

Why Zionism Needed The 'War On Terror' | Prof. Kees v.d. Pijl

Modern zionism—a mostly christian and exclusively western political ideology—is nothing but the third installment of the transnational capitalist ruling class reinventing itself to continue to dominate the world capitalist system. This is the main thesis of Professor Kees van der Pijl's new book "Zionism and 9/11" which we discuss in this interview. DISCLAIMER: I (Pascal) am skeptical of the view that 9/11 was an inside job. To me, the level of planning and secrecy just seems too huge a hurdle. Applying Occam's Razor (when presented with competing explanations for a phenomenon, you should prefer the simpler one that makes the fewest assumptions) I am still tending to view 9/11 as an externally induced act—albeit one that laid bare the level of incompetence of US homeland defense. However, the argument of Prof. van der Pijl still holds that the transnational ruling class and Zionism are the greatest benefactors of the US violent reaction to 9/11. One can just as well assume that the attacks took place "organically" and still view the outcome as a catalyst to the transnational zionist ruling class, under the motto "never let a good crisis go to waste." In the same vein, one does not need to assume that Israel carried out the October 7th attacks itself, but that it barely took advantage of the Hamas attack once it had happened for the advancement of the Zionist project. Please also note that this video explicitly assumes that Zionism is not a jewish phenomenon but a mostly christian, western-European political ideology used by the transnational elites to cling on to their colonial grip over the global capitalist system. We must not make the mistake of blaming the jews for Zionism. Judaism is a peace-loving and pacifist religion and is together with indigenous muslims and christians among the victims of the onslaught of radical zionism. Kees's Links: Israel and 9/11: The Rise of Atlantic Zionism (English): <https://deblauwetijger.com/product/kees-van-der-pijl-israel-and-9-11-english-edition/> Israël en 9/11 (Dutch): <https://deblauwetijger.com/product/kees-van-der-pijl-israel-en-9-11/> The Making of an Atlantic Ruling Class: <https://www.versobooks.com/products/1133-the-making-of-an-atlantic-ruling-class> Papers and book announcements: <https://independent.academia.edu/KeesVanderPijl> Neutrality Studies Links: Neutrality Studies Substack: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com> Support Neutrality Studies: <https://neutralitystudies.com/donate> Neutrality Studies shop: <https://neutralitystudies.com/shop> Time Stamps 00:00 The book and the academic freedom dispute 07:27 How an Atlantic ruling class emerged 17:55 Christian Zionism and colonialism 25:19 Zionism, Judaism, and transnational power 38:55 Van der Pijl's 9/11 thesis and sources 47:48 The origins of the "war on terror" 56:40 Systemic decline and the danger of war 01:05:36 BRICS, national sovereignty, and social change

#Pascal

Welcome back, everybody, to Neutrality Studies today for the second time with Professor Dr. Kees van der Pijl, a very eminent scholar in the area of, well, international relations and sociology. We've

talked before, and I'm very happy that you're back here with us today, Kees. Thank you, Pascal. I'm also glad. You are here because you published a new book, and it's a book that really deserves discussion. It has a very provocative title, and we will discuss all of it: Israel and 9/11: The Rise of Atlantic Zionism. Kees, there's a lot that is in this book, because it's also a very personal account of you. And maybe this is the right way to actually introduce the topic. Can you tell us a little bit about your background and, you know, what happened to you? Because you were a professor, an emeritus professor at the University of Sussex, and then things started happening.

#Kees v.d. Pijl

Yeah. Well, 9/11 for me was always—I always understood it as the big bang of the era of permanent war that we're basically in now, without knowing too much about the events and the backgrounds and so on. And at some point, I mean, I was collecting, while working on other topics, I was collecting readings on the matter, critical readings. And at some point I got hold of Christopher Bollyn, Solving 9/11. And then when I read that, I realized that the literature on 9/11 had one blind spot, and that was the role of Israel. Of course, as you rightly say, I put it a bit provocatively in the title, but that is not because Israel handled it all on its own. That wouldn't be possible, but because it was always the missing link. And Christopher Bollyn gave an analysis, a very journalistic analysis in the sense, you know, he picked up the phone, he went to see people and so on.

But he came with an explanation of the events of 9/11 in which Israel was very prominent. And I had just read that when somebody on Twitter summed up all the crimes of the Saudis, and the first one was bringing down the Twin Towers. And I couldn't resist responding right away: "Not Saudis, Israelis brought down the Twin Towers with help from Zionists in the U.S. government." Hmm. And that created—I mean, I won't bother you with all the details—but that created a Twitter storm. There were press reports in the Daily Mail, Independent, even Russian Sputnik. And, well, it ended with a story that's described in the book as a preface, in which the university began to threaten me if I wouldn't take back this statement, which they thought was anti-Semitic, as many complainants actually said. And at that point, I realized... And they also said they would keep an eye on me in the future.

#Pascal

Just for everybody to understand, you were a professor at the University of Sussex for how many years? And then, at that point in 2018, you were retired already for how many years?

#Kees v.d. Pijl

No, no, no. I was a professor there from 2000 to 2012. And then I retired and, you know, repatriated to the Netherlands. So in 2018, when this happened, I had already six years of retirement behind me. And then I realized that since I... yeah, my life fulfillment is intellectual labor. I realized that if I would be watched henceforth, not saying anything... Also, it reminded me of

Voltaire, you know, the French philosopher, who said, "Tell me whom I am not allowed to speak about, and I will tell you who rules the roost." And that was... So when they threatened to take away my emeritus status, I responded by saying, "Well, then I'd rather resign myself, because I want to be—well, it's not a matter of wanting. I have to be free to be able to work."

#Pascal

Because for everybody in the academic world, once you retire, you are allowed to call yourself emeritus professor, which is still linked to the university, but no more teaching obligations. And, well, that's what they wanted to get you with and say, like, if you want to call yourself emeritus professor, then we will watch you, and you have to check with us what you publish.

#Kees v.d. Pijl

Well, exactly. And that I found an intolerable situation. So I retired with sadness because I had had many very good years at Sussex, although I could see the changes. The university had, for instance, become completely dependent on subsidies which happened to be coming from Zionist circles. And, of course, these people didn't want the sort of opinion that I had voiced. And although there were many people writing to the university and saying, well, if you're dissatisfied with what is being said here, you're, of course, entitled to ask for more explanation, which, by the way, I did. I wrote a 40-page paper simply to indicate that this was not just a loose... I wasn't a loose cannon on this topic. Anyway, and that's how it ended with my retirement.

That means you can't use the library anymore. You lose part of your identity, but you get your original identity back, and that is the one of an independent scholar. And I feel much more at ease with that than with any institutional affiliation. So that's how it ended. And of course, once you dive into a topic like this—and mind you, there is also the subtitle, "The Rise of Atlantic Zionism"—that reminds you of the fact that we're talking about a much broader phenomenon, which is not confined to that little state, this colonial entity on the east coast of the Mediterranean. It's a process with very deep historical roots, which I'll try to recapitulate a little bit in the book as an introduction to what we're facing today.

#Pascal

Can we maybe start with that when we talk about this? I mean, the process, because in your other work, you also often work on processes, on sociological processes, right? And how groups impact each other. This transatlantic Zionism, can you roll it up for us from the place where you thought the starting point should be understood? Hey, just a very quick note. The best way to support this channel is by signing up for my free Substack. You can also help with a paid subscription there, or you can get some of our new merch on neutralitystudies.com. Links below. See you there.

#Kees v.d. Pijl

Yeah, well, my topic, as you kindly explained and discussed in our first meeting, is transnational classes. The moment in history when a ruling class, which comprises, of course, the people owning the majority of wealth, running the state, running management of companies and so on, dominating the worldview that pervades the whole of society—the moment when the ruling class transcends its national confines, I think, happened towards the end of the 19th century, when the British ruling class, which at the time was the most powerful one in the world, was confronted with the rise of Germany as what I call a contender state. A Germany that also was able to make enormous historic advances in terms of science, philosophy, the arts—just think of music, Wagner—and, of course, economically.

And there was an awareness in the British ruling class at the time that they would not be able to withstand the challenge of Germany, unified Germany, unified under Bismarck, on their own, in the way they had done withstanding the French Revolution and Napoleon. At that time, they still had been able to mobilize a conservative or reactionary coalition of European forces to defeat Napoleon in the field, while Britain shielded the maritime frontier. With Germany, that wouldn't work, and therefore they began to look to the United States for help. So the title of one of my books is *The Making of an Atlantic Ruling Class*, and that was the moment that the Atlantic ruling class began to be formed.

Now, I can't tell the whole story here because that would distract too much from the topic. But the first phase of that was based on the idea that the ruling class had to confront not just Germany as a rival player on the same plane, but also social democracy in Germany, which was the best organized in the world. Mind you that at the time there were a million members of the well-organized German trade unions, whereas France and Britain each only had 100,000 members of the trade unions. So we're talking about a massive concentration of social democratic potential, social power, in combination with these advances that Germany was making culturally, economically, and scientifically.

So the British ruling class showed itself a true ruling class in the sense that it was able to distinguish this particular threat to its rule because the German social democracy, the German working class, also had developed a lifestyle of its own which could not be reduced to a cheap version of the lifestyle of the rich. And the idea of capitalism is that you do not allow dreams and aspirations in the working class to exist which are qualitatively different, which point to a qualitatively different society than the lifestyle that you are propagating, which is individualistic, aimed at your own interests and none else. Well, I don't have to describe capitalism.

What I want to stress is that a true ruling class also understands the other side, and it understands the social dangers to its persistent rule. And that was what happened in the late 19th century, and the financiers of the City of London joined forces with the bankers of Wall Street, you know, J.P. Morgan and people like that, and the politicians in their orbit. And that was the first stage, I would call, of the making of an Atlantic ruling class. And then in the second—I'll be very brief now—and

then in the second phase, World War I, the Atlantic ruling class was extended to include representatives of the continental European countries.

And at that time, of course, German social democracy had been defeated. And the challenge was a European working class under the influence of communism. Now, and that's the idea of the rise of Atlantic Zionism. And now we are seeing a sort of third phase in the formation of an Atlantic ruling class. And that is the one which is dominated by Zionism as a transnational movement. So not just the movement in Israel, but as a transnational movement, because ultimately Zionism began in Eastern Europe among the Jewish religion that was concentrated there.

And one slice of this Jewish religious population came up with a sort of East European nationalism, you might call it, and that was that if the Jews wanted to survive—and the history of how that exactly happened is in the book—if the Jews wanted to survive, they would have to form themselves into an ethnicity, which they weren't by origin, because they were East Europeans. Their roots and their adherence to the Jewish faith goes back to the era of, well, what in the West were the era of the attacks by the Norsemen, you know, the 800 to 1100s, roughly. And at that time, in what is now roughly Ukraine and Russia, the rulers—Mongol rulers—adopted the Jewish faith for reasons that are explained in the book.

And so that is where the Jews come from, which is why around 1900, the largest concentration of Jewish people in the world was in that area of the world. And that was not because, having fled from Palestine, they somehow got stuck in Ukraine, but because the Jews that are alive today have all become Jewish because of conversion. They converted to the Jewish faith, and the largest concentration of such a conversion was in Khazaria, as it was called at the time—southern Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, that area around the Black Sea. Now, Zionism is a small section of the people who, at the time of roughly 1900, came up with this idea of a Jewish nationalism, the need to turn the descendants of this conversion into a nation claiming an area of its own.

And the area that they claimed, of course, was Palestine because, with the Bible in their hands, they came to the conclusion that it was necessary to reclaim that area, even though it's a myth because they never came from that area. There were Jews in Palestine, but as a minority, a well-tolerated minority in a Muslim-majority country. Zionism—we'll get to that later, I guess—but Zionism, in my view, must be seen as the third installment of the transnationalization of the Atlantic ruling class. Only if we do it that way can we begin to understand, well, what is happening today, for instance, that Netanyahu is sending his congratulations to Bolsonaro in Brazil, you know, the right-wing presidential candidate.

#Pascal

We need to get there and understand how you're making sense of this in terms of this ruling class, transatlantic ruling class. But just a question here. I had a couple of talks with people like Professor Yakov Rabkin and a couple of others who actually point out that Zionism itself, as a political

movement to create a state of the Jews, only for the Jews, a national movement and exclusionary nationalism, that that actually is not even a Jewish idea, but that it goes back into the late 18th century in the UK, where Protestants, Protestant thinkers, started imagining that you need a Jewish state for the Jews, and that it was—I mean, he didn't say that it was an inherently anti-Semitic project—in order to get rid of the Jews initially in the UK and other places.

And that, of course, these Protestants also then subscribed to this idea of Armageddon and whatnot. And this is then where it links to the belief in the US today that you need an Israel in order to get to Armageddon, get to Judgment Day. Well, it gets crazier and crazier. But so where do you put the Christian, the Protestant Christian element in the genesis of Zionism?

#Kees v.d. Pijl

Well, the breakaway with Rome, with the Catholic Church, was very much inspired by the idea of Zion, of a return to the original roots of Christianity. So, for instance, in the book I mentioned that even the Anglican breakaway from Rome, which was the Anglophone response both to the need for reform and to the actual Reformation in Germany, was inspired by ideas about, you know, that the man who organized the burial of Jesus Christ had, for instance, come across to England to lay the foundations for a new religion there. And the colonization of New England was inspired by the idea that a new Jerusalem would be built there.

What is important to see is that what runs through these different strands of religion is the idea of going back to the original roots, but also to have the superior interpretation of religion as such. So the idea of supremacism, the idea that you are above the law, that you represent the holiest of the holy in terms of religion, is essential to Zionism. Of course, it's in all religions because that has to do with the creation of human communities: to consider yourself chosen by heaven, whereas the others are half-animal and despised by heaven, and so on. But in the case of Zionism, that's made very explicit and clear.

Mind you that in the eyes of the founders of the eventual Jewish state, so people like Weizmann and Ben-Gurion, the territorial aspect of having this small strip of land on the eastern banks of the Mediterranean was not the main item, not the main ingredient of Zionism. Zionism for them was primarily a movement of world Jewry, a rejuvenation, for instance, which included developing your own language on the basis of the old biblical Hebrew, although until then they were Yiddish speakers. So Hebrew is not pronounced in a Semitic—it doesn't sound like Arabic; it sounds like a different language. And that, according to them, has to do with the fact that it was originally adopted by Yiddish speakers, which is much closer to German.

But the important thing is, it is supremacism, so it's based on the idea that Jews are superior to other populations. And it has to be honestly admitted that that in itself is not something that we should be too worried about, because many people have that tendency, many communities have that tendency to see themselves elevated over the rest. But as an ethnicity, it also needs to have a

fatherland. And for that fatherland, of course, Palestine was chosen. My personal feeling is that the reason why the idea of Israel as a colony resonates so strongly, especially in the Americas, is because the societies of the Americas are also based on the extermination of an original population that is considered irrelevant, superfluous, you know, in the way. And that makes for a bond between today's Israel and the Americas.

And I say the Americas because what is so striking today is that after Argentina and Milei, Bolsonaro's Brazil would also return to the fold of an Atlantic Zionism. And mind you that—I'm drifting a bit, but you must interrupt me—but mind you that after the coup in Venezuela, the first tanker with oil was dispatched to Israel. Was it really? Yeah, because the Chavistas also had the habit of being in solidarity with the Palestinians. So that is the transnational side of it, in the sense that the Zionists, as a broader strand, which includes Jewish but also non-Jewish people, just as many people of Jewish extraction abhor the whole idea of Zionism and abhor certainly what is happening today. I mean, mind you, there would not be a possibility for the elite universities in the United States to show their solidarity with the Palestinians to such an extent if it weren't also for the Jewish students there who are upset by what is being done in their name.

#Pascal

Yeah, and I think this is very important to point out. I mean, the whole discussion, the 25 minutes we have so far, go in that direction, right? Zionism is not just another word for Judaism. It is not. Zionism is a political movement of which actually a smaller part is Jewish. The much larger part is Christian or non-religious or whatnot. It's all the conglomeration of people who subscribe to the political idea of a Jewish state for the Jews alone. And it's much larger. I mean, the Jews are actually just one of the parts of this group of people. And that's now what you're saying, is this new transatlantic, transnational ruling class, or elite, that formed or is in the process of reforming itself, right? And can you maybe go into that now?

#Kees v.d. Pijl

Yeah. And that dates from the 1990s, in my view. Of course, it's much older. The first strands of it are much older. But in the 1990s, we have to realize that what happened then was that Western Europe lost its centrality from the Atlantic perspective, in the sense that it was no longer needed as a bulwark against spreading communism. And what you see in the 1990s, and I detail that in the book, is a wave of transatlantic investment in which Israeli capital crosses the ocean to become major players in the American economy.

#Kees v.d. Pijl

Also, in other economies, for instance, my own Netherlands is a very important stepping stone for the transfer of wealth from Israel to the United States. And mind you, that wealth in most cases has originally come from international Jewish supporters of the Zionist project. And it's now being used

to build up positions of power again on the other side of the Atlantic. And in the 1990s, most of these investments from Israel in the United States were in the communications and IT sectors. And there they reinforced the triangle that was guiding contemporary capitalism, that is, the IT-media-intelligence combination.

That triangle, as it were. In every phase of capitalism, a particular bloc of forces leads the social development on which capitalism is grafted. And in our age, mind you, finance is always there. Finance is simply the shadow of the real economy, so it cannot get rid of that shadow. And today, that triangle of intelligence, multimedia, I should say, and IT is the guiding force that had already a very strong Zionist imprint. If you think of people like Mark Zuckerberg with Meta, Facebook, and a whole list of others, you can say Silicon Valley was very much a Zionist operation. Not just ideologically, they also practically supported Israel in its genocidal campaign in Gaza.

For instance, there's this horrible program called something like "Daddy Is Coming Home." It's "Where's Daddy? Where's Daddy?" Yeah. Well, then I don't have to explain it to you. But these are very cruel forms of how Silicon Valley power and media power, of course, covering Israel in every respect, are bolstered in the '90s, when Europe is losing its relevance, its immediate, urgent relevance for the United States and the West at large, and is replaced by Zionism, by the genocidal regime idea of dealing with the world population. Because, mind you, it began with British ruling-class concern about social democracy, notably German.

It expanded to Western ruling-class concern with the communist-inspired working class right after World War II. And now we're talking about the concern of the ruling class with the world population as a whole. And that is why I was working on 9/11, so to speak, while I was writing my book, *States of Emergency*, on the COVID crisis, because that too was an attack on the world population, from which, you know, the famous vaccinations, from which people in government and the powerful generally were exempted, have been dealt to a population as, well, you might almost cynically say, a form of euthanasia.

#Pascal

What is powered by the idea of reducing the world population? So why this nexus with Zionism? Because there are other concepts that would have lent themselves to it. I mean, today's Zionist Israel is very similar to 1980s apartheid South Africa. I mean, there were other pockets of, like, you know, leftover versions of colonialism, right? It's just like a genocidal type of colonialism, of exterminating the local population, replacing yourself. And again, Europe was very successful with those projects in North America, South America, Australia, New Zealand, right? I mean, extremely successful in exterminating local populations and replacing them.

And even then setting those under some, like, magical thinking. I mean, Manifest Destiny, the shining city on the hill, all of these quasi-religious idioms that you use in order to justify why now suddenly white people are ruling over this land. And the Reds just went away because they had a

bad cold, right? They couldn't withstand a bad cold, right? And the last remnants of the descendants, you put them into something called reservations, in which you're not even responsible for giving them drinking water. It's absolutely fantastic. That's the 2026 we are living in, right? Why is it, though, that Zionism is this one thing on which this transatlantic class formation then had to pin its future on?

#Kees v.d. Pijl

Yeah, there's an element of coincidence there, but then coincidence in the historical sense, in that profound changes and developments all blend together into a process which you can hardly call coincidental anymore. But by coincidence, I mean that just as the British ruling class originally was concerned about what was happening inside Germany, and the Western ruling class later concerned about what was happening in Europe in terms of communism, today the Muslim world is a reservoir of, a vast reservoir of, you might almost say, surplus humanity, in the sense that we're talking about an enormous cultural area which has been robbed by a series of developments of its own cultural future.

So the ability for a young man in Tunisia to develop his life in terms of all the potential that his society and his culture has to offer is very restricted. So the Middle East is, on the one hand, a blocked society that goes back to developments in Islam, you know, very early in its development, after the glory era of Baghdad and even the Ottomans to some extent. But also, Islam happens to be the ocean in which the little island of Palestine, Israel, is drifting. So that is also an element that's coming together there. But my feeling in the recent period has become more and more that there is, in the notion of the capitalist ruling class, an innate or an inherent hatred of the mass of humanity. You know, the class struggle is not just a sort of football match which is going on every day between capital and labor.

No, it's about an abstract principle imposed on humanity, as I say, blocking certain routes towards its general advancement and driving it into the abyss, just as the German working class was sacrificed in World War I, the European working class, the same mass murder of Soviet citizens and communists in the Second World War. And now we're seeing a mass extermination of people of Muslim background, the original Arabs of Palestine and the wider region. I'm searching for words here because these are not things that you can fix into one glib formula, because at the same time you have to emphasize that we have to understand even Zionism, for all its exterministic excesses, as a temporary phenomenon that even can be neutralized at some point into a more innocent version.

Because, mind you, there was even a Marxist version of Zionism by Ber Borochov, who saw it entirely in terms of emancipation and wasn't talking about uprooting the original inhabitants of Palestine. And what I also don't want not to mention is that Hitler's Germany tried to pursue a project comparable to what the English-speaking peoples have done as colonizers, and that is the complete destruction of an unwanted population, except it failed. He succeeded in, well, let's say,

killing half the Jewish population of Europe, but that was it. Then he was defeated by a temporary coalition, and so on. So, yeah, well, the longer I talk, the more I realize what a tragedy we are describing, and when will the happy times begin.

#Pascal

Look, I don't know when the happy times will start. I just know that we're not at the end of history, and our job is not to describe how we want the world... Our job is to describe the world we want to have, but not read that into the current world, right? We need to look at the current world as soberly as possible. And the processes that you're describing, I mean, this... it resonates very much with this gut feeling that I have that the ruling classes don't only hate the people on the other side of the equation, not just the Russians. They also hate their own foot soldiers and so on. If you look at how the United States military apparatus works and how the United States is a very, very tough capitalist system, right? You don't have money, you're not going to school, you're not going to eat.

You're going to die in the street. But if you sell your soul to the military for five years, you're going to get free education, you get food, you get shelter, you get benefits, you get a pension fund. All of the social welfare is coupled to poor people selling themselves and making themselves into cannon fodder. I mean, this is just inherent hate towards your own underclass that you can use, but you don't want to give them anything. And then those are the groups that are being pitted against each other. Now, let's go a little bit further with the build-up toward a topic that on this channel in four and a half years I never discussed, which is 9/11, because you can only burn your fingers on it. But let's go there. Let's go toward it. Can you take us to 9/11?

#Kees v.d. Pijl

Yeah. Well, let me explain that my contribution in this book are the topics that we just touched on: the larger civilizational tendencies that produced Zionism and led to what it has become as an Atlantic phenomenon; the analysis of what actually happened on 9/11; and 9/11, in my view, as the Big Bang of the era of war that has opened up and that provides the machinery in which large parts of the world population are going under and will go under if somehow the madness is not stopped. The literature on 9/11 is something where I rely on other writers.

#Pascal

I have to admit that.

#Kees v.d. Pijl

I have not done what, for instance, Christopher Bollyn has done: calling up people, going to places, meeting them, hearing news stories. And what I have done is to show that, in the wave of transatlantic investment in the 1990s, in which the Maxwell-Epstein family was not just a symbol but

were actually key players—you know, father or father-in-law Robert Maxwell, who was a Mossad agent, originally of Jewish extraction, coming from Czechoslovakia, but he became a media mogul, a politician in Britain—he supplied a computer system in this, mind you, in this wave of investment in the IT sector.

He compiled a computer program, I should say, PROMIS, which he sold to all kinds of government institutions in the United States, but also in Latin America and elsewhere. And in that computer program, a backdoor had been built in, giving Israeli intelligence a direct view into what was being processed through these computer programs. So the PROMIS computer program had a backdoor allowing Israeli intelligence a view into what was being discussed, same both in the financial sector and in the intelligence sector proper. And there were other programs as well. I won't mention them all, except perhaps the Amdocs company, which was one of the investors in the United States, an Israeli company working in America.

They were involved in upgrading the phone lines of the White House in the Clinton era. The Clinton era is the Clinton years of the presidency in the 1990s, when this massive change happens: Israel coming in, Europe becoming a secondary element, secondary force in the Atlantic power structure. And the Clintons were exceptionally corrupt, I think, without having a very clear political program. By the way, Clinton's own education goes back to the original Atlantic ruling class, in the sense that he was a Rhodes Scholar. Then you get a year in Oxford, and Rhodes Scholarship goes back to this original idea of linking United States and Britain.

But the PROMIS program allowed Israeli intelligence to look into what was being discussed and done in the American state apparatus through these programs. Other programs did the same. The Israeli company Amdocs was involved in upgrading the phone lines of the White House at the time of Clinton and allowed Israel to—because they had a direct line as well—allowed Israel to blackmail Clinton over his dealings with Monica Lewinsky, who, according to some—not to me, but I don't know—but according to some, was herself an asset of Israeli influence. Now, you can understand how this is a mass of detail where you easily get lost.

And the important thing to see is that the class that formed in the process of the transfer of Atlantic Zionism, at the heart of that class, both Robert Maxwell as a key vendor of these programs that allowed Israel an insight into U.S. operations, state operations, and private operations, that both Maxwell and his, well, informal son-in-law, Jeffrey Epstein, are key players because Jeffrey Epstein is often forgotten, was not just somebody who was running a blackmail operation of his own and a pervert and so on. If you ask me, what I've seen, he's living in Israel, because my own rule is that if you have half a billion in the bank, normally you don't commit suicide when other opportunities are still available. But that's a detail.

#Pascal

It's certainly not something that I say in the book.

#Kees v.d. Pijl

But Epstein was also a key operator working very closely with JPMorgan Chase in the economic relations between the American economy and Israel. And that is why people like Professor Marandi from Iran rightly speak of the Epstein class, because Epstein, as it were, was symbolic for the particular generation in the Atlantic ruling class that we're seeing now, the one inspired by Atlantic Zionism. And why is he so emblematic of that particular generation? Because his hatred of humanity—I mean, I'm not a moralist or so—but his hatred of humanity transpires in what he was doing to all kinds of people who were the victims of his operations, and his and Maxwell's daughter, Ghislaine, whose sisters, by the way, also operate, are directors in IT companies spawned by the Maxwell dynasty and working for Israel.

So what has that to do with 9/11? Well, the fact that on 9/11, nothing worked. You know, the command structures didn't function. President Bush had to be worked out of the way so that he was flying across the United States while Cheney was running the show from the White House. The reason why no jet fighters were launched at the—the Federal Aviation Administration failed in key respects had to do with a lot of things, but also with the fact that their phone lines and their computer systems were compromised. There were, for instance, injects on the radar screens which referred to planes that actually were not in the air, and vice versa.

So, you know, real planes that didn't get their transponder signal. All that was part of the preparation for 9/11. Mind you, here I should sum up. In 1973, Israel fought its last main war with its neighbors. And that was a narrow escape. The whole idea that Israeli military superiority guaranteed the existence of the state had gone out of the window. And in the immediate aftermath, in Israel, already in combination with United States interlocutors, the idea arose: we should no longer be fighting these wars. The Americans should be fighting these wars under the banner of a war on terror.

So the idea of a war on terror was for the first time launched at a conference in Jerusalem in 1979, presided over by the hardline new prime minister, Menachem Begin, and in the presence of a number of top American figures like George Bush Sr., a bit out of place, but that's a different story. And in 1984, there was another conference presided over by Benjamin Netanyahu, who was at the time the Israeli ambassador at the United Nations in New York. And at that Washington conference, really the key figures from the Reagan administration and key figures from the Israeli side, plus a boxful of intellectuals, you know, Bernard Lewis, that type, Zionist intellectuals, not of Jewish extraction, by the way.

They came together, and there Netanyahu expressly said, "Terrorism is no longer something that people lie awake from. There has to happen a big bang, one big blow, which will make the whole world see that the United States are entitled to attacking Israel's enemies." And Israel's enemies are, of course, accused of harboring the terrorists. And there is even a streak of an element of truth in

that, in the sense that these are blocked societies which have never reached their potential. Even in the era of Soviet support for Syria and for Libya, you can't say that their true potential as societies, both culturally and economically, was brought out. So, in a sense, they are enemies of Israel for good reason.

#Kees v.d. Pijl

But they are also powerless.

#Kees v.d. Pijl

They're reservoirs of humanity that today offer themselves as targets for strategies of destruction. And that is the deeper underlying truth of the war on terror, although it also works as a remote-control mechanism, for instance, in Europe. Think of London, 7/7. And in the book, I detail a series of events in France where terrorism, clearly manipulated by forces that were not the terrorists themselves, worked to discipline France. You know, the element of discipline should also be mentioned here as a way of keeping populations and subordinate governments in their places. And the whole terror scare, which is now wearing off, of course, I'm afraid we're now in a stage where the idea of terror is being replaced by something for which you don't have to lie any longer, because you can simply say, look, the bombs are falling.

So if you start a real war, you don't have to come up with fiction about, you know, 19 terrorists hijacking planes. I mean, the planes weren't there. The hijackers were patsies who were having a good life at the expense of Saudi Arabia and the Emirates, if they were actually in America at all, because in many cases they were simply stolen identities and stolen passports. And, well, then there's a whole story, but we can go on for several hours. There's a whole story of the collapse of the towers, in which I rely very much on an officer of the former Soviet nuclear intelligence service, Dmitry Khalitsov, who was in close touch with Mike Harari, the number two or three of the Mossad, over many years, who was living in the same place as this Khalitsov.

And Khalitsov has quite far-reaching theories, for instance, that the towers were blown up with the help of nuclear devices, which at first sounds absurd, but not when you delve into it more deeply. And he's not the only one who has made that claim. And he also explains that there was never a plane crashing into the Pentagon. There was one flying over the Pentagon, but never one crashing into the Pentagon. That was a Soviet-era, potentially nuclear—but not in this case—potentially nuclear submarine missile. Now, that's also a theory that sounds over the top if you hear it for the first time, but I can tell you that when you delve into it, all that becomes much less clear. But here I must say again that although I think I had some excellent sources, this is not my own original research.

I know of the prehistory of the 9/11 events. I know something of the actual execution of the war on terror, although of course that's a sort of cherry-picking. You have to give some telling examples.

You can't hope to—that would have to be a separate book—you can't hope to get the full story. But that is how these things hang together. So, on the one hand, formation of Atlantic Zionism for the reasons that I mentioned; on the other, the need for Israel to have the United States take over its war against its neighbors because they are aware of the fact that their existence actually is a very tenuous one, if you think in terms of demographic balances, even within Israel in the long run.

#Pascal

And if I understand you correctly, then on the one hand, you're saying 9/11 is an inside job. This was not done by these malicious terrorist forces who just happened to be good at flying airplanes into Pentagons and whatnot. This was an inside job. Okay, that itself is, of course, very highly contested. But we can put it there, because it is by people that I respect very much, like my countryman Daniele Ganser and others, who have been pointing out time and time again the way this whole thing went down just is, from the laws of physics, not possible the way it is. But we can put that there.

The other thing you do is to say that this served the Zionist transatlantic elite—not elite class, the ruling class. And that's not Israel alone. It's not to say that Israel, Tel Aviv, just did that out of malicious intent. It's like, no, no, no, it keeps the entire structure of the transatlantic ruling class stable by doing that, because it then allows for what comes down the road, including the entire warfare, the extermination of these indigenous peoples in Israel, in Arabia, in the Middle East, in West Asia, and all the way to North Africa and so on. It allows for everything that actually did happen since then.

The destabilization, seven countries in five years. It wasn't five, but it was 20 years. But we are now at the Iran war moment, the last of the seven that was predicted by Wesley Clark would be attacked, right? The neocon agenda is part and parcel of this entire power structure that sits on top of the political West, as Richard Sakwa calls it. Can you maybe speak toward the end about this transition then into the Iran war and where this power elite today stands? And we just leave the topic whether or not the towers were blown up by terrorists or so, we just leave it on the side, but we talk about the class itself.

#Kees v.d. Pijl

Yeah. Well, my basic view is that we live in a society which is beginning to lose its inner structure. So we're not talking about a triumphant ruling class. That was in the era in which I grew up. Then the ruling class really was in a powerful position to make concessions to the population. I studied for nothing. Medical care was on top of the bill, and so on and so forth. That is no longer the case. We're now living in a dying system. The capitalist system is going down, and then capitalism—we should not see that as a simple economic mechanism, but as a cultural universe, a social universe in

which people are on top on particular grounds. You have to be a good capitalist to pocket a lot of money to be on top in the system that we live in. But otherwise, the rest of the population is not busy with collecting money.

They are simply surviving. But yet they live under the same ideological umbrella, if you see what I mean. So their ability to think of alternatives, their ability to think of resistance, is overdetermined by the nature of the system in which they live. But that system is losing its coherence. And that means that the exterminist reflexes that are inherent, the genocidal reflexes that are inherent in Zionism, in the fringe of Zionism—I knew that in the book I explained this is not the majority of the Jews, it's not even the majority of the Zionists—it's a small minority faction that was associated with fascism in the 1920s. Jabotinsky. Father Netanyahu was the secretary of Jabotinsky. His son, his surviving son, Benjamin, is now the embodiment of that genocidal operation.

But he has his society there behind him. Now, you can also say that the figure of Trump, like the figure of Milei and also maybe Bolsonaro, are almost caricatures of what representatives of the ruling class would embody, what they would say. I mean, the lecture that Trump gave at the United Nations, in which he violated, in words, but with deeds behind him and still coming, all the principles of the United Nations, like non-aggression, like collective security, so on and so forth, is a sign that the United Nations, as the organization of Western power—of course, a ramified organization in the sense that also non-Westerners are present there, but they are not in a position of power, certainly not after the so-called Great Compact was achieved under Annan.

The fact that he can hold that lecture and that there's no response, he's not being sanctioned in whatever way, indicates that the current quality of the ruling class is at a low ebb. And because they are at a low ebb, because they have nothing to offer, nothing positive to offer to the world population at large and not even to their own populations, the option of war is a real one. That is, it can offer... It's too horrible to think of because, mind you, that after 10, 20 minutes of actual fully unleashed conflict, the machines take over and it doesn't matter anymore whether we have Trump or Jesus himself in charge of the United States military operators.

#Pascal

You mean when nuclear war kicks in?

#Kees v.d. Pijl

Yeah, because the escalation ladder is an automatic principle that goes so fast, and now with artificial intelligence adding even a qualitative dimension to the speed with which things will happen. So it's not a pleasant idea, but we have to mention it simply to be aware of the combination between, on the one hand, the dire situation that the ruling class finds itself in, with its socioeconomic system disintegrating into pure rapaciousness, into pure plunder and speculation, and, on the other hand, a world full of conflict where any spark can light the larger fuse. This

combination makes it necessary not just to have a peace movement, which is important, and you mentioned Daniele Ganser and people like him, who are crucial figures, champions of the need to repeat the urgency of the peace movement.

But it's also a social movement. So let us say if today the schoolchildren of France are in revolt for the degradation of their education system and, of course, a number of other problems that feed into that, whilst Macron at the same time has given 60 billion euros to Ukraine simply to be turned into the meat grinder there, but also a large part simply for corruption. We have to understand that the social movements are equally important to prevent a drift to war. It's not just the war machine itself and the sparks that may rise from it. It's also the social movement which is building up into an attempt to try to come to grips with a dying social system, which ultimately is the driving force of this war machine.

#Pascal

You know, what really resonates in your type of explanation of this Atlantic ruling class and the third iteration that we're seeing is because it would offer an explanatory framework to kind of explain why it is that the ruling elites are taking decisions which are clearly not in the favor of a large part of their own populations. Because they transcended that. They transcended the nation. They're already in a different realm and have been so for a long time, just much less noticeably.

And it's becoming clearer and clearer that they stake their political survival and physical survival not on the nation, but on the survival of the class, because whether it's just a question: do you fly from Berlin to Washington to Tel Aviv to Paris or, well, maybe Buenos Aires, right? But you will, you will be in one of these places and you will be safe, even if home, like, smolders, like melts away in an atomic firestorm. And that's the kind of class thinking and groupthink that is on top right now and kind of took hold of the possibilities and the powers of the nation-state in directions which we just haven't really understood yet, if we still think in national boundaries.

#Kees v.d. Pijl

Yeah. And there's a large part of the world where people still think in national boundaries: the BRICS bloc, of course, but also the Sahel states. You know, we don't hear so much of it any longer, but what is happening in the Sahel is a miracle in its own right. We'll see where it will get. And the reason why— and the BRICS states are rediscovering, so to speak, or remain loyal to the idea of their own societies and their own populations to a large extent. It's not because that was their original choice, but because their ruling classes too would rather be part of the transnational ruling class.

Think of the Russian membership of the Trilateral Commission, the Chinese participation in the Davos meetings of the World Economic Forum. But in their cases, they are being blocked and boycotted by the West. And that is why their transnational ruling class element is weakened,

whereas the people who stick to their national boundaries, the Putins and the Xi Jinpings, are becoming stronger. So it is not even—and I mention that because it's not wise to put all your hopes in a sort of authentic striving for a rebirth of the nation-state coming from China, Russia, Iran, and so on. But they are themselves the product of the same development that is driving forward the collapse here in the West and the drift to war.

#Pascal

It's a fascinating explanation because it shows also how this inherent racism in the project of the Atlantic ruling class bites itself, because it excludes those who you would need in order to properly dominate the planet the way you want to.

#Kees v.d. Pijl

Exactly, exactly. But that is the strength also of the nation-state, but also the BRICS bloc today, that they still are concerned about their own population, not on the grounds of love, of abstract love of humanity, but simply because they know these are the people we will have to do it with. Yeah, the power space. Yeah, in the West, we don't have that idea anymore. That is also—the migration crisis also has to do with that, in the sense that in capitalism, and in the West in particular, there is a quantitative understanding of humanity.

So you have too many here, too few there. You should move a few here and there. Whereas in what I call a contender state, a state which has to mobilize everything it has to avoid being colonized, your population is all you got, so you have to be careful. Even when I was thinking of Stalin, who even Stalin said the greatest capital is humanity, but he wasn't much of a humanist, of course. But it indicates this idea that this is our section of humanity. They have a qualitative view of humanity. Capitalism has a quantitative view of humanity, which is completely devoid, ultimately, of any compassion or real concern.

#Pascal

Look at the jargon that is out and about, like human resources. And nobody of us questions it. Nobody questions, like, why does my company call it human resources? Well, it goes too far. I will talk to Radhika Desai and a couple of other Marxist scholars again, because this is the kind of environment where we should discuss this key case. Like, this was a wonderful explanation of your book. I want to show it again. That's this one here that is out on Amazon. It can be bought—it's in English. You have it also in Dutch, if I saw correctly, Israeli and German as well: Israel and 9/11: The Rise of Atlantic Zionism. People can look up your thesis and your arguments there. Is there anything, Keith, that we haven't mentioned yet in this discussion that you think is fundamental and you want to get it out?

#Kees v.d. Pijl

Well, the book is 300 pages or so. Yeah, so there's a lot in it in detail. But I think we've touched on some of the really foundational elements. It goes back to the origins of Zionism, and it ends with the current threshold of wider war that we are facing now, and the driving forces. But the important is the idea of disintegration. So if the ruling class would still be in the condition, the physical condition, so to speak, it was at the time when I was a little boy, when every amenity was available and people lived happily, so to speak—not in Vietnam or Indonesia, of course, but in Europe—we wouldn't have an Atlantic Zionism in place. There must be something suicidal, genocidal, about the objective situation that we are in for that particular strand, which is not, as I said, not even Zionism, but a brand of Zionism, of the Jabotinsky variety, to be dominant. Only under those conditions.

#Pascal

End-stage, terminal-stage Zionism? Yeah, we will see. Well, let's hope not. I hope not. I mean, I hope for that project, but we will see where it goes. The analysis is very, very valuable, and I recommend everybody who wants to read the full argument to get your hands on the book. Keith, we will certainly follow up with you in the near future. People who want to follow you in other places—you have many books. I mean, they can read your books. Is there any place where you regularly publish, like on a newsletter or something?

#Kees v.d. Pijl

On my Academia page, academia.edu, I publish new, shorter pieces and also announcements of the books.

#Pascal

I will put links to the book, the different books, and to your Academia page into the description box below. Kees van der Pijl, thank you so much for your time today.

#Kees v.d. Pijl

Thank you, Pascal. Thank you.