

Zionism trampled by widespread campus rallies



PERSPECTIVE

Since the onset of Israel's aggression on the Gaza Strip, numerous demonstrations, rallies, and campaigns have unfolded across various American cities, protesting the attack on Gaza and opposing the Biden administration's protective policies towards Israel. The turning point of these protests in the United States can be traced back to April 17 at Columbia University, with the movement rapidly gaining traction and spreading to other universities and academic institutions worldwide.

The anti-Israeli student protests in the United States initially commenced as a peaceful gathering of Columbia University students, advocating for an end to the war in Gaza. The situation escalated when the New York City police resorted to mass arrests within student campuses. On April 22, the protests extended to several universities along the US East Coast, including New York University, Yale University, Emerson College, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Tufts University, resulting in additional mass arrests in New York and Yale. In the following days, these protests enveloped the United States, reaching universities in more than 46 of the 50 US states and the District of Columbia. It can be argued that these protests constitute a novel social phenomenon for Americans, who have traditionally defined support for the Zionist regime as an intrinsic component of their foreign policy perspective. This movement is expected to gain further momentum in the coming days and months.

US Foreign Policy characterized the nature of student protests in America as a political crisis rooted in the nation's foreign policy, particularly Washington's enduring and close relationship with Israel, as opposed to the alleged cultural or higher education crisis some have claimed.

The wave of anti-Israeli protests by American university students was not confined to the United States; concurrently, demonstrations condemning the Palestinian genocide in Gaza spread across Europe, Australia, and Canada. Pro-Palestinian students orchestrated large-scale protest rallies in such countries as Argentina, Australia, Canada, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, and Yemen.

Top universities where students stood against Israel

Stanford University

Established in 1885 and opening its doors six years later, Stanford University is renowned for its expansive campus and prestigious reputation as one of the world's leading educational institutions. Its entrepreneurial spirit emerged post-World War II. In 1970, the university played a vital role in laying the groundwork for the Internet by hosting part of the ini-

tial network.

Stanford boasts 21 Nobel laureates among its alumni and has strong associations with distinguished individuals in the realms of business, politics, media, sports, and technology. The university has a history of sending prominent figures to the United States Congress. Moreover, companies founded by Stanford alumni

and affiliates generate an impressive \$2.7 trillion in annual revenue, including industry giants such as Nike, Netflix, Hewlett-Packard, Sun Microsystems, Instagram, Snapchat, PayPal, and Yahoo. Notably, Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, earned her bachelor's degree in physics from Stanford University in 1973.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Renowned as an independent, private research university nestled in Cambridge, Massachusetts, MIT takes pride in its distinguished alumni, including 85 Nobel laureates, 58 National Science Medal recipients, 29 National Technology and Innovation Medal winners, and 45 MacArthur Fellows.

Among its notable graduates is former United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. Scientific breakthroughs and technological advancements attributed to MIT encompass the first chemical synthesis of penicillin, radar development, quark discovery, and magnetic core memory invention,

paving the way for digital computers. The university asserts that its living alumni have established over 30,000 active companies, generating 4.6 million jobs and nearly \$1.9 trillion in annual revenue. In a testament to its impact, MIT likens its economic clout to that of the world's tenth-largest economy.

Harvard University

As the oldest university in the United States, dating back to 1636, Harvard University enjoys global recognition as one of the most esteemed educational institutions. The university's name pays homage to its first benefactor, John Harvard, who bequeathed his library and half of his estate to the

institution upon his demise in 1638.

This private Ivy League university has cultivated connections with over 45 Nobel laureates, more than 30 heads of state, and 48 Pulitzer Prize winners. Thirteen United States presidents boast honorary degrees from Harvard. Recent faculty

members who have garnered the Nobel Prize include chemist Martin Karplus and economist Alvin Roth. Notably, Harvard commands one of the largest financial endowments among higher education institutions worldwide, most recently reporting a value of \$50.7 billion in 2023.

Princeton University

Renowned as one of the oldest universities in the United States, Princeton stands out as a distinguished institution of higher learning globally. Famed for its dedication to teaching, this Ivy League university provides campus housing to all students throughout their four years of study, boasting 98% undergraduate on-campus residency. Moreover, Princeton's research prominence has nurtured over 40

Nobel laureates, 17 National Medal of Science recipients, and 5 National Humanities Medal honorees. Two former US presidents, James Madison and Woodrow Wilson, add to the notable alumni list that includes Michelle Obama, wife of Barack Obama, and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos.

California Institute of Technology (Caltech) Caltech is a world-class science and engineer-

ing research-educational institution known for its highly selective admissions process, admitting only a chosen few. Graduates and faculty members have garnered 39 Nobel Prizes, one Fields Medal, 6 Turing Awards, and 71 US National Medals of Science or Technology, underscoring the university's distinction. Caltech's influence further extends to nurturing four US Air Force senior scientists.

Columbia University, catalyst for anti-Israeli protests

Columbia University, celebrated for its global research prominence and exceptional educational environment across diverse fields, holds particular significance due to its New York City location and esteemed academic values. Many of Columbia's graduate programs consistently rank among the top 10 national programs for research productivity. The university's reputation is further solidified by its alumni, who include numerous influential government figures. Thirteen presidents and five members of the National Hall of Fame have graced Columbia's halls, with notable graduates such as former US President Barack Obama, writer and professor of biochemistry at Boston University Isaac Asimov, actress Alicia Keys, and US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Columbia University's unique importance, along with the White House's keen interest, is underscored by its reputation as a nurturing ground for America's future leaders. In light of the recent anti-Israeli uprising initiated by its students, the university, renowned for its history of anti-war and anti-apartheid demonstrations, now symbolizes a place fostering future leaders who challenge the United States' longstanding policies, object to Israel's support, and oppose Israel's atrocities in Gaza.



American university students demand that the US government and Congress cease their unwavering support for Israel.

