



THE

TECHNO-GANDHIAN NEWS

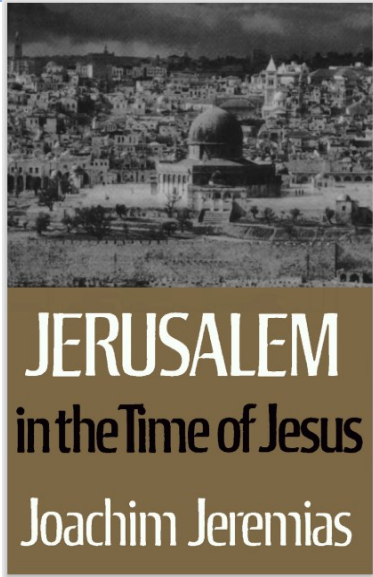
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Editor: Dr. Balamurali Balaji

News and information pertaining to the life and principles of Mahatma Gandhi, Gandhian Philosophy of Nonviolence and Peace, Technological Impact on Culture, Society, and Current Affairs of the world

The First Jewish War (AD 66-70) and the city of Jerusalem



Roughly around 2000 years ago, the Pharisaic Zealot leader John of Giscala took possession of Jerusalem in early November AD 67. It was the civilian war over claiming the supremacy of religious factions. The war marked the transition of one set of rules laid by primeval order to a new code of conduct set by the common citizens. The social factors played a large part in the Zealot movement which fought the war against Romans - Nepotism, occasional infringements, deviations from the high-priestly marriage laws, trading in the Temple area, perhaps occasionally insufficient training of the chief priests in scribal experience—all these could not fail to injure the reputation of the high-priestly office besides provoking the Pharisees for a new set of rules.

The Pharisaic movement was developed as an opposition to the Sadducean (Torah) as early as the 2nd century BC too. However the city of Jerusalem was destroyed in the rebellion that took place during AD 66-70, an all out revolt against the Roman rule, Rome-controlled high priests that followed Sadducean rules a.k.a. Torah. Whereas the Torah laid down rules of purity and rules on food for the officiating priests alone, the Pharisaic group made these rules a general practice in the everyday life of the priests and in the life of the whole people. In this way they meant to build up the holy community of Israel, the 'true Israel' (for this is the meaning of the word 'Pharisee'). The Sadducean group, on the other hand, was conservative and held that the priestly laws were limited to the priests and cultus as per scriptures.

Pharisees are the separate ones, i.e. the holy ones, the true community of Israel, mostly with no scribal education. They were members of religious associations but drawing a hard line between themselves and observing the rules laid down by Pharisaic scribes on tithes and purity.

During the war when the uprising against Rome began, the young nobles tried to take into their hands the people's destiny. But it was for a matter of months only, for by AD 67 the Zealots had taken command. The decline of Jerusalem marked the decline of the nobility and of the Sadducean influence. The new and powerful ruling class of the scribes had overtaken the ancient class of priestly and lay nobility, founded on the privileges of birth.

The liberators of the people burnt the Jerusalem archives in order to destroy the records of their debts which were stored there. People of all sorts emerged in protests before the destruction of Jerusalem; they formed themselves into gangs and terrorized the whole city. The Pharisaic Zealots soon altered the arrangements for electing the high priest, the public benefactors though partly law-loving and earnest. The scribe and priest Josephus, who, as a prisoner of war between AD 67 and 69, married, allegedly at Vespasian's command, a Jewish woman, also a prisoner of war. The iron and bronze industry seems to have converted itself into a war industry mainly during this Roman-Jewish war of AD 66-70. Zealots burnt the grain stores. High priests were left in starvation as no taxes were collected by their servants. Zealots arrested members of the royal family, nobles, and their heirs. Jerusalem saw its downfall in AD 70.

Jerusalem, a city of some 25,000 inhabitants in Jesus' time (AD 27) was rich in trade, importing raw materials from its neighbours viz, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Egypt etc...

Thought of the month

“Love and exclusive possession can never go together. Theoretically, when there is perfect love, there must be perfect non-possession. The body is our last possession. So, a man can only exercise perfect love and be completely dispossessed, if he is prepared to embrace death and renounce his body for the sake of human service.



But that is true in theory only. In actual life, we can hardly exercise perfect love, for the body, as a possession will always remain with us. Man will ever remain imperfect, and it will always be his part to try to be perfect.”

- M.K. Gandhi in *The Modern Review*, 1935, p. 412

Transmuting Americanization into Imperialism

Decades-long Americanization spear-headed by globalization and liberalized policies that supported the U.S. partnership and cooperation in the tech-military-commerce-economic front has been desolately turning into an unsolicited U.S. imperialism with no clear agenda or wishful intent as it had happened centuries ago with the British Empire.

During the 17th century, British colonialism spread progressively when Portugal's, French and the Spaniards explored the world through sea voyages discovering new lands and creating breakthrough inventions like electricity, mechanical and automobile devices, synthesized materials etc. During the same period, trade and commerce flourished amongst the continental countries that were previously governed by the Kings and Royals who bared their excellence in art and architecture combined with religious and mystical ideas.

The British were exceptionally successful in establishing colonies wherever they travelled and traded, bringing almost half the world under their centralized power sitting in Buckingham Palace and West Minster in London, England. The British colonial rule was marked by the sheer tactics and methodological democratization and governing principles, both protagonist and antagonist systems, reporting to the British Royal Supremacy and its forces. It was all a gradual absorption of power from centuries old monarchy scattered in various territories and bringing them under a centralized power until a large-scale civilian resistance took place. A true democracy with socialistic values succeeded later in many parts of the world.

By the time the new millennium of 21st century was born, America was already a super-power, a land of

In New Testament times Jerusalem was a royal city for only a short time, AD 41-44, under Agrippa I which was otherwise a holy city as per the Old Testament. Jerusalem was the religious centre for Egyptian Jews and the instigator of one of the numerous messianic movements centred on Jerusalem was an Egyptian. This man gathered around him a large following, four thousand Zealots (members of the fanatical revolutionary party). He hoped to show his followers, from the Mount of Olives, the collapse of the walls of Jerusalem and to make himself lord of the city after this messianic marvel.

Jerusalem was bound to be the objective of every messianic movement. Galilee was the main seat of anti-Roman feeling and messianic ideas. It is important to note that it was Galilee that gave birth to the Zealot party, which soon spread its wings across the whole nation. Judas' grand-son Menahem was one of the chief leaders in the rebellion against Rome in AD 66.

It seems that among the messianic pretenders there was at least one family claiming to be descendants of David of the Old Testament. Menahem, son of Judah, from Bethlehem (town of David), a Palestinian patriarch and rival of the Babylonian exilarch seized power in Jerusalem and claimed the title of king. With the outbreak of the revolt against Rome they succeeded in breaking into the administration of justice. The Sadducean penal code was abolished and that day was celebrated as a national day ●

Source: Extracted from the book "JERUSALEM in the Time of Jesus" by JOACHIM JEREMIAS.

Non-cooperation Movement

[Reminiscences from quarter century ago]

On August 1, 1920, in a letter to Lord Chelmsford, then Viceroy, Gandhi gave the signal for a non-co-operation campaign. Along with it, he returned the Kaiser-i-Hind gold medal that was awarded to him in 1915. In the columns of Young India Gandhi wrote in detail in defense of non-violent non-co-operation.

With other leaders, he travelled extensively, addressing huge meetings and preaching the essentials of Satyagraha. Everywhere the crowds welcomed him with great love and enthusiasm. Repeatedly, he warned the people against violence. He abhorred mass fury.



‘If India has to get her freedom by violence,’ he said, ‘let it be by the disciplined violence named war.’

At the end of August, the Gujarat Political Conference passed a non-cooperation resolution, and Gandhi had prepared the draft of the non-co-operation resolution. A special session of the Congress was held in Calcutta from September 4 to 9.

Gandhi advocated a triple boycott - an absolute boycott of the government and all government institutions, including schools, colleges, and courts. He advised people to non-co-operate with the government in every possible way. He advised them not to accept any honors and medals offered by Britain, and requested those who had already received them to return. He wanted people to start a movement to boycott goods. He took efforts to persuade Indians not to serve the government in any capacity. He called out students from the educational institutions.

Gandhi was not sure how much support he would get at the Congress session. When he moved the resolution, he said that he knew the resolution envisaged a policy,

opportunities and a new world symbolizing freedom, liberty and equality. Moreover, the same has been used as a mantra for influencing the rest of the world. The American style of living inspired younger generations all over the world. Music, art, entertainment, science and technology spearheaded the American way of living. Industries began to adopt the American style of management. Popularly called ‘western culture’ in Asian countries, the Americanization had a unique reputation that opened the youth and fortune-seekers flying towards the new world of opportunities. The Internet and social media enhanced people-people connections across the world furthering cross-culture relationships. Technology rules the world. America with its frontier technologies tops the world.

On the political side, America guaranteed all these fittings as a tool for liberation, individualism and self-enhancement. The coming of Mr Donald Trump as the President in 2016 and in 2024 had been a dramatic shift from super power to supreme power, making America gain unprecedented control and dominance over trade policies and political strategies with major partner countries. That shooed away all the allies to a receiving end. They face strong resistance and trade barriers besides doing a rework of all policies pertaining to immigration, terrorism and trade.

The advent of Trump regime has triggered a new wave of imperialistic thoughts for pro-American fraternity as they construe his interventions in the world affairs - Indo-Pak cross-border terrorism, Canadian relations, US military attack on Iran’s nuclear sites, firm decision on stopping further support to Ukraine’s war with Russia, stand on Israel’s attack on Gaza and much more.

Even though the campaign Make America Great Again (MAGA) was rooted on America-specific executive orders, it is not really, as always, the internal matters that decide the success of MAGA plan. The international issues outside America do play a critical role. Certain orders from the President have serious implications on the rest of the world. The cracking of illegal immigrants, birthright citizenship, tariff policies, and Big Beautiful Bill – have all not only shaken the world but gives a high-handedness, big brother’s control to America over other nations! It was all ‘terrific’ for some countries who lost hope to deal with America

Nevertheless, the craze for Americanization is not ending. People all over the world still love America. World is watching it keener than ever. Countries wait, ready to wait longer, to Americanize them in a way or the other. Job opportunities and importing of American thoughts and ideas continue to lure people for centuries, be it Hollywood movies, television shows or tech stuff. The American model of management has penetrated everywhere! Capitalism has a considerable chunk of share in socialist or communist run governments. America owned companies have worldwide branches. American millionaires, billionaires, sports stars, artists have a vast fandom outside America.

Having said all this, salient questions remain. Will this Americanization, combined with the US military power and politics, transform into a new centre of imperialist structure? Do these contribute to America establishing an empire? Is the ever-recurring cultural invasion finally turning into losing of sovereignty and autonomy of a state having a close relationship with the US?

Trump’s administration positioned itself as a dominant controller when it cut aid and raised the tariff rates specifically mentioning that those states deviating out of its schema would incur extra percentage of tariffs. Russia’s victory over the Ukraine region, BRICS nation’s proposal for a new currency other than the US dollar,

which was different from the policy hitherto followed. He knew that many leaders were dead against it.

‘But,’ he declared, ‘knowing this I stand before you in fear of God and with a sense of duty to put this before you for your acceptance.’

On December 26, the Congress session was held in Nagpur. Though there were signs of opposition to Gandhi’s policies, his resolution was passed with an overwhelming majority. ●

Source: The story of Gandhi by Rajkumari Shankar

Restoring statehood for Jammu and Kashmir

By Balamurali Balaji

With no specific deadline, the Supreme Court recommended the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir in December 2023. The BJP-led government at the centre is closely observing the developments in J&K and finding the right time for ending the current status of Union Territory to the Kashmir valley. It must be recalled that the same government revoked the special status granted under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution to J&K on 5th August 2019.

Is this the right time for restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir?

Ever since the abrogation of Article 370, J&K has been under special vigilance of the centre in terms of both development and welfare. The GOI at New Delhi has given a paradigm shift towards the concerns of the Kashmir valley by laying roads, reforming administration policies and building infrastructure amicable for free and peaceful mobilisation of goods and services in the valley. The newly elected government headed by Sh. Omar Abdullah in 2024 after the abrogation of Article 370 is also notably working in sync with the right-wing BJP led government at the centre with adequate flexibility and collaboration despite all the tough-approach shown to the regional leaders during the Martyrs’ day (July 13).

Martyrs’ Day is commemorated as the state holiday marking the tragic event that killed 22 muslims by the Dogra regime in 1931. Paying tributes at the cemetery of the martyrs is one affirmative gesture shown by leaders of all parties in Jammu and Kashmir, which unites the people of the valley as well. The BJP led government at the centre, which is also an opposition party in J&K has always shown resistance to this event since 2015.

The Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians in April this year is an important turning point that changed the perspective of Hindu-Muslim unity with respect to Islamic terrorism. Sooner or later, the Phagalgam attack site is also going to become a memorial point which deserves all the respect and homage. It is pathetic to learn that all the violent attacks are sponsored by Pakistan which warrants the internationalization of not only Pakistan Occupied Kashmi(PoK) but also cross-border terrorism across the Jammu and Kashmir valley.

By a swift and strong action taken by the Indian armed forces, Operation Sindhoor has sent a clear signal to Pakistan that



any part of India, including Jammu and Kashmir, has no place for terrorism. Peace is the only way to find peace. **The peace and harmony for the people of the state of Jammu and Kashmir is disturbed by two major intrusions viz.,cross-border terrorism and unwarranted internationalization of certain parts of the state.** Since the J&K valley is bordering with neighbouring Pakistan, cross border issues may crop up now and then. However, terror attacks are totally unacceptable. With a

resentment from the mid-east Arabian nations and Chinese advancement in the tech-front – all these might have forced the administration to take stricter policies toward the rest of the world. Had Trump or his administration really realized what it would mean to the global communities that equate Russian oligarchies with his commands of imperialism? All those calculated efforts in the foreign affairs would cease to gain momentum unless ‘His Majesty’ gave a nod!

Whether the global rivals keep distance from the US or they continue to work with America as before, this imperial attitude from Trump and his aides will surely have a greater chance to keep their control intact.

In his book “Culture and Imperialism”, Edward W Said shed light on the complex interplay between culture, power and imperialism. Imperial powers often use culture as a tool for domination while colonial legacies continue to shape power dynamics, identity formation and cultural representations in post-colonial societies. In today’s context, establishing a corporate infrastructure for the purpose of economic development has clearly influenced the cultural lives of people giving an edge to the capitalist leadership, which in turn reflects in power politics and democracy.

America’s expanding businesses reigning in as a monopoly in tech industries, expansion of outsourcing and franchising units for cheap labor and resources, intervention in decision-making by hijacking the subsidiaries, their geographical presence and market-reach which they deserved – all these create a sort of a new colonization and empire-building. Countries like India with a vast talent pool and a strong zeal to run like a workhorse might have already fallen as a targeted destination for a new order and establishment. ●

Price rise – Reasons revealed!

By Balamurali Balaji

Rising Prices- is the burning issue now. Much politicization and blame-games have been going on for more than a decade about price-rise. [Video Link](#)

The whole nation is crippled with ever increasing prices of fuel (petrol, diesel and cooking gas), vegetable oil and grains, and other essential commodities. People are literally crying to meet their needs within their income! But, there is no end for increase in prices and is causing a huge deficit in family budgets and persist as a burden for low-income families

Consumers face the problem in two folds: One, the price fixed by the manufacturer itself is rising gradually, i.e., the MRP printed on the item. Two, the sundry vendors and retailers who set prices variably as they like but it is under MRP.

The MRP of almost every commodity is being increased every month or quarter by 5% to 15% over the last few years. Items that come under grocery, cosmetics, garments and other essential things for day-to-day use of poor and middle-class people are priced heavily, gradually, periodically for no known valid reasons.

What is actually causing the rise in prices? It is believed that the rise in fuel prices directly affects the price of other commodities. Both the manufacturers and sellers justified the rise as the cost of distribution and transportation of goods and items depend on the fuel cost. If petrol diesel prices come down, the price of all items also will come down, we believe!

Fuel price is stable and in control for more than five years now. There is no way that the price of fuel is one of the factors that contributed to the 5% to 20% rise that occurred during the recent years.

slighter adjustment between India and Pakistan, pending issues could be resolved peacefully. Attacks by Islamic terrorism are also haunting the peace in the valley. A new strong security system alone could trap and neutralize such terrorism.

The India-Pakistan duel centering around Kashm has been internationalized more than ever these days. And it pulls in many other countries into dialogue, when it involves military operations. China, U.S., Turkey and other allies of Pakistan have no solution to bring peace to Kashmir; but, willing to offer aid and arms for state-backed militants in Pakistan. Unless Pakistan develops some mature strategy to deal with India to resolve the current conflicts in the region, the state of Jammu and Kashmir remains restless. Through diplomatic channels or reconciliatory measures taken by Pakistan, undue internationalization could be voided.

Statehood is about state autonomy, a sovereign power that works in sync with the centre. Without peace, J&K relies heavily on the centre’s direction and armed forces. The powers acquired upon the special status from Article 370 of the constitution and the current status of Union Territory – both serve the same purpose, in a way. Therefore, restoring normalcy before restoring statehood is more important now.

For attaining statehood, Jammu and Kashmir need to attain peace and resolve conflicting issues within it and its border. A considerable decline and defusing of violence and militant activities will restore peace in the valley, which is a precursor for restoring statehood. ●

Nature and Natural Resources Photo Series



Due to torrential rain, Texas rivers swelled rapidly in just an hour killing hundreds of people.



Turkey is battling multiple wildfires as Europe faces an early heatwave. Over 50,000 've been evacuated from 5 regions.

As the climate-change action deadline nears, frequent floods and wildfires are just a forewarning that time is quickly running over growing abhorrent style of living on this planet.

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It is also believed that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) introduced in 2017 will reduce prices. But, what is happening? GST also failed to control prices.

Growing prices mean just nothing but desire for more profits. Manufacturers want to earn undue returns in quicker ways! They want to become big and competitive in their industries, and expand nationally and internationally.

Companies claim that they provide jobs more than ever before. These manufacturers also say that the cost of the resources, including raw materials, have risen in multiple folds. Are these justifications acceptable?

Despite all the infra and production capacities, unemployment rate is 5.6% (June 2025) which was 3.2% in 2024. So, the actual reason is different. Almost every industry is competitive and dynamic! In a desire to become ‘big’ in the industry, companies aim at huge profits, which is one of the main reasons for price rise.

Are the reports and statistics about the rate of inflation, Consumer Price Index and GDP are true? It is intriguing that despite the price rise. India’s retail inflation stands at 2.1%, a six-year low and experts say it is because of falling prices. From an economics point of view, India’s economic indicators show positive signs with a clear moderation in inflation, good industrial output and strong corporate earnings.

Another important reason for surging prices is that our economists are keen on building and focusing on improving TRADING ECONOMICS, not WELFARE ECONOMICS. Persistent rise in prices of essential commodities is a serious concern for the people’s welfare and productivity, which needs attention. ●

CARTOON OF THE MONTH



सर, आगे टोल नहीं सीधा ऊपर का टिकट कटने वाला है...

Source: Mirch Masala, NavBharatlive.com

CORNER STONE

Global Peace Index 2025

Iceland, Ireland, New Zealand, Austria, Switzerland, Singapore, Portugal, Denmark, Slovenia and Finland find top places in the list. India ranked 115th, Canada 14th, U.S. 128th, China 98th and UK 30th in the GPI.

