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Foot Soldier William Mehlman

Save for six years (1999-2005) as CEO of Cyote Corp., the technology-based anti-fraud company he co-founded and subsequently sold for \$145 million, Education and Diaspora Affairs Minister Naftali Bennett has been in combat mode ever since the IDF's *Sayeret Matkal* tabbed him at 19 for a role in its elite reconnaissance operations.

At 43, the national-religious product of a San Francisco Zionist coupling has faced down some of the toughest interrogators in international television – CNN's Chistine Amanpour, Bloomberg News' Charlie Rose, BBC *Hardtalk's* Steven Sackur and *Conflict Zone's* Tim Sebastian in Germany, among others – on everything from PA-inspired terrorism to his case for Israel's annexation of the Gush Etzion bedroom communities outside Jerusalem. While his *Bayit Yehudi* (Jewish Home) party's eight Knesset seats in a two-seat Likud coalition majority, fell short of gaining him the Foreign Ministry portfolio on which he'd set his sights (Netanyahu is holding it as a prize for a Zionist Union entry into the coalition) Bennett is packing a wallop rarely seen in the Education Ministry and never witnessed in the recently minted Diaspora Affairs Ministry. It has put him in combat on four fronts: with Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi David Lau, the secular portion of the state public school system, the powerful Council for Higher Education and the IDF head-hunting NGO "Breaking the Silence."



Illustrative of the religio-political black hole shadowing any attempt to synchronize portfolios as ideologically loaded as public education and Diaspora relations is the one-two punch Bennett received from Rabbi Lau for having the temerity to stop by the Conservative Movement's Solomon Schechter Day School on a recent visit to New York and from the "progressive" Hebrew daily *Ha'aretz* for perpetrating a "religious assault on public education." Bennett, of course, gives as well as he gets. To Lau's contention that he should have sought "the advice of a [ultra-Orthodox] rabbi" before exposing himself to a Movement that "distances Jews from the past and the future of the Jewish people," he replied "I consult with rabbis on halachic questions; I don't consult with rabbis on my political actions or policies. As Israel's representative to the Diaspora I will continue to meet with Jews of all denominations."

Choosing to respond only indirectly to *Ha'aretz's* charge that the 19 million-shekel budget of the Education Ministry-related "Centers for Jewish Identity" is earmarked for "a well-organized attempt to 'proselytize' secular students," Bennett was offering no apologies for his effort to mainstream "Torah and Jewish values" into the curriculum of an Israeli school network. Those values have "decisive importance at a time when children are exposed to a shallow culture and in strengthening the 'Jewish spark' in all of us," averred a Centers spokesman. *Ha'aretz's* concession that it would be "difficult, if not impossible" to cleanse the secular school division of "Bennett's emissaries" and their "missionary activities" speaks more to the impact they are making on public education than to the power of the Education Ministry.

The latter's sting, however, has been keenly felt in recent months by the professorial Pooh Bahs who stand guard over what is still a predominantly left-liberal higher education establishment in Israel. That Bennett is undaunted by them was illustrated in his "summary dismissal," in the words of Ben-Gurion University Humanities Faculty Dean Dr. David Newman, of Professor Hagit Messer-Yaron from her post as vice chair of the powerful Council of Higher Education (CHE). Granting that it is entirely

within the Education Minister's rights as CHE chairman to choose his second in command, Newman used his weekly *Jerusalem Post* column to excoriate Bennett for having broken protocol with his intervention "in the running of the universities and other institutes of higher education" which has heretofore proceeded "without any undue interference from politicians."

Bennett has not, at this writing, named a successor to the CHE vice chairmanship but he's made it clear that "interference" in an Old Boy/Girl bureaucratic machine that has informed Israel's academic course for lo these many years is precisely what he's about. Within a week of Messer-Yaron's dismissal, he appointed, per Newman, a "relatively unknown professor of law from Bar Ilan University, an institution with which he [Bennett] shares obvious political affiliations," to the chairmanship of the University Budget Committee (VATAT), a body second only in power to the Committee for Higher Education.

"Everyone is waiting with bated breath," Newman submits, "to see who [Bennett] will appoint" as new vice chair of CHE and to what extent the appointee "will be beholden to him for political considerations and will do his bidding." What, if anything, that might amount to is likely to be small change compared to the "bidding" long accorded to the Left by a university bureaucracy of its peers.

If further evidence of his role as the Likud coalition's foot soldier was needed, Bennett served it up with a December 15th Education Ministry order banning "Breaking the Silence," (BtS), a far-left NGO specializing in the collection of statements from mainly anonymous veterans attesting to alleged IDF human rights abuses, from addressing students at any of the Israeli high schools they've been trying to infiltrate. The Defense Ministry has barred BtS from all events attended by soldiers after examining its claims and finding them highly questionable. "Those who besmirch the IDF have no place in the educational system," Bennett asserted in a terse statement, not the one he's running anyway.

William Mehlman represents AFSI in Israel.

From the Editor

Wuppertal, Then and Now

On Dec. 16, the *Wall Street Journal* published an article on the warm welcome extended to Syrian migrants in Germany's "rust-belt" city of Wuppertal to which, the mayor hopes, they will give "a much needed economic boost." Wuppertal's Syrian community has quadrupled in the past year to 4,000 people; one Syrian who came years ago says: "When I first went to the local flea market, I barely heard any Arabic. Now, you barely hear German."

Needless to say, the *Wall Street Journal* has nothing to say about the impact this wave of Muslims (and similar large migrations to other German cities) is likely to have on the Jewish communities in those places. In July 2014, before this newest Muslim population onslaught, three Muslims (by their own account, overwhelmed by a passionate concern for Gaza) threw bottles full of diesel at Wuppertal's synagogue. "Pure anti-Semitism" is how Leonid Goldberg, Wuppertal's Jewish leader, described it. The flames were extinguished quickly so the damage was manageable and the culprits were tried for arson. But reports at the time on the conditions in which the synagogue "normally" functioned were scarcely encouraging. Cameras were positioned to the left and right of the entrance which in any case was only used on special occasions with security guards in attendance. The synagogue's windows are bulletproof from the outside, shatterproof on the inside.

The odds of the Jewish community of Wuppertal surviving the "passionate concerns" for the Palestinians of its greatly increased Muslim population in the years ahead are low.

This writer is torn in her reaction. There is a strong argument that Jews should never have returned to Germany after the Holocaust. On the other hand a Jewish community in Wuppertal dates back to 1691. In 1930 some 3,000 Jews lived there. Both the community's synagogues were destroyed on Kristallnacht. (The new one, under attack, opened in 2002.) By May 1941 Wuppertal's thousand remaining Jews were all deported "to the east." Today the Jewish population—made up chiefly of Jews who fled the Soviet Union—is close to what it was in 1930. That they should be forced to leave by Moslems admitted because of a German sense of guilt toward Jews is at the very least a major irony.

A New Merkel

Israel has long looked on Angela Merkel as a bulwark of support in a hostile Europe. But now? Merkel must know (she has certainly been told) that her welcome this year of a million-plus Muslims (with untold more to come) is virtually certain to spell the end of Germany's revived, now 200,000 strong Jewish community. Following upon this, to Israel's surprise and chagrin, she has backed the EU decision to label Israeli products from Jewish communities beyond the old Green [armistice] Line. That's after Merkel's foreign policy spokesman in the Bundestag, Jurgen Hardt, just last month had spoken against the EU measure, saying the labeling movement "seeks to boycott products from the settlements." And only last week Bundestag President Norbert Lammert, a member of Merkel's own party, said "Germany not only didn't agree to the [EU] decision, it rejected it."

Merkel now professes to see no connection between labeling and boycotting (her administration insists "there will not be an Israel boycott in Germany") but of course, as Hardt said, labeling is preface to boycotting.

For Israel, it's not a happy conclusion to a year full of events celebrating 50 years of diplomatic ties. On the other hand Merkel, in her new role as Mama Merkel for Middle East migrants, has positioned herself to chalk up a Nobel Peace Prize to supplement her 2015 designation as *Time's* Person of the Year.

Season's Greetings from Ron Dermer

On a happier note, Israel's ambassador to the U.S. Ron Dermer has found a charming way to answer the labelers and boycotters. He has sent out holiday gifts from the embassy made up of settlement products. The accompanying note says that in response to the "fanatics and fools" who have attempted "to cast a beacon of freedom, tolerance and decency as a pariah state, I have decided this holiday season to send you products that were made in Judea, Samaria and the Golan Heights. I hope you will enjoy them."

Hanukkah at the White House

Except that it was another gratuitous insult by Obama, the Hanukkah candle-lighting ceremony



at the White House would have been Woody-Allen funny, a parody on the rich lode of Reform rabbinic moral idiocy. Chosen to light the candles was Rabbi Susan Talve, a member of the anti-Israel group *T'ruah*. *T'ruah* is the former Rabbis for Human Rights which, like J Street, is heavily funded by George Soros. As Werner Cohn points out in his blog, while it includes some dupes, *T'ruah* incorporates "just about every rabbi who has declared against the Jewish state." The human rights it champions are emphatically not those of Jews.

Daniel Greenfield describes some of the highlights of Talve’s speech, designed to cram in as many far-left talking points as possible in short space. “I stand here to light these lights to say no to the darkness of Islamophobia and Homophobia and Transphobia.” (The last, for those not up on the latest leftist desecration of language, is that newly minted depravity of the American public, Transgender Phobia.) Talve declaimed: “I stand here with my fierce family of clergy and Black Lives Matter activists who took to the streets of Ferguson.” She called for “justice for Palestinians” and chanted “Ins’Allah, Ins’Allah.”

Greenfield speculates that Talve may not even know that Hanukah celebrates the Maccabees defeating a Syrian occupation, given that rabbis of her ilk “tend to be light on the religion and heavy on the social justice.” In any event, her mention of Syria (she called for bringing “all refugees” to the U.S.) was the closest she got to the story of Hanukah.

Rabbi Boteach Silenced at Kings College



Rabbi Boteach

More in the “you can’t make this stuff up” category. The Jewish Society at Kings College, London, invited Rabbi Shmuel Boteach to give a lecture and then abruptly cut him off when he violated what turned out to be a Jewish Society taboo—he spoke of Israel.

The Society, an astonished Boteach was told by the organization’s president (who wore a yarmulke, no less) was non-political and focused on “Jewish subjects.” Boteach has publicized the incident, commenting “Israel not a Jewish subject?

I was dumbfounded. It was as if Israel had become the Voldemort of nations, the country that dare not be named.” He hypothesized that these young Jews were so cowed by bullying and hostility on and off British campuses they were afraid to so much as talk about Israel.

Boteach sums up: “Forget about pro-Israel advocacy. Israel itself was being silenced as a topic for discussion. A Jewish discussion. What could be more Jewish than Israel? To have the very topic silenced, and by students, Jewish students? ...We are blessed to have a Jewish state after 2,000 years and we have to stand up for it.”

Vetting for Sharia



Andrew McCarthy points out that the heated arguments about how adequately we “vet” refugees miss the point. That’s because we vet for terrorism when we should be vetting for sharia-adherence. Given the large numbers of Muslims who advocate for sharia, “we miss the certainty that we are importing an ever-larger population hostile to our society and our Constitution.” Says McCarthy: “The question is not whether we are admitting Muslims who currently have ties to terrorist organizations; it is whether we are admitting Muslims who are apt to become violent jihadists after they settle here.”

Writes McCarthy: “The jihadism that most threatens Europe now, and that has been a growing problem in the United States for years, is the fifth-column variety. This is often referred to as ‘homegrown terrorism,’ but that is a misnomer. The ideology that ignites terrorism within our borders is not native: It is imported. Furthermore, it is ubiquitously available thanks to modern communications technology.”

The Syrian Cauldron: A View from Israel

Brig. Gen. Michael Herzog (Ret.)

(Editor's note: The following is excerpted from a longer essay by Gen. Herzog, who is currently The Washington Institute's Milton Fine International Fellow. He was formerly head of the IDF's Strategic Planning Division and chief of staff to Israel's defense minister.)

Syria has become the epicentre of global jihad, regional turmoil and a humanitarian catastrophe, emitting waves of terrorism, instability and refugees far beyond the Middle East. What started as a civilian protest five years ago has turned into a bitter sectarian and proxy battle-ground, drawing in thousands of young Muslims — Sunnis and Shiites — to rival camps, as well as external forces competing to shape the end-game.

Whilst the war in Syria sends destabilizing shock-waves to neighbouring countries, Israel has been the least affected, successfully staying away from a war in which it does not have a direct stake. But whilst it is part of neither the war nor the diplomatic efforts, Israel remains an important stakeholder in the future of its northern neighbour.

Looking at Syria and Iraq, Israelis naturally share Western concerns over the so-called Islamic State (ISIS), and its capacity to project both terrorism and its ideological message around the region and the world. ISIS not only represents a radical anti-Western ideology but is also virulently and explicitly anti-Semitic. It already has affiliates operating along Israel's borders with Egypt and Syria and it poses a direct threat to key Western ally Jordan.

However, at this point ISIS is not focused on Israel, and is therefore not considered by Israelis to be a direct and immediate strategic threat to them. From an Israeli perspective, the gravest strategic threat still comes from the Iranian-led axis.

Iran is a regional power deeply hostile to Israel, harbouring hegemonic and nuclear ambitions and commanding the region's most heavily armed sub-state actor, Hezbollah, with over 100,000 rockets aimed at Israel. Assad's remaining territory in Syria serves as a vital conduit for feeding, replenishing and upgrading Hezbollah's huge rocket arsenal. Iran also supports terror groups in Gaza, seeks to establish terror infrastructure in the West Bank, supports Hezbollah's international terror network and activities and launches continuous cyber-attacks against Israel. That is why Israelis judge developments in Syria first and foremost in the broader



context of the danger posed by this axis.

Israeli concerns were further exacerbated by the nuclear deal between Iran and the international community, which Israelis perceive as boosting Iran in the context of a region in meltdown. Indeed, hopes that the deal might improve the situation in Syria have proven unrealistic. It is highly likely that the Iranian nuclear deal that answered a paramount Russian interest, as well as the perception in Moscow of American weakness, cleared the way in Russia's mind to deploy militarily in Syria in order to save Assad and boost its own standing. Consequently, the emboldened Iran-Assad axis has escalated its military operations under Russia's air umbrella, focusing on anti-Assad elements rather than on ISIS. In response, Gulf states are ramping up their support to Sunni rebel groups. With more fuel on the fire come more refugees.

But the negative fallout of the nuclear deal goes further. Since the deal was finalised, Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has publicly slammed the door on Western hopes to

effectively expand cooperation and ordered a ban on imports from the US. Iran test-fired a new ballistic missile in contravention of a UN Security Council resolution and announced it will increase its defense budget by over 30 per cent. Tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia have risen to new heights, including, at the end of September, the Saudi interception of an Iranian ship laden with missiles allegedly bound for Iran's proxies in Yemen. For now, President Obama's expressed hope that the nuclear deal will enable regional 'equilibrium' seems a distant dream.

The current diplomatic efforts are predicated on three key assumptions, all of which are flawed. First, that there is a visible horizon for putting Syria back together as one functioning political entity. Second, that a diplomatic solution is a pre-requisite to defeating ISIS. Third, that the major stakeholders in Syria can currently agree on a common goal and implement it.



In reality, it is hard to see Syria reunified as one functioning political entity in the foreseeable future. Defeating ISIS is a pre-requisite to a solution in Syria (if there is one to be had), rather than the other way round, while the likelihood of currently securing an agreement that will be implemented by the stakeholders is very slim. Furthermore, while negotiating on how to extinguish the fire, some of the players, especially Russia, Iran and the Gulf states, are fanning the flames since they understand that strength and position on the ground will dictate the political outcome.

As the Syrian cauldron continues to boil over, Israel's own actions will remain focused on preventing developments which directly threaten its security. First, there is the challenge of hostile actors positioning themselves in the Golan Heights along Israel's border with Syria and turning it into an active front with established military infrastructure and cross-border attacks. Al-Qaeda-affiliated *Jabhat al-Nusra* and some ISIS-affiliated elements such as the Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade are already there, though currently focused on fighting Assad's forces and their allies. Meanwhile the Iran-led axis has been striving, so far with little success, to establish itself along both the Israeli and Jordanian borders. Should Hezbollah and other Iran-backed forces succeed, their deployment could constitute a serious security threat to Israel and cause direct friction between Israel and Iran. Indeed, in January 2015, an Iranian general and several Hezbollah operatives found their death while touring the Syria-Israel border in an operational mission.



No less challenging for Israel is the shipment through Syria to Hezbollah in Lebanon of strategic weapons such as sophisticated Russian ground-to-air SA17/22 missiles, accurate Iranian Fateh-110 rockets or the Russian SS-N-26 anti-ship Yakhont Cruise missiles, which could all serve as game changers in a future conflict with Israel. In recent years Israel has reportedly carried out numerous airstrikes against such shipments. Russia's air campaign in Syria, based on the deployment of combat planes, radars and air defense systems, now adds concerns over

Israel's freedom of action.

Meanwhile, it is highly important to prevent Iran and its proxies, as well as Sunni jihadists, from establishing a foothold in the south of Syria, which could threaten Israel and Jordan. Israel is alert to this danger and is likely to take independent action to protect its interests if necessary.

Whilst a comprehensive solution for Syria looks beyond reach in the foreseeable future, the situation nonetheless demands urgent and far-reaching action guided by a long-term view. Without such action, the threat to the stability of states in the region as well as security in the West will only continue to grow. One can only hope that the political will for such action will not be generated by further terror attacks in the West.

This article originally appeared in the Autumn 2015 issue of Fathom (<http://fathomjournal.org/>).

Update on Climate Follies

Rael Jean Isaac

In December Hans Christian Andersen's "The Emperor's New Clothes" unfolded on the world stage as the representatives of 190 countries gathered together in Paris solemnly proclaimed they all saw the intricate fabric the climate warriors had woven — the "settled science" of global warming that forecast an uninhabitable planet if man did not scale back his use of fossil fuels to close to zero by the end of this century. Unfortunately there was no little child to prick the bubble. The Heartland Institute was in Paris with an alternate conclave designed to do just that, but no one was paying attention. Too much money and hype had been invested in the global warming tailors. "Success" was ecstatically proclaimed far and wide as, by universal agreement, the 190 countries each pledged to sharply cut back carbon emissions and to meet every five years to up their pledges.

There were a couple of clear-cut winners at the conference. One was the rulers of the so-called developing nations who, as their price for signing on, held up the developed nations (notably the U.S. and the EU) for pledges of over \$100 billion *per year* as penance for their historic responsibility in causing the supposed problem in the first place. In a specially absurd feature of the conference, Zimbabwe's brutal despot Robert Mugabe, officially banned from entering the EU for his human rights record (and who has literally destroyed his once prosperous country), was not only in Paris, but as chairman of the African Union, the chief representative to negotiate Africa's demands. One of those demands was for channeling those billions directly to African leaders rather than having them supervised by donor countries who might seek to make sure they actually went to the projects for which they were scheduled. To assorted African dictators all that money is a potential grand slush fund for everything from palaces to Maseratis to Hermes handbags (for the multiple ladies in their lives).

The chief winner, in a sign of the beyond-the-looking glass nature of the conference, actually saw itself as a loser. That inadvertent winner was the EU whose representatives badly wanted commitments to be "legally binding on all parties." Instead, the pledges are voluntary, to be enforced through "shaming," without any mechanism for punishment. The U.S. was mainly responsible for this, since Obama would have had to take legally binding pledges to Congress, where they had zero chance of passage.

So why was the EU the major winner? That's because its member states, as Benny Peiser points out in a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed (Dec. 22) are now off the hook. Europe is liberated from the constrictions of the legally binding Kyoto Protocol, which EU countries had signed off on. It originally expired in 2012 (requiring cuts to carbon emissions to 5% below 1990 levels by that year) but the EU had voluntarily extended its Kyoto obligations until 2020.

The result of Kyoto, as I document in my *Roosters of the Apocalypse: How the Junk Science of Global Warming is Bankrupting the Western World*, has been to seriously handicap European industries by sharply raising their costs, as EU countries dial down on fossil fuels in favor of hugely expensive wind and solar energy. (*Der Spiegel* reported in 2013 that Germans paid \$26 billion in subsidies to get just over \$3 billion worth of electricity at market prices.) Gradually some European leaders have inched their way toward acknowledging the problem. While David Cameron had initially announced his would be "the greenest government ever," in October 2011 his Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne told a Tory Party national conference "We're not going to save the planet by putting our country out of business." That same year even the EU's Energy Department (in an intended-as-secret internal memo obtained by *Dow Jones Newswires*) admitted "there is a trade-off between climate change policies and competitiveness" and if other countries did not bind themselves to cut emissions the EU should reconsider whether to switch its domestic energy base from fossil fuels.

It's no wonder then that the EU was determined to make the pledges in Paris legally binding so as to "share the burden" (as Mama Merkel proposes to do within the EU for her ruinous mass Muslim immigration policy). In September 2014, Peiser reports, then EU Energy Commissioner Gunther Oettinger declared that absent a binding commitment from countries like India, Russia, China, Brazil and the U.S., it would be a mistake for EU states to bind only themselves, for they would simply be exporting both their industries and carbon emissions. And the EU paid attention, offering the next month to cut emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, but only if all major emitters adopted legally binding targets. With Paris leaving it all voluntary, Peiser believes "the chances of the EU repeating its Kyoto mistake and adopting new unilateral carbon-dioxide restrictions are close to zero." While the EU is not likely to renege publicly on its Paris 40% reduction pledge, given that there are no enforceable targets for individual member states, post-2020 the states will be free (if they can withstand the "shaming" and no doubt strong-arming) to make their economies competitive.

With Paris behind it, the EU can move on to laying low that other source of mortal danger to the planet—Israel. For the EU, labeling products from Judea, Samaria and the Golan is a moral mission second only to rolling back the temperature. If the EU (and the Obama administration) devoted to the very real and dangerous problems our civilization faces a fraction of the funds, energy and attention given to chimeras, we might be closer to solutions.

Operation Thunderbolt: Flight 139 and the Raid on Entebbe Airport, The Most Audacious Hostage Rescue Mission in History

By Saul David

Reviewed by David Isaac

Operation Thunderbolt, in which Israeli commandos stormed a Ugandan airport terminal in 1976 to rescue hostages hijacked on an Air France flight, remains what Max Hastings calls "the high water mark of Israel's standing in the world." In his new book on the rescue mission, Saul David provides a fast-paced, suspenseful account of those tense summer days. While there have been several books (and movies) about the operation, this one draws on new sources and explores the motivations of the terrorists more deeply than earlier efforts.

Each chapter covers a single day over an eight-day period, from hijacking to rescue. Within each chapter the events are organized down to the hour, quarter-hour, and sometimes to the minute.

The rescue itself began when four C-130 Hercules aircraft, crammed with 91 commandos and paratroopers from *Sayeret Matkal*, otherwise known as "the Unit," flew a hazardous 2,500 miles from Israel to Entebbe Airport. As the first Hercules landed, the ramp lowered and out drove Israeli commandos. They made their way past the cordon of Ugandan soldiers using a black Mercedes and Land Rovers—the typical vehicles used to shuttle around high-ranking Ugandan government officials. Once they reached the terminal where the hostages were held, they shot the terrorists, freed the hostages, and blew up 11 Russian MiGs.



Yoni Netanyahu

From the start of the operation to the moment when the first Hercules took off with its cargo of 101 hostages—including dead and wounded—51 minutes elapsed. All this was carried out by soldiers who had only

18 hours of practice.

Only one Israeli soldier died—Jonathan (Yoni) Netanyahu, the commander of the operation, and the elder brother of Israel's current prime minister. Overnight Yoni, until then unknown to the Israeli public, became an international celebrity, the symbol of self-sacrifice, outstanding leadership, and military acumen. Three hostages also died in the assault.

The hijackers were two Germans and two Arabs. The Germans were members of the Revolutionary Cells, a radical left-wing terrorist group that saw anti-Zionism as part of a larger anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist struggle. The Arabs were members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, whose leader, Wadie Haddad, saw hijackings as “spectacular one-off operations” that would focus world's attention on the Palestinian cause.

On the third day of the hijacking, the terrorists separated the Israelis from the other passengers (whom they later released). Illustrating the difficulty of separating anti-Zionism from anti-Semitism, the hijackers sent six Orthodox Jews to join the Israelis, as well as an American couple who had “appeared very Orthodox.”

Some of the hostages were exceptionally brave. David singles out Michel Cojot, a French Jew who acted as an interpreter and a spokesman. When his 12-year-old son Olivier was included in a group to be released, Michel prepared a note full of details that he hoped would aid in their rescue, which he hid in his son's jeans. Incredibly, in the excitement after his release Olivier forgot all about the note until it literally came out in the wash. Fortunately, Michel Cojot was included in the next group of released prisoners. Israel's Chief of Staff Mordechai “Motta” Gur said that if not for Cojot's intelligence “many more hostages and soldiers would have died.”

Israel's military planners started working almost immediately, although it was far from clear they would be given the green light to carry out an operation. David does a good job presenting the many unknowns facing the planners. For instance, it took time to discern that Uganda's despotic ruler Idi Amin was in fact on the side of the terrorists. One thing the Israelis had going in their favor was their former close relations with Amin. An Israeli company, Soleh Boneh, had built the Old Terminal at Entebbe, giving the military access to the building's blueprints.

One thing was certain: If an operation took place, the Unit would play a key role. Surprisingly, Yoni Netanyahu, whose name became synonymous with the operation, did not join the planning process until Day Five of the hijacking. The reserve commander of the Unit, Major Moshe “Muki” Betser, thought the chances of the operation going forward were slim and kept Yoni in the Sinai, where he was involved in general training. “Believe me,” he told Yoni, “what you're doing now is much more important.”

Although David focuses directly on narrating the history of the incident, one is repeatedly struck by contrasts between behavior then and now. That goes for both sides—Israelis and terrorists. The hijackers were not unduly cruel to the hijacked. A German terrorist named Wilfried Bose was unsettled when Michel Cojot pointed out that the separation of hostages resembled Nazi behavior. Bose even comforts an old Jewish woman who has a breakdown. And the hostages convince the terrorists to put two Brazilian Jews who were studying in a Yeshiva back with those set to be released. One can't imagine such a thing today. But the slippery slope, once you embark on these tactics, is clear. Now we have the Islamic State.

On the Israeli side, the most dramatic contrast between then and now is the behavior of Shimon Peres. Then Minister of Defense, Peres was the most hawkish member of the Israeli Cabinet and pressed most vociferously for military action. “Israelis were a world-class standard,” he told the cabinet. “If we surrender, there won't be any country in the world that will stand up against [terror].” Ironically, less than 20 years later Peres would become the architect of negotiations with Yasser Arafat, the father of modern terror. Peres remain, to this day, Israel's chief dove.

David does a good job depicting the enormous pressures on the government—at one point the families of the hostages break through the gates at the Ministry of Defense. Yitzhak Rabin, Israel’s Prime Minister, who had been chief of staff during the Six Day War, was at first inclined to fulfill the terrorists’ demands for a release of 40 Israeli prisoners in exchange for the hostages. In the end, for Rabin, a decisive consideration was that some of those who would be released had Israeli blood on their hands. Today, Israel releases thousands in exchange for a single individual, as was the case with Israeli prisoner of war Gilad Shalit. Those who have killed Israelis are frequently included in prisoner releases.

David devotes only a few pages to the legacy of Operation Thunderbolt. It stiffened the backbone of other countries to fight against hijackings rather than negotiate, even inspiring the creation of America’s Delta Force. It provided a huge morale boost for Israelis after the trauma of the Yom Kippur War. It’s often been argued that terrorism, which involves little cost, impacts world events disproportionately. Entebbe shows that national prestige can also come cheaply, provided there is a willingness to take risks to enforce what is morally right.

There is a false note in this otherwise excellent book. David concludes by raising the question of whether Entebbe made peace less likely by convincing Israelis that they could handle threats by military means. Peace, then and now, was not within reach because those on the other side of the table remain as determined as ever to replace Israel rather than coexist with her.

Finally, David notes that hijacking mastermind Walie Haddad died less than two years after Entebbe. He liked fine chocolates. Once the Mossad learned of this, they had him delivered a poisoned box of Belgian chocolates. Haddad perished of a sweet tooth.

David Isaac is the writer-director-producer of the historical videos which can be seen at Zionism101.org. This appeared in <http://freebeacon.com/culture/rescue-at-entebbe/> on December 6.

Turkey’s Human Wave Assault on the West

By Gregg Roman and Gary Gambill

For months, Western policymakers have agonized over what to do with the masses of Sunni Muslim migrants flooding Europe by the boatload, particularly Syrians. Largely missing from this discussion is the question of why this flood is happening.

For starters, it doesn’t have much to do directly with the civil war in Syria or the rise of ISIS. The vast majority of the 886,662 migrants who illegally entered Europe this year embarked from Turkey, a little over half of them Syrians who took shelter in the country over the past four years. “EU officials have said ... Ankara was very effective in previous years in preventing the outflow of refugees from the country,” according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

What caused the spike in migration is that Ankara stopped containing it. Over the past year or so, the Turkish government has allowed human traffickers to vastly expand their operations, bringing prices down tenfold (from \$10,000-\$12,000 per person last year to around \$1,250 today, according to one report. This spawned what the *New York Times* calls a “multimillion-dollar shadow economy” profiting from the traffic, ranging from the smugglers to manufacturers of cheap rafts, life vests, and other equipment.

By the spring of this year it had become easier and cheaper than ever before to illegally enter Europe through Turkey, and more people have taken advantage of the opportunity Ankara has created.



So why did Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan open the spigot? Put simply, to extract financial, political, and strategic concessions from European governments in exchange for closing it.

Ankara certainly hasn't been shy about asking for money over the course of its negotiations with EU officials in recent weeks. On November 29 the EU agreed to provide Turkey with an "initial" \$3.19 billion and take steps to expedite its bid to join the EU in exchange for Turkish promises to better patrol its coastlines.

The Turkish navy only stepped up its patrols after the European Union paid billions.

Erdogan also used the crisis to generate foreign political support ahead of snap elections on November 1, essentially a re-do of the June 2015 elections that saw the ruling AKP lose its parliamentary majority for the first time. Though Western diplomatic protocol frowns on state visits during election time, German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited Istanbul for high-profile meetings with Erdogan and Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu just two weeks before the vote. The European Commission postponed the release of a report detailing the erosion of the rule of law, freedom of expression and judicial independence in Turkey until after the election in order, according to Reuters, "to avoid antagonizing" its president.



Most worrisome, perhaps, is Turkey's pursuit of strategic payoffs for its human wave assault on Europe. In a letter sent to European leaders at the September 23 EU migration summit, Davutoglu proposed the creation of a "safe zone" and U.S.-enforced no-fly zone stretching from the Turkish border 80 km into northern Syria, where his government has backed a variety of Sunni Islamist insurgents against both pro-regime Syrian forces and local Kurds.

Although the start of Russian military intervention in Syria on September 30 put an end to this fantasy for the time being (which perhaps explains why the Turks were so trigger-happy in shooting down an SU-24 that only slightly violated their airspace on November 24), you can bet Erdogan will use the migrant crisis to pressure the West into supporting his ambitions in Syria.

If all of this sounds familiar, it's because the late Libyan leader Moammar Qaddafi used to play the same game, turning the pipeline of illegal trans-African migration into Europe on and off as a way of extracting concessions. The most vexing question, then as now, is not what to do with the migrants, but what to do with a government that so callously manipulates masses of downtrodden human beings as a diplomatic pressure tactic.

On this there's room for debate. But the first step in doing anything about it is to call Erdogan out for what he is – dangerous and manipulative – no partner for Western leaders. Still, after meeting with Erdogan in Paris on Tuesday, President Obama praised Turkey for being "extraordinarily generous when it comes to its support of refugees."

The next step, instead of bribing Turkey with ransom payments to end the hemorrhaging of Syrian and other Middle East refugees into the West, is to turn the tables on Ankara. The potential loss of Western support to Turkey as it deals with both Russia and ISIS should be the sword of Damocles, convincing Erdogan to contain the refugee crisis.

Western material support to Turkey should be cut off entirely unless Ankara puts an end to the refugee crisis it is manufacturing and begins to play a constructive role in bringing stability to the region. How appropriate that an ancient Greek tragedy disrupt the current calamitous Turkish-born reality.

Gregg Roman is director and Gary C. Gambill is a research fellow at the Philadelphia-based Middle East Forum. This article was originally published in:

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Jihad: “All the Fault of the West!”

Lars Hedegaard

In 1995 a number of EU member states signed the Schengen Agreement, integrated into European Union law in 1999. The signatory powers promised to abandon their internal border protection in exchange for a promise by the EU authorities that they would police Europe’s external borders. Then the EU authorities, while demanding that the Schengen states keep their borders open, spectacularly failed to honor their part of the agreement. There can be little doubt that the EU packed up, walked out and left its populations to their own devices.

Sadly, their policies have achieved the exact opposite of what they claimed to strive for. Instead of tolerance, we have witnessed division and irreconcilable enmity between cultures and ethnicities that often have nothing in common except a desire to squeeze as much out of the public coffers as they can. Instead of “inclusion,” Europeans have seen exclusion, low-intensity warfare, terror, no-go zones, rape epidemics, murder and mayhem.

Governments, parliamentary majorities and the stars of academia, the media and the commanding heights of culture cannot have failed to notice that their grand multicultural, Islamophile game did not produce the results they had promised their unsuspecting publics. Yet to this day, most of them persist in claiming that unfettered immigration from the Muslim world and Africa is an indisputable boon to Europe.

Recently, in the wake of the so-called “refugee crisis,” some of these notables have thrown out the script and are expressing concern that immigration is out of control. European governments are still allowing millions of so-called refugees to cross all borders and settle anyplace. According to the EU agency Frontex, charged with protecting Europe’s external borders, more than a million and a half illegals crossed Europe’s frontiers between January and November 2015.

Right now there is an ever-widening gap between the people and their rulers. In a conference recently organized by the Danish Free Press Society to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the famous Muhammed cartoons, the British political analyst Douglas Murray noted that the European populations are reacting to decades of lies and deception by voting for political parties which, just a few years ago, were vilified as “racist” and “fascist.” Marine Le Pen, of the National Front party, has emerged as a strong candidate in France’s 2017 presidential election.

Perhaps the most momentous political earthquake in Europe was the recent 180-degree about-face by the Danish Social Democratic Party. Only a few years ago, it was a staunch proponent of Muslim immigration, and hammered away at anyone daring to deny the “cultural enrichment” brought about by the spread of Islam.

The leader of Denmark’s Social Democratic parliamentary group, Henrik Sass Larsen MP, on December 18 wrote:

“The massive migration and stream of refugees now coming to Europe and Denmark are of a magnitude that challenges the fundamental premises of our society in the near future... According to our analysis, the stark economic consequences of the current number of refugees and immigrants will consume all room for maneuver in public finance within a few years. Non-Western immigrants have historically been difficult to integrate into the labor market; the same applies to the Syrians that are now arriving. The more, the harder, the more expensive... Finally, it is our analysis that given our previous experience with integrating non-Western people into our society, we are facing a social catastrophe when it comes to handling many tens of thousands that are soon to be channeled into society. Every bit of progress in terms of integration will be put back to zero. ... Therefore our conclusion is clear: We will do all we can to limit the number of non-Western refugees and immigrants coming to the country. That is why we have gone far—and much farther than we had dreamed of going... We are doing this because

we will not sacrifice our welfare society in the name of humanitarianism. For the welfare society ... is the political project of the Social Democratic Party. It is a society built on the principles of liberty, equality and solidarity. Mass immigration—as we have seen in, for example, Sweden—will undermine ... our welfare society.”

One may speculate that if the Social Democratic Party means what it says, it might have an impact among Social Democratic and Socialist parties in other European countries.

However, as Douglas Murray also pointed out, Westerners suffer from the notion that regardless of how many jihadis, murderers and terrorists claim that their actions are motivated by their love of Allah, they cannot possibly mean it. There must be some other underlying “root cause” that the men of violence are not aware of, but which well-meaning Westerners are keen to tell them about: old Western imperialism, centuries of humiliation, racism, Israel, the Crusades, poverty, exclusion, the Muhammad cartoons, etc. And, of course, that it is all the fault of the West!

As long as we in the West are not prepared to take Muslims at their word when they claim to be waging bloody jihad because it is their religious obligation, we have no chance of repelling the current onslaught on the West. The latest sighting of this shift was just this week, in the form of a U.S. House of Representatives bill, H. Res. 569, to censor one of the few countries left with free speech. The bill, in accordance with the 10-year plan of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to implement UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18, would criminalize, worldwide, all criticism of Islam.

As long as the authorities are unwilling to protect their own populations from being overrun by foreigners, many of whom seem prepared to do them harm, we are likely to see the natives take protection into their own hands. On December 16, for instance, there was a violent protest in the small Dutch city of Geldermalsen, as the local authorities were trying to set up an asylum center behind the backs of the local population. No doubt the authorities were taken aback by the activism.

Western societies are based on an implied contract between the sovereign and the people: The sovereign—the king, the president, the government—promises to uphold law and order, protect his people from violence and foreign encroachment and apprehend and punish criminals. In exchange, the citizens promise not to take the law into their own hands. It follows that if the state fails to uphold its part of this social bargain, then the right—indeed the obligation—to protect oneself, one’s family, neighbors and the community, returns to the citizens.

There was also the recent spate of asylum-house burnings in Sweden. According to the Danish-Swedish website, *Snaphanen*, there have been 40 occasions during the past six months in which buildings intended to house asylum seekers have mysteriously burned to the ground—without anyone being hurt or killed. None of the perpetrators has been caught; no one has claimed responsibility. It all appears organized quite well.

Will citizen activism save Europe? Probably not. Vast areas are too far gone to be saved. Sweden is a broken country, as pointed out by Ingrid Carlqvist in several articles at Gatestone. By 2020, Germany may have 20 million Muslim residents.

We are probably beyond the point where effective change can be obtained by politics in the old sense, for the simple reason that central authorities are not strong enough to make their writ run throughout their national territories. This will spell the end of Europe as we know it, and people who cannot leave, or who choose to stand and fight, will be left to their own devices—and quite possibly entirely new modes of social organization.

First to go will be the welfare states. Shrinking native populations cannot generate enough taxes to accommodate masses of immigrants with so few skills as to be effectively unemployable, or who do not want to contribute to “infidel” societies.

What might post-European Europe look like? Think of Northern Ireland in the time of the Troubles or of ex-Yugoslavia during the civil wars of the 1990s.

When states break down, people's first concern will be security. Who can and will protect my family and me?

For a long time in Europe there has been talk of "parallel societies"—in which the state ceases to function as a unitary polity—due to the cultural, religious and politico-judicial separation of non-Muslims and Muslims into incompatible and antagonistic enclaves.

There appears to be a growing realization among Danish demographers that third-world immigrants and their descendants, with or without citizenship, will constitute the majority of the Danish population before the end of the century. A sizable segment of this third-world population will be Muslim, and well before the middle of the century, the number of Muslims will be large enough irreversibly to have changed the composition and character of the country.

Will Muslim non-integration spell the end of the secular state as we have known it? Probably. Religion—or more accurately, Islamic ideology—which knows no distinction between religion and politics, is on the ascendant as the constitutive principle among Danish Muslims. As Muslim institutions grow stronger, the Islamic court, or "din," is bound to become even more powerful as the organizing principle of the Muslim parallel societies.

How will the old Danish, and nominally Christian, population react to this metamorphosis? To a large extent, that will depend on what organizing principle will determine the character of the Danish parallel society. Two possibilities stand out: "Danishness" and "Christianity." "Danishness" would probably entail a society founded on a nationalistic or ethnic myth, whereas "Christianity" might be more ethnically inclusive and stress society's Judeo-Christian and humanistic roots.

In either event, it is difficult to see how the secular state could survive, because the parallel societies will not be free to define themselves or determine their political systems or modes of governance. They will constantly be forced to maneuver in response to "the other's" long-term objectives and immediate actions—as has been seen, for example, in Bosnia, Kosovo, Lebanon, Northern Ireland and the Basque provinces.

Under these conditions, the modern system of sovereign territorial states is likely to break down. We can only guess at what will replace it.

Lars Hedegaard, a Danish historian, journalist and author, established the Danish Free Speech Society in 2004. This appeared on December 26 at <http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/7114/jihad-fault>

A Great War Correspondent on the Palestinian Refugees From a Half-Century Ago: Part II

Martha Gellhorn

Editor's Note: This month we offer an excerpt from famous war correspondent and journalist Martha Gellhorn's ground-breaking 1961 report on the "Palestinian refugee problem" that focuses on a Moslem refugee camp. (Last month's excerpt was on a Christian camp.) Appallingly, little has changed in the last fifty years. Gellhorn's report can be read in its entirety online in Mosaic Magazine (October 2015).



The Gaza Strip, from all accounts, would be a real hell hole. I imagined it as a sand dune, packed solid with human flesh, blazing hot, hideous, and filthy. It is none of these. The weather was so idyllic—a china-blue sky and a constant cool breeze—that I assumed this was special luck and at once asked my charming landlady about it. No, the weather in Gaza was always

delightful.

Sizable villas are being built in what must be the fashionable section of Gaza. The main square boasts an array of parked Mercedes, finned pastel American cars, and humbler Volkswagens. The taxis in Gaza are new. There is an imposing movie theater, in the ugly world-wide chromium-and-junk style; there are abundant cafés and numerous ill-lit dingy shops, typical of the region.

The refugee camps are much larger than those in Lebanon, small towns by Middle Eastern standards. They are by no means luxury establishments, but many people live in a nastier state in American and European slums. The poor villagers of Gaza are not as well housed or cared for as the refugees. The Gaza Strip is not a hell hole, not a visible disaster. It is worse; it is a jail—with a magical long white sand beach, and a breeze, and devoted welfare workers (UNRWA) to look after the prisoners.

The Egyptian government is the jailer. For reasons of its own, it does not allow the refugees to move from this narrow strip of land. The refugees might not want to leave at all, or they might not want to leave for good; but anyone would become claustrophobic if penned, for thirteen years, inside 248 square kilometers.

These locked-in people—far too many in far too little space—cannot find adequate work. Meantime, they are exposed to the full and constant blast of Egyptian propaganda. No wonder that Gaza was the home base of the trained paramilitary bands called commandos by the Egyptians and Palestinians, and gangsters by the Israelis—the fedayin, whose job was to cross unnoticed into Israel and commit acts of patriotic sabotage and murder. And having been so devastatingly beaten by Israel again, in 1956, has not improved the trapped, bitter Gaza mentality; it only makes the orators more bloodthirsty.

Another Mad Hatter conversation, practically a public meeting, took place in the office of the leader of two adjacent camps, a man in charge of some 29,000 people. The camp leader, the self-appointed orator, sat behind his desk. The Secret Service youth, the quiet UNRWA Palestinian, my regular chaperone, and the three uniformed cops of highish rank completed the company.

First the camp leader told me how rich they had all been in Palestine and how miserable they were now and how much land they had all owned. I do not doubt for one minute how much land some of them owned, nor how rich some of them were, and I did not point out this subtle distinction: if everyone owned the land claimed, Palestine would be the size of Texas; if everyone had been so rich, it would have been largely populated by millionaires. To gild the past is only human, we all do it; and to gild it with solid gold is even more human if you are a refugee.

This part of his address was already so familiar that I could have recited it for him.

Then he spoke of Jaffa, his native town. The Jews surrounded the city, firing on all sides; they left one little way out, by the sea, so the Arabs would go away. Only the very old and the very poor stayed, and they were killed. Arab refugees tell many dissimilar versions of the Jaffa story, but the puzzler is: where are the relatives of those who must have perished in the fury of high explosive, the infallible witnesses? No one says he was loaded on a truck (or a boat) at gun point; no one describes being forced from his home by armed Jews; no one recalls the extra menace of enemy attacks, while in flight. The sight of the dead, the horrors of escape are exact, detailed memories never forgotten by those who had them. Surely Arabs would not forget or suppress such memories, if they, too, had them.

As for those Arabs who remained behind, they are still in Jaffa—3000 of them—living in peace, prosperity, and discontent, with their heirs and descendants.

“The Jews are criminals,” the camp leader continued in a rising voice. “Murderers! They are the worst criminals in the whole world.”

Had he ever heard of Hitler?

He banged his table and said, “Hitler was far better than the Jews!”

“Far better murderer? He killed six million Jews as a start,” I observed.

“Oh, that is all exaggerated. He did not. Besides, the Jews bluffed Hitler. They arranged in secret that he should kill a few of them—old ones, weak ones—to make the others emigrate to Palestine.”

“Thirty-six thousand of them,” said the Secret Service man, proving the point, “came here, before the war from Central Europe.”

“It’s amazing,” I said. “I have never before heard anywhere that the Jews arranged with Hitler for him to kill them.”

“It was a secret!” the camp leader shouted. “The documents have been found. Everyone knows. It was published. The Jews arranged it all with Hitler.”

There is a limit to the amount of Mad Hattery one can endure, so I suggested that we visit the camp. I knocked on a door at random, before the camp leader had a chance to steer me anywhere. Two young married couples lived here. In a corner by the courtyard wall stood a group of visitors, silent Arab women, in their graceful long blue dresses, slightly hiding their faces behind their white head veils. It was useless to try to lure the women into talk, but one of the husbands talked freely. The Secret Service youth translated.

“It is the blame of America that this happened, because they help the Jews. We only want America to help us to get back to our land.”

“How?” I asked. “By war?”

“When the Arabs are united, we will make the war.”

“What do you want from us then? Arms to make this war with?”

“No, we want you to stop giving arms and money to Israel. Just now Kennedy has given Israel \$25 million for arms.”

“I do not believe that the U.S. government has ever given or sold arms to Israel. What about the arms Nasser gets from Russia and Czechoslovakia?”

“That is all right. That is different. They are peace-loving nations. They only want to help the undeveloped countries.”

The Secret Service man put in: “America offered us arms, but with conditions. We will not accept conditions. So we take from the Eastern countries, who give without conditions.”

“What do you do?” I asked the fat young husband.

“Nothing.”

“What would you like to do?”

“Be a soldier and fight Jews.”

Arabs gorge on hate, they roll in it, they breathe it. Jews top the hate list, but any foreigners are hateful enough. Arabs also hate each other, separately and, en masse. Their politicians change the direction of their hate as they would change their shirts. Their press is vulgarly base with hate-filled cartoons; their reporting describes whatever hate is now uppermost and convenient. Their radio is a long scream of hate, a call to hate. They teach their children hate in school. They must love the taste of hate; it is their daily bread. And what good has it done them?

There is no future in spending UN money to breed hate. There is no future in nagging or bullying Israel to commit suicide by the admission of a fatal locust swarm of enemies....We cannot be too careful. The echo of Hitler’s voice is heard again in the land, now speaking Arabic.

Economics are not all, and the tragedy of most refugees is not that they starve in their countries of adoption, but that their hearts and minds and souls starve. They are lonely strangers who do not speak the language of the new land, or know its customs; they are aliens. But the Palestinian refugees look, think, feel, and organize themselves socially as the Arabs of the “host countries” do. They speak the same language, they practice the same religion. The Palestinian Arabs are not foreigners in the Arab world; they are members of their own family.

According to Arab politicians and apologists, the Palestinian refugees refuse to become integrated in the Arab world; it is Palestine or nothing for them. Everyone shouts for the Palestinian

refugees, and at them, and about them, but no one has ever asked the refugees what they themselves want: where do you want to live; what do you want to do? My tiny personal Gallup poll unearthed plenty of refugees who were happy where they were and had no desire to return to Palestine, no matter what; and plenty of refugees who longed to emigrate to the richer Arab countries, where the future looks brighter, or out into the great non-Arab world. Except for one Christian Arab from Jaffa, who thinks Jews more honest than Arab Muslims and better people to do business with, none of them wanted to return to Israel, as Israeli citizens, and dwell in peace with their Jewish neighbors.

The Arab governments say they will not accept the existence of the state of Israel, now or ever. The logical conclusion is that, when ready, they intend to burst from their cold belligerent status into hot armed conflict and terminate Israel's existence. We cannot force the Arab nations to make peace with Israel, but we have to prevent them from making actual war for the sake of all human life, their own included. A vital preventive act would be to remove the Palestinian refugees as a justification of war.

Our Western offer should be clear: UNRWA is to continue as a bridge to the future; we will pay for the bridge and the future—Palestinian refugees are gradually to become Arab citizens, earning their own livelihood on land, in industries, which our money and technical help will make available. All of this, but not another penny for a political problem. The Palestinian refugees must be taken out of politics forever and given the same chance that millions of refugees have had before them: a chance for work, private peace, and private life.

Europe is Committing Cultural Suicide

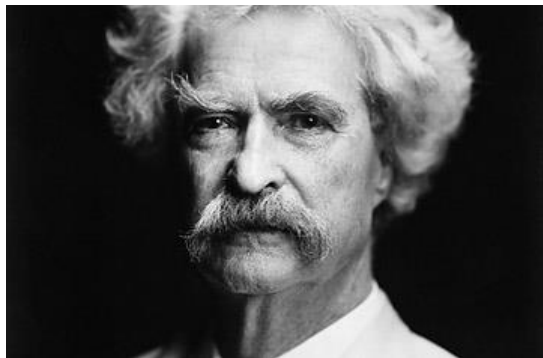
Ruth King

In Europe the influx of Moslem Arabs will only increase the growing anti-Semitism on the continent. Jews, in large numbers, are poised to leave. This will be a major blow to their host nations.

Please indulge me in a little ethnic pride.

Wherever they have alighted, Jews have had a disproportionate impact on every aspect of culture, the arts, science and technology.

Don't believe me? Just go to the operas, concerts, hospitals, museums and research institutions throughout the United States—even in areas with a tiny Jewish population.



Mark Twain recognized this in 1897: "If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one quarter of one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous puff of star dust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly, the Jew ought hardly to be heard of, but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk. His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine and abstruse learning are also very out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in this world in all ages; and has done it with his hands tied behind him. He could be vain of himself and be excused for it. The Egyptians, the Babylonians and the Persians rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greeks and Romans followed and made a vast noise, and they were gone; other people have sprung up and held their torch high for a time but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, and have vanished."

What Twain describes mystifies many commentators. For example, in 2013, in a lengthy interview with *The New Republic*, British biologist, author and atheist Richard Dawkins expressed his bewilderment at the disproportionate number of Nobel prizes won by Jews. Asked what he thought of it, he responded: "I haven't thought it through. I don't know. But I don't think it is a minor thing; it is colossal. I think more than 20 percent of Nobel Prizes have been won by Jews."

Dawkins was close. Since the Nobel was first awarded in 1901 approximately 193 of the 855 honorees have been Jewish (22%). Jews make up less than 0.2% of the global population.

In 2014 German born Petra Moser, an assistant professor of economics at Stanford, found that after 1933 the number of U.S. patents increased by 31 percent in fields in which those who had fled from Germany were prominent. She wrote: "German Jewish émigrés had a huge effect on U.S. innovation." In an interview she explained: "They helped increase the quality of research by training a new generation of American scientists, who then became productive researchers in their own right." Moser said she undertook this research because the effect of German Jewish émigrés is one of the big issues in America's 20th-century economy. She added: "Everybody knows about the Manhattan Project and has a vague notion that getting these highly talented refugees was a big plus for American science."

More recently, in September 2015, French Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron visited the Haifa Technion, the Israel Institute for Technology, and asked a group of French-born students if they would ever consider returning to France. As a *Wall Street Journal* article on French attempts to woo talent back from Israel notes, Macron's "remarks point to an uncomfortable reality for the French government. Israel has become a nesting ground for precisely the kind of talent the Eurozone's second-largest economy needs: budding tech entrepreneurs."

What about the arts? The contribution of Jewish immigrants to the United States is enormous.

The Jewish writers, composers, performers, movie and theater impresarios who were immigrants or children of immigrants are literally too many to list. To name a few: Eugene Ormandy, Irving Berlin, Kurt Weill, Georg Solti, Bruno Walter, Lion Feuchtwanger, Joseph Roth, Franz Werfel, Hedy Lamarr.

Musical comedy, arguably the most original and popular American art form, simply would not exist without the countless Jewish composers and lyricists, most children of immigrants. Cole Porter stands out because he is the exception.

Some of the most popular Christmas songs were written by children of Jewish immigrants. "The Christmas Song (commonly known as "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire") was co-written by Robert Wells, whose father was Jewish, and Mel Tormé, whose parents were Russian Jewish immigrants. Walter Kent composed "I'll be Home for Christmas" and Sammy Cahn and Julie Styne wrote "Let It Snow, Let It Snow." Felix Bernard, born Felix Bernhardt to Jewish immigrants, wrote "Winter Wonderland."

Everyone knows that Irving Berlin wrote "White Christmas" but how many are aware that "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" was based on a poem by Robert May, who was Jewish? The music was composed by his Jewish brother-in-law John D. Marks, who wrote other holiday standards, including "Rockin Around the Christmas Tree" and "A Holly Jolly Christmas."

In Israel, the Jewish people created a democracy in a sliver of land disproportionately small and resource poor in comparison to the surrounding Muslim Arab world. Nonetheless, European immigrants will find a booming economy, amazing high tech and start-up companies that rival those in the West and cultural, scientific and social institutions which are among the most advanced in the world.

Au revoir and Auf Wiedersehen and Cheerio and Arrivederci and Adios to all that. With this exodus Europe will go down the brain drain its governments have encouraged and deserve.

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