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# OUTPOST



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## A Blight Called UNRWA

William Mehlman

A riot by an estimated 1,000 residents of the Kalandiya Palestinian refugee camp, hurling concrete blocks and dismantled washing machines from rooftops at IDF and Israeli border police attempting to arrest a Tanzim gun-runner, has once again thrown a spotlight on what Middle East Forum scholar Asaf Romirowsky has called the “toxic enabler” of a malign, fabricated culture that has held an entire Arab population segment – currently numbering 5 million -- in thrall over the last six decades.

The “enabler,” the metastatic UN creation that runs Kalandiya, is UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency spawned in December 1949 with a three-year mandate to produce jobs for 625,000 Arabs who fled or were allegedly forced from their homes in Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948. Rounding into the 64th year of its three-year contract, UNRWA has morphed into a multi-billion dollar behemoth dispensing an open-ended menu of benefits to 5 million descendants – “refugees” by right of descent – of the original 625,000, in 59 “temporary” domiciles spread across Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Clearly the most remarkable feature of UNRWA’s remarkable metamorphosis is that it has not, in all the six decades of its existence, resettled a single refugee. What UNRWA has instead foisted upon the world is the concept of everlasting Arab refugeeism. “By its definition,” Evelyn Gordon notes in a recent *Commentary* blog, “an Arab refugee remains a refugee even after acquiring citizenship in another country.” The prime example is the nearly two million “Palestinian refugee” recipients of continuing UNRWA largesse in possession of Jordanian citizenship. There are thousands more of such privileged citizens in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza, where 825,000 of the 1.3 million citizens of this ostensibly sovereign Palestinian mini-state remain free to feed at the UNRWA trough.

If it had anything to do with a genuine rapprochement, Israel might long ago have been amenable to absorbing 30,000 of the original 625,000 “refugees” still alive, but it isn’t about to adopt 5 million of their radicalized grand and great grandchildren. That is demographic suicide and since Mahmoud Abbas can settle for nothing less if he wants to keep breathing, it is the point at which the Obama-Kerry “peace” circus will fold its tent if, indeed, it ever gets that far.

A full 25 percent, \$250 million-plus, of UNRWA’s billion dollar annual budget is currently being funded by American taxpayers. That does not include such “special” Obama Administration grants like \$313 million to bankroll “home mortgages” for West Bank Palestinian residents or U.S. guarantees on \$110 million in loans to small and medium-sized West Bank businesses. Not one cent of the \$4.4 billion that has traveled from the U.S. through UNRWA’s coffers since the latter’s inception has ever been properly accounted for. UNRWA does not permit any outside independent audit of its books and investigative journalist Joel Mowbray has written that “the State Department...cannot ensure that U.S. taxpayer dollars are not subsidizing terrorists or underwriting terrorist propaganda in [UNRWA] schools across the West Bank and Gaza.” Indeed, in a comment to an interviewer in Canada, former UNRWA Commissioner-General Peter Hansen caused a minor sensation when he said “Oh, I’m sure that there are Hamas members on the UNRWA payroll and I don’t see that as a crime. Hamas as a political organization does not mean that every member is a militant. We do not do political vetting and exclude people from one persuasion as against another.”

Romirowsky finds nothing surprising in this revelation. “UNRWA is only too eager to provide services that Hamas does not, cannot or chooses not to [render],” he said. Hamas can continue to direct international monies that should be earmarked for food or electricity to the stockpiling of weapons and the creation of anti-Israel and anti-American propaganda as long as UNRWA provides the services the negligent Hamas government should fulfill.” High on the list of those “services” U.S. taxpayers are

financing is arguably the most venomous anti-Israel, anti-Semitic educational system in the Arab world. Employing texts prepared in conjunction with the Palestinian Authority, the curriculum pointedly fails to “acknowledge Jewish rights in any portion of ‘Palestine,’ on either side of the 1967 lines,” observes David Bedein of the Jerusalem-based Israel Resource News Agency. “Nor,” he adds, “does the curriculum recognize any Jewish past in the Land of Israel...Rather its emphasis is on the “Right of Return” by means of “armed struggle.” Rachel Avraham of *JerusalemOnline* avers that “UNRWA schools do more to teach Palestinian children to hate Israel than schools founded by Arab governments.” With all that, US AID chose in August to renew its subsidy to PA education in UNRWA schools with no strings attached.

It is four years since former House Foreign Affairs Committee chair Ileana Ros-Lehtinen called for an end to U.S. funding of UNRWA, an organization, she said, that “in return for our generous investment...subverts our laws, aids violent Islamist extremists, propagandizes against our ally, Israel in favor of Hamas and works with banks targeted by the United States for money laundering and terrorist financing...We have had enough.” If “enough” has not been defined by the seven-fold increase in Palestinian refugees since UNRWA took charge of the problem, there’s a lot more of the same waiting in the wings. “If the [Palestinian refugee] descendants maintain their current status,” warns Jonathan Schanzer, director of the Foundation For The Defense of Democracies, “their number by 2020 will jump from the current 5 million to 6.4 million.” He predicts that by 2050, we’ll be looking at 14.7 million, despite the fact that few if any of the original refugee group will still be alive.



Senator Mark Kirk

Responding to that warning, Illinois Republican Senator Mark Kirk has championed an amendment to the foreign aid appropriations bill that would require the State Department to report by next year on how many people receiving UNRWA assistance meet the refugee criteria – displaced residents of Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948 – laid down in UNRWA’s founding mandate. While the amendment approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with little debate does not call for a cutoff in funding to the descendants, but rather

to identify the needy among them as victims of poverty rather than refugees, it has stirred up a predictable hornets’ nest. The mere consideration of such an inquiry prompted a letter to the committee from Deputy Secretary of State Thomas Nides cautioning against American interference and prejudgment of this “sensitive issue,” one, Secretary Nides asserted, that could only be dealt with in the context of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. UNRWA’s political and diplomatic supporters are reported girding for battle.

The ultimate fate of the Kirk Amendment is anybody’s guess. At the end of the line looms a potential White House veto even if it manages to clear a Democratic-controlled Senate. However, the subject it addresses, the continued bilking of the American people in support of a voracious, Islamist-friendly leviathan whose existence is linked to a “refugee problem” it has no intention of solving, will not go away. Its long delayed exposure to the light of day is our best assurance of that.

*William Mehlman represents AFSI in Israel.*

## From the Editor

### Holocaust Inversion

Peter Martino reports how, in Belgium, history lessons about the Holocaust are being used to stoke hatred of Israel. Nothing better illustrates the aptness of Melanie Phillips' book title *The World Turned Upside Down*.

Many of the teachers are easily manipulated ignoramuses. Two Belgian researchers, Jan Swerts and Kurt Monten of the Catholic College of Limburg found that many young people studying to become teachers did not even know in which century the Second World War took place (!), knew hardly anything about Socialism and Communism and ten percent confused Zionism with Fascism.

Such are the teachers who receive their teaching materials from the Special Committee for Remembrance Education. One of the materials used, by a Brazilian Arab artist known for his anti-Semitic motifs, is a cartoon "Never Again, Over Again" identifying Israeli treatment of Palestinians with Nazi treatment of Jews. The meaning is spelled out: "Never Again means that what happened under Hitler should never happen again and Over Again means that what is happening today is the same as in the past with Hitler. In the past, the concentration camps were fenced off with barbed wire. Today, the border between Israel and Palestine is marked with barbed wire and a wall."

Martino notes that Belgian children aged 6 to 12 are being indoctrinated with a hatred for the Jews so deep that one day Never Again may indeed become "Over Again" and with the same victims as before: the Jews. Authorities such as the Belgian Ministry of Education, which are facilitating the inculcation of anti-Semitism, will be directly responsible.

### Peaceniks are the Biggest Killers

Amatzia Chen is a famous war hero in Israel. Recently interviewed on the 40th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War, he said: "I told [writer] Amos Oz, I am considered to be an IDF officer with



Amatzia Chen

numerous kills, maybe the biggest killer of them all, and I am telling you that the amount of blood that was shed as a result of my fire is nothing compared to the amount of blood that was shed following your writing." Of Oz and those like him (He specifically mentions A.B. Yehoshua and David Grossman), says Chen, "the weakness that is caused as a result of writing in which the hand is stretched out only to peace is what brought about the unbearable boiling over between us and the Palestinians."

In the interview, Chen tells a remarkable story of the near-death of another legendary IDF hero, Yaakov Katz, fondly known in Israel as Ketzaleh. He was with Chen at the Suez Canal during the 1973 war, part of the elite Sayeret Shaked group. Ketzaleh was cut in half, dying, says Chen, and like idiots they were pushing shirts into his body to try to stop the blood. Chen called the division and said "bring us a helicopter." The deputy commander replied you are close to the Canal, there's no chance the Air Force will go there. But then Arik [Ariel Sharon] called and promised "In five minutes you'll have a helicopter." Says Chen: "I walked over to Ketzaleh and said, 'Be'ezrat Hashem [with God's help] you'll be saved.' With the remainder of his strength he said, 'If I heard you say 'be'ezrat hashem,' it was good that I was wounded.'"

## First the Saturday People

First the Saturday People, then the Sunday People" is an old Islamic jibe. Until recently the Sunday people paid it no mind.

But now, as Jews no longer offer an easy target, having all but disappeared from the Muslim lands in which their ancestors had lived long before Mohammed's birth, the "promise" of the second half of the slogan is being implemented. From one end of the Islamic world to the other, Christians are being persecuted while Western leaders turn a blind eye. It was under the United States watch that Iraq's Christian population fell by more than half, intimidated, threatened and butchered (if they failed to flee). In Syria, Christian support for the Assad regime is based on the well-founded fears of the large Christian community that it will not survive the alternative. The situation of the Copts, parlous under Mubarak, worsened dramatically under Morsi and shows little sign of improvement under the "secular" government that has replaced it. About 100,000 have fled in the last two years.

The targeting of Christians was apparent in the terror attack at the Kenyan mall where Muslims were released while what Al Shabaab called "the disbelieving people" were murdered, including small children. In Pakistan, where only two percent of the population is Christian, two suicide bombers recently killed at least 53 and wounded over 100 in an attack on a church service in Peshawar.

Israel may yet be the last place in the Middle East where Christians can live in freedom and security.

## Fawning over Abbas

The usual foolish suspects (including Madeleine Albright, who wasn't smart enough to figure out her Jewish origins until middle age and Sandy Berger, who removed classified documents from the National Archives and hid them under a construction trailer) gathered at the Plaza Hotel for dinner to meet with Mahmoud Abbas.



The most offensive soft-soap questioner--because unlike the others he has been a staunch defender of Israel--was Alan Dershowitz: "My question is this--Bill Clinton once said to me in a conversation, the real problem is, dammit Israel is a democracy and the PA is a democracy. Therefore before you make peace both sides have to persuade their constituents. And sometimes good things produce bad results. Let me give you an example. Many of us in this room were very active in bringing a million Soviet Jews to Israel. That was a great thing but it produced an extreme right wing in Israel which made peace more difficult. My question to you is how do you and we together work to persuade the

constituencies on both sides that are opposed to the two state solution that it is in their interest to bring about a two state solution. How can we use democracy to help us rather than serve as a barrier to peace?"

Both sides democracies? The PA is a kleptocracy and Abbas's term ended in January 2009. Abbas joined with Dershowitz in struggling for the two state solution? Abbas routinely incites his "constituents" to hatred and violence, holding up suicide bombers as role models. Dershowitz is as addle-pated as Shimon Peres in believing his dedicated enemy is a partner-in-peace. And what is the obstacle to peace, in Dershowitz's mind? Why those pesky ungrateful Russians. In fact a certain proportion of Russians, alas, by no means all, learned by hard experience with their Soviet masters to separate rhetoric and delusions from reality. His long legal experience has not helped Dershowitz to do the same.

So for all the flashy books, debating skills and undoubtedly high IQ, Dershowitz is at bottom a self-deluded numskull, one of those to whom the adage well applies, "none so blind as will not see."

### **Solid Stupidity**

Going strong at 90, Shimon Peres may be made of a newly discovered element in the periodic table--solid stupidity. He is quoted in *The Wall Street Journal* (September 26) offering a "robust" endorsement of Obama's Iranian overtures and Syrian policy. Peres offered up this gem to add to all his other goofy pronouncements (see *Shimon Says*, published by AFSI, for a collection of his phony profundities): "The world needs moral frontiers that are more important than geographic frontiers."

### **Sri Lankan-Born Student Champions Israel**

HonestReporting's \$2,000 Blankfeld Award for Media Critique has gone to Timon Dias, born in Sri Lanka and raised in Holland from infancy. His winning articles were published in *The Jerusalem Post*. Dias says: "Many people have turned their backs on the Jews when they most needed a helping hand. Many people have turned their backs on Israel when her days seemed all but numbered. I will not be one of those people, and I can assure you that albeit a slow process, more people feel this way every day."

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## **A Palestinian State with Temporary Borders – A Historical Catastrophe**

Elyakim Haetzni

*(Editor's note: On September 25, Secretary of State Kerry said the U.S. was aiming for a final agreement, not an interim accord. Given that Abbas is unlikely to relinquish the "right to return", the scenario described below is far more likely.)*

With the new Jewish year, we are witnessing the weakening of President Barack Obama and the embarrassing differences revealed between him and his Secretary of State, John Kerry. The result, a temporary alleviation in Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's situation, is no cause for satisfaction given the fact that both sides are despicable butchers and radically hostile to Israel. For now, this respite frees us from the likelihood that Israel – as usual - will pay the price of an American strike on Syria.

Unfortunately, Kerry is also the torch-bearer for 'Palestine'. Establishing a Palestinian state is an emotional issue for him rather than a calculated interest. And behind Kerry stands the President, whose sympathy from day one has been for Islam and the 'Palestinians'. The combination of these two figures poses great difficulties for the national interests of the Jewish People in the Land of Israel all the days of the year.

In every future scenario, the Damocles' Sword of "peace talks" with the Palestinian enemy will remain hanging over our heads. Lately, it's taken the form of yet another expected speech by Netanyahu – once again at Bar Ilan – in which he'll bury the Land of Israel still deeper under the mountains of the false and fictitious 'Palestinian' narrative, this time – God forbid – irremediably. We're talking about a 'long-term interim agreement' or establishing 'a Palestinian state with temporary borders'. This 'deal' will be sold to the public as a bargain, since it will not require (for now) a mass expulsion. 'Only' outlying communities will be destroyed -- Alon Moreh, Har Bracha, Yitzhar, and Itamar have already been mentioned.

The time has come to closely examine this catastrophic idea of establishing an "instant" state for the Arabs that will be sovereign for all intents and purposes, like France or Israel. Its borders will be

defined so that the only thing 'temporary' about it will be the promise of expansion and enlargement at the expense of the Jewish homeland.

The result for Israel will be that domestic and international pressure will continue to increase until the full goal is achieved: Palestinian Jerusalem, the destruction of all the settlements, the expulsion of their residents, and Israel's return to the Green Line to the last centimeter. This, of course, is only the first phase of Arafat and his PLO's piece-by-piece strategy: it will be followed by – Allah is beneficent! – The Blue Line!



Elyakim Haetzni

All will be as it was here in Israel, with one unfortunate difference: from now on, the Arabs will have a full-fledged state with all the attendant sovereign powers and privileges. The IDF will no longer be able to enter Jenin under cover of darkness and arrest terrorists – that would violate state sovereignty, a crime according to international law. No longer can the Civil Administration impound a garbage truck belonging to the town of Al-Bira when it dumps and burns its municipal garbage next to the homes of the Jewish town of Psagot. Doing so would cause an 'international incident'. No longer will we own the antiquities from the First and Second Temple periods that were discovered and excavated. The coins and oil lamps from the Hasmonean period and the Great Revolt and the Bar Kochva Revolt will have to be handed over to the

'Palestinians' according to the requirements of the Hague Convention.

Armed with full status as a state, Palestine will be able to turn Israel into an international pariah. All our claims to the Land of Israel will be null and void as against the foreign country that we ourselves, in a legally binding act, recognized as the rightful owners of the Land of Israel.

If the State of Israel protested against granting state status to the Palestinian Authority at the UN, an act whose value was symbolic rather than real, how can we now even conceive of giving our enemies the real thing with our very own hands? In giving them the sharpened knife of independence and sovereignty, they'll be able to take from us by force all that we protected at such great cost for all these years, such as Jerusalem, the '67 borders, the 1948 refugees, and all the rest. Have we gone insane?

And it gets even worse: did you know that today there is not a centimeter of land on the entire planet apart from the South Pole that is not under the sovereign power of a state with the exception of Judea and Samaria?

Only these lands that were formerly part of the British Mandate granted by the League of Nations didn't become part of sovereign Israel or sovereign Jordan – or even a UN trusteeship -- after WWII. Therefore, in the opinion of the most respected jurists of international law and according to the recent Edmond Levi report, the terms of the British Mandate still apply to Judea and Samaria, currently under Israeli military rule.

What are the Mandate's terms? It plainly states that "recognition has been given to the historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine and to the grounds for reconstituting their national home in that country." It also calls for increased Jewish immigration and intensive Jewish settlement of the land. This is the legal basis for the settlements that were established throughout Judea and Samaria and for Jewish building in East Jerusalem. Otherwise, by what right did we take those lands and exploit their resources if they belonged to another sovereign?

Let it be said here and now that Israeli recognition of Palestinian sovereignty in Judea and Samaria, where only the size of the territory is left undetermined, signifies the end of legal Israeli rule over the entire area and an historic abdication for future generations. From now on, even if the Arabs force other wars upon us and we conquer Nablus over and over again, we will always be forced to retreat because the land will be considered Palestinian land -- just as the Americans retreated from Iraq because it is a foreign land for them and just as the occupation of Nazi Germany was reversed because Germans lands belong to the German people.

So, it may come to pass, God forbid, that what the Nation of Israel never did during all its years of utter helplessness in exile, it will now do while sovereign in its own land and at the height of its powers: cede its right to the Land of Israel to an alien people.

One's hair stands on end when considering the implications: can it be other than Divine decree that the last area on earth without a sovereign ruler is smack dab in the historical heartland of the Land of Israel? And that this land at this particular moment in history is under Jewish rule and thus in the hands of its original and true owner? Picture Judea and Samaria sitting in the open palm of the State of Israel. Israel has only to close her hand and this treasure, the yearning of millennia, will be hers. The Jewish People kept faith with this land throughout the long exile and spilt seas of blood, sweat, and tears for it. And instead of grasping what was dropped into her palm, what does the State of Israel do? She drops it into the hands of her enemies in disgust. Esau sold his birthright for a mess of porridge. The sick of spirit among those who govern Israel are planning to perpetrate this national crime without even asking for anything in return.

In their perverted minds, the quid pro quo is being rid of the hated "territories" and the despised settlers.

This scenario is not theoretical. During these very days, representatives of the Israeli government are sitting and reviewing with their associates the names of the communities slated for destruction. They are explicitly discussing a Jordan Valley wiped clean of its Jewish communities, where all that's left to decide is where to situate a few military posts that will remain in the area for the time being. They need to figure out a couple more details, such as how to secure Ben Gurion Airport once the Jewish communities of western Samaria are destroyed; our American despoiler-partners are offering some technical security alternatives, prostheses to replace the living limbs that will be torn out.

And meanwhile, what are the intended victims doing, those representatives of the "Jewish Nation" living in the Jordan Valley and Judea and Samaria specifically named in the British Mandate as the beneficiaries of the Jewish right to the land and which a state called "Israel" wants to take from them forever?

Nothing.

Where are the settlements of Elon Moreh, Itamar, Einav and others who are destined to disappear in the "interim stage"? Why aren't they rising up and shouting? Where are their friends, the other settlements whose turn to be cut off like one slices a salami will come next? Are they rising up in solidarity with their brothers? Hasn't the time come to register volunteers who on the Day of Judgment will come to stop the destroyers with their bodies, thereby warning all the irresponsible politicians whose hands are on the steering wheel that they're playing with fire, the fire of internal rebellion and civil war? Why aren't the settlements of the Jordan Valley opening their mouths to inform the authorities and the Americans and the enemy that they won't go quietly, but will fight for their homes and fields and will call on every man and woman in Israel to come stand by their side!

If such voices were heard, it might dissuade some of Israel's leaders, but the opposite is also true: the silence in the national camp speaks loudly.

It broadcasts blindness and failure to read the signs, lack of organization and coordination, weakness and helplessness. Such impressions, whether true or misleading, add to the confidence and

fighting spirit of the forces of destruction which in turn contributes to hastening and intensifying the catastrophe.

The settlers already number, thank God, hundreds of thousands; even if only the 'ideological' settlements are counted, the numbers are in the tens of thousands. This public hasn't managed to regroup since the crisis of the Yesha Council in Kfar Maimon during the dark days of the expulsion from Gush Katif. Since then, eight years ago, no other body has arisen to lead the coming struggle. However, the situation has become critical. Now, while the suicidal Livni-Erekat talks are ongoing, is the time to start the work of organizing so that we can build the tools to frustrate their designs and nullify their plans.

On our side is justice, appreciable political power, a strong hold on the land, and good people. Into our hands the future of Israel's heartland is entrusted. The only thing lacking is the inner determination to start acting. While we wait, the forces of destruction are already on the march.

*Elyakim Haetzni is an Israeli lawyer and settlement activist. He served as a member of the Knesset for Tehiya from 1990 until 1992.*

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## The Orchestra of Exiles

Ruth King

*Orchestra of Exiles* is the suspenseful chronicle of how one man helped save Europe's premier Jewish musicians from obliteration by the Nazis during World War II. In three years, Bronislaw Huberman was transformed from a world renowned violinist to a humanitarian racing against time. The film (available from Netflix) includes commentary by Itzhak Perlman, Zubin Mehta, Pinchas Zukerman, Joshua Bell and others.

But this documentary is so much more. It chronicles the fulfillment of Huberman's dream of creating a Palestine National Orchestra with Jewish musicians from the best orchestras of Europe--especially Germany, Poland and Hungary. Some experienced culture shock for they came to Israel when Ben Yehuda Street in Tel Aviv was not even paved. As musicians in Israel and throughout the world have testified, Huberman saved their lives and preserved the Jewish musical tradition.

There are plenty of dramatic incidents. The film describes how, in February 1936, during a concert at Carnegie Hall, Huberman left his Stradivarius in his dressing room and it was stolen. This was



an enormous and crushing shock to a man who was already close to a breakdown from the pressures of travel, performing and the endless work of raising funds and arranging immigration visas for performers for the Palestine Symphony Orchestra. In Israel plans for a premiere were proceeding apace. William Steinberg, who became one of America's top conductors, rehearsed the orchestra in makeshift conditions and on December 26th, 1936 Toscanini, the most famous conductor in the world, snubbed the Nazis and

conducted the orchestra's first performance.

What an achievement!

Leonard Bernstein, one of the most famous musicians in America, played the piano and conducted the orchestra in 1948. Particularly memorable was his conducting of the orchestra on July 9,

1967 on Mt. Scopus less than a month after Israel's triumph in reuniting Jerusalem during the Six Day War. After the War of Independence, the amphitheater on Mt. Scopus had been part of the old Hebrew University campus in an area controlled by Jordan. Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, in celebration of the unification of Israel's capital, sponsored the concert, which was billed as "the cultural opening of the united city of Jerusalem". Bernstein opened the historic concert by conducting Hatikvah before an emotional and ecstatic audience. His love for and involvement with the orchestra continued throughout his life.

And what of the stolen Stradivarius?

Orchestra of Exiles mentions that the theft of Huberman's precious violin went unsolved for 50 years before it was finally recovered and sold at auction and now belongs to the virtuoso violinist Joshua Bell. The full story is told on Joshua Bell's website. Julius Altman was a contract violinist who never earned a chair with any of New York City's orchestras. He eked out a living with club dates, church performances and orchestras which relied on freelance performers. He dressed shabbily and played a violin that was grimy and sticky and obviously had not been cleaned or maintained for decades.

In the 1980's Altman was convicted of molesting the granddaughter of his second wife Marcelle Hall. He entrusted his violin to a colleague from the Danbury Connecticut Symphony. Before being imprisoned he was diagnosed with cancer and lived the last weeks of his life under guard. In a deathbed confession to his wife, he instructed her to retrieve the violin and check the documents hidden in the case.

Marcelle Hall found newspaper clippings from 1936 detailing the theft of Huberman's Stradivarius and realized that her husband's violin was the precious Stradivarius stolen from Huberman in that year. Altman further revealed his mother's complicity in the theft. She knew that Huberman owned two rare and precious violins and encouraged her son to sneak into Huberman's dressing room and steal whichever was left unguarded.

The compliant son, who had been performing gypsy violin at a nearby restaurant, went to the Carnegie stage door during a break and explained he was a violinist working nearby who idolized Huberman. He begged to be allowed to listen backstage for a few minutes. The guard let him pass. Huberman's room was unguarded and Altman stole the violin.

For the next 48 years Altman played the Stradivarius which he regularly waxed with shoe polish. When he died in August 1985, Marcelle Hall approached the authorities and, once the violin was authenticated, it was turned over to Lloyd's of London which had compensated Huberman \$30,000 for his loss. The insurer gave Hall a finder's fee of \$263,000. By that time the violin was valued at 1.1 million.

J&A Beare Ltd., a string-instrument dealer and restorer, spent nine months removing the shoe polish and 50 years of accumulated grime without damaging the varnish. Lloyd's then sold it for \$1.2 million to Norbert Brainin, an acclaimed English violinist.

In the summer of 2001, American virtuoso Joshua Bell learned that Brainin was about to sell the violin to a wealthy German as a museum piece. Bell paid Brainin nearly \$4 million for the 1713 Gibson Strad, raising part of the money by selling his own 1732 Tom Taylor Stradivarius for two million dollars.

In Orchestra of Exiles, Bell says of the famous purloined violin and its connection to Huberman: "It adds to the magic of getting to play on it every night."

In April 2013 at the screening of a documentary on the history of his Stradivarius *The Return of the Violin* Bell said, speaking of his annual performances in Israel "It is always special to play in Huberman's orchestra."

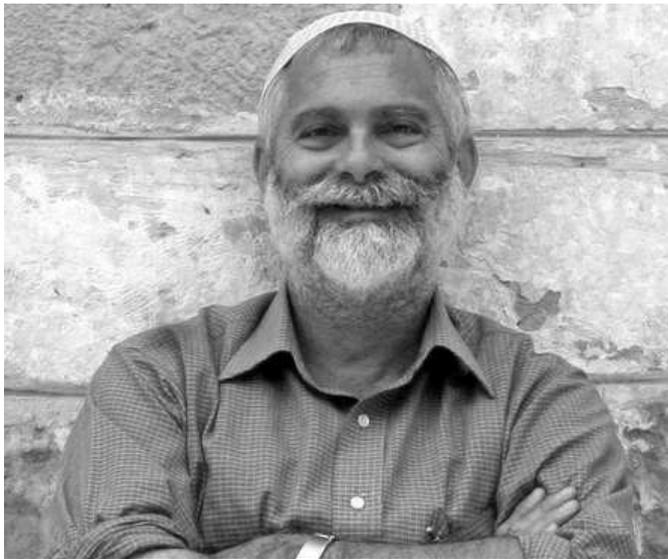
Alas, Huberman died in Switzerland in 1947 and did not witness the establishment of Israel in 1948 and Ben Gurion's renaming of his orchestra of exiles the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Today the Israel Philharmonic is one of the leading orchestras in the world. And, of course Huberman never heard Joshua Bell play his beloved violin in Israel or in his birthplace Czechochtowa, Poland.

The angels heard and applauded.

## A House in Hebron

David Wilder

*(Editor's note: David Wilder is a leader of the Jewish community of Hebron. As his essay below indicates, long experience with Netanyahu led Wilder to expect little from Netanyahu's promise to immediately allow Jews to settle in Beit Hamachpela in reaction to the murder of an Israeli soldier next door to it by a Palestinian sniper. Said Netanyahu ringingly: "Those who try to uproot us from the City of the Patriarchs will achieve the opposite." The structure in question is a three story building across from the Cave of the Patriarchs. Hebron's Jewish community had purchased it, moved in at the end of March 2012 and been forcibly evicted by the Israel Defense Forces a few days later, on the ground of supposed flaws in their purchase documents. In July of this year, a military appeals court validated their purchase but in spite of the court victory, the Hebron families were barred from moving in because they lacked a signature of approval from Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon. In no time, Wilder's skepticism has been vindicated. Responding to an immediate petition filed with the court for an injunction to prevent Jews entering the building, the Netanyahu administration told the court "no decision has been made to give possession of the building to anyone." So another endless review is about to begin. Wilder depends on a higher authority than his spineless Prime Minister.)*



David Wilder

Yesterday was an overwhelming success. Some 25,000 people visited Hebron and participated in the Music Festival. Add on 10,000 the day before, and another few thousand today and tomorrow. That's almost 40,000 people in Hebron.

Of course, the murder of Gal Kobi is a tragedy that never should have happened. Why should a twenty year old man be shot and killed by an Arab sniper? Only because he was Jewish, Israeli, and serving in the IDF, protecting others living in, and visiting Hebron. And also ensuring that terrorists, such as the one who killed him, aren't able to travel freely around Israel, murdering Jews in Tel Aviv, or in his home city, Haifa.

But Israelis showed their bravery, not allowing this horrendous act to prevent their

coming to Hebron. Some 25,000 people yesterday, and thousands today and tomorrow, and next week and next month, vote with their feet – they let their feet do the talking, showing one and all that terrorists will not prevent Jews from visiting and living in their land, their cities, and their homes.

The shows yesterday were fantastic. I caught the last few: Yishai Lapidot, Mendy Jerufi, and Ya'akov Shwekey. Immediately following the murder, the director of yesterday's programming spoke to Ya'akov, telling him about the terror attack. Shwekey assured him, on the spot, that he had no intentions to cancel. The show would go on, as planned.

And what a show it was. He dedicated two special songs. One of his most famous, Tatte, meaning Father, changing some of the original words for Hebron, he dedicated to the memory of the murdered soldier. Another was sung for the IDF, the Israel Defense Forces, serving our nation and our people. It was really something else.

What a day it was.

A few hours after the murder, the Prime Minister issued a directive, ordering that all measures necessary to allow Jews back into Beit HaMachpela immediately be implemented. The one and only measure necessary is that of the signature of the Defense Minister, Moshe 'Bugi' Ya'alon on a piece of paper, a permit, granting permission for Jews who purchased the site to move back in.

As might be recalled, last year the purchase was completed and Jews moved in. Two days later they were expelled. A military court ruled a couple of months ago that the purchase was fully legal. The Jews should be allowed back in.

We've been waiting and waiting and waiting.

As of this morning, the story is that the Defense Minister 'authorized' the return to the building, but has yet to sign the permits. So my guess is that, because of his deeply religious practices, he doesn't write on Chol HaMoed, the intermediary days of Succot, due to the sanctity of this week.

So, maybe after the holidays, Thursday night?

Well, actually it's Bibi. Mr. Prime Minister, who split Hebron in January, 1998, after promising he would never do such a thing. A few days ago he stated that anyone thinking they can uproot us from Hebron should know that it will never happen. And he promised, again. Back to Beit HaMachpela.

Well, it seems that a Prime Minister's directive isn't enough. Why? Maybe (no, it can't be) he really didn't mean it. Maybe (no, it can't be), the message hasn't yet filtered down to the Defense Minister. Or maybe there are people, in roles under the Prime Minister, who can control what the Prime Minister is actually able to do, or not do, despite his position and directives. (Yes, it can be!)

Pick one of the above: a, b, or c, or pick all of the above. Or none. Maybe it is threats from the direction of the White House where Bibi is supposed to go next week.

But, we have no doubt, there will be blessings from above, and in the end, all will work out well. Because those blessings will still be here when Bibi and Obama are long gone.

Happy holidays from Hebron.

*David Wilder is the spokesman for the Jewish community of Hebron*

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## **Know Your Military Colonists**

Daniel Greenfield

"Military Colonist" is a term that has gone out of fashion in this brave new world of "No Human Being is Illegal" and "Every Refugee Deserves to be Resettled."

The university history professor with an office full of fake Indian jewelry and a view of the parking lot will lecture on the military colonies of the Roman period, always careful to emphasize their eventual fate. And he may even get up to the 16th century. But he'll stay away from the present.

But if you are going to take land or seize power, you will need military colonists to hold it. The military colonist may be an ex-soldier, but he's more likely to be someone the empire, present or future, doesn't particularly need or have a use for. The Czars used serfs. The present day military colonist who shows up at JFK or LAX may also be a peasant with even less value to his culture.

Mexico's military colonists are not military. Often they aren't even Mexican. But they have managed to take back California without firing a shot. Unless you count the occasional drive by shooting.

While the United States sent tens of thousands of soldiers to try and hold Iraq and Afghanistan only to fail, Mexico took California with a small army of underpaid handymen who claim entire cities and send back some 20 billion dollars a year. As conquests go, it's not hard to see who did more with less.

In 2009, 417 Mexican migrants died trying to reach America, and 317 American soldiers died in Afghanistan. But Mexico has more to show for it than America does. Every Mexican who settles across

the border is a net gain who sends back money and spreads political influence. Meanwhile America is spending trillions on a much smaller army in a country whose land no one actually wants.

In 2009, the year Obama approved a 30,000 man troop surge, 3,195 Afghans received permanent legal status in the United States.

In the decade since the US invaded Afghanistan, 24,710 Afghans successfully invaded the United States and received permanent legal status. That is an occupying force larger than US troop numbers were at any point in time in Afghanistan until the very end of George W. Bush's second term.

During this same period there were also 19,000 Afghan non-immigrant admissions. As invasions go, the Afghan invasion of America was far more successful than the American invasion of Afghanistan.

That is even more true when you consider birth rates. Military colonists are not a mere invading army. They are generational footholds.

The American birth rate was at 13.5. The Afghan birth rate was at 37.3 at the time. American soldiers go home when their time is up. Sometimes they come home with a Muslim wife after converting to marry her. Afghan immigrants come with a birth rate that is nearly three times that of the country they are invading.

Across the ocean, the Algerian War is still going strong and France is losing badly. There are fewer bombs and bullets. Only men and women showing up and expecting to be taken care of. An army of millions could not have landed in France and begun pillaging the countryside. Not unless they came as immigrants. If you are going to invade a Socialist country, the best way to do it is as a charity case.

Unfortunately that holds true for us as well.

The military colonists flooding our shores are part of an unacknowledged partnership between their political leaders and ours. Their political leaders are fighting a war to redress the wrongs of centuries or millennia. Our political leaders are looking to shift the voting balances in a ward or a district for the next election. When they resettle the next shipment of Afghans in an otherwise conservative area with a view to tilting the electoral balance, they are using them as military colonists for the short term while their homelands use them as military colonists in the long term.

War is about controlling land, resources and populations. Land just sits there. It's the populations that cause the trouble. The military colonist makes a more enduring occupation possible by settling the land and giving the conquering power a deeper foothold in the enemy territory.

There was a time when American settlers acted as military colonists holding down lands in Florida and Texas. Today America is being colonized by the settlers of other nations and ideologies. And we will find ourselves in the same position as the Spanish did in Florida and the Mexicans did in Texas.



Texans Rebel Against Mexico at The Alamo

they knew it or not. The same holds true for the present state of affairs there today.

It's more than just cultural or ethnic differences that make one a military colonist. It's a cause. Whether it's Manifest Destiny or the Reconquista or the Caliphate. Underlying it all is that sense of destiny. The power of an exceptionalism that makes it impossible for the settler to sink in and abandon his roots and beliefs to the tidal pull of a new culture when his grudge against it is more than the mere personal dissatisfaction of the new immigrant or his children caught between two worlds.

Integration is hopeless in the face of that sense of destiny. European nations struggling to defend some notion of secular space misunderstand the problem as one of extremism. Some of the more visible terror attacks may indeed be associated with what can be described as extremism in the sense that its participants are willing to push the envelope harder and further in more violent ways.

But Islamic terrorism is only the foam on the surface. It's the bubbles at the edge of the pot. A minor symptom of a much bigger problem. It's simply the most violent expression of a widely shared belief that Islamic law is superior to Western law. Most peoples feel that their ways and customs are best. It doesn't become a problem until they become the majority and won't take no for an answer.

American liberalism and European republicanism have no answers to Islamic terrorism. Their embrace of the Arab Spring was motivated by the need to believe that the Muslim world was ready to "advance" to the same postmodern level of existence, eliminating the need to worry about women in burkas or Al Qaeda. The same misreading of the power of tribe and religion that led to the foolish belief that Saudi Arabia's military colonists could safely be turned into Labour voters led to the Arab Spring's equally misplaced confidence that the Muslim Brotherhood wanted to be just like Europe.

It isn't only a tiny minority of extremists who believe that Islamic values are superior to Western values and who would like the law to recognize that assumption. It's a tiny minority of extremists who try to prove their devoutness by jumping the gun and killing people over it before the full demographic impact of the military colonists would make a burka ban into the next Syrian Civil War.

Think of two armies maneuvering into position. The extremist is the one who fires before the enemy is fully in range ruining the strategic effect of the surprise attack. Trying to understand the extremist not only misses the point, it misses the whole chain of events in motion. The schemes for integrating the disgruntled youth and countering violent extremism is symptom control.

Terrorism is an early warning in the clash of civilizations and all our leaders can think to do is hold a meeting with the heads of the opposing army asking them to get their hotheads to stop shooting at us because it's bringing our civilizations into conflict. Our civilizations are in conflict and have been as far back as they have both existed. The occasional plane hijacker is the first snowflake of a winter storm. Instead of preparing for a storm, we're trying to figure out how to stop snowflakes.

The conflict is primal. It isn't about American foreign policy or War X or Country Y or Cause Z. These are all "arguments" that explain the conflict once it's already under way. It's simpler than that. It's about the incompatibility of cultures, religions, political and economic systems. And it's about countries with a lot of oil and not much else trying to buy their way to an empire by using their own impoverished brethren as cannon fodder. And finally it's about what happens when birth rates fall.

Western countries have achieved individual comforts with an unsustainable system. This unsustainability is both economic and demographic as budgets and children are both lacking. Meanwhile the countries and cultures that have failed have achieved a perfectly sustainable state of misery. They may not have much income, but they also don't have much to eat. They may have high infant mortality rates, but they have even higher childbirth rates.

America of 2013 cannot go on being this way indefinitely. It probably can't even manage another two decades without major changes of some kind. Afghanistan 2013 however can go on being the way it is indefinitely. And that sustainability is what makes its people effective military colonists. Living the Afghan lifestyle in London or Los Angeles is even sustainable because food and housing are free.

That just leaves large packs of nomadic youths roaming the streets, selling drugs and rioting at the slightest provocation until it's time for them to get married and make more nomadic youths of their own. It's not that different from Afghanistan. It's the tribal life transplanted to the West. It's a culture with no real purpose except to produce young males eager to fight and expand tribal power and a religion with no real purpose except to affirm that as a religious duty.

Islam embodies expansionism. Its directives of male violence and female subjugation have no other end. They protect the tribal imperatives of endogamy and violence, of inbreeding and the feud. It has no ideas except to get bigger and that makes its followers into ideal military colonists.

*Daniel Greenfield is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Center. This appeared on his blog of September 18.*

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## ***The Last Israelis* by Noah Beck**

Reviewed by Ruth King

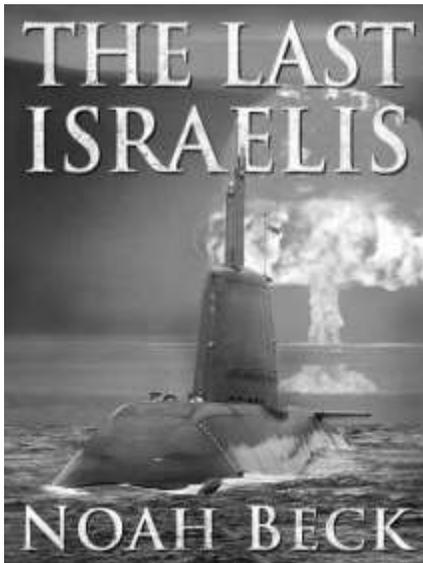
There is an old saw “If you want to know what a man is thinking, listen to what he says.” Iran’s mullahs regularly issue crude genocidal threats to destroy Israel. Their words gain more credibility every day as their nuclear capabilities grow. Israel is their first target, but to their great strategic detriment, Israelis wander in a maze of futile “peace processing.”

Europe’s hapless Jews did not heed the prophetic warnings of Zeev Jabotinsky. They thought *Mein Kampf* was a lunatic’s ravings and Germany’s threats were evanescent – bad times that would dissipate. Today’s Jews are equally lost in apathy and ignorance about Islam. They refuse to believe that jihad propels the Moslem world, and indeed, promises rewards for obliterating the “infidels.”

All these blindly optimistic Dr. Panglosses would be seriously sobered by Noah Beck’s daring novel *The Last Israelis*.

Beck does his homework as is obvious from his numerous columns on the Middle East, Israel, and its determined enemies. For this book, he met with Israel’s tough mariners and veterans of her submarine force and the protagonists of the novel are based on them.

The last Israelis are the crew of an Israeli submarine, the Dolphin, a German-made, diesel-electric submarine armed with nuclear-tipped missiles that can strike targets 950 miles away. They are a microcosm of Israeli society. There are hawks, pacifists, an Israeli Druze, a Vietnamese-Israeli, a Christian Arab, an Ethiopian, and standard issue sabras--contentious and opinionated, and, to a man, passionately patriotic.



Their debates also mirror those going on in Israeli society. The narrative sends the crew to sea, underwater in cramped and difficult circumstances. Beck describes life in a submarine with the attendant fear, irritation, conflict, boredom, homesickness, defiance, regret, determination--all the tensions of life 100 meters under sea level. The mission is to carry submarine-launched nuclear ballistic missiles toward Iran’s waters. There is banter and concern about a possible nuclear strike against Israel from Iran. In this book, we are forced to imagine the unthinkable--the destruction of Israel by a nuclear Iran.

In one of the final communiqués, the crew learns that Israel has been attacked on all fronts and loses communication. What follows is gripping and terrifying and all too possible.

Read it, recommend it and be worried...very worried.

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