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# OUTPOST



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## The Jewish Stamina Index

William Mehlman

"Kahn told me once that the Jews were too neurasthenic to be vengeful," relates a character in *Shadows in Paradise*, Erich Remarque's penultimate novel. "Because they were neurasthenic, their hatred had no stamina; it soon gave way to resignation, and to preserve their self-respect, they turned their energies to understanding the enemy. Like all generalizations, this was only partly true. Still, there was something in it. Or maybe they were too cultivated to be vengeful..."

Even Remarque, with his finger never far from the pulse of the World War II Jewish refugee intelligentsia he knew so well, might have been shocked by the persistence of that neurasthenic syndrome 63 years after the reestablishment of Jewish national sovereignty. The Jews, the Jews of sovereign Israel included, remain hard at the business of "understanding the enemy." They are not vengeful. They are not, except at rare moments, even outraged.

How otherwise explain Israeli Police Commander Haim Blumenfeld's attribution of 43 Arab rock and fire-bomb attacks thus far this year against the Hadassah Medical Center on Mount Scopus (on pace with 83 in 2010) to the morally irrelevant fact that the hospital is "the only symbol of the government in the area?" The relevant fact that the perpetrators, their families, relatives and neighbors constitute 38 percent of the patient load at Hadassah Mt. Scopus doesn't seem to enter into the equation.

"We think it [the attacks] are a nationalistic action against the state," Blumenfeld put on offer, one enthusiastically embraced by Hadash Member of Knesset Afou Aghata. Indeed, MK Aghata informs, the "real reason" Hadassah security personnel feel compelled to don bullet-proof vests and helmets in 90 degree heat and staffers fear driving to and from the hospital at night is that the rock and Molotov Cocktail wielders are "protesting against the fact that they don't receive help with their problems, so they try to harm the hospital." The hospital that provides them with virtually free health care. And how does Mr. Aghata suggest Israel solve their "problems?" "By improving the quality of their lives in infrastructure and roads." Yeah. That ought to do it.

Galei Zahal, the mistitled "Israel Army Radio," long a shameless captive of the Left, provides another setting for the neurasthenic hangover afflicting the Israeli body politic. It was played out in a recent interview with radical film director Yehuda "Judd" Ne'eman in which he declared that "what we need is a war between the Settlers and the Left. There's no other way."

With the notable exceptions of MKs Aryeh Eldad (National Union) and David Rotem (Israel Beitenu) the response of the Knesset as a body, the police and the attorney general to this blatant call for violence and sedition has been dead silence. Everybody on exhaust. A similar depletion of energy has been evident in the absence of any move by the authorities in the face of Arab indifference to repeated cease-and-desist orders against illegal expansion of a mosque sitting almost literally on top of the Mount of Olives cemetery, the burial site of hundreds of Israel's and Judaism's most renowned religious and secular figures. Noting Israel's

scandalous failure to protect the burial grounds from incessant Arab vandalism, the Arabs keep building. The authorities keep sending notices.

Of course, for those who lack the will or stamina to inflict retribution on their enemies, the only option is to work harder at understanding them. That neurasthenic reflex has been all too evident in the Israeli and international Jewish response to the anti-boycott bill just passed by the Knesset. One might have thought that this long awaited legal counter-attack against the Arab-financed, radical NGO-led global "BDS" (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) assault on Israel's economic, cultural and academic interests would have elicited standing ovations from Jews and Jewish organizations across the spectrum--conservative, liberal and centrist. Instead, to listen to the hysterical charges of democratic and free-speech "suppression" emanating not only from the far Left but from virtually the entire American Jewish establishment, one might have imagined the Knesset had just fed the Torah, the Declaration of Human Rights and the U.S. Constitution to the flames. The Zionist Organization of America, initially highly critical of the Knesset bill, now reports that it is reexamining its position.

In fact, as Boston attorney Elihu Stone of the Wexner Heritage Foundation points out, the "Boycott Bill," far from being "anti-democrat," merely provides a "balance" to what has been a totally unbalanced BDS playing field, "allowing those who reject all (even indirect) contact with Israel to act as they see fit. As long as they do not harm binding contracts between parties who think otherwise, by inciting for their economic destruction and international sanctions." Moreover, Stone further notes, the Knesset bill which has triggered demands for Israeli High Court nullification is "far less onerous" than the 1977 bill passed by the U.S. Congress criminalizing American cooperation with the Arab boycott against Israel. "A majority of the Knesset," he asserts, "has now agreed that Israel will no longer be complicit in engineering its own demise...Unlike the pernicious boycotts it is meant to combat, this bill actually serves to promote and maintain democratic ideals, such as freedom of association, substantive economic due process and---yes---the free exchange of ideas." Even the most profoundly neurasthenic should be able to handle that.

*William Mehlman represents AFSI in Israel.*

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## From the Editor

### The Nail in the Coffin

Anne Bayefsky reports that the UN General Assembly in June nailed the coffin shut on reform of the UN Human Rights Council, which the Obama administration had proclaimed it would reform from within. (The Bush administration had rightly said the 2006 supposed "reform" of the Council was no reform at all and stayed away.) Supposedly there would be a "review" of the Council after five years but the five years have now ended with the General Assembly adopting a resolution kicking any further consideration ten to fifteen years down the road.

In fact, Bayefsky reports, the "reformed" council has managed to be even worse than its predecessor. Major human rights violators remain on the council (e.g. China, Cuba, Saudi Arabia, and until a few months ago, Libya) and Israel continues to be its obsession. The Human

Rights Commission over forty years of passing country-specific criticisms, devoted a third of them to condemning Israel. The “reformed” Human Rights Council has devoted 50% of its country-specific resolutions to denouncing Israel. Over the last five years (the life of the Council), there have been twelve special sessions, half of them on Israel alone.

The U.S. did make a series of recommendations for reforming the Council, every one of which was shot down. But that only led to empty rhetoric. While Obama diplomat John Sammis called the agenda “unfair and unbalanced” and said its membership policy “discredits, dishonors and diminishes” it, there was no suggestion the U.S. would leave. On the contrary, Bayefsky notes that the administration gave up its bargaining power when it declared in March—18 months in advance of the next election—that the U.S. would run for a second term.

In another touch of surrealism June also saw North Korea (thanks to alphabetical rotation) appointed chair of the UN Conference on Disarmament. Its leadership was welcomed by Iran, a fellow disarmament luminary, who promised “my delegation’s full support and cooperation.”

## No Greater Friend

Israel has no greater friend than Glenn Beck, to whom every Jew owes deep gratitude. In practice, alas, a demented Jewish community, putting progressive shibboleths above Israel, demonstrates the deepest ingratitude. Fortunately Beck marches to his own drummer and is not deterred.

In July Beck came to the Knesset where he told the Knesset Aliyah and Absorption Committee that the Books of Esther and Ruth have guided him as he stands up for Israel. Like the non-Jewish Ruth, who followed her mother-in-law Naomi to Israel from Moab, Beck said he feels “Your people are my people and where you go, I will go. Your God is my God.” Moreover, said Beck, demonstrating an understanding far beyond that of Israel’s hare-brained President Peres, the Arab-Israeli conflict is “about the end of Western civilization and the destruction of Israel.”

Beck asked Israelis to join him in Jerusalem on August 24 for his “Restoring Courage” rally similar to the “Restoring Honor” rally Beck organized in Washington. Four Republican presidential candidates are expected to attend and it will be broadcast worldwide.

Beck has since gone to visit Gush Etzion, the first of the vilified “settlements” to be reestablished after the 1967 war. (The Gush Etzion bloc had been a flourishing Jewish community when it was overrun and destroyed by Jordan in Israel’s War of Independence).

All honor to Glenn Beck.

## From Kosovo

After Jordan seized the eastern portion of Jerusalem during Israel’s War of Independence, it used the headstones of the Mount of Olives cemetery for latrines.

One is reminded of this by the behavior of Muslims in Kosovo (whose independence the U.S. still counts as an “achievement” of this country’s policy). The Kosmet Strategic Network NGO, including 70 organizations, reports that an Orthodox Christian church in the village of Samodreza has been broken into and turned into a public toilet and waste dump. Attacks on

the church (and many others in Kosovo) by Albanian Muslims have been constant, continuing despite the presence of international forces after 1999.

## Israel Strikes Oil

Golda Meir was wrong when she famously lamented that Israelis had something against Moses. “He took us forty years through the desert to bring us to the one spot in the Middle East that has no oil.” After decades of fruitless searches, it turns out that Israel is awash in oil and gas.

Canada’s *Globe and Mail* reports that the London-based World Energy Council says Israel’s Shfela Basin, a half-hour drive south of Jerusalem, holds 250 billion barrels of recoverable shale oil, making Israel, potentially, to quote the *Wall Street Journal*, “the world’s newest energy giant.” Howard Jonas, CEO of IDT Corporation, which owns the Shfela Basin concession, says there may be twice as much oil under Israel as under Saudi Arabia! Shell Oil’s top scientist Harold Vinegar says the oil is not only abundant but premium quality as well, “the equivalent of Saudi extra-light.” While it will take decades for Israel to reach maximum production, oil from the basin could effectively change the balance of power the day its first barrel is exported.

Nor is this all. Offshore, the newly discovered Tamar and Leviathan fields reportedly hold 26 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, the equivalent of 4 billion barrels of oil. *The Connecticut Jewish Ledger* points out the downside to these vast energy finds. Oil producers Iran, Saudi Arabia and Russia will have yet another motive to hate and seek to destroy Israel—mercantile envy.

Still, this writer will take the downside for the upside: tiny Israel, not only a major source for technological innovation, but a huge energy producer and exporter to the world.

## Disgraceful Israeli Prisons

No, Israeli prisons are not disgraceful for the reasons Amnesty International would claim: they are disgraceful because they coddle Muslim terrorists.

In *Frontpage* (June 20) Daniel Greenfield describes the vacation-like conditions murderers enjoy. They mingle, throw parties, study for advanced degrees and stay in touch with adoring fans on Facebook using their 3G mobile phones. They don’t even have to endure TV programs from the hated Zionist entity, but enjoy Arab satellite TV courtesy of the prison system.

Greenfield reports that luxury items are no problem. Muslim terrorists not only eat better than Jewish prisoners, they eat better than their guards. They pick out their own clothes, shopping via their smartphones. That’s because every convicted Muslim terrorist receives a salary from the Palestinian Authority. Ultimately the money comes from EU and American taxpayers—an estimated 100 million dollars goes each year to benefits for terrorists and their families, or ten percent of the PA’s budget. Greenfield notes that one of the charges leveled against Saddam Hussein was that he was promoting terrorism by making payments to the families of suicide bombers. But every country that provides aid to the Palestinian Authority is doing the same thing. The only difference between what Saddam did and what the

EU and the U.S. are doing is that we have a middleman in the PA, providing one degree of separation (and plausible deniability).

## Russian Jews Speak Out

In recent "From the Editors" we have reported on the growth of a movement among Jews to replace the ossified Jewish federations and councils with their far left agendas (and indifference or worse to Israel) with new communal organizations that would represent the values and interests of American Jews. The most recent addition to this growing chorus of dissidents comes from the Russian Jewish community of Boston, and was triggered by the Jewish Community Relations Council's (JCRC) accepting J Street as a member.

A hundred and thirty seven Russian Jews, many prominent in the community, signed a statement of protest. Here are excerpts:

"JCRC is supposed to represent the Jewish community and support Israel. Unfortunately it does neither. How open and democratic is JCRC when it does not pay any attention to the views of 70,000 Russian Jews in Massachusetts? Jews from the former Soviet Union count for one third of the total Jewish community in our state. But, as we were in the Soviet Union, here, too, in the Jewish leadership structure of Greater Boston we find ourselves to be the Jews of Silence. Sadly meanwhile, leaders of the Boston Jewish establishment find room in their 'big tent' for the radical anti-Israel J Street.

"We invite the community at large to start a broad discussion about the formation of a new representative organization. And we hope that any new Jewish relations council will include fair representation of the 70,000 Russian Jews in this area, who passionately care about Israel and our adopted country, the United States."

## Clueless Rabbi Sacks

In a *Jerusalem Post* op-ed ("The Future of European Jewry") Britain's Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks reveals how little he understands of what is happening around him.

Rabbi Sacks writes that for British Jewry these are the best and worst of times. There are more Jewish day schools than ever before and more Jewish cultural events. Jews are prominent in every field: there have even been Jewish heads of Oxford and Cambridge, Jewish lord chief justices, Jewish leaders of both the Conservative and Labour parties. On the other hand "a new anti-Semitism" is spreading like a virus across Europe. Rabbi Sacks asks "How, then, did anti-Semitism return to the very nations that pledged never to repeat it?"

It is here Rabbi Sacks loses his way. He claims the real target is not Jews as individuals, but Jews as a nation—in Israel. But the real target is both. In his fine book *The Resurgence of Anti-Semitism: Jews, Israel, and Liberal Opinion*, Bernard Harrison writes of the hater of Israel that the enthusiasm and moral certainty with which his convictions concerning Israel are held "altogether conceals from the holder that the comforting certainty of political rectitude which he derives from them, itself exacts a moral price: that of becoming the worse kind of anti-Semite; the kind for whom anti-Semitism masquerades as a moral virtue."

Incredibly, Rabbi Sacks says not a word of Muslim anti-Semitism and hatred of Israel which have had a huge impact in shaping British (and broader European) attitudes. And with his long time advocacy of a two state (dis)solution of Israel, with its false pretense that Arabs

seek a Middle East in which Israel survives as a sovereign state (and that Israel can by territorial concessions, satisfy Arab legitimate demands), Rabbi Sacks has contributed in his own way to Israel's demonization.

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## Anti-Semitism Update

### Italy Against The Jews

Giulio Meotti

The first months of 2011 have confirmed Italy's status as one of Iran's biggest European trade partners, all while the ayatollahs pursue the means to perpetuate a second Holocaust. Rome is doing business as usual with the greatest totalitarian threat to international peace and security since the defeats of Soviet communism and Nazi fascism, providing a lifeline to an Iranian regime that is cruel at home, sponsors terror abroad and preaches anti-Jewish revolt.

Meanwhile, a murky wave of anti-Israel zeal is also growing at an alarming rate in Italy. "The old anti-Jewish libels are now aimed at the State of Israel", says Stefano Gatti, one of the top researchers at the Center for Documentation in Milan.

Pro-Palestinian activists are threatening to "ignite" Milan, the financial capital of Italy where an Israeli exhibit is displayed in a central square. Meanwhile, the city of Turin hosted a "cultural festival" where the image of Shimon Peres was used as a shoe-throwing target. For one euro, Italian students had the chance to hit the face of Israel's president, who was fitted with a Nazi-style Jewish nose.

An Israeli student at the University of Genoa has been harassed and threatened with death by Arab students. Muslim students shouted at him *Allahu Akbar* (God is great) and *Itbach el Yahud* (slaughter the Jews.) Another Israeli student at the University of Turin, Amit Peer, confessed that "the Jews here are hiding their own identity because they risk becoming a target."

Meanwhile, demonization of the Jews is spreading in the liberal media. Leftist newspaper *Il Manifesto* published a caricature of a Jewish candidate for parliament, Fiamma Nirenstein, with Fascist insignia, a campaign button and a Star of David. The cartoon "Electoral Monsters" was dubbed "Fiamma Frankenstein."

*L'Unità*, the official newspaper of the leftist Democratic Party, published an interview with anthropologist Nancy Scheper-Hughes, where she claimed that Israel is a world leader in organ trafficking. The accusation resembled that of the Middle Ages blood libel whereby Jews were accused of kidnapping Christian and Muslim children before Passover in order to murder them and use their blood for matza.

Ucoii, the largest Islamic organization in Italy, published an ad in many mainstream newspapers entitled "Nazi Bloodshed Yesterday, Israeli Bloodshed Today." An Italian court ruled that the Nazification of Israel came under "freedom of expression" and was not a case of incitement to hatred.

In 2009, Italy sent the largest European delegation of artists to an Iranian cartoonist festival on the Holocaust. The cartoons presented the Holocaust as an invention of Jews with hooked noses typical of Nazi propaganda.

Pisa, Rome and Bologna are among the most prestigious Italian universities that annually host anti-Zionist conferences and pro-Intifada speakers. Israeli attaché Shai Cohen was prevented from speaking at Pisa University after a violent attack by students, who called out "butcher, fascist, assassin." The Israeli ambassador, Ehud Gol, fled Florence University after a similar "protest."

Meanwhile, the Riccione city council sponsored a meeting against "the militarism of Israel," explaining that "Israeli governments don't represent the Jewish people." The Coop and Conad, two of the largest supermarket chains in Italy, for some weeks last year removed Israeli products from their shelves in the name of a boycott of Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria. Lists of boycotted Israeli products have been launched also by local Christian communities and leftist groups, targeting L'Oreal, Ahava and other firms.

Flaica, a trade union with 8,000 members working in large-scale retail, promoted the boycott of "all Rome shops managed by Jews" and drew up lists of Jewish-owned shops to be avoided, because of "what is happening in Gaza." In Rome, a new pro-Hamas Freedom Flotilla has just been presented in the official buildings of the Professional Order of the Journalists, a body financed by the Italian government. Some members of Turkish terror group IHH were also on hand.

The Foreign Press Association in Rome, a state-funded institution, suspended two journalists, both Jews: *Yedioth Ahronoth* correspondent Menachem Gantz and French journalist Ariel Dumont. Iranian journalist Masoumi Nejad, who has been arrested for arms trading involving Italy and Iran, has never been expelled by the association.

Anti-Semitism is becoming fashionable also among the "chattering classes", intellectuals and academicians. Actress Sabina Guzzanti attacked the "Jewish race" in a primetime television program. Literary guru Alberto Asor Rosa wrote of the transformation of the Jews from "a persecuted race" to "a warrior persecutor race." Renowned leftist philosopher Gianni Vattimo declared that he had "re-evaluated" *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* and now felt they largely reflect the truth about the Jews.

The slandering of Israel is also growing among the most important Catholic journalists. Vittorio Messori, who conducted the first book-length interview with Pope John Paul II, recently wrote an editorial for the Italian daily *Il Corriere della sera* where he stated: "All governments of all Muslim nations are under the tsunami of the violent intrusion of Zionism that has come to put its capital in Jerusalem."

The growing anti-Semitism is also evident by the security around the largest synagogue in Rome, one of the oldest in the world. The Jewish temple looks like a military outpost: Private guards everywhere, metal detectors and policemen at every corner. The Jewish school looks like a "sterilized area" protected by policemen, bodyguards and cameras. All school windows are plumbed with iron grates. I saw the same in the Jewish homes of Hebron and in the schools of Sderot.

Pro-Palestinian groups just recently marched into the ghetto, shouting "Fascist" and "Assassins" to the Jews, some of them Holocaust survivors. It was here, on 16 October 1943, that 1,200 Jews were deported to Auschwitz; none of the 200 Jewish children came back home.

It was here, on 9 October 1982, that an Arab terrorist opened fire on Jews; a two-year old baby, Stefano Taché, became the first Italian victim of anti-Jewish violence since the war.

Not far from the ghetto, in the lower part of the Titus Gate, named after the Roman emperor who destroyed the Second Temple in Jerusalem, someone wrote in Hebrew: *Am Yisrael Chai*. The people of Israel not only had not been destroyed, but defiantly remained alive. It's comforting to know that there is still someone with the courage to write it.

*Giulio Meotti, a journalist with Il Foglio, is the author of the book A New Shoah: The Untold Story of Israel's Victims of Terrorism*

## Scotland—How the Left Prefers Terrorists to Democracies

Ray Cook

In 2009 the West Dunbartonshire Council passed a resolution/motion during Operation Cast Lead, to boycott *all* goods from Israel.

This week the story was news again and has unleashed a Twitter tirade, emails and phone calls as well as blog articles and online newspaper articles.

We now discover that the person who tabled the motion is Cllr James Bollan, a member of the Scottish Socialist Party and a former member of the Communist Party.

Following the uproar over the Scottish decision, Bollan had this to say about the Palestinian terror group: " Hamas was elected and are freedom fighters alongside the Palestinians fighting an illegal occupation of Palestine by Israel."

We all know that some of the worst dictators in the world, all of whom are probably admired by Cllr Bollan, were democratically elected: Hugo Chavez in Venezuela, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Iran and Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe.

Presumably Cllr Bollan would fully support these countries in their various forms of 'democracy' which include, inter alia, the oppression of women and their human rights, killing gays, starving their own people, and rigging elections.

I would put it to the Councillor that an election does not afford the elected the right to fire rockets, thousands of them, into a neighbouring country, abduct that country's citizens, send in human bombs, target school buses and demand the death of all Israelis and Jews everywhere.

I would also point out that the 'Occupation' that Councillor Bollan and his friends in Hamas refer to is not what you think it means. They believe that Israel is occupied Palestine and they will never desist from attacking Israel even if it were to withdraw from Judea/Samaria/West Bank.

Next statement from Bollan was this:

"Scots believe in equality and justice...words unknown to Zionists."

Whereas I have no doubt most Scots believe in these worthy principles, coming from the mouth of someone who casts Islamofascist antisemites as 'freedom fighters' whose idea of justice is to throw their opponents off tall buildings and hide behind their citizens and ambulances, in mosques and schools whilst firing rockets, grenades and guns at Israeli soldiers, this is a bit rich, to say the least.

Israel is the only country in the Middle East to have a judiciary that is not controlled by the government, a free press, and freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom to criticize the government.

Responding to a *Ynetnews* inquiry, Bollan confirmed that the statements attributed to him were accurate, and added the following: "One important point I made that strangely was not published along with my comments on the enclosed blog was that Hamas was elected with a bigger majority than the Israeli government."

He's having a laugh isn't he? It's not that difficult to get a good majority by intimidating the other side and actually killing them, as happened to Fatah supporters who ran in the only direction they knew would be safe; no, not Egypt, Israel. They fled from Hamas to save their lives and even had to let those unjust, murderous Israelis save them.

Maybe the Councillor, despite his election to the august body known as West Dunbartonshire Council still has no idea that absolute majorities are often difficult to come by in truly democratic parliaments, such as the Knesset, which operates a proportional representation system.

Following earlier reports of the West Dunbartonshire boycott, and the uproar over the decision to ban Israeli books as well, regional council Spokesman Malcolm Bennie said: "The municipality will not boycott Israeli books printed in Britain, only books that were printed in Israel."

Oh, it's that specific is it? These guys are such humanitarians.

At the time, Bennie admitted that Israel is the only country being boycotted by the council, adding that the municipality had no intention of issuing a ban on products originating from Iran, Syria or Libya.

And before you say that West Dunbartonshire doesn't buy anything from these countries, let me remind you that Cllr McColl said in his video on his blog site this week that the boycott was symbolic.

Indeed, what a load of symbolics.

The West Dunbartonshire Council is so principled when it comes to standing up for the oppressed people of the world that its myopic vision can only see Palestinians being attacked by Israelis.

It doesn't see the slaughter in Syria or Libya; it doesn't see the starving millions in Darfur or Zimbabwe; it doesn't notice ethnic cleansing in Tibet; it didn't utter a word about Burma and the house arrest for years of Burma's Ang Sun Suu Kyi.

No, it only objects to Israel defending itself.

Why is this?

Do you have a couple of hours? No? OK, I'll summarise.

The (Far) Left supports Palestinians because it sees them as the victims of colonialism, oppression and confiscation. The Left needs a new victim to raise the Red Flag over, and if it can't be red, then green will do because these people are colour blind and ideologically lobotomised.

George Galloway, a good example; he abhors and attacks anyone who dares question the Holocaust but he runs into the arms of Holocaust deniers like Hamas or Nasrallah. Where's the logic?

Although I doubt they will miss those lovely new potatoes from Tesco, let's hope that enough pressure can be brought to symbolically overturn this decision.

The Council of Europe's European Court of Human Rights ruled in 2009 that boycotts were illegal. Specifically of Israeli goods. So I believe that WDC is acting illegally and any other council in the UK or Europe that is so minded is also breaking the law.

If there are any Scottish advocates out there who want to take this up *pro bono*, I'll be pleased to hear from you.

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*This is edited from an article on June 02 at Raymond Cook's blog (raymondcook.net)*

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## A Guide for the Bedevilled

Ben Hecht

*(Editor's Note: In this excerpt from A Guide for the Bedevilled, published while the Holocaust raged in Europe, Ben Hecht provides guidance for how not to respond to anti-Semites.)*

The Jewish apologists are avidly and pathetically intent on stating the case for the Jew by contradicting his enemies. They do not even pause to study the accusations of these enemies. They feel only that anything an anti-Semite says must be contradicted and disproved—and they rush forward with statements that Jews love their mothers, are full of patriotism, sweetness and solid human charm.

These denials, contradictions and affirmations are a preposterous waste of time. Jewish diplomacy has been wasting its time in this fashion for almost twenty centuries, offering alibis and mitigating circumstances—for what? Is there anything of which a Jew can be guilty that could match the unsavory and contemptible antics of his accusers? Apologies to whom? To that judge with blood-caked hands who sits leering from his bench? To that enfeebled and chaotic brain that calls itself an anti-Semite? Or to that smug and highy-tighty bystander, World Opinion—a gentleman who hasn't been able to find his buttocks with both hands since he was given an alphabet to play with?

You would think that the Jews would wake up to this one fact about themselves—that their defensive position is the chief delight and arsenal of the anti-Semite. But never comes such awakening. There have been some who have opened their eyes. Heinrich Heine woke up one day and filled the world with a burst of bitter laughter. This "greatest of their poets" announced that, whatever the Jew was, the spectacle of the monstrosities who called themselves Germans setting themselves up as his judges and superiors was one which must set the Devil and all his friends to laughing.

But Heine is only a Jew—not a Jewish spokesman. The Jewish spokesmen are usually a little too stunned with calamity to make epigrams. Their very egoism bids them look to themselves for answers, rather than to their enemies. And they answer, scientifically, vaingloriously, despairingly. That they are arguing with lunacy, that they are titillating sadists that they manage only to inflame their accusers by revealing their wounds—never daunts their propaganda.

And in this struggle to disprove the anti-Semite by presenting themselves as a noble, worthy, and even wondrous people, the Jews fall into a trap that leaves their enemies cackling. For even these have enough cunning to punch holes in such contentions. The mere fact that the Jews are to be found on this earth is enough to deny their cries that they are noble or remotely wondrous. No people known to history is that—not even the Americans.

There are two very unwise things to do in the world. One is to proclaim the fact that you are in distress—and expect your plight to bring Samaritans rushing to your side. An occasional Samaritan will arrive—but accompanied always by three hooligan sadists intent on the sport of increasing your misery.

The other is the business of advertising your virtues. The "Jewish propaganda machine" is more or less devoted to both schemes, and the results continue, century in and out, to be the same. In a world that admires only victors, the Jews have persisted in advertising themselves as victims only. This the Jews are not. I am not writing of those murdered but those alive. No man alive is a victim. It is not only stupid but dangerous to pronounce himself one.

And no man alive is a good man. In such pronouncements lie further stupidity and danger. Whenever a man parades his virtues I always look over his shoulder at his follies and evils. I know that virtue is always a minority and I dislike to be taken in by any durbars it stages. And if a man grows too loud with his claims to piety and goodness it is my human impulse to bring him to my own measure by examining studiously his many failings.

Such, to a large degree, is the effect of the Virtue-Apologist propaganda of the Jews. The bystander--not necessarily an anti-Semite—on hearing the overpraise attached to the name Jew, ignores it a little irritably and bethinks himself at once of Jews he knows he wouldn't be found dead with.

My own attitude toward the Jews is that they need no defense—and that defending them is the major disservice I can do them. They are and have been always children of the world—and they look to me as good as the rest of their playmates. And, now and then, a little better.

If there is anything special in the Jewish make-up, it lies in the ancient and still undissipated egoism of the Jew. Here is the quirk of which the anti-Semites make always a great noise. I wish only that the accusations of egoism were as true as they proclaim them to be. The echo of Elijah is all too faint in the Jewish spirit. I wish also that many other of the accusations were true—that Jews are dangerous, that they are a world menace (to the Germans), that they cannot be assimilated by Nordic peoples (Is this really a charge or a complaint?). I wish too that there were complete truth in the accusation that the Jews are an implacable barrier to the philosophy of rampant nationalism.

There is only one truth in all these charges. No Jew, were he given a Swastika to wear on his sleeve, could exist in the Hell made by the Germans. Not even a bad Jew. There is enough of Elijah left in him to make of him the eternal Underground against tyranny.

It behooves every Jew to embrace this truth in the charges of his enemy with gratitude and a grin.

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## Two Tours of Duty as a U.S. Army Officer in Israel

### Irving Kett

Shortly before the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War in October 1973 I entered the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, PA. The War College, an important decision making resource for the federal government, provides the Ph.D. of the Army and is a requirement for an officer aspiring to become a general.

Only a limited number of colonels pass the course and of those approximately one-third reach the rank of general. Although I passed, I never was promoted beyond the rank of senior colonel. Nonetheless, being there afforded me meaningful entree to Israel. Early in the course a computer analysis was made as to what was the minimum number of Jews required to properly secure adequate boundaries for Israel. The figure arrived at was 8 to 9,000,000.

In the second year each officer was required to visit an area of the world that was deemed vital to U.S. national security and to prepare a paper comparable to a Ph.D.

dissertation. My request to be sent to Israel was granted with the proviso that I was to develop a study of the minimum boundaries required for the State of Israel to fend off Arab aggression.

Before departing for Israel with my packet of letters of introduction to the U.S. Military Attache and key Israeli military figures, including Yehoshofat Harkabi, a former IDF Chief of Intelligence, Ariel Sharon, hero of the Yom Kippur War who had turned incipient defeat to victory, and Israel Tal, the Israeli armored officer and director of construction for the IDF's impressive Merkava Main Battle Tank, I studied the Middle East situation in the War College Library.

Based on strictly military considerations and the directive from the War College I made the following recommendations:

I). That Israel immediately annex Samaria and Judea to prevent an attack on Israel from the Jordan Rift and the mountain range that runs from Hebron to Nablus. The latter ridge line dominates the bulk of Israel's population centers, infrastructure, as well as Israel's production and military concentrations.

II). That Israel annex the Gaza Strip to prevent hostile forces from seizing the southern route to attack Israel's heartland. In the well-known Allon Plan, formulated by Yigal Allon, Israel's field commander during the War of Liberation, the importance of Israel maintaining control of the Gaza Strip was emphasized and I fully concurred with that evaluation. It would furthermore reduce Israel's border with Egypt from 400 miles to 160 miles.

III). That Israel annex Southern Lebanon to the Awali River which is about 40 kilometers north of the present international boundary between Israel and Lebanon. In the Balfour Declaration that was supposed to be Israel's northern border. Israel has never been able to control Arab terrorism from the present boundaries.

IV). That Israel annex the Golan Heights.

V). That Israel return the entire Sinai Peninsula to Egypt with the stipulation that an area be set aside for a permanent U.S. military airbase and naval installation.

VI). That Arabs in Samaria and Judea who reject Israeli sovereignty be resettled in the Sinai Peninsula, an area with major resources of water, minerals and oil, which at that time had only about 60,000 Bedouin inhabitants. The Arabs of Israel should also be encouraged to join their brethren in the independent Arab state in the Sinai Peninsula which is approximately three times the size of the Israel envisioned in this study.

In interviews with the Israel Foreign Office, I found them receptive to everything except my proposal that Israel surrender the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt and establish an independent Arab state in the Sinai. To that suggestion they were adamantly opposed. At that point the Government of Israel was determined to maintain control of the entire Sinai Peninsula right up to the Suez Canal. As it turned out they gave the entire Sinai to Egypt for a worthless piece of paper with the word "peace" printed on it.

When I submitted my 40 page report, I expected to have trouble with the State Department on the issue of resettlement of Arabs in the Sinai Peninsula. To my surprise, they considered that a capital idea and were particularly pleased with the recommendation for the establishment of U.S. military bases in the Sinai.

What they vehemently objected to was Israel taking the strip of southern Lebanon to the Awali River. They insisted that I remove that recommendation from my report. I felt so strongly that I foolishly refused to do that.

As a result an offer that was made to me to stay three more years as a War College faculty member was withdrawn and my hopes for promotion were dashed. My report is still in the War College library and was recommended reading for military officers going to the Middle East for many years.

In 1978, in the Israel-Egypt Treaty, Israel agreed to vacate the Sinai Peninsula in stages. Israel at that time had many vital defense installations in the Sinai including two airbases in the eastern Sinai. In securing agreement for Israeli withdrawal, President Carter agreed to help Israel build comparable bases in the Negev with the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers.

Because of my experience with early warning air strips in Alaska over several years, I was recalled to active duty as Deputy Project Manager for the Negev project for three years. Since my children, grandchildren and my only sister were living in Israel, I welcomed the opportunity--although I was opposed to Israel's surrender of the Sinai Peninsula. A total of 15 U.S. Army Corp of Engineer officers were assigned to the project in Israel.

We had many high ranking visitors including the U.S. Defense Department's Chief of Operations. When he came, I was assigned to spend the day with him in the Sinai Peninsula and the Negev. He told me that the Israeli Air Force is considered one of the most capable in the world but that giving up the Sinai Peninsula was one of the most stupid diplomatic moves any country ever committed.

There were occasional outbreaks of anti-Semitism from some American Department of Defense civilians and contractors, including the erection of large Swastikas on the project grounds. In one incident of an inebriated worker ranting and cursing Jews, I had him kicked out.

The first--and only--time that I met General Ariel Sharon was in 1974 in the Knesset dining room when we spent about three hours alone together. I found him very impressive. Several years later my opinion changed radically when, as Minister of Defense, he dragged the settlers out of their homes in Yamit in April 1978 during the last phase of Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula. My opinion of General Sharon was not enhanced by his performance in Lebanon in 1982, when he was still Defense Minister, nor his removal of the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip over two decades later when he was Israel's Prime Minister. I was, therefore, very surprised when I was shown an article that he wrote for the *Jerusalem Post* on January 20, 1993, entitled "Dangerous Government." In that article General Sharon wrote: "Every citizen should read what Irving Kett, a retired American colonel wrote. Kett is no political activist but a professional soldier." Of course in practice he violated much of what I had advocated.

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*Irving Kett served for many years as chairman of AFSI's chapter in Los Angeles.*

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## The Permanent Muslim Civil War Daniel Greenfield

What the misreading of the Arab Spring as a revolutionary wave of democracy, rather than an explosion of existing tensions and longstanding civil wars, points to most is how

thoroughly the 21st century Middle East expert has unlearned everything that his 19th century predecessor knew about the Muslim world.

The 19th century expert understood the Muslim world as essentially unchanging, seething with revolts and dynastic struggles, but still shackled to the chains of its cultural and moral limitations. But the 21st century expert insists on a progressive version of history, in which humanity is always moving upward. Where each event, good or bad, is a phase in historical development.

150 years ago, a Western observer reporting on a Muslim ruler being driven out of power by an alliance of oligarchies and an angry mob would have said that it was the same sort of thing that had been going on in the region forever. His conclusion might have been cynical, even bigoted, but it would have also been realistic.

The 21st century expert is too busy looking to the future to notice the past. The only history in the Muslim world that he is concerned with is colonial history, the tale of wrongs inflicted by Europeans on the noble inhabitants, and of the tremendous culture and great achievements of the locals. This mishmash of history informs him that the advancement of the Muslim world was aborted by Western imperialism. And when Western imperialism is finally and utterly destroyed, then the Muslim world will resume its high standards of civic culture.

The Arab Spring, with its violent overthrow of Western backed rulers, seems promising to him. Finally progressive organizations like the Muslim Brotherhood will have their chance to restore an advanced civilization to the noble principles of the Koran.

There is nothing wrong with this formulation that he can see. "Everyone" knows that Islam is better, kinder, nobler and more technically advanced than Christianity or Judaism. It may have its fundamentalists lurking in dark caves, but what of abortion clinic bombers and settlers? When the Islamists are in charge— surely a new era of freedom and enlightenment will follow.

Even the secularists are no better. Democracy is their idol, and the ballot box their altar. But what does democracy mean to nations divided by ethnicity, tribe and religion? And how does one negotiate a consensus through such irresolvable identities?

Lebanon is a demonstration of what multiculturalism mixed with Islam looks like in even a modern area with heavy European influence. A permanent civil war that can never be peacefully resolved. The Muslim world is no more peaceful, only more pacified by tyrants and tanks. Take away the tyrant and his tanks, and the civil war resumes, until it is pacified by another tyrant. The cycle repeats itself endlessly.

The Soviet Union was once referred to as a "Prison of Nations". But then so are all empires. The Muslim world is a broken empire, a vast collection of scattered pieces, subjugated peoples, wrecked cultures, sullen tribes and rival families crowded together into one Muslim identity. With nothing in common but their hatred of the infidel.

The Muslim world can never be at peace, because Muslims are not at peace with themselves. And their governments are built on some form of negotiated alliance, just as can be seen in its crude form in Afghanistan where warlords pledge allegiance in exchange for bribes between tribes, communities and powerful families. When the alliance shifts or a ruler shows weakness, the infrastructure of government comes tumbling down.

The Arab Spring is as unglamorous as all that. Not any different at its base than an Afghan warlord changing his loyalties. For all that it's dressed up in Twitter activism, posed

photos and banners– it's the same game with a better logo. Mobs didn't begin overthrowing Arab rulers when Twitter was invented. They won't stop when everyone has forgotten what Twitter was.

Without progress, the future can only be an imperfect continuation of the past. And progress comes from self-doubt leading to reform. Reform is not a matter of denouncing politicians, but of denouncing yourself. The Muslim world is full of denunciations, but they are strictly partisan and external. The family blames the tribe. The tribe blames the party. The party blames the government. The government blames the Turks, the English, the Zionists or the Americans. Thus the problem is exorcised and immortalized.

Blame is assigned to a foreign scapegoat. And the 21st century expert pursues the scapegoat whether it's American foreign policy or Israeli settlements or the price of wheat or the World Trade Organization. And this is what makes him, with his Kindle displaying the latest issue of *The Economist*, his watch set to three time zones, and his Flickr page full of photos of him posing with native boys, so much dimmer than his 19th century predecessor. It's not so much what he knows, as what he doesn't know, and has no idea that he doesn't know. And wouldn't listen to if he were told.

Eventually the scapegoat is corralled, kicked and beaten. A revolution ensues. The crowds cheer. Photos are taken of protesters heroically tossing Molotov cocktails through the air at the police. A decade later the protesters are wearing police uniforms and torturing protesters in hidden cellars. Whatever freedom there was under the previous regime has dissipated. Everyone lives in fear and blames the 21st century experts and their foreign policy for it.

This Groundhog Day is so difficult to dismiss because it is embedded in the very fractures that caused all this to come about. The Islamic conquests did not bring forth a golden age, but an age of slaves. Millions of peoples had their culture partly or wholly destroyed. Then after the caliphates fell, the Western democracies came in, colored in their borders and expected everything to go alright so long as there were regular elections.

The Muslim world only has Islam as its common consensus, and the only means of governance that it offers is rule by conquest, and authority through Quranic scripture. Neither of those represents any sort of enduring consensus. The kings who trace their lineage back to Mohammed and the Imams who shout for democracy, so long as it puts them in power, are the pathetic end of this fractured philosophy.

There are high minded ideals aplenty, but no way to implement them. Muslims soothe each other with stories of their own nobility and greatness, useless substitutes for the real thing. But a government that isn't composed of a handful of powerful families, an army colonel or an oligarchy of clerics is a rare thing. And none of these can last.

The Hashemites went from ruling three countries, to ruling a small kingdom under Israeli and American protection. The Saudis who replaced them may fall just as quickly when the wheel turns. Egypt may be headed toward clerical rule, just as Iran is headed away from it. And if not that, then military rule. One old mistake will do as well as another.

Tellingly what doesn't work is democracy. Democracy didn't keep the Sunnis and Shiites in Iraq from killing each other. Or the Kurds from carving out their own separate state. And it didn't keep the Christians from being hounded out. These divisions are adequate testimony to the cultural inadequacy of trying to build a national consensus on so thin a soil.

The Muslim world prides itself on its wisdom, but its wisdom is futility. It can see conspiracies in a grain of sand, but not redeem its own flaws or treat its own wounds. Mohammed and his successors did not unite the peoples who fell under their rule, they retarded them. They made it impossible for them to develop and then wrapped that retardation in the banner of Islam. And out of that has come the permanent Muslim civil war.

What boils in the streets of great cities is the same pattern of violence and betrayal, aspiration and disintegration that played out long ago on the hot desert sands. The conflicts of cultures unable to move past their own tribalism, unwilling to leave behind the chains of their past and become true peoples and nations, rather than the slaves of Islam.

*Daniel Greenfield blogs as Sultan Knish. This appeared in his blog on July 13.*

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## Who Was Dov Gruner?

Ruth King

Dov Gruner was born in Kisvarda, Hungary in December 1912. On April 19, 1947 the British Mandatory Authorities in Palestine hanged him. Who was he?

Bela (later Dov) Gruner was born to a religious family, attended a Jewish primary school in his native Hungary and obtained an engineering degree in Moravia in the Czech Republic. In 1938, at the age of 26, he joined the Zionist Youth Movement whose guru was Zeev Jabotinsky and set off for Palestine on an "illegal" immigrant ship. The ship was apprehended by the British and Gruner spent six months in detention at Atlit prison near Haifa. Upon release he joined the Irgun and in 1941 he enlisted in the Jewish Brigade of the British Army that fought the Nazis in Europe.

After the war many Brigade veterans, including Gruner, struggled to help Holocaust survivors in Europe and bring them to Palestine. The 1939 White Paper limiting Jewish immigration was still in force after World War II and ships were attacked with many refugees injured, killed or incarcerated in detention camps.

Embittered by unrelenting British hostility, Gruner rejoined the Irgun and took part in operations against British military army installations and arms depots. On April 23rd, 1946, Gruner participated in a "sting" attack on a fortress where the Ramat Gan police station was lodged. Dressed in British Army uniforms and Arab prisoner gear, they overwhelmed the British desk sergeant while they stole revolvers and loaded them into a waiting truck. During the operation a British policeman noticed them and opened fire at the group. Dov Gruner was injured and arrested.

Seven months after his arrest, on January 1, 1947, Gruner's trial opened at the military court in Jerusalem. He was charged with "firing on policemen, and setting explosive charges with the intent of killing personnel 'on His Majesty's service'. He was never charged with murder. When asked if he admitted his guilt, Gruner defiantly replied:

"I do not recognize your authority to try me. This court has no legal foundation, since it was appointed by a regime without legal foundation.

"You came to Palestine because of the commitment you undertook at the behest of all the nations of the world to rectify the greatest wrong caused to any nation in the history of mankind, namely the expulsion of Israel from their land, which transformed them into victims of persecution and incessant slaughter throughout the world. It was this commitment - and this commitment alone--which constituted the legal and moral basis for your presence in this country.... You turned your commitment into a mere scrap of paper...

"When the prevailing government in any country is not legal, when it becomes a regime of oppression and tyranny, it is the right of its citizens-- more than that, it is their duty-- to fight this regime and to topple it. This is what Jewish youth are doing and will continue to do until you quit this land, and hand it over to its rightful owners: the Jewish people. For you should know this: there is no power in the world which can sever the tie between the Jewish people and their one and only land..."

Although his five years' of service and participation in heavy fighting on the Italian front with the British arm (in which he suffered severe injuries) were cited, the judges sentenced him to death by hanging.

The British were relentless against the Irgun. Their vaunted empire was crumbling and they saw the Jewish resistance in Palestine as something they could crush, thereby restoring their standing in the world. But the policy backfired. The anti-colonial sentiments in America placed many journalists and legislators and religious leaders squarely on the side of the Jewish resistance. Although Gruner was assured that a plea for clemency would be heeded and his life would be spared, he would not cooperate with any appeals.

He spent 105 days in the cell while leaders and public figures in Palestine and abroad tried to intercede on his behalf. Gruner also specifically rejected an appeal to the Privy Council lodged on his behalf by his supporters. The Privy Council is a body of advisors to the King (King George VI, the stammerer, during this period) which was a supreme court of appeals from British Overseas territories.

In an act of startling British duplicity Dov Gruner was hanged during the night while the appeal remained "undecided" at the Privy Council.

Forty eight hours before the date fixed for his execution, Gruner wrote a letter from his cell to the Irgun commander Menachem Begin:

Sir,

.....Of course I want to live: who does not? But what pains me, now that the end is so near, is mainly the awareness that I have not succeeded in achieving enough. I too could have said: 'Let the future take care of the future' and meanwhile enjoyed life and be contented with the job I was promised on my demobilization. I could even have left the country altogether for a safer life in America, but this would not have satisfied me either as a Jew or as a Zionist.

There are many schools of thought as to how a Jew should choose his way of life. One way is that of the assimilationists who have renounced their Jewishness. There is also another way, the way of those who call themselves 'Zionists'--the way of negotiation and compromise, as if the existence of a nation were nothing but another transaction. They are not prepared to make any sacrifice, and therefore they have to make concessions and accept compromises.

Perhaps this is indeed a means of delaying the end but, in the final analysis, it leads to the ghetto. And let us not forget this: in the ghetto of Warsaw alone, too, there were five hundred thousand Jews.

The only way that seems, to my mind, to be right, is the way of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, the way of courage and daring without renouncing a single inch of our homeland. When political negotiations prove futile, one must be prepared to fight for our homeland and our freedom. Without them the very existence of our nation is jeopardized, so fight we must with all possible means. This is the only way left to our people in their hour of decision: to stand on our rights, to be ready to fight, even if for some of us this way leads to the gallows. For it is a law of history that only with blood shall a country be redeemed.

I am writing this while awaiting the hangman. This is not a moment at which I can lie, and I swear that if I had to begin my life anew I would have chosen the exact same path, regardless of the consequences for myself.

Your faithful soldier, Dov.

I could not conclude this tribute to Dov Gruner without grateful mention of the three heroes who were executed with him Mordechai Alkahi, Yehiel Dresner and Eliezer Kashani. At their trial on February 10, 1947 they refused supporters' demands that they issue a plea for clemency and like Gruner stated:

"Do you not understand that your requests for clemency are an affront to your honor and the honor of the entire people?...At present we are in their hands...We cannot resist them, and they can treat us as they choose... But they cannot break our spirit. We know how to die with honor as befits Hebrews."

All four were hanged within half an hour, and each of them, as his turn arrived, sang Hatikva until he died. As the condemned men walked through the jail, all the Jewish prisoners rose to their feet and sang the national anthem.

As Shmuel Katz has written:

"All those who thus went to their death were of the same epic character. They were not chosen for their heroic quality. They were moved to risk their freedom and their lives by their free will. Blind chance alone singled them out for martyrdom. Helpless in the hands of their captors and executioners, all, and each in his own way, rose above the criteria of ordinary human definition, in gentle fortitude in their suffering, in calm defiance of the enemy, in comforting reassurance for their friends and loved ones, in unshaken loyalty to their creed and love of their people. The force of circumstances and the mystery of personality have given Dov Gruner's name to the world as their spokesman and their symbol."

One year after their execution British domination of Palestine ended and Israel became an independent nation.

The memory of all those who fought and died for Israel is a blessing and an inspiration.