

OUTPOST

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A Dangerous “Pragmatism”

Herbert Zweibon

A new evangelical pro-Israel lobby, Christians United for Israel, should be welcomed enthusiastically by all friends of Israel. As Iran threatens to obliterate Israel, a Hamas-led government abandons all shred of pretense that Palestinian Arabs seek peace and everywhere the forces denying the very legitimacy of the state gather strength, the advent of a group that can energize the Republican base on behalf of Israel is a cause for celebration. Instead it is encountering carping and criticism from Jewish organizations pretending to promote Israel's interests.

Abraham Foxman of the ADL, who has never encountered an evangelical group which did not “frighten him,” worries “Will they be able to differentiate between their biblical prophecy mode and their pragmatic pro-Israel mode?” Then there’s Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, who announces “If they oppose the government, it’s an anti-Israel lobby as far as I’m concerned.” (This is comical from Yoffie, who has never hesitated to oppose policies of the Israel government when they conflict with his capitulationist beliefs.) According to Yoffie, if the new group opposes “territorial flexibility,” “I would consider that dangerous to Israel.”

In short, what people like Foxman and Yoffie fear is that Christians United for Israel will be a lobby against further Israeli unilateral retreats (only the euphemisms change, from “peace process” to “disengagement” to the current term “convergence”). The motivation of its leader the Rev. John Hagee (who has raised millions of dollars for Israel) and his supporters is of course belief in the Biblical covenant that gave the land of Israel to the Jewish people.

We at Americans for a Safe Israel profoundly hope that Christians United for Israel will throw its weight against the policy of continued surrender-to-terror advocated by Israel's current Prime Minister, a policy that not only negates the Biblical covenant but, far from being “pragmatic,” negates all reason. The Oslo peace process failed so Prime Minister Sharon embarked on a unilateral retreat from Gaza. That

failed. Beautiful and agriculturally bountiful Jewish settlements like Neve Dekalim and Morag have been converted into Hamas training bases and launching pads for rocket attacks on southern Israel, the stones of the former homes used for Hamas guardhouses. Prime Minister Olmert now vows to make Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria Hamas terror bases and launching pads to destroy what remains of Israel. This is pragmatism? What happens when the PA, from the mountain ridges of Judea and Samaria which Olmert proposes to empty of Jews, launches missiles against Israeli civilian planes over Lod airport? Or when rockets, launched from the now judenrein Gaza Strip, destroy crucial infrastructure, like the plant in Ashkelon which provides much of Israel with electricity?

Israeli military commanders have sounded the warning. On January 23, recent chief of staff General Moshe Yaalon declared “The 1967 borders are not defensible borders for Israel and are strategically damaging.” The retreat from Gaza, says Yaalon (in the Spring issue of *Azure*) is interpreted by the Arabs “as an Israeli ‘breakdown’ to be exploited as a victory for the resistance.” Similarly, former deputy chief of military intelligence Yaakov Amidror says that abandonment of the high ground dominating Tel Aviv leaves the “central stretch of Israel's coastal strip where most of its population and industrial capacity are located completely exposed.”

So we hope Christians United for Israel will not be intimidated by false counselors like Foxman and Yoffie and will be forthright in defense of Israel's legitimate rights. This is where true pragmatism and genuine safety for Israel lie.

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From the Editor

Iran at the UN

On April 10 the UN voted by acclamation to make an Iranian vice-chairman of the UN Disarmament Commission. American Jewish Congress chairman Jack Rosen characterized this as "a rude slap in the face of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the UN Security Council." On the contrary, it's a blowing of trumpets by those who set the tone of the world organization. In its new role Iran, which almost daily promises to wipe Israel off the map, promptly demanded that Israel open all its nuclear sites to international inspection. Rosen declares that "The UN Disarmament Commission was the last international body where we thought we'd see Iran as a member." Yet another reason to believe the AJC inhabits an alternative universe. The UN Disarmament Commission is precisely the place one expects Iran to be. Even more suitable than the UN Human Rights Commission.

On Robert Novak

In his most recent anti-Israel column (April 17), Robert Novak sounds every imaginable anti-Israel stop. His piece, datelined "Aboud, West Bank" begins with Novak standing atop "the remnant of the Santa Barbara shrine, destroyed by the Israeli Defense Forces." From here he can see properties confiscated to make room for Israel's security wall "at the cost of centuries-old olive trees." (If the destruction of a "shrine" -- the place in question had been a terrorist base -- doesn't get you sufficiently riled up, perhaps your religion is environmentalism, so there's those olive trees.) Novak goes on to say the wall threatens Israel's tiny Christian minority, endangering Aboud's "Christian roots going back two millennia." (If multiculturalism is your thing, there's Israel's attack on a minority and if tradition moves you, he throws in two thousand years.) How does it "threaten" them? Well, these people used to work in Tel Aviv, and now have nothing to do. Israel, it appears, "owes" them a living even though they live in Palestinian Authority territory.

Novak lapses into the downright ludicrous. He describes "a conscious Israeli policy of getting rid of the Christian minority" and says --with the exception of a single Franciscan Father --"I could not find another Catholic layman or prelate who complained of anti-Christian bias by Muslims." That would suggest a truly impressive level of intimidation by the PA. for of course the real threat to Christians are the Muslims of the PA, who have succeeded in driving most of them out through massive harassment, stealing of Christian property etc. And with an Islamist Hamas government, the situation for Christians can only deteriorate further.

The funniest item is a quote from Latin Patriarch Michael Sabbah that Novak mournfully passes on: "The world has abandoned the Palestinians." This

when it would be more accurate to say the world "community" seems to think of nothing else.

The very day Novak spouts his litany of falsity and trivia, the front page of the *New York Sun* describes vicious assaults on Copts in Egypt. Meanwhile Christians flee en masse from Iraq and in Afghanistan a man has to be spirited out of the country after he narrowly escaped judicial murder for the crime of converting to Christianity 15 years earlier.

Novak has demonstrated an intense, obsessive hatred for Israel for decades. In this column it takes him over the edge.

Joel Carmichael z"l

We mourn the passing of Joel Carmichael, who edited *Midstream* for 24 years, making it one of the very few Jewish publications prepared to expose the organizations of the anti-Israel left, whether Jewish (like Breira) or simply "progressive" (like the Institute for Policy Studies). He persisted despite the difficulties his right-wing politics, including his resolute anti-Communism, caused him with the magazine's liberal board.

Carmichael was truly, as his successor at *Midstream* Leo Haber described him, a polymath, a man of encyclopedic knowledge. Adept at languages (he studied Hebrew, Arabic and Aramaic at Oxford), he translated *Anna Karenina* from the Russian (for Bantam), Dan Theodore's *The Origins of Bolshevism* from the French and wrote a full length study of Arabic. He wrote a series of books on the origins and development of Soviet Communism, a number of books on the Arab and Islamic world, and many books on the origins of Christianity and development of Christian anti-Semitism. One book, *The Death of Jesus*, was translated into eight languages. Always original, often controversial, Carmichael's impact on many fields of study will be ongoing.

On Immigration

Theodore Roosevelt's words in 1907 were never more pertinent than today:

"In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an
(continued on page 12)

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Paradise Lost

William Mehlman

"Zionism has lost its magic dimension over the souls of Jews. There is a danger that the pure Zionist pathos and the pure Zionist enthusiasm will evaporate. It is the demand of the hour that we proclaim that the aim of Zionism is, in fact, the solution of the Jewish problem..."

When Ze'ev Jabotinsky, Zionism's towering intellect, penned those words in 1931, the essence of Zionism, the fierce divide between its Socialist and bourgeois proponents notwithstanding, could still be captured in the popular Hebrew slogan *livnot u'lehibanot*, -- to build the Land of Israel and to resurrect one's spiritual attachment to the Land. Could either Jabotinsky or even his bitterest foes on the Left have imagined that Zionism was so elastic it could be redefined 75 years later as "disengagement" from the Land and the delegitimization of its most dedicated pioneers?

In his 1896 landmark work *The Jewish State*, Theodor Herzl, modern Zionism's founding father, argued that if the Israel-to-come was to serve as no more than a historical necessity for a beleaguered people, its mission would go down as incomplete. He didn't confine his concept of Zionism to the mere "ingathering of exiles" and certainly not to a political end in itself. Secular, assimilated, as far removed from Jewish practice as one could get, he yet viewed his imagined Jewish State as the physical embodiment of a process of spiritual redemption. Zionism, if it were to leave a lasting mark on the destiny of the Jewish people, would have to become the conduit for the achievement of Jewish "spiritual and moral wholeness."

Herzl's goal remains a dream. Israel has never been more spiritually and morally fractured. The venom directed against the religious Zionist and settler population by Israel's ruling establishment and its media handmaidens is little short of breathtaking. Those who have clung most steadfastly to the banner of *livnot u'lehibanot* have been cast as "hooligans," "extremists," "criminals," infernal impediments to the holy grail of "peace" with Israel's sworn terminators -- even as Hamas, unconditionally rejecting any acceptance of Israel's right to exist, is anointed leader of the Palestinian Authority; even as IDF Chief of Staff Dan Halutz confesses himself at a loss for an adequate response to the metamorphosis of abandoned Gaza -- 60 minutes from Tel Aviv -- into the largest terrorist base in the Arab world.

Compounding the tragedy is the fact that the Left and its supporters, even as they cheered the destruction of Gush Katif, never really believed in the efficacy of Ariel Sharon's "unilateral disengagement"

peace strategy. On the contrary, as one observer pointed out, "they were willing to embrace its certain failure because their hatred of the settlers and the proactive Zionism they symbolize more than compensated for any lack of confidence in the integrity of the protagonist of 'disengagement.'" What counted most for them was Sharon's reconfiguration of Israel's political map, his conversion to their post-Zionist ideology and his success in injecting it into the aorta of Israeli public discourse." What other than the profoundest contempt for Herzlian Zionism could have justified this manic jubilation at the further erosion of Israel's borders and defensive perimeter at precisely the moment, as *Jerusalem Post* columnist Caroline Glick recently noted, "when its neighbors are in unprecedented flux and not one of their societies is prepared to accept Israel's right to survive within any borders?"



How did it all go wrong -- this betrayal of Zionism's basic tenets, this massive inversion of *livnot u'lehibanot*? Daniel Doron, an astute observer of the Israeli economic scene, points to "economic exhaustion on top of exhaustion caused by the prolonged struggle to survive" as primarily responsible for the undermining of Israel's Zionist ethos. "Most Israelis," he avers, "can barely keep from drowning on an average salary of \$1,200 a month," what with prices as high as in America. Unrelenting economic pressure plus incessant danger equals too much. It is at the core of what he describes as Israel's "yearning for a 'quick fix,' the messianism of 'Peace Now' and 'unilateral disengagement.'" For Doron, it is because of this exhaustion that the Israeli public allowed the Left to get away with "transforming the terrorist chieftain and mega-thief Arafat into a statesman, even a peace partner."

While economic difficulties superimposed on terrorism have surely been contributing factors to Israel's spiritual malaise, they do not fully explain the national lowering of the Zionist flag. Even with 25 percent of its citizenry allegedly below the poverty line, Israel has faced far worse economic trials without throwing in the towel.

Where disease is concerned, there are no "contributing factors" without a root cause. Any diagnosis of that cause must inevitably collide head-on with Israel's retreat from Herzl's conception of Zionism as the medium, the mechanism -- not the end product -- for the achievement of the "spiritual and moral wholeness" of the Jewish people.

Looking at the malaise from a different standpoint is Rabbi Berel Wein. From its very outset, Wein avers, "the Zionist movement has been devoutly secu-

lar, disdainful and hostile to traditional Jewish beliefs, values and practices." Unadjusted over the ensuing 110 years, that syndrome has evolved into the costliest zero-sum game in Israel's 57-year history. How at this late stage, after all the damage that has been done, after decades of portraying the panoply of Jewish religious values, laws and morality as objects of ridicule, inimical to a land of "high-tech," discos and dance parties, how is one now to convince Israelis that the Arab-Israel conflict is "at its core a religious dispute," one in which a de-spiritualized, de-Judaized Zionism is at a perilous disadvantage? The Arabs simply refuse to adopt the Israeli left's secular path. They won't play ball. They regard a Jewish State in "Dar el Salaam" i.e., wherever Islam has planted its foot, as a mote in Allah's eye. Its removal, no matter how constricted its boundaries, is a Koranic categorical imperative.

To address Hamas, as Israel has done, as a purely terrorist entity is to completely miss the point, Wein asserts. "Hamas is also an Islamic religious organization...Osama bin Laden is a Muslim religious leader." What resources can a spiritually depleted Zionism rally at this late date in response to that Islamic religious challenge?

Ironically, the most effective Biblical-based defense of Judaism's God-given right to the Land of Israel emanates today not from Israel, not from Jews, but from the substantial majority of America's 70 million Bible-oriented Christians -- the Christian Zionists, as they proudly identify themselves. Only those unfamiliar with the intense love and familial attachment that brings tens of thousands of them to Israel's shores each year would be surprised by the fact that up near the top of the list of major concerns enumerated by the U.S. Christian Coalition in the millions of voter guides it is distributing for the 2006 Congressional elections is Israel, its security and its spiritual and territorial integrity.



John Hagee—Christians United For Israel

While nobody is compelled to sign off on the Rev. Jerry Falwell's dictum that "to stand against Israel is to stand against God," the denigration by so-called liberals of Israel's most devoted, most influential support group surpasses all reasonable understanding. If Christian Zionist allegiance to Israel is too "complicated," too "problematic" for the tastes of a liberal American constituency more concerned with "women's reproductive rights" than a nuclear-armed Iran's existential threat to Israel, then Christian Zionists can proudly plead guilty. Their belief in God's promise of the Land of Israel as an eternal legacy to Abraham and his descendants is indeed a problem and a complication for those -- Jews and Christians -- prepared to turn their backs to that legacy at the first flashing signal of the post-Zionist zeitgeist.

The Jewish liberal demonization of the Bible-oriented Christian community, including its large Christian Zionist component, for allegedly trying to "Christianize" America parallels the demonization of 250,000 overwhelmingly Bible-oriented residents of Judea, Samaria, eastern Jerusalem and the 10,000 former residents of Gaza for their efforts to reinfuse Zionism with the spiritual content that informed and motivated its resurrection after a 2,000-year sleep.

"I believe in the integrity of the world, in the power of a just cause," Jabotinsky wrote in 1932. "I believe that the great questions are decided by the power of moral pressure and that the Jewish people is a tremendous power of moral pressure..."

In its post-election efforts to form a new government, it will be for Israel to determine whether it still has a Zionist future. In the months ahead, the West, confronted by the growing shadow of a nuclear-armed Iran, will have to decide whether Judeo-Christian civilization east of the Mediterranean still has a future. It should be an interesting time.

William Mehlman is the chairman of AFSI in Israel.

Israel's Election Results

Roger A. Gerber

On March 28th, Israel held its fourth national election in only seven years, and the inconclusive results portend further political instability. Despite Olmert's claim, echoed by much of the media, that Israel's voters gave his Kadima party a mandate in support of Olmert's so-called convergence plan, entailing the expulsion of tens of thousands of Jewish citizens from the West Bank, the fact is that no such mandate exists. It is likely that another election will be required well before the end of the term of the recently elected 17th Knesset which was sworn in on April 17th.

As has been widely noted, the apparent lack

of appeal of the three principal candidates for prime minister resulted in the lowest voter turnout in Israel's history (62.3%), which might seem surprising considering the crucial political crossroad at which Israel finds itself. The results of the Gaza "disengagement" are hardly inspiring; the increased tempo of rockets fired from Gaza now threatens the life of Israeli communities in the Gaza vicinity, not to mention the critical infrastructure in and around Ashkelon. The IDF has expressed concern over the buildup of weaponry and terrorist cells within the Gaza Strip. "We are at war" with the Palestinians in both Gaza and the West Bank, declares Maj.-Gen. Yitzhak "Haki" Harel, head of the IDF's Planning Directorate and a senior member of the IDF General Staff. (*Jerusalem Post*, April 13).

Hamas has assumed the reins of government

in the Palestinian Authority and has vowed never to recognize the permanent presence of a Jewish state. At the same time, Israel faces an unprecedented existential threat from Iran whose President has promised that Israel will soon be "annihilated". Yet Israel's voting population remained relatively apathetic in this election, and the new Gil (Pensioners) Party received a surprising seven seats in the Knesset -- presumably drawing in large part on those protesting their unsatisfactory choices among the established parties.

As further evidence of the alienation of a large portion of Israel's voters from the candidates presented in this election, the combined total of the three parties with candidates for prime minister, Ehud Olmert's Kadima, Bibi Netanyahu's Likud and Amir Peretz's Labor Party, garnered only 60 seats among them, or less than a majority of the 120 seat Knesset. Israel's voter turnout of 62.3% might seem high when compared to American elections (voter turnout in the nine preceding U.S. elections ranged from a low of 49% to a high of 60% in the last election) but it must be compared to Israel's participation of 78.7% in 1999 and 68.9% in 2003.

In Israel, the voter does not vote directly for a prime ministerial candidate but for a party headed by the ostensible candidate. In this case, Ehud Olmert's Kadima party won only 22% of the vote, resulting in 29 out of 120 Knesset seats. In no city in Israel did Kadima win as much as 30% of the vote.

Clearly, if the election was a "referendum" on Olmert's plan for withdrawals and expulsions of Jewish settlers, as Olmert asserts, the results were less than a clear endorsement of his policies. The combined total of seats won by his party, and the two Zionist parties clearly in favor of the expulsions, Labor and *Yachad* (Meretz), is only 53 (I am excluding the seats won by the three anti-Zionist Arab parties) while the parties on the right have an aggregate of 50 seats. Further, the 29 seats won by Olmert must be compared to the 40 seats won by Sharon's Likud in the last election and the 40-44 seats that had been projected for Kadima not long before the election.

Within Kadima itself there is such an incongruous group, with sharply differing views on a wide variety of issues, that it is difficult to see how they will form a cohesive bloc. Kadima Knesset members range from Shimon Peres, Dalia Itzik and Chaim Ramon, from the Labor Party's left wing, to Tzachi Hanegbi and Shaul Mofaz, formerly of Likud. Whether this disparate group will be prepared to follow the lead of Ehud Olmert and Tzipi Livni, both once of the Likud "nationalist" group, remains to be seen.

Although as of this writing no coalition has yet been formed, there are three groups, according to Moshe Arens, that will "set the tone in the Knesset":

Kadima with 29 seats, Labor-Meimad with 19 and the Ultra-Orthodox (Shas and United Torah Judaism) with 18 seats between them. In addition, it should be noted that the combined Ichud Leumi-Mafdal (National Union-National Religious Party) has another 9 seats and they will presumably be allied with Shas and United Torah Judaism on national security issues. Consequently, regardless of the composition of the final coalition, the government to be formed by Olmert does not appear to be a very stable one. Arens cites "the seeming inability to assign key ministerial portfolios to the most suitable members of the coalition" as a sign of the instability of the government in the process of formation.

Even the press, which consistently supported withdrawal plans previously, has voiced doubts. For example, Ari Shavit, a commentator for *Haaretz*, the flagship newspaper of the Israeli left, recently wrote that "The basic law of the Israel-Palestinian jungle is that Israeli withdrawal does not restrain the conflict, but escalates it." His colleague on the paper, long time Labor supporter Yoel Marcus, described by Yoram Hazony as "perhaps Israel's most respected columnist" noted in an April 18th column "that in light of the fact that the evacuation of Gush Katif put Hamas in office, increased the Qassams, and Israel is still in Gaza via cannons, and maybe soon with tanks, I suddenly doubt if the Ehud Olmert government will be able to evacuate 60 thousand settlers."

Sever Plocker, a member of the editorial board of *Yediot Achronot*, Israel's largest newspaper and an enthusiastic supporter of the Gaza "disengagement", wrote in his column of April 16th, that "We didn't disengage: What is happening, and particularly what is not happening, in Gaza, continues to haunt us." He raises numerous critical questions regarding Olmert's "convergence" plan and notes that, with regard to Gaza, "Almost nothing has materialized in the way pullout supporters promised us would happen."

Support within Israel for Olmert's government will depend on a multitude of factors such as relations with the United States, the perceived imminence of the threat from Iran's nuclear ambitions, and the measures taken to combat Hamas and the other terrorist organizations, as well as the status of Israel's economy. In view of the fragility of any likely coalition, the divergent views among Kadima members, and the stresses among coalition members regarding economic and social issues -- particularly the extreme demands of Labor's Amir Peretz -- the odds favor another election well before the end of the prime minister's term of office.

Roger A. Gerber's most recent article for *Outpost* was the "Missing Moral Dimension", June 2005

Even the press, which consistently supported withdrawal plans previously, has voiced doubts.

Was Moses Jewish? Not on ABC

Jack Engelhard

In this ABC made-for-TV production of "The Ten Commandments" we have a new Moses, ethnically and religiously cleansed.

As played by Dougray Scott (Charlton Heston, not), Moses has been homogenized, pasteurized, sanitized and dry-cleaned so as not to offend any race, religion or creed. This Moses (as opposed to the Moses of the Bible and even the Moses of Cecil B. DeMille) is not Hebrew, and in fact he's not anything but multi-cultural.

Along both parts of this series (new and improved over DeMille!!!) that ran Monday and Tuesday, April 10 and 11, the word "Hebrew" never came up, neither attached to him or to his people, yes, the Hebrews. The best this fat-free, low-calorie script could do was refer to Moses as a "slave" and later, as the "leader" of a "people."



Charlton Heston

What people? That, we do not know, and that we must not know for then it will be assumed that our heritage is (dear Lord!) Judeo/Christian. To let that word get out (if you ask the film-makers and ABC) would be a sin. So if you tuned in late and missed the promo hoopla, you would not know that this is a Biblical event, but rather just another episode of "Survivor" or "LOST" or "The Amazing Race."

Also, in this drama, Pharaoh comes off better than Moses, really. Pharaoh is a nicer guy, or just as nice, to keep the storyline on an Equal Opportunity level so that nobody or everybody gets offended, equally, in case ABC has plans to distribute this in today's Egypt. (The gods of Al-Jazeera and the ACLU must be appeased.)

The lapses in this (Hallmark?) telling are so enormous (spirituality? zero) that this ABC God of this ABC Moses is less all-powerful than Donald Trump.

Jews (by the number Six Million and still counting in Israel itself) of course know what it means to be religiously cleansed, and so do Christians, who dare not pray or display any piety outside of church and home. Any sign of Christianity (even during holy days) in schoolyards and courtyards – well, strictly forbidden.

Who thought this day would come, when a Biblical story is consigned to the heaping Sheol of political correctness? I did, and I'll bet you did.

Imagine, please, the story of Jesus with no mention of the Christian faith that followed? That must be next in ABC's made-for-TV pipeline -- Christianity cleansed of Christians. But there will be no riots. Imagine, however, the story Mohammed with no mention of Islam? ABC and all the rest of the mainstream media

would not dare!

The people who make the movies for the big screen and small screen, they know that Jews and Christians can take a joke, and even an insult. Complaints, yes, over "The Da Vinci Code" and there were even some letters to the editor when the Brooklyn Museum of Art featured Jesus in association with "dung art."

We (Christians and Jews) don't much appreciate being hustled, so we sign petitions, or just shrug.

But the Religion of Peace? We all saw what happened when the (false) rumor circulated about a Koran being flushed down a toilet at Gitmo. Riots everywhere. We know what happened to Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh when he stepped out to film some grim truth about Islam's treatment of women.

Hollywood (which raised nary a voice in protest) sure took note.

Hands off, then, for Islam. Don't mess with that crowd. The rest of us, by contrast, are open to cleansing and even ridicule. In that movie "Meet the Fockers" there's a dog in there, and the dog's name is Moses, and what happens to this dog? He is flushed down a toilet.

Imagine a flick with a dog named Mohammed – and then flushed down a toilet. That would never happen, and shouldn't.

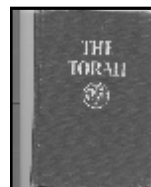
But we took it from that (horrible) movie and we'll take again from this sorry ABC spectacle that refuses to let us know what "people" gave us the ten rules of behavior that regulate us and keep us civilized to this day. There is always next week, when DeMille's version gets broadcast, and that's not perfect, either (many liberties taken of Biblical truth), but here at least when Heston says "let my people go," he means the Jewish people. (Known then as Hebrews.)

But that, remember, was filmed when Christianity and Judaism were not yet secularized and cleansed but still Gospel and kosher.

Read the Book!



ABC Moses



Jack Engelhard's newest novel, *The Bathsheba Deadline* is serialized on Amazon.com

Popular Culture and Islam

Fjordman

I have heard some people say that Western popular culture will destroy Islam. What if the opposite happens? Sometimes the barbarians also influence the civilized people, and there is a disturbing amount of “understanding” for terrorists in Western movies and media these days. And I’m not just talking about the Oscar-nominated suicide bomber film *Paradise Now*.

“V for Vendetta” is a recent movie made by the Wachowski brothers, the men behind the modern sci-fi classic “The Matrix.” It is set in Britain about a generation from now. The U.S. has dissolved into chaos and civil war after its involvement in a prolonged war in the Middle East. Great Britain has become a Fascist state. The protagonist, a “freedom fighter” named V, wants to ignite a revolution and brags about how blowing up a building [the British Parliament] can change the whole world. During the movie, we see a gay man keeping a 14th century Koran in a secret room in his house, because he enjoys “the beautiful poetry and imagery” in it. He is later executed when the authorities discover this, as the Koran is now banned and Muslims are oppressed. At the same time, the Church is shown to be a place of filth, corruption and hypocrisy.

In Hollywoodistan, gays admire the beauty of the Koran. In real life, gays are physically attacked in increasing numbers by Muslims in Europe, and death squads are targeting gays in Islamic countries such as Iraq. A gay man, Pim Fortuyn, was de facto executed for criticizing Islam, after having been demonized by Dutch media and the Dutch establishment for “Islamophobia” and “hate speech.” In Hollywoodistan, Muslims in London are ruthlessly persecuted. In real life, London has become the Islamic terrorist capital of the world, as demonstrated by Melanie Phillips in her book *Londonistan*.

After the *Jihadist* terror bombings in London in July 2005, not a single Muslim cleric was expelled from Britain. A Chester professor, Ron Geaves, has stated that the attacks that killed 52 people were not the acts of terrorists but “just an extreme Muslim demonstration” and that “the word terrorism is a political word which always seems to be used to demonize people.” The BBC is busy as always in campaigning against “Islamophobia” and reminding everybody that Islam is rich in diversity and that Western civilization would have been impossible without huge Islamic contributions, for which we should be eternally grateful.

Luckily, even though Hollywood won’t tell the truth, there are still a few people who will. Mullah Krekar, an Al Qaeda-linked Islamic leader who was granted refugee status in Norway told an Oslo news-

paper that there’s a war going on between the West and Islam. He said he’s sure that Islam will win. Muslims could indeed win this, if they could just sit tight, remain quiet and continue the demographic *Jihad*. But too many of them boast and brag about their plans. Listening to Mullah Krekar talking is like watching one of those old James Bond movies, where the villain just has to tell Bond everything about his evil plans, just in time so that 007 can prevent it. “I’m so smart and evil, you can’t stop me, bwuahahaha!” Then again, given the state of things in Al-Britannia these days, James Bond would probably have been working for the other team. “There’s a nasty case of Islamophobia going on at the *Telegraph* newspaper today. Take care of it, will you, 007. How do you want your Koran, Mr. Bond?” “Shaken, not stirred.”

In another movie, “Good Night, and Good Luck,” directed by actor George Clooney, CBS reporter Edward R. Murrow is shown standing up against Senator Joseph McCarthy in the 1950s. I assume Clooney’s motivation for making this movie now was to insinuate that the War on Terror is “just like” the paranoia of the 50s. First of all, although McCarthy went too far and destroyed the lives of many innocent people, the Communist threat to the USA and the West was in fact very real during the Cold War. And second: Who decided that a new “political witch hunt” necessarily has to come from the Right?

“McCarthyism” is sometimes defined as “the use of unfair investigatory or accusatory methods in order to suppress opposition.” Some would claim that this describes very well how critics of Muslim immigration in the West have been demonized for many years, especially by Leftists. Carl I. Hagen, leader of the right-wing Progress Party, was for several decades virtually the only Norwegian politician of some stature that warned against the madness of the current immigration policies. And he was hated for it by the establishment, denounced as a racist pig, Nazi and subject to every insult in the dictionary. During the 1990s, when there were still many people who took the “Oslo Peace Process” seriously, he demonstrated in support of Israel with the slogan “No money for Arafat.” The public now understands that he was right, which is why his party has grown from being a tiny protest party to being at the brink of replacing the Labor Party as the largest political party in Norway. Why doesn’t Mr. Clooney or other Hollywood personalities make a movie about Carl I. Hagen, Pia Kjærsgaard of the Danish People’s Party, Pim Fortuyn, Theo van Gogh

Some would claim that McCarthyism describes very well how critics of Muslim immigration have been demonized.

and Geert Wilders in the Netherlands or others that have been warning against the madness of Muslim immigration? They are the real victims of the “new McCarthyism.”

Glorification of anti-democratic fanatics has penetrated Western popular culture in other ways. Che Guevara’s face is cropping up everywhere, from posters to t-shirts. Che is famous for helping Fidel Castro shape the Cuban revolution. Later, he was in charge of La Cabana prison, where he oversaw a military tribunal which condemned scores of counterrevolutionaries to death without trial. “Hatred,” he said, is important, for it makes you “into an effective, violent, selective and cold-blooded killing machine.” After negotiating the stationing of Soviet nuclear weapons on Cuba in 1962, Che became furious when Moscow removed them following the Cuba Crisis. “If the rockets had remained, we would have used them all...” This murderer and symbol of an ideology that killed 100 million people during the 20th century is treated as a pop icon in the democratic West.

Phyllis Chesler has written about the Culture War in academia, where both Western leftists and Islamists systematically misuse language, writing about “insurgents,” not “terrorists,” calling them “freedom fighters,” not “well educated evil men.” Meanwhile, hateful anti-American and anti-Israel demonstrators are described as “peace activists.” She believes that the Western academy has been “utterly



Hashemi

Palestinianized.” Yale University admitted a former Taliban spokesman, Rahmatullah Hashemi, as a student. When female Afghan parliamentarian Malalai Joya said Hashemi was one of the Taliban’s top propagandists and called his status as a student at Yale “disgusting,” people at Yale fired back and said it was the critics of Yale and Rahmatullah Hashemi who were the real Taliban, and that excluding him would “take us one step closer into the Taliban-like suppression of views that challenge the party line.”

Ironically, it seems as if some of the chief defenders of democracy and Western civilization now are immigrants. Britain’s first black Archbishop, the Ugandan born Archbishop of York Dr. John Sentamu made a powerful attack on multiculturalism, urging English people to reclaim their national identity. He writes: “Multiculturalism has seemed to imply, wrongly for me, let other cultures be allowed to express



Sentamu

themselves but do not let the majority culture at all tell us its glories, its struggles, its joys, its pains.” Says Sentamu: “When you ask a lot of people in this country, ‘What is English culture?’ they are very vague. It is a culture that whether we like it or not has given us parliamentary democracy. It is the mother of it.” Author Ibn Warraq asks: “How can we expect immigrants to integrate into western society when they are at the same time being taught that the west is decadent, a den of iniquity, the source of all evil, racist, imperialist and to be despised? Why should they, in the words of the African-American writer James Baldwin, want to integrate into a sinking ship?”

These are encouraging words, but they cannot conceal the fact that there is a very powerful undercurrent of self-loathing and guilt-obsession in the West at the beginning of the 21st century. Where does it come from?

Lars Hedegaard, writer and columnist for the newspaper *Berlingske Tidende*, has, together with colleagues Helle Merete Brix and Torben Hansen, been one of the leading forces behind making tiny Denmark into a frontline country in the battle against Islam. In his book *While Europe Slept: How Radical Islam is Destroying the West from Within*, Bruce Bawer gives an account of a meeting with Hedegaard and Brix in Copenhagen: “Hedegaard was of the view, however, that the Danish establishment’s benign neglect of Islamic extremism must have deeper causes than snobism or hippie nostalgia. After all, he said, the Islamization of the Nordic countries was “the most fundamental transformation” they’d experienced in a millennium.” “Heavy consequences,” he insisted, “must have heavy causes.” His theory was that Western Europe’s ongoing surrender to radical Islam had its roots in the psychic devastation of the First World War. For while that conflict marked America’s ascent to the rank of Great Power, Europeans took it as a devastating proof, Hedegaard said, “that our culture was worthless. It was basically destroyed. And that prepared the way for two sorts of totalitarianism” — Nazism and Communism — and for “atrocities of a magnitude that is hard to imagine.” Those atrocities, in turn, placed upon Europeans an unbearable burden of guilt. The Nazis, he said, “made Europe think it is doomed and sinful...and deserves what it has coming.”

Lars Hedegaard’s view seems to mirror that of French philosopher and cultural critic Alain Finkielkraut, who thinks that “Europe does not love itself.” Finkielkraut says that it’s not forces from outside that are threatening Europe as much as the voluntary renunciation of European identity, its wish of freeing itself from itself, its own history and its traditions. The European Union thus isn’t just post-national, but post-European. Europe is now built upon an oath: Never again. Never again extermination, never again



Finkielkraut

war, but also never again nationalism. According to Finkelkraut, Auschwitz has become part of the foundation of the EU, a culture based on guilt. But this is a vague ideology saying that "We have to oppose everything the Nazis were for." Consequently, nationalism or any kind of attachment to your own country, including what some would say is healthy, non-aggressive patriotism, is frowned upon. This didn't just happen in Germany, but in all of Europe. Writes Finkelkraut: "I can understand the feeling of remorse that is leading Europe to this definition, but this remorse goes too far. It is too great a gift to present Hitler to reject everything that led to him." This is said by the Jewish son of an Auschwitz prisoner.

Finkelkraut says that Europe has made human rights its gospel, to such an extent that it threatens European history and culture. "When hatred of culture becomes itself a part of culture, the life of the mind loses all meaning."

But why does this guilt complex also apply to Britain, which defeated the Nazis, or Denmark, which saved most of its Jews? Why do we detect some of the same currents even in the United States? And why on earth can't Europeans give stronger support to the survivors of the Holocaust in Israel?

Yes, we have been sold out by our elites through the creation of Eurabia and the wiping out of our own cultures through Multiculturalism. But this is only half of the story. In democratic societies, even if

Europe is tired of living. Islam just puts it out of its misery.

sometimes flawed ones, this would never have been possible if there wasn't a profound undercurrent of self-loathing present in the general public already. The trauma caused by the events of 70 years

ago is clouding our judgment this time, since any talk at all about the threat posed by Muslim immigration or about preserving our own culture is being dismissed as "the same rhetoric as the Nazis used against the Jews."

V.S. Naipaul has called India "a wounded civi-

lization." But maybe it's really Europe that is the wounded civilization, the difference being that India's wounds were inflicted from the outside, whereas Europe's wounds are largely self-inflicted. Islam isn't destroying Europe, Europe is destroying itself. Just as a patient with AIDS may formally die from flu or even a common cold, the real cause is the long, slow decay of his immune system. It resembles euthanasia on an entire civilization: Europe is tired of living. Islam just puts it out of its misery.

It is fascinating to see how self-loathing and West-bashing make scores of people in the media and the academia misunderstand and misrepresent the threat we are facing. The good guys become the bad guys and vice versa, or alternatively, we're all equally good and bad, since all cultures are equal. Some would say that I am reading too much into a few simple movies. Perhaps. But these are the same people that claim that popular culture will destroy Islam.

Pop culture matters. It both reflects and shapes the values of a civilization. Judging from the message in too many films, almost five years after 9/11 we have hardly even begun to understand the scale of the Islamic challenge. On the contrary, many Westerners are busy demonstrating "understanding," even sympathy, towards the enemies of civilization.

Britain in "V for Vendetta" is a totalitarian state where the authorities promise peace in return for total submission. Peace for submission, where have we heard this mantra before? I know: Islam. "Islam" means submission, and comes from the same root as "salaam," which means "peace". It is curious to notice that in the previous movie by the Wachowski brothers, "The Matrix," people are turned into slaves and passive tools by living in a make-belief reality designed to pacify them and keep them in chains. In the real world, one fifth of humanity are proud to proclaim themselves "the slaves of Allah," and consider it their mission in life to make the rest of mankind share their mental bondage.

Islam is the Matrix. Somebody better give the Wachowski brothers their red pills.

Fjordman is a noted Scandinavian blogger. This is an edited version of an article that appeared on the blog-site Gates Of Vienna



The Muslim Brotherhood and the Copts

Magdi Khalil

Editor's Note: In recent weeks the State Department has reached out to a series of Moslem Brotherhood linked groups in both the U.S. and Europe.

Many have wondered about the Copts' evident concern over the Muslim Brotherhood's victory of 88 seats in the last parliamentary elections in Egypt. Why, exactly, are the Copts so upset?

Actually, the Copts are not the only ones to have serious misgivings about this latest development in Egypt's political life; women, liberals, civil society supporters, leftists, and other advocates of democracy

share the same sentiment.

The Muslim Brotherhood's main slogan is "Islam is the Solution," a mysterious slogan that excludes "infidels" such as Christians and Jews. Its proclaimed purpose is to "restore the Islamic Caliphate (Islamic political system and rule)."

I have met Muslim Brotherhood leaders more than once in the course of television interviews, and it did not take me long to realize that we come from two different worlds and spoke different languages: our civil perspective versus their religious perspective. However, they have been strangely determined to force the delusion of a "common civil ground" on their audience by using a plethora of mysterious expressions and misleading theories.

The problem with the Muslim Brotherhood is that they are hard to pin down, with their elusive style, word play, *taqiyya* (deceit), contradictory statements, and double language. They are all set to accommodate different clients: The West and Americans, the Copts, women, liberals, as well as Osama bin Laden and Ayman Al-Zawahiri. To this day they refuse to condemn the writings of Said Kutb, the philosopher of terror and violence.

Meanwhile, the Copts have particular reasons to fear the Muslim Brotherhood. First is the Muslim Brotherhood's racist declarations against the Copts. A famous *fatwa* (a legal pronouncement in Islam) prohibited the construction of new churches in Egypt. The *fatwa* was published in *Al-Dawaa* magazine, which speaks for the Muslim Brotherhood, in December 1980, and was issued by Mohammed Al-Khatib who was, and still is, a member of the guidance council of the Muslim Brotherhood movement. Twenty-five years later, the Muslim Brotherhood still acknowledges the validity of this *fatwa*.

Another outrageous *fatwa* issued by Mustafa Mashhour, the brotherhood's former supreme guide, stated: "Islamic law, *Shari'a*, is the principal point of reference (authority) for governance. Copts must pay the *jizyah* instead of joining the army, lest they ally themselves with the enemy, if that enemy happens to be a Christian country" (*Al-Ahram Weekly* 13 April 1997).

In an interview with the newspaper *Azzaman*, Mohammed Habib said: "When the movement will come to power, it will replace the current constitution with an Islamic one, according to which a non-Muslim will not be allowed to hold a senior post, whether in the state or the army, because this right should be exclusively granted to Muslims. If the Egyptians decide to elect a Copt for the presidential post, we will issue a protest against such an action, on the basis that this choice should be ours" (*Azzaman* 17 May 2005).

The danger here lies in the reasoning behind such statements: the presidential post is considered *welaya kobra* (major governance) and in this case a non-Muslim is not allowed to govern a Muslim, which completely shatters the basic notion of citizenship. It is

a given that a non-Muslim Egyptian will have serious obstacles to be elected president. But, the problem is if an obstacle is based on a religious rule advocated by the Muslim Brotherhood.

In an interview with Sameh Fawzi in 1996, Mamoun Al-Hudaibi answered the question whether the Copts were considered citizens or *dhimmi* by replying that they were both. When pressed for a specific answer, he clearly states: "They are *dhimmi*" (*Al-Hayat*, 30 Nov 2005).

The Muslim Brotherhood's discourse bears a religious and superior tone, with constant references to the "other", often in a belittling and hurtful manner. The discourse can turn downright hostile: Hassan Al-Banna was quoted as saying: "it is necessary to kill *ahl al-kefab* (Christians and Jews), and God will give a double recompense for those who fight them."



At best, the Muslim Brotherhood resorts to vague conciliatory statements such as the famous one: "They (Christians) have the same rights as we do and the same duties as we do." Yet, there is no way to reconcile the theory of peaceful coexistence on the basis of equality and citizenship and the prospect of a religious majority imposing its rules on the minority – in that case, we are no longer talking about citizenship status but *dhimmi* status.

The Muslim Brotherhood and their allies insist that the Coptic population amounts to only 6% of Egypt's total population, in spite of a recent official declaration by Osama Al-Baz that the Copts constitute 12.5% of Egypt's population, and despite the fact that other organizations have estimated the number of Copts to be 15 million, i.e. 20% of the population. This purposeful twisting of numbers is a strategy used by the Muslim Brotherhood to deny the rights of their opponents.

Finally, Egyptian advocates of democracy strive towards "national integration" for all elements of society, while the Muslim Brotherhood has in mind for the Copts a sort of "religious assimilation," and there is a big difference between the two. The Brotherhood pushes for the religious assimilation of the Coptic minority through a gradual desertion of their faith, or at the very least through a loss of their cultural and religious identity as it melts into the majority's Islamic culture.

Throughout the history of Christianity, many martyrs have paid the price for resisting such religious assimilation, but none as much as the Copts. For Copts the idea that religion should become the framework for the state is not even open for debate or compromise.

This is an edited version of an article by Magdi Khalil, a political analyst and executive editor of the Egyptian weekly Watani International.

The Code Of Olmerta

Ruth King

Israel's usually fractious media exhibits a curious restraint when it comes to investigating Ehud Olmert, and the Israeli public, normally addicted to scandal and gossip about its leaders, is passive and reluctant to probe any of the rumors and suggestions of impropriety that have emerged about their new Prime Minister. In Italy there is a code of "Omerta" that prohibits speaking or divulging information about certain people and their activities. In Israel, I call this conspiracy of silence the code of "Olmerta."

Where are the questions about Olmert's military service? According to some accounts Olmert never served because of illness. If so, what illness? A Reuters report on March 22, 2006 states "Olmert was denied his dream of serving as an army commando due to orthopedic problems." Well, was it a herniated disc, a spinal column injury or bunions?

Differing accounts, including semi official bios, claim he was a military press correspondent, an infantry officer in the Golani Brigades and a reporter for the Israeli army journal. So, which was it? The American media was obsessed with the military records of William Clinton and George Bush. After all, Israel's citizen army conscripts all citizens, and the public deserves to know, but "Olmerta" is the rule.

Then there are the rumors of serious and serial corruption: possibly illegal political appointments of cronies; possible bribery; hints of murky dealings alleging as minister he used fictitious arbitration, enabling the dishonest extraction of 6.2 million shekels from the Betar soccer team; Olmert's sale of his home for \$2.7 million to American billionaire Danny Abraham, and the peculiar arrangement whereby Olmert and his wife Aliza can remain living in the house for several years to come, paying below market rent. Oh yes, I almost forgot, Mr. S. Daniel Abraham is an ardent pacifist and contributed \$193,000 shekels to Olmert's campaign.

This is not to say there is irrefutable evidence of malfeasance, but in 1977 Rabin had to resign as prime minister and party leader after it became known that his wife had violated the regulations on currencies, by having a bank account in the USA. The Israeli media skewered the Prime Minister who was then thought of as hawkish. In October of 1999 police aggressively searched the Netanyahu home, alleging that after leaving office Bibi and his wife kept government belongings, including (gulp!) a gold letter opener from US Vice President Al Gore. The media reported this and allegations of fraud, never proven, in hourly communiqués and editorials. The public could not get enough of it.

That same year the late President Ezer Weizman, a famed combat hero, was reputed to have taken large contributions from businessmen without reporting it to the proper authorities. Although he was never



A Parade of Hamas Recruits

prosecuted the media hounded him and he resigned from office. But when it comes to a real investigation of Ehud..... it's "Olmerta".

Then there is the question of his family. His pretty wife has been a long time member of Peace Now, an organization which, from its inception, favored a return to the 1949 lines including Jerusalem. So, while he was an admittedly good mayor of Jerusalem, did his wife agree to his ruling only West Jerusalem? Did his support of the holy shrines in old Jerusalem put him in the dog house? To quote his dear friend Moshe Amirav : "He has a very open approach. He can see things from the other side. If he can see things through the eyes of his wife, he can also see things through the eyes of Hamas." Well, that's a valid point his friend inadvertently made.

His children have gone way beyond Peace Now.....two of them support frankly seditious organizations. The Olmerts' daughter Danna is a member of Machsom Watch, a group of Israeli women who monitor checkpoints for human rights abuses and often confront Israeli soldiers on behalf of Palestinians. Their website lists dreadful behavior by Israeli soldiers, often denied by the IDF. Oh, by the way, they don't comment on the number of terrorist acts that have been aborted by the crossing points.

The Olmerts' son Shaul completed his military service, signed a petition of Yesh G'vul, a group of Israeli Defense Force soldiers who refuse to serve in the occupied territories, and now lives in New York. Yesh G'vul's latest brochure tries to convince high school students not to join the Israeli army and offers a flat \$750(US) a month for anyone who is jailed for desertion from the IDF. The Olmerts' son Ariel dodged military service altogether and is studying French literature at the Sorbonne in Paris.

When Chelsea Clinton accompanied her mother on a trip to Africa and spoke about the drug problems and cynicism that afflict American teenagers, many newspapers scolded her for the impropriety of criticizing the nation where her father is President. Nonetheless, the Israeli media with the notable exception of *Jerusalem Post* columnist Sarah Honig, treat

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the outrageous behavior of the Olmert children with typical "Olmerta."

None of Olmert's election posters included his family. Instead he was shown in carefully doctored photos with the spectral face of Ariel Sharon behind him. A member of Israel's media told me that the curious lack of scrutiny exists because Olmert will carry on the legacy of Sharon. This is laughable because the Israeli media reviled Sharon the patriot and general. It

is his legacy as wholesale salesman and liquidator of Israel that Olmert is expected to carry on.

No questions asked and no leads followed. Instead the "heir" of Sharon, the accidental Prime Minister elect, is given a free pass by the fraternity of bloodhounds in the Israeli media. They are so intent on not hampering his preemptive surrender of Israel's heartland, patrimony and sovereignty that they have become scrupulous observers of the Code of Olmerta.

(Continued from page 2)

American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American and nothing but an American...We have room for but one flag, the American flag...We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language...and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people."

U.S. Counsels Restraint

The U.S. response to terror attacks on Israel was always silly. It just sounds sillier now. In the wake of the most recent suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack declared that the U.S. "as always, ask them [Israel] to consider the effect of their actions upon the prospects, future prospects for peace."

Peace? The Prime Minister and Interior Minister of the new Hamas government met with disgruntled unpaid PA officers and urged them to attack Israel, so

as to be eligible for funds from Iran and other countries. And the PA has appointed Juval Abu Samhdana director general of the Interior Ministry. He won the post for his work as head of the Popular Resistance Committees responsible for most of the home-made rockets launched at Israel over recent weeks.

Perfidious Albion

It didn't take long. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw says " Hamas now heads the PA government, and [Britain] wants to maintain normal relations with them as we did with the previous government." No need to "recognize" Israel, says Straw. England would be satisfied with the group "accepting" the existence of the Jewish state. One can anticipate the formula ahead. Hamas will acknowledge that Israel exists (that should be no problem; Hamas agrees it exists and vows to extirpate it) and England and the EU go back to funding-as-usual.



Jack Straw

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