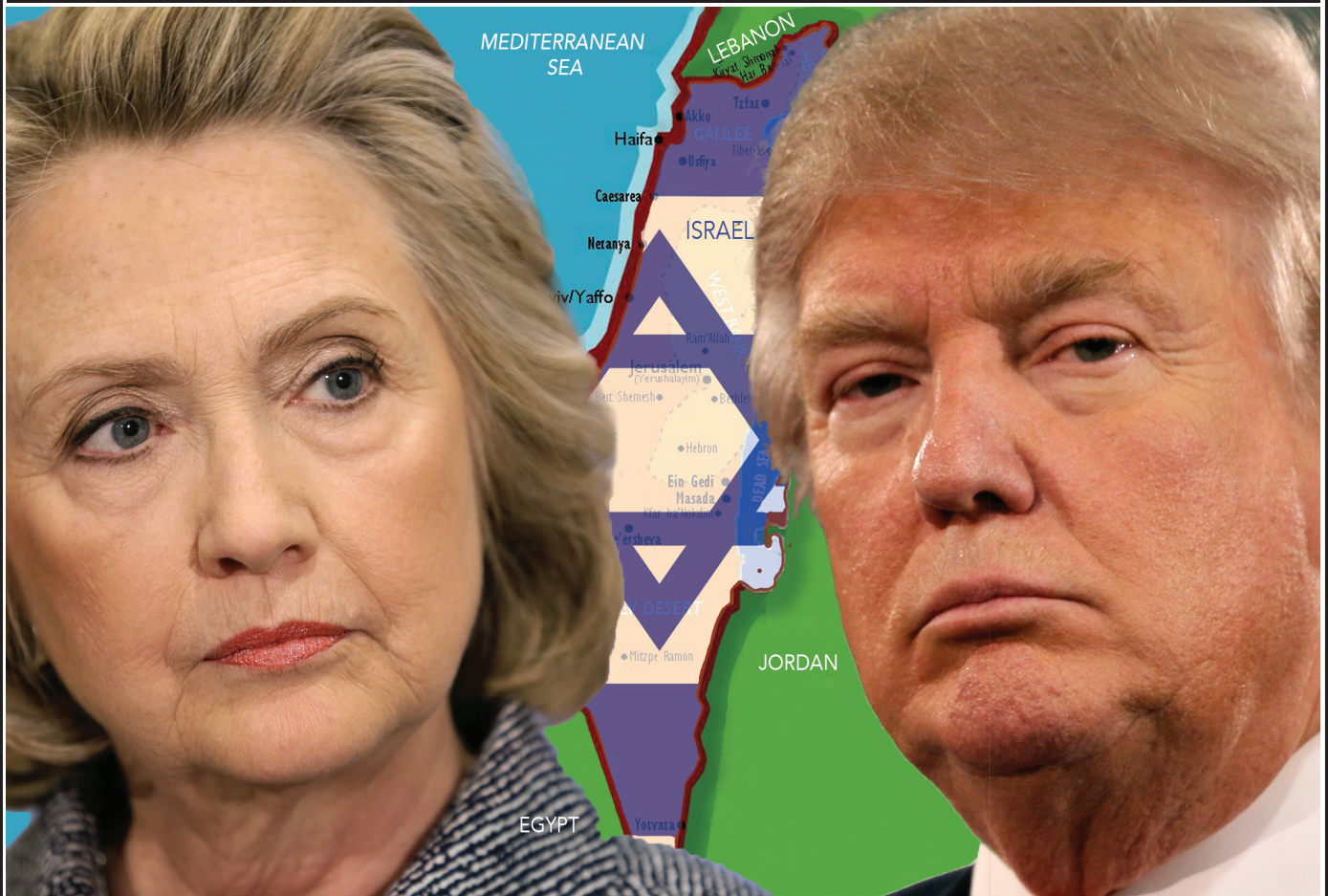


Israel and the Coming U.S. Election



Editorial

Modern Israel: The Truly "Exceptional" Polity

Frederick Krantz

From Alexis De Toqueville's Democracy in America (1835-40) forward, American "exceptionality" has long been a staple of political discourse in the United States. Popular democracy and active civil-society institutions, unburdened by the aristocratic-conservative component characteristic of European states, were seen as the bases for the unique social and economic dynamism which would eventually make the U.S. the world's only superpower.

This widespread assumption was challenged by leftist-progressive Barack Obama, critical of an asserted American political-moral superiority, and countering that all societies are, in one respect or another, "exceptional". After eight years of his equivocal leadership, the moral élan embodied in the American exceptionalist credo has been corroded.

Reinforced by the 2008 banking collapse and recession, and a series of foreign-policy setbacks from Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria to Egypt, Libya, and Iran, a political malaise, a collapse in societal self-confidence, has afflicted the U.S. And reaction to it has propelled the Republican-populist candidacy of Donald J. Trump, who hopes to ride a "Make America Great Again!" wave to the White House.

Yet there is one remarkable place in the world today which is in fact truly exceptional, and this despite the unending hostility, aggression, and terrorism of its neighbors.

The democratic Jewish state of Israel, only 68 years old, has flourished despite constant external aggression and internal Palestinian terrorism. Israel has decisively defeated Arab state-led aggression in a series of wars, building its Israel Defense Forces into one of the world's leading militaries, and has repulsed constant non-state internal "intifadas" ("knife" and otherwise).

Across this period, Israel has built a modern, technologically-oriented world-class economy, with a West European standard of living, high life-expectancy, and one of the highest personal satisfaction ratings registered in recent international polling.

Hence — as the U.S. faces its current crisis of confidence, and Europe post-Brexit confronts continuing economic and demographic stagnation, political crisis, ongoing waves of Muslim immigration and rising Islamic terrorism—Jewish Israel thrives.

How explain this? How explain that a tiny pre-1948 Palestinian Yishuv population of 600,000 Jews, despite British Mandatory hostility, Arab hatred and violence, and the Nazi-German-European Holocaust of World War II, not only survived but thrived? And did this while welcoming and integrating hundreds of thousands of destitute Sephardic Jews expelled from Arab lands after 1948?

One can of course point to the "Never again!" post-Holocaust mentality, the decisive aid of the Jewish Diaspora, the appropriation of Western representative traditions, and so on. But surely the key "variable" here is the role of specifically Jewish values, religious and secular: the vision of individual moral responsibility and agency, and opposition to idolatry, re-

ligious and political, rooted in the man-God relationship of Tanakh, the Hebrew Bible.

This positive, this-worldly confidence and optimism was built into Jewish culture, religious and secular. And these values suffused, however differently, the various strands of Zionism, religious and secular, conservative, liberal and socialist, which marked pre- and post-State, and today modern, Israel.

Jewish democracy, rooted in Tanakh, was expressed across the medieval period in the internally-autonomous and representative institutions of the kehillah, Jewish communities' ubiquitous religio-communal administrative structure. This, in turn, helps explain why east European Zionists from lands dominated by autocratic, non-representative Tsarist Russia, and who as Jews were excluded in any form of political participation, were able to develop the representative Palestinian Yishuv from which modern democratic Israel emerged.

Israel embodies Jewish political institutions and values which have also played a key role in shaping modern Western polities, not least the Prophetic "speaking truth to power" vision. Unique in the Middle East, democratic Israel is indeed truly exceptional, a "light unto the nations" in what is an increasingly dark time.

Indeed, Biblical Israel's universal religious vocation, to be a vanguard showing the way to peace and justice for all mankind, embodied in modern Israel, may yet prove a beacon in the darkening civilizational crisis of modernity we are confronting.

Nes gadol, a great miracle: *Am yisrael chai* — the Jewish People lives!

(Dr. Krantz, a professor of History at Liberal Arts College, Concordia University, is Director of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research, and Editor of its Isranet Daily Briefing.)

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

THIS ISSUE

- P. 2 EDITORIAL
- P. 3 WEEKLY QUOTES & SHORT TAKES
- P. 4 REGARDLESS OF ELECTION RESULT, U.S. POPULAR SUPPORT WILL REMAIN STEADFAST
- P. 5 IRAN DEAL REINFORCES SPREAD OF TERRORISM
- P. 6 OBAMA, TRUMP, ISRAEL AND THE HISTORY OF TERROR
- P. 8 EU POLICY AND BDS: WORDS MASK ANTISEMITISM
- P. 9 "INDIGENEITY" AND "UNIVERSAL" VALUES: BIG LIES
- P. 10 PSYCHIATRIC DIPLOMACY? EU AND UN
- P. 11 CIJR REVIEW OF BOOKS
- P. 12 EXTRA! EXTRA!

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WEEKLY QUOTES

“The attack on Jewish students is a concerning national trend that cannot be ignored any longer. University officials cannot have a type of wishful thinking when something bad happens on their campus and will the situation to not happen again...The activities of these anti-Israel groups have serious repercussions and cannot be excused. Jewish students are being seriously threatened, their civil rights suppressed and routinely violated across the country...University administrations cannot say there is no problem...The problem is there. It is national and it cannot be ignored.” — Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, co-founder of the AMCHA Initiative. (*Algemeiner*, July 26, 2016)

“The heritage of Jerusalem is indivisible, and each of its communities have a right to the explicit recognition of their history and relationship with the city...To deny or conceal any of the Jewish, Christian or Muslim traditions undermines the integrity of the site.” — Irina Bokova, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), amid the heated atmosphere surrounding the pending decision by UNESCO to solely recognize Muslim sovereignty over the Temple Mount. (*Breaking Israel News*, July 20, 2016)

“Does (Sanders) believe in a God? He had skated on saying he has a Jewish heritage. I think I read he is an atheist. This could make several points difference with my peeps.” — Email to Democratic Party officials. More than 19,000 emails from Democratic Party officials

leaked in advance of Hillary Clinton’s nomination at the party’s convention details the acrimonious split between the DNC and Clinton’s former rival, Sen. Bernie Sanders. Several emails posted by Wikileaks show DNC officials scoffing at Sanders and his supporters and in one instance, questioning his commitment to his Jewish religion. (*National Post*, July 23, 2016)

“I like Donald Trump because he speaks from the heart... Make America Great Again is a great slogan.” — Malik Obama, Obama’s Kenyan half-brother. Obama, a longtime Democrat, said his **“deep disappointment”** in his brother Barack’s administration has led him to switch allegiance to **“the party of Lincoln.”** The last straw, he said, came earlier this month when FBI Director James Comey recommended not prosecuting Hillary Clinton over her use of a private e-mail servers while Secretary of State. (*New York Post*, July 24, 2016)

“I shared with Mr. Trudeau how much it meant to me to be here with him praying at the site of mass murder in the presence of my wife, my daughter, and my granddaughter and I was moved to tears when I recited prayers for the dead...I saw that he too was visibly touched and he shared his tears with mine...I placed my hands on his head and blessed him with the Priestly Blessing, the most ancient blessing in Judaism.” — Holocaust survivor Nate Leipziger, during a visit to Auschwitz with Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau. (*National Post*, July 19, 2016)

SHORT TAKES

ATTACK ON CHURCH IN FRANCE KILLS PRIEST, AND I.S. IS BLAMED (Paris) — Two attackers backing I.S., — including one on a watch list — stormed a church in northern France during Mass on July 26, taking hostages and slitting the throat of Jacques Hamel, an 85-year-old priest, before police shot and killed the assailants. A nun who was inside the church said that the priest was forced to his knees and killed when he attempted to resist. Officials said the attackers screamed **“Allahu akbar”** (God is great) as they slit his throat. (*New York Times*, July 26, 2016)

NICE ATTACKER PLOTTED FOR MONTHS AND HAD ACCOMPLICES (Nice) — The man who plowed a truck into a crowd on Bastille Day in Nice, France — killing at least 84 and injuring more than 300 — plotted his attack for months and had accomplices. Paris’ prosecutor said the attacker’s cellphone revealed photographs and search histories suggesting that Mohamed Bouhlel, the 31-year-old Tunisian-born driver of the truck, had contemplated an attack as early as 2015. Five suspects have been identified and taken into custody. (*Washington Post*, July 21, 2016)

BRAZIL ARRESTS TEN SUSPECTED OF PLOTTING ATTACKS TIMED FOR OLYMPICS (Rio de Janeiro) — Brazil’s federal police arrested ten Brazilians they said were linked to I.S. and planning terrorist acts during the Olympic Games in Rio. The arrests happened just two weeks ahead of the opening ceremonies amid questions over Brazil’s security preparations for the Games. The suspects were members of a terrorist cell called

“Defenders of Shariah,” which had communicated via encrypted messaging services. (*Wall Street Journal*, July 21, 2016)

CLINTON’S VP PICK TIM KAINE HAS ANTI-ISRAEL TRACK RECORD (Philadelphia) — While Republicans Donald Trump and Mike Pence are seen as supporters of Israel, Kaine does not take pro-Israel positions, and has shown support for organizations connected to the Muslim Brotherhood. Kaine is the darling of the George Soros-funded anti-Israel organization J-Street. J-Street endorsed Kaine’s 2012 run for Senate, and J-Street was the second largest donor to Tim Kaine’s campaign committee between 2011-2014. Tim Kaine was one of the first Democrats to announce he was boycotting Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu’s speech to a joint session of Congress, and Kaine was a supporter of the P5+1 Iran deal. (*Jewish Press*, July 26, 2016)

PA WANTS TO SUE BRITAIN FOR BALFOUR DECLARATION (Jerusalem) — PA Foreign Affairs Minister Riyad Al-Maliki has said that the PA intends to sue Great Britain for the Balfour declaration. Al-Maliki said that the declaration by the British Empire in 1917 “gave that which wasn’t theirs to give to those to whom it did not belong.” The Balfour declaration was a letter from UK Foreign Secretary Lord Balfour declaring that the British government “views with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.” This was the first recognition of the Zionist endeavor by a major world leader. (*Arutz Sheva*, July 26, 2016)



“Israeli Apartheid Week” in May 2010 on the University of California, Irvine campus.

REGARDLESS OF ELECTION RESULT, U.S. POPULAR SUPPORT WILL REMAIN STEADFAST

Politics as Usual? Not This Year!

Harold M. Waller

Electoral politics in the United States during this presidential election year appear to be moving into uncharted territory. The unusual aspects of this campaign make forecasting exceptionally difficult. Nevertheless there are a few observations that one can make in early July.

Perhaps the most notable aspect of this contest is that the two presumptive nominees are both deeply flawed candidates. Although Democrat Hillary Clinton no longer faces criminal charges, she has not emerged unscathed. Indeed FBI Director James Comey's report to the nation sounded more like a recommendation for an indictment than exoneration. As a result, issues related to her personal server and her handling of confidential documents will plague her throughout the campaign. Despite her demonstrable inclination toward mendacity, Democrats will vote for her anyway in the polarized atmosphere, though she will likely encounter great difficulty in attracting voters with other orientations. Nevertheless the odds still favor her, given the Democrats' advantage in key states.

Her opponent, Donald Trump, has left many Republicans flabbergasted ever since his quest for the nomination began. His outlandish and often offensive proclamations, his ideological inconsistencies, his weakness on policy, and his disdain for the party that he now leads have left the party regulars in disarray. Yet he was able to tap the votes of a disillusioned sector of the electorate as he powered his way to victory during the primary season. Whether there are more such voters out there waiting for him is a key question going into the general election. The conventional wisdom is that there are not.

From the pre-convention vantage point Trump faces the more formidable task, not least because of his inability to hold the Republican supporters together. In order to win, Republicans need to support their nominee with near unanimity in order to overcome the Democrats' numerical advantage. So far Trump has followed his own lights, much to the dismay of conservative Republicans. His policy pronouncements (e.g., trade, internationalism) often put him

at odds with party stalwarts, who view him as someone with his own idiosyncratic policies. Furthermore his frequent provocative remarks provide doubters with manifold rationales for holding back their usual support for the party's candidate. Clinton, in contrast, appears to be running for Barack Obama's third term, which puts her squarely in the middle of current Democratic thinking, which is well to the left of where Bill Clinton had positioned the party. The result is a stronger voting base for her that what Trump can count on. Despite these considerations, in this volatile atmosphere Trump cannot be ruled out.

What about foreign policy, which often appears quite foreign to Trump? He is inclined to draw back from U.S. involvement abroad, though he unabashedly proclaims support for Israel. The question is whether a lower profile U.S. can be as helpful to Israel as it has been in the past is a good question. Meanwhile Clinton's party continues to distance itself from Israel, a process begun during the Obama years. This election does not offer any clearly preferable option.

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

U.S.-Israel Ties and the Next U.S. President

Yoram Ettinger

The long-term trends of U.S.-Israel relations do not hinge solely/mostly on U.S. presidents, as has been documented since Israel's establishment in 1948, and especially since the early 1980s, when – in spite of systematic presidential pressure on Israel – bilateral industrial, commercial, scientific, technological, agricultural, homeland security and defense cooperation have surged beyond expectations.

For instance, President Truman pressured Prime Minister Ben Gurion to end the "occupation" of West Jerusalem and parts of the Negev and Galilee; President Johnson pressured Prime Minister Eshkol to refrain from preempting the concerted Arab attack, reuniting Jerusalem and building in "occupied areas"; President Nixon pressured Prime Minister Golda Meir to end "occupation" and refrain from building in East Jerusalem; President Carter pressured Prime Minister Begin to focus on withdrawal from Judea & Samaria, rather than on peace with Egypt; President Reagan

pressured Prime Minister Begin to rescind the application of Israeli law to the Golan Heights and end the hot-pursuit of the PLO in Lebanon; President Bush pressured Prime Minister Shamir to recognize the PLO and refrain from construction in Judea & Samaria.

But, notwithstanding presidential pressure – which entailed arms-embargos, suspended deliveries of advanced military systems, denial of loan guarantees and brutal condemnations – Israel's role as America's major non-NATO ally and the most effective and unconditional geo-strategic ally has catapulted to unprecedented levels...According to the annual February Gallup poll of country-favorability...Israel ranks systematically among the most favorable countries, enjoying the support of 71% of the U.S. constituency, compared with the Palestinian Authority's 19%...

Since Israel's establishment in 1948, U.S.-Israel relations have not hinged solely, or mostly, on the non-omnipotent U.S. Executive, but – at least as much – on the co-equal, co-determining U.S. Legislature, and many times in defiance of the Executive... Congress – as well as many State Legislatures – has always been the most authentic

reflection of the will of the constituency in the 435 districts and 50 states. Thus, Congress has reflected...the special affinity by the U.S. public toward the Jewish state. Therefore, some House Members from districts without a single synagogue are urged by their constituents: "Don't forsake the Jewish state."

Furthermore, the future of U.S.-Israel relations hinges less on the next U.S. President's policies toward the Palestinian issue, Jerusalem or settlements, than on his/her national security worldview; the increasingly anti-U.S....international arena; the intensifying threats (especially Islamic terrorism) to the national security...of the U.S. and its Arab allies; Israel's military and commercial capabilities as "the largest U.S. aircraft carrier" which does not require a single U.S. soldier on board; and Israel as the battle-tested laboratory for the U.S. military forces and defense industries in a most critical region to the U.S. national and homeland security...Irrespective of the outcome of the November U.S. presidential election, 2017 will experience a sustained enhancement of the mutually-beneficial...U.S.-Israel cooperation...

(Israel Hayom, July 8, 2016)

Jihadi Terrorism: You Think It's Just the Jews? Think Again.

Giulio Meotti

[July 14, 2016], at least 84 people were murdered in the French city of Nice by a Tunisian-born Islamist terrorist, with dozens more victims wounded. The attacker drove a 19-ton truck into a large crowd of people celebrating Bastille Day, France's national holiday, running down men, women and children over a 2km stretch of road and sidewalk.

On July 2, nine Italian citizens were butchered by Islamists in the assault at a restaurant in Dhaka, Bangladesh. They were tortured and killed with "very sharp blades" wielded by smiling terrorists who spared the life of those who knew the Quran. For almost a year already, poor Bangladeshis have been experiencing similar shocking massacres. But those victims were not wealthy non-Muslim foreigners — they were anonymous Muslim bloggers, accused of "blasphemy" and murdered out with "sharp blades" — five victims in 2015 and a law student in 2016, as well as a Hindu priest hacked to death...

Two weeks ago, a 13-year-old Israeli girl was stabbed to death while sleeping in her bed. As in Bangladesh, the Palestinian Arab terrorist used a knife to kill Hallel Yaffa Ariel. That is not a simple act of murder; it is a slaughter that wrongly equates building a home with murdering a child. Italian newspapers even deprived her of identity. *Il Corriere della Sera*, Italy's second largest newspaper, wrote: "West Bank: 13-year-old American killed". When

four Israelis were murdered last month in Tel Aviv's Max Brenner restaurant, the whole foreign media again had "mistaken" headlines. From *Le Monde* to *Libération*, the French press used the word "shooting" instead of terrorism. CNN reported about the "terrorists" in quotation marks. *La Repubblica*, Italy's largest newspaper, called the Palestinian Arab terrorists "aggressors".

What do these distorted headlines mean? That we in the West naively believe that there are two kinds of terror: "international terror" that targets Westerners in Nice, Paris, Dhaka, Raqqa or Tunisia; and "national" terror, between the Arabs and Israel, in the face of which the Israeli Jews must retreat and surrender. There is also "faceless terror," as in Orlando, where an Afghan-American Muslim massacred 50 Americans and everybody, as usual in America, refused to name "Islam." It is the reaction of the appeaser, "one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last" according to Winston Churchill. The problem is that whether you are pacifists or warmongers, gays or heterosexuals, atheists or Christians, wealthy or poor, blasphemers or devout, French or Iraqis, jihadi terrorism does not discriminate. Every one of us is a target: Islamist terrorism is genocidal...

When Islamist terrorists target Muslim dissident bloggers, far-away Yazidi women or Israeli girls — and they are enslaved, flogged, raped or murdered — it should concern us in the West. Islamists are just sharpening their knives on them before coming for us. If we do not speak out today, we will be punished for our indolence tomorrow.

(Gatestone Institute, July 15, 2016)

Editorial

The Iran Deal at One Year: Reality vs. the Promises

To mark the first anniversary of President Obama's deal with Iran, the folks at the Foreign Policy Initiative have just published a comprehensive compilation of promises vs. results...FPI...notes what Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry and other top officials promised at the time would happen if the deal went through — in contrast with what we know now. The level of willful deceit...is horrifying:

- Under the deal, Obama said, "We will, for the first time, be in a position to verify all of [Iran's] commitments." A year later, we have less information about Iran's nuclear activities than we did before the pact.
- Washington will get full access to any military and "suspicious" location; Iran's failure to allow it would result in a "snap back" of sanctions, said Kerry. Huh: The deal turns out to include an unprecedented arrangement that relies on Iran to "self-inspect" its Parchin military complex. Iran continues to deny access to Parchin and other key sites, citing the agreement to let it self-inspect.
- Kerry insisted the deal contained "the exact same language" as UN resolutions prohibiting ballistic-missile development. Iran has since revealed a loophole that allows such development — which it's been exploiting, while Team Obama now says it isn't

a violation. Kerry says he wants a "new arrangement" on the issue but agrees Washington is "powerless" to stop the missile program...

- Obama insisted the deal left a "one-year breakout time" for Iran to get the bomb if it violated the agreement. Other experts say it's more like seven months — and the latest International Atomic Energy Agency report omits data that makes it possible to calculate.
- Iranian nuclear cooperation with North Korea would be "a gross violation... and we would take action," said Kerry last year. Evidence since then shows Tehran has imported nuclear technology from Pyongyang.
- Obama swore the United States would "maintain powerful sanctions" on Iran for its sponsorship of terrorism. Since then, he has opposed all congressional non-nuclear sanctions bills, and Kerry has pushed non-U.S. banks to resume business with Iran. Kerry vowed "we will never, ever stop" holding Iran to account for human-rights violations. Yet Washington hasn't sanctioned Iran on a single case. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew insisted sanctions relief would not change the level of Iran's support of terrorism. Post-relief, Iran approved a 90 percent increase in military spending...

Everything we've learned in the past year speaks to this deal as one of the biggest, most dangerous diplomatic blunders in U.S. history. More than anything else, it will define Barack Obama's legacy. That's actually what he's always wanted — but it seems sure he'll come to regret it.

(New York Post July 2, 2016)

Trump is a Creature of Obama

Philip Carl Salzman

Just as Obama was the anti-Bush, so Trump is the anti-Obama. Among those who see Obama as weak and anti-American, there are many who see Trump as strong and in favour of a strong America. Among those angry that Obama punishes America's friends and allies, such as Egypt and Israel, and rewards America's enemies, such as Russia and Iran, there are many who think that Trump would support America's allies and be tough with America's enemies. Those who see Obama as flooding the country with immigrants and refugees from the Third World, and feel that this is some kind of anti-white revenge, believe that Trump would at least uphold the immigration law and defend the borders. Those who are aghast that Obama, by word and deed, has shown that he does not like America, and wishes it were a neutral and neutered Scandinavian-like country, see Trump as proud of America, and willing to defend it.

"Walmart Moms" — Republican-primary voters in Pittsburgh — evenly split between supporters of Trump and supporters of other candidates, were asked what kind of car he would be, said he would be a Porsche, a Ferrari, an Escalade, or a muscle car. Asked what kind of animal he would be, said he would be a bulldog or a lion, fierce and king of the jungle. They also said he would be a boxer who would hold his ground. And that he would be refreshingly incorrect. The Walmart Moms, each with a child at home under 18, who shopped at Walmart in the previous month, dismissed other candidates as "almost human," "or a dog that might bite," or "too mild." The women respected Trump's strength and his straight talk. Drawn on Trump's comments on women, the Moms said they didn't really care; even if Trump is a bit sexist, they've "seen worse."

While Obama over his two terms has criticized and blamed Israel not only for not coming to peace with the Palestinians, but even for the general unrest in the Middle East, the American people strongly favour Israel over the Palestinians: according to Gallup. 70% of Americans rate Israel favorably, while 17% rate the

Palestinian Authority favorably; and 62% of Americans are sympathetic to Israelis, while only 16% are sympathetic to the Palestinians. Notice the discrepancy between Obama's attitudes and actions, and public opinion? A *Bloomberg* poll reports, when Republicans were asked about U.S.–Israel relations, Sixty-seven percent [said]: "Israel is an important ally, the only democracy in the region, and we should support it even if our interests diverge."

When President Obama met with the King of Saudi Arabia, he bowed to the King, a ruler of a medieval kingdom that exports widely a fanatical form of Islam. Is this what Americans regard as appropriate behavior of their President? According to Gallup, 58% of Americans have an unfavorable view of Saudi Arabia generally. And even as Jihadi Islamists bomb Western cities and citizens, Obama cannot bring himself admit that this is part of Islam. No, he continues to say that Islam is peace and that the Islamic State has nothing to do with Islam. Not only is Obama out of touch with reality, he is out of touch with American public opinion: The Pew Research Center study found 65 percent of Republicans, or those who lean Republican, want President Barack Obama's successor to speak bluntly about Islamic extremism, even if the statements are critical of Islam as a whole.

Iran is a country dedicated to world dominance by Islam, and the destruction of America. Every Iranian public occasion is graced by choruses of "Death to America." And its terrorist tentacles reach around the world, even to the Americas. But President Obama is keen to make friends with Iran, to get rid of sanctions, and to send them billions and billions of dollars, even as they relentlessly build their military and their missile capacity. As usual, Obama is out of step with the people he is supposed to represent. A good 87% of Americans view Iran unfavorably.

Is it any wonder, then, that many Americans, especially Republicans, are seeking an anti-Obama? Trump is the child of Obama.

(Philip Carl Salzman is a Professor of Anthropology at McGill University and a CIJR Academic Fellow)

Israel and the United States: A Shared History

U.S.-ISRAEL HISTORICAL MILESTONES:

While the United States and Israel remain close allies, the shared values of these two countries reach farther back than the foundation of the modern State of Israel. John Adams expressed his views in a letter to Thomas Jefferson: "I will insist that the Hebrews have done more to civilize man than any other nation."

1947: UN PARTITION:

With U.S. support, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 181, which recommended the end of the British Mandate and the Partition of Palestine into independent Jewish and Arab states.

1948: BIRTH OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL:

On May 14, the U.S. became the first country to extend *de facto* recognition to the State of Israel. However, U.S. policy maintained a neutral stance, and an arms embargo in the Arab-Israel Conflict.

1956: SUEZ CRISIS:

After the nationalization of the Suez Canal by Egypt, the waterway was illegally closed to Israeli ships. Israel, with the backing of Britain and France, attacked Egypt and captured the Gaza Strip and much of the Sinai.

The U.S. subsequently joined the Soviet Union (ironically after the Soviets invaded Hungary) in a campaign to force Israel to withdraw.

1967: THE SIX DAY WAR:

When Egypt closed the Strait of Tiran to Israeli ships, this was the *casus belli* for Israel to defend itself. Israel was at war with Syria, Egypt and Jordan. The U.S. tried to prevent the war through negotiations; however it could not convince Nasser or the other Arab leaders to cease their belligerent actions and statements. Before the war, President Johnson warned: "Israel will not be alone unless it decides to go alone." When the war began, the State Department announced: "Our position is neutral in thought, word and deed." While the Arabs were falsely accusing the U.S. of airlifting supplies to Israel, Johnson imposed a total arms embargo on the region. By contrast, the Soviets were supplying massive amounts of arms to the region to the Arabs.

1967-1970: WAR OF ATTRITION:

Following the Six Day War, the perception in Washington was that many Arab states had permanently drifted towards the Soviets. In 1968,

D THE HISTORY OF TERROR



Yitzhak Rabin, Bill Clinton, and Yasser Arafat at the signing of the Oslo Accords on Sept. 13, 1993

President Johnson, with strong support from Congress, approved the sale of Phantom fighters to Israel.

1973: THE YOM KIPPUR WAR:

In October 1973, Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel on the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir made the controversial decision not to strike first, in large part out of fear of alienating the United States. President Nixon overruled Secretary of State Kissinger's opposition to an emergency airlift operation, which would supply Israel with desperately needed armaments and supplies.

1978: THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS:

Early in his administration, President Carter called for a "Palestinian Homeland," the farthest any American president went to supporting Palestinian nationalism. Later that year, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat made his historical trip to Jerusalem to negotiate a peace treaty with Israel. Carter's administration first opposed Sadat's initiative, but it later reversed course. In the fall of 1978, Carter was instrumental in helping Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Sadat to create the Camp David Accords. This was the first peace treaty between Israel and an Arab state, and it was signed on the White House lawn in 1979.

1981-1989: REAGAN ADMINISTRATION:

Israeli supporters expressed concerns early in the first term of President Ronald Reagan, due in part because several of his appointees had ties or past business associations with key Arab countries. The U.S. implemented a free trade agreement in 1985, eliminating all customs duties between the two countries. Military cooperation strengthened considerably, with Israel being granted "major non-NATO ally" status in 1989. This gave Israel access to expanded weapons systems and opportunities to bid on U.S. defense contracts.

Relations soured when Israel struck the Osirak nuclear reactor in Baghdad, resulting in Reagan suspending a shipment of military aircraft to Israel. Reagan was also critical during the 1982 Lebanon War, even going as far to contemplate sanctions to stop the Israeli Siege of Beirut. Nevertheless, the U.S. vetoed a Soviet-proposed UN resolution to impose an arms embargo on Israel.

1991: FIRST GULF WAR:

In response to the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's invasion and annexation of Kuwait, the U.S.-led coalition waged war against Iraq. Israel became a target of Iraqi Scud missiles. The U.S. urged Israel not to retaliate against Iraq for the attacks, out of fear that Iraq wanted to draw Israel into the conflict and force other coalition members (Egypt and Syria in particular) to quit the coalition and join Iraq in a war against Israel. Israel complied.

39 Iraqi Scud missiles landed in Tel Aviv and Haifa, affecting approximately 3,300 apartments and other buildings resulting in a net loss of \$3.2 billion. A total of 74 people died as a consequence of the Scud attacks.

1993: THE OSLO ACCORDS:

Under President Clinton's presidency, a joint Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles was achieved, based on the agreement worked out in Oslo. Once Israelis and Palestinians reached an agreement, Clinton arranged for the PLO's Yasser Arafat and Israeli PM Yitzhak Rabin to sign the Oslo Declaration of Principles on the White House lawn on September 13, 1993. Clinton also hosted successful early efforts to construct the Israel-Jordan peace treaty that was signed one year later. For Israelis, Clinton is perhaps best remembered for his close relationship with Rabin and his moving eulogy at Rabin's Jerusalem funeral in which he closed with the memorable words "*Shalom haver*" ("Good-bye, friend").

2001-2009: GEORGE W. BUSH ADMINISTRATION:

President Bush maintained a desire to resume the peace process in Israel and before 2005 had openly proclaimed his desire for the creation of a Palestinian state. Bush had denounced PLO leader Yasser Arafat for continued support of violence and terrorist groups and demanded his resignation, a stance that saw the appointment of Mahmoud Abbas, the first Palestinian Prime Minister.

In 2004, Bush endorsed Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to disengage from the Gaza Strip. Bush also announced his agreement with Sharon's policy of denying the Palestinian demand for millions of Palestinian refugees to be given the "Right of Return" to enter Israel, which was a major departure from previous U.S. foreign policy in the region.

2009-PRESENT: BARACK OBAMA PRESIDENCY/2016 ELECTION:

After Barack Obama took office, U.S.-Israel relations came under increased strain. Obama made achieving a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians a major goal and pressured Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu into accepting a Palestinian state and entering negotiations. In accordance with U.S. wishes, Netanyahu imposed a ten-month freeze on settlement construction in Judea and Samaria in 2009. Despite this freeze, the Palestinians refused to enter negotiations with Israel.

Relations between the Obama and Netanyahu governments are tense. On May 2011, Obama called Israel to return to the pre-1967 borders, with mutually-agreed land swaps.

In March 2015, Netanyahu gave a speech to the U.S. Congress without Obama's approval, lobbying against the nuclear deal between the P5+1 and Iran. When the deal passed in April, it came under heavy Republican criticism as well as by both the Israeli government and opposition.

As the November 2016 election begins to loom, many Israelis prefer a Republican Trump Presidency to a probable continuation of Obama's policy under his former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton.

BREXIT: An Opportunity for Britain to Recover Custody of its Foreign Policy

Paul Merkley

On Thursday, June 25, just as all of the major newsgathering services were trying to sort out the meaning of the Brexit decision, “President” Mahmoud Abbas addressed the distinguished members of the European Union’s Parliament. “We are against incitement,” he told them; but by contrast, “just a week ago, a week, a group of rabbis in Israel announced, in a clear announcement, demanding their government, to poison, to poison, the water of the Palestinians. Is this not incitement? Is this not clear incitement, to the mass murder of the Palestinian people?” As always, there was a standing ovation and thunderous applause.

As most students of the History of the Jews will know, the poisoning of the wells of Christian people by Jewish people was one of the charges that served well down into the late Nineteenth Century to call up a pogrom. Of course, Abbas’s story had no foundation in fact. A few hours later Abbas’s office had to send out a statement: “After it was clarified that the alleged statement attributed to a rabbi regarding poisoning wells was unfounded, the Palestinian president stresses that he did not intend to harm Judaism or the Jewish people, in accordance with the deep respect he feels for all religions, including Judaism.” Still, “President” Abbas has not re-appeared in the light of day to redress his call to pogrom.

Abbas knew perfectly well whom he was talking to. For several

decades now, the European Union has been pursuing its own foreign policy – one that reflects the lowest common denominator of the foreign policy ideals and goals of the 28 member states – some of whose own histories, as Rabbi Abraham Cooper notes, “are littered with the terrible consequences of such anti-Semitic blood libels” as that uttered in their midst by Abbas.

According to Lea Speyer, writing for *Algemeiner*: “With Europe sent into crisis mode following the United Kingdom’s decision to leave the European Union on Thursday, the ability of the regional bloc to deal with Mideast issues, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, will be weakened.” Let’s devoutly hope so!

The Simon Wiesenthal Organization for which Rabbi Cooper speaks calculates that “well over 150 million of the EU’s adult citizens harbor anti-Semitic and/or extreme anti-Israel attitudes.” This indubitable fact in itself solves all mysteries... Organizations that survey attitudes towards Israel and the Jews have been warning us for some time about burgeoning anti-Semitism throughout Europe — in consequence of which there has been a dramatic increase in aliyah.

The Brexit decision provides an opportunity for Britain to pursue a foreign policy free of the fixations of continental Europe’s leaders of opinion. Friends of Israel are, of course, aware of a bias towards the “Palestinian” narrative that operates among British intellectuals; but there has also always been a vein of philo-Judaism among Brits in general. In future, British politicians will have no need to suppress that spirit for the sake of comradeship with their continental peers.

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

The True Face of BDS

Robert Lantos

We live in dangerous times. As Jews, we face two concurrent wars: the war of rockets and guns, fought almost continuously on Israel’s borders — and the war of words, spearheaded by the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement, in tandem with its bred-in-Canada campus sibling, the annual festival of hate known as Israel Apartheid Week. Israel has never been defeated on the battlefield, and she must never be. But our enemies have devised other weapons, more sophisticated than rockets, with which to weaken her through isolation and vilification via the spreading of a false narrative that has become gospel in fashionable, politically correct circles.

A few weeks ago, I visited Haifa University. I met students and faculty from the Ambassadors Online program, who are engaged in designing creative and ingenious ways to combat BDS propaganda. Spending a few hours on this campus in one fell swoop lays waste the lie of Israel apartheid. Arab and Druze students make up about 40 per cent of the student body. In classrooms, in the cafeteria, on the grass, they mingle shoulder to shoulder with their Jewish counterparts. This campus reflects the everyday reality of Israeli society, which is about as apartheid as downtown Toronto.

I was born in Hungary. Before the Holocaust, Hungarian Jews took pride in being the most assimilated in all of Europe. They were convinced that their social status, their distinctions and achievements and Hungarianized names like my own made them untouchable. Yet, the majority of Hungary’s Jewish population was murdered in a few months. It began with words. The words set the

stage, which then legitimized the violence that followed. We must learn from the lessons of history. Words are powerful weapons.

The war of words has been fought against Jews for many centuries, in many lands. After the Holocaust, we thought that this was over. But the cycle has begun again. It is now firing on all cylinders across Europe. Recently in the U.K., Labour Party whip and member of Parliament Naz Shah was suspended, but not ejected, from her party for having endorsed the idea that all the Jews of Israel should be shipped off to the U.S... The next day, Ken Livingstone, the former Labour mayor of London, upped the ante. He proclaimed that Adolf Hitler was a Zionist in cahoots with those working toward establishing the Jewish state. That this monstrous perversion can be uttered by the former mayor of a cosmopolitan city signals that the war of words has reached a feverish pitch.

For the past half-century, cushioned here in Canada, we have come to believe that Jew hatred is a thing of the past. But we can no longer afford to hide our collective heads in the sands of wishful thinking. Led by the BDS movement on our campuses — where tomorrow’s leaders are in training — Jew hatred is gaining momentum. Ill-disguised by the paper-thin mask of anti-Zionism, the stated goal of BDS is the elimination of Israel as a Jewish state...

Historically and by inclination, secular Jews tend to lean to the left. To defeat BDS, we must reclaim the liberal, socially engaged hearts and minds — and in particular, Jewish youth. From Bernie Sanders to J Street and Jews for Peace, liberal Jews have come to believe that they must distance themselves from Israel in order to burnish their progressive credentials. In so doing, they march with those who would eliminate the Jewish state.

(National Post, June 14, 2016)

Anti-Zionism and the "Big Lie" of Palestinian Indigeneity

Barbara Kay

Conservative MP Jason Kenney found himself in hot water recently for an innocuous tweet in celebration of National Aboriginal Day, which read: "On Aboriginal Day we honour those who first settled in Canada, and their generations of descendants."

Indignation swelled at the implication that aboriginals' ancestors were "settlers" – i.e. that even 20,000 years ago they had merely *arrived* in Canada as opposed to having evolved here from the primordial ooze. The ineluctable fact that aboriginals' forebears crossed the Bering Strait to establish themselves here thousands of years ago does not fit with First Nations' (erroneous) concept of indigeneity, the sturdy hook from which so many First Nations rights and entitlements depend.

Collectives do not have to have a protozoic relationship to a piece of land to call themselves an indigenous people there, nor is a defined area necessarily confined to one indigenous group. The Cree and the Inuit are both indigenous, but unique peoples. The Québécois, while a viable people unique to Canada, are not indigenous, but do have "rights of longstanding presence," according to internationally recognized norms.

Ironically, while militantly protecting their own precious status of pristine indigeneity in Canada, and ignorant of Jewish and Arab historical timelines in the Middle East, politicized aboriginals, viewing Israelis as white colonizers and identifying with the "oppressed" Palestinians, have in general bought the Palestinians' specious narrative proclaiming their own – and only their own – indigeneity in Israel "from time immemorial." In fact, Jews are the indigenous people of Israel and most of the disputed territories, while Arabs, originally conquerors, are entitled to rights based on "longstanding presence."

Palestinian indigeneity is the Big Lie at the heart of the worldwide anti-Zionist movement and, such is the anti-Semitism based global will to punish Jews for empowering themselves, so far no amount of evidence-based argumentation has been able to displace it. The thing about Big Lies, as we know, is that if they are repeated often enough, they become the received wisdom, and that has been the case here, even – and even most aggressively – amongst many liberal Jewish intellectuals.

That is exactly why it is, paradoxically, so important for young Zionists to acquaint

themselves with the facts, and keep them firmly in mind when they are called upon to defend Israel...

If there is one indispensable tool for acquiring intellectual confidence on this file, it is Joan Peters' 1984 magisterial tome, *From Time Immemorial*... No open-minded person can read it and come away feeling anything but amazement at the successful transmogrification of historical truth perpetrated by skilled anti-Zionist fabricators, and contempt for the betrayal of so many progressive intellectuals in furthering their carnards.

Some Jews have always lived in our homeland; most Jews have longed for the re-establishment of sovereignty in our homeland; and all Jews acknowledge Israel as the core of Jewish peoplehood. Most important, only Jews consider themselves a people for whom that land has been sacred "from time immemorial" – a description that also fits the many peoples that constitute the First Nations of Canada...

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

Western Leaders Wrongly Assume Shared Values

Nathan Elberg

*"There's so much that we share that it's time we're aware;
It's a small world after all"*

— Disney children's song: "It's A Small World After All"

There is a common foundation to many people's approach to foreign policy. It's the idea that all people share more or less the same values, the same goals. Initially the citizens of the Western colonizing nations felt that the peoples they subjugated were primitive, stupid, or sub-human. Later, they assumed that non-Western people thought just like Western people – just like them. Aren't things like peace and security what everyone wants?

In 1978 Edward Said's infamous book *Orientalism* criticized the West's presumption of superiority, and the supposed exaggeration of differences between Western and other societies. Thirty years later, in the twenty-first century the people of the West are too sophisticated to denigrate non-West-

ern peoples.

Natan Sharansky (the Israeli politician and former Soviet Refusenik) wrote in his 2004 book *The Case for Democracy* that growing the Western ideals of freedom and democracy was a key step in bringing peace to the Middle East. President George W. Bush acknowledged Sharansky's influence in formulating his foreign policy, especially the American invasion of Iraq.

But what if the various peoples of the Middle East don't think the same way as Western, democratic societies? What if there isn't "... so much that we share?" "It's time we were aware." Do they all love and protect their children exactly as we do? Philip Salzman's 2008 book *Culture and Conflict in the Middle East*, in its discussion of honor

killings, demonstrates the vast gulf between what Westerners love and protect, and what so many Middle Easterners love and protect.

The proponents of President Obama's nuclear agreement with Iran argue that the deal will work because the nation of Iran is a "rational actor," and will thus not pursue building nuclear weapons. But what goals, what values is Iran rationally pursuing? Certainly not democracy or freedom. The destruction of Israel and hatred of America are clearly defined, oft-repeated Iranian values. An apocalyptic conflict leading to the advent and Shiite messiah is a core religious value of theocratic Iran.

In Iraq, the attempt to impose freedom was an utter failure. Suppressing your neighbor is a greater value than loving, or even respecting, him. As Golda Meir said in 1973, "Peace will come when the Arabs will love their children more than they hate us."

If the next President of the United States continues to base policy on the simplistic ideology of the children's song, the world will slide further into conflict and insecurity.

(Nathan Elberg is Chairman of CIJR's International Board of Directors)

Schizophrenia and International Relations in the Middle East

Julien Bauer

In the sixties, seventies and eighties, when I was spending time in Jerusalem, one of the regular attractions was the official visit of a foreign dignitary, head of State, Prime Minister, Minister. All the streets were decorated by flags, half of them Israeli, half of the visiting guest country. It gave me the occasion to discern the various national emblems I was unaware of. During the stay of the foreign leader, circulation would often be tampered to let the official cortege pass by.

During the eighties and nineties, the number of such visits became so high that the decorations were limited to the entrance to Jerusalem and to the streets leading to the Knesset. The corteges became low key. Then the decision was taken to have even a limited display of flags only for the heads of state. Ministers and even Prime Ministers were not entitled to such an honour.

Today if you are not the head of State of a major power, forget any public recognition of your presence in Jerusalem. This winter, crossing Aza Street at 8 PM with my wife, we had to wait for a cortege of three police cars, two black limousines, and three other police cars. Obviously it was not a minister. Israelis would not tolerate such a display of power. As we were going to a conference, I could not check if a foreign leader was visiting Israel. I checked the TV midnight news. Nothing. I read daily papers the following morning. Nothing. Eventually I went on the TV channel of the Knesset and learned that the President of Greece ended his visit at a state dinner at the Prime Minister's residence. Aza Street leads to this residence and 8 p.m. was the schedule of the dinner.

This case and the fact that every week, at least three or four ministers, usually one Prime Minister, are in Jerusalem show that Jerusalem is a major international destination. You will never know it if you believe the pundits, journalists (most of them), Itzak Herzog and other politicians in the opposition. They repeat day and night that Israel is isolated and that nobody wants to talk to the Israeli Government. Perhaps these pundits, journalists and politicians should spend more time in Jerusalem and see the reality.

So, you will say, everything is fine. The answer is a clear NO. Many of the very same foreign leaders who visit Jerusalem do not hesitate to express not only contempt for Israel but a blind hatred, a visceral anti-Semitism. I am referring to the UNESCO Resolution on Jerusalem, denying any link between Judaism, Jewish People and Jerusalem and proclaiming all the holy sites have only an Arabic name and belong exclusively to Muslims. Apparently for formerly Christian countries, Jesus fustigated the merchants from the Mosque (and not the not existent Temple). It is difficult to find any link between criticizing Israel's policies (peace process, settlements...) and willfully erasing Jewish history. One of the promoters of this infamy was France, formerly known as "la fille aînée de

l'Eglise" (the elder daughter of the Catholic Church) and today the "prominent whore of Islam". Eventually a month after the vote, France's Prime Minister stated it was a mistake. Who is in charge of French diplomacy?

The UNESCO resolution is not an expression of hostility to Israel, as the non-ending list of condemnations of everything Israel does or does not do, but an obvious declaration of abasement by Western democracies, afraid of Islamism, and going back to the accusation of "Ritual Murders" in the Middle Ages.

The same anti-Semitism was exhibited at the European Parliament. On June 23, Mahmud Abbas, leader of the Palestinian Authority, declared that "Rabbis gave the order to poison Palestinian wells", a repetition of the similar Middle Ages accusation. What was the answer of the majority of the European parliamentarians: a standing ovation! So the very same States can send their leaders to Jerusalem one day and deny any link between Jerusalem and Jews the following day. If this is not a sign of confusion, a sign of schizophrenia, what is it? But this is not all.

On June 13th, 2016, for the first time, Israel was elected to chair one of the six Permanent Committees of the United Nations, the legal one. Since it became a member of the UN, Israel has been barred from any chairmanship of any committee. This election is therefore important. The first surprise was that Israel was chosen by the 28-nation Western European and Others Group, part of

them voted for the infamous UNESCO resolution. Normally when a group is in charge of choosing a chairman, it is accepted by all the member States. Yemen, on behalf of the Arab group opposed the move. According to the bizarre UN system, a vote was called, but the choices were Israel, another Western country (in that case Sweden) or abstention. "No" votes are not registered.

The second surprise was the result of the vote. Please remember that a permanent feature of UN policy is to castigate Israel. Out of 193 members, 10 voted for Sweden, 23 abstained and 109 voted for Israel. This move is all the more impressive since the Legal Committee deals, *inter alia*, with international terrorism. Are the UN members aware that Israel could help them fight terrorism? If not why did they vote for Israel, if yes why are they condemning Israel all the time?

As a political scientist, I find extremely difficult to analyze a mixture of non-stop official visits to Jerusalem, signing bilateral agreements, expressing blind anti-Semitism and electing Israel at a top position at the U.N... I suggest a new approach to understanding international relations in the Middle East: psychiatric diplomacy.

(Julien Bauer is a Professor of Political Science at Université du Québec à Montréal and a CIJR Academic Fellow)



Sara Zfatman. *Jewish Exorcism in Early Modern Ashkenaz* [Hebrew]. Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 2015

Ira Robinson

One of the salient characteristics of spiritual life in Europe in the early modern era (the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries) was an increased sensitivity to supernatural phenomena, particularly those ascribed to the demonic realm. In the Christian world in this era, this was expressed in a veritable epidemic of accusations of witchcraft, mostly against women, as well as frequent and persistent accusations against Jews that they were in league with the devil, and that they regularly desecrated Christian sacra.

Within Jewish communities, a similar dynamic translated, among other things, into a series of narratives concerning spirits of the dead taking possession of the bodies of the living [*dybbuk*].

These spirit possession narratives have long held an important place in the Jewish folkloric imagination and they spurred a significant modern literary creation: the early twentieth century play “The Dybbuk” by S. Ansky. The early modern Jewish narratives, which begin in earnest in the kabbala-suffused intellectual atmosphere of Safed in the sixteenth century, have been studied by both Gedalyahu Nigal and, more recently, by J.H. Chajes in his English book, *Between Worlds: Dybbuks, Exorcists, and Early Modern Judaism* (2003).

Sara Zfatman of the Hebrew University, who specializes in early modern Yiddish literature and folklore, uses her formidable literary investigative abilities in order to shine important new light on spirit possession narratives among Ashkenazic communities in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In particular, this book showcases her talent as a meticulous literary detective in tracking down two major and several additional minor literary sources (some surviving in only one copy) in both Hebrew and Yiddish describing a spirit possession and exorcism that occurred in the Moravian town of Nikolsburg in 1696. She considers the Nikolsburg narratives to be of great significance as the model followed by subsequent spirit possession narratives among Ashkenazic Jews.

By judiciously comparing her sources and correlating them with the knowledge we possess of Moravian Jewry and its rabbinic of that era, the author shows us not merely the bare facts of the incident (from several mostly complementary perspectives) but also with considerable specificity how the exorcism was handled and by whom. Most importantly, beyond the narrative sources, she has identified a manuscript (Oxford 1965, opp. 485) that she claims was the “handbook” utilized by the scholar conducting the exorcism, Moshe ben Menahem Preger.



Zfatman’s analysis, therefore, gives us a unique vantage point from which to examine the praxis of *kabbala ma’asit* [“practical kabbala”], the expertise of those claiming to be able to utilize the numinous power contained in divine names. The men who performed the exorcism rituals that Zfatman describes in such minute detail were often called *ba’alei shem* [masters of the utilization of divine names]. These men, the most famous of whom was Israel ben Eliezer, whom Hasidim revere as the founder of their movement, were much in demand in the Ashkenazi world of the eighteenth century from the Polish Commonwealth in the east to London in the west for healing, exorcism, protective amulets, and much else. Zfatman’s study adds significantly to our growing understanding of these men, what they believed, and how they practiced their profession.

Zfatman’s discussion of Ashkenazic intellectuals at the turn of the eighteenth century almost inevitably brings her to a consideration of the influence of the seventeenth century messianic movement of Shabbetai Zvi on these men. Scholars of early modern Judaism have long noted the tremendous influence and lasting power of Sabbatian belief on many rabbis, preachers, and scribes who remained within Jewish communities (as well as others whose Sabbatian beliefs drove them beyond the Jewish community into conversion to Islam or Christianity). Zfatman’s investigation largely substantiates Yehuda Liebes’ findings in this area and convincingly demonstrates that a large number of the men who took part in the Nikolsburg exorcism were likely Sabbatian believers themselves or at the very least travelled in intellectual circles replete with such believers.

Beyond its meticulous textual analysis which, refreshingly, lets us know not merely what Zfatman has discovered, but also those details on which she is still unclear, the book has the merit of publishing some 250 pages of primary documents in Yiddish and Hebrew that allow the reader to examine the material she presents independently. The book should be read by all those wishing to delve deeply into the spiritual and intellectual world of Ashkenazi Jews in early modernity.

(Ira Robinson is a Professor of Judaic Studies in the Department of Religion, Concordia University, and a CIJR Academic Fellow)

FROM CIJR'S LIBRARY: NEW BOOKS

Dwor, Richa. *Jewish Feeling: Difference and Affect in Nineteenth-Century Jewish Women's Writing*. London: Bloomsbury, 2015

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

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

Todd, Chuck. *The Stranger: Barack Obama in the White House*. New York: Little, Brown & Company, 2014

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HONOUR ROLL

Elie Wiesel ז"ל
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EXTRA! EXTRA!

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear friends and supporters,

While Islamist terrorist atrocities are taking place almost daily in Israel, Europe the U.S. and other parts of the world, here in Canada too, despite the summer-vacation mood, anti-Israel activists do not rest.

The Green Party of Canada will be debating in their August convention only two foreign-affairs resolutions, both anti-Israel. Again Israel is being singled out. One resolution calls for supporting BDS and the other for revoking the charitable status of the Jewish National Fund of Canada (JNF).

As we speak there is a counter campaign going on, launched by various organizations in the Jewish Community to protest these rogue resolutions.

I am just back from Israel, where I saw Arabs everywhere, enjoying Israeli sites, restaurants, cafes, beaches, parks in peace, with no one bothering them and no fear of being terrorized. Yet walking in the empty alleys of the Old City of Jerusalem, we had to exercise extra caution. When we dared go up to Temple Mount, we experienced much tension and an anti-Semitic slur. In other parts of the West Bank and of course Gaza, caution won't help—you just might not come out alive.

As I reflect on these issues, the asymmetry of the situation is shocking, yet Israel's vibrant democracy and its people are being assaulted by the likes of the Green Party of Canada.

The Jewish people's right to their ancestral land and to live in peace without being terrorized and threatened daily, is denied and contested. As the well-respected Rabbi Sacks and other Jewish and non-Jewish luminaries put it: "The new anti-Semitism is anti-Zionism".

At CIJR, we are busy working on programing for the 2016-2017 academic year.

On the financial side, as a small non-profit it is always a struggle, as we search for generous, and understanding, angels to ensure CIJR's role in supporting our students against BDS attacks, educating the public around the world, and monitoring the media.

Thank you as always for your support and loyalty. With the U.S. Presidential election campaign entering the final and decisive months, let's hope that sanity and reason, and peace and prosperity for Israel and mankind, will prevail in a seemingly ever-more chaotic world.

Jack Kincler, National Board Chairman

CIJR TORONTO'S DYNAMIC PLANNING FOR 2016-17

Alan Herman

It has been an exciting time for CIJR in Toronto since our last update. At the well-attended annual "Israel Advocacy Workshop Day", Dr. Miles Smit represented the Institute by leading a seminar on "How to be a more effective advocate for Israel". The engaged audience asked great questions, and a vigorous discussion took place.

Shortly afterwards, on April 12th, CIJR boldly went where no one else in North America dared go before, and held its "Israel in Space" Gala in Toronto. Our Keynote speaker Tal Inbar of the Fisher Institute for Air and Space Strategic Studies floored his Jewish community and aerospace-expert audience by introducing them to such Israeli aerospace achievements as Israel's satellite programs and the fact that Israel will soon land a craft on Mars (and to Israel's high-secret monitoring of Iranian and Korean ballistic-missile development).

Following on the heels of this event, CIJR Fellow Prof. Aurel Braun delivered a compelling talk about his experiences fighting to halt Israel demonization at the University of Toronto, in his "Contemporary Israel & the Jewish People" seminar. A s few weeks later, in our first partnership with Beth David Synagogue, we proudly hosted University of Waterloo's Prof. James Diamond's intellectually exciting talk "Moses Maimonides: Soft Messianism, Hard Zionism".

CIJR-Toronto is planning for the upcoming year, including early autumn events that focus on a conference devoted to combatting self-professed "Jewish" enemies of Israel, and the launching of the annual *Dateline: Middle East*, CIJR's unique student-written and -produced pro-Israel magazine now inn its 29th consecutive year!

The CIJR flag is flying proudly in Toronto, and we invite you all to take part!

(Alan Herman is one of CIJR's Toronto Chapter Co-Chairs)