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Showtime

William Mehlman

We are at this writing approximately a month away from a November 24th “deadline”-- extended from an original July 20th “deadline” – for Iran to turn over to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) all material information related to its enrichment of uranium and the military ramifications of its decade-long atomic energy program. Senior U.S. and EU diplomatic representatives were scheduled to meet with Iranian officials in advance of the Nov. 24th target date to hammer out the final details of a “Comprehensive Agreement” by the Islamic Republic to pull the plug on uranium enrichment in exchange for a suspension of the economic sanctions imposed on it.

The year-long cat-and-mouse game the West has been playing with Ayatollah Khomeini and his “congenial” front-man President Hassan Rouhani, easing some of the sanctions imposed on Teheran, conditioned on an open door (never opened more than a crack) to IAEA inspectors, has come full circle. With a military assault on Iran’s nuclear-industrial complex all but ruled out, the West is left with one of two choices: either accede to Teheran’s wishes for yet another extension of the “Comprehensive Agreement” target date or sign on to the “bad deal” President Obama initially declared and Prime Minister Netanyahu continues to insist would be “worse than no deal.”

Mr. Obama’s zeal for a tough deal with Khomeini & Co. has been notably muted since he was forced to take on ISIS. He never once mentioned Iran in his September address to the UN General Assembly, giving rise to suspicions that he may be ready to soften his approach to the Shi’ite regime’s nuclear aspirations in exchange for Republican Army assistance in reining in the Sunni genocidal menace. Ephraim Asculai, a 40-year veteran of Israel’s Atomic Energy Committee, has labeled any further extension of the Nov. 24th deadline a “fatal mistake,” adding that Iran is passionately interested in “buying time because the window of opportunity for ‘breakout’ – making explosive [nuclear] devices – narrows with each passing day.” Israeli Intelligence Minister Yuval Steinitz, who has accused the Iranians of conducting experiments to “ignite the chain reaction” in nuclear weapons at its fortified underground Fordo facility (off-limits to IAEA inspectors), views any additional extension of playtime for the mullahs as a reprise of America’s failed 2007 largesse to North Korea which assured the rogue regime of military nuclear capability.

The “bad deal worse than no deal” scenario has advanced to center stage cloaked in what the State Department has envisioned as “creative” responses to Hassan Rouhani’s refusal to give an inch on the Islamic Republic’s insistence on its right to continue enriching uranium. Indeed, “Mr. Moderate” has warned that “those who think of other [than diplomatic] solutions to the nuclear question would be committing a grave mistake in doing so.” Among the “creative” responses on offer, clearly the most ludicrous is the suggested unplugging of half of Iran’s 9,000 centrifuges, leaving the remaining 4,500 to keep grinding. Not only could the connections be restored in a matter of days, nuclear experts point out, it would signify that America has given up on halting Teheran’s march to an atomic bomb. A variation on the 50-50 split would reduce the stack of uranium gas to the 4,500 functioning centrifuges, thereby stretching the calendar on Iran’s accumulation of enough bomb-making material from weeks or months to a year, a year and a half. What is clearly the worst of the “creative” solutions would allow the Iranians to substitute a reduction of the “Separate Work Units” it has established across the country to disperse and replicate its nuclear activities against elimination or a meaningful reduction of its centrifuges. “That’s a Trojan horse,” Eric Mandel, head of the Middle East Political and Information Network, warns in a *Jerusalem Post* analysis. “It would make a future Iranian breakout virtually unstoppable.”

The White House rebuffs any suggestion it would dump its commitment to derailing the Iranian nuclear express in favor of a deal with Khomeini to help “degrade and defeat” ISIS. But Ron Radosh, writing in *Pajamas Media*, points to a discomfiting signal in the appointment of Georgetown

University Professor Colin Kahl , a “consistent apologist for Iran and its push to go nuclear” as Vice President Joe Biden’s new National Security Advisor. A former deputy assistant secretary of defense for the Middle East and a favorite of the National Iranian American Council, Kahl has praised Khomeini for “heroic flexibility” and termed Iran’s negotiating team “talented.”

Presumably this appointment would have had to pass muster with President Obama. Is the President, looking to a possibly evenly divided Senate on November 5th in which Biden would cast the determining vote, considering subcontracting a treaty decision that might allow Iran a place among the world’s nuclear powers to his second in command?

William Mehlman represents AFSI in Israel

From the Editor

Simple Shimon v. Rabbi Sachs

In an interview published in the Lubavitch International paper (Oct./Nov. 2014) former British Chief rabbi Jonathan Sachs observes: “Whereas Western thinkers tend to see the basis of morality in reason, emotion or calculation of consequences, for us, from the very beginning the key word was *zakhor*, remember [the lessons of the past]. Memory is the moral tutor of mankind.

Contrast this with Israel’s former President Shimon Peres. “It is a great mistake to learn from history. There is nothing to learn from history.” (Interview *Maariv* May 23, 1996) Or, from a Peres interview in *Australia/Israel Review*, June 1997) “I am totally uninterested in the past. The past bores me. Listen, it bores me for two reasons: it never repeats itself and secondly it is unchangeable. So why should I concern myself with it?”

What is most appalling is that polls consistently show Peres, an intellectual and moral pygmy, is the most revered man in Israel.

Invisible Dutch Soldiers

Iraq’s military has been showered with contempt for running away from ISIS, which has far fewer men. What then does one say of Holland’s military, which cowers at tweets?

The Dutch military has either ordered or counseled (there is dispute on this score) its personnel not to wear their uniforms in public. Dutch customs officials, whose garb could be mistaken for military uniforms, have received the same instruction. The reason? A Dutch jihadist known as Muhajiri Shaam, tweeted “Dutch people: your government just made you a target.” What set him off was the Dutch government’s pledge of military support for the campaign against ISIS in Iraq.

As Dutch-Iranian law professor Afashin Ellian points out: “Jihadists now know that a few tweets from a single Dutch jihadist can fundamentally alter Dutch defense policy. Dutch citizens now know that a few tweets from a single Dutch jihadist will send shivers down their government’s spine and that—instead of making sure all threats are neutralized—it will order the personnel tasked with keeping them safe, to hide.”

Jewish Legion Commander Reburied in Israel

In October the remains of Lt. Col. John Henry Patterson, commander of the Jewish Legion in World War I, were taken to Israel from the Rosedale, Calif. Cemetery in Los Angeles and (along with the remains of his wife Frances) will be reinterred in the military cemetery of Moshav Avihayil, where many Jewish Legion veterans are buried. This was done thanks largely to the efforts of Jerry Klinger, President



of the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation and Patterson's grandson Alan, who wanted to honor the wish of his Christian Zionist grandfather—who died in 1947, a year before the establishment of the state—to be buried in the Jewish state alongside the soldiers he had commanded.

Prime Minister Netanyahu was supportive of the effort and he is scheduled to attend the burial and memorial service on Nov. 10 at the nearby Jewish Legion Museum. Netanyahu noted that his brother Yonatan (the hero of Entebbe) had been named for Patterson who had given the child a silver chalice which “linked the commander of the nascent Jewish fighting force with one of Israel's future military commanders.” Netanyahu's father Benzion was not only a friend but a great admirer of Patterson whom he called in an editorial “the fighting Irishman who gave up the best of his life for the redemption of the Jewish people—an outstanding example of...a righteous man of the world.”

It is fitting that Patterson's wish that Israel be his final resting place is at last being fulfilled. Jabotinsky

said of him, “Never in Jewish history has there been in our midst a Christian friend of his understanding and devotion.”

Those who would like to learn more about the extraordinary life of this larger-than-life figure should read Denis Brian's *The Seven Lives of Colonel Patterson*. For a briefer insight, log on to Zionism 101 and click on the unit on the Jewish Legion. Patterson was world famous as a lion hunter before he led the Zion Mule Corps and then the Jewish Legion. The railroad the British were building in East Africa had been stopped cold after workers refused to go on when two man-eating lions killed 128 men working on the project. Patterson killed the lions, a feat he recounted in *The Man-Eaters of Tsavo*, which made him an international celebrity and brought him the friendship of men like Theodore Roosevelt.

Patterson's identification with Zionism was so strong that he was at first reluctant to lead the Legion. He sent Jabotinsky a letter in which he wrote: “It is my honest opinion that you should find a Jewish colonel. I would be happy to lead Jewish soldiers again, but justice and your national interests demand that this honor should be given a Jew.” But, as Denis Brian writes, “Jabotinsky was convinced that this historical privilege had been earned by a man who had stood by them when they were scorned and ridiculed, who had not been ashamed to lead the Mule Corps, which he had converted into a respected fighting force, and who, even while in a hospital and convalescent home, had celebrated their achievements in his book *With the Zionists in Gallipoli*. ‘There is only one nominee,’ Jabotinsky said. “Even though he is not a Jew, he must be our colonel, and I hope that one day he will be our general: Patterson.”

Rebuilding Gaza

To no one's surprise, now that Gaza has self-destructed for the third time in six years, the “international community” has come together, not, as any rational individual would, to say “enough!” but to rebuild it for round four.

Nearly ninety countries and international organizations met in Cairo, hosted by Norway, Egypt and Moderate Abbas (given that moderate is permanently attached to his name, we'll substitute it from

now on for Mahmoud). They pledged \$5.4 billion for the rebuilding, with Norway alone pledging \$885 million. (To be sure, pledges are cheap and it remains to be seen if all that money shows up.)

Again, to no one's surprise, the onus was placed on Israel. "We expect that Israel will do its part to reverse its access restrictions on Gaza so that the assistance actually reaches the civilian population and the society can be rebuilt," said Norway's Foreign Affairs Minister Borge Brende. In other words, let the cement move in quickly so the tunnels can be rebuilt promptly.

Perfidious Albion

England, which in 1939 betrayed its commitment under the Mandate to Jews in favor of creating an Arab state in Palestine (this when Jewish need for a haven was at its height), is at its perfidious work once again. Hard upon Sweden's example, by a vote of 274 votes to 12, in what Melanie Phillips calls "a spectacular display of ignorance, moral illiteracy and malice," the British Parliament voted to recognize the state of Palestine (never mind it has no borders or legitimate, functioning government).

Even more contemptible than the British are the Israelis who egg them on. An appalling 363 Israelis--this time not merely the familiar hate-Israel academics but also two former government ministers and four former Knesset members, even one Nobel Prize winner--signed a letter to the British Parliament urging that vote. Haifa University professor Steven Plaut notes that the letter was organized by Amiram Goldblum, a founder of Peace Now and Alon Liel an ex-diplomat, who were among the organizers of a notorious "poll" that falsely claimed to show that Israeli Jews favor "apartheid." Plaut sums up: "The Israeli signers of the petition calling upon European countries and others to negate Israeli sovereignty and to 'recognize' the 'state' of 'Palestine' not only hate their own country, but they also hate basic democracy and human freedoms."

Kerry Blames Isis on Israel

Daniel Goldman writes that there are now nearly 18 million refugees and internally displaced persons in seven Muslim countries. There are millions of young men in the Muslim world sitting in refugee camps with nothing to do, nowhere to go back to, and nothing to look forward to. Never has an extremist movement had so many frustrated and footloose young men in its prospective recruitment pool. To blame ISIS's recruitment of young Muslims on the refugee problem of 1948, as Secretary of State John Kerry has done, boggles the imagination.

Goldman says that to be fair, Kerry did not assert as a matter of fact that the Israeli-Palestinian issue was the cause of rising extremism. "What he said was this: 'As I went around and met with people in the course of our discussions about the [anti-Islamic State] coalition ... there wasn't a leader I met with in the region who didn't raise with me spontaneously the need to try to get peace between Israel and the Palestinians, because it was a cause of recruitment and of street anger and agitation that they felt they had to respond to.' It is quite possible to imagine that some leaders in the region cited the Israel-Palestine issue. They face social unraveling on a scale not seen in the region since the Mongol invasion. They are submerged by a human tsunami, and might as well blame the Jews. Or the bicycle riders."

Revolt of the Lemmings?

Will Europe's lemmings withdraw from the abyss toward which they have been steadily heading?

Probably not.

There seemed a moment of hope when European Union member Poland, a longtime lone stalwart holding out against the global warming apocalypse that has overwhelmed the rational faculties of European (and much of American) political elites, threatened to veto the current EU plan to cut

carbon emissions to 40% of the 1990 level by 2030. Polish Economy Minister Janusz Piechociski called the plan suicidal, set to destroy half of Europe's industry.

But the urge to go over the cliff still triumphs: the EU has bribed Poland to withdraw its veto threat and the dance to economic self-destruction continues.

The American Nakba

Speaking of suicide, Daniel Greenfield documents the suicidal impulse in the shift from celebrating Columbus to lamenting his discovery of America.

A nation's mythology, says Greenfield, its paragons and heroes, its founding legends and great deeds, are its soul. Nations are not destroyed by atomic bombs or economic catastrophes; they are lost when they no longer have enough pride to go on fighting to survive.

Greenfield finds the ultimate in self-destructive politically correct lunacy in a headline in the *Columbus Dispatch* about the Columbus Day festival in the city of Columbus, Ohio--"Italian Festival honors controversial explorer with its own Columbus Day parade." Columbus is now dubbed "controversial" by a newspaper named after him, in a city named after him. And if he is controversial, how can naming a city after him and a newspaper after the city not be equally controversial?

Says Greenfield: "Can the day when USA Today has a headline reading, 'Some cities still plan controversial 4th of July celebration of American independence' be far behind?"

Ex-Presidents and the Jews: Carter vs. Hoover

Rafael Medoff

Editor's note: The recent Ken Burns series has focused public attention on the out-sized role of the Roosevelts in American history. In the process Burns has whited out Franklin Roosevelt's failure to take measures to save European Jews. This article makes clear that Herbert Hoover--who awaits a historian providing a fairer portrayal of his legacy-- would have surely taken a more active role in saving Jews.

Ex-presidents seldom take an interest in Jewish affairs, with two notable exceptions: one who has repeatedly clashed with the Jewish community--Jimmy Carter--and one who turned out to be an unlikely ally of the Jews--Herbert Hoover, who passed away fifty years ago this week.

Most ex-presidents have gone quietly into the sunset, and some have taken issue with the few who have chosen to speak out on current affairs. George W. Bush, for example, had some strong words for fellow ex-president Jimmy Carter, following Carter's public criticism of President Obama's Mideast policies. "To have a former president bloviating and second-guessing is, I don't think, good for the presidency or the country," Mr. Bush said.

Much of Carter's post-presidential activity has revolved around Israel. He has repeatedly taken controversial stands, such as comparing Israeli policies to apartheid, urging the U.S. to withhold aid from Israel to force it to change its positions, and praising Hamas as "a legitimate political actor."

Douglas Brinkley's 1998 book *The Unfinished Presidency: Jimmy Carter's Journey Beyond the White House*, furnished some embarrassing details about Carter's relationship with Yasir Arafat. According to Brinkley, Carter "developed a fondness for Arafat" based on his belief "that they were both ordained to be peacemakers by God." The former president went so far as to personally draft a speech for Arafat that he hoped would "help him to overcome the deficit understanding" for him in the West.

By contrast, Herbert Hoover, as ex-president, repeatedly took positions favorable to Jewry--even when it was not in his political interest to do so.

In early 1933, Jewish leaders asked president-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt to join Hoover, the outgoing president, in a joint statement deploring the mistreatment of Jews in Nazi Germany. Hoover

agreed to do so; Roosevelt declined. Before leaving office, Hoover instructed the U.S. ambassador in Germany, Frederic Sackett, “to exert every influence of our government” on the Hitler regime to halt the persecutions. But FDR soon replaced Sackett with William Dodd, and instructed Dodd that while he could “unofficially” take issue with Nazi Germany’s anti-Semitism, he was not to issue any formal protests on the subject, since it was “not a [U.S.] governmental affair.”



Hoover publicly endorsed the 1939 Wagner-Rogers bill to permit 20,000 German Jewish children to enter the United States outside the quota system. He also assisted the sponsors of the bill behind the scenes, by pressuring wavering members of the House Immigration Committee to support the measure. The endorsement of the only living former president gave the bill a significant boost.

He likely would have been able to accomplish more for Wagner-Rogers if not for some unfortunate partisan sniping. James G. McDonald, chairman of the President’s Advisory Committee on Political Refugees, believed the ex-president could rally important support for the effort. He suggested “that Mr. Herbert Hoover might assume leadership in raising funds and in administering the work of placing the children in suitable homes.” But Roosevelt administration officials blocked the proposal.

It is worth noting that Hoover’s stance on the bill ran counter to his own political interests, since he hoped to win the GOP presidential nomination in 1940, and most Republicans (like most Democrats) opposed increased immigration. Moreover, since President Roosevelt was enormously popular in the Jewish community (he won about 90% of the Jewish vote in the previous election), Hoover had little reason to think that supporting Wagner-Rogers was going to win Jewish votes.

During the Holocaust years, Hoover associated himself with the activist Bergson Group, which lobbied for U.S. action to rescue Jewish refugees. He served on the Sponsoring Committee of Bergson’s protest pageant, “We Will Never Die.”



The former president was also honorary chairman of Bergson’s July 1943 Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe and addressed the event via live radio hook-up.

Hoover also played a significant role in the decision to include a plank in the 1944 Republican Party platform urging the rescue of Europe’s Jews and supporting Jewish statehood in Palestine. It was the first time in American history that either major political party took such stands, and it forced the Democrats to adopt similar language at their convention later that year. As a result, support for Zionism and Israel became a permanent part of both parties’ platforms and a cornerstone of American political culture—and has remained so, even when challenged in recent years by another ex-president.

Rafael Medoff is director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies. This appeared in the jns.org news service on October 12th.

Geert Wilder's Warning

Diana West

I am sitting with Geert Wilders, leader of the Netherlands' Party for Freedom, and the news has just flashed that Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, the Canadian convert to Islam who terrorized Ottawa on Wednesday, had previously had his passport lifted by the Canadian government as an officially designated "high-risk traveler."

That means that before Zehaf-Bibeau put a bullet through the heart of Cpl. Nathan Cirillo, a young reservist standing guard with an unloaded rifle at the Canadian war memorial, and before Zehaf-Bibeau rushed into parliament where, thankfully, he was gunned down by security before he could murder again, Canadian authorities had already identified him as someone likely to join the jihad in the Middle East. In fact, so likely was Zehaf-Bibeau to join a jihadist group such as ISIS that Canada did what many Western governments are now doing in the name of counter-terrorism: they took Zehaf-Bibeau's passport away.

"That's the same as the other one!" Wilders notes energetically, referring to Martin Couture-Rouleau, also an Islamic convert and "high-risk traveler," who drove his car into two Canadian soldiers in Quebec earlier in the week, killing Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent. Couture-Rouleau, who was shot dead at the scene of his crime, had had his passport taken from him in July when he was arrested at the airport before he could travel to Turkey.



In other words, but for good Canadian police work, it looks as if both of these Islam-inspired

murderers would have left Canada and disappeared into the bloody maw of the Islamic State. Phew — that was close?

No, that was insane. Such a policy, which the Dutch government also follows, frustrates Geert Wilders to no end.

"Let them leave," says Wilders. "Let them leave, or detain them. I find it incomprehensible that Western governments stop people who want to leave to fight for jihad in

Syria or Iraq." Let them go and never let them return, Wilders says, or, with sufficient evidence, detain them. While the West combats the Islamic State, he points out, "nothing is being done to make our own countries safe."

But not doing anything domestically—anything, that is, that protects our liberties at home from the encroachments of Islam and its body of repressive, supremacist, and misogynistic laws known as *sharia*—perfectly describes the Western response in the post-9/11 era. It is such policies of appeasement that Geert Wilders has been combating for more than a decade as a Dutch MP and also leader of the Party for Freedom.

The critical problem for the West is that with the advance of *sharia* comes the retreat of freedom. We can see signs all around: less freedom of religion (see armed guards at Jewish institutions), less freedom of speech (remember the Danish cartoons?), less freedom of movement (security gauntlets all over.). As Wilders has put it so often, the more Islam you have in a society, the less freedom there is.

I believe many think this same thought; few, however, dare voice it in public. Better not to risk the Islamic death sentences that hang over Wilders, they think. Better to insist, too many decide, that

“Islam is a religion of peace”—and has nothing whatever to do with the Islamic State. Not Wilders. Refusing to stay silent about Islam, its law, its violence, its totalitarian ideology, Wilders, for ten years, since the 2004 assassination in Amsterdam of Theo van Gogh over a video critical of Islam’s treatment of women, has had to live within an extraordinary security bubble provided by the Dutch government. His own life story, then, is evidence that more Islam equals less freedom.

In the most important sense, though, Wilders is the freest man in the world because he speaks his mind.

As Wilders emphasizes in our conversation, however, it takes more than talk, more than articles. It takes public will transformed into political power. (He often urges American friends to run for office.) Here, in brief, is Wilders’ basic program to begin reversing the Islamization of the Netherlands and the wider West. 1) Halt immigration from Islamic countries. 2) Close Salafist mosques that receive money from Gulf countries. 3) Stimulate voluntary re-emigration. 4) Expel criminals with dual nationality to the country of their other nationality. 5) Require resident passport-holders from Islamic countries distance themselves from *sharia* law and the violent commands of the Koran. 6) Bar those returning from *jihād* re-entry into the country. They can take up residence in the Islamic State, Wilders says.

As we talk, I wonder what will change in two or five or ten years, and whether we will meet again and once again go over these same promising plans. Times are dire and there still seems to be little comprehension of the urgency of the stakes.

Later in the day, Wilders appeared on television with Sun TV’s Michael Coren. The Canadian host asked Wilders a question about how to contend with the Islamic threat within Western societies while protecting civil liberties – a theme with historical echoes in the Cold War battle with Communism.

“Listen, war has been declared on us,” Wilders replied, “on Canada, by the Islamic state, by Muslim fundamentalists, (on) Europe, on the United States, on (the Netherlands), so we have to fight them as if it was a war. It is a war. I am very much in favor of civil liberties, but I believe that in a time of war, we should have one, first priority – and that is to protect our people – the Canadian people, the Dutch people, the American people.” He mentioned the black ISIS flags that now come out on the streets in the Netherlands—which should serve as a ticket out of his country, in his view—and concluded: “If you have the intention to rob our society of our rule of law, then you don’t deserve the rights that come with that rule of law.”

Diana West is a columnist and author. This is excerpted from www.breitbart.com on October 25, 2014.

A Tribute to Miroslav Todorovich

Rael Jean Isaac

AFSI is saddened by the passing of Miroslav Todorovich at the age of 89 in Seattle. For many years Miro was a warm friend and valued advisor to AFSI and attended our national conferences (as a special guest when Edward Teller, his close friend and partner in the energy wars, was honored by AFSI). AFSI founder Erich Isaac is proud to have served an administrative role in all of the organizations Miro founded.

Miro made an extraordinary contribution to American public life. He was founder--and behind the scenes the key player, for he always gave the limelight to others--in a series of organizations that aimed to restore rationality to our basic institutions, from our universities to our energy system. The names of Miro’s organizations tended to be cumbersome: University Centers for Rational Alternatives, the Committee for Academic Non-Discrimination and Integrity, Scientists and Engineers for Secure Energy, but their goals were simple and fundamental: universities that--without violent disruptions--

would teach the achievements of Western civilization; selection based on merit, not accidents of race and color; the development of energy sources based on scientific knowledge, not trumped-up terror scenarios or pie-in-the-sky fantasies.

Miro was born in Belgrade in 1925 where his father co-founded the Belgrade daily *Politika* which Miro describes as a kind of *New York Times* of the Balkans (before the *Times* morphed from the newspaper of record into the loadstone of political correctness). In 1951 he graduated from the University of Belgrade's Department of Natural Science (with a year studying mass spectrometry at Compagnie Generale de TSF in Paris) and went straight to the Vinca Institute of Nuclear Science, which decided to send several of its most promising young scientists abroad for further study. Miro chose Columbia University. But after only a few months, in what he described as typical of Communist governments, a power struggle at the Institute resulted in an about-face. Miro was called back to Yugoslavia, supposedly for lack of funds. The Institute, unmoved when Columbia offered to provide financial assistance, used his young wife Branka, who had been scheduled to join him in New York, as a hostage. Her passport was confiscated and it would take three years before, in 1956, she was finally able to come to New York. In 1961 their son Mark was born followed by a daughter Mira. Both would eventually obtain degrees in science, Mark in physics, Mira a PhD in chemistry.



Miro would embark upon a long career teaching physics at the City University of New York. But that was only the foundation of his activities. In Yugoslavia Miro had experienced the Nazi regime followed by Tito's Communist rule. He appreciated the freedoms and democratic values of the United States as only someone from that background could. And so when the universities came under attack in the late 1960s with students disrupting classes, seizing buildings, shrieking obscenities, destroying their professors' research files, packing guns (Cornell), making non-negotiable "demands," Miro was horrified at the prospect of academic freedom and indeed Western culture falling to young barbarians within the gates. What he found most appalling was the feeble response of administrations and faculty, with most cravenly caving in to the attackers.

And while many were horrified, Miro acted. In 1968, with famed NYU philosophy professor Sidney Hook, he founded University Centers for Rational Alternatives (UCRA). Hook summed up the organization's perspective: "Intellectual unrest is not a problem but a virtue. The problem, and the threat, is not academic unrest but academic disruption and violence, which flow from substituting for the academic goals of learning the political goals of action." UCRA also saw the growing abandonment of any and all curriculum requirements as a major threat to a liberal education.

In short order over three thousand college and university professors joined. And not just any faculty, the cream of the academic profession, ranging from Daniel Patrick Moynihan to Milton Freedman, Zbigniew Brezinski to Samuel Huntington. UCRA was able to shoot down some of the most "creative" enterprises of the student movement, like the Princeton Plan which would have closed campuses for two weeks of the academic year so students could work in political campaigns. UCRA and its publication *Measure* continued, with Miro as Executive Secretary, until 1996. If UCRA existed today,

there is no doubt whatever that it would be in the forefront of the struggle against the boycott, divest and sanctions movement (BDS) that targets Israel and is conducted by both students and academic associations.



Edward Teller

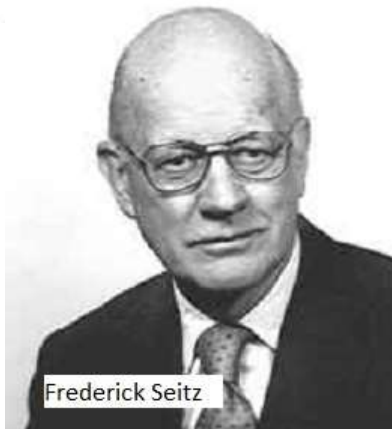
But for Miro, UCRA was only the beginning. In the early 1970s, as campus turmoil eased, Miro was shocked to learn that Richard Nixon, a supposedly conservative President, was proposing to issue a presidential order forcing colleges and universities to prepare affirmative action hiring plans, listing numerical targets by race and sex. Especially alarming for academic institutions was the specification that the standard for new appointments was to be set by the “least qualified incumbent.” This was defining standards downward with a vengeance.

Miro went into action via a sub-organization of UCRA, the Committee for Academic Nondiscrimination and Integrity (CANI). Miro served as CANI’s coordinator. After Nixon’s resignation Miro chaired, at the White House, a meeting of the Domestic Council devoted to affirmative action and the least qualified prescription was stricken from the presidential order. Subsequently Miro sought to marshal support from labor, professional and civic associations for a gender and color blind policy that would conform to the statutory dictates of civil rights law. CANI filed amicus briefs in a series of affirmative action law cases with the pro bono assistance of first rate legal talent—including then Yale professor Robert Bork.



Alexander Von Graevenitz

Miro would now take on an even greater challenge. Yale microbiologist Alexander Von Graevenitz alerted him to an anti-nuclear energy referendum impending in California. Miro reports that he at first he resisted Von Graevenitz’s urging that they create a new organization to deal with the emerging onslaught on nuclear energy, saying he was already overloaded with (unpaid) UCRA work on top of his teaching duties. But concluding that the task was urgent and there was no one else stepping forward to take on the burden, Miro established Scientists and Engineers for Secure Energy in 1976. He assembled an array of top flight scientists that should have swept away the Luddite opposition to this safe and non-polluting energy source. There were eight Nobel Prize winners on his team, including Hans Bethe, Eugene Wigner, James Rainwater, Glenn Seaborg, Felix Bloch, Arno Penzias, Robert Mulliken and Luis Alvarez. Frederick Seitz, then President of Rockefeller University and past President of the American Academy of Sciences became Chairman of what was known for short as SE2 and Edward Teller became an especially active collaborator. Miro worked tirelessly. He organized over fifty-five energy forums at all major American colleges and universities, featuring leading experts in



Frederick Seitz

their disciplines. He testified repeatedly before Congress. He spoke at meetings of non-technical professional societies and at political forums. He patiently sought to educate a hostile media.

It didn’t work. High profile activists like Jane Fonda, meretricious outfits like the Government Accountability Project (an offshoot of the far left—and bitterly anti-Israel-- Institute for Policy Studies), a media that fostered public fears by playing up the most outlandish charges, carried the day. In March 1979 Three Mile Island proved the nail in the coffin when it came to building new nuclear power plants,

this although Edward Teller would famously say “I was the only victim of Three-Mile Island.” Teller explained that he went to Washington after the accident at Three Mile Island to refute the propaganda people like Ralph Nader and Jane Fonda were spewing to the news media. Teller said: “I am 71 years old and I was working 20 hours a day. The strain was too much. The next day, I suffered a heart attack.”

Those whom Miro fought so tenaciously for decades—and their disciples—are still firmly in the saddle, which explains why Miro’s death went unnoticed in the mainstream media while the likes of Fred Branfman, who died in October, have been eulogized. *The New York Times* and *Washington Post* both wrote at length of Branfman as the man who organized star-studded anti-Vietnam war demonstrations and co-founded the Indochina Resource Center. Both omitted the awkward fact that the Indochina Resource Center functioned in effect as a lobby for the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

Someday, if our decline is not terminal, there will arise a movement to restore academic standards to our colleges and universities, now crippled by political correctness and cultural and moral relativism. Someday the absurdity of the attack on our energy sources will be recognized (nuclear energy when Miro took up the cudgels, fossil fuels now that the know-nothings have moved on to the phony global warming apocalypse). When that day comes, Miro’s contribution will be rediscovered, reassessed and celebrated. He will be recognized as a hero in the intellectual wars of the latter years of the twentieth century.

Why State Dept. Defends UNRWA's Artificial "Refugee" Designations

Steven J. Rosen

Here is a paradox: UNRWA, the United Nations agency that manages the Palestinian refugee issue, follows rules that contradict United States law and policy, and its practices result in perpetuating and multiplying the refugee problem rather than resolving it. Yet the U.S. Department of State gives unquestioning support to UNRWA's refugee designation rules, even on occasion defending them in detail. How can this be?

For example, almost two million Palestinians who have long been settled in Jordan and have for decades enjoyed Jordanian citizenship are routinely counted as "refugees" by UNRWA, and the State Department supports it. This, in spite of the fact that, under U.S. law, a person who has citizenship in the country where he resides, and enjoys the protection of that state, cannot lawfully be eligible for refugee status. How can State justify this contradiction?

Here is a second example: Another two million Palestinians already settled in the West Bank and Gaza, and who, by their own account, live in the declared Palestinian state as its citizens under a Palestinian government, are registered as "refugees" by UNRWA. By American legal standards, these Palestinians are "firmly settled" and therefore ineligible for "refugee" status. Further, according to American policy reaffirmed by three Presidents, these Palestinians already reside in their own future state, the place where Palestinian refugees are meant to be settled. Yet the State Department supports UNRWA's decision to count two million Palestinians well established in the West Bank and Gaza as "refugees," too.

Here is a third example: Under U.S. laws and regulations, only an individual who was personally displaced, or is a spouse or an underage dependent of such an individual, can be eligible for refugee status or derivative refugee status.

Grandchildren and great-grandchildren are specifically not entitled to inherit refugee status merely because their ancestor was a refugee. But under UNRWA practices, any descendant of a male refugee, no matter how many generations and decades have passed, is automatically entitled to be

counted as a "refugee." More than 95% of today's UNRWA "refugees," in fact, were not even alive when Israel was born in 1948; were never personally displaced by Israel's creation, and are listed by UNRWA as "refugees" only because of this peculiar practice of inheriting refugee status as a birthright.

Amazingly, the State Department defends all this, sometimes with great specificity. In response



to critics of the descendency principle, for example, the State Department recently reported, with approval, that UNRWA is not the only UN agency following this inheritance rule; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) occasionally does, as well.

State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell told *Foreign Policy* magazine on May 25, 2012, "For purposes of their operations, the U.S. government supports this guiding principle." (State ignores that UNHCR grants

inherited refugee status only occasionally and as a special exception, while UNRWA treats it as the normal practice, justifying 95% of its "refugee" designations.)

The State Department is also inconsistent. If UNHCR were its standard, State would reject UNRWA's practice of counting Jordanian citizens as refugees. In not a single case does UNHCR count a person with citizenship as a refugee, while 40% of UNRWA's registrants are citizens of Jordan. In fact, UNHCR's authorizing statute, and the Refugee Convention that undergirds the agency, both explicitly forbid continuing "refugee" status when a person attains citizenship. UNRWA's authorizing document does not.

The State Department has shown that it will resist any change in its policy toward the UNRWA practices that exacerbate and perpetuate the refugee problem.

State is sanguine even about the fact that these UNRWA practices steadily inflate the number of alleged Palestinian refugees year after year, from 750,000 in 1950 to more than 5 million today, a sevenfold increase. "In protracted refugee situations, refugee groups experience natural population growth over time," State cheerfully affirmed in 2013.

The State Department has shown that it will resist any change in its policy toward the UNRWA practices that exacerbate and perpetuate the refugee problem. When Senator Mark Kirk introduced an amendment to the 2013 State Department Appropriations bill to force the Department to change, Deputy Secretary of State Thomas R. Nides fiercely objected: "Legislation which would force the United States to make a public judgment on the number and status of Palestinian refugees would be viewed... as the United States acting to prejudice a final status issue and determine the outcome."

This is the same State Department that, on more than 20 occasions during the Obama years, has ferociously and publicly castigated the government of Israel for constructing homes in disputed areas of Jerusalem and the West Bank, also a final status issue to be resolved between the parties. Apparently more Israeli homes hurt peace, but multiplying the number of refugees is fine.

Nides said that any divergence from UNRWA's rules would "hurt our efforts to promote Middle East peace... undercut our ability to act as a mediator and peace facilitator... damage confidence between the parties, [and]...hurt our efforts to prevent the Palestinians from...pursuit of statehood via the United Nations." He continued that it would also "generate very strong negative reaction" because this is "one of the most sensitive final status issues" that "strikes a deep, emotional, chord," especially at this "particularly fragile...[and] sensitive time." It would, he claimed, "be seen as a diminution of support for the Palestinian people" and "put at risk the humanitarian needs of this large, poor, and vulnerable refugee group." And, he added, it would "risk a very negative and potentially destabilizing impact on key allies, particularly Jordan."

This frightening Parade of Horribles was assembled by the State Department bureaus to scare away a compromise amendment that would leave UNRWA intact as a social service delivery agency, remove not one person from its beneficiary rolls, and cut not a dime from its budget. All the amendment had said, in effect, was that the UNRWA beneficiaries may be needy people deserving of assistance, but they are not "refugees." Yet those are the words State cannot bear to be uttered.

The government of Israel would agree with Nides that "UNRWA serves as an important counterweight to extremist organizations such as Hamas and Hezbollah" and that "any void left by UNRWA would be likely be filled by terrorist elements." But supporting UNRWA's schools and hospitals, and its stabilizing role, does not require that the United States government continue to call UNRWA beneficiaries "refugees" when they are not. UNRWA's own Consolidated Eligibility & Registration Instructions do not require UNRWA beneficiaries to be classified as "refugees"-- its Section III.A.2 and Section III.B create classes of UNRWA beneficiaries not registered as "refugees" but who are nonetheless eligible for UNRWA services.

The sad reality is that the United States' Department of State does not want such simple reforms. The U.S. State Department has, instead, chosen instead to act as UNRWA's patron and the protector of its mission, perpetuating and expanding the refugee issue as a source of conflict against Israel.

Steven J. Rosen is Director of the Washington Project of the Middle East Forum. This is excerpted from www.GatestoneInstitute.org of September 30.

Metropolitan Opera Stifles Free Exchange of Ideas about a Propaganda Opera

Alan Dershowitz

On Monday night I went to the Metropolitan Opera. I went for two reasons: to see and hear John Adams' controversial opera, *The Death of Klinghoffer*; and to see and hear what those protesting the Met's judgment in presenting the opera had to say. Peter Gelb, the head of the Met Opera, had advised people to see it for themselves and then decide.

That's what I planned to do. Even though I had written critically of the opera—based on reading the libretto and listening to a recording—I was also critical of those who wanted to ban or censor it. I wanted personally to experience all sides of the controversy and then "decide."

Lincoln Center made that difficult. After I bought my ticket, I decided to stand in the Plaza of Lincoln Center, across the street and in front of the protestors, so I could hear what they were saying and read what was on their signs. But Lincoln Center security refused to allow me to stand anywhere in the large plaza. They pushed me to the side and to the back, where I could barely make out the content of the protests. "Either go into the opera if you have a ticket or leave. No standing." When I asked why I couldn't remain in the large, open area between the protestors across the street and the opera house behind me, all I got were terse replies: "security," "Lincoln Center orders."

The end result was that the protestors were talking to and facing an empty plaza. It would be as if the Metropolitan Opera had agreed to produce *The Death of Klinghoffer*, but refused to allow anyone to sit in the orchestra, the boxes or the grand tier. "Family circle, upstairs, side views only."

That's not freedom of expression, which requires not only that the speakers be allowed to express themselves, but that those who want to see and hear them be allowed to stand in an area in

front of, and close to, the speakers, so that they can fully participate in the marketplace of ideas. That marketplace was needlessly restricted on the opening night of *The Death of Klinghoffer*.

Unable to see or hear the content of the protest, I made my way to the opera house where I first registered a protest with the Met's media person and then sat down in my fourth row seat to listen and watch the opera.

I'm an opera fanatic, having been to hundreds of Met performances since my high school years.



This was my third opera since the beginning of the season, just a few weeks ago. I consider myself something of an opera aficionado and "maven." I always applaud, even flawed performances and mediocre operas. By any standard, *The Death of Klinghoffer* is anything but the "masterpiece" its proponents are claiming it is. The music is uneven, with some lovely choruses—more on

that coming—one decent aria, and lots of turgid recitatives. The libretto is awful. The drama is confused and rigid, especially the weak device of the captain looking back at the events several years later with the help of several silent passengers. There are silly and distracting arias from a British show girl who seems to have had a crush on one of the terrorists, as well as from a woman who hid in her cabin eating grapes and chocolate. They added neither to the drama nor the music of the opera.

Then there were the choruses. The two that open the opera are supposed to demonstrate the comparative suffering of the displaced Palestinians and the displaced Jews. The Palestinian chorus is beautifully composed musically, with some compelling words, sung rhythmically and sympathetically. The Jewish chorus is a mishmash of whining about money, sex, betrayal and assorted "Hasidim" protesting in front of movie theaters. It never mentions the six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust, though the chorus is supposed to be sung by its survivors. The goal of that narrative chorus is to compare the displacement of 700,000 Palestinians—some of which was caused by Arab leaders urging them to leave and return victoriously after the Arabs murdered the Jews of Israel—with the systematic genocide of six million Jews. It was a moral abomination.

And it got worse. The Palestinian murderer is played by a talented ballet dancer, who is portrayed sympathetically. A chorus of Palestinian women asks the audience to understand why he would be driven to terrorism. "We are not criminals," the terrorist assures us.

One of the terrorists—played by the only Black lead singer—is portrayed as an overt anti-Semite, expressing hateful tropes against "the Jews". But he is not the killer. Nor, in this opera, is Klinghoffer selected for execution because he is a Jew. Instead, he is picked because he is a loudmouth who can't control his disdain for the Palestinian cause.

At bottom *The Death of Klinghoffer*—a title deliberately selected to sanitize his brutal murder—is more propaganda than art. It has some artistic moments but the dominant theme is to create a false moral equivalence between terrorism and its victims, between Israel and Palestinian terrorist groups, and between the Holocaust and the self-inflicted *Nakba*. It is a mediocre opera, by a good composer and very bad librettist. But you wouldn't know that from the raucous standing ovations received not only by the performers and chorus master, who deserved them, but also by the composer, who did not. The applause was not for the art. Indeed, during the intermission and on the way out, the word I heard most often was "boring." The over-the-top standing ovations were for the "courage" displayed by all those involved in the production. But it takes little courage to be anti-Israel these days, or to outrage Jews. There were, to be sure, a few brief expressions of negative opinion during the opera, one of which was

briefly disruptive, as an audience member repeatedly shouted "Klinghoffer's murder will never be forgiven." He was arrested and removed.

What would require courage would be for the Met to produce an opera that portrayed Mohammad, or even Yassir Arafat, in a negative way. The protests against such portrayals would not be limited to a few shouts, some wheelchairs and a few hundred distant demonstrators. Remember the murderous reaction to a few cartoons several years ago.

Alan Dershowitz is an attorney and author. This appeared on www.GatestoneInstitute.org on October 21, 2014

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The BDS Movement – An Orwellian Campaign to Destroy Israel

Ruth King

In 2010 the British writer Howard Jacobson won the prestigious Man Booker prize for his book *The Finkler Question* which satirizes writers, artists and academics who belong to a Jewish group named "ASH-amed." The title refers to their shame and sorrow that the Jews of Israel stoop to the venal sin of defending their nation against its enemies.

While ASHamed was a parody, the BDS movement to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel has become a powerful threat to the economy and existence of Israel.

Far more insidious than the hazy, hypocritical, ignorant and selective preaching and preening of leftists who moan and groan about settlements and occupation in Israel, are celebrities, performers and academics who level destructive libels of ethnic cleansing and apartheid, using Nazi metaphors to delegitimize the only real democracy in the entire region.

Much has been written on the subject, but The London Center for Policy Research, a think tank founded and headed by Herbert London has produced a first and essential book *The BDS War Against Israel—The Orwellian Campaign to Destroy Israel Through the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement*. It exposes the radical agenda and willing participation



of companies, organizations, charities, academics, and a motley group of useful Jewish idiots who demonize Israel under the pretense of “humanitarian” concerns.

How did it start and how did it gain such traction?

The authors, Jed Babbin and Herbert London, meticulously expose the founding, the funding, the participating groups, the tactics and the underlying anti-Semitism of the BDS movement, which sells itself under the guise of the pursuit of “social justice.” It uses propaganda, disinformation, and outright libel to shift world opinion by depicting Israel as a rogue nation that routinely oppresses and disenfranchises a beleaguered minority of hapless Arabs. Thus, is Israel placed among nations ruled by despots and barbarians such as North Korea and Cuba, and, ironically, its surrounding Arab enemies.

The success of the movement is staggering. In nine years the BDS movement has persuaded a gullible left, both internationally and in the United States to 1. create global boycotts of Israeli universities and industries (purportedly only those that do business in the “occupied” West Bank) 2. to persuade nations, banks, companies and industries to divest themselves of investments in banks, companies and industries in Israel 3. to obtain international sanctions against Israel, its economy, and its people.

The muse of the BDS movement is Omar Barghouti, a Palestinian Arab “activist” who, in a perversion of “academic freedoms and freedom of speech” was a tenured Professor at Tel-Aviv University!

In his book, a screed titled *Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions* Barghouti fulminates:

“Israel is fascist and racist.”

“Israel is an apartheid state.”

“Israel will commit genocide against the Palestinians unless constrained by BDS.”

“Israel has committed war crimes against Palestinians in Gaza since 2007.”

And then, he lets it all hang out with this:

“Fundamental Jewish religious law provides for massacres and genocide of non-Jewish civilians including children”.....!!!!

Remember, Barghouti is a “moderate.”

As the authors point out, the BDS movement has engaged a number of American academics, performers and writers, but it is in Europe that it has been encouraged and even indirectly funded by governments and NGOs.

Only this past January, a major Dutch fund manager, PGGM, announced divestment from five Israeli banks that do business in the West Bank--a move involving tens of millions of euros. And, there are dozens of examples cited by the authors. An appendix details the nations, NGOs, and organizations that fund BDS.

Jed Babbin suggests that Israel and its supporters ally themselves with the evangelical Christian community and other supporters in the Rocky Mountain and Midwest states to oppose the BDS movement. This is good advice. Since its inception AFSI has promoted strong ties with the evangelical community. Furthermore, my own project detailing every single congressional district in the forthcoming elections clearly discloses that overwhelmingly support for Israel comes from conservative Republicans.

Herbert London laments the lack of a concerted Jewish opposition to the BDS movement and the appalling number of Jewish groups which actually support it. In supporting canards about Israel they may find comfort in trendy lefty dinner parties, but they ignore the essential truth that Jed Babbin and Herbert London understand. A strong and defensible Israel is the guarantor of the safety of Jews wherever they may dwell.

We are in the debt of Babbin and London and extremely grateful to the London Center for Policy Research for this book.

For the sake of Israel, buy it, read it, circulate it and promote it as often and as best you can.

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