

OUTPOST

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Useful Idiots

Herbert Zweibon

Three hundred and eighty seven rabbis have signed a letter to President Bush urging that the United States fund Hamas. The letter says Hamas won in “a free, fair, and democratic election” – no mention that the public’s “free” choice was for the party that promised most openly to continue terror and to eliminate Israel.

The letter was organized by Brit Tzedek v'Shalom (the Hebrew name designed to make it sound pro-Israel). In English it's The Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace. (For years the words “justice” and “peace” in an organization’s name have been a dead giveaway that it is dedicated to the opposite.) The text (presumably as a sop to rabbis who are not unequivocal fans of Hamas) professes support for the President’s declaration that Hamas must “recognize Israel, disarm, reject terrorism, and work for lasting peace.” How far this is from Brit Tzedek’s real concern is apparent from the fact that it urges supporters to help defeat HR 4681, the Ros-Lehtinen/Lantos bill which forbids funding to the Hamas-led PA until it meets precisely such conditions.

What we have here is a resurrection of the defunct Breira (established in 1973) and New Jewish Agenda (established in 1979 after Breira’s collapse, following exposure of the anti-Israel credentials of its founders). Both were amalgams of left-wing activists and conservative and reform rabbis dedicated to creating a PLO state. Some of the same rabbis resurface in this decades-later incarnation: for example, from Breira, Leonard Beerman, Arnold Jacob Wolf, Everett Gendler, Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, Laura Geller, from New Jewish Agenda Gerold Serotta (its founder) and Brian Walt; from both groups radical left-winger Arthur Waskow, now reincarnated as a Reconstructionist rabbi. What all the signers have in common is their repulsive conviction that in identifying with Israel’s enemies, they demonstrate “prophetic morality.” If past is prologue (a safe bet) most of those on the new list are Hillel rabbis and the money (which seems to be plentiful) comes from left wing foundations.

President Bush is not apt to be overly influenced by the letter’s signatories, of whom one can say with a 99% level of certainty that not a single one voted for him. The importance of the letter is in providing the administration with American Jewish cover for continuing to pour money into the Palestinian Authority despite the Hamas victory. Important here is the testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of James Wolfensohn, who represents the administration under the title “Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement.” Wolfensohn, the ultimate in useful idiots, is the man who organized the buyout of Jewish greenhouses to provide work and income for Gaza residents and saw those greenhouses in short order totally destroyed by the very Arabs who were supposed to benefit from them. A man who learns nothing, he now tells the Senate that “the election of a group that is designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the United States and the European Union and that advocates the destruction of Israel in its charter presents serious challenges” – but challenges the administration sees ways to overcome. The U.S., he says, should fund international and non-governmental organizations so as to avoid “legal issues that impede providing assistance to or through a new Hamas-led PA government.”

So prior to the Hamas government even being installed, the fix is in. Money will go to the PA as before and Jewish leaders as before will give the process legitimacy. There may be one difference. A large proportion of the billions going to the PA since 1993 were siphoned off by its corrupt leaders before they could be used against Israel. If Hamas turns out to be less corrupt, more money will be directed to the central purpose of the PA: Israel’s destruction.

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From the Editor

In Remembrance

As we gather for Passover on April 12, we remember Passover 1944 and the Warsaw Ghetto uprising where for 63 days Jewish fighters revolted against the Nazis who had to call in reinforcements. Their struggle is part of Jewish history. We remember them with gratitude and pride.

Olmert's Offspring

Steven Plaut describes Olmert's three children, (drawing on a column by Sarah Honig):

"One son never served in the Israeli army and today lives permanently in Paris. The other is an active member in Yesh Gvul, the seditious organization that foments mutiny and insurrection among Israeli soldiers, demanding that they refuse to serve until Israel completely capitulates to all Arab demands.

"The daughter of Olmert is an activist in Machsom Watch (Checkpoint Watch), which harasses Israeli soldiers and policemen checking Palestinian vehicles for explosives and weapons. In other words, she is trying to help Palestinians infiltrate Israel and murder Jewish children.

"This is the guy who will be Israel's next Prime Minister. The above is his own personal family track record in education and Zionism. A man who himself believes in nothing has raised a brood who believe in Israel's destruction."

Rice Aids Al Qaeda

Al Qaeda cells are operating in the West Bank and Gaza, this from PA head Mahmoud Abbas himself. In an interview published March 2 in the London based paper *el-Hayat*, Abbas said he was "very concerned" about Al Qaeda operatives streaming through the Rafah crossing. At Condoleeza Rice's insistence, over Israel's strenuous objections, this had been turned over to the PA. "This agreement is a good step forward" Rice said at the time. Rice is turning out to be a worthy follower of the ghastly Madeleine Albright.

Londonistan

AFSI readers are urged to obtain Melanie Phillips' new book *Londonistan*. Its subject: how Britain became the principal hub of Islamist terrorism in Europe. Phillips reports that despite Tony Blair's image as cheerleader for America, Britain is now the weak link in the defense of the West, deep into appeasement and denial.

Meanwhile in the Balkans...

On *FrontPageMagazine.com* (March 20) Julia Gorin reports that the West turns a blind eye as Al Qaeda turns the Balkans into a *jihadi* launching pad. She notes that in November 2001 -- two months after

9/11 -- the *Wall Street Journal's* European edition ran what should have been an explosive article headed "Al Qaeda's Balkan Links." It reported that for ten years Ayman al-Zawahiri [bin Laden's second in command] had been operating terrorist training camps throughout Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Turkey and Bosnia.

The piper is being paid. An article in Britain's *Sunday Mirror* in December 2003 by an undercover reporter described his meeting with Niam Behlulji, known as Hulji, the deputy commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army and a supplier of terrorists across Europe. Hulji boasted of new explosives, an improvement over Semtex, because they could not be detected at airports. Fast forward two years. According to London's *Defense and Foreign Affairs Strategic Policy* journal, Hulji is the man who supplied the explosives used in the London and Madrid attacks.

Bosnia today, says Gorin, is "the European 'one-stop shop' for terrorism needs--weapons, money, shelter, documents-- of Chechen and Afghani fighters passing through Europe before heading to Iraq." In Iraq, U.S. troops recovered one endearing Albanian Kosovar's application, reading "I have Kosovo Liberation Army combat experience against Serb and American forces...I recommend operations against parks like Disney."

In a Nutshell

Israelis vote for peace. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* quotes Kiryat Gat's deputy major Michal Gabay: "The election is a referendum and people want peace. People want to make deals with our neighbors." Meanwhile Israel's neighbors have voted for war, with Hamas openly proclaiming war until Israel's death.

Shrouded in mental burqas, Israelis are imperious to any glimmer of reality.

Assessing Iraq

"In Iraq...there is still no Iraqi people, but unimaginable masses of human beings, devoid of any patriotic ideal...connected by no common tie, giving ear to evil, prone to anarchy, and perpetually ready to rise against any government whatsoever. Out of these masses we want to fashion a people which we

(continued on page 12)

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A Place Called Saudi Arabia

Lee Smith

I find it a little hard to believe Stephen Walt and John Mearsheimer's "The Israel Lobby" was written while sober. In their first sentence, the authors assert that, "For the past several decades, and especially since the Six-Day War in 1967, the centerpiece of US Middle Eastern policy has been its relationship with Israel."

Pretty much any American who has ever been in a motorized vehicle knows that the centerpiece of US Middle Eastern policy is Washington's relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and has been so since the mid-30s. It is a vital national interest – not just because cheap fuel permits Americans to drive SUVs, but because protecting the largest known oil reserves in the world ensures a stable world economy. Moreover, the US military counts on access to that oil in the event it has to wage war – an activity that demands a lot of oil.

Walt and Mearsheimer's article explains how "the thrust of US policy in the region derives almost entirely from domestic politics," which I agree with, because like many Americans I believe that the ability to get people and things from one place to another is a big part of successful domestic politics. It's not entirely clear that the authors of this really long article have ever been in a car before, because when they're talking about domestic politics, they're not talking about cars, or the economy or even our military, but "the activities of the 'Israel Lobby.'"

So, how much credit should these guys get for staking out a "realist" position on US Middle Eastern policy that does not account for the existence of cars, or something even bigger than a Hummer – the Arabian Peninsula?

If you're one of Walt or Mearsheimer's drinking buddies, here's a quick quiz, with questions drawn from their article, so you know when to cut them off and send them home – but definitely not to write another article about Middle East affairs.

Discuss: "The first Gulf War revealed the extent to which Israel was becoming a strategic burden."

The first Gulf War, wherein roughly 500,000 US troops were committed to the Gulf to protect our friends in Kuwait and a country called Saudi Arabia, revealed that no matter how many arms we sold to our Gulf allies finally only real live US soldiers could protect them from predators. And yet in due course we also learned that while the Saudis could not protect their own oil, our protecting that oil further weakened the royal family and compromised their legitimacy, making them vulnerable to dangerous domestic forces – like Osama Bin Laden, for instance. Ruling over a country that cannot protect itself, or safely be protected, from foreign threats or its own citizens, a country whose wellbeing is a vital national interest makes the Saudi royal family the Liza Minnelli of "strategic

burdens."

True or False. "As for so-called rogue states in the Middle East, they are not a dire threat to vital US interests, except inasmuch as they are a threat to Israel."

False. Of course Israel is concerned about the prospects of an Iranian nuclear program, but not as much as our allies in the Gulf, who have neither strong militaries nor nuclear arsenals. A nuclear Iran is a threat to that big country in the desert named Saudi Arabia and other tiny sheikhdoms in the Persian Gulf, and getting Gulf oil to market is a vital US interest.

True or False. "...Unwavering support for Israel...has inflamed Arab and Islamic opinion and jeopardized not only US security but that of much of the rest of the world."

True. Nice work, boys – this Goldschlager's on me. But just remember, guys, that those flames of anti-Americanism do not always issue from organic sources; often they are fed by Arab regimes, including our allies in a place called Saudi Arabia. US taxpayers have spent a lot of money to protect the flow of oil over the last seven decades and ensure that the Saudi ruling family keeps collecting receipts. (Yes, just one family, Al Saud, with about 5000 princes on the pad.) Think this one over in the morning: Should we stop supporting Israel because that makes us hated by Arabs, or should we put more pressure on Arab allies like the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who have institutionalized anti-US incitement at home in their press, schools and mosques, while also funding it lavishly abroad?



True or False: "By contrast, pro-Arab interest groups, in so far as they exist at all, are weak, which makes the Israel Lobby's task even easier."

Yeah, true if you exclude the obviously limited influence that oil companies have exercised in US policymaking over the last seventy years. And it's not just the oil companies doing Gulf bidding; virtually every American ambassador who's served in Riyadh winds up with a nice package to keep selling the Saudi line back in Washington. Yes, you're right, AIPAC's annual budget is a whopping \$40 million dollars – or precisely equivalent to the private donation Saudi prince Walid Bin Talal recently gave to two US universities to start up Islamic centers. What? Come on Steve, he gave half of it to Harvard! OK, give me the car keys. The keys to the car, it's how you got here. In a car. It has four wheels and a motor. It runs on gas. Gas comes from a place called Saudi Arabia....

This is abridged from an article that appeared on MichaelTotten.com

The Future of Iraq

Rael Jean Isaac

The Bush administration's effort to bring liberal democracy to a unified Iraq is likely to fail, and for the same reason that its policy of fashioning a Palestinian state that will live peacefully beside Israel will certainly fail – the underlying conditions are against it.

What is worse, this should have been obvious all along.

The administration is repeatedly blindsided by events that could easily have been foreseen. Thus Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice professed amazement at the victory of Hamas in the PA elections; no one in the State Department had prepared her for this possibility, she declared. Is it possible that no State Department policy wonk prepared a policy paper setting forth the likelihood of this outcome? Possessed of no special access to information, we predicted the Hamas victory in *Outpost*. After all, Hamas had recently swept local elections, and the expulsion of Jewish communities in Gaza, for which Hamas took credit, could only strengthen its electoral appeal.

Nor would the chances for fulfillment of Bush's dream of a peaceful Palestinian state have been any better if Abbas and his coterie of brigands had won the elections. As AFSI's pamphlet *The Palestinians: A Political Masquerade* pointed out in 1977 the Palestinians are an "anti-nation," "one that derives its entire meaning and purpose from the desire to destroy another nation."

In the case of Iraq, a book by two British political scientists, Liam Anderson and Gareth Stansfield, *The Future of Iraq: Dictatorship, Democracy or Division?* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2004) sets out the underlying conditions there that the Bush administration has been ignoring at its peril. Since much of the book was apparently written in the months preceding the actual U.S. invasion of Iraq (the epilogue was written in November 2003, eight months after the body of the book was completed), it is not written in hindsight, but rather with foresight.

As Anderson and Stansfield see it, the underlying conditions of sectarian and ethnic conflict put the federal democracy the administration envisages out of reach and propel Iraq to either dictatorship or division. It is striking that what the authors describe as the most potent and threatening source of division is

one that currently receives scarcely any attention: the determination of the Kurds (mostly Sunni Moslems but not Arabs) to achieve independence or failing that, a degree of autonomy little short of it. Compared to the rest of Iraq, Kurdistan has been a model of stability since the U.S. invasion. This is because the Kurds have achieved most of their goals: thanks to the "no-fly zone" the U.S. enforced over its territory after the first Gulf War, Kurdistan has become a de facto state with

its own executive, parliament, judiciary, military force (the *peshmerga*), its own language and school system. A generation is growing up that does not even understand Arabic, the language of the rest of the country. The Kurds will not surrender these gains easily.

Kurds have been unwilling citizens of Iraq since the state's inception. With the breakup of the Ottoman Empire, the 1920 Treaty of Sevres had envisaged a separate Kurdish state to include the Kurds of Turkey as well. But Ataturk had other ideas and in the

end the English decided to add the northernmost Ottoman province of Mosul, with its large Kurdish population, to the provinces of Baghdad and Basra to fashion the state of Iraq. Periodic revolts by the bitterly disappointed Kurds were put down with ever greater brutality.

The Kurds came close to toppling the Baath regime in 1974 with the support of Iran, the United States and Israel (which began its support for the Kurds as early as 1962). But then in March 1975 Secretary of State Kissinger brokered the so-called Algiers Agreement between the then Shah of Iran and Saddam, which settled a long-standing dispute over the Shatt Al-Arab in Iran's favor; in exchange, within two days of the signing, all aid to the Kurds was cut off. The upshot was that Saddam was able to crush the Kurdish uprising within two weeks. When Kurds again rose up during the Iran-Iraq war, Saddam depopulated rural Kurdistan, launched a chemical attack on the town of Halabjah that killed thousands, laid waste 4,000 villages, forcibly relocated and massacred hundreds of thousands.

U.S. policy makers now put forward federalism as the answer to preserving a unified state while granting the Kurds self-government. But Anderson and



Stansfield observe that while it is possible to fashion a constitution with the most elaborate checks and balances, federalism is a sophisticated form of democracy, presupposing a willingness to compromise, acceptance of the rule of law, and a strong judiciary to arbitrate disputes. They write that "in the absence of any developed sense of national identity, a basic consensus over the legitimacy of the Iraqi state and a reservoir of mutual trust and understanding to draw upon, it is difficult indeed to locate the foundation on which a liberal democratic Iraqi state can be constructed." As the authors see it, the issue of federalism, which Iraq's Parliament must soon face, is a political disaster-in-the-making, for each group has a wholly different idea of what this should entail and what the Kurds demand is far in excess of what the others are prepared to tolerate.

And that's just the Kurds. The authors point out that while the ethnic Kurdish/Arab divide centers on the basic legitimacy of Iraq as a state, the Shia/Sunni divide concerns the state's identity. To Anderson and Stansfield, the relations of Iraqi Sunnis and Shias are a less intractable problem -- after all, both groups are Arabs and Iraqi nationalists. Here the problem is that Iraq, throughout its history, has been dominated by Sunnis, who are as loathe to relinquish their hegemony as the Kurds are to give up their quasi-independence. But absent parties cutting across denominational lines (which have done poorly in the Iraqi elections), democracy empowers the Shia, with their large demographic edge. Recognition of this (and fear of rule by Shiite fundamentalists) has been a major factor in stoking the insurgency.

The authors note that while the Shia religious leadership has traditionally avoided politics, to the extent it becomes politicized, the consensual unity even of Arab Iraq is threatened. Anderson and Stansfield completed their book in 2003, but what they worried about is coming to pass. The influential cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani has stayed on the political sidelines, but Moqtada al-Sadr represents politicized Islam in its most dangerous form -- with his Mahdi militia to boot. What seems like the aimless terror of Abu Musab al Zarqawi, with its attacks on ordinary Shiites and their holy places, has been successful in what it seeks to accomplish -- deepening the sectarian divide and bringing to the fore bad actors like al-Sadr. Zarqawi's hope is that in the ensuing anarchy an Islamist Sunni strongman will emerge triumphant.

While all that has happened could not have been predicted, being prepared for some of the problems required only a basic knowledge of the country's make-up and recent history. But the Bush administra-

tion has not taken the underlying conditions seriously enough. There is a naïve faith in "elections" and "representing all parties in the governing coalition," as if this would in itself ensure agreement on basic issues will be reached. The Bush administration talks of disbanding the sectarian militias (eleven in all, now estimated to be almost as large as the army), including those of the Kurds (good luck) or integrating them into Iraq's security forces. But this would only deepen public distrust of these forces and make it more likely army and police would fall apart in the face of sectarian violence.

If the authors of *The Future of Iraq* are correct, the choice in Iraq is between a ruthless new dictatorship -- precisely the kind of government the Bush administration set out to eliminate from the Middle East -- or division of the country. And while Anderson and Stansfield clearly believe division is the better of available bad choices -- and a guided division far better than one emerging from civil war -- they do not minimize the difficulties. Even in the case of the Kurds, whose "entity" comes closest to liberal democratic norms, the minefields are plentiful. Where would the boundaries be, with oil-rich Kirkuk a major area of contention? There are serious divisions within the Kurdish community which could be played upon by neighbors, including Turkey, which is adamantly opposed to an independent Kurdistan. And if a Shiite state were

created in the south, Iranian influence is likely to be strong, providing yet another reason (as if more were needed) to achieve regime change in Iran.

There is another problem with Bush's vision for Iraq, which Anderson and Stansfield do not mention. This is that democracy requires adults, people who take responsibility for their actions. The Arabs do not even seem to fathom that there is a relation between actions and consequences, with elites as well as the famed "street" forever blaming others. Polls have showed that a majority think the destruction of the World Trade Center was engineered by Israel and the CIA to enable the U.S. to engage in war on Islam. Moqtada al-Sadr insists it is American troops who are trying to drag Iraqis into "sectarian wars."

And while the Bush administration fashions policy under the assumption Middle Eastern *jihadists* are recruited because of the frustration of their desire to obtain a voice in how their own countries are run, Iraqi writer Nibras Kazimi points out that what today's Middle East really thirsts for is an avenger: "they long for whoever will wash away the humiliation of having their principal cities, once seats of far flung empires,

If the authors of *The Future of Iraq* are correct, the choice in Iraq is between a ruthless new dictatorship -- precisely the kind of government President Bush set out to eliminate from the Middle East -- or division of the country.

now roamed by infidel troops or their perceived lack-eyes." The West, says Kazimi, faces "a dark spiritual effervescence that sputters out periodically from the Middle East in fits of mayhem stemming from a revenge fantasy that has been festering for 300 years."

In this country, the choices currently presented may well turn out to be beside the point. To simply cut and run will leave chaos. But to adhere to the model of a unified Iraq that will be a model of democracy for the Middle East invites catastrophic failure. The real model that inspires emulation in the region is the Hamas victory. In its wake, across the Middle East, Islamists have become convinced that democratic elections will pave their way to power. One of the first countries to experience what analysts in the region call "the Hamas effect" is Jordan. Islamists there have vowed to push through a reform to fully legalize opposition parties (by gerrymandering and

other methods Islamists have been kept to under 15% representation in Parliament), confident that like their "brothers in Palestine" they will win in free and fair elections. "All over the Arab world, the Islamists have the majority in the street," confidently proclaims Jordanian member of Parliament Azzam al-Huneidi.

We do not question the good, even noble intentions of President Bush. But to fashion policy on the assumption that the Middle East is populated by oppressed masses yearning to breathe free is as out of touch with reality as the Israeli government's policy, based on the premise that turning over territory "unilaterally" to enemies sworn to the state's destruction will improve Israel's security.

At the very least the Bush administration needs a Plan B, not just for Iraq but for the entire Middle East.

Terror Meets Delusion: The Murder of Tom Fox

Rocco DiPippo

Editor's note: Fox's fellow peace activists, two Canadians, one Briton, were rescued by American and British forces on March 22. The lengthy statement of "joy" on their release from their organization Christian Peacemaker Teams gives no thanks to -- indeed does not even mention -- the Special Forces group that rescued them. Indeed it attacks the coalition forces as the culprit in their kidnapping: "We believe that the illegal occupation of Iraq by Multinational Forces is the root cause of the insecurity which led to this kidnapping and so much pain and suffering in Iraq. The occupation must end." Finally, in London, the rescued Briton, Norman Kember, had a grudging word for his saviors: "I do not believe that a lasting peace is achieved by armed force, but I pay tribute to their courage and thank those who played a part in my rescue."

Tom Fox, along with fellow activists Harmeet Singh Sooden, Norman Kember, and James Loney was kidnapped in Baghdad on November 26, 2005.

All belonged to the leftwing Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT), which provided "human shields" in Iraq at the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, works side by side with the anti-Israel, quasi-terrorist International Solidarity Movement and takes the standard leftwing position that America, as the world's biggest terrorist, got its comeuppance on 9/11/2001. CPT's official motto is "Getting in the Way," and it ran a program called "Adopt a Detainee," which was sympathetic to suspected terrorists being detained by U.S. and Iraqi forces in Iraq.

So, the late Mr. Fox belonged to a group that essentially saw the "good guys" as being equal to, if not worse than, the bad guys. He believed he was doing a righteous thing by essentially throwing stones in

the path of the U.S., Iraqi and Coalition soldiers, the same men and women who are trying to round up the Islamist terror-mongers washing the streets of Baghdad in blood and misery, terror-mongers like those who murdered him.

Everything I've read about Mr. Fox indicates that, though misguided in his worldview, he was in many ways a decent man. Fox played in the United States Marine Band for twenty years. A Quaker, he served as a youth leader at Langley Hill Friends Meeting. His daughter Katherine says that while he was in the military, he refused military discounts on principle.

But Fox also harbored hatred for his culture and an overall disdain for America, as indicated by statements he made on his blog. He also suffered from a terrible naiveté:



Tom Fox

"I think it would be fair to say that a survey of opinion taken from news sources in various parts of the world would find people using the words 'fear and hatred' much more often than they would use the words 'respect and love' when it comes to describing the United States. Not only in the Middle East but in Europe and in much of Asia and other areas as well. We are seen more as an empire rather than a beacon of hope to the oppressed and downtrodden. We are seen more as a militaristic superpower, bent on imposing our will on others, rather than the keeper of the flame of the hope and promise of democracy," said Thomas William Fox, ignoring, among other things, the fact that people fear America so much, that they flock to its shores in droves, seeking freedom and peace and economic opportunity.

After reading most of his blog entries, it seems

to me that Fox's tragic flaw, the one that ultimately got him killed, was that he did not really believe that some men are more evil than others.

Crippled by this moral confusion, Fox habitually ignored the greater of two evils. His blog entry on Fallujah hints at as much. Though in his writings he essentially described the liberation of Fallujah as a senseless act, he failed to mention that after U.S. forces chased out and killed the Islamists who had held the town hostage, they made the gruesome discovery of nearly two dozen torture chambers, awash in blood, some with bloated bodies and hacked off body parts dumped near them. Lt. Col. Gareth Brandl, a Marine said, "The face of Satan was here in Fallujah, and I'm absolutely convinced that that was true."

Ultimately, Tom Fox saw that face up close and personal. It is the face of those who commit shocking evil while promising Heaven on Earth. I wonder if, in the end, he finally recognized it for what it was—and is.

The Utopian fanatics who killed Tom Fox could not have cared less whether or not he was sympathetic towards them, or if he hated them or whether he believed in God, or not. They could not have cared less if he had a family or friends who loved him. They

did not care for his compassion. They did not care that, on some levels, he even empathized with them: they, who held him captive. They did not care that, in his way, he was trying to help alleviate the suffering of their brothers and sisters.

All Tom Fox was to his captors and murderers was filth—a piece of garbage; a weak, vile, subhuman infidel of the Western variety; a creature to be spit on and reviled and, when no longer useful, slaughtered like an animal and then discarded. They treated Mr. Fox like they would treat us all, as stones to be kicked aside while building the road to Paradise. They treated Mr. Fox, and if given the chance they'd treat us all, like the Nazis treated the Jews.

If there are lessons to be learned from the murder of Tom Fox, they are primarily for the Left: Like a person, it is never too late for it to abandon its suicidal march until the moment the executioner strikes.

Thomas William Fox (1951-2006) R.I.P.

Rocco DiPippo, a freelance political writer, publishes The Autonomist website. This article appeared in AmericanThinker.com of March 11.

A Palestinian Nationality?

Hugh Fitzgerald

Someone responded to my assertion that there are no "Palestinians" by arguing "A nation is an idea, a shared identity, and Palestinians have that in spades. They are not going away. Even when they travel the world, they consider themselves refugees and maintain their national consciousness."

But this does nothing to establish that the "Palestinian nationality" is not a politically-motivated construct. And that that politically-motivated construct of a "Palestinian people" out of local Arabs (those in Gaza and the area renamed by the Jordanians in 1948 as "the West Bank") can be undone by non-Arabs and non-Muslims. Simply expose the idea for what it is. Refuse to write the phrase without quotation marks: "Palestinian people." Quote endlessly from all the Arabs who made quite explicit why this phrase, and this idea, was developed. It has been foisted on the West. Remember there was, in 1938, great sympathy and understanding for the campaign of Henlein and his master Hitler to achieve "the legitimate rights" of the "Sudeteners."

Once the understanding spreads that the war against Israel is a classic *Jihad*, and is not, and never has been, a "clash of two tiny peoples" etc., this will bring a greater clarity not only to the confused Israeli public (and its largely unimpressive political leaders), but also to the larger Infidel world. The world needs to comprehend how *Jihad* against Israel is only a subset of the more general, worldwide *Jihad* effort. That effort

is expressed locally, and uses different instruments depending on what is possible and effective, taking into account local conditions and the nature of the local Infidels.

Here's a sample of what should be better known: Before the Six-Day War, not a single Arab spokesman, at the U.N. or anywhere else, and not a single Arab document, referred to the local Arabs as the "Palestinian people." They appeared, as if by magic -- summoned by the public-relations advisors to Arafat -- only after that war made clear that the Arab dream of going in for the kill had been dashed, and that a different, long-term effort was necessary.

The intention of that effort was to persuade former supporters of Israel in the Western world that Israel had won territory to which it had no legal, moral, or historic claim. Since the area had been known in the West as "Palestine," then the local Arabs would become the "Palestinian people." As the older and better-educated generations died out, the young, the naive, the uninformed, would come to think something along the simple-minded lines of "well, there's a place called Palestine, and there's these people who are the Palestinian people, so of course they must be the ones whose land it is."

It was at that level that the "Palestinian people" was created -- a level that required an absence of any historic sense, any real and detailed knowledge of the history of that area, and of the Middle East, not merely in the 20th century, but during the 1300 years before. The men who served on the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations, none of them Zionists, had a much better sense of why the Mandate's

aims -- the establishment of a Jewish National Home -- were not only justified, but also admirable. That is why those who had a wider sense of history, and who were untainted by that widespread mental pathology that takes different forms in different people (even the *form fruste* can be deadly), such as Churchill and Smuts, were Zionist sympathizers to a man.

While the Shukairy "drive them into the sea" line was muted for the Western world, and the "Palestinian people" theme drummed into Western minds, in black Africa, where the Israelis had had a very effective foreign-aid program before 1967, things went more quickly. All that was needed was bribery of key government officials and diplomats; and overnight most African states cut relations with Israel. Those agricultural projects, those irrigation projects that had been so useful, were forced to end. There was, of course, no real Arab aid ever given. It was only bribes to particular officials, and then, of course, money to extend the reach and power of Islam in sub-Saharan Africa. One result was the revolt of Nigeria's Christians against the new Muslim militancy -- the *Jihad*, as Col. Ojukwu called it, against those Christians.

Western leaders, as well as Israeli leaders,

should cease to use the phrase "Palestinian people." Instead, they should start to use such carefully-constructed statements as "the autonomy for local Arabs will of course depend on to the extent that such autonomy is commensurate with Israeli security, since there are already twenty-two Arab states. Also, we cannot remain unaware of the doctrine of *Jihad* as a permanent duty, so that opposition to Israel as an Infidel state should not be expected to diminish no matter what its borders. Indeed, we have every reason to believe that further territorial concessions that cause Arab Muslims to perceive Israel as more vulnerable will only increase the likelihood of open warfare, and will whet rather than sate the desire for combat to further the aims of *Jihad*."

Who writes or says anything like that? It's all true, and necessary, but no one does. But perhaps they will start, as they realize that they, the entire West, the entire Infidel world, are in the same boat with Israel, and this is no time for that boat to become a ship of fools.

Hugh Fitzgerald is a frequent contributor. This article appeared on jihadwatch of March 18.

Under the Scimitar of Damocles

Andrew G. Bostom

Abdul Rahman faces death at the hands of our Afghan allies for the "crime" of converting to Christianity. Even though, following appeals by world leaders, including the Pope, Mr. Rahman appears to have received a "dispensation" by the Karzai Government -- for "mental health", or other reasons -- he is and remains guilty as per Afghan religious leaders, and sacred Islamic Law (the Shari'a).

In the light of Koran 2:256 "There is no compulsion in religion", why has apostasy from Islam always been punished so harshly? In *Leaving Islam*, Ibn Warraq notes that the apostasy of a Muslim individual whose parents were Muslim is seen as an infectious, dangerous and incurable disease in the body of an *ummah* (people) threatening peoples lives, and that is why this rotten limb should be severed.

Punishment by death for apostasy is firmly rooted in the most holy Muslim texts. Koran 4:89 states: "They desire that you should disbelieve as they have disbelieved, so that you might be (all) alike; therefore take not from among them friends until they fly (their homes) in Allah's way; but if they turn back, then seize them and kill them wherever you find them, and take not from among them a friend or a helper."

One of the most authoritative Koranic commentators, Baydawi (d. 1315/16) interprets this passage thus: "Whosoever turns back from belief (*irtada*), openly or secretly, take him and kill him wheresoever ye find him, like any other infidel." Ibn Kathir's (d. 1373) venerated commentary on Koran 4:89 concurs,

maintaining that as the unbelievers have manifested their unbelief, they should be punished by death.

These draconian judgments are reiterated in a number of hadith (i.e., collections of the putative words and deeds of Muhammad, as compiled by pious transmitters). There is also a consensus by all four schools of Sunni Islamic jurisprudence (i.e., Maliki, Hanbali, Hanafi, and Shafi'i), as well as Shi'ite jurists, that apostates from Islam must be put to death.

The 1991 Al-Azhar (Cairo) Islamic Research Academy-endorsed Shafi'i manual of Islamic Law *'Umdat al-Salik* states: "Leaving Islam is the ugliest form of unbelief (kufr) and the worst.... When a person who has reached puberty and is sane voluntarily apostasizes from Islam, he deserves to be killed. In such a case, it is obligatory...to ask him to repent and return to Islam. If he does it is accepted from him, but if he refuses, he is immediately killed."

At this stage, perhaps the only way to assure that Mr. Rahman avoids a tragic fate ("We will call on the people to pull him into pieces so there's nothing left," maintained Abdul Raouf a "moderate" cleric jailed for his previous opposition to the Taliban) is to find sanctuary for him outside of Afghanistan.

Denial or obfuscation of the role played by the very essence of Islam—Shari'a—will never remove this murderous scimitar of Damocles hanging over the heads of hapless "apostates" such as Abdul Rahman, and others, perhaps untold thousands, if not more, like him, throughout the Muslim world.

Andrew Bostom is author of The Legacy of Jihad. This is excerpted from AmericanThinker.com of March 26.

Jewish Contributions to the United States

A 400 Year Love Affair With America

Victor Sharpe

Editors Note: As Jews are vilified in the academy for support of Israel, it is good to remember the major contributions Jews have made to this country, beginning in their early years on these welcoming shores.

When the subject of Jewish American contributions to American society and culture is discussed few ordinary Americans, and surprisingly few scholars, are aware Jews resided in North America long before America's Revolution against British rule.

To understand why and when Jews first came to the Americas we need to understand the miseries and calamities that overtook them throughout Europe. In particular, we need to look back to the fifteenth century and the rise in the Iberian peninsula of the Catholic Inquisition.

In 1492, as the children's poem goes, Columbus sailed the ocean blue. It was the same year that the 2,000 year old Jewish population of Spain was given the stark choice; convert to Catholicism or be expelled. Most chose to depart, some to Holland and eventually northern Europe; others to North Africa and the Ottoman lands in modern Turkey. Some returned to the ancestral Jewish homeland in Ottoman occupied Palestine. Many perished at the hands of pirates or were sold into slavery.

Those that could not bear to leave all that they and their ancestors had known for centuries reluctantly accepted the cross and became *conversos* – outwardly Christian, but secretly Jews. Their Christian neighbors however gave them a more insulting Spanish name, Marranos. The Kingdom of Portugal followed the policy of forced conversion or expulsion soon after.

We know that at least five of Christopher Columbus's crew in his fleet were *conversos*, and there remains scholarly speculation that Columbus may have been one himself.

Luis de Torres, a *converso*, a linguist, and great traveler in his own right served in the fleet along with two *converso* surgeons and two seamen. During the month of October 1492, Torres decided to remain behind and settled on an island in order to be free from the horrors of the Inquisition. He thus became the first Jew to settle in the New World.

Today we know that much of the discovery and charting of the New World was undertaken by secret Jews who knew each other and maintained strong trading links. Jewish mathematicians worked to assure the accuracy of the maps and charts necessary

for nautical voyages in the Middle Ages. Among the most famous of the map makers was the Cresque family, and Abraham Cresque completed his greatest cartographic masterpiece in 1377, over a hundred years before the expulsion edict by the Spanish King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella.

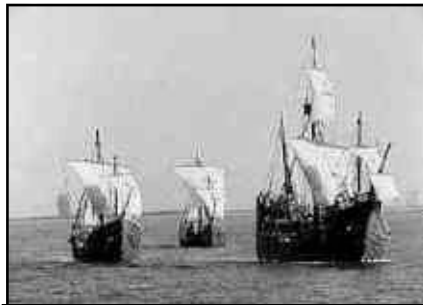
In order to escape from the persecutions in Spain and Portugal, many Jews and *conversos* found their way to the Portuguese territories in Brazil. In 1502, Fernando de Loronha, a *converso*, was allowed by the Portuguese King Manoel to settle a part of Brazilian territory. Loronha was required to explore some 300 miles of coastline every year. He brought five shiploads of people to his new colony, many of them New Christians or *conversos*, who secretly remained steadfast in their Jewish beliefs.

But the Inquisition eventually followed them. Many fled to Holland while others joined Spanish Jews and *conversos* in North America's southwest. In 1520, Bernando Lopez de Mendizabel became Governor of the New Mexico territory. A *converso*, he fell foul of the Inquisition when he was discovered changing his linen and bathing just prior to the Jewish Sabbath – a cause for imprisonment in which he died a pauper. His was the first instance in North America of the reach of the Catholic Inquisition.

The Portuguese territory in Brazil, to which many *conversos* had fled, was conquered by the Dutch who treated the Jews with respect and encouraged many Jewish families to sail from Holland to the new colony of Recife. However, the Portuguese returned and re-conquered Recife. Many of the *conversos* were sent back to Portugal for practicing Judaism and burned at the stake. Of those Jewish refugees who fled again from the re-imposed Inquisition, some twenty three eventually reached the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam.

Two Jews already had been allowed to live in New Amsterdam. They were Solomon Peterson, and Jacob Barsimson, a settler sent by the Dutch West India Company. When the 23 Jewish refugees arrived in the Dutch colony, penniless but well educated, they were resented by the Governor, Peter Stuyvesant. More concerned with keeping potential competitors out of his colony, Stuyvesant was a bigot who particularly disdained Quakers, Baptists and Presbyterians.

In 1655, the Jewish residents of New Amsterdam petitioned for the right to "stand guard" with all other citizens on the wall built against potential attacks on the colony. This same wall is now Wall Street in



The Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria

New York City. They also petitioned for a cemetery and were granted a tiny plot of land in 1656 on land that today is known as Chatham Square in New York City's Chinatown. It is the oldest known Jewish cemetery in the United States and burials continued there from 1683 to 1831.

Other Jewish communities were established in Newport, Philadelphia, Savannah and Charleston and were part of American life for 120 years prior to Independence and the Revolutionary War.

In 1664 Britain acquired New Amsterdam in a bloodless exchange. England encouraged traders and adventurers, Jews and Christians alike, to set up trading posts in the wilderness and remote areas of New England. The territories were explored and towns grew where the trading posts first were established. In time political unrest between the American colonies and Great Britain resulted in the Revolution.

Families were torn asunder by conflicting loyalties to the American colonies or to the British Crown. Like their Christian neighbors, Jews suffered the same tragic rifts but most Jews were patriots and rallied in defense of the new United States of America.

The British attacked Newport in Rhode Island laying waste the harbor and burning down nearly five hundred homes. Aaron Lopez, who was a foreign born and naturalized Jewish landowner, had built Newport's first synagogue in 1763. A fervent backer of the Revolution, he was forced to escape with his family to Leicester, Massachusetts. In one of his letters to friends, he spoke of, "sudden alarms and the cruel ravages of an enraged enemy."

Another Jewish patriot, Gershom Seixas, the first American-born rabbi, could not bear to remain in New York and see the city occupied by the British. With his congregation, Rabbi Seixas left the city and escaped to Philadelphia. After the War of 1812, Gershom Seixas was elected by the New York State Legislature as a member of the first Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York.

Earlier, in 1733, the colony of Georgia was founded by James Oglethorpe who convinced the English King that the creation of his colony between Florida and the Carolinas would help keep the Spanish out. Soon after he received a charter from King George I, he welcomed new immigrants including Jewish colonists from England.

Georgia wanted to establish wine growing as a major industry and one of the first Jewish colonists was Abraham de Lyon, an experienced vintner. The colony was plagued with malaria: fortunately, another Jewish immigrant was Samuel Nunez Ribiero, a doctor with experience in treating the dread disease. Oglethorpe praised Ribiero for ending the plague, which

had already carried off twenty colonists.

Among the earliest settlers was Benjamin Sheftall, a Jewish Englishman who became one of the staunchest Revolutionaries. He and his son helped supply the Continental Army and were captured along with 186 American soldiers. The Sheftalls were interrogated but refused to divulge where American supplies were hidden and were thrown into prison and denounced by the British as "very great rebels." This was the same language used by the British Crown to denounce the signers of the Constitution.

Another Jewish Englishman, Francis Salvador, arrived in the neighboring colony of South Carolina, in 1773. He was elected to the first Provincial Congress of South Carolina and became a fighter for the Revolutionary cause. When the British governor refused to recognize the new Congress, the colonists began to arm themselves. In revenge, the British encouraged Indian tribes to massacre colonists. Salvador raised a force of five hundred men and led several attacks against loyalists and their Indian allies. During one such attack he was badly wounded, unaware that the Declaration of Independence, which he had passionately urged, had been adopted. As he lay in the woods, he was discovered by Indians and scalped. Salvador was one of the first Jews to die defending the new American nation.

In 1772, a Jewish immigrant from Poland arrived in New York. He was Haym Salomon and soon became an ardent supporter of the American cause. He accompanied General Schuyler and his army to Lake George. In September 1776, he was arrested as a spy by the British — they believed him to be a member of the outlawed Sons of Liberty who planned to burn the British fleet with fire ships.

While in prison, he managed to help free several American and French soldiers and to convince Hessian mercenaries to desert the British forces. During the Revolutionary War Salomon did yeoman service in ensuring that finances kept flowing so that the fledgling nation remained solvent and its international credit viable. After the war, Salomon gave away much of his wealth to the poor of Philadelphia, among them a future President, James Madison. He eventually died from the effects of his time in a British prison nine years earlier.

In Chicago, a statue of George Washington, Robert Morris, and Haym Salomon stands. The inscription for Haym Salomon reads: "Haym Salomon, Gentleman, Scholar and Patriot. A banker whose only interest was the interest of his country."

Victor Sharpe writes on Jewish history and the Arab-Israel conflict.



George Washington, Morris, and Salomon

Love For Sale

Ruth King

There is a tale that George Bernard Shaw asked a lady....a doyenne of society, if he could bed her for a million pounds. When she replied "but of course" he offered her ten pounds. "Who do you think I am?" asked the enraged grande dame. Shaw retorted: "We've established that and now we are just negotiating your fee."

This story is apposite as our former top officials troll for money among the Arab states. In the September 2004 *Outpost* I wrote about former diplomats and legislators who lobby for Saudi Arabia. This seedy group has recently been joined by a former president, a former minority leader in the Senate, and a former Secretary of State....two of them married to Senators.

In 1979, Marion Javits, wife of then Senator Jacob Javits, caused a brouhaha when she did PR work for Iran Air and the Shah. Mrs. Javits issued a public apology and severed her ties to the Shah. Remember the Shah? He was the "tyrant" that freedom and democracy groupies overthrew in order to clear the way for the mullahs....but that's another story.

When Jimmy Carter's smarter brother Billy Carter registered as a foreign agent of the Libyan government and took \$250,000 to lobby his brother for the release of embargoed C-130 airplanes to Libya, public outrage led to investigations and Senate hearings on influence peddling which became known as "Billygate." Billy famously defended his actions by stating "there is a hell of a lot more Arabians than there is Jews." Well, he has a point and even former presidents are not immune to the lure of lucre....even when it entails denigrating our own country,

A prime example is former President Clinton. He is not a lobbyist, but he gets hefty fees for speaking and large contributions to his Presidential Library in Arkansas. Although his wife is a Senator and potential candidate for the presidency, he does not mind throwing in some nasty criticism of the United States. For example, in Dubai on November 16th, 2005 he told Arab students that the United States made a "big mistake" when it invaded Iraq, citing "poor planning" lack of enough troops and a litany of other errors.

Clinton's Middle East enthusiasms lead him to some odd assessments. At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland in early 2005, he said: "Iran today is, in a sense the only country where progressive ideas enjoy a vast constituency. It is there that the ideas that I subscribe to are defended by a majority." On a subsequent interview with Charlie Rose, he described Iran as "...the only country with elections including the United States, including Israel, including you name it, where the liberals, or the progressives, have won two-thirds to 70 percent of the vote in six elections: Two for president; two for the Parliament, the Majlis; two for the mayoralties. In every single

election, the guys I identify with got two-thirds to 70 percent of the vote. There is no other country in the world I can say that about, certainly not my own."

Clinton is greedy and immoral but at least he is sharp and charismatic. Not so, his former Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright whose policy "triumphs" include being a foreign policy adviser to vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro and presidential candidate Michael Dukakis. The Albright group, which she founded, lists as a client, DP World, the Dubai company of the recently aborted ports deal. Press releases hail Albright's "keen observation skills." How keen could those skills be if she discovered that she is Jewish at the age of 57?

Maybe it's her tenacity they want. After dozens of failed efforts to get an agreement between Arafat and Barak, the trio met in Paris in October 2002. This is how the event was described by an Israeli correspondent who accompanied Barak: "Immediately after word of an agreement was released in the U.S. Embassy in the middle of the night, Arafat walked out in anger. Albright ran after him, begging him to stay, just like little kids - it was unbelievable! Arafat didn't stop, so then Albright ordered the gates locked so that he would not be able to get out!" Hours later when the staff assembled for signing of the agreement, "they were all standing around waiting for Arafat, but it turned out that he simply decided not to show up!" Her site advertises "Solution Services." Hmm.



Then there is former Senator and Minority Leader Robert Dole. Although his wife is a Senator from North Carolina, Robert Dole also signed on to lobby for Dubai. Apparently his stint doing televised commercials for Viagra no longer gives him a rise and he's out for bigger payments. When he was a candidate for President, Dole asked about opponent Clinton's lies and ambiguities "Where is the outrage?" Where is it now?

And this is just the tip of the iceberg. Sandy Berger, the National Security Adviser under Clinton who became famous for stuffing purloined classified documents in his hosiery has also been wined and dined by the Arabs along with hot air enthusiast Al Gore, his wife Tipper, who is famous for gaining and losing weight, and Howard Dean, the current Democratic National committee Chairman.

Columnist Debbie Schlussel has disclosed that the President's brother Neil gets direct and large "fees" from Dubai and there are no doubt dozens lining up for Riyadh's largesse.

Well, we have established what they are. Now they are just negotiating the fees.

(Continued from page 2)

would train, educate, and refine...The circumstances being what they are, the immenseness of the efforts needed for this cannot be imagined."

No, this isn't a pundit discouraged by the current terrorism and sectarian violence. It's the assessment of Iraqi King Faisal shortly before his death in 1933, having ruled Iraq since 1921.

A Saudi Summa

MEMRI (Middle East Research Institute) reports that a 2003 book based on a doctoral dissertation is gaining attention in the Arab world. It names more than 200 modern Arab intellectuals and authors whom the author, Said ibn Nasser Al-Ghamdi accuses of heresy, in effect urging their murder. Al-Ghamdi not only received his PhD for his lengthy fatwa, but was awarded the degree "summa cum laude."

Dhimmis at Haaretz

Israel's would-be *New York Times*, *Haaretz*, produced an editorial on the cartoon controversy so subservient one would think it came from a Jewish paper in Teheran under orders of Iran's Ayatollahs. The editorial contains such gems as it is "impossible not to understand the feelings of insult among Muslims worldwide," "no society can remain apathetic to offensive publications that insult values held sacred by certain groups within it" (that's particularly laughable from *Haaretz* which routinely insults the Orthodox community within Israel), "the publication of these cartoons

was a display of insensitivity and so was their reprinting by various European media outlets."

If *Haaretz* was going to talk about Muslim sensitivity, you would have thought it would at least take the occasion to point out that the Muslim world daily spews out incredibly offensive material to Jews. Not a single word on the subject from *Haaretz*.

Churches on Cyprus

After Cyprus was divided in 1974, the northern part was occupied by Turkey. About 200,000 Christian Orthodox fled to the south while Turkish Moslem Cypriots in the south moved north. But while most mosques in Greek Cypriot territory were restored, when reporter Luigi Geninazzi was sent to Cyprus by *Avvenire*, the paper of the Italian Bishop's conference, he found a very different story in the north: "Almost the entire artistic patrimony of the Orthodox Church in the territory occupied by the Turks -- 520 buildings between churches, chapels and monasteries -- has been sacked, demolished or disfigured -- only three churches and one monastery, the monastery of St. Barnabas, which has been turned into a museum, are in a more or less dignified state..". As for the EU, which could bring pressure to bear upon Turkey, given its efforts to join, Cypriot Foreign Minister George Iacovic complains: "The ruin is before our eyes but the EU prefers to look the other way."



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