

29 Nissan, 5779
May 4, 2019

News Reports and Commentary
Israel and the Jewish World
Published by the TORONTO ZIONIST COUNCIL
Tel: 416 781-3571 e-mail: tzc@torzc.org
More news: www.aftershabbat.com Founding Editor: Yossi Winter

ב"ה שבת שלום
פרשת אחרי מות

Beyond 71

Let the PA collapse

Martin Sherman

It is all or nothing. We will not take any money if they do not give all of it—even if it means the collapse of the Palestinian Authority and an unequivocal declaration that the Oslo Accords are dead.

—Ashraf al-Ajami, former Palestinian Authority (PA) minister for Prisoners Affairs, on Israel's decision to deduct the sums paid to convicted terrorists and/or their families from the tax revenue that Israel collects for the PA, Galei Israel, April 19, 2019.

If the existential goal of the PA—according to Ashraf Ajami as well as according to Abu Mazen—is to persist in paying salaries to terrorists, because if it does not pay salaries to terrorists, it breaks up, then perhaps we need to ask what we signed the Oslo Agreement for, if all we did was establish an Authority whose function is to promote terror

—Brig-Gen. (res) Yossi Kuperwasser, former Director-General of the Ministry of Strategic Affairs, Galei Israel, April 19, 2019.

Dispassionate observers knew and a historical perspective confirms that the Oslo Accords, which spawned the Palestinian Authority, were born in sin.

Oslo: The product of betrayal and bribery

After all, without the support of Gonen Segev, who was later convicted and imprisoned for drug trafficking and fraud and, several years later, for treason and espionage, they would never have seen the light of day. Indeed, as readers might recall, Segev was elected to the Knesset on a hardline hawkish platform that opposed the very far reaching concessions that the Oslo Agreements entailed. However, he was coaxed (read “bribed”) by Yitzhak Rabin with the lure of a ministerial portfolio, to betray his voters and cross the political lines to endorse the Oslo initiative—that starkly contradicted the core values of the platform on which he was elected.

It is equally beyond doubt that the same Oslo Accords have cost Israel and Israelis dearly. As a product of both political betrayal and bribery, the Oslo Accords soon began to deliver its heinous results. Thousands of Israelis paid with their lives and limbs for the ill-considered initiative. What was grotesquely dubbed “the peace process” left café’s, buses, and sidewalks strewn with body parts and gore, while the Oslo advocates doggedly refused to admit error, callously dismissing the dead and injured as “victims of peace”.

Sadly, but not unforeseeably, Oslo has brought nothing positive to Israel or to Israelis. Indeed, none of the promises of sweeping benefits by its proponents have been fulfilled; while virtually all the dangers, of which its opponents warned, did indeed materialize.

Accordingly, by any reasonable criterion, the jury is no longer out on the Oslo process. As might have been expected from its ignominious genesis, it has proven itself an indisputable—and irredeemable—failure. The time has come to openly acknowledge this inescapable reality.

PA collapse as an opportunity, not a threat

In this regard, there should be a sea-change in the prevailing perception of the significance for Israel of the collapse of the PA and with it, of the entire mendacious Osloian edifice.

After all, if the only way for the PA to endure is for Israel to collaborate in the financing of the slaughter of its own citizens by transferring “pay-to-slay” funds to perpetrators of terror, grave doubts must be cast on the prudence—indeed, the sanity—of sustaining this state of affairs.

Moreover, for Israel to back down on this issue would not only greatly undermine its credibility—and hence its deterrence capabilities—but would

constitute a sharp slap in the face for its staunch allies in the US Senate, who passed the Taylor Force Act to curtail American support for the PA—unless it halts payments to perpetrators of terror and/or their families.

It is generally considered that the imminent financial collapse of the PA comprises a threat to Israel, heralding increasing instability and security problems.

Although this may be true to some extent in the short run, it must be rejected as a long term constraint on Israeli strategic thinking. Indeed, rather than a threat, the impending collapse of the PA should be perceived as an opportunity to extricate the nation from the hazardous cul-de-sac into which the deceptive Oslo process lured it.

Mizrachi Yom HaZikaron Commemoration & Yom HaAtzmaut Celebration

Schwartz Reisman Centre
9600 Bathurst Street. May 8, 6:15pm

Treating the enemy as the enemy

The key to making the transformation from perceiving the collapse of the PA as a threat to an opportunity is to set aside the dictates of political correctness and confront political truth. Thus, rather than persist with the fiction that the PA is a prospective peace partner, it must be treated as it sees itself—i.e. as an implacable enemy.

Accordingly, Israel has no obligation—ethical or otherwise—to sustain the socio-economic edifice of its enemy dedicated to its destruction. Indeed, if anything, its moral duty is to bring about its collapse.

This is particularly relevant—and immediately feasible—for Gaza, where almost a decade and a half of abysmal government by Hamas has caused the widespread breakdown of the civilian infrastructure. Thus, according to Nada Majdalani, Palestinian Director of EcoPeace Middle East in a recent address to the UN Security Council: “97% of the groundwater under Gaza is not suitable for human consumption... Thirty percent of illnesses in Gaza [is] from water-borne pathogens. With a four-hour average of power supply, waste water facilities fail to operate, emptying the equivalent of 34 Olympic-size swimming pools of raw sewage daily into the Mediterranean...”

Significantly, she warned: “A humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip is happening right now, right before our eyes. If no immediate action is taken in Gaza, people will flee by heading out in boats, just like other Middle Eastern refugees...”

Gaza: A missed opportunity

Regrettably, Israel failed to seize on an earlier opportunity created when head of the PA, Mahmoud Abbas (a.k.a Abu Mazen), cut the funding to Gaza—and acted to relieve the pressures this created by allowing Qatari money to flow into the Hamas-controlled enclave.

This will not only prove futile but detrimental. For as long as Israel remains entrapped within the confines of the policy paradigm that envisions Arab self-rule in Gaza, persisting with the conventional form of humanitarian aid will only perpetuate—but, exacerbate—the humanitarian crisis—see Gaza: Let their people go.

In this regard, I have for decades made the case that the solution to Gaza's humanitarian plight is not its reconstruction, but its deconstruction. Indeed, there is rapidly accumulating evidence that the only thing preventing a mass exodus from Gaza is money—or rather, the lack thereof—to facilitate emigration of Gazans to other more stable, less harrowing destinations.

For the humanitarian debacle in Gaza has not been precipitated by a perennial lack of cash (indeed, Gaza has been among the highest per capita recipients of

international aid on the planet); or the lack of Israeli largesse in wishing to improve living conditions there (by permitting hundreds of truck-loads a day and millions of tons of merchandise a year into the enclave).

None of this has done anything to blunt the anti-Israel animus of the regime or ameliorate the living standards of the populace. Clearly, persisting with the same policy will serve little purpose other than continuing to enmesh the fate-stricken residents in their present—and deteriorating—predicament.

Callous indifference

Callous indifference to the fate of the people is not confined to the Hamas regime in Gaza. Indeed, it seems no less characteristic of the Ramallah-based PA itself, willing to inflict grave hardship on the public rather than accept a marginally reduced lower amount, with the sums designated for the terrorist recipients deducted from the overall total.

According to UN reports, Israel plans to withhold \$140 million in 2019 – approximately \$11.5 million each month – in tax revenues over the terrorist payment issue. The sum Israel is withholding comprises 6% of the total tax revenues it collects for the PA. The overall tax revenues collected by Israel represent 65% of the PA's budget or 15% of the PA's entire GDP.

Indeed, after over a quarter of a century of endeavor—backed by munificent international aid and almost universal political endorsement—all the attempt to foist self-governance on the Palestinian-Arabs has achieved is a corrupt kleptocracy under the Abbas-led PA, and an arguably no less corrupt tyrannical theocracy under Hamas in Gaza.

Boomerang Fighting for Israel

Weekly Terror Report

In Judea and Samaria

25th of April - 2th of May

- 34 Stone Throwings
- 15 Firebombs
- 2 Shootings
- 1 House arson

746 terror attacks

From the Beginning of 2019

BoomerangFight video for Yom HaShoah

www.AfterShabbat.com

Send the soldiers a BBQ for Yom HaAtzmaut

www.AlsoAfterShabbat.com

Moreover, the cause of peace between the Jewish state and the Palestinian-Arabs has not been advanced one iota. If anything, quite the opposite!

Accordingly, in light of this abysmal and enduring failure, alternative paradigms must be advanced.

If not Oslo, what?: A moral alternative.

One of the options for Israel would be of course to stop collecting the taxes (mainly customs duty on imports) and leave it to the PA to collect them itself. But given the perennial culture of corruption, inadequate infrastructure and widespread tax evasion, the net impact on revenues is likely to be dramatic—and unsustainable in the long run.

Another, more radical, but ultimately more effective alternative would be to use the withheld funds to launch an initiative I have long advocated as the only non-kinetic policy option that can ensure the long term survival of Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people: A comprehensive initiative for incentivized emigration of Palestinian-Arabs in which non-belligerent Palestinian-Arab residents would receive generous grants that would allow them to find better, more prosperous and more secure lives elsewhere—free from the clutches of the callous cliques, who have led them into their current plight.

The moral rationale for such a measure is clear and compelling: The tax revenues collected by Israel do not belong to Israel. Accordingly, Israel cannot appropriate the money for its own purposes, but it can offer it to the Palestinian-Arabs who have been utterly failed by their leadership, which clearly has no compunction in inflicting further hardship on them!

How to really relieve the humanitarian crisis

Of course, the tax revenues collected by Israel would comprise only a small fraction of the overall sum required for a numerically significant “evacuation-compensation” plan to resettle sufficient numbers of Palestinian-Arabs in third party countries. But the self-induced collapse of the PA, precipitated by its obstinate insistence to sponsor terror, may well be an auspicious opportunity to launch it.

Indeed, the moral superiority of such an initiative over the Osloian formula, entailing Palestinian statehood, is unassailable.

After all, nobody—not even the most avid two-state proponent—has ever advanced persuasive reasoning why any prospective Palestinian state would be anything other than (yet another) homophobic, misogynistic, Muslim-majority tyranny, whose hallmarks would be: gender discrimination, persecution of homosexuals, religious intolerance and oppression of political dissidents.

Accordingly, the moral balanced discourse that must be introduced into the discussion is this: Why is offering financial incentives to Jews in Judea-Samaria to evacuate their homes to facilitate the establishment of said homophobic, misogynistic tyranny, which, almost certainly, will become a bastion for Islamist terror, morally acceptable; while the notion of offering the same financial incentives to Arabs in Judea-Samaria to evacuate their homes to prevent the establishment of such an entity, is considered morally reprehensible?

The way forward should therefore be clear—both in terms of moral merit and practical pragmatism. It must, however, begin with allowing the iniquitous and largely dysfunctional PA to collapse. That is the only measure that will allow the eventual humanitarian plight of the Palestinian-Arabs to be effectively addressed.

Martin Sherman is the founder and executive director of the Israel Institute for Strategic Studies.

The Zionist Dream

– What Does the Future Hold?

The physical and functional dimension of reality

The ideals and ideas of Zionism cannot merely remain on paper or in the spiritual consciousness; rather, they must be manifest physically, functionally, and politically, and therefore, in the administrative-constructive-concrete dimension.

For that purpose, one year ago, the Strategic Outline Plan, Tama 100, was born. Its role is to create a diagnosis on the basis of the present reality, and to formulate a programmatic, mission-oriented prognosis for the Jewish people in their land, based on short-term and long-term professional and operational planning instruments.

Continuing the Zionist momentum:

At the beginning of the Third Aliya (1920) the population of Israel numbered 60,000 Jews. With the establishment of the State (1948), there were already 650,000 Jews. Today, the Jewish population in the Land of Israel numbers 6.8 million. In other words, the Jewish population in the Land of Israel has, contrary to all demographic projections, multiplied itself by 100 times and more, since the starting point that was only one hundred years ago.

This demographic miracle is impressive by any parameter – historical, geographic, and design – and that is because, already today, the State of Israel is the largest Jewish population center in the world, and in 2025, the majority of world Jewry, 8 million out of

the 15 million Jews throughout the world, will be concentrated in the Land of Israel. This is a demographic and symbolic situation that the Jewish people have not known for 2500 years, since the First Temple era. This is the greatest practical success of the Return to Zion movement, and we are all very proud of this.

At the present rate of growth of the Israeli population, the Central Bureau of Statistics projects that in the year 2048, there will be between 15 and 20 xxxxxmillion residents west of the Jordan. It is conceivable that there will be even greater immigration and greater growth, and it is necessary to prepare for those possibilities.

Therefore, there is a great responsibility on the shoulders of the architects of future Israeli policy at present to step forward and determine: How to manage population density indices that will double or even triple themselves in the future from an average of 420 people/sq km, to an average of approximately 1,300 people/sq km. Where will all these millions of people live? How far will the settlement of the residents of the land spread?

How can we ensure their economic prosperity, full employment, education, health, and extensive culture, as well as the education, well-being, and security of millions of the residents of the Land of Israel while maintaining their identification with the ethos of the Zionist values in the future?

From the existing statutory status to Tama 100

Tama 35 is the National Statutory Outline Plan that was ratified and has been in effect since the year 2005. This plan, that systematizes the entire expanse of the State of Israel, establishes national, district, and local planning guidelines; however, surprisingly (or perhaps not) it does not include the territories of Judea and Samaria.

The exclusion of Judea and Samaria reflects a political reality lacking vision and sovereignty in these areas of the homeland, and disregard for the physical reality that considers the entire territory east of the Jordan as one geographical planning unit. It is an expanse that, from a professional perspective, cannot be divided into disconnected planning sub-units, because they constitute a single entity (in terms of foreign policy and security, urban policy, settlement and population distribution, treasury and economy, domestic policy and justice, ecological infrastructures and open areas, and traffic and transportation policy throughout the expanse). They must all be addressed together in an integral manner.

The region of Judea and Samaria influences the conditions in the rest of the country. Every action on the mountain ridge - influences the residents of the plain and the valley (The environment, air, water, and land pollution). The crowded means of transportation also requires planning in Judea and Samaria. In every future scenario, all segments of the physical alignment will be integrated and joined; therefore, planning that overlooks the existence of Judea and Samaria betrays the future of the Zionist enterprise, and there is no alternative to altering the planning approach, regardless of the nature of the eventual political agreement. We may not ignore the natural and economic factors. They do not recognize political borders, but rather geographic ones.

In any case, the physical reality imposes responsibility on Israel, and investment of resources in Judea and Samaria. In the Fifty years of absence of a political and planning decision, considerable investment of resources was not saved on the one hand, and on the other, comprehensive planning was not taken into account, not for the present, and certainly not the future developments.

It is the duty of the Jewish public in Israel to promote planning that is not blind to reality, in order to prevent endless trouble for future generations.

In the near future, there is a new National Outline Plan (2050) that is supposed to replace Tama 35 in 2020; however, despite many years of right wing rule, it too, like its predecessor, does not include the territories of Judea and Samaria.

Tama 100, which will be detailed below, constitutes, in our opinion, a necessary condition for the continued existence of the Zionist enterprise, its realization and its success in the tempestuous Middle East, including the application of full sovereignty over the entire area of the Land of Israel west of the Jordan.

<http://new.ribonut.co.il>

The Development of Sovereignty in Israel

From the start of the 20th century, with the beginning of the aliyot to Israel, “the Zionist line” gained momentum and made progress. Aliya, pioneering, settlement, establishment of the State, victory at war. In the territorial dimension as well, there were changes since the British Mandate period, and despite the

fact that the objective was not to spread beyond the territories that the various agreements allotted us, in practice, after we were attacked in several wars, we redeemed the lands of our homeland, and we improved our situation.

The Yom Kippur War constitutes a critical point in the history of Zionism when the conceptual divergence among the Jewish people began in the wake of the liberation of Judea and Samaria in 1967, and the lack of decisiveness regarding Israeli policy in those areas, which represent, above all, its Jewish identity.

The influence is extreme: The resources invested in the interim resolutions, and in the attempts to generate permanent resolutions, are considerable.

The difference in the approaches vis-à-vis the proper handling of the territory is one of the causes of political and social tension in Israel, and the “Zionist line” fluctuates. And if we again return to the territorial dimension, this bite taken out of the homeland constitutes a problem in many senses and a blow to Zionist values.

Today, in 2019, after various diplomatic attempts to resolve the problem (all of them with an orientation of concessions and withdrawals), we remain faced with the question: Where do we go from here? How far will the Zionist line progress? According to our understanding, Tama 100 is the continuation of the traditional Zionist line of the fathers of the Hebrew Yishuv and even of the historical Labor Party.

<http://new.ribonut.co.il>

A Geopolitical Analysis of the Middle East

In the framework of the broad perspective with which we are surveying the present situation, it is necessary to take into consideration the region and the context within which Israel finds itself – the geopolitical status of the Middle East, in order to propose realistic solutions to the challenges facing us.

Israel, as a Jewish, democratic state, and as a representative of Western culture in the Middle East, stands now between the alliance of the Sunni countries and the alliance of the Shiite countries with the dangerous extremist ideology who call for the destruction of the State of Israel and the Zionist enterprise, while striving to establish a Moslem caliphate in its place.

The Sunni alliance, which, at present, has a relatively moderate ideology, tends toward recognition of the State of Israel as a fait accompli. Nevertheless, these elements are constantly weighing the opportunity versus the danger in posing a military challenge to Israel.

The State of Israel can never allow itself to lose even one war; therefore, it is incumbent upon us to become a regional power in every area.

As long as the State of Israel maintains its standing, its power, and the fabric of regional cooperation and shared interests from a stable and durable position of strength, the chances of peace increase and the chances of war decrease.

Israel is powerful when its defense policy is based on the triangle of deterrence, intelligence, and thwarting the enemy by striving for a decisive military victory on the offensive, not on the defensive.

Therefore, Israel must maintain its military/technological superiority.

This is a necessary, but insufficient, condition. The primary component of the State of Israel’s military strength is based on the internal underpinnings of the people’s army and on the sense of partnership, responsibility, national solidarity, and sacrifice on behalf of the Return to Zion and the homeland, with a sober consideration of the alternatives of life without sovereignty and the anti-Semitism raging in the world even today.

The Israeli defense philosophy must be based on integrated internal and external might.

The external defense philosophy

1. Israel is a regional power with secure, defensible borders.

2. The objective is demilitarization of the Arab countries that border Israel based on the Sinai model.

3. Treaties and military and civilian cooperation with the nations of the region.

The internal defense philosophy

1. Full governance and freedom of movement in the entire territory.

2. Military capabilities are no replacement for territory.

3. The central highlands and the Jordan Valley provide the geographical security dimension.

4. Eliminating autonomous pockets of resistance not loyal to the Zionist idea.

5. Resolute enforcement of law, order, and justice throughout the Land of Israel.

<http://new.ribonut.co.il>

Lunch with Dr. Mordechai Kedar

Speakers Action Group
Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Tama 100 – Not Only a Political Solution, But a Comprehensive Vision

Tama 100 relates to the entire territory west of the Jordan as a single national planning unit, the influence of the entirety of the parameters is not limited to political-administrative planning, but also to the planning of open spaces, national infrastructures, transportation, urban planning, ecological planning (nature reserves, water resources, etc.).

Beyond the core issues surveyed in the 3 schools of thought, Tama 100 creates simultaneously a detailed physical planning policy that will meet the needs of the future population increase in the following areas:

Traffic and transportation – Moving from private to public transportation and minimizing the concept of periphery and therefore commuting; airports in each district, seaports, a national network of trains that connects to the nations of the region; a national, district, and sub-district network of roads; extension of the Israeli National Trail into Judea and Samaria.

National infrastructures – Planning national consumption and clean alternative energies and export of energy and water to the countries of the region, gas rigs, and a municipal network for supply of gas, power plants, gasoline stockpiles, desalination facilities, the future of the National Water Carrier; and in the future: The Med-Dead canal linking the seas, artificial islands, purification institutes, and landfills.

Ecology and open spaces – Delineating the boundaries of new nature reserves and national parks in Judea and Samaria; establishing a policy regarding beaches and lakes; cliffs and craters; expanding agricultural lands to facilitate demographic growth; expanding the areas for forests and thickets; preserving desert and wilderness areas.

Greater Jerusalem – capital and global city – Planning the Holy basin, transfer of all government institutions to Jerusalem; planning an infrastructure of transportation, housing, and employment for 5 million residents; planning and establishing 180 embassies throughout the city; planning coastal Jerusalem, today's Ashdod, as the port of the capital.

Historical and archeological heritage – Development of existing and new sites, for domestic and international tourism, and transforming them into the generators of the identity of the Jewish people in its homeland.

Military lands – Planning the alignment of the border of the State of Israel, planning the location of army camps; land, sea, and air firing ranges; airports; planning the distribution of emergency roads, storehouses, and military supply routes.

Special structures – Each district will plan for itself and with nationwide coordination; government buildings; religious buildings; hospitals; institutions of higher education; employment centers; cultural and leisure institutions; sports arenas; district parks.

<http://new.ribonut.co.il>

Israel Victory Project

The Israel Victory Project is a new Forum initiative to steer U.S. policy toward backing an Israel victory over the Palestinians to resolve the Arab-Israeli

conflict. This new paradigm seeks to convince Palestinians that the Jewish state will endure.

Since its launch in Fall 2016, the Israel Victory Project has met with 51 members of Congress or their staff, laying the groundwork for a congressional Israel Victory Caucus. More recently, the Project has advised key officials of the Trump administration on the concept of Israel victory and its requisite policies.

Specifically, we explain (1) why the "peace process" failed; (2) the necessity of victory to end wars; (3) how Israel can win; and (4) how U.S. policy can support Israel victory.

The "Peace Process" That Failed

When Palestinians still lived under direct Israeli control before the 1993 Oslo accords, acceptance of Israel had increased over time even as political violence diminished. Residents of the West Bank and Gaza could travel locally without checkpoints and access work sites within Israel. They benefited from the rule of law and a growing economy not dependent on foreign aid. Functioning schools and hospitals emerged, as did several universities.

Oslo then brought Palestinians not peace and prosperity; but tyranny, failed institutions, poverty, corruption, a death cult, suicide factories, and Islamist radicalization. Oslo gave traction to the hitherto recessive Palestinian hope to eliminate Israel so that it became dominant by 2000. Venomous speech and violent actions soared.

As Palestinian rage spiraled upward, more Israelis were murdered in the five years post-Oslo than in the fifteen years preceding it. Further, Israel lost standing internationally as its legitimacy declined, especially on the Left, spawning the U.N. World Conference against Racism in Durban hate fest and the BDS movement.

For Israel, forty-five years (1948-93) of successful deterrence were substantially undone by seven years of Oslo appeasement (1993-2000) and seven years (2000-07) of unilateral withdrawals.

The False Hope of Finessing Victory

Israeli concessions have inflamed Palestinian hostility. The Israeli effort to "make peace" was received as a sign of demoralization and weakness. "Painful concessions" reduced the Palestinian awe of Israel, made the Jewish state appear vulnerable, and incited irredentist dreams of annihilation.

Wars generally end when one side in a conflict gives up hope, when its will to fight has been exhausted through defeat. In other words, wars end not through goodwill but in victory. Victory consists of imposing one's will on the enemy, compelling him to give up his war ambitions.

Defeat can result either from a military thrashing or from an accretion of economic and political pressures; it does not require total military loss or economic destruction, much less the annihilation of a population.

Thinkers and warriors through the ages concur on the importance of victory as the correct goal of warfare. For example, Aristotle wrote: "Victory is the end of generalship"; and Dwight D. Eisenhower said: "In war, there is no substitute for victory." Technological advancement has not altered this enduring human truth.

The Hard Work of Winning

Palestinians and Israelis have pursued static and opposing goals since 1948: Palestinians tried to eliminate Israel; Israelis worked to win acceptance. They are so contrary that no compromise can resolve the conflict; either the Jewish state disappears or its neighbors accept it.

To win, to be accepted, Israel must return to its pre-1993 policy of deterrence, establishing that Israel is strong, tough, and permanent. That is achieved through the tedious task of deterrence, convincing Palestinians and others that the Jewish state will endure and that dreams of its elimination must collapse.

This process may be seen through a simple prism. Any development that encourages Palestinians to think they can eliminate Israel is negative, any that encourages them to give up that goal is positive. The goal here is not Palestinian love of Zion, but closing down the apparatus of war: shuttering suicide factories, ending the demonization of Jews and Israel, recognizing Jewish ties to Jerusalem, and "normalizing" relations with Israelis.

Palestinian acceptance of Israel will be achieved when, over a protracted period and with complete consistency, the violence ends, replaced by sharply worded démarches and letters to the editor. Symbolically, the conflict will be over when Jews living in Hebron (in the West Bank) have no more need for security than Palestinians living in Nazareth (in Israel).

Israel victory, ironically, is good news for Palestinians. Compelling them to give up their irredentist delusion liberates them to focus on developing their own polity, economy, society, and culture. Palestinians need to pass through the bitter crucible of defeat to become a normal people whose parents stop celebrating their children becoming suicide terrorists and which prefers to help itself rather than harm Jews.

U.S. Policy – The Need for American Support

Like all outsiders to the conflict, Washington faces a stark choice: either endorse the Palestinian goal of eliminating Israel or support Israel's goal of winning its neighbors' acceptance. To state this choice makes clear there is no choice – the first is barbaric, the second civilized.

To support acceptance of Israel, Washington must not drag the parties back to more negotiations, but robustly supporting Israel's path to victory. That translates into not just backing episodic Israeli shows of force, but a sustained and systematic international effort of working with Israel, select Arab states, and others to convince the Palestinians of the futility of their rejectionism: Israel is there, it's permanent, and it enjoys wide backing.

That means supporting tough Israeli policies, from capital punishment for murderers to shuttering the Palestinian Authority. It means diplomatic support for Israel, such as undoing the "Palestine refugee" farce and rejecting the claim of Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital. It also entails ending benefits to the Palestinians unless they work toward the full and permanent acceptance of Israel: no diplomacy, no recognition as a state, no financial aid, and certainly no weapons, much less militia training.

The central issues of the Oslo Accords (borders, water, armaments, sanctities, Jewish communities in the West Bank, "Palestine refugees") cannot be usefully discussed so long as one party still rejects the other.

Negotiations can re-open and take up anew the Oslo issues upon the joyful moment of Palestinian acceptance of the Jewish state.

<https://www.meforum.org>

The Arab States

Don't Want a Palestinian State Either

Human Rights activist Bassam Eid: They have turned Gaza into Hell. The Arabs of Judea and Samaria see how their situation has deteriorated since Oslo and are willing to accept a status of residency under Israeli sovereignty.

In Jerusalem the Sovereignty Movement held a panel discussion on the topic of sovereignty and one of the speakers was human rights activist Bassam Eid, a resident of east Jerusalem and former resident of Jericho, who has become an international symbol, exposing the corruption and incitement to terror carried out by the PA leadership.

Eid began his talk with an anecdote from one of his meetings with senior officials of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip that are held to support the residents of the Strip with their humanitarian problems. "One day I met the head of the Civil Administration of Khan Yunis. He asked if I believe in G-d. I told him 'yes' and he said that I must surely believe that in the world to come there is a Heaven and Hell. Hell will be here in Gaza and Gaza has really become a hell".

I have always been in contact with a lot of people there. There are shocking stories there. No one speaks of the thousands of people who are murdered there, like in Saudi Arabia and other Arab states where people are murdered and no one knows about them. We know about the severe Islamic regime that rules the Hamas movement in Gaza", says Eid, adding: "If, tomorrow, the State of Israel took a secret survey among the Palestinians of Judea and Samaria, asking them which regime they would prefer to live under, I believe that 99.9 percent would prefer Israeli rule".

According to Eid, the Arab public in Judea and Samaria and Gaza remembers longingly the days before the Oslo era. "We remember the good days before Oslo. People in Gaza are nostalgic for the beaches of Jaffa and Haifa. Palestinians say that since Oslo their situation has been deteriorating day by day".

"Two days ago in Jericho, a Palestinian died as a result of beatings carried out by people from the Palestinian government. They have no respect for human rights in the PA. I have dealt with human rights under Arafat as well as under Abbas; each one is worse than the other. There are no investigative committees there and the most important thing for them is their corruption".

"In all of the public relations activities in the Palestinian Authority there is nothing but incitement. When you pay a salary to a murderer, it only encourages more murders and more murderers. This is exactly what they do", says Eid, stating that "The only support that Mahmoud Abbas gets is from the West, especially from Europe. Not from the Palestinians and not from the Americans. Only Europeans give it power and money".

Bassam Eid told another story about a speech by former U.S. ambassador Nikki Haley in the AIPAC conference, which he attended specifically to hear her speech. In this speech, she said that "When there is a draft resolution in the UN, it is voted upon, if it is in favor of Israel the Arab ambassadors are against it and vice versa, but after the vote, when I return to my office in the UN, the ambassadors come to me and tell me that they are sorry, that they had no choice but to vote as they did, but they are with me".

From this story about Haley, Eid reaches the surprising conclusion that "no country in the Middle East wants a Palestinian state". And to this, he adds that he believes the king of Jordan is in agreement with the Israeli consensus that the Jordan Valley must remain in Israeli hands, since he does not want Palestinian soldiers on the border of his country.

In Eid's opinion, 21 Arab states support Israeli sovereignty over Judea and Samaria, even if they do not say it aloud. "The time has come to move from theory to practice. There has been enough talk about theories. The time has come to do this and with Trump, anything is possible. He is for everything. You have the support of 21 Arab states. Why are you waiting? This could happen even before the elections. The way is paved and you should do it as quickly as possible", said Eid, to the audience's loud applause.

In the question and answer period Eid was asked if the Arab population in Judea and Samaria would be satisfied, in his opinion, with the status of residency, which is not citizenship. Eid answered in the positive, stating that when the Arab public hears and speaks of sovereignty and Israeli annexation "what interests them is 'what does it give me', and if it would give them rights. This is what they want. They hear that I, as a resident of east Jerusalem, am covered by National Insurance, can travel to anywhere and fly to anywhere and they tell me residency is enough for them. They know that with this residency they would receive much more than what PA or Jordanian citizenship gives them".
<http://new.ribbonut.co.il>

In Other News.....

The Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamophobia Trap

Jonathan S. Tobin

As far as administration critics are concerned, U.S. President Donald Trump is about to do it again.

His plans to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist group has the foreign-policy establishment wringing their hands at what they consider a blunder that will undermine U.S. influence in the Middle East and throughout the Islamic world. Even worse, some other members of the anti-Trump resistance think that this is just one more example of the administration's rampant Islamophobia that has made religious prejudice official government policy.

But this is actually another example of how Trump's instinctive distrust of the so-called "experts" has allowed him to do what needs to be done. Like U.S.

recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the administration's insistence that the Palestinian Authority stop funding terrorism and the withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, Trump's move against the Brotherhood is long overdue.

Of course, it is tainted in some eyes by the fact that it comes right after a White House meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. The Egyptian leader led a coup that overthrew a Muslim Brotherhood government that had won an election the previous year. Since then, Sisi's regime has cracked down on the Brotherhood and committed widespread human-rights violations in the process.

That has led figures like Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) to demand the release of its leaders from Egyptian prisons and to call for normalizing relations with the group.

Some of the experts also think the Brotherhood is more of an Islamist political party than a terrorist group. They see it as a loose-knit association not unified in support of terror, and which can, in the right context, become a force for stability in some nations. Along with leftist figures like Omar, they also see the designation as a blunt instrument that seeks to brand a broad-based movement with millions of supporters as terrorists in a way that is inherently intolerant of Muslims.

However, the truth about the Brotherhood is that it is the granddaddy of all Islamist terror groups. Founded in 1928, it has always seen itself as being a social movement within the Muslim world, and when necessary, it presents itself as a political party. But at its core is an Islamist worldview that sees its purpose as an effort to reject liberal, democratic and more moderate strains of Islam, and to enforce a strict vision of the faith that is rooted in jihad and intolerance for modernity, seeking to impose Muslim religious law (Sharia) everywhere it can. While it sometimes eschews violence to advance its goals, its commitment to jihad has made it the main force behind the creation of terror groups like Hamas. It links Islamists throughout the world to practitioners of violence in a way that makes that a distinction without a difference.

While El-Sisi's abysmal human-rights record makes him an unsavory character, events in Egypt during the last decade illustrate the true nature of the Brotherhood.

After President Barack Obama acquiesced to the deposition of longtime Egyptian authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak, the United States also gave its approval to elections that brought the Brotherhood to power in Egypt. Though it had represented itself to gullible foreign diplomats and the international press as representing moderate Islam, its rule provoked widespread opposition from Egyptians, who realized that the Brotherhood had no intention of ever allowing itself to be voted out and was on its way to establishing its totalitarian Islamist vision. When the military moved against it, tens of millions of Egyptians went into the streets to support the coup. While El-Sisi and his government are far from exemplary, it is a vast improvement on the Brotherhood, which has now resorted to terrorism.

The Brotherhood's core beliefs have never been a secret. Its long-term goal is universal Sharia law and the overthrow of the West, as well as of Israel. It spawned groups like Hamas and influenced the creation of Al-Qaeda. More to the point, its chief ideologue, Yusuf al-Qaradawi, is an exiled Egyptian cleric who currently helps run the Qatar Foundation, which spreads Islamist teachings in support of terror around the globe. The Brotherhood is the glue that unites Sunni Muslim terror groups in terms of ideas and action.

While Hamas and like-minded groups are the tip of the spear, the effort to maintain a distinction between the terrorists and the rest of the Brotherhood remains entirely artificial. The Brotherhood's social-action and political wings operate in such a manner as to support the same violent goals as the terrorists.

The Brotherhood has also sought to establish the same false distinctions in its operations in the United States. Brotherhood supporters set up the Holy Land Foundation to fundraise and organize for Hamas in the 1990s. Before the Treasury Department shut it down, that Foundation founded the Council on

American Islamic Relations (CAIR). That group today masquerades as a respectable civil-rights group dedicated to protecting Muslims. Trump's designation of the Brotherhood will limit the ability of extremists to operate in the United States and elsewhere in the West.

Claims that this move is an expression of Islamophobia are not merely wrong; they are also a slander of law-abiding American Muslims. The extremists of CAIR and others with links to the Brotherhood have hijacked the leadership of American Muslim groups. While many millions across the Middle East do back the Brotherhood and its terrorist goals, the notion that an effort to limit the ability of radicals to operate freely harms all Muslims is false.

Trump's designation of the Brotherhood is commonsense security policy that aims at protecting all Americans, no matter their faith or background. Efforts to cloak support for this Islamist group in the language of civil rights or of realpolitik don't stand up to scrutiny. The president should follow through on his vow, both for the sake of American interests and security, as well as those who hope for a better future for a Muslim world freed from Islamist tyranny and terror.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor in chief of JNS

Abbas Admits: He Can't and Won't Make Peace — Again

Edward Manor

Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas gestures during a meeting of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Feb. 6, 2019. Photo: Reuters / Mohamad Torokman.

If a report in the Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhar is true, we once again learned this week what we've known for years — that Mahmoud Abbas can't and won't make peace with Israel.

The Lebanese newspaper summarized a report by a Jordanian envoy to Ramallah regarding an alleged recent meeting between Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Abbas, where the former may have offered the latter \$10 billion to accept President Trump's "deal of the century." Abbas was quoted as saying that accepting the offer would "mean the end of my political life."

None of this is surprising, and reaffirms what we've known for a while. First, when it comes to Abbas, financial incentives certainly do not work, because as Abbas wisely pointed out, they can carry grave political implications. The minute Abbas makes peace, he has to build a nation, and one rooted in a positive ethos that precludes the glorification of terrorism, demonization of Jews, and the desire to build one's state on the ashes of another. Additionally, according to his former security minister, Abbas is already a billionaire after years of shameless corruption and embezzlement of aid money intended for his constituency.

Second, and not as readily apparent as Abbas' ongoing refusal to make peace, is the poorly kept secret that Saudi Arabia's young Crown Prince absolutely detests Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian baggage that comes with him. Reports of past enmity between the Saudis and the Palestinians are manifold, and it isn't surprising that the Crown Prince would approach Abbas like the thieving thug he is and try to buy him off. It is entirely clear that the Palestinian cause has run its course for the Saudis and much of the Arab world.

This curious state of affairs only demonstrates how eager the Saudis and larger Sunni world are for peace, or at least normalization of relations with Israel.

In conclusion, no one should expect Mahmoud Abbas to accept the terms of any peace deal with Israel. At the same time, no one should be too disappointed — because this is simply par for the course. What this does do is show the world that the two-state solution isn't currently viable, because the Palestinian leadership will not allow it and does not really want peace. The Sunni world and Israel should make peace, and wait for the Palestinians to join it.

Edward Manor is an Israeli born American lawyer and political commentator
www.algemeiner.com