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Menachem Begin's Broadcast to the Nation, May 15, 1948 The State of Israel Has Arisen !

Editor's Note: This is excerpted from Begin's address on Israel's independence day on the Irgun's radio station. His words are worth remembering in this time of unprecedented challenges to Israel's right to exist.

Citizens of the Hebrew Homeland, Soldiers of Israel, Hebrew Youth, Sisters and Brothers in Zion!
Today is truly a holiday, a Holy Day, and a new fruit is visible before our very eyes. The Hebrew Revolt of 1944-1948 has been blessed with success -- the first Hebrew revolt since the Hasmonean insurrection that has ended in victory. The State of Israel has arisen in bloody battle. The highway for the mass return to Zion has been cast up. The foundation has been laid -- but only the foundation -- for true independence.



One phase of the battle for freedom, for the return of the entire People of Israel to its homeland, for the restoration of the whole Land of Israel to its God-covenanted owners, has ended. But only one phase. We should recall that this event has occurred after 70 generations of dispersion and unending wandering of an unarmed people and after a period of almost total destruction of the Jew as Jew. Thus, although our suffering is not yet over, it is our right and our obligation to proffer thanks to the Rock of Israel and His Redeemer for all the miracles that have been done this day, as in those times. We therefore can say with full heart and soul on this first day of our liberation from the British occupier: Blessed is He who has sustained us and enabled us to have reached this time. The State of Israel has arisen. And it has risen "Only Thus":

through blood, through fire, with an outstretched hand and a mighty arm, with sufferings and with sacrifices. It could not have been otherwise.

And yet, even before our state is able to establish its normal governing institutions, it is compelled to fight, or rather, to continue to fight satanic enemies and blood-thirsty mercenaries, on land, in the air and on the sea. In these circumstances, the warning sounded by the Philosopher-President Thomas Masaryk to the Czechoslovak nation when it attained its freedom after three hundred years of slavery has a special significance for us. In 1918, when Masaryk stepped out on to the Wilson railway station in Prague, he warned his cheering countrymen: "It is difficult to set up a state; it is even more difficult to keep it going."

We are surrounded by enemies who long for our destruction. Our one-day old state is set up in the midst of the flames of battle. And the very first pillar of our state must therefore be victory, total victory, in the war which is raging all over the country. For this victory, without which we shall have neither freedom nor life, we need arms; weapons of all sorts, in order to strike the enemies, in order to disperse the invaders, in order to free the entire length and breadth of the country from its would-be destroyers. But in addition to these arms, each and every one of us has need of another weapon, a spiritual weapon, the weapon of unflinching endurance in face of attacks from the air; in face of grievous casualties; in face of local disasters and temporary defeats; unflinching resistance to threats and cajolery.

But even after emerging victorious from this campaign -- and victorious we shall be -- we shall still have to exert superhuman efforts in order to remain independent, in order to free our country. First of all, it will be necessary to increase and strengthen the fighting arm of Israel, without which there can

be no freedom and no survival for our Homeland. Our Jewish army should be, and must be, one of the best trained and equipped of the world's military forces. In modern warfare, it is not quantity that counts but brainpower and spirit are the determining factors. All of our youth proved that they possess this spirit – those of the Hagana, the Lehi, the Irgun, youth that no other nation has merited. Indeed, no generation since Bar-Kochba and until the Bilu pioneers has seen such spirit.

As for brainpower, after 120 generations, the creativity of the Hebrew mind is one of the most developed and unlimited. Our military science will be built up on the Jewish mind and will be the world's best. We will yet achieve strength for we possess the power of the brain. In order to free our country and maintain our state, we shall need a wise foreign policy. We must turn our declaration of independence into a reality. Secondly, we must establish and maintain the principle of reciprocity in our relations with the nations of the world. There must be no self-denigration.

Of no less importance is our internal policy. The first pillar of this policy is the Return to Zion....Quickly, quickly! Our nation has no time! Bring in hundreds of thousands. If there will not be enough houses, we'll find tents or even the skies, the blue skies of our land, as a roof. We are now in the midst of a war for survival; and our tomorrow and theirs depend on the quickest concentration of our nation's exiles. And within our Homeland, justice shall be the supreme ruler, the ruler over all rulers. The Ministers and officials must be the servants of the nation and not their masters. "Righteousness, righteousness shall you pursue" will be the guiding principle in our relations amongst ourselves.

The Irgun Zvai Leumi is leaving the underground inside the boundaries of the Hebrew independent state. In the State of Israel, we shall be soldiers and builders. And we shall respect its government, for it is our government. The State of Israel has arisen, but we must remember that our country is not yet liberated. The battle continues, and you see now that the words of your Irgun fighters were not vain words: it is Hebrew arms which decide the boundaries of the Hebrew State. So it is now in this battle; so it will be in the future. Our God-given country is a unity, an integral historical and geographical whole.

Whoever does not recognize our natural right to our entire homeland, does not recognize our right to any part of it. There can be no distinction between the nation-state and its homeland. We will yet fly the flag of freedom, of peace, of progress. Our soldiers will unfurl that flag over the Tower of David and we will yet plow the fields of the Gilead. Citizens of the Hebrew State, soldiers of Israel, we are in the midst of battles. Much blood will be spilled. Fortify yourselves. Strengthen your morale. There is no other way. We cannot buy peace from our enemies with appeasement. There is only one kind of 'peace' that can be bought -- the peace of the graveyard, the peace of Treblinka.

Be brave of spirit and ready for more trials. We shall withstand them. And you, brothers of the fighting family, do you remember how we started? You were alone and persecuted, rejected, despised and numbered with transgressors. But you fought on with deep faith and did not retreat. You were driven to the gallows but went forth with a song. But for the time-being, let us think of the battle, for only the outcome of the battle will decide our fate and future. We shall go on our way into battle, soldiers of the Lord of Hosts, inspired by the spirit of our ancient heroes, from the conquerors of Canaan to the Rebels of Judah.

We shall be accompanied by the spirit of those who revived our nation, Zeev Benjamin Herzl, Max Nordau, Joseph Trumpeldor and the father of resurrected Hebrew heroism, Zeev Jabotinsky. We shall be accompanied by the spirit of David Raziell, greatest of the Hebrew commanders of our day; and by Dov Gruner, one of the greatest of Hebrew soldiers. And in this battle, we shall break the enemy and bring salvation to our people, tried in the furnace of persecution, thirsting only for freedom, for righteousness and for justice. God, Lord of Israel, protect your soldiers. Grant blessing to their sword that is renewing the covenant that was made between your chosen people and your chosen land. Arise O Lion of Judea for our people, for our land. On to battle. Forward to victory.

From the Editor

Zionism 101 Update

In his last years, Herbert Zweibon, the beloved chairman of Americans for a Safe Israel, placed special emphasis on education and Jewish failure in this regard. His last project was to create a site for the Internet age where people could go to learn about Zionism, of whose history even many of Israel's supporters know little.

The site now contains a treasure trove of film footage about Zionism. The latest video, "General Zionism," describes one of three visions of the Jewish state--as a liberal, Western democracy like Switzerland. As historian Howard Sachar wrote: "General Zionism for many decades was not really a party at all. Without any particular commitment of its own beyond loyalty to Zionism itself, it simply embraced those members of the organization who did not belong to any specific ideological grouping."

You can watch the video at: <http://zionism101.org/NewestVideo.aspx>

We encourage you to share information about Zionism 101 with friends, family and co-workers plus anyone else who is interested in learning about the most important development in modern Jewish history.

Coming up next: Military Stirrings, including videos on Hashomer, Nili and the Jewish Legion.

Bezelel Defiled

Boris Schatz was an established European sculptor inspired by Herzl to become an ardent Zionist. Migrating to Palestine, he started a Jewish arts and crafts school in 1906, its motto "Art is the bud, craft is the fruit." He named it Bezelel after Bezelel ben Uri, the Biblical artist who designed the tabernacle. During World War I he wrote a futurist novel *The Rebuilt Jerusalem* in which the Biblical Bezelel takes Schatz on a tour of the reborn state in 2018.

In his worst nightmare Schatz could not have imagined that in 2014 his Bezelel school would have as its President a moral gnome who, in a lengthy, scurrilous and imbecilic article entitled "47 Years a Slave: A New Perspective on the Occupation" published in what AFSI's Ruth King rightly calls "Al-Haaretz", describes today's Israel as practicing "a form of domination of Palestinians that now increasingly borders on conditions of slavery." A sample from the fevered rhetoric of Bezelel President Eva Illouz: "The reason for this is that Israel has its own proslavery lobby, which is now in the corridors of power, shapes Israel's policy and has successfully managed to make the occupation appear to be a containable casualty of war and nation-building."

What combination of arrogance and stupidity makes Illouz think she can write such malevolent nonsense and raise funds abroad? After all a significant part of Bezelel's funding comes from U.S. well-wishers. In her article Illouz holds up the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement--she claims "respected" Jewish academics were its "initiators and leaders"--as if it were morally exemplary. So what is her message to Jewish donors abroad? "We are a slave society which the best and most respected Jews demand be boycotted, divested from and sanctioned. Please write the biggest donation you can manage to Bezelel, the art school of the slave masters."

Any self-respecting Jewish donor to Bezelel should demand the answers to a few questions before providing another nickel. How did this woman come to be appointed President of Bezelel? She is not an artist but a sociology professor. What are her credentials for the job? Who was on the search committee that picked her? And above all, why is Illouz, so clearly unfit for her role, still in her post?

Tzipi a Murderer?

One can't help a touch of *schadenfreude* to find Israeli Minister of Justice Tzipi Livni, who as chief negotiator has bent herself in a pretzel many times over to forge an illusory agreement with Abbas



and Co., called a murderer by her "partners in peace." When a frustrated Livni declared that Abbas would have to "pay the price" for the failure of peace talks if he didn't moderate his positions (little does she know John Kerry), Abbas' spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina announced that this should be considered an "official threat" and it made Livni "a party that cannot be negotiated with." Muhammad Abu Saada, a lecturer in International Law at the University of Palestine in Gaza, interviewed by Palestine Authority TV, went further, declaring that Livni's threats should be taken seriously since she (according to Saada) murdered an Iraqi nuclear scientist, "is a criminal...a murderer" and may murder again.

Push Back Among the Presbyterians

The Presbyterians have consistently been in the forefront of the mainline churches in attacking Israel. They are at it again. In *Mosaic Magazine* Robert Nicholson describes the recent report *Zionism Unsettled* issued by the Presbyterian Church's quasi-official Israel Palestine Mission Network:

"Its conclusion is straightforward: Zionism is the ultimate source of the world's problems and those Jews and Christians who support Jewish sovereignty...are no better than war criminals for sanctioning Israel's colonization of the Palestinian homeland." The report's purpose is clearly to pave the way for passage by the Presbyterian General Assembly in 2014 of a boycott and divest from Israel resolution that failed to pass by a hair (333-331) last time round.

But now there is some welcome push back within the Presbyterian Church. A pro-Israel faction called Presbyterians for Middle East Peace is fighting the agenda embodied in the *Zionism Unsettled* document which it forthrightly described as seeking "the end of the Jewish state of Israel." The group declared: "We...believe it is absolutely essential that the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board act immediately, and direct the PMA to cease distribution of this deeply troubling document."

No doubt adding salt to the wounds of the hate-Israel faction, a group of 14 U.S. Presbyterian Church leaders visited the Soda Stream factory in Maale Adumim that drew international attention as a result of the Oxfam/Scarlett Johanssen faceoff and issued a statement saying it "strengthened their belief that the location of this factory enhances the business as well as the interpersonal relations between the Israelis and Palestinians."

Good News From Amazing Israel

A few items from Michael Ordman this month:

Scientists at Israel's Weizmann Institute have identified how the HIV virus suppresses the T-cell immune response. It has helped them develop a peptide (small protein) that reduces the severity of Multiple Sclerosis – a disease characterized by an undesirable autoimmune T-cell response.

Scientists at Israel's Technion Institute have used ultrasound to generate electric charges in the cell membranes of the brain and stimulate nerve activity. This has tremendous potential, from treatments for epilepsy to giving sight to the blind.

The power-extending products from Israel's Lucidlogix Solutions can now extend battery life of smartphones and tablets by 50 percent. GameXtend, WebXtend and NavXtend are targeted at Android device manufacturers who want to reduce the power drain from high-performance hardware and software.

Muslim Europe in the Making

Moshe Sharon

(Editors Note: This is Chapter 6 of Moshe Sharon's new book *Jihad: Islam Against Israel and the West*, kindly translated for Outpost by Mrs. Sharon.)

In 1683 the armies of Islam besieged Vienna for the second time. The first time was a century and a half earlier. The great Islamic Empire of the period, the Ottoman Empire under the long reign of Suleiman the Magnificent, was then at its zenith. It had extended its borders on the Danube far to the west of Budapest and was poised to capture Vienna, which stood between its armies and Western Europe. Suleiman regarded himself at that time as the ruler of the world, and treated the great kings of Europe as his subjects. The actual subjugation of the rest of Europe was, as far as he was concerned, only a matter of time.

Fortunately for the world of Christianity, when the Moslem armies attempted to besiege Vienna for the second time, some 117 years after Suleiman's death, the Ottoman Empire was already on the decline, its expansion westwards had been checked, and the bastions of European Christianity could then begin threatening the Muslim Empire rather than being threatened by it.

Yet for the Ottomans, the Christian countries of Europe remained *Dar al-Harb* — “the Land of War” — the term used by the Muslims for all territories not yet under Islamic rule. The term is both legal and political, and is charged with religious belief and emotional fervor.

Legally speaking, it defines the relations between the lands of Islam and the lands of the infidels. Infidels — in Arabic *Kuffar* (singular: *kafir*) — are all those who are not Muslims, mainly Jews and Christians. They are, therefore, regarded to be, both theoretically and effectively, in a state of war with the Muslims. This war does not have to be declared, since from the Muslim viewpoint, it is the only possible state of affairs between the two parties. Moreover, it is part of the divine plan. For after Allah sent Muhammad “with the guidance and the religion of truth” there was no other way but that “he may uplift it above every religion.” (Koran, *surah* 9 verse 33) In other words, Allah made it incumbent on the Muslims, the Community of the Faithful, to subjugate the whole world and bring it under the rule of Allah.

The fire of jihad, Holy War, must burn in the heart of every Muslim. It is a collective and personal duty; and every Muslim leader, particularly the head of the Muslim Empire, is obliged to pursue this duty ceaselessly. Legally therefore, the appellation of “The Land of War” to Europe is understandable. Every Christian coming from the Land of War — *dar al harb* — has the status of *harbi*. This is different from being a *dhimmi*, the status imposed on Christians and Jews tolerated to live under Islamic rule as a third-class subjects. The *harbi* is simply an alien, an enemy of Islam, even when no acts of war are in progress between the two sides. This legal outlook reflects the religious obligation to keep the Holy War alive. Since no one can abolish this duty that is enshrined in the words of God in the Koran, it remains an open-ended condition. Similarly the Land of War cannot change its status until it is conquered by the Muslims and becomes part of the Land of Islam.

The emotional aspect of this religious obligation is an integral part of the way by which the relations between the Muslims and the *kuffar* were defined. The Koran and Islamic tradition taught the Muslims that their Community of Faithful is “the best nation ever brought forth to men,” (Koran, *surah* 3 verse 110) and that the truth of their religion is the only perfect truth, and that they, as believers, are always on the right side, and the infidels are always wrong.

Europe, more than any other part of the world, personified the land of war. It was the natural place against which the Jihad was to be waged. It was, after all, the major enemy of Islam from its very inception. But Europe proved to be a difficult enemy. It was an enemy that fought back successfully. In

the Middle Ages the Crusades brought the Europeans into the heart of the Islamic lands, but Islam somehow recovered from this success of the infidels, which placed the Muslims for the first time in a defensive position, and tormented them with doubts about Allah's support.



But Islam did not recover from the loss of Spain (“the Jewel in the Islamic Crown”). Once Islam conquered Spain, it became an Islamic land. Its re-conquest by the infidels seemed to be a reversal of history for it negated the rule which says that once an Islamic land, always an Islamic land. To this very day, Spain, which the Arabs insist on calling Andalus, is regarded as a lost Islamic territory, the recovery of which is a religious and political objective and duty, more than a dream.

The offensive of the Ottomans against Europe in the 16th century (after destroying the last great symbol of Christianity in the east with the conquest of Constantinople in 1453) was the natural course of the Islamic *jihadi* idea. However, the Ottoman Empire failed, retreated, deteriorated, and was finally destroyed in the Great War in 1918. Moreover, Christian civilization and the modern way of life of Europe were victorious in other ways. The national regime in 20th century Turkey dramatically changed the nature of the state and society by importing from Europe everything that Western civilization could offer, from script to technology and from a system of government to fashion, with the declared aim of building a modern secular Turkey, and expelling Islam from the life of the state and the society.

Another political development that was viewed as a further, major setback to Islam was the establishment of the State of Israel. More than the loss in the 15th century of the Islamic land of Spain, the establishment of the State of Israel on Islamic land is regarded as a double reverse of history. Not only does it involve the loss of land but it also constitutes an unacceptable situation where Jews, who are *dhimmi*s, rule over Muslims. This defies the divine law itself. It cannot be tolerated and must be changed.

Yet another setback is the fact that Europe ceased to be the only land of the infidels. America joined this category, and America has proved itself to be an even tougher opponent than Europe, both militarily and ideologically.

However, modern Muslim activists detected that after World War II Europe had begun to show signs of old age, frailty and weakness. The once mighty West in general proved to be surprisingly vulnerable. Islam emerged as a strong power waiting to be engaged. This notion was summed up by the Malaysian premier Dr. Mahathir Mohamad on October 16 2003, at the opening of the Islamic summit: The 1.3 billion strong Muslims possess both natural sources of wealth and human resources, and it was inconceivable that they should not be able to achieve their goals or be defeated by a few million Jews. However, the availability of resources that could be converted into weapons proved to be less effective than Mahathir and his like thought.

It bears repeating that Islam is a warring religion and a fighting civilization. The Muslims left their mark on world history first and foremost in a military capacity. They can do the same in this age, changing their strategy and tactics, but remaining on the same course. The revivalist Muslim movements – the Iranian revolutionaries, the Muslim Brotherhood, al-Qaeda, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, to mention only a few -- have discovered the weak links in the West's defense. On the one hand they have proved that terror, similar to that practiced by the Muslim assassins in the Middle Ages, can be much more devastating than the actual physical damage and bloodshed that it brings about. In one act of terror they succeeded in changing the government in Spain.

On the other hand, like the Soviets, they soon discovered the ease with which they can exploit Europe's democratic system, liberal ideologies, leftist intellectuals, the media, and even governments, to

achieve their objectives. The Muslim jihad for the conquest of Europe began a few decades ago, and the Europeans are taking part as full collaborators on the side of Islam. The establishment of the European Union has done away with national borders, obliterated defined national entities, weakened national feelings, ancient values and the sense of national pride and national defense. On the other hand it has



created a wonderful infrastructure for the infiltration of Islam into Western Europe by millions of Muslims who maintain their Muslim identity, hold on to their Muslim values and regard the whole of Europe as their own land like any other part of the world. Bin Laden, Qaradawi, the Ayatollahs of Iran, and many other teachers of Islam tell them that they are coming to Europe as masters and not as immigrants.

These Muslims, using European laws and exploiting leftist intellectuals, the “useful fools” (to use Lenin's immortal phrase) actually behave like masters in the host countries rather than guests. Thousands of mosques have been established in every country, from Finland to France. The Muslim way of life is even imposed on economic institutions, and the Islamic version of history and thought is creeping into all the echelons of political and intellectual life, affecting the educational system on every level.

Official Europe convened the Hamburg Symposium in 1983 to meekly acknowledge the importance of Islam in the creation of European civilization and to encourage study of the Arabic language and Islamic civilization in Europe, free from the (sound and scientific) “orientalist method” of research—namely in accordance with the Muslim traditional methods. Concurrently official Europe encourages the departure from the Judeo-Christian heritage and minimizes its contribution to Western Civilization.

This pathetic attempt to drive modern Europe away from its true moral, cultural and historical sources, in which Judaism occupies a central place, also has a political aspect. This aspect is a natural by-product of the infiltration of Islam's version of modern history into European society and institutions. Muslim propaganda has succeeded in presenting the establishment of the State of Israel as a sin committed by the Europeans against the world of Islam. In other words, the State of Israel is nothing but an easy way by which post-war Europe atoned for the crimes of the Nazis and their helpers at the expense of the poor Arabs.

This idea has taken root not only in the minds of the “useful fools” of the European Left but in the business and political community. Nowadays, more than ever, one can hear in these circles and in the media (sometimes clouded with euphemisms) that the establishment of Israel was a “moral and political mistake.” In other words, Europe would be very happy to see a major Arab pogrom, to which it would quietly contribute its part, in order to rid her of the guilt of this “moral and political” sin. Much of the European policy in the Middle East, and particularly the official enmity to Israel, is directed and formed by these sentiments. And we have not yet mentioned the ingrained anti-Semitism which was only covered up for a while, but from which Europe has never recovered.

Instead of focusing on its steady conquest by Islam and the loss of its Western character, Europe has once again found the usual, ancient solution to all its problems – the Jews, and now also, very conveniently, their state. There is a strong possibility that Europe will become Islamic in less than half a century and it will be of its own doing.

Moshe Sharon is professor emeritus of Islamic History at the Hebrew University. He served as Prime Minister Menachem Begin's adviser on Arab affairs.

Happy Days Are Almost Here

Sarah Honig

Palestinian Authority figurehead Mahmoud Abbas (Abu-Mazen) has assured us – at a meeting with a pre-selected group of left-wing Israeli students – that happy days are (almost) here again.

If Israel only improves its act, and conducts its affairs as per Abbas's directives, peace and bliss will surely be ours. To hear him, there's no obstructionism whatsoever on his turf. Abbas has absolved himself of any responsibility if things go awry. He's only seeking justice for an indigenous population oppressed by an artificial entity, a foreign interloper.

Those among us who still possess a historical perspective will recognize the resemblance to contentions made by one Adolf Hitler on the eve of the infamous Munich Agreement, which sold out Czechoslovakia as the alleged cause of all that ailed Europe.

In a long letter telegraphed by Hitler to Franklin Roosevelt on September 27, 1938, the German *fuehrer* stressed: "I can and must decline all responsibility of the German people and their leaders, if the further development, contrary to all my efforts up to the present, should actually lead to the outbreak of hostilities." The identical argumentation, minus the national designation, had been repeatedly enunciated by Abbas.

Abbas has a problem with the existence of a Jewish state just as Hitler couldn't tolerate the existence of Czechoslovakia. Hitler insisted that the root problem arises from "the founding of the Czechoslovak State and the establishment of its frontiers without any consideration for history or nationality. The Sudetenland was also included therein, although this area had always been German... Thus the right of self-determination...had been simply denied to the Sudeten Germans."



Sudeten Germans

Hitler accused the "Prague Government" of having "attempted by increasingly violent methods" to enforce the Czechization of the Sudetenland:

"We reckon at present 214,000 Sudeten German refugees who had to leave house and home in their ancestral country and flee across the German frontier, because they saw in this the last and only possibility of escaping from the revolting Czech regime of force and bloodiest terror."

Similarly, Abbas postures as the dogged defender of the downtrodden. Pay heed to the pitiable noises he makes, totally sidestepping the issue of Arab-instigated wars and terror: "It's a big shame on you, what settlers do against us; without any reasons they come and kill, uproot trees...They slaughter us, they kill my sheep and my livestock. It's a shame on you. And by the way, every time we take one step toward peace it takes us back 20 steps, because our people wonder, what is peace with these people?"

And this pose of blamelessness and victimhood is followed up by yet another show of seeming helpfulness, equanimity and unimpeachable reasonableness. Abbas agrees that incitement is in the air but, claims he, it's equally present in Israel.

"There is incitement on my side. I admit it but let's discuss it. And the Israelis don't want to admit it," he blathered in apparent earnest, suggesting that what was needed was a third-party "arbitrator" to judge who incites more because "incitement is a germ that would harm the atmosphere and the desire for peace, so let's remove it. We want to remove it but we haven't heard any response from the Israeli side."

Yet again, the real culprit is Israel and the cooperative spirit resides exclusively in Ramallah. Presumably there are comparable Israeli parallels to the following lyrical gems (courtesy of the Palestinian Media Watch) from Fatah (the outfit Abbas personally heads):

“Teach your children... there is seed in the soil

If you water it with blood,

It will sprout a revolution” (January 6, 2014)

“My homeland taught me that it is the blood of Martyrs [Shahids]

That draws the borders of the homeland.” (August 26, 2013)

These are just isolated examples of the unremitting glorification of bloodshed on Abbas’s Palestinian TV, in the print media he controls, the educational system he runs and the mosques under his aegis. In contrast, Israel’s secular state schools encourage their young charges to regard things with postmodern dispassion, almost as if they were detached foreign observers who ascribe the same weight to any “narrative.”

If that’s incitement by Abbas’s scales, then he can indignantly brush aside all the nagging questions still raised by his scholastic endeavors at Moscow’s Communist-era Russian University for Friendship between People (a.k.a. the People’s Friendship University of Russia, also a.k.a. the Patrice Lumumba Friendship University).

As befits Friendship U’s academic ambiance, Abbas specialized in revising history, an enterprise which in 1982 ripened into a PhD dissertation that both dwarfed the Holocaust and blamed Zionists for it. Two years later Dr. Abbas further embellished his “research” and published it in book-form. He never apologized nor retracted a single nuance of his erudite treatise, which has in recent years become a compulsory component of the Palestinian school curriculum.

Nimble skipping over all that, Abbas appeared to mollify his Israeli audience by denying that he is a Holocaust-denier. “I have written about it and I know that millions of Jews were murdered in the Holocaust.” There, that settled it and hence Abbas can resume feigning innocence: “How do I deny the Holocaust? Did you read the book?”

His *The Other Side: the Secret Relationship between Nazism and Zionism*, should indeed be recommended reading at all Israeli academic institutions. Here are a few telling tidbits:

“...it is possible that the number of Jewish victims reached six million, but at the same time it is possible that the figure is much smaller – below one million.”

“It seems that the interest of the Zionist movement, however, is to inflate this figure so that their gains will be greater... This led them to emphasize this [six million] figure in order to gain the solidarity of international public opinion with Zionism.”

“A partnership was established between Hitler’s Nazis and the leadership of the Zionist movement ... [the Zionists gave] permission to every racist in the world, led by Hitler and the Nazis, to treat Jews as they wish, so long as it guarantees immigration to Palestine.”

All the trustworthiness evoked by the above excerpts – and there’s plenty more in the same learned vein – should determine the degree of faith with which we approach anything Abbas says. Foremost are his protestations that he has no intention “to inundate Israel with millions in order to change its demography. It is nonsense that you read in the Hebrew media.”

This doesn’t quite square with Abbas’s oft-reiterated avowal – like that just proclaimed before a group of East Jerusalem Arabs – that he would “never negotiate away that absolute right of Palestinian refugees and their descendants to return” to sovereign Israel.

Could it be that Abbas speaks with a forked tongue? Could he just possibly be making different promises to different listeners? Is that why he promises us free access to the Western Wall (which he demands come under his jurisdiction)?

Of course, our holiest site already was under Arab occupation (from 1948 to 1967). International agreements then too solemnly guaranteed unhindered access to all Jewish holy sites. Nevertheless, all

access was prohibited, 58 synagogues in Jerusalem's Old City were razed to the ground and ancient tombstones from the 3000-year-old Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives were ripped out and used to construct public latrines.

Still, there appear to be some boundaries that even Abbas cannot cross – like recognizing the legitimacy of a Jewish state. All the same, he characteristically belittles the significance of his refusal: “What do you want from us? You made peace with Jordan and Egypt and didn't demand such recognition. If you want recognition of Israel as Jewish state you can go to the UN and ask for it.”

We have news for Abbas. Jordan and Egypt, unlike the Palestinians, never sought to replace the Jewish state and the UN already granted us recognition, back on November 29, 1947 – when it divided this tiny land into two entities – one Jewish and one Arab.

The Jews rejoiced. The Arabs declared genocidal war to prevent the birth of a Jewish state. All that has transpired since is the continuation of that war and the ongoing conflict still stems from the refusal to abide a Jewish state.

In 1947 the Arab world didn't want a Palestinian state – it wanted to destroy the Jewish state. It still does. A nondescript state, temporarily called Israel, will forever remain a candidate for Arabization – one way or another. As long as the legitimacy of Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people is not accepted, the Arabs will continue to wage their war to do away with what they cannot accept.

That's why Abbas's honeyed blandishments and professions of peaceful intent are as convincing as were Hitler's when he inveigled Neville Chamberlain to choose appeasement at Munich. The “painful sacrifices” of September 29, 1938 – all Germany claimed to be after – hardly sated Hitler's appetites. On March 16 1939, he invaded the remainder of Czechoslovakia.

Sarah Honig is an Israeli writer. This appeared on her blog sarahhonig.com on February 21

Israel at a Point of No Return — In the Right Direction

David P. Goldman

I should like to advance a conjecture which I lack the qualifications to adequately develop: The global Left, and the Israeli Left most of all, perceives that the clock is running out, and has worked itself up into a froth of hysteria against Israel. The world of John Lennon's “Imagine,” where there are no countries and no religions, is about to dissipate like last night's marijuana fumes. The demographic time bomb that worries the Left is not the relative increase of Arab vs. Jewish populations between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River, speciously cited by John Kerry and a host of other errant utopians: it is the growth of the Jewish population itself, and Israel's transformation into the world's most religious country.

Israel now has a religious majority, as *Times of Israel* blogger Yosef Bloch observes:

“According to our Central Bureau of Statistics, 43% of Israeli Jews are secular, 9% are haredi, and the remaining 48% are somewhere between masorti (traditional) and dati (religious): 23% the former, 10% the latter, and 15% smack in the middle. These five groups do not parallel the five groups identified by Pew, e.g. Orthodox is a denomination, while dati is a declaration.”

So 57% of Israelis practice a form of Judaism that for the most part Americans would call “Orthodox,” in that it recognizes normative Judaism in the rabbinic tradition (the presence of the “progressive” Reform and Conservative movements is almost imperceptible and largely limited to transplanted Americans). Many Israelis who are dati are far from completely observant, but there is a

great gulf fixed between a semi-observant Jew who knows what observance is, and a “progressive” who asserts the right to reinvent tradition according to personal taste.

This majority seems to be expanding fast. I spent the second half of December in Jerusalem promoting the Hebrew translation of my book *How Civilizations Die* and was struck by the increase in



commitment to religious observance, including among people who were steadfastly secular. Almost half of Israel’s army officers are “national religious” and trained in pre-army academies that teach Judaism, Jewish history, as well as physical training and military subjects. The ultra-Orthodox are going to work rather than studying full time, little by little, but the little adds up to a lot. Naftali Bennett’s national-religious party “Jewish Home” has created a new political focus for the national-religious. Outreach organizations like Beit Hillel are bringing once-secular Israelis back to observance. Beit Hillel’s spiritual leader, Rabbi Ronen Neuwirth, was in New York recently lecturing about Israel’s religious revival.

Anecdotally, I see this in my own small circle of Israeli acquaintances. A musician friend told me that he attends a Talmud class every Shabbat — he can’t stand praying, but he is hungry for Torah. A journalist friend dresses her young boys in the tallit katan, the fringed undergarment of the very observant. It is becoming normal in Jerusalem restaurants to wash hands

before bread and to recite the Grace after Meals.

This is a crucial, counterintuitive story: Israel is swimming against the secular current, becoming more observant as the rest of the world becomes more secular. Perhaps the explanation lies in the observation of the Catholic sociologist Mary Eberstadt, who argued in a brilliant 2007 essay that it is our children who bring us to faith. Last year Mary expanded the essay into a book which I had the honor to discuss in *Claremont Review of Books*. It is a commonplace of demographers’ correlation that people of faith have more children: Mary argues that the causality goes both ways, that having children reinforces our faith. Israeli is a standpoint in the modern world with a fertility rate of 3.0 children per woman (the closest second is the U.S. with just 1.9). Excluding the ultra-Orthodox the number is 2.6 children per woman, still outside the range of the rest of the industrial world. Secular Israelis are having three children. Not only does that defuse the much-touted “demographic time bomb.” It ultimately changes the character of the country. It validates the hundred-year-old argument of Rabbi Isaac Kook, one of the founders of religious Zionism, that identification with the Jewish people eventually will lead Jews back to Judaism.

This national religious revival is not occurring at the expense of Israeli or West Bank Arabs. On the contrary, the Arab population between the River and the Sea is flourishing as no modern Arab population ever did. A fifth of Israel’s medical students are Arab, as are a third of the students at the University of Haifa. Ariel University across the “Green Line” in Samaria, the “settler’s university,” is educating a whole generation of West Bank Arabs. The campus is full of young Arab women in headscarves, and the local Jewish leadership reaches out to Arab villages to recruit talented students. Israel’s expanding economy has a bottomless demand for young people of ability and ambition. The Left calls Israel an “apartheid state” the way it used to call America a “fascist state” back in the 1960s.

The Israeli Left, with its soggy vision of universalist utopianism, may be at a point of no return. It is becoming marginalized and irrelevant. The Europeans, whose experience of nationalism has been uniformly horrific, are equally aghast. Liberal Christians who abhor the Election of Israel because they abhor Christian orthodoxy cannot suppress their rage. And “progressive” American Jews, who have been

running away from Judaism for the past three generations, are upset that Israel has embraced the normative Judaism they worked so hard to suppress. American “progressive” and unaffiliated Jews, one should remember, have the lowest fertility rate of any identifiable minority in the United States. Even if most of them did not intermarry (and the intermarriage rate in the past ten years approaches 70% according to the October 2013 Pew study) their infertility would finish them off in a few generations.

Meanwhile 74% of all Jewish children in the New York area live in Orthodox families. The center of gravity of Judaism will shift decisively to Israel in the next generation, and the segment of American Jewry that most identifies with Israel—the Orthodox—will set the tone for American Judaism and eventually become the majority in a much smaller American Jewish population.

It is up to the Israelis, to be sure, to draw out the implications of these trends. But I am encouraged by the perceptions of religious leaders like Rabbi Ronen Neuwirth, who perceive this revival in their daily work.

This is good news for Christians as well as Jews. The secularization thesis is refuted: a country with the world’s greatest record of high-tech innovation is also becoming the industrial world’s most religious country. It is devastating news for Lennonists as well as Leninists. The “Imagine” world turns out to be imaginary. Israel, as Franz Rosenzweig said of the Jewish people, is there to be “the paragon and exemplar of a nation.” For all its flaws, the State of Israel stands as a beacon to people of faith around the world. It is honored by its list of self-appointed enemies. Will Israel prevail against the unholy coalition against it? As we say, *b’ezrat Hashem* - with God's help.

Goldman blogs as Spengler on Pajamas Media where this article appeared on February 12.

The Phantom Establishment of the Jewish anti-Israel Left

Daniel Greenfield

Alan Alda’s wife recently signed a letter denouncing the newly elected left-wing mayor of New York for doing AIPAC’s bidding. The Sandinista supporter had been accused of many things, but being an Israeli stooge wasn’t one of them. Signing the letter, along with the spouse of that guy from MASH, were Martha Weinman Lear, the wife of the cousin of liberal producer Norman Lear, Eve Ensler of the *Vagina Monologues* and diet guru Jane Hirschmann, author of *Overcoming Overeating*, who took a break from obsessing over food to sail on a Jihad cruise to Gaza.

Signing on to the attack on Bill de Blasio for being a dirty Zionist were such faded celebrities of the literary left as Erica Jong, who hasn’t written a single book that anyone can name in the forty years since *Fear of Flying* first came out and Gloria Steinem, who peaked around that same time.

These familiar names on the Manhattan cocktail party circuit who grind their teeth every time they hear Netanyahu’s name, give way to the professional activists, the board members of the toxic American Jewish World Service, the Nathan Cummings Foundation and Dorot, the Rabbis for Gaza and Rabbis for Obama and the men and women like Peter Beinart of Open Zion and Rebecca Vilkomerson of Jewish Voice for Peace who have built their lives around the war on Israel as much as any Islamic Jihadist tinkering with a Kassam rocket in Gaza.

The radical clergy sign on: Rachel Brown Cowan, a Unitarian who married a Jewish writer for the *Village Voice*, added “Rabbi” to her name and began attacking the Jewish State after her husband’s death, Rolando Matalon, who has yet to find a Latin American Marxist group he wouldn’t embrace and Sharon Kleinbaum, a lesbian supporter of the *Fast for Gaza* that aids and abets the not particularly pro-lesbian Hamas.

Reading these names feels like reviewing the membership of a small familiar club. Everyone knows everyone else and everyone in the club hates Israel.

Between Erica Jong and Alice Kessler-Harris (the biographer of Anti-Israel Communist playwright Lillian Hellman, whom Kessler described as having a “streak of Jewish anti-Semitism”) is Peter A. Joseph who pays for this whole dance, funding everything from Peter Beinart’s Open Zion to the Manhattan Jewish Community Center, whose anti-Israel turn has led to a pitched battle among members.



Peter A. Joseph revived the Israel Policy Forum (IPF), which had originally been folded into the Center for American Progress (CAP), and turned it into a machine for churning out anti-Israel letters. Before the IPF merged into CAP, it put out a letter urging the United States to work with Hamas. Afterward, its tactics have become slightly subtler, its letters appearing to be pro-Israel while advocating anti-Israel policies.

The Israel Policy Forum put out a letter in support of Obama’s nomination of Chuck Hagel for Secretary of Defense, despite his ties to the Iran Lobby, signed by Peter A. Joseph, hedge fund manager Neil Barsky, Marcia Riklis, the daughter of corporate raider Meshulam Riklis (not by his second wife Pia Zadora), Jack C. Bendheim, the president of a company that once dumped toxic waste in a Connecticut town, and Risa A. Levine, a real estate lawyer from New York.

Why was anyone supposed to listen to Pia Zadora’s stepdaughter and a guy who once made a documentary about Ed Koch when it came to nominating a Secretary of Defense? The same reason that Bill de Blasio was supposed to listen to Alan Alda’s wife and a diet guru who hates Israel.

Hating Israel has become a small petty club for the wealthy left. The Jewish Anti-Israel left likes to pretend that it’s a grassroots movement being squelched by the “Jewish establishment” when in reality it is an unelected establishment using its wealth and lingering fame to shout over the majority of American Jews who support Israel.

These fading feminist writers, Wall Street millionaires trying to buy social relevance, hippie social scientists who hit it big with books about food, sex or childrearing, radical rabbis holding forth to congregations who believe in religion as little as their preachers, are a phantom establishment; community leaders without a community except their own mutual approbation.

These antics are not limited to the Israel Policy Forum or even the United States.

A year after British comedian Stephen Fry appeared on a genealogy show to trace his mother’s Jewish roots, he signed on to a letter by British Jews, a group that he had never considered himself a member of, declaring its “independence” from the British Jewish establishment. The list included the expected collection of fading feminist authors, Marxist playwrights, historians and philosophers, as well as radical sociologists, pop psychologists and professional activists.

There is a long history of such letters going back to the founding of Israel, the names of forgotten self-proclaimed leaders mixing with a few more notorious figures whose unfortunate legacy has survived into this time. None of these letters however have counted as much as a bullet in the rifle of an Israeli soldier standing watch in the night.

American Jews who worry over these letters from the phantom establishment of the cocktail party ought to look back and see how futile the rantings of I.F. Stone, New Dealer Joseph Proskauer, the rabid Elmer Berger and FDR speechwriter Samuel Rosenman proved to be.

Before J Street or the Israel Policy Forum, there was Jewish Alternatives to Zionism headed by "Rabbi" Elmer Berger who had claimed that the Communist revolution in the Soviet Union meant that Jews no longer needed "Palestine".

Does anyone remember Lewis Affelder or Mr. and Mrs. Noel A. Buckner whose names appeared as sponsors on Jewish Alternatives to Zionism's stationary?

The phantom establishment is rootless; it has no links to a people or to a religion. Its aims are destructive and like all destructive forces, it carries its own futility with it.

American Jews should contend with them, but should not be too impressed by them.

The phantom establishment is money and words. There is no blood in its veins or heart in its chest. It does not go on the way that the Jewish people do because it is not of them, only against them.

When its anger is spent and its letters are signed, the children will play on in the hills and fields of Israel, neither knowing nor caring that there was once a Jane Hirschmann, a Mrs. Noel A. Buckner, a Rachel Brown Cowan or a Rebecca Vilkomerson who sought to do them harm.

Daniel Greenfield blogs at frontpagemagazine. This appeared there on February 20.

Rank John Kerry

Ruth King

Is John Kerry the most anti-Israel Secretary of State ever? John Foster Dulles and James Baker set the bar high. Is he the most dishonest? He is not responsible for the cover-up, the betrayal and the outright lies regarding the Benghazi attack.

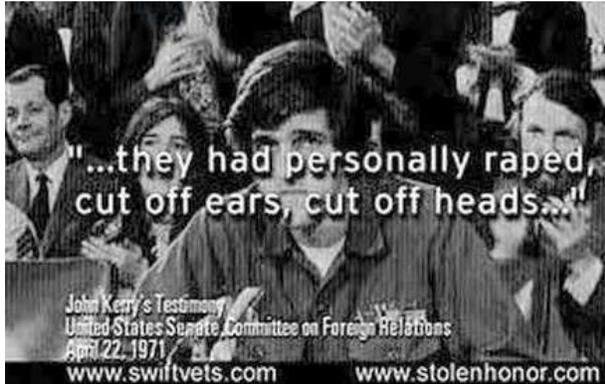
Is he the dumbest? Madeleine Albright was tough competition. Poor dear. Imagine the shock of finding out in advancing middle age that you are Jewish, and never having guessed anything, even though all your cousins and their sisters and their aunts were Jewish. On the other hand, even she would probably not have claimed, as Kerry just did, that "climate warming is a weapon of mass destruction" and "the greatest challenge of our generation" and dismiss out of hand the huge number of skeptics: "We should not allow a tiny minority of shoddy scientists and extreme ideologues to compete with scientific fact."

Kerry certainly gives Madeleine Albright a run for the money as our most inept Secretary of State. Remember his claim on the war in Iraq? "I actually did vote for the \$87 billion, before I voted against it." So let's cut him a little slack here. Maybe he actually was a friend of Israel before he wasn't. Or is it that he wasn't before he was or never was. He was always confused. In October 2003, Kerry said Israel's unilateral construction of a security fence was "a barrier to peace." "I know how disheartened Palestinians are by the decision to build the barrier off the Green Line," he told the Arab American Institute National Leadership Conference. "We don't need another barrier to peace." In February 2004, he reversed himself, calling the fence "a legitimate act of self-defense," and saying "President Bush is rightly discussing with Israel the exact route of the fence to minimize the hardship it causes innocent Palestinians."

Will Kerry claim one day that he was actually against negotiations with Iran before he wasn't? The Ayatollah continually affirms: "There is no use [to the negotiations]... It will not lead anywhere." And it's reported "Senior Iranian officials say they won't accept any major curtailment of the program."

Again, let's cut our Secretary of State a little slack. He is so busy, obsessive and messianic in bullying Israel that he can't concentrate on Iran's march towards nuclear weapons.

In one respect though, John Kerry has it over all previous occupants of the role of Secretary of State. He is the only one with a history of maligning, libeling and defaming the United States and its soldiers. Yup. Here, he takes the cake.



During his campaign for the Presidency in 2004 he boasted of his combat service and the medals that he won on the swift boats in Vietnam. That was a big mistake. It stoked the memory of veterans who could not forgive his libel on April 22, 1971 when Kerry testified to a Senate committee that American soldiers in Vietnam were “war criminals.” He elaborated: “These were not isolated incidents, but crimes committed on a day-to-day basis, with the full awareness of officers at all levels of command. It is impossible to

describe to you exactly what did happen in Detroit—the emotions in the room, and the feelings of the men who were reliving their experiences in Vietnam. They relived the absolute horror of what this country, in a sense, made them do. They told stories that, at times, they had personally raped, cut off ears, cut off heads, taped wires from portable telephones to human genitals and turned up the power, cut off limbs, blown up bodies, randomly shot at civilians, razed villages in fashion reminiscent of Ghengis Khan, shot cattle and dogs for fun, poisoned food stocks, and generally ravaged the countryside of South Vietnam, in addition to the normal ravage of war and the normal and very particular ravaging which is done by the applied bombing power of this country.”

Kerry was challenged by thousands of veterans and lost that Presidential election. But the question still hangs in the air.

How could a man who libeled this nation so horribly have become a United States Senator, then a Presidential candidate of the Democratic Party and now a Secretary of State?

Again, let’s cut him a little slack. It is rumored that one of the Purple Hearts he won was for shrapnel in his buttock. In certain very esoteric cases an injury to the buttock can cause brain damage.

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