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# OUTPOST



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## A Brace of Fresh Air

William Mehlman

From his space station at the outer limits of surreal-politik, Shimon Peres has thrown down a gauntlet to Israel on the eve of perhaps its most fateful national election in more than six decades. The Jewish state, its 89 year-old president solemnly informed an audience at the prestigious Globe-Israel Business Conference in Tel-Aviv, "faces a choice between Gaza and the West Bank, between Hamas and [Palestinian Authority] President Abbas... One is wrong, the other is right. We have to choose."



Hamas Rally (courtesy MSN news)

The notion of "right" and "wrong" is, of course, manifestly inapplicable in this context. There is no "lady" behind either of these portals. Mr. Peres' "choice" is no choice at all. Israel must deal with both these threats to its survival. In terms of priority, settling matters with Hamas first is palpably the less complicated way to go.

After absorbing eight days of round-the-clock rocket bombardment, those in Israel still unpersuaded of the impossibility of a modus vivendi with this terrorist appendage of a terrorist Moslem Brotherhood, both of which regard the liquidation of the "Zionist entity" as an Islamist imperative, have only to refer to the words of Hamas political boss Khaled Mashaal at a December 8th rally in Gaza City celebrating the organization's 25th birthday and its "victory" over the Israel Defense Forces. "Palestine is ours from the river to the sea and from the north to the south," he shouted to an adoring throng as he emerged with his hand-picked "prime minister" Ismail Haniyeh from a giant replica of an M-75 Iranian rocket with the words "Made in Gaza" scrawled across its face. "We will never recognize the legitimacy of the Israeli occupation and therefore, there is no legitimacy for Israel, no matter how long it will take. There will be no concession on any inch of land," Jerusalem included, he warned, vowing to liberate the city "inch by inch, stone by stone." Israel he asserted, "has no right to Jerusalem."

Unless it's prepared to designate Israel from south Tel-Aviv to Sderot as uninhabitable, there can be only one conceivable response by the next Israeli government--irrespective of political complexion--to Mr. Mashaal, should he be foolish enough to punctuate his threats with another rocket bombardment. That would be a full land, air and sea assault on Hamas, its fighting forces, its weapons, weapons factories, rocket launching sites, weapons smuggling routes and command and control structure. They will not only have to be uprooted, they will have to be insured against being replanted by a standing IDF force such as kept the peace in south Lebanon for 18 years before being inane handed over to Hezbollah. The cost in Israeli casualties will, as always, reflect the shifting middle ground between the value the Jewish state assigns to the lives of its young defenders and the degree of flack it is prepared to take from an enraged "international community." It is a war, however, that must be won and won decisively.

Dealing with Mahmoud Abbas and his Palestinian Authority, particularly in light of its elevation by the UN to a "non-member observer state" (from a mere "non-member observer entity") involves a whole other set of parameters. It would take a contortionist act unimaginable on any stage outside the Arab-Israel conflict to match Shimon Peres' tender embrace of Mr. Abbas, who, to the acclaim of a standing ovation at the UN General Assembly, had just reduced to confetti his signature diplomatic achievement, the 1993 Oslo Accords. "I have a partner in Abbas," Peres exclaimed, the plenum still ringing with the strains of an Abbas "victory" speech described by Prime Minister Netanyahu as a

“defamatory and vicious” condemnation of “the IDF and the citizens of Israel. “ While conceding failure to convince Abbas to hold off on his bid for statehood ( “he felt he was abandoned by us, by Europe, by the rest of the world and he wanted to do something”), Peres said he continued to regard the PA president as “the best leader Israel can work with to return to the negotiating table... He can deliver the goods.”

If by the “goods” Mr. Peres means a peace arrangement that will afford Israel defensible borders, strategic depth, recognition as the nation-state of the Jewish people and an end to all further claims to an Arab “right of return,” he appears to have put his money on the wrong horse. “Abbas is going down,” writes As’ad Abukhalil in his widely read “Angry Corner” column in the English language edition of *Al-Akhbar*. “He has no popular base and no power and he has to beg Israel, the EU and the U.S. for his salary and the salaries of his inflated bureaucracy and military services...Abbas has become desperate. Despised by his people, rendered insignificant by Hamas, he wanted to leave the stage with a p.r. stunt,” Abukhalili asserted, referencing the PA bid for enhanced statehood recognition, “but the real struggle for liberation will continue and it won’t be taking place on the territory of New York City.” Reinforcing that sentiment, Robert Danin, a Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, called the General Assembly vote a “Pyrrhic victory,” that will increase American reluctance to “engage the Palestinians as a partner in a renewed peace process.”

Going forward, the only post-UN, post-Gaza option open to Israel is to begin acting like a normal state, i.e., in its own best national interests. An immediate start to housing construction at “E1,” the 7 square-mile empty tract standing between Ma’ale Adumim and Jerusalem, provides a classic case in point. Contrary to the State Department, Ma’ale Adumim, with its 40,000 residents, is no “settlement bloc.” It’s a suburb of Jerusalem, a high-ground geographical bastion vital to the security of Israel’s capital. To Leave E1 undeveloped and Ma’ale Adumim an island in a predatory sea is to invite trouble.

If it’s “sovereignty” Abbas & Associates, recipients of more than \$4 billion in American taxpayer cash and hundreds of millions in Israeli products and services, really must have, then like a sovereign it must be treated. Israel should forthwith inform this new member of the club that it is now free to provide itself, inter alia, with electricity, fuel, communications, postal services, port facilities, tax collections and remittances. “After all, what possible claim could be invoked,” submits Professor Martin Sherman, founder of the Israel Institute for Strategic Studies, “to coerce one sovereign entity to provide for another purportedly sovereign entity--and an overtly adversarial one at that? Without Israeli support, both military and monetary,” Sherman adds, “it is an open question as to whether the Palestinian Authority will implode within a matter of weeks or months.”

Then again, perhaps the European states that endorsed or hid behind their abstentions as Mr. Abbas trashed the Oslo Accords they hailed with such enthusiasm 19 years ago might want to fill the gap. “Palestine” should not hold its breath. “It may be surprising,” Sherman notes, “how rapidly the international appetite for Palestinian statehood wanes if its sponsors realize they will have to bear the financial consequences of its sustenance.” He does suggest, however, one way Israel could mitigate the socio-economic pain Palestinian “sovereignty” would impose on its recipients. That would be for the Jewish state to offer a grant to those wishing to extricate themselves from the “unenviable predicament wrought on them by their incompetent, corrupt leadership” and its “myopic and malevolent” overseas supporters sufficient to seek happier lives “in some alternative country of their choosing.”

Expensive, to be sure, but all things considered, a lovely idea.

*Bill Mehlman leads AFSI in Israel.*

## From the Editor

### A Disproportionate Response

With all the concern expressed by the U.S. administration that Israel's response to the terrorists of Hamas not be "disproportionate," the true disproportion is being practiced by that same administration--in keeping Jonathan Pollard in prison for what is now 28 years. This is even more outrageous now that new evidence, as a *Jerusalem Post* editorial says "puts the lie to American allegations that have been used for over a quarter of a century to justify Pollard's continued incarceration."



The most important lie is that Pollard did enormous damage to U.S. national security. The Department of Justice's Victim Impact Statement (VIS), now a matter of public record, which was submitted to the sentencing judge in 1987, states that Pollard's "unauthorized disclosures have threatened the US relations with numerous Middle East Arab allies" and "deprived the US of bargaining leverage with the Israel government." Translation: the Arabs weren't happy and the U.S. whip hand over Israel was undermined now that Israel had the intelligence the U.S. could otherwise selectively disclose as a *quid pro quo*. In other words there was no real damage to U.S. national security.

Making the behavior of a series of U.S. administrations even more deplorable, as the *Jerusalem Post* notes, is the "remarkable flexibility towards other allies, downgrading charges and dealing leniently with spies from China, the Philippines, Greece and Saudi Arabia among others." No wonder so many politicians and U.S. officials with knowledge of the case call Pollard's sentence "grossly disproportionate" and his continued imprisonment "a travesty of justice."

### Real Immigration Reform

The most vital piece of immigration reform is not even being contemplated--it would be to reshape our laws to minimize Moslem immigration to this country. At present Moslems are flooding in via, for example, the immigration "lottery" (focused on encouraging "diversity"), family reunion programs, illegal immigration (via both Canada and Mexico) and refugee programs. (These are weighted against Christians because the UN decides who is a refugee and the refugee program is dominated by Moslem states.)

Europe is already experiencing the results of uncontrolled Moslem immigration as no-go zones multiply, the price of speech offensive to Moslems is life on the run and Moslems waging civilizational jihad against the West grow ever more emboldened. Jews pay the highest cost with life actually becoming intolerable for them in some major European cities. They will pay the highest cost here as well. Of course with their customary inability to understand, let alone follow, their most vital interests, Jewish organizations would undoubtedly be the loudest in attacking any rational reform of our laws.

### Chutzpah

Haifa University's Steven Plaut offers a new definition of "chutzpah." It's PA President Mahmoud Abbas sending a condolence message to President Obama and the American people following the hideous mass murder of 20 small children and six adults in Newtown, Connecticut. Notes Plaut: "This is the very same guy who personally planned and initiated a massacre of 25 school children at Maalot in Israel in 1974."

## **Black Humor**

Writing in *Frontpage* Lee Kaplan asks: "Does appointing an advocate of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions(BDS) against Israel to chair a committee aimed at combating anti-Semitism in the California State University system make sense?"

It does if you are a member of the Academic Senate of the California State University system which appointed well known anti-Israel activist Manzar Foroohar to that position. Foroohar is on the Organizing Committee of the U.S. Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel, on the Coordinating Committee of the Israel Divestment Campaign, and is a signatory to everything from demands to end the university's Israel study abroad program to condemnations of Israel's efforts against Hamas. Student comments (at *Polyratings.com*) indicate her views dominate her classroom. "This class is just pandering to Palestinian propaganda," "She is also rabidly anti-Israel," "God forbid if you are Jewish or Israeli because she has it in for you."

Kaplan notes that Foroohar's appointment makes the Academic Senate's agenda clear: it is using the committee (ostensibly set up to combat anti-Semitism) to promote the idea that campus anti-Zionism has nothing to do with anti-Semitism. Writes Kaplan: "Foroohar's appointment to 'train' faculty effectively ends any meaningful attempt by the Governor's task force to battle campus anti-Semitism."

## **A Better Baedeker**

Anyone heading for Israel should take time to read Kathy Shaidle's charming essays on traveling in Israel (<http://pjmedia.com/lifestyle/2012/12/12/13/visitor-to-israel-needs-to-know/>)--from floating in the Dead Sea to snorkeling in Eilat to learning to shoot at the Caliber 3 range in Gush Etzion.

Shaidle has been called by Mark Steyn "one of the great virtuoso polemicists of our time" (and Steyn, as the greatest of them all knows whereof he speaks). But here she speaks as a non-Jewish visitor to Israel delighted by what she experiences (and without the hang-ups that prevent so many Jewish visitors from venturing outside the defunct Green Line armistice lines).

## **Is Peres Immortal?**

Apparently Peres, a mere 89, believes he is. That's the only logical conclusion to be drawn from an interview he gave to *Der Spiegel* (published on December 10). Asked what the chances were that he would live to see successful negotiations concluded between the Israelis and Palestinians he replied "One hundred percent."

One thing is certain: as long as Peres lives, he will be an acute embarrassment to any sentient friend of Israel.

## **Israel's "Hottest" Border**

Mouaz al-Khatib, who leads Syria's opposition coalition, described by the international media (naturally) as a "moderate," calls Zionism a "cancerous movement" and in 2007 combined criticism of Saddam Hussein with praise for his "building a massive army" and "terrifying the Jews."

It's little wonder a senior Israeli intelligence official predicts that soon Syria will be Israel's "hottest border." He told Israel's Channel 2 that, as Assad collapses, attacks from extremist groups who have been massing weapons along the border can be expected. He said the main problem is fighters who have flowed into Syria from Saudi Arabia, Iran and Libya. "It's important to say that we are talking about very dangerous people who have experience fighting the US. army." Estimates are that 3,000 to 4,000 are readying a fight with Israel. According to the Israeli official: "It really doesn't matter who controls Syria the day after the regime falls. Every indication is that it is not heading in a positive direction for Israel."

## **London Mega-Mosque Rejected--for Now**

A proposal by the radical Islamic missionary group Tablighi Jamaat to build a super mosque about one mile from the 2012 Olympic Village at a cost of \$160 million (in Saudi money) has been unanimously rejected by the local authority for the London Borough of Newham. Soeren Kern writes that it would have held up to 10,000 worshippers--by comparison the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool, Britain's largest, can accommodate less than a third of that number. He observes that critics have said the mosque is part of an ambitious plan to establish the first Islamic Sharia-controlled enclave in East London, where more than 25% of the population is Muslim.

Muslim activists have warned the Labor Party (which controls the Newham Council ) that it will pay a political price: "You watch how we get angry." (There is no recognition that Londoners might be justifiably concerned that a number of terrorists have been linked to Tablighi mosques.)

Kern quotes anti-mosque activist Alan Craig: "We can expect them to appeal...as they have done successfully before, and that this issue will drag on much longer yet."

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## **Occupying the Laboratory**

Ruth King

Today I received an e-mail from a prominent Israeli scientist. I had asked him why the same people whose lives are enhanced and lengthened by Israel's dazzling contributions to medicine, science and technology should want to boycott and divest from Israeli companies and seek to terminate the Jewish state. He responded with his customary wit:

"First, there is the occupation of the laboratory. Then our medical Mossad spies on and locates and diagnoses errant and destructive cells and tumors. Then our assault team targets them and destroys them using all the weapons at our disposal including chemicals, drug protocols, radiation, genes and enzymes. Then when we are successful, we call a cease fire to observe and record the results."

To this metaphorical jest he adds:

"In October 2012 a project by a Danish and Israeli team at Ariel University in Samaria developed a lower radiation modality which was demonstrated to be very effective in destroying recalcitrant lung tumors. The Israeli team included physics professors Konstantin Komoshvili, Jacob Levitan, and Asher Yahalom, as well as engineering professor Boris Kapilewitch and Dr. Stella Aronov of Ariel's cancer research lab. On the Danish side, the team includes researchers from Denmark's Technical University and the well-known physicist Henrik Bohr, grandson of the Jewish physicist and Nobel Prize winner Niels Bohr, and a nephew of nuclear physicist Aage Bohr, also a Nobel Prize winner.

Pretty impressive, but my scientist-friend also notes that on December 27, 2012 Alistair Burt, British Minister for the Middle East expressed "deep disappointment" at the upgrading of Ariel to university status, stating: "Ariel is beyond the Green Line in a settlement that is illegal according to international law. This decision will deepen the presence of the settlements in the Palestinian territories and will create another obstacle to peace."

Within Mr. Burt's fictitious "Green Line"--equally derided by Israel's antagonists who are opposed to Israel in any borders--are scientific and medical research institutions that have made Israel's healthcare system, with its early detection and treatment of a wide variety of chronic and infectious diseases, a top world contender in the International Organization for Co-operation and Development.

Innovations in vaccines, diagnosis and treatment of cancers, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinsonism, and infections are impossible to enumerate in the space allotted to this column. In one startling success, Dr. Leo Sachs of the Weizmann Institute has developed a process which causes the cells of acute



Leo Sachs

promyelocytic leukemia, which has bedeviled international researchers for decades, to return to their normal function and is helping to cure 70% of all APL sufferers.

Paraplegics walk again with the aid of treatment and advanced robotics developed in Israel; surgical sealants replace sutures and their potential for site infection; advances in waste management reduce harmful emissions and pollution; early pregnancy problems are diagnosed and treated successfully; innovative farming and water saving techniques help to avoid famines. Communications of every type depend

on Israeli innovation. Commercial ‘blotters’ clean up oil spills and hazardous materials. The list goes on and on.

I am deeply indebted to Michael Ordman whose blogs ([www.verygoodnewsisrael.blogspot.com](http://www.verygoodnewsisrael.blogspot.com) and <http://blogs.jpost.com/users/just-look-us-now>) provide weekly updates on Israel’s medical, technological, agricultural, environmental contributions. Ordman’s cross post with the British journalist Ray Cook assails "the hypocrisy and ignorance of those who would, in their blindness and ideological zeal, boycott divest and sanction Israel. Note that this is not simply boycotting goods manufactured in the ‘occupied territories’ but *all* goods." They biting suggest a list of daily products and drugs and treatments that boycotters of Israel should be denied which would deprive them of water, computers, phones, medications, diagnostic tools and tests, travel and entertainment. Not a bad idea at all.

Another excellent site details Israel's advances in science; Check out:

<http://israel21c.org/health/top-10-ways-israeli-scientists-are-battling-breast-cancer/>

There remains the nagging question. Why is there such hatred for Israel when that nation has made so many “disproportionate” contributions to mankind?

In pre Holocaust Germany the Jewish community also made huge contributions to medicine, science and technology along with art, music and theater. Those Jewish refugees from Europe who were fortunate enough to escape made outsize contributions to science and the humanities in every corner of the earth where they alighted.

How was an entire population so easily turned against those who benefited them so much? The simple answer is that the ideological haters mined into what the historian Rita Kramer has called the bedrock of European culture--namely anti-Semitism. It's a recurring virus which leads Europeans to attack Jews who are perceived as weak and defenseless.

Israel today is neither weak nor defenseless and remains a modern miracle in a neighborhood whose tyrants' interest in science and technology is limited to developing instruments of destruction which they deploy against their own citizens.

In a bitter irony, the world has bought into the Arab narrative of lies, myths, calumny, and purloined history which paints Israel as an oppressive occupier of stolen land. This libel has given a “respectable” cover to those who mine the bedrock of international anti-Semitism.

As for fanning the flames of anti-Semitism, none are as guilty as those so called “progressive” organizations in the West--and alas, Israel-- that trumpet and hail the Arab narrative.

*Ruth King is an editor of Outpost and blogs at [ruthfullyours.com](http://ruthfullyours.com)*

*Editor's note: Below are excerpts from a 2009 essay by Nadav Shragai on what is known as the E-1 area between Jerusalem and M'aale Adumim. Netanyahu's declaration that Israel will build there has produced a firestorm of criticism worldwide, including from the Obama administration, which calls it a "provocative action." Yet, as this three year old essay makes clear, in saying that he will build in this corridor Netanyahu promises no more than what every Prime Minister since Rabin has undertaken to do. Under U.S. pressure all of them have backed down. The question remains open whether this time building will go beyond planning and rhetoric.*

## Linking the City of Maale Adumim to Jerusalem

Nadav Shragai



Ma'aleh Adumim

Every Israeli prime minister since Yitzhak Rabin has supported the plan to create Israeli urban contiguity between Maale Adumim and Jerusalem. The centerpiece of the E-1 program involves the construction of 3,500 housing units, a commercial area, and a hotel zone. The plan is a subject of bitter international controversy, with the Palestinians claiming that it would prevent sovereign Palestinian contiguity between the northern and southern areas of the West Bank. The United States has supported the Palestinian position and has sought to block Israeli construction at the site, pending a final peace

agreement.

The Israeli interest, one that tends to be ignored by the international community, is to bring E-1 to fruition by establishing contiguity between Jerusalem in the west and Maale Adumim as well as the approaches to the Dead Sea in the east, as part of a security belt of Jewish communities surrounding Israel's capital. Without control of the E-1 area, Israel is apprehensive about a Palestinian belt of construction that will threaten Jerusalem from the east, block the city's development eastward, and undermine Israel's control of the Jerusalem-Jericho road. This major artery is of paramount strategic importance for Israel in order to transport troops and equipment eastward and northward via the Jordan Rift Valley in time of war, and this road is already subject to growing pressure from unchecked Palestinian building.

An almost total consensus prevails in Israel regarding the need to connect Maale Adumim to Jerusalem via construction in E-1. Yet, aside from building the police headquarters of the Judea and Samaria District in the area, no further construction has occurred due to American opposition.

The vast amount of time that has elapsed since the first stages of the plan were approved (13 years ago) has led to an erosion of the area's size as wandering Bedouin tribes and illegal Palestinian construction have reduced the area available for building. These phenomena have also narrowed the corridor to Jerusalem from about two kilometers to the width of a single kilometer--an opening that is constricting all the time.

Contrary to many reports, the completion of E-1 construction would not cut the West Bank in half and undermine Palestinian contiguity. Israel has planned a new road that would allow Palestinian traffic coming from the south to pass eastward of Maale Adumim and continue northward to connect with the cities in the northern West Bank. This Palestinian bypass road would actually reduce the time for Palestinian drivers traveling in a north-south direction. They would not have to stop at roadblocks as they came into Israeli territory and would be driving on a multi-lane highway.

With a view toward consolidating Jerusalem's status as the capital of Israel, successive Israeli governments planned and built a chain of neighborhoods and satellite towns around the city. Maale Adumim to the east, Givat Zeev to the north, and Efrat in the Etzion Bloc to the south were all established back in 1982. Beitar, southwest of Jerusalem, was established in 1990. Surrounding these satellite towns are dozens of additional communities. Israel views these satellite towns as part of a single Jerusalem metropolitan area. All Israeli governments have conceived this settlement bloc, akin to the other major settlement blocs established in the West Bank relatively close to the "green line," as destined to remain within the area of the State of Israel and to be annexed to it in the framework of a permanent peace agreement.

On April 14, 2004, U.S. President George W. Bush sent a letter to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in this vein. In the letter, Bush declared that the U.S. position was that in any final Israeli-Palestinian arrangement, the demographic reality that was created on the ground since the Six-Day War should be taken into account, and that Israel could not be expected to withdraw totally from all areas of the West Bank. Sharon viewed the letter from President Bush as an Israeli achievement that derived from the decision by his government to approve the Gaza-Northern Samaria disengagement plan.

Maale Adumim was established by a decision of the government of Israel in 1977. The first residents arrived in 1982 and it became a city in 1991. During the government of Yitzhak Shamir in 1991, Defense Minister Moshe Arens signed an order transferring part of the area currently known as E-1 to the Maale Adumim local council. In January 1994, the Higher Planning Council of Judea and Samaria's Subcommittee for Settlement tabled a new plan that expanded the municipal plan for Maale Adumim and, in effect, constituted the basis for the future E-1 plan on an area of 12,000 dunams. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin instructed Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer to begin planning a neighborhood at the location. From then on, planning and authorization procedures for the E-1 neighborhood were promoted but were never totally completed, given the diplomatic constraints.

Most of the land in E-1 is not suitable for construction due to topographical considerations (steep hills). As a result, much of E-1 is intended to be a nature reserve. On its western side, near Jerusalem, there is a plan for residential housing. E-1 is also to include the now-completed police headquarters of the Judea and Samaria district, as well as tourism, hotel, industrial, and commercial areas.

In a Knesset discussion on October 5, 1994, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin declared: "United Jerusalem would also encompass Maale Adumim as well as Givat Zeev as the capital of Israel under Israeli sovereignty." Six months previously, in April, Rabin handed over the annexation documents of the E-1 area to Maale Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel. On March 13, 1996, Prime Minister Shimon Peres reaffirmed the government's position that Israel will demand applying Israeli sovereignty over Maale Adumim in the framework of a permanent peace agreement. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon made it clear in April 2005 that "E-1 is a 10-year plan, and the intention is to continue it." Shaul Mofaz, the defense minister in the Sharon government, stated during a tour that he conducted in E-1 that he stood behind the plan to create Jewish contiguity between Jerusalem and Maale Adumim. In an information CD published by the Maale Adumim municipality, major figures were documented as they made declarations of faith to Maale Adumim and E-1:

Ehud Barak: "It is compulsory to translate into practice our ownership over the E-1 corridor. If we do not embark immediately upon political action, in establishing plain facts, we are liable to lose Maale Adumim."

Benjamin Netanyahu: "We want to create a contiguity of greater Jerusalem from west to east, the Palestinians want to halt the contiguity by building from north to south....They want to choke Jerusalem on one hand and want to detach it from Maale Adumim on the other hand. We must overcome them and build E-1."

Even old peace plans that spoke of the division of Jerusalem envisioned linking Maale Adumim and Jerusalem. According to a document of understandings between former minister Yossi Beilin and

Mahmoud Abbas from the mid-1990s, while some Jerusalem Arab neighborhoods were to be transferred to a future Palestinian state, Israel was to annex the Jewish communities around Jerusalem, such as Maale Adumim, Givat Zeev, Beitar, and Efrat.

Up to now, Israel itself has not built the E-1 neighborhood, except for the police station and a number of roads. In the area of the plan, spreading illegal Arab construction is discernible, particularly from the direction of A-Zaim. Three major clusters of illegal construction adjacent to E-1 are whittling away its area.

While this construction has occurred in Area C, under Israeli civil control, the Civil Administration has not asserted control over the phenomenon. Security bodies warn that if Israel does not take significant measures to prevent the Palestinian takeover of this land, in the future it will not be possible to realize the E-1 plan, particularly in the industrial and commercial area that abuts Anata. Palestinians, for their part, do not conceal their aspiration to prevent Israeli construction in E-1. Faisal Hussein, a Palestinian leader who died in 2001, said that building without permits in the Jerusalem area was one of the Palestinians' weapons in the struggle against Israel. Mohammed Nahal, an expert on urban planning in the "Institute of Arab Studies" that operated in Orient House, drew up a plan in 1993 to construct three Arab cities around Jerusalem in order to surround the Jewish neighborhoods that were built after 1967. E-1, from the Israeli perspective, is almost the sole obstacle to the realization of the objective implicit in Nahal's program. During the period of the Barak government, the Palestinians formally requested that the region of E-1 be transferred to them as Area B (where they enjoy full civilian control), but Barak refused.

If the area of E-1 passes into Palestinian hands and/or Palestinian construction there intensifies, this will detach the city of Maale Adumim from Jerusalem, and Israel's capital will once again find itself at the end of a corridor with no other exit, becoming again an outlying frontier city in an economic, planning and security sense as it was before 1967.

The realization of the E-1 plan is a vital Israeli interest. Delay in carrying out the plan jeopardizes its actual realization because of illegal Palestinian construction in the area and the penetration of Bedouin encampments. The failure to realize this plan will almost certainly create Palestinian contiguity to the east of Jerusalem that will separate it from the city of Maale Adumim and return Jerusalem to the status of an outlying frontier city.

*Nadav Shragai is a writer for the Israeli daily newspaper Ha'aretz. This is excerpted from the Jerusalem Center For Public Affairs Vol. 9, No. 1, May 24, 2009*

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## **It's Official: Muslim Population of Britain Doubles**

Douglas Murray

The national census for England and Wales has come out, and, as usual, this once-a-decade event has had all of its most significant points overlooked.

By any measure, what it reveals is a country undergoing seismic change. Over the course of a decade up to four million more people have entered the country to live. In the capital, London, people identifying themselves as "white British" have for the first time become a minority. Perhaps most strikingly, the national Muslim population has doubled.

This last fact is perhaps one of the least considered of the census so far. Doubled? Surely not. This has to be the claim of Mark Steyn or some other demographics-obsessed nut. Well no, it isn't, and it is now official: between 2001 and 2011 the Muslim population of the UK rose from 1.5 million to 2.7 million. Otherwise put, that is an increase from 3 percent to 4.8 percent of the overall population.

If in 2001 the British Prime Minister had said to the British public that over the next decade he intended to double the number of Muslims in the country, he would most likely never have been returned to office. But of course he did not say that, any more than any of his successors or predecessors did.

For the last decade, every major politician has lied about this issue. While talking tough, about putting a cap on immigrant numbers, pushing people to assimilate and much else besides, they have done nearly nothing. For instance, ten years ago Home Secretary David Blunkett talked as tough as he thought he could, saying that migrants ought to learn English. His successor, Jacqui Smith, said the same thing five years later. As did immigration minister Phil Woolas a couple of years after that. Throughout the last decade the Labour government managed to do exactly what the Conservative and coalition governments before and after them have also managed to do: go as far as they thought they could in rhetoric while going wholly against what they said--and the wishes of the country -- in actions.

Now we can see the fruits of their labors. The census reveals that three million people are now living in households where no adult speaks English as their primary language. As Labour's Sadiq Khan has admitted, local councils have spent their money on translation services rather than language classes, thus actually dissuading people from learning the language. The result is communities with inter-generational language barriers. There are parts of London where a quarter of the people are in the same situation. They have created a society where many people can speak about each other but many cannot actually speak to each other. And all the while politicians and pundits are busy trying to pretend that this is all the most wonderful result imaginable.

The *London Evening Standard* welcomed the news that white British-born people had become a minority in their own city, and ran a lead opinion piece accusing anybody unhappy about the doubling of the number of Muslims of being "Islamophobes." Since then, the comments have barely gotten more enlightened. The author Will Self declared on the BBC's leading talk show *Question Time* that people unhappy about the direction Britain is going are "racists."

On the BBC's *Newsnight* I sat alongside two very nice, wealthy, successful immigrants who explained how positive the census results were for Britain, showing a "diverse" and "multicultural" society. I was the only one of the four panelists to point out that this wave of immigration might have any negative effects. And the only one to point out that the strange thing about a "multicultural" society of this kind is that it can celebrate every imaginable culture other than the one which allows all these cultures to co-exist alongside each other. In other words, it is the center which is the only thing not being celebrated, and the center that is being consciously eroded. Worst of all is that this happened in defiance of the repeatedly expressed views--as tested time and again in nationwide polls--of the general public.

Of course much of this simply confirms what the last Labour government appears to have intended. Three years ago, in the same *Evening Standard*, Andrew Neather, a former adviser to the Blair government, said that the huge upsurge in immigration over the last decade was in part due to a politically motivated attempt by Labour ministers radically to alter the country and "rub the Right's nose in diversity."

He went on to say that Labour's relaxation of immigration controls was a deliberate plan to "open up the UK to mass migration," but that ministers were nervous about discussing this move publicly because they feared that it would alienate their "core working class vote."

Well, they have certainly managed to do what they wanted. The Labour government, like the Conservative governments before them, and the coalition government since, did everything it could to ignore the real concerns expressed by the majority of the public. But with no decent mainstream party to vote for, the public kept voting for the same parties as usual. Fooled by the occasional speech saying that there was going to be some "tough" new approach, the country got stuck in a debate that has been

played on repeat. Yet all the time that debate-loop was going, the ground beneath us was changing unrecognizably.

Now, true to tradition, a couple of days after the census Labour Party leader Ed Miliband has come out to declare that immigrants to Britain should learn to speak English. It is exactly what all of his recent predecessors have also said, and it is exactly what none of them--any more than he--have done anything concrete about. Britain has been changed, and more change is on the way. Some of those changes might be good, and others are likely to be not as good. There are those who wanted this change to happen, and there are those who did not. The former now occasionally notice that their plan has caused troubles of which they were barely aware when they set out. The latter are reviled as backwards, racist, bigoted and out-of-touch with their new country. In reality they are simply people who once had a country and have seen it changed irrevocably, and simply hold on to a feeling of sadness that nobody thought about where this would take us, or whether we the people should ever be listened to in the little matter of our own future.

*Douglas Murray is a British writer and associate director of the Henry Jackson Society. This appeared on December 21 at [gatestoneinstitute.org](http://gatestoneinstitute.org).*

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## **European Jewish History Is Nearing Its End**

Giulio Meotti

Surprised that Israelis entering Jordan are required to deposit religious Jewish items, like skullcaps and tefillin, for "security reasons"?

It's happening in many European countries as well, where Jews are once again in grave danger and Judeophobia has become the common currency of politics.

Jews in Denmark have just been warned by Israeli officials not to appear publicly wearing Jewish religious symbols such as yarmulkes or stars of David in order to avoid increasing anti-Israel and anti-Semitic altercations. "We advise Israelis who come to Denmark and want to go to the synagogue to wait to don their skull caps until they enter the building and not to wear them in the street, irrespective of whether the areas they are visiting are seen as being safe," said Israel's ambassador to Denmark, Arthur Avnon.

Got that? To be identifiable as a Jew in public in Europe is to invite violence. There are areas in its bigger cities where you cannot go outside looking like a Jew--it's like being in Gaza. In the last few weeks, an Israeli representative of the Magen David Adom was attacked at Copenhagen Central Station, while in central Copenhagen Jews who were wearing a kippah have been physically and verbally attacked. An elderly Israeli man was assaulted by a group of Arabic-looking men when he ate a kebab at Nørrebro. They kicked the victim several times and tore his necklace, on which a visible star of David was hanging, off. That's why today most Danish Jews think twice before deciding whether to wear a necklace with a Star of David on it.

Jewish students have been advised not to wear a kippah in the streets in Germany either. The Abraham Geiger Theological College in Potsdam advises its rabbis against wearing a kippah in public, while the orthodox Or Avner school in Berlin has issued similar guidelines. Whenever its pupils go on trips to the zoo or the museum, Jewish pupils are warned: "Speak German, not Hebrew, put a baseball cap over your kippah so you don't give stupid people something to get annoyed about." Camouflaged in this way, young Jews travel on Berlin's metro trains. The rector of the school has explained that "it is safer to not appear to be a Jewish person".

Recently, Finland's Jewish community was advised not to wear the skullcap in public for fear of anti-Semitic attacks.

In Malmö, Sweden, the country which once gave the world saints like Raoul Wallenberg, members of the local synagogue decided not to keep on their kippahs upon exiting their synagogue.

Norway's Jewish Community has advised its members against speaking Hebrew loudly on the streets or wearing Jewish emblems. Norwegian police have just increased security around Oslo's main synagogue. A teacher, Inge Telhaug, who was wearing a Magen David around his neck under a T-shirt, was informed by the Kristiansand Adult Education Center that wearing the star could be deemed a provocation towards the many Muslim students at the school.

In France several Jews were attacked and beaten in the streets after wearing the skullcap. In Paris it is safer for young Jewish men to walk in groups. They are told to wear baseball caps instead of the traditional head covering to avoid being attacked by anti-Semites. In many neighborhoods of Marseille and Lyons, it is no longer safe for Jews to walk the streets.

A few weeks ago a Jewish man was attacked and rendered unconscious in a Paris metro. How did the anti-Semitic mob recognize that he was Jewish? Because of a philosophy book by the chief rabbi of Paris that he was reading in the metro when he was attacked.

Meanwhile, half the Jewish families in Villepinte, a working-class suburb north of Paris, have left due to anti-Semitism, fleeing to other Paris neighborhoods considered safer for Jews, or out of France entirely. Villepinte's 40-year-old synagogue, already torched in 2001, will close because it often lacks a minyan.

In the UK, there have been many cases like that of an Orthodox child, who was wearing a kippah and tzitzit, verbally threatened and physically intimidated by a hooded youth as he travelled on a London bus.

When the faithful leave Rome's main synagogue they immediately hide the skullcap. Police patrol the area day and night.

In the Netherlands, the country of Baruch Spinoza, police officers began wearing yarmulkes to catch Dutch Jew haters in the act of physical or verbal assault. Jewish students are told to "put a cap over your kippah". In Amsterdam, the shelter of Spanish Jews who fled from the Inquisition, the twenty-five year old Lester M. Wolff van Ravenswade described the difficulties faced by Jews in an open letter to the newspaper *NRC Handelsblad*: "I cannot go to public events dressed as a Jew, let alone go out on Saturday night. Which party do I have to vote for in order to live safely with the kippah on my head?"

Everywhere in Europe, steel barriers are in place outside certain buildings with Jewish or Israeli connections to prevent parking. In many British areas where Jews live, the "Shomrin", or guardians, patrol the streets like Israelis do in isolated "settlements."

Last autumn the ancient Dutch synagogue of Weesp became the first synagogue in Europe since the Second World War to cancel Shabbat services due to the threats to the safety of the faithful.

Eighty years ago next January, Adolf Hitler seized power in Germany. Every time I see a Jewish child walking down the street in Vienna, Paris or Rome wearing a kippah, I know that Hitler did not get to finish his job. It makes me feel proud--or at least somewhat better. But the Holocaust, in which two thirds of European Jewry were annihilated, did not end when Nazi Germany and its satellites were routed militarily. The spirit of annihilation continues eighty years later. That's why Israel's former chief rabbi, Meir Lau, predicted that European Jewish history is nearing its end.

Indeed, it seems a tragic but unavoidable process: Europe as a Jew-free continent or a realm of fear in which Jews will survive as "invisible", like during the Inquisition, where even lighting candles on Shabbat is a hazard because someone could see the holy flames from the street.

*The writer, an Italian journalist with Il Foglio, is the author of A New Shoah, on Israeli terror victims, published by Encounter. This appeared on israelnationalnews.com on December 18.*

## Gush Etzion

Ruth King

*(Editor's note: This is another in our series celebrating the Jewish communities of Judea and Samaria.)*

In early 1927, a small group of residents in what was then called Palestine, spurred by the Zionist goal of reclaiming Israel and encouraged by the promises of the Balfour Declaration, established a community south of Jerusalem on land recently bought by a Jewish landholding company. They named it "Migdal Eder" after a site named in the Torah. The community faced continual hardships and the Arab riots of 1929 soon drove them off.

In 1935 Shmuel Holtzman, a Zionist pioneer inspired by the biblical history of the area--the footprints of Abraham and Isaac on the path to Moriah, the fields where Ruth gathered sheaves, the hills where David was a shepherd, and the caves where the Maccabees and the soldiers of Bar Kochba hid--established a village which he named Kfar Etzion. The name derives from the word Etz – Hebrew for "Holtz," German for "wood," after the name of the founder.



Gush Etzion

Again, the village was pillaged and the residents were forced to evacuate. Undaunted, in 1943 Jews returned and established four communities in the Gush Etzion area--Kfar Etzion, Masuot Yitzhak, Ein Tzurim and Revadim. The first three were religious kibbutzim of the Hapoel Hamizrachi movement, the last a kibbutz of the far left's Hashomer Hazair, then also dedicated to settlement of the entire Land of Israel. When, in 1947, an Arab mob attacked, the Haganah sent a few dozen soldiers in support, led by Commander Danny Mass. The platoon was detected and ambushed by local Arabs and fighting to the death, all thirty five were killed.

The Jews in these communities managed to hold on for another year. After a series of attempts by Jewish forces to break through and reinforce them, they were totally cut off. Vastly outnumbered, they fell after a prolonged siege on May 14, 1948, a day before the declaration of the State of Israel. In the battle with the Jordanian Legion, led by Britain's General Sir John Glubb (known as Glubb Pasha) two hundred and forty defenders of Gush Etzion were killed and another 260 were captured. The Jordanians razed the communities to the ground.

Israel's first Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion praised the brave defenders of the Etzion settlements:

"I can think of no battle in the annals of the Israel Defense Forces which was more magnificent, more tragic or more heroic than the struggle for Gush Etzion ... If there exists a Jewish Jerusalem, our foremost thanks go to the defenders of Gush Etzion."

For nineteen years the survivors of Gush Etzion were cut off from the area of their former homes. When Judea and Samaria were returned to Israel in 1967, Jews from the religious Bnai Akiva movement, many of them children of Gush Etzion's founders, including their leader Hanan Porat, promptly called on the government of Prime Minister Eshkol to permit their return. The government agreed and in September 1967, only a few months after the war, Jews reestablished Kfar Etzion on its former site.

The Etzion bloc has grown and flourished. (Although ignorant international commentators describe the region in terms more befitting Texas, the area is small and only a ten minute drive from Jerusalem.)

In the census of 2004, there were eighteen communities with a population of 44,000 persons and according to Wikipedia (not known for accuracy) as of 2011, there are 22 communities and 70,000 residents.

Today the Gush has development councils, trade organizations, wineries, sport centers, industrial parks, offices, factories and malls. There are clinics, hospitals, schools, synagogues, parks, and day care centers for a thriving population of children. Many residents work in pre-1967 Israel, driving through an efficient tunnel that obviates traffic as well as providing safety.

History pervades the area alongside all the modern development. Biblical sites are scrupulously maintained and available for tourists and pilgrims. The name of the bloc's largest town, Efrat, derives from the Bible (Ephrata) and almost every site is replete with biblical history. Tekoah is the birthplace of the prophet Amos. In Har Gilo archaeological excavation uncovered two buildings and a wine press dating back to the Iron Age (586-539 BCE).

For visitors to the area there is a splendid Gush Etzion Museum which portrays the history of the Etzion bloc settlements and the struggle to defend them during the Israeli War of Independence. The narrative and the photographs there contrast vividly with the bustling, lovely villages that dot the ancient landscape.

The museum is also a reminder of the Arab terrorism that has plagued the Jews who settled in that area.

It has been unabated. Gush Etzion Junction is located in the northern Judean Hills and because of its elevation and views is a favorite hitchhiking post and the locus of many terrorist attacks. Since 2005 three have been killed and others severely injured. Many attacks were thwarted by alert security guards. In the latest attack on November 12, 2012 terrorists opened fire at a bus from a speeding vehicle. In all of Judea, Samaria and outlying neighborhoods of Jerusalem Arabs hurl rocks and firebombs and shoot at Israeli motorists.

In spite of these attacks and the double standards and indifference of Israel's political left and media, the residents remain resolute and optimistic. That is Zionism writ very large.

There is a saying "When in Rome do as the Romans do." When in Israel, by all means enjoy the sparkling city life of Tel Aviv and visit Haifa, Ashkelon, Beersheba and Jerusalem. But do as the ancient forebears of Judaism did. See Israel from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River.

Go to Hebron, the first capital of the Jewish kingdom, go to Shiloh, site of the Ark of the Covenant, and go to the towns of the Etzion bloc. Watch the sunsets from the hills, when a golden light illuminates the area. It will give you renewed hope and inspiration.

## **Outpost**

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