
OUTPOST



November 2016—Issue #303 PUBLISHED BY AMERICANS FOR A SAFE ISRAEL 46th Year of Publication

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Game Changer

William Mehlman

Minister of Culture and Sports Miri (Miriam) Regev is redefining the boundaries of artistic license in Israel and the licensees are in full cry.



It is a reckoning that has been in the making for the more than 68 years of the Jewish State's

existence, pitting an Ashkenazi (European descendant), left-wing elite's iron grip on the arts against an Israeli population that has grown progressively more politically conservative and religious. Whether it's the "paradigm shift in Israeli society" cited by Bar Ilan law professor Yedidya Stern, the "core of the struggle over who are the legitimate heirs to the Zionist movement," declared by veteran columnist Nahum Barnea or the "revolution"-- cultural, political and demographic-- prophesied by others, it has found its "Danton" (its "Robespierre," some would insist) in the raven-haired

51 year- old daughter of Moroccan Jewish immigrants. The mother of three and possessor of an MBA degree rose from the mean streets of Kiryat Gat to the rank of Brigadier General and IDF spokesperson and from there to a coveted No. 5 on the Likud list in the 2009 Knesset election.

Regev's take on her job is encapsulated in the still to be passed "Loyalty in Culture" amendment to Israel's 2017 budget which would "for the first time, make government financial support for any cultural institution conditioned on its loyalty to the state of Israel." Flag desecrators, "Nakba" sympathizers and those of similar mind can save their breath. "I have a responsibility for the public's money," she asserts. Regev invoked the power of her \$120 million purse immediately on assuming her ministerial duties last year, freezing funding of a Haifa-based Midan Theatre production of *Parallel Time*, portraying in a rather understanding context the real life story of a Palestinian security prisoner who kidnapped, tortured and murdered an Israeli soldier in 1984.

At about the same time, she red-lined government financial support for a proposed "documentary" on the wife of Yigal Amir, Yitzhak Rabin's assassin, and reduced funding for the Jewish-Arab Almina Children's Theatre in Jaffa port because its director, Christian actor Norman Issa, refused for "reasons of conscience" to participate with other theatre groups in a performance in the "occupied" Jordan Valley. In a swipe at the Israeli allies of Nakba, the annual day of Arab mourning over the "catastrophic" creation of a Jewish state in their midst, she hit out at the Tel-Aviv Cinemateque for its promotion of the "48mm Festival," a.k.a. the International Film Festival on Nakba.

Though she wasn't in charge of the ministry in time to prevent its footing the bill for transporting the cast of radical leftist Motti Lerner's "Return to Haifa" to the U.S., beginning with a performance in Washington, D.C., the lady from Kiryat Gat wouldn't be above suing the producers for soliciting public money under false pretenses. Art it surely is not. The "play," as reported on by Carol Greenwald of COPMA (Citizens Opposed to Propaganda Masquerading as Art), charges Israel with forcefully evacuating thousands of Arabs from Haifa in 1948 and ghoulishly "equates the murder of 1.5 million Jewish children in the Holocaust with the fictional abduction of an Arab child." What Congressional supporters of Israel in the audience might have thought of all that is too painful to contemplate.

"What is going on here"? Regev laments of the anti-Israel, bitterly ant-settler, blindly pro-Palestinian culture that "gets the grants, runs the theatre groups, makes the films, writes the reviews, teaches the courses and gives each other prizes," as author Vic Rosenthal recently observed in his

popular *Abu Yehud* blog. To additionally expect that they be subsidized out of the taxpayer's pocket for their mortification of the Jewish state elevateschutzpah to dizzying new heights. "There's a clear distinction between freedom of expression and freedom of financing," is Regev's response to this expectation. "They can have their freedom of expression but I am not their ATM."

Having firmly planted her spiked heels on Israel's cultural third rail, Regev doubled down with a publicized exit from the Israel Academy of Film and Television's "Ophir" awards ceremony (Israel's "Oscars" night) upon the unscheduled recitation by an Israeli Arab actor of verses from Palestinian "national poet" Mohammed Darwish's *ID Card*. They included the lines *But if I starve/I will eat my oppressor's flesh/Beware, beware of my starving/And my rage*. Responding to the chorus of jeers that greeted her return to the hall following the recitation, Regev labeled her hecklers "hypocrites, close-minded to any opinion but their own. What have we sunk to?" she enquired of them. "To hear a poem at an Israeli awards ceremony by a poet who calls for the destruction of Israel is not about Left and Right. It's about preserving our very right to exist here."

Given her undisguised effort to drag a self-serving cultural establishment out of its bunker into the light of day -- something her "revolutionary" cohorts Naftali Bennett and Ayelet Shaked are attempting at their respective Education and Justice ministries -- it's surprising how mixed are the feelings she evokes among critics who wouldn't ordinarily be expected to give her as much as a nod. Starting out by calling her an "acrimonious populist who occasionally draws comparisons to Donald Trump," Greg Carlstrom in an October *Atlantic* feature entitled "The New Cultural War in Israel" proceeds to commend her, however blandly, for confronting the "long legacy of [artistic] discrimination and ridicule of Israel's Mizrahi or Middle Eastern Jews by its European descended Ashkenazy Jewish community." Characteristic of that cultural rut, he submits, are the millions of shekels bestowed on Israeli symphony orchestras playing primarily European music compared to the 70,000 shekels allocated to a Mizrahi orchestral group exploring ancient Middle Eastern music. He additionally notes, based on a 2012 survey, that Western styles of dance have received more than 95 percent of Israeli state funds earmarked for dance programs. Even as he charged her with "lacking a deep understanding of Israel's cultural atmosphere," Itamar Gurevitch, director of a committee that oversees more than 100 cultural institutions in Israel, praised her "good intentions" in attempting to widen the nation's cultural tent.

Indeed, despite unequivocal condemnation of her role in retriggering the "deepest fears in the Jewish psyche, fears that Zionism tried to free us from," as viewed by Shalom Hartman Institute Senior Fellow Yossi Klein Halevy in a *New York Times* piece, Regev's baggage is too diverse to be inventoried in black and white terms. Israel's stormiest right wing petrel is one of its most outspoken supporters of the LGBT community and though not traditionally observant, she skipped an appearance with the Israeli Olympic squad at the opening ceremonies in Rio because it would have necessitated publicly violating the Shabbat. Her closest ministerial confidante, grants evaluator Vahaba-Shashu, former principal of Tel-Aviv's most prestigious art school and a left-wing protectorate, confesses "I didn't know Miri," in an unusually balanced Regev profile by *Ha'aretz's* Rom Atik. "I thought she was a provocateur. As a radical feminist, I see her as a daring woman...actually on the Left on many social issues, a nationalist but not an ultra-nationalist." While smiling at the Minister of Culture's admission to never having read Chekhov, Shashu contends that Regev means no offense against exposing Israeli students to the West's literary giants, only that they could also benefit from exposure to brilliant modern Mizrahi poets like Sami Shalom Chitreet and Roy Hasson.

For her own part, Regev tells Atik "I didn't come here [the Ministry of Culture] to pick a fight. I came to help. I also came to advance some of the things that are not part of their mainstream but are part of mine. I want to take this occasion to tell the culture scene to calm down. The world of culture is no less important to me than it is to you. There's no need to be frightened because we're putting things on the table. Everyone will benefit from the battle I'm leading."

The Left isn't buying. Among the eight portfolios, including the Foreign Ministry, the Center-Left Zionist Union is allegedly insisting on in payment for entry into Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud-led coalition is rumored to be a "non-negotiable" demand for Regev's replacement as Culture and Sports Minister with one of their own. If he feels desperate enough to further cushion his thin Knesset majority against the impact of a U.S. post-election "yes" or abstention on a UN Security Council resolution mandating a Palestinian state predicated on the indefensible 1949 cease-fire lines, the prime minister could wind up hanging a bunch of people out to dry, including Regev, one of Likud's most powerful vote-getters. He placed her in a job she didn't initially want to effect changes he wanted but were too politically sensitive to be personally undertaken. Miri Regev might roll with the punch. The constituency that has made of her their knight in shining armor might decide otherwise.

William Mehlman represents AFSI in Israel.

From the Editor

Orwell at DePaul

DePaul is a Catholic university in Chicago. If there is anywhere that a student poster protesting abortion should be acceptable, this is the place. Think again. When the college Republican group sought to display a poster with the phrase "Unborn Lives Matter" DePaul's President Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider said no. He issued an open letter to the "DePaul community" declaring the poster constituted "bigotry under the cover of free speech" that "provokes the Black Lives Matter movement." Holtschneider concedes that "some people will say that DePaul's stance unfairly silences speech to appease a crowd. Nothing can be further from the truth." In fact, nothing could be more spot on. As Charles Lipson says in "DePaul, Where Free Speech Comes to Die" "the DePaul President's letter could have been drafted by Orwell's Ministry of Truth."

Just a few months ago, in July, the administration banned conservative (and strongly pro-Israel) writer Ben Shapiro from speaking on campus. John Minster, a sophomore at the school and vice president of the College Republicans, says witheringly: "There is seemingly no step this cowardly administration won't take to suppress free speech."

B'tselem: A Lethal NGO

On Oct. 11, the director of B'tselem, a supposed civil rights group that is in fact an attack dog against Israel, spoke at a UN Security Council special session (convened by Egypt, Malaysia, Venezuela, Angola and Senegal). He implored the UN to take "decisive international action" against Israel. He made no mention of Palestinian Arab terror attacks or incitement. NGO Monitor notes that this event "highlights the ways in which influential NGOs distort reality for ideological objectives and contribute to international political campaigns against Israel."

Efforts in Israel five years ago to limit by legislation the amount of money an NGO can accept from a foreign government were unsuccessful. A more recent Israeli effort to force NGOs to acknowledge foreign government funding in their literature was also met by a torrent of protests. (In the case of B'tselem over 64% of its funds come from governments, including the EU, and separately, France, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Ireland etc.) NGO Monitor has fastened on another approach, saying "Instead of symbolic and punitive gestures that further polarize the discourse about political NGOs, the Israeli government and Members of Knesset should work with their counterparts in Europe to formulate clear guidelines that establish transparency in funding processes, and define the agendas and groups that are ineligible for government funding." It's worth a try.

A Mosque in Romania

Writing for the Gatestone Institute, Soeren Kern points out that a lawsuit has been brought in Bucharest to annul the government's grant of free city land for a mosque to be built by Turkey. It is to be the largest mosque in Eastern Europe, second only to the Blue Mosque in Istanbul. The original deal called for a "mutual exchange" in which Romania would build an Orthodox church in Istanbul while Turkey built the mosque in Bucharest. However in July 2015 then Prime Minister Victor Ponta explained that the Romanian government had abandoned the church project because it is "not allowed under Turkish law." (No infidel worship wanted here.) Ponta decided to go ahead anyway, on the ground that the mosque was a multicultural symbol of Romania's acceptance of the Muslim community.

The mosque's critics, 500 years of Ottoman domination of Rumania still in mind, counter the mosque is out of proportion to the size of Bucharest's currently small Muslim population (and will encourage more Muslims to come), is a portent of Turkey's efforts to expand its influence in the Balkans, and has less to do with worship than "marking the territory of their authority through a monument." (This last is the charge of activist Ozgur Kazim Kivanc and reflects Turkish pursuit of the Islamic principle that once a land is Islamic, always Islamic.) The suit points out that adding insult to injury, "We consider the disposal of free land which, ironically, belonged to the family of Prince Constantin Brancoveanu, who was beheaded by the Turks on August 15, 1714, to be a betrayal of the Romanian people."

Kern reports that an online survey by the mainstream newspaper *Gandul* found over 90% of the public opposed to the mosque project. Yet another sign of the gulf in Europe between rulers and ruled when it comes to Islam.

Meanwhile in Turkey the Erdogan government continually demonstrates just how much of a one-way street its mission to build mosques abroad is. Turkey has arrested (and is expelling) American Pastor Andrew Brunson of the Resurrection Protestant Church and his wife Norine, who have lived in Turkey for twenty years. The grounds? They are "threatening the national security of Turkey" because they carried out "missionary activity and received money from abroad." Over the last four years more than 100 Christian pastors and other religious officials have been deported from Turkey and banned from reentering. Expert on Turkey Robert Jones in "Turkey Targets Christians" cites the 2015 Human Rights Violations Report by the Association of Protestant Churches which says that Protestants in Turkey are continually exposed to hate crimes, and physical and verbal assaults.

From Jobbik to Judaism

Israel is welcoming a most unusual immigrant. He is Csanad Szegedi, formerly vice president of Hungary's bitterly anti-Semitic Jobbik Party and known for his incendiary attacks on Jews. In 2012, after nine years in the party, he discovered that his mother, a software engineer, was born to Jewish parents. Szegedi quit Jobbik, visited Israel, became a religious Jew and has now made Aliya.

Attacking Israel for What Arabs Do

A sign of disintegrating support for Israel in the Democratic Party is the letter sent in June by 20 Democratic members of Congress to President Obama calling for appointment of a "Special Envoy for Palestinian Youth." The new propaganda gimmick is to focus on the alleged harm Israel causes to Arab children, who are being raised "under the constant fear of arrest, detention and violence at the hands of the Israeli military." No mention in the letter of the vicious incitement of Arab youth from kindergarten age on by the Palestinian Authority (see Palestinian Media Watch, *passim*) resulting in their recruitment as terrorists—and the attention this inevitably brings from the Israeli authorities. Here is child abuse in

spades. The charges in the letter are nonsense: the enlistment of members of Congress (from Moslem convert Keith Ellison to Oregon's forever Congressman Peter DeFazio) is worrisome.

Amazing Israel

Normally we quote from Michael Ordman's blog to list a few of Israel's many accomplishments in the field of medicine. This month our source is Einat Paz-Frankel who writes of an important breakthrough in cancer research led by Yuval Shaked of the Technion in Haifa. Shaked's study team focused on how to explain why cancers so frequently recur—and how to prevent this. A common theory has been that cancer cells develop internal resistance to treatment, overriding the toxic effects of the drug. But the Shaked team found that "the body responds to chemotherapy the way it responds to trauma. This creates the effect of a double-edged sword: although chemotherapy kills cancer cells, it also causes the secretion of substances that confer resistance to the tumor." Shaked reports that understanding the mechanisms that enhance the tumor and accelerate the spread of metastases "will enable us to develop methods to inhibit them."

Amona: Between Heaven, Earth and the White House.

Daniel Greenfield

Halfway to the sky sits a tiny village of little white houses that has attracted the ire of the White House.



The village of Amona with its small white houses and red roofs could easily be mistaken for

some lost Italian village or a dusty California town. But the White House would not have "boiled in anger", as one anonymous official claimed, over the doings of some Italian village.

There's only one place on earth that makes Obama's blood boil. It isn't Iran or North Korea. It's Israel.

Amona's small scattering of houses have a fraction of the square footage of the White House. The 40 families living there in defiance of Islamic terrorists and left-wing lawfarers would hardly be noticeable if they all crowded into the White House foyer. And yet they've been condemned by the State Department in more virulent tones than most Muslim dictators.

What is it about this handful of Jews caught between heaven and earth that outrages so many?

That may be the great question of history. It will not be solved among the sheep pens and orchards, the little white houses of Amona and their inhabitants, who despite the rage of the big White House, continue to go to work each day, to raise their children and to worship in the way of their ancestors.

In the official parlance of the media, Amona is a "settlement". That is to say it dates back a mere 3,300 years to the time when Joshua, born a slave in Egypt, commanded the Jews, "Go and walk through the land, and describe it, and come back to me, and I will cast lots for you here before the Lord in Shilo."

Today Shilo is a city of some 3,500. Like Jerusalem, it is also deemed a settlement. But on the list of places described by Joshua's men, the mere speck of Amona appears before Jerusalem.

But then Amona, unlike Jerusalem, vanished from history. For thousands of years the name would have only meant something to the most dedicated biblical scholars. And then the left went to war against Amona. And out of that hatred the forgotten town was raised up from its forgotten place in history.

The handful of families living in Amona have been the subject of more legal proceedings, international debates, threats and international outrage than most genocides. 3,000 feet above sea level, its residents look up at a kind blue sky and down at an angry world that is unwilling to let them live in peace.

They meet the challenges of gravity and rage with simple faith. Asked about the threat of Islamic terror, a 5-year old girl answered, "As God helped Joshua, so he will also help us."

Amona and its residents need all the help they can get. They have been under siege for decades. What the Islamic terrorists couldn't do to the residents, lawyers and activists who receive funding from the Soros network and assorted international left-wing billion dollar organizations, strive to accomplish.



Nili holds off police

Demolition and eviction orders have been issued. Police have converged on the handful of buildings with clubs and yells. In one such battle a 15-year-old girl, whom we only know as Nili, stood in their way. The image of the teenage girl blocking the path of dozens of riot police in black became a Pulitzer Prize winning photo. "Anyone who looks today at the ruins of the houses in Amona – understands that in this operation there was no sense whatever, except destruction," she said in an interview.

There is still no sense whatsoever to the war against Amona except destruction. It isn't about the land.

Amona's main antagonist is the extremist left-wing group Peace Now. There is nothing peaceful about Peace Now which seeks peace only with Islamic terrorists. One co-founder, Uri Avnery, declared, "The time has come to bury them." Another Peace Now co-founder, Yigal Tumarkin weighed in, "My true contribution would be if I grabbed a sub-machine-gun, instead of a pen and pencil, and killed them."

The children of Israel's small towns and villages excite such unnatural fury from left-wing notables.

Under pressure from a radical left-wing judiciary, Israel's government decided to relocate the families of Amona by building houses for them in Shilo. It is this which reportedly made Obama boil like a little teapot. The Jews of Amona are not to be permitted to live in their town. Or in any other.

According to some anonymous official, the plan to build houses for the evacuees in Shiloh is "of great concern" to the White House. Anyone wondering why Obama isn't concerned about ISIS or the economy had better realize that his eye is firmly fixed on a small town in Israel up against the bulldozer.

And he's determined to see to it that the bulldozer wins.

State Department deputy spokesman Mark Toner claimed that building 98 homes would endanger peace. Peace in Israel is as dead as the dodo. But somehow it never seems to be endangered by any amount of Muslim suicide bombings, stabbings or rockets. The Palestinian Authority funds Islamic terrorism by paying salaries to terrorists using taxpayer money dispensed to them by Obama.

And this butchery of Jewish families and massacres of Rabbis in no way endangers peace.

It is only the very real risk that the families of Amona might find some shelter that renders the glorious infrastructure of "a viable Palestinian state more remote". Like Haman, the Islamic terrorist state cannot stand to see a Binyaminite, no matter how alone, standing tall in defiance of its hunger and malice. These handfuls of homes represent, according to the State Department, "perpetual occupation."

State has a point. 3,300 years isn't quite perpetual, but it's a lot longer than Toner has been hanging around D.C. It's a lot longer than appeasers who know not to eat with their left hand and to curse Israel when visiting Muslim countries have been sliming their way around Foggy Bottom.

Can a few dozen families really "block" the rise of an Islamic terrorist state in Israel? During Israel's War of Independence the small village of Kfar Darom held out against sustained assaults from the Muslim Brotherhood. Among the Muslim Brotherhood terrorists was an Egyptian Jihadist named Yasser Arafat.

Moral courage enables a handful of people to do what the massive array of government cannot.

Nili explained her actions by saying, "You see me in the photograph, one against many, but that is only an illusion. Behind the many stands one man, but behind me stands the Lord." Today that man is Barack Hussein Obama. The residents of Amona stand in the way of his dream of an Islamic Palestine.

Who are the people of Amona? For the most part, they are children. Amona has nearly 200 of them. Five children are on the small side for a local family. Today Amona could pass for a village, tomorrow it's a town and the day after it's a city. That has been Israel's history. In a world where the great cities of civilization are overrun by the terrible tide of Muslim demographics, it is a place whose people still believe in the future. Such little villages full of white houses with red roofs are fortresses of hope.

In Amona, you will find deer meandering through the street. The Nizri family, with eight children, sees to the casks of French oak in the winery. There are raspberries to pick, tools to mend and a life to build.

It is not mere height above sea level that enables the people of Amona to tower above their enemies. It is their determination to live lives of ordinary courage. They have attracted the ire and enmity of some of the most powerful people in their country, their region and the world. And yet they go on.

Obama boils in his anger like a lobster in a pot. The UN Security Council has scheduled a special meeting where Israel will be denounced by the likes of Venezuela and Angola. And in Amona, the children play.

This appeared on October 13 in frontpagemag.com.

Shimon Peres, 1923-2016

With Peres' death, two very different men died.

David Isaac

Editor's note: The pamphlet comprising statements by Peres referred to in the article below is [What Shimon Says](#) compiled (with an introduction and comments) by Roger A. Gerber and Rael Jean Isaac. The entire pamphlet can be read on the AFSI site (under publications). Yitzhak Ben Gad, then deputy mayor of Netanya, credited an earlier version of the pamphlet (entitled Shimon Says) with defeating Peres's first candidacy for the Presidency in 2000. Ben Gad noted that initially polls showed Peres leading two to one among the 120 Knesset members. But then, he writes, "some of the material from the pamphlet [Shimon Says] was translated into Hebrew and distributed among the MKs. The numerous quotations of Peres' ridiculous expressions and views as they appeared in the pamphlet most definitely led to the rethinking of many MKs. Many changed their vote and [Moshe] Katsav ultimately won the election 63-57. In personal talks I had with numerous MKs. many told me that 'Shimon Says' had a direct influence on their vote." In 2007, when Katsav's term was over--he left in disgrace over rape charges--Peres tried for the post again and this time—memories are short-- he won.

With the passing of Shimon Peres at the age of 93, two very different men died. The first was young, pragmatic and tough-minded, skilled in negotiation and focused on building Israel's military strength. The second was older, a dreamer, resolutely focused on a vision of peace that proved stubbornly impervious to reality.



The first Peres was tapped by Ben-Gurion to head Israel's navy at the tender age of 24, and then became director general of the defense ministry at 29. He helped establish Israel's arms industry and led the negotiations with France that made it Israel's chief weapons supplier. He was deeply involved in the planning, with England and France, of the 1956 Sinai campaign and is credited with the construction of Israel's nuclear deterrent at Dimona.

This Peres reacted to events like a security hawk. When in 1976 then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin wavered between sending a rescue mission to Entebbe or giving in to terrorist demands, it was Peres, as defense minister, who pushed hard for the risky and unprecedented rescue effort. And it was Peres, within a divided government, who supported the settlement movement in Judea and Samaria.

But around 25 years ago, Peres was reborn. In 1993, as foreign minister he became the architect of the Oslo Accords. Until then, it had been illegal for an Israeli to speak to PLO representatives. In the blink of an eye, Yasser Arafat went from terror chieftain to world statesman. The new policy led to a Nobel Peace Prize for both Arafat and Peres, along with Prime Minister Rabin, whom Peres carried along with his vision. This is the Peres who promoted the idea of a New Middle East, in which cooperation would replace conflict.

The new Peres would become the most un-Jewish of Israel's prime ministers. This is not in the sense of religious observance: Peres may have been less alienated from tradition than some of Israel's other secular leaders. It is in the sense of departing from fundamental Jewish historical values and insights. One of the most central of these is the importance of remembrance. *Zakhor*—remember, according to former Columbia Professor of Jewish History Yosef Haim Yerushalmi, is invoked 169 times in the Bible. Indeed, Yerushalmi wrote a book entitled *Zakhor* in which he notes that only in Israel "is the injunction to remember felt as a religious imperative to an entire people." Yet Peres repeatedly insisted that he had no interest in the past. Noting the contrast between Yerushalmi's emphasis on memory in Judaism and Peres's cavalier dismissal of history, the pro-Israel group Americans for a Safe Israel compiled a pamphlet of statements from Peres on subjects like history, Zionism, and Judaism over nearly a decade following the Oslo Accords. Below is a sampling:

To a *Maariv* interviewer (May 23, 1996): "It is a great mistake to learn from history. There is nothing to learn from history."

To *The Wall Street Journal* (Sept. 30, 1994): "I have become totally tired of history, because I feel history is a long misunderstanding."

To *The Australia/Israel Review* (June 1997): "I am totally uninterested in the past. If you wouldn't ask me I wouldn't talk about it. The past bores me."

He repeatedly made confident assertions about the near-future. He told the Labor Party Convention in 1996, "By the year 2000, we will overcome Hamas, Islamic Jihad and terrorism. By then we will bring a comprehensive peace to the Middle East." It was precisely in 2000 that Arafat launched his terror war on Israel.

No wonder those who knew Peres described him as an inveterate optimist. Optimism comes easy if you dismiss experience. Or better still, if you believe, to borrow a favorite Obama phrase, you are on "the right side of history." As Peres put it when receiving an honorary doctorate from San Diego State

University on Aug. 29, 1997, "There is no single politician or party or government that can stop the march of history. And history is moving clearly in the direction of peace."

Unfortunately, you cannot fix unwise policy with fortune cookie-like utterances. Oslo has been a catastrophe. It has inaugurated an unprecedented wave of terror against Israeli civilians. It has split Palestinians into two entities, the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, both intent on destroying Israel. And it has led to Israel's growing isolation internationally as "progressive opinion" rallies to the Palestinian cause. Even long time U.S. Arab-Israel peace negotiator Aaron David Miller admits Peres's "legacy lies broken and bloodied."

World leaders and planeloads of celebrities who have flown to Jerusalem are paying tribute to the second Peres. He continued to tell them the fairy tale they wanted to hear, and which his unwavering faith made plausible: that there was a "two state solution," that Israeli concessions could achieve it, and that the Israel-Palestinian conflict held the key to solving all the region's problems.

However, with the passage of time, the second Peres will likely go down as a false prophet. It is the first Peres who will likely be cherished for his wide-ranging contributions to Israel.

David Isaac is the founder of a Zionist history site, Zionism101.org. This article appeared in Washington freebeacon.com on September 30

Neighborhood Bully

Bob Dylan

A reader of Outpost forwarded this, saying that Dylan deserved the Nobel for it alone. The song came out on Dylan's "Infidels" album, written after Israel bombed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor –that's the "bomb factory" alluded to in the song. It was Dylan's first album after his "Christian" period which produced three albums.

Well, the neighborhood bully, he's just one man
His enemies say he's on their land
They got him outnumbered about a million to one
He got no place to escape to, no place to run
He's the neighborhood bully.
The neighborhood bully he just lives to survive
He's criticized and condemned for being alive
He's not supposed to fight back, he's supposed to have thick skin
He's supposed to lay down and die when his door is kicked in
He's the neighborhood bully.
The neighborhood bully been driven out of every land
He's wandered the earth an exiled man
Seen his family scattered, his people hounded and torn
He's always on trial for just being born
He's the neighborhood bully.
Well, he knocked out a lynch mob, he was criticized
Old women condemned him, said he should apologize
Then he destroyed a bomb factory, nobody was glad
The bombs were meant for him. He was supposed to feel bad
He's the neighborhood bully.
Well, the chances are against it, and the odds are slim

That he'll live by the rules that the world makes for him
'Cause there's a noose at his neck and a gun at his back
And a license to kill him is given out to every maniac
He's the neighborhood bully.
Well, he got no allies to really speak of
What he gets he must pay for, he don't get it out of love
He buys obsolete weapons and he won't be denied
But no one sends flesh and blood to fight by his side
He's the neighborhood bully.
Well, he's surrounded by pacifists who all want peace
They pray for it nightly that the bloodshed must cease
Now, they wouldn't hurt a fly. To hurt one they would weep
They lay and they wait for this bully to fall asleep
He's the neighborhood bully.
Every empire that's enslaved him is gone
Egypt and Rome, even the great Babylon
He's made a garden of paradise in the desert sand
In bed with nobody, under no one's command
He's the neighborhood bully.
Now his holiest books have been trampled upon
No contract that he signed was worth that what it was written on
He took the crumbs of the world and he turned it into wealth
Took sickness and disease and he turned it into health
He's the neighborhood bully.
What's anybody indebted to him for?
Nothing, they say. He just likes to cause war
Pride and prejudice and superstition indeed
They wait for this bully like a dog waits for feed
He's the neighborhood bully.
What has he done to wear so many scars?
Does he change the course of rivers? Does he pollute the moon and stars?
Neighborhood bully, standing on the hill
Running out the clock, time standing still
Neighborhood bully.

Zionism101.org

Online now: [Jabotinsky Part 2: The Jewish Legion](#)

“Jabotinsky Part 2: The Jewish Legion” depicts Jabotinsky’s efforts to create a Jewish military unit to help conquer Palestine in World War I. Jabotinsky then struggles with a hostile British military administration in Palestine and founds the Haganah, which defends Jerusalem against Arab rioters in 1919 -- and for which its members, Jabotinsky included, are imprisoned by the British.

There are already 42 free videos on the site, covering everything from Zionism’s early years to Christian Zionism to Israel’s War of Independence.

The UN's Shameful Purge of Historical Jewish Ties to Jerusalem

Joseph Klein

(Editor's note: The UNESCO vote was so egregious that it may have had fortunate consequences. The vote was 24-6 with 26 abstentions. In other words, it was the abstentions, largely by European countries, that allowed the lopsided vote to pass. Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi called the vote "mistaken, 'inconceivable' and "shocking" and promised that Italy would vote against such resolutions in the future. "It is not possible to continue with these resolutions at the UN and UNESCO that aim to attack Israel," he said on an Italian radio station. "It is shocking and I have ordered that we stop taking this position [abstaining] even if it means diverging from the position taken by the rest of Europe." Israel has congratulated Renzi and hopes that other countries in the EU may be shamed into following his example.)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) executive board passed a resolution, entitled "Occupied Palestine," which refers to Jerusalem's holy sites only by their Islamic names. The resolution effectively denies the historical ties of the Jewish people to the Temple Mount, proving that this dysfunctional UN body is not grounded in any educational, scientific or cultural reality at all. UNESCO is being used by Islamists, who rammed through the admission of Palestine to UNESCO with full membership privileges in 2011, to wipe away Jewish history in Jerusalem with a stroke of the pen. The purpose is to delegitimize the Jewish state. This is no surprise, considering that Islamic states such as the holocaust-denying Islamic Republic of Iran, the ISIS-funding state of Qatar and the genocide committing state of Sudan sit on UNESCO's Executive Board.

Even UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who has had his own issues with Israel, could not abide by UNESCO's re-writing of history. "The Secretary-General reaffirms the importance of the Old



City of Jerusalem and its Walls for the three monotheistic religions and stresses the importance of the religious and historical link of the Jewish, Muslim and Christian peoples to the holy site," said a statement read by the UN Spokesperson on behalf of the Secretary General. "The Al Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram al-Sharif, the sacred shrine of Muslims, is also the Har HaBayit—or Temple Mount—whose Western Wall is the holiest place in Judaism, a few steps away from the Saint Sepulcher church [Church of the Holy Sepulchre] and the Mount of Olives, which is revered by Christians."

A senior Obama administration official told the Jerusalem Post that the UNESCO resolution was "one-sided," "unhelpful" and "highly politicized." The U.S. did vote against the resolution, but President Obama still wants to restore American taxpayers' funding of UNESCO, which had been cut off after UNESCO granted full membership to the so-called Palestinian "state."

Palestinian leaders have been cynically attempting to re-write history to suit their false narrative for years. And UNESCO has aided and abetted the lies, even referring to the holiest site in Judaism, the Western Wall, as Al-Buraq Plaza "Western Wall Plaza." UNESCO used the Arabic name rather than the Hebrew name, Hakotel Hama'arvi, "Kotel."

Mahmoud Abbas' advisor on Religious and Islamic Affairs, Mahmoud Al-Habbash, recently praised the UNESCO action on official Palestinian Authority TV:

"UNESCO's resolution confirms what we think and believe in, that Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque in particular, and the Al-Buraq Wall (i.e., Western Wall) and the Al-Buraq [Wall] plaza are all purely Islamic and Palestinian assets and no one has the right to be our partner in that. No one has the right. We are the owners and we have the right to it. Only the Muslims have the right to the Al-Aqsa

[Mosque] and the Al-Buraq [Wall] and the Al-Buraq [Wall] plaza which is purely Islamic waqf property... This is a message to Israel from us (i.e., the Palestinians) that we have the right and from all of the international community.”

The UNESCO resolution goes further than just propagating the Palestinian lies. Contrary to its supposed mission to encourage educational, scientific and cultural exploration for the truth, UNESCO’s resolution demands that Israel stop excavation efforts to unearth further archeological evidence of Jewish life in and around Jerusalem dating as far back as 1000 BCE. The Palestinians and their allies know that the best way to deny the existence of ancient Jewish roots in Jerusalem and elsewhere in the Holy Land is to prevent their discovery in the first place. They also seek to debunk the validity of traces of Jewish history already unearthed with malicious falsehoods and acts of wanton destruction.

Indeed, Islamists know only how to destroy sites of significance to other faiths or defile them. When Jordan occupied the Old City illegally starting in 1948, the Jewish synagogues in the Old City were destroyed or used as hen houses and stables filled with manure. Jewish residents were forced to leave their homes. Jordan barred Jews from access to their holy sites or to the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives. Grave sites were ransacked.

After Israel liberated Jerusalem’s Old City in 1967, the Jewish state did not seek revenge. It did not destroy or desecrate sites considered holy to Muslims. In fact, the Knesset passed the Safeguarding of the Holy Places Law, which states: “The holy places shall be safeguarded against desecration and any other harm, and from anything liable to impede freedom of access of members of religious denominations to the places sacred to them or to their feelings regarding those places.” The keys to the Temple Mount were handed over to the Muslim Waqf authorities of Jordan, whom Israel has continued to recognize as having special custodial responsibilities in administering the Muslim holy shrines in Jerusalem. However, Jordan irresponsibly ceded at least some of its authority to Palestinian officials, who proceeded to oversee the conversion of ancient Second Temple period underground structures into a mosque in 1996. They repeated with another Second Temple period underground structure converted to a mosque in 1997. In short, while Israel has not turned any structures associated with Islamic history in Jerusalem into synagogues, the Palestinians have abused the custodial authority that Jordan delegated to them in the Old City by converting ancient structures associated with Jewish history into new mosques.

Yet UNESCO sought fit to condemn only Israel’s carefully supervised scientific archeological exploration, maintenance work and new infrastructure projects, such as a new cable car over Jerusalem’s Old City that would allow people of all faiths to more easily travel to holy sites that Islamists had chosen to desecrate during their occupation. The UNESCO resolution speaks of “the cultural heritage of Palestine and the distinctive character of East Jerusalem,” as if they were inextricably linked. There is no distinctive cultural heritage of Palestine in Jerusalem. Palestinian Muslims share the same



View of East Jerusalem

affinity to the Islamic holy site of Al Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram al-Sharif that the estimated 1.6 billion Muslims around the world do. Contrary to the resolution’s falsehood that Israel is preventing Muslims from worshipping at Al Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram al-Sharif, Israel has shown remarkable self-restraint in keeping access open despite periodic provocations from Palestinians throwing stones at Jews worshipping below at the Western Wall.

The whole idea of an Israeli occupied “East Jerusalem” that supposedly belongs to the Palestinians is a revisionist construct. Historically,

Jews have been living in Jerusalem continuously for more than three millennia. Jerusalem has never been the capital of any sovereign nation except of the Jewish people. In more recent times, Jews have constituted the largest single group of inhabitants in Jerusalem since at least the mid-1800s. Prior to the Jordanians' illegal occupation, Jerusalem was an undivided city. Jerusalem is so again today, open to worshippers of all faiths. It is the Palestinians who seek to replicate Jordan's temporary illegal occupation and division of Jerusalem and make it permanent, imposing an ethnic and religious cleansing of any Jewish residents in the Old City.

As Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon told the Security Council on October 19th, "UNESCO's resolution which denies a connection between the Jewish people and Jerusalem, is an embarrassing stain on the pages of UN history. These attempts to cut us off from our homeland and our heritage will not succeed. We will remain in our land and in our capital of Jerusalem forever."

Joseph Klein is a Harvard-trained lawyer and the author of Global Deception: The UN's Stealth Assault on America's Freedom and Lethal Engagement: Barack Hussein Obama, the United Nations & Radical Islam. This appeared on October 21 in frontpagemag.com

My Letter to the Prime Minister

Melanie Phillips

Dear Mrs. May,

I am pleased and relieved to find that you appear to be free of animosity towards Israel and to hold the Jewish people in high regard.



This is no small thing. With the demonisation of Israel the default position in political and cultural circles and with open anti-Jewish hatred now a common occurrence, your decency and straightforwardness have unfortunately become the exception in public life rather than the rule.

I wonder, though, if you fully realise the sources, extent and consequences of these poisonous attitudes towards Israel and the Jewish people?

They are by no means confined to the Corbynistas. They have characterised progressive circles for decades and have spread within the Tory party too.

The animus against Israel cannot be separated from hostility to Jews.

Antisemitism singles out Jews for treatment applied to no other people: double standards, imputation of conspiratorial powers and false claims they are committing crimes of which they are in fact the victims. This is precisely the treatment applied to Israel.

Although anti-Israelism is anti-Jew, many who oppose Israel are not anti-Semitic. There are people of goodwill but no knowledge about the Middle East who believe the Big Lies about Israel with which they are bombarded.

The problem is that no-one is telling them the truth. This is where you come in. For you can use your high office to help change this false and hateful narrative.

The British care about law and justice. So when they are told that Israel breaks international law and denies the basic rights of another people, it bothers them a lot.

In fact, these claims are untrue. Israel denies no-one's basic rights and acts within international law. Yet these hateful falsehoods are the official policy of your government.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office says Israel occupies the "Palestinian territories". This is false. There is no such thing as "Palestinian territory". The Palestinian Arabs were never at any point in history in control of any part of Israel or the disputed territories.

Israel's presence in the territories cannot be legally defined as an occupation. Under the Hague and Geneva conventions, an occupation can only take place on sovereign land. The territories were never anyone's sovereign land.

Israel is entitled under international law to continue to hold onto them as a defensive measure as long as its Arab aggressors continue to use them for belligerent ends.

Your government also maintains that Israeli settlements are illegal under the Geneva conventions. These prohibit an occupying power from transferring people en masse into occupied territory, a provision drafted after World War Two to prevent any repetition of the Nazis' forced displacement of peoples.

Israelis resident in the disputed territories, however, have not been transferred but moved there through their own free choice. So over the settlements, your government willfully misrepresents international law.

Moreover, the original Mandate for Palestine gave Britain the legally binding duty to settle the Jews throughout what is now not just Israel but the disputed territories too. That Jewish right has never been abrogated.

In other words, far from being illegal settlers or occupiers of another people's land, the Jews are the only people with a legal and historical claim to all this territory and the only people for whom it was ever their national kingdom. A number of distinguished lawyers have said all this over the years.

The international law expert Professor Eugene Kontorovich has looked at every modern example where occupied territories have been settled. In none of them did the international community denounce such action as illegal or demand that settlers had to vacate the land as a condition for peace or independence. If world powers asked the occupying force to withdraw, they referred only to the army and not the settler population. The only exception? Israel.

Prime Minister, why is your government employing against Israel such falsehoods, distortions and double standards? It is thereby helping fuel Muslim radicalisation, incite anti-Jewish hatred and weaken its crucial Israeli ally, which provides so much assistance in military and intelligence links to help keep British people safe.

Next year sees the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. May I suggest you use this opportunity to start telling the truth about the Jewish homeland that eventually resulted from that event, and thus strike a powerful blow for truth, decency and the defence of the free world.

This appeared in The Jewish Chronicle on September 29. Melanie Phillips is a British journalist whose books include Londonistan and The World Turned Upside Down.

How Did We Get to This Sorry Pass?

Ruth King

I have lived through the unspeakable years of the Holocaust and then through the glorious years of Israel's rebirth. I reveled as a young wife and mother in Israel's lightning victory in 1967; in the assimilation and ingathering of oppressed Jews from every corner of the diaspora; in the Jewish democracy which has contributed to the cultural enhancement and the scientific, agricultural,

technological and medical breakthroughs of the entire world. I was certain that unsheathed Jew hatred was a relic of the past.

My illusions have been systematically dashed by the tsunami of anti-Semitism infecting the whole world. It grows within the media, the academy and is expressed in seemingly daily new and increasingly vicious libels against Jews and Israel. Where did it start is the question that gnaws at me.

Many good people seek explanations.

The London Center for Policy Research produced a meticulously researched book *The BDS War against Israel- the Orwellian Campaign to Destroy Israel Through the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement*. Written by Jed Babbin and Herbert London it documented the funding, agenda and duplicity of the movement. But the question remains: "How did we get there?"

The Gatestone Institute publishes countless columns detailing the crisis proportion of the anti-Semitism sweeping through Europe. The question nags: "Why is this happening?"

David Collier in England describes the growing anti-Semitism and hate festivals in mainline churches and in universities.

Frontpage Magazine and its Freedom Center are superb in researching and exposing the campus manifestations of Israel/Jew hatred throughout the nation. Check out *StoptheJihadonCampus.org*. But why did the campuses become the purveyors of "civilized" anti-Semitism?

CAMERA, the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, does a yeoman's job in monitoring the media and correcting distortions and libels against Israel. But how did we get to a place where this organization is essential?

Was it the Lebanon war of 1982? In 1984 AFSI produced a documentary "NBC's War in Lebanon- A Study in Misrepresentation" based on watching every single news report from NBC. It detailed the transgressions in reporting, the falsehoods and the overt bias of the network. The documentary was reviewed in the *New York Times* by John Corry who agreed that world opinion was altered by the coverage. As an example the respected commentator John Chancellor opined about a "feeling Israel was turning into a warrior state, using far more force than is necessary to solve its problems." He also mentioned the "problem with Israeli credibility." But, even the vile coverage did not elicit campus protests and calls for boycotts.



Robert Spencer

Was it Arab money fueling the Middle East departments of our universities? Robert Spencer has exposed the funding and agenda of the educational anti-Israel cartel know as MESA (Middle Eastern Studies Association) But, as bad as they are, they are not responsible for the avalanche of organizations representing academic pursuits from Anthropology to Library Science to Asian-American Studies--to name only a few-- that have voted to boycott Israel.

Is it the growing influence of Islam? Dr. Andrew Bostom has written tomes on the history of Islamic Jihad and the legacy of anti-Semitism. It certainly fuels the fires but how can the proponents of Islam gain such credibility when they have perpetrated atrocities within both Europe and America?

The question of how we got here haunted me until this past Thursday. I had lunch with a dear friend, a physician who grew up in Bulawayo- formerly Rhodesia. He now lives here and recounted how during Rosh Hashana he met a young Israeli family with three children who had just left Israel permanently and moved to Germany--of all places. When he asked why the answer was a smug "We want to live in a democracy" followed by accusations of harsh occupation of the Arabs by cruel and indifferent Jews. The expletives that he and I traded will not be repeated here. However, my question was answered.

Edward Alexander details it brilliantly in *Jews against Themselves*.

The Pandora's box of anti-Semitism was opened by those Jews who turned on Israel. After all, if Jews will libel and hate Israel they legitimate that ancient hatred.

The fools – like that family that finds life in Germany preferable-- will be the first to cry out in self-righteous amazement when the rising tide of global anti-Semitism comes lapping at their ankles.

They deserve no succor. They are complicit in the genocidal dreams of our enemies.

Outpost

Editor: Rael Jean Isaac

Editorial Board: Ruth King, Rita Kramer

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

Annual membership: \$100.

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