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ISRAEL AT 70!

Photo: Ashernet

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Editorial**Celebrating Israel At 70**

Frederick Krantz

As the democratic Jewish state of Israel turns seventy, what is the historical-social balance sheet? What is the meaning of modern Israel—which only three generations ago had to fight for its very existence against five invading Arab armies—both for the Jewish people and the world?

First, modern Israel is today one of the world's most successful societies. Its standard of living ranks with the West European countries; a nuclear power, its IDF is considered among the top armies in the world. Its dynamic yet stable economy is outstanding, and technologically (including a remarkable space/satellite program) Israel outranks every major country save for the United States.

Arab and leftist propaganda notwithstanding, Israel is the region's only democracy, in which Arabs and Christians, as well of course as the Jewish majority (6,556,000 out of a total 8,793,000), are represented in the Knesset. (And Israel's growth rate, at 2% in 2015, averaging three children per woman, is three times greater than the OECD's).

The Jewish state has peace treaties with two former Muslim enemies, Egypt and Jordan, increasingly good relations with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, and with great powers like China, Russia and India. Its largest economic partner is the European Union, its closest ally the world's only superpower, the USA, especially under Donald Trump—and U.S. popular support for Israel is, at 75%, the highest ever.

Indeed, we rightly marvel at the breathtaking rapidity, in what seems a blink of an historical eye, of modern Israel's transformation from a tiny, poor state created just three years after the horror of the Holocaust, into a modern, dynamic regional hegemon. Initially hanging by a thread as the Arabs attempted to strangle it in its cradle, then successfully accepting and integrating hundreds of thousands of Ashkenazi survivors from Europe and Sephardic expellees from Arab countries, Israel became a flourishing democracy, an advanced military power, and a dynamic economic-technological powerhouse—the world's leading advanced “start-up nation”.

Yet we should never forget that key to modern Israel's development is the fact it is the legatee of a creative and dynamic Jewish People, whose history reaches back over 4,000 years. As the state of the Jewish People, modern Zionist Israel, secular as well as religious, is the product, of values embodied in *Tanach*, the Hebrew Bible.

Judaism paved the way for modern Western civilization, through its invention of monotheism, and its vision of the rights of the individual and of history as a meaningful process. Indeed, it was Judaism which invented, and with its step-daughter, Christianity, spread, the key modern Western idea of Progress, of man's ability to live morally, to speak truth to Power and, through his mastery of nature, to create minimize suffering and create a harmonious human community.

Still, Israel lives in a notoriously unstable and dangerous neighborhood, and in a larger post-World War II world which, despite modernity's many achievements, is also a dangerous, and often unstable, place. And while regionally Israel is in better shape today than at any point since 1947-48, the collapse of many Islamic states into crisis and civil war after the so-called Arab Spring created surrounding instability, above all in civil-war wracked, and Russian- and Iranian-occupied, Syria.

Syria today is a failed state, with half a million dead, civilian and military, and ca.11 million internal and external refugees (half its total population). It is also a potential flashpoint—pro- and anti-Assad forces jostle up against assorted Islamists, Russians, Hezbollah, Iranian forces, Turks and, in the north-east, Kurds and Americans. An unforeseen incident (*e.g.*, Israel's efforts to prevent the arming of Lebanese Hezbollah by Iran through Syria, the Turks new incursion against Kurdish forces in north-east [Afrin] could, despite “deconfliction” agreements, trigger a wider war.

And behind the Syrian situation is Israel's one major, continuing existential problem, the terrorist-expansionist Shiite mullah-crazy of Iran, a Holocaust-denying Islamic fundamentalist entity sworn to destroy the Jewish state and well on its way (despite-or because of—the Obama nuclear pact) to becoming a missile-armed nuclear power.

Preventing the devolution of the Syrian situation, blocking Iranian expansionism (in Syria,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

**Passover 5778:
A Script of Living Drama**

Baruch Cohen

In loving memory of Malka ז"ל

A passage in the *Mishna* says, Every person in every generation must look upon himself/herself as if he/she came out of Egypt.

The key idea that underlies the feast of Passover is great and profoundly human: the idea of freedom, of humanness. Passover shows that the human spirit's struggle for freedom is the basis of the democratic vision of human dignity.

For us, the Jewish people, Passover marks our birth as a free people: our Sages teach us that liberty must be fought for, and renewed, in every generation.

Passover, the liberation from Egyptian slavery, affirms the great truth that liberty is an undeniable right of every human being. By celebrating Passover we are learning about our Jewish past, and thus ensuring our human future.

Hag Pesach Sameach! Happy Passover!

(Baruch Cohen, now 98, has been CIJR's Research Chairman for 30 years; his moving memoir, No One Bears Witness for the Witness, just published, is available from CIJR at cijr@isranet.org)

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

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WEEKLY QUOTES

“Many countries in the Middle East are saying that they are also allowed to enrich uranium if Iran is allowed to do so; therefore, the way to prevent this danger, the nuclearization of the Middle East, is to either thoroughly correct the agreement or abrogate it...Moreover, I remind you that Iran declares, on an almost daily basis – including recently, its intention to wipe out the State of Israel. It is hardly worth saying that we will not allow this, to put it mildly.” — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. (*Jerusalem Online*, Mar. 11, 2018)

“There is no better partner of the United States than the State of Israel...The president has announced he will no longer sign waivers with the JCPOA, the Iran nuclear deal... The president is not only committed to making sure Israel is safe, but that its neighbors and the rest of the world are safe from ballistic missiles and from Iran exporting terrorism through the region.” — U.S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin. (*Algemeiner*, Mar. 9, 2018)

“Israel is a living testament to the power of freedom and the power of faith...To this day, we grieve the loss of the six million martyrs of the Holocaust...Just three years after walking through the valley of the shadow of death, they rose to rebuild a Jewish future and Jewish state.” — U.S. Vice President Mike Pence. Pence said that it was his “great honor to be the first Vice President to address the Knesset in Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Israel.” (*Algemeiner*, Mar. 5, 2018)

“Well to understand the significance you have to appreciate...that the Jewish people remember the Declaration of Cyrus from 2500 years ago that allowed the Jews to go back and rebuild the Second Temple. Now I don’t know if the Persian remember Cyrus, but the Jewish people remember Cyrus. This decision [by Trump] will be remembered forever for the Jewish people. The fact that the leader of the free world, the most powerful country in the world, becomes the first leader to recognize Jerusalem as our capital, is a decision that will never ever be forgotten by the Jewish people.” — Israel’s Ambassador to the U.S. Ron Dermer. (*Jewish Press*, Mar. 5, 2018)

“Canada’s Conservatives led by Andrew Scheer will recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital when we form government in 2019...Canada’s Conservatives have been, and always will be, a strong voice for Israel and the Canadian Jewish community. Israel is one of Canada’s strongest allies and a beacon of pluralism and democratic principles in a turbulent part of the world. Canada’s Conservatives recognize the obvious fact that Israel, like every other sovereign nation, has a right to determine where its capital is located. Jerusalem is the capital of Israel.” — Statement on the Conservative Party of Canada website. (*Global*, Feb. 26, 2018)

SHORT TAKES

PALESTINIAN PM SURVIVES ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT (Gaza) — The Palestinian prime minister survived an assassination attempt during a visit to Gaza. Rami Hamdallah, the PA prime minister, had just entered Gaza when a roadside explosive detonated near his convoy. Hamdallah was not injured but seven of his aides suffered slight wounds. It was not immediately clear who was behind the attempted assassination but a spokesman for Mahmoud Abbas said he held Hamas responsible as “the de facto power in Gaza”. (*Telegraph*, Mar. 13, 2018)

BDS MOTION DEFEATED AT U OF O (Ottawa) — Students at the University of Ottawa rejected another motion to back the anti-Israel BDS. In November, the SFUO’s Board of Administration considered but rejected a similar motion to endorse BDS. Instead, it passed a motion “to do all in its power to peacefully resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.” This came on the heels of a failed attempt by activists within the SFUO to revoke the club status of Hillel Ottawa just weeks earlier. The vote marked the 10th defeat in a row for BDS on Canadian campuses. (*Arutz Sheva*, Mar. 14, 2018)

U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AMONG HIGHEST EVER RECORDED (Washington) — Gallup published the findings of a major national poll that found backing for Israel among Americans remains extremely high. Fully 74 percent of American adults have a favorable view of Israel, while 23% have an unfavorable view. That’s the best showing for Israel in 27 years, since 1991’s 79% as Israel was battered by Iraqi missiles during the

Gulf War. The figures varied dramatically depending on political affiliation. Support for Israel is at 83% among Republicans, 72% among independents and 64% among Democrats. (*Times of Israel*, Mar. 14, 2018)

ISRAEL WORLD’S 11TH-HAPPIEST COUNTRY (Jerusalem) — Israel is the 11th-happiest country in the world for the fifth year running, according to the UN report. According to the report, the life span of Israelis increased by 3.1 years between 2000 and 2015, from 69.7 to 72.8. The Palestinian territories ranked 104th, while Syria ranked 150th out of 156 countries surveyed. The U.S. slipped from 14th place to 18th place this year. Finland clinched first place, as Norway – last year’s winner – went to second place. Among the top 10 countries were Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, Netherlands, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. (*Jerusalem Post*, Mar. 15, 2018)

PRINCE WILLIAM TO VISIT TO ISRAEL (London) — Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, is scheduled to visit Israel, the West Bank and Jordan in summer 2018. Members of the British royal family have historically rejected official state visits to Israel, though several have made it to the Holy Land on personal visits. Prince Charles attended the funeral of Shimon Peres. President Rivlin called the Prince “a very special guest,” and the occasion “a very special present for our 70th year of independence.” (*Jerusalem Post*, Mar. 1, 2018)



EPA Photo

Israelis watch fireworks during the 67th Israel Independence Day celebrations in Tel Aviv, 2015.”

TRUMP UPENDS DECADES OF U.S. POLICY WITH JERUSALEM DECLARATION

Editorial

A Little Nation Does The Right Thing

After President Donald Trump announced that the U.S. would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move its embassy accordingly, western politicians and commentators heaped contempt on the move and predicted violence and bloodshed in Israel and in the Arab street. Hamas, the Islamic terror group, said the move would “open the gates of hell” and called for a third Intifada. The Palestinian Fatah movement promised three “days of rage,” and there were protests in Amman and Tehran and Cairo and elsewhere.

But the three days of rage turned into about eighteen hours of protests—and that was it. The predictions of widespread violence were wrong. U.S. officials have said the move to Jerusalem will happen officially on May 14, the seventieth anniversary of Israeli independence. Two days later, the little central American nation of Guatemala will also move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. “It is important to be among the first,” Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales said...at the annual American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) policy conference, “but it is more important to do what’s right.”

Guatemala was one of only nine nations that backed the U.S. embassy move when the U.N. passed a resolution condemning it. The other countries were similarly small players on the global

stage: Honduras, the Marshall Islands, Togo, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, and of course Israel. We hear the guffaws of the foreign policy elites in Washington and London and Paris. Guatemala? Honduras? Togo? The alignment of these few little nations with U.S. policy is itself, the elites suggested, an indication of just how outlandish the American policy is.

Well, okay. But 35 nations merely abstained in the U.N. vote, and many of them are both sizeable and influential: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, to name a few. We wonder what would happen if some of these nations also decided to move their embassies to Jerusalem? Perhaps not much, or perhaps some halfhearted protests in middle eastern capitals and some formulaic denunciations from the usual suspects in Turtle Bay. Perhaps not even that.

In any case, there must be few substantive reasons for these nations to keep their embassies 40 miles from what everybody knows full well is the center and capital of the Israeli state. So far from jeopardizing the at-present nonexistent peace process, moving those embassies would help to rid future negotiations of the pernicious delusion that the Palestinians may one day control all of Jerusalem. The only basis on which to negotiate is the truth, and so far the U.S. and Guatemala are the first openly to acknowledge that truth. Others are welcome to follow.

(Weekly Standard, Mar. 6, 2018)

What Kind of ‘Honest Broker’ Won’t Admit What City Is Your Capital?

Vivian Bercovici

There are 193 sovereign nations on this Earth. Diplomatic convention dictates that each designates a capital city, which is recognized by the international community. Except when it comes to Israel. On Dec. 6, 2017, U.S. President Donald Trump fulfilled a bi-partisan commitment by Congress, first articulated in 1995, and announced that the United States not only recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital but further pledged to move the American embassy there from its current home in Tel Aviv.

Less than 24 hours later, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated, unequivocally, that Canada would not move its embassy...Shortly thereafter, Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland expressed agreement, noting “the status of Jerusalem can be resolved only as part of a general settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli dispute.” Well, here’s the thing. Recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel does nothing to prejudice the outcome of the “conflict” or any related negotiations. Minister Freeland’s somnambulist repetition of a rather shopworn position — a favourite of the Department of Global Affairs — reflects either a profound disinterest or a lack of understanding of the complexity, and yet also simplicity, of the issue.

From 1948 until 1967, Israel controlled what is referred to by some as “West Jerusalem,” and, in keeping with its designation of Jerusalem as its capital, located in that city all important government offices and institutions, including the Knesset (parliament) and Supreme Court. By accepting the truce boundaries of 1949, the United Nations implicitly recognized West Jerusalem as an indis-

putable part of sovereign Israel. When reference is made to determining the final outcome of the status of “Jerusalem”, this refers to the walled Old City and “East Jerusalem,” which was under Jordanian control until 1967...

Recently, federal Conservative leader Andrew Scheer affirmed that if elected in 2019, his government would do what the Liberals steadfastly refuse to even consider: recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Predictably, many have attempted to denigrate this policy position as nothing more than parroting President Trump, or crass ethnic vote pandering. In fact, the exact opposite is true. Only in three of the 338 federal ridings is there enough of a concentration of Jewish voters to have any direct influence on the outcome. And, even in those cases, there is anything but a unified Jewish position on the Jerusalem issue, or any other. Canada’s 375,000 Jews are a well-established and very assimilated cohort that defy reduction to simplistic stereotypes.

The Americans, meanwhile, are moving ahead with their plans, and with far less backlash than many had expected. Several days ago, the American Embassy move was confirmed for May 14, on what will be the 70th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the state of Israel.

Of course, President Trump is so polarizing a figure that many feel compelled to reflexively disagree with any position he supports. Focus, then, instead on his articulate UN Ambassador, Nikki Haley, who fiercely defends this bold American gesture as one of principle that does not, in any way, prejudice the outcome of negotiations. Rather, she has reminded the Palestinian leadership that its chronic intransigence and refusal to negotiate with Israel is the main obstacle to peace, not the long overdue American recognition of Jerusalem...

(National Post, Feb. 28, 2018)

ISRAEL MONITORS BORDER THREATS AMID GROWING REGIONAL TENSION

Iran's Imperial Ambitions Challenge Middle East Borders

Elliott Abrams

In May, 2017 Major General Qassem Soleimani, chief of the Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps' foreign operations branch known as the Qods Force, visited the Iraq/Syria border in the company of an Iran-backed Shia militia. A spokesman for the militia, called the Popular Mobilization Forces, was quoted in Newsweek:

"This will be the first step to the liberation of the entire border," Ahmad al-Asadi, a spokesperson for the PMF said, according to the Associated Press. "This victory will also be an important incentive for the Syrian Arab Army to secure the entire border from the Syrian side," he added. Iranian-backed forces, that is, would take both sides of the border, so for Iran there would be no border. In June Soleimani was reported to be on the Syrian side of the border.

Now, it is reported that one of Iran's hardest-line leaders, Ibrahim Raisi, has visited the Israeli-Lebanese border. Raisi, the defeated candidate for president in 2017, is a member of the Assembly of

Experts that will choose a successor to "Supreme Leader" Ali Khamenei and is a candidate for that position himself. Visiting Beirut, he took time to talk with the head of Hezbollah and to pay his respects at the home of the late terrorist mastermind Imad Mughniyeh. But, as the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs noted, "The high point of Raisi's visit occurred in southern Lebanon when he toured the border with Israel escorted by Hizbullah military commanders and Iranian officers...."

Like Soleimani's Iraq/Syria border visit, Raisi's Lebanon/Israel border visit delivers several messages. First, borders have no meaning for Iran; the Islamic Republic is determined to be the dominant player in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. Second, the governments of those countries have no control of their own borders and territory; Iranian military and terrorist leaders can come and go as they please. Third, whether Lebanon gets into a conflict with Israel will be determined by decisions made in Tehran, not in Beirut.

That is a sad development for most Lebanese, who are not fanatical Hezbollah supporters. But it is one the United States should keep in mind as we assess our relations with Lebanon and our military aid to that country.

(Council on Foreign Relations, Feb. 5, 2018)

The West Sleeps Peacefully Because of Israel

Giulio Meotti

While Turkish President Erdogan and Pope Francis were in Rome complimenting each other on Jerusalem and the European Union was rolling out red carpets to Mahmoud Abbas, Israel was protecting the West.

This small state has hitherto prevented Iran from manufacturing the atomic bomb, it has ruined the nuclear plans of Saddam Hussein and Bashar el Assad thanks to two solitary bombings, it guards the security of Jordan that without Israel would collapse today like a cooked pear, it has foiled attacks by ISIS on European civilian flights and we now discover that Egypt's el Sisi has recently asked Israel to bomb ISIS' posts in Sinai.

Israel today is the fireman of the Middle East. Imagine the region, from time to time, without Israel as the anti-Semites of the whole world dream of it. A Middle East of beheaders facing the Mediterranean, a Middle East of planes full of Westerners flying from Sharm el Sheikh and sinking in the Red Sea, a Middle East of a race to atomic weapons by dictatorships of all kinds, a Middle East of even more millions of refugees going to Europe. Tonight we will sleep more peacefully thanks to Israel.

What an extraordinary country is the Jewish State! Tension is rising and extensive military simulations are under way, with the participation of the U.S. Army, in the event of a missile attack Defense Minister Liberman has just warned that Israel will not allow images like those of 2006 to repeat themselves, when the citizens of Beirut were on the beach while the Israelis in Tel Aviv were in shelters.

Yet, this extraordinary little country has just been named the third most innovative in the world by the World Economic Forum. The others are all democracies that have known war 70 years ago, often succumbing to evil. How did Israel innovate despite the fact that it is a democracy at war since its creation? Brain, grit and the prospect of the imminent destruction. In the air of Israel one breathes a kind



Prime Minister Netanyahu and military commanders on Israel's northern border in the Golan Heights

Credit: Kobi Gideon/GPO/Ashernet

of anxiety of happiness and creation that derives from the fragility of this extraordinary adventure. A miracle.

Israel does not have time to finish the announcement of the construction of a handful of houses in the post-1967 Judea and Samaria that the UN Security Council is already reunited against, that the European Commission already sent its official declaration about, that the editorials condemning the decision are already being printed and that the lists of products to be boycotted have already been drawn up.

In the last two weeks Israel has buried two Israeli rabbis, killed in cold blood by their "peace" partners, but the same condemnation of those houses has not been seen or heard for the murder of the Jews who live there.

Are we sure that the blood of the Jews is red, that they too have children and mothers, that after the Shoah they really regained their right to exist? I begin to doubt it. Every day we watch a streamed new episode of the series "Destroying Israel, a Jew at a time". It is one of the most popular television productions in history.

(Arutz Sheva, Feb. 7, 2018)

ISRAEL FROM ANTIQUITY

PRE-MODERN PERIOD

The Jewish People's presence in the land of Israel has continued for over 3,200 years. In the thirteenth century B.C.E., Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, transmitted to the people of this emerging nation the Torah and Ten Commandments; after 40 years in the Sinai desert, Joshua led them into the Land of Israel. Israelite rule began ca. 1250 B.C.E., with the period from 1587 B.C.E. known as the "Period of the Kings". The most noteworthy kings were King David (1010-970), who made Jerusalem the Capital of Israel, and his son Solomon (Shlomo, 970-931), who built the first Temple in Jerusalem, as described in the *Tanach* (Hebrew Bible). The Jewish People returned from exile after the First, "Babylonian" Diaspora (587), and were expelled again in 137 C.E., after the Second Temple had been destroyed in 70 C.E., by a Roman army led by Titus.

While sovereignty in the Land was lost after 137 C.E., a Jewish presence endured there into the Muslim conquest, Christian Crusades, and across the Middle Ages, with resettlement (especially in Jerusalem and Safed) beginning in the early modern period and picking up steam (the *Yishuv*, or Settlement) with Theodor Herzl's development of Zionism in the nineteenth century.

2 NOVEMBER 1917: THE BALFOUR DECLARATION

Sir Arthur Balfour, British Foreign Secretary during World War One, wrote a letter to the head of the British Jewish Community, asserting that the Crown was in favour of the creation of a Jewish Homeland in Palestine. "His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country".

1939-1945: SECOND WORLD WAR AND THE HOLOCAUST

Nazi Germany took control of almost all of Europe, annihilating 6 million Jews. In the meantime, Palestine was largely closed off to Jewish refugees due to immigration quo-



Photo: Government Press Office

Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, stands under a portrait of Theodore Herzl, the father of modern Zionism, as he reads Israel's declaration of independence on May 14, 1948.

tas imposed by the British. Many Arab leaders, such as the Mufti of Jerusalem, sided with Germany and expressed Nazi antisemitic views.

29 NOVEMBER 1947: UN PARTITION PLAN

When Britain after 1945 vacated its Mandate responsibility, the United Nations General Assembly, under Resolution 181, voted a partition plan separating the Land of Palestine into two states, one for the Arabs and the other for the Jews. The resolution also included a Special International Regime for the city of Jerusalem, which meant it would be an international city. The Partition plan stipulated the end of the British Mandate, the progressive withdrawal of British forces, and the delineation of boundaries between the Jewish and Arab states.

14 MAY 1948: DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Following the Independence War of 1947-1948, sparked by Arab countries spurning Resolution 181 and seeking instead to destroy the nascent Jewish state, David Ben-Gurion declared Israel a sovereign country. The first Arab-Israeli War began on May 15, 1948, with attacks by Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon. At the end of the war in 1949, Israel retained all the territories that Resolution 181 had assigned, as well as almost 60% of formerly Arab territories.

24 FEBRUARY 1949: ARMISTICE AGREEMENT

An armistice, but not a peace, agreement was signed between Israel and Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan, following the Israeli-Arab War of 1948.

29 OCTOBER 1956: SUEZ CANAL CRISIS

The nationalization of the Suez Canal by Egyptian President Gamel Abdel Nasser and a terrorist campaign provoked Israel's invasion of Egypt, in conjunction with France and Britain. The aim was to regain Western Control of the Canal and force Nasser out of power, a goal which failed because U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower (who later regretted this) supported the Egyptians.

2 JUNE 1964: FORMATION OF THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO)

Set up in Arab Jerusalem, the Palestinian National Council's initial goal was to liberate Palestine through an armed struggle mainly targeting Israeli civilians. Until the Madrid Conference of 1991, the PLO was seen by Israel and the United States as a terrorist organization. (In 1994, as a result of the Oslo Accord, the PLO supposedly agreed to Israel's right to live in peace and, in return, was deemed by Israel to be the official representative of the Palestinian people.

5 JUNE 1967: SIX-DAY WAR

Nasser closed the Red Sea's Straits of Tiran to Israeli vessels. After the earlier Suez Crisis, Israel had won a U.S. and U.N. guaran-



TO THE MODERN STATE

tee that the Straits of Tiran would remain open to Israeli shipping, which Egypt now failed to respect, announcing its intention to destroy the Jewish State. As Egypt massed its troops, Israel launched preemptive strikes against Egypt, and waged war against Jordan and Syria when they entered as well. Israel won the war after only six days, taking control of numerous areas: the Western Wall and East Jerusalem (from the Jordanians), the Golan Heights (from Syria), and the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Sinai Peninsula (from Egypt).

SEPTEMBER 1972: MUNICH MASSACRE

Palestinian “Black September” gunmen took eleven Israeli Olympic team members hostage in Munich and killed them along with a German police officer. Police officers killed five of the eight Black September members during a failed attempt to rescue hostages.

OCTOBER 1973: YOM KIPPUR WAR

A coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria, launched a co-ordinated attack against Israeli forces in the occupied Sinai and Golan Heights on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in Judaism. Israel ultimately prevailed, almost reaching Damascus and Cairo, but only after suffering significant losses.



Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein greet each other at the Arava Border Terminal prior to the signing of the peace treaty between their countries on October 26, 1994.

17 SEPTEMBER 1978: CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

In November, 1977, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat visited Jerusalem, addressed the Knesset, and began the process that led to Israel's withdrawal from Sinai and Egypt's recognition of Israel in the Camp David Accords of 1978, signed by Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin following secret negotiations at Camp David in the U.S. The second of two framework agreements led directly to the 1979 Egypt–Israel Peace Treaty; Sadat and Begin shared the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize.

26 MARCH 1979: EGYPT-ISRAEL PEACE TREATY

The Egypt–Israel peace treaty was signed in Washington, following the 1978 Camp David Accords, by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and witnessed by United States President Jimmy Carter.

JUNE 1982: START OF LEBANON WAR

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) invaded southern Lebanon on June 6, 1982, after repeated attacks by and counter-attacks against the PLO in southern Lebanon. The military operation was launched after gunmen from Abu Nidal's organization attempted to assassinate Shlomo Argov, Israel's ambassador to the United Kingdom. Begin blamed the PLO for the incident and treated it as a *casus belli* for the invasion.

DECEMBER 1987: THE FIRST INTIFADA

The First Intifada was a Palestinian uprising against Israeli control of the West Bank and Gaza, and lasted from 1987 until the Madrid Conference in 1991 (though some date its conclusion in 1993, with the Oslo Accords). 100 Israeli civilians and 60 IDF personnel were killed, and more than 1,400 Israeli civilians and 1,700 soldiers injured. In Gaza, the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood now formed the terrorist Hamas movement against Israel.

1993: PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND PLO LEADER YASSER ARAFAT SIGN OSLO DECLARATION

Designed to encourage Palestinian self-government and formally end the First Intifada followed in September, 1995 when Israeli P.M. Yitzhak Rabin and PLO head Yasser Arafat signed an Interim Agreement for transfer of further power and territory to a Palestinian National Authority. In November, 1995, a Jewish extremist assassinated Rabin in Tel Aviv.

26 OCTOBER 1994: ISRAEL-JORDAN PEACE TREATY

The Israel–Jordan peace treaty was signed at the southern border crossing of Arabah on October 26, 1994. Prime Minister Rabin and Prime Minister Abdelsalam al-Majali signed the treaty and the President of Israel Ezer Weizman shook hands with King Hussein. Pres. Clinton observed.

18 JUNE 1996: BENJAMIN NETANYAHU OF LIKUD BECAME THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER

The first Prime Minister born in Israel after the establishment of the state, Netanyahu served his first term from June 1996 to July 1999, and has since been elected Prime Minister four times, matching David Ben-Gurion's record. He is currently the second longest-serving Prime Minister in Israel's history after Ben-Gurion, and will—if his current government lasts a full term—become the longest-serving Prime Minister in the history of Israel.

6 DECEMBER 2017: U.S. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP RECOGNIZES JERUSALEM

Trump recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capitol, pledging to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The move broke with long-time U.S. policy and, according to the UN, EU and numerous world leaders, supposedly threatened regional stability. But the American leader insisted it did not signal a shift away from America's goal of a workable peace in the volatile region. On February 23, 2018, Trump announced that the new U.S. embassy in Jerusalem will open in May, 2018, to coincide with, and to celebrate, Israel's seventieth anniversary.

(Timeline by Liora Chartouni, former Managing Editor of CIJR's Dateline: Middle East student magazine, and Rob Coles, CIJR Publications Manager)



U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL ADVANCES AMERICAN INTERESTS

U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem Enhances U.S. Interests

Yoram Ettinger

The U.S. decision to comply with the law of the land – the 1995 Jerusalem Embassy Act – recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and relocating the U.S. Embassy there, enhances the U.S. posture of deterrence, in defiance of threats and pressure, while walking against the grain. This reasserts the independence of U.S. unilateral diplomatic action, rather than subordinate U.S. interests to multilateral diplomacy, which tends to undermine U.S. interests. Moreover, it challenges the political correctness of the UN, the Department of State and the “elite” media, which have been serial blunderers on Middle East issues.

While President Trump recognizes Israel as a unique ally, strategically and morally – in an explosive region and during an unpredictably violent era – his determination to remedy this 70-year-old faulty policy aims at advancing U.S. interests, rather than demonstrate pro-Israel sentiments. The relocation of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem reflects the realization that retreat in the face of threats and pressure intensifies anti-U.S. policies, aggression and terrorism, while defiance of pressure is a prerequisite for the rehabilitation of deterrence, a precondition to peace and security.

U.S. procrastination on the implementation of the 1995 Jerusalem Embassy Act did not advance the cause of peace. Rather, intensified Palestinian expectations forced them to outflank the U.S. from the radical side and therefore, added another obstacle on the road to peace. The relocation of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem should not

undermine the peace process, since the Embassy will be located in an area which was controlled by Israel before the eruption of the 1967 Six Day War.

The relocation of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem represents the American ethos – from the Early Pilgrims through the Founding Fathers – which has considered Greater Jerusalem the undivided capital of the Jewish Commonwealth. Hence, the 18 U.S. towns names Jerusalem and the 32 named Salem (the original Biblical name of Jerusalem). The relocation of the U.S. Embassy will implement the 1995 legislation, which has enjoyed much support on, and off, Capitol Hill, but was sacrificed – until January 2017 – by the U.S. Administration on the altar of false/faulty national security considerations. A waiver was introduced into the language of the law, as a result of pressure by then President Clinton, which was seconded by the late Prime Minister Rabin.

In July, 1999, a veto-override majority of 84 Senators supported proposed legislation, which would force implementation of the legislation by eliminating the presidential waiver. But, a coalition of President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Ehud Barak convinced the Senators to shelve it, contending that the cause of peace must not be sacrificed on the altar of Jerusalem. However, reality has documented that they sacrificed reality and Jerusalem on the altar of wishful-thinking and a failed peace process, which collapsed during Prime Minister Barak’s tenure, accompanied by an unprecedented wave of Palestinian terrorism... Apparently, President Trump is determined to avoid – rather than repeat – the mistakes of his predecessors, fending off pressure and threats by rogue regimes, and therefore advancing U.S. interests, law and heritage...

(Jewish Press, Feb. 26, 2018)

The Necessary Role of Christian Zionism

Paul Merkley

After about a quarter-century of public advocacy for Christian Zionism it still throws me off-balance when people come up to the platform and ask whether it isn’t a contradiction in terms to be a Christian and a Zionist.

In fact, the sin of wilful contradiction belongs on the heads of those Christians who reject the obligation of loyalty to Israel in order to stand in the company of the anti-Zionists who dominate the major churches today – not to mention the major media forces and the learned class.

The Old Testament (*Tanakh*) speaks clearly of a day when the Jews, having suffered through many centuries of abuse at the hands of great and lesser powers of every day, would be installed by Divine action within the stream of secular history, in a land of their own, centered on the place where, around the year 1000 BCE, King David had installed his newly-secured Kingdom. The correct term for belief in this promise is Zionism.

On November 29, 1947, the newly-established United Nations took back the “Mandate for Palestine” that the League of Nations had been given about twenty years previously to Great Britain and pledged to establish “a Jewish State and an Arab” State (NOT a Palestinian State) on the ground of the old Mandate. The Jews of the world solemnly committed themselves on that day to establish

peacefully these two states. The Arab nations unanimously rejected the plan, and immediately committed themselves to casting all Jews into the sea.

A Christian Zionist is one who accepts the authority of Scripture – all of it, including the prophetic portions. Doing so, he signs on to the notion that History has a Master. He knows that in making this case he is defying the wisdom proposed by most of the historic Christian denominations – including the Roman Catholic Church and most of the “Protestant” churches. In this company, the State of Israel is just a political entity like all the others. In this company, it does not matter that Israel came into existence as result of the deliberate decision of the United Nations; likewise, in this company, it does not make sense that the seven decades of war which the disobedience of Arab and Muslim nations have imposed upon Israel on account of its obedience to the will of the United Nations has imposed upon all subsequent generations of Christian believers the obligation to stand with Israel.

A Christian Zionist is simply one who accepts the authority of Scripture – all of it, including the prophetic portions. With this, he signs on to the notion that History has a Master. Simultaneously, he signs on to the obligation to defend Israel in her ongoing struggle for existence.

(Here, I must say that I have never felt the need to justify either my Zionism nor my Christian faith to anyone at CIJR, and that through CIJR my appreciation for Jewish scholarship, Jewish Research and the cause of Israel has been greatly broadened. *Mazel tov.*)

(Paul Merkley is a Professor Emeritus of History, Carleton University, and a CIJR Academic Fellow)

JEWISH STATE IS A MILITARY AND TECHNOLOGY SUPERPOWER

Israel's Top Arms Clients: India, Vietnam, Azerbaijan

Herb Keinon

Arms sales do not ensure support in international forums, as the top three markets for Israeli military equipment – India, Vietnam and Azerbaijan – almost always vote against Israel in the United Nations.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's updated data, India is by far Israel's largest weapons market, having bought \$715 million worth of weaponry in 2017, down slightly from the \$767m. it bought in 2016. This represents a whopping 650% increase in arms sales to India over the last decade. Israel is India's second largest source of arms, lagging far behind Russia, which sold New Delhi \$1.9 billion's worth, but significantly ahead of both France and the U.S.

According to the database, Vietnam is Israel's second largest customer, having purchased \$142m. in arms in 2017, making Israel its second largest arms supplier, after Russia. Azerbaijan – a Muslim country on Iran's border – is the third largest weapons market for Israel, having bought \$137m. worth in 2017, a steep decline, however, from the \$248m. it bought in 2016. Israel is Azerbaijan's largest arms supplier.

While India at times abstains on key Israel-related votes in the UN, Vietnam and Azerbaijan can be counted on always to vote

against Jerusalem. The institute ranked Israel as the fifth largest arms supplier in the world, with \$1.26b. of sales last year, following the U.S., Russia, France and Germany.

The data place Israel in 18th place regarding the import of arms, having spent \$528m. on arms last year, fully 97.5% of it imported from the U.S., and the rest coming from Germany. In the past decade Israel has only imported arms from the U.S., Germany, Italy and Canada...

Among other interesting trends culled from the data:

- For the second year in a row, Israel sold no military equipment to Turkey, a country that in 2009 bought some \$320m. worth of Israeli weapons, making it far and away Israel's top arms client that year.

• The Philippines emerged as a major market for Israel for the first time in 2017, having spent \$21m. on radar and antitank systems.

• Weapons deals with two Asian countries, Singapore and South Korea, slipped precipitously last year, the SIPRI data said, with South Korea, which bought \$52m. in military equipment in 2016, not making any purchases in 2017, and the amount sold to Singapore dropping from \$43m. to \$2m. last year.

• Italy is the fourth largest purchaser of Israeli arms, and the biggest customer in Europe, having spent \$87m. in 2017 for Israeli airborne early warning and control systems.

- Israel sold \$25m. worth of radar systems to Canada last year, the first time Israeli arms have been sold to Canada since 2009...

(Jerusalem Post, Mar. 14, 2018)



How Israeli Ingenuity Repairs the World

Avi Jorisch

Chutzpah, obligatory military service, renowned universities and smart big government — these, along with a diverse population and a dearth of natural resources, go far in explaining how a tiny country in the Middle East became a tech powerhouse. But why do many Israeli tech companies, rather than simply enriching people or making our lives more convenient, also wind up making the world a better place?

Israel's desire to repair the world is part of a host of Jewish values. Since the Middle Ages and possibly before, Jews have recited the *aleinu* prayer three times a day, which instructs us to repair the world. *Pirkei Avot*, or Chapters of the Fathers, a collection of ethical teachings compiled by rabbis around the second and third centuries CE, encourages people to help others. Israel's founding fathers, chief among them David Ben-Gurion, the country's first prime minister, were inspired by these religious teachings. Today, that idea is taught in schools and is woven into the fabric of Israeli society, affecting everyone from Yemeni Jews who have returned to

their ancestral homeland to Christians from Nazareth or Muslims from the Golan Heights.

In the last 70 years, Israel has sent international aid missions around the world, to Africa, Armenia, Argentina, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Rwanda, Turkey and more. The reasons for these missions have varied, with some pragmatic and others idealistic. But the desire for *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, and bringing more light into the world informs them all. Many of Israel's founders experienced the horrors of the pogroms and the Holocaust, and as Israeli parliamentarian Isaac Herzog put it, because Jews felt the "world's silence" during the Holocaust, they "cannot remain indifferent."

Israelis of all faiths see it as their duty to improve the lives of other people across the globe. The country is not just a "startup nation," but a place where people of all religions and ethnicities — even as the surrounding region undergoes a seemingly intractable war — strive to make the world a better place for everyone. Israel has mobilized to solve problems that originally appeared unique to it, and its innovative solutions have proved applicable elsewhere.

This is the story of Israeli innovation and its impact on billions of people around the world. These are but a few examples of how Israel and its citizens act as a force for good...

(Algemeiner, Mar. 14, 2018)

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATES CONDONE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST “OPPRESSORS”

Does “Social Justice” Racism Harm Jews?

Philip Carl Salzman

In the past, Jews were discriminated against because they were not Christians. Many institutions “restricted” Jews. McGill University limited the number of Jews accepted. So did Ivy League Universities. I remember going to a company event at a rented venue, and seeing a sign saying “Restricted to Christians Only.” I also recall as a boy other boys rolling through the street asking if I was Jewish, presumably not because they wanted to bless me.

Today, inspired by so-called “social justice,” which imagines a utopian world of economic, demographic and statistical equal outcomes, we celebrate “the good, reverse racism” that advantages the marginalized, oppressed, and subaltern. “The good, reverse racism” requires that we disadvantage the oppressors, the “privileged,” the whites, males, Christians, and Jews. So measures are put into place to admit and include the good races, the suffering blacks, Hispanics, and Muslims, while excluding the bad races, whites, males, Christians, and Jews.

Let us ignore the fact that religion is part of culture and not race, and that males are not a race. All categories are assimilated into the world-encompassing binary of “oppressors/oppressed,” with the obligation to suppress the oppressors and relieve the oppressed. By virtue of their privilege, the oppressors are deemed to have no rights either as a class or as individuals. They must be silenced and replaced by their victims. If you think I exaggerate, then allow me to mention the “social justice” professor who tweeted, “What I dream of is white genocide.”

So Jews are now discriminated against because they fall into the oppressor category, because they allegedly benefit from “privilege” denied to some minorities. In fact, according to “social justice” advocates, Jews may no longer be considered a minority, because, according to a discussion leader at a university, “Jews have not suffered.” Another minority discriminated against, although they have never been privileged and always been discriminated against in North America, are Asians. They are discriminated against because they are too successful, “over-represented” among achievers.

The route to “social justice” is, among other methods, “affirmative action,” which means that recruitment to universities, jobs, and offices is now based on what race, nationality, or creed one is categorized as. Blacks, Hispanics, and Muslims are today designated victims who must be given benefits without meeting any universalistic criteria of achievement. Places are reserved for “oppressed minorities,” which means that for every member of “oppressed minorities” admitted or hired or appointed, better qualified whites, Christians, Jews, and Asians are blocked and excluded. According to a National Review editorial,

The de facto discrimination against Asian and Asian-American students is spectacular, undeniable, and shameful. They are in effect subjected to the same quota system that the Ivy League once used to keep down its Jewish population — the “bamboo ceiling,” some call it. Asian-American groups pursuing litigation against these policies have demonstrated students of Asian background on average have to score 140 points above white students to have similar chances of college admission — and 270 points higher than Hispanic students, and 450 points higher than black students. The “Asian penalty” is especially heavy in places such as California’s prestigious state universities.

“Affirmative action” was not meant to be discriminatory. In 1961, President J. F. Kennedy’s Presidential Executive Order 10925 asserted that “discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin is contrary to the Constitutional principles and policies of the United States,” and further more that “affirmative steps which should be taken by executive departments and agencies to realize more fully the national policy of nondiscrimination within the executive branch of the Government.” Government contractors “will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, creed, color, or national origin. The contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, creed, color, or national origin.”

We have come a long way from John Kennedy to “social justice” racism. Should Jews and others, as Asians have, take a stand against the racist turn we have taken?

(Philip Carl Salzman is a professor of anthropology at McGill University and a CIJR Academic Fellow)

KRANTZ – continued from page 2

Iraq, and Yemen) and creation of a nuclear weapon, are Israel’s major political necessities (the instability in Hamas-occupied Gaza is also concerning.) Iran cannot be allowed to establish permanent bases along Israel’s northern border with Syria, and any move to create atomic weapons must be blocked. Whether this can be achieved without direct Israeli (or U.S.-Israeli) military intervention, remains moot.

On a world scale, development of a “new”, Israel-centered antisemitism seeking to delegitimize the Jewish state is concerning, as is the “anti-Zionist” turn on U.S. campuses (BDS, Israeli Apartheid Week, etc.) and Islamic terrorism (still sporadic in North Amer-

ica, as opposed to W. Europe). Yet while these phenomena demand attention and effective action, they do not—save for an Iranian nuclear weapon—threaten Israel’s, or the Jewish People’s, existence.

You may have noticed the omission here of what even a few years ago, was thought to be Israel’s “key problem”: the Palestinian issue (the “peace process”, the “two-state solution”, etc.). This reflects, across a broad Israeli political spectrum, a changed reality: continuing Palestinian rejectionism, division (Abbas-Fatah-West Bank vs. Hamas-Gaza), and economic crisis, and a flourishing post-1967 Israeli population in Judea and Samaria, has relegated the Palestinian issue to the political back burner.

Indeed, Donald Trump’s recent, historic

recognition, after twenty years of Presidential avoidance, of Jerusalem as Israel’s historic capitol, is a key policy shift reflecting—despite ongoing Palestinian, UN, and EU opposition—the simple fact of modern Jewish Israel’s normalization, and permanence, in the region and in the world.

Of course, the Book of the Future is always difficult to read, and capable of unforeseen surprises. Nevertheless, we are right today to celebrate the miracle of our reborn State’s joyous seventieth birthday. Its history shows us that while those who oppose, and often oppress, us, come and go, *am Yisrael chai*, the eternal Jewish people, lives!

(Dr. Frederick Krantz, Director of CIJR and Editor of its ISRAFAX journal, is Professor of History in Liberal Arts College, Concordia University, Montreal)

CIJR REVIEW OF BOOKS

Baruch Cohen. *No One Bears Witness for the Witness: A Memoir*. New York: RVP Press/CIJR, 2018

Bradley Martin

As time goes on, the memory of the Holocaust seems to grow dimmer with every passing year. It would seem that with the numerous genocides that continue to this day, many people are reluctant to absorb the true meaning of the words: “never again.” Yet this book effectively encapsulates not only the horrors of the Holocaust, but the story of an extraordinary man who maintained his humanity against overwhelming odds.

In this way, Baruch Cohen’s memoir *No One Bears Witness for the Witness* is truly a precious gift to readers.

Following a preface by Dr. Frederick Krantz and an introduction by Dr. Joyce Rappaport, the memoir is divided into four parts. In Part I, Baruch describes his childhood growing up in Bucharest, Romania. Baruch grew up in a poor, but not deprived, household and we get to see a side of him as a young boy who loved animals and going to movies. Baruch also describes his loving family and thriving Jewish life.

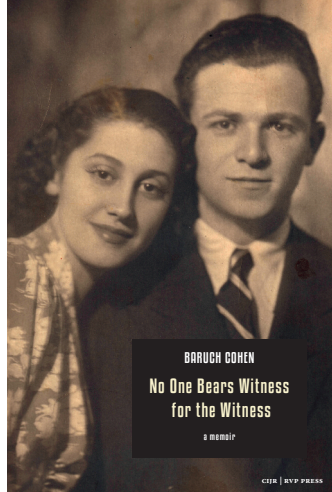
In 1937, Romania would change for the worse with the instatement of racial laws and revocation of the citizenship of Romanian Jews. In January, 1941, Baruch describes the Holocaust as having come to his city. For three agonizing days, the Jewish community had to suffer what he called the Bucharest *Kristallnacht*. After the third day, Baruch went to a slaughterhouse to search for the whereabouts of his missing father.

Thankfully, Baruch’s father would later turn up safe on the outskirts of Bucharest. But not after Baruch witnessed what he would describe as the most shocking image of his life: corpses hanging from meat hooks with mocking signs attached, “advertising” what was sadistically described as “Jewish kosher meat.”

Part II details Baruch’s life as a forced laborer, abused and beaten by Romanian fascist soldiers. Baruch’s lower spine would break, which would later require surgery in Canada. Yet Baruch and his friends would continue secretly distributing flyers for Zionist organizations, calling for Jews to escape to *Eretz Israel*. In December, 1943, Baruch would marry his wife Sonia in the midst of Jews being deported from neighboring Poland and Hungary to Nazi death camps in Transnistria.

With the Communist takeover of Romania in 1944, Baruch and Sonia left for Israel with their daughter Malca. Though Baruch was too old to enlist in the Israeli military, he did serve as a reservist in the Sinai War of 1956, where he learned how to use a gun for the first time—a source of great pride for him. The family would then move to Canada, at the behest of Sonia’s parents.

In Part III, Baruch details his life in Montreal, where he became CFO of a major corporation and did a Master’s in Judaic Studies



at McGill University. He served as Research Director of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research and worked with the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre. Baruch would speak to classes at McGill and Concordia University, and to high school students, on the Holocaust and what happened to the Jews of Transnistria, a region of Romania where hundreds of thousands had been slaughtered.

The fourth and final part of the memoir consists of a collection of poetry written by Baruch over the years. Despite all that has happened to him and his family, Baruch truly believes that initially all human beings are good and that we must learn about the inhumanity of so-called humanity in order to oppose it.

Baruch’s poems are very heartfelt and express a deep love for Israel and the Jewish people. But one that stands out is his poem in memory of his daughter Malca, who sadly passed away in the year 2000. In his poem titled *For Malca with Love*, Baruch expresses a profound love for his daughter that is deeply moving and provides a glimpse of his depth as a compassionate human being.

Is it true that no one bears witness for the witness? To this day, Romania struggles to confront a dark chapter of its history. Baruch Cohen’s exceptional life is that of a man who witnessed the worst of humanity, yet persevered, and continuously uplifted those around him. In a world that is intent on forgetting the Holocaust, it is our responsibility as readers to internalize Baruch’s lessons and follow his example, thus truly honoring all he, as a witness, has done for us.

(Bradley Martin is Deputy Editor for the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research and Senior Fellow with the news and public policy group Haym Salomon Center)

Recent Books

Douglass-Williams, Christine. *The Challenge of Modernizing Islam: Reformers Speak Out And The Obstacles They Face*. New York: Encounter Books, 2017

Feldman, Seymour. *Gersonides: Judaism within the Limits of Reason*. Oxford: The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2015

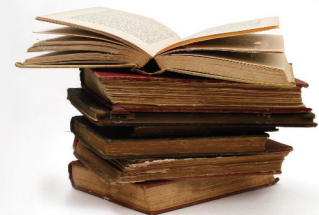
Glinert, Lewis. *The Story of Hebrew*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017

Murray, Douglas. *The Strange Death of Europe: Immigration, Identity, Islam*. New York: Bloomsbury Continuum, 2017

Panofsky, Ruth (Ed.). *The New Spice Box: Canadian Jewish Writing Volume I*. Toronto: New Jewish Press, 2017

Wallace, Max. *In the Name of Humanity: The Secret Deal to End the Holocaust*. Toronto: Penguin Canada, 2017

CIJR invites all readers to consult its Research Library and extensive Israel DataBank in person and online.



HONOUR ROLL

BARUCH & SONIA COHEN

EXTRA! EXTRA!

From Jack Kincler, National Board Chairman

This is a special year, as both the *Canadian Institute for Jewish Research* and the State of Israel are celebrating anniversaries, the 30th and 70th, respectively!

It is little known that Ben Gurion faced enormous pressures in the days prior to the Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948. Under Truman, the U.S. — worried that the creation of the State could worsen the cold war (the Soviets had just occupied Czechoslovakia) — was pressuring him to abandon the Declaration of Independence. Extreme left groups in the Haganah and Palmach, and other underground groups, opposed plans to create a unified army. Still, with the survival of the Yishuv on the line, Ben Gurion made the Haganah and party leaders toe the line.

And despite the fact that many in the Yishuv were pressing for an armistice with the Arabs, Ben Gurion on March 30, 1948 proclaimed the formation of a Provisional Government, and 45 days later the State would be born.

Yet as late as 11 May, 1948, Ben Gurion's Mapai party was still debating creation of the State. It was the unexpected arrival of Golda Meyerson (later Meir) who, disguised as an Arab woman, had met with an intransigent King Abdullah of Transjordan--adamant that there could be no autonomy for the Jews within a Jewish-Arab Palestine--that was decisive. "Either you accept my proposal," he said to Golda, "or there will be war." "Well, then," she replied, "we'll meet after the war." Golda's news strengthened Ben Gurion's conviction that he, alone, had to make the decision. On May 12, 1948 the Arab invasion had already begun, and the British Mandate was due to expire on the night of the 14th. The military situation was serious, and America was blocking fundraising for the Jewish state.

Ben Gurion analyzed the situation and concluded: "Our troops are capable of victory, thanks to mobilization and immigration. The decision will be made once we have wiped out most of the Arab legion." The party executive then voted, and — by a majority of two — the Jewish state was re-born.

Please help us celebrate this very special year for Israel and CIJR by ensuring our 30th Anniversary Gala, now scheduled for late October, will be a major Jewish community event!

Many thanks as always to our wonderful Toronto and Montreal *chevra*, to Baruch and Sonia Cohen, whose book about their life is being published, and *mazel tov* to Yunna Shapira, our devoted administrator, whose baby girl is arriving in April. And a Happy Passover to all our dedicated Board and Academic Council members and supporters and donors!

CIJR Toronto's Busy Schedule

In December at Beth David, over 50 people turned up to hear Journalist and Anthropologist Geoffrey Clarfield successfully convince them about the Balfour Declaration of 1917's relevance today, as a key foundation of the Jewish people's legitimacy and rights to the land of Israel. Clarfield also engaged directly in a lively seminar exchange with the eager audience.

In late January, an impressive crowd of over 75 people arrived at the Lodzer Shul to hear the fascinating and inspiring story of the Jews of Bulgaria. Not only did this Jewish community escape the Holocaust, but it actually increased its population over WWII! Dr. Miroslav Marinov, Ph.D., informed his fascinated audience about this vital, but little known, chapter of Jewish history.

In late February, a crowd of over 50 people braved near-impossible driving conditions in order to come out and hear Prof. Emerita Sally Zerker's myth-destroying presentation on Jewish Indigenous and Legal Rights to Israel. An excited audience asked Sally (CIJR-Toronto's academic adviser) many questions and stayed long afterwards to reflect on her irrefutable information.

And on March 22 Dr. Nicholas Maes will address 'Modernity and Assimilation: Can the Jews Survive?', at Beth David. Beyond this, program planning for 2018-19 — aided by the good work of my colleagues Doris Epstein and David Sherman — and for the Toronto Gala celebrating CIJR's 30th anniversary, and Israel's 70th, proceeds apace.

(Alan Herman and Doris Epstein are Co-Chairs of CIJR's Toronto Chapter)

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