



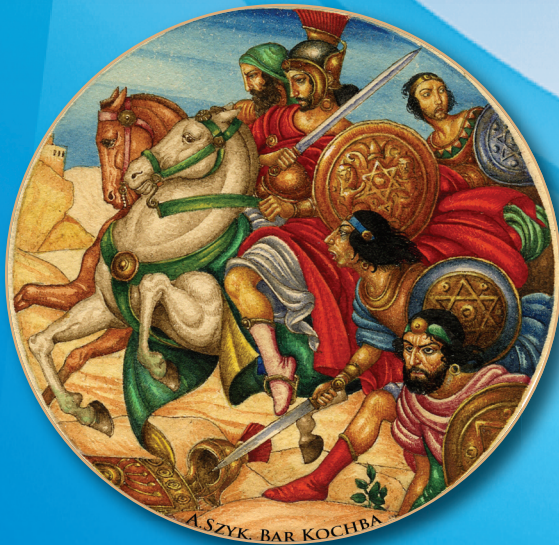
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ISRAEL'S HIGH-TECH MIRACLE VS. IRAN'S NUCLEAR THREAT



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Editorial

Bibi's Win, Trumping Israeli Left, Gives Obama a Fit of Pique — And Now Comes the Hard Part: Dealing, Alone, with Iran

Frederick Krantz

(NB: The following editorial underlines the importance of CIJR's upcoming "Israel's High-Tech Miracle & Canada: Innovation for Humanity" (April 29, 2005). In the face of unending regional hostility and instability, and now an errant Obama Administration's anti-Netanyahu delegitimation campaign, Israel has become one of the major world centers for both innovative high-tech, from medicine to agriculture to security, and new venture-capital techniques.

CIJR's unique Conference, and our 27th Anniversary Gala, are designed to attract national attention to the democratic Jewish State's immense benefits to mankind (see our dedicated www.isra-conf.com website, and our Chairman's note on p.1, for details).

Come and celebrate Israel with us on April 29th, and please make as generous a tax-deductible contribution to non-profit CIJR's crucial work for Israel and our students as possible!).

After an election worthy of the American 1948 Presidential campaign, in which the media overwhelmingly proclaimed Thomas Dewey the victor over Harry Truman well before the vote was taken, the people of Israel surprised the pollsters and gave Bibi Netanyahu, Likud and the center-right a renewed electoral mandate.

What this means is that Israel's serious, widespread, and growing security concerns—from the IS terrorists in Syria and Iraq to Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon (and now Syria), to the al-Qaeda-linked anti-al-Sissi terrorists in Sinai, and above all to the Iranian Islamist regime's nuclear drive—trumped social and economic concerns.

In the wake of Bibi's victory, however, Barack Obama and his Administration have "gone viral". This began with their negative reaction to Netanyahu's powerful "bad deal" Congressional critique of Obama's imminent nuclear pact with Iran, and, and now after, continued with an Administration-led anti-Bibi campaign during the Israeli elections.

When the favored leftist Zionist Union lost, the Administration and its major-media chorus jumped on Bibi's campaign observation—commonsensical enough, given Palestinian divisions and "peace-process" rejectionism—that there would not be a Palestinian state if he were re-elected. It focused too on his statement that the Arab parties were going to the polls "in droves".

One spokesman, addressing a "progressive" anti-Netanyahu "J-Street" audience, explicitly threatened to "punish" Israel, and Obama

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Passover 5775: The Festival of Freedom

Baruch Cohen

In Loving Memory of Malca z"l

"Great and mighty, as it is written" (Exodus 1.7)

"And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, waxed exceedingly, and the land was filled with them"

(The Passover Haggadah)

The Seder ceremony is not only an act of pious recollection, but also a unique and inspired tradition blending the past, present and future into a simple comprehensive and transcendent experience.

The actors in this story are not only the *Israelites*, led out of bondage by their leader, Moses, but *all* generations of Jews through *all* of time. In an ideal sense *all* Israel went forth out of Egypt, and *all* Israel stood at *Sinai*, before the presence of God.

When the trumpet sounded in history, it sounded for *all* ages, and its echo lives on forever.

"Every person in *every* generation" says a passage in the *Mishna*, must look upon himself as if he has personally come forth out of *Egypt*. It was not only our forbears alone that the *Holy One* redeemed, but also *ourselves*.

The *Passover*, as told in the *Haggadah* book, recounts how Israel moved from *darkness* into *light*, from the ignorance and shame of idolatry to the glory of the Jewish People's high monotheistic calling.

The *Passover* story is a continuing experience, involving the children of *all* generations. The journey through the wilderness in the wake of a cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, is at the center of the eternal progress of Israel toward the kingdom of *God* on earth.

The festival of Passover has two basic modern messages. The first is that *deliverance* from slavery and suffering, *and* the decision to do away with *ignorance and dependence*, lies as much in our hands as in God's.

The second Passover message, according to the *Haggadah*, is the answer to the "*wise son*", "because of that which the Lord did for *me* when I came forth out of *Egypt*". And the "*wise son*", represented by *all* the People of Israel, understands.

Hag Pesach Sameach, a Happy Passover holiday, to all CIJR members, friends and the entire House of Israel.

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

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

WEEKLY QUOTES

“We take him at his word that it wouldn’t happen during his premiership, and so that’s why we’ve got to evaluate what other options are available to make sure that we don’t see a chaotic situation in the region,” —U.S. President Obama, responding to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu’s pre-election statement that there would be no Palestinian state during his tenure. Ignoring Netanyahu’s attempts in postelection interviews to walk back his comments, Obama made it clear that he believes Netanyahu is opposed to a Palestinian state: **“We can’t just in perpetuity maintain the status quo, expand settlements. That’s not a recipe for stability in the region.”** (*New York Times*, Mar. 21, 2015)

“It’s been unnerving seeing the president show his open hostility...It’s immature and over the top and has made people suspicious...He makes it hard for Democrats to trust him,”— U.S. Republican Senator Lindsay Graham. According to Graham, Obama’s hostility to Netanyahu is creating a backlash in congress among Democrats, and is beginning to deliver negative political consequences for Obama’s agenda. (*Algemeiner*, Mar. 22, 2015)

“We have not yet reached the finish line...Make no mistake.

We have the opportunity to do this right. It’s a matter of political will and tough decision-making. It’s a matter of choices. And we must all choose wisely in the days ahead,” — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. Kerry said that now is the time to make **“hard decisions,”** as he left the latest round of talks over Iran’s nuclear future. **“The stakes are high,”** he explained, **“we don’t want just any deal. If we had, we could have announced something a long time ago.”** (*Washington Post*, Mar. 21, 2015)

“My greatest thrill is that Netanyahu was able to pull off a feat that in my opinion was not only good for the morale of Israel and the security of Israel, but finally put Obama in his place,” —Rabbi Sidney Shoham, a beloved retired Modern Orthodox Rabbi from Montreal, who now lives in Florida. Shoham said that he saw Israel becoming more isolated internationally but that he was not troubled by it because of what he said was a basic Jewish principle: **“Being more or less in control of your own self, your own country, or your own being is much more important than being loved by others.”** (*New York Times*, Mar. 21, 2015)

“I call on the P.K.K. to convene a congress to end the 40-year-long armed struggle against the Republic of Turkey and to determine political and social strategies and tactics in accordance with the spirit of the new era,” — Abdullah Ocalan, the jailed Kurdish rebel leader. Ocalan urged the separatist Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or P.K.K., to hold a congress to end a Kurdish insurgency that has fractured society and claimed nearly 40,000 lives since the 1980s. (*New York Times*, Mar. 21, 2015)



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks at U.S. Congress about Iran’s nuclear weapons program, March 3, 2015

SHORT TAKES

JORDAN AND RUSSIA TO SIGN \$10B NUCLEAR DEAL (Amman) — Jordan is set to sign a nuclear agreement with Russia...in order to build its first nuclear power plant. The agreement comes as the West is reportedly close to reaching a nuclear deal with Iran. Experts worry that if Iran goes nuclear or if a deal is reached, it will lead other Sunni countries to follow suit with their own programs. (*Jerusalem Post*, Mar. 22, 2015)

I.S. RELEASES HIT LIST OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL (Raqqa) —Islamic State has published a hit list of 100 U.S. military personnel, including names and addresses they claimed to have hacked from government computers. Signed by the “Islamic State Hacking Division,” it urges supporters to launch lone-wolf attacks, such as the one last year in Ottawa that killed Corp. Nathan Cirillo. Earlier this year, hackers gained control of the Twitter account of U.S. Central Command similarly threatening attacks on personnel. (*National Post*, Mar. 22, 2015)

BENGAZI PANEL ASKS CLINTON TO HAND OVER EMAILS (Washington) — A Republican-led U.S. congressional panel has formally asked Hillary Clinton to hand over her private computer server, ramping up

scrutiny over her use of a personal email address while Secretary of State. Clinton has come under pressure for using a private address and email server rather than government systems while the top U.S. diplomat from 2009-2013. The revelations reinvestigated an investigation by a House of Representatives committee into the 2012 attacks on a U.S. facility in Benghazi, Libya. (*Huffington Post*, Mar. 20, 2015)

MASS GRAVE OF BOKO HARAM VICTIMS DISCOVERED (Lagos) — Soldiers in Nigeria have uncovered a mass grave Boko Haram’s victims, a grim sign of the reckoning to come as troops from four countries fight to secure the region ahead of elections. Soldiers from Chad and Niger uncovered about a hundred bodies in a grave near Nigeria’s border with Niger. Boko Haram’s unprecedented retreat from northeastern areas this month comes after six years in which the group killed more than 20,000 (*Wall Street Journal*, Mar. 20, 2015)

DIEUDONNE CONVICTED OF CONDONING TERRORISM (Paris) — French comedian Dieudonne was found guilty of condoning terrorism for social media posts sympathizing with the terrorists who killed four Jews at a Paris kosher supermarket. A court has given him a suspended two-month jail sentence. He had faced up to seven years in jail and a \$106,000 fine. Dieudonne posted “I feel like Charlie Coulibaly” on Facebook on Jan. 14, shortly after the hostage siege at the *Hyper Cacher* supermarket and the attack at *Charlie Hebdo* magazine that left 13 dead. Dieudonne has been convicted seven times for inciting hatred against Jews. (*Jerusalem Post*, Mar. 19, 2015)

Bibi's Kingdom

Mordechai Nisan

Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has been called many things, mostly offensive and derisive. But on Tuesday March 17, 'Bibi' became the magician, snatching a political victory from certain defeat, his Likud Party having trailed Herzog's Zionist Camp/Labor by 5 seats in the polls, and been forecast to receive just 20 – maybe less - in the general elections.

But Likud garnered 30 seats in the 120-seat Knesset, admittedly but a fourth and only half needed to conduct government with a parliamentary majority. Yet the 30 seats, bedeviling the pollsters and astounding the entire Israeli population, is as sweet a victory as Netanyahu has ever had, perhaps excepting his hair-breath triumph over Shimon Peres in 1996.

During the entire campaign period, Netanyahu was under a constant barrage of invective and vilification. He was guilty for preventing peace with the Palestinians, destroying relations with Washington, and detached from socio-economic ills. The media moguls bashed his wife Sarah on trumped-up charges, for keeping the deposit money from returned bottles, and for mistreating a hired employee in the Prime Minister's residence. These puerile accusations were blown up into crimes against the state and humanity.

The "Just not Bibi" mantra brainwashing assault did not cause Netanyahu to cringe or crack. He sustained his public persona as the intelligent and responsible political leader, while the Left and media deliriously crowned Yitzhak Herzog before the polls opened.

It is the intangibles of politics that create the mysterious bond between people and leader. Netanyahu has that mystique; and Likud is the repository of that bond. Likud remains 'the party of the people'. Its wide net of public support includes demographically significant voting constituencies – Oriental/Sephardic communities, national-religious Jews, and immigrant groups (Russian, French, American). Israelis seeking Jewish national identity and political realism have made Likud their political home.

The Zionist Camp, trying to camouflage its socialist-inclined Labor Party profile with some political maquillage, did not shake its image as the Ashkenazi 'white tribe' of Tel-Aviv and its satellite towns. The party impressively increased its parliamentary representation from 15 to 24, but could not enough to stem Netanyahu's stunning sweep; so the Jerusalem corridors of government power have been secured from the pro-appeasement mischief of the Leftist peace enthusiasts.

Netanyahu will cobble together a coalition government after the party hassles over ministries and policies end. He is the king, but his kingdom is ravaged by leftist enmity and political sectarianism.

His extended premiership has the makings of a legacy: in the name of free enterprise economics, diplomatic steadfastness, geo-strategic solidity, and a collage of Zionism and patriotism. Israel under his helm will not abandon the Judea and Samaria heartland to Islamic jihadists and Muslim terrorists.

Maybe the day will even come when Netanyahu will bang his hand on the table, demanding integrity and fairness from the country's self-appointed political pundits, academic specialists, and cultural icons. If not, Likud will continue to run the government while the Left will, despite its crack-up, continue to believe and act as if the country belongs only to them.

(Dr. Mordechai Nisan, a CIJR Academic Fellow, lectured at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and has written studies on Israel and the Middle East.)

Israel's Election

Harold M. Waller

Israel's election results seemed to take most people by surprise. Likud's strong showing and the failure of the Zionist Camp shocked people in Israel and abroad, especially those who had been counting on the political demise of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Unprecedented amounts of money and human effort were expended in the effort to bring down a leader whose popularity was lagging in Israel and was perceived by many to be the barrier to the achievement of a peace deal with the Palestinians.

So what happened? For one thing, many external observers and even some in Israel did not really understand Israeli voters. As late as the last week of the campaign observers were opining that this was an unusual election, one that focused on socioeconomic issues rather than the usual concerns about security, terrorism, nuclear weapons, and the peace process. Nevertheless, in the last few days, after the publication of the last round of polls, Netanyahu was able to persuade many voters that those traditional issues still mattered and that Israel had not yet achieved the normality that Theodor Herzl had envisioned.

A second factor was that right of center voters were convinced by Netanyahu and his Likud colleagues that they had to vote strategically in order to ensure that he would return as prime minister. Even though the polls indicated that Bibi would be better placed to form a coalition than Labor leader Yitzhak Herzog, from the Likud perspective there was a danger that if the Zionist Camp's votes exceeded those of Likud, President Reuven Rivlin might be tempted to award the mandate to form a government to Herzog or even to urge a unity government. Hence the Likud people argued that strategically it was vital for rightist voters to vote for Likud, even if their true preference was for Habayit Hayehudi, Yisrael Beiteinu, or Moshe Kahlon's new party, Kulanu. Clearly the strategy worked and Likud picked up several seats at the end of the campaign.

What about the polls? It seemed that everyone, from President Barack Obama to Netanyahu himself, read the polls and concluded that Likud was on its way to defeat. That was even one of Bibi's messages to voters toward the end. But the polls during the campaign were probably right, reminding us that they report voting intentions on the day the survey is conducted and do not predict outcomes on voting day. On the other hand, what about the three exit polls that surveyed voters after they voted, and produced almost uniformly inaccurate results? Either respondents provided erroneous answers or too many people declined to answer.

Finally, the prime minister made some unwise comments at the very end of the campaign, that gave President Obama an excuse to initiate a negative reassessment of U.S.-Israeli relations.

Out of all this, Netanyahu should be able to form a government with a decidedly rightist cast, but one that will tackle socioeconomic issues with a greater sense of purpose due to the presence of Kahlon in a key position. Moreover, to bring Shas and United Torah Judaism aboard, Bibi might have to compromise on haredi conscription. Finally, on top of all the external issues that any Israeli government has to face, he must now confront a crisis in relations with the U.S. This will not be a first for Israel, but it might prove to be the most challenging.

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

Security Challenges of the New Israeli Government

Efraim Inbar

A new Likud-led government will take office in Jerusalem in the upcoming weeks. The government will have to face many security challenges emerging from the turbulent strategic environment. The most important issue is Iran. The US is racing toward an agreement that will legitimize the nuclear threshold status of Iran. Many key Mideast powers have signaled their displeasure with the nascent accord, as well as their desire to develop uranium enrichment capabilities on par with Iran.

The American attempt to offer a nuclear umbrella ... is doomed to failure. No Arab leader trusts President Obama. Therefore, only a military strike to destroy the Iranian capability to produce fissionable material needed for nuclear bombs can stop nuclear proliferation in the region.

The only country with 'enough guts' to do this is Israel. This decision must be taken by the next Israeli government. The timetable for such a strike is not to be determined by additional Iranian progress on the nuclear path, but by the perceptions of regional leaders of Iranian ambitions and power. The expansion of Iranian influence to Iraq and Yemen, in addition to its grip over Syria and Lebanon, has heightened threat perceptions. American willingness to accept a greater Iranian regional role undermines American credibility and underscores the need for Israeli action in the near future.

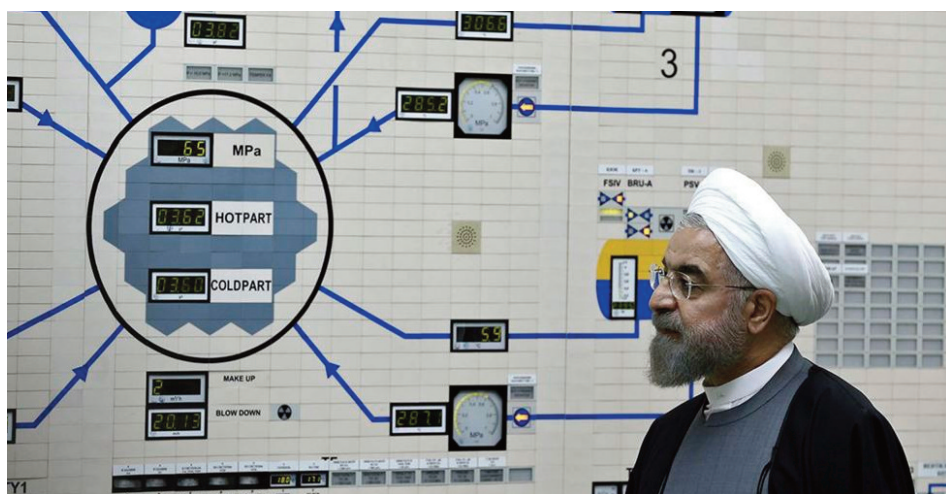


Photo: The Associated Press

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani visits the Bushehr nuclear power plant, Jan. 13, 2015

An Israeli strike is needed to prevent nuclear proliferation and to prevent imperial and Islamist Iran from acquiring hegemony in the Middle East. History indicates that such Israeli actions are not welcomed by American administrations, but are highly appreciated later on. In this case, it is Israel that will have to save the Americans from themselves.

Israel's main challenge is to maintain its freedom of action, while on a collision course with current American policy. This is not an easy endeavor, but Israel has large reservoirs of goodwill in the US that

should allow Israel to act on its cardinal security interests against the will of an unpopular American president ...

The strategic landscape of the Middle East is begetting new leaders and new ruling elites. Israel's intelligence apparatus faces a difficult job in identifying the important players and their *modus operandi* ... Since Israel cannot prevent all surprises (that is their nature), it must prepare for worst-case scenarios rather than be tempted by best-case, rosy dreams.

(Prof. Inbar is Director the BESA Center, Bar-Ilan U. Mar. 19, 2014)

Iran's Nuclear Bazaar

David Bensoussan

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu was recently invited to speak at the U.S. Senate in Washington about Iran's nuclear program. This article will put into perspective negotiations with Iran over the last decade. These negotiations have dragged on despite sanctions imposed by the United Nations, the U.S. and the European Union.

In 2004, Iran was forced to permanently halt its enrichment of uranium. One year later, it was permitted to enrich up to 20%. At the beginning of negotiations between the P5+1 (U.S., Russia, China, France, U.K. and Germany) and Iran in 2006, Iran was forced to halt its nuclear drive. This demand was abandoned in 2009. It was then proposed to store enriched uranium bars in Europe. In 2013 Iran was permitted to keep

enriched uranium for research in one location. Iran was forced to suspend operations at a new nuclear site discovered in Fordow.

When negotiations began in 2003, Iran had 130 centrifuges and was not producing fissile materials for a nuclear weapon. Today, Iran has close to 19,000 centrifuges and seven tons of low-content enriched fissile material that can be transformed to weapons grade (equal to 7-10 bombs as powerful as the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima). In 2013, Iran was then permitted to store this material in a form that could be reversed in a few months.

Like the bazaar merchants, Iranian nuclear negotiators dragged on negotiations before they ended. Furthermore, their actual nuclear ability was concealed despite international sanctions: in 2006, the UN prohibited deliveries of weapons that could be used for ballistic missiles, and recommended

monitoring Iranian banks. The U.S. cut commercial relations with Iran in 1979, and extended the embargo to non-American companies. The European Union decreed an embargo on oil and technical assistance for Iran's oil industry ...

According to former Secretary of State Kissinger, attempts to prevent Iran from building nuclear weapons have been diluted only enough to delay production of weapons by one year. Iran could easily drag on inspections during this crucial year. This explains the growing skepticism towards any agreement concluded between the P5+1 Powers and the Islamic Republic of Iran that does not include tough preventative measures.

(David Bensoussan is a professor at the École de technologie supérieure de l'Université du Québec, and a CIJR Academic Fellow. Huffpost, Mar. 2, 2015. Translated by Rob Coles.)

CIJR'S 27TH ANNIVERSARY: ISRAEL'S

Tim Cook: Apple's Herzliya R&D Center Second-Largest in World

David Shamah

With 700-plus direct employees in Israel, the Herzliya R&D center is Apple's second-largest in the world, Apple CEO Tim Cook told local staff on Thursday. And at a meeting with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin a day earlier, the two leaders discussed not just the fact of Israel's emergence as an important factor in the Apple ecosystem, but what the two entities had in common.

Cook, who was in Israel to inaugurate Apple's new R&D center in Herzliya, touched on a number of major issues that concern both Israel and Apple — including environmental matters, education, diversity, and even Israeli Arabs. That last issue was highlighted not by Cook himself, but by Johny Srouji, who accompanied his boss on the trip. Srouji — vice president for hardware technology — is an Israeli Arab who hails from Haifa. Before joining Apple in 2008 to head its chip-development team, Srouji worked at Intel and IBM, after graduating from the Technion.

For Rivlin, Srouji's ascent to one of the top tech positions in the world was a harbinger of what the government hopes will be a wave of similar accomplishments by people just like Srouji — Israeli Arabs educated in technology disciplines, working at the 300-some multinationals that have R&D and other facilities in Israel... The government is certainly doing what it can to discover them. In its latest program to boost Arab participation in Israeli high-tech, the Economy Ministry last month allocated NIS 10 million (\$2.5 million) to two organizations that will provide training and job-placement services for academics from the Arab, Druze, and Circassian communities...

Apple, which began operations in Israel in 2012 (acquiring companies that year and in 2013) now has about 700 employees in Israel, said Cook — but works with many more Israelis. About 6,000, said the CEO, are part of Apple's developer program, and help to develop apps. A recent estimate by app-industry research firm Vision Mobile says that at least 20,000 jobs in Israel's app economy are directly attributable to iOS.

Along with hiring more Arabs, Israel has been encouraging tech companies to hire more women and ultra-Orthodox Israelis. Increasing diversity in the workplace, Rivlin told Cook, was a lesson Israel could learn from Apple. "True innovation can only result from full access to education for all, regardless of race, religion, or sex," the president said. "We would like to learn from your experience in the US, in bringing education and technology to periphery groups and communities..."

The new Apple facility in Herzliya, in fact, highlights the company's commitment to social consciousness — in this case, environmental issues. According to the company, the new building is one of the most environmentally friendly ever built by Apple — and one of the "greenest" in Israel: Solar panels on the roof provide enough energy to supply the entire building's hot-water requirements; and a smart lighting system (with lights turning off automatically when people leave the room, etc.) reduces electrical usage by 25% compared to buildings of similar size. Ditto for the air-conditioner system, which consumes 40% less power than comparable systems...

Although Apple has had a presence here for only a few years, Israel has become very important to the company. Addressing employees on Thursday, Cook said that "Apple is in Israel because the engineering talent here is incredible. You guys are incredibly important to everything that we do and to all the products that we build."

(Times of Israel, Feb. 27, 2015)

Israeli Innovation: Top Ten Israeli High-Tech Start-Ups

Consumer Physics: SCiO: SCiO is a USB-sized molecular scanner. The pocket-sized device uses disruptive technology that scans materials or physical objects to analyze their chemical makeup. It could tell you, for example, whether your apple is still good to eat, or whether your plant needs more water. Destined to create a digital database of our physical world, SCiO may one day allow us to become hands-on molecular biologists and better understand the chemical composition of every object that surrounds us.

Crossrider: The digital advertising company Crossrider, majority owned by Israeli entrepreneur Teddi Sagi, raised \$75 million in its IPO (Initial Public Offering) on London's AIM Stock Exchange in 2014. Crossrider is an Internet optimization company and a platform for developing cross browser extensions. Crossrider is the latest in a string of Israel-founded online advertising companies to join the London Stock Exchange, including Matomy Media Group Ltd. and Marimedia Ltd. in 2014.

CyberArk: CyberArk is an information security company focused on privileged account security. With cyber-security in increasingly high demand among businesses and governments, CyberArk had an impressive public debut on Wall Street in 2014, with the company raising \$85.8 million. CyberArk gears its cyber-security products towards companies, protecting their systems from potentially dangerous external threats. The company's technology is deployed worldwide — primarily in the financial services, energy, retail, and healthcare markets.

IronSource: IronSource is an online software and mobile distribution company. The main product of IronSource is InstallCore, an SDK (Software Development Kit) for the creation of web-based software installers with an integrated download manager and advertising component. The platform claims to shorten download time and to ease the install experience. The company is part of the so-called Download Valley in Israel.

Mobileye: The largest IPO (Initial Public Offering) in Is-

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HIGH-TECH MIRACLE & CANADA

rael's history, Mobileye went public in August, raising \$890 million on the New York Stock Exchange. Mobileye uses camera-based technology to alert drivers of potential collisions and accidents, and is being applied to new General Motors, Honda, BMW Group and Nissan car models. The Jerusalem-based company is currently developing the first driverless car.

OurCrowd: Jerusalem-based Ourcrowd is a startup crowd-funding site in the fast-emerging space of equity crowd funding. OurCrowd, which is run by venture capitalist Jon Medved, has put at least \$70 million to work in roughly 50 companies and has plans to invest \$100 million more over the next year. One of their companies, ReWalk Robotics, recently went public, and now has a market cap of about \$360 million. OurCrowd announced that it will open an office in Toronto by the end of the year, and is also considering expanding to Montreal and Vancouver.

Rewalk Robotics: Created by Dr. Amit Gopher after he was severely paralyzed in an ATV accident, the ReWalk exoskeleton is one of the more impressive technologies to come out of Israel in recent years. ReWalk is an assisted walking device for paraplegics, allowing them to stand, walk and even run on flat surfaces. ReWalk technology is used by US Army Veterans and paraplegic marathon runners alike.

Sol Chip: The Haifa-based company has developed the world's first solar battery that is able to recharge itself in order to power wireless sensors and mobile electronics devices. Operable in sunlight and low-light environments, the batteries are a result of the cross pollination of solar cell and microchip technologies. Sol Chip has created a solar or neon-powered battery that lasts up to 20 years before needing replacement. Sol Chip won the "most innovative Israeli start-



Image courtesy of Argo Medical Technologies.

ReWalk Exoskeleton Suit.

up of 2015" award.

Taboola: Taboola is a content marketing platform that provides a web widget to content creators on their website to show "Content You May Like" that includes links to related articles, videos, and slideshows. Launched in Tel Aviv, and now headquartered in New York, Taboola studies how people interact on the web to predict and expose content that visitors are likely to be interested in. Many of the most frequently visited sites use Taboola's platform, which reaches 400 million

unique visitors and provides over 150 billion recommendations every month.

Waze: Waze is a GPS-based geographical navigation application program for smartphones. It provides turn-by-turn information and user-submitted travel times and route details, downloading location-dependent information over mobile networks. Waze won the Best Overall Mobile App award at the 2013 Mobile World Congress. On June 11, 2013, Google completed the acquisition of Waze for a reported US\$1.3 billion.

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Terror in Tunisia

Tom Rogan

On Wednesday (March 18, 2015), two gunmen stormed into the Bardo National Museum in Tunis. At least 21 people — mainly foreign tourists — were murdered. On Thursday, the Islamic State released an audio recording claiming responsibility for the massacre. Ranting about the “debauchery” of tourism and describing the museum as a “den of disbelief and immorality,” ISIS ended its message with a warning: “We tell the apostates who sit on the chest of Muslim Tunisia: Wait for the glad tidings of what will harm you, o impure ones, for what you have seen today is the first drop of the rain, Allah permitting.”

While we’ll have to wait for more evidence before confirming the Islamic State’s involvement, the group’s claim is credible. Full of excited, demented rhetoric — “apostates,” “impure ones,” “crusaders,” etc. — the message conveys a deep hatred for secular democracy. This matches perfectly with the Islamic State’s ideology. ISIS defines itself by the pursuit of a “purified” world and focuses on expanding its territory and imposing its Islamist political ideology. Wednesday’s attack would seem to be yet another step in carrying out this plan.

A great home of Tunisia’s cultural heritage and many exquisite Roman artifacts, the Bardo Museum is a national treasure. Yet by attracting Western tourists and housing exhibits that ISIS regards as evil idols, the museum is also a perfect target. And as ISIS has proved by destroying ancient treasures in Iraq and Syria, it detests other cultures and the symbols they hold dear.

Yet this attack didn’t arise out of mere hatred; it was an attempt at acquiring more political power. Following elections late last year, Tunisia’s Islamist Ennahda party was unseated from power and replaced by a coalition led by the secularist Nidaa Tounes party. In a triumph of democracy, voters turned on Ennahda after its shambolic governance. But jihadists in the Islamic State, al-Qaeda, and Ansar-al-Sharia were infuriated. They believe that democracy is an affront to God’s law, and they therefore despise secular political empowerment. In 2013, jihadists assassinated two prominent liberal politicians in Tunisia.

Correspondingly, the jihadists today are trying to destabilize the new Tunisian government. Reflecting a popular desire for economic development, Nidaa Tounes seeks foreign direct investment and would like to have a flourishing tourism industry (critical to Tunisia’s GDP). By attacking tourists and threatening future visitors — “what you have seen today is the first drop of the rain”) — the jihadists want to delegitimize the Tunisian government and undermine its utility to the Tunisian people.

Ultimately, an attack like this was probably inevitable. The birthplace of the Arab Spring, home to thousands of ISIS fighters and bordering terrorist havens in Libya, Tunisia is a key battleground in the war for political Islam’s future. With the Islamic State’s empire now reaching from West Africa to the borders of Southern Europe, we should expect more atrocities to follow. Moreover, though some suggest otherwise, neither Europe nor the United States is likely to find insulation from the growing threat.

(National Review, Mar. 20, 2015)

Islam Bulldozes the Past

Daniel Pipes

The recent bulldozing by the Islamic State (ISIS) of the ancient cities of Nimrud, Hatra, and Korsabad, three of the world’s greatest archaeological and cultural sites, is just this group(’s) latest round of assaults across the large area under its control. Since January 2014, the flamboyantly barbaric ISIS has blown up Shi’i mosques, bulldozed churches, pulverized shrines, and plundered museums. Worse, the ISIS record fits into an old and common pattern of destruction of historical artifacts by Muslims.

Some attacks target the works of other, rival religions, such as Orthodox churches in northern Cyprus (since 1974), the Bamiyan Buddhas in Afghanistan (in 2001), the Ghriba synagogue in Tunisia (2002), an historic Hindu temple in Malaysia (2006), and the Assyrian antiquities (“idols”) in Mosul (2015)... Nor is this danger over: Islamic leaders have bruited plans to destroy Persepolis in Iran, St. Catherine’s Monastery in the Sinai, and the Great Pyramids of Egypt.

In some cases, conquerors turn non-Islamic holy places into Islamic ones, thereby asserting the supremacy of Islam. This can be done by converting them into Islamic sanctities, such as the Kaaba in Mecca, the Cathedral of St. John in Damascus, and the Hagia Sophia in Constantinople; or building on top of them, such as Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, India.

Muslims of one denomination sometimes destroy the legacy of other Islamic sects. Recent examples include the tomb of Sidi Mahmoudou, a medieval structure in Timbuktu (2012), Sufi tombs in Libya (2012), and the libraries of Mosul (2015). But best known is the Saudi destruction of antiquities in Mecca since the 1990s, applying strict Wahhabi principles of non-intercession; even Muhammad’s tomb in Medina is in jeopardy.

Destruction also accompanies the fighting of war; the Syrian conflict since 2011 has been particularly devastating in this regard, with battles causing severe damage to such grand antiquities as the Citadel of Aleppo, the Umayyad Mosque, and Crac des Chevaliers. Alongside, smuggling and other profit-making activities to pay for war costs lead to the wholesale stealing and trafficking of rare antiquities...

Ancient artifacts might even be demolished because their space is needed for something deemed urgent. The Palestinian Authority threw out precious Temple Mount archeological remains as mere rubble in 2000 to build a mosque. In 2013, Hamas bulldozed part of the 3,000-year-old Anthon Harbor in Gaza for military purposes...

Why does Islam inspire its adherents to annihilate their own patrimony? Because humiliation establishes and reinforces one’s superiority. Destruction of infidel remains confirms the superior power of Muslims and, by implication, the truth of Islam. In parallel, eliminating the vestiges of Muslim rivals establishes the superiority of Islamism over other, less assertive interpretations of Islam.

While the seizure and appropriation of other monuments began at the very inception of Islam (i.e., the Kaaba), the destruction that has reached orgiastic heights with ISIS is something new; note that nearly all the examples listed here date from the twenty-first century ...

Is there a Middle Eastern country that exults in its multi-religious heritage, celebrates ancient artifacts on coins and stamps, builds fabulous museums for its antiquities, treats archeology as a national pastime, and studies manuscripts rather than burns them? Well, yes, there is. It’s called Israel. ...

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

OBAMA'S "SUCCESSSES": YEMEN AND, AGAIN, SYRIA

The Yemen Meltdown

Editorial

Another week, another victory for disorder in the Middle East. This time the meltdown is in Yemen, where this weekend the U.S. withdrew the remaining U.S. special forces from a base where they were waging a drone war against al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

The withdrawal comes amid growing chaos in the country after Houthi militants deposed the government of Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who fled the capital, San'a, for Aden last month. The Houthis belong to the Zaidi offshoot of Shiite Islam and are receiving help from Iran. They are at war with Sunni jihadists, who struck back in bombings on Friday that killed 152 people in San'a and Saada province. An Islamic State affiliate claimed responsibility.

The U.S. retreat is a major loss in the fight against AQAP, which has been the al Qaeda branch most focused on hitting the U.S. mainland. The U.S. has a military base in Djibouti across the Gulf of Aden as well as naval assets in the region from which it can still strike targets in Yemen. But the loss of special forces on the ground is bound to hurt intelligence collection and thus the ability for accurate targeting. Chaos is a jihadist's best friend.

As recently as September, President Obama hailed Yemen as an antiterror model. "This strategy of taking out terrorists who threaten us, while supporting partners on the front lines, is one that we have successfully pursued in Yemen and Somalia for years," he said. That wishful thinking has now been exposed.

Supporters of leading from behind are hoping, or rationalizing, that the Sunni radicals and Houthis will kill each other and burn themselves out. But the risk is that they will turbocharge each other with outside help, and the resulting chaos will spread.

That's the lesson of Syria's civil war, which the Obama Administration also said would burn out. Iran is already promising free oil shipments to the Houthis and is doubtless shipping arms. Yemen's disorder may now draw in Saudi Arabia, which doesn't want either an Iranian ally or Islamic State to control a country on its southern border. The U.S. should help the Saudis and Mr. Hadi, but mark this down as another strategic fiasco.

(Wall Street Journal, Mar. 22, 2015)

Assad Crosses Obama's 'Red Line' Again

Max Boot

The Syrian civil war has been a nonstop horror show not only for the people of Syria and their neighbors but also for the United States. After setting up an Atrocities Prevention Board and vowing to stop crimes against humanity, President Obama has done essentially nothing even as the civil war has consumed more than 200,000 lives and displaced more than half of the population. American neglect has allowed the country to be divided between Iranian-backed Shiite extremists such as Hezbollah and Sunni extremists such as the Al Nusra Front and ISIS. Amid this parade of atrocities, virtually the only thing that Obama could boast of was that he had engineered, along with Vladimir Putin, a deal to take away Bashar Assad's chemical weapons.

If so, then why is there credible evidence that the Assad regime has been

dropping chlorine gas on civilians in recent days? As Josh Rogin of Bloomberg notes, "Unfortunately, chlorine, which has non-military uses, was not part of that deal. Assad has flaunted the loophole." The fact that chlorine was not included was bizarre; it is the original chemical weapon, having first been used at the Battle of Ypres in 1915.

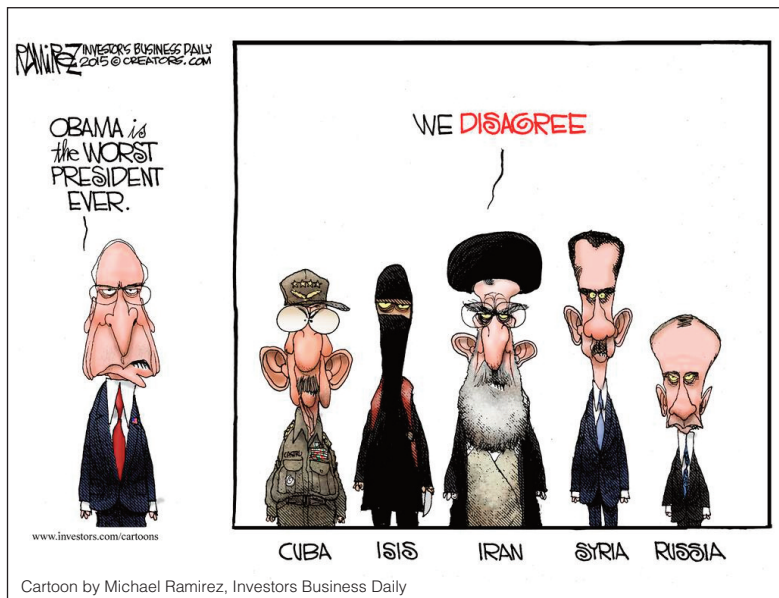
But the UN Security Council has acted to erase the loophole. On March 6, the Security Council passed a resolution condemning the regime's use of chlorine gas after concluding "with a high degree of confidence

that chlorine has been used repeatedly and systematically as a weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic." The Security Council members stressed "that those individuals responsible for any use of chemicals as weapons, including chlorine or any other toxic chemical, must be held accountable."

That would seem to present yet another "red line" that the administration can either enforce or ignore. Opposition activists believe that Assad is once again testing the international community with a series of small attacks utilizing chlorine gas to see how they react. He did the same thing with sarin gas, and when he found little resistance in the world, he unleashed an attack in August 2013 that killed 1,400 people. If left unchecked, we can expect to see chlorine gas employed on an even bigger and deadlier scale, along of course with barrel bombs and other favored instruments of mass destruction employed by the Assad regime and its Iranian patrons.

It will be fascinating to know what if anything the administration will do about this—just as it would be fascinating to know what the administration plans to do to dislodge either ISIS (which it has pledged to defeat) or Assad (whose downfall it once advocated). Secretary of State Kerry who called this week on Assad to get involved in negotiations with the U.S. probably delivered the answer. If only hot air could somehow be utilized as an effective antidote to poison gas.

(Commentary, Mar. 19, 2015)



ANTI-NAZIS, ANTI-ANTISEMITES: CANADIAN ABORIGINAL & GERMAN PROSECUTOR

The Game-Changing Nazi Prosecutor

Machla Abramovitz

In advance of what might be the last Nazi war crimes trial, Thomas Walther, an investigator with Germany's Central Office for Investigating National Socialist Crimes, visited Canada to interview Jewish survivors of the 1944 Hungarian transport, who will serve as co-plaintiffs in the late April trial of Oskar Groening. Known as the "bookkeeper of Auschwitz," Groening is charged with aiding and abetting the murders of 300,000 Hungarian Jews.

Speaking at the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research's (CIJR) Montreal offices on last week's 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Walther spoke of his quest for justice and the need to lend the victims a posthumous voice.

Walther, 71, a retired German judge whose father rescued two Jewish families during Kristallnacht, has pursued Nazis since joining the Central Office in 2006. At that time, Germany's laws permitted prosecuting Nazis only if they had committed murders with their own hands. In 2008, Walther helped

German authorities craft new rules that allowed for prosecution of those Germans and others who aided and abetted Nazi war crimes, whether directly or indirectly. Under those new guidelines, Walther was successful in getting Germany to reopen the case against John (Ivan) Demjanjuk ten years after the Israeli Supreme Court overturned Demjanjuk's 1988 conviction. Demjanjuk, a guard at Sobibor, was, subsequently, convicted in 2011 as an accessory to murder of close to 28,000 people.

Oskar Groening, now 93, is a self-described "small cog in the gears." A former SS sergeant, he counted and distributed money stolen from Jews and made certain that the Nazi killing machine ran smoothly. During the time period in question, in May and June 1944 — 57 days — 437,000 Hungarian Jews were deported to Auschwitz; 300,000 were killed upon arrival. Groening cleaned up and set the stage for the next act as each new transport arrived. "Had the new arrivals seen the accumulated luggage, toys, blood, they would have panicked," Walther explains.

The co-plaintiffs will represent their murdered parents and siblings and will not be cross-examined.

"I'm interviewing them in order to be sure that I convey the right words and the right feeling within a German courtroom," Walther says. For this case, Walther has interviewed 50 Hungarian Jewish survivors worldwide, 20 of whom live in Canada. He believes that the case against Groening is strong, but prosecutors are not seeking jail time. For Walther, it would be enough that Groening publicly admit — he may be the first and last Nazi to do so — some measure of regret for what he did. (Several years ago, Groening told a German newspaper about his wartime role in an effort to combat Holocaust denial.)

"What the co-plaintiffs want is to give a voice and face to these victims, within a German courtroom.

Seventy years later, for them, that is enough."

(Machla Abramovitz is a CIJR Academic Fellow, Mishpacha, Feb. 4, 2015)

A Remarkable Zionist Aboriginal

Barbara Kay

On (Mar. 15), Montreal's Hillel Concordia abruptly cancelled a Monday talk by political activist Ryan Bellerose, co-founder of *Calgary United with Israel (CUWI)*.

It would have been a pro-Israel talk, which nowadays, Jews being so passionately divided on Israel, made certain Hillel constituents volubly unhappy. A pretext for disinviting him was found in what were deemed unacceptably crude satirical tweets posted by Bellerose about Hamas terrorists, unremarkable in their context, on an #AskHamas thread. Conceived to market Hamas propaganda, the thread ended up being buried in an avalanche of vicious and often hilarious anti-Hamas ridicule...

Ryan Bellerose... a Métis from Northern Alberta. He grew up living rough on a "rez," speaking "michif" until he was five years old. His father is Mervin Bellerose, who co-authored the Métis Settlements Act of 1989, passed by the Alberta legislature in 1990, which cemented Métis land rights. Ryan's own people's indigenous rights — and indeed all human rights — are therefore a passion he comes by honestly.

As a young adult, Bellerose founded Canadians for Accountability, a native advocacy group, then became an organizer and participant in Idle No More, until, as he put it in an extended interview, it was "infiltrated by Jew haters" from the anti-Zionist movement, which prompted his exit. For Ryan Bellerose is that most improbable of ducks, a Zionist aboriginal. How did that happen?

His father, determined Ryan should be well educated, not the norm in the hamlet of Paddle Prairie, Alta., gave him a set of the Encyclopedia Britannica for his fifth birthday. Ryan became hooked on history. The saga of Israel's 1948 birth particularly captured his imagination as "the ultimate David and Goliath story."

Noting his enthusiasm, Ryan's father gave him a book about the 1976 raid on Entebbe, which motivated research into the entire Arab-Israel conflict... The more he learned, the more he identified with Israelis, coming to believe that Israelis and the Métis shared historical commonalities of constant betrayal, rejection, expulsion from their homeland, exile and ethnic cleansing.

Like the Métis, the Jews settled in land that nobody but they had ever called a homeland. Instead of becoming insular and bitter at Arab hostility to their presence, they succeeded, Ryan believes, because they always looked forward, making education a priority. Ultimately, Ryan admires Israel, because "the achievement of self-determination in the creation of the nation state of Israel is something no other indigenous people has ever accomplished in the history of the world."

There are numerous aboriginal Canadians who identify with Palestinians. Bellerose is persona non grata with them ("you're not really an Indian," they absurdly say to him) ... Rejecting the left's false narrative of Jewish "colonialism," he affirms that the Jews, indigenous to Israel, were in fact colonized by the Arabs in the 7th century...

Last year Bellerose visited Israel ... This April, he is leading a group of young Jews and aboriginal Canadians on a tour of Israel focused on Jewish ancestral ties to the land.

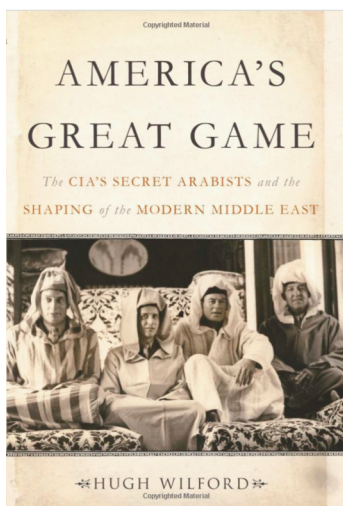
(Barbara Kay is a CIJR Academic Fellow. National Post, March 17, 2015. Bellerose spoke at CIJR on March 18)

The Early CIA's Anti-Zionist Maneuvering

Asaf Romirowsky

At the turn of the 21st century through today, American involvement in Middle Eastern politics runs through the Central Intelligence Agency. In *America's Great Game: The CIA's Secret Arabists and the Shaping of the Modern Middle East*, historian Hugh Wilford shows this has always been the case.

Wilford methodically traces the lives and work of the agency's three most prominent officers in the Middle East: Kermit "Kim" Roosevelt was the grandson of president Theodore Roosevelt, and the first head of CIA covert action in the region; his cousin, Archie Roosevelt, was a Middle East scholar and chief of the Beirut station; while Miles Copeland was a covert operations specialist who joined the American intelligence enterprise during World War II.



EDITORIAL – Continued from page 2

and others have continued to discuss publically possible steps like withdrawing US support for Israel at the UN, aiding Abbas' campaign for UN recognition, reducing Israel's aid package in relation to its "settlement" investments, and so on.

Such invective both reflects a lack of enthusiasm for Jewish Israel clear from the beginning of Obama's Administration, and an intensification of tension related to the impending US ("5+1")-Iranian nuclear agreement. To the shame of the U.S., the EU—the "West", generally—and of course the UN and the "international community", it is now clear that Israel must face Iron's nuclear threat largely alone.

Extraordinarily, and unfortunately, the election and its aftermath also ratify what many have feared since Obama came to power in 2008: a growing confrontation between Israel and its only major ally, the U.S. Despite broadly negative media commentary, this has been provoked not by Israel or Netanyahu, but by a "progressive" President with a tin ear for what Israel represents. And of course "U.S." here denotes only the Administration: the American people, and Congress, are solidly behind Israel.

Obama has since 2008 pursued a functionally pro-Muslim vision of righting "colonialist" wrongs perpetrated by the West, including his own United States, against the Arab- Islamic world. As a consequence, American policy, and standing, in the Middle East—from Iraq to Egypt, from Libya to Syria to Yemen (not to mention Afghanistan)—is in a shambles.

Terrorism and instability are spreading, and now the formerly bedrock U.S.-Israel relationship is imperiled, facts clearly reflected in the Israeli electorate's resounding decision.

(Prof. Frederick Krantz, President and Director of CIJR, is Editor of its Daily Isranet Briefing and Israfax magazine)

Skillfully drawing on personal papers, autobiographies and other primary sources, Wilford...scores the political and ideological dogmas of these individuals – specifically, the rabidly pro-Arab and anti-Zionist views that shaped the CIA in its early years.

The CIA was created in 1947, its leaders were drawn from OSS veterans, members of a fading patrician class of American Protestants – with deep ties to elite universities like Harvard and Yale, and to missionaries with connections throughout the Middle East.

Controlling the CIA's Middle East agenda – opposing Zionism and Communism, supporting Arab regimes in its early years – was made possible by connecting the agency to outside groups...

In 1948, Roosevelt and leading anti-Zionist Virginia Gildersleeve, a former dean of Barnard College, had formed the Committee for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land, which warned that "extreme Zionist pressure" was in "danger of disruption of our national unity and encouraging anti-Semitism." The group worked in close coordination with the anti-Zionist American Council for Judaism, and with State Department officials.

Roosevelt kept forming anti-Israel groups, such as 1949's Holy Land Christian Committee, ostensibly to assist Christians in Israel. Careful to include anti-Zionist Jews, "HELP" featured Lessing J. Rosenwald, former chairman of the board of Sears and Roebuck and onetime president of the American Council for Judaism; and Allen Dulles, a former State Department and OSS official and future director of the CIA...

Finally, in 1951, Roosevelt – together with two-dozen pro-Arab American educators, theologians and writers...founded an anti-Zionist group called American Friends of the Middle East (AFME)... led the way in educating policy-makers, journalists and others as to the Middle Eastern "reality" – which coincided with their political biases...

The AFME organization still exists today as AMIDEAST, "a leading American nonprofit organization engaged in international education, training and development activities in the Middle East and North Africa."

Wilford's historical account helps explain how modern NGOs' evergreen anti-Zionist views remain cornerstones today, along with the convenient core belief that all Middle East problems reside in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict...

(Asaf Romirowsky is a CIJR Academic Fellow, a Fellow at the Middle East Forum and co-author of Religion, Politics, and the Origins of Palestine Refugee Relief, Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. Jerusalem Post, Feb. 12, 2015)

Recently Received CIJR's Library Books

Grabowski, Jan. *Hunt for the Jews: Betrayal and Murder in German-Occupied Poland*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2013

Moynahan, Brian. *Leningrad: Siege and Symphony*. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2014

Prochnik, George. *The Impossible Exile: Stefan Zweig at the End of the World*. New York: Other Press, 2014

Schatteles, Tibor. *The Jews of Timisoara: A Historical Perspective*. Bucharest: Hasefer, 2014

Todd, Chuck. *The Stranger: Barack Obama*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2014

Wisse, Ruth R.. *No Joke: Making Jewish Humour*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2013

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The Canadian Institute for Jewish Research proudly announces that its Founder & President

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EXTRA! EXTRA!

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear friends and supporters,

After a long and bitter winter we are anxious to welcome the first signs of spring to celebrate the Passover Seder with our families and friends. Despite current turmoil, spring and the celebration of the Exodus from bondage to freedom, are sure signs of Jewish revival and hope. At CIJR we are hard at work for our major International Conference and annual fundraising Gala. **"Israel's High-Tech Miracle and Canada: Innovation for Humanity"**, is scheduled for the Wed., **April 29, 2015** and will take place in Montreal at the Gelber Conference Center (Conference 8:30-a.m.-4:30 p.m., Gala 6:30 p.m., cocktail), dinner 8:00. For full details please visit the *Israel's Conference* web site at: www.israconf.com

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

In a world that strives for some good news, Israel is a striking success story. The **Israel's High-Tech Miracle Conference's** Keynote speeches and Panel discussions will illuminate Israel's vibrant economic landscape and the innovative and creative high-tech activities benefiting all of humanity.

And the **27th Annual Gala Evening** will honour CIJR's founder and President, Prof. Frederick Krantz; **Keynote Speaker** is Canada's Minister of National Defence, the Hon. Jason Kenney (*T.B.C.*),

We hope many of you will become *Sponsors* (see the levels on the *Rates & Packages* tab on the *Conference* web site). Importantly, your support will enable a **student or community activist to attend, and learn from, the Conference.**

Many thanks to our dedicated Montreal office staff—Rob Coles, Langdon Conway, Melina Ghio, and Yunna Shapira, and Student Intern Matthew Kendall—who have been doing a great job. Thanks too to all our Toronto Chapter volunteers (*see below*) and to all our friends and supporters across Canada and the world, for all their good help and dedication.

Jack Kincler, National Board Chairman

CIJR TORONTO

Alan Herman

An all-day symposium on the anti-Israel bias in Western media held in November, 2014 at *Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue* was well-attended and hotly debated. *The Annual Sabina Citron International Colloquium* is named after the remarkable Torontonion, now in Israel, who led the successful campaign against the neo-Nazi Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel.

A stellar panel presented different facets of the theme. They were: Prof. Richard Landes (who coined the word Pallywood), Diane Bederman, Jonathan Halevi, Barbara Kay, Lawrence Solomon, and Prof. Emeritus Sally Zerker (who also chaired the event).

As ever, CIJR-Toronto remains an active community partner to many crucial events aimed at shaping the public consciousness. Most recently we stood side-by-side with other concerned civic-groups, community leaders and individuals, at a rally outside the US Consulate in bitter cold February in support of Netanyahu's US Congress appearance against the threat of an Iran nuclear-armed. Presently we are working in partnership with other community leaders to host a major event bringing Iraq's Yazidi plight to public consciousness.

On Tuesday, March 24, our first *Israel Learning Seminar Series*, open to students and the public, began with Lawrence Solomon (*Financial Post*) speaking on "Israel, The Media and Antisemitism after *Charlie Hebdo* and *Supermarché Kacher*"; then, on April 14, Prof. Ira Robinson (Concordia U., Jewish Studies) on "Israel As a Jewish State, Backgrounds and Foregrounds"; and finally, May 5, Prof. Sally Zerker (York U. *Emerita*) will lead a Seminar on "Israel And The World: Contemporary Issues". All ILS sessions are held at the Toronto Zionist Centre.