
OUTPOST



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Move it!

William Mehlman

"President Trump and the U.S. Embassy in Israel," blared the headline over a CNBC report by Justina Crabtree. "What's going on?"

What, indeed, is going on? The relocation of his embassy to Jerusalem, among the 45th president's "top" priorities, according to election campaign co-manager Kellyanne Conway, has, eleven weeks into his administration, been reduced to an afterthought. Only Conway insists on its continued importance. White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer replies to queries about it with the dismissive assertion that "we are only at the very beginning of even discussing this subject," an apparent invitation to "get lost." President Trump, on the same subject, informs us, albeit less testily, that "it's too early" to speculate on an issue he's been thumping since the primaries or that "we will see what happens."

Too early? Barely fit for discussion? We'll see what happens? Granted, the subject was bound to raise Chicken Little consternation from Amman and Riyadh to Paris and Brussels. But having made a promise he repeatedly promised to keep, Mr. Trump owes us more than the back of Sean Spicer's hand. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, currently overseeing the president's cyber intelligence operations, seems suddenly overwhelmed by the complexities of hanging a "U.S. Embassy" banner on a building waiting to be employed in western Jerusalem. Benjamin Netanyahu is being accused of caving in to President Trump's apparent fixation on the "greatest peace deal" that isn't ever going to be made with a money-grubbing charlatan solely interested in the disappearance of Israel. If health care, tax reform, immigration control, the taming of North Korea and the defanging of a nuclear-bent Iran are to share precious time and attention with the blind alley pursuit of Mahmoud Abbas' consent to live in peace with a Jewish state, they could all terminate in the dustbin along with Trump's Congressional majorities and his hopes for a second term.

The best of all reasons for moving that embassy out of Tel Aviv and doing it now are staring the president in the face. If there is to be the new order in the Middle East hinted at by his missile strike against Assad and the massive cave bunker buster directed against ISIS's attempt to set up shop in Afghanistan, it must begin with the de-isolation of Israel, the region's prime military and economic power. There's nowhere else to turn. However impressed Mr. Trump may have been with King Abdullah's Ivy League English, his majesty and his economic and political train wreck of a government



Daniel Moynihan

would have been gone years ago were it not for Israel's support. It is at least partial reliance on that same support that has underlined Sisi's strategy in Egypt, confronted as he is by a deposed but not defeated Moslem Brotherhood and an increasingly radicalized Sinai Bedouin population. Saudi Arabia remains a corrupt oil oligarchy under a national flag incapable of dealing with a two-bit foe in Yemen. They'll all carry on for the TV cameras over the embassy move even as they go to ground over their vulnerability to a Shia arc of power—Teheran to Sanaa and most everything in between—that could relegate Sunni primacy to the history books. Israel, its strengths and its links with the U.S., is their lynchpin, not a Palestinian nightmare.

The suggested relocation of the American embassy to Israel's capital was a product of the fertile mind of New York Democratic Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan in the early 1980s. It was not until the ill-conceived 1995 Oslo II Accords, however, that it was given flesh in an initial draft jointly crafted by David

Parsons, currently vice president and senior spokesman for the Jerusalem-based International Christian Embassy, and Richard Hellman, chairman and founder of CIPAC, a Washington, D.C. pro-Israel Christian lobby. Driven by Arizona Republican Senator Jon Kyl and scheduled for joint introduction by then Senate Minority leader Bob Dole and Hawaii Democratic Senator Daniel Inouye, the "Jerusalem Embassy Act" had majority support in both Houses but was deemed several votes short of the 67 in the Senate that would be needed to override a threatened veto by President Bill Clinton, who considered the measure a



Diane
Feinstein

legislative incursion on his executive powers. California Democrat Diane Feinstein, still unfortunately ensconced in the Senate, was enlisted to pull Clinton's chestnuts out of the fire and came back with a "package deal" guaranteeing the votes needed to veto-proof the JEA but at the price of a "waiver authority" giving Clinton and all who followed him into the White House power to suspend the bill's provisions every six months if they certified to Congress that doing so was in "America's national security interests." "We instantly understood the waiver provision was intended to gut the bill since it removed any means for Congressional enforcement," Parsons lamented. And with a record of 35 six-month waivers exercised by

three presidents over the last 21 years it has proven only too sadly true.

Any hope that the hobbled JEC would, if nothing else, have finally laid to rest a U.S. diplomatic position enunciated in 1948 declaring Jerusalem divorced from Israel and to be regarded as an independent "International Zone," was crushed under the Obama Administration's heavy tread on the steps of the United States Supreme Court. The Court voted to block a Congressional law proceeding from a class action by Jerusalem-based American citizens demanding the right of their Jerusalem-born children to show Israel as country of birth on their American passports. The Court respectfully declined to override U.S. diplomatic protocol.

Putting aside 3,000 years of history stretching from King David's anointment of Jerusalem as the physical embodiment of Israel's mission as a light unto the nations to King Hussein's failure to set foot in the city during the 19 years of its illegal occupation, nothing would more ill-serve Donald Trump's credibility with friends and foes, domestic and foreign, than a retraction of one of the most reiterated commitments of his primary campaign. No matter whether in the face of pro-forma Arab threats or in deference to a two-state pipe-dream whose non-existence is as much a fact of life as the rising and setting of the sun. It is precisely the perception enstamped by the Obama presidency that America does not stand by its allies in the Middle East—Mubarak in Egypt, the "Green Movement" in Iran, a nuclear self-disarmed Gaddafi in Libya, Israel in its most recent confrontation with a toxic UN Security Council—while nodding and winking to its enemies that has been the undoing of American influence in the region.

It will not be refurbished by catering to "Arab sensibilities" over a building on Agron St. Sunni Arab cooperation with Israel is grounded in self-interest. Moreover, "the idea that U.S. foreign policy is to be determined by the possibility of murderous force by terrorists," as recently noted by ZOA President Morton Klein, "is unworthy of a world power." On the contrary, it could be argued that prompt action on the embassy relocation might enhance whatever chances for peace still exist by finally dissipating the Arab notion that Jerusalem and Israel are divisible entities. The latter's only lease on life is America's continued failure to correct an anomaly that has kept Jerusalem's indivisible relationship to the Jewish state under a blanket for 69 years.

Reuniting the city with its sovereign base, as David Bedein, who heads the Israel Resource News Agency explained in a recent *Jerusalem Post* article, may require more than suspending the semi-annual presidential waiver rights that have kept enforcement of the Jerusalem Embassy Act in a lock-box since 1995. Jerusalem's non-recognition as part of Israel and its confinement to an imaginary "international

zone,” Bedein submits, remains embedded in U.S. diplomatic law and its removal could require surgical legislation.

Texas Senator Ted Cruz may be looking in that direction with a bill, co-sponsored by Senators Marco Rubio of Florida and Dean Heller of Nevada, that recognizes Jerusalem as “Israel’s eternal and undivided capital.” The bill includes a proviso suggesting Congressional delay of budgets to the State Department until the embassy relocation is completed. “It is finally time to cut through the double-talk and broken promises,” Cruz asserted, “and do what Congress said we should do in 1995.”

“Under President Trump, if the world knows nothing else, the world will know that this America stands with Israel.” Those were the words of Vice President Mike Pence to a packed AIPAC convention less than a month from this writing. Their translation into action must not be further delayed.

William Mehlman represents AFSI in Israel.

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From the Editor

Democrats Against Ambassador David Friedman

As Daniel Greenfield sums up: “On March 23, 2017 Senators had a simple choice to make. On one side was J Street, an anti-Israel pressure group that had hosted BDS activists and opposed Israel’s right to defend itself. On the other was Ambassador David Friedman, the first pro-Israel nominee in decades.” With only two exceptions, Robert Menendez of New Jersey and Joe Manchin of West Virginia, Democratic Senators (including Chuck Schumer to his everlasting disgrace) voted monolithically for J Street and against Ambassador Friedman. To quote Greenfield: “There could hardly be a better demonstration of the descent into the fever swamps of anti-Israel politics than their decision to stand with an anti-Israel hate group whose Muslim-led student arm is waging war on campuses against the Zionist ‘occupation.’”

Thanks to firm Republican support, Friedman’s appointment was confirmed. But, as Greenfield says, Senate Democrats ought to be made to answer why they stand with George Soros (major funder of J Street who described his role in the Holocaust as “the most exciting time of my life”) and the PLO against Israel.

A Pioneering Israeli Blood Test

In this space we often provide examples of Israeli medical advances, usually culled from Michael Ordman's blog *Amazing Israel*. Now Israeli researchers have come up with a blood test that holds out hope of saving the lives of victims of one of the most deadly forms of cancer. Every year roughly 1.8 million new lung cancer patients are diagnosed, 1.59 million of whom will die within a year. The problem is that most cases are discovered by chance and too late to alter the outcome. The new test diagnoses the disease long before it spreads, greatly improving the odds. Within two years it is hoped the test will be marketed and available to those at high risk (e.g. heavy smokers, those with family histories of the disease). Dr. Elon Ganor, one of the developers of the test, told *YNet Daily*: "We developed the test here in Israel. We dreamed of making a significant contribution to humanity and saving lives, and we are convinced that this test will indeed save hundreds of thousands of people every year worldwide."

Campus Morality Morphs into Antisemitism

British public affairs analyst Douglas Murray points out the inevitable destination of the new form of "morality in education" that is sweeping the academy, based on the notion that the truth of an opinion is determined by who utters it. On this view, "privileges" exist that preclude some from being worth listening to, while minorities merit special protection from their speech.

Writes Murray: "When you consistently break down a society along racial and sectarian lines...there is bound to be a group that must in the end lose out...Sure enough, the same month that [far left] Angela Davis was applauded [on campus] and [Canadian psychology professor Jordan] Peterson and [Charles] Murray were silenced, some pamphlets turned up on campus at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Like so many leaflets before them, these talked about the scourge of 'privilege.' And who did these pamphlets identify as the people with the most privilege? Why, the Jews of course. Or, as the pamphlets put it, 'Ending white privilege...starts with ending Jewish privilege.' As with the Occupy Wall Street movement a few years ago, which also ended up with anti-Semitism at its core, who could seriously not have seen that this would be where all this would end? At present, the people who preach tolerance in the United States and Canada are turning out to be the least tolerant. And the people who complain of discrimination turn out to be opening the door to practitioners of the oldest discrimination of all."

Whither French Jews?

Whatever the results of the French election, the answer for increasing numbers is likely to be "out of France." Toulouse, the city where a Muslim terrorist killed a rabbi, two of his children and a little girl in front of a Jewish school, has seen an especially large number of Jewish departures. After the attack 300 Jewish families left the city. One of those who went to Israel, Jean-Michel Cohen, who had been one of the first to run to the scene of the massacre, says from Tel Aviv: "It is a paradise for us. Here we are safe. My children walk to school. We have no concern for them."

While French Jewish leaders have focused their fears on a victory by Marine LePen, they may well have more to fear from Emanuel Macron. Italian journalist Giulio Meotti writes: "If Emanuel Macron wins, France as we have known it can be considered pretty much over. Macron is, for example, against taking away French nationality from jihadists. Terrorism, Islam and security are almost absent from Macron's vocabulary and platform, and he is in favor of lowering France's state of emergency. By blaming 'colonialism' for French troubles in the Arab world, and calling it 'a crime against humanity', he has effectively legitimized Muslim extremist violence against the French republic." Since violence against Jews in France is overwhelmingly by Muslims, welcoming more EU-sanctioned "humanitarian" waves of

Muslim immigrants and pandering to Muslim sensitivities means creating conditions increasingly intolerable for the Jewish community.

Not that hostility to vital Jewish interests is confined to Muslims. The French government is a massive contributor of funds to organizations dedicated to Israel's destruction. In theory, France prohibits any form of boycott against Israel. In practice, a recently released NGO Monitor report reveals that the French government contributes large sums to NGOs that promote boycott campaigns against Israel, and include personnel that equate Israel with Nazi Germany and are tied to Hezbollah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and similar outfits. French journalist Yves Mamou writes: "NGO Monitor's meticulous report reveals that France is no friend of Israel but more and more of a prime mover in the war against Israel to delegitimize it."

We Did Not Come to Australia to Have Burqas

Mohammad Tawhidi

Editor's note: As a result of his forthright (and immensely courageous) stance, Shiite Imam Mohammed Tawhidi, a graduate of the Islamic seminary in Qom, Iran and Imam of the Islamic Association of South Australia, is now in hiding. Following this lecture a posting was made to his Facebook page "The Islamic ruling for this infidel is beheading" along with a promise of \$5000 to anyone who would provide his whereabouts. The inability of outspoken Muslim dissenters to lead normal lives is obviously one reason there are so few of them. Tawhidi's lecture was posted on the YouTube channel for the Adelaide (Australia) Rotary club on March 21. The excerpts below are courtesy of the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI).

My father made the choice—and he was an Imam himself and still is. He made the choice to come to Australia because it is a non-Muslim country.

Now, if we knew that after 30 years, we were going to have burqas running around, mosques being erected in every corner, and people proposing shari'a law against democracy in this country, we would not have come.

I believe that the entire religion needs a review. I believe that there are certain books that need to be banned from this country. There's a book regarded as the second book after the Quran. All mainstream Muslims believe in this book—The Bukhari, a very famous book. It's present in, at least, the majority of Muslim homes. It is everywhere. It is put on the shelf right beside the Quran. Every act of terrorism is taught from that book, yet that book is widely available, sold, and published in Australia.



I don't understand how Muslims believe—well, radical Muslims are the main issue here—how they believe that if you blow yourself up you go and have lunch with the Prophet Muhammad in Heaven. I didn't know my prophet was running a restaurant up there. I honestly never knew. And then you have other very attractive statements that they make—that you go and you get 72 virgins—but what kind of a virgin is she that I would have to blow myself up for her?

I also oppose the construction of mosques. We have a big problem. Changing this country is something I am against. You can have one mosque in Adelaide—which is the oldest mosque—and then you can have centers. You can have educational centers. You can rent out university theaters, community centers. There is no need to be building mosques that later on are led by radical Muslim leaders. Some of them don't find success in radicalizing the youth that come to the mosque to worship God. So what do they do? They drive their cars with their boats, from Western Australia—as you may

have heard—all the way to Queensland, because they wanted to join ISIS through Malaysia. And I have always called on ASIO (Australian Security Intelligence Organization) to check the bank accounts of Muslim imams and who is funding them. Do these people that fund them have expectations from them to brainwash these children? What is going on with genital mutilation and child brides? What is happening in this country?



Mohammad Tawhidi

Now, I know that there are politicians, in recent times, who have stood up, and they are very against Islam. They want to tell people that Islam is a very dangerous religion. Why do they say that, now? I don't oppose these politicians because I know exactly what filth is in my religion. I know exactly what is going on, which is why I don't speak out against them. I'm against generalizing because there are good Muslims, but the main message behind it—I agree with.

This will get me in trouble—I have never said this before—but Palestine is Jewish land. I mean, come on, who doesn't know this? Jesus came to Jerusalem. He came to the Israelites who were there. It is Jewish land.

It's about time the (Australian) female politicians stop dressing in headscarves when they go to Muslim countries. I know it is good to respect other people, but if you are the foreign minister, you are a foreign minister with your uniform and your badge, and if they don't respect you as a woman, to come and dress in what you like to dress, then that's a country whose embassy we don't want. We don't want anything to do with them if they don't respect our foreign minister, regardless of what country that is.

Look, this is Australia, this is what it is. You like it—like it. You don't like it, we'll give you one of our kangaroos and you can hop back to where you came from.

The Grand Mufti, who is elected to be representing us, for 20 years hasn't come out and said in English: 'I condemn terrorism.' It is true that he endorses verdicts against ISIS, but the problem is that Australia needs a stand against ISIS. The Muslim community here needs a verdict against ISIS—not someone in America, and you are giving them the thumbs up: 'Good for you.' No. We need to take a stand against ISIS, because we are worthy of that. We deserve a Muslim community that takes a stand against terrorism, because that's the fine line between hypocrisy and not. If you're not a hypocrite, then speak out.

How do you reform a current ideology? Number one, the government needs to realize that the books that are being taught in Muslim schools, and that are on the shelves of mosques, need to be taken out, opened up, see the publisher, and posted back to where they came from. Simple as that. We don't need to burn anything. We don't need to create tension. Just gather the books, and thank you very much. That's number one. Secondly, secret services need to monitor the movements of every religious leader. The lectures—if they are in Arabic—what are they saying? The examples they use... do they have private lessons? Money in their bank accounts... How many wives do they have? This is very important, and many people don't realize this. Muslims have more than one wife in this country.

We need to come to one common understanding: it is either we follow the law of the land or we don't. If we do, then it is one wife. If we don't, then go back to where you came from, and have as many wives as you like.

In Australia, where there is freedom of speech and where there is democracy, many Muslims do not find it safe to speak out against extremism in their country at all. And when I say that they are afraid—they are not afraid of isolation, they are afraid of death. And I have been very close to that, and God saved me many times.

Amona and Israel's Hobbled Sovereignty

Moshe Dann

The destruction of fifty-one Jewish homes in Ofra and Amona in February by order of the High Court raises questions about Israel's claim to be "the nation-state of the Jewish people." The evictions made no sense, and, although Prime Minister Netanyahu signed an agreement on behalf of the government with the residents of Amona to provide alternative housing in a new community, he has failed to honor his commitment. The families remain in distress, helpless and homeless.

Absurdly, this destruction and others served no one. Jews were traumatized; Arabs can't use the land for security reasons and because they cannot prove ownership; most Israelis perceived it as a national disgrace; it alienated many and undermined trust in the High Court and the government; and it wasted money and resources. No one benefited!



Although Jews were accused of building on "private Palestinian land," the question of who owned the land was never heard by an Israeli civilian court. No valid proof of ownership was presented. The destruction, moreover, violated the law in Israel and all other democratic countries: someone who has built in good faith on land which he/she later discovers belongs to someone else is entitled to pay compensation to the legal owner when the value of the building is worth more than the land.

Touted as "the rule of law," the destruction was intended to demonstrate the power of the High Court regardless of any government decision, or legal issue. The High Court's decision was meant as a clear political message to the government: it, not the government, would decide the fate of Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, "the settlements." The High Court's assertion, therefore, challenges the basis of Israeli democracy, the role of its judiciary, and its definition as the nation-state of the Jewish people.

The struggle over that definition arose in 2011, when MK Avi Dichter proposed a Basic Law: "Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people." The purpose of his bill was to codify the nature and values of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state and to prevent Israel from becoming a binational state. Although supported by the government coalition, including PM Netanyahu and opposition MKs, it did not pass a preliminary reading.

Nation-states, however, are more than national cultures; they are primarily responsible for expressing sovereignty, protecting their citizens, and establishing and defending its borders. In Israel's case, the status of Judea and Samaria, and especially Area C in which Jewish communities exist, is still in question. Since Israel gave up Areas A and B to the Palestinian Authority and the Gaza Strip to Hamas, only Area C remains under IDF military occupation. Because Israel has refused to extend its laws to this area, the question persists: are settlements part of Israel, or not?

Although Jews living in settlements are citizens—they pay taxes, serve in the army, and are required to follow Israeli laws—in disputes over land ownership they are subject to the IDF's judicial administration and have no access to civilian courts. When Arabs or NGOs petition the High Court claiming that Jews have built on privately-owned land, there is no way to examine or challenge the evidence or High Court decisions, since those decisions are final. The system is rigged.

In the absence of a decision by the government, the vacuum is filled by the IDF and the High Court—core institutions of the State wielding absolute power, but unelected and unaccountable—and therefore not part of Israel’s democratic system.

Israel’s failure to declare sovereignty over what is historically and legally part of the Jewish homeland and define its territorial integrity is increasingly untenable and unrealistic. The government’s ambiguity is confusing and misleading. Israel’s failure to establish a coherent policy regarding Judea and Samaria simply empowers its enemies and cripples its ability to defend itself. Either Area C belongs to Israel, or to a Palestinian state.



Israel’s claims to Area C, moreover, are challenged not only by its enemies, but by institutions of the State itself: the Ministry of Defense, the Military Advocate General (Praklitut HaTzva’it) and Civil Administration (Minhal Ezrachi). Assisted by the High Court, they have attacked the ideology of the settlement movement and seek to restrict settlement building.

The bizarre reasoning behind such evictions and destruction is that Jordan’s land distribution program during its illegal occupation is valid. This assertion has never been tested in an Israeli court. As long as institutions of the State follow Jordanian law and destroy Jewish homes and communities because of allegations that they were built on “private Palestinian land,” without valid proof of ownership, Israel

undermines its claims and legitimizes its critics, such as the BDS movement.

Despite media reports, however, the issue is not a legal one over who owns the land. The question of land ownership in such cases was tested only once, in 2012, after Migron was destroyed. Arab claimants applied for compensation in the Magistrate’s Court, but their claim was rejected and they were fined for filing a false petition when they could not prove ownership. The hilltop on which Migron was built remains empty and the High Court refuses to reconsider its decision.

Using its legal powers to determine political policies, the IDF’s judicial arm in Area C and the High Court have usurped the role of the government and thereby undermine Israeli democracy. Land belonging to the Jewish people was stolen by the Jordanian government and given away to Arabs. Is that legitimate?

The only way to change this distorted system is through legislation and by adopting the recommendations of the Edmund Levy Commission: a clear, unequivocal statement of Israel’s legal and historical rights, and instituting special courts to determine issues of land ownership. PM Netanyahu’s refusal to accept the Levy Report prevents any just and comprehensive resolution of the problem.

Declaring sovereignty and extending Israel’s legal system to Area C of Judea and Samaria would strengthen Israeli democracy and Israel’s judicial system. It would protect Jewish communities, allow for economic development in the area and end the confusion about its future. It would be a most appropriate way of celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of Jerusalem Day, and of honoring those who gave their lives for this tremendous accomplishment. We dare not take that for granted.

Dr. Moshe Dann is a historian, writer, and journalist in Jerusalem. This appeared in timesofisrael.com on March 26.

Geert Wilders and the Suicide of Europe

Guy Millière

Even if the Dutch politician Geert Wilders had won and if the Party for Freedom (PVV) he established eleven years ago had become the first party in the country, he would not have been able to become the head of the government. The heads of all the other political parties said they would reject any alliance with him; they maintain this position to this day.

For years, the Dutch mainstream media have spread hatred and defamation against Wilders for trying to warn the Dutch people—and Europe—about what their future will be if they continue their current immigration policies; in exchange, last December, a panel of three judges found him guilty of “inciting discrimination.” Newspapers and politicians all over Europe unceasingly describe him as a dangerous man and a rightist firebrand. Sometimes they call him a “fascist.”

What did Geert Wilders ever do to deserve that? None of his remarks ever incriminated any person or group because of their race or ethnicity. To charge him, the Dutch justice system had excessively and abusively to interpret words he used during a rally in which he asked if the Dutch wanted “fewer Moroccans.” None of Wilders’ speeches incites violence against anyone; the violence that surrounds him is directed only at him. He defends human rights and democratic principles and he is a resolute enemy of all forms of anti-Semitism.

His only “crime” is to denounce the danger represented by the Islamization of the Netherlands and the rest of Europe and to claim that Islam represents a mortal threat to freedom. Unfortunately, he has good empirical reasons to say that. Also unfortunately, the Netherlands is a country where criticism of Islam is particularly dangerous: Theo van Gogh made an “Islamically incorrect” film in 2004 and was savagely murdered by an Islamist who said he would kill again if he could. Two years earlier, Pim Fortuyn, who had hoped to stand for election, defined Islam as a “hostile religion;” he was killed by a leftist Islamophile animal-rights activist. Geert Wilders is alive only because he is under around-the-clock police protection graciously provided by the Dutch government.

More broadly, the Netherlands is a country where the Muslim community shows few signs of integration. There are now forty no-go zones in the country; riots easily erupt, recently in Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Nijmegen. People recently from other countries repeatedly attack Dutch-born citizens. Some are so sure of their impunity that they publish online videos of their crimes. Throughout the country, an ethnic cleansing that Europeans are too scared to name is taking place in the suburbs, and non-Muslim residents often say they feel harassed.

Non-Muslim women are encouraged by local authorities to dress “modestly.” As in Islam dogs are haram (impure), dog owners are asked to keep their pets indoors. In 2014, 2015 and 2016, Islamists demonstrated and shouted slogans in support of Hamas and the Islamic State.

Daily life has become particularly difficult for the 40,000 Jews still living in the country; districts long inhabited by members of the Jewish community have become almost entirely Muslim. Authorities recommend that Jews avoid any “visible sign” of Jewishness to avoid creating “unrest.” Muslim delinquency is high; the percentage of Muslims sent to jail for various crimes is notably higher than the percentage of Muslims in the population. Six percent of the country’s population is Muslim; about 20% of all inmates are Muslim. None of this is secret.

The only person talking about these problems is Geert Wilders. Dutch political leaders and most journalists seemingly prefer to claim that Geert Wilders is the problem; that if he were not there, these problems would not exist. At best, they utter fuzzy words intended to show strength; at worst, they turn their back.

A large percentage of the Dutch population is anxious; the constant demonization of Geert Wilders apparently tries to indoctrinate the people to settle for less.

A year ago, London's Muslim Mayor Sadiq Khan stated that "living with terror attacks is 'part and parcel of living in a big city.'" It did not use to be that way. Rotterdam's Muslim mayor, Ahmed Abutaleb used harsher words; he said that migrants had to "respect the law or go home."

In late January, the incumbent Prime Minister, Mark Rutte, published a full-page advertisement



Mark Rutte

in several newspapers warning immigrants to "act normal or be gone"; he did not use the word "Islam." On March 11, 2017, four days before the Dutch elections, Rutte decided to send a "strong message" to bar Turkish ministers from speaking in Rotterdam. Voters who had considered supporting Geert Wilders voted instead for Rutte's People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD); he thereby secured a last minute win. Wilders's party came in second. The Party for Freedom (PVV) won

five more seats than before, but will have only 20 seats, out of 150. Rutte's VVD will have 33 seats. The Labor party, Rutte's main ally until March 15, collapsed and is down to nine seats, its worst result ever. The left, however, is not retreating: GroenLinks, a party largely made up of former communists and radical environmentalists won 14 seats, 10 more than before. The Socialist Party won 14 seats. Democrats 66, a "social-liberal", "progressive" and multicultural party won 19 seats, almost as much as the Party for Freedom. A Muslim party, Denk (Dutch for "think, Turkish for "equality"), won three seats. The VNL, a conservative party established by two former Party for Freedom members, was beaten so severely it will have no seat at all.

The next Dutch government will be a coalition of four parties, maybe five, and probably lean more to the left than previous governments. It will certainly include Democrats 66, and could include Groenlinks.

In the years to come, the situation in the country is certain to deteriorate. The Netherlands' fertility rate (1.68 children per woman) is not as catastrophic as in Germany, Italy or Spain, but is far below the replacement rate. The Muslim birth rate is higher than the non-Muslim one. Dozens of churches close each year due to the rapid decline in the number of practicing Christians; the churches are replaced by mosques. Radical preachers keep coming and proselytizing; Islamist organizations keep recruiting. In a report on the Islamization of the Netherlands published ten years ago, Manfred Gerstenfeld wrote that "resistance to radical forces within the Dutch Muslim community is weak." Nothing has changed since that time.

What is happening in the Netherlands is similar to what is happening in most European countries. In the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Germany and Sweden, the number of no-go zones is rapidly growing. Islamic riots occur more and more often. Ethnic gangs are growing more violent. Ethnic cleansing is transforming neighborhoods. Jews are leaving for Israel or North America. The Muslim population is sharply increasing. Radical mosques are proliferating. Islamic organizations are everywhere.

Politicians who dare to speak the way Geert Wilders does are treated the way Geert Wilders is treated : scorned, marginalized, put on trial.

The vision of the world in Western Europe is now 'hegemonic'. It is based on the idea that the Western world is guilty; that all cultures are equal, and that Islamic culture is "more equal" than Western culture because Islam was supposedly so long oppressed by the West. What adherents of this view, that the West is guilty, "forget" is that Islam long oppressed the West: Muslim armies conquered Persia, the Christian Byzantine Empire, all of North Africa and the Middle East, Spain, Greece, Hungary, Serbia and the Balkans, virtually all of Eastern Europe, Greece and southern Spain. The Muslim armies

were a constant threat until the marauding Ottoman troops were finally turned away at the Gates of Vienna in 1683.

This European vision also includes the idea that all conflicts can be peacefully settled, that appeasement is almost always a solution, and that Europe has no enemies.

It also stands on the idea that an enlightened elite must have the power, because if Adolf Hitler came to power through democratic means eighty years ago, letting people freely decide their fate might lead to ill.

The dream seems to be of a utopian future where poverty will be overcome by welfare systems, and violence will be defeated by openness and love.

It is this vision of the world that may have prompted Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel to open the doors to more than a million unvetted Muslim migrants, despite a migrant crime wave and an increasing number of rapes and sexual assaults. The only candidate likely to beat Angela Merkel in this year's German elections is a socialist, Martin Schulz, a former European Parliament president.

In France, Marine Le Pen, the only candidate who speaks of Islam and immigration, will almost certainly be defeated by Emmanuel Macron, a former minister in the government of François Hollande—a man who sees no evil anywhere.

It is this vision of the world that also seems to have led British Prime Minister Theresa May to say that the Islamic attack on March 22 in Westminster was “not an act of Islamic terrorism.”

This romanticized, utopian vision of the world also explains why, in Europe, people such as Geert Wilders are seen as the incarnation of evil, but radical Islam is considered a marginal nuisance bearing no relation to the “religion of peace.” Meanwhile, Wilders is condemned to live under protection as if he were in jail, while those who want to slaughter him—and who threaten millions of people in Europe—walk around free.

This adolescent vision is so embedded in the minds of millions of Europeans that a lot of fast growing-up will be required to eradicate it.

Dr. Guy Millière, a professor at the University of Paris, is the author of 27 books on France and Europe. This article appeared on gatestoneinstitute.org on April 11.

Latrun **Bill Slott**

Topography is history. As long as there has been a Jerusalem, there has been an ascent to Jerusalem, and that ascent begins at Latrun. Whoever holds that hill holds the road to Jerusalem. Today Latrun is a battlefield museum and memorial. The site contains an out-door display of tanks dating from World War I through to the present. It is also home to the Wall of Memory, listing the names of soldiers of the tank corps (but not their rank) who died in Israel's wars. Looming above it all is the bullet-pocked British fortress that itself sits atop the ruins of fortresses of every empire that has sought to hold this strategic spot. As a tour guide, I often bring visitors to Latrun to take in the beautiful views from the top of the fortress, let the kids climb on the tanks for photo ops, and pay respects to the fallen soldiers.

But last week I was there as a father, watching the ceremony in which my daughter marked the completion of her training as a non-commissioned officer. My slight, sweet, cheerful youngest, who has never raised her voice in anger to anyone, is going to be drilling new recruits in the Israeli Army.

It was a raucous affair, with thousands in attendance, a bizarre combination of sporting event, award ceremony and mass picnic. Many of the families brought specially made t-shirts, banners, and hats celebrating their son or daughter. I was not so well prepared, and while I shared in the general



sense of merriment, and brought a basket of goodies and a van full of friends and family, I could not escape the gravity of the moment. The large outdoor stage on which the 350 newly-trained officers were awarded their stripes has as its backdrop the massive fortress. The British had handed over the fortress to the Arab Legion in May of 1948 and the Israeli Army tried and failed five times to conquer it. Among the soldiers who were sent into those battles were survivors of the holocaust, newly minted Israelis straight off the boat from the D.P. camps of Europe. They spoke a Babel of languages, and could not always communicate with each other. They knew

very little Hebrew and often could not understand their officers during the fighting. In this catastrophe, men who had miraculously survived Auschwitz died on the field of battle in the newly independent Jewish state. This too is part of the story of the birth of Israel.

While I take pride in my daughter's accomplishments as a soldier, I wish more than anything that she did not have to do this at all. It would give me great joy if she had the luxury of studying literature at some liberal arts college instead of running around with an M16. But she has grown up in a time and a place where that is not an option. Not yet and not here. There is much work to be done in this country. Peace, social justice, education, dialogue with our neighbors, dialogue with each other, becoming a "light unto the nations." Someday my daughter will be a soldier in these battles as well. But last week she stood in the shadow of the fortress where others lost their lives so that she could have a home, and swore allegiance to the Israeli Army. I am not a big fan of military pageantry or nationalistic symbols, but at that moment, I choked back tears. Many of the soldiers memorialized at Latrun were as small and as sweet as my daughter, and some were even younger. She is, in her own way, carrying on their mission, and I am certain that she will continue to do so long after she has ceased to wear a uniform. As the event drew to a close, I stood and sang the national anthem, "Hatikva" (the hope) as loud as anyone there. I was not embarrassed. My hopes for my daughter and my hopes for this country were one and the same.

Bill Slott is a licensed Israeli tour guide who has hiked and biked the length and breadth of the country. This appeared in timesofisrael.com on April 23rd.

The Weapon Wizards: How Israel Became a High-Tech Military Superpower

by Yaakov Katz & Amir Bohbot

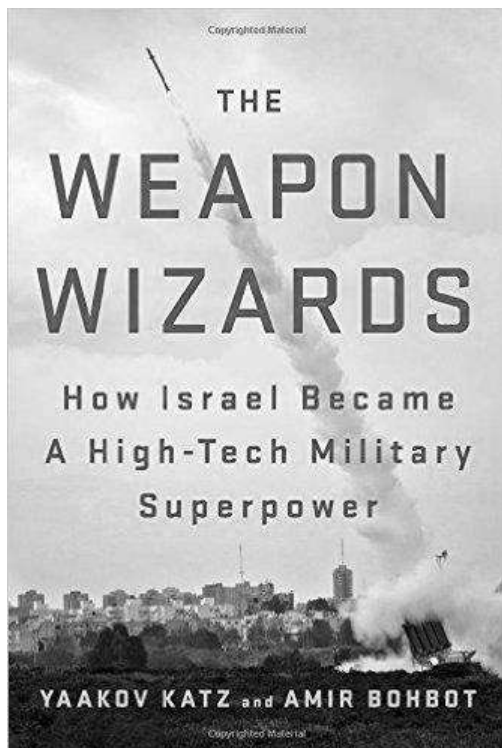
Reviewed by David Isaac

In 1948, as Israel was heading into its first war, an IDF general sent a letter to David Ben-Gurion, Israel's new prime minister, politely declining his offer to become chief of staff because he had learned the Jewish State only had six million bullets. "We will need 1 million bullets a day in a war and I am not willing to be chief of staff for just six days," he wrote.

The Weapon Wizards, an engaging look at Israel's weapons industry, is replete with such anecdotes. (Another that's hard to resist is how Jewish forces in Jerusalem held off Arab rioters with one gun and 11 bullets. Afterward, the commander criticized the "gratuitous use of ammo.") Such stories drive home how little Israel had militarily in its early years. Israel's humble beginnings make it even more remarkable that it has become a military power. The goal of the authors, Israeli journalists Yaakov Katz

and Amir Bohbot, is to explain how that transformation came about. As they write, 60 years ago Israel's biggest exports were oranges and false teeth. Today, weapons make up 10 percent of Israel's exports.

Like *Start-Up Nation* by Dan Senor and Saul Singer, Katz and Bohbot identify national characteristics that have led to a "culture of innovation." Leading the list is a creativity born of necessity. "With barely any resources beyond the human capital that had immigrated to the new state, Israelis had to make the most of the little they had," the authors write. Israel has even created a subunit of autistic soldiers to analyze satellite pictures.

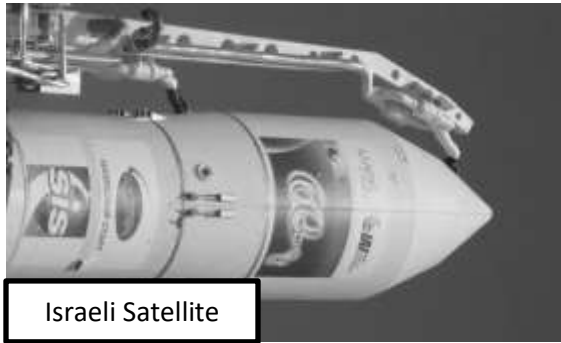


The Weapon Wizards is at its best showing these characteristics in action, from amusing episodes to in-depth stories focusing on the development of certain weapons systems. For instance, when illustrating the advantages of the IDF's flexible hierarchy, the authors describe a visit by the U.S. Air Force's F-16 program director. During a tour of IDF squadrons, one of the participants started lecturing his commander on everything that was wrong with the plane. The U.S. representative, a lieutenant general, asked the person to identify himself. He was shocked to learn the critic was a lowly mechanic. In America, the authors write, it's unheard of to talk out of turn and argue with your commander, especially in front of a foreign officer. "In Israel, though, no one thinks in those terms. What the mechanic was doing was exactly what he had been trained to do and what he thought was expected of him—to speak his mind," the authors write.

In a similar vein, Israel nurtures its best and brightest. A fascinating example of this characteristic is a program called Talpiot. Created in 1979, it pulls together some of Israel's most promising young people, who sign on for nine years of service in return for degrees in fields like physics, math, and computer science. Thousands apply each year; only 30 are accepted. Talpiot graduates, called Talpions, are seeded throughout the army where they have an impact far beyond their numbers. In 40 years, the program has produced roughly 1,000 graduates, but a single one can revolutionize a unit, the authors say. Although the program met resistance early on, within a few years generals were demanding to know: "Where is my Talpion?" The prime minister was forced to hold a special meeting to resolve the issue.

Although Katz and Bohbot don't come right out and say it, it's evident that for all the encouragement of innovation, there remains resistance within the military one would expect from any large establishment. Talpiot had to overcome naysayers before it was embraced, and so did many of the programs the authors discuss, from satellites to the Iron Dome. This suggests the IDF fosters innovation only after a fight. What appears to distinguish the IDF from other militaries is that innovative individuals don't quit. They also have an admirably dismissive attitude toward army regulations. The premier example is Brigadier General Danny Gold, who developed the Iron Dome.

Gold met "overwhelming opposition" to his idea for a rocket defense system. But he was undeterred, going "beyond the usual Israeli chutzpah," according to Katz and Bohbot. He told *Rafael*, Israel's state-owned defense company, to start developing the system and go into production as soon as it was ready—orders only the IDF chief of staff and defense minister can issue. Gold basically threw out the IDF rulebook. By the time the state comptroller issued a report chastising Gold, the Iron Dome had already proven a startling success. Gold is considered a national hero.



Israel's satellite program is another example of innovation and chutzpah (the title of the chapter is "Chutzpadik Satellites"). When Israel attempted to launch its first real reconnaissance satellite in 1993, instead of going into space, the satellite went into the Mediterranean. The failure was an embarrassment, prompting jokes about Israel's antisubmarine satellites. Less funny was the fact that money for the program had run dry, while opposition was building in the defense ministry. Instead of throwing in the towel, the

program chiefs took a mock satellite not built for space and sent it into orbit within two years.

Such stories inspire the imagination. But they also inspire a question: How is it that Israel, so advanced militarily, comes up so short politically? Katz and Bohbot are aware of the problem, noting in their conclusion that Israel's military advances are "meaningless if Israel's operations lack the international stamp of legitimacy. The state can develop, manufacture and even sell weapons around the world, but that won't mean much if the world refuses to support Israel's actions."

What the authors don't say is that much of the fault lies with Israel. The 1993 Oslo Accords were the peak of Israel's self-destructive behavior. Israel resuscitated the PLO, on the ropes after the Gulf War and known worldwide as a terrorist organization. In the blink of an eye, the Jewish State legitimized it along with Palestinian Arab territorial aspirations. Israel remains trapped by a policy of its own making. Today, the Likud government seeks to strengthen and expand Jewish settlements even as it broadcasts its support for a two-state solution that grants Arabs political rights to the land the Jews are building on. The contradiction is easily exploited by Israel's enemies—and even some of her putative friends.

The problem, of course, did not start with Oslo. It was the culmination of years of neglect. While the Jewish State might develop ingenious ways to counter physical weapons, it has done nothing to combat psychological weapons. And so the calumnies have grown with time. None of this is to excuse the civilized world, which gladly tilts a morally degenerate ear to Arab lies.

No one spoke more forcefully of the need for Israeli countermeasures than Shmuel Katz, Irgun leader turned writer and publisher. He warned for decades in his *Jerusalem Post* columns of the dangers Israel faced by leaving anti-Israel propaganda unchallenged. In one, "Countering Propaganda," he wrote: "Israeli governments have not come to grips also with the nature of the war. It is not designed to achieve a change in this or the other policy of the Israeli government. Its aim is to put an end to the Zionist entity, to delegitimize Israel—by the assertion, endlessly repeated, that the Jewish people has no right to Palestine, and the Jewish State has no right to exist at all, that the land is Arab territory usurped by the Zionists with the aid of the imperialists." Putting Israel's public relations failure in military terms, he said, "our existing hasbara [information services] could be likened to a single fishing smack confronting a fleet of a dozen battle ships firing all its guns."

One small, semantic example of that failure that especially incensed Katz: The area where Israel builds its much-maligned settlements was the West Bank [of Jordan] for only the 19 years Jordan controlled it. Ironically, only two countries recognized Jordan's sovereignty since it had seized the territory in the 1948 war. Until that time, for thousands of years, Christian civilizations knew the area as Judea and Samaria. Yet Israel itself continued to use the term West Bank long after Jordan had left.

Reading *The Weapon Wizards*, one can't help wishing Israel would create a Talpiot for politicians.

David Isaac is writer-director of Zionism 101. This appeared in the Washington Free Beacon on April 15.

What's Trump Cooking Up With the Palestinians?

P. David Hornik

From Israel, the Trump administration's moves in the Middle East look encouraging so far.

There's been the tough response to Bashar Assad's sarin-gas atrocity; the highlighting of Iran as regional mischief-maker; the strengthening of tacit Israeli strategic allies like Saudi Arabia and Egypt; and of course, a reset with Israel itself after eight years of the Obama administration's hectoring and accusations.

Now, however, President Trump is preparing for another Middle East move that is raising questions and doubts in Israel. On May 3, Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas will be hosted by Trump at the White House.

Questioned about the meeting, White House press secretary Sean Spicer defined the Trump administration's ultimate goal:

[A] conflict-ending settlement between the Palestinians and Israel.

Israel, for its part, began seeking an end to the conflict in 1993 with the launching of the Oslo peace process. A quarter-century of terror, rockets, and relentless Palestinian delegitimization of Israel later, a survey published late last month found fewer Israelis than ever—36%, down from 60% in 2005—felt Israel could risk withdrawing from the West Bank.

Shortly thereafter, a review of Palestinian attitudes found even less reason for optimism about a “conflict-ending settlement.” Dan Polisar of Jerusalem's Shalem College examined no less than 400 surveys of Palestinian opinion, and found that a majority of Palestinians reject the much-vaunted “two-state solution.”

The majority instead favors a “one-state solution”: Israel's obliteration.

A summary in *The Tower* of Polisar's lengthy report notes that an average of 54% of Palestinians rejected a two-state solution based on the most generous Israeli terms possible, and that in the two most recent polls the figure rose to 61%. Further:

[T]hose strongly opposed to such a deal outnumbered those strongly supporting it every time—usually by an average of greater than 3 to 1.

Daniel Pipes, in a response to Polisar's report, says:

[Polisar] convincingly establishes that Palestinians collectively hold three related views of Israel: it has no historical or moral claim to exist, it is inherently rapacious and expansionist, and it is doomed to extinction.

Where Palestinians get such views is no mystery. Still another report published this month, this one by the Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-se), finds that the Palestinian Authority's first-to fourth-grade textbooks not only have not improved, but have undergone an “alarming deterioration.”

[The PA's 2016/17 elementary school curriculum] teaches students to be martyrs, demonizes and denies the existence of Israel, and focuses on a “return” to an exclusively Palestinian homeland.

The CEO of IMPACT-se told *The Times of Israel* that the textbooks, by portraying students as future martyrs, give the message that “these children are potentially expendable.” Meanwhile, Israeli cities like Haifa and Jaffa are presented as Palestinian.

All of this—to put it mildly—casts the Trump administration's grandiose optimism about a “conflict-ending settlement” in a dubious light.

But is there no harm in trying? Are holding talks beneficial no matter the outcome?

Unfortunately, the past points to yet another futile Israeli-Palestinian diplomatic process causing deadly ramifications. Several times, failed diplomacy has precipitated a wave of Palestinian terror. This is a large risk to take in the absence of any reasonable hope of gain.

The Trump administration would be utilizing valuable energy, resources, and attention at a time when much of the Middle East is facing catastrophe. Much more urgent issues—only some of which are the Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni, and Libyan wars, the terror onslaught in Egypt, and Iran’s ongoing armament and promotion of terror—deserve the United States’ attention. For Israel as well, yet another “process” means a major diversion of energy and risks political instability at a time when the Netanyahu government is leading the country to economic achievement, and has kept its borders mostly quiet.

Finally, taking yet another shot at what has failed so persistently in the past—a diplomatic resolution of the conflict—inhibits the introduction of realistic, fresh approaches to the problem. For example, the United States could focus on working steadily to convince the Palestinians that Israel is here to stay.

The Trump administration needs to tread carefully before embarking on what appears, based on all indications, to be an ill-starred venture.

P. David Hornik is a freelance writer and translator living in Beersheva. This appeared in pjmedia.com on April 20.

The April of My Discontent

Ruth King

The New York Times has a new op-ed contributor named Marwan Barghouti. In a column entitled “Why We Are on Hunger Strike in Israel’s Prisons”—a screed to make Thomas Friedman proud—he explained:

“Palestinian prisoners and detainees have suffered from torture, inhumane and degrading treatment, and medical negligence. Some have been killed while in detention. According to the latest count from the Palestinian Prisoners Club, about 200 Palestinian prisoners have died since 1967 because of such actions. Palestinian prisoners and their families also remain a primary target of Israel’s policy of imposing collective punishments.”

The Times described Barghouti as a “Palestinian leader and parliamentarian.”

Oops! *The Times* somehow forgot to mention that Marwan Barghouti is a terrorist serial killer whose savagery earned him five life sentences. It’s like describing Jeffrey Dahmer, the cannibal serial killer, as a “culinary innovator.”

Confronting a storm of outrage from readers, on April 17, the *Times* clarified: “This article explained the writer’s prison sentence but neglected to provide sufficient context by stating the offenses of which he was convicted. They were five counts of murder and membership in a terrorist organization. Mr. Barghouti declined to offer a defense at his trial and refused to recognize the Israeli court’s jurisdiction and legitimacy.”

Some good came from all this. On April 20, the Mayfair Hotel in London canceled a screening of *Marwan: A film about the life and struggle of Marwan Barghouti*, which the Palestinian Mission in the UK has been promoting and when the Mission transferred the showing to the Copthorne Tara Hotel, it canceled as well.

The New York Times must like the name Barghouti. Omar Barghouti, one of the founders of the BDS movement and author of *Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions: The Global Struggle for Palestinian Rights* is also a favored contributor. In a January 2014 op-ed he explained “Why Israel Fears the Boycott” listing the usual litany of lies and accusations. In May 2015 he wrote an op-ed “Israeli Extremism Will Encourage Global Boycott” quoting a poll by J Street to bolster his bias. On March 16th, 2017 in a letter

to the editor, he compares BDS to the civil rights movement, quotes a questionable Brookings Institute poll on American support for sanctions against Israel, and spells out the agenda of BDS:

“Since its inception in 2005 by the Palestinian grass-roots civil society coalition, B.D.S. has consistently called for ending Israel’s occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; granting full equality for Palestinian citizens of Israel, who are discriminated against by dozens of laws; and recognizing the United Nations-stipulated right of Palestinian refugees to return to lands from which they were forcibly displaced during Israel’s establishment in 1948.” He could have said it in one sentence: BDS calls for the end of Israel....period! And has anyone told him that Gaza is not “occupied” since 2005?

In other news from *The Times* Bret Stephens, an articulate, cultured journalist and strong supporter of Israel (despite periodic lapses into the two-state delusion), has left *The Wall Street Journal* for *The New York Times*, where he will be the token pro-Israel writer in that swamp of Israel-bashing “calumnists.” Too bad.



Sarah
Halimi

Other mainstream papers contribute to anti-Israel bias by ignoring relevant stories.

To paraphrase George Berkeley about a tree falling in the woods, if the media doesn't report it, did it happen?

In France, on April 3, an Orthodox Jewish woman, Sarah Halimi, a doctor aged 66, was thrown out of a window to her death by an African neighbor who shouted “Allahu akbar!” The mainstream media ignored it.

On April 21 a speeding car driven by an Arab rammed into a bus stop at the Gush Etzion bus stop injuring an elderly man. The Gush Etzion spokesperson said the incident marks the second such attack in the last month. Earlier this month, Sgt. Elchai Teharlev was killed in a car ramming attack while guarding a bus stop just outside the West Bank settlement of Ofra.

The mainstream media ignored these events. Maybe they did not happen?



Elchai
Teharlev

To add to my April discontent, Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis arrived in Israel on April 21. Tucked into his diplomatic pouch is a history of anti-Israel sentiment. As Caroline Glick reminds us: in 2013, speaking at the Aspen Institute, Mattis said that the US must make the establishment of a state run by Fatah terrorists—on land Israel controls, that it requires for its national security and that it has sovereign rights to—a key US goal. In his words, “We've got to find a way to make the two-state solution that Democrat and Republican administrations have supported. We've got to get there, and the chances for its

starting are starting to ebb because of the settlements and where they're at, they're going to make it impossible to maintain the two-state option.”

Glick continues: “Lest we give in to the temptation to believe that Mattis’s ignorant, tautological thinking was simply a function of his service in the Obama administration, during his Senate confirmation hearings as President Donald Trump’s nominee to serve as Defense Secretary, Mattis doubled down. When asked point blank to name Israel’s capital, Mattis refused to acknowledge that

Jerusalem the capital of Israel. Instead, he stunned lawmakers when he proclaimed that Tel Aviv is the capital of the Jewish state.”

Then there is the case of General Herbert Raymond McMaster who is President Trump’s National Security Adviser. He has reportedly told his staff that the term “radical Islamic terrorism” was not helpful because terrorists are “un-Islamic” and in 2014 he proclaimed: “The Islamic State is not Islamic.” Huh? That is some national security advice. Do you feel safer?

So far one is heartened by the appointments of Nikki Haley and the sober assessments of Rex Tillerson.

But the worst news comes from Israel’s Foreign Ministry, which reports that since September 13, 2015, Palestinian Arab assailants have carried out 1,754 stabbing attacks, 113 attempted stabbings, 143 shootings; 58 vehicular ramming attacks, and one bus bombing. Forty-eight people were killed in these attacks and 713 injured, including four Palestinians.

The fingerprints on all these crimes are those of Mahmoud Abbas who names streets, monuments, and buildings for those who commit these attacks, supports their families with hefty financial rewards, and promotes vicious hatred of Jews in textbooks, sermons and speeches.

And guess who is coming to dinner at the White House on May 3? You guessed it, Arafat-in-a-suit, Mahmoud Abbas.

The purpose is “peace processing” based on all the failed efforts of every administration since 1967.

As David Hornik, whose article can be read in full in this *Outpost*, writes “Several times, failed diplomacy has precipitated a wave of Palestinian terror. This is a large risk to take in the absence of any reasonable hope of gain.”

Many reluctant liberals who support Israel (yes there are some) voted for Trump specifically because he rejected the failed policies of the past and promised to move America’s embassy to Jerusalem.

Does this herald a redistribution of Clinton/Bush mistakes with respect to Israel?

The outlook is ominous. Stay tuned.

In Memoriam: Paul Schnek

AFSI mourns the loss of longtime member and committed Zionist Paul Schnek. Paul stood outside the Israeli Consulate in NYC, every day from 12-2 PM, to protest the Oslo Accords. He did this for many years, until his legs would no longer allow him to stand for such long periods.

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Editor: Rael Jean Isaac

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Americans for a Safe Israel

1751 Second Ave. (at 91st Street)

New York, NY 10128

Tel (212) 828-2424 / fax (212) 828-1717

Email: judy@afsi.org