

Coded Rhetoric of Donald Trump on the Israel-Palestine Conflict

Analysis of Donald Trump's Coded Rhetoric on the Israel-Palestine Conflict

Introduction

This report examines instances of coded rhetoric used by former U.S. President Donald Trump in discussions surrounding the Israel-Palestine conflict. His statements, often crafted in ways that appeal to specific ideological groups, reinforce power narratives, justify aggressive policies, and at times, dehumanize the Palestinian people.

Coded rhetoric is a linguistic strategy where certain words, phrases, or themes communicate underlying messages that may not be immediately obvious but serve to shape public perception and policy responses. In this context, Trump's language frequently frames Israel as a righteous actor while portraying Palestinians as inherently violent or undeserving of sovereignty.

Understanding Coded Rhetoric

Coded rhetoric can be identified through various linguistic strategies, including:

- **Us vs. Them Narrative:** Framing the conflict as a binary struggle, justifying favoritism towards one side.
- **Dehumanization:** Reducing Palestinians to mere obstacles rather than people with legitimate rights.
- **Religious Exclusivity:** Using religious narratives to validate Israel's territorial claims.
- **Economic Reframing:** Presenting territorial disputes as economic opportunities, masking displacement concerns.
- **Warmongering:** Encouraging or justifying military actions under the guise of self-defense.
- **Delegitimization:** Suggesting Palestinians have no historical claims or right to the land.

Examples of Coded Rhetoric

Date: Dec 6, 2017

Statement: Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel.

Analysis: Religious Exclusivity: Aligns with religious narratives, marginalizing Palestinian claims.

Date: Jan 28, 2020

Statement: This is the most realistic plan for the Palestinians... They deserve a far better life.

Analysis: Patronizing Tone: Implies Palestinians lack agency and self-determination.

Date: Feb 4, 2025

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Statement: We will take over the Gaza Strip, level it, and build resorts.

Analysis: Dehumanization & Displacement: Reduces Palestinian land to an economic project, ignoring rights.

Date: Feb 4, 2025

Statement: Israel is the chosen land, and we will always stand with them.

Analysis: Religious Justification: Frames conflict as divine entitlement, disregarding Palestinian claims.

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Statement: They had their chance, but all they want is to fight.

Analysis: Dehumanization & Forced Removal: Implies collective punishment and justifies forced displacement.

Date: Feb 4, 2025

Statement: We will remove every last terrorist from Gaza, and we know who they are.

Analysis: Collective Guilt Narrative: Frames all Gazans as potential terrorists, justifying indiscriminate military action.

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Statement: The only way to get peace there is to wipe out the problem completely.

Analysis: Implied Genocidal Rhetoric: Suggests total eradication of Palestinians as a 'solution.'

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Statement: The US will take over the Gaza Strip and do a job with it.

Analysis: Economic Exploitation: Frames Gaza as a business opportunity, ignoring humanitarian crises.

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Statement: Why would anyone want to live in that mess? They should go somewhere else.

Analysis: Victim-Blaming & Forced Relocation: Suggests Palestinians should leave their homeland.

Date: Feb 4, 2025

Statement: We're not going to let them play the victim anymore.

Analysis: Dismissal of Palestinian Suffering: Minimizes humanitarian crises faced by Palestinians.

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Statement: Netanyahu is doing a fantastic job handling Gaza.

Analysis: Implicit Approval of Israeli Actions: Supports military actions without addressing civilian casualties.

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Statement: We are done with talking. Now is the time for action.

Analysis: Warmongering Language: Signals escalation rather than diplomacy.

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Statement: They don't even want peace; they just want to kill Israelis.

Analysis: Demonization: Generalizes all Palestinians as violent aggressors.

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Statement: If they don't leave willingly, we will make sure they do.

Analysis: Threat of Forced Expulsion: Advocates ethnic cleansing through coercion.

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Statement: We are the ones who will decide what happens next.

Analysis: Imperialist Tone: Implies US control over Palestinian fate.

Conclusion

Trump's rhetoric regarding Israel and Palestine often reinforces existing power dynamics, minimizes Palestinian agency, and encourages narratives that justify military actions and displacement. By identifying and analyzing these patterns, we can foster more critical engagement with political discourse and advocate for solutions that respect human rights and dignity for all people involved.