



# Dateline

## MIDDLE EAST

### A STUDENT PRODUCTION



# ISRAEL

## IN THE MEDIA:

### DISTORTION OR REALITY?

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ISRAEL IN THE MEDIA: DISTORTION OR REALITY?

## *Congratulations from the Director and National Chairman*

*I am proud to write this brief note for the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research's unique student-written and student-produced Dateline: Middle East magazine. Now in its 28th consecutive year, DME has maintained a remarkable level of high-quality Israel advocacy, producing in the process a series of outstanding young Zionist leaders, activists, and writers (including Hillel Neuer, now head of UN Watch in Geneva, Charles Bybelezer, an outstanding journalist now working for Channel I-24 news in Israel, and many others).*

*Distributed across Canada and the U.S., and even landing on the desk of Israel's Prime Minister, Bibi Netanyahu, DME--like the printing presses of the Italian Renaissance--is also a learning environment, a kind of school for intelligent and informed Israel advocacy, a place where students acquire knowledge of Israel and the Middle East, learn research and production techniques, and acquire writing and editing skills which serve them well in many future professions.*

*And DME is even more important, and necessary, today, as a key tool for fighting spreading anti-Israel and anti-Semitic BDS delegitimation on college and university campuses. It is a pleasure, as Director of CIJR, to congratulate current staffers Bradley Martin, Liora Chartouni, Mitchell Stein and their editorial colleagues and writers on the outstanding upcoming issue, and to continue to support what is one of CIJR's most important contributions to the well-being of Israel and the Jewish People.*

*Prof. Frederick Krantz, Director, CIJR*

*Congratulations on the launch of Dateline, a unique pro-Israel student publication.*

*Great job done with love and dedication to Jewish continuity and activism on Canadian campuses.*

*Special thanks go to Liora Chartouni, Bradley Martin and Mitchell Stein for your hard work,*

*Jack Kincler, National Chairman*

## Examining the Role of Media and the State of Israel

Editorial by Bradley Martin

Public opinion is shaped in large part due to media coverage. It is therefore incumbent on media, whether from news, entertainment, or government-sponsored, to disseminate fair and accurate information to their respective communities. This is all the more necessary when it comes to subjects surrounding Israel and the Middle East. More often than not, the truth is often left by the wayside, while anti-Israel propaganda is allowed to proliferate. In the words of Mark Twain: “a lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.”

Media inaccuracy, when it comes to Israel, manifests itself in different ways. The most obvious of which is through news media, when journalists propagate inaccurate stories concerning Israel either because of bias or shoddy investigation of a given issue. There is also government inaccuracies, where world leaders broadcast erroneous information in the service of a given agenda. With the advent of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, traditional media would undergo a major shift through the introduction of social media. With platforms such as Twitter and Facebook, media would have the power to affect millions of people on a scope that was previously unimaginable.



It is therefore important to respond to media inaccuracies concerning Israel, wherever they may be. In order to bring to light the current situation that the State of Israel is facing, Volume Thirty Three of *Dateline: Middle East* focuses on the following issues concerning media and misrepresentation.

To begin, **Miriam Barchilon** in “Israel: A Spanish Journalist’s Obsession” describes the state of journalism in Spain, where criticism against Israel can be accurately described as a hypocritical obsession. Israel, in the Spanish media, receives a disproportionate amount of focus in comparison to other conflicts throughout the world, with much criticism even going as far to be outright anti-Jewish bigotry. While there have been some improvements as of late, concerning the Spanish media’s portrayal of Israel, the problems of anti-Semitism and double standards are still prevalent.

**Mosché Amouyal**’s “Obama et Israël: l’heure des bilans est arrivée” examines the promises made by President of the United States Barack Obama concerning Israel, in comparison to the reality of U.S-Israel relations.

**Mitchell Stein**, Graphic Editor of *Dateline: Middle East*, writes in “The Rise of Anti-Semitism on Social Media” how new technologies in combination with an old hatred has combined in such a way to create a new kind of anti-Semitism that propagates itself over the Internet. How to combat hate speech, as well as protecting oneself from hate crimes, are issues that must be addressed.

ISRAEL IN THE MEDIA: DISTORTION OR REALITY?

**Liora Chartouni**, Publications Director for *Dateline: Middle East*, examines media hypocrisy concerning terrorist attacks leveled against Israel in comparison to terrorism committed elsewhere in the world, in her article titled: “Le terrorisme est condamnable... à une exception près.”

In my article, originally published by *The American Spectator*, titled “The Best Place for Arabs in the Middle East,” I reply to the latest assertions made by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in front of the European Parliament, that Israel is guilty of committing genocide against the Palestinians. Not only are Arabs tolerated in Israeli society, but Israel is undoubtedly the best place in the Middle East for Arabs to thrive as well as practice their religion freely.

**Bernard Bohbot**, Editor of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research’s French publication *Communiqué Isranet*, describes how a number of news media outlets use their platform to support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement against Israel, without any regard for journalistic integrity or objectivity in his piece titled: “Quand les médias se font les complices du mouvement BDS.”

**Ben Jaffe** criticizes U.S funding of the Palestinian Authority, as well as the PA’s continuous incitement and spreading of propaganda against Israel, in his article titled: “The Palestinian Authority Money Vacuum.”

**Ryan Bellerose**, a Métis from Alberta and founder of *Calgary United with Israel*, tackles a fallacious anti-Israel media narrative that Palestinians are indigenous to the land and that Israeli Jews are colonizers. Bellerose calls for solidarity between Jews and indigenous peoples throughout the world in his special contribution to this edition of *Dateline: Middle East* titled: “The Indigenous Argument against the Palestinian Narrative.”

Finally, we have CIJR Publications Chairman **Rob Coles’** “Book Review of ‘Project Palestine’” where he takes a look at the graphic novel by Dan Yoo and Goodman Kim. Not only is this graphic novel an informative, entertaining, and easy read for people who have no knowledge of the region, but it is a valuable tool for pro-Israel advocates to counter BDS lies. This book review also shows the importance of graphic novels, which have emerged as an effective way to make complex issues more accessible.

With the great power that comes from the media’s ability to shape public opinion, comes great responsibility. It is incumbent on media outlets to present their perspectives on Israel as factually and as objectively as possible. It is the hope that with this edition of *Dateline: Middle East*, which now celebrates its twenty eighth year of publication, that the baseless assertions and anti-Israel bias that pervades all forms of modern media, can be countered.

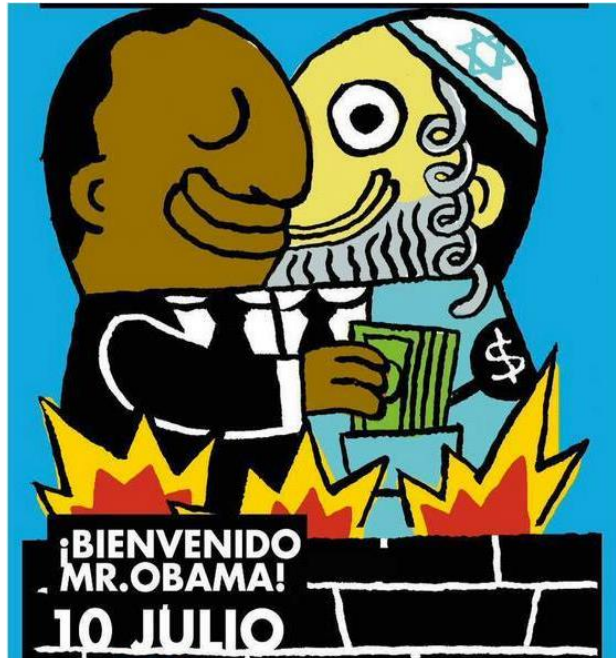
*(Bradley Martin is Deputy Editor at the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research a Fellow for the Haym Salomon Center for American Jewish Thought.)*

## Israel: A Spanish Journalist's Obsession

Miriam Barchilon

There is a very common saying in Spain: "Spain's different." Spaniards use it frequently to express disenchantment with the country and prove that things are different in Spain, for the worse, in comparison to the rest of the world. But there is one thing that is shameful in Spain and in many other parts of the world: the journalists' obsession with Israel. The space and time dedicated to this conflict compared to other wars in the world, the choice of words and the demonization of one side and the victimization of the other one, make this obsession hypocritical and biased. Although this tendency is changing, it is doing so at a very slow pace.

Spanish media coverage on Israel is out of proportion compared to other international conflicts. When the slightest incident happens in Israel, news outlets automatically make it appear as one of the most important pieces of news of the day. There is a questionable impartiality when it comes to "choosing sides." For instance, last year, the digital version of *El País*, the most read newspaper in Spain, had published 13,040 articles about Israel, while only 5,630 articles were published about Sudan, 4,627 about Ukraine, 3,717 about Nigeria, 1,345 about Yemen and 8,291 about Syria at the start of the refugee crisis. This means that in 2015, *El País* published in its digital version a daily average of 13 articles about Israel more than about Syria, being the second most followed conflict in the paper.



The Spanish media waits impatiently for new tensions between Israel and Gaza to use the images of screaming babies and crying women to open their broadcast, or better yet have a best-selling front page. Not only does this issue use the most time and space in news outlets when it comes to conflicts, but it also comes at the expense of more important ones. Conflicts, when told by the media, don't usually appear in the front page of the Spanish papers. But when it comes to Israel, and especially when it can be blamed, it becomes the most important news story in the country. Since picturing Israel as the aggressor in conflict is key to selling stories in the news, journalists make sure they use the right vocabulary to do so. Therefore Israel *kills*, *assassinates* and *murders* women, children and defenseless civilians. But when Israelis die, their lives are underestimated because usually less Israelis lose their lives in the conflict and the terrorists are called activists for the Palestinian cause.

This choice of words in telling the story adds up to the biased media treatment on Israel. It is presented as the guilty side and exercises disproportionate force, whereas Palestinians are pictured


as a passive actor in the conflict and lacking of any responsibility in any violent act against their enemy. The “Hebrew military,” as the Spanish news outlets usually call the Israel Defense Force, are blamed for all the loss of lives in the region either because of a military action or because of the “resistance” it creates among Palestinians. The overexposure of the conflict in the media and the blame on one side prove the lack of objectivity when it comes to Israel in Spain.

Nevertheless, this tendency of portraying Israel as the only guilty part of the conflict is changing at a very slow pace. Some media—of which the left-wing outlets are always an exception to this matter—are starting to publish a less radically unbalanced approach in their news stories concerning Israel. During the last war in Gaza in the summer of 2014, some print and digital newspapers and TV channels acknowledged that the conflict went beyond the pro-Palestinian propaganda. For the first time, some talked about the continuous missiles launches from Gaza and the suffering from the Israeli civilian side as well, in order to give a more complete picture about the situation in the region.

The image of Israel might be slightly changing, not only because of this minor improvement to telling both sides of the story, but especially because there has been a rise of news stories about other issues besides war. Israel's technology, innovation, start-ups, LGBTQ rights and other social and cultural matters, are increasing in the Spanish news outlets. This helps create a normalized image about Israel and might do more to improve the public image of the country.

There is still a lot of bigotry and hypocrisy when it comes to informing about Israel in the Spanish media outlets: the choice of words, the space and time dedicated to Israel in comparison to other conflicts, the demonization of Israel and the victimization of the other side and the anti-Semitism hidden behind anti-Zionism. As long as this obsessive and biased view on Israel continues, the Spanish media won't be any different than the media outlets of many other parts of the world.

*(Miriam Barchilon is a freelance writer, lives in Spain and graduated from the Autonomous University of Barcelona.)*



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## Obama et Israël: l'heure des bilans est arrivée

Mosché Amouyal

L'ère Obama est sur le point de s'achever, et le temps des bilans est à présent d'actualité. L'homme qui aura pourtant su mobiliser 78% de l'électorat juif en 2008 en sa faveur, est manifestement loin d'avoir su conserver cette notoriété, au grand dam des relations israélo-américaines, qui furent pour le moins préoccupantes lors de ces huit dernières années.

Après avoir polarisé le centre de l'action diplomatique américaine vers l'Asie-Pacifique, tout en se détournant consciemment d'un Moyen-Orient en pleine ébullition, Barack Obama mit un terme à la fonction de gendarme du monde qu'occupaient les États-Unis. Démilitarisant de manière impromptue et électoraliste l'Irak, laissant le pays à l'abandon auprès d'un gouvernement maître que de lui-même, et fermant sciemment les yeux sur la situation syrienne dès 2011, qui ne pouvait qu'être emprise à une dégénérescence, l'administration Obama se distingua par son absence. La puissance américaine s'est livrée à un interventionnisme ambigu dans la région, quitte à perdre de son hégémonie et à laisser de nouvelles puissances dominer telles que la Russie et la Turquie. Cette indifférence quant au sort de la région reflète précisément le changement de rapport avec Israël. Car finalement, le seul dossier propre au Moyen-Orient auquel Barack Obama démontra un intérêt profond fut celui de l'accord sur le nucléaire iranien, avec pour perspective un certain réchauffement des rapports américano-iraniens.

Bien qu'Obama répète haut et fort que cet accord ne s'agissait pas d'une entrave à la sécurité d'Israël, il laissa tout de même présager une possible désolidarisation des États-Unis envers l'État hébreu. Pour la première fois depuis la création de la République Islamique d'Iran, la voix américaine divergea de celle d'Israël concernant la question iranienne. Le refus de prendre en compte les principales prérogatives à la table des négociations Israël, soit l'un des principaux intéressés, démontre de la très faible coopération entre Washington et Jérusalem. D'autant plus que l'ascension en 2008 de Barack Obama à la présidence américaine était lourdement porteuse d'espoir et de promesses.

En effet, le constat dressé des années Obama, récompensées (pour le moins prématurément) d'un prix Nobel de la paix dès 2009, n'est pas des plus plaisants. Prix qu'il s'est en effet vu décerné





non pas pour ce qu'il avait fait mais pour ce qu'il devait faire, et dont l'intérêt fut en fin de compte discutable, est à présent « regretté » par l'ancien directeur de l'institut Nobel, Geir Lundestad. L'homme qui désirait relancer rapidement le processus de paix israélo-palestinienne a délégué lui-même la tâche (pourtant présidentielle) dans un premier temps à son vice-président Joe Biden, puis John Kerry, faute de mauvaises relations avec le Premier ministre israélien, Benyamin Netanyahu.

Or il est vrai que les relations entre les deux hommes sont depuis toujours exécrables, n'ayant cessées de s'aggraver lors du dernier mandat d'Obama. Qu'il s'agisse de Bibi Netanyahu soutenant publiquement Mitt Romney aux élections présidentielles de 2012, ou réalisant un véritable pied-de-nez à Barack Obama en répondant positivement à l'invitation du parti Républicain à la Chambre des représentants en hiver 2015, ou qu'il s'agisse du département d'État de l'administration Obama qui a financé une campagne à l'encontre de Netanyahu lors des dernières législatives israéliennes, ces multiples écarts entre les deux hommes furent à l'image de la trouble quiétude ayant plané sur les rapports israélo-américains lors de ces huit dernières années. Encore fallait-il que ces deux hommes soient à la hauteur de la tâche qui leur incombait pour qu'ils puissent surmonter leurs antagonismes personnels.

Mais outre leurs difficultés à s'entendre, les méthodes qu'ils préconisent pour relancer le processus de paix sont aux antipodes l'une de l'autre. Alors qu'Obama prônait un certain multilatéralisme diplomatique, se caractérisant par une recherche intensive de mettre coûte que coûte les deux partis autour d'une même table, Netanyahu mettait en avant un certain besoin de respect des conditions préalables, avant tout commencement de négociations. Or il est vrai que la voix de Netanyahu ne manqua pas de discontinuité, proclamant pour des raisons électoralistes lors de sa dernière campagne législative qu'il n'y aura pas d'État palestinien s'il était réélu, et revenant sur sa parole une fois réhabilité en tant que Premier ministre. Mais il est tout aussi vrai de dire qu'Obama n'a jamais admis que la sécurité d'Israël ne dépendait pas uniquement de la solution à deux États.

Ce refus d'admettre par exemple qu'Israël est aussi en proie au terrorisme islamique, et ainsi qu'Israël mène tout comme (si ce n'est plus que) les autres pays occidentaux, une lutte quotidienne contre le terrorisme, au-delà de la question palestinienne, est caractéristique de la pensée de l'administration Obama, mais aussi de la presse fustigeant Israël. Le refus de ce qui somme comme une évidence pour la population israélienne, victime à intervalle régulier des agissements de groupuscules considérés pourtant comme étant terroristes, tels que le Hamas ou le Hezbollah, prônant tant la destruction de l'État d'Israël que celle du peuple juif, paraît incompréhensible tant aux yeux des israéliens que ceux des juifs américains. Le refus même de Barack Obama d'employer les termes de « terrorisme islamique » reflète assez bien le caractère équivoque de sa lutte contre le terrorisme. Il ne s'agit pas d'un hasard si Hillary Clinton a choisi de casser cette image de négation de la réalité israélienne, associée à présent au parti Démocrate, afin de ne pas se mettre à dos l'électorat juif américain.

*In fine*, qu'advient-il des relations israélo-américaines à la suite d'Obama ? Une chose est sûre : l'héritage d'Obama ne s'évaporerait pas le 20 janvier prochain. Obama a instauré une certaine prise de distance entre le Président américain et le Premier ministre israélien, prise de distance à laquelle Bibi aura du mal à se défaire. Pour autant Hillary Clinton semble s'écarter de la

politique d'Obama en voulant renouer une certaine cordialité avec l'État Hébreu. Ayant notamment déclaré vouloir inviter à la Maison-Blanche le Premier ministre israélien dès le premier mois suivant son entrée en fonction, elle assume publiquement au cours de cette campagne présidentielle ses prises de positions envers Israël, à la grande différence du candidat du parti Républicain Donald Trump, adoptant une posture beaucoup plus trouble concernant l'État hébreu. Partisan de l'isolationnisme américain, la politique étrangère qu'il mettrait en place semble beaucoup plus « soft » que ce à quoi nous ont habitués ses prédécesseurs à la Maison-Blanche. Ainsi, il adopterait selon ses mots une « position neutre » concernant le conflit israélo-palestinien, et considère qu'un accord de paix serait fort peu probable, sans pour autant avoir fait mention d'une quelconque volonté d'améliorer la situation au Moyen-Orient. Jouant de son gendre juif lorsqu'il comparut devant l'AIPAC en mars dernier, son « I love Israel » semble un peu plus dubitable.

Ainsi, la fin de cette relation conflictuelle qui pesa sur ces huit dernières années entre Israël et les États-Unis ne pourrait qu'être synonyme d'une détente entre les dirigeants de ces deux pays, l'un désirant ne pas se mêler du sort de la question israélo-palestinienne et l'autre soucieuse d'améliorer les relations israélo-américaines. L'électorat juif américain semble avoir pris parti en faveur d'Hillary Clinton, mais cette fois-ci faisant preuve d'un peu plus de suspicion qu'en 2008 à l'égard de la candidate du parti Démocrate.

*(Mosché Amouyal est étudiant en Économie et Politique à l'Université de Montréal.)*

Avec les hommages de David Birnbaum, Député de D'Arcy-McGee  
Adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation et  
de la ministre de l'Enseignement supérieur



Best wishes from David Birnbaum, MNA for D'Arcy-McGee  
and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education and the  
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## The Rise of Anti-Semitism on Social Media

Mitchell Stein

As years pass by, we are constantly moving forward in the way of innovation and technological advances. Technology and new ideas are paving the way for a brighter and creative future, with unlimited possibilities. Despite this phenomenon, there is so much about our way of life that remains deeply rooted in the past. Anti-Semitism isn't a new problem. It's an issue that's been deeply rooted in Jewish history for thousands of years and has led to countless, devastating atrocities. Throughout history, Jews have been the victims of vicious attacks and a frequent target for hate speech. However, in today's generation, hateful incitement against Jews has become significantly more sophisticated. Just as we have moved into the digital realm, so has anti-Semitism. Communication has never been easier with the introduction of the Internet, allowing users to get in touch with people from around the world across a variety of social platforms and applications.

With the ability to easily exercise free speech at your fingertips, the Internet opens the floodgates to millions of hate speech activists and outlets, setting a dangerous uncharted precedence. As much as the Internet offers unlimited ways to collaborate, share new ideas and get in touch with friends from around the globe, it also permits the rise of hate speech recruitment and cyber-terrorism. This sets up such a dangerous precedent, for people of the Jewish faith and other minority groups, making it increasingly hard for members of these religions to feel safe and comfortable on the web and on the streets.



To truly understand the weight of hate speech within new social media, it's important to highlight exactly where the danger of online anti-Semitism lies. In recent years, hate activists have turned to social media as a means to communicate with other users around the globe with similar ideas. Using the ability of getting in touch with millions of users across the world hidden behind the shield of anonymity through a computer screen, millions turn to the Internet as a destination to express hatred and terror amongst minorities. Using social media, hate groups have singled out Jewish people.

Earlier this year, a developer created an anti-Semitic Google Chrome application named "The Coincidence Detector." This anti-Jewish web app searches for Jewish users on Twitter (generally through presumed Jewish names such as "Lieberman" or "Mandel") and automatically adds an (((echo))) symbol, which consists of three brackets around the user's name. The purpose of this tool was for users to single out Jewish users to target with hate mail and terror threats. Though Google was quick to remove the app, this is just another small addition to the rising trend of online anti-Semitic comments that only grows larger each year.

As always, protecting yourself online from threats and racism is a daunting task on its own, but users should always be careful about the information they're sharing online. Although social media websites will encourage users to share everything from their current location to what they ate for breakfast, it's important to think twice about sharing such sensitive information.

Combating hate speech on the web is possibly just as difficult as in the real world. Protecting yourself against hate crime is harder than it's ever been, causing a new uncharted precedence. Rabbi Avraham Cooper, who heads the *Digital Terrorism and Hate Project* at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, explained in a 2013 presentation at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan: "the internet does not cause hatred, but it acts as a sounding board to reflect what's going on in society." He goes on to explain that: "In that regard, it is a multiplier of ideas, and gives exaggerated notions to the broad support that such ideas and beliefs have." As explained by Rabbi Cooper, the Internet offers an unlimited amount of options for hate-mongering individuals to exaggerate and spread their beliefs across a broad audience. When it comes to promoting positive messages about the State of Israel on social media, stay as safe as possible and should you come across something online that is hateful, report it to the social media platform. When combating hate online, it's important to discredit the hate speech outlets and to steer clear of getting involved in the heated discussion, even if your intentions are correct.

As always, the Internet is constantly expanding and always changing, causing new challenges and dangerous precedents on a regular basis. That's why it's important that when getting involved online, especially using your real name, to keep up with modern trends, protect your sensitive information and avoid dangerous areas of discussion. Stay up to date on how to protect your privacy and most importantly, stay safe.

*(Mitchell Stein serves as the Graphic Editor for the Dateline Magazine.)*



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## Le terrorisme est condamnable... à une exception près

Liora Chartouni

Paris, Bruxelles, San Bernardino, Istanbul, Nice et celle que l'on néglige à outrance : Jérusalem. À notre époque, les actes terroristes perpétrés contre l'Occident se produisent à une fréquence alarmante. Dans un monde où l'Homme ne parvient pas à discerner le bien du mal et la vérité du mensonge, il semble y avoir une véritable guerre fratricide entre laïcité et religion, entre l'Orient et l'Occident, entre modernité et tradition. De ce fait, tous semblent condamner à l'unanimité les attentats terroristes perpétrés contre l'Occident et, par la même occasion, la pratique même ce genre d'activité, hormis lorsqu'ils sont dirigés contre un État en particulier : Israël. Cet article tentera de démontrer la véracité de cette affirmation et d'y apporter quelques réponses.

Afin de justifier l'affirmation selon laquelle les actes terroristes sont peu ou pas condamnés lorsqu'ils sont dirigés contre l'Etat hébreu, il convient de se pencher sur son histoire. Évidemment, dans le cadre d'un article de cette teneur, il serait trop ambitieux de vouloir examiner chaque événement historique qui façonne l'Etat juif. En effet, au total, le terrorisme palestinien a fait plus de 3500 morts, incluant les auteurs des attaques eux-mêmes, ainsi que des dizaines de milliers de blessés. Ainsi, j'ai opté pour trois faits marquants qui m'apparaissent être les plus révélateurs et qui permettent d'établir une configuration précise lorsque des attentats sont perpétrés contre Israël.

27 juin 1976. Le vol 139 de la compagnie aérienne Air France en partance d'Athènes doit atterrir à Paris la journée même. Mais ce dernier est détourné par des terroristes allemands et palestiniens vers l'aéroport d'Entebbe, en Ouganda, qui œuvrent pour le *Front de libération de la Palestine*, connu sous l'acronyme de FLP. L'airbus comporte 248 passagers, dont 85 qui détiennent la nationalité israélienne. Après s'être rendus compte que le vol 139 ait disparu des radars, les services secrets israéliens en concluent, à la suite d'investigations assidues, que celui-ci a été détourné. « Israël est la cible », déclara le Ministre des Transports Gad Yaakobi avec lassitude, qui est le premier à avoir détecté la disparition de l'Airbus.

Cette constatation engendre la mise en place et l'exécution de l'Opération Tonnerre, dans laquelle Israël conçoit de toute pièce une opération militaire visant à sauver les otages détenus par les terroristes à Entebbe. Grâce au savoir-faire chirurgical de l'État hébreu, l'Opération Tonnerre du 4 juillet 1976 est une véritable réussite. Elle parvient à sauver la quasi-totalité des otages et à

abattre les terroristes responsables du détournement. Yonathan Nétanyahou, le frère de l'actuel Premier ministre israélien Benyamin Nétanyahou, est le seul soldat tué lors du raid.

Mais ce qui est d'emblée plus stupéfiant dans cette prise d'otages, c'est bien l'indifférence et l'inertie de la communauté internationale. Ni les Etats-Unis, ni la France, ni même l'Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale n'a levé le petit doigt, si ce n'est que très peu. Pis encore, cette opération de sauvetage fut condamnée par l'ensemble des Nations-Unies et par plusieurs médias internationaux, en accusant Israël «d'avoir violé la souveraineté de l'Ouganda », alors que l'État hébreu ne faisait qu'arracher ses citoyens des mains de terroristes sanguinaires, qui étaient de connivence incontestable avec le gouvernement ougandais. Israël est isolé et livré à lui-même dans un combat contre le terrorisme qui est pourtant international.

17 mars 1992. Une bombe explosant à l'ambassade israélienne de Buenos Aires en Argentine fait 84 morts et 242 blessés. Quelque deux ans plus tard, une attaque du même type survient au centre communautaire juif de la capitale argentine et fait environ le même nombre de victimes. Ces deux événements suscitent une vague de frayeur et de révolte au sein de l'État hébreu, en dépit du manque de volonté flagrant du gouvernement argentin de pourchasser et d'inculper les responsables des deux attentats. Il a été divulgué que le l'Iran et le Hezbollah soient à l'origine des attaques. Les autorités judiciaires font preuve d'une incompétence démesurée dans le dossier, malgré le fait que l'enquête ait été confiée au juge de la Cour suprême du pays.

De surcroît, puisque les responsables des attentats était connus, l'inculpation des coupables aurait dû se faire aisément. Le président argentin de l'époque, Carlos Menem, a d'ailleurs comparu devant la cour en 2015 pour avoir sciemment failli à sa tâche d'entamer le processus d'investigation des auteurs de l'attentat, selon Rey et Prengaman du *National Post*. Des recherches ont révélé que le président faisait partie d'un complot qui impliquait des agents du service diplomatique iranien. Israël et le peuple juif sont à nouveau visés. Et personne ne semble leur procurer une quelconque aide afin que justice soit rendue.

12 juin 2014. Trois adolescents israéliens faisant de l'auto-stop en Cisjordanie sont capturés et assassinés par trois terroristes palestiniens affiliés au Hamas, l'organisation terroriste qui dirige la bande de Gaza. L'enlèvement et le meurtre de ces adolescents suscite tout un émoi auprès de la société israélienne ainsi que diaspora juive, mais ne



semble pas froisser les médias et la communauté internationale outre-mesure. Même Obama n'a pipé mot sur leur assassinat, ce qui n'est en soit guère étonnant compte-tenu de ses relations on ne peut plus froides avec Netanyahu et le gouvernement israélien. Plus encore, selon un article publié par Caroline Glick dans le *Jerusalem Post* peu après l'incident, l'auteure dénonce le fait que plusieurs portent le blâme sur les trois garçons mêmes, qui « n'auraient tout simplement pas dû se retrouver dans le Gush Etzion », ville se situant dans les territoires palestiniens.



En outre, durant l'opération « gardienne de nos frères » que mène l'armée israélienne pour retrouver les trois garçons, les soldats découvrent une panoplie de tunnels souterrains construits par le Hamas qui ont pour but de fomenter une série d'attaques terroristes contre les citoyens israéliens. Ces derniers atteignent pour la plupart les habitations pour exacerber l'effet de surprise. Encore une fois, nul n'a également porté une quelconque attention sur les effets dévastateurs de ces tunnels et sur les intentions machiavéliques du Hamas, sauf quelques alliés infailibles d'Israël, tel que le Canada. Harper avait en effet fièrement affirmé que « le seul moyen de mettre un terme à ce conflit est d'être solidaire envers d'Israël ».

Tel que démontré dans cet article, la guerre n'a plus la même allure aujourd'hui. On la qualifie de guerre asymétrique. Là où on l'attend le moins, elle surgit de manière pernicieuse et on ne peut plus violente. Le terrorisme parvient à mettre à genoux les plus grandes puissances de la planète.

Le terrorisme est condamnable, certes. Mais étonnamment pas lorsqu'il est dirigé contre l'État juif et ses habitants. L'antisémitisme, qui semble daté de l'âge de pierre, est aussi déchaîné qu'hier. Cette haine viscérale portée à l'égard du peuple juif semble redoubler d'ardeur lorsqu'on la soupçonne de s'être dissipée. Mais pourquoi le monde ne peut-il pas se rendre compte qu'il est temps de *prendre exemple* sur Israël et de *coopérer* avec lui? Alors que la France vient de subir une nouvelle attaque terroriste on ne peut plus dévastatrice et que l'Occident tout entier marche sur des œufs, Israël est confronté au fléau du terrorisme quotidiennement, et ce, depuis sa création en 1948. En dépit de ce phénomène, les mesures entreprises par l'Etat hébreu pour contrer les attaques sont remarquables et extrêmement efficaces.

Israël est un modèle. Il est le pionnier en méthodes de contre-terrorisme et détient une des armées les plus avancées au monde. Ainsi, il est de la plus grande urgence que l'Occident s'unisse pour faire face à cette apocalypse que constitue le terrorisme international. Avec Israël en tête de file.


*(Liora Chartouni est la directrice des publications du magazine Dateline)*

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## Best Place for Arabs in the Middle East

Bradley Martin

Standing in front of European Parliament last week, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas once again accused Israel of committing genocide against the Palestinians, this time claiming that Palestinians were suffering mass-murder on a scale “the likes of which have never been seen or heard of ever by the international community.”

Abbas falsely accused Israeli rabbis of poisoning Palestinian water supplies, harkening back to a medieval anti-Semitic libel. During the 14th century, as the “Black Plague” spread across Europe, false accusations that Jews were responsible for the disease led to the massacre of entire Jewish communities.

Of course Israel is not committing genocide against the Palestinians, by any stretch of the imagination. If it was, it surely is doing a lousy job of it.

In Gaza, for example, the population increased 127 percent from 1994 to 2011, one of the highest growth rates in the world. The total Palestinian population in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza was 1,006,000 in 1950 and grew to 3,736,210 in 2011.



Unless Webster changed the definition of “genocide,” the claim that Israel is engaged in “ethnic cleansing” of Arabs makes as much sense as asserting that ISIS beheadings are actually haircuts that went too far.

Israel has one of the most powerful militaries in the world. If it wanted to annihilate the Palestinians and their Arab neighbors, it could. But as Middle East Forum President Daniel Pipes points out, an estimated 11 million Middle Eastern Muslims have been violently killed since 1948, of which 35,000 or 0.3 percent of the Muslim population died from attacking Israel.

Not only are Arabs tolerated in Israeli society, but Israel is undoubtedly the best place in the Middle East for Arabs to thrive as well as practice their religion freely. You read that right. Being an Arab in Israel is awesome compared to living anywhere else in that part of the world.

Islam has also thrived in Israel since its independence. The Jewish state has over 400 mosques, a fivefold increase since 1988. Approximately 300 imams and muezzins receive their salaries from the Israeli government, which also provides funding for Islamic schools and colleges within the country.

In Jerusalem, only Muslims are permitted by Israeli law to pray on the Temple Mount in order not to offend Islamic sensibilities. Despite it being Judaism's holiest place, an Islamic religious committee (waqf) manages the site.

Contrast this astonishingly supportive atmosphere to Saudi Arabia, where Islam is hardly respected in such a manner in what is the most Islamic country in the world. According to the U.K.-based Islamic Heritage Research Foundation, over 98 percent of the country's historical and religious sites have been destroyed since 1985. A Hilton hotel now stands on the site of the house of Islam's first caliph, while the house of Muhammad's first wife has made way for public toilets.

Despite Saudi Arabia being one of the five wealthiest Muslim countries in the world, it stands idly by while the blood of fellow Muslims is being shed in Syria. The death toll of the Syrian civil war is estimated to be nearing 500,000. Between 10 and 12 million Syrians have been displaced. Yet Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates have refused asylum to a single refugee.

In contrast, Israel has unconditionally admitted over 2,000 Syrians to Israeli hospitals for medical care during the ongoing civil war, even though Syria doesn't even recognize Israel's existence and is a puppet of Iran, Israel's staunchest enemy. While Muslims thrive and prosper in Israel, Christians also find the Jewish state the only nation in the region that permits religious freedom and opportunities for a better life. Persecution has resulted in the rapid decline of Christianity throughout the Middle East. Overall, the percentage of Middle Eastern Christians has plunged from 14 percent in 1910 to 4 percent today. In the Palestinian territories, Christians have dropped from 15 percent of the Arab population to less than 2 percent today. Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, once home to a strong Christian majority, is now almost completely devoid of Christians.

Israeli Arabs occupy important and prominent positions throughout Israeli politics and society. Among them is Salim Joubran, an Israeli Arab Supreme Court judge. During Israel's last national election, Joubran served as the Chairman of the Central Election Committee. Joubran was in charge of registering lists of those running for Israel's parliament, campaign financing, election logistics, tallying results, and dealing with challenges to the results. This is a lot of power and authority for someone who is supposedly being annihilated by Israel.

At this point, it is clear that Abbas' accusations are just too absurd to be considered plausible. Abbas is a liar and his vilification of Israel must be challenged. Despite the anti-Semitic slander he levels against Israel, the truth is that he has failed to even come close to replicating for Palestinians the high standard of living currently being enjoyed by Arabs in the world's only Jewish state. He has also sadly confirmed the fact that Israel has no partner for peace.

*(Bradley Martin is Deputy Editor at the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research and a Fellow for the Haym Salomon Center for American Jewish Thought.)*

## Quand les médias se font les complices du mouvement BDS

Bernard Bohbot



Depuis 2005, le mouvement de boycott d'Israël, mieux connu sous son acronyme BDS (boycott, désinvestissement, sanctions), a eu une progression fulgurante au point où ses activités ont attiré l'attention des médias internationaux, qui se sont assurés de couvrir ses basses œuvres, de manière pour le moins complaisante. Jusque-là, rien d'étonnant. Les médias ne sont pas réputés pour leur affection à l'endroit de l'État d'Israël.

Comme l'a démontré le journaliste Matti Friedman dans son fameux article *An Insider's Guide to the Most Important Story on Earth*, publié dans le magazine *Tablet*, son ancien employeur, l'*Associated Press*, et

le milieu médiatique en général qu'il a côtoyé pendant plusieurs années, ne portent pas Israël dans leur cœur. Pis encore, Friedman les accuse de s'être arrogés d'une mission : celle de défendre les Palestiniens plutôt que de couvrir le conflit de manière la plus impartiale possible.

Dans ce contexte, il n'est pas étonnant de voir que la couverture à l'endroit du mouvement BDS s'est faite avec une indulgence démesurée. L'absence d'esprit critique par rapport à ce mouvement, qui réclame pourtant la destruction d'Israël, a fait en sorte que peu de journalistes ont fait leur travail d'investigation sur ses fondateurs. Bref, ils ne font que servir de porte-voix à ce mouvement qui se présente comme une organisation de défense des droits de l'homme et qui ne fait que réclamer l'application du droit international. Mais tout cela est une supercherie.

Le 23 février dernier, dans un article intitulé « Parliament Votes to Reject Israel Boycott Campaign, » Patrick Martin du *Globe And Mail* a décrit BDS comme un mouvement qui réclame simplement l'évacuation israélienne de la Cisjordanie alors que le fondateur et leader de BDS, Omar Barghouti, a indiqué très clairement que son but n'était pas la création d'un État palestinien en Cisjordanie et à Gaza. En vérité, il aspire à la destruction pure et simple d'Israël par le retour des réfugiés palestiniens: « *Si tous les réfugiés rentraient, il n'y aurait pas une solution à deux États, mais une Palestine à côté d'une autre Palestine* »

Rappelons que l'idée selon laquelle les réfugiés palestiniens auraient un droit au retour illimité en Israël est un mythe. Certes, la résolution 194 de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU émet la recommandation de permettre aux réfugiés de retourner dans leurs anciennes demeures, mais le droit d'exister de l'État d'Israël est aussi reconnu par la résolution 181. C'est pour cela que les résolutions 242 et 338 du Conseil de sécurité des Nations-Unies, les seules ayant force de loi (celles

qui proviennent de l'Assemblée générale n'ont qu'une valeur de recommandation), ne parlent pas d'un droit au retour illimité mais plutôt le besoin d'en arriver à une « solution juste » du problème des réfugiés et qui respecterait également l'existence et la sécurité d'Israël.

Plus près de nous, le 21 février dernier, Radio-Canada a couvert la condamnation de la motion conservatrice du mouvement BDS visant à la dénoncer (motion soutenue à l'unanimité par les conservateurs et par une majorité de libéraux). Ainsi, dans ce reportage, il était dit que le but de BDS était le suivant: « *Depuis 10 ans, il tente de faire pression économiquement sur l'État d'Israël pour qu'il change sa politique à l'endroit des Palestiniens.* » Bien sûr, en aucun cas, le fait que BDS réclame la liquidation d'Israël n'a été abordé.

Mais le prix d'excellence en matière de complaisance à l'endroit de BDS revient sans aucun doute à l'émission *Tout le monde en parle* animée par Guy A. Lepage, sur les ondes de Radio-Canada. Le 9 février 2014, Chris Alexander, alors Ministre de l'immigration du gouvernement conservateur sous Stephen Harper, a défendu la politique pro-Israël de son gouvernement, ce qui a suscité un malaise chez l'animateur, qui n'a pas hésité, la semaine suivante, à donner la réplique à deux universitaires d'extrême-gauche (Yakov Rabkin et Rachad Antonius), qui soutiennent tous deux BDS pour démonter les soi-disant « mensonges » de Chris Alexander. La semaine suivante, CIJA (le Centre consultatif des relations juives et israéliennes), a émis le souhait de pouvoir répondre aux propos pour le moins polémiques de Rabkin et Antonius. Résultat: la recherchiste de *Tout le monde en parle* leur a répondu que cela n'était pas nécessaire car Alexander avait déjà « *fait la propagande d'Israël* » sur le plateau de cette émission!

*Tout le monde en parle* a récidivé en mars 2016, alors que le rockeur Roger Waters, qui est devenu au fil du temps la figure emblématique du mouvement BDS, fut interrogé par Guy A. Lepage sur son application au sein de BDS. Dans cette entrevue plus que truquée, il a eu non seulement droit à une pluie d'applaudissements après avoir réitéré la nécessité de boycotter Israël, mais pis encore, a renchéri en soulignant que les étudiants de McGill venaient de voter le boycott d'Israël – omettant de dire qu'après un deuxième vote, la résolution en faveur de BDS avait été abandonnée.

Cela n'a rien d'étonnant de la part de Guy A. Lepage qui a déjà accusé les soldats israéliens de tirer sur les enfants palestiniens. Ce faisant, il fait un amalgame entre les soldats qui commettent des bavures et qui sont passibles de sanctions, et les directives de l'armée qui interdisent ce genre d'excès. Mais cela révèle un véritable sentiment de fond qui balaie les médias: Israël doit être boycotté. Comme le rappelle Matti Friedman, en parlant de ses collègues journalistes qui couvraient le conflit israélo-palestinien: « *Many foreign journalists have come to see themselves as part of this world of international organizations, and specifically as the media arm of this world. They have decided not just to describe and explain, which is hard enough, and important enough, but to "help." And that's where reporters get into trouble, because "helping" is always a murky, subjective, and political enterprise, made more difficult if you are unfamiliar with the relevant languages and history.* »

Que reste-t-il à faire? La réponse est toute simple: insister à chaque occasion pour rappeler aux médias que le mouvement BDS ne réclame pas la création d'un État palestinien recouvrant la Cisjordanie et Gaza, mais bien la destruction pure et simple d'Israël. Il semble que pour plusieurs journalistes qui, ne nous leurrions pas, n'apprécient pas beaucoup Israël, s'associer à un mouvement

qui réclame la destruction de ce pays constitue un pas qu'ils ne sont pas prêts à franchir. Laurent Joffrin, rédacteur en chef du journal de gauche Libération, témoigne de ce phénomène dans son article intitulé: *BDS, dessous d'un boycott, Libération*, qui le conclut par ces sages paroles: « *En se donnant pour objectif final la transformation de l'État d'Israël en un autre État où les juifs seraient minoritaires - beaucoup y voient une disparition pure et simple dudit État - le fondateur de BDS rejoint, sous les atours d'une action légale et pacifique, les mouvements les plus extrémistes. Ainsi, beaucoup de militants sincères, qui croient lutter pour le droit international, risquent de se retrouver instrumentalisés au profit d'une entreprise extrêmement douteuse. »*

*(Bernard Bohbot est responsable du Communiqué Isranet, la publication française de l'ICRJ)*

To all the dedicated students of the Dateline magazine,  
we admire your sacred work on behalf of  
the Jewish People.

May you go from strength to strength!

Assaf and Betty Drori



## The Palestinian Authority Money Vacuum

### Ben Jaffe

I cannot help but wonder now and then what I, as a future American taxpayer, will be paying for my government to do. Especially, being that no matter what side of the political spectrum you identify with, the truth of the matter is that the United States government is about as good at managing money as a five-year-old child. I cannot possibly be the only one who raises his eyebrows and has an invisible question mark hovering over their heads when they hear the words "American foreign aid to the Palestinian Authority." Especially since a fifteen-second search on YouTube of "Palestinian Authority incitement" is a sure way to get your blood boiling.

Now, picture yourself as a very successful business person. You have hit it big with many different startups, and now, you want to make an investment. Not just any investment that would make you rich, but rather one that will help improve the lives of others in this world. A moral investment, you could call it.

One day, an investor comes into your office to meet with you and, to sum it all up, tells you he is looking for someone to partner up with on a project that involves giving money to the Palestinian Authority. Supposedly, this capital he is investing is going to be used to help build a school in Ramallah to improve access to education for thousands of Palestinian children. Education is priceless, right? What could be more morally beautiful than investing your money into helping children learn how to make their dreams a reality?



As you two shake hands and end the meeting, you tell this investor you will consider his investment proposal and exchange information. You start to do research in the same way that any smart person considering investing money would do. You spend the night on your computer researching the Palestinian education system; you can almost picture breaking ground on the new school already! However, as you dig deeper into this topic, your smile and confidence in this project start to fade away. You begin to read about all of the Palestinian schools named after terrorists, with the blood of innocent Jews on their hands. You are left aghast by videos of Palestinian children reciting poems on television, stating how they want to become martyrs by killing the Jewish "apes and pigs" who are occupying the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

Left shocked and disgusted by what you found in a matter of minutes during a Google search, you not only question the moral soundness of this investment, but also the legality of it! How can, in essence, providing money to a foreign government to provide pensions for terrorists, teach children hatred, and enrage their population to carry out terror attacks, be considered acceptable by any standard?

It is this shocking revelation that leaves me and millions of other Americans baffled. Why has Washington consistently been providing hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign aid to the Palestinian Authority? Washington can attempt to assure us all that this money is being used strictly for humanitarian purposes, but let's be realistic. Giving foreign aid to the Palestinian Authority and not expecting them to use these funds for terrorism is akin to giving a career arsonist a box of matches and not expecting him to use it to light fires. Sure, you could tell yourself that education for Palestinian children is the best way to prevent them from growing up to become terrorists, but keep in mind that the same government responsible for building this school is also in charge of what is taught in its classrooms. Based on what we see on Palestinian children cartoons, I cannot say that I have very high expectations for their curriculum.

The Palestinian Authority is in essence, nothing more than a fancy and more official-sounding name of its predecessor: the PLO, which was a brutal terrorist organization that planned hundreds of attacks against Jews and Israelis throughout the better half of the twentieth century. The only difference between now and forty years ago is that, instead of sending and training the terrorists themselves, the Palestinian Authority simply encourages them to carry out their acts of evil and then pays them in prison if they get arrested.

Now, surely not *all* of the PA's funds are used for paying Palestinian terrorists or for public services, such as maintaining roads named after suicide bombers. As a matter of fact, I even have a few questions for Mahmoud Abbas, such as where his son, Yasser, found the money to purchase multiple luxury apartments in Ramallah. While we are talking about Abbas, I cannot possibly be the only one who would like to know how he has managed to accumulate a net worth that, according to his former aide Mohammed Rashid, exceeded one hundred million dollars.

To be fair, it would be illogical to expect Abbas, as President, to be living off of a pittance; But the fact that his net worth exceeds that of the last four United States Presidents put together, you cannot help but smell something fishy. We should not be allowing our tax money to be used for terror-related purposes or to be embezzled by corrupt Palestinian politicians. The PA needs American money a lot more than we need them, and we should use the PA's dependence on our money to start demanding that they launch some serious reforms in their budget, or else the Washington money pipeline might suddenly start to run dry.

*(Ben Jaffe is a student at Bar-Ilan University and a blogger for the Jerusalem Post.)*

*Greetings from Terri Allister*

## The Indigenous Argument Against the Palestinian Narrative

Special Contribution by Ryan Bellerose

Israel has had a rough go when it comes to public relations. Not only is it held to a ridiculous standard in comparison to its neighbors, but frankly the entire discourse has been colored by the other side's false narrative. It was to such an extent that when I started talking about the indigenous rights and status of the Jewish people, people would make extraordinarily facile arguments.

I think it is interesting that it has become an argument, especially when the vast majority of people in the West have actually had some interaction with the Bible, whether through regular schooling or personal interest. The Bible is very clear where the Jewish people became Jews. This is not to say that Israel's history is based solely on the Bible. In fact the archaeology, genetics and science are very clear. There were a people called the Hebrews who had a cultural genesis and coalescence on the land now known as Israel. They base much of their spiritual mode and method, as well as their tradition and culture, around the land itself.

When looking at a people's indigenous status you can usually see it quite easily, all you have to do is look at their traditions, culture and language, as well as ties to the land they claim. If a people are actually indigenous, they will have strong connections but also clear manifestations of cultural and linguistic genesis.

To determine indigenous status or lack thereof all one needs to do is to look at a few facts. Where did the people's progenitors come from? Did they create something entirely new? Do they have a spirituality that is tied to the land in question? Do they have their own language culture and traditions that are not simply small variations? Do they carry blood but more importantly, carry on the traditions and culture of their forefathers?

Now, the way these questions have been approached in the media is extremely problematic. The term *indigenous* has been misused so often that frankly, it is no wonder that people are confused. The Arabs in the Palestinian Authority, and even some within the borders of Israel, call themselves "Palestinians." They don't do this out of a historical connection to "Palestine," but rather because it implies an ancestral connection that is lacking in the majority. The United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), defines a "refugee" from "Palestine" as being anyone who lived for more than 2 years in the region before being displaced by Israel's War of Independence. This is not exactly a longstanding tie. It also becomes problematic when you see that today's refugees are the only refugees in the entire world who are

### What's another word for 'Israeli'?



Coin of Matthias, King of Judah.  
Jerusalem, Israeli, 40 BCE.



Synagogue floor mosaic.  
Jericho, Israeli, 8th c. CE.



Coat of Arms of the State  
of Israel, 2013.

### Answer: Indigenous.



multigenerational. To understand the cause of this phenomenon, it is important to grasp the concept of indigenous status and its implications in Israel's struggle for security and safety.

The word "Palestinian" implies an ancestral connection, but to whom? The region was indeed called Palestine by the Roman colonizers and conquerors, but it was never called Palestine by its residents who were actually indigenous. Palestine comes from the Hebrew word *Pleshtim*, which means "invader from the sea." It refers to an ancient people who settled on the coast and were the avowed enemy of the Hebrew and Canaanite peoples who resided there. The name was given to the region by the Roman Emperor Hadrian, who wanted to erase the Jewish people from history and root out Judaism from its land. By naming the region after the indigenous peoples' worst enemy, he was effectively removing them. He also renamed Jerusalem *Aelia Capitolina*, but oddly enough, that didn't take.

Jews are currently seen by many as the light-skinned colonizers from Europe, who stole the indigenous darker skinned Arabs land. This does two things. First, it delegitimizes Jewish claims to their ancestral lands. Secondly, it denies indigenous people everywhere the example of the first time an indigenous people has ever regained control of their ancestral lands and achieved self-determination on them. Never mind that the history actually says the opposite what the Arabs claim, or that in fact the Arabs were the ones who forced their religion and language on indigenous peoples across the Middle East. The inversion of history and the outright denial of facts, is necessary for anyone to take their side and claim that Arabs are indigenous to a land that is not their own. It is done strictly to steal the identity of the Jewish people, who are inherently tied to their ancestral land.

There is a reason the Jewish people maintained their identity in the face of monumental pressure to assimilate, and that is that they maintained their tribal identity even in diaspora. If other indigenous peoples can follow the example of the Jews, they too have a chance to regain their identity as well as ancestral lands.

So you see it's rather simple. It's about not being "balanced" or "fair," it's about what is factual and what is right. To put it bluntly, the Jewish people are indigenous to the land of Israel, and the Arabs who call themselves "Palestinians" are not. Not by any measure, and it's time that the Jewish people stands up and acknowledges that they have inalienable rights to their ancestral land. It's also about time that other indigenous peoples speak up in support. The arguments against Jewish indigenesness are the exact same arguments used to deny the indigenous rights of others. Timelines, statutes of limitations, "common genesis points," blood dilution, all of these arguments mean nothing, but are commonly used against all indigenous peoples of the world. This is why we need to stand together.

*(Ryan Bellerose is a Metis from Alberta, a self-proclaimed Zionist and the founder of the Calgary United with Israel Organization and Advocacy Coordinator for Western Canada, B'nai Brith Canada.)*



## Graphic Novel Entertains While Challenging Myths About Israel

Book Review by Rob Coles

Amid the growing anti-Israel movement at North American universities, informing students with the truth about the Jewish State has become crucial. Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), by far the most active and best organized anti-Israel movement on campuses, is but one source of pro-Palestinian propaganda young people face daily. The challenge for Israel-advocates is to counter BDS' lies with information that's not only accurate, but is also packaged in an entertaining, easily digestible format.

In *Project Palestine*, a new graphic novel published by RVP Press, Dan Yoo and Goodman Kim may have found a solution. The graphic novel, using cartoon-style drawings and text to tell a story but published as a book rather than a periodic comic, has become a popular format for exploring a wide-range of historical subjects. Art Spiegelman's *Maus* (1991), for example, a graphic novel about a Polish Jew's experience during the Holocaust, was a ground-breaking depiction of history in the graphic novel format. Although *Maus* was criticized by some Holocaust survivors and historians for trivializing the genocide of Europe's Jews during the Second World War, the book has nonetheless reached a wide audience, and is frequently used in schools as course material in a range of fields.

*Project Palestine* is told from the perspective of the book's illustrator, Goodman Kim, a young Korean student visiting Israel. Kim is picked-up from Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport by his Israeli host, and the two drive to Jerusalem. Kim and his host tour the capital, but the young Korean is perplexed by Israeli culture and society. The host helpfully answers Kim's questions, and, along the way, also dispels some of the myths and inaccuracies commonly propagated about Israel.

Most of the key issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict are analyzed in *Project Palestine* through Kim's personal tour. In one chapter, he is curious about how Palestinians live in the West Bank so the two drive to Ramallah. Once there, Kim is shocked to see that many of the poor, oppressed Palestinians reported in the media actually have a relatively good



standard of living. Ramallah is, in fact, a clean, modern city with sports car dealerships and the latest smartphones.

While in Ramallah, Kim and his host eat lunch at PFC (Palestinian Fried Chicken) and speak with a young Arab named Ahmad who lives in a refugee camp and works at the fast-food restaurant. Kim, who believes all refugees live “in tents with emergency relief supports” once again has his preconceived notions of Israel shattered by real-world experience. Ahmad explains that not only are some of the employees refugees, but also many of the patrons. Furthermore, the restaurant is full and lively, with many families, women “who weren’t wearing hijabs” and “annoying people”, just like any other restaurant around the world. It is a completely different image of “Palestine” than Kim imagined.

Kim’s guide uses the PFC visit as a gateway to explain the entire Palestinian refugee question. Palestinian refugees are a thorny issue for Israel-haters, and, not surprisingly, several myths about the so-called *Nakba* (Arabic for “disaster”) often appear in their propaganda. Many readers will be as surprised as Kim to learn that Palestinians have their own refugee agency (The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, or UNRWA) that was initially a temporary organization but has survived 65 years, is the only UN organization established for a specific people, and is also the largest organization of the UN.

With simple, clear drawings and an engaging narrative, *Project Palestine* is an informative and entertaining read for people who have little knowledge of the region. Often dismissed as an unserious format for historical inquiry, graphic novels have emerged as an effective way to make complex issues more accessible. As anti-Israel campus activists continue to find creative ways to reach the youth with their biased, pro-Palestinian message, Israel-advocates should embrace post-modern formats, such as graphic novels, to counter their tactics and reach new audiences.

*(Rob Coles is CIJR’s Publications Chairman)*

*Best wishes to the CIJR  
and keep up the good work!  
Congratulations to the students on this  
thought-provoking and diverse  
issue of the Dateline!  
-From Evelyne and Raphael Schachter-*



On behalf of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research and the Dateline Magazine team, we would like to extend our warmest regards towards our generous sponsors and supporters.

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