

Dubious intentions of the French executive regarding Syria's future

Colonialism, which can be said to be a "*doctrine aimed at legitimizing the occupation, political domination and economic exploitation of territories by certain states*"¹, and which one thought it was totally abolished due to what it has caused in Africa in particular, seems to be resurfacing today as it is true that some former colonial powers give us the impression of aspiring to restore their status of "**colonial power**".

One of these unfortunate powers has been - it must be said – the Republic of France. Our goal here is not to belittle the French Republic and its history to its colonial past, but rather to warn it about the risk of a resurgence of a doctrine - colonialism - which has been prejudicial to France. Reminder is a way to warn.

How dare we ignore the human zoos established during the various world colonial exhibitions - including the Nogent-sur-Marne exhibition which gathered more than 2.5 million visitors in 1907 - in the purpose of presenting to Westerners the non-Western populations by adopting a humiliating and dehumanizing exhibitionist attitude²? How could one behave as if the massacres of Setif, Guelma and Kherrata, which caused the death of nearly 45.000 Algerians according to estimates, did not occur in May 1945, at the time of French Algeria ?³

The examples of the misdeeds of colonialism, and of French colonization in particular, are so numerous that one would lose so much in wanting to make an exhaustive list of them. To summarize, the colonial past of France is a reality, and colonialism is undoubtedly a "**crime against humanity**", as recalled the candidate to French Presidency E. Macron on the occasion of a trip to Algeria on February 15, 2017⁴.

The **candidate** Macron has showed a great lucidity concerning the colonial past of France. But what about **President** Macron ? Why does the French executive persist in keeping its troops in Syria while DAESH, a terrorist group that legitimized the presence of Western powers in Syria, is dying ? Why do some governments, including the French government, choose to support terrorist groups such as PYD-YPG to the detriment of the Republic of Turkey, a strategic ally, in theory, of these same governments ? Turkish leaders have shown time and time again that they still consider their Western partners as strategic allies, but is that the same for their supposed allies ?

Furthermore, given the colonial past of France, the current French government would do well to clarify its intentions on the reasons for France's presence in Syria. A military presence that is objectively no longer justified by safety purposes, raises legitimate concerns.

French leaders should abide by the international human rights instruments, which includes in the foreground the Declaration of the Rights of Man adopted in 1789 by the representatives of the French people. The first article of this Declaration provides that "**men are born and remain free and equal in rights [...]**".

Let us allow the Syrian people to born and remain free and equal in rights, by leaving them the ability to take control of their own destiny through free elections with equal chances of accession to power, and this, without interfering by supporting terrorist groups as PYD-YPG.

¹ <https://www.linternaute.fr/dictionnaire/fr/definition/colonialisme/>

² https://www.courrierinternational.com/article/histoire-nogent-sur-marne-les-vestiges-de-zoos-humains?link_time=1527260989

³ <http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20150507-8-mai-1945-setif-premier-acte-guerre-algerie-todeschini-france-massacre-histoire>

⁴ https://www.lemonde.fr/election-presidentielle-2017/article/2017/02/15/macron-qualifie-la-colonisation-de-crime-contre-l-humanite-tolle-a-droite-et-au-front-national_5080331_4854003.html