
OUTPOST



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Targeting a Janus-Faced Terror

William Mehlman

U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter's publicized sitdown with defense ministers from key allied nations for the purpose of hammering out a strategy for the removal of ISIS (Islamic State) from the Middle East chessboard has triggered a debate among top tier Israeli defense analysts not seen since the think-tank slugfests that marked the bitter end of the 2006 Second Lebanese War. The contenders at this writing include Professor Efraim Inbar, director of the Begin-Sadat Center (BESA) for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University and a Fellow at the Middle East Forum; Steven R. David, professor of international relations at Johns Hopkins University, and Col.(res.) Dr. Eran Lerman, a senior research associate at BESA and a former deputy for foreign policy and international affairs at the National Security Council. That others will be weighing in by the time these words are read is almost a certainty.



It was Inbar who lit the fuse with an August 2nd position paper entitled "The Destruction of Islamic State is a Strategic Mistake." He avers that "the continuing existence of ISIS," albeit a weakened ISIS stripped of much of its territorial base in Syria and Iraq, would still constitute a valuable Sunni Moslem obstacle to Iranian Ayatollah Khamenei's effort (with his Russian partner and a compliant Assad) to establish a Shiite hegemonic bastion from Lebanon to the Persian Gulf. "The Western distaste for Islamic State's brutality and immorality," Inbar submits, "should not obfuscate strategic clarity. Is it in the West's interests," he asks, "to strengthen the Russian grip on Syria and bolster its influence in the Middle East? Is enhancing Iranian control of Iraq congruent with American objectives in that country?" Moreover, says Inbar, shearing Isis of all its territorial assets may not have the effect most important to the West—stopping its attacks on European and U.S. civilian targets: "[T]he energies that went into protecting and governing a state will be directed toward organizing more terrorist attacks beyond its borders. The collapse of Islamic state will produce a terrorist diaspora that might further radicalize Muslim immigrants in the West."

It took barely a week for Inbar's case for a continued Islamic State presence in the Middle East to be met with return fire. His by-line affixed to a BESA position paper headlined "Raqqa Delenda Est" -- "Raqqa (Islamic State's Syrian headquarters) Must Be Destroyed" -- a paraphrase of Cicero's iconic charge to the Roman Senate in respect to Carthage, Col. Lerman left no question as to where he stood on his BESA Center colleague's thesis: "[A] strategy that leaves ISIS bruised but alive would pose serious dangers."

There can be little quarrel with this assessment, but Lerman weakens his position when he claims to adhere to the "norm that terror cannot be tolerated" yet is willing to accept "an uneasy *modus vivendi*" with bona-fide terrorist torch bearers Hezbollah and Hamas. Even more baffling he makes the stunning assertion that the two "have played a part in reducing tensions in recent years." On the contrary, while ISIS, Hezbollah and Hamas are all committed to annihilating Israel, ISIS, at least at this juncture, represents a tangential threat; that posed by a powerfully armed terrorist Hezbollah, under the spell of a genocidally inclined Iran, is real-time and quite possibly imminent.

Hezbollah, Tehran's wholly owned Beirut subsidiary, is the "A team of terrorists," as former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage has dubbed it. Yet, it passes essentially without mention in "Islamic State Should be Wiped Out," Professor David's position paper (as it does in Col. Lerman's). The Heritage Foundation warns that Hezbollah, which murdered more Americans up to 9/11 than any other terrorist group, "remains bigger, better equipped, better organized and politically more dangerous" than any of its terrorist peers, in part because "it enjoys the support of the two chief state sponsors of terrorism in the world: Iran and Syria. It is today a global terrorist threat, drawing financial and logistical

support from its Iranian patron as well as from Lebanese Shiite diasporas in the Middle East, Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia and North and South America.

Sooner or later, if Hezbollah is not addressed, it will produce what is likely to be a regional war, with further dangerous consequences for the already chaotic Middle East. Israeli Brigadier General Yakov Shaharabani has said that “another conflict is all but inevitable” between Israel and Hezbollah, and it will make the July 2006 Lebanon war pale by comparison. Then Hezbollah had 14,000 rockets, now 150,000, more than all NATO countries, except for the U.S., combined. Now it also has top of the line weaponry supplied by Iran, with more doubtless to come thanks to the sanctions relief Iran has obtained under the nuclear agreement. A Foundation for the Defense of Democracies report anticipates that Hezbollah’s advance into Syria and its close involvement with Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps “already embedded with Hezbollah during the last conflict” could mean Iran would openly take part in the next one. Lebanon where, according to the report, Hezbollah has “turned Shia villages into essentially missile silos” will obviously be central to the battle.

Were there the will, there has never been a better time to take on Hezbollah. Its Tehran-ordered contribution to the protection of the Assad regime from Syrian rebel forces has cost it close to 2,000 fighters and another 6,000 wounded. Beyond the casualties Hezbollah has fallen behind on payments to its troops, the families of its fallen and its suppliers.

Inbar, David and Lerman all come up short. Preserving one vicious terror outfit, as Inbar proposes, in hopes that it will weaken another may seem like realpolitik but tolerating and seeking to take advantage of barbarism is all but certain to end badly. In ignoring Hezbollah, thereby catering to Obama’s unwillingness to concede the threat from Teheran, Lerman and David overlook the greater terror threat. Where the threat is Janus-faced, both faces need to be confronted.

William Mehlman represents AFSI in Israel.

From the Editor

Rule by NGOs

Israel has finally passed a law mandating that NGOs primarily funded by foreign governments be required to state this fact in their publications. Predictably, there have been cries of protest. The State Department decries a “chilling effect,” the New Israel Fund complains it will “stigmatize” NGOs, the European Union that it will result in “constraining their activities.”

But as Evelyn Gordon points out, NGOs that get most of their money from foreign governments are not non-governmental organizations at all, but government instruments. Case in point: if an Israeli organization that conducts activities in Judea and Samaria wants EU funding, it has to conform to EU foreign policy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict which explains why 25 of the 27 organizations affected by the law are far-left. There is nothing undemocratic (the law’s critics to the contrary) about letting Israelis know where the funding for these outfits comes from. As for the law’s effect in reducing trust in these ostensible “non-governmental” groups, Gordon points out that “in the years since the idea of legislating this law first arose, most of the organizations in question have made themselves so toxic that it’s hard to see how information about their foreign funding could make Israelis view them any more negatively.”

What Gordon does not say is that the Europeans themselves are subordinate to the NGOs they use against Israel. Who sets EU policy if not NGOs? They set the moral guidelines under which the EU operates. There are huge numbers of NGOs and the vast majority adhere to a common ideological framework. Why cannot the EU enforce its outer boundaries, while permitting free movement within? It’s because EU elites fear unleashing the righteous wrath of the “humanitarian” NGOs should they make

a serious effort to keep migrants out. The best they can come up with is bribing Turkey to do the job and that deal is in danger of breaking down. Why can't EU members rapidly screen out and deport those whom the courts find are not entitled to asylum? Writing in England's *Daily Mail*, a judge describes the case of a Muslim who had lived in England for years with his wife and children and went back to his country of origin to marry three more women (permitted under Islamic law). The new wives and their children claimed British nationality and the right to come to England on the basis of the "right to family life." Never mind that Britain does not recognize polygamy. Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights incorporates that right and the extended family (on appeal) won the case. There is no appetite for changing such crazy human rights legislation, given such change would marshal a vast "moral" upsurge of opposition by the NGOs. Looking at the damage NGOs do to Israel it's easy to forget the greater damage they do to those governments who foolishly fund and unleash them.

The Good and the Evil

A horrible attack near Hebron, in which Arab terrorists fired over 20 bullets into a car driven by Rabbi Miki Mark, killing him and wounding his wife and two children, was accompanied by something unusual—Arabs who tried to help them. A Palestinian Arab, coming on the overturned car, pulled out the victims and his wife, a doctor, staunching the bleeding from one of the children's wounds. But while the Arab man, identified only as "J" was widely praised in the Israeli press, his fellow Arabs responded differently. Even as "J" and his wife helped the Mark family, dozens of vehicles passed by, demanding that they stop helping Jews. More serious for "J", the Palestinian Authority fired him from his public service job. A relative said: "Since it became clear that he was the first to arrive at the scene of the attack and he helped the victims, he and his family have been subjected to a smear campaign and received threats...They told him that he was let go because of budget cuts, but he was the only one who was fired a few days after the incident."

As P. David Hornik points out, in the supposedly "moderate" (compared to Hamas) PA, "even a spontaneous, humanitarian act of salvaging a wounded, terrified woman and her children is seen—since they were Israeli—as treason." Which underlines that unless and until these attitudes change—and given the way the PA instills hatred of Israel and Jews in its population that will not be anytime soon--all the peace processing in the world, so loved by the world's political leaders-- is a futile exercise.

U.S. Funds Hate-Filled Textbooks

If what Jules Isaac once called "the teaching of contempt" explains the outburst of hatred against individuals who exhibited decency and humanity, what is there to say of those who claim to be working for peace yet fund such teaching. That's the case with the U.S., which currently shells out \$400 million to UNRWA for schoolbooks preaching hatred and violence toward Israel and Jews.

The effort of the Heritage Foundation's *Daily Signal* to elicit a response from the State Department to this scandal produced only soothing—and laughable--pabulum. A spokesman emailed: "We are committed to ensuring that Palestinian refugee students receive an education that instills respect for and appreciation of universal human rights and dignity of all persons."

UNRWA's response to the *Daily Signal* was more of the same. It said of the textbooks: "These have been subjected to close examination, including by the U.S. Department of State, and found to be largely free of incitement. Moreover UNRWA has in place a system of checks and balances to ensure that no incitement is taught in our classrooms."

Meanwhile, in the real world, the Center for Near East Policy acquired 200 new UN-funded textbooks for Palestinian schools; it concludes not only that the books promote incitement but that they are worse than ever. Textbooks published in 2014 and 2015 are about "delegitimization of both Israel and of the Jews' very presence in the country."

While busy whitewashing its role in promoting anti-Israel incitement in textbooks, the State Department has for the first time explicitly, in its annual report on religious freedom, accused the PA of promoting anti-Semitism in its media and textbooks.

In the State Department labyrinth, does one hand not know what the other is doing?

Touring Israel

Ardie Goldman in *Israel Resource Review* writes of anti-Israel tours of Israel drawing in tens of thousands a year. Calling them “an invisible industry of lies and deceit, Goldman writes that collectively they “arouse virtually no attention, including the attention of the Government of the State of Israel. These programs represent the independent efforts of many organizations and are not coordinated or run by a central body. All the organizations that are involved, however, share one fundamental objective and that is to proselytize the message that “the Palestinians are an oppressed people and the State of Israel is the oppressor.” Tapping colleges and churches especially, these organizations send people to Israel, most of whom start as naïve and good-hearted “fence-sitters” but return from these carefully tailored “educational” programs fervently anti-Zionist. Goldman starts his article with a quote from a student from a Christian university who went on one of these tours and asked him reproachfully “But why does Israel steal water from the Palestinians?” Given the indoctrination she received, Goldman observes “If she was also told ‘Israel steals oxygen from Palestinian airspace,’ I am certain that she would have believed that as well.”

The existence of this tourism of lies and deceit makes all the more precious AFSI’s twice yearly Chizuk tours of Israel, which under Helen Freedman’s able long-time guidance, focus on tours of the much maligned “settlements,” ranging from comfortable cities like Ariel to dangerously exposed outposts. Here tourists, alas a very small number compared to those participating in the “invisible industry,” meet Israel’s pioneers and many develop ties that lead them to come back again and again on these extraordinary Chizuk-visits. The next tour will be in November and anyone who wants to see an Israel not easily accessible any other way will have a rich experience if they secure a place on it.

World Vision Goes Blind

World Vision is a splendid example of how NGOs, coasting on their humanitarian image, cover up the most egregious abuses in the way their funds are used. The Shin Bet (Israel’s internal security agency) in August revealed that Mohammed El-Halabi, manager of the Gaza operations of the international NGO World Vision, funneled 60% of the budget to Hamas which used them to build tunnels and other military installations. This came as no surprise to Gerald Steinberg, president of NGO Monitor, which in its 2015 book *Filling in the Blanks* specifically cites World Vision for “willingness to negotiate and coordinate with armed groups” and questions if “the group would prevent components of its aid from being misappropriated by terrorist organizations.”

These supposed moral exemplars take refuge in a refusal to know, rejecting any attempts to incorporate security concerns into funding guidelines. NGO Monitor reports that the International Committee of the Red Cross has argued that legislation designed to prevent hijacking of aid should not apply to humanitarian groups. Gerald Steinberg says: “World Visions’ failures in Gaza highlight the problems of a multi-billion dollar NGO industry that remains largely unregulated and unexamined. [World Vision] should be a cautionary moment for many other international aid organizations that have similar operations in Gaza, such as Oxfam, CARE, Christian Aid and UNRWA.”

Given the arrogance of the NGOs and the big black hole at the bottom of their moral pretensions, it would be surprising indeed if World Vision were the only culprit. (Indeed, on August 9 it was revealed that Waheed Borsh, a UN Development Programme employee, was indicted for using his position to aid Hamas.)

The Self-Destruction of the Jews

Rael Jean Isaac

Much has been made of the alleged self-destructiveness of Donald Trump who for two weeks lurched from gaffe to gaffe, but who speaks of the far more lethal self-destructiveness of organized Jewry in America? In this case what is involved is not off-the-cuff remarks but thought-out (incredibly foolish) policy positions.

There is nothing more detrimental to the future of Jews in America than a large, ever-growing Moslem population. So why do the major Jewish organizations seek to expand it? In 2013 the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) founded the Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees as a coalition of Jewish organizations. As a start, it agitated for increasing the number of Syrian refugees admitted to the United States to 100,000 in 2016, roughly four times the already much-expanded number proposed by Obama and significantly larger than the 65,000 requested by the UN Refugee Association. Although the Multifaith Alliance is still heavily weighted with Jewish organizations, others (scarcely noted for their friendship to Israel) have joined, among them Church World Service, the United Church of Christ, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.



As far as Jewish organizations belonging to the Multifaith Alliance go, it's a veritable who's who of them, starting with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, which includes the entire spectrum of Jewish outfits, ranging from Americans for Peace Now on the left to JINSA and American Friends of Likud on the right. Not content with their support through the President's Conference, some of its members have underlined their support by also joining individually, among them the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League, the

United Jewish Appeal-Federation of New York, the Union for Reform Judaism, the National Council of Jewish Women, Ameinu and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. A substantial number of individual synagogues have also signed on. Perhaps the most egregious participant is the ADL, given that it raises over \$50 million a year on the basis of its stated mission to fight anti-Semitism and it is 100% guaranteed that the more the Moslem population grows, the more anti-Semitism will gain strength.

It's not as if the evidence is not overwhelming as to what can be expected. Terrorism, which the Multifaith Alliance cavalierly dismisses as an overblown threat (indeed it claims existing vetting is vastly overdone) is merely the tip of the iceberg. France provides the template. University of Paris professor Guy Milliere writes that there are over 570 no-go zones in France (the government calls them "sensitive urban zones.") Hundreds of thousands of young Muslims live there, many imbued with a deeply rooted hatred for France and the West. Recruiters for jihadist organizations tell them, directly or through social networks, that if they kill in the name of Allah they will attain the status of martyrs. Twenty thousand people are in the government's "S-files", an alert system meant to identify individuals linked to radical Islam and because the task of following so many is overwhelming, most on the list go unmonitored (including the Carlie Hebdo murderers and Mohamed Merah, the killer at the Jewish school in Toulouse).

French President Hollande has no credible answer. His party depends on the Muslim vote (polls show 93% of Muslims voted for Hollande in the last election). Milliere reports that the most important left-wing think tank in France, Terra Nova, has published several reports explaining that the only way for the left to win elections is to attract the votes of Muslim immigrants and to add more Muslims to the population. Already Muslims made up about 10% of the French population; even more worrying, 25% of teenagers in France are Muslims. Unsurprisingly, Jews have been the favored Muslim target with the

result, by now well known, that thousands are fleeing, so that in some areas of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Netanya you are more likely to hear French than Hebrew.

Yes, the much larger United States is not in imminent danger of duplicating those French statistics (although down the road Muslim no-go zones are a distinct possibility). But for the small Jewish population, far fewer numbers pose a significant threat. Syrian refugees are only a fraction of the Muslims admitted by Obama—between 2010 and 2013 Obama imported 300,000 and these immigrants will soon be able to bring in relatives, who get favored status under our current system. Importing more Muslims is so obviously counter to Jewish interests that those hostile to Jews look for underlying Jewish machinations as an explanation. Taking puzzled note of the wall to wall Jewish support for vastly more Syrian refugees, one such internet antagonist suspiciously commented that it was strange behavior given that many of the immigrants might organize to challenge Jewish interests; that as citizens they were apt to support politicians who would vote for legislation that hurt Israel; and that they might commit terrorist acts against Jews.



What is already transpiring on U.S. campuses puts paid to empty hopes Jews might harbor that “Muslims will behave differently here.” AMCHA, the organization dedicated to investigating and combating anti-Semitism on American campuses, has found an alarming spike in anti-Semitic activity in the first half of this year. Its study, covering 100 public and private campuses with the largest Jewish undergraduate populations, documented 287 anti-Semitic incidents at 64 schools in that time period, a 45% increase over the previous year. The *Algemeiner’s* Ruthie Blum points out the schools at which Jews feel least safe are Columbia,

Vassar and the University of Chicago—top academic institutions filled with Jewish students and faculty (and rich in Jewish alumni and donors).

The AMCHA study found that Boycott, Divest and Sanction (BDS) resolutions against Israel were strongly associated with and fueled anti-Semitic outbursts. Professor Leila Beckwith, one of the study’s lead researchers, observed: “Instead of just boycotting Israel, the anti-Zionists are now boycotting Jewish students... Anti-Zionists are attempting to harm, alienate and ostracize Jewish students.” Campus Watch has listed some of those behaviors: “When the SJP [Students for Justice in Palestine] deploys makeshift checkpoints on campuses where its members yell, ‘Are you Jewish?’ at passing students, when it disrupts Holocaust memorials and Jewish student concerts, when it assaults and intimidates Jewish students on campus, it is making the trees and stones of the Ivy League and the Public Ivies a place of terror and danger for Jewish students.”

The Muslim-dominated SJP is the chief force behind the BDS movement on campus. It was founded in 2001 by Nablus born Hatem Bazian, who earlier headed the Muslim Student Association (MSA) at Berkeley but recognized, according to “Profiles in hate: Hatem Bazian” put out by Campus Watch, “that there were practical limitations to what a group recognized as being Muslim could accomplish on campus.” With the name “Students for Justice in Palestine” Bazian shed the explicit Islamic colors of the Muslim Student Association and added a degree of separation from the Muslim Brotherhood (which was closely linked with the MSA). There’s an old saw that as California goes, so goes the nation and that is true of some of the worst organizations and policies (think radical deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill) that have swept the country. Thanks to the burgeoning Muslim population, SJP is now on upwards of 80 campuses in the U.S. and Canada. Formerly most active on both coasts, it is now entrenched in such out of the way places as the University of Tennessee at Knoxville,

where another monitoring group, Canary Mission, found that the SJP and MSA had created a “cesspool” of anti-Semitism.

It doesn’t take a rocket scientist. The more Muslims are admitted to this country, the more intolerable life will become for Jewish students. The broader political scene will also change in ways deeply detrimental to Jews. The Democratic Party is already openly moving away from its traditional pro-Israel positions: one symptom, the choice of J Street favorite Tim Kaine for Vice President. (This has zero effect on much of the Jewish leadership. Former World Jewish Congress leader Isi Leibler chronicles in *The Jerusalem Post* the outrageous statement by ADL head Jonathan Greenblatt attacking the Republicans for passing the most pro-Israel plank ever issued by any party. His bizarre grounds? By deleting support for a two-state solution the Republicans undermined the policy of the Israeli government and hence were “anti-Zionist.”) Congressmen respond to the deeply held concerns of their constituents and as the Muslim vote becomes important in more and more districts, they will become less and less likely to be supportive of Israel.



Julia Andelman

So how are we to explain this lop-sided support by Jewish leaders for bringing in more Muslims? There is an occasional glimmer of recognition that it might be dangerous. In an article in *The Forward* entitled “Jews Push Washington to Admit More Syrian Refugees” Nathan Guttman notes that the Jewish Theological Seminary’s Rabbi Julia Andelman called up the story of God sparing the life of Ishmael although warned that the boy’s offspring would seek to harm his own people. What mattered, according to Andelman, was that “these are people seeking safety now.” Declaring that many are taking on the cause of taking in Syrian refugees as “a moral Jewish issue” Rabbi Jonah Pesner, who heads the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, said: “The Jewish people want to be a light unto the nations. We all want to show that we are a beacon of hope.”

On full exhibit here is the moral preening of elites. Puffed up with self-righteousness they are able in good conscience to ignore the effect on those they claim to lead. It’s the current version of the old saying that it is the Trotskys who make the revolution, while the Bronsteins pay the price. (In the end of course both Trotskys and Bronsteins pay for the folly of the former.) Moreover, despite their oh so sensitive moral antennae, these people are oblivious to the fact that those really in danger of their lives scarcely figure among the refugees they demand be admitted. You have to be in one of the UN camps (at which point your life is not in danger) to be selected and the truly endangered Christians and Yazidis are for the most part too terrified of the Muslims who dominate those camps to go near them.

Moral preening is the form that the sin of pride takes for the Jews agitating for taking in more Syrian refugees. Given the deadly consequences of what columnist Peggy Noonan calls “mad virtue signaling”, we have here more evidence that pride deserves its “pride of place” as the first of the seven deadly sins.

Zionism101.org

Online now: [Ben-Gurion Part 4: Freedom of Action](#)

Ben-Gurion Part 4 takes us from the end of World War II until David Ben-Gurion’s death in 1973. It describes his main achievements, including leading Israel in the War of Independence, orchestrating mass immigration, and guiding Israel during the Suez War of 1956.

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

How Peter Bergson Brought Activism into the Mainstream

Rafael Medoff



A major new novel features a Jewish activist organizing protests against the Roosevelt administration's abandonment of European Jewry. A recent off-Broadway play (being made into a movie by an Academy Award-winning actor and director) depicted Jewish activists and leaders clashing over Holocaust rescue.

With his appearance in literature, theater, and film, the once-controversial Peter Bergson is finally entering the popular culture. And the U.S. Jewish community at long last seems to be coming to grips with one of the most painful chapters in its history.

Seventy-five years ago this summer, Bergson (real name: Hillel Kook) and a handful of colleagues launched what would become perhaps the most dramatic political action campaign in American Jewish history.

To advance their demands to rescue Europe's Jews and create a Jewish state in Palestine, these activists placed hundreds of full-page ads in newspapers, lobbied in Congress, and organized a march by 400 rabbis to the White House. Such tactics were radical steps for Jews in the 1940s. Many immigrants and children of immigrants, still nervous about their place in American society, were uneasy about broadcasting Jewish concerns in the pages of the major newspapers.

Bergson liked to call himself a "nuisance diplomat," and his group's activities did prove to be quite a nuisance to the Roosevelt administration, which insisted the rescue of European Jews was impossible. The Bergsonites mobilized enough congressional and public pressure on President Roosevelt to help force him to create a U.S. government agency, the War Refugee Board, in early 1944. During the final fifteen months of World War II, the board played a central role in rescuing some 200,000 Jews from the Nazis.

Jewish leaders such as Rabbi Stephen S. Wise despised the Bergson Group. Wise at one point declared Bergson was "worse than Hitler" because protests such as marching through the streets of Washington might lead to increased anti-Semitism. A reasonable person could have made that argument only prior to the rabbis' march. After the march took place and no pogroms ensued, it was absurd for anyone to still make such claims. Yet well into 1944, Wise and other Jewish leaders were so resentful of Bergson that they sought to convince the administration to "draft or deport" him.

Some of the Jewish leaders' opposition to Bergson was motivated by sheer pettiness. They worried that Bergson's headline-grabbing tactics were, as one Jewish official complained, "stealing our thunder." Some Jewish groups took a lot of time away from genuine causes (such as the rescue issue) in order to fight Bergson.

Some of the Holocaust-era bitterness between the Jewish establishment and the Bergson dissidents spilled over into the postwar era. Mainstream Jewish leaders wrote or sponsored accounts of the period that left out the Bergson Group. Holocaust museums ignored Bergson, too.

How, then, did we manage to get from the mud of that partisan swamp to a point today when the Bergson Group's achievements are widely acknowledged by the powers that be in the Jewish world?

Bringing the Bergsonites back into history required a gradual process that stretched over several decades. It began in the late 1970s, when a new generation of scholars, led by professors David S. Wyman and Monty Penkower, began writing about the Bergson Group. Demographics were also a factor: American Jews who came of age in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s had no memory of the intra-Jewish feuds of the 1940s. They were not interested in re-fighting their parents' battles.

The Soviet Jewry protest movement, and the rise of pro-Israel activism, also contributed significantly to this process. As activism gained widespread acceptance in the Jewish community in the 1970s and beyond, the activism of the 1940s in effect gained validation.

The combination of these factors has put the Bergson group on the map. It took a series of protests and petitions, but the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum finally added Bergson materials to its permanent exhibit, and other Holocaust museums have followed suit. Yad Vashem joined the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies in co-hosting a public conference on the Bergson Group. The aforementioned off-Broadway play, Bernard Weintraub's *The Accomplices*, brought the Bergson story to new audiences, and now it is being made into a full-length film co-starring and directed by the Oscar winner Edward James Olmos.

And with the publication of the critically acclaimed novel *The Houseguest*, featuring a character whom the author said is modeled on Bergson, the activists have truly entered mainstream culture.

"The irony is that my father wasn't interested in gaining recognition – he didn't even use his real name," Dr. Rebecca Kook of Ben-Gurion University, Bergson's daughter, told me in a recent interview. "But he would have been glad to know that he played some role in helping American Jews realize they should not be afraid to lobby and demonstrate and speak out loudly against injustice."

Dr. Rafael Medoff is the founding director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies. This appeared on Jewishpress.com on July 1st.

Europeans, Hit by Terror, Exalt Palestinian Master Terrorist

P. David Hornik

On Tuesday July 26, terrorists broke into a French church, murdered an 85-year-old priest, and severely wounded another person. On Friday of that week it was reported that several French municipalities had initiated the granting of honorary citizenship to jailed Palestinian terrorist Marwan Barghouti.



Arrested by Israel in 2002, in 2004 Barghouti was sentenced to five terms of life imprisonment on five counts of murder. Leader at the time of the Tanzim militia, he is seen as the mastermind of the most vicious sustained terror assault in history—the Second Intifada (2000-2005), which, in a country one-tenth the size of France, killed over a thousand people in five years.

As the Israeli ambassador to France, Aliza Bin-Noun, wrote in an open letter on Thursday: "Barghouti is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of people. At a time when Western countries should unite against the threat of terrorism, the French support for Barghouti in fact legitimizes his actions."

Barghouti's popularity in France is of long standing. From 2007 to 2010, a dozen French municipalities made him an honorary citizen. In 2013 another municipality, Bezons, gave him that distinction along with Majid al-Rimawi, who took part in the murder of an Israeli cabinet minister in 2001.

And in December 2014 the Parisian suburb of Aubervilliers conferred the honor on Barghouti, three months after another Parisian suburb, Valenton, had done the same.

In all or most of these cases, the municipalities paying homage to the Palestinian terrorists were Communist-led. In recent years the French Communist Party's fortunes have declined, and today it holds only a small minority of legislative seats and runs only a small minority of municipalities.

So far the reports on last week's new round of moves to honor Barghouti don't say whether the municipalities in question are Communist-led ones. But even if Barghouti's fan club in France is not that large, he is a cause célèbre elsewhere in Europe as well.

Late in 2013, it was the Italian city of Palermo that made Barghouti one of its citizens. Meanwhile, in the current wave of Islamic terror in Europe, France has been the hardest hit. What happened in Brussels last March 22—32 killed in three terror bombings—makes Belgium the second hardest hit.

Yet, strangely, Belgium too had what might be called the Barghouti reflex.

On May 18, two months after the Brussels bombings, "leading Belgian Members of Parliament from across the political spectrum" announced that they were nominating Barghouti for a Nobel Peace Prize.

The Belgian lawmakers wrote:

"Marwan is...a democrat defending human rights, notably women's rights.

"He was actively engaged in the promotion of political and religious pluralism, and as such he is an important actor for the future of a region more fragmented than ever.... Peace requires the freedom of Marwan Barghouti...."

They went on to urge the Nobel Prize Committee to award the prize to "the one who embodies the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom, but also their aspiration to achieve peace...."

The ongoing European enthusiasm for Barghouti could be seen as reflecting a fatal European inability to look terrorism in the eye and understand that it can only be fought. Alternatively, it could be seen as reflecting a fatal inability to see terrorism as terrorism when Israelis are targeted by it.

As British academic Anthony Julius pointed out in a book published in 2010, "Israelis are the only citizens of a state whose indiscriminate murder is widely considered justifiable." So far, it is very questionable whether Europe's own intensifying plague of terrorism has fostered greater empathy for Israel's case.

In France, enthusiasm for the Palestinian cause—amid ongoing terror and systematic incitement of terror—continues unabated as President Hollande keeps working to convene a "peace" conference that Israel opposes. And with France now considering the banning of foreign funding of mosques, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ordered a probe of French-funded groups that incite against Israel and seek its destruction.

The call by Aliza Bin-Noun, the abovementioned Israeli ambassador to France, for "Western countries" to "unite against the threat of terrorism" seems likely to remain a vain hope when it comes to Europe and the Jewish state.

P. David Hornik is a writer and a translator, living in Be'er Sheva. He is the author of Choosing Life in Israel and other books. This appeared in frontpagemag on August 1.

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The Turkey-Russia-Iran Axis

Kenneth R. Timmerman

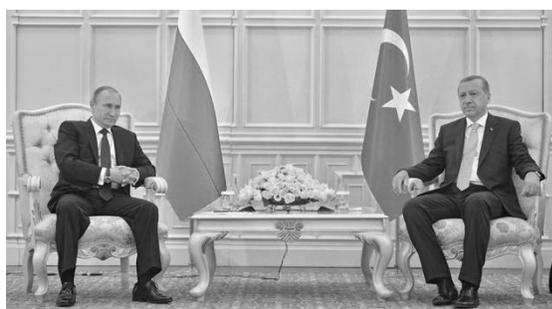
A tectonic shift has occurred in the balance of power in the Middle East since the failed Turkish coup of mid-July, and virtually no one in Washington is paying attention to it.

Turkey and Iran are simultaneously moving toward Russia, while Russia is expanding its global military and strategic reach, all to the detriment of the United States and our allies. This will have a major impact across the region, potentially leaving U.S. ally Israel isolated to face a massive hostile alliance armed with nuclear weapons.

Believers in Bible prophecy see this new alignment as a step closer to the alliance mentioned in Ezekiel 37-38, which Israel ultimately defeated on the plains of Megiddo.

Today's Israel, however, is doing its best to soften the blow by patching up relations with Turkey and through cooperation with Russia.

Here are some of the moves and countermoves that have been taking place in recent weeks on a giant three-dimensional chessboard with multiple players and opponents.



Russia-Turkey: It now appears that Russian intelligence tipped off Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan just hours before the planned coup against his regime. When the coup plotters got wind of the Russian communications with Erdogan loyalists at the National Intelligence Organization (MIT), they moved up the coup from the dead of night to 9 PM, when the streets were packed.

For Erdogan, the Russian warning came just in the nick of time, allowing him to flee his hotel in Marmaris minutes before twenty-five special forces troops loyal to the coup-plotters roped down from the roof of his hotel to seize him.

With streets in Istanbul full of people, Erdogan's text and video messages calling on supporters to oppose the coup had maximum impact.

After purging the military and government of suspected enemies, Erdogan's first foreign trip was to Russia, where on August 8 he thanked Putin for his help. "The Moscow-Ankara friendship axis will be restored," he proclaimed.

Two days later, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu blasted NATO for its "evasive fashion" of responding to Turkish requests for military technology transfers, and opened the door to joint military production with Russia.

Cavosoglu accused NATO of considering Turkey and Russia "to be second class countries," and pointed out that Turkey was the only NATO country that was refusing to impose sanctions on Russia for its annexation of the Crimea and invasion of Ukraine.

Russia has also been in talks with Turkey to base Russian warplanes at the NATO air base in Incirlik, Turkey, where some 2400 U.S. personnel have been quarantined since the failed July 15 coup attempt as Turkey continues to demand that the U.S. extradite alleged coup-plotter Fethullah Gulen, who lives in Pennsylvania.

These talks have alarmed the Pentagon, which on Thursday reportedly ordered the emergency evacuation to Romania of the estimated 50-70 nuclear B-61 "dial-a-yield" gravity bombs stockpiled at the base.

If confirmed, the nuclear withdrawal from Turkey constitutes a major strategic setback for the United States, with Russia poised to replace the United States as Turkey's main military partner after 60 years of NATO cooperation.

Russia-Iran: The warming of the Russia-Turkey relationship comes as Russia simultaneously is making advances in Iran.

The two countries have a long and often troubled history. The 1921 Soviet-Iranian treaty, which ended long-standing tsarist concessions in Iran, also included a mutual defense pact. Triggered briefly during World War II, the Soviets seized the opportunity to foment a Communist coup in Iranian Azerbaijan in 1948 and only withdrew after President Truman threatened to use nuclear weapons.

Successive Iranian regimes remained suspicious of Soviet intentions for the rest of the Cold War.

In recent years, Iran and Russia have joined together to evade international sanctions, with Russian banks clearing payments for Iranian oil purchases and serving as a conduit for Iranian government purchases abroad.

Last week, the specter of the 1921 defense treaty suddenly came alive when Russia and Iran announced they had signed a new military agreement to allow Russian jets to use the Nojeh airbase in western Iran for attacks on Syrian rebels.

This is the first time that the Islamic regime in Iran has allowed a foreign power to use Iranian territory as a base for offensive military operations against another country in the region, and the move led to tensions in the Iranian parliament.

For Russia, the move dramatically reduced flight times for the Tu-22M3 Backfire bombers it had been flying against ISIS targets in Syria from Mozdok airbase in Ossetia, 2000 km away. Iran's Nojeh air base, outside Hamadan, is less than 900 km from the war zone.

The shorter flight times also meant shorter warning for the Syrian rebels. Russian media reports have alleged that the United States has been providing "satellite surveillance data" to the Syrian rebels of the Russian bombing runs, allowing them to disperse "suspiciously too often" before the heavy bombers arrived on target from Mozdok.

The shorter distance cuts the flight time – and thus the warning time – by 60%, according to former Pentagon official Stephen D. Bryen. "The flight from Iran is between 30 to 45 minutes tops. If, therefore, the US is warning the rebels of impending Russian air strikes, the time to get the message to them and to actually be able to move their forces out of harm's way, is far less and maybe too short for finding effective cover," Bryen wrote in a recent blogpost.

Conclusion: Russia is on the verge of realizing a multi-generational dream of reaching the "warm waters" of the Persian Gulf through Iran.

Iran-Iraq: Adding to these dramatic developments was the announcement last week by a U.S. military spokesman, Colonel Chris Garver, that Iran now controls a military force of 100,000 armed fighters in neighboring Iraq. While the United States has allowed this Iranian expansion under the pretext Iran was helping in the fight against ISIS, clearly Iran can use this massive organized force to exercise its control over Iraq as well.

While none of these events was directly caused by the United States, clearly the lack of U.S. leadership emboldened our enemies, whose leaders have a much clearer strategic vision than ours of where they want the region to go.

Meanwhile, the Russian government continues to pursue the massive ten-year, \$650 billion military modernization program that Putin announced in December 2010, despite reduced oil revenues. Those plans include eight new nuclear submarines, 600 new fighter jets, 1000 helicopters, as well as new tanks and other ground equipment.

Most of the new equipment is based on new designs incorporating advanced technologies, not existing weapons systems.

Just this week, U.S. intelligence officials reported ongoing construction of "dozens" of underground nuclear command bunkers in Moscow and around the country apparently for use in the event of a nuclear war. General Curtis Scaparrotti, commander of U.S. European Command, called Russia's evolving doctrine on the first use of nuclear weapons "alarming."

All of this does not mean that the United States and Russia are headed toward a direct confrontation. The more likely consequence, given the sweeping Russian power-play with Turkey and Iran, is that the United States will simply abandon the region to Putin's Russia and his Turkish and Iranian allies.

The consequence of that abandonment will undoubtedly motivate Saudi Arabia to develop nuclear weapons as a counterweight to Iran.

Nero fiddled as Rome burned. Obama plays golf. Both leaders will leave ashes in their wake.

Kenneth Timmerman is executive director of the Foundation for Democracy in Iran and author of Shakedown: Exposing the Real Jesse Jackson. This appeared on Frontpagemag on August 22.

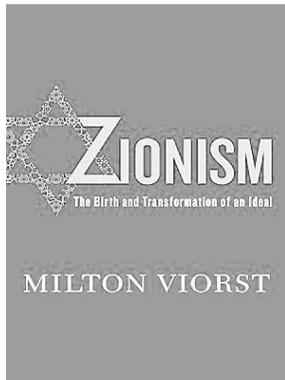
A Sloppy Hit on Israel

Review: Milton Viorst, 'Zionism: The Birth and Transformation of an Ideal'

David Isaac

Go to a library and toss a coin at the Israel shelf. You're almost certain to bounce it off a title critical of the Jewish state. The latest contribution to this death by a thousand books is by journalist Milton Viorst. At the heart of this book is the assumption that Israel is wholly to blame for the conflict between Jews and Arabs.

Though himself a Jew, Viorst veers into racist-sounding rhetoric when he asks whether "the Jewish DNA contains an immunity to peace." Given Israel's many attempts to achieve peace, the question isn't whether Jews are immune to peace but whether they are immune to reality. Viorst clearly is. Otherwise he could not declare that Israel adheres to the "Begin doctrine," a "diplomatic principle" that purportedly maintains that if a small state "offers concessions at a time of pressure, it only invites more pressure upon itself."



The manifold problems with this theory begin with Menachem Begin himself, who gave up the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt in 1978 in return for a peace treaty, few provisions of which Egypt honored. In 1993, Yitzhak Rabin handed over large swaths of the West Bank to Yasser Arafat, the man known as the "founder of modern terror," who showed his gratitude by launching a wave of suicide attacks. In 2000, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak didn't even bother getting an agreement before pulling Israeli troops out of southern Lebanon, paving the way for Hezbollah to turn it into a launching pad for rockets into northern Israel. Similarly, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon uprooted over 8,000 Israelis from their homes in the Gaza Strip, declaring "I am convinced in the depths of my soul and with my entire intellect that this disengagement ... will win the support and appreciation of countries near and far... and will advance us on the path of peace with the Palestinians and our other neighbors." It did neither, as "the world community" became ever more hostile and Gaza became another launching pad for rockets.

In 2008, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert made Israel's most far-reaching proposal, offering even to forgo sovereignty over the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, Judaism's holiest site. Olmert proposed that Israel keep 6.3 percent of the West Bank (areas close to the pre-1967 armistice borders now densely occupied by Jews) but compensate by giving the Palestinians an equal amount of land that had been within the borders of pre-1967 Israel. Mahmoud Abbas was not interested.

Viorst examines the lives of eight Zionist leaders, from Herzl to Netanyahu, to answer his own question: "How did Zionism, over the course of a century, evolve from the idealism of providing refuge

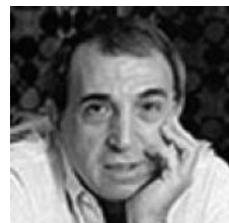
for beleaguered Jews to a rationalization for the army's occupation of powerless Palestinians?" This question is based on a false premise. Israel's purpose was and remains what Herzl set forth in *The Jewish State*: "We shall live at last as free men on our own soil, and die peacefully in our own homes." Zionism has not a glimmer of oppression in it, which explains the Jews' many efforts to find a solution to the conflict. Those whom Viorst calls "powerless Palestinians" enjoy the support of all Muslim countries, as well as Europe, the U.N., and the world media. Many of them are determined to annihilate Israel, indoctrinating violence in their young people, who then go out and slaughter children in their sleep, gun down families on the road, and ax rabbis at prayer. Those who commit these crimes are hailed as martyrs, and their families are given stipends. When Palestinians hear of a successful attack against Israelis—or Americans for that matter, as on 9/11—they hand out candy to children. A far better question Viorst might have asked is: How is it that the Jews have managed to keep their humanity in the face of such inhumanity?

Viorst blames Zionism's supposed moral descent to the rise of the Revisionist movement led by Vladimir Jabotinsky in the 1920s and '30s. "Revisionism thrives today, with an ideology that has grown only harsher since Jabotinsky's time," he writes. This is a bizarre statement: nobody is walking around Israel today calling himself a Revisionist. Revisionism was of a specific time and place, its name referring to the need to revise Zionist policy toward Britain during the period of the Mandate. The most one can say is that there are still followers of Jabotinsky, those who admire his highly original writings and warmth of character. Unlike David Ben-Gurion or Chaim Weizmann, Jabotinsky showed a sincere interest in the masses of Jewry.

Yet, for all his vilification of the Revisionist movement, it's clear that Viorst blames all Zionists, including Labor leader (and Jabotinsky's arch foe) Ben-Gurion. Ben-Gurion's "failure was to leave unresolved a conflict with the Arabs," Viorst writes, arguing "he did not so much as try." While Viorst admits that Ben-Gurion met with Arab notables to broker an agreement with the Mufti of Jerusalem, he complains that it did not lead him to "consider any real changes to the Zionist course." Viorst never explains what changes, short of abandoning Zionism, would have assuaged the Mufti, who went on to do all he could to help Hitler during World War II, going so far as to raise Muslim troops for the SS.

The book is riddled with basic factual errors, large and small. In the latter category, Viorst describes Jabotinsky's *The Five* as an "early novel" when in fact Jabotinsky wrote it five years before his death. Viorst repeats tales of old calumnies like that of Deir Yassin, an Arab village attacked by Irgun forces during the War of Independence. He describes it as a massacre of Arab women and children who put up little resistance, when in fact the Irgun suffered 41 casualties, as both residents and foreign fighters opened fire. He claims repeatedly that Betar, a youth group led by Jabotinsky, organized a demonstration at the Western Wall that provoked the 1929 Arab riots. Only it wasn't a Betar protest. Even the British officer who negotiated with the protesters said they weren't Betar members.

The list of errors goes on: Viorst states that the Haganah turned in members of the underground group Lehi to the British during the Saison, when in fact the Haganah turned in only Irgun members. (If Lehi members were captured, it was by accident.) He wrongly states that Jewish military units were formed too late to fight in World War II when, in fact, they fought the Germans in Italy. He asserts that America opened its arsenal to Israel in 1948 when it did the opposite, imposing an embargo on arms to the region. The embargo had no effect on the Arabs, who received weapons from the British, but had a profoundly detrimental effect on Israel.



Milton Viorst

Some of what he writes is off the wall. Viorst blames Begin for fleeing invading Nazis rather than organizing Betar to fight the Germans on Polish soil. Betar had a large membership, but these were teenagers learning martial skills that they hoped to use in Palestine—they were not a military force with the equipment or training to oppose the Wehrmacht. The million-man Polish army was totally demolished in two weeks

and three days. The idea that Betar could have had any impact on the Nazi juggernaut is beyond ludicrous.

These exaggerations, errors, and smears grow out of Viorst's seemingly pathological need to find fault with the Zionists for their every action, and indeed for the actions of others. This need goes so far that, when writing about Hamas bombardment of Israeli population centers with rockets, Viorst finds a way to point a finger at the Jews, saying that the rockets served "to remind Israel and the world that a million and a half Gazans could not tolerate living under the deplorable conditions that Israel imposed on them."

Viorst dedicates his book to the late Rabbi Leonard Beerman (who also assailed Israel) "and the other peacemakers, the greatest of the Zionists." Here one gets the sense that Viorst is paying tribute to himself. If you're looking for a book riddled with errors written by a man whose assumptions are all wrong and who marinates in his own moral virtue, then *Zionism* by Milton Viorst should rise to the top of your summer reading list.

David Isaac is writer-director for the Zionism101.org series of free videos on the history of Zionism. This article appeared in the Washington Free Beacon on August 20.

A Perspective on Refugees

Ruth King

In 1924, after decades of free immigration from Europe, America enacted the Johnson-Reed Immigration Law which limited groups considered racially and ethnically "undesirable." These were code words for Jews, Southern and Eastern Europeans, Africans, Arabs and Asians. When President Coolidge signed the law, his words were "America must remain American."

It was scrupulously enforced on July 6, 1938 when an international conference convened in Evian, France to deal with Jewish refugees desperate to flee the racial laws of Germany and Austria which sought to make their nations *judenrein*-- free of all Jews. But Jewish refugees found no succor from Western nations. With the British blockade of Palestine, Europe's Jews were trapped and one of every three Jews in the world died during the Nazi genocide.

After World War II millions of people fled or were expelled from Eastern Europe. Many fled the Soviet controlled Communist tyrannies. Others, such as the displaced surviving Jews, found no welcome when they returned to their previous homes. Millions of Germans--even those that had lived in Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, Rumania and Czechoslovakia long before the war--were expelled. It has been estimated that in the peak year of 1946, about 14,000 people per day became stateless refugees.

Europe was devastated by the death and destruction wrought by the war. Food and housing were scarce and throughout the continent refugees and survivors were kept in displaced persons camps. American policy in the immediate post-war period limited immigration to those who had friends or relatives who could sponsor them and guarantee they would not become dependent on government assistance. This policy changed in 1948 when restrictions were eased by the Displaced Persons Act which offered sanctuary to refugees from Communist nations of Eastern Europe.

Restrictions were further relaxed in The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 and The Refugee Relief Act of 1953. By 1959 one million European refugees had been absorbed by free European countries, 476,000 had been accepted by the U.S. and another half million by Latin America and Asia. The bulk of Jewish refugees found a home in a liberated and independent Israel.

World Refugee Year, in 1959-1960, was designed as a 'clear the camps' drive. By the end of 1960, all the refugee camps of Europe were closed.

The only exceptions were the squalid “Arab refugee” camps established in 1948. In them 500,000 Arabs and their descendants, courtesy of the UN and their so-called “Arab brethren”, have been kept in sorry conditions for the last 68 years.

What made the Jewish refugees “undesirable” in 1924 is a question to ponder, particularly now that the word “refugee” is flagrantly abused by those prepared to destroy Western civilization through immigration.

From 1880 until 1924 approximately four million Jews arrived in America. Their contributions to every aspect of American culture--science, medicine, theater, music, cultural and philanthropic institutions-- was outsize in every way. And if a well-known Jew committed a felony or murder, the shame and outrage was also disproportionate.



Early Jewish Immigrants

Although clustered in crowded and poor neighborhoods, Jews demanded no charity and depended on the help of Jewish organizations for settlement, schooling and medical care. They created the garment industry and pioneered in trade, retail and wholesale manufacturing and construction. Indeed it’s hard to think of any aspect of American life to which American Jews did not make a significant contribution. They attended night schools, learned English, participated in politics and gave their children anglicized names. Malka became Marilyn, Moshe became Marvin, Shmuel became Scott. They delighted in entertainment, told self-deprecating Jewish jokes and were pioneers in the labor union movement.

There are many Jews today who insist that the plight of Jews in 1938 and the failure of Americans to take them in means that Jews are obligated to accept large numbers of the tsunami of Moslem refugees from Syria and Iraq who have all but invaded Europe. In Scandinavia, France, Germany, England, Spain, Belgium, Holland, Moslems are wreaking havoc in the nations that gave them unlimited entry.

How false a comparison! Did Jewish refugees—any of them--call non-believers “infidels” deserving death? Did they demand that the Constitution be replaced by Rabbinic law, with Supreme Court Justices ordered to wear yarmulkes? Did their little shuls and large synagogues--Orthodox, Conservative or Reform--ever preach terrorism? Did Jews engage in honor killings? Did they pillage and riot and rape?

Of course not. Peaceful Moslems live in America freely, and some express their piety by wearing scarves and face coverings as Jews wear religious garb. But where is their outrage at terror committed against innocents by their coreligionists?

Poorly vetted, unrestricted immigration from Moslem nations is a security risk. It’s not Islamophobia to say so. And there’s no valid comparison to the history of Jewish refugees.

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