
OUTPOST



July/August 2016—Issue #300 PUBLISHED BY AMERICANS FOR A SAFE ISRAEL 46th Year of Publication

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The German Question

William Mehlman

Angela Merkel, by any measure, is Israel's nearest thing to an identifiable defender in a European Union increasingly defined by hectorism in most matters concerning the Jewish state. The breadth of what's become known as Jerusalem's "special relationship" with the German chancellor, however, its restraining power against a coalition partner eager to be relieved of the Israel "burden" and Merkel's personal vulnerability to a tide of resentment precipitated by her open door to 800,000 Muslim immigrants over the past two years, is still to be tested.

A less than comforting prognosis has most recently been underscored by a piece in *Der Spiegel*, Germany's most influential news magazine, referencing an alleged belief among members of Berlin's defense and foreign ministry establishments that a reassessment of the Federal Republic's "unconditional" commitment to Israel's security might be in order in light of the latter's "instrumentalization" by Prime Minister Netanyahu to cover Israeli behavior in the "West Bank" inimical to a two-state solution of the Palestinian problem. Given that Germany is second only to the United



Saar 6

States as a supplier of major Israeli war materiel, a "reassessment" would be no laughing matter. Its ramifications were reflected in Germany's provision and assumption of a third of the cost of four Corvette "Saar 6" class warships to Israel, the largest and most powerful in the IDF's fleet, to serve as guardians over the Jewish state's Mediterranean Sea natural gas rigs.

This was preceded by the integration into its fleet of the Israel Navy's fifth "Dolphin" class "INS Tanin" submarine out of Germany's shipyards, with a sixth, the "INS Rahav," scheduled to be delivered sometime next year. These top-of-the-line vessels, with evasive and missile-delivering capabilities previously undreamt of, go for \$500 million a copy. Germany is assuming a chunk of the cost.

Quick to respond to the *Spiegel* story, Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Dore Gold, in Berlin for talks with Christoph Huesgen, his German opposite number, said he could find no evidence to support the magazine's claim of a brewing reassessment. Huesgen, a member of Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, appeared to back him up but a certain degree of uneasiness remains. Most of the chatter circulates around Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Germany's foreign minister and head of the Social



Frank Walter Steinmeier

Democratic Party -- the SPD -- Merkel's chief coalition partner. He has referred to Netanyahu's criticism of the Iran nuclear deal as "very coarse" and in contrast to Merkel, has welcomed the EU labeling of Israeli products emanating from beyond the Green Line. Steinmeier appeared morally unconstrained in meeting in Tehran with either Holocaust denier Ali Larinjani, Iran's parliamentary president, or with former Iranian president Hasten Rafsanji, who speaks casually about dropping an atomic bomb on Tel Aviv. A still unlikely but possible Steinmeier-led SPD victory in next year's German national elections could amount to a whole other ballgame for Israel.

No less troubling for Jerusalem are the clear signs of a growing cultural abandonment by Germany's left wing elite and the latter's participation with a neo-Nazi far right in the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions offensive. "It's the liberal elites, not the Nazi skinheads, who write the textbooks in Germany," Evelyn Gordon avers in a terse but penetrating *Commentary* essay. And what

they have been writing is fairly devastating. An analysis by German and Israeli researchers of 1,200 history, geography and social studies texts used in five Federal Republic states, Gordon informs, portray Israel almost exclusively as a “militaristic, war mongering society,” while “Palestinian terror gets a free pass.” The school texts, she adds, are permeated with “tendentious photographic presentations of Israeli soldiers threatening or inflicting violence on Palestinians.” The main threats to peace are listed as the “Occupation” and “Settlements.”

Financial cover for the BDS and neo-Nazi enterprises remains a blight on the German legal system. Despite a heralded shutdown of the BDS account of the anti-Israel *Der Semit* website by Commerzbank, the country’s second largest banking institution, there remain scores of anti-Israel groups whose BDS promotions are facilitated by their ability to receive electronic transfer donations, a privilege they openly advertise on their websites. The BW Bank, Stuttgart provides a glaring example of this phenomenon in servicing the accounts of the “Palestine Committee, Stuttgart,” which pursues its advocacy of Israel’s destruction under a canopy of department store boycotts, and the neo-Nazi NPD party, whose head, Janus Nowak, was convicted of “incitement” for referring to Hitler’s extermination camp victims as “prisoners of war.” To a demand from the German-Israel Friendship Society that these bank accounts be terminated, a BW spokesman replied that the bank could discontinue an account only when “objective impediments are present,” whatever that means, while a second spokesman described the NPD account as belonging to a “permitted party” in Germany.

It is to be hoped that the Commerzbank action will encourage a hard second look at the “permitted” status and absence of “objective impediments” that keep outfits like NPD and the Palestine Committee, Stuttgart on BW Bank’s rolls. Such a review would be profoundly amiss if it failed to include a thorough investigation of the cauldron of BDS and anti-Semitic activity brewing in Social Democratic Party-controlled Bremen. Operating rent-free out of taxpayer-funded premises, the “Bremen Peace Forum” pushes a full-bore boycott of Israeli products with endless demonstrations in front of supermarkets featuring, inter alia, placards bearing caricatures of blood-dripping Israeli oranges. The Forum shares its free digs with a branch of the NPD and *Der Dritte Weg* (Third Way), another neo-Nazi outfit. “I find it incomprehensible,” Wiesenthal Center Nazi hunter Efraim Zuroff asserted, “that Bremen’s culture minister, who can play a positive role in preventing the use of public buildings for BDS, is refraining from taking action. It should be quite clear particularly in Germany, that BDS is another form of anti-Semitism.” To which the Green Party’s Marieluise Beck, whose Bundestag constituency includes Bremen, replied, “Unfortunately one cannot outlaw anti-Semitism.”

In the end, the question of Israel’s now and possible future relations with the Federal Republic devolves on Angela Merkel. Will she venture for an unprecedented fourth term as chancellor in 2017?



Angela Merkel

Can she overcome hostility to an immigration program that assumed near riot proportions in a recent appearance in Saxony? And if not Merkel, with whom will Israel have to deal in trying to perpetuate a “special relationship” that has barely managed to keep the EU wolves at bay? Who in that pack would have had the courage to declare, as Merkel did in a 2008 Knesset speech, that “the existence of Israel is Germany’s *raison d’être* -- not negotiable!” or of the “two-state” paradigm, with Bibi Netanyahu at her side in Berlin, that “this is not the time for comprehensive progress?” As her EU compatriots embraced the product labeling panacea, she

declared it “very likely that this measure will be exploited by a campaign hostile to Israel.”

In at least a relative sense, Angela Merkel informs the Jewish concept of a “woman of valor” with a rare measure of substance. Israel’s relations with the EU would be a lot stickier if she wasn’t there. Her influence over its mindset and the latitude of her actions in defense of the Jewish state,

however, needs to be kept in perspective. As Israel has its “Never Again,” so does Germany and that has been articulated by her as “never again must Germany make war.” To a reporter’s query as to what she might be prepared to do to thwart an attempt by Iran to harm Israel, Merkel said “I am not interested in overstating Germany’s goals and abilities.” If, as she has submitted, “Israel’s security will never be open to negotiation,” it is a security, though buttressed by German military and financial support, that Israel and Israel alone will have to ensure.

William Mehlman represents AFSI in Israel.

From the Editor

Can Brexit Save the EU?

The conventional wisdom is that in taking out England, Brexit does the EU a damaging blow. What is overlooked is the possibility that Brexit may provide the EU with a much needed wake-up call. The Brussel elites move confidently to their own drummer, paying no attention to the opinions of the broad publics in the (now) 27 individual component states. That may no longer be possible if Britain’s example energizes anti-EU movements on the continent. The most potent issue is immigration which is inextricably bound up with the issue of national identity. On the BBC one pundit mentioned that in the supermarket he asked a woman how she planned to vote. She responded “Leave” and when he asked why said “Why did we fight World War II?”

As far as the EU elites are concerned, the ultimate moral arbiters are the so-called human rights NGOs (the joke is that there is nothing more morally corrupt than those NGOs—witness their behavior toward and in Israel). For these NGOs it is a given that nothing can be done about the vast hordes of young Muslim men invading Europe but welcome them. On this premise, the EU’s only “solution” is imposed quotas on individual member states.

If it dawns on the EU’s leaders that they could be collectively out of a job if they fail to address the issue, it is at least possible that they might ignore the indignant shrieks of the NGOs to find a solution. A real solution, not the bizarre one Angela Merkel has come up with of holding out hope of speeded up accession to the EU to Turkey (with the potential of adding umpteen millions of Moslems to Europe) in exchange for stopping a certain number of other Moslems from coming. EU leaders might find that they themselves could actually close the EU’s external borders. From a human rights point of view such an action might even save lives. If migrants were promptly turned back at sea or on shore, far fewer would risk their lives on the journey.

Why are the European states obliged to accept millions of immigrants in search of a better life? (See the article by Daniel Greenfield in this issue which underlines the extent of the folly.) Yes, there is a human obligation to help those displaced by war, but this need not be in Europe. Thanks to Brexit, the EU might actually consider this simple proposition—and bolster its future in the process.

What “Even-Handed” Means

In *Mosaic* Edward Alexander excoriates Bernie Sanders for his call for greater “even-handedness” in American Middle East Policy, most recently exemplified by his appointing well-known Israel-haters to two of the five slots on the Democratic Party’s platform committee he was allowed to select. Sanders constantly repeats that all he desires in American Middle East policy is greater “even-handedness,” i.e., less “favoritism” on behalf of Israel. Alexander observes that what this really means is that Israel must be deprived of its single powerful ally in the UN and in world affairs generally.

Alexander writes: “On May 25, for example, the World Health Organization voted for a UN resolution to single out Israel as the only violator of ‘elemental, physical and environmental health’ in the world, and commissioned a WHO delegation to investigate and report on ‘the health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory.’ The United Kingdom, France, Germany, Sweden, and other European Union states voted ‘Yes’ to singling out Israel as the world’s only violator of human decency in medical matters. The UN assembly did not address Syrian hospitals being bombed by Syrian and Russian warplanes, or millions of Yemenis denied access to food and water by the Saudi-led bombings and blockade; neither did it pass a resolution about Venezuelan citizens being starved by their (Sanders-style) ‘democratic socialist’ government. Out of 24 items on the meeting’s agenda, only one, Item No. 19 against Israel, focused on a specific country. For good measure a WHO delegation was commissioned to investigate health conditions in ‘the occupied Syrian Golan.’ No doubt these same nations would much prefer that ISIS take charge of the Golan inhabitants’ health and well-being.”

The Jewish Population of the “West Bank”

The annual statistics on the number of Jewish residents in Judea and Samaria, based on the Population Registry of Israel’s Interior Ministry, have been released. As of Dec. 31, 2015 there were 406,302 Jews living there, and this does not include the eastern neighborhoods of Jerusalem (Pisgat Zeev, Ramat Shlomo, Ramot, Gilo, Ramat Eshkol etc.) which are home to an additional 360,000 Jews. Could even a future radical peace-processing Israeli government contemplate removing over 760,000 Jews from their homes? And could Israel’s Palestinian Arab “peace partners” even pretend to settle for less?

In Belfast, Patterson Memorial Defaced

A mural honoring Lt. Col John Henry Patterson, the Irishman who commanded the Zion Mule Corps and then the Jewish Legion during World War I, was damaged in an anti-Semitic attack just hours after four Israelis were murdered in a Tel Aviv restaurant. The memorial includes a large Star of David and a quote from Netanyahu: “In all of Jewish history we have never had a Christian friend as understanding and devoted.” Netanyahu’s father was a close friend of Patterson and named his son Jonathan (of Entebbe fame) after him.

As Ruth King reported in the Oct. 2015 *Outpost*, Patterson was reburied near Netanya with his wife Francie in 2014, 67 years after his death. An extraordinary figure, Patterson was the subject of no less than three Hollywood movies, all of them based on his exploit in killing two man-eating lions in Kenya after they had consumed one hundred workers on a British military bridge. For more on Patterson and the Jewish Legion, including historic footage, go to www.Zionism.org. Register (if you have not already done so) and Click on Course 11, Military Stirrings and then on The Jewish Legion.

See No Terror

Alex Safian of CAMERA has taken note of the naked bias against Israel, all too familiar in the *NY Times*, but especially glaring in the June 8 edition. That’s because on that day the *Times* had an article on France preparing for the European Championship soccer tournament in which it used the term “terror” fourteen times. But in reporting an actual terror attack in Israel the same day the *Times* could not bring itself to use the word even once. Euphemisms abounded, e.g. “police identified the attackers”, “Tel Aviv has suffered a number of deadly attacks”, a witness “heard the shots and could see one of the attackers.” As Safian sums up: “So hypothetical attacks that France hopes to prevent during the upcoming soccer championship are terrorism, and those who would carry them out are terrorists. But real attacks against Israelis—like shooting up a restaurant and mall and murdering real people—are not terrorist attacks. One wonders, what would a Palestinian have to do for the *Times* to call him a terrorist?”

The Enemy Within

The Zionist group *Im Tirtzu* has issued a report identifying supposed “human rights” groups heavily funded by foreign governments and operating within Israel that are aimed at undercutting Israel’s ability to defend itself in the war on terror. It turns out that of the 20 organizations named by *Im Tirtzu*, fifteen are directly supported by the New Israel Fund, which, in turn, is funded by a host of “progressive” Jewish useful idiots.

Good News from European Parliaments?

NGO Monitor reports that on June 16 the Dutch Parliament approved a proposed bill requiring the government to review funding for NGOs that promote boycott, divest and sanction movements against Israel. The British Parliament that same week held a debate on the government’s international aid activities, resulting in a promise by the Department for international Development to mend its ways in funding anti-peace Israeli and Palestinian NGOs. Gerald Steinberg, head of NGO Monitor, says: “These changes and the requirement for close oversight, including the involvement of parliament, mark fundamental changes in the way NGOs are funded by these countries. The extreme secrecy in budgets for radical NGOs, involving tens of millions of euros, opened the door for many abuses, including BDS and other forms of demonization. We expect similar steps in the European Union and other countries that are involved in these activities.”

A couple of caveats. Steinberg says that NGO Monitor is responsible for the efforts of politicians to monitor how funds are spent. It has surely had an important role but some credit is surely also due to Tuvia Tenenbom, whose devastating best-seller *Catch the Jew!* embarrassed European governments by showing the outrageous anti-Israel propaganda of word and deed they were financing. Second, Steinberg is being unduly optimistic if he thinks government “review” will change the behavior of these NGOs. Their fanatically anti-Israel staff will find their way around any supposed restrictions. The only way to “reform” these NGOs is to defund them. In this respect Brexit might offer at least some relief—England’s contribution to the EU NGO pot presumably will be cut off.

Christians Need Not Apply

In the wake of the Orlando shooting spree, President Obama has announced an acceleration of his program bringing Syrian refugees to this country. But not the ones in greatest need of refuge. Not the ones likely to assimilate culturally. Not the ones unlikely to become or produce terrorists. Not Christians or Yazidis.



Syrian Christians Protest in Syria

Joseph Klein reports in *Frontpage* that this year over 99% of those admitted have been Muslims. Patrick Sookhdeo, funder of the Barnabas Fund, which has worked to rescue Syrian Christians, gives the battered city of Aleppo as an example. Four years ago there were 400,000 Christians there, today between 45,000 and 60,000. Yet according to data from the U.S. State Department Refugee Processing Center, only 47 Syrian Christians have been admitted to the United States in those four years. The current rate of Christian admissions is even lower.

A self-righteous President Obama takes a perverse pride in this. “When I hear political leaders suggesting that there would be a religious test for which person who’s fleeing from a war-torn country is admitted...that’s shameful. That’s not American, it’s not who we are.”

But in fact as Klein points out there is in effect a “religious test,” one favoring those migrants who need protection least—Sunni Moslems. Canada’s Barack Obama, Justin Trudeau, is another practitioner of perverse morality. While his predecessor Stephen Harper had given priority to Christians, Yazidis and Kurds, Trudeau says he intends instead to focus on Moslems to prove how diverse and inclusive Canada is. When the two leaders met at the White House in March they were effusive in mutual admiration for one another’s “compassion.” As Klein sums up: “The Obama-Trudeau policy of opening doors widely to Muslim refugees, while allowing hardly a crack to open for the Christian and Yazidi victims of jihadi-inspired genocide, is risky, to be sure. It is also immoral.”

The Muslim World is a Permanent Refugee Crisis

Daniel Greenfield

Forget the Syrian Civil War for a moment. Even without the Sunnis and Shiites competing to give each other machete haircuts every sunny morning, there would still be a permanent Muslim refugee crisis.

The vast majority of civil wars over the last ten years have taken place in Muslim countries. Muslim countries are also some of the poorest in the world. And Muslim countries also have high birth rates.

Combine violence and poverty with a population boom and you get a permanent migration crisis.

No matter what happens in Syria or Libya next year, that permanent migration crisis isn’t going away.

The Muslim world is expanding unsustainably. In the Middle East and Asia, Muslims tend to underperform their non-Muslim neighbors both educationally and economically. Oil is the only asset that gave Muslims any advantage and in the age of fracking, its value is a lot shakier than it used to be.

The Muslim world lost its old role as the intermediary between Asia and the West. And it has no economic function in the new world except to blackmail it by spreading violence and instability.

Muslim countries with lower literacy rates, especially for women, are never going to be economic winners at any trade that doesn’t come gushing out of the ground. Nor will unstable dictatorships ever be able to provide social mobility or access to the good life. At best they’ll hand out subsidies for bread.

The Muslim world has no prospects for getting any better. The Arab Spring was a Western delusion.

Growing populations divided along tribal and religious lines are competing for a limited amount of land, power and wealth. Countries without a future are set to double in size.

There are only two solutions; war or migration.

Either you fight and take what you want at home. Or you go abroad and take what you want there.

The only real economic plan anyone here has is to get money from the West.

Plan A for getting money out of the West is creating a crisis that will force it to intervene. That can mean anything from starting a war to aiding terrorists that threaten the West. Muslim countries keep shooting themselves in the foot so that Westerners will rush over to kiss the booboo and make it better.

Plan B is to move to Europe.

And Plan B is a great plan. It's the only real economic plan that works. At least until the West runs out of native and naïve Westerners who foot the bill for all the migrants, refugees and outright settlers.

For thousands of dollars, a Middle Eastern Muslim can pay to be smuggled into Europe. It's a small investment with a big payoff. Even the lowest tier welfare benefits in Sweden are higher than the average salary in a typical Muslim migrant nation. And Muslim migrants are extremely attuned to the



payoffs. It's why they clamor to go to Germany or Sweden, not Greece or Slovakia. And it's why they insist on big cities with an existing Muslim social welfare infrastructure, not some rural village.

A Muslim migrant is an investment for an entire extended family. Once the young men get their papers, family reunification begins. That doesn't just mean every extended family member showing up and demanding their benefits. It also means that the family members will be selling access to Europe to anyone who can afford it. Don't hike or raft your way to Europe. Mohammed or Ahmed will claim that you're a family member. Or temporarily marry you so

you can bring your whole extended family along.

Mohammed gets paid. So does Mo's extended family which brokers these transactions. Human trafficking doesn't just involve rafts. It's about having the right family connections.

And all that is just the tip of a very big business iceberg.

Where do Muslim migrants come up with a smuggling fee that amounts to several years of salary for an average worker? Some come from wealthy families. Others are sponsored by crime networks and family groups that are out to move everything from drugs to weapons to large numbers of people into Europe.

Large loans will be repaid as the new migrants begin sending their new welfare benefits back home. Many will be officially unemployed even while unofficially making money through everything from slave labor to organized crime. European authorities will blame their failure to participate in the job market on racism rather than acknowledging that they exist within the confines of an alternate economy.

It's not only individuals or families who can pursue Plan B. Turkey wants to join the European Union. It's one solution for an Islamist populist economy built on piles of debt. The EU has a choice between dealing with the stream of migrants from Turkey moving to Europe. Or all of Turkey moving into Europe.

The West didn't create this problem. Its interventions, however misguided, attempted to manage it.

Islamic violence is not a response to Western colonialism. Not only does it predate it, but as many foreign policy experts are so fond of pointing out, its greatest number of casualties are Muslims. The West did not create Muslim dysfunction. And it is not responsible for it. Instead the dysfunction of the Muslim world keeps dragging the West in. Every Western attempt to ameliorate it, from humanitarian aid to peacekeeping operations, only opens up the West to take the blame for Islamic dysfunction.

The permanent refugee crisis is a structural problem caused by the conditions of the Muslim world.

The West can't solve the crisis at its source. Only Muslims can do that. And there are no easy answers. But the West can and should avoid being dragged down into the black hole of Muslim dysfunction.

Even Germany's Merkel learned that the number of refugees is not a finite quantity that can be relieved with a charitable gesture. It's the same escalating number of people that will show up if you start throwing bags of money out of an open window. And it's a number that no country can absorb.

Muslim civil wars will continue even if the West never intervenes in them because their part of the world is fundamentally unstable. These conflicts will lead to the displacement of millions of people. But even without violence, economic opportunism alone will drive millions to the West. And those millions carry with them the dysfunction of their culture that will make them a burden and a threat.

If Muslims can't reconcile their conflicts at home, what makes us think that they will reconcile them in Europe? Instead of resolving their problems through migration, they only export them to new shores. The same outbursts of Islamic violence, xenophobia, economic malaise and unsustainable growth follow them across seas and oceans, across continents and countries. Distance is no answer. Travel is no cure.

Solving Syria will solve nothing. The Muslim world is full of fault lines. It's growing and it's running out of room to grow. We can't save Muslims from themselves. We can only save ourselves from their violence.

The permanent Muslim refugee crisis will never stop being our crisis unless we close the door.

This appeared on frontpagemag.com on May 25, 2016

In Memoriam Irving Moskowitz



Irving Moskowitz held nothing more lovingly to his bosom than the charge of enemies ranging from *Time Magazine* to the Cana'anist Gush Shalom that he was the mover and shaker, beyond compare, in the "judaization" of eastern Jerusalem. Unflinchingly determined to bolster that accusation, Moskowitz, through the foundation bearing his name, spent millions of the dollars he'd earned in California

real estate realizing his dream of a re-empowered Jewish people living anywhere in their glorious capital and its eastern environs they chose.

Thousands of Jewish families in the Old City, David's City, the Yemenite village of Shiloach, the neighborhoods of Shimon Hatzadik, Kidmat Zion, Abu Tor, Beit Orot and Ma'aleh Hzeitim bear witness to his success. In audaciously creating "facts on the ground," Moskowitz bought the palatial eastern Jerusalem quarters of arch pogromist and Jerusalem Mufti Haj Amin el Huseini, turning it into a yeshiva, and pried open the Western Wall tunnels to millions of tourists over the hysterical objections of the Wakf.

Cherna, Moskowitz's dedicated wife and partner, will continue to carry the torch he lit, but Irving will be missed. He was a rare gift.

Please, Don't Tell Me

Rael Jean Isaac

Tuvia Tenenbom's forthcoming book is called *Don't Quote Me*, but the reaction in the English speaking world has been "Don't Tell Me." Melanie Phillips in *The Jerusalem Post* reports on the difficulties Tenenbom is encountering—despite his record as a best-selling author—in finding an American publisher for what she describes as a "savage, disturbing, comical and important book about how Americans think."



His new book, to be released in Germany in September, follows what has become Tenenbom's modus operandi—he wanders the country for six months posing as a non-Jewish German. First it was Germany (*I Sleep in Hitler's Room*), then Israel (*Catch the Jew!*), now the United States. One of the ugly truths Tenenbom unmask in his new book (which he also laid bare in *Catch the Jew!*) is the role of Jewish leftists in spreading Jew-hatred (in the guise of "human rights"). Phillips is doubtless right in believing this is a major factor in his problem finding a publisher for *Don't Quote Me*, given the large role Jews on the left have in the U.S. publishing world.

A taste of what English-language publishers don't want readers to hear can be gleaned from a recent radio interview with Tenenbom by Ari Fleisher in Jerusalem. Tenenbom describes openly-voiced anti-Semitism, now familiar in Europe, coming to America, among the millennials especially and of course in the colleges. He even heard slogans of "Free Palestine" in Republican states like Montana. And as in Israel he found, except among the Orthodox, a substantial number of Jewish self-haters, harboring a passionate commitment "to point a finger at the rest of the Jews for how bad they are, occupiers, racists and whatever....Look at a person. If everyone hates that person and wants to kill him and that person wants to kill himself, what's going to happen?...If you want to die and I want to kill you and we meet in the same room, we'll make a deal. Too many Jews are self-hating and in the outside world too many people hate the Jews and the only thing that's changing is in America it's happening now."

It is not only Tenenbom's findings that many Jews find uncomfortable to hear. They avoid recognizing that major Jewish organizations have collapsed just when they are most needed. The Anti-Defamation League, which one would expect to find in the forefront of the battle for Jews and Israel, is not merely missing in action, but in crucial areas ranged on the opposing side. There is no greater long term threat to the welfare of Jews in the United States than Muslim immigration. The threat is not only to Jews: as Kevin Williamson has pointed out "the plain conclusion to be drawn from the European experience is that if a Western country does not already have a large, poorly assimilated Muslim minority population, it would do well to not acquire one." But Jews are the most severely and immediately threatened, for if there is one cultural trait Muslims—especially those from Syria-- bring with them, it is hatred of Israel—and contempt for Jews. It does not take prophetic powers to realize that changing demographics mean a shift in the electoral landscape. The Democratic Party already shows dramatic signs of a shift against Israel. Universities, where Muslims combine with the left to demonize Israel, will become even more unwelcoming places for Jewish students. Yet eleven major Jewish organizations, the ADL in the forefront are urging acceptance of even more Syrian refugees than Obama proposed.

Where the ADL goes beyond even most Jewish moral strutters is in its indirect support for the Boycott, Divest and Sanction movement against Israel. Yes, the ADL offers pro forma opposition to BDS

(it is wary of getting too far ahead of its donor base), but where it counts—doing something that hurts the BDS movement—on the supposedly high moral ground of “freedom of speech” it takes the opposing side.

Expert in constitutional law Eugene Kontorovich has pointed out at length just how spurious this “freedom of speech” claim is. ADL is vigorously opposing current legislation by states (like South Carolina) that limit a state’s conducting business with companies that engage in discrimination on the basis of nationality (any nationality, Israel is not specifically mentioned). In practical terms, this means that if you boycott Israel, the state won’t do business with you. It can be viewed as a form of consumer protection, preventing taxpayers from unwittingly underwriting boycotts. There are already much tougher federal anti-boycott laws that enjoy broad support (and whose passage the ADL in better days had promoted). Free speech is in no way impeded: BDS proponents are free to call for boycotts and participate in them without penalty. The states--as they do all the time with their anti-discrimination restrictions on government contractors--are exercising their right to place conditions on those who do business with them.

The ZOA professes to be “concerned and perplexed” by the ADL’s behavior. Daniel Greenfield’s article on ADL, reprinted in last month’s *Outpost*, removes the perplexity (although not the concern). Greenfield reports that current chairman Jonathan Greenblatt “shows a pattern of being more comfortable with critics of Israel than its friends” viewing agreement on embracing Syrian Muslim migrants or gay and transgender rights—the issues close to his “progressive” heart-- to be far more important than Israel.

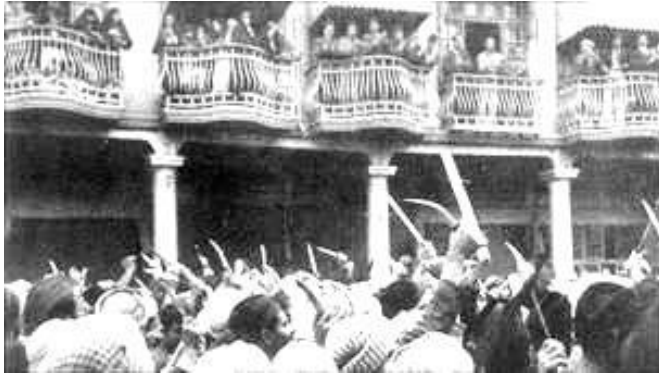
Although ADL offers a specially hideous example, the problem goes far beyond it. Charles Jacobs, long active in the Boston Jewish community, has pointed out that most Jewish leaders there simply shut out the truth that the potent new anti-Semitism comes from a “Red-Green” alliance of leftists and radical Muslims. Writes Jacobs: “Almost every Jewish institution in Boston protects itself with physical barriers or security guards, yet our leaders, inhibited by political correctness, cannot bring themselves to speak about the threats that compel us to protect ourselves. How can they defend the community if they cannot admit the new anti-Semitism has turned our former ‘human rights’ allies into adversaries?...We need to face the fact that most of those who manage and control the major Jewish organizations seem more concerned with demonstrating personal moral virtue than responding to threats to our community.”

Yet rank and file Jews for the most part have been content so far to be led by those who enlarge rather than counter the threat. It is past time that they get beyond “Please, don’t tell me” and wake up—before it is too late--to the need for a new Jewish community leadership. There is no point in pumping ever more money into the already bloated salaries of officials in mainstream organizations who actively undermine Jewish interests. Jewish funds should go instead to strengthen organizations, and they are numerous, some of them small and relatively new, that have sprung up to fill the vacuum in guidance that has been left by established Jewish organizations.

Commemorating Iraqi Jewry’s *Farhud* **Ben Cohen**

Every Iraqi Jew has a tale to tell about the *Farhud*, the two-day pogrom that befell the Jews of Baghdad 75 years ago in June 1941. In the case of my own family, it was a matter of heeding the advice of a Muslim business colleague of my grandfather, who told him that dark days were looming for the Jews, and that he would be wise to get his family out of the country as quickly as possible — which my grandfather did.

But my grandfather was part of a fortunate minority. When the *Farhud* — which means, in Arabic, “violent dispossession” — erupted, there were around 90,000 Jews still living in the Iraqi capital, the main component of a vibrant community descended from the sages who, 27 centuries earlier, had made the land once known as Babylon the intellectual and spiritual center of Judaism.



By the time the violent mob stood down, at the end of the festival of Shavuot, nearly 200 Jews lay dead, with hundreds more wounded, raped, and beaten. Hundreds of homes and businesses were burned to the ground. As the smoke cleared over a scene more familiar in countries like Russia, Poland, and Germany, the Jewish community came to the realization that it had no future in Iraq. Within a decade, almost the entire community had been chased out, joining a total of 850,000

Jews from elsewhere in the Arab world summarily dispossessed from their homes and livelihoods.

That the *Farhud* is even remembered today is in large part due to a handful of scholars and activists who have committed themselves to publicizing this terrible episode. During the week of the *Farhud*'s 75th anniversary, some of them — like the American writer Edwin Black and Lyn Julius, the British historian of Middle Eastern Jewish origin — have been organizing memorial ceremonies in the US, the UK, and especially Israel, which absorbed the great majority of Iraqi-Jewish refugees. I myself was honored to address the memorial ceremony at New York City's Safra Synagogue, where 27 candles — one for each century of the Jewish presence in Iraq — were lit and then promptly snuffed out, to symbolize the sudden extinction of Iraqi Jewry.

Commemorating the *Farhud*, and establishing its rightful place as an example of the persecution of the Jews during the Nazi era, has been a difficult task. For several decades after the Second World War, the importance of the *Farhud* was subsumed by the widely held notion that the Holocaust was something that consumed only European Jews. The truth was that the Nazis had both a direct presence and significant influence across the Arab world. So when, in 1941, the British had suffered a series of blows in southern Europe and North Africa, the time was right for a coup against the pro-British government in Baghdad. The strategic goal of the Nazis was to seize Iraq's oil fields, thereby providing them with the fuel needed for the invasion of the Soviet Union.

In April, the month my grandfather and his family left Iraq, a local Nazi lackey, Rashid Ali al Ghailani, seized power, believing that an alliance with Hitler would create the conditions for Iraq's national independence. Rashid Ali's principal supporter was the pro-Nazi Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al-Husseini, who arrived in Baghdad in 1939 having escaped British arrest. Until then, the mufti's main role had involved inciting genocidal violence against the Jewish community in British Mandatory Palestine, which was especially pronounced during the Arab revolt of 1936-39. Once in Iraq, the mufti solidified his Nazi loyalties, meeting with Hitler in Berlin in November 1941 and later organizing Bosnian and Albanian Muslims into the “Handzar” division of the SS.

The *Farhud* itself should not be seen as a spontaneous outburst. For days before the violence, a steady stream of anti-Jewish propaganda was broadcast on the radio. Members of what Lyn Julius describes as a “proto-Nazi youth movement,” the *Futuwwa*, began daubing Jewish homes and businesses with red paint in the shape of a palm, in order to make the passage of the rioters easier.

Their actions were, in common with all pogromists in all locations, unspeakable. In his memoir of the *Farhud*, *In the Alleys of Baghdad*, Salim Fattal recalled the “murderers and rapists...who abused their victims to their heart's content, with no let or hindrance. They slit throats, slashed off limbs, smashed skulls. They made no distinction between women, children, and old people. In that gory scene,

blind hatred of Jews and the joy of murder for its own sake reinforced each other.” Babies and young children were thrown into the Tigris river, some of them butchered with swords only moments before.

Ironically, the *Farhud* occurred a few days after Rashid Ali himself fled Iraq, following a failed attack on a Royal Air Force base. As the violence escalated, British troops, who were just eight miles from the city, could have intervened. But as the historian Tony Rocca explained to the BBC, “Sir Kinahan Cornwallis, Britain’s ambassador in Baghdad, for reasons of his own, held our forces at bay in direct insubordination to express orders from Winston Churchill that they should take the city and secure its safety. Instead, Sir Kinahan went back to his residence, had a candlelight dinner, and played a game of bridge.”

Thus began the process of making Iraq, like much of Europe, *judenrein*. It was a process that soon enveloped the rest of the Arab world. Six months after the war’s end, anti-Semitic riots broke out in Libya and Egypt. Those Jews who remained in Iraq, around 140,000 of them, endured a raft of discriminatory legislation reminiscent of the Nuremburg Laws. These led, during the early 1950s, to their complete expropriation.

As terrible as it is to say this, part of the reason that the *Farhud* remains a relatively obscure event is because the expelled Iraqi Jews became victims of their own subsequent success, creating new lives in Israel, the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Unlike the Palestinian Arabs, they were not permanently stamped with the mark of the refugee, meaning that their pleas for justice have always been regarded as a historical question, rather than a pressing geopolitical concern.

At the New York ceremony for the *Farhud* anniversary, many of the speakers invoked the post-Holocaust slogan “Never Again!” As noble as that idea is, when it comes to the Arab world, it is also a simple statement of fact. There will be no more *Farhuds* in that region, because, outside of the sovereign State of Israel, there are hardly any Jews remaining in the area upon whom to re-inflict the bestialities witnessed in June 1941.

Ben Cohen is senior editor of TheTower.org and writes a weekly column for JNS.org on Jewish affairs and Middle Eastern politics. This appeared on June 4 on JNS.org.

Zionism101.org

Online now: [Ben-Gurion Part 3: A Gordian Knot](#)

“Ben-Gurion Part 3: A Gordian Knot” describes Ben-Gurion's dilemma as he seeks to confront Britain over its restrictive immigration laws even as he must help Britain fight the war against Hitler. Ultimately, it will not be until the end of the war that the knot is untied

There are already 41 videos on the site, covering everything from Zionism’s early years to Christian Zionism to Israel’s War of Independence.

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Dov Waxman, *Trouble in the Tribe: The American Jewish Conflict over Israel* Reviewed by David Isaac

Dov Waxman, a professor of political science at Northeastern University, says he has written *Trouble in the Tribe* to investigate the “internecine battle” waged over Israel in the American Jewish community. What emerges instead is an apologia for radical anti-Israel Jewish organizations and a distorted image of organized American Jewry as intolerant, elitist, and intent on silencing those who dare criticize Israel.



The author’s failure to level with the reader is clear by the second chapter. It’s here that Waxman introduces us to his first example of how a dissenting group was “denounced” and “shunned” by organized American Jewry. That group was Breira, an organization established in 1973 following the Yom Kippur War. Breira means “alternative” in Hebrew, and the alternative it offered was a PLO-run state in the West Bank and Gaza. In Waxman’s telling, the group came from “the heart of the Jewish

community” but was smeared by right-wing organizations after it came to light that two of Breira’s members had met with Palestinians with close ties to the PLO (in Israel meeting with the PLO was then illegal).

The trouble with Waxman’s narrative is that neither Breira’s position nor its members’ PLO meet-and-greet was the issue. What did Breira in was not dissent, but flying under a false flag. What was exposed, through a monograph put out by Americans for a Safe Israel—Waxman incorrectly names it American Friends for a Safe Israel—was who was in Breira’s leadership. The group’s first two paid staff members came from CONAME, as did 19 other members of Breira, many of whom held positions on its executive and advisory committees. CONAME originated as a front group for the Socialist Workers Party, and was described by *Time* as one of the Arab or pro-Arab organizations working in the United States. The group specialized in bringing anti-Israel speakers like Israel Shahak (who called the whole idea of a Jewish state “unjust and absurd”) to American campuses. During the 1973 war, it had joined with Arab and pro-Arab organizations in sending telegrams to Congress urging “no arms to Israel.” When this was exposed, the group claimed lamely that its name had been used without its consent.

Breira had roped in a number of high-profile Jews who took at face value Breira’s claim to be pro-Israel. When they realized they had been duped, some—including Harvard sociology professor Nathan Glazer, scholar of Judaism Jacob Neusner, and Rabbi Robert Gordis, editor of *Judaism*—jumped ship. Internal dissent doomed the organization. None of this you would learn from Waxman.

The groups that followed Breira fared better, Waxman says, undercutting his own argument that such groups are ostracized. He mentions the New Jewish Agenda (like Breira, long deceased) and the New Israel Fund, which Waxman describes as a “human rights organization.” He mentions in passing that it funds Adalah, but doesn’t say what Adalah is—an Arab-run legal center that rejects the legitimacy of the Jewish state. In other words, the New Israel Fund is pulling a Breira: It pays lip service to Zionism, saying it wants Jews to achieve “self-determination in their homeland,” but it supports groups that do not. Which is not Zionism. It is talking out of both sides of your mouth.

The most visible group to successfully pull a Breira is J Street, a George Soros-funded group that urges the creation of a Palestinian state and blames Israel for the absence of one. J Street also describes itself as pro-Israel and Zionist. But as Daniel Gordis, senior vice president of Shalem College in Jerusalem, told a J Street delegation in Israel: “It’s one thing to put ‘pro-Israel’ in your tagline, and another to be

‘pro-Israel.’” J Street is only interested in the tagline and the political cover it provides. Jews have fairly good antennae when it comes to identifying anti-Semites. Those antennae tend to go haywire when faced with their co-religionists. It is for that reason that these groups stress their pro-Israel bona fides. Their virtue signaling attracts members and opens venues, thus giving a hearing to policy prescriptions Jews would reject if proffered by anti-Israel Arab groups.

Waxman describes J Street as it wishes to be seen: as an organization of pro-Israel Zionists who have been, in Waxman’s words, unfairly denounced and “vilified.” He goes a step further, bizarrely arguing that their criticism is actually proof of their love. “Publicly criticizing Israeli governments ... has now become for many American Jews a way of supporting Israel,” he writes. Waxman makes much of J Street’s official position against BDS, the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement targeting Israel. But a closer look suggests J Street’s opposition to BDS is merely a positioning tactic. The group invited a



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FOR
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JEREMY BEN-AMI
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, J STREET

leading BDS activist to speak at its conference. J Street’s founder, Jeremy Ben-Ami, said he was very proud of the invitation. Waxman nevertheless bemoans the difficulties J Street has had in winning acceptance with the Jewish community, although rarely has an organization enjoyed such spectacular advantages, including wall-to-wall media coverage.

What behavior or beliefs make a Jew anti-Israel? In Waxman’s estimation it would appear that the answer is “none.” Those he labels victims of demonization are an astonishing lot: Norman Finkelstein, for example, who is beloved by neo-Nazis everywhere for *The Holocaust Industry*, a book that claims Jews use the Holocaust to guilt trip European countries into giving them cash, and who has described Hezbollah as “another wonderful chapter in the long and painful struggle for human emancipation.” Another Waxman victim is Judith Butler, who signs anti-Israel, pro-BDS petitions and believes Hezbollah and Hamas represent “social movements that are progressive.” There is also the late Tony Judt, who wrote that a Jewish state “has no place” in the modern world and called for a binational state to replace it—meaning an end to Israel.

As Waxman sees it, no Jewish groups, no matter how extreme, should be excluded from the communal tent. Jewish Voice for Peace, by its own description “the Jewish wing of the Palestinian solidarity movement” is, for Waxman, a victim of “intolerance,” the hostility to it by the organized Jewish community resembling “its treatment of Breira more than three decades ago.” Waxman even laments how the San Francisco Jewish Federation issued guidelines restricting the ability of Jewish groups to “engage with” Arab-American and Muslim-American organizations that support BDS or the Palestinian “right of return,” which would result in Israel’s destruction. One wonders if he will complain next that Hamas hasn’t been invited to speak at the local Jewish Community Center.

Conspicuous by their absence in this book are the Arabs. You’d never learn from Waxman that, to quote Johns Hopkins professor Michael Mandelbaum, “At the core of the conflict, standing out like a skyscraper in the desert to anyone who cared to notice, is the Palestinian refusal to accept Jewish sovereignty in the Middle East.” No, for Waxman, it’s all up to Israel. In the last chapter, he tells Netanyahu that he had better hurry up and “recommit Israel to the goal of establishing a Palestinian state as soon as possible.”

A subtle threat runs through Waxman’s book. He repeatedly warns that if mainstream Jewish groups don’t embrace these dissident groups, which attract a disproportionate number of young people, American Jewry risks alienating its young. But the problem is not, as he claims, “a pervasive atmosphere of trepidation, even intimidation, within the organized American Jewish community today when it comes to Israel.” As Edward Alexander has pointed out in *Jews Against Themselves*, “the complaint

about ‘silencing all criticism of Israel’ is a standard feature of nearly every single piece of bombast out of the mouths of modern Jewish apostates.”

The Jewish community makes good faith efforts to engage its young with such programs as Birthright Israel, which brings young Jews to Israel on a ten-day trip free of charge. The program has been highly successful in increasing identification with Israel. But as for those who join groups that hate Israel, whatever their taglines, their departure is an outcome devoutly to be wished. When gangrene sets into a limb, the solution is to cut it off, not allow it to spread.

This appeared in the Washington Free Beacon May 22, 2016 David Isaac is writer-director of Zionism101.org, the online video series on the history of Zionism.

Brexit, the EU, Israel

Michael Kuttner

Editor's Note: Prior to the Brexit vote, a Jewish Chronicle survey found that while Jews were divided, the majority planned to vote “Remain.” The following is excerpted from an article by Michael Kuttner (a New Zealander now living in Israel) who thinks their “Remain” vote was a mistake.

By the time you read this, the results of the British referendum will be known. Whether the UK remains or exits the European Union the repercussions of its decision will be felt by Israel and Jews in Europe alike.

Europe has become a major trading region for Israel. However with the chaos caused by a weak Euro, severe economic recessions in many member countries, rampant unemployment especially amongst the young generation and a general malaise as evidenced in France, it is time to turn our trading efforts eastward. This is exactly what Israel has been doing in recent times. Not only is it unwise to put all our trading eggs in one basket, diversification also reduces the probability of boycotts and economic blackmail.

The idea of submerging national feelings of patriotism to some sort of universal attachment to European togetherness has manifestly failed. Today we are facing a virulent resurgence of age-old prejudices against Jews as well as other minorities, with political parties dedicated to ominous echoes from the recent past poised to take power in several countries. A union of countries in the future with an agenda hostile to Jews and prepared to ban circumcision and Shechita and Kosher food is far more dangerous than individual countries trying to go it alone.

The EU as it has evolved today believes that it has a divine mission to meddle endlessly in our affairs, assert its non-existent right to impose solutions on Israel which will in effect lead to our demise and to punish us with boycotts and labeling if we do not meekly acquiesce. In addition and far more galling the EU provides millions of Euros to the kleptomaniac Palestinian Arab Authority which only this week announced via its Prime Minister that stipends to terrorists who have murdered Israelis and their families will be increased. For good measure he described these terrorists as heroes. Has the EU cut off funding in the face of this? Of course they have not.

In the last few days the EU announced that it was prepared to offer an “unprecedented” package in order to induce a “peace” deal. In other words if bribery can achieve some sort of mythical peace at our expense then no doubt we should grab it. The very notion that more Euros thrown down a black Palestinian-Arab hole can purchase genuine peace while the root problem--hate, delegitimization and a refusal to accept a legal Jewish presence in the region—is totally ignored, merely demonstrates yet again the irrelevance of a union united (except for a few notable exceptions) by only one thing – an

unhealthy obsession with the Jewish State and a continuing refusal to recognize the evil intents of those inciting and carrying out terror against Jews.

David Cameron in an appeal to the British Jewish Community asserted that only by the UK remaining in the EU can it thwart unbalanced policies against Israel. This is of course arrant nonsense. The current funding of NGOs which work against Israel continues unabated by UK membership. The continual attempts led by France to force a suicide pact on Israel remain unimpeded by any British membership of the EU. How would that change in the future if “remain” wins?

The free flow across vanished borders of those dedicated to perpetrating terror has already doomed the EU and sealed its long-term fate. That is something British Jews should have thought about when they cast their votes. That and the looming demographic realities should cast serious doubts as to the long-term viability of a union drowning in social unrest, economic stagnation and rising Judeophobia.

Whatever the results of the referendum, the mid to long-term prognosis for this union experiment looks bleak. As I survey a continent soaked in past Jewish blood and suffering I can only be thankful that with all its problems and challenges, Israel remains a haven and island of stability in a world going to pot in more ways than one.

Michael Kuttner is a J-Wire correspondent This article appeared in jwire.com.au on June 24.

Generally Bad Leaders

Ruth King

Generals renowned for strategy and bravery in war often make very poor national leaders. I speak here not of tin pot dictators and “generalissimos” whose chests are festooned with medals and ribbons, but of Israeli generals. As Martin Sherman, Israel’s superb commentator, wrote in *The Jerusalem Post* over a year ago in “Goofy Generals Galore”: “Virtually every time top military figures have departed from their field of expertise and ventured into one where they have none (politics), they have--almost invariably—been disastrously wrong.”

Moshe Dayan was commander of the Jerusalem front in Israel’s War of Independence and Chief of Staff during the 1956 Suez War. In 1967, while Minister of Defense, he became the symbol of the IDF. Probably the most famous photograph of the 1967 war, is that of Dayan praying at the just-liberated Western Wall. His downfall came when he was blamed for the intelligence failures prior to the 1973 war. Inexplicably in 1977 Menachem Begin restored him to public life by making him Foreign Minister. Dayan played a critical role in implementing the infamous Camp David Accords between Israel and Egypt. As lead negotiator, he held secret meetings with officials in India, Iran, England and Morocco and prodded a reluctant Begin to accept all Sadat’s demands. The resulting peace agreement gave Israel nothing but promises, which were flouted by Egypt before the ink was dry. In return Israel surrendered the entire Sinai and agreed to give ‘autonomy’ to the Arab residents of Judea and Samaria. As Henry Kissinger later commented, “autonomy” was the embryo of partition and independence.

Yigal Allon was a respected general who served as Prime Minister for three weeks in 1969 when Levi Eshkol died suddenly. Shortly after the 1967 war his Allon Plan proposed the first post war surrender: it proposed partitioning the West Bank between Israel and Jordan, creating a Druze state in the Golan Heights, and returning most of the Sinai to Arab control. It was immediately rejected by King Hussein and ridiculed by the other Arab states, but it laid bare Israel’s willingness to divide the area, laying the ground for successive American sponsored “peace processes.”

The next general to become Prime Minister was Yitzhak Rabin who served twice, from 1974 to 1983 and again from July 1992 to November 1995 when he was assassinated. While during his first

tenure he oversaw the hugely successful Entebbe rescue, during his second term he signed off on the Oslo agreement which was followed by a large and bloody siege of terrorism and continues to have catastrophic consequences for Israel. He shared a Nobel peace prize with Yasser Arafat for his disastrous actions.



Lt. General Ehud Barak is the most highly decorated soldier in Israel's history and was Chief of Staff from 1991 to 1995. In 1999 he won against Netanyahu and became Israel's tenth Prime Minister. He promptly resumed negotiations with the PLO and stated: "Every attempt to keep hold of the West Bank and Gaza leads, necessarily, to either a nondemocratic or a non-Jewish state. Because if the Palestinians vote, then it is a binational state, and if they don't vote it is an *apartheid* state."

This was mild compared to his recent statements.

As David Hornik one of Israel's best commentators points out: "In a speech on June 16, 2016 Barak—who, as Netanyahu's defense minister, had warned steadily that time was running out to stop Iran's nuclear program—said that Israel faced "no existential threats." He went on to accuse Netanyahu of "Hitlerizing" threats to Israel, declaring "Hitlerization by the prime minister cheapens the Holocaust.... Our situation is grave even without [comparisons to] Hitler...."

Barak went on to give his own outrageous mis-characterization of the current situation:

"Only a blind person or a sheep, an ignoramus or someone jaded, can't see the erosion of democracy and the 'budding fascism....' If it looks like budding fascism, walks like budding fascism and quacks like budding fascism, that's the situation.... In capitals around the world—in London and Washington, in Berlin and Paris, in Moscow and Beijing—no leader believes a word coming out of Netanyahu's mouth or his government's."

Barak was succeeded by General Ariel Sharon.

Sharon was esteemed as the greatest field commander in Israel's history, and one of the country's greatest military strategists. After the 1973 (Yom Kippur War) where he reversed Israel's early losses and encircled Egypt's vaunted Third Army the Israeli public nicknamed him "The King of Israel". But as Prime Minister he turned out to be a royal fraud. In September 2001, Sharon declared his support for an independent Arab state in Judea and Samaria and in 2003 endorsed the Road Map for Peace put forth by the United States with the EU and Russia. In 2005, Sharon surrendered Gaza and expelled 9,480 Jewish settlers from 21 settlements in Gaza and four settlements in the northern West Bank. The result was a disaster, with Hamas taking control, the shelling of southern Israel and two wars in Gaza (with more to come). After Sharon was felled by a stroke his policies of appeasement were furthered by Ehud Olmert who now resides in jail.

Then there's General Amos Yadlin, who spent more than forty years in uniform. In 1981 he was one of the pilots selected for the mission to destroy Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor. In February 2002 Yadlin was appointed commander of the IDF's Military Colleges and National Defence College. Between 2004 and 2006 he served as Israel's military attaché to the United States. That's a pretty impressive military resume. But the man who was instrumental in bombing Iraq's nuclear reactor bombs when it comes to policy. I heard him speak at a friend's house and respond to questions about Iran. His answer was short, arrogant and dismissive.: "I don't lose any sleep about Iran."

When asked about the Iran agreement in an interview these are his words:

"It depends on how you look at it. If we aspire to an ideal world and dream of having all of Israel's justified demands fulfilled, then of course the agreement does not deliver...It leaves Iran more or less one year away from a nuclear weapon, and Israel will clearly not like all of this.

"But there's another way to look at it that examines the current situation and the alternatives. In this other view, considering that Iran now has 19,000 centrifuges, the agreement provides quite a good package. One has to think what might have happened if, as aspired to by Netanyahu and Steinitz, negotiations had collapsed. Had that happened, Iran could have decided on a breakout, ignored the international community, refused to respond to questions about its arsenal, continued to quickly enrich and put together a bomb before anyone could have had time to react. And therefore, with this in mind, it's not a bad agreement." (huh???)

Other generals are equally clueless. In Nov. 2014 106 retired Israeli generals and intelligence officers sent a much publicized petition to Netanyahu stating "Israel has the strength and means to reach a two-state solution that doesn't entail a security risk." No security risk from a Palestinian state? They are dumb or duplicitous. And this year more than 200 retired generals (including Ehud Barak) signed on to a paper calling for Israel to end any claims to sovereignty in Judea and Samaria, and take a number of unilateral steps—including administratively dividing Jerusalem—to show it is "serious" about surrendering the areas.

The question remains and bewilders: Why have so many highly regarded military and intelligence officers of the IDF in effect turned the acronym into Israel Defamation Forces?

Outpost

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

Annual membership: \$100.

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