable land which was classified as ‘good’. Even after this dividing, Israel continued to transfer land ownership to delete the Arab presence in the landscape in order to establish its sovereignty and patrimony. Israel tried to establish a Jewish identity, with Arabic element, and this requires physical erasures, displacement, demolition and seizures of the Palestinians and a great extended grid of Jewish settlements. Between 1948 and 1950, Israel erased 400 Palestinian villages and built instead of them and above their aches 160 Jewish settlements. This was known by the imaginative geography as a design to make it be impossible in the virtual case for Palestinian refugees to return.  

\[\text{5 Derek Gregory. 2004. P. 86-88}\]
On 6/5, 1967, Israel made strikes against Egypt and Syria, Jordan and Palestine. Six days of war Israel took after it the rest of the West Bank and Gaza, Sinai and Golan heights, so by that Israel controlled 100% of the area of Mandatory Palestine. But according to Israel it supposed that West Bank and Gaza where not parts of Egypt and Jordan’s territories, so it just put them under its ‘administration’, and according to this Israel did not considered as an occupation military, so this did not allow it to be a victim in the according to Geneva Conventions, so Palestine became to know as an ‘administered territories’. West Bank was named by ‘Judea and Samaria’ this constituted for Jews the heart of Israel, after that these territories were defined once again as non-occupied or administered territories, but they are ‘liberated’, and because of the new definition this means that all the people who fight for their freedom would consider automatically as ‘terrorists’.  

As a result of those ‘liberated’ areas, a Palestinian organization was established to defending about the Palestinian liberation which called ‘PLO’ Palestinian Liberation Organization, as the only and legitimate representative for Palestinians. So peace conversations were to be held by the Palestinians (PLO) and Israel in 1990 in Oslo, the results of these conversations was to divide the occupied territories to A, B and C areas, in a geographical distinguish in how topologically who have the political and military power on these areas.

10 years after these conversations, there were other peace conversations in Camp David which were held because Israel argued that the matters to be resolved were just the origins in 1967, but the Palestinians see that the roots of the problem were from al-Nakba in 1948, and what followed it from transferring humans and landscapes, as those central results were started points for many of Palestinians suffering in their 60 years life.

Sharon used the attacks on USA to get in the endgame against them, as Palestinians see. Sharon thought that what happened in USA will hide Israel’s doings on Palestine. Sharon

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6 Derek Gregory. 2004. P, 89-93
7 Derek Gregory. 2004. P 96
8 Derek Gregory. 2004. P 102
made resemblance between the attacks that happened against USA and the ‘terror’ against Israeli citizens.9

Israeli’s offensive operations made the Palestinians to be seen as enemy, aliens and putting them outside the modern, so they were constructed as ‘hominis sacri’ in withdrawing the international law’s rights and protections. 10

**Post-colonialism and Orientalism**

Edward Said warns about that separation between culture and power which shared in making the separation between the past and present, which considered as a political view that is assumed to be complete. Post-colonialism is not tardy to chambers of political, economic and military power, its interest in culture appear through many questions as ‘Who assumes the power to represent others as other, and on what basis’. Post-colonialism has a foundation interest in colonialism, it is revisits the colonial past to recycle the dead weight of colonialism. Post-colonialism acts as opposition also as it reveal the exploitation of colonialism. 11

There is an idea that Profs. Edward Said introduced in the critical discussion of Orientalism, which is the ‘Imaginative Geographies’, which is constructions that creases distance into difference by many spaces of such as ‘ours’ which calibrating the gap between ‘the same’ and ‘the other’, and there is unknown space behind ‘ours’ which is ‘their’, which could be defined as an inverse for ‘our’ space. 12

Said discussed the ways that European and American imaginative geographies of ‘the Orient’ produced a well structured archive, where things are not seen as completely novel or familiar. He viewed also the importance of Orientalism as it is abroad again, and ‘it produces the effect

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9 Derek Gregory. 2004. P 107, 108
10 Derek Gregory. 2004. P 121
11 Derek Gregory. 2004. P 8,9
that it names’. Said’s critical of Orientalism was that Orientalism is seen as cultural repertoire. Said suggested that imaginative geographies are accumulation of time and histories, and are also performances of space. Said see that space is not a background matter and not an effect of practices of valorization and representation and it is a ‘doing’ that it is fabricated with these practices, but Soja see that space is ‘a superficial materiality’. And as a space could be created by the performances, this makes it possible for ‘newness’ to enter and share the world. 13

There are many cases that are produced by the performance of imaginative geographies such as America and Afghanistan, Israel and Palestine after the attacks of 9/11, in the way that USA must took advantage of these or same attacks and mobilize them to worth another war on Iraq in 2003. According to these cases were a colonial production of imaginative geographies which was linked to a single question ‘Who hates America?’ 14

Said is famous by his ideas of Orientation, he wrote his book ‘Orientalism’, his view that the East of intellectuals in the West has become a repository of prejudices sentences, a picture with a real area, has received tremendous impact. And when Said discussed the Palestinian’s destiny, as not a propagandist who speaks without a cleft, he see in their suffering and loss as there is a paradigm of exile and unbearable unsuccessful trauma. He saw also that USA completed the war against the Arab countries, as it is the primary support of Israel, which the Palestinians see that it had destroyed the community and the world where he born. (Said-SvD 2006:2)

- A brief history of Berlin in the period before the division
The period that came before the division was the period of the Third Reich, Hitler rapidly transformed the Weimar Republic into a dictatorship. Socialists and outside the national "revolution" in a few months, used a group of legal procedures, and persuasion them with terror works. Because the parties of the government did not have a strong majority in the
Parliament, Hindenburg called for early elections of the parliament in March 5, 1933. One week before the Election Day, the Reichstag house was burned. The Nazis blamed the communists for this work. On February 28 the President decided to give the Nazis the right to suspend the political opposition. Agreed under the decree, SA arrested or intimidated Socialists and Communists.  

After the success of Hitler’s party in the Parliament elections, Hitler used to implement the favorable reaction Gleichschaltung (synchronization), which is the policy of subjecting all institutions and organizations to the control of the Nazi. Civil service, judiciary got rid of "non-Aryans" (Jews). The government was reorganized and worked with the Nazis. Trade unions were replaced with Nazi organizations. Germany churches were pressured by the Nazis. Resisted integration into the system and maintain a high degree of autonomy. This situation was tolerated by the system, provided that the churches do not interfere with their efforts to control people’s life. When the churches were angry by the Nazi practices, so they protested. System responded too many concealing such as medical plans. Otherwise, except for some courageous individual pastors, churches, and rarely spoke against the regime. Large system of victims - Jews, socialists, communists, and labor writers and leaders - mainly not in the vicinity of churches, and persecution took place in silence. 

The system that was made desired integration. Many Germans agreed on it, some without opportunism, and some because they like some procedures of full employment has not been achieved rapidly, he also brought social orders, which many Germans waited after fifteen years of political chaos and economic development. Many have won over by Hitler's successful diplomatic, which began after his arrival to power and continued by 1930s, which seems to be Germany to restore what it sees as their good and right place in the international community.
A brief history of Berlin in the period of the division and the relation of the Post-colonialism with this division

On May 8, 1945, and the surrender of the German army (Wehrmacht) let it signed the ending the World War II in Germany by Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel in Berlin. German people suddenly faced a situation unprecedented in history: All of Germany occupied by foreign armies, cities, landscapes and infrastructure have been reduced largely in ruins, the country was filled with huge numbers of refugees from the east, and huge segments of the population suffered from hunger and the loss of their homes. The nation-state that was founded by Bismarck in 1871 was damaged. 18

In 1946, the USA and Britain assured that the Soviet expansion must be limited. The Soviet attack on Polish areas, drawing the border on the Oder River - Nesi (which gave formerly German territory to Poland), and the work of the anti-democratic in other countries occupied by Soviet troops, and its policy towards areas such as Greece and Turkey to convince Western leaders that the Soviet Union was looking forward to the communist domination in Europe. Winston Churchill had been using the term "Iron Curtain" to describe the siege of the Soviet sphere of influence in Europe has shown the existence of a fundamental change in attitude about the intentions of the Soviet Western leaders. This change made Germany became to be seen more as a proper ally than a defeated enemy. 19

USA decided to give the administrative functions from the current military government to one of the German civil administration. The United States had defeated the Nazi dictatorship to become Germans free, self-government and ensure the prosperity to the people (this had USA published it in a speech in Stuttgart in Sep. 1946 by James F. Byrnes). The Soviet Union and France did not want to make revitalization in Germany, but after many talks, a common economic area (the Bizone), that is composed of American and British zones, were announced on January 1, 1947. The Bizone proved a success, and the 40 million people began to make

18 Postwar Occupation and Division: German History
19 The Creation of the Bizone: German History
benefits from the improving economy. In 1949, the French occupation zone joins the Bizone, and became Trizone. 20

In the middle of 1947, the European Recovery Program or Marshall Plan was created. The purpose of this plan is to stimulate the economies in Europe through the injection of big loans in order to promote trade between Europe and USA. United States suggested that Europe's economy must be united and the Europeans should play an active role in the management of the program. The Soviet Union thought that the proposal is a mean to let them be away from reaping the fruits of success over fascism. There was a feeling that this proposal is a direct a bad behavior towards the communist ideology by "American economic imperialism," the Soviet Union refused to be part of this program, as well as Eastern Europe, it is clear that acting on the orders of the Soviet. 21

The fail in the Soviet attempt to starve the Western Allies from Berlin, lifted the siege imposed on May 12, 1949. The allies that led by the United States, had stayed without any beginning of armed conflict. Although the siege had stopped, but its effects on composed. Before June 16, 1948, the Soviet Union knew that it will not achieve the goal of socialist in Germany; so it withdrew from the ACC, which led the Allies to create a separate department within their industrial respective. In 1948, two administrations were found, and Berlin was divided. The influence may be more important in the eyes of the West; Berlin was seen as a symbol of freedom and the country that fight to preserve the values of Western civilization. 22

Fences or walls are pictures of the alienation and neo-colonialism, a prominent role in Post-colonialism. China Wall, Berlin Wall, Hadrian's Wall, and the Wall that built in the West Bank in Palestine, are all examples of border controls exercised by the Western countries. Sometimes refuges found in containers of goods or equipment which is transported in aircraft vulnerable. On the contrary of this, people who live in the West have little harsh realities. 23
Analysis/ Comparison

In this part of the essay I would like to discuss and try to answer the questions at issue that I had put them in the beginning of this essay. I will divide this part into two points; the first one is about the Israeli wall in Ni’lin and the other one is the comparison between Israeli wall in Ni’lin with Berlin wall in Leipzig.

• The Israeli wall in Ni’lin

In this part I will try to answer some questions concerning the Israeli separation wall in Ni’lin, but in the first I would like to give a simple explanation and summary about Ni’lin village in the West Bank of Palestine.

Ni’lin is a village that lies in the West Bank; it is 26 KM to the west of Ramallah. It is considered as a center to seven other villages; Shoqba, Qibya, Dir Qades, Shebteen Budrus, Kharbatha, Bani Hareth and Al Midia. And it is the center of all these villages; it is served the education, health, economic and public services the neighboring villages. It had a medical clinic and some factories which produce soft drinks and some other products.  

What are the reasons behind the building of the Israeli wall?

This figure shows the concrete wall with its watchtowers

The system of the Israeli wall constructed to control a whole population, which contains 4-5 meter deep trenches on the both sides of a concrete wall or through a coiled wire that connected to electricity, and trails for the registration of fingerprints, two lines of patrol road military, and watchtowers to keep security. It is as a high level security prison for trapping all people.  

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24 Palestinian Grassroots Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign, Ni’lin a struggle for existence.

25 Maps and Photos of Israel’s Wall in the West Bank

26 Israel building its Own Berlin Wall
In June 2002 Sharon announced the construction of a much more formidable barrier network. For most of its length this will be an electronic fence but in places it will solidify into a concrete or steel wall 8 meters high: Jabotinsky’s ‘iron wall’ materialized, malevolent. The line will be flanked by a 50-100m security zone, edged with concertina wire, trenches, and patrol roads, and monitored by watchtowers, floodlights, electronic sensors, and surveillance cameras. Barak wanted the fence to run along the Green Line, which is 360 km long, but under Sharon the barrier will be 1000 km long.  

The reasons of building the Israeli wall in West Bank in Palestine are many as the Israeli government explained. Daniel Ayalon, Israel’s ambassador to the United States explained the purpose of building this wall (or the Israeli defence fence- as what Israel call it) in the West Bank and the nature of its construction. Israel announced that the reason for building the wall is to prevent Israel from the suicide attacks. But in fact, The Israeli wall is planned to help Israel to confiscate Palestinian land, to make Palestinians life unbearable, that this will make them emigrate. When Israel decided to make this wall, it was run far to the east side of the famous Green Line as it twists. Uri Avnery remarks, ‘it twists like a snake according to a single principle: most of the [illegal Israeli] settlements must remain on the western side of the wall’.

This figure shows how the Israeli wall twists in its way around the west bank and beside the Green Line in some places, as it is going inside the Palestinian territories around some illegal settlements.

Because Israel represented the Palestinians as terrorists and barbarians, Israel decided to build this barrier, and because the USA fights the terrorists and terrors through its process ‘war on terror’, it decided also to stand besides Israel in building this wall. Israel in this decision degrades the Palestinian culture and civil society and destroys the Palestinian space, and

27 Derek Gregory. 2004. P 122
28 Israel building its Own Berlin Wall
29 Derek Gregory. 2004. P 122
30 Maps and Photos of Israel’s Wall in the West Bank
placing out of modernity physically and figuratively. Those Palestinians became homines sacri.\(^{31}\)

The wall completion is expected to be at least 403 miles long, and it is 25 feet high, it will be at least twice as high as Berlin Wall. In its completion, Israel is estimated to cost $1.5 billion.\(^{32}\)

![Sharon Land-Grab Wall, which annexes parts of the West Bank to Israel, in Ni’lin\(^{32}\)](image)

**How the Israeli wall contributed in dividing people in Ni’lin of one group into groups, and what are the effects of this dividing?**

11,550 people in 16 villages are stuck between the wall and Israel, and some of the social services that were cut from these villages as schools, hospitals and markets, are closed to major around cities. To stay in homes, are now required to obtain permission from Israel for those Palestinians who are live in these villages.\(^{34}\)

The inhabitants of Ni’lin were about 2,500 in 1948, and after 60 years are became 5,000 inhabitants. The growth of population must be five times more than this number, but according to the effects of the Israeli occupation and building the wall that forced people to

\(^{31}\) Derek Gregory. 2004. P. 121

\(^{32}\) Israel building its Own Berlin Wall

\(^{33}\) Maps and Photos of Israel’s Wall in the West Bank

\(^{34}\) Israel building its Own Berlin Wall
leave the village searching for good life. A new tunnel had been built at the entrance of Ni’lin about 150 dunums of Ni’lin are confiscated because of this.  

5,000 inhabitants in Ni’lin will be controlled by this tunnel and will be cut off from their links with other villages and cities. This tunnel are built on the good agricultural lands in the village, hundreds of olive trees are destroyed. The tunnel which is supporting the wall divides the village into two parts; on one side 1,000 inhabitants living in this part who are isolated from the other part, this means that those people who live in one of these two parts are cut off from health, education and other services in the other part, a gate are connecting these two parts but opening this gate depends on the Israeli soldiers. This separation leads also to a severe destruction in the village’s economy and to isolate farmers from their agricultural lands. 

Did the Israeli undermine people’s rights in Ni’lin? If yes, how?

When thinking about the consequences of the wall inside the network of bypass roads that are built to serve the Israeli settlers only, and access roads to restrict access to Palestinian cities or villages to one or two ways in which the gates are locked at night. There are more than 480 roadblocks and Israeli checkpoints; the West Bank has been divided into cantons divided into impoverished ghettos. The Israel's control system allows for the Palestinians barely survive. More than 70% of the Palestinian people living at or below the poverty line and Israel is not only taking steps to prevent the emergence of a viable Palestinian, but also forced starvation of Palestinians in the cage ever shrinking distances, which was the big reason for migration.

In 1948, Ni’lin had 58,000 dunums of land from Ramla till Lod which are now inside the Green Line, after 1948 war, 40,000 dunums from Ni’lin Lands were taken by Israel when it was newly created. In 1967, Kiryat Sefer, Mettetyaho and Mekabbem settlements were build

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36 Palestinian Grassroots Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign, Ni’lin a struggle for existence
37 Palestinian Grassroots Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign, Ni’lin a struggle for existence
37 Israel building its Own Berlin Wall, a column written by Ida Audeh in November 28, 2003
on Ni’lin lands and new roads were created to reach settlements Nili and Na’le, so 8,000 dunum of Ni’lin’s land were eaten for those settlements. 38

Building up the Israeli wall and a military base on the land of Ni’lin took about 2500 dunums of its land. 200 dunums from Ni’lin lands were lost for building a tunnel goes under the segregated settler road which will make Ni’lin a big prison as the only responsible power that have the right to open and shut the tunnel is just Israel. The total lands that are left to the Palestinians in Ni’lin are now just 2,300 dunums from the original 58,000 dunums of land in Ni’lin as agricultural and living land. 39

As the Israeli separation wall aimed to separate the Israeli settlements from the Palestinian villages and cities, and because of this they adopted a policy of land seizure to build the wall and the settlements apartheid roads. A huge rate of unemployment increased caused by the land seizure to construct the wall, siege and closures. 80% of Ni’lin’s people work as labour in Israeli factories and shops. It is very difficult for the Palestinians to have permits to work in Israel especially after the continuous closures. The rate of unemployment rate of approximately had been raised after building the wall to 60%, and after finishing the construction of the wall it will be harder for the Palestinians in Ni’lin to reach their agricultural lands and their works across the Green Line which lead people of Ni’lin to be without a source of income. Wastewater is another problem that people in Ni’lin are facing because of the settlements that are built in a protected area after the wall. 40

People’s private property was damaged, olive groves was destroyed to build the wall and the access roads led to environmental pollution, including pollution of sewage water, the wall shared in making separation from schools, social and medical services from nearby cities. 41

38 Palestinian Grassroots Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign, Ni’lin a struggle for existence
39 Palestinian Grassroots Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign, Ni’lin a struggle for existence
40 Palestinian Grassroots Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign, Ni’lin a struggle for existence
41 Israel building its Own Berlin Wall, a column written by Ida Audeh in November 28, 2003
I made four interviews with four persons in Ni’lin asking them three main questions; is the Israeli wall undermines their rights? If yes, how, are they sharing in Ni’lin’s weekly protests activities, and why?, and in their opinion, how could this wall be removed?.

Majid Suleiman, a 25 years male, said: that the wall made his dreams to be died as he was at the school when Israel decided to build the wall, he couldn’t participates BirZeit University as the wall surround his village from all sides, and the Israeli soldiers stop him from getting out from Ni’lin. He added that he shares in most of the weekly demonstration against the wall because it is the little thing to do to his village and people in Ni’lin. He believes that one day this wall will be removed and this could be by the demonstrations they do, because their voice must reach all the ears in the world.

The second person is a 59 female, Khadija. She said that this wall prevents her from seeing her daughters and relatives who are living in another villages, she had participated one time in the demonstration activities in Ni’lin because she do not feel well and she had diabetes. She thinks that this wall could not be removed because it is an occupation power and the Palestinians cannot force this power.

Nuha Hassan, 31 years old female think that the wall making her village as a big prison, her fiancé was died in one of the protest activities which held in the village, she said that she is going every Friday to these demonstrations against the wall because she want to do what her fiancé died for. She thinks that it is very difficult to remove this wall until the Israeli occupation will be removed from Palestine.

The Last person is a 46 years old male, Shukri Abdullah. He could not reach his agricultural land to gather his olives from trees, as well as the Israeli occupation took most of his land to build the wall on, he participate most of the demonstration activities in Ni’lin, he went many times to the hospital when the Israeli soldiers shoot on them some gas bombs. He thinks that it is a dream if this wall could be removed, but he see this dream is very far, he said that this huge wall is very difficult to be removed.
**What are the general and global reactions on building the Israeli wall?**

In December 8, 2003 and General Assembly of the UN adopted and discussed the (A/RES/ES-10/14) resolution, that demanded from the International Court of Justice in an emergency way to provide an advisory vision on legal consequences that resulting the construction of the wall which is built by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory areas, including the areas around East Jerusalem, and to consider the rules of international law. This demand was send to the Court by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in a letter wrote December 8, 2003, and was carried out on July 9 2004. 42

On 9 July at the International Court of Justice made its advisory opinion on the building of the wall, and explained that it declares the wall and its associated regime break the International Human Rights and Laws and the right to self-determination. Israel has an obligation to stop building the wall, destruction the structure and make compensation for all damage that could be caused by building the wall. In July, 20, the tenth emergency special meeting the A/ES-10/15 resolution was adopted by 150 votes in favor, 6 against and 10 abstentions, calling for Israel to fulfill their statutory obligation that is set out in the advised opinion. Mr. Nasser Al-Kidwa explained that the public opinion was the most important developments in the UN regime. And this resolution if adopted could be the most important resolution in the region history. The Islamic Conference of Foreign Minister also refused continuing construction of the wall and called for a final solution to make Israel stop it. Israel refused this opinion and continued building the wall. 43

The Neturei Karta International demonstrated also against the wall- Neturei Karta is a Jewish international organization. They demonstrated beside the Muslims on November 13, 2004 in Paris France. They said that as they are Jews and know the Torah well, they forbidden the Jewish State, as State of Jewish resemble just the Zionism and not the Jews.

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42 Case before the International Court of Justice

43 Developments since World Court opinion on Israeli wall "less than promising"
They expressed also how Palestinians suffer from the Israeli wall and the deduction of their humanities, spaces and culture through building this wall. 44

South Africa demanded from the World Court also to take a position against the Israeli wall in Palestine. Israel is afraid from an international action against it which could inspire the work of the General Assembly of the United Nations; the pro-Palestinian sentiment is strong to impose international sanctions against Israel and its wall. The African National Congress was felt sympathy, and supported the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) during decades against the Israeli occupation and Israeli wall in Palestine. USA and many European countries have criticized the wall, but they stood away and appear as viewers from the court, said that the issue could threaten the peace and peace-process. 45

The International Red Cross admitted that the construction of the Israeli wall in the West Bank is a "contrary" to international law. The ICRC’s comments came a few days before the decision of the Court of Justice in The Hague on the legality of the wall. It said that if the wall goes through the occupied territories, thousands of Palestinians will be without sources of water, health and education; it damaged the Palestinian land and property. These problems affecting the Palestinian people in their lives demonstrate on the wall against the Israel’s obligation under international humanitarian law to guarantee a good human treatment and welfare of the civilian population who are living under occupation. 46

How do the Palestinians in Ni’lin resist against the walls?
Ni’lin became the centre of daily struggle against the occupation and the Israeli wall, many protests and resistance were happened between the villagers of Ni’lin and the Israeli soldiers

44 INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID WALL DEMONSTRATION
45 SA asks UN court to condemn Israeli barrier, 2004
46 BBC News, Middle East, Red Cross slams Israel barrier, 2004
are because of the Israeli bulldozers are cutting lands to build and construct the wall. The Local Popular Committee to Resist the Apartheid Wall has mobilized all the inhabitants of nearby villages, the international activists, and a number of actions against the continued construction of the wall. Weekly on Friday protests and other activities during the week slowed down the building and bought a lot of attention to the local communities resist against the wall. Actions against the building of the wall have been met with violence. Dozens of people were injured and arrested by the occupying forces. A number of bulldozers uprooted olive trees, while others have been burned by the tear gas. Unjust occupation that failed to break the determination in Ni’lin and the strength of local solidarity between Ni’lin and surrounding villages continued to grow. 

47 Palestinian Grassroots Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign, Ni’lin a struggle for existence.
The comparison between Israeli wall in Ni’lin with Berlin wall in Leipzig

In this part I would like to make a comparison between the Israeli wall in Ni’lin with Berlin wall in Leipzig through many sides concerning human rights. First I will discuss the similar or different are the reasons of building these two walls, and then I will discuss how similar or different are the effects of the two walls on undermining people’s rights, in Ni’lin and Leipzig. After that I will discuss also if there is any hope or signs to remove the Israeli wall in West Bank in comparison with what happened with Berlin wall.

How similar or different are the reasons of building the Israeli wall with the reasons of building Berlin wall?

I had discussed in a previous part of this essay the reasons of building the Israeli wall, and I will now discussed in a brief way the reasons of building Berlin wall and then the similarities or differences between the reasons of building those two walls will be clear.

Building up Berlin wall began on August, 13 1961 by German Democratic Republic (GDR), and this was because they want to stop the East Berliners running from the East Berlin which was governed by the Soviets to the West Berlin and the city- which was governed by the Americans, French and British. Berlin is unique in its kind which the half of the city was controlled by the Western powers in the region of the Soviet occupation of Germany, making it an attraction point of tensions between the West and the Soviets. There were ideologies that imposed a place next to each other at that time in Germany. But the controlled Germans in the Soviet Union side with the illusions of communism and the increasingly oppressive economic and political conditions began to travel to the West. In 1961, about 1,500 people a day escaped to the West, and damaged all credibility and the labor force in the Democratic Republic of Germany. Then the wall began to be built between the East and West sides of Germany. 48

48 Berlin Wall
The "wall", which was built in 1961, was not an ordinary wall but it was about 96 miles of barbed wire barrier. After this an incarnation to scale it in an easy way began in 1962 at the second fence, side by side to the first, and up to 100 meters and increased a space between the fences to create an empty space, which has been known as the "corridor of death" or "death strip" many prospective escapers met their fate.

The strip did not cover, planted mines, traps and trip wires, it offered a clear case of fire to armed guards who were instructed to shoot Objectives of sight. Then a concrete wall was built in 1965.\textsuperscript{49}

\textit{This figure shows the beginning of building Berlin wall in 1961} \textsuperscript{50}

\textit{It was the final and most sophisticated version of the Wall. It was made from 45,000 separate sections of reinforced concrete, each 3.6 m high and 1.5 m wide, and topped with a smooth pipe, intended to make it more difficult for escapers to scale it. The Grenzmauer was reinforced by mesh fencing, signal fencing, anti-vehicle trenches, barbed wire, over 300 watchtowers, and thirty bunkers... Just to be on the safe side!} \textsuperscript{51}

The third generation of Wall started in 1965 consists of blocks of concrete between the steel beams and concrete with functions sewage pipe at the top of the wall. From 1975 onwards, the third generation of the wall was replaced the fourth generation. Segments new concrete used which was easy to build and was more able to resist penetration.\textsuperscript{52}

\textsuperscript{49} Berlin Wall

\textsuperscript{50} Photo Gallery: Building The Berlin Wall, 2009

\textsuperscript{51} Berlin Wall

\textsuperscript{52} Facts of Berlin Wall, Berlin Wall History
The system of Berlin Wall

**The system of the Berlin Wall at the end of the 70s**

From right to left:

1. East Berlin
2. Border area
3. Backland Wall
4. Signal fence
5. Different kind of barriers
6. Watch towers
7. Lighting system
8. Column track
9. Control track
10. Anti-vehicle trenches
11. Last Wall, known as the "Wall"
12. Border
13. West Berlin

For those who cannot or do not want to escape from the East, life was bleak, and it just continued to deteriorate throughout the 70s and 80s, communism and the Soviet Union began to fail. Honecker in East Germany firmly stuck their guns, work in support for these regimes.

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53 The system of Berlin Wall- History of Berlin Wall
but when Hungary borders became opened in 1989, and people of East Germany took way to the west, the students protested in Leipzig pressuring on the government to lower borders.  

By all these facts, one can see clear similarity for building up the Israeli wall Palestine and Berlin wall. The two walls were built as a result to the colonialism that occurred by the occupation and West control on Palestine and Germany. The design and construction of the two walls—as I see- are very similar to each other with some little differences to the height and materials.

**How similar or different are the effects of the Israeli wall on undermining people’s rights, dividing them in Ni’lin, with the effects of Berlin wall on Leipzig people?**

Berlin Wall stopped all of migration. And all the illegal migrations were through a tunnel, people treated brutalized and about 200 people were shot over the wall. The Democratic Republic of Germany was officially called the wall "anti-fascist protection wall" but in West Berlin, they called it the "wall of shame". The Ambassador of the Soviet Union to East Germany had explained in 1956 that: ‘The presence in Berlin of an open and essentially uncontrolled border between the socialist and capitalist worlds unwittingly prompts the population to make a comparison between both parts of the city, which unfortunately does not always turn out in favor of the(German) Democratic Berlin.”  This explained and showed the two different levels that the people in the two parts of Berlin lived in which encourage many people to migrate to the other side.

Similar to what happen in Ni’ilin, in how its people protest against the wall every week, Leipzig’s people also protested against Berlin wall. People of Leipzig explained to the world what can be achieved when people believe in their strength as what Koehler said. About 70,000 of East German citizens challenged the communist regime, calling for freedom. A protest moving was held in Leipzig of weeks of massive protests in all parts of East Germany. Few days before this, people were protested in the streets in Dresden and Plauen against the

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54 Berlin Wall

leadership of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). In 1989, the church Nikolai in Leipzig arranged meetings to pray for justice in every Monday. These "Monday demonstrations" occurred during the three months, and was visited by political opponents, potential migrants and East Germans. The protests in Leipzig were triggered by a special sense of denying the economic and social declining of the East German state.  

The protests increased in this period of time, and the GDR regime went to its end. "It showed that the dictatorship was at its end. And that whatever happened something was now going to change...October 9 was the precursor and reason for the fall of the Berlin Wall."  

120,000 protests came for the next round of demonstrations in Leipzig. Once again the authorities did not intervene. Soon there were protesters in the streets of Berlin also. In 1989, 9 November, and after the first major protest in Leipzig, Berlin Wall was destroyed. Eckert said that ‘the peaceful revolution in Leipzig had achieved the ideals of democracy’

The Iron Curtain and break the wall seems near. On November 9, 1989, Gunter Schabowski, Minister of Propaganda, said during the news conference announcing that the border will be open for "private trip abroad", the German people were collected in the thousands on checkpoints, asking to pass to the other side.  

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56 Germany recalls rallies that helped bring down Berlin Wall, 2009
57 Germany recalls rallies that helped bring down Berlin Wall, 2009
58 Germany recalls rallies that helped bring down Berlin Wall, 2009
59 Berlin Wall
Discussion

According to what I came to conclusion, that the reasons that led to the construction of the two walls have differences and similarities. Berlin Wall was built, because the two different political parties cannot cooperate together, so that both of their economic, structural and political ideologies collided with each other. The Israeli wall case was initially in the first place to protect itself from the Palestinian suicide bombers as what Israel calling for. The similarities between the two walls are checkpoints that in both cases cannot allow getting any other way to "protect" themselves from any threat from the other side. Colonialism was the cause of building the Berlin Wall and the Israeli Apartheid wall.

Life beside the two walls cannot be compared directly; we can see it partly because the walls had different objectives, different cultures, and different times. The diversity in Berlin was two political ideologies existed. Peoples did not live on both sides under same social welfare system for the general public. ‘Berlin emerged in the twelfth century as a "double town," divided by geography rather than ideology. To the east of the River Spree lay Berlin, a community of merchants, while to the west laid Cölln, a town of fishermen. From those origins grew a town of great political, economic, and cultural significance -- all of which can be attributed in good part to the city's location.’

Building up the Israeli wall demands degradation of the Palestinian lands, separation Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank, and dividing the West Bank to Cantons. This is considered as a declaring in Palestinian Human Rights, and the wall is considered illegal as it is expanded on the Palestinians private properties to prevent the Jewish settlements. Human Rights Watch reported that 80% of the wall is constructed on the West Bank land, and 20% of it built inside the Green-Line or on the Green-Line.

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60 Thomas Davey. 1987P. 14
61 Yearbook of the International Humanitarian Law- 2005, P.480
Building up the Israeli wall shares in making restrict closures against the Palestinians as it made it difficult for the Palestinian workers to get to their work places, these closures shared in wasting Palestinian agriculture, Palestinians became unable to carry out their livelihood. These closures costs the Palestinians about 6 million dollars per day. The Palestinian territories continued to be destroyed by the deforestation and erosion of the agricultural lands through seizing their lands.

In Ni’lin weekly protests movements, many Palestinians sharing these protests in addition to many activists from International organizations and Israeli peace activists who believe that this wall undermines the Palestinians rights.

The International Court of Justice declared the Israeli wall in 2004, and reported that it is illegal. Concerning the relation between people and places, the United states Justice Buergenthal put a separate declaration which agrees with the F.G.C (Fourth Geneva Convention) that the Israeli wall share in transferring people from the occupied Palestine, and building up this wall to protect the settlements is (ipso facto) in violation of International Humanitarian law. This wall is built to protect the Israeli settlements on account of the Palestinian lands and people who expelled from the territories illegally.

It is a delicate task to treat my subject in a few pages; this work is of course lengthy, complex and difficult to penetrate, but it was such an interesting subject which one can find how much these two walls undermine people in the two spaces (Germany and Palestine).

Germans and many parts of the world celebrated the 20th anniversary of Berlin wall destruction where the two parts of Berlin became united again. And I am wondering, will

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62 Colin Flint. 2005P. 309
63 ISRAEL STILL DESTROYING OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, SECOND COMMITTEE DELEGATES SAY AT CONCLUSION OF DEBATE ON ARAB SOVEREIGNTY
64 Maan News Agency. Nil'in anti-wall protest damages wall, marchers pass into stolen land. 2009
65 Noam Chomsky. 2007. P. 33
people celebrate destruction of the Israeli wall one day where Palestine can be united again with its land and people who are willing to live together in an open atmosphere but not in a big prison?
Summary

First of all I thought deeply in a relation between Berlin wall and the Apartheid Israeli wall in Palestine. Then I came to conclusion that those two walls were built as a result of the colonialism. I put this as a theory and continued to build some questions which can give me answers concerning this theory.

In this essay I tried to focus on two main areas that were affected directly and mainly in Germany and Palestine, which are Ni’lin village and Leipzig city, as these two areas have the same features in protesting against the two walls.

I started this essay with a brief history for the Palestinian Israeli conflict, and the history of Germany before and through the period of the wall. I continued answering the questions at issue in analysis part to have the clear vision in the comparison between the two walls.

After answering the questions, I came into conclusion that those two walls are similar in undermining people’s rights, dividing them, seize their lands, destroy their economy and agriculture. The protests that occurred and still occurring in Leipzig and Berlin are similar to each other as people in these two areas believe that their stolen rights and lands could be back by these protests movements.
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