
OUTPOST



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Crime and Punishment

William Mehlman

In the hands of the nine justices of the U.S. Supreme Court may rest the present and future ability of Israel to drive a spike into the circulatory system of a network of terror that has shadowed virtually every moment of its existence over the last 70 years.

With little wiggle room, the robed eminences are being called upon to put their imprint on two burning questions: First, do diplomatic considerations, however allegedly “sensitive,” preclude execution of a \$655.5 million liability judgment against the PLO and its Palestinian Authority affiliate by a duly sworn Southern District of New York jury? Within the framework of *Sokolow v. the Palestine Liberation Organization*, the case in question, the Court will be tasked with defining the “civil remedies” parameters of the 1992 “Anti-Terrorism Act,” which allows any U.S. national afflicted in “his or her person, property or business by reason of an act of international terrorism, or his or her survivors or heirs, to sue to recover threefold damages in any appropriate district court of the United States.”

Burning question No.2, to which the justices will have to provide an answer as they weigh the oral arguments they heard last month in *Jesner v. Arab Bank, plc*, is whether corporations can be sued under international law for human rights violations and terrorism. Arab Bank, the corporation under scrutiny, headquartered in Jordan and with a branch network that stretches to New York, is one of the Arab world’s elite financial institutions. The answer to the liability question devolves on the High Court’s interpretation of a law as old as the U.S. Constitution, the 1789 “Alien Tort Statute,” which allows



federal district courts to hear “any civil action by an alien for a ‘tort’ (a civil wrong for which the injured party is entitled to compensation) committed in violation of the Law of Nations or a treaty of the United States.” Relatively undisturbed for the better part of two centuries ATS was brought out of hibernation by 1960s “human rights” groups looking for a peg on which to hang lawsuits seeking relief for abuses beyond U.S. borders. The only restriction on its application is that the people or entities sued must have a “real connection to the United States.”

On that criterion both *Sokolow v. the PLO* and *Jesner v. Arab Bank* can be credited with perfect three-point landings. *Sokolow* pivots on seven terror attacks perpetrated by the PLO between 2000 and 2004, the bloodiest years of the “second intifada.” That long list included, inter alia, the actions of a 17 year-old boy who blew himself and several bystanders up at a crowded bus stop in Jerusalem’s French Hill neighborhood; a bomb detonated by an operative for Hamas (then still part of the PLO) that killed five in a Hebrew University cafeteria; a shooting spree in a crowded Jaffa mall by a man identified as a “Palestinian security officer,” and the wounding of Mark Sokolow, his wife and two daughters in a Jan. 2002 Jerusalem suicide bombing.

In 2004, the families of 11 of those victims – all American citizens -- joined the Sokolows in a suit against the PLO and its PA appendage under the civil remedies provisions of the Anti-Terrorist Act in New York’s Southern District. Following a seven-week trial in 2015, 13 years later, a jury found them liable for six of the seven attacks enumerated in the filing and awarded the plaintiffs a \$218.5 million judgment that, when tripled, came to \$655.5 million. However in what the *Lawfare* blog headlined as “Another Blow Against Recovery for Foreign Wrongs,” the Second Circuit Appeals Court in New York, bowing to the opinion of a three-judge panel, vacated the jury’s finding on grounds that it “failed the Supreme Court’s test for personal jurisdiction” in what the panel regarded as a prior similar suit in Argentina -- one whose plaintiffs were pointedly not American citizens.

Jesner v. Arab Bank does not involve American citizens, but rather whether corporations can be held immune to suits by non-Americans under the Alien Tort Statute. Some 6,000 foreign citizens, many of them Israelis, are hanging on the Supreme Court's answer as it reviews an appeal of a decision by the same Second Circuit Appeals Court in Manhattan that vacated the *Sokolow* jury award. The court decided that corporations, including Arab Bank, could not be sued under ATS.



Lead plaintiff in the case is Joseph Jesner, whose 19 year-old son Jonathan, a British citizen and a student at the Har Etzion Yeshiva outside Jerusalem, was killed in a 2002 suicide bombing as the bus he was on approached Tel Aviv's Great Synagogue on Allenby St. Hamas claimed responsibility for the act that took five other lives and injured more than 70. Plaintiff's lead counsel Jeffrey Fisher of Stanford University's "Supreme Court Litigation Clinic" charges Arab Bank with knowingly serving as paymaster for the Tel Aviv bus bombing, employing its Manhattan branch in the transfer of money that funded both the operation and rewards to the families of those who carried it out. "What we allege is knowing and purposeful financing of terrorism," Fisher submitted in oral arguments last month before the High Court, "with the expectation that it will make those terrorist attacks more successful and more lucrative for the perpetrators, and that is a violation of the Law of Nations."

There are clearly three separate issues the Supreme Court will have to deal with here: Arab Bank's assertion that it was engaged in nothing more actionable than a routine automated clearance of the funds in question with no prior knowledge of how or by whom they were to be employed; the still unsettled question of corporate liability, if any, under ATS; and whether the rule of law must be tailored to America's diplomatic interests.

On the first count, Arab Bank's self-portrayal as a mere processing mechanism for the clearance and movement of the funds of a globally recognized terrorist entity, in name and pseudonym, should be a flashing red light to the Supremes. Moving that money through a New York branch is what the U.S. Justice Department has properly labeled "foreign misuse of domestic banking instrumentalities." The *Jesner* victims say they have solid evidence that Arab Bank "used its New York branch to transfer millions of dollars that were employed in the financing of terrorist attacks between 1995 and 2005 in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza." The bank's counter-claim in Court papers that the U.S. government has deemed it a "constructive partner" in the fight against terrorism financing, as Robert Barnes reports in the *Washington Post*, seems highly implausible.

Arab Bank's hopes for total corporate immunity to suit under ATS don't look all that bright either. Bolstering Jeffrey Fisher's argument that "no business should be allowed to reap the benefits of incorporation while claiming immunity from liability for noxious acts such as terrorism, slavery or genocide," *Reuter's* legal correspondent Alison Frankel avers that "by my read, the Second Circuit prohibition on ATS suits is doomed." Echoing Frankel, University of Virginia's Barron F. Black's Research Professor of Law George Ruthaleem asserts that "the proposed exclusion of corporate liability in *Jesner* appears little more than an attempt to close the door to human rights in Federal Court."

If Ruthaleem's passionate investment in "principled lawmaking" falls by the wayside in the Supreme Court's decisions in *Jesner* and *Sokolow* it may be difficult to interpret it other than as cover for the perpetuation of a State Department Middle East policy with a nearly unblemished record of failure. Resting on the specious contention that the courts must at all costs avoid involvement in foreign policy, it has plunged them ever deeper into that entanglement with its pressure to make the dispensation of justice compliant with presumed diplomatic imperatives. Shall we award the PLO free exit out of a \$655 million trail of blood it left across Israel in the second intifada because, as former *New Republic* legal reporter-researcher Yishai Schwartz laments, it is "already teetering on insolvency?" With an estimated

\$600 million a year flowing into its coffers, \$400 million alone out of U.S. taxpayers' pockets, the PLO isn't teetering on anything but a marginal threat to the royal lifestyles of its managerial benefactors. Are U.S. relations with Jordan so "frayed," as one observer cautioned, as to risk rupture were Arab Bank compelled to satisfy a penalty consistent with the death and injury and broken lives its accommodations with Hamas have strewn across the face of Israel? King Abdullah's other options could be listed on the back of a postage stamp.

The Supreme Court will have until June to ponder its decision on *Jesner v. Arab Bank*. Action on *Sokolow v. the PLO* could come sooner. In a rare display of bipartisanship, 66 members of the House of Representatives -- 34 Republicans and 32 Democrats -- and 24 Senators from both sides of the aisle have filed *Amicus* briefs to a letter from New York Democratic Representative Kathleen Rice to U.S. Solicitor General Noel Francisco requesting immediate action on a request by the Supreme Court for a Trump Administration outline of its position on *Sokolow*. "As members of Congress," the letter reads, "we have a compelling interest to speak out in defense of the Anti-Terrorism Act passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and in support of these American victims waiting for justice.* We ask you now to expedite the response of the Solicitor General and request fair and full consideration of the views herein." A reply is still being awaited.

**The Jan. 2002 suicide bombing on Jerusalem's Jaffa Road that severely wounded the Sokolow family and 146 others was set off by Wafa Idris, the PLO's first female suicide bomber. The Palestinian Authority designated her a "martyr" and has been paying her family monthly stipends over the past 15 years.*

William Mehlman represents AFSI in Israel.

From the Editor

Corrupting Academic Associations: The Mechanics

Ever wonder how they did it? How BDS activists managed to persuade academic associations with zero connection to the Middle East to pass boycott resolutions against Israel? The answer is provided by a lawsuit focused on the American Studies Association [ASA] against ten of those activists resulting in the release of over 17,000 documents turned over by current and former ASA leaders. The suit charges that the activists, five of them members of the U.S. Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel [USACBI] (the faculty arm of BDS), engaged in a successful campaign (in 2013) to "covertly" take over the ASA and use it to support the BDS movement in violation of specific ASA bylaws.

The lawsuit identifies Rutgers assistant professor of women's studies Jasbir Puar (who has repeated libels that Israel harvests the organs of young Palestinian men for scientific research) as chief strategist. The suit charges that emails between the defendants show how Puar packed the ASA leadership with BDS advocates. One advocate wrote: "In my conversations with Jasbir it's clear that the intent of her nominations was to bring more people who do work in, and are politically committed to...the question of Palestine." Emails between the activists also show that they agree not to include their goal of advancing BDS in their pitches to the membership for election to the ASA National Council. The one candidate who disclosed his support lost---those who kept it secret were elected. Once elected they manipulated ASA procedures to ensure the membership would not vote down the Council's decisions by artificially freezing the cutoff date for dues payments. Even then, the lawsuit claims, the BDS activists never obtained the number of votes necessary for a boycott but imposed one anyway!

In the case of other academic associations, the BDS activists employed a variety of ingenious devices—for example, holding the boycott vote at the end of the meeting when all but the BDSers had gone home.

Blood Libels at Rutgers

Rutgers has the distinction of having not one (Jasbir Puar) but two faculty members who have accused Israel of trafficking in human organs. Rutgers has appointed as adjunct professor of Political Science Mazen Adi, who worked for Syria's foreign ministry (most recently as legal adviser at the Syrian



Mission to the UN) for 16 years. While he was defending a boss who was actually guilty of gassing and starving Syrian citizens, including children, he was libeling Israel with a modern version of the blood libel—claiming it was harvesting the organs of Palestinian children. For the Rutgers administration Adi's evil calumnies are obviously no barrier to his appointment. Indeed its spokesman has responded to protests with self-righteous declarations that Rutgers supports the faculty's right to free speech. Now there's a laugh. To cite one example, in 2014 Condoleeza Rice, a black woman, a former Secretary of State, herself an academic by trade, an unexceptionable choice as Rutgers commencement speaker, was forced to bow out when a bunch of rowdy students decided she was not progressive enough for their taste. There was no speaking out by the administration on her right to free speech; it scurried for cover.

Watch the Watchdog

The Southern Poverty Law Center is a candidate for most unsavory organization in this country—yes, there are worse, but the competitors tend to be forthright about their unsavory purposes and thus do less damage. The Southern Poverty Law Center has set itself up as a watchdog monitoring and exposing hate groups and its claims are taken seriously by most of the mainstream media which dutifully label as such the more than 1,000 "hate groups" identified by the SPLC. The only trouble: many are not hate groups at all but traditional Christian groups and groups exposing Islamic extremists. As an editorial in *New Boston Post* pungently puts it: "Critics of Islamic extremism are labelled as anti-Muslim extremists." That includes heroic figures like Ayaan Hirsi Ali, who is forced to live under armed guard for



standing up for women's rights under Islam, and Maajid Nawaz, author of *Radical: My Journey Out of Islamist Extremism* and founder of the Quilliam Foundation, which calls itself "the world's first counter-extremism think tank." Nawaz is suing the SPLC for defamation.

As for Christians, as *New Boston Post* observes, SPLC targets are "often Christian organizations which follow the same doctrines and beliefs that the church has followed for the past two millennia....Politicians who support traditional marriage such as Ben Carson are called out as 'extremists.'"

While it fails miserably as a watchdog on hate groups, the SPLC's long time head Morris Dees is a master at fundraising. The SPLC's net worth in 2015 was \$350 million and it is still raking in money from this country's plentiful supply of useful idiots including Apple, which recently donated a million dollars and J.P. Morgan which coughed up \$500,000. As *New Boston Post* points out, while the term "useful idiot" originally referred to non-Communists who unwittingly helped Communism, "in this case, it's not Communism being aided and abetted so much as calumny. Shame on these corporations, which should know better than to aid and abet civil strife caused by the Southern Poverty Law Center."

Israeli Backbone

Congratulations to Gilad Erdan, Minister of Public Security, and Aryeh Deri, Minister of the Interior, for refusing to grant entry permits to a delegation of 20 members of the European and French Parliament and mayors of French cities who have supported boycotting Israel and had announced in advance they planned to visit Marwan Barghouti in Hadarim Prison. Until recently Israel had meekly accepted its role as a punching bag for phony “human rights” activists, in fact people whose mission is to destroy the state. But in March the Knesset passed a law allowing those calling for a boycott of Israel to be denied admission. This is the first time it is being used against European public officials.

While Israel is showing unexpected backbone, it might turn its attention to a much more dangerous area. Dr. Aaron Lerner of IMRA says it’s time for Israel to reconsider its “quiet for quiet” doctrine, which has been in effect since Prime Minister Barak retreated from Lebanon. Israel has attacked equipment still in Syria but once it reaches Lebanon, quiet for quiet applies. That allows Israel’s enemies to do anything and everything in preparation for attacking Israel (the policy was extended to Gaza after Sharon’s retreat.) Lerner points out one problem with this approach is that it assumes Israel has to worry at most about two fronts: Hezbollah in the north and Hamas in the south. But now there is Iran to take into account. Writes Lerner: “The longer we postpone demolishing the military threat that has built up during ‘quiet for quiet’ the greater the danger that attack capability is used as part of a larger operation against us. As costly as it may be to act now, it could very well be the best choice of action.”

Another Anniversary

Rael Jean Isaac

The hundredth anniversary of the Balfour Declaration has passed to mixed reactions. It has been celebrated, as it deserves to be—the achievements of the Jewish state that emerged from it are breathtaking—but also attacked and denigrated.

Some of the attacks are unsurprising. The “Foreign Minister” of the “State of Palestine” Riyad Malki said it was bringing legal proceedings against the British government in British and international courts, in his words, to “compel the British government to apologize and make reasonable reparations to make up for that tragedy [the Balfour Declaration] including recognizing the State of Palestine.” The UN is using the occasion to set aside \$1.3 billion to fund Palestinian legal campaigns against Israel and to support creation of an independent Palestinian state.

More unsettling are some British reactions. Melanie Phillips reports that Labor Party leader Jeremy Corbyn refused to attend the dinner celebrating the centenary of the Balfour Declaration, a dinner attended by Prime Minister Netanyahu as the guest of Britain’s Prime Minister Theresa May. In his place he sent the Labor shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry who made no secret that she saw



Emily Thornberry

nothing to celebrate. In an interview with the *Middle East Eye* news site, Thornberry said: “I don’t think we celebrate the Balfour Declaration but I think we have to mark it...and I think probably the most important way of marking it is to recognize Palestine.” Even more unsettling are the reactions of some hitherto respectable Jewish organizations. For example, the American Jewish Historical Society has clearly gone over to the dark side with its plan (only withdrawn under pressure) to “commemorate” Balfour with speeches by two anti-Israel activists, partnering with the viciously anti-Israel Jewish Voice

for Peace.

Which brings us to the importance of another anniversary that went totally unremarked: the 24th year anniversary this September of the signing of the Oslo accords in Washington. There is a direct connection between the rampant, ever-growing hostility to Israel and the so-called “peace” agreement Rabin signed with Arafat. Until then, Arafat had been a terror chieftain whose fortunes were in sharp decline. Whatever the failures of Israel’s 1982 campaign in Lebanon, it had one major success, forcing the PLO, which had sowed havoc in both Jordan and Lebanon, to find refuge in Tunisia, a backwater where it remained weak and constrained. With Oslo Israel bestowed vigorous new life on the PLO—and on the worldwide assault on her own legitimacy.

As remarkable as Israel’s stupidity was the enthusiasm with which it was greeted by Israel’s supporters (a reminder—think catastrophic global warming—of just how wrong a “consensus” can be). As American Jewish organizations vied for a place on the White House lawn to witness signing of the “historic” peace agreement, AFSI was a lone pro-Israel organization in denouncing the agreement and in pointing out its inevitable disastrous consequences. There would be individuals who spoke out and indeed traveled to Oslo to protest the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Arafat, Rabin and Peres. These were the people who at the time we called “the real heroes of Oslo,” including Rabbi Avi Weiss, Ronn Torossian, David Kalb and Joshua Meisels of the Coalition for Jewish Concerns (AMCHA) as well as New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind, who brought a group of prominent New Yorkers to Oslo.



It’s not that no major Jewish organization saw that Oslo was a hideous mistake. Mort Klein, then (and now) head of the ZOA, was fully aware, but such was the general euphoria that he felt it impossible to stand directly in front of the tidal wave and instead initially called for PLO “compliance” with the agreement it had signed. Of course the PLO did not comply but nobody in a position to do so called them on it, certainly not the Israeli government. As the terror

against Israeli citizens rose astronomically, Rabin absurdly and repeatedly denounced the mounting incidents as “attacks on peace” rather than what they were—attacks on Israel.

Outpost printed many articles against Oslo before, during and after the signing of the Accords. Here we reproduce one of them, written by David Isaac, entitled “The Handshake”, published in December 1993, which in brief space, epitomized what was fundamentally wrong with Israel’s action.

“Now join your hands, and with your hands, your hearts.’ With this line, Shakespeare reveals the potency of a handshake. It is a symbol of friendship, of common cause, of shared fate. Or in the case of Israel, a sealed fate. For by shaking hands with Arafat on a world stage, Rabin transformed Arafat from pariah to partner, and symbolically transferred to him the age-old rights of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel.

Until that White House ceremony and that handshake, polls in Israel showed a majority opposed to the agreement with Arafat. How could they fail to do so? He was the arch-fiend, confined by circumstance to random murder of innocents, but dedicated to the death of the state and its Jewish inhabitants. But with the handshake, as the world watched, Arafat, like the snake shedding his skin, gave the illusion he had cast off his evil essence. The visual power of the handshake deceptively transformed him, and in so doing, disarmed the Jews’ ability to withstand him. Opposition in Israel melted away.

American Jewish leaders, baffled by the sudden acceptance of Arafat, whom they had so long excoriated, were swept along. Wearied of worry, they embraced disgrace. A mass murderer was found "not guilty." In this hall of mirrors, the world was the court. The jury, the Jews, had acquitted him. Eliahu Zaana-Snir relates a story his grandfather told him. After the slaughter in the disturbances of 1929, the Jewish community leaders in Jerusalem were invited to receive condolences by the Mandate Government Secretary, Sir Harry Luke. Rabbi Avraham Yitzhak Kook, who led the delegation, knew of the involvement of British authorities who stood aside while Arabs killed blameless, defenseless Jews in cold blood. Secretary Luke extended his hand to Rabbi Kook. Rabbi Kook refused the handshake, saying "I will not shake a hand besmirched with Jewish blood." Rabbi Kook understood the power of a handshake.

But Rabin's handshake did more than obfuscate Arafat's corruption. His foul figure became equal in stature with the Prime Minister of Israel and the President of the United States. Standing with two world leaders, Arafat became their partner and was even referred to as 'a partner in peace.' And in the process, Rabin became an accomplice in the pillaging of Jewish rights. For the handshake symbolized the transfer of Jewish rights to the Land of Israel to the man dedicated to the extinction of all Jewish national rights. Throughout two thousand years of persecution, Jews were comforted by the knowledge that the Land of Israel was theirs. For two thousand years, they guarded their rights. For two thousand years, they waited to return. Now, in an evanescent instant, their rights were gone. Rabin had literally handed them to the enemy.

But the handshake was something more. It was a culmination of a campaign of lies. After the Six Day War of 1967, when the Arabs recognized that the prolonged pan-Arab assault won Israel world sympathy, they redefined the conflict. No longer was it between Israel and Arab states, but between Israel and "the Palestinians." The PLO, crowned as "the sole legitimate representative" of this freshly fabricated people, now claimed that it was not the Jews but the Arabs who had been persecuted and oppressed, not the Jews but the Arabs who were without a homeland. While their minions murdered, the PLO covered their tracks with moral make-overs and pious preaching for an end to Israeli occupation. Out of myth and mist they created the Palestinian whose identity was strikingly similar to that of the Jew. And what of the Jew? He became the Nazi. The propaganda succeeded, not least by weakening the will to resist of many Jews both in Israel and the Diaspora.

And so, with the handshake, Rabin proclaimed his willingness to abandon Jewish identity, Jewish national rights, Jewish *raison d'etre* to the Palestinians, a paper people. Despite all the lies, ordinary people everywhere knew Israel as a courageous country that strove for decency even as it fought for survival. If the handshake holds, if the deadly process it signifies is not cut short, the world will know Israel as yet another failed, squalid appeaser of terror and evil."

The deadly process referred to in "The Handshake" is not at an end. A Trump "peace plan" (better described as yet another "territory for terror" plan) is in the works, supposedly to be released in December. The timing could scarcely be more bizarre. Abbas has just teamed up with Hamas, whose commitment to Israel's destruction does not even allow for the euphemisms to which Abbas occasionally resorts. Iran is cementing its takeover of Lebanon through Hezbollah and moving its forces to the Golan border. Iran makes no secret that its goal is to position itself to destroy Israel.

Can Israel summon the will to resist? Can it cut short the deadly process? Or will it continue playing the dangerous game of Russian roulette, saying yes or yes/but to Trump and relying on the Palestinian Arabs once again to save the state by their recalcitrance to any and all concessions? Abbas is a feeble reed on which to rely for Israel's salvation.

In Memoriam Man on a Mission: Dr. Steven Carol (1942-2017) David Isaac

On Oct. 21, 2017, historical truth lost a great advocate. Dr. Steven Carol passed away of heart troubles. He was 75. He leaves behind a wife and two children. To Phoenix, Arizona residents Dr. Carol was best known for his radio guest appearances on KKNT 960 AM's "The Middle East Radio Forum," a weekly show where he served as Associate Producer and Official Historian.

Dr. Carol authored four books, including *Middle East Rules of Thumb*, *Encyclopedia of Days: Start the Day With History, From Jerusalem to the Lion of Judah and Beyond: Israel's Foreign Policy in East Africa since 1948*, and his last book, which was also his masterwork, [*Understanding the Volatile and Dangerous Middle East*](#), which we reviewed in these pages last year. The magisterial 1,000-page tome covers virtually every aspect of the Middle East and includes maps and charts Dr. Carol drew himself (he had attended Brooklyn Tech and could have easily become an engineer if not for his passion for history). Something from Brooklyn Tech must have rubbed off. Dr. Carol brought an engineer-like exactness to his chosen profession.

What few know is that Dr. Carol's major accomplishments all came in the last 15 years of his life.



He had been a high school teacher. (In 1987, New York State named Dr. Carol "Outstanding Teacher.") But he had to give it up. The reason is a dramatic one. In 2002, Dr. Carol underwent surgery for an aortic root aneurysm. His wife, Hadara, is convinced that her husband, who suffered high blood pressure, was pushed over the edge by the demand from a principal to raise the grade of a failing student, who also happened to be a star athlete, so that he would be eligible to play. Every

teacher had agreed to do it. Only Dr. Carol refused.

The surgery involved cutting a 12-inch incision from his heart down to his belly. His wife recalls her astonishment when the surgeons informed her they weren't sure that they had correctly reconnected him. (Over 100 connections were involved.) Dr. Carol lay unresponsive in the ICU for 60 days. The doctors finally told his wife to pull the plug. Although she and her husband had agreed to such a recourse ahead of time, she struggled with the decision and found herself unable to do it. Though not a devout woman, she prayed to God: "Don't keep him here for me. Don't keep him here for the children. Keep him here for his work." Dr. Carol woke shortly afterward. His first words: "Where the hell am I?"

It took Dr. Carol the next three years to fully recover his memory and to be able to walk again. But then he went on a tear, producing books, speaking at churches, synagogues and universities and associate-producing the "The Middle East Radio Forum." Unfortunately, Dr. Carol's troubles were not over. Having already lost the sight in one eye due to complications from his aneurysm operation, blood pressure medicine provided by his doctor severely damaged the other. He was legally blind. Even this did not stop him as he set up an enormous television screen as his computer monitor and continued to work 15-hour days. He was a man on a mission. That mission, says his wife, "was to tell the truth, to spread knowledge."

Hadara is selling copies of his final book [*Understanding the Volatile and Dangerous Middle East*](#) while supplies last. You can reach her via email at starlight18@cox.net or by phone: (480) 239-6367. The book costs \$59.95 + shipping. Hadara is also looking for a new publisher for the book. If you can help in this regard or have suggestions, please contact her.

Dr. Carol will be missed. The bolo tie he wore suited him. He was a tough hombre.

Palestinian State – Enhancing or Eroding U.S. National Security? Yoram Ettinger

The choice of business and social partners should be based—objectively—on a proven track record, not—subjectively—on unproven hopes and speculation.

Similarly, the assessment of the potential impact of the proposed Palestinian state on U.S. national security should be based—objectively—on documented, systematic, consistent Palestinian walk (track record) since the 1930s, not—subjectively—on Palestinian talk and speculative scenarios.

Furthermore, an appraisal of the Arab attitude toward a proposed Palestinian state should be based—objectively—on the documented, systematic and consistent Arab walk since the mid-1950s, not—subjectively—on the Arab talk.

Since the 1993 Oslo Accord, the documented track record of the Palestinian political, religious and media establishment has featured K-12 hate-education and religious incitement. This constitutes the most authoritative reflection of the worldview, state-of-mind and strategic goals of the proposed Palestinian state.

Moreover, since the 1930s, the Palestinian track record has highlighted close ties with the enemies and adversaries of the U.S. and the Free World.



Mufti and Hitler

For example, the Palestinian Grand Mufti, Haj Amin al-Husseini, whose memory and legacy are revered by the Palestinian Authority, embraced Nazi Germany, urging Muslims to join the Nazi military during World War II. Moreover, in 2017, Hitler is still glorified by Palestinian officials and media, and Hitler's *Mein Kampf* is a best-seller in the Palestinian Authority.

During and following the end of WWII, the Palestinian leadership collaborated with the Muslim Brotherhood—the largest intra-Muslim terror organization—which also aligned itself with Nazi Germany. In fact, Arafat and Mahmoud Abbas were key leaders of the Palestinian cell of the Muslim Brotherhood in Cairo.

Throughout the Cold War, Palestinian leaders aligned themselves with the USSR and the rogue East European regimes. Thus, Mahmoud Abbas acquired fluent Russian and his Ph.D. at Moscow's



Patrice Lumumba University

Patrice Lumumba University was a thesis on “the myth of the Jewish Holocaust.” Mahmoud Abbas' PLO, and other Palestinian organizations, were trained by top Soviet Bloc experts on terrorism, subversion, intelligence, staff and command. This resulted – during the 1970s and early 1980s – in a series of PLO camps in Lebanon, training anti-U.S. Asian, African, European, South American and Muslim terrorists and hijackers.

The PLO—which is legally superior to the Palestinian Authority—was an early supporter of the Ayatollahs, following their toppling of the pro-U.S. Shah of Iran. At the same time, three PLO battalions participated in Saddam Hussein's invasion and plunder of Kuwait, which triggered the First Gulf War.

Since 1966, the Palestinian leadership has maintained close ties with North Korea, benefiting from military, economic and diplomatic support, and maintaining one—of only 25—embassies in Pyongyang. The Palestinian Authority also sustains close ties with Cuba, Venezuela, China, Russia and Iran.

While the Palestinian issue is pivotal in the Arab-Western talk, it is marginal in the intra-Arab walk. Pro-US Arab leaders are preoccupied with their primary, survival concerns—the lethal Arab

Tsunami and the Ayatollahs' machete at their throats—which are not related directly, or indirectly, to the Palestinian issue.

While Western leaders are impressed with the generous pro-Palestinian Arab talk, they have ignored the harsh Arab walk, and the meager Arab financial assistance to the Palestinians (10% of the Saudi aid to the anti-Soviet Mujahidin in Afghanistan). Pro-US Arab leaders do not forget, nor forgive, the persistent Palestinian subversion and terrorism in Egypt (1950s), Syria (1960s), Jordan (1970), Lebanon (1970-1983) and Kuwait (1990).

A thundering Arab walk was demonstrated by Kuwait's retaliation to the PLO's repugnant betrayal (the collaboration with Saddam's invasion): expelling almost all 300,000 Palestinians (relatives, supporters and associates of Arafat and Mahmoud Abbas) in the aftermath of Kuwait's liberation by the US military in January, 1991.

The aforementioned, Palestinian systematic rogue track record—against the backdrop of the rocky Hashemite-Palestinian relations—suggests that a Palestinian state could be the straw which could break the Hashemite back. A Palestinian state west of the Jordan River and the Hashemite regime constitutes a classic oxymoron. It could transform Jordan into another platform of intra-Islamic terrorist warfare, establishing another anti-U.S. Arab regime which could be subservient to the Muslim Brotherhood, the Ayatollahs (in neighboring Iraq) or ISIS, with lethal ripple effects into neighboring Saudi Arabia, all other pro-U.S. Arab entities and the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea—a dramatic financial, national security and homeland security threat to the US and the globe.

A Palestinian state could provide docking and landing rights, and possibly a land-base, to Russia, and possibly China and/or Iran, which would destabilize the region, challenging the U.S. military presence in the Mediterranean and Middle East.

The aforementioned track record would result in an additional anti-U.S. vote in the UN, and in the flight of the dwindling Christian community, which was a majority in Bethlehem before the 1993 Oslo Accord, now reduced to a 15% minority and still declining in 2017.

While Western conventional wisdom assumes that the Palestinian issue is a core-cause of Middle East turbulence, a crown-jewel of Arab policy-makers and the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the increasingly volatile Middle East reality pulls the rug from under such assumptions, documenting the Palestinian issue as a red herring, which diverts attention away from the clear and present lethal threats to all pro-U.S. Arab regimes.

Attesting to the huge Arab talk-walk gap is the currently-unprecedented security collaboration between Israel and all pro-U.S. Arab countries, irrespective of the unresolved Palestinian issue (as are the vast majority of the multitude of intra-Arab disputes) and the growing Jewish population in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria. The pro-U.S. Arabs consider Israel to be the most effective "life insurance agent" in the region, due to its robust posture of deterrence, which would dissipate if Israel were to retreat from the mountain ridges of Judea and Samaria to the 9-15 mile defenseless sliver along the Mediterranean.

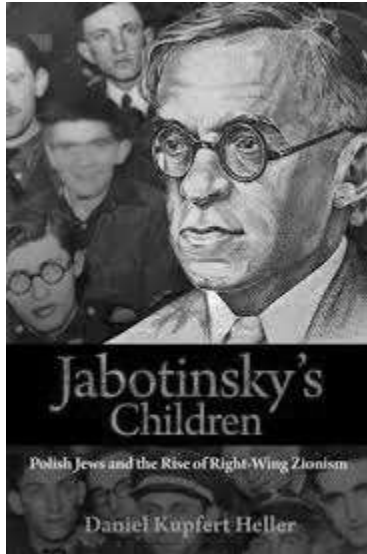
Israel would be relegated from the most effective U.S. geo-strategic beachhead, which extends the U.S. strategic arm, to a geo-strategic burden requiring the aid of the U.S. strategic arm.

For the U.S. to promote the establishment of a Palestinian state—in defiance of its well-documented track record—would resemble the fire department recruiting a notorious pyromaniac to extinguish fires.

Yoram Ettinger is a diplomat, researcher, writer, lecturer and consultant. This appeared in Israel National News on November 18.

***Jabotinsky's Children: Polish Jews and the Rise of
Right-Wing Zionism* by Daniel Kupfert Heller
Reviewed by David Isaac**

Jabotinsky's Children is a hatchet job, cloaked in a tone of historical objectivity. The "children" are Betar, the youth movement founded by Zionist leader Vladimir "Ze'ev" Jabotinsky, which boasted



some 65,000 members in the 1930s, most of them in Poland. The book's thesis is that Betar youth, whom the author says Jabotinsky originally viewed with "a mix of pity, disdain and suspicion," ultimately shaped his world view, making him open to fascist ideas. The author, Daniel Kupfert Heller, an assistant professor of Jewish Studies at McGill University, further asserts that Jabotinsky deliberately wrote "provocative and ambiguous prose" to allow "Betar activists to interpret their leader's writings as they saw fit," in line with what the author views as their own authoritarian and violence-prone ideology.

The first hundred pages are devoted to a tedious setup describing Jabotinsky's growing interest in Poland's Jewish youth and an overly detailed examination of the various existing Jewish groups that would eventually coalesce to form Betar. That the book originated as a Ph.D. thesis probably explains the minutia of this section. Although the author attempts to explain why Jews were attracted to Polish leader Jozef Pilsudski's right-wing government (not hard to understand as the situation of Jews under his regime was better than either before or after), he doesn't adequately convey the daunting challenges facing Polish Jews—given the growth of anti-Semitic hatred, the escalating economic hardships, and the progressive closing off by Britain of Jewish immigration to Palestine, one of their few avenues of escape. Neither will the reader learn what the Revisionist movement was about or even what issues preoccupied the Zionist leaders of the day.

That some Betar members flirted with fascist ideas is not in doubt. The question is: So what? It is not surprising that youth movements would be influenced by the politics of the day. Early on, Italian leader Benito Mussolini was not considered anti-Semitic which is why as late as 1934, Zionist leader Dr. Chaim Weizmann, the very face of establishment Zionism, could visit Mussolini as part of a diplomatic initiative without raising eyebrows. Heller admits that in the 1920s and part of the 1930s, fascism was not a dirty word. In the 1920s, Churchill himself wrote that Italian fascism had "rendered a service to the whole world." As late as 1933, Roosevelt expressed his admiration for Mussolini.

What is worth noting—and Heller does not note it—is that Jabotinsky refused to meet with Mussolini when given the chance. The reason: Jabotinsky hated fascism. In a world that still admired it—yes, including some of his followers—Jabotinsky decried the spread of the Leader cult. Indeed, he might have been the first Zionist leader to use the word fascism in a pejorative sense.

Faced with Jabotinsky's many antifascist articles, Heller has his work cut out for him. He nevertheless insists that Jabotinsky's writings were "provocative, elusive, and contradictory." He repeatedly refers to Jabotinsky's devotion to democratic ideals as a "persona," implying that Jabotinsky believed something more sinister in his heart of hearts. He fastens upon a letter Jabotinsky wrote to a follower in 1930. It says: "The cult of the Duce awakens disgust in me"—hardly an "elusive" message. But wait, says Heller, later in that same letter Jabotinsky "tempered" his message, saying, "Fascism has many good ideas." The trouble with treating this as evidence of Jabotinsky's alleged slouch toward fascism, is that we have a clear declaration of his opposition to fascism coupled with a vague statement

about fascism's positive aspects. Heller doesn't include the text of the letter so we don't know what were the "good ideas" to which Jabotinsky referred.



In fact, we do know what Betar members admired about fascism. In one of his more cautious moments, Heller himself tells us: "While many Betar leaders admired the fascist calls for discipline, obedience, and military might, and occasionally idealized their economic system, they never celebrated institutions of the fascist state designed to suppress political dissent, whether through censorship, the secret police, or squadristi. Leaders of Betar's parent organization, the Revisionist movement, were especially reticent to identify with a movement that infringed on basic freedoms of

association and sought to dictate the attitudes and behaviors of its citizens." In short, Betar rejected those aspects of fascism for which we today judge the political ideology to be so repugnant.

The author is also guilty of serious historical inaccuracies. In his discussion of agreements between Jabotinsky and David Ben-Gurion in 1934, which the two men were eager to reach in order to unify the Zionist movement with the looming threat of Hitler, Heller says they fell apart due to "members of both the Left and the Right rejecting the initial agreements forged by their leaders ... negotiation and compromise could not overcome the hatred that Jabotinsky and Ben-Gurion had fomented among their ranks throughout the previous years." What actually happened was the Revisionists confirmed the agreement (after prolonged debate according to Joseph Schechtman's biography of Jabotinsky) while Labor did not. In March 1935, the Labor Zionist trade union Histadrut held a referendum, which rejected the agreement with Jabotinsky by 15,227 votes to 10,187. Ben-Gurion biographer Shabtai Tevet writes: "Ben-Gurion was his own victim, undone by the hard line he had formerly taken against Jabotinsky and his movement." So it was Labor and only Labor that couldn't overcome its hostility. On what then does Heller base his assertion that both sides rejected the agreement? According to the footnotes, on two letters by Jabotinsky. Heller doesn't provide their contents. If Heller has new information, unknown to previous Zionist historians that the Revisionists repudiated these agreements, he ought to produce it, not base this revelation on his interpretation of letters we are not allowed to see.

The passing reference to the hatred fostered by Ben-Gurion is the first inkling the reader will get that such attitudes existed in Labor Zionist ranks. This is a striking oversight. Labor Zionists were responsible for nearly all violence between the two Zionist sides. Presumably Heller doesn't want to speak about this because it would undercut his assertion that Betar "culture made clear the necessity of waging war on socialists," which suggests Betar was the source of violence. But time and again it was the Labor Zionists who responded with physical violence when Revisionist workers wanted to work outside the socialist Histadrut. After an incident in which adult Labor members with sticks attacked 15-year-old Betar youths marching in Tel Aviv, Labor leader Berl Katznelson resigned in protest, writing: "No compromise is possible between my outlook and the slope down which our movement is sliding ineluctably. I am prepared to go down with the movement in its struggle, but I am not prepared to join it on the road of intoxication and suicide."

Heller really goes off the rails at the conclusion where he appears to treat Betar as the fount of Labor Zionist violence against Arabs. He writes that, "When the moment arrived for the 'native born' young Jews of Palestine to join underground Labor Zionist battalions that at times targeted civilians, they had at their disposal an arsenal of thousands of articles from Betar's journals that offered moral justification for employing violence against Palestine's Arab population." It is laughable to think that

young Labor Zionists needed Betar reading material—which it is highly doubtful they saw—to finally abandon havlagah, the purely defensive reaction to Arab violence that left the initiative in Arab hands and which the Labor establishment itself was eventually forced to discard.

As with the example above, Heller never bluntly declares anything. Everything is done through suggestion, implication, insinuation. While it seems that Heller would love nothing more than to pin all violence on Jabotinsky and his Betar, he appears equally cautious so that no one should pin on him the accusation that he has done so. It makes his writing appear, dare we say it, "contradictory," even "elusive."

The book does have one interesting section. It is on the autobiographies of young Betar members from far-flung branches in Poland. What emerges is that Betar's largely urban leaders had a tough time communicating their political message to their distant village and small town members. One gets the impression that much as a piece of gossip can change beyond recognition as it gets passed down a human chain, Betar's political ideology also underwent metamorphosis. The most humorous example does not concern Betar, but is told by a Betar autobiographer about his sister, who ran a local Hashomer Hatzair branch. When she received propaganda from Hashomer's rabidly secular, socialist HQ, she simply stuffed it in a drawer and ran the organization as a religious group, where they debated such matters as how to rebuild the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. There are probably lessons here for any organization struggling to keep its people on point.

All in all, this is a profoundly depressing book, dredging up long buried calumnies as if they were historical truths. But Daniel Kupfert Heller can take heart. He has ensured himself a cushy position at his choice of any number of Jewish Studies departments where political uniformity eclipses historical accuracy.

David Isaac is the creator of a Zionist history site, ZionismU.com. This appeared in The Washington Free Beacon on November 5.

***The Rise of the Israeli Right: From Odessa to Hebron* by Colin Shindler**

Reviewed by Moshe Dann

The purpose of this book, like several others by Colin Shindler, emeritus professor in Israel Studies at SOAS University of London, is to show how "right wing" governments have misled Israel and prevented peace with its neighbors. Readers seeking an explanation for this on-going phenomenon, however, will be disappointed.

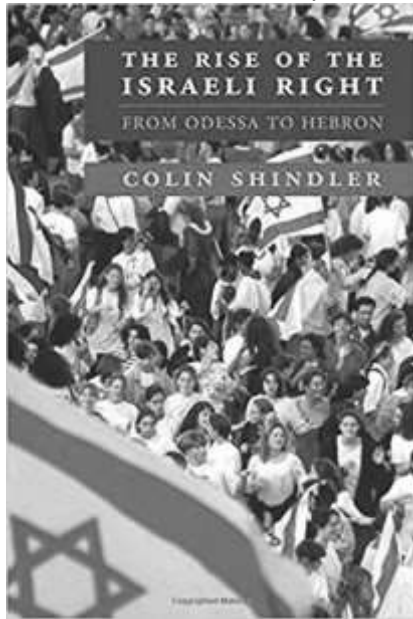
Shindler never explains how the "far Right" is distinguished from "the Right," or even what "the Right" means. Although used around the world to describe a socio-economic philosophy and agenda, Shindler's analysis of "the Right" focuses on a single issue: the settlements. Shindler refers only once in passing (on p.325), to "market forces," "collectivism" (kibbutz socialism), "Labor's anti-religious ethos and patronizing attitude," and "Mizrachi voters" (Sephardim) – all of which are critical in understanding Israeli politics and society.

Nowhere does Shindler discuss the role of Israeli's media, tightly controlled by the Left, including state-sponsored TV and radio, or the role of left-wing academic and literary elites, or the Left-dominated judicial system, or its concentrated economic structure dominated by a handful of families. Shindler misses the point: despite these obstacles, Israeli Jews support a pro-settlement, "Right-wing" government.

One problem in Israeli politics is its electoral system. Citizens do not vote for specific candidates, but for a party. Once in power, the Prime Minister of the victorious party can do whatever he wants,

regardless of what he or other party leaders have promised or voters may have intended. This means there is no way for voters to influence policy or ensure accountability. Israeli political parties do not issue political platforms or make policy commitments.

Without an analysis of socio-economic forces driving Israel and the settlement movement



Shindler fails to understand why “the Right,” or more accurately, the Likud Party continues to attract Right-wing voters – even when it does not fulfill its promises. Israel’s last election made this point clear. Although the Left-wing Zionist Union/Labor party was predicted to win, PM Netanyahu’s last-minute appeal to voters carried Likud to an astounding victory.

Rather than provide an explanation for why Israeli Jews vote increasingly for "right-wing" parties, he opines: "There has been a drifting away from a belief in the moral norms of liberal states -- a decline in the belief in democracy and an increase in the sense of particularist Jewishness." (p.361)

Shindler does not discuss Palestinian terrorism and PA incitement and its effects on Israeli politics. Hamas “bombings” are noted in passing; Hezbollah not at all.

Shindler’s focus is on settlements which according to him represent "the emergence of redemptionist Zionism" dominated by "messianism" seeking "to colonize the West Bank." (p.8) (He never uses the authentic names for the area, Judea and Samaria, since

that would acknowledge its historical identity; “West Bank” was the term Jordan adopted after conquering and annexing the area in 1949). Describing Jews who live in their ancient homeland as “colonists” Shindler seems unable to grasp the historical connection between Aliyah, Zionism and Jewish nationalism. According to Shindler: “In the early 1980s the desire to colonise [sic] the West Bank...found political inspiration in the IRA hunger strikers and the struggle of the Viet Cong in Vietnam” (p. 9). This bizarre assertion--the PLO’s deputy chief and head of intelligence Abu Iyad has acknowledged the direct support both the IRA and Viet Cong gave to the PLO—is based on a left-wing secondary source, a frequent practice in the book which calls Shindler’s scholarship into question.

Shindler passes over the hijacking of right and center by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in the traumatic evacuation of Jews from the Gaza Strip and Northern Samaria in the so-called 2005 “disengagement” and his plan (aborted by the stroke that felled him) for further unilateral withdrawals. He does not discuss how Sharon, having failed to win support from his Likud party, left it, formed a new party (Kadima) and retained power by inducing then-prominent Likud leaders like Ehud Olmert, Tsachi Hanegbi, Tsipy Livni and Meir Sheerit to join him, creating an amalgam with what had been the Left opposition led by Shimon Peres. Although political chicanery, it was legal.

The reason for the continued strength of the “right” in Israel is simple: most people don't trust the Leftist opposition--and this despite a pro-Leftist media, the powerful Histadrut union, and entrenched institutional power in the High Court and judicial establishment.

Shindler's inability to assess correctly public opinion is obvious when he states: "Yet opinion polls regularly indicate that a majority of Israelis did not ideologically agree with the settlers and wished for a way out of the quagmire ..." (p.334) Aside from the inaccuracy of such polls compared to the results of elections, one must factor out the 20-25% Arab respondents who do not identify as Zionists and consistently vote against Israel's interests.

A similar misunderstanding occurs when he cites Knesset approval for Sharon’s plan – again enabled by Arab support – as an indication of public support. He does not mention that Sharon’s plan

was opposed by most of the senior IDF officers, including the IDF Chief-of-Staff, Moshe Ya'alon, who was forced to resign.

Shindler misunderstands Israeli politics and confuses political labels with reality. Prime Minister Netanyahu is no more "right-wing" than his Kadima/Likud predecessors Prime Ministers Ariel Sharon and Ehud Olmert. Likud was called "right-wing" by the media because (in comparison to Labor) it was more open to capitalism and settlements. But Sharon and Olmert acted similarly to their Labor predecessors and opponents. If the distinction between "right" and "left" is based on support for settlements, Likud and Kadima leaders were the only ones that actually destroyed settlements and synagogues.

As long as the Left fails to understand that Israelis are more concerned about security and the quality of life than a fake "peace process" and a Palestinian state, Israelis will turn increasingly to the Right and the Left will continue to decline. Israelis will not sacrifice themselves on the altar of a Palestinian state.

Moshe Dann is a historian, writer and journalist.

How the Quakers Became Champions of BDS

Asaf Romirowsky and Alexander Joffe

Editor's Note: Starting in 1970 the AFSC became a pioneer in advocating for the PLO, then still all but universally recognized in the West as a terror group. For those interested in an in-depth view of the process by which the Quakers moved from genuine advocacy of human rights to defaming Israel while flying the false flag of human rights, far and away the best study was published by AFSI in 1979. The 72 page pamphlet, by former Quaker H. David Kirk, was entitled "The Friendly Perversion: Quakers as Reconcilers: Good People and Dirty Work." It is available in full on the AFSI website. The AFSC is now among the official promoters of an outrageous bill introduced by ten Democrats that would prevent U.S. tax dollars supporting Israeli "detention and mistreatment of Palestinian children" (i.e. terrorists under 18 years of age.) There have been 79 terror attacks by such "children", including the brutal murders of mothers and their innocent small children, in the last two years. The bill (like the AFSC) does not condemn the incitement to such acts by the PA media (specifically cited by one of the "child" murderers as the reason for his action) or the rewards it bestows on families of the murderers.

In a not-so-earth-shattering move, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has appointed a Palestinian-American, Joyce Ajlouny, as its new Secretary General. Ajlouny is a native of Ramallah and formerly the head of the Quaker school there, a "passionate" advocate for Palestinians and for "evenhandedness."

Ajlouny may be the perfect candidate to run the AFSC, the leading American Quaker organization, which over the years has cultivated its image as peaceful and supremely benign. Few suspect, much less know, that one of their central missions these days is promoting the BDS movement that opposes Israel's existence.

How did a century-old religiously based pacifist organization transform itself into one of the leading engines for the Palestinian cause? Part of the answer lies in the AFSC's evolution, which has gone from trying to save Jews to vilifying them. Its Quaker theology has similarly gone from emphasis on the "Inner Light" that guides individual conscience to something like old-fashioned Christian supersessionism, where Jews deserve to be hated. The result is that the organization is now effectively captive to progressive Israel-hatred.



Founded during World War I to provide alternative forms of "service" to pacifist Quakers, the AFSC quickly became one of the foremost refugee relief organizations of the early 20th century, with operations around the world. A favorite of Eleanor Roosevelt's, the AFSC was also active within the U.S. during the Depression, teaching skills across Appalachia and the South.

With the rise of Nazism, AFSC became involved with what would be the greatest refugee crisis in history. But the experience also demonstrated the organization's approach to religious diplomacy and relief efforts, where naïve idealism alternated with practicality. Shortly after Kristallnacht in November 1938, AFSC leaders traveled to

Germany to personally investigate the suffering of the Jews and pled their case with Reichsführer-SS Reinhard Heydrich to bring relief aid. They were unsuccessful.

But the AFSC's post-war record in refugee relief was so exceptional that along with a British Quaker group, it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947. By the late 1940s, the AFSC had a distinctive place in American and international society, a well-established Christian NGO with global reach. But it was also a universalist organization that went against the grain to unpopular causes. Its humanitarian ethic and pacifist ideology were radical both in the American and Protestant contexts. These tensions would ultimately undo the AFSC.

The shift began when the AFSC was invited by the United Nations to run Palestinian refugee relief in Gaza in late 1948. Quakers had been in the Holy Land for over a century, running schools and hospitals for local Christians. But the refugee program was a turning point. Relief workers had never encountered refugees who did not want to be taught new skills or to be resettled elsewhere, only to be maintained at someone else's expense until Israel disappeared.

So traumatic was this for the AFSC that after 18 months it refused to be part of any future Palestinian refugee program, citing among other things the "moral degeneration" of the refugees brought on by becoming welfare recipients. This view was prescient—almost seventy years later, the Palestinians remain the world's largest recipients of international welfare through UNRWA and the UN system.

The Gaza experience—where in fact the AFSC excelled at providing relief and creating infrastructure, despite resistance from the refugees themselves—was enough to convince the leadership to get out of the relief business altogether. At the same time, a faction of the organization's leadership advocated a radical pacifist, and anti-American, agenda, aimed at nuclear disarmament and elevating the status of the Soviet Union and Communist China. By the 1960s, the AFSC became a liberal pressure group, one that openly supported North Vietnam. Support for Saddam Hussein and North Korea quickly followed.

But the AFSC never entirely lost interest in the Arab-Israeli conflict. After 1967, the AFSC escalated its involvement, beginning with quasi-theological criticism of Israel, acting as PLO's legal representatives in Jerusalem during the 1970s, and conducting 'interfaith' events in which American Jews were shamed for supporting Israel. The Quaker tradition of even-handedness and political neutrality was long gone; by the late 1970s the AFSC had effectively enshrined Palestinians as the "new Jews." Support for Palestinian terror as "resistance" against Israel's "structural violence" and against sanctions on Iran's nuclear program is now standard.

These policies are reflected in the educational curriculum of Quaker schools across the country, but most of all in the AFSC's leading role in the BDS movement. Today, the AFSC runs several offices dedicated to supporting the BDS movement, partners with the odious Jewish Voice for Peace and with

the Muslim Brotherhood backed Students for Justice in Palestine to train BDS activists and run campus events at which Israel is vilified and its supporters are harassed, and endorses the Palestinian right of return, which would destroy Israel as a sovereign Jewish state.

Joyce Ajlouny's appointment epitomizes the transformation of the AFSC. Quaker schools and education have long been hijacked by Palestinian advocacy, as was recently seen at Friends' Central School in Wynnewood, PA, where BDS supporter Sa'ed Atshan was scheduled to speak to students. Ajlouny, who served for 13 years as the Director of the Ramallah Friends School, will undoubtedly increase that kind of education, given her stated desire to "bring educational programming on Israeli-Palestinian issues into Quaker schools, where many of the students are Jewish."



Many Jewish parents are attracted to Quaker schools, which seek to instill values mistakenly believed to be analogous to those of Judaism, especially since the Quakers and their schools have enshrined "social justice" as a guiding principle. This is misleading. The AFSC's concept of "justice" is one-sided, and Jewish parents must decide whether Jewish values and Quaker values, as they exist today, are really the same. Ajlouny's

appointment makes this more pressing.

Asaf Romirowsky is Executive Director of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East. Alexander Joffe is a Shillman-Ginsburg Fellow of the Middle East Forum. This appeared in the Tablet on November 10.

Media Bias? Nothing New Here

Ruth King

Many years ago an Arab in Jerusalem stabbed an elderly Orthodox Jew whose companions gave chase, captured the assailant and beat him until the police came. Peter Jennings, who was the anchor of ABC News from 1984 until his death in 2005, described it thus: "Today an Orthodox mob chased and beat a Palestinian Arab." That was artful bias--reporting an incident factually with no exculpatory explanation.

The other networks were no better. NBC reported outright lies during their coverage of the Lebanon War.

In 1984 Americans for a Safe Israel produced a documentary entitled *NBC in Lebanon- A Study in Media Misrepresentation*. In *The New York Times*, the television critic John Corry reviewed it as flawed (naturally) but admitted "[I]t attempts to prove, and to a large extent does prove, that coverage by the *NBC Nightly News* of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the summer of 1982 was faulty." He continued "One may argue, of course, that journalism ought not to reflect any viewpoint, and that to accuse NBC of not reflecting the 'Israeli viewpoint' is only to accuse it of not taking sides. On the other hand, the documentary, judiciously using NBC's own film, suggests that NBC was indeed taking sides and pressing the viewpoint of the P.L.O."

Of Tom Brokaw, the "star" of the AFSI documentary, Dan Rather who 'resigned' in disgrace from CBS after he orchestrated a false report on the National Guard Service of then President George Bush, and Peter Jennings, journalist Sarah Pentz had [this to say](#): "Each of these men leaves a shameful legacy on the face of American journalism. They led their networks into a shocking wave of politically biased reporting and did absolutely nothing to rebuke those who indulged in it—because, it was their

agenda, too. They knew exactly what they were doing. Each is responsible for the blackening tarnish that covers all journalists today because of their partisan politics.”

These biased network journalists paved the way for the clowns who dominate network as well as print media today. At least those three had credentials as journalists, however badly they misused them. The present lot reports on world events, and especially Israel without a clue. They pretend that the history of Israel started in 1967 when Jews, without provocation or legitimate rights, invaded the peaceful and productive lands of the “West Bank.”

Chris Matthews of MSNBC worries that moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem will “desecrate the Holy City”, defends Palestinian Arab terrorism, and worries, worries, worries full time about the perverse Jewish lobby, Jewish Republicans, Jewish influence--and non Jewish Donald Trump. As Stuart Schwartz summed up in the *American Thinker* in 2010: “Matthews has long used his television platform to spotlight the danger to the United States posed by Israel and American Jews who conspire against the country. Call it ‘The Protocols of Chris Matthews,’ or, perhaps, ‘The Protocols of the Elders of MSNBC.’ Rid us of Israel, rid us of Jews, and Pandora will return to its pre-kosher bliss.”

In 2014, in a widely circulated column from *The Atlantic* “What the Media Gets Wrong About Israel - The news tells us less about Israel than about the people writing the news” former AP reporter Matti Friedman writes: “The uglier aspects of Palestinian society are untouchable because they would disrupt the ‘Israel story,’ which is a story of Jewish moral failure.” He includes this pithy 1946 quote from George Orwell: “The argument that to tell the truth would be ‘inopportune’ or would ‘play into the hands of’ somebody or other is felt to be unanswerable, and few people are bothered by the prospect that the lies which they condone will get out of the newspapers and into the history books.”

Media reporting on North Korea, China, Iran, Africa, Russia, and anything about the President and domestic policies is devoid of historical context and alternative perspectives. It is “one size fits all” liberal cant.

Celebrities routinely host galas to reward themselves: Emmies, Golden Globes, Oscars. Journalists have their own awards for distinction in reporting--the Peabody, the Pulitzer, the Edward R. Murrow. I would recommend the Apate award for all those who compound ignorance and bias into fake news. In Greek mythology Apate was the goddess of deception, guile and fraud. The statuette could have a Pinocchio nose, although the Disney legend was limited to thirteen lies, and reporters have no limits.

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