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# OUTPOST



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## Mahmoud's Banana Peel

William Mehlman

Normally election-averse Mahmoud Abbas' sudden mid-summer call for October 8<sup>th</sup> elections in the Palestinian municipalities of Judea and Samaria was a desperate attempt to repurchase a hold on a West Bank power base slipping from his fingers. His no less sudden cancellation of those elections in early September was a testament to his fear of drowning.

Drowning has been put off at least until December, when the "Ramallah High Court of Justice" says it may have another look at the matter. Abbas' pretext for petitioning the cancellation – Israel's voting bar on Arab residents of eastern Jerusalem -- didn't stand in the way of 2012 local contests, but the President of both the Palestinian Authority and the amorphous "State of Palestine" isn't likely to forget how close he came this time to a soggy political end. Holding municipal elections must have seemed as good a distraction as any from the woes attending his 11-year stewardship of a Palestinian entity living off the dole, in thrall to a gaggle of European-funded NGOs intent on reining in his unlimited control of the PA's finances, a going-nowhere economy kept partially afloat by the 70,000 jobs Israel provides and an Iranian-armed Hamas that would have him for lunch were he not under Israel's protective shield

The last thing Mr. Abbas would have anticipated when he embarked on his flirtation with democracy was that Hamas, a member of the overarching Palestine Liberation Organization, the "sole representative of the Palestinian people," might want to join in the festivities. Though it used its muscle in the 2004-2005 municipal elections to launch a 2007 takeover in Gaza, Hamas spurned the 2012 event as irrelevant and might have been of a mind to do the same this time around. But a funny thing happened on the way to the electoral forum that changed the whole picture. The Student Union Council of Birzeit University, a stone's throw from the PA and its Fatah party Ramallah headquarters, decided to hold its own municipal elections with representative lists of Fatah and Hamas student supporters pitted against each other. It resulted in a 26-19 rout of the PA by Hamas and in the blink of an eye the Gazans declared themselves all-in for an October 8<sup>th</sup> faceoff.



The decision hit the PA like a thunderclap, with reverberations as far as Jerusalem. "Hamas," wrote *YNetNews'* Alex Fishman, raising images of new Hamas custodians of the West Bank going eyeball to eyeball with the IDF, "lulled everyone into a false sense of security and then, all of a sudden, dropped a bombshell...setting the entire West Bank aflame . These elections," he added, "are no longer just a vote over sanitary conditions in the Palestinian cities but rather a process with national and political significance that threatens to unseat Fatah from the centers of power in the West Bank." Cynicism was giving shock a run for its money in Israeli circles. "All of a sudden Abbas wants democracy," scoffed Dr. Roni Shaked of the Hebrew University's Harry S. Truman Research Center. "All signs point to a Hamas victory," he added, with "the Fatah leadership blaming [Abbas] for handing the West Bank over to Hamas on a silver platter."

The PA, not surprisingly, attempted to confound these predictions with a brave face, claiming its private polls indicated a Fatah "sweep" even in some of the Gaza municipalities. Yet, as *Ha'aretz's* Avi Issacharov told *The Times of Israel*, Fatah pointedly "refrained from placing its best known leaders on the ballot in the West Bank "to avoid their being stained by an electoral defeat." Growing efforts to halt a perceived Hamas victory train ultimately pushed the Abbas forces into a conspiratorial mode, with Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman being accused of colluding with the

enemy. "They desired a victory for Hamas as this would prove their allegation that there is no one to talk to on the Palestinian side," declared an unidentified spokesman for the Ramallah *mukataa*. The same spokesman, however, dismissed Fatah's boast of an October 8<sup>th</sup> "sweep," contenting himself with a "reasonable chance of winning" as the party worked "intensely to prevent any splits or internal conflicts." Not intensely enough, it appears. With the polls flashing a landslide for Hamas in Jenin and Nablus, the West Bank's largest Arab city, and probable wins in Tulkharem and Kalkilya, Kfar Sava's next door neighbor, the PA sued the Ramallah High Court for a halt to the proceedings.

The court's response to his panic may be keeping Abbas afloat, but how long can he continue to tread water with a Palestinian constituency grown contemptuous of his rule by edict over the seven years since the expiration of his four-year presidential term, of his and his inner circle's shameless self-aggrandizement and his preference for the fawning of an international diplomatic elite robotically catering to his obsession with Israel over any semblance of social and economic achievement? Indeed, if a confrontation between Israel and a Hamas-occupied Ramallah has been put off, Abbas' electoral mortification may have made it inevitable.

The PA is in internal trouble wherever one cares to look—in the streets of Nablus, recently portrayed as "near total chaos" with 120,000 people protesting the beating to death by security police of a single demonstrator against conditions in the city; at the "insurrection" of Fatah's military wing reported by JCPA Arab affairs expert Pinchas Inbari as it exchanges fire in Palestinian towns with military forces trained and equipped by the U.S. to protect those enclaves; at a disaffection of Arab tribal groups with Abbas so pronounced that it spurred a major Hebron clan to bypass him and dispatch an independent committee to Jordan to confer with King Abdullah. In a crowning rebuke to the PA and its leader, an amazing 68 per cent of West Bank Arabs participating in a poll conducted by the Palestinian Center for Political Survey and Research declared their admiration for Israel's democratic system. They weren't asked what they thought of the system they were living under, but they registered a sharp decline in their support of the two-state paradigm, reflecting either or both their waning confidence in Abbas' ability to bring it off and his mesmeric pursuit of it to the exclusion of all other considerations.

Aside from public embarrassment, the poll results accentuate the most vexing internal threat to the suzerainty of a Palestinian Authority still under the *de jure* rule of what Lauren Mellinger, in a study for BICOM (British Israel Communications Centre) has referred to as the "Tunis-based Old Guard," now in their 60s and 70s, that Yasser Arafat brought with him out of exile in 1993. That threat being both the demographic and aspirational gulf separating the PA from a generation that was either born in or has spent most of its existence in the West Bank and Gaza. Driven by a Fatah party door locked tight against its emergence, the alienation of this "Young Guard," Mellinger reports, "has deepened the associated sense of stagnation and further weakened the movement's general appeal and credibility." They see no future for themselves in a PA leadership focused on compelling a settlement from Israel conditioned on demands no Israeli government could meet or on further solicitation of the favors of an international community, including some of its Arab components, to whom the "Palestinian Cause" has become purely an object of lip service. Moreover, the BICOM study submits, "in the absence of reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas, proceeding to [national] elections is nearly impossible."

Even in the unlikely event such a reconciliation could be engineered, a Palestinian election at this juncture would see a kleptocratic but largely ineffectual Mahmoud Abbas replaced as PLO chief by a Hamasian Ismail Haniyeh sworn to Israel's destruction. It would result, Mellinger's avers, in "the immediate cessation of funding from the U.S. and others in the international community and the triggering of a political crisis in the West Bank." That it would also trigger an Israeli military response goes almost without saying. In the Middle East, circa 2016, the status quo, however fragile, may be the only status sustainable

*William Mehlman represents AFSI in Israel.*

## From the Editor

### Chatterjee yes, ADL no

Milan Chatterjee, a third year law student at UCLA and president of the UCLA Graduate Student Association, has left UCLA for NYU, a victim both of vicious attacks by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and the craven administration.



Chatterjee is an Indian American and a Hindu. In the crazy world of the U.S. campus (it has gotten to the point that Brit Hume on Fox News devotes a segment each night to campus craziness) he was found guilty—after a four month investigation-- of discrimination by the UCLA Discrimination Prevention Office for refusing to discriminate against Jews. Specifically Chatterjee had stipulated that a so-called “diversity(!)” event asking for Graduate Student Association funds could only receive them if it did not officially associate itself with the BDS movement and SJP. Chatterjee told the *Algemeiner*: “Everyone knew about the stipulation from the very beginning. I even received explicit approval.”

In the course of the investigation, Chatterjee reports, BDS groups began a “deadly, malicious campaign against me,” wrote defamatory articles, circulated petitions and tried three times to remove him as GSA president. The Orwellian UCLA Discrimination Prevention Office decided Chatterjee had “violated University policy requiring viewpoint neutrality.” Question: If all “viewpoints” must be funded in the name of “viewpoint neutrality,” does that mean the General Student Association is required to support Ku Klux Klan events?

As Chatterjee rightly observed, the investigation’s report was a “clear cover-up by the UCLA administration” and demonstrates the double standards by which it operates. He says: “If SJP files a complaint, they will bend over backwards. If it’s anyone else, they don’t care.” As a result of his ordeal, Chatterjee has switched to NYU, despite the much greater expense. He says his experience has “made me sympathize with the Jewish student body and how unsafe the campus climate is towards them, especially at UCLA.”

A number of Jewish organizations went to bat for Chatterjee, although without success. The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights under Law provided legal aid to Chatterjee and its president Kenneth Marcus told the *Algemeiner* “This is a very dark day for the University of California.” Aron Hier of the Simon Wiesenthal Center said “UCLA has doubled down on its wrongdoing and continues to dig the pit even deeper.” The American Jewish Committee demanded that the U.S. Department of Education “conduct a thorough investigation” of UCLA’s conduct. But contrast this with the weak-kneed response of ADL, whose specific mandate is to combat discrimination against Jews. Jonathan Greenblatt declared: “If the allegations are true, it is troubling that anti-Israel student activists are creating an environment where students do not feel safe.” If the allegations are true? Then it’s “troubling”? If ADL was a weak reed under Foxman, it is a full-blown disgrace under Greenblatt, undeserving of a penny of support from any self-respecting Jew.

### More on Rule by NGOs

In the last *Outpost* we noted something that is not sufficiently understood: the extent to which the EU’s policies are dictated by NGOs that claim to promote human rights. (How far they depart from their professed purpose is obvious from the fact that for the vast majority of these NGOs Israel is the chief human rights violator on this earth.) So it was encouraging to see a recent article “Human Rights vs

the People” by Yves Mamou, a long time journalist for the (left-wing) *Le Monde*, which emphasizes the importance of the human rights lobby in setting the moral compass for European elites. Here are some excerpts:



“French politicians seem to believe they are elected not to defend French people and the French nation, but to impose a ‘human rights ideology’ on society....The ideology of human rights is common to all European countries.

“The human rights movement was born in 1948 with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, launched by Eleanor Roosevelt. For 70 years, nine major ‘core’ human rights treaties were written and ratified by the vast majority of countries. Like a disease, the ‘human rights ideology’ has proliferated in all areas of life. The United Nations website shows a list of all the human rights that are now institutionalized: they range from ‘adequate housing’ to ‘youth’ and include ‘Food,’ ‘Freedom of Religion and Belief,’ ‘HIV/AIDS,’ ‘Mercenaries,’ ‘Migration,’ ‘Poverty,’ ‘Privacy,’ ‘Sexual orientation and gender identity,’ ‘Sustainable Development,’ ‘Water and

sanitation.’ At least 42 categories of human rights fields are determined...

“What is disturbing is that human rights and anti-discrimination policies are dismantling nations, and placing states in a position of incapacity—or perhaps just unwillingness—to name Islamism as a problem and take measures against it.

“Human rights are what we call in France ‘fundamental rights.’ They were introduced in the 70s....Islam took advantage of it to install in France, in the name of human rights and under its protection, Islamic civilization, mosques and minarets, the Islamic way of life...Islamic laws even in violation of French law, religious marriage without civil marriage, polygamy, unilateral divorce of wife by husband, etc.

“The human rights and anti-discrimination ‘religion’ also gave Islam and Islamists a comfortable position from which to declare war on France and all other European countries....

“The question now is: have our leaders decided to cope with the real problems of the real people? In other words, are they motivated enough to throw the human rights overboard?....the fight against Islamism might first consist of a fight against the caste that governs us.”



## How to End the Occupation

Ending the occupation has become an obsession in much of the so-called world community. Moshe Feiglin has come up with an anti-PC proposal to accomplish this: declare Israeli sovereignty over the entire area between the Jordan and the Mediterranean. Even the most hardened Israeli peace-through-concessions proponents will find it difficult to disagree with one point Feiglin makes: “The idea of ending the occupation by running away (Oslo/disengagement) has already exploded in our faces.”

## Abbas: Israel Can’t Arrest Arab Murderers, World Yawns

Aaron Lerner of IMRA records the astonishingly frank statement to the UN General Assembly by PA head Mahmoud Abbas on September 22. Israel has no right to protect its citizens. Although not a single member of the UN would countenance for a moment such a demand addressed to it,

when addressed to Israel it caused not a ripple among the assembled delegates. Nor, more shocking, did it get a response from anyone else.

After a ludicrous pro forma assertion that “we remain committed to the agreement reached with Israel since 1993”, this followed: “However, Israel must ...cease the arrest of our people, and must release the thousands of our prisoners and detainees...” Lerner responds: “That's right. Mahmoud Abbas stated that if a Palestinian goes out tonight and slaughters 20 Jewish babies in a hospital that Israel must not arrest the Palestinian. Sure, Abbas may put out a press release opposing violence. But he is clear that Israel must not arrest Palestinian murderers. And the reaction? A deafening silence. Comment from the White House? No. Nor from the State Department. Not a peep from the various Jewish organizations ostensibly so keen for peace. Nor any significant follow up by the journalists covering the event.”

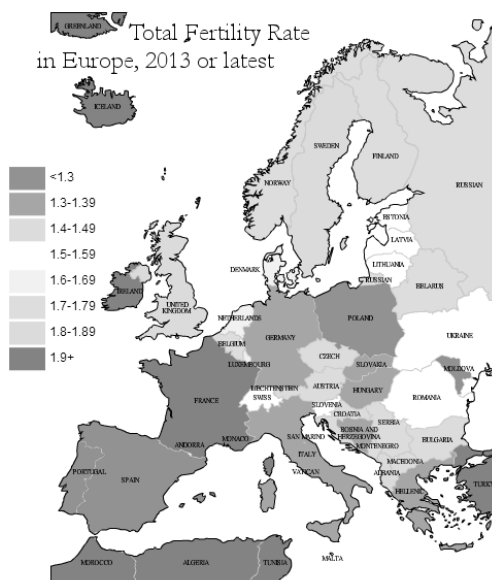
As Lerner rightly says: Shame on all of them.

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## Europe: The Substitution of a Population

Giulio Meotti

In one generation, Europe will be unrecognizable.



Deaths that exceed births might sound like science fiction, but they are now Europe's reality. It just happened. During 2015, 5.1 million babies were born in the EU, while 5.2 million persons died, meaning that the EU for the first time in modern history recorded a negative natural change in its population. The numbers come from Eurostat (the statistical office of the European Union), which since 1961 has been counting Europe's population. It is official.

There is, however, another surprising number: the European population increased overall from 508.3 million to 510.1 million. Have you guessed why? The immigrant population increased, by about two million in one year, while the native European population was shrinking. It is the substitution of a population. Europe has lost the will to maintain or grow its population. The situation is as demographically seismic as during the Great Plague of the 14th Century.

This shift is what the British demographer David Coleman described in his study, “Immigration and Ethnic Change in Low-Fertility Countries: A Third Demographic Transition.” Europe's suicidal birth rate, coupled with migrants who multiply faster, will transform European culture. The declining fertility rate of native Europeans coincides, in fact, with the institutionalization of Islam in Europe and the “re-Islamization” of its Muslims.

In 2015, Portugal recorded the second-lowest birth rate in the European Union (8.3 per 1,000 inhabitants) and negative natural growth of -2.2 per 1,000 inhabitants. Which EU country had the lowest birth rate? Italy. Since the “baby boom” of the 1960s, in the country famous for its large families, the birth rate has more than halved. In 2015, the number of births fell to 485,000, fewer than in any other year since modern Italy was formed in 1861.

Eastern Europe now has “the largest population loss in modern history”, while Germany overtook Japan by having the world's lowest birth rate, when averaged over the past five years. In Germany and Italy, the decreases were particularly dramatic, down -2.3% and -2.7% respectively.



Giulio Meotti

Some businesses are no longer even interested in European markets. Kimberly-Clark, which

makes Huggies diapers, has pulled out of most of Europe. The market is simply not cost-effective. Meanwhile, Procter & Gamble, which produces Pampers diapers, has been investing in the business of the future: diapers for old people.

Europe is becoming gray; you can feel all the sadness of a world that has consumed itself. In 2008, the countries of the European Union saw the birth of 5,469,000 children. Five years later, there were nearly half a million fewer, 5,075,000 — a decrease of 7%. Fertility rates have not only fallen in countries with aching economies, such as Greece, but also in

countries such as Norway, which sailed through the financial crisis.

As Lord Sacks recently said, “falling birth rates could spell the end of the West”. Europe, as it is aging, no longer renews its generations, and instead welcomes massive numbers of migrants from the Middle East, Africa and Asia, who are going to replace the native Europeans, and who are bringing cultures with radically different values about sex, science, political power, culture, economy and the relation between God and man.

Liberals and secularists tend to dismiss the importance of demographic and cultural issues. That is why the most important warnings come from some Christian leaders. The first to denounce this dramatic trend was a great Italian missionary, Father Piero Gheddo, who explained that, due to falling birth rates and religious apathy, “Islam would sooner rather than later conquer the majority in Europe”. He was followed by others, such as Lebanese Cardinal Bechara Rai, who leads the Eastern Catholics aligned with the Vatican. Rai warned that “Islam will conquer Europe by faith and birth rate”. A similar warning just came from yet another cardinal, Raymond Leo Burke.

In one generation from now, Europe will be unrecognizable. People in Europe now largely seem to feel that the identity of their civilization is threatened primarily by a frivolous libertarianism, an ideology under the guise of freedom, which wants to deconstruct all the ties that bind man to his family, his parentage, his work, his history, his religion, his language, his nation, his freedom. It seems to come from an inertia that does not care if Europe succeeds or succumbs, if our civilization disappears, drowned by ethnic chaos, or is overrun by a new religion from the desert.

As a paper in the *Washington Quarterly* explains, the fatal meeting between Europe’s falling birth rates and rise of Islam has already had significant consequences: Europe has turned into an incubator of terrorism; formed a new poisonous anti-Semitism; seen a political shift to the far right; undergone the biggest crisis in European authoritarian unity and witnessed a refocusing of foreign policy since Europe’s withdrawal from the Middle East.

Demographic suicide is not only experienced; it appears to be wanted. The xenophile European bourgeoisie, which today controls politics and the media, seem imbued with a snobbish and masochistic racism. They have turned against the values of their own Judeo-Christian culture and combined it with a hallucinatory, romanticized view of the values of other cultures. The sad paradox is that Europeans are now importing young people in large numbers from the Middle East to compensate for their lifestyle choices.

An agnostic and sterile continent — deprived of its gods and children because it banished them — will have no strength to fight or to assimilate a civilization of the zealous and the young. The failure to counter the coming transformation seems to come down on the side of Islam. Is what we are seeing the last days of summer?

*Giulio Meotti, is Cultural Editor for Il Foglio. This appeared August 27 on Gatestoneinstitute.org.*

## Obama, Merkel and ‘The Right Side of History’

Edward Alexander

“US Sends Iran Two More Loads of Cash.” So blared the headline on the front page of the September 7 issue of *The Wall Street Journal* about the latest transfer of enormous amounts of money (\$1.3 billion in this latest installment) by President Barack Obama from the US Treasury to the government of Iran.



This is the very same genocidal regime whose leaders proclaim at every opportunity their intention to destroy the state of Israel, and whose (treaty-violating) nuclear-capable ballistic missiles are marked, in Farsi, with the motto “Israel must be erased from history,” as well as the phrase, in Hebrew no less, “Israel must be erased from the earth.”

President Obama’s Secretary of State John Kerry had already agreed to “return” \$130 billion to the mullahs as a kind of signing bonus for their consent to the scandalous JCPOA nuclear “deal,” a vast addition to Iran’s ability to make war — which it has in fact already done, directly in Syria and Iraq, and indirectly against Israel via Hezbollah and Hamas. Earlier news had been of a mere \$400 million — paid secretly, and in Mafia-style cash bundles — as ransom for some, though by no means all, Americans held hostage by Iran.

The mind reels, the heart sinks: can anyone, even his harshest critics, imagine President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, after Adolf Hitler had made clear, in the Nuremberg laws (1935), in Kristallnacht (1938), and in countless speeches, his intention to destroy European Jewry, lavishing billions of American dollars in courtship of the Nazi regime?

Just a week earlier, on August 30, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, in a written response to a pro-Israel German parliamentarian named Volker Beck, declared (not for the first time) that Germany will not “normalize” relations with Iran until Tehran recognizes the state of Israel and its “right to exist.” Merkel is unusual among European heads of state in assigning importance to moral considerations, especially where Jews (dead or living) are concerned. Despite her party’s recent electoral setbacks, she still stands at the head of a country that, in the years 1933-45, destroyed European Jewish civilization. That was (to use one of President Obama’s favorite locutions) “the verdict of history” pronounced by Europe upon its Jewish minority, which it is now replacing with a rather different (and much more quarrelsome) Muslim minority. European Christendom, over the course of centuries, had, in Raul Hilberg’s famous formulation, progressed from the historical verdict, “You [Jews] have no right to live among us as Jews,” to “You have no right to live among us,” to “You have no right to live.”

Merkel now seems to recognize some similarity between the Nazi regime that denied Jews “the right to live” and contemporary regimes (like Iran’s) and “progressive” political movements that deny Israel’s “right to exist.” She sometimes, to be sure, like many European intellectuals, mistakes metaphorical Jews for real ones, and thinks that admitting a million refugees from the Syrian catastrophe into Germany will somehow atone for Germany’s sins of the past (even as, paradoxically, it endangers the actual Jews who today live in Germany). Indeed, she has undertaken to change the nature and the image of Germany from the nastiest, ugliest, most racist and violent county of Europe to its most generous, welcoming and multicultural one — in sharp contrast to those nasty Austrians, Greeks and Hungarians.

One might, to be sure, ask why Merkel didn’t recognize much sooner that the Iranian regime is the inheritor of Nazism in making destruction of Israel virtually its *raison d’être*. Just a few days before the April 2, 2015 announcement in Lausanne that the framework of a nuclear “deal” with Iran had been



reached (by American surrender on all points of contention with the mullahs), that country's military leaders declared (just as former Iranian President Ahmadinejad used to do after breakfast each morning) that its goal of destroying Israel was "not negotiable."

Benjamin Netanyahu's insistence at the time that Iran give up its commitment to obliterate Israel only confirmed Obama's view that the Israeli prime minister was a very bad character obsessed by narrow-minded considerations about the survival of his own country. Those considerations, Obama held, should not be (and were not) taken into consideration by the countries working out their Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on July 14, 2015.

As for past, yet still relatively fresh, Iranian crimes against the Jews, nobody among the negotiators had the temerity to ask the mullahs to turn over to an international court those Iranians long suspected of blowing up the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires in 1992 and the Jewish community center (AMIA) in 1994, killing a total of 85 people and wounding many hundreds. In 2007, the Argentine government issued arrest warrants for six Iranians, including Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi; they were accused of employing Hezbollah agents to carry out the bombings, and were placed on Interpol's Red List of wanted criminals. Iran, however, refused to cooperate, and no suspects have ever been arrested. But for John Kerry and Wendy Sherman (his display Jewish negotiator), and the rest of Obama's foreign-policy wizards, all that was merely blood under the bridge, hardly worth mentioning.

Although Merkel's reservations about establishing normal relations with a regime committed to destroying the country in which a majority of the world's Jews reside have been widely publicized, Obama has seen no need to comment on them, although he has in the past had much to say in praise of Merkel. In April of this year, when she announced that Germany would welcome a million immigrants in flight from the Syrian catastrophe, he paid her the highest compliment in his lexicon: "She is on the right side of history."

"The right side of history." By the end of 2015, Obama had used this expression at least 15 times in public utterances, often locating himself among those who "put their hands on the arc of history and bend it ...toward the hope of a better day."

Not satisfied with what Jeremy Bentham derided as "ipsedixitism" (i.e., he says so himself-ism), Obama likes to think he is the servant of vast, nearly irresistible forces that require only a determined shove from him to overcome stupid opposition to "change." These include marriage equality, gender-neutral bathroom legislation, resistance to climate change and the ascendancy of Iran in the new Middle East.

In an article in *The Weekly Standard*, Lee Smith pointed out just how Obama chose to get on the right side of history in that turbulent part of the globe:

"A nuclear deal with Iran has been Obama's foreign policy priority since he first sat in the Oval Office. The agreement would pave the way for a broader realignment in the Middle East — downgrading traditional American allies like Israel and Saudi Arabia and upgrading Iran — and thus allow the United States to minimize its footprint in the region. With so much at stake, including his hunger for a personal legacy, Obama didn't dare risk alienating Iran..."

But when it came to explaining just how Merkel came to be on "the right side of history" in welcoming escapees from the Syrian debacle, Obama faltered. Unlike most interpreters of her boundless, if reckless, hospitality — Peggy Noonan and Bret Stephens and Rael Isaac, among others — Obama attributed the decision not to her inherited memory and sense of national responsibility for the Germans' destruction of European Jewry, but to the fact that she had lived in communist-ruled East Germany: "Perhaps because she once lived behind a wall herself, Angela understands the aspirations of those who have been denied their freedom and who seek a better life." Perhaps. A more likely explanation of this odd comment is that Obama did not want to be drawn yet again into the Jewish morass that had already brought him so much grief.



By now, virtually every catastrophe built into the JCPOA, and predicted by its numerous detractors, has come to pass. What began as a project to prevent a genocidal regime from acquiring nuclear weapons has turned into a project to enable their production, and in far less than 10 years. Neither Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's "supreme leader," nor the country's elected president, Hassan Rouhani, has turned out to be quite the "moderate" that Obama and Kerry expected the nuclear deal to produce; and the chief Iranian beneficiary of its vast emoluments has been the fanatical Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which controls Iran's nuclear program. The international financial pressures under which Iran had labored for years were removed by the now constant flow of huge amounts of money from the US Treasury. But money, so far from buying Iranian love, has enabled it to spread mayhem and murder throughout the Middle East. On August 11, for example, MEMRI (Middle East Media Research Institute) reported as follows:

"Arab media have recently published statements by officials in the Lebanese Hizbullah and the Gazan Hamas and Islamic Jihad organizations, and by their supporters, confirming what has long been known: namely that these Lebanese and Gazan terror organizations receive substantial financial and military assistance from Iran. These statements join many reports, especially in the anti-Iranian media, regarding Iran's funding of various terrorist organizations across the Arab world. According to these reports, the assistance comes mainly from the office of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and from the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).

"Hezbollah Secretary-General Nasrallah has gone a step further, announcing that his organization's entire budget is provided by Iran. In a speech he delivered on June 24, 2016, marking 40 days after the killing of Mustafa Badr Al-Din, who was considered to be Hezbollah's chief operations officer, and following the imposition of US sanctions on Hezbollah that threaten its financial infrastructure and income, Nasrallah clarified:

"Hezbollah's budget, its salaries and expenditures, [the money that pays for] its food and drink, weapons and missiles [all come from] Iran. Is that clear?... As long as Iran has money we have money. Do you require greater transparency than that? The funds earmarked for us do not reach us through the banks. We receive them the same way we receive our missiles, with which we threaten Israel."

If this is an example of Barack Obama's being on "the right side of history," one would not wish to know what being on the wrong side will look like. Perhaps it's time for the president to adopt James Joyce's definition (in *Ulysses*): "History is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake."

*Edward Alexander's most recent book is Jews Against Themselves (Transaction Publishers).*

## Ben Hecht: A Man for His Season

*(Editor's note: The following is an excerpt from William MacAdams' biography Ben Hecht: The Man Behind the Legend. Hecht was part of that small brave band that insisted on dramatizing the plight of European Jews during the war, at a time when Jewish leadership, fearful of feeding anti-Semitism in the U.S., not only sat on their hands--Roosevelt could do no wrong--but attacked those who refused to be silent. After the war, Hecht continued to stoke the ire of Jewish leadership by openly endorsing the actions of the Irgun against the British.)*

On May 15th, 1947, Hecht published a full-page piece in fifteen major American dailies which soon smeared him across newspapers all over the world.

## "Letter to the Terrorists of Palestine

My brave friends,

You may not believe what I write you, for there is a lot of fertilizer in the air at the moment. But, on my word as an old reporter, what I write is true. The Jews of America are for you. You are the feathers in their hats.



Ben Hecht

In the past fifteen hundred years every nation of Europe has taken a crack at the Jews. This time the British are at bat.

You are the first answer that makes sense to the New World.

Every time you blow up a British arsenal, or wreck a British jail, or send a British railroad train sky high, or rob a British bank, or let go with your bombs and guns at the British betrayers and invaders of your homeland, the

Jews of America make a little holiday in their hearts. . . ."

For weeks Hecht was attacked by the British press. Lord Beaverbrook's *Evening Standard* called him a "penthouse warrior" and accused him of "gross chauvinism, distortion of history, indoctrination of children, preference of solutions through violence, race pride, the stoking up of hatred between nations, indifference to the sanctity of human life." Lord Rothermere's *Daily Mail* labeled him a "vitriolic Zionist volcano with a touch of the carnival huckster" and reprinted an article from the *Palestine Post* [later the *Jerusalem Post*] that accused Hecht of "creating a criminal insanity that is killing Jews as well as Britons." *The Standard* devoted its entire "Letters to the Editor" section one day to Hecht, one correspondent calling Hecht a "Nazi at heart" and nine others suggesting his films be banned.

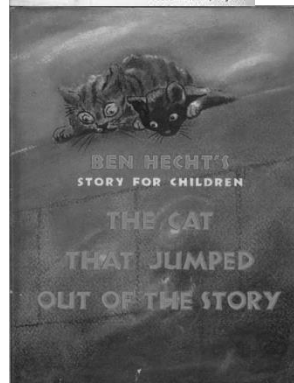
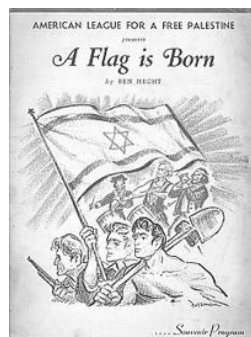
Hecht was not only reviled in imperialist British newspapers and by his Haganah foes, but by many of the very people he considered himself a spokesman for: American Jews. Meyer Levin, in his autobiography *In Search*, wrote:

"I first knew Ben Hecht in his newspaper days, and followed him on the *Chicago Daily News*. It is utterly inconceivable to me that a Chicago newspaperman with a name like Ben Hecht could have been unaware that anti-Semitism existed in America....To make such a statement in a book that was supposed to be a guide for other Jews revealed, to me, more than anything else in the volume, Hecht's capacity for attitudinizing and self-deception."

Earlier, veteran correspondent Dorothy Thompson (one of Sinclair Lewis's wives) had written, on November 3rd, 1946, "I am greatly perturbed about the behaviour and propaganda of some Zionists, or self-appointed leaders or spokesmen for the Zionist movement, specifically the Bergson and Ben Hecht group. These people are the worst contributors to anti-Semitism in America to my mind."

Hecht's reaction to accusations of fostering anti-Semitism, a result of his support of "terrorists," was another catchphrase: "There are only two Jewish parties left in the field: the terrorists and the terrified."

In the midst of this controversy and plans to write a movie to be produced in France to raise money for the Irgun, Hecht was hospitalized in New York. In June 1947 his gall bladder was removed, incapacitating him for months. Gene Fowler wrote him, "It must have been a novelty to have had the knife in your front instead of your back for a change." In August he was well enough to narrate a radio version of "Specter of the Rose" on the *Inner*



*Sanctum* radio show, quipping that radio "is a wonderful way to make money—almost as good as train announcing." For two nights in September, another propaganda play, *The Terrorist*, was presented by the American League for a Free Palestine at Carnegie Hall, starring Ruth Chatterton. The winter was spent recuperating in Nyack, where he wrote a children's book for [his daughter] Jenny, "The Cat That Jumped out of the Story." The end of December saw him back in Hollywood, riding high in the studios' esteem because of rave reviews for *Kiss of Death* and good ones for *Dishonored Lady* and *Ride the Pink Horse*....

He also continued his Irgun fund-raising....

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## Why the Origins of the BDS Movement Matter

Alex Joffe

What are the BDS movement's origins? The question is, at one level, an historical curiosity. The movement exists, it is forging ever-deeper links with the far left and the 'progressive' movement, and is a force to be reckoned with. At another level, however, the history of the BDS movement is emblematic of Palestinian political history, and the recent development of global antisemitism, as a whole.

It is easy to dismiss the movement's own origins story, the 2005 call from Palestinian 'civil society' organizations. The call for boycotting Israel was in explicit opposition to the Palestinian Authority (which, indeed, rejected it) and may well have originated with a rejectionist PLO faction. Indeed, many of the 'grassroots' organizations that signed the document cannot be traced. They were likely organs of political factions or just fabrications.

The message was simple: the "representatives of Palestinian civil society call upon international civil society organizations and people of conscience all over the world to impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era. We appeal to you to pressure your respective states to impose embargoes and sanctions against Israel. We also invite conscientious Israelis to support this Call, for the sake of justice and genuine peace."

The call also put forward three demands [on Israel]; "1. Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall 2. Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and 3. Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194." In short, the call demanded dismantling of Israel through the 'right of return.' This has not changed: the end of Israel is the core BDS goal.

The story from this point is well-known; the civil society call burgeoned into an international movement which has had particular success in Europe and in global academia. Among the Palestinians themselves, however, groups like the "Palestinian BDS National Committee," which purports to be the "Palestinian coordinating body for the BDS campaign worldwide," remain mysterious. Only a few individuals can be identified, its funding sources are completely (and characteristically) obscure, but it has had some success encouraging BDS in Arab states, in part under the old Jordanian (and now ubiquitous) slogan of "anti-normalization."

But the 2005 'civil society' call built on the academic and cultural boycott launched in 2004, allegedly by Palestinian intellectuals. In fact, the academic boycott was largely the effort of a small group centered on Omar Barghouti (born in Qatar, raised in Egypt, educated in the US), then a graduate student at Tel Aviv University. The academic boycott's questionable success notwithstanding, the fact is that Barghouti was basically a freelancer; with no political base in Palestinian society, he and his 'movement' took a well-trodden rejectionist path.



Mona Baker



Hilary Rose



Steven Rose

But this history of outside manipulation is much deeper still. The academic boycott as such has roots far outside of the Middle East, specifically in Britain. There, as David Hirsch has pointed out, academics Steven and Hilary Rose, and Mona Baker, began to demand Israelis be boycotted in 2002, and in 2003 began agitating for Israel boycotts in British teachers' unions.

Prior to their call, however, was the 2001 United Nations "World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance in Durban." The 'Durban strategy' was a systematic effort by NGOs to demonize and delegitimize Israel precisely in the manner of apartheid South Africa, and it marked the effective return of the Soviet "Zionism is racism" trope that had been adopted by the UN in 1975.

Implicit in the association of Israel with South Africa was boycott and isolation, and the process was given incalculably important support from the heavyweights of the global 'human rights' industry, namely Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

But the British connection is even deeper and more sinister. Already in 2001 the Palestine Return Centre in London, a Muslim Brotherhood associated group founded in 1986, claimed to have been supporting a boycott of Israel. The Palestine Solidarity Campaign (founded in 1982 by Communist Party members including Tony Greenstein, and patronized by current Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn) is also at the forefront of Israel-hating in Britain. Its 40 branches have spread the 'Israel apartheid' message into British universities and trade unions since the 1980s, and the boycott message since 2001, if not earlier.

This 'red-green alliance' between Islamists and Communists is critical to understanding BDS past and present. From the 1950s local Communist parties spread the Soviet Union's anti-Zionist message throughout the

world, and Soviet support for the PLO, in terms of training, weapons, and ideology, was critical. And from the early 1960s Saudi support for a global network of Islamist organizations like the Muslim World League, World Association of Muslim Youth, and International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations spread that message, including in the US through the Muslim Student Association (founded in 1962).

Today, Students for Justice in Palestine and its many chapters are the leading BDS forces on campuses. But at the national level this organization and its parent, American Muslims for Palestine, is controlled by many of the same individuals who were part of the Hamas-supporting Holy Land Foundation and Islamic Association for Palestine. Its personnel overlap with other US Muslim Brotherhood groups such as CAIR and the Muslim American Society, and its alliances with 'progressive' organizations, like the Center for Constitutional Rights and National Lawyers Guild, have made BDS and Palestinian rejectionism leading causes of the left.

To a large extent BDS in the US is a Muslim Brotherhood project. Add to this far left wing organizations and foundations (Code Pink, the Institute for Policy Studies, the Benjamin Fund, the

WESPAC Foundation, and many others), local Arab groups like Al Awda, and putatively religious organizations (such as the American Friends Service Committee, Jewish Voice for Peace, and Presbyterian Church USA), and you have a global Palestinian 'movement' in which there are few Palestinians.

Even those BDS organizations in Israel and the West Bank like Badil and Adalah survive only through financial and other support from Western foundations and European governments, all of which, in effect, use BDS as policy tools against Israel.

For decades the Palestinian cause has been a pawn of others; the BDS movement is no exception. The Arab League boycott of Jews in 1945 (and arguably, the very formation of the League itself), and the unending manipulations by Islamists, Communists, and Arabs from outside Palestine – including Yassir Arafat – show the extent to which the political fate of Palestinians have been controlled by outsiders with their own agendas.

To find indigenous Palestinian-directed boycotts one has to look back a century to the 1910 boycott of Jewish labor in Palestine (on the grounds that Zionists had allegedly boycotted Palestinians), and the boycott of Jewish merchants called for by the 1922 Fifth Arab Congress in Nablus. These failed as economic and political measures, but like the BDS movement today, succeeded in sowing hatred. By the 1930s the Palestinian cause had been internationalized, Islamified, and Palestinian voices began to be lost. The BDS movement extends this into the 21st century.

*Alex Joffe is a historian and archaeologist. This appeared on August 31<sup>st</sup> in the timesofisrael blog. The full version is at: <http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/why-the-origins-of-the-bds-movement-matter/>*

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## Do Good Fences Make Good Neighbors?

Ruth King

From September 2000 to mid-2005, hundreds of Palestinian Arab terrorist attacks killed more than 1,000 Israeli civilians and wounded thousands more. In response, in 2005, Israel's government decided to construct a security wall, a chain link fence combined with underground and overhead sensors, trenches and security gates, that would run near the "Green Line," the 1949 Armistice line between Israel and Jordan. The project had the overwhelming support of the Israeli public and was deemed legal by Israel's Supreme Court.

Some Israelis--as well as American for A Safe Israel--opposed the route of the fence, fearing that it implied recognition of boundaries, and denied security and protection to the settlements of Judea and Samaria.

World condemnation was strong, loud-- and hypocritical. In fact there was nothing new about the construction of a security fence. Spain built a fence, with European Union funding, to separate its enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla from Morocco to prevent poor people from sub-Saharan Africa from entering Europe; India constructed a 460-mile barrier in Kashmir to halt infiltrations supported by Pakistan; Turkey built a barrier in the southern province of Alexandretta, which was formerly in Syria and is an area that Syria claims as its own; in Cyprus, the UN sponsored a security fence reinforcing the island's de facto partition; British-built barriers separate Catholic and Protestant neighborhoods in Belfast. And on and on.

However, only the Palestinian complaint "don't fence me in" got any traction.



Israel's fence did diminish terrorism within the barrier, and for a short time, the number of attacks declined by more than 90%. However terrorists continued attacks on residents of the towns of Judea and Samaria as well as on the other side of the Green Line. The number rose from 13 murdered in 2007 to 37 killed in 2015. In 2016 terrorists infiltrated the Sarona Market Place in Tel Aviv killing four shoppers.

In February of 2016, Prime Minister Netanyahu announced his intention to surround all of Israel with a security fence. The Hebrew word for predators, which the Prime Minister used, can also refer to "wild beasts," a translation that the biased media bruited widely.

Again, this plan was met by derision even within the cabinet. And, again, we at Americans for a Safe Israel remain skeptical. However Netanayhu has at least stepped outside of the tired phony assumption that only a "two-state solution" will solve Israel's terrorism problems. At this writing, no concrete (pardon the pun) plans have been implemented except for tightening gaps in the existing barrier.

But this time, Europe is full of countries building walls. Among them are Greece, Hungary, Slovenia, Macedonia, Austria, Serbia, and Bulgaria, all desperate to stem the tide of mainly Moslem migrants who they fear will swamp their economies and destroy their national culture. It's no accident that it is in the Balkans political leaders are the quickest to build fences, for these countries still harbor painful memories of centuries of Moslem domination.

In the U.S. the signature issue of one of our candidates for President is the promise to build a wall along the entire Mexican border.

For Israel the problem is compounded by the fact that a large Arab population exists within a putative border wall. While a boundary fence might keep foreign infiltrators out, there are many terrorist cells whose members would remain free to travel within the state.

Netanyahu's wall is not the virtual "Iron Wall" that Jabotinsky dreamed of, one that is encircled by an Israeli Army resolute and steadfast in securing the state.

It is an evolving story. Stay tuned.

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