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'Social Justice' a la carte

William Mehlman

Editor's note: Israel is currently governed by a coalition led by the Likud Party headed by Benjamin Netanyahu. The Kadima Party, led by Tsipi Livni, is the major opposition party and, with 28 seats, is the largest single party in the Knesset. Kadima was created in November 2005 by then Prime Minister Ariel Sharon (who at that time headed the Likud Party) when he realized his government was likely to fall as a result of internal opposition flowing from his ramming through, several months earlier, the unilateral withdrawal from Gaza and the destruction of the Jewish communities there. Sharon took with him most of the Likud's Knesset members and some members of the Labor Party also defected to it, including Shimon Peres. While "personal" parties of this sort rarely survive more than one election, Kadima has been an exception. Labor, the undisputed ruling party during Israel's first decades, now only has seven Knesset members, having split most recently in January of this year when Ehud Barak formed the "Independence Party" so as to remain within the government coalition when the majority in Labor wanted to pull out. Parties to the Left of Labor mentioned in this article include Meretz and (the Communist) Hadash. This article suggests that the street protests in Israel, far from bolstering Kadima as its leaders clearly hope, may lead to its disintegration, as its "ill-fitting parts" come apart at the seams, with parties to Kadima's left the main beneficiaries.

Beware of the far Left bearing gifts.

Could any self-anointed "social justice revolution" morphed from a mutiny over the price of cottage cheese, now well into its second month in Israel, have been more artfully keyed to the Netanyahu-toppling monomania of Tsipi Livni and her Kadima collection of ill-fitted parts?

Judging from the media's choral accompaniment to the demands emanating from the well-furnished tents along Tel Aviv's bon ton Rothschild Blvd for condign punishment of "the rich," free nursery-to-university education, housing and rental prices slashed to the bone without increasing supply and an overall return to the government-dictated economy of the 60s and 70s, the answer would seem obvious: Kadima wins, Likud loses--big-time. Hallucination being subject to an occasional onset of sordid fact, however, politicians would be well advised to be careful about what they wish for.

Mr. Netanyahu admittedly contributed to an Israeli housing bottleneck compounded of a jungle of bureaucratic impediments to construction, an arcane, labor-intensive building culture and an Israel Lands Authority that has forgotten what the word Zionism means. As "Globes," Israel's leading economic journal observed, the prime minister's acquiescence to Barack Obama's demand for a 10-month freeze on home construction beyond the Green Line resulted in reducing to one-third of one percent Judea's and Samaria's contribution to Israel's housing stock last year from a robust 4.5 percent in 2009. It had the effect of forcing families that might have bought apartments in Judea and Samaria to compete for an inadequate supply in other areas of the country.

Moving belatedly but vigorously to relieve the self-inflicted crunch, Netanyahu steered a National Housing Committee Law through the Knesset by a 57-45 vote that promises to drive a

streamlined spike into the housing bubble with thousands of new apartment units over the coming 18-24 months. Seeing, of course, is believing, but anyone who imagined this move would have the "social justice" crowd out of their tents dancing the hora, is a prime prospect for underwater acreage in south Florida. The camarilla of New Israel Fund activists, Hadash party communists, Meretzniks and assorted other radical pressure groups calling the shots on Rothschild Boulevard are clearly after bigger game – beginning with the collapse of the Likud-led government.

Terming the Knesset's approval of the new housing acceleration law "a slap in the face" and a "cover for the continued policy of preference for tycoons over the public good," a spokesman for the protesters said the prime minister's rejection of their demand for a live televised face-to-face with them before any legislation was considered was clear evidence of the "total obtuseness of the Netanyahu government vis a vis the citizens of the State of Israel." If obtuse he was, Mr. Netanyahu had company. Tsipi Livni, finding further resistance to the Circe call of the tented faux populists unsustainable, affixed her signature to a letter drafted by her Kadima faction condemning "the failures of the Netanyahu government in diplomatic, economic and social matters. A government that the people oppose," she intoned, "is not legitimate."

That was enough to trigger a collective baying at the moon by the Netanyahu demonizers. Leading the pack, Knesset Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Shaul Mofaz (Kadima), who holds Mrs. Livni in only marginally higher regard than Netanyahu, charged the prime minister at a special session of the Kadima Council with having lost touch with reality. "He is in vertigo. He can't control the situation," Mofaz raved. "We must take power away from him. We can't let him continue."

It may turn out that it is Livni, Mofaz and the 40 Knesset signatories to the Kadima letter who are out of step with reality. *Ha'aretz* chief political correspondent Yossi Verder reports that a fresh survey of the "social justice" battlefield indicates that Likud has barely been nicked by the protests, whereas Kadima is having its lunch eaten by the political parties to its left. Kadima was viewed by one top-level observer as a "fragmented party" in a process of erosion that no protest movement alliance was about to stem.

A hint of the trap Livni & Assoc. may have set for themselves with their politicization of the "social justice" movement was already evident in the retort of one tent protestor to Mofaz's castigation of Netanyahu at the aforementioned Kadima Council session. "We know Bibi is bad," he shouted, "but you are bad too."

How "bad" in the eyes of Leftist purists may be gleaned from a recent column in *Ha'aretz* by Yossi Sarid, one of the oldest and most revered guardians of the eternal flame. Writing under the audacious headline "This party must be destroyed," Sarid demanded to know "What change can Kadima bring when it is part of Likud's own flesh?" Replying to his own question, Sarid declared that "there hasn't been one [Likud] abomination that didn't have a Kadima sponsor. No, the tidings in the new street language," he submitted in reference to the protestors and their mass rallies, "will not come from this party."

Abetting injury with a seemingly intended mortal blow, Sarid concluded his indictment by accusing Kadima's Avi Dichter, a former chief of the Shin Bet and co-sponsor of a bill legally defining Israel as the "nation-state of the Jewish People" of being "possessed of an irresistible

urge to be more Jewish than Jewish. Today's Israel isn't Jewish enough for him," Sarid barked, "too democratic for him." The bill was supported by 21 of Kadima's 28 Knesset members. Kadima "too Jewish?"

Now, there's a real revolution for you.

William Mehlman represents AFSI in Israel.

From the Editor

Islamic Emirate in Sinai?

This is the forecast of journalist Khaled Abu Toameh if Egyptian authorities do not move rapidly to regain control of Sinai--"the Sinai peninsula" says Toameh "could soon become a separate Islamic emirate run by Salafis, Hamas and Al Qaeda."

Alex Joffe of the Institute for Jewish and Community Research fills in some of the details on what is going on in Sinai. In July, the natural gas pipeline across the Sinai bringing gas to both Israel and Jordan was blown up for the fifth time this year. Gunmen waving black flags and carrying the Koran attacked a police station in the northern town of El Arish, leaving five dead. There is evidence of Hezbollah squads operating in Sinai.

Now that the Egyptian security presence has dramatically diminished following the overthrow of Mubarak, Joffe reports, arms smuggling into Sinai has intensified, including heavy weapons. The Sinai Bedouin have returned "openly to the raiding, smuggling, kidnapping, protection rackets and feuding that are their historic avocation." If the Egyptians move further toward Islamism, Joffe writes, "the tide will carry along more Sinai Bedouin as well."

Israel's reaction? Yet another fence--this one to be built along the entire length of the 160 mile border between the Negev and the Sinai. But as Joffe says, "fence or no fence, that rising southern tide is bound to imperil the security of the Jewish state."

Cancel the Oslo Accords

Will the Palestinian Authority find there are any negative consequences for going to the UN to seek recognition of statehood in borders based on the pre-1967 ceasefire lines? This action is in flagrant violation of the Oslo Accords which promised a negotiated resolution of the conflict and Minister of Infrastructure Uzi Landau has called on the government to cancel what he calls these "absurd and grave" agreements that have caused such damage to Israel's legitimacy and security. He wants Israel to inform the PA that going to the UN "will mean an end to any and all agreements reached between Israel and the PA until that point" and that Israel "will declare sovereignty over large territories in the national consensus, like Area C and the settlement blocs."

That Netanyahu will follow this eminently sensible advice is questionable. Thus far his reaction to the PA's threats has been ever more desperate concessions, most recently his offer to negotiate on the basis of the 1967 borders, which he had said was totally unacceptable with such fanfare and so recently even the media can remember. But if the PA pays no price for its behavior (which has been the case since 1993 when the Oslo Accords were signed) it will only become yet more flagrant.

Coming up, says Landau, is a new outbreak of violence. "We will need to defend ourselves," he warns.

Something Rotten in the State of Denmark

In an especially trenchant article (in *The Jerusalem Post*) Martin Sherman applies the famous line from Hamlet to Israel, where, he writes "there is an almost unfathomable disconnect between its capacities for techno/tactical brilliance and for staggering strategic imbecility."

Zionism, writes Sherman, has achieved remarkable feats against impossible odds: "Indeed, Zionism has arguably been the most successful of national freedom movements in the last century. It has attained a combination of political independence, economic prosperity and individual liberties for its people unmatched in any other country born of the dissolution of the European empires." And beyond its borders Israel has made amazing contributions in medicine, agriculture, computing and communications.

Yet whatever Israel's successes, military or economic, Sherman laments that they "seem to give rise to illogical forces--self-induced and self-destructive--to willfully forgo them." Thus the sweeping strategic advances won in the Six Day War have been foolishly squandered, first with the surrender of Sinai (for what Sadat himself termed "a piece of paper"), then of Gaza (for nothing at all). Now the nation is being led into "another episode of strategic insanity" with plans to surrender the strategic highlands between the Jordan valley and the coastal megalopolis to an Arab adversary.

Nor is this the only example of perverse pathology. Writes Sherman: "Suddenly, in a nation where all the macroeconomic data reflect a flourishing economy in the midst of a global economic crisis...an incongruous wave of discontent seems to be engulfing the public. While plausible claims could be made for streamlining bureaucracy, making markets more competitive etc., Sherman notes that these are not on the list of protesters but rather "a motley mélange of politically correct mantras...and a few actionable proposals that would put ever more citizens at the mercy of an ever more bloated bureaucracy, reinstitute a command-economy of the kind that sealed the fate of the Soviet bloc and reinstitute an all-invasive welfare state that has brought the specter of calamity ever closer for much of the industrial world." (Bill Mehlman, in this month's Editorial, writes of Kadima's efforts to use these sophomoric protests to destabilize the government.)

Sherman puts much of the blame on the media: "Having in the past convinced a gullible public that appeasement is a workable security doctrine, they now seem bent on persuading it that entitlement is a practical economic one....The very same 'pied-pipers of Oslo' who seduced a misinformed nation into disaster with the lure of 'Peace Now', are now trying to coax it into another debacle--this time with a new tune, 'Social Justice.'"

North American Aliyah

Despite Israel's follies, Zionism retains its appeal for committed Jews. An August flight brings 360 new immigrants to Israel including 104 young men who have signed up for the Israel Defense Forces. They are among 2500 Jews from Western countries who are making aliyah to Israel this summer under the auspices of the remarkably successful Nefesh B'Nefesh program.

Taking advantage of current technology, a live feed will allow friends and family to watch the ceremonies as the olim are welcomed on the tarmac by a panoply of government and Jewish Agency officials.

Britain Funds Anti-Israel Terror

As its streets implode under a wave of terror by young thugs and Prime Minister David Cameron preaches "responsibility," Britain is responsible for funding terrorists targeting Israel.

Britain (and the EU) fund the Palestinian Authority (last month Britain committed itself to pay 85 million pounds a year through 2015) and the PA in turn uses its civil service budget to pay the families of suicide bombers. Indeed, according to the official PA daily newspaper *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, 3.5% of the budget goes to the families of 'martyrs.' In addition, says Itamar Marcus, every terrorist in prison is on the PA payroll: "The salary goes directly to the terrorist or the terrorist's family and prisoners receive their salaries from the day of arrest." Terrorists are paid on a sliding scale with the greatest rewards going to those guilty of the most heinous crimes.

Tory member of Parliament Philip Davies described this ill-disguised British funding of terrorists as "ludicrous:" "People think overseas aid is to try to alleviate terrible poverty in places where they can't afford to look after themselves. But it's being put to these kinds of purposes."

From David Cameron there was in effect a bored "so what?" The Prime Minister admitted that some aid had been "wasted," but dismissed "aid skeptics."

BBC Bias

The Sunday *Telegraph* in London reports that Steven Sugar's six year long, one man legal battle against the BBC is continuing after his death. Fiona Paveley, his widow, says that she used to tease her husband about his obsession with the case but now it would feel like a betrayal of all his hard work to give it up: "He never gave up, so why should I?"

Sugar was determined to force the BBC to release the contents of an internal report the BBC had commissioned on its coverage of the Middle East conflict, which he believed would show its bias against Israel. The BBC has already spent more than 270,000 pounds in legal fees to prevent the public from seeing the report and Sugar had lost each legal round--at the Information Tribunal, the High Court and the Court of Appeal. The BBC argued that the report was held for "purposes of journalism, art or literature" and as such was exempt from Freedom of Information requests. But now the case is going to the Supreme Court and Paveley's lawyers are optimistic.

Whatever the outcome, the BBC bias against Israel is so naked that it borders on the comical. In fairness, there is one subject on which the BBC's coverage is even more skewed: take a look at the time and weight the BBC assigns to trumpeting the climate catastrophe to be produced by greenhouse gases in comparison to what it gives the views of scientists who consider man-made global warming a destructive delusion.

Benjamin Bouillion

David Isaac

Who could forget the dramatic meeting in May when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told President Obama in no uncertain terms that Israel would not go back to the 1967 lines? When he said "that a peace based on illusions will crash eventually on the rocks of Middle Eastern reality"?

Netanyahu received much deserved praise for his performance. He was firm and unequivocal. It was a welcome change. Previously he had caved to American pressure, 'freezing' Jewish construction in the territories and adopting weak-kneed policies he had criticized when in opposition.

Alas, the change did not last. Netanyahu has now reversed himself, lining up his policy with President Obama's as he signaled his willingness to negotiate based on the 1967 borders. An unidentified Israeli official admitted to the *Wall Street Journal* that Mr. Netanyahu's formula is "similar to the language used in Obama's speeches."

The *Journal* article suggests that this is part of Mr. Netanyahu's strategy to avert a UN vote for a PLO state. It's a peculiar strategy to say the least. If Mr. Netanyahu says Israel can never go back to the '67 lines because they are indefensible, then that's it. You can't say the borders are indefensible one minute and then say they're OK the next. For Netanyahu to reverse himself for any reason, least of all a UN vote, which former US Ambassador to the UN John Bolton says has no practical meaning anyway, only demonstrates to the world that the resolve of Israel's leadership is just so much empty rhetoric.

Unfortunately, Netanyahu joins a long list of backpedaling Israeli leaders whose talk doesn't match up with their walk. In "Surrender to Washington" (*The Jerusalem Post*, May 20, 1983), Shmuel Katz gives a rundown of the more prominent examples of Israeli collapse in the face of American pressure.

"In 1973, in spite of the disastrous opening of the Yom Kippur War, Israel was on the brink of overwhelming victory and, as then foreign minister Abba Eban asserted, the government was not even thinking of a cease-fire but only of victory. It nevertheless accepted a cease-fire resolution dictated – via Moscow – by U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger.

"Then it abandoned its proposal (generously put forward in spite of Israel's tremendous advantage in the field) to restore the status quo ante, and agreed to withdraw both from the large enclave it held inside Egypt and from the canal – all for good relations with the U.S., which was seeking Egyptian favours.

"Several months later, it repeated the performance on the Syrian front. After weeks of resistance to Kissinger's demands, the Golda Meir government caved in, returned to Syria the captured enclave and, for good measure, a slice of the Golan Heights captured in 1967.

"Here was manifestly – in both cases – acceptance of the posture of defeat in the field – where Israel had lost 3,000 dead – all for those good relations.

"A further price was yet to be paid – in 1975 – by further withdrawal in Sinai. The Rabin government at first refused to hear of surrender of the vital Mitla and Gidi passes and the Abu Rudeis oilfields – but in the end it capitulated, demonstratively as a favour to Washington.

"Now came the turn of the Likud. The allegedly formidable, intransigent Mr. Begin turned out to be formidable and intransigent only temporarily. Throughout the negotiations on the "peace plan," he finally accepted nearly every American formulation – which he had declared in the process unacceptable, jettisoning cherished and long proclaimed principles.

"At the Camp David conference, which came after nine months of preparatory negotiations with Washington, only an emasculated remnant remained of his original autonomy peace plan. Nor did the agreement contain a hint of Zionist purpose, of the Jewish relationship and right to the Land of Israel; on the contrary, it quashed (if it were to be consummated) any hope of future Israeli sovereignty in Judea and Samaria.

"In the negotiations for the subsequent peace treaty, President Anwar Sadat at the last moment demanded the nullification of the clause which would prohibit Egypt from going to war with Israel in fulfillment of previous pacts with the other Arab States. Begin – correctly – proclaimed this would make the treaty a "sham treaty."

"President Jimmy Carter, however, anxious for a foreign policy success, pressed Begin, and an annex satisfying Sadat was introduced into the text."

Big words followed by little deeds is a hallmark of Jewish leadership extending to pre-state days. Vladimir Jabotinsky, Shmuel's mentor and hero, remarked on the phenomenon in a satirical feuilleton he wrote in May 1939, under the pen name Echad Rosho (the Bad One). Jabotinsky avoided ad hominem attacks and denied that the title of the piece "Mr. Ben Bouillon" referred to Mr. David Ben-Gurion. (Similarly, any resemblance to Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu is purely coincidental.)

In Joseph B. Schechtman's *Fighter and Prophet* (Thomas Yoseloff Ltd., 1961), the second volume of his Jabotinsky biography (not to be confused with Shmuel's own two-volume biography of Jabotinsky), the author describes the origin of "Mr. Ben Bouillon."

"At that time – it was after the publication of MacDonald's White Paper – Ben Gurion and other Zionist leaders were busy making militant speeches against British policy in Palestine and pledging themselves to fight relentlessly against any attempt to 'freeze' the Zionist effort."

Schechtman, quoting Jabotinsky, writes: "Everywhere you meet people making patriotic speeches, full of blood and thunder. ... You listen, and you shiver. But later, when you examine the contents more closely, you realize your error. You realize that all this was merely a superficial impression, a manner of presentation, at most – a phraseological definition. In your ears it sounds like 'blood,' but the meaning is – 'bouillon.' This is the origin of the name Ben Bouillon."

"[Jabotinsky] stressed that this was 'not the name of an individual: on the contrary, nowadays this is a type. ... They can be seen on every platform. They publish their speeches in every paper. And the tune is always the same: 'To the last drop! We will not let it pass! We are ready to sacrifice ourselves! We will not yield one single inch!' ... They spit fire, and echo answers: 'Blood, blood!' ... And then all of a sudden it becomes apparent that it is all a misunderstanding. Who spoke of 'blood'? Me? God forbid! Ben Bouillon is more than a type. Ben Bouillon is perhaps a race. There are people (among the Gentiles they constitute the majority) in whose arteries warm or hot blood flows. And there are also people in whose arteries bouillon flows. This bouillon might even boil, and its temperature might be not 37 degrees but 100 degrees. In our midst the Ben Bouillons are the ruling caste."

The Jewish people still love their bouillon. But they must acquire a taste for stronger stuff if the hearts of their leaders are ever to pump more than chicken broth. The Ben Bouillons must make way for a leadership with blood in its veins – blood and iron.

David Isaac blogs at shmuelkatz.com.

Norway And Anti-Semitism

Manfred Gerstenfeld

A huge international debate has developed around who is responsible for influencing the thoughts of the despicable Norwegian mass murderer, Anders Breivik. His acts have also generated much unusual international publicity about Norway. This is therefore an appropriate time to investigate another type of Norwegian hate mongering: the major anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism there.

There are many indications that anti-Semitism, partly manifesting itself as anti-Israelism, is widespread in Norway – which has less than 2,000 Jews. Many acts of anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism occur in this country with a population of less than 5 million.

In June this year, a quantitative study was published on racism and anti-Semitism in Oslo high schools. It was the first official report on an aspect of anti-Semitism in Norway. The study revealed that one third of Jewish children were physically or verbally harassed at least two or three times a month. That was far more than other children. The next in line were Buddhists at 10%, followed by Muslims at 5%. Fifty-one percent of the students consider the word “Jew” as pejorative.

As far as adult Norwegian anti-Semites are concerned, they are often too polite to make anti-Semitic remarks to a Jew in his presence. Thus, some Jews can honestly claim that they have never experienced anti-Semitism personally.

At the beginning of this century, the Jewish community began to complain publicly about the greatly increased anti-Semitism. Thereafter, two of their active members received an envelope with a live bullet in it. This was confirmed to me by various people, none of whom wanted their names mentioned publicly. Subsequently the Jewish community lowered its profile.

There has been anti-Jewish violence on various occasions. In 2006 during the Second Lebanon War, the cantor of the Oslo community was beaten up on the street. A Pakistani man fired shots at the synagogue and the Jewish cemetery was desecrated. In 2009 during the Cast Lead War in Gaza, the largest anti-Semitic riots ever in Norway took place in Oslo. A Christian man who walked to a pro-Israel demonstration with an Israeli flag was beaten up and severely wounded. When I met him recently I saw his scars. Projectiles, which could have killed people, were thrown at the demonstrators. The perpetrators were almost all Muslim immigrants. Eirik Eigladd, a Norwegian has described this in a booklet in English titled *The anti-Jewish Riots in Oslo*.

One also finds classic anti-Semitism in the media in a typically Norwegian form. In 2008, comedian Otto Jespersen told his nationwide TV audience that he commiserated with the billions of fleas and lice that lost their lives in the German gas chambers without having done anything wrong other than settling on people of Jewish background. Such an outrageous statement could have happened elsewhere perhaps, because management cannot control a live performance in front of the cameras. What made this incident specifically Norwegian was that the management of TV2, the country's second largest TV station, supported Jespersen's "freedom of speech."

Another uniquely Norwegian example of anti-Semitism promotion is that this same TV station invited Holocaust denier David Irving for an interview. They paid his expenses and for more than one quarter of an hour, he expressed his views after the unqualified interviewer asked superficial questions. In several countries, Irving is denied entry and it's highly doubtful any other Western European country would give him TV time, let alone with an ignorant interviewer.

In a more indirect way: in 2009 Norway spent \$20 million on festivities on the occasion of the 150th birthday of Nobel Prize for Literature winner Knut Hamsun. A new museum was built in his honor. This ardent Hitler-admirer had dedicated his Nobel Prize to Joseph Goebbels and had been condemned after the Second World War. The Norwegian government promised that they would also point out his collaboration with the Nazis during the festivities. The Simon Wiesenthal Center has documented that this promise was largely neglected.

Norway is a democracy ruled by 'progressive' hate-mongers. The current government headed by Labor Party Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg is soft on anti-Israel terror and sometimes even indirectly promotes it. In view of the horrific murders at the Utoya camp of the AUF Labor youth movement, many commentators have been rightly wary to fully expose the anti-Israel hatred which was promoted there to youngsters of 14 years old and up. Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre spoke there a day before the murders and called upon Israel to remove the security barrier, which has dramatically reduced the number of Palestinian suicide bombings. Demands like that make Støre an indirect promoter of terror. He was also photographed at Utoya in front of a sign stating "Boycott Israel."

According to the country's largest paper, *Verdens Gang*, the Norwegian government financed the Gaza War trip of two extreme left-wing physicians, Mads Gilbert and Erik Fosse, through a development organization. They spread their anti-Israel hatred widely, via the international media, but failed to mention the fact that the Hamas leadership was camped in the hospital where they were working. After 9-11, Gilbert had told the daily *Dagbladet* that the mass murders by Arabs in the U.S. were justified. Norway is a NATO ally of the U.S. One would expect that government ministers in a democracy would have nothing to do with someone who justifies terror, leave alone against an ally. Yet Stoltenberg called the physicians in Gaza and stated that all of Norway stood behind them. Later, Gilbert and Fosse wrote a book in which they claimed that Israel went into Gaza to kill women and children. This is a new version of the classic anti-Semitic blood libel. Støre wrote a back cover comment for the book.

When President Obama appointed Rahm Emanuel as his Chief of Staff, former Conservative Prime Minister Kåre Willoch stated that the appointment of a Jew to that position was bad for the peace process. In a rare public reaction, a Norwegian Jewish journalist, Mona Levin, called him an anti-Semite.

Another extreme example of government-sponsored incitement occurred in autumn 2010, when the Norwegian government co-financed an exhibition of anti-Israel hate graphics from the artist Hakon Gullvag, in Damascus. The Norwegian Jewish community, in light of its dependence on the government, often does not react publicly to such acts of hate. However, when a leading daily, Aftenposten, printed one of Gullvags works Oslo's rabbi, Yoav Melchior, could no longer remain silent. He wrote that he hid the paper from his son. One can give tens of other such examples of hate promotion.

To understand all this one has to know that the ruling cultural elite in Norway largely consists of Labor Party and Far Left constituents. Its worldview dominates politics, media, universities, culture, trade unions, NGOs, the official churches and so on. It is characterized by a far-reaching lack of self-doubt and self-criticism with an overlay of Marxism. This combination often produces a mixture of arrogance, shamelessness, lack of morality and intellectual dishonesty. The elite has succeeded in misinforming a large part of the population about Israel. This supports the expansion of anti-Semitism.

With such a mindset, it is easy for the 'progressive' elite to abuse their positions of power in order to demonize opponents, such as some opposition politicians and evangelical church movements. These people often invest great effort on behalf of Jews and Israel. The demonization is also directed at individuals who make "politically incorrect" statements.

The situation is likely to get worse. After the murders, Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg said that Norway will react by becoming an even more democratic, open and humanitarian society. What will probably happen is just the opposite. Some dissenters tell me that they now practice self-censorship and remain silent. One encouraged me to continue exposing what goes on in the country saying: "As almost everyone in opposition in Norway shuts up, and for the moment seem to completely have lost their right to freedom-of-speech, it is nice to see voices from the outside analyzing and speaking up."

Norwegian establishment figures often demonize these dissenters as extremists. In America however, one would probably define them as liberal Republicans. Another one of them wrote to me about the establishment: "I think they actually hate us for being professional, if we were raving phobes they wouldn't have minded, but we beat them at their own game. They have so much to hide. What they don't understand is that it is impossible to seal the doors in the internet age. What they fall back on is the blame game and witch hunt." It is a sign of the times in Norway that these quotes better remain nameless.

Dr. Manfred Gerstenfeld has published 20 books. Two of these address Norwegian anti-Israelism and anti-Semitism. This article appeared on 8/16/2011 in FrontpageMag.com.

In The Garden Of The Beasts

Rita Kramer

Those accounts we have of life in Germany during the twelve-year Reich have been written by the persecuted, the hunted, the hidden who managed to survive. In this engrossing,

sad, and sometimes infuriating book we learn what it was like to be a stranger, a neutral observer, in the early years of Hitler's creation of the perfect tyranny.

Through the eyes of an American family we experience the unfolding of events "In the Garden of Beasts," as told by author Eric Larson. Drawing on correspondence, diaries, and memoirs by these innocents abroad, he transports his readers to the Berlin of 1933, where American Ambassador William E. Dodd is taking up his new post.

Dodd, a modest, unassuming professor and chairman of the History Department at the University of Chicago, had been appointed almost by accident to a post at least two others had refused. Fluent in German, having studied for his doctorate at Leipzig University, Dodd was acquainted with Presidents Wilson and Roosevelt. When offered the job nobody else wanted, he saw it as an opportunity to have more time for his writing, a planned history of the antebellum South.

Traveling with him from Chicago to Berlin were Dodd's wife as well as his son and his daughter, both in their twenties. The family took up residence in the city, where Dodd assumed his ambassadorial duties and his daughter began a social life that included the handsome young Gestapo officers and Nazi Party officials, all of whom she found charming. Dodd himself was under no such illusions.

As the months and years unfolded, Ambassador Dodd's earlier neutrality and determination to foster relations between the Nazis and America gave way to awareness of the beastliness of the regime. Even his promiscuous daughter found the charm of her companions wearing thin. (Evidently drawn to the ideologically-inclined personality, she then took up with a Soviet Communist.)

As events revealed the nature of Nazi rule and its rulers, Dodd found his colleagues in the State Department, from the Secretary on down, did not share his apprehensions. Only one, the United States Consul to Germany George S. Messersmith, saw the threat that Hitler's Germany increasingly posed not only to its own citizens but to the rest of the world.

The story of the Dodds is an absorbing narrative, but the real value of this book lies in its well-documented account of the willful blindness of the members of the "club" of Secretary of State Cordell Hull's State Department to the evil of Germany's racist policies and the menace of its growing militarism. Officials at the State Department were themselves too anti-Semitic to be troubled by the fate of the Jews. And their main concern was Germany's economic health, which would determine its ability to pay its huge debt to American creditors, who believed "one could do business with Hitler."

Dodd stuck it out in Berlin until 1938, increasingly at odds with his employers and peers in the government, and on his return home he continued to warn of the danger posed by Nazism, Hitler's plans, and America's growing isolationism. Only months before Kristallnacht he predicted Hitler's intent to kill all Jews.

In September 1939 Dodd wrote to FDR that war could have been avoided if the democracies had acted together to stop Hitler. "Now," he mourned, "it is too late."

A decent man politically and morally, Dodd never received the support of his own government when it might have done some good. As Eric Larson demonstrates in this heartbreaking account, the U.S. officially held on to the last minute to "the fantasy that it could avoid involvement in the squabbles of Europe."

Even as he warned of Hitler's agenda Dodd maintained his affection for the "kind and gentle" German population. Dodd died before America entered the war and without knowing anything of World War II, its unbearable tragic toll, the genocide of European Jewry and the participation of the majority of Germany's citizens. One is left to wonder how history could have been altered had the West acted on Dodd's warnings.

In the Garden of Beasts salvages the memory of an unknown and unlikely hero who, in the face of gathering darkness, stood fast for American ideals at a time when official U.S. policy was betraying those ideals.

Rita Kramer is the author of Flames in the Field: The Story of Four SOE Agents in Occupied France

Joseph Trumpeldor's Message

Victor Sharpe

Born in 1880, Joseph Trumpeldor grew up in the small town of Piatigorsk in the Caucasus region of Russia and spent much of his youth wandering among the foothills of the Caucasian mountain range.

Young Joseph's father was forcibly conscripted into the Czarist army for 25 years. This was the cruel policy implemented by a succession of Czars who hoped that the length of time away from home and family would erase any Jewish identity in the hapless soldiers. But Joseph Trumpeldor's father remained firm in his faith and love of his Jewish ancestry. This proved to be a major influence on young Joseph.

Near the town of Piatigorsk was an experimental agricultural commune created by followers of Leo Tolstoy, the great Russian writer, novelist and social reformer. Tolstoy was an admirer of the Jews and thundered against the anti-Semitism he witnessed in his native Russia. "Anti-Semitism is a mad passion," he wrote, "akin to the lowest perversities of diseased human nature. It is the will to hate."

As for the anti-Jewish persecution he saw in St. Petersburg and the ghettos the Jews were forced to live in, Tolstoy wrote:

"To lock people like wild beasts in a cage, to surround them with disgraceful laws as in an immense circus, for the sole revolting purpose to let loose the murderous mob upon them whenever practicable for St. Petersburg – terrible, terrible!"

The farming community inspired by Leo Tolstoy so impressed young Trumpeldor that he began to dream of helping his fellow Jews escape their misery in Russia and create similar communal farms in the Land of Israel, then ruled by the Ottoman Turkish Empire.

Before long, he was electrified by the Zionist cause—the self-determination of the Jewish people and their national liberation movement. Theodor Herzl had called the first Zionist Congress in 1897 and this began for Joseph Trumpeldor a lifelong belief in Zionism and the resettlement of yeoman Jewish farmers in the ancestral and biblical Jewish homeland.

In 1902, Russia and Japan fought a war that was to be disastrous for the Russian Empire. Whether Trumpeldor was conscripted into the Czarist army or if he volunteered is not clear. But

it rankled the young man to hear charges of Jewish "cowardice." He joined a unit of Russian shock troops on the front lines to negate the bigotry and negative stereotyping of Jews rife throughout Russia.



For his patriotism he was promoted to non-commissioned officer and lost his left arm while defending Port Arthur during a Japanese frontal assault in 1904. He spent several months in hospital and when asked why he had continued to fight and thus lose his arm to shrapnel he replied: "... but I still have another arm to give to the motherland."

He was later captured and interned as a prisoner of war by the Japanese. While in the POW camp, he helped other Jewish Russian soldiers form a Zionist group and encouraged them to take up farming and join agricultural communities in the Jewish homeland.

After his release from the Japanese POW camp, Trumpeldor returned to Russia where he was decorated as a war hero, receiving the Cross of St. George.

In 1912, Trumpeldor, now thoroughly disenchanted with the relentless persecution of Russia's and Europe's Jews, arrived in Turkish occupied Palestine that five years later was to be liberated by British forces.

Trumpeldor settled in one of the first agricultural villages to be reconstituted by the Jewish pioneers. It was called Daganian. This was what he had dreamed of during his life in Russia, but his stay was to be short lived.

With World War I, when the Turks allied themselves with Germany, Trumpeldor was deported to Egypt because of his Russian nationality. It was in Egypt that Trumpeldor joined with arguably the greatest Zionist leader of the 20th century, Vladimir Ze'ev Jabotinsky, and helped form the Zion Mule Corps--a Jewish military unit under the command of Colonel John Henry Patterson.

They were sent to Gallipoli to support the British army and the Anzacs, the Australian and New Zealand troops, under the command of the Australian General Monash, himself a Jewish officer.

This campaign was planned by Winston Churchill, who was blamed for its failure but who had aimed at striking the enemy at the Dardanelles--the soft underbelly--and thus end the war early. Though the campaign was fought with immense bravery and high casualties, it ended in a military defeat under the blazing Turkish guns.

We now come to a tragic period: the British government's progressive betrayal of the Balfour Declaration promulgated in November 1917, at the height of the war, by Lord Arthur Balfour, the British Foreign Minister. This promise was later enshrined at the 1920 San Remo conference granting the Mandate for Palestine to Great Britain, with the express purpose of granting within its territory a Jewish National Home. However, when the war ended, British government officials in Palestine began to side with the Arabs.

A mere two years after San Remo, in 1922, Winston Churchill, the Colonial Secretary at the time, was to arbitrarily tear away all the territory of British Mandatory Palestine that lay east of the River Jordan-- 80% of the original geographical area of Palestine.

Britain gave it to the Hashemite Bedouin tribe led by the Emir Abdullah, ostensibly in gratitude for help given to Britain in defeating the Turks. However T. E. Lawrence, who had led the Arab attacks against the Turkish military, described the contribution of Abdullah and his Hashemites in deprecating terms as, "a sideshow in a sideshow."

Indeed the Zion Mule Corps did far more to assist the British forces in the Middle East theater. Nevertheless, the proposed Jewish Homeland was now reduced to just western Palestine – a fifth of the original promised area.

Trumpeldor did not live long enough to see the scale of the British government's betrayal, let alone the infamous White Paper of 1939, slamming shut the gates of Mandatory Palestine to the millions of desperate Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi juggernaut at the onset of World War II.

But he did see the beginning of this process. As early as 1920, there were indications that some British officials had already begun to foment violence by urging local Arabs to attack Jewish farms and villages, even going as far as providing weapons to the hostile Arab bands. Jewish villages and towns were attacked and the Jews forced, after suffering mounting casualties, to form self-defense units, which were outmanned and outgunned by the Arab irregulars.

In 1920, Trumpeldor, whose military prowess and heroism during the Russo-Japanese War had made him a legendary figure, was sent to a tiny embattled outpost in upper Galilee. The place was called Tel Hai, which translated from the Hebrew means Hill of Life. (Tel Hai was a modification of the Arabic name for the site *Talha* meaning an Acacia tree.) Tel Hai had been under severe assault for some time by large numbers of attackers from the nearby Arab settlement of Hulsa. Trumpeldor himself arrived under fire and immediately set about organizing Tel Hai's defense.

Confronted with a relentless barrage of superior firepower and frequent waves of attacks, the defenders fell one by one. And on a Galilean spring day in early March, Trumpeldor himself fell mortally wounded, fighting to the end.

His dying words were in Hebrew: *Ein davar. Tov lamut be'ad artzenu*. Translated into English: "Never mind. It is good to die for our country."

Joseph Trumpeldor's grave lies near Tel Hai, now a commemorative site adjoining *Kfar Giladi*. Not long after his heroic death a Jewish village was reborn at the foot of Mount Gilboa

where 3,000 years earlier other Jewish military heroes, King Saul and his son, Jonathan, so beloved of his friend David, fell fighting an ancient enemy; the long extinct Philistines. That village is named in Trumpeldor's honor: Tel Yosef.

So what would Trumpeldor's message be today to the embattled Jewish state? It would probably be this: Fight, fight and fight again. Self-restraint never works in the face of an implacable foe. Build, build and build again throughout the ancestral homeland.

Indulging in self-imposed building freezes to placate enemies and so-called friends alike, while the Arab enemy constructs thousands of illegal buildings with impunity, is insanity. Defend Israel with all the might given to you, for to lose the precious homeland again and return to the horrors of exile is beyond imagining.

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Ernest "Putzi" Hanfstaengl, The Nazis, Mock Trials And Harvard

Ruth King

In this issue, historian Rita Kramer reviews Eric Larson's *Garden of the Beasts*--a narrative of the experiences of the American ambassador to Germany during the years 1933-1938.

In the book Ambassador Dodd records how the Nazis--from lower communications agency bureaucrats up to Goebbels and Hitler himself--were deeply unsettled by the American State Department's inability to thwart a mock trial of Hitler, sponsored by the American Jewish Congress and the American Federation of Labor on March 7th, 1934.

The twenty thousand people that packed Madison Square Garden on the evening of March 7 included many prominent early opponents of Hitler. Among them were New York's Senator Robert Wagner and Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, Bainbridge Colby, Secretary of State under President Woodrow Wilson, former New York Governor Al Smith, Maryland Senator Millard Tydings, many American Federation of Labor leaders and members of the Protestant and Catholic clergy.

Officially the trial was named "The Case of Civilization Against Hitler" and the proceedings began with the words "Hear ye, hear ye... All those who have business before this court of civilization, give your attention and ye shall be heard."

And they were heard, in spite of the number of journalists and legislators and State Department officials who chose to remain silent in the face of all Ambassador Dodd's early warnings. The next day a column headline in *The New York Times* read: "Hitlerism Denounced as Crime Against Civilization" and the report stated that the trial "rendered solemn judgment that the Nazi Government stood convicted before the world of a crime against civilization." Similarly, *The New York Evening Post* announced that Hitlerism was guilty of "high crimes against civilization."

Apparently, they heard this at Harvard University as well.

Among the frequent guests to Ambassador Dodd's home--and to his daughter's bedroom--was a chap named Ernest "Putzi" Hanfstaengl who flits in and out of the pages of Larson's book. Hanfstaengl, an alumnus of Harvard (1909), was a devoted Nazi and friend of Hitler who was godfather to Putzi's son Egon. Putzi helped finance *Mein Kampf* and boasted that he developed the "Sieg Heil" salute. His official title was head of the Foreign Press Bureau in Berlin, a post to which he was well suited due to his many connections in America and England and his skills in duplicity and disinformation. Although William Shirer, the historian of the Third Reich, described him as "an immense, high-strung, incoherent clown," Putzi retained friendships with many Americans, including Ambassador Dodd.

In June 1934 Putzi attended his 25th Harvard reunion. He was to have been class vice-marshal but protests and shouts of "Down with Hitler" hounded him until he resigned from that honor. However, Putzi had his fans: the *Harvard Crimson* suggested that "he has risen to distinguished station," and it would have been appropriate to award him an honorary degree. Hanfstaengl was actually cheered by several admiring classmates when he gave the Nazi salute and he took tea at a reception at Harvard President Conant's home.

That August Putzi penned an article in *Colliers Magazine* that was a full throated paean to Der Fuhrer.

The antagonism shown toward Putzi must have angered his anti-Semitic fans, including then Harvard President James Bryant Conant, who ignored every opportunity to take a stand against Hitler. (In fact, in a particularly egregious incident in March of 1935, the Conant administration permitted Nazi Germany's consul in Boston to place a wreath bearing the swastika in the Harvard chapel.)

Harvard decided to hold its own mock trial of Hitler on October 25th, 1934. The *Harvard Crimson* reported the results:

"Mock Trial Hits Hitler On But Two Of Four Charges

"Chancellor Adolph Hitler, present in spirit if not in body at the Lowell House Common Room last night, was found guilty of two crimes against humanity and acquitted of two others by a 'bench' of five educators on evidence and arguments presented by members of the Harvard Debating Council at their mock trial last night.

"On the charge of killing Kurt von Schleicher and his wife without giving opportunity for trial, he was found guilty 4-1.

"Charged with imprisoning men in concentration camps without definite charges against them, he was found guilty, 3-2.

"A 3-2 not guilty verdict was rendered on the charge of murdering or instructing his agents to murder 77 German citizens.

"On the charge of invading sanctity of homes without warrant, he was found not guilty 3-2.

"All testimony concerning the Nazi leader's persecution of Jews was ruled out as irrelevant to the immediate questions."

And then there was this pithy statement about the trial: "Before the start of the testimony and arguments, it was agreed that decision would be rendered solely on the basis of the arguments and not on the personal merits of Der Fuehrer."

Putzi survived the war through guile and chicanery. He was imprisoned as an enemy alien in England, later moved to a prison in Canada and in 1942 he was turned over to the

United States where he provided information on the Nazis to President Roosevelt. His information included many details of Hitler's personal life. After the war he returned to Germany.

In 1959 Putzi attended his 50th reunion claiming (to the *Crimson*) with undiminished hubris "But this time it will be different. I expect to have a swell time, and get a warm welcome. Why not? I'm as anti-Nazi now as they come." And, by the way, he even made it to his 65th reunion at Harvard and a jolly time was had by all.

The ambassador's daughter Martha, Putzi's one time lover, married one of the dozen or so "great loves of her life", became a spy for Russia and was exiled in Prague until her death in 1990.

The next great reunion could be in hell--with some of Putzi's Harvard pals on hand.