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Editorial

After Gaza, Return of the Repressed: Obama, Iraq, and "Boots On The Ground"

Frederick Krantz

These are portentous days in the global village. With Gaza, after fifty days of violence, at least temporarily on the back burner, the world's attention is returning to Iraq. Having fiddled while Mosul burned, Barack Obama's studied foreign policy passivity was shattered by TV scenes of tens of thousands of Yazidi sect members fleeing advancing Islamic State murderers marching towards the key Kurdish town of Irbil.

Soon F-18s from a Persian Gulf carrier were bombing Islamic State targets, and today, after IS's brutal You-tube beheading of American hostage James Foley, US spy planes and drones are overflying Syria, identifying targets for attacks on IS's stronghold.

Having steadfastly refused to commit anything but a few US military observers in aid of hard-pressed Iraqi (and Kurdish) former allies, the plight of the stranded Yazidis, starving on a mountain-top through 40-degree C. days and cold nights, could not be ignored. News of the approaching genocide, transmitted around the world by the media, caused Obama's (and his UN Ambassador Susan Power's) "responsibility to protect" doctrine, suppressed since having been invoked to bring down (from behind, of course), Libya's Moammar Khaddafi, to be dusted off and brought forward once again.

That the nearby Kurdish city of Irbil, threatened by the Islamic State's rapid advance, boasts a large American diplomatic station and a contingent of American military "observers", may also have had something to do with Obama's sudden decision to bring airlifted supplies to bear on the Yazidis, and F-18 bombs and rockets on the Islamic State forces approaching Irbil. Another possible embassy destruction stirred repressed memories of the Benghazi disaster, itself the result of the initial "rescuing" of civilians (from Khaddafi's tender mercies, sparking the Libya war). A second, and larger, disaster could well sink Obama's already plummeting approval ratings, and this just before the oncoming Congressional elections.

We will see whether approaching disaster in Iraq winds up curing the Administration's allergy to putting "boots on the ground". (One should recall, though, that Obama's opposition to the Iraq war greased the ways for his 2008 nomination and election, and that having made good on his pledge to end the US involvement in Iraq quickly, returning to it again now would not only be a humiliating ad-

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NEW YEAR 5775 A FEW THOUGHTS

Baruch Cohen

In Loving Memory of Malca z"l

Rosh Hashanah is called the Day of Judgement. Taking the three steps that places him before God with every *Amidah* prayer, a Jew on *Rosh Hashanah* takes his/her stand before eternity. Anyone who ever wonders at the order of the universe, at its beauty, at the fact that something exists rather than nothing at all – any such person can confront eternity, for, even though a fleck of dust, he can *know* himself to be one. He therefore stands in judgment for the way he uses, or wastes, the small amount of time allotted to him. A Jew does not know who he is until he finds himself judged.

Rosh Hashanah stresses the universalist motif of Judaism: the prayers are not for the individual, or only for Israel's people, alone. There is a wonderful Hebrew phrase: *Heshabon Hane-fesh*, the taking stock of one's soul, a kind of sitting in judgment upon oneself, an inner accounting

Tikun Olam – the mending of the world, is the center, the leit-motif of *Rosh Hashanah* prayers. There is a powerful plea not only for Israel, but for the redemption of the entire world. *Rosh Hashanah* stresses the universalist motif of Judaism. In truth, one prays for brotherhood, and for the entire world, for the annihilation of hatred and discrimination. The prayers of *Rosh Hashanah* oppose any forms of racism that menace the world today! The prayers are a clear and strong plea for the establishment – in the entire world – of brotherhood and peace.

There is a poignant plea in those prayers for the establishment of righteousness and truth, for the spirit of brotherhood, and the conquest of tyranny and inequality. *Rosh Hashanah* prayers are universal for the redemption, not only of Israel alone, but of the entire world.

In the words of the Psalmist, to *rejoice with trembling* is in itself a sublime lesson. On the Day of Judgement, motivated by profound and earnest meditation, we render an accounting of our life and actions. Through the sounding of the *shofar*, we recall Creation and Revelation of Mount Sinai, and anticipate Messianic advent and *Return to Zion!*

May good health, peace, and joy be bestowed upon the *House of Israel*, on the entire world, and upon all CIJR friends and supporters for the coming year 5775!

*(Baruch Cohen is Research Chairman of CIJR,
and a member of the Holocaust Memorial Center)*

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We welcome your letters, comments and materials, which can be faxed or e-mailed (see cover.)

WEEKLY QUOTES

“It was possible for us to avoid all of that, 2,000 martyrs, 10,000 injured, 50,000 houses (destroyed),”—P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas, blaming Hamas for extending fighting with Israel in the Gaza Strip. **“They (Hamas) have a shadow government, if this continues it means no unity. The test is coming soon. The government needs to do its job and handle everything...I’m not saying everything needs to come to an end in one moment, this is a seven-year split that needs months or years,”** Abbas said. (*Yahoo News*, Aug. 29, 2014)

“The Egyptian formula was on the table on July 15th, it was backed by the Arab League, it was accepted by Israel but rejected by Hamas then and now more than a month later has belatedly been accepted by Hamas,”—Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev. **“As the dust clears from the conflict I’m sure many people in Gaza will be asking why did Hamas reject a month ago what it accepted today, and if it had accepted then what it accepted now, how much bloodshed could have been avoided,”** he added. (*Yahoo News*, Aug. 29, 2014)

“Russia’s partners ... should understand it’s best not to mess with us,”—Russian President Vladimir Putin. Putin compared Kiev’s assault on the rebel-held cities of Donetsk and Luhansk to the 900-day Nazi siege of Leningrad in which one million civilians died. **“Small villages and large cities surrounded by the Ukrainian army which is directly hitting residential areas with the aim of destroying the infrastructure,”** he said. **“It sadly reminds me the events of the Second World War, when German fascist ... occupiers surrounded our cities.”** (*Globe & Mail*, Aug. 29, 2014)

“I’m back, Obama, and I’m back because of your arrogant foreign policy towards the Islamic State,”—American-Israeli journalist Steven Sotloff’s executioner, in the second video released by ISIS reportedly depicting the beheading of U.S. journalists. **“Just as your missiles continue to strike our people, our knife will continue to strike the necks of your people,”** he added. (*CNN*, Sept. 4, 2014)

(There is) “a straightforward purpose from an analytical standpoint: intimidation,”—Rita Katz, director of the SITE Intelligence Group, commenting on the video of Steven Sotloff’s murder. **“Beyond the surface level, however, there is an equally alarming element to this video: recruitment to jihad... While anyone with a sliver of morality and a functioning stomach couldn’t possibly register any such appeal, a dangerous community with a dark view of the world have interpreted the video in a celebratory and empowering vein,”** Katz added. (*National Post*, Sept. 2, 2014)

“Old-school thugs - Mubarak and even Saddam - felt obliged to lie to the world: no, no torture going on here; we’re civilized men, just like you. But...the ISIS lads are “brazen” about it - they’re in your face about offing your head. And it’s worked for them: The more they post decapitated victims on Twitter and Facebook, the more followers they get in the “civilized” world. In an ill advised choice of words, the Prime Minister David Cameron said, “We need to tackle the ideology of Islamist extremism head on”—Mark Steyn (*SteynOnline*, Aug. 29, 2014)

SHORT TAKES

ISRAELI NUCLEAR SUB ON THE WAY FOR IDF NAVY (Haifa)—Israel’s first German-made Dolphin II nuclear-capable submarine is on its way to Israel, Israeli Navy Commander Vice Admiral Ram Rothberg said at a naval ceremony in Haifa. The German weekly *Der Spiegel* reported that the submarines have a nuclear capability and will help Israel defend against an Iranian nuclear threat. Dubbed INS Tanin, the Hebrew word for “crocodile,” the sub “can dive deeper and further and for longer and work more powerfully than anything we have previously known,” the naval commander said. (*Jewish Press*, Sept. 3, 2014)

ISRAEL SIGNS \$15 BILLION GAS DEAL WITH JORDAN (Amman)—Israel signed a memorandum of understanding with Jordan, under which it will supply the Hashemite Kingdom with \$15 billion worth of natural gas from its Leviathan energy field over 15 years. The new deal is the largest collaboration with Jordan to date, and will make Israel its chief supplier. The deal with Jordan comes after Prime Minister Netanyahu promised a “new diplomatic horizon,” and improved regional ties, in the aftermath of the recent Gaza military campaign. (*Times of Israel*, Sept. 3, 2014)

U.S. LEVELS NEW SANCTIONS ON IRAN (Washington)—The U.S. imposed a range

of sanctions designed to exert new pressure against Iran and deter international business leaders from circumventing Washington’s existing punitive measures. The sanctions will punish a bank that provides U.S. dollars to the Iranian government; a group that helped Iran evade sanctions on oil and petrochemicals; several transportation firms that helped deliver weapons and personnel to the Assad regime in Syria; and some individuals and organizations that support Iran’s nuclear program. Iran has missed a deadline to provide information about its nuclear research, and barred visits to a military site related to such work. (*Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 29, 2014)

DUTCH PENSION FUND REJECTS BDS (Amsterdam)—The Netherlands’ third largest pension fund, ABP, rejected demands from the Boycott Israel movement to disinvest from three Israeli banks that allegedly finance an Israeli presence in Judea and Samaria. The anti-Israel Avaas organization, along with South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, had pleaded with ABP to sell off shares worth more than \$75 million in Bank HaPoalim, Bank Leumi and Bank Mizrahi. (*Jewish Press*, Aug. 29, 2014)

LATEST ISLAMIC STATE MAGAZINE TOUTS FOLEY KILLING, TAUNTS OBAMA (Washington)—Al-Hayat Media, an important part of the Islamic State’s propaganda machine, has released the third issue of *Dabiq*, its English-language jihadist publication. The magazine sets up the U.S. as the boogeyman all Muslims must fight because Americans killed thousands of Muslims during their occupation of Iraq. *Dabiq* gloats over James Foley’s beheading, calling it “a cooling balm for the believers’ hearts” that served “as a retribution for the recent American aggression against the Muslims of Iraq.” (*Algemeiner*, Sept. 1, 2014)

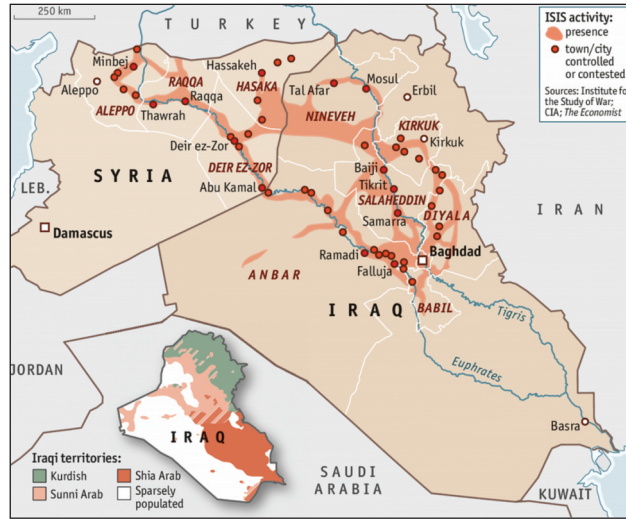


Photo: Economist.com/graphicdetail

The Largest Lesson from the Gaza War

Paul Merkley

For me, the utmost revelatory moment of the Gaza war — as I write, in shaky recess on account of another doubtful ceasefire — came during the interview that Osama Hamdan, the official press spokesman for Hamas, gave to Lebanon's *Al-Quds* television July 28 and that was picked up by *CNN* on August 4, just as terms were being announced for that earlier ceasefire. Hamdan proudly asserted that, among other accomplishments, Hamas had finally got the world to understand that Israeli's new war, like all its previous ones, was patently for the purpose of replenishing low supplies of the blood of Christian children — which, “as everyone knows,” the Rabbis need for constant levels of production of ritual *matzoh*. Asked to repeat the statement Hamdan did not flinch: “This is not a figment of imagination or something taken from a film ... the Israelis concentrate on killing children.” (www.algemeiner.com, August 5.)

Hamdan's words visibly shook the Western TV broadcasters, who imagine themselves enlightened above the generality of viewers in the deeper causes of all things. But this thinking is not news to Israelis. Warnings about the Israeli blood-harvesting is visited daily on the heads of Palestinian-Arab children *via* the Palestine Authority's televised children's shows and is a central component in the authorized curriculum in its schools.

Meanwhile, the cause for which *Hamas* has set up its citizens for slaughter before the world's cameras is being colorfully demonstrated as *Hamas*' allies, founders of the new Islamic State, make available over social media their video records of the death marches of their enemies — Christians, Yazidis and various segments of the Muslim community who imagine that they are true servants of Allah but are not so in the eyes of the newly-proclaimed Caliph of All Muslims. These ceremonies end in *literal* rivers of blood (www.dailymail.co.uk, July 29, 2014.)

Every day, it seems, experts trot out new graphs demonstrating the latest connections among the ever-proliferating terrorist groups, noting arcane differences in their recent histories and their game-plans, but only hinting at their financial sources. Fascinating though this all may be, the bottom line for the rest of us is that this ever-ramifying menace arises out of the ever-growing need of Muslim young men to fulfill the letter of Allah's command:

Judgment day will not come until the Muslims fight the Jews, and the Muslims kill the Jews, and then the Jews will hide behind stones and trees, and Allah will make the stones and trees speak, saying, “Oh Muslim, the servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him”...

The irreducible message of authentic Islam is that strife cannot end anywhere in the world until all have submitted to Islam. Meanwhile, our politicians, echoing their foreign policy experts, tell us that Arab unhappiness is only incidentally about religious matters, and will go away once a proper port has been built along the Gaza strip.

(Paul Merkley is a CIJR Academic Fellow)

Everything But the Truth

Machla Abramovitz

On July 13, five days after Israel had launched ‘Operation Protective Edge’ to shield its citizens from hundreds of missile strikes launched from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, Jodi Rudoren of the *New York Times* wrote the following lead summing up the war to that point:

JERUSALEM — So much here seems so broken right now: the peace process, the moral compass.

The Palestinian reconciliation pact is in tatters. The Israeli police force is having a crisis of public confidence. Houses of suspected Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip have been pulverized into piles of debris by Israeli airstrikes. Red alerts signaling long-range rockets from Gaza have canceled cultural events in Jerusalem and disrupted a wedding in a Tel Aviv suburb.

After hundreds of missile strikes on Israel's cities, volleys that have made bomb shelters the temporary living quarters for thousands of residents in Israel's south, and panicked adults and children alike from Ashdod to Haifa, Rudoren summarizes the entire Hamas terror campaign by reducing the missiles and their code red alerts to inconveniences that postpone cultural events and disrupt weddings. In Rudoren's view, it seems, the indiscriminate launching of missiles against a civilian population is the equivalent of a heavy snowstorm that forces the delay of a museum outing and spoils a bride's big day. Israel supporters near and far are used to this kind of media bias — especially from the *New York Times* — but the problem only seems to be getting worse. And with the onset of ‘Operation Protective Edge’, readers worldwide were faced once again with the persistent media bias that turns Israelis into the unquestioned aggressors and Palestinians into the hapless victims.

But the truth is far more complex, and a number of pro-Israel media watchdog organizations have emerged to actively take on reportorial bias and force media organizations to account. These organizations have certainly made progress, in many cases forcing editors to revise stories and media organizations to conduct internal investigations, but the so-called “narrative” of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is still decidedly in Israel's disfavor. There are many reasons for reportorial bias, but a major contributing factor is an ideological conflict with the policies of the State of Israel. Journalists are famously more liberal than conservative, and those that enter the profession often hold left-of-center liberal views. Top newspapers like the *New York Times* recruit their reporters from the finest universities, institutions where the State of Israel is treated as a pariah and its supporters vilified. This learned bias can't help but seep into the news coverage.

“The worst reporting comes from a particular liberal/left-wing bias inherent in many media organizations that tend to hire their reporters and staff from a particularly narrow background,” says Simon Plosker, managing editor of Honest Reporting, an Israeli-based media watchdog. “This is particularly the case in the BBC, which falsely claims to seek ‘balance,’ while the *New York Times* and the *Guardian* make no bones about their political and editorial slants.” Boston-based CAMERA (Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting) recently conducted a six-month study of *New York Times* coverage in which it found that the newspaper consistently downplayed Israeli views and amplified, or even promoted, Palestinian

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Caliph Ibrahim's Brutal Moment

Daniel Pipes

After an absence of 90 years, the ancient institution of the caliphate roared back into existence on the first day of Ramadan in the year 1435 of the Hegira, equivalent to June 29, 2014. This astonishing revival symbolically culminates the Islamist surge that began forty years ago. A Western analogy might be declaring the restoration of the Hapsburg Empire, which traced its legitimacy to ancient Rome.

Whence comes this audacious move? Can the caliphate last? What will its impact be? For starters, a quick review of the caliphate (from the Arabic *khilafa*, meaning "succession"): according to canonical Muslim history, it originated in 632 CE, on the death of the Islamic prophet Muhammad, then spontaneously developed, filling the nascent Muslim community's need for a temporal leader. The caliph became Muhammad's non-prophetic heir. After the first four caliphs, the office became dynastic.

From the start, followers disagreed whether the caliph should be the most able and pious Muslim or the closest relative of Muhammad; the resulting division came to define the Sunni and Shi'i branches of Islam, respectively, causing the profound schism that still endures. A single caliphate ruled all the Muslim lands until 750; but then two processes combined to diminish its power. First, remote provinces began to break away, with some – such as Spain – even creating rival caliphates. Second, the institution itself decayed and was taken over by slave soldiers and tribal conquerors, so that the original line of caliphs effectively ruled only until about 940. Other dynasties then adopted the title as a perquisite of political power. The institution continued in an enfeebled form for a millennium until, in a dramatic act of repudiation, modern Turkey's founder, Kemal Atatürk, terminated its last vestiges in 1924. Despite several subsequent attempts to restore it, the institution became defunct, a symbol of the disarray in Muslim-majority countries and a yearned-for goal among Islamists.

And so matters remained for 90 years, until the group known as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) issued a declaration in five languages (English version: *This Is the Promise of Allah*) proclaiming the founding of a new caliphate under "Caliph" Ibrahim. Caliph Ibrahim (aka Dr. Ibrahim Awwad Ibrahim), about 40, hailing from Samarra, Iraq, fought in Afghanistan and then Iraq. He now claims to be leader of "Muslims everywhere" and demands their oath of allegiance. All other Muslim governments have lost legitimacy, he claims. Further, Muslims must throw out "democracy, secularism, nationalism, as well as all the other garbage and ideas from the West." Reviving the universal caliphate means, announces *The Promise of Allah*, that the "long slumber in the darkness of neglect" has ended. "The sun of jihad has risen. The glad tidings of good are shining. Triumph looms on the horizon." Infidels are justifiably terrified for, as both "east and west" submit, Muslims will "own the earth."

Grandiloquent words, to be sure, but also ones with zero chance of success. ISIS has enjoyed backing from states like Turkey and Qatar – but to fight in Syria, not to establish a global hegemony. Nearby powers – the Kurds, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Israel (and eventually maybe Turkey too) – regard the Islamic State as an unmitigated enemy, as do nearly all rival Islamic movements, including Al-Qaeda. (The only exceptions: Boko Haram; scattered Gazans; and a new Pakistani organization.) The caliphate already faces difficulty governing the Great Britain-sized territories it conquered, troubles that will increase as its subject populations experience the full misery of Islamist rule....

(Daniel Pipes is a CIJR Academic Fellow and President of Middle East Forum)

Innovative Israeli Rhetoric and Diplomacy

Mordechai Nisan

The war in Gaza has offered Israel an historic opportunity, if not a national obligation, to re-shape her conventional diplomatic language of discourse. It is totally legitimate for Israel to present security demands which are based on a tangible and immediate reading of the military situation. But at the same time, radically new ideas designed to capture the diplomatic and moral high ground, to present an alternative set of issues for the political agenda in the Cairo talks and in the United Nations Security Council, are necessary today. The new thinking I am proposing here has the goal of bringing about consideration of demands that have never been broached, and this should be seen as a process of change in international public consciousness and in redirecting policy-making touching the Palestinian theatre of politics.

The first plank in Israel's new diplomatic offensive will demand that the leaders of Hamas be put on trial by the ICC for war crimes. This Islamic movement attacked a sovereign member state of the United Nations and targeted its civilian population indiscriminately; it ever more so intentionally exposed its own civilian population to Israeli retaliatory fire without any concern for their lives and welfare. Any civilian or humanitarian assistance for the Gaza Strip residents should be conditioned by Hamas leaders standing trial. This Israeli demand is morally irrefutable and politically expedient to deflect Arab and international censure of Israel's military behavior.

Israel will demand the dismantlement of UNRWA for its repugnant collaboration in the Palestinians' war. Rockets and missile batteries were found in UN facilities in Gaza in a way which magnified the fusion of Hamas and UNRWA as twin pillars of a shared policy against the Jewish state. International donations to UNRWA, like the \$130 million that the United States provided in 2013, must cease, and the Palestinian refugee problem should be finally resolved in a constructive and peaceful fashion.

Considering the connection between religion and war, Israel must demand the elimination of Islamic jihadist educational brainwashing and murderous propaganda that Hamas and other Palestinian factions disseminate. School books must be cleansed of poisonous hatred toward Israel, so too mosque sermons and radio and television programming that have shaped the public Palestinian mind for decades. Palestinian children must be taught to co-exist with Jews rather than conduct jihad against them.

Israel will present a demand that the international community organize and finance voluntary Palestinian emigration from Gaza to countries around the world. Rather than burying the pitiful Gazans in a morass of political insecurity and physical deprivation, the major powers and relevant international agencies have a moral obligation to create a credible and attractive option for rejuvenated Palestinian life far from the war zone that has been their lot for so long.

(Dr. Mordechai Nisan, retired lecturer at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, is a CIJR Academic Fellow. His latest book is Only Israel West of the River.)

ISRAEL-HAMAS TIMELINE: CONFRONTATIONS 1988-2014

The timeline below lists the origins and historical events of the terrorist organization Hamas. By analyzing Hamas's history, its origins as an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, and its Charter, which calls for the destruction of the sovereign, democratic Jewish State, its Islamist terrorist nature becomes clear.

"Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it."
(Hamas Charter, 1987)

"Hamas cannot make peace with the Israelis. That is against what their God tells them. It is impossible to make peace with infidels, only a ceasefire."
(Mosab Hassan Yousef, son of former Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin)

1988 - The *Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement* [Hamas] is published. Hamas considers itself as an alternative to the PLO.

1989 - An Israeli court sentenced Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin to two lifetime sentences for ordering the kidnap and killing of two IDF soldiers.

1994 - Hamas conducts its first suicide bombing. Five Israelis are killed in the city of Hedera.

1996 - After numerous suicide bombings, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat expresses his disapproval of the bombings and considers Hamas "a terrorist operation". Eventually, the Palestinian Authority created by the Oslo Accords will arrest approximately 140 supposed members of Hamas.

1997 - Leader of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, is released from prison.

1999 - King Abdullah of Jordan shuts down Hamas headquarters in Jordan.

2001 - The U.S. State Department puts Hamas on its official list of terrorist groups.

June 12, 2003 - A Hamas suicide bomber disguised as an ultra-orthodox Jew detonates a bomb on a Jerusalem bus, killing 16 Israelis.

August 20, 2003 - A suicide bomber detonates himself on a bus killing at least 20 Israelis in the Shmuel HaNavi quarter in Jerusalem. Hamas as well as Islamic Jihad claim responsibility for the attack.

January 2004 - Hamas's first female suicide bomber kills four Israelis at Erez crossing in a joint operation with the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades.

March 14, 2004 - Hamas and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades claim responsibility for a double attack at the Israeli port of Ashdod which killed 10 Israelis.

March 22, 2004 - Hamas leader Yassin is killed by Israeli air strikes.

March 23, 2004 - Dr. Abdel Aziz Rantisi is named as Yassin's successor.

April 17, 2004 - Rantisi is killed by an Israeli air strike while in his car.

August 31, 2004 - Hamas claims responsibility for the death of 14 people in a deadly explosion on two buses in the southern Israeli city of Beer Sheva, wounding more than 80.

December 12, 2004 - An attack at a checkpoint on the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt kills five Israelis. Hamas claims responsibility.

January 14, 2005 - A bomb at the Karni crossing at the Israel-Gaza border kills six Israelis. Hamas claims responsibility.

January 25, 2006 - Hamas, running as the "Change and Reform Party," participates for the first time in Palestinian Authority's parliamentary elections. The group fielded 62 candidates.

January 26, 2006 - Hamas wins a large majority in the Palestinian parliamentary elections. Hamas claims 76 of the 132 parliamentary seats, giving the party the right to form the next cabinet under the Palestinian Authority's president, Mahmoud Abbas, the leader of Fatah. Fatah, which had dominated the legislature since the previous elections a decade ago, won only 43 seats.

March 29, 2006 - The new Gaza Prime Minister, Ismail Haniya, and his cabinet are sworn in. The governments of the United States and Canada say they will have no contact with the Hamas-led Gaza government.

June 25, 2006 - Hamas militants attack an Israeli military post and kill two soldiers. A third soldier, Gilad Shalit, is kidnapped. The Palestinian government denies any knowledge of the attack.

June 2007 - After a week of bloody battles between Hamas and Fatah, during which Fatah backers [of P.A. President Abbas] are thrown off rooftops, Hamas seizes direct control of Gaza.

June 14, 2007 - Abbas dissolves the Palestinian government and declares a state of emergency after rival Hamas' forces took complete control of the Gaza Strip. Abbas dismisses Ismail Haniya as Prime Minister. Haniya rejects this and remains the *de facto* leader in Gaza.

2008 - Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter meets with exiled Hamas leader Khalid Meshaal, in Damascus, Syria.

February 29, 2008 - The Israeli military began Operation "Hot Winter" (also called Operation "Warm Winter") due to Qassam rockets fired from the Strip by Hamas. The Israeli army killed 112 Palestinians, and Palestinian militants killed three Israelis. Later in 2008, a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel, negotiated by Egypt, goes into effect. Hamas agrees to stop firing rockets at Israeli border communities and Israel will allow limited trade into and out of Gaza. The ceasefire has a six-month deadline.

December 19, 2008 - Hamas formally ends ceasefire with Israel. Sporadic attacks, and Israeli responses, had begun prior to this.

December 24, 2008 - The rocket attacks from Hamas, as well as retaliation air strikes from Israel, increase into 2009. Israel launched a large military campaign in the Gaza Strip on 27 December 2008, codenamed Operation "Cast Lead"

October 2012: Attacks from Gaza, and Israeli responses, grew intense in 2012. An Israeli air strike killed Ahmed Jabari, chief of the Hamas military wing in Gaza. Israel then launched "Operation Pillar of Defense".

September 2013 - Hamas' parent organization and ally, the Muslim Brotherhood, is ousted from government in Egypt. The Egyptian military leadership declares war on Hamas. Egypt imposes economic and military consequences on Gaza by closing down tunnels into Egypt.

May 2014 - Rocket attacks from Gaza on Israel increase.

June 2014 - Hamas, isolated and financially strapped, forms a national unity government with arch-rival Fatah. According to U.S. State Department officials, Secretary of State John Kerry "expressed concern about Hamas's role in any such government and the importance that the new government commit to the prin-



Photo: idfblog.com

IDF Soldiers prepare to dismantle a Hamas tunnel in the Gaza Strip

ciples of nonviolence, recognition of the state of Israel and acceptance of previous agreements with it."

June 12 - Three Israeli teenagers are kidnapped and killed in the West Bank. The PA aides the IDF in clamping down on Hamas in the West Bank. Tension between Hamas and Fatah escalates.

July 7, 2014 - After Hamas launches massive rocket attacks, the IDF responds with 'Operation Protective Edge'. Its goal is to stop the incessant rocket attacks into Israel. Within a week, Israel expands its offensive to a ground war, aimed at destroying extensive Hamas tunnels, built for military use against Israel, it had discovered.

July 15, 2014 - Egypt, long a mediator in conflicts between Israel and Palestinians, proposed a ceasefire, and Israel announced that it would accept. The proposal had called on Israel and Hamas to agree on an immediate truce without preconditions, with peace talks in Cairo launched within 48 hours. Hamas, however, said it had not been properly consulted, and refused to stop fighting.

July 20, 2014 - The Red Cross facilitated a two-hour humanitarian and medical ceasefire requested by Hamas in the region of Shijaiyah. However, Israel was forced to abandon the ceasefire after its troops were attacked by Hamas.

July 26-28, 2014 - Hamas and Israel agreed to a 12-hour humanitarian ceasefire, and Israel later tried to extend the ceasefire for another day. Hamas initially refused the truce but then reinstated it hours later, so that Gaza residents could observe the Muslim holiday of Eid. By

the next afternoon on Monday, July 28, both sides had begun fighting again.

July 31, 2014 - A three-day ceasefire was announced by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and Kerry. The purpose of the truce was primarily to provide humanitarian relief. Kerry was cautious not to raise expectations too high, saying: "This is a respite. It is a moment of opportunity, not an end."

July 8-August 26 - During the 50 days of 'Operation Protective Edge', Israel and IDF soldiers on the front lines were battered by rockets and mortar shells, as Hamas, Islamic Jihad and some smaller armed groups in Gaza fired 4,564 projectiles at Israel. During the war 70 people were killed on the Israeli side, including 64 soldiers. Gaza health officials claimed more than 2,100 people were killed in Gaza in the fighting. The destruction of Hamas attack tunnels was a central goal of the operation, and the IDF said that 32 were eliminated. There were 12 ceasefires declared during 'Operation Protective Edge', most of which Hamas violated before they expired. The final agreement, brokered by Egypt, that went into effect on August 26, was very similar to the one Israel accepted, and Hamas rejected, on July 15, the eighth day of fighting.

(Timeline by Matthew Kendall, CIJR Student Intern)

From Welfare to Warfare

Alexander H. Joffe & Asaf Romirowsky

As Operation Protective Edge came to a close, we have now seen four incidents in the latest round of fighting between Israel and Hamas that have focused attention on UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency), the internationally funded welfare organization for Palestinian “refugees.” The most recent saw three IDF soldiers killed in an explosion at a booby-trapped UNRWA clinic that was located at the opening of a terror tunnel.

Earlier in the week, UNRWA discovered rockets hidden in three of its schools in Gaza. Hamas or some other faction had been using the schools while they were closed for the summer; the one available photo shows rockets piled in the back of a classroom, covered with a blanket. UNRWA properly condemned the act, as did UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon who expressed “outrage and regret” at the discovery. But lacking its own munitions disposal capability, UNRWA the apparently returned the rockets to local authorities, presumably Hamas. It later expressed alarm that the other batch had mysteriously gone missing. After being ridiculed for this, UNRWA spokesman Chris Gunness has now stated that his organization will rely on UN mine disposal experts for future assistance. One can almost sympathize with UNRWA. Its schools have long been a primary mechanism for teaching the Palestinian narrative of displacement, resentment, and resistance against Israel...

But in a third incident UNRWA’s see-no-evil mentality had tragic, indeed deadly, consequences. A school in the Gaza neighborhood of Bet Hanoun where refugees from the fighting had fled was apparently used as a Hamas firing position. The details are unclear except that an explosion killed at least 16 children. Instantly UNRWA blamed Israel for the deaths. But an Israeli investigation suggests it was a Hamas rocket that fell short, and a just released video shows an Israeli mortar round striking an empty courtyard. Even UNRWA has changed its tune slightly and now claims it does not know who was responsible.... But the narrative of Israel’s unnecessary and violent attack was created and repeated by a world press that cannot see Hamas’ human shields, rockets, or tunnels.

Only here and there do reporters let slip that Hamas officials were seen using hospitals as headquarters, that rockets are being stored in mosques and fired from residential neighborhoods and schoolyards, and that Hamas supporters intimidate reporters into silence, beating and even executing critics as “collaborators.” There is little wonder the press refuses to question UNRWA more deeply.

UNRWA learned long ago to wave the bloody shirt, proclaim its formal neutrality, and act as unofficial Palestinian spokesmen with the imprimatur of the United Nations. As Hamas’ tunnels are being discovered to lead into everyday Gaza residences, however, it is becoming impossible to assert that UNRWA saw nothing and knew nothing. What is clear is that it did nothing until it absolutely had to.

These incidents are the latest illustration of the full integration

Continued on page 11

We Like You Too):

Ira Robinson

There is much that outside observers have decided Israel may not do in its self-defence in this summer’s conflict in Gaza. One of the more minor things with which foreign journalists found fault with Israelis concerns a hill near the beleaguered city of Sderot. That hill has a view of Gaza that has become a favorite with visiting journalists for staging their reports. One recently noted with some disgust the presence of Israelis on the hill who cheered when Israeli planes hit their targets in Gaza. Maybe, on some level, Israel is allowed to defend itself, but that Israelis should actually applaud

the destruction of enemies who have directed thousands of rockets and missiles their way was just too much for the correspondent.

Perhaps because of the notoriety of this particular controversy, Israeli *Channel 2* news sent a team to that hill and indeed found that local residents had hauled an old sofa up the hill. What the Israeli news camera caught was one of the strangest scenes of an often-surreal conflict. One of the Israelis on the sofa took out his cell phone and called an Arab friend in Gaza (in this war you can direct dial the “enemy”). “How are things for you?” he asked his friend. “Terrible” was the response. “Try to keep safe”, said the Israeli, “Hopefully some day we will be able to meet again just like we used to.” “Inshallah” was the response. Then two men obviously knew and liked one another, and remembered the days when thousands of Palestinians from Gaza moved relatively freely and worked in Israel.

Israel.

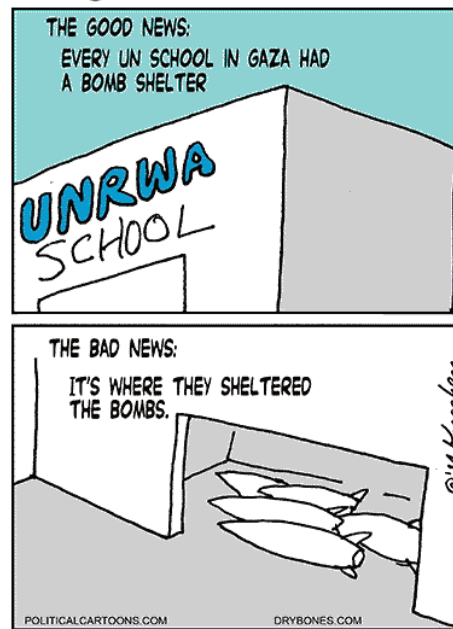
Another surreal part of the conflict is the evident adoption by Israelis of a Hamas propaganda song that went viral in its Arabic version and which Hamas had translated into Hebrew. The song, “*Kum Aseh Piguim*”, is sung by Hamas in a somewhat artificial and Arabic-inflected Hebrew. Its essential character can be understood from the chorus:

Up, do terror attacks,
Rock them, inflict terrible blows,
Eliminate all the Zionists,
Shake the security of Israel!

This song has unexpectedly become a hit sensation in Israel, with civilians and soldiers busy making their own versions, several of which are available on You Tube. The most interesting and inspiring Israeli version is the one which keeps the original Hamas soundtrack but replaces its images of Hamas fighters launching rockets with Israelis happily dancing in the streets of Tel-Aviv. In one such scene the dancers are posed in front of a wall with the inscription “We Like You Too :)”. This response is not only creative, but also underlines an essential moral contrast between Israel and Hamas: Israelis love life as much as Hamas’ leaders proclaim that they embrace death.

(Ira Robinson is Associate Director of CIJR)

Dry Bones THE GAZA WAR:



KRANTZ – Continued from page 2

mission of error, but would also risk alienating, as the pundits put it, his “base”.)

Insofar as humanitarian and/or politically calculated interventions are concerned, however, Obama’s track record is not a good indicator. Four years, 200,000 deaths, and seven million internal and external refugees after the beginning of the Syrian civil war, the U.S. has yet to support those “moderate” rebels against Bashar Assad to whom it had initially pledged to help.

And we all recall the disappearance of Obama’s poison-gas “red-line” when push came to shove in Syria. (But precisely why *millions* of dying and starving Syrians, let alone the hundreds of thousands of dispossessed and displaced Christian victims of various Islamist murderers, have—unlike the Yazidis and Kurds—not elicited Obama’s concern remains a mystery.)

Will this latest, threatening Iraqi crisis entail a profound reversal of American foreign policy, within and without the region? Will Obama, suddenly disappointing his eco-pacifist “base”, end his second term as an embattled wartime leader, coming to the aid of the “good guys” in Iraq (and perhaps in Syria, Afghanistan, Libya (*are there any good guys there?*)), and—for that matter—in Egypt and even in the Hamas war on Israel?

(Will he finally now act decisively to destroy the genocidal, anti-semitic Iranian mullahs’ nuclear capability (let alone check Chinese ambitions in the South China Sea, and—after the “re-set”’s failure—check Vladimir Putin’s appetite for ever-larger chunks of Ukraine and the other “near abroad” ex-Soviet territories?)

We will see. But if the possible fall of Irbil as well as dying Yazidis have finally focussed Obama’s attention (resolve?), a Kurdish *pesh merga* defeat there, despite the current US carrier-based sorties, would open the way to Islamic State’s drive south on to Baghdad. And an attack *there*, on the huge Green Zone American diplomatic embassy, would make Irbil, let alone Benghazi, look like child’s play.

(The recent removal of al-Maliki in Baghdad, and his replacement as Prime Minister by a more conciliatory Shiite politician amenable to American pressures, may yet rally Sunnis and Kurds to a central Shiite-led Iraqi government, enabling it to stand and fight against the Islamic State jihadis. But this ploy, which reaches back to the Bush Presidency, may [shades of desperate US policy flip-flops in Vietnam!] fail, paradoxically leaving Obama only one way to avoid outright and final defeat: replicating the reviled George Bush’s “surge” strategy.)

History, and political necessity, have produced strange and unexpected political turn-about before. FDR in the 1940 elections assured a still-pacifist American electorate of his peace-seeking intentions; a year later, he was the indomitable leader of the two-front crusade against the German Nazi-Italian Fascist-Japanese Axis. Richard Nixon, the Cold War anti-communist, engineered the American recognition of “Red” China. And the inexorable advance of America’s enemies, as the Obama-led US slept for the last six years, may result in a similar, unexpected transformation.

Then again, it may not: the current shift may prove only a spasmodic fizzle, or it may simply be too late. Still, what goes around tends to come around, and, as the late Leon Trotsky (who should have known) said, “You may not care about History, but it cares about you”. Boots on the ground? a revival of American global leadership? We’ll see—keep your eyes peeled: after all, the survival of Western civilization just may be at stake.

(Frederick Krantz is Director of CIJR [Montreal & Toronto] and Professor of History in Liberal Arts College, Concordia U.)

Abramovitz – Continued from page 4

perspectives. “Month after month, the newspaper obscured Palestinian attacks and Israeli deaths, diverting readers’ attention instead to Palestinian casualties and acts of nonlethal vandalism by Israelis.”

“For the most part, these journalists have a pack mentality,” Plosker says. “They stay in the same hotels and report from the same places. Subsequently, there is a lot of information swapping. They all impact each other.” Those media companies that can’t afford to send their own reporter to the region rely on wire services like Reuters and AP, which work closely with Palestinian sources to obtain their information, especially in the Gaza Strip.

In the case of photographers, the problem is even worse. Many of the professional photographers use Palestinians to assist them in their jobs, and the ensuing relationship is known to create a bias on the part of the reporter. “The photographers are incredibly important,” says Plosker. “You can’t compare a photo of a small crater where a rocket hit and the images of Palestinian women and children being injured or killed. The images are what’s hurting Israel.”

Yet, the fact that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu accepted an Egyptian ceasefire proposal during the second week of the conflict — while Hamas didn’t — clarified for most objective observers that Israel isn’t the party escalating the war. Further, Plosker credits this decrease in hostility to a fundamental change in the way Israel handles the media. During its 2012 Operation Cast Lead, for security reasons Israel did not allow journalists into Gaza. Today, they are allowed access and are witnessing firsthand what is happening there, rather than relying on footage from *Al Jazeera* and Hamas. Subsequently, there have been much fewer instances of staging of events by Palestinians than in the past.

(Mishpacha, July 23, 2014)

(Machla Abramovitz, a CIJR Academic Fellow, is Associate Editor of CIJR’s weekly online Israzine.)



CASUALTIES OF “LEADING FROM BEHIND”

Meanwhile, in Libya ...

Olivier Guitta

While much of the world’s focus currently is on ISIS’ reign of Islamist terror in the Iraqi territory it has conquered, another fire is burning 3,000 km away, in Libya. Having intervened in 2011 to depose Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, NATO powers now have a responsibility to provide what next-door Niger’s authorities have termed “after-sales service.” Libya is set to become a source of terrorism for all of Africa and beyond. And recent events in Libya continue to tilt the balance in the jihadists’ favour: Tripoli’s airport, for instance, now is mostly in the hands of Islamists.

Two air raids against Tripoli in August are believed to have been the work of a joint UAE-Egypt operation. That Arab nations have become involved in this way is not surprising: Egypt’s leadership, in particular, repeatedly has warned about the Islamist threat in Northern Africa. Algeria, another concerned Libyan neighbour, is believed to have its own operations underway on Libyan soil — involving as many as 5,000 soldiers tasked with rooting out jihadis.

Morocco and Tunisia also are on a high state of alert. This is the result of an alleged CIA warning to the effect that jihadis are planning to use planes missing in Libya to fly into buildings or strategic sites in these countries in a local repeat of the September 11 attacks (whose anniversary is next week). These planes could be used against tall buildings such as the Twin Centre, paired 28-storey skyscrapers in Casablanca that eerily mirror New York’s Twin Towers in miniature. Almost all of this generally has been ignored by the Western media, which has been focused primarily on events in Ukraine, Iraq, Israel, Gaza and Syria.

The most impressive counter-terrorism deployment has taken place in Morocco, where tens of thousands of soldiers reportedly have been mobilized around the country to tackle this specific threat. Anti-aircraft batteries in Casablanca, Marrakesh, Tangiers and other strategic locations have been deployed to shoot down any incoming plane controlled by terrorists. (Algeria has deployed the same type of batteries along its borders with Libya and Tunisia.) One needs only be reminded of the deadly 2013 terrorist attack led by Mokhtar Belmokhtar against Algeria’s Tigtourine gas facility to understand the scale of Algeria’s concern. As the Egypt-UAE air strikes indicate, the region’s more stable governments are not going to sit by idly while dark clouds gather.

The larger question is how Libya — seen just three years ago as a model for light-footprint Western military intervention — could become one of the world’s most dangerous places. The country arguably has the largest stockpile of loose weapons in the world, most of which have fallen into the hands of terror groups such as al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, al-Murabitun (which controls large swathes of territory in the south of the country), *Ansar al-Sharia* in the east, and the Dawn of Libya (which has taken control of the U.S. Embassy grounds). The situation is so dangerous and chaotic that it may soon invite a new Western intervention. It’s too late to prevent Libya from becoming a failed state — but at least some good may come of efforts to keep the threat contained within Libya’s own borders...

(National Post, Sept. 4, 2014)



U.N.: Nearly Half of Syria’s Population Uprooted by Civil War

Fred Barbash

Syria’s bloody civil war has now forced nearly half the country’s people from their homes, according to a United Nations report released today. That includes about 3 million who have fled the country, mostly to Lebanon, Jordan or Turkey. That’s a million more than at this time last year. Another 6.5 million have been displaced within Syria, which before the outbreak of the current conflict was said to have a population of about 22 million. And there is no relief in sight. If anything, things are getting worse with the ascendance of the Islamic State, which now controls large sections of northern and eastern Syria, which it hopes to combine with a swath of Iraq in its self-proclaimed caliphate. The conflict that began in 2011 with a revolt against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad and continued with his relentless and indiscriminate assault on rebellious cities and towns across the country has become a regional cataclysm.

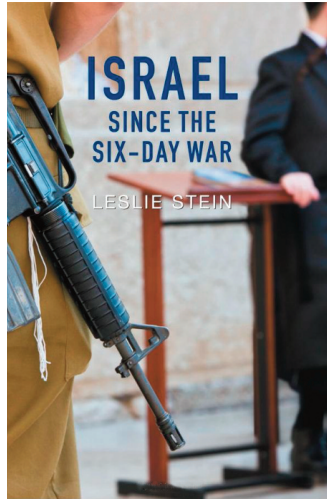
Lebanon has absorbed about 1.1 million refugees from Syria. Some 608,000 are in Jordan; another 815,000 are in Turkey. Most of them have no work, the U.N. report said. Many of them — up to 15 percent — are “suffering from long term medical conditions” such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer, the agency reported. “Syrians are now the world’s largest refugee population under UNHCR care, second only in number to the decades-long Palestinian crisis. The Syria operation is now the largest in UNHCR’s 64-year history,” the statement said. It’s “become the biggest humanitarian emergency of our era, yet the world is failing to meet the needs of refugees and the countries hosting them,” said António Guterres, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. “There are worrying signs too that the journey out of Syria is becoming tougher, with many people forced to pay bribes at armed checkpoints proliferating along the borders. Refugees crossing the desert into eastern Jordan are being forced to pay smugglers hefty sums (US\$100 a head or more) to take them to safety,” said the UNHCR statement.

(Washington Post, Aug. 29, 2014)

Leslie Stein: *Israel Since the Six-Day War* (Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2014)

Rob Coles

Israel Since the Six-Day War is the final book of Leslie Stein's trilogy on the history of Israel. The book is a remarkably detailed work of contemporary history, exploring not only Israel's major military engagements in these turbulent years, but also the political, economic, religious and social life of the nation. Stein provides a detailed analysis of Israel's wars, as well as Palestinian terrorist attacks, since 1967, with brilliant anecdotal information about the key players involved, and the impact of major historical events on the social and political fabric of Israel.



One of the most striking aspects of the period since 1967 is the emergence of terrorism as the main tactic of the Palestinian struggle. The PLO played a crucial role in the development of Palestinian terrorism. Stein points out that the fateful PLO National Charter of 1968 set the tone for violent acts against Israelis in the years to come. The Charter established a precedent for a series of “futile acts of aggression” by placing armed struggle as “the only way to liberate Palestine.” Terrorism, as practiced by the PLO, and all subsequent Palestinian extremist groups, was designed to gain maximum attention through intimidation. The PLO's preferred method in its formative years was the hijacking of airplanes. Between 1968-77, the PLO attacked 29 civilian planes, which Stein notes has the dubious distinction of being a “feat no other terrorist organization has ever matched.”

As the PLO were busy committing senseless acts of terror on innocent Israelis, its deceptive and charismatic leader Yassir Arafat was “enthusiastically welcomed” by the United Nations. Stein highlights Arafat's cunning duplicity with precision. The PLO leader presented the Palestinian case to the UN in 1974, allowing “for no legitimacy of any Jewish national sovereignty in Palestine...the Jews, unlike the Arabs of Palestine...were not entitled to regard themselves as a people.” Stein's chilling account of the incendiary speech explains how Arafat “faced (the U.N. General Assembly) with clenched hands above his head like a victorious prize fighter,” and received a standing ovation by the delegates.

The chapter aptly named “The Fateful 1990s” examines the infamous Oslo Accords. Arafat, enjoying his role as the “peacemaker” before adoring media and politicians, again showed his duplicity via a pre-recorded television appearance broadcast to an Arab audience, boasting the Oslo Accords “had just accomplished the first step in the PLO's 1974 plan of dismantling Israel by stages.” The plan involved the PLO gaining Israeli territory through negotiations, then using the newly acquired territory as a base for launching attacks, with the aim of destroying Israel.

The history of the recent wars and terrorist attacks against Israelis, and UN hypocrisies, are fascinating, albeit tragic, reading, but the real strength of the book is Stein's depiction of the social

life of the nation, brought to life through stories of everyday people. One of these takes place during the Yom Kippur War. During times of war, Rabbis exceptionally let conscripted soldiers break their fast and join the battle. In one house of prayer, Stein writes, a sorrowful father would not let go of his son who was about to go off to war. Only the Rabbi's intervention finally convinced the father to relax his hold. These stories illuminate the social milieu of the times and show how the nation is, above all, rooted in its faith and religion.

(Rob Coles is CIJR's Publications Chairman)

Joffe & Romirowsky – Continued from page 8

of UNRWA into Palestinian society. It is the internationally funded education, health, and welfare department, the legal department, and the public relations department, for Palestinian society—in competition with, and often more influential than, the Palestinian Authority. Before the current crisis is over it will undoubtedly launch yet another emergency appeal to expand its role even further.

It is worth emphasizing just how unprecedented the situation really is. Third and fourth generation descendants still demand to be regarded as refugees and supported by the international community, while being still forbidden to resettle in the Arab countries where they have lived for decades (except for Jordan). All this is expected to continue until the Palestinians' preferred resolution to the conflict is realized—namely, the end of Israel and their return to a world that no longer exists.

(Alexander Joffe is a Shillman-Ginsburg Fellow of the Middle East Forum. Asaf Romirowsky is an adjunct fellow at the Middle East Forum, and a CIJR Academic Fellow)

Recently Received Books in Our Israel & Middle East Library

Eilam, Ehud. *The Next War Between Israel and Egypt*. Middlesex, U.K.: Valentine Mitchell, 2014

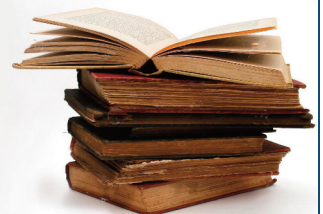
Merkley, Paul C. *Those That Bless You, I Will Bless: Christian Zionism in Historical Perspective*. Brantford, ON: Mantua Press, 2011

Muravchik, Joshua. *Making David Into Goliath: How the World Turned Against Israel*. New York: Encounter Books, 2014

Stangneth, Bettina. *Eichmann Before Jerusalem: the Unexamined Life of a Mass Murderer*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014

Stein, Leslie. *Israel Since the Six-Day War: Tears of Joy, Tears of Sorrow*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2014

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Irwin G. Beutel^{z"l}

(1936-2014)

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EXTRA! EXTRA!

A Word from Jack Kincler (CIJR National Board Chairman)

Dear friends and supporters,

With the Jewish New Year 5775 upon us, it is the time for reflection about ourselves, our families and friends, and about the world around us.

Last year in the midst of the turmoil in the Arab world due to the so-called "Arab Spring" which turned into "Arab Disaster", I said the following:

"...given the volatile and unpredictable Middle Eastern context, Israel is an island of stability with a flourishing economy... Thus in the short term (no long-term plans should ever be considered seriously in that part of the world), [the Arab Disaster] is a good thing for Israel."

Unfortunately, Israel again has been in conflict with Hamas. As Rex Murphy, in a recent article entitled: "Coming Around to Israel's Side", puts it: "Considering...all its struggles since its birth, I've long thought that tiny, democratic Israel should just be left alone to thrive. Maybe others are starting to see it that way, too. I sense some turn in the world's opinion on what we call the Middle East conflict. The terms of understanding are changing."

He is right to a certain extent, although Israel still faces an uphill battle in the media, on the street and on campuses. We, freedom loving people, must convey Murphy's message, that: "People are seeing there is in Israel's actions a very real lesson for the West. Israel is hardy and steadfast in standing up against terror, in embodying democracy even under fire, in attempting to observe some scruple as missiles fly. It stands for values and virtues that we in the West have become too cavalier about."

This is where CIJR's role in this media and propaganda war becomes so important. We, CIJR's volunteers and small, paid staff, are at the forefront of this daily battle, working hard to inform the public and hammer home the message about Israel's struggle for peace, democracy and freedom.

Our 26th Anniversary Gala, which took place on June 10 in Montreal, and June 11 in Toronto, was very successful. At the Sha'ar HaShomayim Synagogue in Montreal 150 people attended a full program for the evening, and the Toronto event, with the same Keynote speakers, was also very well received. We honored the foreign volunteers of Israel's 1948 War of Independence (the *Machalniks*), and the past Israeli Air Force chief, General Eitan Ben Eliyahu, an F-4 Phantom pilot in the 1973 Yom Kippur war, was our *Keynote*. We also had two dynamic student activists from the U. of Calgary recounting their successful fight against anti-Israel propaganda.

We've expanded, doubling our Board Room/Library space and renovating the other offices. We need furniture to accommodate 50 to 60 people; your help will be very appreciated.

The office staff in Montreal, and our Chapter chairs in Toronto, do a great job, and we are all thankful for their dedication and hard work. The Toronto Chapter is growing, and our new *American Institute for Jewish Research*, CIJR's independent sister, is now a work in progress after IRS approval.

With our very limited resources, CIJR needs, and appreciates, your help in combatting anti-Israel and anti-Jewish incitement on the academic, public and media fronts.

Best wishes for a New Year, and thank you for everything you do to support this wonderful community and our beloved State of Israel, in 5775 and beyond.

Jack Kincler, Chairman, National Board

From the Toronto Chapter

In mid-June CIJR-Toronto supporters gathered together to honour three distinct generations of Israel defenders. With our keynote speaker General Eitan Ben-Eliyahu, Commander of the Israel Air Forces from 1996-2000, Toronto members shared an afternoon with an individual who had personally shaped the course of Middle Eastern history as a pilot in the 1981 Operation Opera strike that took out Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor. As well, Joe Warner, representing all Canadian *Mahal* volunteers, walked us through his experience on the frontlines in Israel's war for both independence and survival in 1948. The afternoon concluded with dispatches from the modern-day front against antisemitism/anti-Israelism with Calgary students Sarah Bernamoff and Samantha Hamilton explaining just how they succeeded at defending Israel in terribly hostile territory.

As the Gaza War broke out, CIJR quickly rose to the needs of the Toronto Jewish community by holding a crucial academic colloquium in July. Esteemed academics Professors Renan Levine, Sally Zerker, Aurel Brown and *Financial Post* columnist Lawrence Solomon cut through the fog of anti-Israel demonization, and provided Toronto audiences with lucid and accurate assessments of Israel's war for survival against Hamas and Islamism.

CIJR-Toronto continues to be an active community partner with many members directly participating in Israel-advocacy responses to the Israel-hatred that has spilled over into the streets. Stay tuned for further important updates!

(Alan Herman is CIJR-Toronto Co-Chair)