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Payback

William Mehlman

There were two winners in the November 17th race for Israel's 20th Knesset: Benjamin Netanyahu, who staked his political future on the belief that in any showdown between national security and even the most pressing domestic needs, the Israeli public would vote security, and a United States Congress that provided him with a stage equal to the scope and sensitive to his articulation of those security concerns.

There were, of course, other factors which contributed to a Likud victory that has sent political polling science back to the drawing board – the pollsters' failure to reconcile results indicating victory for the Herzog-Livni "Zionist Union" with the fact that more than half the people they polled said they preferred Netanyahu as prime minister; voter resentment over the alliance between a profoundly anti-Netanyahu local media and "V15," a slick American PR team with \$350,000 to spend on sending the prime minister into retirement; Netanyahu's amazing ability to recharge a deflated national Zionist base in a zero-hour TV and radio interview blitz, and finally, his gutsy refusal to retreat, in the face of the heaviest fire ever directed at an Israeli leader, on his commitment to speak his mind on a nuclear Iran before the democratic world's most powerful legislative body. Opponents will have the next four years to press their argument that his victory was grounded in an anti-Left "scare" campaign laced with anti-Arab voter bias, but they'll be doing it from outside the governing coalition tent.

The disappointed party in this triangulated political drama, needless to say, was the White House. That President Obama does not take his disappointment with Bibi's political deportment lightly was illustrated well before the Israeli elections. In fact, it surfaced within days of the PM's March 3rd



Robert Malley

address to Congress, with Obama's appointment of serial Israel head-hunter Robert Malley as his Special Assistant and White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf States. Among other things, Malley, Rhodes Scholar, Yale political science PhD and Harvard Law JD son of radical Egyptian-Jewish journalist and Gamal Nasser confidante Simon Malley, may be recalled as a key participant in the Bill Clinton 2000 Camp David summit with Yasser Arafat and then-Israeli premiere Ehud Barak. That was the summit in which Arafat turned his nose up at an offer of statehood in 95 percent of

Judea and Samaria and launched the Second Intifada because the deal didn't include Israel's acceptance of 5 million pseudo Palestinian refugees.

While conceding that Arafat's demand for an Arab "right of return" was incompatible with Israel's survival as a Jewish state, Malley, in op-eds in the *New York Times* and *New York Review of Books* co-authored with Palestinian radical Hussein Agha, declared it was "simplistic" to blame Arafat for the Camp David failure because to expect any Arab leader to end the conflict on terms that provided Israel with security or granted it legitimacy as a Jewish State was altogether a bridge too far. With his stint in the Clinton Administration ended, Malley took on the directorship of the Middle East program of the International Crisis Group, a zealously anti-Israel think tank, heavily funded by George Soros' Open Society Institute.

Malley, who refers to the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria as "colonies," surfaced again in 2008 as an "informal" adviser on the Middle East to then-Senator Obama's first presidential campaign, but the campaign had to dump him when a British daily revealed he was in frequent conversation with Hamas. The White House resurrected him in February 2014 as Senior Executive on

the State Department's Iran-Iraq desk, with reportedly assurances to Jewish leaders that he would be kept at arm's length of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute. So much for that promise. *Atlantic* Editor David Frum called Malley's elevation to White House Middle East Coordinator "jaw dropping." Richard Fernandez in his "Belmont Club" *PJ Media* blog observed of the appointment that "if Benjamin Netanyahu was wondering whether punishment for his *lese majeste* was forthcoming, he need wait no longer. The answering symphony has opened with a roll of deep drums...If anyone needs to ask what comes next, it's been reported that the Fat Lady is offstage starting to warm up her tonsils.

She's onstage now singing loud and clear. In a hair-trigger response to Netanyahu's electoral victory, the White House was reported by John Hudson in *Foreign Policy* as "edging closer toward supporting a UN Security Council resolution that would call for the resumption of political talks to conclude a final [Israeli-Palestinian] peace settlement." If true, this reaction to an alleged "now and forever" abandonment of the "two-state solution" by the prime minister would repudiate a commitment of decades standing by Democratic and Republican administrations to an Israeli-Palestinian peace arrived at solely through direct negotiations between the parties. The pro-Arab leaning Security Council was effectively barred from any decision-making under threat of an automatic U.S. veto.

Is America's Security Council veto pen about to be consigned to a museum? "Don't expect anything to move until the summer," Ilan Goldenberg, a former member of the Obama Administration's Mideast peace team told *Foreign Policy*. After that, it's anybody's guess. Mr. Netanyahu has his work cut out for him.

William Mehlman represents AFSI in Israel.

From the Editor

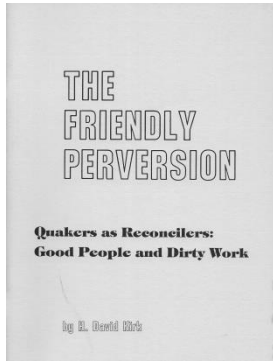
Good People and Dirty Work

The Daily Mail reports that one of Britain's wealthiest charities, the century-old Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, run by a committee of practicing Quakers, is funding terrorist support groups, apparently on the principle, the bloodier the better.

The Daily Mail notes that even by the standards of the Irish troubles, the battering to death with a metal gas cylinder of a 73 year old bar owner (his "crime", refusing to serve three drunken youths who claimed to be entitled to free drinks because of their connection to the terrorist Irish National Liberation Army or INLA), stood out, and was described by the Irish police "as one of the most brutal crimes that we have ever encountered." The ringleader, Eugene Kelly, convicted in 1992, and his fellow defendants did nothing but laugh in the courtroom. Released in 2007, Kelly returned to INLA, was jailed again, and is currently behind bars. *Teach na Failte*, a "non-profit" that says it was created "to help current former INLA prisoners and their families" identifies and praises Kelly as a "prisoner of war." *Teach na Failte* is run by Eddie McGarrible, a former INLA prisoner who served ten years for a string of terror offenses. In November *Teach na Failte* received 150,000 pounds from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, which claims its decision-making is "based on Quaker values."

The Rowntree trust is also the principal financial backer of Cage, a Muslim "human rights" group which acts as apologist for Mohammed Emwazi, the infamous ISIS executioner known as Jihadi John. *The Mail* reports that Cage has held a string of press conferences describing Emwazi as "extremely kind," blaming his crimes on the British security services. The trust has given three separate grants totaling 305,000 pounds to this pro-Taliban, pro-Al Qaeda front group.

The Mail notes that the Trust also gave 60,000 pounds in “core funding” to the Islamic Human Rights commission, which campaigns for the “rights” of such terrorists as Omar Abdel Rahman, convicted for the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993, and Abu Hamza, the hook-handed cleric now serving a life sentence in the U.S. after being convicted of 11 terrorist offenses.



While it may seem mind-boggling that a pacifist organization like the Quakers would fund groups and individuals promoting terrorism, AFSI was probably the first to identify the problem. In 1979 AFSI published a pamphlet on the support given by the American Friends Service Committee (whose fundamental tenet, according to its brochure, is “a denial that violence can ever be right”) to the PLO in its terror war against Israel. It was titled *The Friendly Perversion: Quakers as Reconcilers: Good People and Dirty Work* and was written by David Kirk (himself a former Quaker). Kirk explains the trajectory by which pacifist Quakers became apologists for terror. He finds the source in the Quaker’s “universalistic ideology” which “misleads them into seeing all antagonists equally wrong or right, seeing that all are capable of containing the divine Light.” Kirk notes that during World War II, as conscientious objectors, Friends came into close contact with those motivated by political, rather than strictly religious views in the units of Civilian Public Service. Also new recruits to Quakerism in the 1930s from liberal Jewish emigrants fleeing the Nazis introduced new ideas that influenced “birthright” members.

Although Kirk does not mention this, increasingly violence has become the touchstone by which pacifists (not just Quakers) have come to identify those worthy of their support. The more violent the group, the more injustice from which it must suffer and the more just its cause must be--provided, of course, the cause is defined as “progressive.” The logic of this position leads to pacifist support for ever higher levels of violence, for if peace depends on the elimination of identified injustices, the more violence is directed against eliminating these injustices, the closer we will come to peace.

Banning the Flag

The morally meretricious campus BDS (boycott, divest and sanction) movement, to what should be no one’s surprise, spills over to hatred of America. Fox News reports that the Associated Students of the University of California at Irvine passed a resolution March 3 to remove the Stars and Stripes from the lobby of a complex housing the offices of student government. According to Matthew Guevara, the resolution’s author, “The American flag has been flown in instances of colonialism and imperialism.” Guevara is opposed to flags in general for they “construct cultural mythologies and narratives that in turn charge nationalistic sentiments.” Wonder in which taxpayer funded course at UC Irvine he imbibed this piece of high-flying claptrap. There’s a move afoot to veto the student government’s action. In the meantime the offending flag is folded up and being protected in a vice president’s office.

State Department Bankrolls New Israel Fund

Through its Middle East Partnership Initiative, the U.S. State Department recently gave \$1 million to the anti-Zionist New Israel Fund (NIF) and its lobbying organ SHATIL. Hudson Institute President Emeritus Herbert London points out that given NIF’s support (via its own funding) of the BDS movement, the State Department grant in effect supports efforts to delegitimize the state of Israel. London writes: “The BDS movement against Israel, which NIF embodies, is an ideological war to demonize Israel as a racist ‘apartheid’ state. It has applied lies, misunderstanding, and Orwellian logic as instruments in this war whose sole purpose is to ostracize and isolate Israel as a state bereft of ‘social justice.’”

London raises the possibility that the grant is part of Obama’s anti-Israel campaign. Even if it isn’t, says London, “it is odd that the State Department would apply grants to an organization that wants

to disrupt a democratic nation. Isn't a stable democracy in the vicinity of a nest of vipers what we should be supporting?" London notes that NIF has confused many young Jews with its pretense of being pro-Israel (this writer would add that it has managed to confuse Chris Wallace of Fox News as well, who falsely described NIF on air as "pro-Israel"). London quotes Voltaire's admonition: "Those who can make you believe absurdities, can make you commit atrocities."

British Jihadis on Campus

The University of Westminster in London has declared it is "shocked and sickened" to learn that its graduate Mohammed Emwazi is Islamic State decapitator Jihadi John. It shouldn't be. Rupert Sutton of Student Rights, an organization that monitors and campaigns against extremism on British campuses, says "It would have been one of the universities at the top of my list if I'd been asked to pick one where he might have gone." Sutton, who logs events featuring radical external speakers on campus, counted 22 such events at Westminster (for example, speakers from Hizb Al-Tahrir, which advocates an Islamic caliphate), more than at most other universities.

These events are defended on the grounds of "free speech" and the advantage of airing views so they can be challenged. But critics say these events are not debates, but doctrinaire rallies in which enthusiastic supporters brook no dissent. Some of the events moreover are gender segregated, which is against Britain's equality laws and university regulations. Reuters quotes Anthony Glees of the Center for Security and Intelligence Studies at Buckingham University: "Under the camouflage of academic freedom and freedom of speech we are giving opportunities to extremists to traipse around campuses delivering a message of hate."

Two Fine Speeches

Anyone who missed the splendid speeches of Senators Marco Rubio (R-Florida) and Tom Cotton (R-Arkansas) on Israel should click on the links below.

Marco Rubio's speech on Israel is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=11&v=CdMWbgZsyuM>

Tom Cotton's speech is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-DkYBJnEM>

Zionism 101.org: Herbert Zweibon's Last Project

Online now: [British Mandate V: Step Ashore](#)

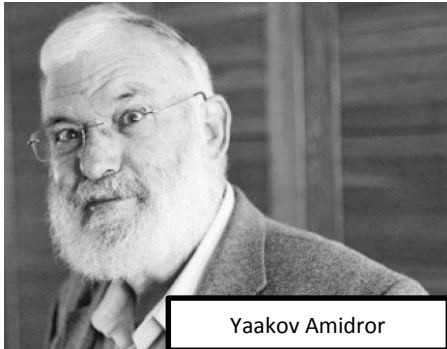
This video describes how the Haganah focuses on illegal immigration in its fight against the British. England devotes vast resources to stopping Jewish immigration to Palestine, and is largely successful, but suffers a disaster in terms of world public opinion.

There are already over 40 videos on the site, covering everything from Zionism's founding fathers to Christian Zionism.

[Zionism 101.org](#) is free. You need only register to see the videos and to be informed when the next video is available.

Answers Required

Yaakov Amidror



In a nutshell, the American argument is as follows: Iran has the ability to manufacture nuclear weapons, and even a very successful military strike won't be able to take away the know-how that exists inside the people's minds. Therefore, the best course of action is to come to an agreement with Iran not to pursue nuclear weapons. It is not an ideal agreement, the Americans concede, but it is the only possible agreement at this time, and that is why they will sign it (given that the Iranians comply with the most minimal terms).

Most importantly, they stress, they intend to supervise the implementation of the deal in a very strict manner. The agreement itself will be constructed in such a way that it would take Iran a full year to manufacture a bomb if they violate its terms, giving the Americans ample time to identify the violation and choose how to respond, should the need arise.

One can learn from all the available sources that the main stipulations of the agreement will be: a moderate reduction in the number of working centrifuges; all the uranium Iran continues to enrich from the moment the agreement is signed, in addition to all its existing enriched uranium, will be handed over to Russia, ensuring that they never have enough uranium for a bomb; if the export of enriched uranium is halted, or the number of centrifuges increased, it will immediately become known -- tight supervision is key; after a set amount of time, given that Iran honors all the stipulations, it will be welcomed into the "family of nations."

Even if the American assertions are technically true, from the Israeli perspective, things look quite different. The first problem is that in practice, the agreement gives Iran a global green light to become a nuclear threshold state. In other words, it will have all the capabilities, almost as it does today, and only Iran will decide when to use these capabilities to manufacture a bomb. Iran refuses to make concessions on any substantial enrichment capability, but the legitimacy that the agreement provides Iran will preclude the kind of action that is possible today in order to prevent a bomb.

In fact, the entire world will sit idly by, watching Iran improve its nuclear expertise and training its people for the eventual manufacture of a nuclear weapon, and do nothing as long as the terms of the agreement aren't explicitly violated. The way things look now, there will be several areas in which Iran will be able to advance freely without technically violating the agreement. The very existence of the agreement affords Iran protection as it advances its nuclear aspirations.

Furthermore, this full year between a violation and a bomb (which the Americans are making a point of emphasizing) is purely theoretical. Let's say that in five years, after all the sanctions are lifted and Iran's economy grows strong, suddenly a violation of the agreement is discovered. What will the response be? How long will it take to discover the violation and decide how to respond? Is there a chance, even a theoretical one that the U.S. will want to impose sanctions on its newfound friend? Will Russia and China join Washington's efforts?

The current sanctions policy took years to become effective, and required finesse (on the U.S.'s part, it must be said). Can it really be recreated? I am almost certain that it can't. And even if it can, it would only begin being effective two or three years after its implementation, at least. That will make it too late, according to all opinions. Incidentally, that is why it is so important to the Iranians to have the sanctions lifted as soon as possible. They know that re-imposing them is not a realistic option.

And if re-imposing sanctions proves difficult, or ineffective, is anyone considering the possibility of a U.S. military strike on a country that, for five years, honored an agreement that took 12 years to sign, just because of a few violations that will not be discovered for months? After all, Russia just now violated an agreement with Ukraine (the 2014 Crimean crisis) -- did anyone dream of using force against Russia? Even when Syrian President Bashar Assad crossed clearly drawn red lines and used chemical weapons to kill his own people, the U.S. opted for a diplomatic response. Anything to avoid using military force.

The argument that using force will do no good because they already have the know-how will be even more convincing five years down the line, when there is a lot more know-how in Iran. In short, the idea of having a full year to respond, assuming that it is in fact included in the agreement, has no practical value, even if the violation is discovered in time (which it may not be).

The moment the U.S. abandoned its conviction to disarm Iran of its nuclear capabilities, and adopted a new approach involving mere supervision over these nuclear capabilities, it all but ensured a nuclear Iran. If not while the agreement is in effect then shortly after it expires. As publicized, that means a short delay of about 10 to 15 years. That's it.

Anyone defending this agreement needs to come up with answers to these important questions. The moment the U.S. adopted the approach that the best possible agreement is better than no agreement because military power will not achieve what an agreement (any agreement) could achieve, it set off the countdown to a nuclear Iran. If not tomorrow, then the day after that.

The high-ranking American officials that spoke before Netanyahu's speech and after it failed to offer up any good answers, I'm afraid. It is supremely important that Israel's objection to the emerging deal was presented publicly and clearly in the highest possible public American forum.

Amidror was a Major General in the IDF. This appeared in Israel Hayom on March 25.

America's Left-Wing Jews Ashamed of Israel's Jews

Dennis Prager

American Jews on the left were beside themselves last week. Israel's Jews did something that utterly infuriated these American Jews: Israel's Jews overwhelmingly voted for a man of the right (or for other right-of-center parties). And not just any right-winger, but the only leader in the Western world to publicly differ from their hero, President Barack Obama.

To understand their fury, one must first understand that no one is more certain of their moral superiority than the left. This is true the world over, and among Jews it is particularly so. For the leaders of the American Jewish religious left (Reform, Reconstructionist, and now Conservative Judaism) Jews who are politically or socially conservative are a disgrace to Judaism, which, for left-wing Jews, is essentially the same as leftism. Both religious and secular Jews on the left regard Jewish conservatives as moral traitors to the Jewish people.

But certitude of their moral superiority is not the only reason American Jews on the left went ballistic last week. There are deeper, psychological, reasons.

Left-wing Jews live, work and socialize with left-wing non-Jews, and they believe that they are -- to their great regret -- identified with the Jewish state in the eyes of fellow leftists. Now, when Israel has left-wing governments -- as it did in its first few decades and periodically after that -- being identified with Israel is not problematic. But with Israel's Jews repeatedly electing conservative governments, American Jews on the left believe that they must make it as clear as possible that they in no way support a right-wing Israel. Their moral self-esteem needs it and their left-wing credentials need it. Just look at

how Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz, a lifelong Democratic activist and fervent liberal, has been ostracized from polite left-wing company solely because he is an outspoken defender of Israel.

As American Jews on the left see it, their moral credibility in the eyes of fellow leftists in the news media, Hollywood, and academia is threatened by Israel. They must therefore make it abundantly clear that a) they not only do not support the right-wing government of Israel; they do not even support Israel at this time b) they regard Benjamin Netanyahu as a vile human being; and c) they are ashamed -- simply ashamed -- of Israel's Jews for having voted for a right-winger.

Thus, to cite only a few examples:

In *Time Magazine*, Joe Klein wrote:

The great majority of Israel's Jews are bigots:

[Netanyahu] "won because he ran as a bigot. ... The public ratification of Netanyahu's bigotry [confirmed this]."

Most Israeli Jews are as contemptible as history's anti-Semites:

"A great many Jews have come to regard Arabs as the rest of the world traditionally regarded Jews."

Israel's very founding was steeped in evil:

"[Read about] the massacres perpetrated by Jews in 1948 to secure their homeland."

These Israeli Jews embarrass me. Don't consider me one of them:

"This [victory] is shameful and embarrassing."

In Israel's *Haaretz* last week, left-wing American Jewish writer Peter Beinart actually advocated that America punish Israel and join the international fight against Israel:

"[This means] backing Palestinian bids at the United Nations. It means labeling and boycotting settlement goods. It means joining and amplifying nonviolent Palestinian protest in the West Bank. ... It means pushing the Obama administration to present out its own peace plan, and to punish -- yes, punish -- the Israeli government for rejecting it. It means making sure that every time Benjamin Netanyahu and the members of his cabinet walk into a Jewish event outside Israel, they see Diaspora Jews protesting outside."

In *The Washington Post*, Harold Meyerson, another American Jewish left-wing columnist, joined the hysteria with these calumnies against Netanyahu (and the equally reviled Republicans):



"At the rate he was going, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu might have called for stripping Israeli Arabs of the right to vote altogether."

"Bibi [is] henceforth the Jewish George Wallace."

"Perhaps Likud and the Republicans can open an Institute for the Prevention of Dark-Skinned People Voting."

Of course, as Charles Krauthammer, an American Jewish conservative, wrote last week, "There would be no peace and no Palestinian state if Isaac Herzog were prime minister either. Or Ehud Barak or Ehud Olmert for that matter. The latter two were (non-Likud) prime ministers who offered the Palestinians their own state -- with its capital in Jerusalem and every Israeli settlement in the new Palestine uprooted -- only to be rudely rejected.

"This is not ancient history. This is 2000, 2001 and 2008 -- three astonishingly concessionary peace offers within the past 15 years. Every one rejected."

But none of that matters to the left. The left lives in John Lennon's song "Imagine." Thus, the left imagines that if Israel completely withdrew from the West Bank and allowed a Palestinian state to be created now, it would be completely unlike Gaza and completely unlike Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran and

Libya; it would be a peaceful Arab Muslim island in the midst of the cruel sea of Arab Muslim countries that surrounds it.

But what if they were wrong and rockets then rained down on Israel?

The Kleins and the Beinarts and the Meyersons wouldn't retract a word. As I wrote some 30 years ago: "Being on the left means never having to say you're sorry."

Anyway, only those bigoted Israelis would pay the price.

Dennis Prager is a writer and radio talk show host. This appeared in Townhall.com on March 24, 2015

Sweden's Foreign Minister Reviled as an Enemy of the Prophet

Ingrid Carlqvist and Lars Hedegaard

(Editor's note: In its claim to the status of a "humanitarian superpower" Sweden has extended itself for Middle Eastern refugees more than any other European country. If you can get there, you can stay there. Sweden offers not merely asylum but permanent residence to anyone from Syria or Iraq, including virtually all the benefits to which native Swedes are entitled. Sweden has taken in more of these refugees than any Western country except Germany, and on a per capita basis has welcomed far more. So there is more than a little enjoyment to be derived--especially given Sweden's failure to give asylum to Jews in the 1930s and its cold heart to Israel today--from the hot seat in which Sweden's Foreign Minister finds herself today as an unwitting--one might say witless--Islamophobe.)



Evidently, Sweden's Foreign Minister was unaware that by criticizing Islamic sharia customs, such as flogging a blogger a thousand times and the ill-treatment of women, she was, in fact, seen as turning against Islam itself.

From a Muslim perspective any criticism or infringement of sharia law and Muslims' obligation to wage jihad [war in the service of Islam] is a violation of their freedom of religion.

In other words, it is incumbent on Muslims to "terrify" non-Muslims (referring to the Koran 8:60). But when they succeed, Muslim spokesmen accuse their frightened victims of suffering from "Islamophobia," and demand that Western authorities denounce and persecute people beset by the psychiatric malady.

There is nothing, however, to indicate that Margot Wallström and other members of the Swedish government have been driven by fear. They have no knowledge of what orthodox Islam is about, and evidently believe that the religion is benevolent and peaceful, but unfortunately hijacked or misinterpreted by evil men.

As predicted, Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström's criticism of "medieval" conditions in Saudi Arabia has caused great parts of the Muslim world to rise up in anger against her and Sweden, the country she represents.

"Almost the entire Muslim world joins in the criticism of Wallström," wrote the Swedish national daily *Dagens Nyheter* on March 19, adding that around thirty Muslim countries have distanced themselves from Wallström's comments. The Arab League has denounced her for criticizing the lack of human rights in Saudi Arabia, and on Saturday the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which represents 57 Arab and Muslim states, as well as the Palestinians, accused her of having "degraded Saudi Arabia and its social norms, judicial system and political institutions."

Dagens Nyheter quotes Middle East expert Marianne Laanatta, from the universities of Stockholm and Lund, as saying that Sweden's troubles may escalate. In addition, Middle East analyst Per Jönsson, from Sweden's Foreign Policy Institute, notes that the OIC's reaction implies that almost the entire Muslim world, including Shia Muslim states and countries in Southeast Asia, have now turned their backs on Sweden. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have already recalled their ambassadors from Sweden; Per Jönsson fears that others will follow their example.

In response, Wallström held a crisis meeting on March 19 with representatives of around thirty Swedish enterprises that have business interests in the Gulf region. As of this writing, the outcome of the meeting is unknown. Saudi Arabia has already announced that it will deny entry visas to representatives of Swedish companies. Clearly, Swedish enterprises are in significant trouble.

Evidently, Sweden's Foreign Minister was unaware that by criticizing Islamic sharia customs, such as flogging a blogger a thousand times and the ill-treatment of women, she was, in fact, seen as turning against Islam itself.

The Swedish government's ignorance was amply demonstrated when Gatestone called Margot Wallström's press spokesman, Erik Boman.

The prominent Dutch Islam expert, Professor Johannes "Hans" J.G. Jansen — author of an influential biography of Muhammad — said he does not think Margot Wallström knows what she has gotten herself into.

Asked if the Swedish Foreign Minister can criticize Saudi sharia practices such as flogging, and call them "medieval," without offending Islam, Professor Jansen says that this would be impossible.

Gatestone: "But now she claims that it had not been her intention to criticize Islam?"

Jansen: "It makes no difference what she says. In Islam, it is for Muslims to determine whether or not one has criticized their religion. From a Muslim perspective, the Foreign Minister's worst transgression is to have labeled Saudi practices 'medieval.' Muslims never use that term when talking about themselves. They only use it with reference to other parts of the world, for example Europe. The Saudis see themselves as the inheritors and custodians of Islam's Golden Age in the seventh century, which must not be labeled medieval."

Jansen notes that from a Muslim perspective, any criticism or infringement of sharia law and Muslims' obligation to wage jihad [war in the service of Islam] is a violation of their freedom of religion.

The same, he continued, goes for Muslims' duty to strike terror into the hearts of non-Muslims. Jansen points to the Koran's Sura 8, verse 60:

As if more proof of Sweden's incomprehension were needed, Margot Wallström stood up in the



Syrian Refugee in Sweden

Swedish parliament on March 20, and claimed that she had no intention of criticizing Islam. The Swedish government, she said, will "safeguard and develop the relations Sweden has had with Saudi Arabia through the years. ... We have the greatest respect for Islam as a world religion and for its contribution to our common civilization."

Wallström and her government have now come in for the surprise of their lives. The good-hearted Foreign Minister suddenly finds herself denounced all over the Muslim world as an enemy of the prophet.

It will be critical to see how Wallström intends to extricate herself from her unwanted position as one of the world's most reviled offenders of Islam.

Will she retract her criticism of Saudi flogging and misogyny, and announce that it was never her intention to offend the great Saudi nation or its culture? In that case, she will have dealt a devastating

blow to Sweden's claim to be a "moral superpower" and to a foreign policy based on human rights and feminism.

Or will she stand by her words and accept that Sweden — and any other country in Europe that claims to stand for humanistic values and the primacy of human rights — is in for a debacle that may well be more severe than what Denmark experienced during the Muhammad cartoon crisis in 2005/2006?

There is increasing talk among observers that Wallström will have to step down, and that Sweden will have to accept a global role more commensurate with its knowledge of world affairs.

Ingrid Carlqvist and Lars Hedegaard are editors-in-chief of Dispatch International. This appeared on March 21 in www.gatestoneinstitute.org

A Stone for His Slingshot

Ben Hecht

(Editor's note: In the Jewish Review of Books (Spring 2014) Stuart Schoffman has published a never before printed speech—which he found tucked away in the Ben Hecht Papers at the Newberry Library in Chicago-- that famed screen writer Ben Hecht gave sometime early in 1948--it is undated-- at a dinner at Slapsy Maxie's, in Los Angeles. The dinner was financed by Mickey Cohen, a notorious gangland boss recently portrayed by Sean Penn in the movie Gangster Squad. By his own account Hecht had "turned into a Jew" in 1939 when the Nazi murder of Jews "brought my Jewishness to the surface." Hecht would become an advocate for the Irgun, his 1946 stage play A Flag Is Born making so much money for the Irgun that they named a ship for him, the S.S. Ben Hecht. Cohen was won over to the cause, according to his own account, when Hecht told him "how these guys actually fight like racket guys would." The hat was passed at Slapsy Maxie's and the Hollywood demimonde ponied up with cash and pledges. The take for the night, according to the journalist Sidney Zion was "\$230,000 and no welshers."

Below are excerpts from the Hecht speech which have especial current pertinence as, in the wake of the Netanyahu victory--see the Prager article in this issue--there is again a battle for "the soul of the Jew." The entire speech can be read in the Jewish Review of Books.)



I am going to speak of unhappy things tonight, things you will not be pleased to hear—and things I shall find no pleasure in saying. But Menachem Begin, the Commander of the Irgun and military leader of the embattled Jews in Palestine, has cabled me from Tel Aviv asking of me a favor. He asks that I do what I can to arouse among the Jews who are not fighting in the Holy Land, the knowledge that without them the Holy Land will be lost. And with it will be lost forever the hope of the Jews taking their place as equals in the human family.

"We are fighting against great odds," the Irgun commander says. "The enemy outnumbered us and is better equipped. Great Britain is supplying him with its millions, its munitions, and its manpower. We have only ourselves. We have only our brave soldiers and the long-dreaming soul of the Jews of the world. Speak to that soul wherever you can. If it

can be awakened, we shall win."

I shall speak to it tonight as well as I can. The soul of the Jew is an ancient and complicated business. It has been trained by disaster and calumny to live in caution, to hide itself cozily behind good deeds, to overlook insults, to charm its enemies, and to avoid getting its enemies angrier than they are. Thus hidden, thus full of cunning modesties and suicidal graces, it has remained nevertheless a brave

soul—when destinies other than its own are at stake. It has fought and died valorously in defense of every cause but its own. Yes, it has the courage to fight and die for others. But it has hardly the guts even to speak in its own behalf. I know this soul of the Jew because I am part of it. And when the Irgun commander asks that it be awakened, he asks for a miracle. Awaken Jews into espousing their own cause—into believing in themselves—into grasping the battles of Palestine as their own bid for freedom; awaken them to knowing that victory in Palestine is a victory over anti-Semitism in every corner of the world. Commander Begin asks for this miracle because he is a part of this miracle himself. He is the leader of an army of liberation that all the military power and political bedevilmings of Great Britain were unable to dislodge.

While all the other Jews of the world and all their various synods and agencies cooed and hobnobbed with the British betrayer and usurper of their homeland; while all the other small Jews of the world let themselves be hornswoggled out of their honor and their hopes, the fighting Jews of the Irgun and their brave youthful allies named the Stern Gang—stood undaunted and uncompromising and battling as heroically as the Jews of the Warsaw ghetto. With one difference. They did not lose—not yet. The British lost.

For twenty-five years the mighty nation of Great Britain sought to steal Palestine—and failed. Because of the Irgun. Because Irgun soldiers died in battle. Because Irgun soldiers went singing to the British gallows—to hang where all the world could see—and did see—not a terrorist punished for crime but the look and sight of a Jewish patriot dying for his country. Now the Irgun asks for more miracles. It asks for us.

The Allies fighting for democracy had a policy toward the Jews, a very definite and strategic policy. This policy had one basic objective—a refusal to recognize the existence of the Jews of Europe whether they died in the Warsaw ghetto fighting or were burned by the millions in the German lime pits and incinerators.

I am going to name a date and a fact. Write it in your Jewish memories. This is the Moscow conference of the Allies in 1943. A great document is being drawn up by Great Britain, Russia, and the United States. This document is called officially “Statement on the German Atrocities.” And it states that the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Soviet Union have received from many quarters evidence of atrocities and cold-blooded mass execution done by the Germans. And in this Statement the Allies pledge themselves to avenge these monstrous deeds. They list—in their Statement—the wholesale massacres of Polish, French, Dutch, Belgian, Norwegian hostages. They list the peasants of the island of Crete—as German victims. They list sixty-two different categories of German victims. Every name is listed but the name of Jew.

There is no reference in this Statement to the bloody fact that three million Jews have been murdered—for no other crime than that they were Jews—and that another three million are waiting to die in the German ovens. At the time this statement is being written—a genocide bloodier than any in history is taking place—a race of people is being exterminated. And this fact has been proclaimed by the German exterminators—who stand red-handed before the world boasting of their deed—that the Jews are being wiped out—because they are Jews.

This Statement ignoring the killing of three million unarmed Jews, and turning its back on the impending murder of three more million, was signed by Prime Minister Churchill, Premier Stalin, and President Roosevelt. I know of no political gesture in history as bold and inhuman as blissful silence. A silence that was like a door closing furtively and surreptitiously on the murderer and his victim—our Jewish people.

The truth was that Great Britain did not want any official recognition of the Jewish massacre to be put in the record. It did not want the desperate status of the Jews recognized officially. It did not want the conscience of the world stirred up by the foulest crime in history. It did not want this done

because there was only one place for the doomed Jews of Europe to go—only one place eager to welcome them—Palestine.

The British were opposed to this remedy. British policy preferred that all the Jews of Europe be murdered—and that they die incognito in the German furnaces rather than that a single Jewish refugee enter Palestine.

And where was American policy during those wild days of a people's extermination? Let me tell you. It stood firmly, grimly, side by side with Great Britain. All these unpleasant things I have said to you not to arouse futile angers against villainy past and gone. I have said them only to point out the danger in which the Jew stands today. In his hour of destruction the Jew of Europe was without friends. Today in his desperate hour of rebirth the plot is still the same. The Jew is still without friends.

He fights alone in Palestine—against great odds, against increasing odds. And if we Jews whose souls are being fed and strengthened by his courage—whose status in the eyes of the world—is being forged by his valor—if we dreaming Jews of the four winds believe that any nation will ride to his aid—we are fools.



There will be no help from governments. The governments will continue to play their immemorial and secret games of sabotage against the Jews. In Palestine the outnumbered Jews battle today against an enemy officered, armed, and financed by the British. And like the Jews of Warsaw these Palestinian heroes battle with one eye to the sky. They wait for us. We are their arsenal. Not the Four Freedoms, not the good old U.S.A.—but we, the Jews of the four winds.

You will be asked—and you may even ask yourself—what is the stake of the American Jew in Palestine? What has he to gain by the birth and triumph of the new nation of Israel? I will answer this question, first, with another question. What did the American Jews lose in the mass murder of the six million Jews of Europe? That which he lost—he will never lose again if there is a nation in Palestine called Israel. For only a Jewish nation sitting among the other nations of the world will be able to prevent the mass executions of Jews that have been going on since the year Four Hundred.

In the fifteen hundred years of their wooing of Europe, the Jews have never been able to halt a pogrom. In fact, the more important, the more assimilated the Jews in a given country became, the more certain was their ultimate status in that country—disfavor and destruction. Out of this one fact—that they were a people who could be slaughtered with impunity—that there was even honor to be won in their slaughtering—has risen much of the anti-Semitism that hangs like an ever-darkening cloud over the world's Jewry. When the sky is clear above you, you may be sure the cloud is elsewhere. It shifts from nation to nation, from century to century. It does not go away. All the relationships made by the Jews, all the honors won, all the medals hung on them have not been enough to move even our own most civilized of countries to raise a hand in their behalf—when the hour of doom struck in Europe.

Here is our record as American Jews—in that pogrom. We allowed ourselves to be bamboozled by the British policy in Palestine—which was also the American policy—of keeping the Jews out of the Holy Land. We went along with the delusion that the British and American governments were kindly

governments and kindly friends of the Jews. We could not believe otherwise, being who we are and where we are, part of those governments.

We went along—cheering for those governments who with their mighty right hand were winning a war against the Germans—and with their sly left hand locking the Jews of Europe away with their exterminators—by closing the ports of their only refuge—Palestine.

Only one group of Jews in the world did not concur in these secret plottings and underminings of Jews. This was the Irgun Zvai Leumi—that fought and publicized with their blood each step of the robbery—whether it was robbery of honor, freedom, or land. And with their help, for they are now being forged into the fabric of the new Jewish state—the State of Israel will not, when the time comes again—be as daft and dizzy as we American Jews were. It will not be spun about by the fear of divided loyalties as we were. It will not be duped by the siren song of patriotisms that ignore the carnage of the Jews....

And what have we American Jews to gain by the triumph of the Jewish nation now battling in Palestine? We are a happy people in the U.S.A. But we are happy as Americans, not as Jews. Not entirely happy—as Jews. The slaughter of our kind in Europe has left a wound in our spirits that our victory as Americans in the war has not entirely healed. It is a Jewish wound kept always open by the fear of the future. And despite the honors and positions we have won in America, we are no different as Jews than our fathers and grandfathers in Europe. We are like them, as Jews—uncertain, despairing, disenchanting, and always singing ourselves to sleep with the happy news that we have friends in court.

The Jews have always had friends in court—but they have never won a verdict. They have been always a noise without power, a talent without roots, a home lover without a doorstep of their own. They have worn fine clothes—and remained a fine nobody. They have always been going somewhere—but they have come from nowhere. And a man who comes from nowhere is a lesser man than one who comes from a place. There is always mystery and suspicion about such a man. A man from Sweden, Ireland, Luxemburg, Hungary, Italy—as soon as he loses the accents of those places—can become an American without suspicion or hyphen attached to him. The Jew, with or without accent—can become only an American Jew.

This is part of our stake in Palestine. A Jewish nation will remove our mystery and give us origins and permit us to thrive in the world—on an equal footing with other nationals. We can paradoxically become American then—for we will not be carrying around in our souls the confusion of what we are—and spreading this confusion among our always easily confused neighbors.

And we will not seem like the remnant of some stubborn religious sect given to weird and alien religious practices. Without losing our religion we will lose our two-thousand-year-old dangerous identity as religious fanatics—an absurd identity, but an identity ready made for the devilish schemes of bigots and rabble rousers; an identity that has brought intolerance and disaster down on us. We will lose that identity, for the land of Israel will have a flag, an army, and a congress to prove we are like other people—and that we stem from a normal state and not be black magic out of a hole in the past.

But there is a stake beyond these stakes of convenience and aggrandizement that we Jews have in the battle for Palestine. Is that battle lost—we Jews, all of us, are lost for another seven generations. We will have made our bid for human national status—whether we helped or hid our heads in a bag—and if this bid fails we will become a gabby and empty people, a gabby and defeated people—more so than ever in our history.

We will become losers. And this name will track us down in every city and village of America—and fasten itself to us. Not losers of a war—every nation has had that tag on it, but losers of the right to exist as anything but what we have been—the dubious guest in the house. If our bid for a flag and a homeland fails, we will all of us stand guilty before the world of an unworthiness. And this unworthiness we will, for a change, have deserved—if it comes to us. It is our duty to see that it does not come to us.

It is in our power to prevent its coming. We will win—if the long dreaming soul of the Jew is awakened. Thus speaks the leader of the Irgun forces.

Let me remind you—once more—who this leader is and who these Irgun fighters are. Menachem Begin and his troops are the Terrorists. That was what they were called when their stalwart hearts launched the battle against the British betrayers and invaders of their homeland.

These men and women of the Irgun stood alone. They had no friends in any court—not even the Jewish court. The common people of Palestine loved them, hid them, glowed with pride over them. But the accredited leaders of the long Jewish negotiations for a homeland looked with terrified eyes on this heroic spearhead of Jewish freedom—the Irgun. These leaders joined with all the other nervous, flag-frightened Jews of the world—in denouncing them. And for years the soldiers of the Irgun who fought with a British noose around their necks were called gangsters and terrorists, pirates and lawbreakers—as were the handful of intrepid folk who once rallied to the new flag raised above Lexington and Bunker Hill.

But this is past. The denunciations are done with. And the Jews of the world who called names and were fearful, are proud today of these same Terrorists. For history has revealed them in their true guise—not that of Terrorists but of champions risen to restore the people of Israel to their lost estate as human beings. The Irgun is a dedicated army. It leads the fight. And beside it fights the brave army of the Haganah. They are brothers in arms tonight.

Jewish money has poured into a thousand causes. But there was never any cause in Jewish history like this one. In Palestine, the ancient land of miracles—another miracle is happening; a miracle as sweet as any recorded in the Testament. A two-thousand-year-old dream of the Jews is coming true—a dream of manhood hidden away in the prayers and lamentations of two thousand years.

In these dark centuries that have never ended—the Jews carried the dream of Israel in their hearts. The Hebrew Nation of David and the Kings had been hammered to bits—but the bits refused to die. Every Jewish poet, every rabbi, and every worker at his bench kept alive this dream. In Spain after a thousand years of torment—the Jews still sang of their Jerusalem and their Holy Land. Yehuda Halevy, the Hebrew poet of Spain, wrote “Jerusalem, oh City of Splendor, oh bright home of the Jews—our



spirit flies to you from many lands. In the East—in the far land of the cedar and the lemon trees our hearts lie. And our souls dwell beside the sun gone down on Israel.”

The sun is no longer down. A champion fights in Palestine. He will not surrender. But he calls on us. He needs us.

If he loses, he will lose because we did not put a gun in his hand.

He will lose because we—and not he—were too small for the hour of Jewish destiny.

He will lose because the Jews of the world dreamed away the days of battle.

But these are only words I speak—words to wake up Jews if there are any

asleep. He will not lose. No cause that had behind it the sweet and powerful dream of freedom—has ever lost. This dream does not stand on the battlefields alone. It stands in us.

There are twenty-eight million Arabs. There are eight hundred thousand Jews—besieged and encircled by this Goliath tonight.

A David stands against Goliath. I ask you Jews—buy him a stone for his slingshot.

Israel's Iron Dome Election

Ruth King

On May 17, 2014 India, a nation of 1,267,690,000 people, elected Narendra Modi as Prime Minister. In December of 2014 Prime Minister Shinzo Abe won re-election in Japan, a nation of 126,999,808 people. The media noted it, commented for a few days, and then moved on.

On March 17, 2015 Israel, a nation of roughly 8 million people re-elected Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. For weeks before, during and after, the media was in overdrive with prognostications, opinion and analyses, much of it informed by hostility to Israel's Prime Minister.

In the Israeli media there was also a lot of hand wringing as in "Is Israel Losing Its Soul?" by black belt libeler Avi Shavit. There was the requisite whining of "*Al Ha'Aretz*" the leftist rag where writer Chemi Shalev warned that Netanyahu's victory comes at a big international price. Shalev accused the Prime Minister of racism and for good measure bloviated: "Today, if you burn your bridges, you are severing contacts that you might very well need somewhere down the line. That's what Benjamin Netanyahu did on the way to his surprise victory over Isaac Herzog on Tuesday."

The international press joined the fray with predictions of division, the end of peace (!??) and a dangerous (???) tilt to the right. Such soothing comments came from places like England, France and Germany where Jews are so well treated these days. Hooray for India where the *Hindustan Times* reported the win, merely commenting "it's unlikely to change Israel/India ties." And by the way India's Prime Minister congratulated Netanyahu almost immediately.

Much of the media forgot to mention that free elections, in which a large population of Arabs voted, gave the lie to claims of critics that Israel practices "apartheid" and suppression of Arabs. In fact, those who once gushed about the "Arab Spring" elections--which were illusory--barely noticed the large number of Bedouins and Arabs who voted for Likud in spite of the United States government's intervention with money, consultants and self-styled "advisors"--an intervention which will now be investigated by Congress.

However, Israel's real supporters were heartened by the election and expressed optimism that the two state dissolution would be relegated to the dust bin.

I share their view but I mostly rejoiced for another aspect of the election:

In spite of venal Obamathon interference and a torrent of pressure, warnings, pleas and threats from pro and anti-Israel media, international Jewish organizations, philanthropic groups, think tankers and pundits, Israel did the previously unthinkable.

A virtual "Iron Dome" shielded Israelis from the above mentioned opinion rockets. Israelis declared their independence from foreign pressure groups and chose life and security.

There has never--not once--been an election in Israel that so clearly defied expectations and interference by the rest of the world.

The last words of Israel's national anthem "Hatikva- The Hope" written in 1886 by Naphtali Herz Imber, an English poet originally from Bohemia, come to mind. The melody was written by Samuel Cohen, an immigrant from Moldavia.

"To be a free people in our land, the land of Zion and Jerusalem."

Free people's greatest gift is the ability to elect leaders without external pressures, threats and fear. And that, regardless of winners and losers, is the heartening message of Israel's election.

I wish Prime Minister Netanyahu well. If past is prologue, he has shown himself too susceptible to American pressure. At the Wye Plantation in October 1998, he bowed to pressure from President Bill Clinton, then Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and arch terrorist and jihadist Yasser Arafat. He

surrendered 80% of Hebron, the cradle of the Jewish faith and the locus of that unbroken chain of faith that survives in spite of millennia of persecution and genocide.

We can only hope, in victory, he too will declare his independence from all but the citizens of Israel.

Next AFSI Mission to Israel: June 2-10, 2015

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