

"Gaza's Genocide & Our Shifting World Order"

Summary of a conversation with Amb. Chas W. Freeman, Jr., conducted by Just World Ed President Helena Cobban on Sept. 17, 2025

In a conversation with Just World Ed president Helena Cobban on September 17, Ambassador Chas W. Freeman, Jr. provided a sweeping analysis of what he described as a fundamental "sea change" in the global order, accelerated by the conflict in Gaza. He argued that the five-century era of Western domination had ended, with the West, and particularly the United States, having lost its moral authority due to hypocritical applications of international law.

Freeman contended that the "global majority," led by nations like China and India, was now the conservative force in the world, seeking to resurrect the *principles* of the post-WWII order by building new institutions like BRICS and the SCO, while the US had become a "radical and reactionary" power.

He was deeply critical of US foreign policy, which he claimed had abandoned diplomacy for military force. The interview concluded with a stark condemnation of Zionism, which he described as a "negation of Judaism" whose actions in Gaza had exposed it to the world and sealed its eventual failure, predicting "the end of days... for the Zionists."

In her introduction of Amb. Freeman, Ms. Cobban highlighted his extensive diplomatic record, noting he was one of the few people to have interacted professionally with figures like Mao Zedong and Fidel Castro. Freeman, she said, described himself as a "Burkean conservative."

Key Points made by Amb. Freeman:

- The historical era of Western global domination had definitively ended, giving way to a new multipolar world order.
- The West had lost its moral standing due to profound double standards, particularly its outrage over casualties in Ukraine compared to its complicity in the deaths of millions of Muslims and the genocide in Gaza.
- The non-Western "global majority" was portrayed as the new conservative force, attempting to restore the principles of international law by creating new institutions (BRICS, SCO) to replace the failing, Western-dominated ones.
- The United States had become a "radical and reactionary" global actor, abandoning diplomacy, engaging in personalistic politics, and pursuing self-defeating economic policies.

- European nations were characterized as "pathetic" and a "coalition of the deluded," lacking the power, unity, or vision to act as meaningful global players.
- The atrocities in Gaza had permanently besmirched Zionism, leading to a massive global backlash, including among a growing number of American Jews who now viewed it as a "heretical" negation of Jewish ethics.
- He argued that Israeli apartheid was "infinitely worse" than the version practiced in South Africa because its ultimate goal was the expulsion or murder of the indigenous population.
- While militarily outmatched, Hamas had achieved a strategic victory by successfully elevating the Palestinian cause to the top of the global agenda, winning "in the world of ideas and propaganda."

Notable Quotes

- **"The five century old domination of the world by the West had come to an end."** - Stated as the core premise of his analysis, asserting that a fundamental shift in global power was not a future possibility but a present reality.
- **"The West has not only lost its commanding power in every sphere but the military, but it's lost its moral standing."** - Said while explaining the consequences of Western hypocrisy, particularly contrasting the reaction to Ukraine with the indifference to suffering in the Muslim world.
- **"I consider the Europeans to be pathetic. They are what I call the coalition of the deluded."** - A blunt and dismissive assessment of Europe's current geopolitical role, characterizing its nations as feckless and ineffective.
- **"We didn't just hand the car keys to the drunk. We got drunk ourselves and shared the wheel with the drunk."** - A powerful metaphor used to describe how the US role had shifted from merely enabling Israeli actions to becoming an active participant in them.
- **"Hamas, which set out on October 7th to elevate the Palestinian issue to the top of the global agenda has done so. It may be cowering in tunnels, but in the world of ideas and propaganda, it has won."** - His assessment of the strategic outcome of the conflict, focusing on the political and narrative dimensions rather than the military one.
- **"I think we're looking at the end of days in Palestine, not just for the Palestinians, but for the Zionists."** - His final, stark prediction, suggesting the ultimate unsustainability and collapse of the Zionist project in the region.

Main Arguments

1. **The Western-led Global Order Has Collapsed:** Freeman's central argument was that the unipolar, Western-dominated era was over. He contended that a new multipolar order, led by the "global majority" and civilizational states like China and India, was actively taking shape.
2. **The West Has Lost All Moral Authority:** He argued that the West's moral authority, a key pillar of its power, had been destroyed by its own hypocrisy. The stark contrast between its defense of a "rules-bound order" in Ukraine and its complicity in the genocide in Gaza had exposed its double standards to the world.
3. **International Institutions Must Be Reinvented, Not Restored:** He posited that existing international institutions like the UN were broken beyond repair because they reflected an outdated power structure. The path forward was being forged by non-Western powers creating new institutions (BRICS, SCO) designed to uphold the principles of international law that the old institutions failed to enforce .
4. **Zionism is a Doomed, Heretical Ideology:** Freeman argued forcefully that Zionism was not a legitimate expression of Judaism but its "negation." He stated its actions in Gaza had revealed its "murderous" nature to the world, triggering an irreversible backlash that signaled the project's ultimate failure.

Supporting Evidence

1. **Rise of Non-Western Blocs:** He cited the expansion and growing influence of organizations like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which were creating their own development banks and policy forums independent of the West.
2. **US Policy Failures:** He pointed to the US embrace of what he called the "nonsensical" economic theories of Peter Navarro and its abandonment of diplomacy for military force as evidence of a great power in self-defeating decline.
3. **Shift in Public Opinion:** He referenced the growing awareness among global youth and, significantly, among American Jews, who were increasingly rejecting Zionism and distinguishing it from their faith, as evidence of a powerful backlash against Israel.
4. **Comparison with South Africa:** He supported his claim that Israeli apartheid was worse than South Africa's by contrasting the latter's policy of "separate development" with Israel's policy, which he argued was aimed at the complete eviction or extermination of the Palestinian people.

Emerging Trends

1. **The "Global Majority" as the New Conservatives:** Freeman identified a trend where non-Western nations were positioning themselves as the true defenders of the established, rules-based international order, while the West, particularly the US, was behaving as a "radical" and disruptive force.
2. **Potential Arab-Islamic Cohesion:** He highlighted the possibility that the shared crisis over Gaza could forge greater unity and institutional cooperation between the Arab world and the wider Islamic world, which have historically been fragmented.
3. **The Move to a Post-Dollar World:** He pointed to the proliferation of bilateral currency swaps and alternative payment systems as a clear trend indicating the erosion of "dollar centrality" and the emergence of a multi-currency global financial system.

Contextual Information

The interview was conducted on September 17th against the backdrop of the ongoing Israeli military assault on Gaza, which both participants termed a "genocide." This context gave the discussion its urgency and gravity. Freeman's self-identification as a "Burkean conservative" was also a critical piece of context, positioning his scathing critique not as an attack from the political left, but as a lament from a foreign policy traditionalist who believed the US had abandoned the principles of a stable, rules-based order.

Potential Impact

Coming from a distinguished career diplomat, Freeman's statements carried significant weight. His analysis could strongly influence audiences within the foreign policy establishment and the public who are questioning the direction of US foreign policy. His framing of the US as a "radical" power and the "global majority" as the new "conservatives" offers a powerful alternative narrative. His unequivocal condemnation of Zionism and prediction of its collapse could provide significant support to critics of Israeli policy and add to the growing debate within the American Jewish community.