
OUTPOST



January 2015—Issue #283

PUBLISHED BY AMERICANS FOR A SAFE ISRAEL

44th Year of Publication

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Buji's Hanukah Gift

William Mehlman

Branch Rickey, Major League Baseball's philosopher-in-residence for over half a century, once defined luck as the "residue of design." He never met Benjamin Netanyahu, which is rather a pity, because in the actions of Israel's prime minister he would have been witness to the most demanding test of his theorem in the annals of contemporary politics. For whatever Mr. Netanyahu may have thought he was "designing" in his disembowelment of an admittedly rocky but serviceable ruling coalition with a contract extending into 2017, it appears to have had as much to do with luck as testing the elasticity of a concrete pavement with one's nose.

The timing of this feat of derring-don't could not have been more exquisite. The prime minister's decision to wager his leadership of the Jewish State against the shifting sensibilities of a post-war electorate showing signs of having become overly accustomed to his face coincides altogether too closely with the seating in January of what is likely to be the most pro-Israel U.S. Congress in a quarter century. It is a House and Senate ready to raise the capitol dome over any White House notion of withholding America's veto of a proposed UN Security Council attempt to box Israel into a EU-inspired two-year ultimatum for the creation of a Hamas-partnered "Palestinian state" within the parameters of the indefensible pre-June 1967 cease-fire lines. It is a Congress that has informed the White House that it will not brook "even the mention of U.S. sanctions" against Israel over the issue of Jewish housing construction in Jerusalem or Judea and Samaria. Finally, it is a Congress that will use every lever of power at its command to meet Israel's most urgent need: a ratcheting up of sanctions to the pain level on a nuclear-bent Iran. Gifting Obama, Kerry and the Europeans at this critical juncture with a concession-oriented Jerusalem government relatively indifferent to this agenda would be tantamount to an Israeli plea of *non compos mentis*.

If a normally super-cautious Benjamin Netanyahu lost enough of his cool over a tepid challenge to his power from coalition partner Yair Lapid (Yesh Atid) to precipitate a \$2 billion March election nobody wants, his chief challenger-presumptive for the premiership, Labor Party chairman Isaac ("Buji") Herzog, may very well have lost his head. With Israel's predominantly Leftist media all but having anointed him as the polls began to oscillate in his favor, Buji dropped a bombshell. Eschewing all arguments to the contrary, he announced that Labor would be running on a joint slate in March with the *Hatnuah* party of former Likud coalition Justice Minister Tsipi Livni. Herzog additionally let it be known that his agreement with *Hatnuah*, a party that stands on the brink of extinction under a newly elevated 3.25 percent electoral threshold for Knesset representation, includes a rotational agreement with Livni that will allow her to replace him as prime minister over the last two years of his four-year term.



Isaac (Buji) Herzog

Herzog's gift of half his kingdom to a political vagabond who has jumped in and out of four parties over the last 10 years has suddenly injected new life into a flagging Likud, while leaving foes preparing to glory in its demise in a state of apoplexy. Writing under the headline "Livni Will Destroy Herzog Too" *Ha'aretz* political analyst Israel Harel declared that "it was not ego Herzog set aside [in granting Livni] frightful concessions, but rather wisdom." The entire Leftwing bloc, he warns, "will pay the political price for the service fee he gave to this aggressive, fickle, quarrelsome and politically unrestrained character."

Predicting that Herzog's promise to Livni of "half the kingdom will turn out to be the mistake of his life," Harel bitterly characterized the Labor chairman's pride in his absence of ego as "nothing more than a lack of leadership. In this case he isn't an altruist, he's a loser."

Weighing in on the more practical political consequences of the Herzog-Livni prime ministerial rotation agreement, Harel's *Ha'aretz* colleague Yossi Verder opined that it pretty much obviated any chance of Labor enticing Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman and his repositioned centrist *Israel Beitenu* party or the new economic reform-minded *Kulanu* party launched by former Likud Welfare Minister Moshe Kahlon into a proposed coalition of the Center-Left to unseat Bibi Netanyahu. "If anyone thinks either of them," who together could have brought 24 seats to the table, "will bow their heads to such an arrangement, he is either a genius or a fool."

The genius option isn't getting much play.

William Mehlman represents AFSI in Israel

From the Editor

Addled for *Adalah*?

Most of those who support *Adalah* (which describes itself as "an independent human rights organization and legal center" defending the rights of Palestinian Arab Israeli citizens) know that they support an organization that rejects the legitimacy of the Jewish state.

As NGO Monitor notes, *Adalah's* data base on "Racist Laws" is cited repeatedly as proof of Israeli discrimination against its Arab citizens in campaigns against Israel and in the *New York Times* (which is on a permanent anti-Israel campaign). *Adalah* offers as evidence of "racism" the use of the Menorah on an Israeli stamp, the use of the Hebrew date in government correspondence, the Star of David on Israel's flag. Of the 101 laws listed as discriminatory 44 were "proposed" and never became law; others are misquoted. Not surprisingly, *Adalah* officials played an active role in the infamous 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism in Durban which crystalized a policy of complete and total isolation of Israel as an apartheid state.

NGO Monitor reports that foreign NGOs and countries have been pouring money into *Adalah*. For example in 2012 alone Christian Aid gave it \$193,000, Oxfam \$507,000, ACSUR, a Spanish NGO that supposedly strengthens "grassroots organizations" \$113,000, EED, a German nonprofit \$360,000—the total from European sources was just under \$2,000,000.

Even more disturbing, the Jews have not been far behind. The New Israel Fund between 2008 and 2013 gave or channeled grants worth \$1,673,634 to *Adalah*. Many Jews who contribute to the New Israel Fund are doubtless fooled by its claim to be a pro-Israel organization. They are addled rather than evil. The end result is the same—they fund the campaign for Israel's destruction.

Plaut Channels Peres

Steven Plaut has forwarded a letter from Shimon Peres to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan (OK, a letter he might easily have written). In it Israel's much admired political thinker provides valuable advice on how to respond to the Taliban's terror attack on a school in Peshawar that left 130 students dead. Here is an excerpt:

"You must invite the leaders of the Taliban responsible for the bloodshed to meet with you. The Taliban are entitled to self-determination and national sovereignty! The attack on the Peshawar school came about because you have been insufficiently sensitive to the needs of the Other. Moreover if you

refuse to negotiate with them, then their leaders will be toppled and a violent extremist group will take charge.

“Violence never achieves anything. History has no lessons. History is the dead past. Follow my example! Provide the Taliban with anti-aircraft and anti-tank missiles so that they can battle against the true radicals and extremists. Mister Prime Minister, my own peace policies have eliminated war, bloodshed and terror from the Middle East. If you follow in my footsteps, you can achieve the same lofty goals.”

A Footnote on Peshawar

Mark Steyn provides an interesting addendum: “Re that hospital the survivors of the schoolhouse massacre were taken to: do you know who Lady Reading Hospital is named after? The



Lady Reading Hospital, Peshawar

Marchioness of Reading was born Alice Cohen, the daughter of a Jewish merchant in London. She married a barrister called Rufus Isaacs, who in 1921 as Lord Reading became Viceroy of India—the first Jew to hold the highest office in the Raj. Alice Reading devoted her time as vicereine to charity and health issues, and was the driving force behind the construction of proper medical

facilities in Peshawar. So here we are nine decades later: Jew-hate is endemic among the hard men of Islam. But, when it comes to treating wounded Muslim schoolchildren, the only game in town is a hospital founded by a Jew.

India: A Tectonic Shift?

The newspaper *The Hindu* reports that the Modi government is considering altering India’s automatic supporting vote for the Palestinians at the UN to abstention. While India has been cooperating with Israel in many areas, Israel complains that New Delhi treats her as a “mistress”—keeping the bilateral relationship from public sight.

While voting against anti-Israel resolutions would be better than abstaining on them, abstention is an important step forward. There are friends of Israel who argue that Israel must make preemptive concessions to ward off EU sanctions. This is a reminder that caving in to Arab demands only undercuts Israel’s position. An Israel that stands her ground can eventually find that the diplomatic situation changes in her favor.

Ruth King on the Lessons of Chanukah

I love Chanukah, particularly in New York City. The days are short and by late afternoon the city glows with Christmas lights, menorahs, and enticing shop windows with extravagant displays. I love crispy potato fritters (latkes) with apple sauce and exchange of presents with my kids and grandchildren. It is a happy holiday with a very serious side.

First: It is a happy holiday which celebrates the miraculous lasting of oil for the candles. We see that today as we celebrate the emergence of energy independence in America and Israel with vast supplies in both nations of domestic sources of fuel.

Second: It is a serious holiday that celebrates the triumph of faith and principles against wicked tyrants and faithless coreligionists who worshipped Hellenist idols and profaned the Torah. The word Chanukah actually means “rededication.”

In our great nation we are beset by modern “Hellenists” who profane democracy by worshipping and promoting cults and falsehoods such as man-made global warming; the so called war

on women; the politically correct notions of root causes for savage behavior; prescriptions for peace that enable enemies; domestic “compassionate” agendas that enslave citizens with perpetual gripes and entitlements; total hypocrisy, confusion and double standards in judging allies such as Israel; and finally, a disdain for and perversion of our great founding principles.

I pray for an American Chanukah--a rededication in America to capitalism, entrepreneurship, academic freedom and the blessings of democracy for all our citizens..

Microaggression



Behold a new addition to the vocabulary of insult, oppression, hurt, pain, distress, anxiety, affliction, discomfort that overwhelms the coddled student body at our elite colleges. Seeing the SodaStream label on filtered water machines in some dining halls so distraught members of the College Palestine Solidarity Committee and Harvard Islamic Society that they demanded the machines be removed. Rachel Sandalow-Ash of the Harvard College Progressive Jewish Alliance was supportive. “These [machines] can be seen as a microaggression to Palestinian students and their families.” Harvard University Dining Services decided to remove the labels and henceforth buy from other companies.

In a rare display of sanity, Harvard’s President Drew Faust and Provost Alan Garber stepped in and reversed the decision.

Itself caving to insanity, SodaStream is shutting down its factory in Maale Adumim, which is barely over the green line and would clearly remain in Israel in any Israeli territorial withdrawal short of the state’s extinction.

Germany’s Carbon Mania

In the Australian journal *Quadrant* Tony Thomas reports on the latest manifestation of Germany’s green craziness. In her crusade to save the planet Environment and Nature Conservation Minister Barbara Hendricks has spent 1.5 million euros producing a series of 30 second videos. One promotes sex in the dark. It shows a girl coming home late to discover her parents making out with the lights on in the living room. She turns out the lights and a voiceover says “The world says ‘Thanks.’”

Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, the government’s climate protection adviser, has proposed the creation of CO2 budgets for every person on the planet. What happens when someone exceeds his budget? Is he fined? Jailed? Brought before the International Court of Justice? Schellnhuber hasn’t specified.

Thomas writes that we’ll soon see how Germany’s swing to wind and solar pans out. The national grid is already precarious because of the big fluctuations in wind and solar power feed-ins. Before 2006, grid operators rarely had to resort to emergency interventions to avert blackouts. Now such interventions are running at 3,500 a year.

Apart from vastly increasing the power supply’s vulnerability, the shift to sun and wind is economically insane. Germany’s wind and solar projects are getting 23 billion euros in annual subsidy to generate 2 billion euros worth of power. And that “renewable” power needs coal/nuclear backup.

All this to stave off a phony apocalypse based on garbage in/garbage out computer models.

Black Humor

At a conference on comedy as an agent of social change in Jerusalem the BBC’s Director of Television Danny Cohen lamented: “I’ve never felt so uncomfortable being a Jew in the UK as

I've felt in the last ten months. And it's made me think about, you know, is it our long-term home, actually? Because you feel it. I've felt it in a way I've never felt before."

A comedy conference was an appropriate place for these remarks. One source of comedy is surprising juxtapositions. What could be a more astonishing juxtaposition than a top executive of the BBC, which routinely demonizes Israel, complaining of anti-Semitism (while obviously himself seeing no connection between the two)?

Good News From Amazing Israel: Michael Ordman

Israel's Novocure has announced that its NovoTTF-100A portable scalp device extends the life of brain tumor patients. The device creates an alternating electric field and has had significant success in Phase 3 trials with patients receiving chemotherapy only.

Back in Feb 2012 I reported good pre-clinical trials of Israeli biotech BioLineRX's BL-7010 copolymer for the treatment of celiac disease, for which there is currently no cure or formal treatment. BioLineRX has now announced successful final results from its Phase 1/2 study of BL-7010.

A Marine who was left paralyzed by a sniper's bullet in Afghanistan walked to collect his Bronze Star in a ceremony at Camp Pendleton, using robotic leg braces developed by Israel's ReWalk Robotics.

Israel and the Cost of Being Too Clever

Steve Apfel

"Be not over righteous, nor too clever," Solomon, a profoundly righteous and clever king, warns Israel for all time. His words speak cogently to modern Israel, at liberty to act for the good of its people, not least with regards to land.

If only Israel took the wise king's early warning to heart. Echelons of Israeli leaders and society chose to be exactly what Solomon warned them not to be: over-righteous and too clever.

Can anyone dispute that more ingenuity has gone into schemes to give away territory won against the odds than into schemes to keep territory for the benefit of Israel's own people? Magnanimous is hardly the word. Foolhardy might be.

I'm sure one could turn up some example, but you'd have to dig pretty deep to come up with another nation that gave away parts of a tiny country to a well-disposed neighbor. To come up with another nation that handed its land on a platter to implacable foes you'd have far deeper to dig. Foolhardy is hardly the word. Nihilistic might be.

Like a child craving attention, Israel looked about for compliments only to have to ward off cudgels. "Barbaric barbarians" a celebrity called Israel for the way it conducted the last of three mini-wars in Gaza, the strip it had made a gift of to a rocket-firing, tunneling enemy. "Systematic murderers" a British documentary maker called Israel for the way it stemmed waves of suicide attacks rolling in from the 'West Bank', Israel's gift of real estate to bombers in human disguise.

The world forgets Israel's open-handed sharing, yet remembers her every 'disproportionate' attack. You'd have to dig pretty deep to come up with another people universally maligned after giving away land for nothing but the holy grail of peace. Ungrateful is hardly the word. Perverse might be...Or contempt, even from Israel's big-brother ally.

"The sad fact is that the United States has no appealing (Middle East) partners left today... Israel is wrapping up its latest outrage against the Palestinians – to no lasting strategic purpose. The "special relationship" with Israel also fuels anti-Americanism and makes Washington look both hypocritical and

ineffectual in the eyes of much of the world.” So writes Harvard Professor Stephen Walz, a voice held in high regard among the American Administration’s foreign policy echelons.

How bitter are the wages from being too righteous and clever. How self-defeating. How costly in hard currency. Thriving Jewish communities uprooted, economic activity disrupted, war debts incurred, worldwide Jews attacked and demonized, diplomatic ties frayed or broken. Not to forget death.

Rabbis at prayer slaughtered like sheep. Sons and daughters abducted, run down shot and knifed: the payback for weak-bellied appeasements. Never mind the terror it brought; does the international community love Israel any better?



Yamit about to be demolished

Sinai was Israel’s first give-away, and the easiest. Opposition to the dismantling of Jewish communities in the Sinai was weak because it was out of sight out of mind. No more than a vacation spot to many, Sinai was dispensable. In 1982 Israel’s own bulldozers obliterated Yamit with barely a shout.

Oslo was different. The Accords were no less than Israel’s epiphany or Road to Damascus. Oslo marked a quick and extreme conversion from old beliefs to a new faith in miraculously turning enemies into friends by giving land away. In the 1990’s land for peace became the holy of holies. Israeli acceptance of the idea of a PLO state in the so-called West Bank marked a departure from four millennia of ties to the land, two millennia of fervent longing to return to the land, and a century of Zionist endeavour.

Arch enemy Arafat was invited...no, enticed to come back and set up shop in Ramallah. There were prophetic warnings. The prophetic Rebbe warned from Crown Heights about territorial integrity. He quoted Maimonides that the beginning of all defeat is retreat. Over and over he said that giving up territory would not lead to peace but to murdered Jews.

And so it proved. In quick time thousands of Jews paid for Oslo with their lives or their limbs. Israel paid for the scheme by being nominated for the villain’s role. Post Oslo the international community thought of Israel as Goliath and the Palestinians as the hero David armed with a sling and a stone.

Yet the fallout was as nothing compared to the fallout from retreating out of Gaza. Israel’s 2005 unilateral pullout outdid its other giveaways by the proverbial mile. “I have applied my mind to know ...madness and folly,” said King Solomon.

Of all Israel’s follies nothing surely beats Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s brainchild. His unilateral withdrawal from Gaza began one day after the national day of Jewish mourning and wailing in the month of Av. There were dire warnings aplenty. Sharon went ahead, demolished twenty thriving Jewish communities and pulled the IDF out of Gaza. Misguided is hardly the word. Too clever by half may be right. The Israeli leader told American Jewish leaders in Washington that withdrawal from Gaza would “reduce terror and give Israeli citizens the maximum level of security. It will increase security for the residents of Israel and relieve the pressure on the IDF and security forces.”

Nine years and three mini wars later we know that what happened was the exact opposite. When jihadist group Hamas took over Gaza from inept and corrupt PLO despots in 2007 the die was cast. Compared to the Oslo calamity, the cost in lives and limbs of the ‘Gaza give-away’ was paid most heavily by Palestinians.

For being over clever and righteous Israel paid in different currencies. Iron Dome, boots on the ground, air strikes and economic disruption were paid for in hard dollars.

Hundreds of killed and wounded soldiers and family members paid their own personal price. Depopulation of towns and kibbutzim abutting Gaza may presage a permanent no-man’s land.

Diaspora communities in Europe, Australia and South Africa are caught up in a maelstrom of violent hate. It is obvious that Jews, try as they might, can please or appease no one. Retreat is the beginning of all defeat. Consideration for the enemy means ultimate cruelty to kith and kin.

National suicide is the final cost for being too clever.

Steve Apfel is director of the School of Management Accounting, Johannesburg. His latest book Balaam n Modern Clothes: Enemies of Zion will be released in 2015. This appeared in The Commentator.com on Dec. 14, 2014.

From Sydney to Rome, Until Islam Rules the World

Dror Yemini

"One Ummah without the West; until Islam rules there will be no rest."

These words, said by children aged six to 13, were broadcast during a solidarity ceremony with the Islamic State, in which participants also waved the organization's flags.

It didn't happen in Mosul. The ceremony took place recently in one of the suburbs of Sydney. The shocking event was documented by the Australian 7News television news service. The irony is that the Sydney café where the hostage siege took place is located beside the network's offices.



The children participating in the ceremony are wearing Muslim clothes, speaking English. They are guided by adult jihadists. The education they receive is similar to the education in Gaza. The goal is not to free al-Aqsa. The goal is to free Sydney from the chains of democracy.

It turns out that there is no need for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, or for the occupation, to nurture hatred towards democracy and the West. The jihadists in Sydney are also calling for the death of US President Barack Obama and Syrian President Bashar Assad.

"It's sickening," Australian Immigration Minister Scott Morrison said in response to the video. The Australians are also trying to do something. The immigration policy is changing. The Israeli infiltration prevention bill is an embodiment of humanity compared to what is going on there.

By the way, one of the first terrorist attacks in the Islamic context was carried out on Australian soil. In as early as 1915, two Muslims murdered four train passengers. The assailants were killed. In a letter one of them left behind, he said he was defending the Ottoman caliphate and that "I must kill you and give my life for my faith, Allahu Akbar."

What has Australia done to them? Why prepare a cadre of children, starting from the age of 6, educate them to jihad and raise them as potential *shahidim* (martyrs)?

Australia hasn't done anything to them. They don't need someone to do something to them. That's because the global jihad organizations, from 1915 to this very day, from al-Shabaab to the Taliban, from Hamas to Islamic State, from Boko Haram to al-Qaeda, share the same ideology: Imposing Islam's rule on the entire world.

Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi said several weeks ago that the plan is to take over Rome. Why Rome? Yunis al-Astal, a Palestinian Parliament member for Hamas, explained even before

the ISIS declaration that Rome must be conquered because it is "the capital of the Catholics, or the Crusaders." All stops lead to Rome, including Sydney.

Most Muslims, including in Australia, are not jihad supporters. The problem, as always, is with the radical minority, which is trying to impose a nightmare. The problem is that the minority acts. Thousands of Westerners are joining ISIS. Not a single Muslim has come out of the West to join the battle against ISIS.

The Israeli-Arab conflict, or Israeli-Palestinian conflict, is becoming more religious. This change has another aspect. The West is very biased against Israel when it comes to the national conflict, the settlements, the occupation. The overdone support for a nonexistent Palestinian state is proof of that.

But on the other hand, as the conflict becomes more religious, there is much more solidarity with Israel. Because then, the war is not against Israel. The war is against Sydney and Rome.

It's true that the delusional margins in the left will continue to understand jihad, offer explanations for it and blame Israel. But the majority in the West is beginning to show signs of repulsion. It is running out of patience.

"It's okay that they don't want to be like us," a Norwegian journalist told me candidly, "but it's unacceptable that they want us to be like them."

But when we went back to talk about Israel, he returned to the old slogans.

What is happening in Australia won't wake the free world from its slumber. But another small alarm bell rang Monday. Let's just hope that the wake-up call won't arrive with a festival of bells.

Dror Yemini is a journalist for the Israeli daily Yediot Ahronot and author of Industry of Lies on anti-Israel incitement by the radical left, NGOs etc. This appeared in www.ynetnews.com on December 16, 2014

Democracy and the Jewish State

Daniel Greenfield

Editor's Note: The Wall Street Journal published a letter from Harvey Bines of Boston on Dec. 8 which zeroes in on the absurdity of the furor over the proposed "Jewish State" law. Replying to an op ed by Ellenson and Lipstadt that claimed the bill provided "fodder for Israel's critics," Bines wrote: "Has it occurred to those esteemed interlocutors that it might be just a bit more difficult to recognize Israel as a Jewish state—supposedly an absolute Israeli condition to a negotiated two state solution—if Israel won't recognize itself as a Jewish state?"

Never mind the Islamic State and its boxes of heads. The consensus among politicians and the media is that the real crisis in the region is that the Jewish State is declaring itself a Jewish State.

Again, Israel's flag carries the six-pointed star that was the seal of the House of David. Its anthem speaks of the "Jewish spirit." Israel's Declaration of Independence declared "the establishment of a Jewish State."

It couldn't be any less unambiguous if Mel Brooks were made the President of Israel. Despite that the media and its politicians treated the Jewish State bill as a major development and the end of the world.

And that's not an exaggeration.

The understated title of a *Haaretz* article was "The road from Jewish nation-state to the Gates of Hell." It was only to be expected that the radicals of the leftist paper would lose their minds over a bill that reaffirms reality. Reality has always been the enemy of the left.

The New York Times called the bill “heartbreaking.” This is the first time that the Gray Lady showed anything resembling a heart when it came to Israel.

The State Department, whose boss just decided to ignore the results of a democratic election and press on with his undemocratic agenda, warned Israel to maintain its “commitment to democratic principles.” The European Union, which rejects a democratic referendum, warned Israel to “protect its democratic standards.”

Obama, the EU and the Israeli left like talking about democracy. They just don’t like practicing it.

PLO leader Mahmoud Abbas declared, “We will never recognize the Jewishness of the state of Israel.” A PFLP official, the terrorist organization which claimed responsibility for the recent massacre of Rabbis in a synagogue, called the bill racist.

And yet the Palestinian basic law states that “the Palestinian people are part of the Arab nation.” There is no provision made for non-Arab Palestinians, even though the term was originally used to refer to all residents of the British Mandate for Palestine. There is no mention of the ten thousand Africans living in Gaza.

When it comes to religion, the basic law is even clearer.

“Islam is the official religion in Palestine,” it states. “The principles of Islamic Sharia shall be a principal source of legislation.”

Finally it adds that “Arabic shall be the official language.”

Are Islam and Arab Nationalism inherently more democratic than Judaism and Zionism? Certainly the radically different approaches to them by Israel’s critics are.

Arab Nationalists have made war on Israel with the open aim of genocide. Islamic leaders continue to call for the mass murder of Jews. But only Zionism was deemed racist by the UN under pressure from Arab and Muslim countries.

The State Department and the European Union fund the Palestinian Authority. They have no objection to its explicitly Arab and Islamic identity. The media, which acts as the unofficial public relations bureau of the PLO, has never objected to it. Certainly not the way its members have to a Jewish State.

Peres, the Jimmy Carter of Israel who sank his career by giving away the store to the PLO,



Bahai Temple in Haifa

warned that being a Jewish State threatens “Israel’s democratic status at home and abroad.” But Peres doesn’t feel that there’s anything wrong with the PLO’s Palestinian Authority even though its own president has dispensed with elections and the territory is being run by the PLO.

Can a Jewish State be less democratic than an Islamic terrorist state run by terrorists who no longer even bother holding elections?

The majority of Israelis support the Jewish State bill. The only thing standing in its

way is the undemocratic obstructionism of career leftists, media hysteria and politicians who are more comfortable denouncing Jews than living among them.

Despite having a Jewish majority, Israel has protected the rights of everyone living there. But there is nothing extraordinary about that. There are plenty of European countries with state churches and monarchs who carry religious titles which nonetheless protect the rights of all without prejudice.

There is only one of the big three religions today that engages in widespread religious discrimination. There are no churches allowed in Saudi Arabia (to say nothing of synagogues) because over a thousand years ago Mohammed had commanded the ethnic cleansing of Jews and Christians.

When Muslims want religious freedom, they don't go to a Muslim country. They go to a non-Muslim one such as America or Israel.

Minority religions descending from Islam such as the Ahmadis and the Baha'i live in peace in Israel. Indeed the Baha'i religion is based in Israel. Meanwhile Sunni and Shiite Muslims are killing each other all over the Middle East to settle an ancient tribal religious dispute.

At a time when the Muslim Middle East is becoming less religiously diverse than ever and when Christians are vanishing from territories under PLO control, Israel continues to be a place where Jews, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, atheists and a dizzying variety of beliefs and unbeliefs live side by side.

Israel, like any other country, has things that it can be criticized for, but it's curious that the same outpouring of outrage doesn't appear when it comes to the PLO arresting an atheist for criticizing Islam.

The media praises backward Muslim theocracies and their pet Imams who are dispatched to the West to preach hate. It calls the explicitly theocratic Muslim Brotherhood, which spawned numerous terrorist groups including Al Qaeda, "moderate." It gives the benefit of the doubt to the Islamic terrorist theocracy in Tehran no matter how many times it calls for the destruction of America and Israel.

Is the problem with the Jewish State that it's Jewish or is the real problem that it isn't Muslim?

If Israel were putting forward a bill to call itself a Muslim state, there would be no objections. Just as there were no objections to the constitutions of the Muslim world which declare that those countries are Islamic, just as there are no objections to the PLO which Israel is expected to turn over territory to.

Arguments can be made against the Jewish State bill. But anyone who objects to it, but doesn't object to the Islamic political and legal identities of the Palestinian Authority and the Muslim countries of the region, isn't defending a broad universal principle. He's pandering to Muslims and attacking Jews.

This is a slightly shortened version of an article that appeared in frontpagemag on December 1, 2014.

Time to Wake Up

Dror Eydar

1. They haven't woken up yet. Certainly not in Australia. Even after the deadly terrorist attack at a cafe in Sydney, parts of the institutionalized Australian media are still trying to delude their audience, maintaining that it was a "lone-wolf" who perpetrated the horrific assault. The Australian prime minister "took comfort" in the knowledge that the assailant had a history of mental illness.

A European court decided this week that Hamas is not a terrorist organization -- it is a charity group with some "lone-wolf" members. The West's basic instincts have become dull, after decades of suppressing its own survival mechanism by self-imposing a stern "politically correct" regime. Most of the leading figures in the West (and in Israel) are more concerned with how they are perceived by the community, and that they say the "correct" words that they are allowed to say, than they are with actually confronting the truth.

Who is responsible for most of the terrorist acts around the world today? Mother Theresa? What percentage of Muslims support militant Islamist organizations? These are not "lone-wolves" -- this is a serious phenomenon with grave implications on the free world. It is something that needs to be confronted, rather than ganging up on anyone who points it out.

In February 2007, Professor Raphael Israeli -- an international expert on Islam and professor at Hebrew University -- was interviewed by an Australian newspaper. In the interview, Israeli warned that

the Muslim minority living in the continent posed a real threat to the Australians. His studies suggest that life can become unbearable when the Muslim population of a Western country reaches critical mass (in one study he even attached a number to this idea of critical mass: 10 percent of the general population). It is a rule of thumb, he said, and if it applies everywhere, it certainly applies in Australia.

As an example, he cited the riots in Paris in 2006. Israeli suggested that the Australians ban the



Hostages hold up Islamic banner

entry of Muslim radicals and adopt a preventative approach to avoid flooding the continent with immigrants from Indonesia. Muslim immigrants, he argued, have a reputation of taking advantage of Western tolerance and hospitality to advance their own ends. Trains in London and in Madrid were not blown up by Christians or Buddhists. They were blown up by Muslims. Precautions must be taken, he warned.

Not too far from Australia, in Bali, Islamist organizations perpetrated two horrifying terrorist attacks in 2002 and in 2005. Bali bomber Amrozi bin Nurhasin, who was charged with causing the deaths of more than 200 people, stood up in court in front of the global media and cried out "Jews! Remember Khaibar. The army of Muhammad is coming back to defeat you." Not one of the 200 victims was Jewish. The Australians watched, read the warnings, and went back to what they were doing.

When Israeli was interviewed, the Bali attacks were still fresh, but the regime political correctness made sure to take the string out. Israeli became the target of a Bolshevik-style witch hunt. He was accused of racism, xenophobia, and was called a plethora of derogatory names. He received death threats. In response, the Middle East expert told the Australians to wait and see what happens. This week, one would hope that the Australians recalled Israeli's cautionary words. Maybe some of them wondered why they didn't heed his warning. Maybe.

2. On Monday, radio personality Tali Lipkin-Shahak interviewed Professor Israeli. It wasn't the interview that was notable, but the style in which it was conducted -- a style shared particularly by many Israeli journalists, and Western journalists in general. "You were ahead of your time," she said to him. Israeli replied that he had been investigating the Muslim "diaspora" in Western countries for over a decade, and that in that time the Muslim population has grown to alarming proportions.

"But why do you attribute violent intentions to the immigration process?" the interviewer asked him. "Joseph also immigrated to Egypt," she remarked, evoking the Book of Genesis.

True, the professor answered, remarking that he had written five books on the subject, "but Joseph's family had not proclaimed that it planned to conquer Egypt or to convert Egypt to become Israelite."

"The Muslims explicitly say that they did not come to Europe in order to become European, but to Islamize Europe." They have vowed that a Muslim flag will wave over 10 Downing Street in England and over Versailles Palace in France within 25 years, he explained.

Lipkin-Shahak then said that "one can always [always!] talk about those people in terms of a negligible, extremist minority, including the terrorist attackers." Even ISIS, she said, "has no more than several thousand members."

Israeli insisted that these atrocities are nothing new. In the past, Muslims who immigrated to Australia, Scandinavia and Germany, as well as other places, have perpetrated very serious attacks.

The overly concerned interviewers rushed to protect the ears of her tender listeners, saying "I have to be the one to tone things down, or at least present the opposing view," she said. "What you are saying, it is very serious. You are vilifying an entire population; you are contributing to the process of hatred and counter-hatred, which only causes harm and intensifies the violence."

Israeli was not surprised. "That is exactly what they told me in Australia, until they became the victims of a catastrophe...This is my job. Anyone who wants to listen can listen. Anyone who doesn't, they can wait for the next catastrophe."

Lipkin-Shahak stuck to her guns: "We listened, but we voiced a skeptical opinion. We disagree."

"What are you basing your opinion on?" Israeli wondered in desperation. "I am basing my opinion on thirty years of research, studying Islam, and you are basing yours on a trend, on the fact that it is not nice to say these things. We are talking on two completely different planes."

Indeed, two completely different worlds. Facts vs. beliefs. Reality vs. fantasy. Make love not war; imagine there are no countries, and no religion too. A very special kind of liberal fundamentalism. The moment the truth comes knocking, they retreat into their politically correct shells and refuse to recognize the facts. There is no such thing as Muslim terrorism. The terrorists come from outer space. Islam is a religion of peace and we mustn't link it to all these terrible acts perpetrated in its name. Sadly, the people who think this way -- the politically correct -- have the microphone. The researcher with the facts is only a momentary guest.

3. The politically correct mechanism that launders the language that we use makes it very hard to express doubt in these John Lennon-esque fantasies, like the Oslo Accords for example. It may be hard to believe, but the principles of the Oslo Accords are still being marketed, under new names, to this day. Case in point: The recent empty declarations made by newfound partners Tzipi Livni and Isaac Herzog regarding their ability to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

For our own good, we need to examine the remarks made by the late Arab-Palestinian minister Ziad Abu Ein, who, in 1979, murdered Boaz Lahav of Tiberias and David Lankri of Beit Shean and seriously wounded five others when he detonated an explosive device inside a trash can on a busy Tiberias street.

In July, 2006, Abu Ein told Al-Alam Iranian television that "the Oslo Accords are not the dream of the Palestinian people. However, there would never have been resistance in Palestine without Oslo. Oslo is the effective and potent greenhouse which embraced the Palestinian resistance."

"Without Oslo, there would never have been resistance. In all the occupied territories, we could not move a single pistol from place to place. Without Oslo, and being armed through Oslo, and without the Palestinian Authority's A areas, without the training, the camps, the protection afforded by Oslo, and without the freeing of thousands of Palestinian prisoners through Oslo -- this Palestinian resistance and we would not have been able to create this great Palestinian Intifada."

Isn't it time to wake up?

This appeared in www.israelhayom, where Eydar is a columnist, on Dec. 19, 2014.

England And The Jews – A Chequered But Bitter History

Ruth King

From the time that Jews arrived in England in significant numbers in 1066 they were persecuted, unfairly fined and taxed and accused of ritual murders--which, unsurprisingly, led to massacres.

Successive monarchs condoned this systematic oppression. When Henry II died in 1189, King Richard the First (the Lionhearted) was preoccupied with the Third Crusade. During his absence, Jews were stoned, tortured and murdered. Upon his return in 1194, Richard established the Exchequer of the Jews, a catalogue of all Jewish holdings in England which the crown could and did arbitrarily seize.

Richard's successors, Henry III and Edward I brought no relief, as Jews were forced to wear yellow badges and again accused of ritual murders. They were stripped of all landholding rights and, when they died, their belongings devolved to the crown.

On June 15, 1215 The Magna Carta was issued stating: "No freeman shall be taken, imprisoned, disseised, outlawed, banished, or in any way destroyed, nor will We proceed against or prosecute him, except by the lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land." But even in the highly vaunted declaration, clauses 10 and 11--now airbrushed by historians--were overtly anti-Semitic, depicting Jews as rapacious money lenders. On July 18, 1290 Edward I expelled the Jews, making England the first European country to do so. Their banishment lasted 350 years until Oliver Cromwell readmitted them in 1665.

In fact not all Jews left. Many Jewish converts remained in Britain posing as Spaniards--hence the name "conversos." Occasionally the "Spanish" merchants were arrested on suspicion of being Jews--but individuals still managed to operate tacitly in trade hubs such as London and Bristol. Henry VIII often hired "converso" musicians and consulted Jews as legal advisers. During Elizabeth's reign (1558- 1603) Rodrigo Lopez served as court physician to Queen Elizabeth, who appreciated his knowledge. Nonetheless, he fell victim to court intrigues and was hung, drawn and quartered.

Although Cromwell readmitted Jews, their re-establishment took decades. In 1664, King Charles II was the first monarch to issue "a promise of protection" followed by more confirmations of the act in 1674 and 1685. In 1698, the Act for Suppressing Blasphemy granted recognition to the practice of Judaism in England. In 1753 the Jewish Naturalization Bill (Jew Bill) was issued to give foreign-born Jews the ability to acquire the privileges of native Jews, but was rescinded due to a high level of anti-Semitic agitation.

To be fair, there have been bright spots in this history. Starting in 1810, with the establishment of the London Society for Promoting Christianity Among the Jews (or the Jews' Society as it was familiarly known) there was a transformation in attitudes toward Jews among evangelical Christians. The Jews Society expressed love and esteem for Jews and sought the restoration of Jews to the Promised Land--members of the Jews' Society were Christian Zionists long before Herzl appeared on the scene. The Society would come to include a Who's Who of the social elite including Queen Victoria's father who was one of its many aristocratic patrons. In this more benevolent atmosphere, England's Jewish population began petitioning for official equality. In 1837 Queen Victoria granted hereditary rights to the Jews and many took up positions in law enforcement and politics. Parliament canceled the Christian oath required of all members and in 1858 Baron Lionel de Rothschild took his place in the House of Commons, thus concluding an eleven year debate over his right to do so without taking an oath of Christianity. Since 1858 Parliament has never been without Jewish members. By the end of the century Jewish emancipation was complete. To be sure, this was a full century after the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia of 1787 which granted full rights to American Jews.

The culmination of this philo-Semitic strain in English history came with the Balfour Declaration committing England to the creation of a Jewish National Home in Palestine (a commitment which the League of Nations Mandate subsequently legally formalized). It has been noted that a majority of the cabinet that passed the Balfour Declaration came from evangelical backgrounds. It was a promise Britain would betray in the most sordid way at the time of the Jews' greatest need for a refuge.

While British callousness to Jewish suffering in slamming shut the gates of Palestine is well known, less widely known is how indifferent the royals were. David (briefly King Edward before his forced abdication after he became besotted by a notorious divorcee) made no bones of his pro-Nazi sentiments. Shortly after his exile Edward and his wife visited Nazi Germany, met Hitler, and the Duke gave a full Nazi salute. After the war began Churchill was terrified that Hitler might try to install David (Edward) as a puppet king. Long afterward, in 1970, the morally challenged Edward commented: "I never thought Hitler was such a bad chap."

David's brother King George, father of the present Queen Elizabeth, who then assumed the throne, was stalwart during the Blitz but no friend of the Jews. He was a firm supporter of The White Paper which limited Jewish immigration to Palestine to 75,000 people over five years, effectively trapping Europe's Jews. The King not only supported the White Paper but also stated that he was "glad to think that steps are being taken to prevent these people leaving their country of origin." The king even instructed Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax to make sure the Nazis cooperated. Halifax's office telegraphed Britain's ambassador in Berlin asking him to encourage the German government "to check the unauthorized emigration of Jews." The King and Queen, who visited veterans and orphans in displays of solidarity with ordinary people, were silent on the Holocaust.

Although now over sixty years on the throne of England, King George's daughter Elizabeth, who has visited virtually all England's former colonies, has never stepped foot in Israel.

And today, as in the distant past, the Jews of England feel unsafe and unwelcome, with rampant anti-Semitism masked as anti-Israel sentiment increasingly unleashed. Many non-Jewish British commentators such as Douglas Murray, Professor Denis MacEoin and Robin Shepherd have observed this malignant trend.

When it comes to anti-Semitism it appears that there will always be an England.

Zionism 101.org: This was Herbert Zweibon's Last Project

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Outpost

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

Annual membership: \$50.

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