

OUTPOST

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Netanyahu Caves Again

Herbert Zweibon

After solemnly promising the nine month “freeze” on building homes for Jews in Judea and Samaria would not be renewed, Netanyahu wants to renew it. He thereby betrays his core constituency, destroys his credibility, strengthens Israel’s enemies and diminishes both the number and ardor of her friends—friends the beleaguered state can ill afford to lose.

Seemingly Netanyahu alone fails to comprehend that Obama was dealt a massive blow in the November elections and can ill afford to undercut what support he has left (including Jewish financial support) by declaring open war on Israel. Nor does Netanyahu apparently comprehend that an ascendant Republican party, far more sympathetic to Israel, would be a powerful ally. Netanyahu should be the last person prepared to shore up the most deeply hostile President Israel has ever confronted. (Yes, that includes Jimmy Carter, at least when he occupied the White House.)

In “exchange,” Netanyahu is being offered some planes, the promise that Obama will not endorse unilateral UN recognition of a Palestinian state for a year, and an assurance that there will be no further demands for a freeze. The promise of a year’s reprieve from the U.S. joining the jackals at the UN is not a concession but a threat—that if Israel has not shaped up within a year, Obama considers the UN avenue open to him. As for the “no more freezes” promise, all that means is that after three months have passed, Obama will have gone beyond the “freeze” to insist on a time line for withdrawals.

With every successive collapse, Netanyahu strengthens Israel’s enemies. Their contempt rises as it becomes ever more apparent that intransigence is a winning strategy. If Netanyahu is pressured, he does not push back, but folds like an accordion. He has no principles and zero willingness to stand up for the belief that once was central to the Likud Party he heads—that the Land of Israel belongs to the Jewish people. Humiliate him more and he grovels more. The only question is how long it takes before “never” is

followed up with “yes, we can.”

Just as serious as invigorating Israel’s enemies, Netanyahu undermines Israel’s supporters. What is the point of rallying to Netanyahu’s defense when it is clear, in short order, there will be nothing to defend? A two state solution means the end of Israel, says Netanyahu. A scolding by Obama and a two state solution is what Netanyahu most ardently desires. There can be no freeze on natural growth in Jewish communities, says Netanyahu. There can be one freeze after another. Jerusalem, insists Netanyahu, is the capital of Israel, not a settlement. Who wants to give odds that Netanyahu holds the line on Obama’s demand that Israel divide its capital?

Israel’s supporters, especially ardent advocates in the evangelical community, are confused, upset and ultimately turned off. If Israel has no faith in her rights and is not prepared to insist upon them, what can they be expected to do?

Aaron Lerner of IMRA (Independent Media Review and Analysis) zeroes in Netanyahu’s new policy sound bite—his repeated assertion that any proposal must “meet the State of Israel’s security needs, both in the immediate term and vis-à-vis the threats that we will face in the coming decade.” Lerner observes that those concerned with the implications of policies after 2020 will have to look elsewhere.

Actually Netanyahu’s response to pressure suggests that he is not thinking ten years out or even one year out. He is not thinking of Israel’s security needs at all. If he were, he could not fail to see that every time he caves in to pressure he raises the level and intensity of pressure by the Obama administration for ever greater concessions. Netanyahu has come to the point where he thinks hour by hour, day by day, how to appease Obama and the State Department. •

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From the Editor

U.S. in the Dock

The Obama administration endured a self-inflicted flagellation at the UN Human Rights Council in November. In a sharp departure from previous administrations, it sent three State Department officials to be questioned on America's human rights record. Like bargain-hunters at Walmart, fifty-six countries lined up to lob verbal grenades at the U.S., many standing in line overnight to be among the first. At the head were those champions of human rights, Cuba, Venezuela, Russia, Iran, Nicaragua, Bolivia and North Korea.

The indispensable Anne Bayefsky of *EyeontheUN* recounts some of their complaints and recommendations. Cuba called the U.S. blockade of Cuba "a crime of genocide." Iran expressed "its deep concern over the situation of human rights." North Korea, blackly humorous given the Dear Leader's super-abundance of gulags, demanded the U.S. "prohibit brutality by law enforcement officials." Libya complained of U.S. "racism" and "intolerance." In the end the Council adopted a report containing 228 recommendations for improving U.S. respect for human rights.

Taking a leaf from Netanyahu, who never fails to thank Obama for humiliating him, the U.S. delegation expressed its gratitude. Assistant Secretary Michael Posner responded to this barrage with "thanks to very many of the delegations for thoughtful comments and suggestions."

The Council capped the meeting off by adopting a report heaping praise on Gaddafi's Libyan dictatorship. Syria was especially enthusiastic: "[Libya's] unique experience in democracy...has allowed for the growth and development and promotion of human rights in full conformity with its commitment under international law."

Demonic Anti-Semitism on Campus

Under the auspices of the ZOA and CAMERA, Noam Bedein came to speak at the Austin campus of the University of Texas. As *Israel National News* reporter David Lev points out, Bedein is not easily shocked, given that he heads the Sderot Media Center which publicizes the plight of that shelled and shell-shocked city, the victim of countless missile attacks from Gaza.

But Bedein was shocked by his experience at the Austin campus. At first it seemed a routine visit. As on many campuses, he was greeted at the gates of the school by a barrage of insulting signs and posters. When he spoke there was the familiar large group of anti-Israel protesters. The shock came, Lev writes, after he saw a video of his speech on YouTube. Bedein says: "They edited the video to make me look like a demon. They put a mask on my face and made me

look red around the eyes [evoking blood]....I can say that this is the first time I have ever experienced anti-Semitism of a particularly nasty, medieval sort, in which Jews are identified with demons and Satan."

Bedein concludes that it is shocking how little even Jews and supporters of Israel know what is going on in places like Sderot. To this writer, what is more shocking is how little American Jewish parents know of the hatred fostered on campuses and the blind eye major American Jewish organizations (including the numerous Federations and the Anti-Defamation League) turn to what is going on—they're too busy "defending" Israel from its allies on the right, like Glenn Beck!

On Turkey

Perhaps, as Lee Smith, author of *The Strong Horse*, argues, it's the eagerness of U.S. policymakers to believe that Turkey is the future of Islamic democracy and no political institution better exemplifies the desired hybrid of western and religious values than the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). Certainly the West has shown little concern for the validity of the charges against hundreds of people from the secularist and military elite who have been arrested for supposedly plotting a host of conspiracies from plans to crash airplanes to plans to bomb Istanbul mosques.

The name the government gives to this supposed vast conspiracy to overthrow the elected government is Ergenekon. The only trouble is that it's an elaborate political fiction created by the AKP and its ally, the mysterious billionaire religious leader Fethullah Gulen, in order to discredit, imprison and silence opponents. These are the findings, as Smith reports, of Dani Rodrik, a Turkish academic, now professor of International Political Economy at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Rodrik admits that he too was not paying close attention to the weird conspiracy cases until a relative, his father-in-law, retired four-star general Cetin Dogan, was named in one of them (an anti-government plot known as Sledgehammer).

Skeptical his father-in-law was involved in the outlandish plots of which he was accused, Rodrik and
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Insanity of the Multicultural State

Mark Steyn

Editor's note: This is excerpted from a radio interview with Mark Steyn by Canadian talk show host Michael Coren on November 2, 2010.

Steyn: The Western world faces huge existential questions and the only way we'll get through those is if we're allowed to explore answers to the fullest. This is not a time when the state in its boundless ambition should be restricting the public discourse. But Canadian state commissars are actually very comfortable with that. The people who man human rights commissions and the people who run Canadian universities, even the people at Canadian newspapers, are very comfortable with restricting and restraining the limits of public discourse.



Mark Steyn

You kindly said I was very funny. I'm not that funny. I'm semi-funny. The funniest experience I ever had was turning up at a courtroom in Vancouver in 2008 and watching a courthouse there spend a day discussing the "tone of my jokes." They'd flown in alleged expert witnesses to sit there analyzing the tone of my jokes. I thought this would make a mildly amusing piece on p. 73 of *The Literary Review of Canada* but the idea of 3 judges presiding over a discussion and analysis of my jokes, that is the insanity of the world we live in. You're in this surreal situation where state bureaucrats are presuming to determine whether this particular joke has crossed the line. That is unbecoming the Canadian government. That's one of the things we should have learned about the Soviet Union, about all those totalitarian dictatorships, that when the state is in the business of criminalizing jokes something is going badly wrong.

Coren: Mohammed Elmasry was on this show. He said every Israeli over the age of 18 was a valid target for death. He then tried to pretend he was pushed into it. I assume that means saying to someone, what is your opinion. I gave him four or five chances to revise what he'd said. Christians? Muslims? Females? Straight? Pacifists? Yet his organization is in the forefront of taking people like you and others before human rights organizations. You fought back. You have the name, the personality, the ability to fight back. Other people are silenced.

Steyn. I think that's true. What is disturbing to me is that if you turn your back for a moment the mainstreaming of organizations like the Canadian Islamic Congress proceeds apace. They got some bad publicity because he came on your show and accidentally gave a glimpse of who he really is. But it doesn't pre-

vent the Department of National Defense from inviting Imam Delic to come and speak at an official Islamic Heritage Month, which is basically a front operation put up by the Canadian Islamic Congress. What is fascinating to me is how, in nothing flat, institutions like the Canadian Islamic Congress become part of the respectable quasi-official paraphernalia of the Canadian state.

You mentioned I am so controversial the city of London [Ontario] didn't want me in a municipal facility. I don't understand why I'm controversial and Mohammed Elmasry isn't. I don't understand if it hadn't been brought to the attention of a couple of ministers by a few right wing bloggers why the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] multicultural outreach unit would have been attending in an official capacity some get together of holocaust deniers and front men for the Iranian nuclear regime. It's astonishing to me how in Canada the most extreme voices, simply because of their identity group *bona fides*, become mainstreamed by the Canadian state. Terrible things will flow from that--unless we get serious.



Michael Coren

Coren: People will say, "Isn't he a fearmonger?" Most Muslims, I know this sounds trite, just want to get on with their lives. But it's not about individual people of a certain faith, it's about an ideology of a particular faith at this time.

Steyn: Obviously there are millions of Muslims who just want to be able to earn enough to afford where they live and all the rest of it. But what matters is who is making the running and who is making the running in the Muslim community are not moderate Muslims. That's as true in Toronto as it is in the Balkans or in Central Asia where moderate syncretic Islam has been basically entirely undermined by Saudi and Iranian money.

Coren: If women want to cover themselves completely I find it odd and jarring. I don't approve of it, but they have the right to do it. The problem is when there are political and social consequences. In Malmo up to half the Jewish population—a fairly small population—has left the town; it's the third largest city in Sweden. They're frightened. In the borough of Tower Hamlets in the East End of London, they just elected their first direct mayor. This was pushed by Muslim groups—

to have this sort of election—and they elected a man who is a radical jihadist. So the consequence of this form of dress and this belief is not just praying a certain way but that there must be world dominance, Jews are an enemy, Christianity has to be conquered. Not many people speak up but when you do speak up you are called controversial.

Steyn: You mentioned Jews in the East End of London and that's a very good example. On Holocaust Memorial Day 2009 a group of Jewish tourists were getting a tour of the old Jewish East End. The police advised them not to go, which is extraordinary. The Metropolitan police advise you not to tour the East End. They went there, they were pelted with stones and told they could go no further by the current euphemism of Fleet Street, "Asian youths." Among those injured requiring a trip to hospital were an American citizen and a Canadian from Toronto. Astonishing. Jewish visitors on Holocaust Memorial Day being taken to hospital because they'd been pelted with stones in the old Jewish East End.

Now if you go back 70 years when Oswald Moseley's black shirts tried to march through the Jewish East End there was a famous riot, the Cable Street riot, and a whole alliance of Irish Catholic dockers and other workers joined the Jews to stand firm against the British Union of Fascists and Oswald Moseley. This time round Jews get stoned in the East End of London and people say, well, you know, it's a provocation. Jews on Holocaust Memorial Day going around in what is now seen as part of the *dar al Islam*, part of Muslim East London. They were looking for trouble. Why didn't they take the advice of the police and just not go there?

Same thing. I was in Malmo a couple of weeks ago, sitting around dusk in the old medieval square and talking to a couple of nice Swedish blondes. I'll miss them when they're extinct, they're awfully cute. And I said I was going to go to Rosengard, which is the big Muslim suburb and they said it wasn't safe at this time of evening and I said I was going to go anyway. As I walked about a mile, the gap between the Swedish blondes grew longer and longer and the gap between the fierce bearded Muslim men grew shorter and shorter and eventually you're in Rosengard where all the kids kicking the soccer ball around are Muslim kids, and all the women are covered from head to toe, far more than in Amman or in Cairo.

Far more women are covered in Rosengard, Sweden. Even if they came from Muslim countries where women don't go covered, when they move to Sweden they have to adopt the head-to-toe covering. That's the insanity of what the multicultural state does.

A moderate Muslim emigrates from a moderate Muslim part of the world to Sweden and is in effect submersed within radical Islam because they are the enforcers in a place like Malmo. So modern Western multiculturalism is in a sense facilitating Islamic triumphalism. Malmo's not atypical in that.

Coren: People may argue you don't have to assimilate, you have to obey the law.

Steyn: When you say immigrants have to obey the law that's asking nothing of anyone. Of course people obey the law, that's why it's the law. That's to ask nothing of the far more profound identification people feel when they're really joining a society. And if you don't ask that, they won't even obey the law. What will be fascinating to me will be to see the first human rights complaint filed against the gay bathhouse across the street. When that case comes before the Ontario human rights commission and these judges who have no trouble whacking me around suddenly have to choose



between two fashionable identity groups, we will see—as we have already begun to see—that the law bends to who is willing to apply the most muscle. And radical Islam is ready to apply the most muscle.

Coren: I always believed feminists and gays would say, "There's an issue here," but we have seen no alliance against radical Islam. There was a group that wanted to march, Queers against Israeli Apartheid. And the comment was made that the only country in the entire Middle East where gay people are accepted is Israel. But still people were marching in the gay parade and only one country was mentioned and that was Israel.

Steyn: Even sillier was one of the groups that was marching in a rally before the Iraq war, one of those anti-war rallies, Queers for Palestine. It's ridiculous. But the lesson is that in the end the government elites, the people who built the multicultural liberal state, don't defend its values. And I think you see this with homosexuality in Amsterdam. The city is split now between hedonist, gay, long-haired, pothead, cool—we think of Amsterdam as the most liberal city in Europe—and then there's this ever more confident Muslim population. So they have an epidemic of gay-bashing going on in Amsterdam.

You see it again with the feminists. I thought the feminists would hold the line at female genital mutilation but no, they've taken out the word mutilation. The approved word now is cutting. And the American Academy of Pediatrics proposed that American pediatricians might agree to give these girls a ritual nick rather than sending them back for female genital mutilation.

lation. They proposed that. I and a few other people drew attention to it, and they backed out, but what was interesting to me was the silence of the feminist groups. So we're seeing that, for multiculturalism, Islam trumps homosexuality, Islam trumps feminism. I think we saw with the firing of Juan Williams by NPR that Islam trumps black.

The liberal state, liberal multiculturalists, will not defend their own. This silly airhead lefty cartoonist at *The Seattle Weekly* Molly Norris who accidentally, entirely of her own ignorance, got briefly involved in Everybody Draw Mohammed Day and found herself threatened with death. *The Seattle Weekly* announced a couple of weeks ago that Molly Norris' cartoons would no longer be appearing because Molly Norris had to abandon her identity—and as *The Seattle Weekly* put it “there is no more Molly.”

You read this thing and you wonder why aren't these guys outraged? Twenty years ago all those ghastly London novelists stood up to defend Salman Rushdie because he was one of them. He sat around the Hampstead dinner party tables with them and they weren't going to let the Ayatollah take out a *fatwa* on him. As unlovely as that ghastly London literary crowd are, they at least stood by their own. Nobody is standing by Molly Norris.

We're talking here about media figures, cartoonists, writers, film makers and what have you, but it goes on at the lower level too. The writer Barbara Kay testified to the House of Commons in Ottawa about a francophone school in Ontario at which a Jewish teacher was subjected to anti-Semitic taunts by Muslim pupils. If they had been white tattooed skinhead pupils, the school board and principal would have cracked down. This time round the principal and the school board and the local hate crimes unit all simply advised her to take early retirement and go away quietly. And in the end she went away quietly, the other Jewish teachers went away quietly, the Catholic teachers went away quietly, liberal secular teachers all went away quietly. And that's the danger for the Western world. In the end we will just go quietly into the long dark Arabian night without so much as mustering a defense of our supposed liberal values.

Coren: We talk of anti-Semitism because we think of this as the canary in the mine. The Jewish community leadership seems to be obsessed with those skinheads but they almost seem to be nervous, reluctant to talk about radical Islam. Anti-Semitic attacks are going up and almost all of them are by young Muslim men.

Steyn: It's fascinating to me, to be blunt about it, the stupidity of Jewish liberal groups including Canadian Jewish groups with whom I have a strong disagree-

ment on, for example, human rights. I think Holocaust denial laws are ridiculous and a waste of time. And it's particularly stupid because the people who run liberal Jewish groups are too blinkered to have grasped a basic point, which is that the principal beneficiaries of the Holocaust have been Muslims. If you think back, all of us know from our parents and grandparents generation, continental Europeans of the 1930s—they would never have entertained for a moment the erection of mosques in Brussels and Amsterdam and Marseilles and Frankfurt and all over the map if it hadn't been for official Holocaust guilt, post 1945. So we

have a situation where the people who have most successfully leveraged Holocaust guilt are the Muslims.

The Islamization of Europe is not unconnected with post 1945 Holocaust guilt which discredited traditional continental nationalism. The one people who cannot lever-

age Holocaust guilt now are European Jews who are having to hold social meetings and go to synagogues and schools and board buses under ever increasing armed security. And yet despite this, it is so frustrating to listen to the half-wits who run Canadian Jewish groups who obsess about some twirp of a so-called white supremacist living in his parents' basement out on the prairie somewhere in Saskatchewan, who has a website three other white supremacists go to once a month.

Israeli Apartheid Week started in Toronto. It is Canada's gift to the world, and it is in part due to the stupidity, shortsightedness and blinkered attitude of liberal Jewish groups in Canada, the United States and Europe in obsessing about the past, not confronting the challenges of the future. With the result, as I say, that Islam has in effect appropriated Holocaust guilt to advance its own ends.

As with the gay pride parade, so in Europe everyone gets a piece of the Holocaust Memorial Day parade. You can see this insanity with self-loathing French Jews, self-loathing British Jews, saying, “Oh when I walk my mother to the Holocaust Memorial Day services and I look at the tattooed number on her arm, I will think not just of Auschwitz, I will think also of Rwanda, I will think also of Jenin, I will think also of Fallujah.” And the list goes on. Rwanda, O.K. that was terrible. A million people died. But Jenin? That's a great Israeli massacre where I think the final score was dead Palestinians 54, dead Israelis 28. But somehow now to self-loathing French Jews and self-loathing British Jews, the great Jenin massacre weighs as heavy as Auschwitz. And Fallujah, I don't even know what that means, the Americans taking the town from the jihadists?

[Editor's note: Underscoring Steyn's point, one Jennifer Peto this year obtained a Master's Degree from the University of Ontario for a thesis entitled The

We see time and time again that the supposed defenders of the liberal multicultural state will not defend it.

Victimhood of the Powerful: White Jews, Zionism and the Racism of Hegemonic Holocaust Education. *It argues that Ashkenazi Jews have organized Holocaust remembrances to oppress Palestinians and people of color everywhere. Peto dedicates her thesis to "my grandmother, Jolan Peto, a Holocaust survivor...I know that if she were alive today she would be right there with me protesting against Israeli Apartheid."* As Prof. Werner Cohn has noted "she does not muster facts or data of any kind to give her thesis the weight of an academic argument." The scandal, he says, is

that the University of Toronto "has given its imprimatur to a hateful and fraudulent piece of anti-Semitic propaganda." Steyn would emphasize the scandal that she hauls in her dead grandmother to "validate" her self-loathing.]

Columnist Mark Steyn is author of *America Alone* and *Lights Out: Islam, Free Speech And The Twilight Of The West*. You can hear the complete interview excerpted above on youtube.

Have Jews Gone Mad?

Edward Alexander

During a mere five days in October (2010) I had the ill fortune to witness, via e-mail, three instances of a kind of intellectual and spiritual disorder that seems peculiarly Jewish. Hardly a scientific sampling, to be sure, and yet instinct tells me that it affords a glimpse of reality, and portends worse to come.

First came a letter to me about a Jewish teacher in a Jewish school in Vancouver, British Columbia who was in a tizzy about a short article of mine ("Moral Tone-Deafness") criticizing President Obama for his effusive praise of the ferociously anti-Semitic Archbishop Desmond Tutu: "Your article on Tutu and Obama got to the Talmud Torah School in Vancouver, B.C., where my friend Sari W. teaches. This is what Sari wrote me: 'I used the Alexander article [but] the new teacher we have hired to be my partner in teaching Tikkun Olam was singing Tutu's praises and was talking about integrating his teachings into our program. I took issue with it—asking if she knew that he was an avowed anti-Zionist—and probably anti-Semite to boot...she got huffy and didn't want to hear it—and told me that she had named her son after him...'"

The mind reels, even if it is familiar with the abominations that nearly always follow in the wake of invocations of "tikkun olam" by graduates of the school of Michael Lerner: a Jewish child named after the man who in 1989 stood up at Yad Vashem and urged Israelis to "pray for those who made it [the Holocaust] happen" and—of course!—to "forgive" the Nazis as well.

A day later I was told about the latest antics of a Jewish group from Olympia, Washington calling itself the IOC, i.e., "It's Our Co-op [Too]". For the general public Olympia is the state capitol and also the home of the late Rachel Corrie, the Saint of Gaza tunnel smuggling and a (typical) product of the local Evergreen State College. Among Jews Olympia is also known as "the city of the Jews of shame"; they are ashamed of a Jewish state. The IOC branch of ashamed Jews had tried and failed, in September, to stop the Olympia Food Co-op from making the decision to boycott Israeli products. Its objections to this particular boycott had been kept entirely procedural

and technical; i.e., the Co-op board—in secret collusion with the BDS (Boycott/Divest/Sanction) movement—had violated existing rules for imposing boycotts (apparently a favorite hobby of organic food consumers). Not only did IOC members avoid the political implications of the boycotters' blackening of Israel's image as an "apartheid" state; they took umbrage at my own sharp critique of the boycotters in an op-ed I had published in the *Tacoma News Tribune* (July 27)), alleging (so I was told) that I had hurt the feelings of the boycotters and hardened their position.

But now, in late October, I was informed that the IOC group had belatedly decided to educate itself about "the political issues" by paying a University of Washington professor to enlighten them about the party on trial: Israel. And the professor it has invited to speak (on November 21) is one Ellis Goldberg, an expert on Egyptian labor movements who had a brief flirtation with fame in October 2001 when he publicly declared that the 9/11 terrorists were not true Muslims at all because they "did not get their mothers' permission, as the Koran requires," to set off on jihad.

Well-known for his venomous hostility to Israel. Goldberg has gone well beyond grocery boycotts as a way of striking at the Jewish state. An inveterate petition-signer in both the English and Arabic press, he has added his name to those of such Israel-hating worthies as Juan Cole, Joel Beinin, Ilan Pappé, and Zachary Lockman in equating Jewish settlements in those areas Arabs consider exclusively their own with "ethnic cleansing," depicting Israel as the devil's own experiment station, and calling for America to suspend aid to her. As of this writing, it is not known if he will persuade the Olympians to relax their opposition to (some) boycotts of Israel or urge them to seek out more effective ways of tightening the noose around her throat. Having been given the privilege of choosing his own topic, he plans to hold forth on the ways in which Israel must satisfy the requirements of UN General Assembly resolutions on the Arab "refugees."

I had barely recovered from this delightful piece of news when I got two e-mails from a long silent high school friend now living in San Francisco. Alas, they made me feel that I have been right in avoiding class reunions all these decades for fear that they would turn out to be visits to a graveyard of dead friendships. He told me that he was now living happily

with another man, that he had for some time been active in a gay synagogue, but that—and this with hammering insistence—he was now “alienated” from Judaism altogether because religion is “the most divisive institution.” Not one to leave shul quietly (so to speak), he said that the culminating incident in his unconversion from Judaism was 9/11; it reminded him, by its “divisiveness,” of the orthodox Jewish practice of separating men and women in the synagogue.

I drafted a reply to this remarkable letter, saying (among other things) that Stalin, Hitler, Mao, and Pol Pot had done very well in the “divisiveness” line without any help from religion and that, since 997 out of every thousand people in the world are not Jews, the departure of a few more wouldn’t do much to achieve the universalist brotherhood he desired. A friend to whom I showed my reply scolded me: “Does such a smug and shallow and worthless fellow merit a nanosecond of your attention?” I never sent the letter, but I preserve parts of our correspondence here as evidence—entirely impressionistic, to be sure—of a spreading derangement of the Jewish mind.

Jewish history and literature provide many labels for the familiar states of mind and kinds of behavior described above: refusal to credit the full evil of

the world; unwillingness to admit that Jews have implacable enemies; shame that can be assuaged only by removing its cause, i.e., other Jews or else the state of Israel. And yet there is in these incidents something less familiar, something so flagrant, gross, and blatant that it suggests a perverse mental disorder that may well frighten us.

Perhaps I despair prematurely. Maybe little Tutu of Vancouver has a middle name (Desmond, for example) on which to fall back when he grows up? Maybe the befuddled Olympians will learn from Professor Goldberg that there are even better ways to punish Israel for her manifold sins than not buying Osem soup nuts? Maybe some Jihadi attack on the Golden Gate Bridge will convince my old high school chum that there are more lethal forms of “religious divisiveness” than the separation of men and women in shul? Besides, all the incidents recounted here do have their comic, even clownish elements; and, as the French say: “il faut rire pour ne pas pleurer.”

Edward Alexander is Professor Emeritus of English Literature at the University of Washington. He is author of Resonance of Dust and The Jewish Wars.

Why Israel is a Rogue State

Gabriel Latner

Editor's Note: On October 21, the Cambridge Union Society held a debate on the motion, “This House Believes that Israel is a rogue state.” Although the Cambridge debate club has a proud history, with, for example, Winston Churchill, the Dalai Lama and Ronald Reagan having debated there, Cambridge today is no different from other elite universities, with Israel a target of mindless venom. Thus the motion should have passed. That it didn't work out that way was thanks to Gabriel Latner, a 19 year old second year law student at Cambridge's Peterhouse College. Latner's speech, ostensibly in favor of the motion, seems to have turned the tide against it, so that the motion failed, albeit by a fairly narrow 53-47%.

On each side of the motion were three speakers. To speak against the motion the Israeli embassy sent Ran Gidor, the embassy's political adviser and a Cambridge graduate, and Shiraz Mahor, a repentant former radical Islamist. The third opponent was Rob Mindell, a third year law student and president of the Cambridge University Jewish Society. Arguing that Israel is a rogue state (along with Latner) was Mark McDonald, who heads the Labor Party's Friends of Palestine and Middle East Association and Lauren Booth, Cherie Blair's half-sister and as such Tony Blair's sister-in-law. Booth is not only on the payroll of Iranian TV in England and a Free Gaza and Hamas advocate but a recent convert to Islam. A couple of months ago, visiting the shrine of Fatima al-Masumeh in the Iranian city of Qom, in her

own words, she "sat down and felt this shot of spiritual morphine, just absolute bliss and joy." On returning to England, she converted immediately, wears a hijab and, she says, prays five times a day.

Following his talk, on Booth's complaint and his own refusal to apologize, Latner was ejected from the hall and banned for life from the Union. This was for what he had said privately to the odious Booth who was sitting beside him. Before rising to speak, he told her "I am going to nail you to the f-- wall."

This was undoubtedly inappropriate language but Latner had scarcely, as Cambridge Union Society President James Counsell claimed, "disrupted a Union event" or "done enormous levels of harm to the reputation of our Union." Counsell declared that people like Tony Blair, "personally connected to Lauren Booth will now almost certainly avoid us like the plague." (Given the embarrassment Booth causes him, one suspects Blair would be more inclined to drink a toast to the Union.) One also suspects Counsell's over-the-top reaction had less to do with Latner's vulgarity than with rage that he had been fooled and now had to fend off outraged cries by Arab, Islamic and black student groups even as pro-Israel groups treated the debate as a major public relations victory.

To his credit, the incoming President of the Union Lauren Davidson had a very different take from the out-going Counsell: "In almost all our debates, speakers from each side twist the motion and it's usually thought



Lauren Booth

very clever and funny. The motion was not asking 'Is this house pro or anti-Israel?' It was asking whether Israel is a rogue state, which Gabriel argued exactly according to the motion. So, he was not arguing for the wrong side." The feisty Latner is challenging Counsell's action on the ground he did not follow Union procedures for punishing a member.

I am reminded of the Biblical tale of Balaam, son of Beor (Numbers 22). The Moabite king Belak summoned Balaam to curse the people of Israel and he blessed them instead. Belak protested: "Here I brought you to damn my enemies and instead you have blessed them." And Balaam's blessing includes some of the most famous lines in the Bible: "How fair are your tents, Oh Jacob, Your dwellings, Oh Israel" and "Blessed are they who bless you, Accursed they who curse you."

Gabriel Latner:

This is a war of ideals, and the other speakers here tonight are rightfully, idealists. I'm not. I'm a realist. I'm here to win. I have a single goal this evening—to have at least a plurality of you walk out of the 'Aye' door.

This issue is too polarizing for the vast majority of you not to already have a set opinion. I'd be willing to bet that half of you strongly support the motion, and half of you strongly oppose it. I want to win, and we're destined for a tie.

I'm tempted to do what my fellow speakers are going to do—simply rehash every bad thing the Israeli government has ever done in an attempt to satisfy those of you who agree with them. It would be so easy to twist the meaning and significance of international 'laws' to make Israel look like a criminal state. But that's been done to death. It would be easier still to play to your sympathy, with personalised stories of Palestinian suffering. And they can give very eloquent speeches on those issues. But the truth is, that treating people badly, whether they're your citizens or an occupied nation, does not make a state 'rogue'. If it did, Canada, the U.S., and Australia would all be rogue states based on how they treat their indigenous populations. These arguments, while emotionally satisfying, lack intellectual rigour.

More importantly, I just don't think we can win with those arguments. It won't change the numbers. Half of you will agree with them, half of you won't. So I'm going to try something different, something a little unorthodox. I'm going to try and convince the die-hard Zionists and Israel supporters here tonight, to vote for the proposition. By the end of my speech, I will have presented five pro-Israel arguments that show Israel is, if not a 'rogue state' than at least 'rogueish'.

Let me be clear. I will not be arguing that Israel is 'bad'. I will not be arguing that it doesn't de-

serve to exist. I won't be arguing that it behaves worse than every other country. I will only be arguing that Israel is 'rogue'.

The word 'rogue' has come to have exceptionally damning connotations. But the word itself is value-neutral. The OED defines rogue as 'Aberrant, anomalous; misplaced, occurring (esp. in isolation) at an unexpected place or time', while a dictionary from a far greater institution gives this definition: 'behaving in ways that are not expected or not normal, often in a destructive way.' These definitions, and others, centre on the idea of anomaly—the unexpected or uncommon. Using this definition, a rogue state is one that acts in an unexpected, uncommon or aberrant manner. A state that behaves exactly like Israel.

The first argument is statistical. The fact that Israel is a Jewish state alone makes it anomalous enough to be dubbed a rogue state: There are 195 countries in the world. Some are Christian, some Muslim, some are secular. Israel is the only country in the

world that is Jewish. Or, to speak mathmo for a moment, the chance of any randomly chosen state being Jewish is 0.0051%. In comparison the chance of a UK lotto ticket winning at least £10 is 0.017%—more than twice as likely. Israel's Jewishness is a statistical aberration.

The second argument concerns Israel's humanitarianism, in particular, Israel's response to a refugee crisis. Not the Palestinian refugee crisis—

for I am sure that the other speakers will cover that—but the issue of Darfurian refugees. Everyone knows that what happened, and is still happening in Darfur, is genocide, whether or not the UN and the Arab League will call it such. There has been a mass exodus from Darfur as the oppressed seek safety. They have not had much luck. Many have gone north to Egypt, where they are treated despicably. The brave make a run through the desert in a bid to make it to Israel. Not only do they face the natural threats of the Sinai, they are also used for target practice by the Egyptian soldiers patrolling the border. Why would they take the risk? Because in Israel they are treated with compassion—perhaps Israel's cultural memory of genocide is to blame. The Israeli government has even gone so far as to grant several hundred Darfurian refugees citizenship. This alone sets Israel apart from the rest of the world.

But the real point of distinction is this: The IDF sends out soldiers and medics to patrol the Egyptian border. They are sent looking for refugees attempting to cross into Israel. Not to send them back into Egypt, but to save them from dehydration, heat exhaustion, and Egyptian bullets. The Israeli government is sending out its soldiers to save illegal immigrants. To call that sort of behavior anomalous is an understatement.

My third argument is that the Israeli government engages in an activity which the rest of the world



Cambridge Union Building

shuns—it negotiates with terrorists. Forget the late PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, a man who died with blood all over his hands—they're in the process of negotiating with terrorists as we speak. Yasser Abed Rabbo is one of the lead PLO negotiators that has been sent to the peace talks with Israel. Abed Rabbo also used to be a leader of the PFLP, an organisation of 'freedom fighters' that, under Abed Rabbo's leadership, engaged in such freedom promoting activities as killing 22 Israeli high school students. And the Israeli government is sending delegates to sit at a table with this man, and talk about peace. And the world applauds.

You would never see the Spanish government in peace talks with the leaders of the ETA. The British government would never negotiate with Thomas Murphy. And if President Obama were to sit down and talk about peace with Osama Bin Laden, the world would view this as insanity. But Israel can do the exact same thing—and earn international praise in the process. That is the dictionary definition of rogue—behaving in a way that is unexpected, or not normal.

Another part of the dictionary definition is behaviour or activity 'occurring at an unexpected place or time'. When you compare Israel to its regional neighbours, it becomes clear just how roguish Israel is. And here is the fourth argument: Israel has a better human rights record than any of its neighbours. At no point in history, has there ever been a liberal democratic state in the Middle East—except for Israel.

Israel's protection of its citizens' civil liberties has earned international recognition. Freedom House is an NGO that releases an annual report on democracy and civil liberties in each of the 195 countries in the world. It ranks each country as 'Free' 'Partly Free' or 'Not Free'. In the Middle East, Israel is the only country that has earned designation as a 'free' country. Not surprising given the level of freedom afforded to citizens in say, Lebanon, a country designated 'partly free', where there are laws against reporters criticizing not only the Lebanese government, but the Syrian regime as well. [I'm hoping Ms Booth will speak about this, given her experience working as a 'journalist' for Iran.]

Iran is a country given the rating of 'not free', putting it alongside China, Zimbabwe, North Korea, and Myanmar. In Iran, there is a special 'Press Court' which prosecutes journalists for such heinous offences as criticizing the ayatollah, reporting on stories damaging the 'foundations of the Islamic republic', using 'suspicious (i.e. western) sources', or insulting Islam.

Iran is the world leader in terms of jailed journalists, with 39 reporters (that we know of) in prison as of 2009. They also kicked out almost every Western journalist during the 2009 election. I guess we can't really expect more from a theocracy. Which is what most countries in the Middle East are. Theocracies

and autocracies. But Israel is the sole, the only, the rogue, democracy. Out of every country in the Middle East, only in Israel do anti-government protests and reporting go unquashed and uncensored.



Sudanese Refugees At Border

I have one final argument—the last nail in the opposition's coffin—and it's sitting right across the aisle. Mr. Ran Gidor's presence here is all the evidence any of us should need to confidently call Israel a rogue state. Mr Gidor is a political counsellor attached to Israel's embassy in London. He's the guy the Israeli government sent to represent them to the UN. Consider, for a

moment, what his presence here means. The Israeli government has signed off to allow one of their senior diplomatic representatives to participate in a debate on their very legitimacy. That's remarkable. Do you think for a minute, that any other country would do the same?

If the Yale University Debating Society were to have a debate where the motion was 'This house believes Britain is a racist, totalitarian state that has done irrevocable harm to the peoples of the world', that Britain would allow any of its officials to participate? No. Would China participate in a debate about the status of Taiwan? Never. But Israel has sent Mr. Ran Gidor to argue tonight against a 19 year old law student who is entirely unqualified to speak on the issue at hand.

Every government in the world should be laughing at Israel right now—because it forgot rule number one. You never add credence to crackpots by engaging with them. It's the same reason you won't see Stephen Hawking or Richard Dawkins debate David Icke. But Israel is doing precisely that. Once again, behaving in a way that is unexpected, or not normal. Behaving like a rogue state.

That's five arguments that have been directed at the supporters of Israel. But I have a minute or two left. And here's an argument for all of you: Israel willfully and forcefully disregards international law. In 1981 Israel destroyed Osirak—Saddam Hussein's nuclear bomb lab. Every government in the world knew that Hussein was building a bomb. And they did nothing. Except for Israel. Yes, in doing so they broke international law and custom. But they also saved us all from a nuclear Iraq. That rogue action should earn Israel a place of respect in the eyes of all freedom loving peoples. But it hasn't.

But tonight, while you listen to us prattle on, I want you to remember something; while you're here, Khomeini's Iran is working towards the Bomb. And if you're honest with yourself, you know that Israel is the only country that can, and will, do something about it. Israel will, out of necessity, act in a way that is not the norm, and you'd better hope that they do it in a destructive manner. Any sane person would rather a rogue Israel than a nuclear Iran.

(This is a lightly edited version of Latner's speech.) •

Renting The Jordan Valley

David Isaac

On Nov. 1, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the U.S., in an effort to move negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority forward, has proposed that Israel lease parts of the Jordan Valley—which Israel sees as vital to its defense—from the PA for a period of seven years. Prime Minister Netanyahu reportedly accepted the idea, but wanted a longer lease. A lease requires a contract, so we present what a lease agreement might look like.

Jordan Valley Lease Agreement

THIS LEASE AGREEMENT is made and entered into this 2nd day of January 2011, by and between The PLO hereinafter referred to as "**Landlord**" and The State of Israel hereinafter referred to as "**Tenant**".

1. The **Tenant** acknowledges that the area known as The Jordan Valley is from time immemorial the home of the Palestinian people, granted for all eternity by Allah to his *ummah*.

2. The **Tenant** acknowledges that the property was stolen from **Landlord** by **Tenant**. **Tenant** will at his sole expense insert a full page ad written by **Landlord** in *Haaretz*, *Der Spiegel* and *The New York Times* describing in detail this infamy.

3. **Landlord** leases to **Tenant** the Jordan Valley for a period of no less than 7 years, at which time this Lease Agreement shall automatically expire.

4. **Tenant** shall pay as rent the sum of \$100 million per month, payable by the fourth day of each month by direct deposit to the Swiss bank account of Mahmoud Abbas. **Tenant's** initials required **Landlord's** initials required

5. **Tenant** will take responsibility for Dead Sea and begin filling it in.

6. **Tenant** agrees to pay a Security Deposit of \$500 million, which is refundable, except for the first \$500 million. **Tenant's** initials required **Landlord's** initials required

7. **Landlord** solemnly undertakes that it enters into this agreement of its own free will and there will be no incitement to violence on the basis of this agreement.

8. It is understood by the parties that incitement to violence does not include accurate portrayals of this agreement as a Zionist-American imperialist plot requiring *Jihad* on the part of every Muslim.

9. **Landlord** permits **Tenant** to reside on property contingent on the **Tenant** faithfully abiding by the following rules. Failure to follow any of them results in immediate termination of the lease.

10. **Landlord** is granted the right hereunder to take

immediate possession of any **Tenant** property left unguarded.

11. **Tenant** property may not be guarded.

12. **Tenant** may not possess weapons on leased territory.

13. **Tenant** is accorded certain rights under the agreement (including the right to take shelter in bunkers.)

14. All Israeli emergency vehicles are strictly forbidden from entering leased territory.

15. **Tenant** will allow target practice for Palestinian Liberation Army on leased territory. **Tenant** will provide the targets.

16. **Landlord** reserves right to celebrate Land Day on March 30 of each year. Celebrations will include dancing around **Tenant** installations and settlements, and accepting 80% of produce of said settlements as *jizya* owed by *dhimmi* population to Muslim overlords.

17. **Tenant** agrees that **Landlord** is not liable for natural disasters, such as mortar attacks, which come from the sky and hence from Allah. **Tenant's** initials required **Landlord's** initials required

18. **Tenant** will agree to clean up remains of mortar rounds in environmentally friendly manner in keeping with new Jordan Valley Green Initiative.

19. **Tenant** and **Landlord** agree that this contract will serve as a model for all future lease agreements concerning land stolen by the **Tenant** from the **Landlord** including Haifa, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem. See **Addendum A**.

20. **Tenant** acknowledges receiving the EPA Booklet "Protect Your Family From Lead Bullets In Your Home."

21. Should a dispute arise between the two parties concerning interpretation of the terms of this contract, they will submit to binding arbitration by a third party. **Tenant** and **Landlord** agree that this third party shall consist of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and U.S. President Barack Obama. The **Landlord** has equal confidence in both.

YOU SHOULD READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS LEASE, IT IS A LEGAL AND BINDING CONTRACT. Signing below means you have read the Lease, are in full agreement with its terms and have received a copy of the contract.

ACCEPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF January 2011, at The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20500

Bibi Netanyahu, for **Tenant** _____

Mahmoud Abbas, for **Landlord** _____



UNESCO: Now And Then

Ruth King

UNESCO was established in 1945: its avowed goal, contributing to peace by promoting international cooperation through education and culture and a respect for justice, the rule of law and human rights.

The organization recently trashed all of the above and, in fact, history itself, by declaring that Rachel's Tomb, Israel's ancient shrine, is a mosque. Major Jewish organizations proclaimed their shock. Why so? UNESCO has been blind to Arab outrages while serving as a battering ram against Israel for decades.

While Jerusalem's ancient quarters were illegally occupied by Jordan from 1949 until 1967, UNESCO did not utter a word about the systematic desecrating of Jewish shrines and

cemeteries; the refuse lining the alleys of the Via Dolorosa; the looting and ransacking of 58 synagogues and ancient artifacts; the denial of access to Jews and restricted access to Christians even on the holiest days; the restrictions on teaching anything but the Koran.

UNESCO's interest in what was happening in Jerusalem only surfaced once Israel had liberated and unified the city in the 1967 Six Day War. Its lever for mischief was the Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage which UNESCO adopted in 1972, its proclaimed purpose to protect and preserve cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to have outstanding value to humanity. By that time then Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek had set up a Jerusalem Committee composed of international architects, city planners, and religious dignitaries who supervised the ambitious restoration and commended the scrupulous sensitivity to Moslem, Christian and Jewish shrines. Jerusalem, unified and restored, is a jewel in the crown of ancient cities among world heritage sites, universally admired—except by the Arab League, Muslims and their henchmen at UNESCO.

On November 7, 1974, the UNESCO Commission for Social Sciences, Humanities and Culture voted "to withhold assistance from Israel in the fields of education, science and culture because of Israel's persistent alteration of the historic features... of Jerusalem." On November 20, 1974 the UNESCO General

Conference by a vote of 64 to 27 (with 26 abstentions) voted to exclude Israel from its European regional group, effectively isolating Israel. This was followed by a resolution to cooperate with the Arab states and the PLO.

Here are some of UNESCO's charges:



L to r: Amadou M'Bow, (back to camera, Cleveland Amory), Shelly Winters, Bayard Rustin, Arthur Miller, Cy Coleman, James Michener

"Whereas Israel in persistently violating the resolutions adopted by the General Conference and the Executive Board with a view to preserving the cultural heritage of the City of Jerusalem, defies wilfully the world conscience and the international community.....

"Whereas the General Conference cannot remain passive before Israel's continuous persistence in violation of its reso-

lutions...condemns Israel for its attitude which is contradictory to the aims of the Organization as stated in its Constitution by its persistence in altering the historical features of the City of Jerusalem and by undertaking excavations which constitute a danger to its monuments, subsequent to its illegal occupation' of this city; Invites the Director-General to withhold assistance from Israel in the fields of education, science and culture until such time as it scrupulously respects the aforementioned resolutions and decisions."

Outraged by this resolution, Writers and Artists for Peace in the Middle East, of which I was a member, demanded a meeting with the President of UNESCO. (In the photo on this page, you can see my shoe at the photo's edge.) Frank Gervasi, Gerold Frank and Colleen Dewhurst were also active in this effort.

UNESCO remained unabashed and unrestrained. Since 1974 there have been anti-Israel resolutions regarding every single Jewish national heritage site, including restorations and minor excavations. In 1981 Jordan, of all nations, offered a resolution designating an "action plan" for supervising all restoration in East Jerusalem and designating East Jerusalem an "Arab World Heritage Site."

Again, why the shock? UNESCO is an agency within the jurisdiction of the United (Islamic) Nations which has become a front for anti-culture, anti-education, anti-scientific, anti-historical, anti-human rights agitation against the civilized West. •

(Continued from page 2)

his wife began to investigate and discovered the documents presented to the court were crude forgeries. For example, although the documents were dated in 2003, when the plot supposedly was hatched, they are full of references to events that occurred after 2003. This alone establishes conclusively the defendants were framed.

Asked by Smith why, if the case was so flimsy, no one in Turkey was doing the detective work Rodrik and his wife had done, Rodrik cited the influence of Fethullah Gulen, the religious figure who has lived in Pennsylvania since the late 1990s, is closely allied with the AKP, and owns much of the Turkish media. Says Rodrik: "The people who are responsible for fabricating evidence, intimidation and wire-tapping, these are supporters of Gulen." Rodrik notes an important additional factor: Liberals are suspicious of the military and anxious to see it brought down to size, making them receptive to the narrative the AKP advances. As for the United States, Washington doesn't dare criticize the domestic machinations of the ruling Islamist party in the Muslim democracy it holds up as a model.

Abysmal Simple Shimon

Speaking at the rally marking the 15th anniversary of Rabin's assassination, Israeli President Shimon Peres proclaimed: "We are more determined than the enemies of peace and therefore we will win... They will not succeed to snatch away our only possession, a possession that is priceless... This dear possession is called hope, it is called peace." A pity that his 89 years, despite bringing Peres innumerable hon-

ors and titles, have not bestowed upon him the true priceless possession: eyes that can see, ears that can hear, a mind that can think.

"Justice" for Megrahi

Abdelbaset Al Megrahi is the Libyan convicted of bringing down Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie who was released by Scottish authorities because he supposedly had at most three months to live. (Al Megrahi came home to a hero's welcome in Libya fifteen months ago.)

While most of the world is rightly outraged that he was released, such bastions of virtue as Noam Chomsky and the insufferable Bishop Tutu are outraged that he was convicted. Along with a number of lesser public lights, including members of the Justice for Megrahi Group, they have petitioned the UN General Assembly to open its own inquiry. Since the UN has no power to subpoena witnesses, this is simply another publicity stunt to turn terrorists into human rights victims.

Oliver or Mohammed?

The most common name for newborns in England and Wales is Oliver. That's the official British line. In fact the most common name is Mohammed, just as it is the most common name currently given infants in Brussels, in Oslo, in the Netherlands—and indeed in the whole world. So how could the British list it as Number 16? Because the name is variously spelled, with an "o" or a "u", one or two "m"s, a "d" or a "t" at the end, etc. There's a well-known name for this: it's obfuscation. •