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Precinct Israel: Still Counting

William Mehlman

Israeli reactions to Donald Trump's stunning presidential election victory have ranged from the apothecotic to the apocalyptic, the outer limits of a broad base of opinion grounded in shaded optimism.

Aryeh Deri's optimism was forged in another place. The Interior Minister and chairman of "Shas," Sephardic (predominantly Moroccan) ultra-Orthodoxy's parliamentary face, says he sees in the election of the New York real estate magnate and reality TV star a "herald of the coming of the Messiah." A decidedly political messianic herald to be sure, for unbeknownst to the President-elect, he is the hammer who has been chosen to break Reform and Conservative Judaism's hold on the U.S. government. "There is no doubt," Deri avers, "that one can give thanks to God that all those who have damned the Covenant, thinking they could take control over the Land of Israel, have received their blow. If such a miracle can happen," he adds, "we are really in the era of the birth pangs of the Messiah when everything has been flipped to the good of the Jewish people."

Projecting a somewhat more earthly grounded version of Deri's thesis, Moshe Gafni, senior Knesset representative of the mainly Ashkenazic (eastern European) United Torah Judaism party, told Haredi news website *Kikar Hashabbat* that the Reform and Conservative movements had done themselves irreparable damage with their near uniform identification with a tattered Democratic party. "The Right has risen," he declared, and Trump is well aware of who worked against his election.

At the opposite pole, visions of impending calamity were being evoked by the "climate change" wing of the Israeli environmental fraternity over Trump's threat to cancel America's contribution under the recently concluded "Paris Agreement" toward keeping the global temperature rise to below 2 degrees C for the foreseeable future. Trump considers the agreement "bad for American business" and has called global warming a "hoax." The threat has Israeli climate changers in eschatological mode, with solar engineer Yosef Abramowitz, whose Energyia Global Capital finances solar construction in Israel and Africa, predicting that a loss of American leadership on climate will doom the West to a hellish combination of "increased fires, extreme drought, rising sea levels and supercharged hurricanes." "Our children and grandchildren," he further prophesied, "will suffer from greater air pollution, food scarcity and political turmoil around the globe."

Wrestling with angels and demons of his own, the Prime Minister was pictured by *Jerusalem Post* chief political correspondent Gil Hoffman as having a "hard time hiding his joy over the change in power in Washington...He talks and acts like a Republican," Hoffman observed, "and was obviously overjoyed when Pennsylvania, the state in which he spent his formative years, gave the presidency to Trump." Never having shared a single day with a Republican president in his 10-plus years at Israel's helm, the prime minister was quoted by staffers as having remarked "I want to know what it's like to serve with a president that has my back." With Trump, Bibi will be more than getting his wish. Mutual admiration thoroughly informs this relationship. Hoffman described Netanyahu as appearing "downright giddy" in a video congratulating Trump on his victory, declaring him a "great friend of Israel." Netanyahu accompanied it with a Facebook posting of a video Trump released prior to the 2013 Israeli election praising him as a "great prime minister" and "a winner."

Netanyahu has two months to craft a strategy for dealing with the political gift he's been handed, an interregnum that could be complicated by the possibility of President Obama using his lame duck cover to either withhold America's veto or abstain from a French-led UN Security Council resolution linking a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian impasse to an Israeli retreat to the indefensible 1949 cease-fire lines and the repartition of Jerusalem. It reduces Netanyahu's caution to the Knesset against premature Israeli pressure on the President-elect to blowing in the wind. The Knesset is nothing if not in a hurry to collect on Trump's promises.



Yehuda Glick

With Naftali Bennett, Minister of Education and Jewish Home Party chairman declaring that Trump's accession to the Oval Office means "the pursuit of a Palestinian state over," the jubilation on the Right was irrepressible. As members of the Land of Israel movement raised their glasses in a "le chaim" to him, Likud MK Yehuda Glick, who survived four bullets in an attack on the Temple Mount, invited the President-elect to join him in a victory lap at the site. Breaking a rule against addressing the plenum in any language other

than Hebrew, Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein congratulated the election victor in an English speech expressing confidence that the "long standing friendship and alliance between the United States and Israel will remain strong."

Pointed reference was made by Bennett and others that in contrast to the Democrats the Republican platform was devoid of any mention of a "two-state solution" or criticism of Israel's settlement movement. "Mr. Trump does not view the settlements as being an obstacle to peace," Jason Greenblatt, one of two powerhouse lawyers advising Trump on Israel, asserted during the campaign. "Nor is it his view that settlement activity should be condemned." As for Jerusalem, cautious confidence in Trump making good on his vow to recognize the city as Israel's capital and honor it with a relocated American embassy was the order of the day.

Hosannas over the American election results, however, weren't the only sounds emanating from the legislature. Zionist Union opposition leader Isaac Herzog, who labeled the 350,000 Jews living in Judea and Samaria "a virus, dangerous to our democracy" in an IDF Radio interview, called Trump's victory a "social, economic and leadership tsunami" that could bring its destructive waves to Israel's shores. Merav Michaeli, his ZU compatriot, accused Trump of winning with "a campaign of harm and humiliation directed at women." Arab Joint List MK Yousef Jabarin said a Clinton victory would have done nothing for the Palestinian people, since "both candidates held almost identical pro-Israel views" and "only a move by Obama to recognize a Palestinian state and a timetable for its formation" could alter the situation.

While conceding that "democracy has spoken," Rabbi Daniel Hartman, head of Jerusalem's prestigious Shalom Hartman Institute, a bastion of modern Orthodox liberalism, warned that "if the America Trump spoke about is the America he tries to create, then we must be a powerful opposition force." He never identified the "we" he was referring to, but if they're related to a group attempting an Israeli replication of the post-election Trump denial playing out on American city streets, he's got his work cut out for him. They laid an embarrassingly large egg on the Tel Aviv boardwalk. The Israelis were notably uninterested in participating and the handful that turned up among an American ex-pat population that voted nearly 70 percent for Trump were the target of some heated lecturing from passers by.

Democracy has indeed spoken and its message is clear: The "received wisdom," as the *Jerusalem Post's* Caroline Glick termed it, of an American foreign policy elite that the U.S. must swiftly, if not sooner, "cause Israel to sign a deal with the PLO surrendering control over all or most of Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria," is history. In the words of a position paper released on the eve of the election by the Trump Israel Advocacy Committee, co-chaired by attorney George Friedman and the aforementioned Jason Greenblatt, "the U.S. cannot support the creation of a new state where terrorism is financially incentivized, terrorists are celebrated by political parties and government institutions and the corrupt diversion of foreign aid is rampant."

To what extent Trump can alter a nuclear deal with Iran that both he and Netanyahu have labeled a "disaster," is contingent on how many more violations of its minimal safeguards they are

prepared to tolerate. But one can feel reasonably certain that every conceivable effort to eviscerate its menace will be stretched to the limit. Finally, and perhaps most important, as Glick points out, Trump's election offers Israel its "first opportunity in 50 years to reshape its alliance with the United States, one based on a common understanding and respect for what Israel has to offer America as well as on the limits of what America can offer Israel. It's a rare moment," she perceives, "when things that were unimaginable a month ago are possible. And if we play our cards right, like the American people, Israel stands to gain in ways we never dreamed of."

William Mehlman represents AFSI in Israel.

From the Editor

A New Muslim?

(Jewish?) Anti-Defamation League head Jonathan Greenblatt has declared he will register as a Muslim if there is reinstatement of a national registry of immigrants and visitors from countries where Islamic extremist groups are active. Now there's a terrific idea. Perhaps Greenblatt will then be eligible to head CAIR or the Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. Given how far ADL has moved from its ostensible mission of promoting Jewish interests (in practical terms it functions as a wing of the far left of the Democratic Party), Greenblatt's departure from his current post would be cause for celebration for those who care for Israel and the welfare of American Jews.

Sitting Political Shiva

There has been much coverage of elite campuses where professors suspended classes and students retreated to safe spaces with Play Doh and even therapy dogs to recuperate from the staggering blow of an election in which the deplorables deplorably won. Less remarked, dozens of synagogues have been equally idiotic, organizing gatherings for their flock "to grieve together." Rolando Matalon, rabbi at Congregation Bnai Jeshurun on Manhattan's Upper West Side, where one such gathering occurred, told *Haaretz*: "People feel heartbroken and in disbelief...we need to give people space to hold each other or pray and sing."

While excoriating the supposed anti-Semitism of Trump, his entourage and his appointments on



trivial to non-existent evidence (most of them, including the much maligned Stephen Bannon, have a strong record of support for Israel), these same people show not a shred of concern that, at this writing, the strongly anti-Israel convert to Islam Keith Ellison is favored to become the new chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Charles Schumer, the incoming Democratic minority leader, says "I'm not worried about the Israel stuff." Neither of course are the likes of Rabbi Matalon, an avowed supporter of the

Soros-funded anti-Israel J Street. But the synagogue members who care about Israel and are currently foolishly "grieving together" should be very worried about Ellison.

As ZOA chairman Mort Klein has pointed out, Ellison "was a devotee and worked for anti-Semite Louis Farrakhan for many years." In 2014 he was one of only 8 members of Congress who voted against a bi-partisan bill to provide \$225 million to Israel's Iron dome missile defense system. In 2010 Ellison spearheaded the "Gaza 54" letter to President Obama, false accusing Israel of wreaking "collective

punishment” on Gaza residents and demanding that Obama pressure Israel to lift the Gaza blockade. Ellison sought to insert anti-Israel provisions into the 2016 Democratic platform and has ties to radical Moslem anti-Israel groups. Why no political shivas at the prospect of an Ellison at the helm of the DNC?

The shiva-sitters might pause to ponder why, in Israel, the vote was as lopsided for Trump as it was against him within U.S. Jewry. In Arutz Sheva, Larry Gordon reports that of the more than 100,000 American citizens who live in Israel and cast absentee ballots the overwhelming number voted for Trump. The answer is easy: eight years of a hostile Obama administration was enough. For them U.S. policy toward Israel, i.e. the future of the Jewish people, was the decisive issue.

Not that there isn't cause for concern: Trump keeps coming back to the fantasy that he can solve the Arab-Israel conflict, most recently by sending his son-in-law to do the job!

Keep Your Eye on the Corpses

Writing in the Australian journal *Quadrant* David Pryce Jones describes the cultural traits within the Arab world that fuel its brutal wars and inability to function as nation-states. He observes that in the post-1945 world, Arabs have been free to build their own societies in accordance with their numbers and hopes. “Instead,” he writes, “they have thrown away such prospects in self-perpetuating and interminable wars and civil wars. Never take your eyes off the corpses is the sole comment outsiders can make about these people who are failing to do justice to themselves, destroying, not creating, in a continuous human tragedy.”

Israel, says Pryce Jones, “is the one exception in the region. Zionism is the national liberation of the Jewish people, and it has enabled them to create a First World nation-state, a centre of excellence in the sciences and the arts. Its democratic institutions incorporate a variety of ethnicities, religious faiths and sects. To give just one example of its inclusiveness, the judge who condemned a President of Israel to prison for sexual misdemeanor is an Arab. Traditionally Muslims have been accustomed to see Jews as second-class people, by nature shameful, and it is intolerable for them and their honour that a Jewish liberation movement should succeed in their midst. Ranging from boycotts and sanctions to outright war, attempts to attack Israel are so many triumphs of ignorance and irrationality, incitements to pile up more corpses, and altogether a standing insult to civilization.”

House of Libel

The House of Lords became a House of Libel as Baroness Jenny Tonge hosted an event there in which Jews were blamed for the Holocaust, Israel was compared to Islamic State and Tonge herself demanded a boycott of Israel. Reporting on what he describes as “Europe’s descent into a new kind of anti-Semitism” Daniel Johnson reports that Tonge “hosted this showcase of anti-Semitic lies on behalf of the Palestinian Return Center lobby group [which is] launching a campaign to press Britain to apologize for the Balfour Declaration.” The year 2017 will mark the centennial of that famous commitment of Britain to foster the creation of a Jewish National Home in Palestine.

Johnson writes that when the event was publicized by the Israeli embassy in London, the Labor party merely suspended Tonga. She has since resigned, blaming Israel for manipulating British politics: “They like to be in control of things.”

The UN Outdoes Itself

In this issue of *Outpost* Ruth King suggests that Israel leave the UN. Bolstering this argument, the UN General Assembly in a single day (the very day the U.S. went to the polls) passed ten anti-Israel resolutions. Writing in *Frontpage*, Ari Lieberman notes that “only three resolutions dealt with the rest of the world giving some sense of the General Assembly’s obsession with Israel...[the] lopsided anti-

Israel vote at the UN demonstrates with utmost clarity why the UN should not be involved in any way, shape or form in formulating Mideast policy or solutions with respect to the Arab-Israeli dispute.”

From Amazing Israel

A tiny sample from Michael Ordman’s recent assemblage of Israel’s remarkable contributions to advancing human welfare. Israel’s BiogeneRX, in conjunction with Ben Gurion University, Hadassah Medical Center and Novartis has developed a novel treatment that can restore liver function in patients with liver disease or injury.

A phase III trial of a treatment for tardive dyskinesia, which causes uncontrollable movements as a side effect of anti-psychotic medication, in around 50,000 U.S. patients has provided statistically significant results.

Israel’s Neurim is conducting a Phase 2 trial for its drug Pironelatine for Alzheimer’s.

Tycocare, a digital stethoscope which performs enhanced remote diagnosis without a physician present has received FDA clearance.

GE’s Haifa engineering team was a major player in developing Revolution CT (computer tomography), a scanner that takes less than a second and exposes patients to only 20% of the radiation of previous models.

Balfour Declaration, November 2016

Richard Kemp

On Nov. 2 we entered the centenary year of the Balfour Declaration. This document, signed on November 2, 1917 by the British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour, was the first recognition by one of the world’s great powers—in fact at the time the greatest power in the world—of the right of the Jewish people to their national homeland in Palestine.

It was the single most significant step taken in restoring Jewish self-determination in their historic territories. Under the San Remo Resolution three years later, the Balfour Declaration was enshrined in international law, leading inexorably to the 1947 UN partition plan and ultimately to the proclamation of the State of Israel by David Ben Gurion on May 14, 1948.

As Britain, Israel and the free world begin to mark this monumental anniversary, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas demands an apology from the UK.

The man whose constitutional tenure as Palestinian leader expired seven years ago, yet remains in place. The man who raised funds for the 1972 massacre in Munich of 11 Israeli Olympic athletes. The man who misused millions of dollars of international aid intended for the welfare of his people. The man who dismissed as a “fantastic lie” the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

This man demands an apology. Of course he does. And in demanding that Britain apologise for a 99-year-old statement supporting a national home for the Jewish people, he exposes his true position, and the true position of all factions of the Palestinian leadership: that the Jewish people have no right to a national home; the Jewish State has no right to exist. According to Abbas, Palestine, from the River Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea, belongs to the Arabs and only to the Arabs.

At a dinner held by the Zionist Federation in London on April 12, 1931, Sir Herbert Samuel, British High Commissioner in Palestine from 1920 to 1925 and the first Jew to govern the historic land of Israel in 2,000 years, said: “In time the Arabs will come to appreciate and respect the Jewish [standpoint]”.

Unfortunately, as Abbas’s demands demonstrate only too clearly, he could not have been more wrong. It is sometimes claimed that Arab violence towards the Jews began with the Balfour Declaration

which created in their minds a feeling of betrayal by the British and an apprehension of Arab subjugation under Jewish governance.

This ignores the murder and massacre of Jews by Arabs in the Middle East, including in Jaffa and Jerusalem, throughout the 19th century and in the 20th Century before 1917 – just because they were Jews.

Arab Jew-hatred certainly did not start with Balfour. But it did intensify after Balfour. It was this intensification, with its accompanying slaughter, revolt and rioting against both British and Jews that caused Britain to falter and fail over her 1917 declaration of support for a Jewish national homeland. It caused the British government to introduce White Papers in 1922 and 1939 that sought to appease Arab violence and resistance by imposing restrictions on Jewish immigration into Palestine and the development of the millennia-old Jewish presence in their historic homeland.

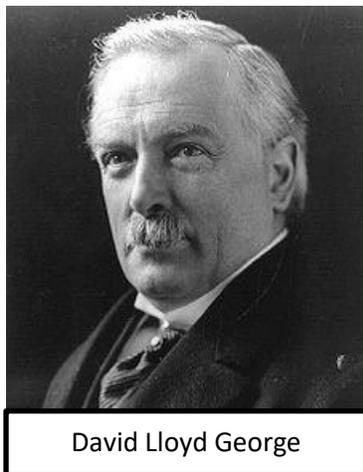
It caused Britain to deny Jewish immigration into Palestine even as Jews were being butchered in the millions in Europe. It even led Britain to send survivors of Auschwitz back to the lair of the Nazi murderers. And it caused Britain to behave in a way that precipitated agonizing Jewish violence against the British in Palestine in the 1940s when it was the last thing the Jews wanted to do.

It caused Britain to abstain from the 1947 UN General Assembly resolution that brought about the re-establishment of the Jewish state in 1948. And even to appoint a British general – Sir John Glubb – to lead the Arab Legion's invasion of Israel immediately afterwards.

It has caused Britain up to the present day to sometimes fail to condemn Arab aggression against Israelis, and to find excuses for their violence. All in the name of appeasing the Arabs and their supporters in the Muslim world and even at home.

Despite all of this, with Britain sometimes sinking into moral weakness over its subsequent failure to support the state that it incubated, the country can be intensely proud that Britain alone embraced Zionism in 1917. And it was the blood of many thousands of British, Australian and New Zealand soldiers that created the conditions that made the modern-day State of Israel a possibility.

These men fought and died in the Palestine campaign to defeat the Ottoman Empire that had occupied the territory for centuries. One month after the Balfour Declaration, on 7th December, the British Empire forces under General Allenby drove the Ottomans from Jerusalem. The day the last Turk left the Holy City was the first day of Hanukkah, the celebration of the Maccabean liberation of that city 2,000 years earlier.



David Lloyd George

Those soldiers were above all the instrument of the will of one of the greatest Prime Ministers in British history: David Lloyd George. There are many arguments about the motives for his actions over Palestine. But not only was he the true motivating force behind the Balfour Declaration, he also ordered and drove the defeat of the Ottomans in Palestine that breathed life into his Foreign Secretary's words to the Zionist Federation.

Thirteen years later, at the Zionist Federation dinner in 1931, mentioned earlier, David Lloyd George was present as guest of honour. He said: "The Jews surely have a special claim on [Palestine]. They are the only people who have made a success of it during the past 3,000 years. They are the only people who have made its name immortal, and as a race, they have no other home. This was their first; this has been their only home; they have no other home. They found no home in Egypt or in Babylon. Since their long exile they have found no home as a people in any other land, and this is the time and opportunity for enabling them once more to recreate their lives as a separate people in their old home and to make their contribution to humanity as a separate people, having a habitation in the land which inspired their forefathers. Later on it might be too late."

Later on it might be too late. These prophetic words became a devastating reality for millions of Jews in the years to come. Within five years, the Arab Revolt had begun, in protest at the influx of Jews into Palestine, desperate to get out of Europe before it was indeed too late. The Arab Revolt in turn led to the White Paper of 1939, severely curtailing Jewish immigration into Palestine at their hour of greatest need as the British government attempted to appease the Arabs.

The White Paper was described by Lloyd George in Parliament as “an act of perfidy” and by the Manchester Guardian as “a death sentence on tens of thousands of Central European Jews.” The words of the Peel Commission, which investigated the Arab unrest, apply as much today as they did in 1937 when they were written: “The hatred of the Arab politician for the Jewish national home has never been concealed and... it has now permeated the Arab population as a whole.”

The Arabs rejected the British proposals for partition of the land in the 1930s and again rejected the 1947 UN partition plan. Since then they have had numerous opportunities for the creation of a Palestinian state. All have been rejected. They have preferred to attempt Israel’s annihilation by terrorism and war, rather than find an opportunity to live side by side in peace.

Depending on his audience, President Abbas claims to desire a two state solution. But his actions speak louder. How can it be possible to bring about peace with a country or a people that you constantly vilify and attack? Hatred of Jews and denial of their rights permeate PA speeches, TV shows, school-books, newspapers and magazines. Murderous terrorists are glorified by naming football teams and sports stadiums after them. They are incentivised to violence by salaries and payments to their families – funded of course by the American and European taxpayer. Everywhere there is incitement to hate. Recently we saw the consequences of failure to hate for four hapless Palestinians who dared to fraternise with the ‘Zionist enemy’ when they entered the Mayor of Efrat’s Succah.

As we know only too well, the violent attacks against Jews, seen so frequently in the 19th and early 20th Centuries, continue unabated to this day. In recent weeks we have seen the Palestinian Authority’s efforts to expunge Jews and Judaism from any connection with their undeniable history and holy places via grotesque and nonsensical resolutions at UNESCO.

Nothing has changed in the Arabs’ attitudes and actions from Balfour’s day to our own. Yet we have seen a miraculous and untold transformation over those 99 years within the State of Israel. Even as far back as that dinner in 1931, years before the re-creation of the State, Lloyd George was able to declare: “Zionism has brought to an old land, a renowned but a ruined old land, new wealth, new energy, new purpose, new initiative, new intelligence, a new devotion and a new hope. Zionism has not finished its task, far from it, but it has already accomplished so much as to demonstrate that the land flowing with milk and honey was no baseless legend.”

Even he would be astonished to see just how much further Israel has ascended in the intervening 85 years. But despite Israel’s seemingly boundless progress she remains under attack not just from the Arabs of the Middle East but also in the West, in Europe and in the UK.

Despite a myriad of their own dire problems and the ongoing bloodbath in the Arab world, the Europeans, led by the French, seem hell-bent on trying to impose the so-called 1967 borders on Israel through the UN Security Council – lines described by legendary Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban as the “Auschwitz borders”.

Flying in the face of the long-standing US bilateral policy of rejecting these borders, there is increasing concern that President Obama’s parting shot at Israel might be to either endorse such a resolution or fail to veto it. Such actions would have incalculable consequences – not least a flare-up in violence and the prospect of global sanctions against Israel, which would rightly be unable to accept such a resolution.

In the home of the Balfour Declaration the pressure is also on. Increasing anti-Semitic abuse is directed against the Jewish community in the UK and against those who dare to support the State of

Israel including politicians. Abuse aimed of course at undermining their support and isolating the Jewish State.

A short while ago we saw despicable scenes of anti-Semitic hatred and lies at an event in the House of Lords in support of Abbas's absurd demand that we apologise for Balfour. In the same week we witnessed another vicious outbreak of anti-Semitic abuse at University College London, where Jewish students were forced to seek refuge in the face of an aggressive effort to shut down their freedom of speech by so-called supporters of Palestine.

Even 99 years after the world-changing Balfour Declaration, we still have our work cut out for us in supporting the Zionist project, which owes so much to the unequalled historic backing of Great Britain.

But as Lloyd George said of this great venture: "Can you recall any movement worth prosecuting that has not encountered obstacles? Can you recall one persevered in with courage and faith where such obstacles have not been overcome in the end?"

David Lloyd George, as in so much else, was of course right. And the words of this Welshman who saw so much in common between his own tiny country and the homeland of the Jews, whose nonconformist upbringing gave him a feeling of familiarity with the Holy Land, are words that should guide those of us who support the State of Israel today: "This Mandate [for the Jewish national home] must be carried out not nervously and apologetically but firmly and fearlessly."

Colonel Richard Kemp was Commander of British Forces in Afghanistan and head of the international terrorism team for the UK Joint Intelligence Committee. This appeared on Nov 6 at gatestoneinstitute.org.

Islamic Terrorists Not Poor and Illiterate, But Rich and Educated

Giulio Meotti

Editor's note: The West's conviction that poverty and/or discrimination drive young people into terrorism is second only to its belief in the "two state solution." Both are rooted in fantasy and so far, at least, impervious to facts.

"There is a stereotype that young people from Europe who leave for Syria are victims of a society that does not accept them and does not offer them sufficient opportunities... Another common stereotype in the debate in Belgium is that, despite research which refutes this, radicalization is still far too often misunderstood as a process resulting from failed integration... I therefore dare say that the better young people are integrated, the greater the chance is that they radicalize. This hypothesis is supported by a lot of evidence."

That was the result of extremely important Dutch research, led by a group of academics at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Terrorists seem to be models of successful integration: for instance, Mohammed Bouyeri, the Moroccan-Dutch terrorist who shot the filmmaker Theo van Gogh to death, then stabbed him and slit his throat in 2004. "He [Bouyeri] was a well-educated guy with good prospects," said Job Cohen, the Labor Party mayor of Amsterdam.

The Dutch research was followed by research from France, adding more evidence to the thesis that goes against the liberal belief that to defeat terrorism, Europe must invest in economic opportunities and social integration. Dounia Bouzar, director of the Center for Prevention, Deradicalization and Individual Monitoring (CPDSI), a French organization dealing with Islamic

radicalism, studied the cases of 160 families whose children had left France to fight in Syria. Two-thirds were members of the middle class.

These findings dismantle the myth of the proletariat of terror. According to a new World Bank report, “Islamic State’s recruits are better educated than their fellow countrymen”.

Poverty and deprivation are not, as John Kerry said, “the root cause of terrorism.” Studying the profiles of 331 recruits from an Islamic State database, the World Bank found that 69% have at least a high school education, while a quarter of them graduated from college. The vast majority of these terrorists had a job or profession before joining the Islamist organization. “The proportions of administrators but also of suicide fighters increase with education,” according to the World Bank report. “Moreover, those offering to become suicide bombers ranked on average in the more educated group.”

Despite the evidence, a progressive mantra repeats that Islamic terrorism is the result of injustice, poverty, economic depression and social unrest. The thesis that poverty breeds terrorism is pervasive today in the West, from French economist Thomas Piketty to Pope Francis. It is probably so popular because it plays on Western collective guilt, seeking to rationalize what the West seems to have trouble accepting: that terrorists are not driven by inequality, but by hatred for Western civilization and the Judeo-Christian values of the West. For Israel, this means: What are Jews doing on land that—even though for 3,000 years it has been called Judea—we think should be given to Palestinian terrorists? And these terrorists most likely wonder why they should negotiate, if instead they can be handed everything they want.

It is anti-Semitism, not poverty, that led the Palestinian Authority to name a school after Abu Daoud, mastermind of the massacre of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics.



Paris Bomb Aftermath

The Paris bombings were a blow unleashed by an ideology that does not seek to fight poverty, but to gain power through terror. It is the same Islamist ideology that murdered the Charlie Hebdo journalists and the policemen on duty to protect them; that forced British writer Salman Rushdie into hiding for a decade; that slit the throat of Father Jacques Hamel; that butchered commuters in London, Brussels and Madrid; that assassinated hundreds of Israeli Jews on buses and restaurants; that killed 3,000 people in the United States on September 11; that assassinated Theo Van Gogh on an Amsterdam street for making a film; that committed mass rapes in Europe and massacres in the cities and deserts of Syria and Iraq; that blew up 132 children in Peshawar; and that regularly kills so many Nigerians that no one now pays any attention to it.

It is the Islamist ideology that drives terrorism, not poverty, corruption or despair.

The whole history of political terror is marked by fanatics with advanced education who have declared war on their own societies. Khmer Rouge’s Communist genocide in Cambodia came out from the classrooms of the Sorbonne in Paris, where their leader, Pol Pot, studied writings of European Communists. The Red Brigades in Italy was the scheme of wealthy privileged boys and girls from the middle class. Between 1969 and 1985, terrorism in Italy killed 428 people. Fusako Shigenobu, the leader of the Japanese Red Army terrorist group, was a highly-educated specialist in literature. Abimael Guzman, founder of the Shining Path in Peru, one of the most ruthless guerrilla groups in history, taught at the University of Ayacucho, where he conceived of a war against “the democracy of empty bellies.” “Carlos the Jackal,” the most infamous terrorist in the 1970s, was the son of one of the richest lawyers in Venezuela, Jose Altagracia Ramirez. Mikel Albizu Iriarte, a leader of the Basque ETA terrorists, came from a wealthy family in San Sebastián. Sabri al-Banna, the Palestinian terrorist known to the world as “Abu Nidal,” was the son of a wealthy merchant born in Jaffa.

Some of the British terrorists who have joined the Islamic State come from wealthy families and attended the most prestigious schools in the UK. Abdul Waheed Majid made the long journey from the English town of Crawley to Aleppo, Syria, where he blew himself up. Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, the

mastermind of the kidnapping and killing of the American journalist Daniel Pearl, graduated from the London School of Economics. Kafeel Ahmed, who drove a jeep full of explosives into the Glasgow airport, had been president of the Islamic Society at Queen's University. Faisal Shahzad, the failed terrorist of Times Square in New York, was the son of a high official in the Pakistani military. Zacarias Moussaoui, the twentieth man of the 9/11 attacks, had a PhD in International Economics from the London's South Bank University. Saajid Badat, who wanted to blow up a commercial flight, studied optometry at London University. Azahari Husin, the terrorist who prepared the bombs in Bali, studied at the University of Reading.

Britain's MI5 revealed that "two-thirds of the British suspects have a middle-class profile and those who want to become suicide bombers are often the most educated." Most British terrorists also had a wife and children, debunking another myth, that of terrorists as social losers. Mohammad Sidique Khan, one of the suicide bombers of July 7, 2005, studied at Leeds Metropolitan University. Omar Khan Sharif had a scholarship at King's College before carrying out a suicide bombing on Tel Aviv's seafront promenade in 2003. Sharif was not looking for economic redemption, but to slaughter as many Jews as possible.

Virtually all the heads of international terror groups are children of privilege, who led gilded lives before joining the terror ranks. 15 of the 19 suicide bombers of September 11 came from prominent Middle Eastern families. Mohammed Atta was the son of a lawyer in Cairo. Ziad Jarrah, who crashed Flight 93 in Pennsylvania, belonged to one of the most affluent families in Lebanon.

Nasra Hassan, who wrote an informed profile of Palestinian suicide bombers for *The New Yorker*, explained that, "of 250 suicide bombers, not one was illiterate, poor or depressed." The unemployed, it seems, are always the least likely to support terror attacks.

Europe and America gave everything to these terrorists: educational and employment opportunities, popular entertainment and sexual pleasures, salaries and welfare, and religious freedom. These terrorists, such as the "underwear bomber," Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the son of a banker, have not seen a day of poverty in their life. Paris's terrorists rejected the secularist values of *liberté, égalité, fraternité*; British jihadists who bombed London and now fight for the Caliphate rejected multiculturalism; the Islamist who killed Theo van Gogh in Amsterdam repudiated Dutch relativism, and ISIS's soldier, Omar Mateen, who turned Orlando's Pulse Club into a slaughterhouse, said he wanted to purge it from what he perceived as libertine licentiousness and apparently his own homophobic wishes.

If the West does not understand the real source of this hatred, but instead indulges in false excuses such as poverty, it will not win this war being waged against us.

Giulio Meotti is an Italian journalist and author. This appeared on Nov 19 at gatestoneinstitute.org

Zionism101.org

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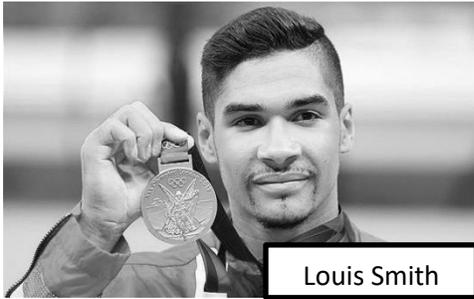
In "Jabotinsky Part 3: Revisionism" Jabotinsky founds the Revisionist party to press the World Zionist Organization to fight harder for Jewish claims in Palestine. After a long, fruitless struggle within the Zionist establishment, Jabotinsky decides to go his own way. He creates the New Zionist Organization.

There are already 43 free videos on the site, covering everything from Zionism's early years to Christian Zionism to Israel's War of Independence.

Blasphemy Courts

Douglas Murray

Europe is currently seeing the reintroduction of blasphemy laws through both the front and back doors.



Louis Smith

In Britain, the gymnast Louis Smith has just been suspended for two months by British Gymnastics. This 27-year old sportsman's career has been put on hold, and potentially ruined, not because of anything to do with athletics but because of something to do with Islam.

Last month a video emerged online of the four-time Olympic medal-winner and a friend getting up to drunken antics after a wedding. The video—taken on Smith's phone in the early hours of the morning—showed a friend taking a rug off a wall and doing an imitation of Islamic prayer rituals. When the video from Smith's phone ended up in the hands of a newspaper, there was an immediate investigation, press castigation and public humiliation for the young athlete. Smith—who is himself of mixed race—was forced to parade on daytime television in Britain and deny that he is a racist, bigot or xenophobe. Notoriously liberal figures from the UK media queued up to berate him for getting drunk or for even thinking of taking part in any mockery of religion. This in a country in which Monty Python's *Life of Brian* is regularly voted the nation's favourite comic movie.

After an "investigation," the British sports authority has now deemed Smith's behaviour to warrant a removal of funding and a two-month ban from sport. This is the re-entry of blasphemy laws through the back door, where newspapers, daytime chat-shows and sports authorities decide between them that one religion is worthy of particular protection. They do so because they take the religion of Islam uniquely on its own estimation and believe, as well as fear, the warnings of the Islamic blasphemy-police worldwide.

The front-door reintroduction of blasphemy laws, meantime, is being initiated in a country which once prided itself on being among the first in the world to throw off clerical intrusion into politics. The Dutch politician Geert Wilders has been put on trial before. In 2010 he was tried in the courts for the contents of his film *Fitna* as well as a number of articles. The trial collapsed after one of the expert witnesses—the late, great Dutch scholar of Islam, Hans Jansen—revealed that a judge in the case had tried in private to influence him to change his testimony. The trial was transparently rigged and made Dutch justice look like that of a tin-pot dictatorship rather than one of the world's most developed democracies. The trial was rescheduled and, after considerable legal wrangling, Wilders was eventually found "not guilty" of a non-crime in 2011.

But it seems that the Dutch legal system, like the Mounties, is intent on always getting its man. In November the latest trial of Geert Wilders got underway in Holland. This time Wilders is being tried because of a statement at a rally in front of his supporters in March 2014. Ahead of municipal elections, and following reports of a disproportionate amount of crimes being committed in Holland by Muslims of Moroccan origin, Wilders asked a crowd, "Do you want more or fewer Moroccans in this city and in the Netherlands?" The audience responded, "Fewer, fewer." To which Wilders responded, "Well, we'll arrange that, then."

Opinion polls suggest that around half the Dutch public want fewer Moroccans in the Netherlands and many opinion polls going back decades suggest that the Dutch people want less immigration in general. So at the very least Wilders is being put on trial for voicing an opinion which is

far from fringe. The long-term implications for Dutch democracy of criminalizing a majority opinion are catastrophic. But the trial of Wilders is also a nakedly political move.

Whether or not one feels support for Wilders's sentiments is not the point in this case. The point is that by prosecuting someone for saying what he said, the courts in Holland are effectively ruling that there is only one correct answer to the question Wilders asked. They are saying that if someone asks you whether you would like more Moroccans or fewer, people must always answer "more," or they will be committing a crime. What kind of way is that to order a public debate on immigration or anything else? People may say, "He wouldn't be allowed to say that about any other group of people." And Wilders himself may not say that about any group of people, because he has his own political views and his own interpretation of the problems facing his country.

It is worth trying a thought-experiment: If Wilders or any other politician got up and asked a crowd "Do you want more or fewer British people in Holland," I may not—as a British person—feel terribly pleased with him for asking the question, or terribly happy with the crowd if they chanted "Fewer." Although if British expats in Holland were responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime and disorder in the country, some mitigating sympathy for the sentiment may be forthcoming. But at no point would it occur to me that anyone saying he did not want an endless flow of British people coming into the Netherlands should be prosecuted. Nor would he be.

Like the behaviour of the British Gymnastics association, the Dutch courts are behaving like a religious court. They are trying to regulate public expression and opinion when it comes to the followers of one religion. In so doing, they obviously aspire to keep the peace in the short term, but they cannot possibly realise what trouble they are storing up for our future.

Douglas Murray, British author, commentator and public affairs analyst, is based in London. This appeared on Nov 4 at gatestoneinstitute.org.

Oh Those Sands! Those Shifting Sands!

Mordechai Kedar

A little over two years ago, I wrote:

"The Middle Eastern see-saw is leaning heavily towards the Saudi-Egyptian axis, but it is not at all clear whether that coalition will continue to direct the Middle East in another year or two. Israel must not be tempted to align its security and future with a temporary constellation, no matter how good it appears to be. Israel must always base its policy on long term planning that gives priority to Israel and its territorial possessions and not to agreements resting on the shifting sands of the Middle East."

Unfortunately, for the last two years Israelis and many others have been talking about the importance of a treaty between Israel and the so-called "coalition of moderate Sunni nations" - to wit, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, The United Arab Emirates, and the Palestinian Authority -- all of them united against the Iranian threat and ISIS.

The foundation of the "moderate Sunni coalition" was the close cooperation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, that began when King Abdullah, all heart and outspread hands, supported General Sisi, who in July 2013 ousted elected president Mohammed Morsi, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood-- this in opposition to the will of the US government and Europe. The Saudi billions saved Egypt from bankruptcy, and the cooperation between the two countries reached the point where Egyptian soldiers came to the aid of the Saudis in their struggle against the Iranian and Houthi forces in Yemen.

Except that since then, the sand dunes have shifted. Egypt is now in close cahoots with Saudi Arabia's enemies, headed by Iran.

How did the turnabout happen?

The answer is to be found in the situation in Syria over the past two years. The Assad issue polarizes all the countries involved in Syria: Russia, Iran, Iraq and Hezbollah support Assad actively, not only politically, and are taking part in the fighting. Assad would be long gone without this involvement. On the other side of the court, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and some of the Emirates are undermining Assad politically and financially, arming and training those rebelling against his regime.



The scales of war tipped towards Assad during the past year once Russian military involvement began to increase in strength. One can say with certainty that Russia has become the Syrian Army's main source of power, mainly from the air, and that a good part of the Russian navy is concentrated opposite Syria's shores. The air defense systems that Russia has spread along the Syrian coast threaten the

activities of the US, Israeli and Turkish warplanes in the area.

Russia acts without legal or moral constraints and bombs civilian neighborhoods mercilessly, forcing their citizens to become human shields for the rebels--those that Saudi Arabia supports, mostly in the eastern quarters of Aleppo.

Sisi has been faced with the dilemma of whom to support from the first day of his regime in July 2013, wondering whether he should stand behind Assad or behind Assad's Islamist enemies, the ideological brothers of Sisi's own opponents in the Sinai and along the length of the Nile.



Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

While Sisi was politically and financially dependent on the Saudis, he abstained from supporting Assad publicly, but the direct and massive Russian intervention in Syria made him rethink what policy it would be best to pursue. He realized that Assad might succeed in overcoming his opponents and that the Saudi regime might fail in its war against the Syrian dictator, so he decided to bet on the winning horse. He abandoned the Saudis, crossed the lines, and now feels that Assad can remain in power no matter what future agreement lies ahead. The US decision to stay out of the fray also helped convince Sisi that the power in the Middle East is in the hands of Russia and its Iranian allies, making it worth his while to join the winning team and abandon the losers.

The October 8th vote in the Security Council saw the Egyptian delegate supporting Russia's suggested resolution and not that of the Saudis. In response, Saudi Arabia's UN delegate said that Egypt's support of Russia is a "sad thing" and the Saudis promptly stopped an oil shipment headed for Egypt and placed restrictions on Egypt Airlines flights to Saudi Arabia.

Egypt's police removed the concrete barriers that protected the Saudi Embassy in Cairo, claiming that a traffic tunnel is being constructed exactly at that spot, and the Saudi ambassador got the hint, leaving Cairo and returning to his homeland. Sisi, at a military ceremony, announced that "Egypt bows only to Allah," meaning to no man or other country, alluding to the Saudi regime. The media received reports that a former senior Egyptian officer sold patrol boats to the Houthis in Yemen, the tribes that Iran supports and Saudi Arabia is trying to destroy. And all this deterioration in the relations between the two countries occurred over a mere five days, from the 8th to the 13th of October.

Meanwhile, the relations between Russia and Egypt have become stronger over the last year and the cooperation between Putin and Sisi has extended to the military sphere, much to the chagrin of the Saudis. Egypt is purchasing Russian arms, taking part in joint maneuvers with the Russian army and Russia is helping Egypt build a nuclear power plant.

The Palestinian Authority (PA) had also joined the list of the "moderate Sunni coalition" with which Israel was supposed to reach a peace agreement, according to the pundits. Except that it turns out that this very same PA rests on shaky legs at best. For the past decade, we have been accustomed to a political and territorial split in the Palestinian Arab sector, with Gaza a Hamas state and Judea and Samaria's Arabs in love with the PLO. All that was until last month, when the PLO dream was shown to be totally divorced from reality, as the organization itself split between Abbas supporters and those who support Mohammed Dahlan, corresponding to a growing schism between urban Arabs and refugee camp dwellers.

Throughout the past year, and particularly last month, there were violent outbursts between civilians and PA security forces in which the Palestinian police behavior towards these civilians was on a level of cruelty and violence equal to that which was prevalent in the Arab world for many years until the "Arab Spring" broke down the cruelty barrier. The reason is obvious: The security organizations are filled with personnel brought from Tunisia, not native Palestinian Arabs, and are therefore not considered legitimate by local residents.

What is going on today in the PA can be considered preparation by public and political institutions for the day after Abbas: Hamas is getting stronger, accruing arms and planning a takeover of Judea and Samaria. The fear of Hamas on the part of PLO supporters is behind their search for a young, energetic and proven rival to Hamas. Mohammed Dahlan suits the bill almost perfectly, but is strongly opposed by Abbas and his cohorts.

Is the PLO going to remain a united organization in the future? It is hard to predict, but Middle Eastern dynamics perpetuate controversies and deepen them, so it is quite possible that this internecine war will destroy the PLO just as its struggle with Hamas destroyed the dream of one Palestinian State even before its birth.

Developments within the PLO prove once again that the only possible solution regarding the Arabs living in Judea and Samaria is the establishment of Emirates in the cities of Judea and Samaria ruled by local Hamoulot (clans). In order to create them, the PA must be allowed to fall apart so that seven Emirates can be built on its ruins: Jenin, Shechem (Nablus), Tulkerem, Qalqilya, Ramallah, Jericho and Arab-populated Hevron.

The Hamoula, which some call a clan and others a tribe, is a stable entity, the only solid and dependable one in the sociological reality of the Middle East, the only one which can support a legitimate and stable political body for many years. Western-style states, established on the shifting sands of dreams that drift with the blowing winds, bring destruction on their people. Just look at Syria, Libya, Iraq, and Yemen.

Middle East coalitions are also built on shifting sand dunes, and once again I warn those who make the decisions in Israel and outside it to steer clear of a love affair with the present-day stars in the constellation, from basing any long term policy on Middle East "coalitions" and especially from paying in hard currency -- such as land -- for a piece of paper just because the word "peace" is written on it.

One example: Israel has had a peace treaty with Jordan since 1994. That does not prevent this artificial entity, which did not even exist before 1921, from advancing the UNESCO decision that negates the 3000 year old connection between the Jewish People and Jerusalem. Is that what one calls peace? Did Israel call the Jordanian ambassador in order to complain about his country's behavior in UNESCO? Is this the kind of "coalition" to which Israel can belong?

Mordechai Kedar is senior lecturer in the Department of Arabic at Bar-Ilan University. He served in IDF Military Intelligence for 25 years. This appeared on October 16 on IsraelNationalNews.com

Leave the United Nations

Ruth King

The story of Taiwan's expulsion from the UN is a cautionary tale for Israel. In 1971, after Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger implemented a rapprochement with the despots of Communist China, pro-American Taiwan was expelled by the United Nations to accommodate Peking (now Beijing).

In 1979 the American embassy in Taipei was downgraded to a consulate, the embassy to China relocated to Beijing.

Although Taiwan gave up all claims to the mainland, it didn't help at the UN which systematically reduced Taiwan's role, banning it not only from the Security Council but from the General Assembly. It has hung on to a peripheral place on a few subcommittees, where it is routinely harassed by other members. Taiwan continues to apply for UN membership but its applications have been denied, shamefully with American support for the continuing ban. Nonetheless Taiwan remains a thriving democracy now governed by a woman, Tsai Ing-wen.

The American embassy today is in Tel-Aviv not in Jerusalem, Israel's capital. The United Nations edges closer and closer to recognition of a "Palestinian" state. Israel can meet the fate of Taiwan should a "Greater Arab Palestine" be formally endorsed by the representatives of the "Hatelsraelstans"-- those post-colonial nations that won independence in the 1950s, increasing the number of UN member states to 193, most of them oppressive tyrannies.

The United Nations and its sub agencies bash, libel and condemn Israel in an unending barrage of hostile resolutions, while ignoring the depredations of the most oppressive regimes in the world.

In response Israel has adopted two opposing policies.

One--the less appealing--is making concessions, even though all previous concessions have had disastrous results. Israel then airbrushes the inevitable violent Arab/Moslem response.

The second--and more appealing--policy is one through which Israel garners respect for strength, determination and indifference to the howling of antagonists.

The incredible lightning victory of 1967 brought an outpouring of Western support. So did the epic rescue of hostages at Entebbe in 1976. So did the raid of 1981, launched from an air base in the Sinai, which destroyed Saddam Hussein's nuclear reactor at Osirak.

Initially the last produced howls from the left. To its discredit, the United States abstained on a vote for UN resolution 487 which condemned Israel's attack on an IAEA-approved nuclear site, entitled Iraq to sue for compensation, and urged Israel to place its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards.

However, much of the international press and public admired Israel's pluck. For a brief period Israel basked in approval before turning to "peace processing" away its sovereignty.

So here is my proposal for a daring act by Israel. Leave the United Nations. Pack up, close the Permanent Mission to the United Nations and find real jobs for all the bureaucrats, pseudo diplomats and ancillary staff.



Israel's current growing number of exchanges with nations throughout the world were not brokered by a morally broken UN. They were advanced by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who leveraged the need of other countries, especially in the developing world, for the amazing technologies Israel can offer them, especially in agriculture, water recycling, and medical technologies.

Why stay in a club whose sub agencies, General Assembly and Security Council flog you on the way in, flog you while you attend their ludicrous meetings, and flog you on the way out?

An apathetic public deludes itself that the corrupt and corrupting United Nations is a force for justice and peace. They ignore its domination by despots and its abject failure at solving any international crisis. In fact, the organization is generally “closed for altercations.”

To leave the UN would be an act of derring-do (defined as action displaying heroic courage). That segment of the international public whose opinion is of any value will vigorously applaud.

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