
OUTPOST



July August 2014—Issue #278

PUBLISHED BY AMERICANS FOR A SAFE ISRAEL

44th Year of Publication

Table of Contents

Out of the Fog of War	William Mehlman	Page 2
From The Editor		Page 3
On Those Tunnels	Rael Jean Isaac	Page 6
Do We Owe Gaza Our Pity?	Jack Engelhard	Page 8
Theological Rabies in the Presbyterian Church USA	Fay Voshell	Page 9
<i>Modern Hebrew</i> by Norman Berdichevsky	Reviewed by Rael Jean Isaac	Page 12
Stop Negotiating “The Right to Exist”	Ruth King	Page 14

Out of the Fog of War

William Mehlman

Irrespective of any “cease-fire” that may have been cobbled together by the time these words appear, it would be historic folly to view “Operation Protective Edge,” entering its 17th day at this writing, purely within the context of the number of rockets dropped on Israel or the kill-rate Israel has exacted on the tunnel city of terror Hamas and its Islamic Jihad partners created below the surface of Gaza.

In underscoring a “mowing the grass” strategy Israel may have to periodically implement as long as its erasure from the map of the Middle East remains an *idée fixe* among the most intractable elements of the Arab world, Prime Minister Netanyahu pointedly made no reference to “pulling up the weeds” lurking below the new mown Gazan grass. His reluctance to open that can of worms in the middle of a war is understandable, but keeping it on the shelf indefinitely is no longer an option.

The “weeds” were planted in 2005 with an utterly irrational –“insane” would not be a stretch -- Israeli decision to ensconce an internationally recognized terror organization within spitting distance of its western Negev border. The fact that the destruction of the Jewish state was and remains that organization’s *raison d’être* seemed to little matter. Those weeds, however, could not have sprouted without germination. And that process, as Bar Ilan University historian Dr. Mordechai Kedar observes in a recent blog, was set in motion 12 years earlier when Israel’s “New Middle East” dream merchants, glowing with Osloean triumphalism, lured their nation into bed with Yasser Arafat’s Palestine Liberation Organization. “We went to bed with the PLO,” Kedar noted, “and woke up with Hamas lying beside us.”

What should have brought that romance to an abrupt, immediate halt, was the imposition of a 1993 order from then-President Bill Clinton to permit 415 Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders, all convicted murderers, to return to Gaza from their Lebanese exile. The Dream Merchants never turned a hair, hypothesizing that a reformed, resuscitated Yasser Arafat and his PLO, grateful to Israel for ending their 11-year Tunisian exile, would surely “take care of Hamas for us.” The truth, Kedar asserts, is that “they laughed at us all the way to the bank,” while we allowed them “to bring in an army of terrorists in the expectation that our greatest enemy would ensure our security.” We all know how that turned out.

Put it down to the shock of war, but we may finally be witnessing a sea-change in Israeli geopolitical thinking. Its context was a July 11th news conference in which Netanyahu, speaking only in Hebrew, delivered what might well be construed as a coup de grace to the “Two-State Solution” to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict he’d embraced five years earlier. He declared that he could “*never, ever,*” as reported by *Times of Israel* editor David Horovitz, “countenance a fully sovereign Palestinian state in the West Bank.” While not ruling out minimal territorial compromise in the interests of a genuine peace, he said any deal would require not only Palestinian demilitarization, but Israeli security oversight both at the borders and within any Palestinian entity that might be created. Israel, the prime minister insisted, would not, under any circumstances, relinquish territorial or security control over the border between the Jewish state and Jordan or the West Bank and Jordan. Referencing the 1,200 tunnels dug by terrorists in the 14 kilometer border strip between Egypt and Gaza, he avowed that Israel was not prepared “to create another 20 Gazas in the West Bank.”

The “Two-State Solution” may not be dead, but it is bleeding profusely.

William Mehlman represents AFSI in Israel

From the Editor

The True Disproportion

Israel is being assailed by the media with the “disproportion” canard—that is, the fact that more Arabs are being killed than Jews in the war with Hamas makes Israel morally culpable.

There is disproportion aplenty but not where the BBC and CNN simple-mindedly put it.

The most fundamental disproportion is of goals: Hamas wants to wipe Israel—and Jews—from the map, while Israel wants to live in peace.

Then there is the disproportion in media attention to casualties. At the very time media and politicians alike were obsessing over civilians killed (i.e. human shields cynically deployed by Hamas), seven hundred people were killed in two days in Syria, the most in such a short period since the civil war there began. You’d have to go to Beirut’s newspapers to learn all about it—in the rest of the world a tiny fraction of that number killed in Gaza received overwhelming coverage.

Even more telling is the disproportion in moral outrage. Tens of thousands take to the streets on behalf of Gaza in cities throughout Europe (and several in this country). Millions killed in the Congo and Rwanda elicited nothing like such fervor. If the Moslems, who make up a good part of the unruly demonstrators, are so concerned about the fate of fellow Moslems, why so little emotion or action over the vast number of deaths in Syria and Iraq? The “progressive” Christian denominations who assail Israel are curiously indifferent to the uprooting of ancient Christian communities by Moslem fanatics, most recently in Mosul.



In the end disproportion is too mild a term for the upside-down moral universe of Western “elites.” In the Freedom House Map of Freedom 2% of the population of 21 Middle Eastern countries with a combined population of 405 million are “free.” You have to magnify the map and look hard to find the 2%—Israel is, of course, the tiny island of freedom. Two percent of the population. A hundred percent of its freedom. And for those morally corrupt Western elites, the pariah is the 2% representing freedom.

Shimon Says: A Farewell Pearl

Shimon goes out as President of Israel on a pearl of assininity. In a July 11 interview with the Israeli paper *Makor Rishon* he intoned: “Why learn from mistakes? After all, you will make other mistakes. The biggest mistake is to look back. That’s what Lot’s wife did.” This of a piece with previous Shimon pronouncements on the uselessness of studying history which Roger Gerber and I collected in *Shimon Says* (available from AFSI), e.g. “The past interests me like last year’s snow”; “There is nothing to learn from history;” “I am totally uninterested in the past;” “I have become totally tired of history, because I feel history is a long misunderstanding.” Given the huge damage he has done to Israel, would that Shimon could be rubbed out of the past!



Peres’s undoubted popularity is the single greatest indictment of the intelligence of the Israeli public.

ADL's Camp Interfaith

Charles Jacobs deserves high praise for his continued vigilance in exposing the indefensible behavior of some major Jewish organizations that purport to defend Jews. In an article co-authored with Ilya Feoktistov in *American Thinker* he asks "How would you feel if you sent your son or daughter to an Anti-Defamation League summer camp only to find out that the camp's youth coordinators are supporters of a convicted Al Qaeda terrorist?"

While the response of most would probably be shocked surprise, it shouldn't be. The ADL is dedicated to every trendy PC cause, including combatting Islamophobia, to the point where ADL would better be called the Anti-Defamation of Muslims League.

Jacobs is referring to brothers Bilal and Ammaar Mirza, long associated with the ADL camp, who are also active in a Boston area Islamist movement that has coalesced around defense of local jihadist Tarek Mahenna, currently serving a 23 year sentence on assorted conspiracy-to-murder charges. The Feds intercepted conversations in which Mehanna gloats over a terrorist video where Al Qaeda fighters in Iraq rip open the ribcages of U.S. soldiers, pour gasoline in their chest cavities and set them on fire. Yet calling for Mehanna's release ADL youth program coordinator Bilal Mirza described him as exuding "the qualities of intrinsic humanity."

Inconveniently for the ADL, Jacobs' organization Americans for Peace and Tolerance filmed the Brothers Mirza along with their father Farooq taking part in multiple rallies organized by the "Free Tarek" movement and documented the vicious rhetoric from speaker after speaker at these rallies. Bilal Mirza is himself an anti-Israel ideologue who a year after he started working at ADL's Camp Interfaith uploaded on Facebook an album of pictures from a trip to Gaza entitled "If you support Israel, look at the destruction you support."

As Feoktistov and Jacobs write, "ADL's leaders have deserted their organization's mission, its members, and its donors. It's time for its donors to tell them 'Enough.'"

Coming Up: GPS Guided Missiles

In *Pajamas Media* David Goldman (whom many know as Spengler) reminds us that last January Dr. Uzi Rubin, architect of Israel's missile defense, wrote that in the next five to ten years, Israel's enemies will arm themselves with GPS-guided ballistic missiles. Rubin warned: "This can significantly disrupt Israel's air power. This threat can degrade the IDF's ground capabilities...It can paralyze Israel's war economy. And of course, it can inflict massive casualties."

In other words, the Iron Dome gives Israel no more than a short term respite. At some point Israel's enemies will acquire the capability to fire large salvos of precision-guided weapons at key targets that overwhelm existing defenses.

Goldman says that Israel cannot afford a repeat of 2012 after which Hamas renewed (and enhanced) its weapons capability. Hezbollah is watching, Iran is watching, to see if Israel repeats its past failure in leaving Hamas free to rebuild. Goldman notes that the Chinese proverb applies: Kill the chicken while the monkey watches.

The Listserv at Brandeis

Outpost has been in the forefront of exposing the radicalism, stretching back decades, of both faculty and student body at Brandeis. Now Brandeis student (and staff writer at *TruthRevolt.org*) Daniel Mael has exposed a secret faculty listserv entitled "Concerned" dating from 2002, with 92 subscribers, most of them from Brandeis. It was originally "concerned" about the Iraq war, recently was "concerned" to disinvite Ayaan Hirsi Ali (whom Brandeis English professor Mary Baine Campbell dubbed "an ignorant, ultra right-wing extremist, abusively shockingly vocal in her hatred for Muslim culture and

In Memoriam Inez Weissman

The July 19th passing of Inez Weissman, eight days before her 90th birthday, ends a chapter in the decades-long battle for the repatriation of Russian Jewry that stretched from the Houses of Congress to the mean streets of Moscow, their hidden enclaves of Zionist activists and their Samizdat manifestos. Inez, co-founder of the U.S.-based Union of Councils for Soviet Jewry, was a commanding presence at both those venues, a young Anatoli Sharansky serving as her Russian outrider. When the fight for the emancipation of Russian Jews ended victoriously, Inez redirected her passion toward Israel, emphasizing not only its right to safety and security within defensible borders, but the fulfillment of its Biblical manifest destiny. As founder and chair of the Portland, Oregon chapter of AFSI, she hammered away at these themes in the Northwestern media and in her own weekly radio program. Since her illness, AFSI's Portland chapter has been vested in the capable, dedicated hands of Beth and John Newman, but Inez will never be replaced. She was one of a kind.

Muslims) and at the moment is “concerned” lest Israel damage Hamas. When three teenagers were kidnapped and killed by Hamas, Brandeis Professor of Politics Donald Hindley attacked “the vile, terrorist Israeli government.” Back in 2007 one of his listserv emails had the subject line “Plant a tree, bury a Palestinian” and went on to declare “Zionist olive trees grow wondrously on Palestinian corpses.”

The listserv members seem to be idiots as well as ideologues. Chicken Little (otherwise known as Sabine Von Mering, Brandeis Associate Professor of German and Women's and Gender Studies) holds forth on climate change. “At a time when we are literally facing the possible end of human life on this planet unless we ACT within the next two decades (yes, it is that dire!!), Brandeis University...MUST be at the forefront of divestment, because Climate Change is a SOCIAL JUSTICE issue: Poor and indigenous people around the planet are frontline victims of climate change.” Indeed they are. They are the victims of climate change cultists like Von Mering who would leave them bereft of the fossil fuels that alone can better their lives.

Ordman: Good News from Israel

Gaza war or no, Israel goes on with its discoveries improving human life.

Israelis Moti Cohen and Mendi Pollak won the \$20,000 top prize in the Pears Challenge for an idea that can feed a billion needy people. Their Livingbox “mini-farm” can grow vegetables anywhere, with a self-sustaining “closed loop” of energy and nutrition.

Israel's Netafim has completed a successful international pilot project of its uManage platform, which helps farmers to monitor irrigation/fertilizer performance and yields. The software analyzes wind direction, weather forecasts, temperature, radiation, soil moisture and fertilizer.

Israeli startup Convergent RNR has developed MercyBeam to improve radiation therapy for patients. A patented lens collects most of the X-rays from any standard X-ray generator and focuses them at the tumor. It increases the therapeutic dose where it's needed and not at surrounding tissue.

Formal US and European clearances have been granted to FLXfit, the world's first 3D expandable interbody cage, developed by Israel's Expanding Orthopedics. The minimally invasive implant corrects spinal deformities.

On Those Tunnels

Rael Jean Isaac

It's Rosh Hashanah, September 24, 2014. Bustling Israel has come to a standstill as most people celebrate at home or fill synagogues. And then suddenly from each of a plethora of tunnels burrowed under Gaza two hundred heavily armed Hamas fighters burst onto Israeli soil, flood into adjacent kibbutzim and communities, murdering thousands, dragging others back to the tunnels to serve as hostages for future "demands." Tunnel entrances have been stocked with tranquilizers, handcuffs, ropes and other material to subdue the hostages and there are side rooms to keep them concealed and "safe" from rescue. In some cases the terrorists of Hamas will be seen to arise literally out of the earth in the midst of settlements, for the tunnels go under kindergartens and dining rooms with bombs set directly underneath to produce maximum terror and destruction when they are set off. Israel is in even greater shock than it was when the Yom Kippur War took the country by surprise in 1973.

That's not the stuff of nightmares. It is the Hamas plan that Israel has belatedly pieced together from prisoner interrogations as reported in the Israeli paper *Maariv*. It would have been implemented in a couple of months if Hamas had not overreached, refusing to accept the ceasefire that the Netanyahu government had agreed to prior to the ground invasion. Israeli officials now say the attack "would have made Israel drop to its knees."

All of which raises some disturbing questions about Israel's leadership. Why did they not know about these tunnels? Or if they did know, why did they fail to act?



As to the first question, did Israel not cultivate high level intelligence networks in Gaza that would have informed them of the extent and purpose of the tunnels? This is a shocking failure at the start. Nor should Israel even have needed high placed spies. These were not rough single-man tunnels like the one painfully fashioned by Edmund Dantes under the Chateau D'If in *The Count of Monte Cristo*. These tunnels were a strategic threat Hamas had been working on for years, costing \$1 million each, 13-16.5 feet wide, extending for up to one and a half miles, often with electricity and other amenities, intersecting

with one another for maximum flexibility. To expedite the digging, Hamas had established a special force called *Nukba* (the Chosen Ones) which operated round the clock on three shifts. The end result was what an astonished Israeli official called "another terror city" beneath Gaza.

There were plenty of warning signs. Israel knew as a result of the 2006 Lebanon war that Hezbollah had constructed massive tunnels with Iranian aid, tunnels which had sharply lowered Hezbollah's casualty rate. As Lee Smith observes in *The Weekly Standard*, the knowledge and doctrine go back to North Korea which developed tunnels—in effect underground cities where hundreds of thousands of people lived—during the Korean War to neutralize the effect of U.S. bombing campaigns. Iran has been North Korea's largest customer with North Korea helping to build the Iranians' underground nuclear weapons facilities. Recently a U.S. federal judge ruled North Korea and Iran were liable for providing support to Hezbollah during the 2006 war, assisting "in building a massive network of underground military installations, tunnels, bunkers, depots and storage facilities in southern Lebanon." Was it so hard to connect dots to Hamas which Israel knew was receiving extensive Iranian aid? If connecting dots was too rigorous, they could have spoken to the children. In an interview with Channel

2, Minister of Economy Naftali Bennett spoke of a mother at Kibbutz Netiv Ha'asara who told him her children wake her in the middle of the night and tell her they hear digging beneath their beds. Her children can scarcely have been the only ones.



Geologist (and retired Colonel) Yossi Langotsky, who established the Special Operations Branch of Military Intelligence, vented his frustration to *The Jerusalem Post*: “For 10 years I’ve been crying and screaming to the highest possible levels—to the Defense Ministry, the chief of staff, the commanding officers of southern and northern command.” Langotsky had repeatedly urged the Defense Ministry to find a solution to the tunnels, offering the help and advice of the Geophysical Institute in mapping underground spaces to expose tunnels. In 2001, 2004 and 2005 (years in which Ariel Sharon was Prime Minister) he tried in vain to focus the government’s attention on the issue. In 2004 Langotsky was actually appointed

adviser to former Chief of Staff Moshe Ya’alon on the tunnels and in 2005 issued a report strongly criticizing the ministry for its failure to deal with the issue.

This brings us to the second question: Given that it was not unaware of the tunnels, why did Israel’s government fail to take the threat seriously and act accordingly? As it turned out, it was sheer luck— Hamas’s rocket onslaught and its premature use of those tunnels—that saved Israel from the catastrophe so close at hand that was outlined at the beginning of this article.

All possible answers are disturbing. Perhaps Israel’s leaders acted on the basis of a “conceptziya,” as Israel’s intelligence branch did so arrogantly and dangerously prior to the 1973 war, when it was falsely confident that the “conditions” for war did not exist. Obviously Israeli policy makers were well aware of the smuggling tunnels connecting Gaza with the Egyptian-held Sinai and may have thought of Gaza tunnels as means to transfer food, weapons and goods and havens for Hamas leaders from possible Israeli air strikes, rather than as avenues of attack. That would seem to be the most likely explanation for the remarkable defense of Israel’s security services offered by Major General Yaakov Amidror, who was National Security Advisor of Israel from May 2011 to November 2013 and as such had full access to Israeli intelligence. Amidror said on Channel 2 that Israel’s security services were not at all surprised by any aspect of the tunnels—they just had not appreciated their significance.

A July 18 interview on Channel 2 with Tzipi Livni, a member of Israel’s Security Cabinet no less, offers a yet more appalling answer because it suggests an even more cavalier approach (bordering on insanity) to strategic threats. The TV anchor brings up the fact that Israel had early on agreed to a ceasefire which would have left the tunnels intact. He asks: “Can you explain to us the gap, Minister Livni, between the fact that on Tuesday we almost, or basically the Government of Israel agreed, to a ceasefire and on Thursday it remembered that the tunnels are a strategic problem that must be urgently taken care of. It wasn’t already a strategic problem?” Livni replies: “First of all, in truth the tunnels aren’t something new....there is a difference between a problem that still hasn’t taken place and you still don’t see it inside the territory of the state of Israel.” As Aaron Lerner of IMRA (Independent Media Review and Analysis) aptly says, this is a surreal approach that ignores all facts, all dangers, all threats—so long as they have not yet actually taken place.

Even now there is the likelihood that Israel, succumbing to ferocious pressure for a ceasefire from the hostile Obama administration, will pretend it has dealt fully with the tunnels when it has not done so. Eado Hecht, an expert on military matters who teaches at the IDF’s Command and Staff College, warns that destroying tunnels is a lengthy operation requiring many weeks, that merely blowing up entrances and air shafts will leave the greater part of the tunnels intact so that Hamas sappers can

set up by-pass sections restoring them quickly to use. The entire length and branches of the tunnels must be located and mapped and only then can they be completely destroyed. It appears in at least some cases Israel is engaging in the stopgap of filling the tunnels with dirt rather than destroying them.

At this writing it is too early to tell the upshot of the current Gaza war. As far as future Hamas tunnel-building goes, Israel is already contemplating in effect a “counter-tunnel” that will run 70 kilometers along the border and provide real time alerts to any tunnel crossing it.

But it is not too early to say—and to remind others—that Israel nine years ago made a catastrophic mistake leaving Gaza and destroying its bountiful (both strategically and economically)



Jewish settlements. And it’s not too early to predict the Hamas government will survive to attack Israel another day and that the Obama-Kerry duo will make every effort to reward it by satisfying at least some of its “demands.” The London *Telegraph* reports that Hamas is already negotiating a deal with North Korea to replenish its stock of missiles and the *Jerusalem Post* reports that the Turkish outfit that backed the ill-fated Mavi Marmora is poised to run the blockade of Gaza’s coast again, this time under the protection of the Turkish navy.

Thus when Hamas makes what undoubtedly will be its claims to “victory”, it will not be wholly wrong.

Do We Owe Gaza Our Pity?

Jack Engelhard

John Kerry and Barack Obama appear focused on the suffering of “civilians” in Gaza as the IDF continues to find more killer tunnels that were built by those Hamas busy beavers...and I put quotes around “civilians” because if the information comes from Hamas or the UN they’re about as reputable as your long lost uncle in Zimbabwe.

Remember, the UN was shocked, shocked to find Hamas rockets stashed in Gaza’s UN schools. Shocked, I tell you.

For pity’s sake Kerry deplores Israel’s “disproportionate” response. Israel can’t seem to make him happy.

Obama quickly took action to console himself and his secretary of state.

He shipped \$47 million over to Gaza. Half of that automatically goes straight into the pockets of the Hamas leadership so that those thugs can spend more time in their villas on the Riviera. (You expect them to actually live among their own people?) The other half goes to buying materials for more tunnels in time for the next war.

Meanwhile there is this war, and this war is being waged to cry pity for the Palestinian Arab cause. This war is less about gaining territory and more about gaining sympathy. This is a war made for television. Watch the theatrics on CNN and the BBC and see how your emotions are being played.

The images of Arab sorrow (seldom Jewish grief) are orchestrated to light the fuse of anti-Semitism throughout the world. It’s working.

It is working among the usual suspects.

But how do we, as Jews, react when asked to share the humanitarian concerns afflicting the other side?

I was asked this question point blank: You are Jewish, after all, part of a nation famed for its compassion. So do you pity the poor Arabs in Gaza?

Yes I do...but at number 613. Let me be clear. Before I pity them, I have 612 other assemblies, civilians, individuals and entire nations to pity first.

So they will have to wait their turn.

My first pity goes to the IDF soldiers fighting and in too many cases dying against the barbaric plague that has infested Gaza and mankind.

From there on the list is too long before I reach Palestinian Arab suffering. At this rate I may never get there at all.

The Holocaust itself has filled my cup of heartbreak to overflowing. But we don't have to go there at this time. Arab atrocities have left scant room for empathy.

Aside from actual wars, Palestinian Arabs throughout the decades have slaughtered thousands of Israelis in random acts of terror.

Their intifadas and their nakbas are endless so please understand that my sympathies for them are remarkably limited...pretty much zero.

But let me cite just one incident that makes it entirely too difficult for me to weep for the Palestinian Arab cause in Gaza or elsewhere:

At the height of the Second Intifada an Israeli wife, mother and social worker Tali Hatuel left her neighborhood in the Gush Katif section of Gaza (when it was still Jewish) to transport her four daughters to join their father David, an educator, in Ashkelon.

This was at a time when there were protests against Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's disengagement plan, a plan that eventually awarded all of Gaza to the Palestinian Arabs. This was done to assure peace and tranquility as this time there could be no complaints about an occupation.

Gunmen appeared and opened fire on the Hatuel vehicle, driving it into a ditch. Two Arab terrorists shouldering automatic weapons approached the family. All were murdered at close range, one at a time, with repeated blasts; Tali, 34, Hila, aged 11, Hadar, aged 9, Roni, aged 7 – and two-year-old Merav. Tali was eight months pregnant with a son.

Imagine the cries for pity all the way from the mother to the uncomprehending two-year-old – brutally unheeded by the killers.

At that moment the angels up in heaven turned their faces from such an unbearable sight.

But there was dancing in the streets of Ramallah.

So if you want pity for people like this and compassion for the people who breed them, please find someone else. I still have nightmares.

This appeared on Israelnationalnews.com on July 22. Engelhard wrote the int'l bestseller Indecent Proposal. His newest novel is the anti-BDS thriller Compulsive.

Theological Rabies in the Presbyterian Church USA

Fay Voshell

Francis Schaeffer once said, "Tell me what the world is saying today, and I'll tell you what the church will be saying in seven years."

Schaeffer, a theologian, may have been off by a few years, but he certainly predicted the future of the Presbyterian Church USA, which has now embraced just about every single leftist ideological tenet.

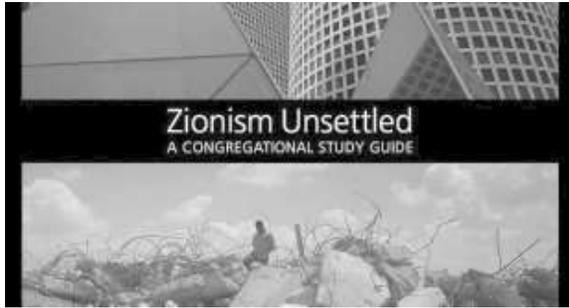
The PCUSA has joined the drift to the Left that for decades has characterized other mainline entities such as the Episcopal and Methodist churches. But it is a bit of a surprise to see the PCUSA has recently warmly embraced anti-Semitism.

As Mark Tooley reports in *The American Spectator*, “The PCUSA is now the only major U.S. denomination divesting against Israel, with even the Episcopal Church and far-left United Church of Christ having declined the honor.”

The leadership of the denomination has backed divestment from three firms doing business with Israel. Hewlett-Packard, Caterpillar, and Motorola are on the list, supposedly because they assist Israel’s “occupation.”

Israel’s “occupation?”

Tooley explains:



“A radical Presbyterian study guide, ‘Zionism Unsettled,’ denouncing Israel as an Apartheid state in recent months generated much uproar, especially from Jewish groups. It was thought the backlash against that resource might help defeat anti-Israel divestment, but the opposite may have been true. Commissioners perhaps felt moderate by voting against the extremist study guide while supporting divestment, which supporters naturally insisted was not anti-Israel but merely pro-peace.”

There is a lesson here for those “moderates” in the religious and political world who think they can bargain with and find a middle road on which they can travel with the devilish “pro-peace” Left.

It can’t be done.

But more importantly, there is a lesson to be learned from the PCUSA’s anti-Semitic stance.

Theology matters.

Wrong theology sanctioning anti-Semitism especially matters, as the premises reach into secularized politics. Secular politics merely extracts the “God words” and puts the anti-Semitic ideas into practice, as history reveals.

How do some branches of Christian theology endorse anti-Jewish sentiment?

For a very long time, certain segments of the Christian church have embraced what is termed “replacement theology,” also known as “supersessionism.” Replacement theology holds to the idea that Israel’s covenantal status with God was revoked and given instead to the Christian church. Israel is no longer favored by God. Some replacement theologians even endorse the idea that Israel the people and Israel the nation have no more favor before God than any other peoples or nations. Practically speaking, such a stance means that the Jews of Israel have no particular -- including no sacred right -- to the land they presently live in.

As is usual in theological circles, abstruse permutations and varieties of doctrinal views abound. Seminaries are particularly afflicted with endless debates and turgid, ponderous doctoral theses employing almost impenetrable language about fine points of doctrine.

The doctrine of supersessionism is no exception to the academic tendency to obfuscate and divide. The doctrine has been split into three categories, one of which is entitled “punitive supersessionism.” Punitive secessionism states that since Jews rejected Jesus as Messiah, they are condemned by God and no longer have the promises of the covenants given to them by God. Jews are not chosen by God any longer.



Martin Luther is probably the most famous supersessionist, though replacement theology was articulated and endorsed by early church fathers such as Justin Martyr, Tertullian, and even St. Augustine. Luther, however, was particularly acidic. A punitive

supercessionist if ever there was one, he believed the Jews should be severely punished for their unbelief.

In his pamphlet "On the Jews and Their Lies," Luther went on a hair-raising, incendiary diatribe that gave false spiritual and theological legitimacy for persecution of the Jews. He recommended Germany's political leaders urge citizens to burn Jews' schools and synagogues; exile Jews to ghettos; get rid of all Jewish literature; refuse to let rabbis to teach lest they face execution; deny Jews safe-conduct; confiscate all the Jews' wealth; and have Jews do only forced labor. The miner's son who became a monk and theologian was so hardened against the Jews that even shortly before his death he was still fuming, "We are at fault for not slaying them."

It's a fact that in Luther's day, politics was religion. The Church was the government, and factions of Christianity were willing to go to war over doctrinal divisions. But as history was to tragically reveal, the reasoning behind replacement theology abstracted from any theological context and put into purely political contexts meant the practice of anti-Semitism by the secular state. To put it another way, most readers of history will recognize the progression of anti-Semitism from what Luther's friend Phillip Melancthon called the "rabies of theologians" to the rabies of Nazi ideology.

Wrong theology mattered then. It matters now.

While the Lutheran church has spent literally centuries struggling with their leading theologian's anti-Semitism; and, to its credit, largely diffusing it or ignoring it altogether, it now appears the PCUSA is fast becoming infected with the anti-Semitic theological rabies of replacement theology.

The PCUSA has rejected the view of God's grace proclaimed by the Apostle Paul, who believed Christians were only grafted into a vine whose roots were firmly planted in Jewish soil. Paul believed Christians were fortunate to be adopted into the family of believers in God -- and that only through the grace of Jesus Christ, who himself was a Jew.



Evidently most of the leaders of the PCUSA do not read the scriptures they once professed to believe in. Instead, they are baptizing the overt persecution of Jews and the nation of Israel with the poisoned water of toxic theology.

The trashing by the Left of what was once an august American church with many contributions to the culture began when the PCUSA chose to desert the authority of the very scriptures and standards they once professed to believe in. The denomination instead embraced a syncretistic attitude which took as definitive the shifting ideals of the surrounding culture, as Francis Schaeffer noted. The result is that the church has gone with every shifting wind of political change.

The outcome of the constant shifting has meant the PCUSA has now completely embraced leftist tenets, including but not limited to abortion on demand throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy; redefinition of the Christian view of marriage as being between one man and one woman, and the eradication of the distinctions between the sexes. The denomination has even endorsed infanticide, approving a resolution that babies who chance to be born alive during a botched abortion should not be saved.

By adding to that list divestment from the PCUSA's portfolio companies doing business with Israel, the proclaiming of Israel an apartheid state and the refusal to recognize the legitimacy of Israel's sovereignty as a nation, the church has given itself over to the political rabies of the Left.

Tragic.

Is the situation reparable?

Probably not.

But maybe there is hope the denomination will radicalize itself out of existence. As Tooley notes, “In just the last two years, the PCUSA lost nearly 200,000 members, a rate, which if continued, would mean no more PCUSA in less than 20 years.”

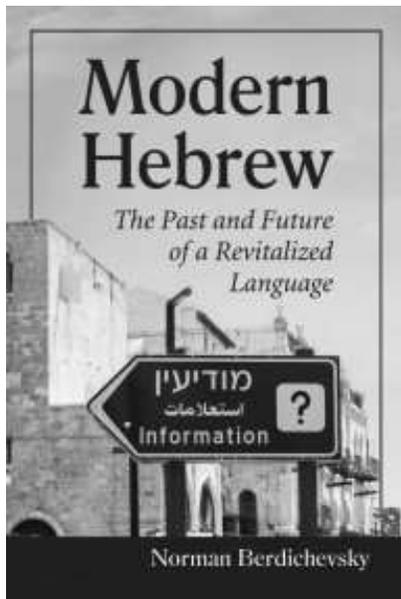
Considering the Presbyterian Church USA has gone where no church worthy of the name has ever dared to go, its disappearance might be a good thing.

Fay Voshell holds a M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, a flagship institution of the PCUSA. Her articles have appeared in National Review, PJMedia, American Thinker, RealClearReligion and many other online publications. This appeared in American Thinker on June 29.

Modern Hebrew: The Past and Future of a Revitalized Language by Norman Berdichevsky

Reviewed by Rael Jean Isaac

To the extent people know the amazing story of the rebirth of Hebrew as a modern language, they are apt to identify it with the single-handed efforts of Eliezer Ben Yehuda, famous for having refused to allow his infant son to hear a word of any other language in his first years.



While not disputing Ben Yehuda’s role, Berdichevsky gives us a wealth of fascinating information about what he calls “the epic transformation of the classic language of the Bible into modern ‘Ivrit’, the national language of the dynamic state of Israel, its everyday vernacular spoken by seven million people.” He describes Hebrew’s influence on English, the inspirational example of modern Hebrew for the revival of a host of “minor languages” including, among many others, Irish, Welsh, Basque, Catalan and Maltese, and the influence *on* Hebrew of the many languages that bear witness to the three thousand years of Jewish experience, among them Akkadian, Greek, Persian, Arabic, German and Yiddish. None of this is academic or difficult to follow: Berdichevsky never loses sight of his goal of keeping the interest of the lay reader.

In an interesting sidelight, we learn of the parallels between Ben Yehuda and Lazar Ludvig Zamenhof, who created Esperanto. Born within a year of one another in similar homes only 250 miles apart, both sought a career in medicine (although Ben Yehuda’s health forced him to drop out) and both saw their work as a means to enhance the standing of the Jews, in Zamenhof’s case through fostering international solidarity via a common language. (His last major project was translating the Old Testament into Esperanto). Berdichevsky, himself something of an expert on Esperanto, demonstrates how Zamenhof used the logical structure of Hebrew in creating it. Although Ben Yehuda would have to be counted far more successful in achieving the mission he set for himself, Berdichevsky offers the interesting factoid that, after Einstein, Zamenhof is the Jew whose portrait has appeared on the postage stamps of more countries than anyone else. As far as postage stamps go, Ben Yehuda is the loser.

There’s a chapter on Hebrew’s at times bitter rivalry with Yiddish to serve as the national language. And Hebrew’s victory was at times marred by harsh tactics. Berdichevsky writes that as late as 1951, for example, the government agency charged with approving the public showing of films and

plays issued a directive banning presentation of a play in Yiddish in Tel Aviv and threatened fines for the actors. Similarly the Yiddish newspaper was allotted very limited access to the government's control of the supply of paper and had to resort to the black market where the only paper obtainable was yellow, green and red, leading to comical multi-colored editions.

In the Soviet Union, where the heavy hand of government was no laughing matter, Hebrew was condemned as a "reactionary tool" and only Yiddish considered the legitimate tongue of the "toiling masses." The result was an almost total prohibition of any expression of thought or cultural activity in Hebrew. Berdichevsky writes: "Nowhere else and against no other language (except Esperanto in Nazi-occupied Europe) was such a policy invoked by any regime to strangle a language into total silence."

The book is unfortunately marred by Berdichevsky's venture into "solving" the Arab-Israel conflict, a temptation he would have been wise to resist (as would the myriad peace processors of recent decades). Berdichevsky's "solution" is for Israel to become a "Hebrew Republic" rather than a Jewish state, allowing its Arab citizens to identify with a secular Hebrew nationalism based on territory and language. This is a slimmed-down version of the old Canaanite ideology, advanced by a small group of intellectuals in the 1940s and 50s, which proposed to create a new Hebrew nation based on a union of the non-Arab minorities of the Middle East, all of whom would be united on the basis of a supposed ancient common Canaanite culture. And there was the rub. None of these peoples—including the Jews of Israel—felt they were Canaanites.

In his critique of another recently proposed "solution," Martin Sherman quotes John Stuart Mill who cautions that without a bedrock of fellow feeling, "free institutions are next to impossible...the united public opinion, necessary to the working of representative government, cannot exist." The components of fellow feeling are identified by Mill as "identity of political antecedents; the possession of a national history, and consequent community of recollections; collective pride and humiliation, pleasure and regret, connected with the same incidents in the past." As Sherman notes, this is the antithesis of the situation in Israel—one need only point to Israel's War of Independence, Israel's source of enormous pride, to the Arabs "the naqba," the disaster, the time of their humiliation.

At least the Canaanites saw the need for a myth of common origin—Berdichevsky seems to think territory and language will do the trick if Israel abandons just some of the symbols, customs and laws that make it too "Jewish" for integration of the Arab population. The recent Israeli Arab response to the events in Gaza underscore the foolishness of Berdichevsky's imagined "Hebrew Republic." On *Frontpage* Charles Bybelezer reports that as IDF troops prepared to enter Gaza, Knesset Member Haneen Zoabi wrote an op-ed for a Hamas affiliated news site imploring Palestinians to "besiege" the Jewish state. Residents of Umm el-Fahm, one of Israel's largest Arab cities, threw stones at police, called for additional hostage-taking and chanted "With spirit and blood, we will redeem you Palestine." Steven Plaut writes that when injured soldiers arrived at a hospital in the Negev, the local Arab staff cheered --that the soldiers had been wounded. When (false) reports circulated that an Israeli soldier was kidnapped by Hamas, the streets of Nazareth broke out in celebration.

Skip the fantasies about the Hebrew Republic and there is much to enjoy and profit from in Berdichevsky's *Modern Hebrew*, published by McFarland and available on Amazon.



Stop Negotiating “The Right to Exist”

Ruth King

Before World War II, a significant portion of the global population –including Palestinian Jews– were ruled by European colonial powers. At the conclusion of the war, decolonization accelerated and from 1945 to the 1980s scores of nations in Asia and Africa acquired sovereignty.

Concomitantly, these countries joined the United Nations. From 35 in 1946, the UN grew to 127 member states by 1970, and at present there are 193. According to Freedom House, only 87 of them, roughly 45% of the total, are genuine democracies.

Some former colonies retained much of the infrastructure and economic institutions of their former rulers, but most remained suspicious and hostile to European-style government, political ideas, and economic institutions.

In Africa, the outcome of independence has been especially discouraging. Of the 55 countries in the African Union (Morocco, a former colony of France is not a member) only a few–Malawi, Botswana, Namibia, Benin, Ghana, Mauritania and Senegal–have achieved a measure of freedom and stability. Famine, epidemics, tribal wars, massacres, coups and jihads against innocent civilians have plagued the continent. Millions upon millions have died and millions live in abject fear and misery. Celebrities come and go and wring their hands, get their photo ops and then move on. A racist media and an indolent and hypocritical Congressional Black Caucus ignore their plight.

In Asia, during the same period (1946- 1981), the Philippines, Israel, India and Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, all gained their independence and became members of the United Nations. Israel, India and the Philippines are the only democracies in the group. The vast majority of these countries are repressive at best. In Muslim states oppression of women, dissidents and harsh Sharia laws are increasingly common. Taiwan, a democracy, was expelled by the United Nations to accommodate The Republic of China in 1971, and its bid to rejoin was formally rejected in 2007. Taiwan remains an economically stable democracy without the “benefits” of UN membership.

Assorted despots and tyrants now rule a majority of the member states in the United Nations. Along with representatives from relatively free African nations, their emissaries bash Israel with metronomic regularity, and are joined from stage left by a chorus of European pundits and “statesmen.” The supposedly “reformed” United Nations Human Rights Council was established in 2006 and as of 2013 had passed more resolutions condemning Israel than all of the rest of the world combined. This is all the more mind boggling when in fact of all the countries achieving independence in the post war period, Israel is the most successful western-style democracy, with high standards of civil rights and advanced scientific, academic, and cultural institutions rivaling those of any in the West.

Yet Israel is the only, repeat, only member nation whose sovereignty is challenged. Even more egregious is the fact that only Israel, repeat, only Israel is asked to accept “recognition of its right to exist” as an item for negotiations.

It would appear that “recognition of Israel’s right to exist” even raises hackles with the United States Internal Revenue Service.

In The Wall Street Journal of July 29, 2014 (<http://online.wsj.com/articles/the-irss-foreign-policy-1406590068>) read the following: “

“The “current cases” would have been applications like Z Street’s in which Israel-related activity was apparently being scrutinized for its ideological and policy content. The government says Z Street got special scrutiny because it was focused in a region with a higher risk of terrorism, which is hard to believe and in any case doesn’t explain all of the IRS’s behavior. It doesn’t cover, for instance, why one questionnaire we’ve seen from the IRS to another Jewish group applying for tax-exempt status asked,

“Does your organization support the existence of the land of Israel?” and “Describe your organization’s religious belief system toward the land of Israel.”

Huh? Did a yes answer to both questions affect the application for 501(c) status?

Even many supporters and friends of Israel, when talking of “peace,” list recognition of Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state as a major Arab concession—to be met by major Israeli territorial concessions.

What is the most appalling outcome is that even Israel’s political leaders and opinion-makers have been brainwashed to accept this perverse notion.

That is really something to ponder.

REGISTER NOW: AFSI's Fall Chizuk Mission to Israel - OCT. 26-NOV. 5, 2014

We'll be in the Negev, Eilat, Elon Moreh, Ariel, Hebron, Gush Etzion, Samaria, & Jerusalem. We've added a day to the trip so that we can cover much-needed ground. The tentative itinerary will be available shortly. Reservations are now being taken: 212-828-2424; afsi@rcn.com.

Outpost

Editor: Rael Jean Isaac

Editorial Board: Ruth King, Rita Kramer

Outpost is distributed free to Members
of Americans for a Safe Israel

Annual membership: \$50.

Americans For a Safe Israel

1751 Second Ave. (at 91st Street)

New York, NY 10128

Tel (212) 828-2424 / fax (212) 828-1717

Email: afsi@rcn.com