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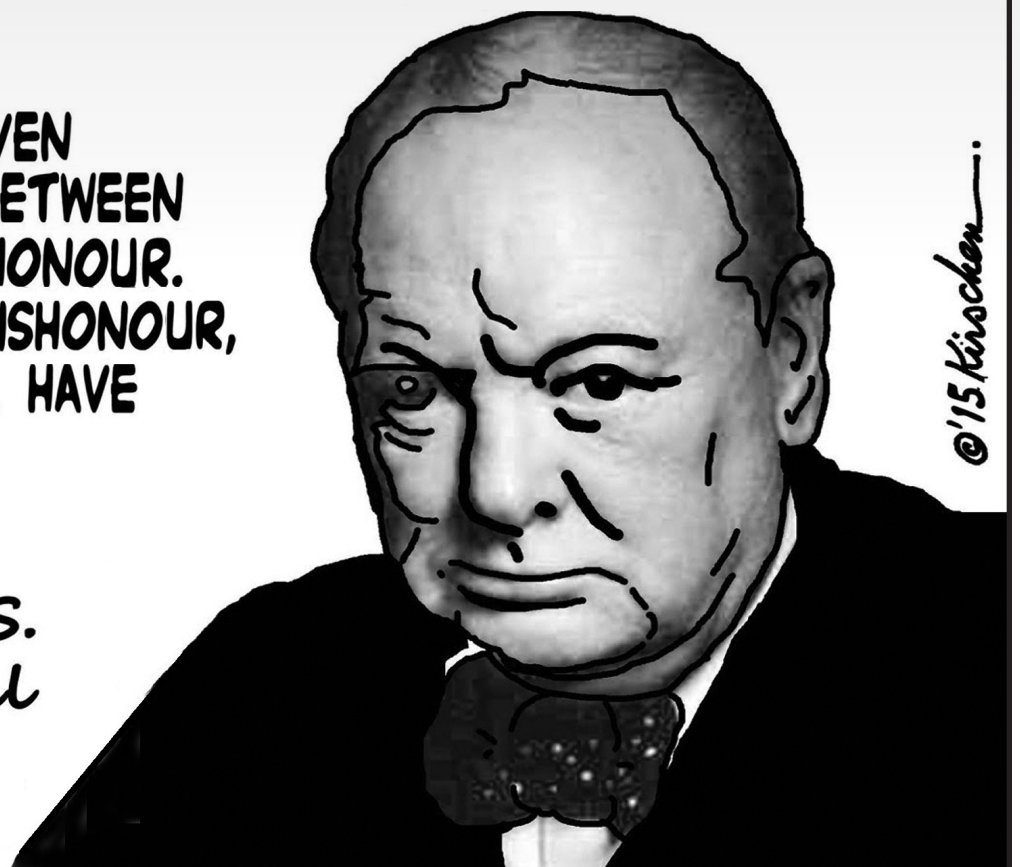
OBAMA'S IRANIAN "DEAL"

Dry Bones

THE AGREEMENT

"YOU WERE GIVEN
THE CHOICE BETWEEN
WAR AND DISHONOUR.
YOU CHOSE DISHONOUR,
AND YOU WILL HAVE
WAR."

*Winston S.
Churchill*



Editorial

Israel, the U.S., and Iran: Thinking the Unthinkable

Frederick Krantz

But the [Roman] Legate Lentulus said, "That for the purpose of saving the country no proposition ought to be rejected...the defense of their country was always good..." For where the very safety of the country depends upon the resolution to be taken... putting all other considerations aside, the only question should be, What course will save the life and liberty of the country?

Machiavelli, *Discourses*, III, *xli*

It is painful, and deeply saddening, to realize that the U.S.'s Iran-nuclear Deal has placed Israel in the unthinkable existential position—unthinkable, that is, before Obama's radical pro-Iranian policy shift—of having to decide, alone, whether to strike Iran's threatening nuclear establishment.

The clearly American-dominated "5+1"-negotiated Deal allows Iran (naively—or cynically—assuming full Iranian compliance) to retain its basic enrichment facilities and centrifuge research, in return for postponing achievement of a nuclear device for a period of years and the meager gain of extending nuclear break-out time from several months to a year. More: it releases \$150 billion in sequestered funds, dismantles the sanctions regime, allows resumed oil sales and Western investment, and approves phased acquisition of heavy weapons and intercontinental ballistic missiles.

It is certain that by the prescribed September 17, 2015 end-of-debate time-limit Congress will reject the Deal, it is unclear whether it can then achieve the 2/3 majority votes needed to override Obama's equally certain veto (he needs only 37 [Democratic] Senate votes to block final disapproval). At the moment, most informed opinion feels the President will get his votes, and begin implementing the Deal.

Why have Obama and Kerry rushed, despite such Congressional and public opposition, and the evident effectiveness of international sanctions (after all, why did Tehran come to the table in the first place?), to serve up this counter-factual agreement? It may well be a function of Obama's "legacy" fixation, of sheer political-diplomatic incompetence, or, as some are now arguing, of the deal as an in fact subordinate part of a much larger, ill-considered American-Iranian Middle East realignment. This would replace

Continued on page 6

In Memory of Paul Celan

Baruch Cohen

In Loving Memory of Malca z"l

Forty-five years ago, in Paris, Paul Celan put an end to his tragic life. Celan, the Jewish-Romanian poet, in the words of critic George Steiner, created some of the most profound lyric poetry in European literature. In the *New York Times Book Review* (Sept. 30, 1984) Steiner expressed his astonishment that Celan did not receive the Nobel Prize for his work.

Paul Celan was born in 1920 in the Northern Romanian city of Cernovitz. His name was Paul Antschel, and he was raised in a rich cultural and intellectual milieu which explains his considerable knowledge of languages: German, Romanian, French, English, Hebrew and Russian. He considered German to be his mother tongue and — an always-present irony — the language of his Holocaust-haunted poetry. He asserted that "only in the mother tongue can one speak his own truth. In a foreign tongue the poet lies."

Celan's tragic destiny was the force behind his powerful poetry. He lost his parents in the killing fields of Transnistria; their earlier deportation by the Romanian army during the Second World War was an image that never ceased to haunt him. He himself suffered humiliation in a forced labor camp. After the war, in autumn 1945, he came to Bucharest, where he lived until 1946. a short sojourn to Vienna in 1948 connected him anew to his family's origins in German culture.

In Bucharest he changed his name, re-arranging the letters of "Antschel" to form the name "Celan." On May 2, 1947, the renowned Bucharest literary journal *Contemporanul* published Celan's famous "Todesfuge" in Romanian. It became an anthology piece, a Holocaust document in poetic form.

Six months before his untimely death, Celan visited Israel. In a letter to a relative in the Jewish state, he wrote: *I might be among the few of the remnants who have been destined to live until my end — to illuminate the greatness of Jewish spirituality in Europe.*

May his courageous work never be forgotten, and his memory forever be a blessing.

(Baruch Cohen is Research Chairman of CIJR, and a member of the Montreal 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

“This is further clear indication of Iran’s increasing involvement in attacks against Israel in particular and against regional targets in general. The ink on the nuclear agreement has not yet dried, and this attack shows clearly how Iran plans to act the moment after the international sanctions are removed.” — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a statement shortly after an IDF airstrike that took out the Islamic Jihad terror cell backed by Iran that launched four rockets into Israel from Syria the day before. (*Arutz Sheva*, Aug. 21, 2015)

“International inspections should be done by international inspectors. Period. The standard of ‘anywhere, anytime’ inspections – so critical to a viable agreement – has dropped to ‘when Iran wants, where Iran wants, on Iran’s terms.’” —U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman (R) Ed Royce. Iran will be allowed to use its own inspectors to investigate a site it has been accused of using to develop nuclear arms, the Parchin nuclear site, operating under a secret agreement with the UN agency that normally carries out such work. (*National Post*, Aug. 19, 2015)

“Erdogan is back in the driver’s seat...But the car’s wheels are falling — and the car is breaking down.” — Svante Cornell, Director of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan appeared a shadow of his former self after his party suffered major losses in June elections. Two months on, the shrewd politician seems to be back in the saddle. The coalition-building he reportedly opposed has collapsed, and Turkey is now edging closer toward the repeat elections that he has been angling for. (*Fox News*, Aug. 18, 2015)

“We haven’t seen something similar since the Second World War...I think this is the biggest attempt, the most brutal systematic destruction of world heritage.” —UNESCO chief Irina Bokova. A series of recent attacks has stoked fears that I.S. is accelerating its campaign to demolish and loot heritage sites. Bokova said recent images of archaeological sites under I.S. control in Iraq and Syria show signs of widespread illegal digging and looting. (*New York Times*, Aug. 21, 2015)

“There are many Christians that support Israel, but they don’t come out...Those who know what real apartheid is, as I know, know that there is nothing in Israel that looks like apartheid.” —Kenneth Rasalabe Joseph Meshoe, President of the African Christian Democratic Party. (*Jerusalem Post*, Aug. 25, 2015)



A Syrian police officer patrols the ancient city of Palmyra, Syria. On May 21, 2015, Palmyra came under the control of Islamic State jihadists. (Getty Image)

SHORT TAKES

200 FEARED DEAD IN LATEST MIGRANT DISASTER OFF LIBYAN COAST (Tripoli) —Libyan authorities were collecting the bodies of migrants who drowned when their boat capsized off the coastal city of Zuwara on Friday, with some 200 feared dead in the latest disaster involving desperate people trying to reach Europe. Fishermen found the waterlogged vessel at sea and towed it back to Zuwara, where they had to break the ship’s deck to reach people trapped inside. (*Times of Israel*, Aug. 28, 2015)

MOROCCAN CHARGED WITH TERROR ATTACK ON FRENCH TRAIN (Paris) — Prosecutors have charged Ayoub El Khazzani over an attack on a French train, accusing him of a “targeted and premeditated” jihadist assault. A Paris prosecutor said Khazzani had boarded a train in Brussels armed with a Kalashnikov assault rifle and 270 rounds of ammunition, a Luger pistol, a bottle of petrol and a box-cutter. The 25-year-old walked out of a toilet armed and topless before being subdued by two American off-duty servicemen, their friend and a 62-year-old British consultant. (*Yahoo*, Aug. 26, 2015)

J STREET U ELECTS MUSLIM STUDENT AS PRESIDENT (Washington) — The campus arm of left-wing group J Street elected a Muslim-American student to serve as president of its national student board. At its

“Summer Leadership Institute” in Washington, J Street U elected Amna Farooqi, a senior at the University of Maryland who is of Pakistani descent. J Street U says it has 4,000 active participants on 75 college campuses in the U.S. A native of suburban Washington, Farooqi grew up in a “fairly religious Muslim home” with “a lot of Jewish friends,” *Haaretz* reported. (*Times of Israel*, Aug. 20, 2015)

ISLAMIC JIHAD PLANNED ATTACK AT JOSEPH’S TOMB (Jerusalem) — Israeli authorities foiled a Palestinian cell’s plan to conduct a terrorist attack targeting Jewish worshipers at Joseph’s Tomb in the West Bank. The Gaza-based Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist organization reportedly armed and directed the cell to carry out a bombing and shooting attack. This development comes amid rising tensions between Israel the Islamic Jihad. Last week, the IDF blamed Islamic Jihad operatives in Syria for firing four rockets which landed in northern Israel. (*IPT*, Aug. 25, 2015)

JEWISH TOMBSTONES FOUND IN POLISH RIVERS (Warsaw) — Jewish tombstones were recently discovered in Poland’s Vistula River, amid a prolonged drought that has seen water levels sink to record lows. The tombstones, discovered along the river’s banks in Warsaw, are believed to have come from the Brodno cemetery. Once the final resting place of 300,000 Jews, only 3,000 graves remain in Brodno today. The remaining tombstones were ransacked during and after World War II and used as building materials or to reinforce the river’s banks. (*Arutz Sheva*, Aug. 26, 2015)

Netanyahu Emulates Churchill in Trying to Influence U.S. Policy to Protect His People

Alan M. Dershowitz

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is acting properly in lobbying against the Iran deal. And President Obama is acting improperly in accusing him of interfering in American foreign policy and suggesting that no other foreign leader has ever tried to do so: "I do not recall a similar example."

President Obama is as wrong about American history as he is about policy. Many foreign leaders have tried to influence US foreign policy when their national interests are involved. Lafayette tried to get the United States involved in the French Revolution, as the early colonists sought support from France in their own revolution. Winston Churchill appeared in front of Congress and lobbied heavily to have America change its isolationist policy during the run up to the Second World War. Nor can President Obama claim ignorance about recent events, when he himself sent David Cameron, the prime minister of the United Kingdom, to lobby Congress in favor of the Iran deal. Recently, Shinzo Abe, the prime minister of Japan, lobbied us with regard to the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Prime Minister Netanyahu's nation has a far greater stake in the Iran deal than most of the countries that negotiated it. But Israel was excluded from the negotiations. Any leader of Israel would and should try to exercise whatever influence he might have in the ongoing debate over the deal.

There can be no question that Israel is the primary intended target of Iran's quest for a nuclear arsenal. Recall that Hashemi Rafsanjani, the former president of Iran, has described Israel as a one-bomb state that could be destroyed instantaneously, and that even if Israel retaliated, it would not destroy Iran or Islam. No similar threats have been made against Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia or China. Although the United States is still regarded by Iran as the "Great Satan", the U.S. has less to fear from an Iranian nuclear arsenal than does Israel.

Does President Obama really believe that Israeli leaders are required to remain silent and simply accept the consequences of a deal that puts its population at risk? As Prime Minister Netanyahu has repeatedly said, Israel is not Czechoslovakia. In 1938, Czechoslovakia too was excluded from the negotiations that led to its dismemberment, but it had no ability to influence the policies of the negotiating nations. Nor did it have the ability to defend itself militarily, as Israel does.

The United States would surely not accept a deal negotiated by other nations that put its citizens at risk. No American leader would remain silent in the face of such a deal. Israel has every right to express its concern about a deal that has crossed not only its own red lines, but the red lines originally proposed by President Obama.

(Gatestone Institute, Aug 12, 2015)



Photo: Joe Klammar/AFP

EU High Representative Federica Mogherini, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, Head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization Ali Akbar Salehi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry at the United Nations building in Vienna

Obama's Iran Deal Has the Makings of a Catastrophe

Daniel Pipes

Barack Obama has repeatedly signaled during the past six and a half years that that his No. 1 priority in foreign affairs is not China, not Russia, not Mexico, but Iran. He wants to bring Iran in from the cold, to transform the Islamic Republic into just another normal member of the so-called international community, ending decades of its aggression and hostility.

In itself, this is a worthy goal; it's always good policy to reduce the number of enemies. (It brings to mind Nixon going to China.) The problem lies, of course, in the execution.

The conduct of the Iran nuclear negotiations has been wretched, with the Obama administration inconsistent, capitulating, exaggerating, and even deceitful. It forcefully demanded certain terms, then soon after conceded these same terms. Secretary of State John Kerry implausibly announced that we have "absolute knowledge" of what the Iranians have done until now in their nuclear program and therefore have no need for inspections to form a baseline. How can any adult, much less a high official, make such a statement?

The administration misled Americans about its own concessions: After the November 2013 Joint Plan of Action, it came out with a factsheet which Tehran said was inaccurate. Guess who was right? The Iranians. In brief, the U.S. government has shown itself deeply untrustworthy.

The agreement ends the economic sanctions regime, permits the Iranians to hide much of their nuclear activities, lacks enforcement in case of Iranian deceit, and expires in slightly more than a decade. Two problems particularly stand out: The Iranian path to nuclear weapons has been eased and legitimated; Tehran will receive a "signing bonus" of some US\$150 billion that greatly increases its abilities to aggress in the Middle East and beyond.

The United States alone, not to speak of the P5+1 countries as a whole, have vastly greater economic and military power than the Islamic Republic of Iran, making this one-sided concession ultimately a bafflement.

Of the administration's accumulated foreign-policy mistakes in the last six years, none have been catastrophic for the United States: Not the Chinese building islands, the Russians taking Crimea, or the collapse into civil wars of Libya, Yemen, Syria, and Iraq. But the Iran deal has the makings of a catastrophe...

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

Has the "BDS Campaign" Won the Heart of Christians?

Paul Merkley

To me, the most appalling feature of the current BDS campaign — whose immediate purpose is demonization of the Jews and whose ultimate goal is liquidation of the Jewish State — is the leading role that has been taken up by denominations affiliated with the World Council of Churches as well as the Roman Catholic Church. And as inexplicable as it is appalling is the fact that this is happening at the very moment when throughout the Middle East, Christians are now being conducted onto the path to liquidation.

While it may seem grandiose, the Muslim project, looking to the total removal of Christians from the Middle East, does have a precedent and must therefore be judged realistic. A mere seventy years ago the Jews of the Middle East, roughly four hundred thousand of them, were driven out of the Arab Middle East by the governments and the masses of those countries. These were places in which Jews had lived, for the most part, for many centuries before the Arabs entered the region. As this de-Judification of the Middle East was carried out during the 1950s, the world looked the other way. Now it is the turn of the Christians.

As the prospect of liquidation bears down upon Middle East Christians, expres-

sions of solidarity have come from the leading various Jewish organizations in our part of the world. By contrast, only a trickle of vague concern is coming from the principal church bodies. Reviewing deliberations and resolutions flowing from recent general meetings of several American "mainline" denominations, Giulio Meotti, a leading Italian scholar of this theme, has discovered: "These Churches are not worried about the Christians beheaded in Libya by the Islamic State. These Christians are not raising the alarm on the last Christians of Aleppo. No. They are all adopting resolutions to divest from the Jewish State." As for the Catholic Church:

The Pope, who should represent the voice of one billion Catholics around the world, was not busy these days in writing an encyclical against the Islamic persecution of Christians. No, the Catholic Church was very busy in signing a historic agreement with the "State of Palestine", a non-existent entity which, if it (God forbid) should be created, would be the first state after the Nazi Germany to officially ban the Jews and expel the remnant of its Christians.

It is a mistake to accept the "BDS" campaign as the bottom line on how Israel is faring today in Christian company. All of the

denominations that have gone into the BDS camp are losing members at a catastrophic pace. For example: the United Methodist Church, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church, have all lost around 30% of their membership over the last couple of decades. In any case, only a minority of Christians look to the denominational leadership for guidance on this matter (or on most matters.)

Polling brings out a strong pro-Israel attitude among those who identify as Christians. While the anti-Israel spirit thrives in organizational Christianity, pro-Israel advocacy is built almost entirely upon large volunteer organizations that continue the legacy of Christian Zionism outside the denominational camps.

This BDS campaign within the so-called Mainline churches follows from a death wish — a determination to persist in policies that have for decades been thinning-out the ranks of those who will have to keep the pension funds buoyant on the road ahead as the denomination casts off so many of its very best financial assets out of BDS zealotry.

(Paul Merkley is a retired Professor of History from Carleton University and a CIJR Academic Fellow)

BDS Movement Fails to Derail Israel's Economy

Mitchell Bard

The press is full of dire warnings that Israel is isolated and growing more so, and that the boycott, divestment, sanctions (BDS) movement is having a devastating impact on the Israeli economy. It's no mystery that Israel is politically at loggerheads with much of the world over the disastrous

Iran deal, settlements and inaction on the peace process; nevertheless, diplomatic ties remain intact. Moreover, despite the desperate hopes of the BDS campaign, economic ties are flourishing.

Overall, Israeli exports have grown from around \$5 billion in 1948, to more than \$47 billion in 2014. Israel's largest single trade partner remains the United States, despite political tensions between the political leaders...Israel's relations are even more strained with the European Union and yet trade with the EU exceeds that of the U.S.

Roughly one-third of Israel's imports and exports are a result of trade with the EU... The central hub of the BDS movement is in England, but the various votes by academic and trade associations for boycotts have had virtually no tangible impact. In fact, total bilateral trade amounted to a record \$6 billion in 2014...

The biggest economic story is the exponential expansion of Israel's trade with Asia, which will overtake the U.S. as Israel's second biggest export destination this year. China is already Israel's third largest trading partner; in fact, since formally establishing diplomatic relations with China in 1992, trade has increased 220-fold from \$50 million in 1992 to \$11 billion in 2014. In addition, total trade between Israel and Japan reached \$2.3 billion in 2014.

Israel's relations with India have been

steadily improving, as evidenced by the planned 2015 visit of Narendra Modi to Israel... Bilateral trade and economic relations have grown from \$200 million in 1992 to \$6 billion in 2013. Between Modi's election in May 2014 and November 2014, Israel exported \$662 million worth of Israeli weapons and defense items to India...

Israel's discovery of a large reserve of natural gas off its Mediterranean coast has also opened new opportunities... Jordan, for example, signed a \$15 billion deal for Israeli natural gas, and a \$1.2 billion agreement was struck with Egypt...

In addition to trade, foreign investment in Israel has grown rapidly... More than 10,000 U.S. companies do business in or with Israel, including all the major high-tech companies. Intel invested \$6 billion in its plant in Kiryat Gat. Americans and other foreign investors ... invest in Israel ... because it is a great place to do business with a creative and highly skilled pool of talent...

(Jerusalem Post, Aug. 12, 2015)

EDITORIAL – Continued from page 2

the hitherto dominant U.S.-Israel-Saudi Arabia [Sunni] framework with a new U.S.-Iranian [Shiite] axis, supposedly creating a stabilizing balance-of-power facilitating a *de facto* American withdrawal from the region.

If the latter is the case, one look at the current Middle East chaos should quickly dispel the notion. But for our purposes we should ask what *follows* if the Deal is, finally, post a failed veto override, implemented. If so, the question then is, when and how will Netanyahu and Israel make good on their conviction that the Deal—economically, militarily, politically and, ultimately, in terms of nuclear capacity—radically strengthens, not weakens, a genocidal and terrorist-supporting Islamist Iran.

“How” is, of course, a military question, involving bringing the requisite force to bear on Iran in such a way as either to destroy or severely to set back, its nuclear capacity. The logistics of long-distance air attacks and refueling, of available ordinance, the use of ballistic missile attacks from pre-positioned submarines, possible landing and extraction of commandos, the amount of time required and precautionary defensive tactics involved, and so on, are beyond the purview of this article. It is, however, safe to say that the very capable Israel Defense Force, one of the world’s leading militaries, has been refining, and rehearsing, such an attack for some years now, and while certainly not as obviously and awesomely capable as the U.S. military, is nevertheless quite capable of successfully carrying out the interdiction mission. [*N.B.*: The deeply unsettling issue of possible resort to nuclear weapons is another, fraught notion not confronted here.]

Assuming, then, that the “how” is feasible, and that the judgment is that an attack is necessary as the only sure means of blocking Iranian nuclear capacity, what remains to be examined is *when* such an attack will come.

Given President Obama’s central role, evident almost as soon as he was elected in 2008, in re-orienting American Middle Eastern foreign policy away from Israel, it might seem to make sense for Israel to await the results of the coming 2016 Presidential election before acting. Why, after all, act precipitously when it is quite possible a decidedly more pro-Israel, and anti-Deal, Republican President (as several candidates have already indicated) might well initiate either a re-negotiated Deal, or a subsequent military strike, or, minimally, give unqualified support to an Israeli unilateral attack.

The risk, of course, is that the Democratic candidate could win the election. If that means Hillary Clinton, or, now, Joe Biden (both of whom, as Secretary of State and Vice-President, respectively, under Obama, and the former now as a Presidential candidate, have endorsed Obama’s M.E. and Iranian policies), it would—as has clearly been the case with Obama—constrain any Israeli action, complicating the strategic, as well as tactical, situation for Jerusalem.

Striking in the midst of the Presidential campaign, as both parties still seek the Jewish vote and are mindful of overwhelming public support for Israel and rejection of the Obama Deal as such, can insulate the attack from a negative Obama-led American response. The Republican candidate would likely support the Israeli move, while the still-Democratic lame-duck President—fearing that a negative response might engender a popular backlash hurting his Democratic party’s candidate—probably would at best temporize, rather than take immediate anti-Israel action, either directly or through the UN Security Council.

In the region, the Sunni States—Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, the Gulf states—would support Israel (the Saudis presumably allowing necessary over-flights and refueling). Hamas and Hezbollah

O.’S “DEAL” POSES RAD

Ten New Reasons to Worry About the Iran Deal

David Harris

Since the P5+1 deal with Iran—the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)—was announced on July 14, there has been much discussion and debate about it, with lots more undoubtedly to come. No less important, however, are a number of revealing developments that give a glimpse of what may well lie ahead. We ignore or downplay them at our peril.

First, the Associated Press (AP) reported that it saw a copy of a draft agreement between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran, which has now been made publicly available. According to two anonymous officials, the text does not differ from the final confidential deal between Iran and the IAEA regarding Parchin, the site of Iran’s nuclear weaponization program. Startlingly, according to the document, IAEA officials will rely on Iran’s own experts to take a limited number of environmental samples, videos, and photographs for review by the Vienna-based nuclear watchdog. Moreover, the IAEA would only be granted a single visit to the site “as a courtesy” by Tehran.

If accurate—and the United States has not disputed the AP dispatch to date—this is nothing short of stunning. It is the equivalent of putting Dracula in charge of the blood bank. How could we possibly trust Iran, with its history of deception and deceit, to be in the driver’s seat in trying to ascertain the possible military dimensions of Iran’s own nuclear program over the years?

Second, the ink on the deal was barely dry and German Vice Chancellor and Minister of Economy Sigmar Gabriel was already headed to Tehran with a business delegation. They could hardly wait to start talks on new commercial opportunities, lest they be beaten to the Iranian capital by other export-seeking nations. The German official did ask Iran to stop calling for Israel’s destruction, but when the Iranians rebuffed the request, that didn’t present an impediment to the talks. In fact, just one day before the visit, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei described Israel as a “terrorist, baby-killer government.”

Third, not to be outdone, Laurent Fabius traveled to Tehran, the first French Foreign Minister to do so in 12 years. He told his interlocutors that France would be back in September with a large business delegation of “around a hundred” leaders in the automobile, farming, and environment industries.

Fourth, Switzerland didn’t even wait for the actual implementation of the deal before announcing that it was unilaterally dropping its own sanctions against Iran, including in the all-important banking sector. In an upside-down understanding of the JCPOA’s logic of lifting sanctions only after Tehran complies with the agreement, the Swiss government asserted: “Should implementation of the agreement fail, the Federal Council reserves the right to reintroduce the lifted measures.”

Fifth, according to media reports, China announced the prospect of a billion-dollar deal to sell Tehran 24 advanced jet fighters for the air force in exchange for access to Iran’s largest oil field.

Sixth, Russia indicated that it would now go forward in selling as many as four S-300 surface-to-air missile systems to Iran, which would, of course, significantly bolster Iran’s air defense capabilities against any outside force. And speaking of Russia, despite denials from the Kremlin,

ICAL THREAT TO ISRAEL

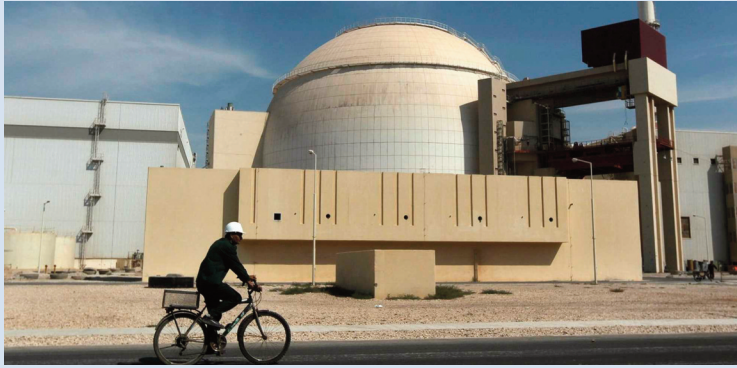


Photo: Majid Asgarpour / AP

A worker rides a bicycle in front of the reactor building of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, just outside Bushehr, Iran.

it played host to the head of the Iranian Al Quds force, Qassem Soleimani, even though he remains on a UN list of individuals banned from such travel, at least for a few more years. Washington protested the trip, but to no avail.

Seventh, Iran has just produced a new film with an arresting title — “Preparation of the Complete Destruction of Israel by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard’s Islamic Revolution in Iran.” And the calls for “Death to America” are undiminished, including those chanted loudly at a rally addressed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei just days after the JCPOA was signed.

Eighth, despite the transparently political efforts of some media outlets to describe the opposition to the Iran deal as limited to the Israeli government and some American Jews, the reality is quite different: a bipartisan majority of both Houses of Congress is on record in opposing the deal presented on July 14; Israeli political leaders across the political spectrum, and not just in the current government coalition, are against the agreement; and a majority of the American people, according to several reputable polls, neither support the deal nor believe Iran can be trusted to fulfill its obligations.

Ninth, the debate has turned quite ugly, as illustrated by the reaction to Senator Charles Schumer’s decision, after more than three weeks of study and consultation, to oppose the Iran agreement. Rather than engage him on the serious issues under discussion, some supporters of the Iran deal, including the editors at the Daily Kos, have instead chosen to accuse him of “dual loyalty,” as if an American Jew could not question the deal unless somehow motivated by an “Israel-first” mindset.

And tenth, if the devil is in the details, the unfolding drama of the conflict between Iran and the United States about what was, and was not, agreed to in the July 14 deal continues to play out. To illustrate, while Washington insists the agreement did not confer on Iran the right to enrich uranium, the Iranian government says precisely the opposite—that its right to enrich has now been recognized. These are by no means minor differences.

As the national debate continues in the coming weeks, these developments and their implications ought to be addressed. Turning a blind eye, as some supporters might wish, while repeating the mantra that “the only alternative to this deal is war,” just won’t wash.

(Times of Israel, Aug. 21, 2015)

lah, Iranian clients, might, if prodded by their Iranian patron, attack Israel. But Hamas, grievously wounded in the last Gaza war and preoccupied by Egyptian pressure, might, like the already-overextended Hezbollah in Syria, choose to sit it out. (And part of any Israeli action strategy would, clearly, be to threaten an immediate, massive response should they intervene.)

Iran itself, a distant land power with a weak navy and air force, can only respond with missile attacks; but [thankfully!], carrying at this time only relatively small conventional warheads, such a riposte can largely be turned away by Israeli anti-missile missiles and other measures. And in any case an Iranian response risks eliciting a broader Israeli air and missile assault, one which could be aimed at regime change. And Tehran already has its hands full in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen, and certainly wouldn’t want—by attacking Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, let alone American bases and the Persian Gulf fleet—to broaden the already-demanding situations it faces in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon.

Insofar as the European Union and the UN are concerned, they would, of course, condemn the Israeli action, but could do little concretely to alter it; the Europeans (and the US) also have *their* hands full, in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Libya (not to mention the Ukraine and, further afield, China and the South China Sea). Punitive General Assembly resolutions are toothless, and while Security Council condemnations might quickly be moved, they might well be vetoed by a Democratic Administration with, again, an eye on the looming domestic election.

Such an Israeli preemptive attack would be quick, limited, and precise, focusing on destroying Iranian air and missile defenses, surgically taking out key Iranian nuclear facilities, and minimizing civilian casualties. It needn’t totally destroy all nuclear sites, just those key to research and enrichment (and it will probably also target Iranian nuclear research centers and intercontinental ballistic missile production, storage and launch facilities). Nor need it achieve its goals in just one strike—anything missed or only partially destroyed (*e.g.*, deeply-dug-in installations) can quickly be hit again, either in immediate, or postponed, sequence.

(Notions that Iranian nuclear production can easily be rebuilt within two or three years after an Israeli strike radically underestimate both the effectiveness of Israel’s military power and the fact that anything rebuilt can, once again, be degraded.)

Hence it is possible that we will see an Israeli strike sometime *during* the 2016 Presidential campaign, after the primaries and the respective summer 2016 nominating conventions are over, and before the November 8, 2016 election. (Of course, there is nothing automatic about such a possibility—when push comes to shove, Israel, choosing to err on the side of caution, may well decide otherwise, calculating either that the deal may well prove inoperable and collapse of its own weight, or that the Republican candidate will indeed be elected. As the Italians say, *Chi vivra, verra*—he who lives long enough, will see.)

As the Jewish New Year and Day of Atonement approach, we face a period fraught with danger not only for Israel and the Jewish People, but for the Western world. It is the deep moral responsibility of all Jews and Jewish institutions, and of all decent men and women everywhere, to do everything they can to support the Jewish state as it faces the greatest existential threat, and the gravest political decision, since its founding in May, 1948: “And if not now, when?”

(Frederick Krantz, Director of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research and Editor of its Daily Isranet Briefing, is Professor of History in Liberal Arts College, Concordia University, Montreal)

A Power Grab in Turkey

Editorial

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called snap parliamentary elections on Monday, more than two months after voters deprived his Justice and Development Party, or AKP, of an outright parliamentary majority. That vote was a repudiation of his bid to transform the country into a presidential system. Now he gets a chance at an unprecedented redo.

June's election was a watershed in Mr. Erdogan's long political dominance. He campaigned heavily for the AKP, defying rules that the president remain nonpartisan. He hoped the party would win a majority of at least 330 seats, allowing it to amend the Constitution to expand his legal powers and solidify his increasingly authoritarian rule.



Voters disagreed. The AKP won 258 seats, short of a simple majority to form the next government, let alone amend the Constitution. The Democratic People's Party (HDP) managed to enter Parliament for the first time by appealing beyond its Kurdish base to win over women and secularists anxious about Mr. Erdogan's efforts to Islamize the country.

Mr. Erdogan has since spent his time trying to thwart the normal functioning of Turkish politics. The AKP delayed the formation of a coalition government, stalling on talks with other parties until a legal 45-day deadline for forming a new government passed.

The main sticking point was his insistence on forming a short-term caretaker government pending new elections at some point, while opposition parties sought a durable coalition that could serve a full four-year term. Mr. Erdogan, as president, also refused to give the leader of the second-place Republican People's Party (CHP) the opportunity to form a government, as he was legally obliged to do.

Now Mr. Erdogan seems to hope that an electoral do-over will flip enough marginal seats back to the AKP to restore the party's simple majority. Politicians in parliamentary democracies often resort to such a tactic, sometimes to good effect. But Mr. Erdogan's bad faith since his June defeat suggests this is another attempted power grab. The same goes for his efforts to demonize, falsely, the HDP as the political arm of militant Kurdish separatists who have been staging terror attacks inside the country.

All of this is happening as Ankara finally seems to have gotten serious about the Islamic State menace. In the meantime, Turkey's economy is faltering and peace talks with Kurdish separatists have collapsed. Turkey could use a leader capable of taking his electoral lumps and working within the parliamentary system. Too bad Mr. Erdogan is mainly interested in boosting his own power.

(Wall Street Journal, Aug. 25, 2015)

America Has a Stake in Kurdish Statehood

Max Boot

The continuing unrest in Iraq has claimed another casualty: the deal reached between the Kurds and Baghdad last December, which led the Kurdish Regional Government to suspend unilateral oil sales. *The Financial Times* reports that "the federal government withheld payments to Erbil soon after the deal began due to its own budget crisis while accusing the Kurds of not transferring the agreed volumes."

As a result, the KRG has once again started selling its oil abroad without going through Baghdad's State Oil Marketing Organization. "Since May," the *FT* reports, "the Kurds have sold almost 40m barrels of oil to traders via the Turkish port of Ceyhan." (Interestingly, much of the crude seems to be winding up in Israel, which is now said to be getting as much as three-quarters of its oil from the pro-Israeli Kurds.)

Meanwhile in northern Syria, the Kurdish militia known as the People's Protection Units (YPG) — an affiliate of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), a Turkish terrorist group — has been making inroads into ISIS control. In fact, with some 35,000 fighters under arms, it is the only armed group that has had any success in rolling back ISIS gains, doing so with the aid of American airpower. Its gains, coming at the same time as the PKK has stepped up attacks inside Turkey, have so alarmed Recep Tayyip Erdoğan that he has ordered Turkish aircraft to bomb targets in northern Syria. His ostensible target is ISIS, but the Turks seem to be saving most of their firepower for the PKK and its affiliates.

What's happening, notwithstanding violent Turkish resistance, is of great significance. You can almost hear the tectonic plates of the region shifting. The Kurds, long the largest ethnic group without their own state (they are thought to number over 30 million people), appear to be on the verge of realizing their long-held ambitions for autonomy if not independence. Already the KRG is virtually a sovereign state inside the empty shell that is Iraq. Now, the YPG is carving out another Kurdish statelet in Syria. It would not take too much more effort to join the two Kurdish enclaves and thus create a de facto Kurdish state sprawling across northern Iraq and Syria.

Of course, major obstacles remain in the way — not only the Turks and Iranians (who have their own substantial Kurdish minority) but also the Arabs of both Syria and Iraq. They are not going to support Kurdish statehood. But the Syrian and Iraqi states have virtually ceased to function, thereby making their opposition less relevant than ever. Neither Iraq nor Syria is likely to be reconstituted in their old form, which in any case dates back only to the post-World War I settlement created by Britain and France. Who is to say that a future realignment of Mesopotamia and the Levant might not result in the creation of a Kurdish state?

And, notwithstanding habitual American support for existing borders around the world, it is hard to see why we should stand in the way of such a development, should it occur. The Kurds are more secular and more pro-Western than any other group in the region other than the Christians of Lebanon and (of course) the Jews of Israel...

(Commentary, Aug. 25, 2015)

Mass Immigration and the Undoing of Europe

Vijeta Uniyal

With the European Union surrendering its immigration policy to people smugglers, the immigration crisis in Europe keeps reaching staggering new heights. The word has gone out that Fortress Europe is scalable. From Morocco to Turkey, people smuggling has turned into an irresistibly big business.

From small-time thugs to the terror outfit Hamas — for \$2500-\$3000 per person smuggled — many evidently want to seize a slice of this lucrative business that was created by the EU's collective inaction.

In Germany, where traffickers are now dropping off illegal immigrants on Autobahns, authorities have reacted — not by trying to intercept or discourage the traffickers, but by putting new road-signs alerting drivers of potential pedestrians on the highway. Even before this year's mass immigration began, Germany was struggling to deal with roughly a quarter of a million asylum applicants — without even accounting for the illegal immigrants already in the country. The recent wave of migration would push those figures to record heights.

The trend in Germany merely reflects the overall scale of the European immigrant crisis. In July 2015, an estimated 50,000 refugees entered Greece, a surge of 750 percent. Last month alone more migrants landed than in the whole of 2014. In Germany, the head of Lower Saxony's Municipal Federation, Marco Trips, told local reporters that the "system has already collapsed." This sentiment is apparently shared by municipalities across Germany. In a historic move, the German federal government has now called in the military to assist in setting up new tent cities and providing basic amenities for ever-rising number of refugees.

The majority of those entering Europe illegally seem not to be fleeing armed conflicts, but seeking a better life in a welfare paradise. Europe's answer is to throw money at the problem — money Europe does not have. Britain's Defence Secretary has suggested that the UK's £12 billion (US\$19 billion) foreign aid budget can "discourage" mass migration. The European welfare system, funded increasingly by governments' debt in recent decades, is showing signs of an impending collapse. There is no end in sight for Greece's debt crisis, despite repeated bailout packages to the tune of €326 billion (US\$375 billion). Slow economic growth, high youth unemployment and an aging population makes the European welfare model increasingly untenable...

(Gatestone Institute, Aug. 25, 2015)

The Heroes Working to Rescue ISIS's Core Victims

Phyllis Chesler

"I've been raped 30 times and it's not even lunchtime," cried one young Yazidi woman in a dangerous and desperate call. Chillingly, she begged the man on the line, someone embedded with the Kurdish Peshmerga fighting ISIS: "If you know where we are, please bomb us. There is no life after this. I am going to kill myself anyway." That request was made a year ago. So far, no brothel has been bombed, no slave auction interrupted.

President Obama's much favored "international community" — the United Nations, the European Union, the politically correct Western intelligentsia, the NGOs, the human-rights organizations — hasn't rescued this woman or any of the other mainly Christian and Yazidi sex slaves who remain in the clutches of the barbarians.

But some individual heroes are doing so. With Oscar Schindler, Sir Nicholas Winton and Chiune Sugihara — who saved thousands of Jews during the Holocaust — as role models, Canadian Jewish businessman Steve Maman has, so far, overseen the rescue of more than 120 kidnapped Christian and Yazidi girls in Iraq. Maman founded the Liberation of Christian and Yazidi Children of Iraq organization a year ago, after jihadists laid siege to Mosul and Sinjar.

Sister Hatune Dogan and Hans Erling Jensen of the Hatune Foundation have been rescuing Christian and Yazidi girls and women from Iraq and bringing them to Europe, mainly to Germany, for medical and psychological treatment. Last month, Sister Hatune went to the Sinjar Shingal mountains. Thirteen Yazidi fighters "covered" her as she went to "the front lines." She reports that "right now, there are 30,000 Yazidi fighters trying to stop the expansion of ISIS in this area. They live in 2,000 tents, in open camps in the mountains. They get neither support from the West or from the Kurds."

She personally interviewed a young Yazidi girl who had been held captive by ISIS for two months. She was 14. "She was raped five to 10 times every day. She couldn't express what she had been through. 'I was dead — killed — hundreds of times,' she says. She knew of many girls that had jumped from a high rock to kill themselves because they could not live on with the shame." This young girl is now safe. The Hatune Foundation has freed 317 Christian and Yazidi girls from ISIS captivity since January 2014...

(New York Post, Aug. 20, 2015)



Displaced people from the minority Yazidi sect, fleeing violence from forces loyal to the Islamic State.

Photo: Reuters

ELECTIONS: HARPER'S PRINCIPLED PRESENCE AND OBAMA'S UTOPIAN FANTASIES

By Barbara Kay

Although, as I write, Canadians are going to the polls in only eight weeks and Americans are not going to the polls for eleven weeks plus an entire year, the speculative excitement in the media about who will be the next national leader seems to be about equal in both countries. And there are other similarities.

Both countries are presently headed up by unusually confident, strong-willed and controlling men. Both Harper and Obama have problems “playing nicely with others” and exhibit impatience when their political agenda is resisted.

But in essence they are very different individuals. Harper projects a public aloofness, even frostiness, while hiding a private inner warmth. Obama projects public warmth and caring, while hiding an inner coldness. As former Israeli ambassador to the U.S., Michael Oren, relates in *Ally*, his political memoir, “‘Obama’s problem is not a tin ear,’ one of my European colleagues lamented, ‘it’s a tin heart.’”

And on no issue is Obama’s heart flintier than the Middle East. As many political historians have noted, Obama came to the presidency with the fixed idea of extrapolating the U.S. from the area’s political and ethnic Gordian knot, leaving Iran as the regional strong man to impose stability. And, as we can see from the porous and even ominous deal he has unilaterally struck with Iran, he is prepared to see such putative stability imposed at any cost to the region, including the sacrifice of Israel’s security and, possibly, even existence.

Nobody ever said Obama loved Israel, either for itself or for what it represents as a bastion of democracy in the midst of chaos and barbarism, to most Americans. Today it seems clear he feels little sense of obligation to Israel even as a political ally that has in the past and doubtless will in the future serve as the thin blue line standing up to proxies for expansionist tyrannies that loathe the U.S. and everything it stands for.

Obama quite often speaks about the “arc of history” bending a certain way. But he himself knows very little actual history, at least of the Middle East, because he grew up and was educated under the rubric of historical revisionism, according to which America is not exceptional, no culture is better than any other and narratives are as real and compelling as facts...

Obama’s policy is based not on evidence or patterns of aggressor behaviour, but on personal certitudes based in personal feelings, in selective experiences like “the call of the muezzin” in his childhood. Obama’s is a political dreamer’s rainbow’s end of hands across the oceans, exactly the kind of thinking that generally leads to disaster on a grand scale...

Stephen Harper, on the other hand, is a historical realist. What is, is. He does not think in utopian terms. He is not hamstrung by political correctness regarding Islamism. History is not about him, it is about facts, cultural patterns of behaviour, belief systems that cannot co-exist in harmony, however nice a thought that is. He is impervious to “narratives” and does not, even though he has personally loved hockey all his life, see global politics as the NHL writ large.

Which is why I will be voting for yet another mandate for the Harper government in October.

You would not know it from this election campaign so far, which is fixated on domestic issues, but a great swath of the globe is aflame with bloodthirsty hysteria: that beheadings, drownings, burnings, crucifixions, mass rapes of children, chemical weapons and religious genocide have become so routine they don’t always make the head-



lines. Refugees are flooding Europe in crisis-inducing waves (those that aren’t drowned trying to escape the chaos around them). Yet most Canadians do not seem eager to know what their next national leader thinks about or will do about all this.

I care very much, far more than I care what a political candidate’s views on abortion are, or what magic number of referendum votes will give Quebec the right to secede, important as that is. And I do not believe that either Thomas Mulcair or Justin Trudeau give a great deal of thought to Islamism or its present and future impact on western democracies. I do not believe that either of them “get it” about Israel’s security – Mulcair because although his personal views on Israel pass muster, his party’s traditional position of hostility at worst and neutrality at best would hamper any full-throated support, and Trudeau, who will not call barbarism by its name, because he is Obamaesque in his ignorance and worldview...

Given our changing demographics, it is my belief that Stephen Harper will be the last overtly pro-Israel prime minister we will have for the foreseeable future. Which is why I will do my small part – voting for his re-election – to promote his continuing principled presence on the world stage for as long as possible.

(Barbara Kay is a National Post columnist and a CIJR Academic Fellow)

Toronto Chapter – Continued from page 12

administration, to Israel and beyond. Toronto audiences were so positive towards our pilot project that a full ILS program, including accompanying colloquium, is in the process of being finalised for the upcoming year.

As well, the chapter organised an event with Malcolm Dash, visiting Director of the Israel Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), who works closely with Martin Sherman. Dash informed Toronto Jewish leaders about the IISS alternative proposals to the current two-state solution paradigm. The evening was well attended and immensely popular.

CIJR Toronto has also continued to be a supportive and active community partner. Members of our executive assisted in wider-community planning meetings for a crucial anti-Iran nuclear deal rally that was held in downtown Toronto. As well, the Chapter has been active in working alongside fellow concerned citizens to create greater awareness over the plight of the Yazidi people, and co-chairs Doris Epstein and Alan Herman have even spoken at related rallies.

With a fuller ILS program and the highly anticipated Emil Fackenheim International Colloquium just around the corner (Oct. 25, 2015), CIJR Toronto strides proudly towards the upcoming year’s events.

Combating the New Anti-Semitism

Isi Leibler

...Over the past decade, as anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism increased exponentially, many books covering the subject have been published. Until now, aside from magisterial works of the late Robert Wistrich and the excellent analysis by Daniel Goldhagen, "The Devil That Never Dies: The Rise and Threat of Global Anti-Semitism," there has not been a contemporary review of the global battlefield covering the world's oldest hatred. There are other valuable studies but they are of limited scope.

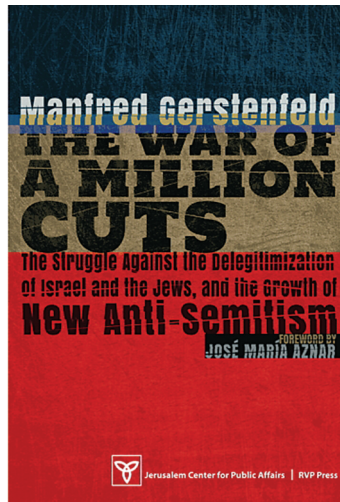
Now a new study of considerable significance has become available. Manfred Gerstenfeld's "The War of a Million Cuts: The Struggle Against the Delegitimization of Israel and the Jews and the Growth of the New Anti-Semitism" is a compelling book that outlines the components of the new anti-Semitism. The seemingly obscure title is explained in the text as referring to an unlimited number of often small hate attacks from a huge number of sources. This differs from the traditional anti-Semitism of concentrated attacks by major players, such as initially the Catholic Church and much later Nazism and its many allies. What is radically new in this book is that it presents a detailed strategy on how to fight the enemy.

...Gerstenfeld would today, after the death of Wistrich, be considered the most qualified analyst of contemporary anti-Semitism with a focus on anti-Israelism. He is a prolific writer and has published 10 books on this subject, including pioneering studies on anti-Semitism on campuses in a variety of countries, the anti-Israelism behind the pseudo-humanitarian mask of the hypocritical Northern European societies, the attitude toward Jews as an indicator of the moral decay of the Netherlands, and the increasingly important role that Holocaust inversion and other distortions have assumed in the efforts to demonize the Jewish state.

...The central theme of the book highlights the fact that our current struggle is immensely more complex than confronting classical anti-Semitism in which hatred focused on single messages, such as the killing of Jesus or genetic inferiority of Jews. Today the onslaught comes from many diverse sources, applies many different motifs and uses a great variety of methods and transmission channels.

His opening chapter is a lucid analysis of how anti-Semites have adopted and integrated anti-Israelism as a new mutation of traditional Jew hatred. The successive chapters discuss how ancient hate motifs have been espoused and upgraded by the current enemies of the Jewish people. Gerstenfeld demonstrates how Muslim anti-Semitism today has effectively adopted the role of Nazi anti-Semitism and is at the forefront of the hatred and violence against Jews — which not only emanates from Muslim countries but wherever Muslim migrants have settled.

He skillfully illustrates the interfacing and interaction between



Muslims in Western countries, politicians, the traditional media, social media activists, nongovernmental organizations, church leaders, academics, trade union leaders, right-wing extremists, social democrats and above all, those on the extreme Left now bolstered by Jewish self-haters who complete the witches' brew from which the current onslaught of poisonous anti-Semitism has emerged.

Gerstenfeld demonstrates that anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism use the same core motifs. He cites a variety of studies indicating that over 150 million European Union citizens embrace a satanic view of the Jewish state — where they believe the Israelis behave like Nazis or seek to exterminate the Palestinians. He systematically exposes the shameless, naked anti-Semitism of the majority of U.N. representatives. These include the Europeans who are increasingly inclined to either abstain from or give states, which apply double standards and single out Israel for censure. Gerstenfeld demonstrates that anti-Semitism is not only part of Europe's history but also its culture. His depiction of a new criminal Europe warrants serious debate...

Gerstenfeld outlines his plans to organize the fight on behalf of embattled Israel and the Jewish people. He is strongly convinced that the Israeli government has failed to deal with this problem for decades by mistakenly considering it a minor irritant instead of appreciating the immense consequences of losing the war for the world's public opinion. He sees a desperate need for the Israeli government to set up an advanced, well-staffed and amply funded anti-propaganda agency which will globally refute the loathsome lies and defamation and humiliate and shame those responsible...

(Israel Hayom, June 30, 2015)

CIJR's Recently Received Library Books

Bennis, Phyllis. *Understanding ISIS and the New Global War on Terror*. Northampton : Olive Branch Press, 2015

Bensoussan, David. *Livre d'Isaïe - Lecture Commentée*. Montréal: Éditions Du Lys, 2014

Gerstenfeld, Manfred. *The War of a Million Cuts: The Struggle Against the Delegitimization of Israel and the Jews, and the Growth of New Anti-Semitism*. Jerusalem & New York: RVP Press & Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, 2015

Oren, Michael. *Ally: My Journey Across the American-Israeli Divide*. New York: Random House, 2015

Robinson, Ira. *A History of Antisemitism in Canada*. Waterloo, ON: Wilfred Laurier Press, 2015

Rubin, Barry. *The Military History of the Modern Middle East*. New York: Routledge, 2015

Ruebner, Tuvia. *In the Illuminated Dark : Selected Poems of Tuvia Ruebner*. Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College Press, 2014

Shavit, Ari. *My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel*. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2013

Tenenbom, Tuvia. *Catch the Jew!* Jerusalem: Gefen Publishing House, 2015

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EXTRA! EXTRA!

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear friends and supporters,

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer and have recharged your batteries. With the Jewish New Year 5776 upon us let's hope for better news than in 5775, which turned out to be a difficult year for Israel, the Jewish people and the world

The recent Iran Nuclear Agreement doesn't bode well for Israel, the region and the free world. A rogue state, sponsoring terrorism and political instability around the world, run by fanatic ayatollahs, mullahs and Islamists, has been given legitimacy and keeps its nuclear facilities and program.

George Jonas, the well-respected National Post columnist put it succinctly in his Aug. 4, 2015 article entitled: **Is There a Clash Between East and West?**

Letting 12th-century minds have access to 21st-century weapons, as the West did in Vienna last month, in exchange for a promise of "peace in our time," is likely to ensure a war in our time — and one that it may not even be possible to win.

On a more positive note, CIJR had a great success with its first major International Conference and annual fundraising Gala "**Israel's High-Tech Miracle and Canada: Innovation for Humanity**" (Wed., April 29, 2015 in Montreal at the Gelber Conference Center (see www.isra-conf.com). The speakers from Israel and Canada, were all of a very high caliber (Academics, Businessmen, Executives) and the quality audience in attendance was enthusiastic and engaged.

The Conference was our answer to enemies and detractors, a deliberate effort to provide an effective counter-narrative to the toxic **BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions)** and **IAW (Israel Apartheid Week)** propaganda campaigns intensifying on campuses, the media, and elsewhere.

The 27th Annual Gala Evening Keynote was the remarkable Mr. Stockwell Day, former leader of the Canadian Alliance and a Minister in the Conservative Government (Public Safety, International Trade and the Presidency of the Treasury Board). His eloquent speech praised Israel, and he doubled as a professional auctioneer, raffling off two El Al tickets to Israel at a great price.

Prof. Frederick Krantz, the founder of CIJR 27 years ago, and his wife Prof. Lenore Krantz, were the Gala's Honorees. Both have expended much time, energy and effort to make CIJR's work and mission possible. Stuart Krantz, their 18-year-old grandson, who made a surprise visit from Washington, DC, presented the plaque to Lenore and Fred. He then delivered a remarkable speech about the centrality of Israel in modern Jewish history, and the need to oppose BDS and anti-Zionism on campus.

Our very special one-of-a-kind Research Chair, Baruch Cohen, presented me with a beautiful plaque honoring my work on behalf of the CIJR family. Thank you all, and my personal best wishes for health and happiness to Baruch (who turns 96 in October) and Sonia, his beloved wife of 71 years!

Many thanks to our dedicated Montreal office staff—Yunna Shapira, Rob Coles, Melina Ghio, Hong Yang, Roberto Lima and Student Intern Brad Martin, who do a great job. Thanks too, to our Toronto Chapter volunteers, to our fine National Board members, and to all our friends and supporters across Canada, the U.S., and the world, for all their good help and dedication.

Wishing you and your families a happy and healthy New Year.

Jack Kincler, National Board Chairman

CIJR TORONTO

Alan Herman

As the summer winds down to a close, CIJR's Toronto Chapter is proud of recent accomplishments as well as energised over the Institute's programming for the coming months.

This past spring, the dream of bringing the Israel Learning Series to Toronto was achieved and held at the Toronto Zionist Council as a three-part pilot-project. On Tuesday, March 24, our first ILS seminar was delivered by Lawrence Solomon (*Financial Post*) who spoke on "Israel, The Media and Antisemitism after *Charlie Hebdo* and Supermarché Kacher". On Tuesday, April 14, Prof. Ira Robinson (Concordia University, Jewish Studies) flew in from Montreal and delivered "Israel As a Jewish State, Backgrounds and Foregrounds" which highlighted several fascinating aspects of the Jewish State. Lastly, on May 5, Prof. Emeritus Sally Zerker presented her commentary on the menace of a nuclear Iran, and of the Obama

Continued on page 10