



CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH
L'INSTITUT CANADIEN DE RECHERCHES SUR LE JUDAÏSME

ISRAFAK

April 22, 2016

14 Nisan 5776

Volume XXVII, Number 288



ISRAEL IN SPACE: BEYOND THE BLUE (& WHITE) HORIZON



**TECHNOLOGY,
ECONOMY,
SECURITY**

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Editorial

Israel and the World: Contemporary Issues

Frederick Krantz

The Jewish State of Israel, proclaimed May, 1948, and soon be 68 years old, is one of the greatest, and most successful, post-1945 experiments in nation-building. Now with a growing population of ca. eight million, 75% of which is Jewish; then, marginal, the *Yishuv* with 600,000 post-Holocaust souls, facing destruction by five invading Arab armies. Today Israel is the regional hegemon, its nuclear-armed IDF one of world's most advanced and powerful armed forces.

Then, economically marginal; today, its dynamic and innovative high-tech sector among the world's most advanced, with an outstanding space exploration program (**NB: to be celebrated at CIJR's 2016 28th Anniversary Gala, "Israel in Space", April 12 in Toronto, April 14 in Montreal**).

All of this despite constant warfare and terrorism since 1948, and successful achievement of the immense task of integrating successive waves of refugees (Holocaust survivors, Sephardim expelled from Arab lands, Ethiopians, Russians). And today a growing tide from renewed antisemitism in the West European countries.

Yet today, despite continuing tensions, Israel's regional situation is in fact relatively stable. Formal peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan, and a *de facto* peace with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, have been sustained.

Indeed, Israel, with one exception, is enjoying the best general socio-political, and diplomatic, circumstances since its founding, and this despite tensions with the U.S., the superpower that became, after 1967, its closest ally and supporter (more on this later).

The key exception here is, of course, Iran. A former U.S.-Israel ally under the Shah (overthrown with U.S. President Carter's acquiescence), Obama's Iranian nuclear deal has reinforced terrorist-supporting Iran's spread across the Middle East into Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen, this despite Israeli, Saudi (and U.S. Congressional) opposition. Obama's effective withdrawal from Syria, with Russia's intervention there, has saved the vicious Assad regime. Despite the first shaky cease-fire there, in five years, with 300,000 already dead and 11 million refugees, internal/external, Syria remains a potentially explosive powder-keg.

A quick Middle East *tour d'horizon* demonstrates Israel's relative security:

Egypt: Gen. el-Sissi, having overthrown with popular backing the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood regime of Morsi, is close to Israel (they cooperate against IS in Sinai, and against Hamas in Gaza). Egypt remains unstable, exposed to external and internal terrorism, and a still stand-offish Obama Administration: as a possible collapse of Cairo would make the Syrian situation look like child's play, Israel (and Saudi) support for Egypt remains central.

Turkey: Another earlier Israel ally, which after the rise of Islamist Erdogan broke with the Jewish state (the *Mavi Marmara* incident, etc.) but now seeks a rapprochement. Turkey is increasingly alone, isolated, its "neo-Ottoman" policy a failure, the Turkish Kurds (provoked by Erdogan for electoral purposes) rebelling, with terrorist explosions in Istanbul and Ankara. Traditional Turkish enemies Russia and Greece, on Tehran's doorstep, are negotiating with Israel. Hence Erdogan, coying up to Israel, evidently seeks resumed relations.

Saudi Arabia: Given Obama's *de facto* *Continued on page 8*

Passover Thoughts 5776

Baruch Cohen

In Loving Memory of Malca z"l

"And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them." (*Passover Haggadah*, [Exodus 1.7])

"Even the poorest Jew, a recipient of charity, must, on the eve of Passover, eat only in a reclining position, as a mark of freedom..." (*Mishna, Pesachim* 10.1)

The key idea expressed in Passover is the certainty of freedom. With the Exodus a new age dawned for humanity: redemption from oppression and misery. If the Exodus had not taken place, humanity would have been destined to follow another course.

During the night of Passover the Jew says, that if not for Exodus, "Neither my fathers, nor I, nor my children would be free, we would still remain slaves."

Passover respects the universal, indivisible greatness of freedom and liberty. The Passover holiday calls us from the most abject misery to the *mizrah* by which human dignity is restored. The night of the Seder forces man to face, and to fight for, himself. The *Haggadah* call becomes quite clear: it summons every Jew to join his brothers and sisters in the building of Jerusalem, of Judaism and in the strengthening of the State of Israel.

AM YISRAEL CHAI!

"The People of Israel Live!"

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

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ISRAFAX is the research publication of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research, an independent and non-partisan non-profit educational foundation devoted to the study of Israel, the Middle East and the Jewish world. It provides CIJR members with key data and a digest of international analysis and opinion on relevant issues.

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

THIS ISSUE

P. 2	EDITORIAL
P. 2	PASSOVER THOUGHTS 5776
P. 3	WEEKLY QUOTES & SHORT TAKES
P. 4	BDS & ANTI-ISRAEL DELEGITIMATION
P. 5	ISRAEL: IN U.S. ELECTION, & IN SPACE
P. 6	ARABS: STATE VS. TRIBE
P. 6	ISRAEL IN SPACE: TO MOON, AND MARS!
P. 9	ISRAELI CHRISTIANS TO IDF; YAZIDIS GET HELP
P. 10	TURKS ENMESHED IN CONFLICT; ISRAEL RESCUES YEMENIS"
P. 11	CIJR REVIEW OF BOOKS
P. 12	EXTRA! EXTRA!

ISSN # 1193-7246

WEEKLY QUOTES

“(Islamic State) have really an unprecedented level of financial and military means available to them.” — General Gratien Maire, France’s Vice Chief of Defense. Maire said the I.S. threat posed to Europe is more dangerous than in the past because the terrorist organization has territory, weaponry and support that provide important advantages to returning foreign fighters. I.S. affiliated terrorists struck March 22 in Brussels, killing at least 34 people and wounding scores of others in bombings of the airport and subway. (*Bloomberg*, Mar. 22, 2016)

“Most westerners, including almost all Canadians, still have not begun to understand that they and their way of life are under attack by a lethal army of kamikazes who are convinced they are doing God’s work and that they will soon have a hallowed place in paradise...One need only to have listened to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s tepid response to the multiple terrorist attacks carried out in Paris late last year and his decision to withdraw Canada’s thin combat contribution to the war against ISIL to understand that he does not regard Canadians as being in danger.” — Matthew Fisher. (*National Post*, Mar. 22, 2016)

“President [Barack] Obama... may be the worst thing that ever happened to Israel, believe me...What...Obama gets wrong about dealmaking...is that he constantly applies pressure to our friends, and rewards our enemies... When the United States stands with Israel, the chances for peace really rise, and rise exponentially.” — Presidential primary front-runner Donald Trump (R), at the AIPAC conference in Washington. Trump also vowed to move the U.S. embassy in Israel **“to the eternal capital of the Jewish people, Jerusalem.”** (*JNS*, Mar. 21, 2016)

“Regardless of what happens inside Iran, President Obama and his supporters will continue to embrace the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. They will never accept the argument that a nuclear agreement that enhances the power of Islamic revolutionaries is so politically counterproductive as to negate the logic of the deal itself.” — Reuel Marc Gerecht (*Weekly Standard*, Mar. 14, 2016)

“The feeling that accompanies me throughout the conference is that Europe is also gradually recognizing that anti-Semitism is not only the problem of Israelis and Jews, it is a global problem...Europe’s ability to deal with anti-Semitism is directly linked to its ability to deal with the displays of hatred and violence that threaten its stability.” — Israeli MK Aliza Lavie, at the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism conference in Berlin. **“More and more parliamentarians are saying in a clear voice: There can be no tolerance ... for displays of hatred and incitement. This struggle relates to us all.”** (*Jewish Press*, Mar. 15, 2016)



Photo: Ketevan Kardava—Georgian Public Broadcaster/AP
Two women are wounded in a terrorist attack at Brussels Airport in Belgium, March 22, 2016.

SHORT TAKES

RUSSIA COULD REDEPLOY TO SYRIA IN HOURS, PUTIN SAYS (Moscow) — Russia could rebuild its military presence in Syria in a matter of hours and will maintain air defenses in the country for the foreseeable future, President Vladimir Putin said. Putin portrayed the combat operation as a success that cost Russia little and demonstrated the country’s “indisputable leadership, will and responsibility” in fighting terrorism. (*Washington Post*, Mar. 17, 2016)

U.N. CONDEMNS YEMEN AIRSTRIKES THAT KILLED 106 (Sana) — A UN human rights official condemned the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen, citing repeated attacks on civilian targets, including an attack in March that killed 106 people, including 24 children. The Saudis are backing the contested government of President Hadi against rebels, known as the Houthis, who are aligned with former President Saleh. The Saudis are pressuring the U.S. for support, saying that Iran is backing the Houthis. (*New York Times*, Mar. 18, 2016)

FUTURE OF LEGAL BATTLE AGAINST BDS MEETS IN ISRAEL (Jerusalem) — An eight-day seminar, bringing 45 lawyers, scholars, and judges from all over the world to aid Israel in fighting BDS, started last month in Israel. The goal of the seminar, organized by Israeli NGO Shurat HaDin, is to help its participants learn about the security threats facing Israel and how the country is fighting for its defense and international image. Israeli legal experts will give lectures to the visiting jurists, and security officials will provide briefings. The seminar hopes to create a network of jurists who can help Israel fight BDS with legal tools. (*Ynet*, Mar. 18, 2016)

IFJ DEFENDS PALESTINIAN VIOLENT INCITEMENT (Washington) — The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) defended the right of a terrorist-affiliated Palestinian media outlet to incite murder against Israelis. The IDF recently closed down *Palestine Today* — a Palestinian Islamic Jihad media outlet — for inciting violence and glorifying Palestinian terrorists. Instead of condemning the Palestinian media outlet, the IFJ accused Israel of engaging in a “wave of violence targeting journalists.” (*IPT*, Mar. 18, 2016)

ISRAEL AMONG THE HAPPIEST PLACES ON EARTH (Geneva) — In case you missed it, March 20 was International Happiness Day. As usual, it included a study of the state of international happiness, ranking countries from most to least. This year’s top three were Denmark, Switzerland and Iceland. All are peaceful, prosperous democracies, located in the calmest regions of the world. And then, at number 11, comes Israel. Israel’s official Bureau of Statistics has also reported that in 2013, 86% of Israelis over the age of nineteen said they were “very satisfied with their lives.” (*Fox*, Mar. 21, 2016)

The Link Between BDS and Jew Hatred on Campus

Barbara Kay



Photo: McGill Daily

McGill BDS students demonstrate on campus.

In a Feb. 25 Facebook post, McGill student Molly Harris recounted her experience in a “Rez (residence) Project” workshop, a (mandatory) three-hour discussion on “oppression, privilege, consent and race” designed to create a “safe space” for fellow dorm students. Molly described an incident when, singled out negatively for being Jewish, she felt unsafe. According to Molly, the facilitator responded that Molly could feel victimized for being female, but “being Jewish didn’t constitute grounds for systematic oppression.”

Molly writes, “Though a little perturbed, I let this go, I didn’t argue with the facilitator, and stayed quiet for the remainder of the workshop.” I sympathize with Molly’s intuition that pressing the issue would not have gone well for her. On campuses with an active anti-Zionist presence, like McGill, hatred of Israel has a trickledown effect into the general “social justice” agenda — feminism, Black Lives Matter, LGBT and others — which has hardened many progressives’ hearts against all Jewish pain, and shamed Jewish students into suppressing or denying it.

And so it has become commonplace even for Jewish students well-versed in their people’s history to accept the mantle of “privilege” rather than insist that 60 years of success in North America isn’t a patch on three thousand years of exclusion, religious persecution, second-class status and wholesale massacre, not to mention ethnic cleans-

ing from 94 countries (with the alleged sins of the only one from which they cannot be expelled the hysterical, single-focus obsession of “human rights” activism).

Molly’s uncomfortable experience ranks as relatively benign in the scheme of anti-Israel expression on North American campuses, where the always-thin line between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism has been slowly but surely dissolving. In the U.S. evidence of the merger can be ugly: swastikas on Jews’ dorm doors, rancid graffiti like “Zionists should be sent to the gas chamber” and scurrilous Facebook postings like “F***ing Jews. GTFOW with all your Zionist bullsh*t ... Give the Palestinians back their land, go back to Poland or whatever freezer-state you’re from...”

A survey of U.S. Jewish college students by Trinity College and the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law reveals that 54 per cent of surveyed students reported experiencing or witnessing instances of anti-Semitism on campus in the first six months of the 2013-14 academic year. Another Brandeis survey found that 75 per cent of North American Jewish college student respondents “had been exposed to anti-Semitic rhetoric,” and one third “harassed because they were Jewish.” Both surveys found active BDS campaigns to be a consistent correlated factor in the anti-Jewish hostility.

A new report by the AMCHA Initiative (Hebrew for “your people”) confirms that BDS promotion creates “a hostile environ-

ment for Jewish students.” AMCHA examined 113 U.S. public and private colleges and universities with the largest populations of Jewish students in North America (but not the Canadian campuses that have high Jewish enrollment). Data were gathered from incident reports, media accounts, social media postings and online recordings. Also examined were the presence or absence of active anti-Zionist student groups and the number of faculty who had signed one or more petitions or statements endorsing an academic boycott of Israeli universities and scholars.

Categories for “targeting” of Jewish students included: physical assault, genocidal expression, destruction of Jewish property, discrimination, and intimidation. Language was considered anti-Semitic if it included historical tropes like blood libels or conspiracy theories (Jewish control of media, banks, governments, etc.), conflation of Jews with Nazis, Holocaust denial, and demonization or delegitimization of Israel (derived from the U.S. State Department definition of anti-Semitism). They found, for example, that on more than 60 campuses, Israel was vilified for genocide, crimes against humanity, “pinkwashing” (LGBT tolerance as a distraction from Israeli evil) and “faithwashing” (Israel’s religious tolerance for the same reason). A speaker at one school called Israel “the embodiment of evil.”

The report concludes that anti-Zionism is the most prominent face of contemporary anti-Semitism on campuses today, and that the best statistical predictors of overall anti-Semitic activity on a campus are the presence of groups like Students for Justice in Palestine and the number of faculty who have endorsed the academic boycott of Israel. Significantly, they found that the level of BDS activity on campus is the best predictor of anti-Jewish hostility.

By their nature boycotts are normally limited, as they either work or they don’t. Only one boycott has failed to succeed, but has continued in various incarnations for 100 years, namely the boycott against the Jews. Like the Arab League Boycott, ongoing since 1948, which is its spiritual father, today’s BDS campaigns are inherently Judeophobic, and denial of “safe spaces” to Jews when they are exposed to identity-based hostility is an inherently anti-Semitic impulse. Let’s finally acknowledge that and deal with it as we would any other offensive manifestation of intolerance.

(Barbara Kay is a National Post columnist and a CIJR Academic Fellow; National Post, Mar. 22, 2016)

Israel in the Presidential Election Campaign

Harold M. Waller

This year's presidential election campaign is mystifying in many respects, especially the responses to the candidacies of Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump. For voters who care deeply about the well-being of Israel and the U.S.-Israel relationship the election is critical after eight years of President Barack Obama trying to put some daylight between the two countries. Moreover the presence of a Jewish candidate as a serious contender for the Democratic nomination adds an unusual dimension to a campaign that departs from the conventional wisdom in so many respects.

The Republican contest is particularly intriguing. For some time now the GOP has been the party most willing to hold to an unambiguously pro-Israel stance. It was not always this way. After all, it was Democratic President Harry Truman who recognized the new state at the moment of its birth. And President Lyndon Johnson held firm while UN Security Council Res. 242 was being drafted to insure that withdrawal from territories that came under Israeli control in the Six Day War would neither be unconditional nor total. Rather any withdrawal would have to be in the context of peace agreements. Democratic presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton presided over the signing of peace treaties between Israel and Egypt and Jordan as well as the Oslo agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Yet since those halcyon days Democratic support for Israel has deteriorated. This has been most evident during the Obama years. Despite close security coopera-

tion the political gap between the U.S. and Israeli governments has widened noticeably. Furthermore the grass roots of the party has in part drifted away from support for Israel...

The Republican Party, which was hardly in the forefront of the pro-Israel cause in the early days, was particularly concerning for Israelis during the Eisenhower years, when the Administration applied heavy pressure to compel Israel to withdraw from Sinai after the 1956 Suez War. And there were some anxious moments during the early days of the Yom Kippur War, when resupply of Israel was held up for political reasons. But since then Republicans, both candidates and rank and file, have generally been staunch supporters of Israel. Currently Sen. Ted Cruz is an ardent supporter of Israel while Donald Trump gave a speech to the AIPAC convention that sounded as if it could have been written by an executive of that organization.

While Hillary Clinton addressed AIPAC with a staunchly pro-Israel message, her four years as Secretary of State were a particularly tempestuous time for the bilateral relationship. Sanders, the only remaining candidate who just could not find the time to address AIPAC, managed to give a speech on the campaign trail at the same time that was harshly critical of Israel. In that sense he appears to be in tune with the sensibilities of the younger demographic that so ardently supports him.

Despite all this many American supporters of Israel tend to be very liberal in their politics. Such voters may find it difficult to reconcile their ideological leanings with their support for Israel. One might ask when cognitive dissonance will catch up with them.

(Harold M. Waller is a Professor of Political Science at McGill University and a CIJR Academic Fellow)

Israeli Innovation is Out of this World During Space Week

Bradley Martin

While Israel already has a reputation for being the "start-up nation" and a major hub for technological innovation, this year's Space Week in the Jewish state showed that Israeli ingenuity is—quite literally—out of this world. In a culmination of events highlighting Israel's contributions to space exploration, Space Week 2016 honored the late Col. Ilan Ramon, the first and only Israeli astronaut.

Ramon was a space shuttle payload specialist who was killed along with his six crew members when the Columbia shuttle disintegrated upon re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere on Feb. 2, 2003. Every year, the Ramon Foundation, in conjunction with the Israeli Ministry of Science and the Israel Space Agency, organizes a number of events hosting astronauts and leading space scientists...

For the event, the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) loaned artifacts used by Ramon. Exhibited at the Israeli Air Force Center in Herzliya, NASA included a camera used by Ramon in space, his control system, a recording drive, and other electronic equipment. Ramon was also carrying out a Mediterranean Israeli Dust Experiment (MEIDEX) while in space. In an exhibit designed by Tel Aviv University, NASA sent remains of that experiment to be displayed in Israel for the

first time.

Rona Ramon launched the Ramon Foundation in her late husband's honor, asking NASA chief Charles Bolden if the items could be brought to Israel for Space Week. "I'm moved that the head of NASA remembered my request... We hope that the next generation will take heart and inspiration from the story of Ilan and the shuttle," said Rona Ramon...

Israel is reportedly the smallest country in the world to launch its own satellites. It is also one of only 11 states with the ability to independently launch unmanned missions into space. Currently, Israel has 15 civilian satellites orbiting the Earth, two-thirds of which are communication devices, with the remainder being communication platforms.

Israeli space technology has played a critical role in the exploration of Mars. The Product Lifestyle Management software that enabled NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratories to accurately model the performance of the Curiosity rover was developed by Siemens in Israel... The Israel Space Agency will become an official member of the United Nations Committee on Space Affairs. This comes after Israel was accepted into the U.N. Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in October 2015. "Israel will be able to contribute more of our know-how and abilities for peace, and pave the way for expanding international cooperation in space. We will be part of a small circle of countries that influence world priorities in the field," said Daniel Brook, an ISA adviser on international cooperation...

(Bradley Martin is a CIJR Student Intern; JNS, Feb. 8, 2016)

Arabs Strive for Honor, Not Peace

Philip Carl Salzman

The Arab Middle East today remains beholden to its foundational culture, Bedouin tribal culture. We see Arabs to this day cleaving to their kin groups, their tribes, their religious sects, manifesting in their actions group loyalty, support of closer over more distant, and balanced opposition, each party defined as much by whom they stand against, as what they stand for. At every level honour is at stake: tribes vs. tribes or sedentary authorities, Sunni vs. Shia, Arab vs. Kurd or Persian. Nor should we ignore the loss of Arab honour in their defeats by the Israelis, and the persistent Arab desire to regain that honour.

Honour in the Arab Middle East takes two forms: *Sharaf* is public standing, and is derived in the main from a man's political status. *'Ird* is personal standing, and is derived largely from the proper behaviour of the women with whom a man is affiliated. Honour can be understood only as part of tribal culture, Arab tribal culture.

For the individual, tribal membership means that, should he get into trouble, he will have committed allies to call upon. But the other side of this is that another member of his group, should he get into trouble, can call on him for support. In fact, in a case of violence perpetrated by a member of his group, he is a legitimate target for reprisal, for vengeance, by the group of the injured party. If his group settles, paying blood money, he must contribute from his scarce resources. If larger scale conflict breaks out, his group mobilizing to fight, and this is far from rare, he must join in and be ready to engage in combat.

This all seems fair, but what if the offender from his group is an idiot who does stupid things, and has gotten into conflict through poor judgment? Or perhaps the offender from his group, a man distant in kinship, is greedy or violent, and has no justice to his claim and act? Must each member of the tribe nonetheless put his interests, his finances, his well-being, and those of his wife and children, at risk for these undeserving causes? Yes, of course he must, or else the collective security of the group would disappear, and individuals would be on their own, and vulnerable to

any insult, offense, or attack.

Now we have come face to face with the tribal version of the universal organizational problem of how to inspire people to set aside their short-term interests in favour of long-term interests, and their individual interests in favour of collective interests. One way is to instill ideals, such as "duty," that lead people to bridge the short-term/long-term, individual/collective gap. Implied is a positive social judgement of those who fulfill their duty, and a negative judgment of those who do not. The Baluchi tribesmen speak of whether a lineage, a tribal segment, is *patopak*, solidary, or *betopak*, disunited, with the implied judgment that *topak* is desirable, and to be *patopak* is admirable.

Honour is thus a positive reinforcement, a reward for correct behaviour. Honour works similarly for the segment as a whole; its reputation depends upon its successful defence of its interests, no matter how prejudicial that defence is to the short term interests of its individual members.

Sharaf is not just a matter of doing the right thing, of formalistic conforming to the requirements of tribal norms. Rather, public standing, or the political status of a group, is the result of its success in defending and advancing its interests, and thus its success in competition with other groups of like magnitude in the tribal order. *Sharaf*, in short, is the reward for winning, and the recognition of the winners. In the Middle East, honour is for the winners, shame for the losers.

There is not one Arab *nakhba*, the establishment of Israel. Rather, all of modern history is a *nakhba* for the Arab world, a self-induced, cultural *nakhba* as the Arab world has clung to pre-modern tribal forms: The seventh century C.E. remains the ideal for the Arab world. But modern liberal society depends upon a constitutional foundation, governing institutions based on law, politics allowing constant recall, and civil society going about its business peacefully. Loyalty must be to the constitution, not to groups. Building a modern society and liberal state on a tribal culture is building on shifting sands.

(Prof. Salzman, a CLJR Fellow, is Prof. of Anthropology at McGill U.)

Israel in Space: Beyond the Blue (and White) Horizon

ISRAELI SPACE PROGRAM LANDMARKS

The debut of Ofeq-1 (Ofeq is the Hebrew word for horizon), the first Israeli satellite, in 1988, was a landmark event in the history of the Israeli space program. Ofeq-1 was launched approximately 30 years after the launch of Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite successfully placed in orbit around the Earth, by the Soviet Union in 1957. The Israeli space program was, and continues to be, viewed as a tremendous success. The small State of Israel joined the exclusive club of space superpowers. Today, Israel is the smallest country with indigenous launch capabilities.

1961: "SHAVIT" LAUNCH:

Shavit 2 was the first sounding rocket (or research rocket, an instrument-carrying rocket designed to take measurements and perform scientific experiments) launched by Israel on July 5, 1961 for meteorological research. Shavit 2 weighed 250 kilograms and was 3.76 meters tall. The rocket achieved a top height of 80 kilometers. The Shavit sounding rocket is distinct from the later Shavit space launch vehicle, also produced by Israel, to launch Ofeq reconnaissance satellites into low earth orbit.

1963: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SPACE RESEARCH (NCSR):

The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities formally established the NCSR in 1963 to explore the feasibility of space launches and satellite development, and to formulate the Israel Space Agency. During the 1960s through the 1970s the committee developed the infrastructure needed for research and development in space exploration and sciences.

1983: ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAEL SPACE AGENCY (ISA):

At the beginning of the 1980s, Israel set its sights on developing the industrial and scientific infrastructure required for full-fledged membership in the space community. The Israeli government established the Israel Space Agency (ISA) in 1983 and charged it with coordinating the nation's space program. A diverse scope of activities was established both for defence, led by the Israel Ministry of Defence, and for civilian applications under the leadership of the ISA.

1988: OFEQ SATELLITE LAUNCH:

On September 19, 1988, Israel launched its first satellite, Ofeq-1, a reconnaissance satellite that was developed and built in Israel. Ofeq-1 was

ISRAEL IN SPACE: TO MOON, AND MARS!

Concept of SpaceIL's Lunar Lander.



launched via the Israeli Shavit satellite launcher – making Israel the eighth member of the prestigious club (now eleven in number) of countries with space launch capabilities and with the ability to build and operate satellites and spacecraft.

Most Ofeq satellites have been carried on top of Shavit rockets from Palmachim Airbase in Israel, on the Mediterranean coast. Most non-Israeli satellites are launched eastward to gain a boost from the Earth's rotational speed. However, Ofeq satellites are launched westward (retrograde orbit) over the Mediterranean to avoid flying over populated areas in Israel and neighboring Arab countries.

1996: AMOS-1:

Amos-1 was the first Israeli communications satellite. Its development was based on experience from Ofeq reconnaissance satellites. It was launched on May 16, 1996 from European Space Centre in French Guiana. It was in use for home TV services.

2003: FIRST ISRAELI ASTRONAUT, COL. ILAN RAMON Z"l:

Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut, was born on June 20, 1954 in Ramat Gan, and grew up in Beersheva. He completed an Israeli Air Force (IAF) pilot's course with honors in 1974 and served as a fighter pilot with the IAF, ultimately attaining the rank of Colonel. As a young pilot he participated in Operation Opera, the 1981 bombing of Iraq's unfinished Osiraq nuclear reactor.

Ramon's selection as the first Israeli astronaut, in the framework of a 1995 cooperation agreement between the ISA and the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), made him a celebrated Israeli success story.

In 1998 Ramon, accompanied by his family, went to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas for astronaut training. He was assigned to be a payload specialist on the Columbia space shuttle – a mission for which he spent over four years training.

On January 16, 2003 the Columbia space shuttle was launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida with seven astronauts on board, including Ramon – who thus became the first Israeli astronaut in space. Sixteen days later, on February 1, 2003, Columbia disintegrated over Texas on re-entering the Earth's atmosphere, and its entire crew perished. Ramon is the only foreign recipient of the United States Congressional Space Medal of Honor, which he was awarded posthumously.

2016: SPACEIL:

Israeli space explorers now have their sights set on planting their flag on the Moon. SpaceIL is an Israeli non-profit organization competing in the Google Lunar X Prize (GLXP) to launch a spacecraft on the Moon by 2017. SpaceIL was founded by Yariv Bash, an electronics and computer engineer in the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya; Kfir Damari, a

Computer Networking lecturer; and Yonatan Winetraub, an electrical engineer in Israel Aerospace Industries. Eran Privman is the CEO of SpaceIL.

GLXP is offering \$20 million to land a robot on the Moon, travel 500 meters over the lunar surface, and have it send video, images, and data back to Earth. SpaceIL's strategy is unique among GLXP contenders. Instead of building a tracked or wheeled rover, SpaceIL plans to meet the requirement to travel 500 meters on the lunar surface by having the lander "hop" from its landing site to another site 500 meters away using rocket propulsion.

On a shoestring budget of only \$36 million (the philanthropist Sheldon Adelson donated US\$16.4 million to the team), SpaceIL stands out from its well-funded competition as being the only non-profit organization in the competition whose team is 95 percent comprised of volunteers. SpaceIL aims to be the smallest and lightest spacecraft to ever land on the Moon.

2016: EXOMARS:

Man's latest attempt to search for life on Mars has an Israeli component – a propulsion system that will gently guide the newly-launched ExoMars spacecraft to the surface of Mars when it gets ready to touch down sometime in 2018. The craft's propulsion system was developed by Rafael, the same Israeli company that developed, among other things, the Iron Dome missile defense system.

While known for its defense systems, Rafael is also active in the space business, specifically as the manufacturer of controllable propulsion and reaction control systems (RCS), which help "brake" the landing of satellites and missiles. This ensures that their fuel tanks do not crash into the ground as they land and ignite an explosion.

When ExoMars, launched March 14, 2016, gets to its destination, it will release a descent module called Schiaparelli which will land on Mars. The module's fuel tanks are equipped with Rafael-supplied mini-rockets that will spring into action when the craft gets ready to land on the surface of Mars, according to Zvi Zuckerman, a Rafael engineer who helped develop the system.

28TH ANNUAL CIJR GALA

TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMY, SECURITY

ISRAEL IN SPACE:

BEYOND THE BLUE (AND WHITE) HORIZON

Toronto: April 12, 2016
Montreal: April 14, 2016

Continued from page 2

Iran alliance, the Saudis have come closer to military cooperation with Israel (including reported overflight permission should an attack on Iran's nuclear installations become necessary). Given their joint opposition to Iran, to Assad, and to IS; impact of the oil crisis on the Saudis; and their deepening war in Yemen against Iran-back Shiite Houthis, Jerusalem-Riyadh cooperation will no doubt deepen.

Syria: No longer a unitary state, Syria poses no regime threat to Israel. *But* terrorist IS in the northeast, at Raqqa, and vying with Hezbollah and the Iranians for a presence on the Golan, is disquieting. But IS is opposed by the U.S. and Russia; and Moscow is potentially a brake on Hezbollah and the Iranians in Syria as well. Nevertheless, the key role of "foreign" elements—Iran, Hezbollah, Russia—in supporting Assad versus U.S., EU [the "Allies"], and the Saudis, makes for instability and potential confrontations. Possible internationalization of the conflict [similar to the Spanish Civil War situation, 1936-39, which was a prelude to WWII] is concerning, despite the recently-proclaimed Russian withdrawal.

Iraq: Has hands full with IS in Mosul, the Kurdish autonomy [independence] movement around Kirkuk, Iraqi Sunni resistance to the Shi'ite regime, and its Government under Iranian pressure, Iraq too poses no threat to Israel. Iraq may well break up into Kurdish, Sunni, and Shiite sectors. *NB:* Israel and the Kurds are, historically close; Jerusalem supported the Kurds under Saddam Hussein.

Lebanon: A Sunni population majority is under Shiite Hezbollah dominance (aided by Iranian arms, 100,000 rockets, cash, etc.). But Lebanon is dealing with 1½ million Syrian refugees, and Hezbollah—pushed by Iran into a military role in Syria—is suffering with high casualties (and Sunni terrorist bombings in Beirut). Russia is a restraining influence on Hezbollah, while the Saudis have declared an end to their \$4 billion in annual Lebanese military aid.

West Bank/Gaza: The West Bank under Abbas is unstable: the current *Knifing Intifada* continues; Abbas is old and ill, and in the tenth year of a four-year Presidential term, with no successor, etc. Propaganda about getting a state *via* the UN without negotiating with Israel, is unrealistic, and in any case the Palestinians have given ample

Iran alliance, the Saudis have



proof that dismantling Jewish Israel, not obtaining a state, is their true goal.

Hamas in Gaza, after its disastrous third war with Israel, is relatively quiet, preoccupied with [so far failed] rebuilding, and Egyptian pressure (flooding of tunnels). There is always tension (Israel is developing a "Tunnel Iron Dome"), but no immediate, direct threat.

With no "two-state" "peace process" pressure in near future, continuation of the *de facto* present situation (certainly better than disintegration of the PA, and Hamas' takeover of the West Bank) is in the offing. *NB:* Israeli popular agreement across the Right-Left divide—over 70% in a recent poll—against a Palestinian state in the absence of decent, concretely forthcoming Palestinian leadership, is remarkable—as is the shared parallel fear that a failed Palestinian State would (à la Libya) soon be in IS terrorists' hands.

U.S.: Obama's Middle East policy (including Syria) is a disaster (the pro-Iran tilt creating opposition from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey). The vacuum created in Syria by O. has, incredibly, destroyed a fifty-year U.S. policy of keeping the Soviet Union, and then Russia, out of the Middle East. Now Putin is back, dominating Syria. Obama's support of the PA under Abbas is also a failure; and the hasty withdrawal from Iraq was a disaster, as was the similar action—now partially stabilized—in Afghanistan.

The only fly in the ointment? Iran's drive to nuclear weapons. If Teheran seeks to evade the recent U.S.-brokered Nuclear Agreement (quite probable, as their past history and current testing of ballistic missiles, in contravention of a UN Security Council

resolution, indicates], this would trigger a severe crisis and, potentially, direct Israeli intervention. But here, a new Republican administration may well itself preempt the Obama-Iran accord, meaning Israel would no longer be alone in facing the Iranians. (And such a new Administration—like the situation after Reagan was elected, when a fearful Iran released the U.S. hostages—would signal to Tehran a new, and pro-Israel, reality.)

Summation: Israel—domestically, regionally, and internationally, and despite ongoing tensions (*e.g.*, the O. Admin., EU, UN, BDS agitation on campuses, etc., rise of IS in Syria/Iraq, terrorist attacks, and massive refugee flows, regionally and internationally)—is in very good shape. The Jewish state—on the edge today of 'exploring outer space!—is a remarkable success story, a vindication of Herzl's Zionist vision. Indeed, Zionism, rooted in deeper Judaic values and Jewish history, is the only successful, and surviving, ideology of all those born in the 19th c. Legitimizing in modern terms the Jewish People's reclaiming of their Biblical homeland, Zionism has proved more than adequate to the construction of a flourishing, diverse, modern industrial and high-tech democracy.

Of course, the book of the future is the hardest of all books to read: in the Middle East, as in history in general, surprises are always possible, and Israel must not, and will not, let up its guard. This also means, as CIJR celebrates its 28th year, that its important pro-Israel work remains in little danger of soon becoming irrelevant.

(Prof. Krantz is Director of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research, and Editor of its ISRAFAX magazine.)

A Hopeful Sign: Christians of Israel are Signing up to Join the IDF.

Paul Merkley

In the mid-Nineteenth century, Britain and other European powers began undertaking responsibility for protection of the Christian minorities in the Middle East from increasingly horrific assaults from Muslim masses that were, in fact, being directed by Ottoman authorities. There was, of course, a material motive close to the surface here, as there was for everything that European governments did in those years. But standing for Christians was in those long-gone days considered the duty of governments of Christian lands.

Around the turn of the century, these same governments began retracting this commitment. This made possible the Armenian massacres and a general tendency to suffocation of the right-to-life of Christian communities everywhere in the Middle East, that accelerated when European empires handed over to the masters of the new Arab nations in the 1940s and 1950s. Consequently, the most prosperous and the best-educated Christians throughout the Middle East took flight to the West. The bottom line is that while Christians were roughly 13% of the population of the Arab world in 1900, they are today around 2%.

Everywhere throughout the Middle East today, Christians are undergoing martyrdom. The only exception to this gloomy picture is the State of Israel. The absolute number of Christians living in Israel has grown modestly but steadily with every census. In 1948, Christians made up 2.9% of the whole (34,000 in a total population of 1.2 million); by 2004, there were 146,000, which was 2.1% of a total population of just under seven million. Today, “Christian Arabs are Israel’s best-educated and most prosperous demographic group.” (Donna Rosenthal, *The Israelis* [New York: Free Press, 2003], p. 315).

An awkward fact for most of us is that until very recently these Arab-speaking Christians resident in Israel have been reluctant to declare open allegiance to the State of Israel. After all, the vast majority of their Arab co-citizens of Israel are Muslims, indoctrinated like all Muslims everywhere in contempt for the sons of Pigs and Monkeys. But lately, some young Israeli Arabs have been speaking up for the government under which they live and prosper – one which provides the only hope for heading off the chaos that is represented by ISIS and other

Islamist movements that are gaining in popularity among Palestinian youth.

The State of Israel has always allowed exemption of Arab young men and women from the military service that is compulsory for Jews. But today a number of Christian Arabs are leading a campaign to increase recruitment. It is now anticipated that over 200 Christians will enlist voluntarily during the coming year.

Though he has been subjected to various sanction from his superiors in the Greek Orthodox Church and although he has been threatened by Arab politicians active in Israel with death as “an agent of Zionism,” Father Gabriel Nafaf of Nazareth has recently gained the whole-hearted cooperation of Prime Minister Netanyahu for a program that seeks recruitment among Christian Arabs and provides for their integration into the Israeli armed forces. One of these recruits says: “I tell all the communities in Israel, you don’t have to enlist, but don’t attack those who chose to contribute. This is my country.”

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

Rescuer of Captive Yazidi Girls Leads Mission to Help Yazidis Stranded in Greece

Doris Strub Epstein

Fleeing genocide from I.S. and inhumane conditions in refugee camps in Turkey and Iraq, thousands of Yazidis are risking their lives on rubber dinghies to reach the Greek island of Lesbos. More than 200 have drowned in the Aegean Sea. Steve Maman, the Montreal businessman dubbed the Jewish Schindler for his rescue of the captive women and girls held by ISIS in Iraq, is spearheading a mission to help the Yazidis stranded in Greece get to Germany, which has the second largest community of their people in the world.

I spoke to Maman just before he boarded the plane at Montreal’s Dorval airport for Greece. “Right now 450 are waiting,” he said. “They have no food, no money, just the shelter of the port.” Maman has raised 60,000 Euros for their welfare and to help

them get to Germany.

Tens of thousands, from different nationalities, are waiting in Greece — Afgans, Iranians, Iraqis, Moroccans, Syrians and Africans. Unlike Canada, which is ignoring the most at-risk refugees, those who have been declared targets of genocide by I.S. and focusing only on bringing in Syrians to Canada, Greece has just issued a decree that only those targeted for genocide would have priority. “We are the only NGO’s helping (Yazidis) specifically,” Maman said.

It was a year ago that Maman founded the Liberation of Christian and Yazidi Children of Iraq (CYCI), to rescue Christian and Yazidi girls kidnapped by I.S., then used and sold as sex slaves in Iraq. Now CYCI has is helping those who have es-

caped from I.S. and from refugee camps in Iraq and Turkey, where they are abused and live in abysmal conditions. When the Yazidis reach Lesbos, they could be stranded there for months. CYCI finds them, provides them with food, medication and money, and helps them fill out the paperwork needed for the trip to Germany.

One month ago, Maman aimed at helping 613 Yazidis reach Germany — “with the funds we have, I never thought we could surpass that number”. But they managed to assist 1,055 Yazidis, and his new goal is 1,200 to “match the number of Jews Oscar Schindler saved during the Holocaust.” Last August, over 5,000 Yazidis were murdered, sometimes en masse, in Iraq’s Sinjar district and surrounding area. Thousands of women and girls, some as young as eight, have been sold as sex slaves or taken as “brides” by IS fighters. According to Maman, about 2,700 remain in captivity in IS-held territory.

(Doris Strub Epstein is co-chair of CIJR’s Toronto Chapter)

Erdogan's Boomerang: Turkey is on Edge of War

Yossi Melman

Israeli diplomatic and intelligence channels are attempting to verify if the attack in Istanbul (March 19, 2016) intentionally targeted Israeli tourists, although it is more likely that the Israelis were caught up as bystanders along with other tourists. Turkey receives 35 million tourists a year from many countries. State tourism has not been affected, despite the recent terror wave which has hit the country, with a number of deadly attacks perpetrated by both Kurds and ISIS. This is in fact a war which has been going on for around six months, and has so far killed nearly 3,000 people.

President Recep Erdogan began this war by choice, and he did it for political purposes. A year ago, Erdogan's AKP party failed to win over 50% in the national elections, as it had been accustomed in the recent past. In order to form a government, he required a coalition agreement with the Nationalist Party - an extreme right-wing party, who believed that Erdogan was not forceful enough in the struggle with the Kurds. Until those elections, the Turkish government had been conducting peace talks with the Kurdish minority, including its militant wing - the PKK movement led by Abdullah Öcalan, who is sitting in prison, who was a key figure in the talks aimed at strengthening the ceasefire and discussing the expansion of Kurdish autonomy.

Erdogan ended the peace talks and actually declared war on the PKK. In practice, by doing so he declared war on most of the country's Kurdish minority. Six months ago it seemed that his gamble was paying off. He took votes from the Nationalist Party, whose power was reduced from 80 deputies to 40, and the AKP won an absolute

majority. But the price is being paid in a rise in terrorist attacks, including suicide bombings, whose impact is greater and more painful.

Effectively, Turkey is at total war across three borders: the war on the home front against the PKK, a war against the Kurdish minority in Syria, and a war against PKK training camps in Iraqi Kurdistan. The Turkish military is hitting targets from the air in Iraq, as well as sending special forces into the field.

In Syria, Turkey does not dare send its planes over the border, for fear of having them downed by Russian jets and air defense batteries. Erdogan is instead making do with an artillery bombardment in a desperate attempt to prevent the Kurds in Syria, who with the help of the U.S. and Russian air power, have been able to capture territory from ISIS and establish an independent province along the Turkish border.

To facilitate the struggle against the Kurds, Erdogan changed his policy towards ISIS. Turning from clandestine support or turning a blind eye to their presence in Syria, which caused the U.S. and the West to censure him, he decided to join the international coalition against ISIS, opening a front against them.

It is difficult to know what Erdogan was thinking when he decided to move against the Kurds at home and abroad, and join the war against ISIS. Perhaps he thought that they would not respond, or that it was a calculated move on his part. Either way, both the Kurds and ISIS have responded to Erdogan's gambles with deadly terrorist attacks.

(Jerusalem Post, Mar. 20, 2016)

19 Yemeni Jews Arrive in Israel, Ending Secret Rescue Operation

Isabel Kershner

They landed in Israel late at night — a man in a dark suit and traditional headdress, wheeling a suitcase; a mother, veiled, in a long black robe and holding a sleeping toddler; and a rabbi carrying a Torah scroll believed to be more than 500 years old. They were among a final group of 19 Yemeni Jews who were spirited out of their war-torn country in recent days... bringing a months-long clandestine rescue operation to a close.

Photographs taken at Ben-Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv by a representative of the Jewish Agency, a quasi-governmental body that deals with Jewish immigration, documented the arrival late Sunday of the last of the Yemeni Jews who wanted to go to Israel. They are remnants of an ancient and once-vibrant group that became increasingly imperiled by violence and anti-Semitism as Yemen descended into civil war.

"From Operation Magic Carpet in 1949 until the present day, the Jewish Agency has helped bring Yemenite Jewry home to Israel," Natan Sharansky, a former Soviet dissident who is the chairman of the agency, said in a statement, referring to the airlifts of 1949 and 1950 that brought nearly 50,000 Yemenite Jews to Israel soon after the country was established. "This chapter in the history of one of the world's oldest Jewish communities is coming to an end," Mr. Sharansky added, "but Yemenite Jewry's unique, 2,000-year-old contribution to the Jewish people will continue in the state of Israel."

Roughly 50 Jews chose to remain in Yemen, including about 40 who live in a closed compound in the country's capital, Sana... according to the Jewish Agency. The latest immigrants included a group of 14 from the northern Yemeni town of Raida, including the local rabbi, and a family of five from Sana.

Exactly how they reached Israel, which has no diplomatic relations with Yemen, largely remains a mystery. Two countries that long facilitated Jewish emigration from Yemen, the United States and Britain, closed their embassies in Sana last year, as did many other Western countries. Saudi Arabia, which has no formal diplomatic relations with Israel, has imposed a naval and air blockade of Yemen. All traffic to and from Yemen is supposed to be checked by the Saudis, including flights, which stop in Saudi Arabia for inspection while traveling to or from Sana...

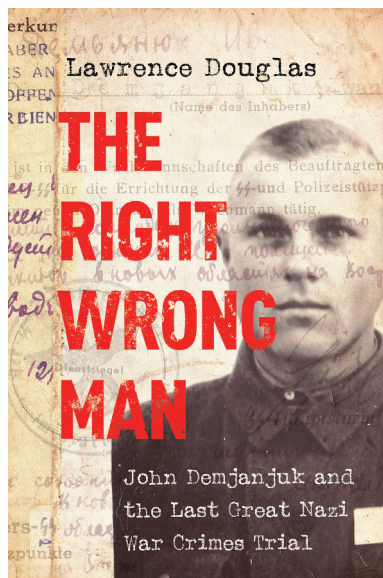
The family from Sana that arrived late Sunday is related to Aharon Zindani, who was killed in what was believed to be anti-Semitic attack in 2012, the agency said... Yehuda Sharf, the Jewish Agency's director of immigration and absorption, said that there were no longer any Jews in Raida, where a Jewish teacher, Moshe Yaish Nahari, was shot and killed by a Yemeni Air Force pilot in 2008. "All the Jews of Raida, Yemen, are with us," Mr. Sharf told Israel Radio on Monday, "even the last Torah scroll."

(New York Times, Mar. 21, 2016)

'The Right Wrong Man,' by Lawrence Douglas

Anthony Julius

Not once but twice, in the period 1987-2012, the Ukrainian-American John Demjanjuk was tried and convicted of offenses committed as a World War II death camp guard. Following each trial, one in Israel, the other in Germany, he appealed. The first appeal was successful: The Israeli prosecutors had charged the wrong man. The second appeal was not heard: The 91-year-old Demjanjuk died before the court could be convened, though the German prosecutors were confident his appeal would fail.



It is quite a story. The appalling Demjanjuk fought in the first years of the war in the Red Army. Captured by the Nazis, he in due course chose to become a guard in the Sobibor death camp. In the aftermath of the war, he found his way to the United States, a beneficiary of the 1948 Displaced Persons Act. He settled in Cleveland, taking a job in the automobile industry. He never revealed his Nazi past, which remained for decades undetected by the authorities. And then, in 1975, he was denounced as a war criminal by an American of Ukrainian descent.

After years of procedural wrangling in the United States over denaturalization and then extradition, Demjanjuk was tried and convicted in an Israeli court in 1988 as “Ivan Grozny” or “Ivan the Terrible,” a Treblinka death camp guard notorious even among the other guards as brutal, sadistic and murderous. It was a bad instance of mistaken identity; the impulse to honor survivors’ testimony, riddled with “perplexing and dismaying mistakes,” pushed the court in a wrong direction. In 1993 Demjanjuk’s conviction was overturned...

Years later, the truth of his past, in all its genuine horror, was established, and this man, with his “deep reserves of self-pity” and his “ethos of adaptation and survival,” was a defendant once again, this time in a Munich court in Germany. Aided by the testimony of professional historians, the court was able to reach the correct verdict, one that was both “remarkable and just,” Lawrence Douglas writes in “The Right Wrong Man.”

Douglas... asks and answers some important questions. To begin with, is there justice in trying old men for crimes committed decades earlier? He answers yes. Notwithstanding the frailties and infirmities of age, and the passage of time, we continue to be responsible for our actions. There can be no reward for a resourceful criminal, merely more efficient in evading justice than most other criminals. What is more, when the crimes have a historical resonance, as in the Demjanjuk case, we get not just a verdict, but a lesson too...

Next, what reckoning should a nation make with its own past,

when that past is both appalling and historic? ... Douglas finds that Germany’s much admired record in confronting its own terrible history fell short of actually bringing individual Nazi perpetrators to trial. Confronting the collective past, by means of memorials, symposiums and films, was one thing; prosecuting individuals for Nazi-era crimes was quite another. Indeed, in the Federal Republic, “the obstacles to successfully prosecuting former Nazis,” Douglas writes, “were many and formidable.” We should not be surprised by this, he adds: The simple fact is that postwar Germany was full of former Nazis. The Munich trial changed that: German judicial honor was restored.

Last, were there larger benefits to mankind that flowed from the Demjanjuk case? Once more, Douglas answers yes. First, it yielded a modified theory of culpability, directly “connected to the exterminatory process.” This disposed once and for all of the defense “I was no more than a cog in the machine,” and of its corollary, “I was only obeying orders.” A machine cannot run without its small constituent parts. As a result of the Demjanjuk case, it is now enough to prove that a defendant worked in a death factory; it is no longer necessary to prove that he committed wanton murder... Second, it prompted further investigation into other low-level perpetrators. Third, it demonstrated the ability of mature legal systems to learn from past mistakes, and thus strengthened public confidence in the justice delivered by American, Israeli and German courts — and more generally, the courts of liberal democracies...

(*New York Times*, Feb. 26, 2016)

CIJR’s Recently Received Library Books

Bikont, Anna. *The Crime and the Silence: Confronting the Massacre of Jews in Wartime Jedwabne*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2015

Bronfman, Edgar M. *Why Be Jewish? A Testament*. Oxford: Signal, 2016

Evans, Roger Steven. *How the Early Church Fathers Misinterpreted the Hebrew Bible to Promote Hostility Toward the Jewish People: A Study in “Blaming the Victim”*. Toronto: Edwin Mellen Press, 2015.

Las, Nelly. *Jewish Voices in Feminism : Transnational Perspectives*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2015

Levi, David. *The Zionist Entity: The Jewish State in the 21st Century*. Jerusalem: Mazo Publishers, 2015

Lipski, Sam & Rutland, Suzanne D. *Let My People Go: The Untold Story of Australia and the Soviet Jews, 1959-89*. Jerusalem: Geffen, 2015

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

Sasley, Brent E., & Waller, Harold M. *Politics in Israel: Governing a Complex Society*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016

Yoo, Dan. *Project Palestine*. New York: RVP Press, 2016

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EXTRA! EXTRA!

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear friends and supporters,

As I sit down to write this piece, news of the Brussels explosions is coming in. Outside the sun is shining, spring is in the air and the Passover celebration is not too far off. Trying to see the light in a dark world and keep one's faith in humanity is not easy these days.

The most recent BDS vote at McGill University in Montreal (finally defeated in a subsequent online ratification process) like other Canadian and U.S. campus votes, has crossed a red line. Decent, freedom-loving people who cherish democratic values, have been witnessing the hijacking of basic principles like freedom of expression and academic freedom by a minority of leftists, Islamists and their radical supporters, both students and academics.

Singling out the only democracy in the Middle East, Israel, and intimidating those supporting Israel with threats, violence, and blatant racism, they seek to dominate our campuses.

Rabbi Jonathan Sachs in his recent visit to Montreal explained that today's anti-Zionism is the new antisemitism. The time has come for much more vigorous action on campuses. The *Canadian Freedom Alliance*, which I initiated at CIJR a few years ago, can make a difference. Stay tuned and become actively involved in this important cause.

This year's 28th annual fundraising *Gala* in Montreal and Toronto, "**Israel in Space**", is dedicated to the memory of the first Israeli astronaut, **Ilan Ramon z"l**, who perished in the 2003 Columbia disaster. Mr. **Tal Inbar**, our distinguished *Keynote Speaker* from the **Fisher Institute for Air & Space Strategic Studies** in Israel, will analyze Israel's civil and military space history and future challenges. Through the SpaceIL project, Israel may become only the third country to land a spacecraft on the moon—and Mars too beckons!

Another remarkable speaker is Prof. **Vicky Kaspi**, Lorne Trottier Prof. of Astrophysics at McGill University and recipient of this year's **Gerhard Herzberg Canada Gold Medal for Science and Engineering**, for her research on neutron stars. And, as is our custom every year, **two outstanding student activists** will speak about their Israel-advocacy work, on and off campus. And the rising young Montreal star, Broadway's **Nicole Raviv**, will provide entertainment.

Kudos to our director Prof. Frederick Krantz and our Research Chair Baruch Cohen (now 96!) for their amazing dedication to CIJR over the past 28 years. Many thanks to our dedicated Montreal office staff—Yunna Shapira, Rob Coles, Melina Ghio, Hong Yang and Alex Iliev, to our Toronto Chapter chairs, Alan Herman, Doris Epstein, and Prof. Sally Zerker, and to our fine National Board members and all our friends and supporters across Canada, the U.S., and the world, for all their help and dedication.

Wishing you and your families a Happy Passover and delicious *Seder* meals,

Jack Kincler, National Chairman

CIJR TORONTO

Alan Herman

2016 has been a busy time for CIJR in Toronto. On January 21, CIJR and Beth Tikvah Synagogue proudly hosted Bar-Ilan University's Prof. Mordechai Kedar's Israel Learning Seminar to a packed-room on "Israel and its Enemies". Islam expert Jonathan Halevy followed on March 3rd with "How the Islamic State threatens Canada and the West", introduced by intelligence expert Tom Quiggin of *Terrorism and Security Experts of Canada Network*.

Coming up soon, Dr. Miles Smit, CIJR Toronto, will run a workshop on "Strategic *Hasbara*" at the Third Annual Village Shul "Israel Advocacy Workshop Day" on April 3rd, followed on April 12 by the Toronto CIJR 28th Anniversary Gala "Israel in Space" with Keynote Speaker Tal Inbar of Israel's Fisher Institute for Air and Space Strategic Studies. The next Israel Learning Seminar will be on May 3rd, at Beth Tikvah, led by Prof. Aurel Braun on "Contemporary Israel & the Jewish People". CIJR Toronto, in partnership with Beth David Synagogue, will host on May 19th "Maimonidean Messianism: a Rational Blueprint for Zionism" led by Professor James Diamond (Jewish Studies, University of Waterloo).