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# OUTPOST



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Table of Contents		
Category 5	William Mehlman	Page 2
From The Editor		Page 3
2013: Miracles Past and Present	Ruth King	Page 6
Why Die For Danzig (Israel)?	Sarah Honig	Page 7
Why I'm Filing for Asylum in Sweden -- My Own Country	Annika Hernroth-Rothstein	Page 10
The Global Warming God Strikes Again	Daniel Greenfield	Page 12
Menachem Begin: An Appreciation	Ruth King	Page 14

## Category 5

William Mehlman

“If there was a synoptic map for diplomatic storms, “ *Ha’aretz* diplomatic correspondent Chemi Shalev observed in a recent post to the Hebrew daily’s website, “ the National Weather Service would be putting out a hurricane warning right now. And given that the turbulence is being caused by an issue long deemed to be critical to Israel’s very existence, we may actually be facing a rare ‘Category 5’ flare-up, a ‘superstorm’ of U.S.-Israel relations.”

Shalev’s “superstorm” is a compendium of two highly disturbing elements. The first is an initiative on the part of the “PS4+1” {four of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, plus Germany but minus France), christened a “sucker’s deal” by French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabus, to relieve the sanctions biting into Iran’s hide in exchange for an Iranian promise to slow down its nuclear bomb-making preparations. “Not stop or suspend them, mind you, much less dismantle them,” Bret Stephens noted in a recent *Wall Street Journal* Overview, “but merely reduce their pace from run to jog when they’re on Mile 23 of their nuclear marathon.” A final decision on this gift package was in abeyance at this writing, pending further efforts in Geneva to “bring the French around.” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called the proposed agreement a “mistake of historic proportions” and urged that it be “completely rejected,” but some variation of the “sucker’s deal” is probably inevitable.

The second even more volatile component of the Category 5 hurricane moving toward the Middle East was the reaction in Israel to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry’s declaration to a Channel 2 Israel TV news interviewer that the entire Jewish communal structure beyond the “Green Line” – 120 communities with a population of 340,000 -- was “illegitimate” and that unless the Jewish State ditched its announced plans for new housing construction in Judea, Samaria and eastern Jerusalem it was looking at a “third intifada.” Ignoring the fact that he, and through him, Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas, were informed well in advance of the current “peace talks” that the housing starts would be initiated in tandem with the phased release of the 104 Arab prisoners Abbas made a condition of his acquiescence to the PA’s joining Israel at the bargaining table, both Kerry and Abbas decided to pretend otherwise. Launching into a televised scolding of Israel, the Secretary of State declared that “if you say you’re working for peace and you want peace and a Palestine that is a whole Palestine that belongs to the people who live there, how can you say that you’re planning to build in a place that will eventually be Palestine?”



Alan Baker

Mr. Kerry was spoiling for a history lesson and he got it, special delivery, from Alan Baker, former Israeli ambassador to Canada, legal adviser to the Foreign Ministry, doyen of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs’ prestigious Institute for Contemporary Affairs and an authority, bar few, on international law in the Middle East. In a blistering open letter to Kerry that immediately went viral, Baker took the former Senator from Massachusetts to the woodshed for discrediting the 1995 “Israel-Palestinian Interim Agreement,” supported by the U.S., Russia, Egypt, Jordan and the EU, that the “issue of settlements” was to be negotiated in the context of a permanent status entente. “Your statements serve not only to prejudge this negotiating issue,” Baker wrote, “ but also to undermine the

integrity of that agreement as well as the very negotiations you so enthusiastically advocate. I respectfully wish to state, unequivocally, that you are mistaken and ill-advised both in law and in fact.”

Baker reserved his Sunday punch, however, for Kerry’s implicit identification of his “illegitimacy” charge against Israel’s communities in Judea and Samaria with an article in the Fourth Geneva Convention intended to prevent the kind of mass population transfers carried out by the Nazis in the Second World War. “The formal application of that convention to the disputed territories cannot be claimed,” he asserted, “since they were not occupied from a prior, legitimate occupying power. The territories cannot be defined as ‘Palestinian territories’ or, as you yourself frequently state, as ‘Palestine.’ No such entity exists and the whole purpose of the permanent status negotiations is to determine by negotiation, the status of the territory to which Israel has a legitimate claim, backed by international, legal and historic right. By your threatening Israel with a ‘third Palestinian intifada’ and international isolation and delegitimization, Baker added, “you are, in fact, buying into and even fueling the Palestinian propaganda narrative...”

Kerry’s foray, without credentials, into the thickets of an international legal dispute, is of a piece with an earlier thinly veiled invitation to the Europeans, their academicians and their trade unions to put their Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions operations against Israel “on steroids “ unless the Jewish State submitted to the suicidal demands of Abbas and his merry men. They are part and parcel of a “last straw” Middle East policy by an administration that has drifted so far afield of its preceptual moorings as to become almost unrecognizable. As viewed by Professor Efraim Inbar, director of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, it has morphed into “an American foreign policy that supports the Moslem Brotherhood, estranges its traditional Arab allies such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, allows Iran to get closer to the bomb, sees in Turkey’s Erdogan a great friend and insists that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be ended in nine months.”

Having abandoned its hegemonic influence over most other events in the Middle East to Iran’s ayatollahs, Vladimir Putin’s KGB-ruled Russia and Hezbollah’s rocket launchers, the White House isn’t likely to easily give up on its two-state peace delusion, irrespective of the threat that poses to Israel’s viability. Finding nothing substantive left to talk about between now and March, the conversation must inevitably veer in the direction of the unspeakable: an Obama Administration fiat for Israel’s accession to Mr. Abbas’s demands. The specter of American “intervention” is already looming in rumored State Department proposals to “bridge” a gap between Israeli and Palestinian positions as wide as the continental divide. Supported by a commanding majority of the American people and their elected representatives, Israel will have to respectfully decline a summons to disappear. A public confrontation with the Obama White House could ultimately be unavoidable.

*William Mehlman represents AFSI in Israel.*

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## **From the Editor**

### **Kerry Unmasked**

The Israeli newspaper *Maariv* has published a photograph of a letter of support Kerry signed on behalf of a group of anti-Israel activists from Massachusetts who joined the infamous Marvi Marmara flotilla from Turkey that ran the Israeli blockade of Gaza. (Several people died after IDF personnel were attacked when they boarded the vessel, for which Netanyahu cravenly apologized to Turkey when his arm was twisted, in person, by President Obama.) Kerry expressed his strong support for the group, which included well known haters of Israel, as members of a “humanitarian delegation.”

So it's quite in character that Kerry, in his briefing to members of the U.S. Senate Banking Committee on the then-proposed (now concluded) administration deal with Iran, was, in Senator Mark Kirk's words, "fairly anti-Israeli. I was supposed to disbelieve everything the Israelis had just told me." A Senate aide at the meeting corroborated this: "Every time anybody would say anything about 'what would the Israelis say,' they'd get cut off and Kerry would say, 'You have to ignore what they're telling you.'"

As for where the newly minted deal will lead, see Sarah Honig's article in this *Outpost*.

### **The Emperor's New Clothes**

If only one unexpected voice of reason could bring down the edifice of UN insanity the way the innocent child's voice punctured the "consensus" that the naked emperor was clothed in garments of gold and silver! Although that can't happen, it was refreshing when a UN translator, unaware that her microphone was "hot," addressed the General Assembly after it had just adopted nine resolutions condemning Israel. "C'est up peu trop, non? [It's a bit much, no?] I know there's other really bad shit happening, but no one says anything about the other stuff."

Instead of gasping in shock, the delegates laughed, a sign they recognized how right she was (although they had dutifully voted for all those anti-Israel resolutions) and the translator, terrified of losing her job, apologized. Of course, the theatre of the absurd pile-on of the international "community" against Israel will continue unabated.

### **NBC's Snyderman "In Awe"**

It's so rare to find a mainstream media voice praising Israel that it warrants special mention. Dr. Nancy Snyderman, in the wake of the disastrous Philippine typhoon, went out of her way to locate Israel's emergency response center. She says she had always been fascinated by the success of the IDF's medical teams in delivering emergency care in extremely poor conditions.

She had to go out of her way because the Israelis had gone off the beaten path--to Bogo, a small village on the northern island of Mactan. A fence surrounded the grounds: soldiers were stationed at the entry and sharpshooters were on the rooftops. Snyderman reports on the Nightly News on the use of electronic technology: each patient's medical record is created using a photograph to ensure accurate identification. She says: "Smart, Sophisticated. Secure. This was what I had experienced with the IDF before. But now I was impressed with something else: the place they had selected. This wasn't a site where trauma surgeons were needed--those injuries in other towns were being addressed...I asked the IDF Surgeon General in charge why they chose Bogo. He said it was because they were poor and their needs were great. As I left, I walked away in awe of this group of doctors: physician humanitarians, and medicine at its very best."

### **An "Interim" Palestinian State?**

In November's "From the Editor" we mentioned a worst case scenario--that the current negotiations with the PA, under furious pressure from Obama, lead to Israel's recognition of a Palestinian state as an "interim solution." No surprise, the calamitous clown who serves as Israel's President has claimed this will promote peace and stability. And there is a real danger that the weak-willed Netanyahu will sign on to this suicidal proposal. Ironically, Netanyahu would be behaving precisely in the way he accuses Obama of acting in the case of Iran: giving away the store in exchange for nothing.

Nobel Prize winner Yisrael Aumann argues that the danger from Iran (on which Netanyahu is fixated) is less than the danger from the Palestinian Authority, about which he has much less to say. "Going easy on the PA has led to Israel's failing to stand up for itself in the international arena. Ever

since the disengagement [from Gaza] in which thousands were evicted from their homes, we have seen pressure for concessions increase. We did what everyone wanted us to do, but they hated us even more." The path of concessions, says Aumann, leads only and surely to war.

The real problem, Aumann notes, is internal. "Before we try to convince our enemies that the land belongs to us, we must convince ourselves that this land is holy for us as well...We need to understand that if we do not have a right to Hebron, Gush Etzion or Ariel, we do not have a right to Tel Aviv."

### **Kudos and a Half**

It's sad that performers who go to Israel on what should be routine tours deserve to be singled out for praise, thanks to the success of the proliferating boycott Israel groups (including one especially contemptible outfit in Israel itself). So here are some who have braved the scurvy purveyors of hatred: Cyndy Lauper, Julio Iglesias, Tom Jones, Charles Aznavour, Irish Riverdance, Engelbert Humperdink, Alicia Keys, Lady Gaga, Madonna, Paul McCartney, Celine Dion, Sir Elton John, Morgan Freeman, Justin Timberlake. Mandy Patinkin gets half a kudo, and that's generous. He goes to Israel and asks actors to boycott the "settlements." He needs to read Aumann, above.

### **Amazing Israel**

Here are a few of the items culled by Ruth King from the cornucopia of Israel's medical achievements listed this month by Michael Ordman on his website [www.verygoodnewsIsrael.blogspot](http://www.verygoodnewsIsrael.blogspot).

In a first step toward developing a substitute for antibiotics Tel Aviv University researchers have isolated a protein known as Gene 0.4 that kills bacteria. The protein prevents bacteria from dividing, thus destroying them and combating infections.

Also at Tel Aviv University, researchers have found a way to control overactive eosinophil white blood cells--a disorder that can lead to allergies and autoimmune diseases. In lab tests they located and regulated the two cell receptors PIR-B and PIR-A that protect or shut down the eosinophils.



The IceSense3 tumor-freezing technology from Israel's IceCure is already destroying breast cancer. Now IceCure is to conduct clinical trials on lung cancer tumors, fully funded by the Kameda Medical Center of Japan. (This item is thanks to NoCamels.com)

### **Moral Preeners**

While Ari Shavit, whose book *My Promised Land* is garnering a series of laudatory reviews, is a moral preener, some of his reviewers (including the odious Leon Wieseltier in the *Times*) outdo him. Shavit is a journalist for *Haaretz*, a paper so anti-Israel Shavit looks like a right-winger (he doesn't believe the state's sins against the Palestinians have shorn it of its right to exist). But he is one of those insufferable people who make a point of professing moral agony over the prospect of Israel asserting its rights to Judea and Samaria, its ancient homeland. If Israel remains there, in Shavit's view, it will be morally doomed.

But if, as Shavit himself admits, Israel faces "a regional tide of radical Islam," and any retreat from what he calls "the West Bank" (heaven forbid that he use the words Judea and Samaria) is likely to leave it facing a fanatical, Iran-backed Hamas regime whose missiles would threaten Israel's central population hub, you would think Shavit would recognize that its doom would be much more likely to result from retreat than staying put. And by what standard of statecraft does a government manifest its moral superiority by jeopardizing the existence of its population? Rather Shavit and those of his ilk indulge in a disgusting display of faux virtue convincing only to themselves--and each other.

## 2013: Miracles Past and Present

Ruth King

Hanukah, known as the “festival of lights,” this year is celebrated for eight consecutive days beginning on November 27. For the first time--and never again thanks to the vagaries of the Jewish calendar--the first day of Hanukkah falls on Thanksgiving. Both are celebrations where families gather to enjoy traditional foods and the company of family.

While both are joyous events, there is a serious side to both holidays. American Jews give thanks for the peace and freedom bequeathed to us by the founding fathers and a Constitution that protects every aspect of our lives. Lighting the menorah, exchanging gifts and eating latkes are the way most of us experience Hanukah, but the word means “rededication” and it celebrates the Jewish heroes who rededicated themselves to their faith in spite of an oppressive ruler and faithless Hellenist coreligionists.

In 168 BCE King Antiochus seized and profaned the Temple, turning it into a shrine for the worship of Zeus. He forbade recitations of the Torah and observance of Jewish rituals. He demanded that Jews bow to idols and forced them to eat proscribed foods. Many frightened and acquiescent Jews adapted in a false pursuit of peace and acceptance.



Mattathias, a Jewish priest who rejected the Hellenists’ demands was joined by his son Judah who led the rebellion against the Greek-Syrian monarch. After a war that lasted close to three years, the Maccabees, as they were known, prevailed and reclaimed the Holy Temple. They removed all pagan objects but found only enough oil to light the temple for a single day. A miracle occurred and the scant amount of oil burned for eight days. Hence the eight day celebration and lighting of eight candles. The Jews rededicated the Temple and thus dedication to faith is the most important message of the eight day festival.

There is a second miracle. Babylonia, the Hittite Empire, the Philistines, and the Hellenists are long gone, but Jews have survived millennia of oppression, dislocation, forced conversion and genocide. Small in numbers, yet mighty in resolve, they remained dedicated to their faith. A semi-miracle, after centuries of misunderstandings and prejudice, Israel’s staunchest supporters are religious

Christians who offer political support and come even in the most difficult times to visit every corner of the Holy Land.

In 1967 when Israel unified Jerusalem, unimpeded access to all Christian shrines was restored; pilgrims to Bethlehem and Nazareth were welcomed; the Stations of the Cross in East Jerusalem were opened to hundreds of thousands of tourists and worshippers from all over the globe, with Israeli protection and sensitivity.

While we sing and celebrate in freedom in America, throughout the Islamic world Jews and Christians are oppressed where they manage to survive at all. Even the Temple Mount in Jerusalem is claimed by the same Moslem forces that ransacked and destroyed all non-Moslem holy sites in Jerusalem from 1948 until 1967. A United Nations organization declared that Rachel’s Tomb, an ancient Jewish shrine, is a mosque. Joseph's Tomb, mentioned in the book of Joshua, was looted by a Moslem

mob that systematically destroyed and then burned every remnant of the shrine and adjacent religious school, painted the remains green and declared it a "holy Moslem shrine."

But what is most serious is that in Israel, where the Maccabees won their epic victory, the Jewish people are prepared to abandon their patrimony in search of a delusional accommodation with their enemies. As Yoram Ettinger observes in his "Chanukah Guide for the Perplexed" events critical to Hanukkah occurred in the mountain ridges of Judea and Samaria: in Mitzpah (the prophet Samuel's burial site), in Beth El (Judah Maccabee's first headquarters), Beth Horon (where Judah was victorious over Seron), Hadashah (where Judah won over Nicanor), Beth Zur (where Judah won over Lysias), Ma'aleh Levona (Judah's victory over Apolonius), Adorayim (a Maccabean fortress), Elazar and Beit Zachariya (Judah's first defeat), Ba'al Hatzor (where Judah was defeated and killed.)

Already most of Hebron, the cradle of our faith, has been turned over to the Arabs; Jewish shrines are routinely defaced throughout the West Bank; patriotic residents of Judea and Samaria are harassed by local Arabs while Israeli politicians and police turn a blind eye. Jewish towns and cities are being evacuated to make room for Jihadists.

Israeli leaders have forgotten the proud response of Shimon the Maccabee, who succeeded his brothers Judah and Yonatan, to the ultimatum of the Syrian emperor, who demanded an end to the "occupation" of Jerusalem, Jaffa, Gaza, Gezer and Akron. Ettinger quotes Shimon's word from the Book of Maccabees: "We have not occupied a foreign land; we have not ruled a foreign land; we have liberated the land of our forefathers from foreign occupation."

The Hellenists of our day are the pacifists and so-called liberals who worship every "progressive" fad and utopian cult. Mindlessly, impervious to Islam's historic rampage against "infidels," they indulge in interfaith blather with the purveyors of Jew hatred.

They find common ground with those who wish to destroy Israel through boycott and divest movements. They are obsessed with retrofitting the American constitution to protect the rights of criminals and racists while they blatantly dismiss the Ten Commandments which inspired the founding fathers and our constitution. They buy into the libelous propaganda against Israel which is fueled in large part by the oil producing Moslem Arab states.

Is this an excessively dour assessment on what should be a happy holiday? Reality bites. The lights are flickering in Israel.

But, here is a third miracle, also about oil. Israel has discovered vast resources in gas and oil. It is estimated that in the Shfela Basin alone, there are 150 billion barrels of oil. Headlines now routinely appear in business journals about Israel emerging as an energy power.

That should keep the lights burning.

Who says miracles don't happen? Happy Chanukah to all.

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## Why Die for Danzig (Israel)?

Sarah Honig

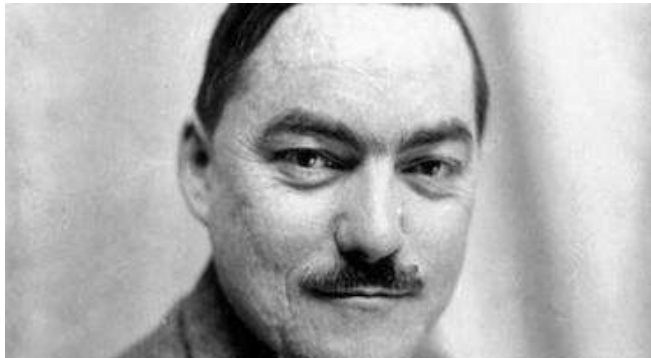
There's every reason to assume that US President Barack Obama has never heard of the pre-World War II demagogic question "Why die for Danzig?" The same can be as safely assumed regarding his Secretary of State John Kerry. Oddly enough, however, their policy appears to draw inspiration from the same ideological wellspring that gave the world the above rhetorical tease. The slogan, very famous (or infamous) in its day, made its debut on May 4, 1939 as the title of an op-ed in the Parisian newspaper *L'Œuvre*. Its author was French socialist Marcel Déat and his message was that another follow-up appeasement of Adolf Hitler is mandatory in order to prevent war.

That was already half-a-year after the September 1938 Munich agreement which wrested the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia and awarded it to Hitler to satiate his appetite. That, in the words of Britain's then-Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, guaranteed "peace for our time." When he landed at Heston Aerodrome right after the deal was done, Chamberlain told the cheering crowd that awaited him: "The settlement of the Czechoslovakian problem, which has now been achieved is, in my view, only the prelude to a larger settlement in which all Europe may find peace. This morning I had another talk with the German Chancellor, Herr Hitler, and here is the paper which bears his name upon it as well as mine... We regard the agreement signed last night as symbolic of the desire of our two peoples never to go to war with one another again."

Not too many hours afterwards Chamberlain repeated the same performance outside his official residence, assuring his supporters that he had brought them "peace with honor" and patronizingly recommending they "go home and get a nice quiet sleep."

But no one in Europe was to sleep soundly again for many years to come, despite Chamberlain's cynical sacrifice of a small democracy on the altar of peace.

Frustratingly, the nature of tyrants is that they aren't impressed by nice-guy naiveté. Hitler's



Marcel Déat

appetites weren't sated and by March 1939, he invaded the remainder of Czechoslovakia – the very one for which Chamberlain expressed so much support post-betrayal and whose security he solemnly claimed to have upheld.

Even the definitive end of "the Czechoslovakian problem" didn't end Hitler's provocations – as the appeasers had trusted it would. Hitler robbed Europeans of "a nice quiet sleep" with yet new demands. These involved the Free City of Danzig, a semi-autonomous entity created in 1920 as part of

the Treaty of Versailles and placed under League of Nations protection.

Hot on the heels of the Munich Conference, Hitler began agitating for Danzig's incorporation into the Third Reich. In April 1939 Poland warned that it would defy any German incursion. That presumably would subsequently oblige Warsaw's allies to come to its aid.

And to forestall this, Déat wrote his commentary with the stirring headline that tauntingly asked Frenchmen whether they should really want to put their lives on the line for Danzig. Not only did Déat think that they shouldn't, but he further portrayed the Poles as intransigent firebrands, whose irresponsible politicking was the source of all their tribulations. They bring calamity on themselves by opposing Germany's territorial demands, he asserted.

This should sound ominously familiar to us Israelis all these decades after Déat's powerful pro-appeasement piece. We have been told that we would bring calamity on ourselves if we continue to oppose Ramallah's territorial demands. This reprimand was delivered by none other than America's top diplomat – precisely when he and his boss also bent over backwards to appease the tyrants from Tehran.

Anyone who gets in the way of appeasers is sure to be castigated by them. In his address to the British people on September 27, 1938, a couple of fateful days before the signing of the Munich Agreement, Chamberlain made it seem that Czechoslovakia is the troublemaker, that it harasses Europe's fellow-democracies with impertinent expectations: "We cannot in all circumstances undertake to involve the whole British Empire in war simply on her [Czechoslovakia's] account. If we have to fight it must be on larger issues than that."



And after putting Czechoslovakia in its place, as a diminutive no-account bother, Chamberlain proceeded to defend his duplicity as morality incarnate: “Since I first went to Berchtesgaden, more than 20,000 letters and telegrams have come to No.10, Downing Street. Of course, I have been able to look at a tiny fraction of them, but I have seen enough to know that the people who wrote did not feel that they had such a cause for which to fight, if they were asked to go to war in order that the Sudeten Germans might not join the Reich.”

This is exactly what Déat did to the Poles six months later – depict their ostensible obstructionism and obduracy as the only obstacles to world peace. This is what Kerry does to us Israelis when he warns that if the so-called peace talks fail, it will be our fault and we will reap the whirlwind. We will only have ourselves to blame for the misfortunes we bring on ourselves. “The alternative to getting back to the talks is the potential of chaos,” Kerry admonished. “I mean does Israel want a third Intifada?” He added overbearingly: “I’ve got news for you. Today’s status quo will not be tomorrow’s... Israel’s neighbors” will “begin to push in a different way.”

And there was more about the comeuppance we should expect for our reluctance to subordinate our survival prospects to his say-so: “If we do not resolve the issues between Palestinians and Israelis, if we do not find a way to find peace, there will be an increasing isolation of Israel, there will be an increasing campaign of delegitimization of Israel that’s been taking place on an international basis.”

But then came the clincher: “If we do not resolve the question of settlements, and the question of who lives where and how and what rights they have; if we don’t end the presence of Israeli soldiers perpetually within the West Bank, then there will be an increasing feeling that if we cannot get peace with a leadership that is committed to non-violence, you may wind up with leadership that is committed to violence.”

In Washington’s eyes, he emphasized, the “settlements are illegitimate” and thus “the entire peace process would be easier if these settlements were not taking place.” That means that it would be easier if many Jerusalem neighborhoods too “were not taking place.”

Bottom line, if Israel doesn’t tamely toe the Obama-Kerry line, it will deserve whatever punishment is meted out to it – either via the ostracism of the otherwise loving family of nations or via more bloodshed in a new terror campaign, which has been a priori justified by the American president and his secretary of state.

All this wasn’t whispered in a private conversation. It was literally broadcast (in a televised interview with Israel’s Channel 2) for all to be suitably impressed with the current American Administration’s zeal for peace for our time – at Israel’s expense.

And since the entire Arab/Muslim world was tuned in, we may be forgiven for wondering just what an effect Kerry’s endorsement of the “Palestinian narrative” might have on Ramallah’s purported peace negotiators. Will they discern in Kerry’s bitter scolding of Israel an incentive to greater flexibility on their part? Or will Kerry’s espousal of their propaganda line embolden Ramallah’s honchos to remain every bit as uncompromisingly inflexible as they had been hitherto?

They have just about as much reason to seek the middle ground as Hitler did after Chamberlain had assured Britons that they wouldn’t fight on Czechoslovakia’s account and after Déat had indicated that the French might not be ready to die for Danzig.

This is moreover colossally underscored by the spectacle of Obama’s and Kerry’s desperate efforts to ease the sanctions against Tehran and appease its nuke-craving regime. Can anyone rationally expect that Iran’s fanatics would be more forthcoming if pressure on the ayatollahs were alleviated? The chances of that happening are just as promising as were the chances that Hitler would be satisfied after swallowing the Sudetenland.

It pays us to recall that Chamberlain maintained that “what we did was to save her [Czechoslovakia] from annihilation and give her a chance of new life as a new State, which involves the

loss of territory and fortifications, but may perhaps enable her to enjoy in the future and develop a national existence under a neutrality and security comparable to that which we see in Switzerland today.”

Without undue cerebral contortions, we can credibly hear Obama likewise contending that he is only doing the right thing by the Jewish state, crowing about saving us and giving us unappreciative Israelis “a chance of a new life...” to enable us “to enjoy in the future and develop a national existence under a neutrality and security comparable to that which we see in Switzerland today.”

Honeyed blandishments aplenty ooze forth periodically from Obama’s lips in one adaptation or another. It’s only our stiff-necked obstinacy which prevents us from seeing his light and bowing down in gratitude.

Of course, if we persist in our disruptive disobedience, it wouldn’t be too much of a stretch for Obama to hector: “We cannot in all circumstances undertake to involve the United States in war simply on Israel’s account. If we have to fight it must be on larger issues than that.”

With mutating measures of subtlety and bluntness Obama does already regale his radicalized political home base with kindred sentiments about not getting entangled on account of pesky Israel. Indeed, that’s the not-so-understated subtext of the riot act Kerry read us and of Obama’s strategic decision to appease Iran.

Had Obama and Kerry ever heard of Déat, they would – by only changing the place name – regurgitate his “Why-die-for-Danzig” theme in our context.

A final footnote – Déat became a leading Nazi-collaborator in Vichy France.

*Sarah Honig is an Israeli writer and long-time columnist for The Jerusalem Post. This appeared in the Jerusalem Post online on Nov 31st and can be seen on her blog sarahhonig.com.*

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## **Why I am Filing for Asylum in Sweden -- My Own Country**

Annika Hernroth-Rothstein

Here in Stockholm this fall, we in the Jewish community have enjoyed our 21st annual Jewish film festival, a klezmer concert, and a number of other cultural diversions. I choose the word “diversions” advisedly. It’s thanks to such entertainments that so many of my fellow Jews can allow themselves to say that we’re doing okay here—that there’s no need to rock the boat or cause trouble.

But you know what? We are not okay, and this is not okay.

Kosher slaughter has been outlawed in my country since 1937, and a bill is now pending in parliament that would ban even the import and serving of kosher meat. Circumcision, another pillar of the Jewish faith, is likewise under threat. In my job as a political adviser to a Swedish party, I have dealt with two bills on this issue in the past year alone; a national ban is rapidly gaining political support in the parliament and among the Swedish public. When it comes to our religious traditions, those on both the Right and Left in Swedish politics find common ground; they take pride in defending both animals and children from the likes of us, and from what one politician has called our “barbaric practices.”

The avenues of aggression may be new, but the rhetoric is old and familiar—and so are the effects. In today’s Sweden, home to all of 20,000 Jews amidst a national population of some nine million, the public display of Jewish identity, like donning a kippah or wearing a Star of David pendant, puts an individual at severe risk of verbal harassment and, even worse, physical harm. Synagogues are so heavily guarded that Jewish tourists are turned away if they try to attend services unannounced. Inside the sanctuary, we celebrate our festivals and holy days under police protection. On the afternoon of Rosh Hashanah, during the five-minute walk to the water for the ceremony of tashlikh, my young son

asked a guard why so many policemen were accompanying us. Replied the officer: “so that no bad people can hurt you.”

This is the self-image—the reality—that Jewish children in Sweden grow up with: being Jewish means being under threat of harm from bad people. This is where we are at. One by one, our practices are being outlawed. Attacks on us are going unpunished. Politicians, journalists, and intellectuals describe us as barbarians. On November 9, the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht, a few hundred neo-Nazis marched through Stockholm in solidarity with their Greek allies in the Golden Dawn party. They marched legally, with police permits. Another few hundred leftists turned out in protest; a significant number were waving Hamas flags and sporting Palestinian keffiyahs. It made for a perfect synergy: a solemn anniversary, a day of shame, hijacked, with official permission, by two extreme and nominally

opposite sides of the political spectrum, united by their hatred of Jews.

The recently released findings of a year-long survey by the European Union’s Agency for Fundamental Rights show that we Swedish Jews are far from alone. On the contrary: out of fear of violence, a majority of European Jews avoid going to Jewish events or wearing identifiably Jewish items of clothing. But the fear is especially strong in Sweden, where 49 percent say they refrain from such activity and 80 percent report having experienced a rise in anti-Semitism over the past five years. Sweden’s own National Council for Crime Prevention confirms the facts: anti-Semitic crimes have tripled since 2010. Worst of all is the situation in the city of Malmö, which has witnessed an increase of 320 percent in crimes against Jews since 2011. And these are just the reported incidents; one can only imagine how



Annika Hernroth-Rothstein

many go unreported each year.

True: we are not being murdered, and we are not being physically driven out. But our religious observances are being interdicted, our persons are being threatened, our safety is being endangered, and—in short—our human rights are being violated. Why do we put up with it? And why do pundits and politicians assure me that Jews in Sweden are perfectly safe when what they really mean is that we will be safe only so long as we agree to become invisible as Jews and cease to practice Judaism?

When I raise these issues with sympathetic Jewish friends abroad, including in Israel, the usual response is that Europe is over for the Jews—finished; that it’s too late to change things; and that Swedish Jews should move to Israel. I cannot accept that. No matter how much I believe in and promote the idea of aliyah, what is happening here is simply not right. People from all over the world seek refuge in my country in order to be who they are, and to live freely. I want this for them, and I want this for us.

EU statutes provide that asylum be granted to persons with “well-founded reasons to fear persecution due to race; nationality; religious or political beliefs; gender; sexual orientation; or affiliation to a particular social group.” Jews in Sweden meet these criteria, and should be eligible for the same protection and support extended to non-natives.

And so today, November 18, I am legally filing for refugee status and asylum—not in America, not in Israel, but here in Sweden, my own country.

Absurd? No doubt. I can only expect that my application will be summarily dismissed. But the situation is beyond absurdity, beyond op-eds and strongly worded letters of protest. The situation calls for action. I would like to think that in making this statement, I am fighting on behalf of Swedish Jewry as

a whole for the right to live a religious life, to preserve our cultural identity, and to be who we are without fear of persecution—the same rights enshrined in the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights and guaranteed in the Swedish constitution. Is Sweden, is Europe as a whole, truly no longer willing to enforce its own standards of justice where European Jews are concerned?

A month ago, I sought out the parliamentarian responsible for the latest anti-kosher bill and others like it. Feeling at once sad, lonely, and furious, I told him that instead of churning out all these different measures, each one aimed at outlawing yet another aspect of Jewish life, it would be much easier to write a single bill outlawing Jews. At least that would be honest. When he protested, I ended up arguing with him over the kashrut bill for almost twenty minutes, giving him the facts until, unable to refute me, he turned bright red in the face, leaned in, and said: “Well, you know us. This thing you call multiculturalism. All of that. We don’t want it. Not here. Not in our country.”

I was startled, but also relieved. Finally, some truth.

And that, too, is why I need to make my statement, before it is altogether too late. Where the lives and safety and freedoms of its citizens are concerned, the Swedish government has made solemn promises. Let it live up to them.

*Annika Hernroth-Rothstein is a Swedish writer and political adviser and an activist in support of Israel. This appeared in MosaicMagazine.com on 11/18/2013*

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## **The Global Warming God Strikes Again**

Daniel Greenfield

*Editor's note: Why do we periodically publish articles on the false global warming apocalypse that still holds much of the world in thrall? It's because the current elite consensus on global warming (there is no scientific consensus, no matter how often the media and politicians claim there is) has so much in common with the elite consensus on the "two-state solution:" they are both totally wrong. In Democracy in America Alexis De Tocqueville describes the crucial role of media in fashioning "consensus". "When many organs of the press adopt the same line of conduct, their influence in the long run becomes irresistible, and public opinion, perpetually assaulted from the same side, eventually yields to the attack." And so we do our small bit to counter that assault.*

After Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, Mayor Ray Nagin said that the storm was divine punishment for “being in Iraq under false pretenses.”

Not only was a Liberal deity taking a position on WMDs and punishing George W. Bush by evicting a lot of black people from their homes, but the Democratic divinity was paradoxically also committed to progressive housing policies.

“This city will be a majority-African American city. It’s the way God wants it to be,” Nagin promised.

Bush is out of office. America is no longer in Iraq. And Democrats have been forced to search for new theological explanations for hurricanes, typhoons and volcanoes.

In response to the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan; the green prophets of the left are prophesying that their liberal deity is angry over capitalism and industrialization.

“Whenever Mother Nature wants to send an urgent message to humankind, it sends it via the Philippines. This year the messenger was Haiyan,” *The Nation* wrote.

“That it was climate change creating the super typhoons that were taking weird directions was a message from Nature not just to Filipinos but to the whole world,” the left-wing magazine claimed.

For those infidels questioning whether Nature (capital N) was really speaking through a struggling lefty publication begging readers for money to pay its postal bills, its expert on typhoon theology had an answer. "Is it a coincidence, ask some people who are not exactly religious, that both Pablo and Yolanda arrived at the time of the global climate negotiations?"

It is of course the very definition of religious faith to assume that a bearded woman in the sky is sending storms to threaten global climate negotiators (while missing them by two hemispheres and 6,000 miles). A more cynical person might suspect that climate negotiations are arranged around storm season for maximum effect.



*The Nation*, which regularly condemns "Bible Thumping," has switched over to "Whole-Earth-Catalog Thumping," building a religion around a Mother Nature who communicated her wishes through hurricanes and bankrupt liberal magazines.

Pacific Islanders used to believe that volcanic eruptions were angry notes from their volcano gods. The Yaohnanen tribe in Vanuatu on contact with civilization modernized their beliefs, and after encountering a younger Prince Philip decided that he had come from the volcano and that they ought to worship him.

And so the Prince Philip Movement was born. The islanders are modest in their requests of their god. "If he can't come perhaps he could send us something," the Yaohnanen Chief suggested, "a Land Rover, bags of rice or a little money."

The Philippians may seem absurd, but their religion actually took a step forward from worshiping a volcano, which did nothing constructive and just destroyed things, to worshiping the Duke of

Edinburgh, who can do constructive things like send them autographed photos. And perhaps one day a Land Rover.

While the savage tribesmen were approaching the margins of civilization, Prince Philip's son was reverting to savagery and blaming everything wrong with the world, from local weather to the Syrian Civil War, on the great volcano god of Global Warming. After some winter storms, Prince Charles announced that, "severe weather conditions in our country are, I have no doubt, the consequences of man-kind's arrogant disregard of the delicate balance of nature." It was the sort of statement that would have been commonplace a century ago. The only difference was that "Nature" had replaced "God."

The Yaohnanen tribe had moved on from worshiping a volcano god only capable of destruction; but the son of the living god they worshiped seemed eager to find a volcano god to worship. The savages were trying to become civilized, while civilized men were trying to become savages.

At *The Washington Post*, the Rev. Dr. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite, a former president of the Chicago Theological Seminary and a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, gathered the tattered remains of her religion around herself and argued that Typhoon Haiyan was caused by human sin and needed to be atoned for by "confessing" that human beings cause typhoons. But then Thistlethwaite, displaying less faith in whatever god she believed in than Ray Nagin had in his Chocolate City divinity and *The Nation* in its typhoon-hurling Mother Nature, added that "These 'superstorms' aren't an 'act of God', but an act of willful disregard for God's creation."

What miracle is the Rev. Dr. Thistlethwaite's faith in superstorms founded on? Like the storms themselves, it's a bit circular. "The fact that we are having to invent new language to describe such massively destructive storms, like 'Super Typhoon Haiyan' or 'Superstorm Sandy' suggests we need to take a different look at such violent storms today and theologically assess the human responsibility for them."

Despite the Rev. Dr. Thistlethwaite's faith in a superstorm apocalypse derived from spending too much time watching the Weather Channel, there is no actual pattern of increased storm activity. Nor is Mother Nature targeting UN climate negotiations with typhoons. The only pattern here is the one that a liberal religion that believes in little except human evil assigns to storm patterns.

If the God of Global Warming worshiped by *The Nation* and the Rev. Dr. Thistlethwaite seems senselessly malicious, it is because it exists in their minds as a reflection of human evil. The left proclaimed the death of God only to find themselves in need of some entity to inflict ruthless punishment on those who did not believe in their left-handed path, which in the absence of the Gulags they were no longer able to do.

Liberalism built the God of Global Warming in its own image. Like liberals, their deity can destroy, but not create.

The God of Global Warming is the embodiment of liberalism and holds all the politically correct beliefs while carrying out brutal atrocities in the name of the left's favorite political causes. With a moral logic as flawed as that of its worshipers, it is a deity that kills people in the Philippines for the carbon crimes of Americans and kills people in New Orleans because Bush bombed Iraq.

Global Warming is the worship of the left. It elevates its petty biases against industry and the middle class to the status of a religion. It insists on their right to act as the mediators between individuals and the economy or else the God of Global Warming will unleash her superstorms on the bourgeois infidels.

*Daniel Greenfield is the Shillman Journalism Fellow at the Freedom Center. This appeared on Frontpagemag.com on November 15.*

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## **Menachem Begin: An Appreciation on the Centennial of his Birth**

Ruth King

In 1913, in Brest Litovsk, a town in the Russian empire, Menachem Begin was born. When coddling their son, could his parents have dreamed that one day their newborn would be Prime Minister of the State of Israel? Not likely--his parents were confronted with fear of persecution and the perpetual threat of relocation facing Eastern European Jewry.

As a young boy Begin was drawn to Zionism, classical literature and oratorical skills. In his teens he was inspired by Zeev Jabotinsky and joined the Betar movement and later became its head. After being jailed in a Siberian labor camp, he was fortuitously freed in 1941 and joined the Free Polish Army; his unit was sent to Palestine in 1943. Once there he left the Polish army for the Irgun, becoming its head later in that year. In Europe his family was murdered, which both haunted and inspired him for the rest of his life.

In 1944 the Irgun declared war on the British mandatory government which persisted in keeping Palestine closed to the desperate Jews of Europe. The Irgun's activities escalated after the war when the British occupiers still clamped the gates of freedom shut to the wretched survivors of the Shoah and fired on vessels bringing them to Palestine. It was the Irgun under Begin--emphatically not the Haganah with its policy of "havlagah" (restraint)--that made Palestine ungovernable for the British. Nor despite

huge efforts aimed at capturing him were British intelligence services in Palestine able to do so. He eluded them disguised as a nondescript bearded rabbi in Tel Aviv. And so the British threw the Palestine question in the lap of the United Nations. It had become impossible to remain there without a degree of repression the British public was not prepared to accept in the post war period, especially against the tattered remnants of the Jewish people.

Begin made an additional huge contribution to Israel's survival in its early days by the restraint he showed in the face of the Ben Gurion government's unconscionable attack on the Irgun ship, the Altalena, bringing crucial arms to the nascent state as it struggled to throw back the armies of five neighboring Arab states. Begin himself, who was on the ship, narrowly escaped death during the attack. A lesser leader could easily have launched a civil war. Begin instead launched a career as an opposition politician.



As opposition leader Begin met harsh criticism, not only from Ben Gurion (who would not even address him by name in Knesset debates) but from some prominent Jews abroad, including Albert Einstein and Hanna Arendt who wrote ‘...the Irgun has 'preached an admixture of ultra-nationalism, religious mysticism, and racial superiority.’” Did anyone reflect on how General George Washington and our Revolutionary Army defeated the British? Time has rendered those battles heroic but the struggles of the Irgun even now have not been afforded the recognition they deserve.

Menachem Begin remained unbowed. He adhered to the principles of Zeev Jabotinsky. He believed in love for his people, in upholding their covenant with their ancient homeland, in defending the nation with a powerful army, and in offering safe have for persecuted Jews from every corner of the diaspora.

After the Yom Kippur War a dispirited Israeli public turned away from Labor and in 1977 Menachem Begin became Prime Minister.

As his biographer Zeev Chafetz once described him, he was a Jewish “ghostbuster” who saw every oppressed Jew in the world as a brother. He viewed his role as de facto guardian of the world’s haven for Jews. He was determined to heal the economic, social and cultural divisions in Israel between Eastern and Western Jews which Labor’s leaders had fostered. He spoke of Judea and Samaria and not the fictitious "West Bank." He welcomed thousands of Ethiopian Jews, sought to liberalize Israel’s stagnant and socialist economy, and in 1981 in a daring raid destroyed the Osirak nuclear reactor in Iraq. Alas, he won a Nobel Peace Prize for his most disastrous policy--the Camp David Accords which set a precedent of “land for more war” and for surrender of Israel’s rights in Judea and Samaria which would eventually culminate in the Oslo Capitulation.

Following the death of his beloved and gentle wife Aliza he resigned in the winter of 1982 and spent the remainder of his noble life in seclusion.

Daniel Gordis, author of a forthcoming biography *Menachem Begin: The Battle For Israel's Soul*, summed up Begin's legacy in a *Jerusalem Post* article in August 2013, “Menachem Begin: His Legacy, a Century After his Birth” : “That is a legacy infinitely greater than most are able to bequeath. In an era in which many Jews are increasingly dubious about the legitimacy of love for a specific people or devotion to its ancestral homeland, the life and commitments of Begin urge us to look again at what he did and what he stood for, and to imagine – if we dare – the glory of a Jewish people recommitted to the principles that shaped his very being.”

Amen! rsk

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