

*The Future  
and the  
JEWS*

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*The Jews and the bicyclists are at the bottom  
of all the world's ills.*

*Why the bicyclists?*

*Why the Jews?*

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*First they came for the Jews, but I was not a Jew,  
so I did not object  
Then they came for the Communists, but I was  
not a Communist, so I did not object.  
Then they came for the socialists, but I was not a  
socialist, so I did not object.  
Then they came for the trade unionists, but I was  
not a trade unionist, so I did not object.  
Finally, they came for me. By that time, no one  
was left to object.*

—*Pastor Martin Niemöller*

## Foreword

Once my wife, Susan, gets an idea for a book, it's like a pregnancy. After the conception of an idea, there is little rest until "birth." And yes, that affects me, too.

Consider the following story, which is unfortunately true:

An Israeli doctor and his 20-year-old daughter had gone to an Israeli café for a father-daughter talk on the eve of her marriage. She had been devoting her year of national service to the care of children with cancer; her ambition was to study medicine for the sake of such children. Her father was an eminent physician, the tireless head of a hospital emergency room which tends to the victims of terror attacks. He had just returned from the United States, where he was instructing American doctors in the lifesaving emergency techniques he had pioneered. Father and daughter were buried on what was to have been the daughter's wedding day, victims of a terrorist bomb.<sup>1</sup>

Susan's book tells a story which I think must be told. It is a story of pride and a story of hatred. It is the story of a battle which I think is more spiritual than human, a battle that has waged for a long time and has great implications for the future.

If you look into the Mideast problem very thoroughly, it is hard to avoid concluding that it's about the *total destruction of Israel*. That means every man, woman and child annihilated, and this is not a new idea.

Despite all you may hear, ask yourself this one question. If Israel had the ability to destroy every Palestinian, would it? Israel has that ability and hasn't used it. How about the Palestinians, or for that matter the nearby Arab states with 326

million people (compared to Israel's 5 million). Would they destroy all the Jews if they could? It's not a difficult question. It's a written stated goal and it has been attempted four times since 1948, in four wars initiated by the Arabs.

Like Hitler in his book *Mein Kampf* (currently a best seller with Arab youth), Arafat was clear about his intentions, at least to his own people in their language. Hitler concluded that if you are going to tell a lie, make it a whopper. I call this the fingerprint of evil. It's where the truth is twisted 180°. White is black, left is right, hot is cold, you get the idea. The strange thing is that this technique is amazingly effective! The Jews are now portrayed as Nazis. And the Holocaust? Well, it didn't happen. It was part of a plot to steal land in the Middle East.

Videos of Americans having their heads severed and of the Twin Towers falling in flames with thousands of American civilians inside increase terrorist recruitment numbers. These are not just enemies of Israel; they are our enemies, too!

Sometimes I think I should apply for a Nobel Peace Prize. I haven't murdered anyone or even wished them dead. I don't ride on jets or address conventions carrying a gun on my belt. I have never said, "The more destruction I see, the stronger I get." The man who said that *won* a Nobel Peace Prize. His name is Yasser Arafat. The same Arafat that addressed the UN General Assembly as an honored speaker just 18 months after 11 Olympic athletes were massacred by his organization.

We certainly live in exciting times. A lot will probably happen in the next few years. I can't help but remember what God said about the future of the Jews in Jeremiah 31:35-36:

This is what the LORD says, He who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the LORD Almighty is His name: "Only if these decrees vanish from my sight," declares the LORD, "will the descendents of Israel ever cease to be a nation before me."

A promise from God is something you can depend on. Life is short, but eternity is forever. Maybe this deserves some thought.

## Why This Book?

September 11, 2001. The date alone exudes a sense of horror, of nightmarish memories most of us would rather push away now that things are back to "normal."

The next day, September 12, I had lunch with a friend. It had been scheduled earlier and neither of us wanted to cancel. Naturally, the events in New York were topics of conversation.

"This happened because of America's support for Israel," my friend said. Puzzled, I asked if she'd heard about the Palestinians who danced in the street when they heard the news. "Yes," she answered, "they're happy that perhaps now we'll understand how they feel!"

I was dumbfounded! Did she think *Israel* was the source of terrorism? I personally understood better how Israelis felt, with the threat of death by suicide bomb at bus stops, pizza parlors and grocery stores overshadowing everyday life.

In the weeks that followed, it became clear that many people dear to my heart, people I knew and respected as intelligent and compassionate, agreed more with my friend's assessment of the situation than with my own. Was I missing something?

Over time, the grief and horror of September 11 faded, but the curiosity about my friend's comments grew. This was a challenge similar to that I faced when I decided to investigate the claims of Christianity. When I began that research, I couldn't comprehend how seemingly intelligent and educated people could continue, in this modern age, to believe the incredible stories of an ancient, seemingly irrelevant book. In that case, too, I knew I must be missing something. In 1989, I

began researching facts, claims and counterclaims concerning Christianity. Over a period of years, my viewpoint changed, as described in last year's book *Whatsoever Things Are True*.

Might more information  
change my mind about this? The only way to  
know was to gather more  
information and see what  
happened. I began to read everything I could find on the issue. My goal was to be as objective as possible for as long as possible, and to refrain from prejudice as much as possible.

*Difference of opinion leads to inquiry, and inquiry to truth.*  
—Thomas Jefferson

It's only been 4 years since the World Trade Center towers fell. I haven't had the 15 years it took for me to confidently embrace Christianity. I've read dozens of books and hundreds of articles on Jews, Arabs, and current events, but I've only scratched the surface. This book is premature. I hesitate to write it. But I already have more material than I'd need for several books! It will already be difficult to keep this *short*.

What I've learned has been alarming! I *must* share it with you now, ready or not. Events are moving quickly. The future of America and the world hinges on choices being made right now. While I don't have all the facts, it is critical to share those I do have *now*, while there's time.

You may disagree with my conclusions. That's OK. In America, we *can* disagree and still be friends. In some places, disagreement means death. I am more thankful than ever, after learning what I've recently learned, to live here, in a place where people can live in peace even when they disagree.

Regardless of your feelings or opinions, please hear me out. Then educate me. I'll read anything you write or recommend.

Part of the challenge is to decide who is trustworthy. Can we believe the Arabs? Can we believe the Israelis? Can we believe our own American leaders? Who is the *real* aggressor?

As much as we might wish to think September 11 was an aberration rather than a harbinger of things to come, it may be unwise, even dangerous, to rest on that assumption.

## The Future and the Jews

Imagine how different your life would be had Hitler won World War II. What would have been the consequences for us 60+ years in the future (today)?

Once again, Jews are on the front line of a battle for the future, a future that will impact every person on earth for good or ill, now and possibly forever.

Maybe it's just my age, but the future seems to be approaching at breakneck speed. In addition, history seems to be repeating itself. As much as I'd like to rest content in the peace and prosperity I enjoy here in America, it's hard to ignore rumblings in the world around us.

History is like a volcano. Things may appear to be stable, secure and unchangeable for long periods of time. But unseen pressures build. Small tremors are alarming for a time, but life soon settles back to "normal." Warning signs, clear only in retrospect, are ignored. Eventually, when a volcano blows (or a war begins) we are often caught by surprise.

Consider Karl Marx when he was in Germany. Although he believed a Communist revolution in Russia was inevitable, he did not expect it for 50 years. He did not think he would be alive to see the fruits of his labor. Within a year, the Czar was assassinated and things began to change very, very quickly.

I will assume that most of my readers are unconvinced that God exists or that the Bible is authoritative. For the most part, I will avoid basing arguments on Scripture, though I will include historical references. I would be happy to recommend resources to anyone interested in what the Bible says.

Before starting, I want to clarify assumptions that I won't take time to defend. If you don't share these assumptions, the rest of what I have to say might not make sense.

1. Jews are human beings. Palestinians are human beings. This may seem obvious, but the first step toward genocide is to regard a person as less than a human being.
2. People are people are people. Humans naturally consider themselves right and those who disagree with them wrong.
3. Jews are individuals. Palestinians are individuals.
4. Individuals are responsible for their personal choices and actions. Individuals are not personally responsible for the decisions or actions of their government or leaders. Nor are they personally responsible for actions of their ancestors.
5. Evil exists, but not everyone who *does* evil *is* evil. People sometimes do evil because they have been deceived into thinking that what they are doing is good.
6. Individuals are partially responsible for evil when they knowingly choose to cheer on or support evildoers. To a lesser degree, they are responsible if they stand by silently and watch evil without attempting to intervene.
7. All men are created equal. All cultures are not. Some cultures are nourishing and some are toxic. Individuals within a culture are influenced by it. They are not necessarily nurtured by it or happy with it.
8. Perfect justice is not possible in this world. Nevertheless, we should strive for justice. People must be willing to compromise to achieve the best approximation of justice.
9. Actions have consequences. It is impossible to turn back the clock, as much as one might wish to do so.
10. Truth is objective. Whether or not we apprehend or know the truth, it exists. Deliberately misrepresenting what one knows to be true is lying.
11. It is not wise to entrust one's life to someone who is known to have little or no regard for truth.
12. Sometimes what is *not* said is as significant as what *is*. The truest victims may well be powerless to speak out.

## Out of the Mists of Time

Jews and Arabs are two of the oldest living groups of people still intact and identifiable. Many aspects of Jewish history as recorded in the Bible have been validated through archeology. The first extra-Biblical reference to Israel is dated about 1220 BCE—an Egyptian inscription by Pharaoh Mneptah that says, “Israel is laid waste. His seed is destroyed.” Most notable perhaps is the “David inscription” discovered in the early 1990s. A shattered monument found in Galilee records a military victory by the king of Damascus over the king of Israel, the House of David.

Jews and Arabs alike believe their history began in the remote past with a man named Abraham.

In succinct outline, focusing mainly on turning points, the story is that God made a covenant, a solemn agreement, with Abraham, that “all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Genesis 12:3) Abraham was promised a seed (descendant), a land, and a blessing. Years and years passed. The promises remained unfulfilled. Eventually, his barren wife Sarah urged him to take her Egyptian maid Hagar as a surrogate wife, and Ishmael was conceived. He was described as “a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers.” (Genesis 16:12)

Arabs trace their lineage to Ishmael and believe that Abraham and Ishmael built the Ka'aba, the center of Muslim worship, in Mecca. Although no one knows who alive today is a physical descendant of Ishmael, the Bible in Genesis 25:18

says he had twelve sons and “his descendants settled in the area from Havilah to Shur, near the border of Egypt, as you go toward Asshur. And they lived in hostility toward all their brothers.”

Thirteen years after Ishmael was born, after Abraham’s wife Sarah was past childbearing age, she conceived a miraculous promised son, Isaac. Jews trace their lineage through Isaac and his son Jacob (later renamed Israel) who had twelve sons, fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Both Jews and Arabs honor Abraham as their father. Hebrew and Arabic are related languages. Both Jews and Arabs are Semitic tribes (descended from Noah’s son Shem). In common usage, however, the word *antisemitism* applies only to Jews. The word was coined in 1879 by a German named Wilhelm Marr as a euphemism for *Judenhaas* meaning “Jew-hatred.” I prefer the older word, but will bow to convention.

The story continues in Genesis with Jacob and his sons with their families taking refuge in Egypt under a friendly Pharaoh during a time of famine. When a new Pharaoh came to power, he enslaved them, a slavery that continued for 400 years. Then, Moses led the descendants of Israel to freedom and eventually back to the land promised to Abraham centuries earlier.

Shortly after the exodus from Egypt, the central event in Jewish history took place at Mt. Sinai, where, according to the Bible, Moses and the people received from God the Ten Commandments and the Torah (teachings), which specified laws and duties. The Torah consists of the first five books in the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

The children of Israel were called *hapiru*, meaning refugees or wanderers. That is perhaps the origin of the word “Hebrew.”

Fast forward now to King David, who in about 1000 BCE conquered Jerusalem from the Jebusites and renamed it the City of David. The word Jerusalem means “City of Peace.” *Jeru* means “city” and *salem* means “peace.”

David’s son Solomon built a temple on Mt. Moriah, near the current location of the Islamic Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa

Mosque. Solomon’s Temple was dedicated in about 953 BCE.

After Solomon died, the kingdom split into two, Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Israel was conquered by the Assyrians around 721 BCE and its inhabitants deported as slaves, to become the “ten lost tribes of Israel.” A few years later, in about 701 BCE, Jerusalem was besieged by the Assyrian king Sennacherib, but he unexpectedly withdrew, a strange fact recorded in the Bible and confirmed by archeology.

Later, in 586 BCE, the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar conquered the two southern tribes of Judah (from which the word “Jew” is derived). The people who survived were exiled to Babylon, in present-day Iraq. Solomon’s temple was utterly destroyed and its treasures removed.

Seventy years passed before Cyrus the Persian allowed some Jews to return to Jerusalem. Most chose to remain in Babylon rather than go back to the devastation of their former country. The temple was rebuilt in 515 BCE.

For millennia, a large community of Jews remained in Iraq (then Babylon), until most fled in 1950-51 due to persecution that followed the establishment of the modern State of Israel.

By the first century BCE, Jews lived as a minority population in most areas of the known world, according to the geographer Strabo.<sup>2</sup> Judaism had become a world religion.

Because of its location at the crossroads of Asia, Africa and Europe, conquering armies marched back and forth over the centuries through what is now Israel/Palestine. Those who lived there were subject to whoever had most recently conquered the area. Only between 167 and 63 BCE did Jews regain temporary sovereignty over the land of Israel.

Alexander the Great conquered the known world by 323 BCE and Greek became the universal language. Pompey made Jerusalem a Roman provincial city in 63 BCE, and the Romans brought “peace” and roads. Jesus lived as an observant Jew during a time of political foment in the land. The Second Temple was being remodeled to grandeur by Herod the Great. There was expectation of a deliverer, a promised Messiah.

Many Jewish groups rebelled against Rome. Tensions built until Rome was forced to assert her full military authority to crush the rebellion. Rome endured years of bitter defeats at the hands of the Jews. The illusion of Roman invincibility was shattered. Jerusalem fell in 70 CE after a siege during which tens of thousands of people starved. Tacitus estimated that 600,000 defenseless civilians were slaughtered in the aftermath of the siege. Surviving inhabitants were sold into slavery. 100,000 captives were sent to Egypt, where the price for slaves fell to an all-time low (incidentally, prophesied in Deut. 28:68).

It took three more years for the Roman legions to crush the last outpost of rebellion, the mountain fortress of Masada. That final victory was commemorated by the Arch of Titus which still stands in Rome.

Not many Jews remained in the land, but some did. Another Jewish revolt in 113 CE marked a turning point in Roman history, after which the frontiers of the empire began to shrink.

Jews who escaped death and remained in the land continued to hope for the deliverer, or Messiah, promised in their Scriptures. Many thought he had arrived in Simon bar Kozeba (called Bar Kocheba or “Son of a Star” by his followers). Bar Kocheba led a rebellion in 132 CE that drove Roman garrisons out of Jerusalem and surrounding areas. The insurgents held onto the city for three years until Rome again exerted all its military might to crush them.

Jerusalem fell in 135 CE on the ninth of Ab in the Jewish calendar, the same date it had fallen in 70 CE and 586 BCE. The infuriated Romans leveled the city, then rebuilt and renamed it. They hunted down, tortured, and slaughtered every Jew they could find. Jews were prohibited upon pain of death from entering what had been Jerusalem. The land was renamed Palestine by Emperor Hadrian, after the ancient Biblical enemies of Israel, the Philistines. Hadrian’s goal was to destroy the Jews, to erase all memory of Jews and Judaism. Although Jews have continuously resided in Israel/Palestine from ancient to modern times, the vast majority were dispersed

after 135. Jews at last abandoned the idea of reconquering the land and setting up a Jewish state. Nevertheless, they said regular prayers through all the centuries to follow that ended with the words, “Next year in Jerusalem.”

Elsewhere in the Roman Empire, Jews lived peacefully and were tolerated. Seneca complained, “The practices of this villainous nation have so prevailed that they are adopted by people everywhere. The vanquished have made rules for the conqueror.”<sup>3</sup> He meant what we call the “rule of law” which requires rulers, as well as citizens, to adhere to a moral code.

Though Romans held Jews in contempt, the reasons are revealing. The Romans nailed live people to crosses and called it justice, but were horrified at the Jewish rite of circumcision. The Romans pitted defenseless slaves against wild beasts and called it entertainment, but regarded the Jewish feast of Passover, which celebrates freedom from slavery, as “barbaric.”

### **From Ishmael to Islam**

The word Arab means “desert dweller.” The first extra-Biblical references to Arabic people appear in Assyrian documents. King Shalmaneser III recorded the history of a battle at Qarqar in 853 BCE. At the end of his list of adversaries, he mentioned Gindibu (Jundub) the Arabian and his 1000 camels. Later, Sargon II claimed to have settled some Arabic nomads in Samaria (West Bank) as part of the Assyrian deportation scheme that scattered the ten tribes of Israel.

For centuries, Arabs controlled the east-west caravan routes and the lucrative spice and incense trades. Important Arabic cities existed in present-day Yemen and in Petra, where a city was carved into rock, the backdrop for the closing scenes of *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

Between the Roman conquest of Arabia and the advent of Islam in 622 CE, little is known. Muhammad initially prayed toward Jerusalem and observed many Jewish practices. He hoped to be recognized by the Jews as a true prophet and heir to Moses. Their rejection was a bitter disappointment, and he

accused Jews and Christians of having twisted the true words of God and polluted the pure monotheism of Abraham. He turned on the Jews in anger, expelling some and slaughtering others. In one case, he ordered all the men in a Jewish community of 2000 to be beheaded. Their bodies were thrown into a trench.

Muhammad died in 632 CE, just two years after his triumphant return to Mecca. Within 100 years of his death, his successors had waged *jihad* (holy war) and conquered an area that stretched from northern Spain to the borders of China. Their advance into Europe was finally halted in 732. Thus began the Golden Age of Arabic civilization, preeminent for nearly 1000 years. Some modern-day Muslims dream of a return to that time. They divide the world into *dar al-Islam* (abode of Islam) and *dar al-harb* (abode of war) and believe that through *jihad*, all the world will become *dar al-Islam*.

Muslim civilization flourished during the Dark Ages of Europe. The Arabs preserved the classical knowledge of the ancient world and added to it. Our numerals are Arabic. We owe the concept of zero to the Arabs, as well as the decimal system and algebra itself. They contributed greatly to music, astronomy, medicine, geography, philosophy, and literature.

The Alhambra and the Taj Mahal are examples of Arabic architecture during this Golden Age. The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, near the site of the former Jewish temple, had been built in 691. It has stood for more than 1,315 years.

With the exception of “Peoples of the Book” (Jews and Christians), conquered peoples were given the choice of conversion to Islam or death by the sword. Most converted.

Compared to Christian Europe, Muslim nations were tolerant of Jews. Jews and Christians were considered *dhimmi*, subservient people subject to special taxes and rules. Some Jews rose to high office. At various times they endured persecution, and they were always considered second-class citizens subject to special restrictions, but the murderous uprisings so common in Europe were rare. By the 8th century, 90% of Jews lived in Arab lands. They were the only people

permitted to travel in both Christian and Arabic domains and many became prosperous traders and diplomats as a result.

### **In the Shadow of the Cross**

Jesus was an observant Jew. He attended synagogue and worshipped in much the same way as Jews do today. He wore a prayer shawl and celebrated Jewish feast days. All of the first Christians were Jews who believed Jesus was the promised Messiah. Christianity was a Jewish cult. But relations between Jews and their Christian cousins chilled when followers of Jesus distanced themselves from the Jewish revolts and taught that circumcision and the eating of *kosher* food was optional.

As Christianity spread to Gentiles, the gap widened. Early Church fathers slandered the Jews, blaming them *en masse* for the death of Christ, despite Jesus’ own words to the contrary in John 10:17-18. Christian leaders struggled to differentiate the new faith from Judaism, and to prevent converts from being drawn into Judaism. Following Constantine’s declaration of Christianity as the official religion in Rome in 313 CE, Jewish festivals were abandoned in favor of pagan holidays, the day of worship was changed from Saturday to Sunday, and laws hostile to Jews were adopted throughout the Roman Empire.

The Dark Ages were indeed dark for Europe’s Jews. They were excluded from the feudal system, which consisted mainly of priests, nobles, and serfs. Jews, forbidden by law to own land, had to take work forbidden to others. They became the merchant class, the world’s first “middle class.” Because usury (lending money at interest, however small) was forbidden at the time by the Church, Jews became moneylenders. They were often welcomed into medieval domains because their presence brought trade and prosperity. But they were never assimilated. Regardless of how long a Jew’s ancestors lived in an area, he was regarded as an alien and interloper.

When anything went wrong—enemy invasion, famine, disease, or fire—Jews were suspect. Even enemies could generally agree on one thing: Jews must be responsible.

Kings might tax Jews arbitrarily, confiscate all their property, dismiss debts owed to them or expel them from the realm without reason. Kings borrowed generously from Jews to build castles and cathedrals or to finance wars, then used them as agents to tax the populace for repayment. When heavy taxation brought rebellion, the king could direct the fury of the populace toward the Jews or expel them, in the process cancelling debts owed to them by Christians or assigning repayment to himself. Only as long as a ruler's interests were served were Jews welcome and protected. Their situation could change at any time. There was never security.

In November of 1095, Pope Urban II summoned Christians to recover the Holy Land and its shrines from "the infidel." The Crusades began. To stir up zeal for the campaign, serfs were promised freedom, criminals were offered pardon, and sinners were granted absolution. But long before the poorly organized Crusaders reached the Holy Land, they ran out of provisions. Why trek all the way to Jerusalem when "the infidel" (Jew) was already at hand? Crusaders began to loot, attack and slaughter defenseless Jewish, and later Christian, villagers. More Crusaders died en route than lived to fight in the Holy Land.

The Crusaders who did reach and eventually conquer Jerusalem did not distinguish between Muslim and Jewish infidels. During the days of July 15 and 16, 1100, they scoured Jerusalem's streets and alleys, breaking down doors and killing everyone: men, women, children and old people. As many Jews as the synagogue would hold were locked inside, then the building was set on fire. The entire Jewish community of Jerusalem perished in the flames.

In England on Easter Eve, 1144, the dead body of a boy named William was found. A rumor spread that he had been killed by the Jews and his blood used to make unleavened bread for the Passover feast. This was despite the fact that Jews were among the first people in the ancient world to ban human sacrifice, and the consumption of any blood, even animal blood, was strictly forbidden. To be *kosher*, meat has to be drained of

all blood. This false "blood libel" accusation spread throughout Europe. Jews were held responsible for any unexplained death.

In feudal Europe, when Jews were expelled from one district, they would wander and settle in another. In 1290, they were expelled from England. In 1306, all Jews in France were simultaneously arrested and expelled. All of their property was confiscated. "Good" King Wenceslaus (of the song) would periodically cancel all or part of the debts due to Jews in return for bribes from debtors.<sup>4</sup>

Starting in late 1347, the Black Death spread like wildfire throughout Europe. Millions of people died and streets were littered with corpses. There was no explanation. Suspicion focused on the Jews. A rumor started that Jews had poisoned the wells. After one Jew "confessed" under torture, sixty large communities and 150 small ones in central Europe were utterly decimated. Although the Pope spoke up to defend the Jews, they were attacked, killed and burned by the thousands.<sup>5</sup>

Spain had been a refuge for Jews for five centuries under the Muslims. The Golden Age of Judaism occurred under Muslim rule in 13th century Spain. But as Spain was gradually reconquered from the north, Jews were viciously attacked. Few escaped death unless they submitted to baptism. Some 70,000 Jews were killed. Most of those who survived converted. They were called "new Christians" or *marranos*.

Their social progress was rapid. One historian wrote, "As a cork bobs to the surface of the sea the moment the pressure holding it down is released, so Jews bobbed to the surface of each civilization the moment the repressive force was removed."<sup>6</sup> Old Christians soon became envious of their progress and success.

Spain was finally united under Ferdinand and Isabella in 1479. Their goal was to create a strong, united, Christian country. Accusations were leveled against new Christians that they were "secret Jews" and the Spanish Inquisition began. For crimes as seemingly minor as calling a child by an Old Testament name, an accusation could be brought.

The first *auto da fe* (act of faith) took place in 1480, with six men and women of Jewish heritage being burned alive. Before long, some thirty thousand persons were put to death. Hundreds of thousands of others were stripped of their possessions and expelled. The rulers soon realized that heresy hunting was profitable. Gold flowed into the royal coffers.

Ferdinand and Isabella issued an Edict of Expulsion in 1492:

According to the report of the inquisitors, it has come to light the great harm to new Christians due to their contact with Jews. Therefore, we have decided to order all Jewish men and women to leave our kingdom and they should not dare to come back, neither to reside, to pass through, nor for any reason whatsoever.<sup>7</sup>

More than 150,000 Jews, whose ancestors had lived in Spain for centuries, were forced to flee, leaving nearly all their possessions behind. Just one day before Columbus set sail on his first voyage, the last Jews left Spain. It was the ninth of Ab.

For the most part, western Europe was closed to them. Gentiles had taken over trade and moneylending and did not want Jewish competition. Portugal accepted 100,000 Jews but forced them to pay for the privilege and authorized them to stay only eight months. Some who were able to find passage on ships were summarily dumped on the nearest point of the African coast. Many were slaughtered or enslaved.

The Ottoman Empire welcomed the Sephardic (Spanish) exiles. Sultan Bajazet said: “What! Call ye this Ferdinand ‘wise’—he who depopulates his own dominions in order to enrich mine?”<sup>8</sup> The Turks encouraged Jewish immigration, and large numbers of Jews returned to the Levant (areas bordering the sea between Greece and Egypt).

In 1516, Jews in Venice were segregated into a special quarter, formerly known as the Ghetto Nuovo (New Foundry). By 1560, Jews were allowed to live *only* within ghettos. The practice spread throughout Europe. Ghettos were walled, with one, or at most two, massive doors. After nightfall, it was considered a serious crime for any Jew to be found outside the

ghetto, or any Christian within. Paradoxically, Jews were safer from the threat of murderous uprisings inside the ghetto walls. The doors had locks inside as well as outside. Within the crowded and impoverished ghettos, Jewish culture thrived.

In Poland, Jews were allowed to lease land from the nobles. Many served as stewards for nobles. When Poland annexed the Ukraine in 1569, Jews were sent in to colonize. But in 1648, the Ukrainian Cossacks rose in rebellion against the Polish overlords and “their Jews.” The evil done by the Cossacks to their victims defies imagination. The torture and murder was so unbelievably savage that I am deliberately not including any descriptions. The Cossacks promised Poles their lives if they would turn over Jews, then, once the Jews were destroyed, they broke that promise and attacked Poles. At least 100,000 Jews died. Those who survived fled as penniless refugees.

For centuries, Cossacks brought terror to Russian Jews. Golda Meir, a Prime Minister of Israel who was born in 1898, remembered being popped into the oven by her mother as a little girl while her father boarded up the doors of their house in anticipation of a Cossack pogrom.

Nevertheless, by 1800, there were hopeful signs. The modern age had dawned. The Enlightenment and the Age of Reason promised an end to religious superstition and the persecution of the past. The U.S. Declaration of Independence said, “All men are created equal, and endowed with unalienable rights...” In 1791, after the French Revolution, Jews were formally admitted as equal citizens of the country of their birth for the first time in history.

*The world has by now discovered that it is impossible to destroy the Jews.*

—Benjamin Disraeli, 1804-1881

Jews flung themselves heart and soul into revolutionary movements. Constitutional governments, accompanied by emancipation, were established in country after country. Perhaps now, at last, Jews could join with others to work for the common good of mankind. The future looked bright.

## Palestine through the Ages

Things settled down in Palestine after the Bar Kocheba revolt and it became a quiet Roman province, practically denuded because of the wars. A few substantial Jewish communities remained in the Galilee and in Hebron. Arab nomads roamed the desert. When the Roman Empire was split, Palestine fell under the authority of the Byzantine (eastern Roman) Empire. Palestine was conquered by Muslims in the 100-year *jihad* following Muhammad's death, and the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa Mosque were built on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem soon afterward. Jerusalem was never a political capital or especially important city under Muslim rule.

The Seljuk Turks gained control of Jerusalem in 1071, prompting Pope Urban II to call for a Crusade to recover the Holy City for Christianity. Crusaders captured Jerusalem in 1099 and held it until 1187 when the Muslim ruler Saladin won it back. His method was to make a treaty of peace with the Crusaders. Then, when he had won their trust and rearmed, he attacked and drove them out. Arab children know this story. They know what Yasser Arafat meant when he said, "The PLO offers not the peace of the weak, but the peace of Saladin."<sup>9</sup>

Mameluke rulers based in Egypt came next, then Ottoman Turks, who ruled from 1517 until after World War I. The Turks welcomed Jews into their realm after they were expelled from Spain. By 1846, about 7000 Jews lived in Jerusalem, along with 4000 Muslims and 3500 Christians. Jews could pray at the Western Wall but authorities did not interfere with Muslims who found entertainment in throwing garbage down on their heads.

The Turkish rulers in faraway Constantinople neglected Palestine. It was primarily a source of revenue for them. Two seventeenth-century Christian travelers remarked ruefully of the locals, "They have to pay for the very air they breathe."<sup>10</sup>

In 1857, British consul James Finn reported to England, "The country is in a considerable degree empty of inhabitants and therefore its greatest need is that of a body of population."<sup>11</sup>

Mark Twain traveled to Palestine on one of the first "cruise ships" in history and recounted his impressions in *The Innocents Abroad*, published in 1869:

Of all the lands there are for dismal scenery, I think Palestine must be the prince. The hills are barren, they are dull of color, they are unpicturesque in shape. The valleys are unsightly deserts fringed with a feeble vegetation that has an expression about it of being sorrowful and despondent. The Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee sleep in the midst of a vast stretch of hill and plain wherein the eye rests upon no pleasant tint, no striking object, no soft picture dreaming in a purple haze or mottled with the shadows of the clouds. Every outline is harsh, every feature is distinct, there is no perspective—distance works no enchantment here. It is a hopeless, dreary, heartbroken land.<sup>12</sup>

Twain and later visitors expressed horror at seeing children, their eyes covered with stinging insects, who made no attempt to brush away their tormenters. The infant mortality rate was enormous. Malaria and pestilence was endemic. The hardest-working peasant had no defense against Bedouin raiders sweeping down and stealing from him everything he owned. Hillsides were eroded to bedrock. Turkish soldiers had no scruples about seizing whatever they wanted from peasants.

The invention of the steamship made it possible for tourists to visit the Holy Land, but foreigners were in grave danger without some sort of protection. Consuls from western nations moved in and built their influence by winning the allegiance of local notables through whose territories tourists would have to travel. The consuls competed for groups of people to protect. Palestinian Jews fell under British protection. When the Turks

withdrew their troops from Jerusalem to fight in the Crimean War in 1853, Palestine slid rapidly into anarchy. The British and French helped the Turks win the war, but despite outward cooperation, Turks and Europeans each regarded their own civilizations as superior and were contemptuous of each other.

With British diplomatic support, a hospital and the great Hurvah Synagogue were built in the Jewish quarter of Jerusalem. Both were destroyed in 1948 by the Jordanians.

Jerusalem was tied to Europe by telegraph in 1865 and the consuls no longer had the unfettered autonomy they had enjoyed previously. Nothing in history affected diplomacy more than the invention of the telegraph. Consuls no longer had to wait six weeks or more to deliver a message to their home country and receive a reply. Their power was curtailed.

The telegraph brought another great change. News from Palestine came over the telegraph to Russian peasants. New railroads at last made it possible for refugees from the north to realize their dream of “Next Year in Jerusalem.” Most Jews who made it to Palestine lived in abject poverty with no political rights, but for many it was a good place to study and to die. It was certainly no worse than the persecution they’d fled.

In 1870, neither Jews nor Arabs had any nationalistic notions about Palestine. The idea of the nation-state was new and unfamiliar. People defined themselves religiously. Nonreligious individuals were considered nonpersons. Only a few devoted Muslims preached the revival of the Muslim Golden Age by *jihad* or the unification of all Arabs.

By the late 1800s, most small farms in Palestine had been consolidated into the hands of wealthy absentee Arab landlords. The bulk of the land in the area was owned by the Ottoman government. Most *fellahin* (peasants) were landless serfs, poorly compensated and fully occupied with mere survival.

The stage was set for the 1881 large-scale immigration of Jews fleeing Czarist persecution. In 1867, for the first time, non-Muslims were allowed to purchase land. Jews were willing to pay exorbitant prices for any part of their ancient homeland.

## Seeking Shores of Refuge

The Czars had ruled Russia since 1547. Ivan the Terrible, the first czar, burned towns and villages, murdered hundreds of aristocrats, killed anyone who opposed him, and even struck and killed his eldest son. From the outset, the Czars confined Jews to the western provinces, the “Pale of Settlement” and severely restricted their travel, education and activities.

When Czar Alexander I rose to power in 1801, he talked about freeing the serfs, building schools, and even making Russia a republic. There was hope that the condition of Russia’s Jews might improve as had been the case elsewhere in Europe.

But Napoleon, protector of the Jews and the first ruler to advocate a Jewish state in Palestine, attacked Russia and captured Moscow. The old harsh order was restored. In time-honored fashion, Jews came under suspicion for Russia’s troubles, including assassinations of czars in the 19th century.

Beginning in 1827, Jewish boys were conscripted into the Russian military at the age of 12 (subsequently 8) for terms of service to last 25-31 years. Jewish authorities were made responsible for filling the quotas. Once boys were taken away, they were beaten and deprived of sleep as encouragement to convert, and taunted for their refusal to eat non-kosher food. Most died or converted before their term expired. Their parents never saw them again. This, along with increasingly repressive taxation, laws and regulations, poverty, and government sponsored *pogroms* (literally “storm” or “devastation”), led finally to the first *aliyah*. The word *aliyah* means “going up” and refers to emigration to Israel.

*Fiddler on the Roof* is a fictional account of a Jewish family during the second *aliyah*, which took place from 1904-1914.

A revolutionary movement was afoot in Russia as the turn of the century approached. No one in the government knew who exactly was responsible, but Jews, as usual, were suspected.

The first full-scale, government sponsored pogrom took place in Odessa during the week of Easter in 1871. Easter had been a favorite time for young hooligans to harass Jews for years, but this time the riots became murderous, and outsiders, “barefoot brigades” that came from no one knows where, were involved. Anarchy ruled, and the authorities stood by silently. Any building without signs of Christianity was stoned and plundered. Doors and windows were smashed, bank notes were torn to pieces, beds were ripped apart and the feathers dumped. One source reported that feathers lay three to six inches deep in the street. Families were stripped of clothing and men, women and small children were beaten, raped and killed. One mother who tried to protect her child had her ears cut off and died from loss of blood. The synagogues were pillaged and Jewish books and treasures were torn, trampled, and destroyed.

The following day was worse. Crowds cheered as Jewish businesses were smashed and destroyed, and merchandise shattered. Four thousand families were left homeless. Initially, no news reports were allowed out. When news finally did get out, it was greeted by the world with indifference.

Pogroms spread throughout Russia. Despite the poverty and impotence of most Jews in Russia, attackers shouted, “The Jews have lorded it over us long enough! The Jews torture us all our lives.” A journalist wrote after the Kiev pogrom:

Packed together like ants in an anthill were more than eighteen hundred Jews, with their wives and children—many of them mere infants. They were clad in rags and barefooted.... A number of them had bandaged heads. All were ghastly pale and terror-stricken. As I approached them I saw a boy of ten dying in terrible agony. His mother sat by him, tearless, as if too deeply afflicted to weep.<sup>13</sup>

Revolutionaries diverted attention from themselves to the Jews. The Czar did the same. Western Jews arrived to help those who made their way over the border. The official policy at first was repatriation. But the refugees wanted nothing of it. They preferred death by starvation to any “right of return.”

By March of 1882, Jewish refugees were arriving in London at the rate of nearly a hundred a week. Thousands made their way to America and Palestine, aided by Jewish charitable organizations. Russia attempted to stem the flow by enacting strict laws against emigration and increasing border patrols, but the terrified refugees continued to flee.

Baron Edmond de Rothschild adopted Palestine as his personal charity, resettling refugees and buying land, trees and vines for them to cultivate. The Jews, for centuries barred from agricultural pursuits in Europe:

...put every effort into cultivating as many vines as they could. One person alone, however, could accomplish little, and it became necessary to hire [Arab] laborers. ... The settlers began to spend almost all of their assistance money on wages for hired hands, while they themselves went hungry and couldn't pay the grocer for such food as they bought.<sup>14</sup>

The first *aliyah* (“going up” to Israel) took place between 1882 and 1903. But worse was to come for Russia's Jews. Kishinev, a city in southern Russia, was relatively modern and its large population of Jews was well assimilated. Its mayor told a writer that the city owed its “rapid rise and prosperity, and its present flourishing trade solely to the Jews. They built up its commerce, organized its banks, developed its general business, and made it the handsome, thriving city it is today.”<sup>15</sup> But there are always people who are threatened by progress and envious of anyone who has more money or success than they themselves. Antisemitism was on the rise. The ritual murder charge resurfaced, and articles with language similar to the following were printed:

Who are these criminals—these bloodthirsty murderers of our prattling babes? They are the fanatical Jews that infest

our land. These monsters are the slayers of our Christian children. They are the criminals—the Jews who have invaded our country like locusts.<sup>16</sup>

The Kishinev pogrom in 1903 was well-organized. A few days before Easter, bands of young men disguised as laborers arrived. A St. Petersburg journalist wrote:

Suddenly at noon, the surging multitude broke loose. ... In half an hour, the mob took possession of the approaches to the railway station, where frightful scenes were witnessed that beggar description. Every Jew who was encountered was beaten until he lost consciousness; one Jew was dragged under a tramcar and smashed to death.<sup>17</sup>

The following day, the terror increased. Police patrolled the streets but did nothing.

Many pogroms followed throughout Russia. Some were led by Russian troops in uniform. The previous czar, Alexander III, had sponsored uprisings against the Jews as a tactic to divert the Russians from their miseries. His stated plan for solving the “Jewish question” was one-third conversion, one-third emigration, and one-third starvation.

His son, Czar Nicholas II, found it increasingly difficult to convince Russian peasants of the necessity to slaughter defenseless Jews. A monk, Sergyei Nilus, was commissioned to come up with something. The prior caricature of Jews as stupid, uncouth, flea-bitten louts was by now outdated. Jews had proven themselves to have excellent intellect, learning, skill and capacity to excel. But these virtues were cast as sinister in a forged document, the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. Nilus claimed that his shadowy source had stolen the documents from a (nonexistent) office in France. All other copies had supposedly been confiscated and anyone having possession of a copy shot. This was billed as proof of their authenticity. The fact that Jews called them forgeries was considered irrefutable proof of their genuineness by such notables as Adolf Hitler.

Aside from the fact that the *Protocols* closely parallel a 19th century French political satire (in which Jews were not the plotters), the language they themselves contain is inauthentic:

The weapons in our hands are limitless ambitions, burning greediness, merciless vengeance, hatreds and malice. ... Thanks to the Press we have got the GOLD in our hands, notwithstanding that we have had to gather it out of the oceans of blood and tears.<sup>18</sup>

Why would anyone write that about themselves in the first place, let alone destroy all copies but one? Why would that single copy be supposedly stolen from a nonexistent office in France by an unknown, mysterious person? The story has all the elements of drama, but few of authenticity.

To those attracted to conspiracy theories, to seeing secret plots behind every inexplicable event, the *Protocols* succeed in whipping up emotional wildfires. But I personally wonder, how could the actions of a secret cadre of powerful Jews, unknown to everyone (including fellow Jews), be sufficient cause for the killing of Jewish babies, even if such a cadre did exist? If the *Protocols*' claim that Jews are despots, intent on ending liberty, destroying God and Christianity, forcing Gentiles to submit, choosing presidents and judges, causing depressions and universal war, destroying the free press, etc., why have they had such dismal success in protecting their own people against some of the worst crimes in history?

Wrongful accusations are amazingly easy to make. Truth can be twisted, even by people with good intentions. Lies people *want* to believe have a tremendous attraction, and it is often impossible to prove beyond doubt that an allegation is false. That is why *guilt* must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt, and justice, theoretically at least, presumes innocence.

After the publication of the *Protocols*, it could be claimed, “We don’t hate Jews. Some of our best friends are Jews. It is the Jews themselves who are forcing us to protect ourselves and our country from their conspiracies. We must destroy them before they destroy us.”

So although the modern secular age ended *religious* persecution of Jews in large measure, something worse replaced it. In the Middle Ages, Jews had an avenue of escape. They could be baptized. Now, thanks in part to Darwin’s theory of

evolution, it was asserted that the Jewish “race” was inferior and unfit. Jews were scientifically distinguishable, it was claimed, by a lower cranial capacity. They were inferior physically and intellectually to Aryans, and only the fittest of the species should survive and propagate.<sup>19</sup> The movement devoted to guiding evolution by means of intelligence was called *eugenics*.

Even in America, a traditional haven for the oppressed, this movement gained popularity. In 1913, the year before the War, 1,198,892 immigrants arrived at Ellis Island. Some Americans began to voice the opinion that too many of these people were from “inferior stock” and were a threat to the very biological material of which America was made. The doors of the Golden Land began to swing shut to the huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse, the homeless and the tempest tossed. Incidentally, Emma Lazarus, who wrote those words in a poem for the Statue of Liberty, was Jewish.

With the advent of secularism, many Jews left religion behind. Theodor Herzl was one of them. Born a Hungarian Jew, he advocated equality and assimilation. He was a reporter in France when Captain Alfred Dreyfus, a Jew, was accused of being a German spy. Dreyfus was tried, found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment despite his strong protestations of innocence. Herzl was surprised that the crime was attributed in the press to the entire Jewish community, and even more amazed when it was discovered that the evidence used against Dreyfus had been forged. In those days, injustice to one man still shocked the conscience of the world. The Dreyfus affair split French society and made news around the world. Eventually, the true spy confessed and the verdict was quashed, but Herzl had seen for himself the *Judenhaas* (Jew-hatred) that lurked just beneath the surface of civilized society.

In 1895, Herzl published *Der Judenstaat* (The Jewish State), advocating the establishment of a Jewish homeland. He did not originate the idea of Zionism, but he worked tirelessly to make it a reality. He came to believe the “Jewish question” was a national, rather than a religious, problem. He wrote:

We have sincerely tried everywhere to merge with the national communities in which we live, seeking only to preserve the faith of our fathers. It is not permitted us. In vain we are loyal patriots, sometimes superloyal; in vain do we make the same sacrifices of life and property as our fellow citizens; in vain do we strive to enhance the fame of our native lands in the arts and sciences, or her wealth by trade and commerce. In our native lands where we have lived for centuries we are still decried as aliens, often by men whose ancestors had not yet come at a time when Jewish sighs had long been heard in the country...<sup>20</sup>

Herzl was initially not particular about where a homeland might be established, but suggestions of Argentina and Uganda did not resound with fellow Jews. Jerusalem stirred their hearts, dreams and memories. Palestine was at the time a neglected backwater, seemingly unwanted, described by Lord Curzon of Britain as “barren and desolate...a less propitious seat for the future Jewish race could not be imagined.”<sup>21</sup> Nobody wanted it until somebody wanted it, then everybody wanted it.

On August 1, 1914, Germany declared war on Russia. Between the two sides lay Poland and the Russian Pale of Settlement, in which resided half the Jews of the world. Russia suspected the Jews were German spies; Germany suspected they were Russian spies. Thousands of Jewish heads of families had made their way overseas to settle and earn enough money to bring wives and children to join them. The war brought a halt to all such plans, and untold misery as wave after wave of attacks and counterattacks swept over Jewish villages during the war.

Polish Jews as a community were punished for the alleged crimes of those who had assisted Germany. The Prime Minister of Poland was later questioned about this:

“Because a few Jews worked with the Germans, all Jews in Poland are made to suffer; but as for the Poles, only those suffer who were the actual offenders!” stated Cohen.

“In these confused times and our present disorganized conditions,” replied the Prime Minister, “you can hardly expect strict justice.”<sup>22</sup>

It was a classic example of a theme that pervades Jewish history, the generalization of guilt for sins or crimes of individuals to masses of people, including infants and the aged.

Toward the end of the war, British forces were struggling to win Palestine from the Ottoman Empire, which had aligned itself with Germany at the outset of the war. Zionist Chaim Weizmann, who had won the gratitude of Britain for discovering a method for synthesizing acetone necessary to the war effort, petitioned the British to support the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine. On November 2, 1917, Lord Balfour notified Lord Rothschild that the proposal had been accepted, in what became known as the Balfour Declaration:

His Majesty's Government views with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

Palestine was understood at that time, according to a later Peel Commission investigation, to comprise the whole of historic Palestine, including Transjordan (now the country of Jordan). Though many Jews celebrated, large numbers of them were opposed to Zionism, fearing that it would stimulate antisemitism and reprisals.

For Russian Jews, the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 initially brought great hope, but subsequently great disappointment. Both sides used Jews as politically expedient scapegoats, and Communists wished to destroy *all* religion, including Judaism.

The Armistice at the end of World War I made it possible for new masses of refugees to escape to America and to Palestine. But increasingly, restrictive quotas and bureaucratic obstacles discouraged Jewish refugees from choosing America. Palestine became a preferred destination. In light of the Balfour Declaration, Palestine was a bright ray of hope for persecuted Jews around the world.

## The Promised Land

**A**t the beginning of World War I, some 85,000 Jews lived in the Holy Land. But war and famine took its toll. By the end of the war, the number had dwindled to about 56,000.

Even before the Balfour Declaration, some Arab leaders spoke in favor of Zionism. In 1913, the editor of a Cairo daily newspaper wrote, "The Zionists are necessary for the country; the capital which they will bring, their knowledge and intelligence, and the industriousness which characterizes them, will contribute without doubt to the regeneration of the country."<sup>23</sup>

Syria's King Faisal wrote a letter which was published in the *New York Times* on March 5, 1919: "We Arabs, especially the educated among us, look with the deepest sympathy on the Zionist movement.... We will wish the Jews a most hearty welcome home."<sup>24</sup>

But the British had made promises to the Arabs, too. Sir Henry McMahon, the British High Commissioner in Egypt, had written letters to try to attract Arab support against the Ottoman Empire. One of them, written October 24, 1915, implied British support for an independent Arab state. The Arabs did join with the British against the Turks, under the leadership of Lawrence of Arabia. But the unclear wording of McMahon's letter led to misunderstanding and ultimately great suffering.

McMahon himself, in an attempt to clarify his intentions, wrote in May 1939: "I feel it my duty to state, and I do so definitely and emphatically, that it was not intended by me in giving this pledge to King Hussein to include Palestine in the area in which Arab independence was promised. I also had

every reason to believe at the time that the fact that Palestine was not included in my pledge was well understood....”<sup>25</sup>

According to the Peel Commission investigation in 1936, “The field in which the Jewish National Home was to be established was understood, at the time of the Balfour Declaration, to be the whole of historic Palestine, including Transjordan.”<sup>26</sup> The stage was set for Middle East conflict.

At the Peace Conference which assembled in Paris after the “War to End All Wars” (World War I), Allied Powers were not allowed to forget the pledges they had made in the heat of the struggle. In April 1920, the British were given a Mandate by the League of Nations to prepare Palestine, including what is now Jordan, for independent government.

In America, 25 million people, including two million Jews, had immigrated between 1881 and 1924. Some Americans felt overwhelmed by the inflow of immigrants and threatened by the pace of change. Resentment grew against Jews who prospered. Immigrants were blamed for bombings in 1919. Part of the zeitgeist of the 1920s concerned eugenics. Some argued the “menace of race deterioration” threatened the very fabric and future of American life.

In 1924, the National Origins Quota legislation virtually closed America’s doors to Jews from eastern Europe. (Those laws were not repealed until 1965, after “discrimination” became politically incorrect.)

Immigration to Palestine increased more than 450% between 1923 and 1925. Yet this was a period of great peace between Arabs and Jews. Jewish land purchases continued. The Jewish National Fund had been set up to raise money for that purpose. Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir recalled:

Since I was a little girl, I can remember the small tin blue collection box that stood next to the Sabbath candles in our living room and into which not only we but our guests dropped coins every week, and this blue box was likewise a feature in every Jewish home we visited. From 1904 on it was with these coins that the Jewish people began to buy extensive tracts of land in Palestine. ... A lot of good money

changed hands, and a lot of Arabs became very rich indeed. By 1947, the JNF alone—millions of filled blue boxes—owned more than half of all the Jewish holdings in the country. ... Much of the land was sold to the Jewish National Fund by a single well-to-do Arab family.<sup>27</sup>

Absentee Arab landowners were happy to sell for a good price. The prices asked were outrageous! The Jews paid. A lot of land they bought had never been cultivated. They purchased waterless wastelands and malarial blackwater swamps. Land prices rose between 1910 and 1944 by as much as 5000%.<sup>28</sup> In 1944, when rich black Iowa farmland sold for \$110 an acre,<sup>29</sup> Jews paid ten times that much for marginal land in Palestine.

Land had to be purchased legally. There was no alternative. In time, the Arabs passed laws prohibiting the sale of land to Zionists, but found enforcement difficult. (Incidentally, in 1996, the Palestinian Authority imposed a death sentence for the “crime” of selling land to Jews, and enforced it in two cases.)

Absentee Arab landlords who sold were not particularly interested in the fate of their tenant farmers. Often, the *fellahin* refused to leave, and there was no way to evict them. There was little cross-cultural understanding. Settlers who sought to base their relations with local Arabs on mutual respect, or to appease them in any way, were disdained by the Arabs as weak.

In 1922, there were some 650,000 Arabs in Palestine. Over 100,000 of them were desert nomads and most of the rest were landless peasants. The Jews who hired the *fellahin* paid them higher wages than did Arab landowners, who were displeased by the increased cost of labor. Hospitals, sanitation and free clinics introduced by the Jews reduced infant mortality and increased the peasants’ lifespans dramatically.

The per capita income of Palestinian Arabs more than doubled between 1920 and 1937, and was much higher than that of Arabs in neighboring states. But it was still less than half that of the Jews. Simmering resentment was the result.

In 1929, during an economic downturn, the peace was shattered. A dispute arose concerning the rights of Jews to pray

at the Western Wall. Rumors spread that Muslim holy sites were in danger. Arabs were encouraged to “rise up against the enemy who violated the honor of Islam and raped the women and murdered widows and babies.”<sup>30</sup> It was in the familiar tradition of the pogroms. Rioters broke into yeshivas (Jewish schools) and homes. A British police chief who heard screams entered a room to see an Arab cut off a Jewish child’s head with a sword.<sup>31</sup> Arab mobs attacked the ancient Jewish community in Hebron and killed men, women and children. The British responded by evacuating every Jew from that town. Arabs assigned to bury the Jewish dead in mass graves burst into songs of celebration.

The British decided that in order to calm the Arabs, Jewish immigration must be limited. Jews were prohibited by the Mandatory Government from purchasing land.

So began a cycle that continues to this day. Arab terror leads to appeasement, which in turn leads to more terror.

In Germany, Hitler rose to power and immediately began to persecute Jews, who he blamed for Germany’s loss in the war. Jewish shops were boycotted and looted. Jews were beaten in the streets. Restrictive laws were passed. With America and other countries closed, it was to Palestine that refugees fled, even those who had previously been opposed to Zionism.

In April 1936, Fascist Italy sponsored Arab riots in an attempt to pose as the protector of Islam and to embarrass England in the Middle East. Arab gangs wantonly destroyed hundreds of thousands of trees, derailed trains, attacked buses, and staged some 2000 armed attacks against Jews as well as against Arabs with moderate opinions. Some Arabs who did not support the uprising saw their wives and children raped and beaten before being viscerously tortured and killed themselves.

The Peel Commission was appointed by the British government to investigate the cause of the riots. It found, among other things, that Arab complaints about Jewish land acquisition were baseless. The land had been purchased at exorbitant prices and most had been uncultivated when purchased. The shortage of land, they said, was due less to

Jewish acquisition than to an Arab population explosion brought about by immigration and improved health care. One member of the Commission summarized his impression of the Arab position: “It seems to me that in your view the compromise is: We want our demands met completely.”<sup>32</sup>

The Peel Commission suggested partitioning Palestine so that almost all of it would become an Arab state and only a small segment would become a Jewish one. For the Arabs, control by Jews over *any* part of the land was unthinkable.

The British government ignored the advice of the Peel Commission and chose appeasement. Arab oil would be needed in the event of war. One government committee wrote: “We assume that, immediately on the outbreak of war, the necessary measures would be taken...in order to bring about a complete appeasement of Arab opinion in Palestine.”<sup>33</sup> A British White Paper issued on May 17, 1939 restricted Jewish immigration to Palestine to 75,000 over a period of five years. Winston Churchill called it a “plain breach of a solemn obligation.”<sup>34</sup>

Despite the fact that the reason for restricted immigration was that the land could support no more people, Arabs were allowed to immigrate as they wished. The population of Arabs in Palestine rose to 1.5 million by 1947.

The British were to enforce the closure against Jews with all their power. The loss of this last haven for Jewish refugees consigned millions to death in the concentration camps.

Golda Meir wrote:

All [we] wanted from 1939 to 1945 was to take as many Jews as could be saved from the Nazis. That was all. Just to be allowed to share the little that we had with men, women and children who were fortunate enough not to have been shot, gassed or buried alive yet.... We just begged...to be permitted to try to rescue as many of them as possible before they all perished and to bring them to the one place where they were wanted.<sup>35</sup>

It was not to be. The Jews of Europe were trapped between the hammer of Nazi hatred and the anvil of world indifference.

## Nazis and the “Jewish Problem”

There is not space in this short book for a history of World War II. Most historians regard it as a continuation of the previous war. Problems that led to World War I remained unresolved. The economic conditions and political unrest that followed the Peace of Paris (1919) enabled dictatorships to arise. Leaders such as Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini and Hideki ruled without regard for the rule of law. Their wishes *were* law, and they used terror and secret police to crush dissension.

The rest of the world, weary of war, failed to clearly see danger in the early stages. America, especially, pursued a policy of isolationism. Let Europe fight its own wars and govern its own people. Their problems were not our concern.

Hitler clearly laid out his plans in *Mein Kampf*. He was greatly influenced by the *Protocols* and the idea of the “eternal Jew” striving secretly for world domination. He wrote: “The personification of the devil as the symbol of all evil assumes the living shape of the Jew.” He presented “the Jew” as a parasite in the body of other peoples, one who is restrained by no moral scruples, and said that fanaticism and intolerance are typical symbols of Jewish mentality. “If anyone by his intelligence resists the Jewish lures, his defiance and understanding are broken by terror.” He saw Jews as terrorists to be destroyed before they devoured the nations and became lords of the earth.

He also wrote, revealingly, “The victor will never be asked if he told the truth” and people “more easily fall victim to a big lie than to a little one, since they themselves lie in little things, but would be ashamed of lies that were too big.”<sup>36</sup>

Hitler rejected two of my fundamental assumptions, that Jews are human beings and that they are individuals who are responsible for their *own* actions, not the actions of others including any supposed *Elders of Zion*. He convinced his followers that danger was inherent in Jewish *blood*.

In March 1938, Hitler invaded and annexed Austria. 200,000 Jews were rounded up, stripped of their possessions, and issued passports good for two weeks. The few who were able to get a visa within that time were allowed to leave. The rest were sent to concentration camps. Elsewhere, thousands of Jews were driven over the frontiers into states unwilling to receive them. Many met death as they wandered hopelessly in no-man’s land or drifted down the Danube in overcrowded boats that were not allowed to put to shore.

Herschel Grynszpan, distraught about the fate of his elderly parents who were trapped in the no-man’s land between Germany and Poland, shot a Secretary of the German Embassy in Paris on November 7, 1938. Two nights later Krystallnacht occurred, a massive, well-organized and coordinated pogrom wherein all 600 synagogues in Germany were destroyed, including ancient buildings that had been designated national monuments. Almost every Jewish business was looted. Homes were raided and many hundreds of Jews were murdered. 30,000 individuals were sent to concentration camps. A fine of a billion marks was levied on the Jewish community to pay for damaged property owned by gentiles but under lease to Jews.

Jews who wished to emigrate had to turn in 25% of their total assets as a “flight tax” and 20% of assets toward the fine levied after Krystallnacht. Another 15% went to a fund to help Jews out of Germany. Whatever was left had to be deposited in the Reichsbank, to be reimbursed without interest at 8% of the value once a claimant had settled abroad. Someone fortunate to have \$100,000 worth of assets *might* end up with \$3,200.<sup>37</sup>

In *Mein Kampf*, Hitler wrote, “Denizens of the German state who are of non-German ethnicity shall be free at any time to renounce their German citizenship and become a citizen in a

nation whose ethnic composition corresponds to their own.” No such nation existed for Jews. No other country wanted masses of refugees. It was the time of the Great Depression. Between 1933 and 1938, only about 27,000 German Jews entered the U.S., fewer than could be killed at Auschwitz in two days time.

The “Final Solution” was not the first solution. At first, Jews would be released even from concentration camps if they emigrated. 300,000 of Germany’s 500,000 Jews left by 1939. Then the Germans decided to hold the remaining 200,000 hostage until the \$1.5 billion Reichsmark fine that had been levied against the Jewish community was paid in full.

The November 20, 1938 *New York Times* reported, “The [German] government, it is understood, is perfectly willing to negotiate for the emigration of Jews from Germany without their possessions with any authority or any country willing to accept them as penniless refugees, but on no other terms.”<sup>38</sup>

The Atlantic Ocean soon teemed with boatloads of refugees. One ship, the *St. Louis* carried 930 Jews who had paid \$150 each for Cuban landing permits. By the time the refugees arrived, the permits had been invalidated—no refunds. Only 22 Jews were allowed to disembark. The rest put back out to sea, were refused entry into America, and eventually had no choice but to return to Europe.<sup>39</sup>

Britain’s Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain was committed to peace at any price. *No* peaceful nations were eager for war after the sufferings of the previous war. Hitler annexed Austria and then Czechoslovakia without opposition. He insisted he would now be satisfied—no more demands.

In a speech to the Reichstag in January 1939, he said,

If the international Jewish financiers in and outside Europe should succeed in plunging the nations once more into a world war, then the result will not be the Bolshevizing of the earth and thus the victory of Jewry, but the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe!<sup>40</sup>

Nine months later, the Nazis invaded Poland, and more than three *million* additional Jews came under their authority.

Deportation would obviously not be sufficient to solve the “problem.” Orders were issued to gather the Jews into ghettos near railroad stations. The ghettos were completely sealed off after a time. Overcrowding and lack of food led to starvation,

rampant disease, and the death of 500,000 Jews by mid-1941. SS men would go out after dinner to hunt children sneaking out of the ghettos to steal bread.<sup>41</sup> A member of the Polish underground who infiltrated the Nazi-controlled Polish police force described some of the “fortunate” Jews, children who had escaped the ghetto and were attempting to survive on the streets:

*I ask nothing of the Jews except that they should disappear.*

—Hans Frank, Gauleiter of Poland

I shall never forget them. They looked less human than like monsters, dirty, ragged, with eyes that will haunt me forever—eyes of little beasts in the last anguish of death. They trust no one and expect only the worst from human beings. They slide along the walls of houses looking about them in mortal fear. No one knows where they sleep. From time to time, they knock at the door of a Pole and beg for something to eat.<sup>42</sup>

Surviving inhabitants of the ghettos were eventually sent to concentration camps for “liquidation.”

Hitler’s nonaggression pact with Stalin enabled him to overrun most of Western Europe before turning on Russia.\* Local pogroms by conquered peoples were encouraged as Hitler advanced. *Einsatzgruppen* (killing squads) followed German soldiers and conducted mass shootings in seized lands. At Babi Yar near Kiev in the Ukraine, 33,771 Jews were rounded up and machine-gunned in just two days.<sup>43</sup> But shooting was messy and inefficient. Better ways of killing had to be found to keep up with Hitler’s insatiable demands to destroy Jews, prisoners of war, dissenters and anyone who might possibly oppose him. What to do?

\* Stalin should have read *Mein Kampf*. Hitler considered Marxism, which sought world domination, a creation of the “eternal Jew.” Marx was a Jew.

Adolf Eichmann proposed a plan to send European Jews to the island of Madagascar. It was impractical. In July 1941, Reinhard Heydrich was directed to organize “a complete solution of the Jewish question in the German sphere of influence in Europe.” The race was on to find the most efficient way to exterminate millions of people. Carbon monoxide vans took too long. Experiments with explosives were unsatisfactory. The answer was an insecticide, Zyklon-B gas.

Emigration of Jews from the Reich was finally forbidden on October 23, 1941. Few Jews in German-controlled territory at that time would be alive four years later.

Once America aligned herself with the Allies, there was no more reason for Hitler to court public opinion in the west or use Jews for bargaining. Reinhard Heydrich announced the Final Solution on January 20, 1942:

As a first step in the Final Solution of the Jewish question, it is planned to put the Jews to work in the East. This will already eliminate a large number through natural wastage.

The remnant will have to be dealt with appropriately.<sup>44</sup>

It was a difficult job, but someone had to do it. Many SS killers considered *themselves* victims of the situation.<sup>45</sup> They had been convinced from childhood that Jews were part of a conspiracy against them. The only hope for their own people was to eliminate the Jews before the conspiracy could succeed.

Rudolf Höss, Commandant of Auschwitz, wrote in his memoirs:

Small children...entered the gas chambers playing or joking with one another and carrying their toys. Hundreds of men and women in the full bloom of life walked, all unsuspecting, to their death in the gas chambers under the blossom-laden fruit trees of the orchard.... I looked upon them as enemies of our people. The reasons for our extermination program seemed to me right.<sup>46</sup>

Oskar Gröning, an SS officer, was interviewed recently for a PBS broadcast about Auschwitz:

But surely, when it comes to children, you must have realized that they couldn't possibly have done anything?

Gröning: “The children. They're not the enemy at the moment. The enemy is the blood inside them. The enemy is the growing up to be a Jew. That could become dangerous, and because of that the children are included.”<sup>47</sup>

Some 900,000 Jews were “exterminated” at Treblinka alone. 99% of them were dead within two hours of arriving at camp. The SS prided themselves on their hardness and lack of pity. Pity was viewed as weakness in this culture of death.

In many conquered countries, the locals gladly turned over their Jews or participated in pogroms against them. The Germans encouraged this assistance by allowing locals access to the property their Jewish neighbors were forced to abandon.

*All that is necessary for evil to succeed is that good men do nothing.*

—Edmund Burke

In desperation, Jews tried to escape from Europe, but the doors of the world were slammed shut. Some Rumanian Jews were lucky enough to find passage on the *Struma*, a ship bound for Palestine. After the engine quit, it lay off Constantinople for three months with 800 people crammed aboard. The Turks would not allow anyone to land. The Rumanian government claimed people had lost all right of return by leaving illegally. The British would not admit Jews to Palestine. Finally, the Turks towed the ramshackle vessel out to sea. It broke up and sank the following day. Just one person survived.

On July 16, 1942, French police cooperated fully in an early-morning surprise roundup of Jews.

Buses backed up to apartment buildings and were filled with screaming, crying people. Hospital beds were emptied. A cancer patient operated on the previous day was carried away. One woman gave birth while police waited to haul off mother and baby. Family groups, comprising some 9000 people (half of them children) were funneled into the winter sports arena and penned up like animals. Water and food were scarce. Some infants died for lack of milk. Since only ten latrines were available, people stood in line

for hours to use the toilet. After five days of this nightmare, adults and children were separated and transferred to different deportation centers to await shipment to Poland.<sup>48</sup>

Good men did not stand by silently everywhere. In Denmark, the deportation of Jews was scheduled for October 1, 1943. Werner Best, head of the SS in Denmark, tipped off the Danes. In two days time, 95% of Denmark's 7,800 Jews escaped to neutral Sweden, assisted by the entire Danish community, including the police. One Danish pastor wrote, "I would rather die with the Jews than live with the Nazis."<sup>49</sup>

The West received the first reports of mass killing centers in the summer of 1942. Three grave diggers escaped to tell the story. It was not reported in the mass media. Editors dismissed the story as "war rumor inspired by fear."<sup>50</sup>

Six months later, there was irrefutable proof that 1.5 million Jews were dead and annihilation had been planned. The news was greeted with indifference. Most European Jews were not even informed and did not know where the deportation trains were bound. Reports began to appear in short articles buried deeply in newspapers. One report led to the following letter to Congress. It reflects the prevailing sentiment in America:

I see from the papers that 200,000 Refugee Jews in Hungary will not live through the next few weeks. That's too Dam Bad what in the Hell do we care about the Jews in Hungary. What we want is the Refugee Jews brought to this country returned where they come from.<sup>51</sup>

Western leaders did nothing. The fledgling United Nations did condemn "in the strongest possible terms this bestial policy of cold-blooded extermination" and the German government's "intention to exterminate the Jewish people in Europe."<sup>52</sup> Roosevelt promised that once the war was won, Nazis would be held accountable. But all suggestions for materially assisting endangered Jews were rejected. There was fear that the Nazis would be only too glad to burden the Allies with hundreds of thousands or millions of penniless refugees. No country wanted to be responsible for them. R. Borden Reams of the Division for European Affairs wrote:

In the event of our admission of inability to take care of these people the onus for their continued persecution would have been largely transferred from the German Government to the United Nations.<sup>53</sup>

Some U.S. officials expressed the opinion that Hitler was "really behind the Jewish pressure groups"<sup>54</sup> that were calling for western governments to do something for Europe's Jews. Pressure mounted on officials for rescue, and the Bermuda Conference was scheduled for April 1943. It was later described by a British delegate as "a facade for inaction."<sup>55</sup>

A Jewish member of the Polish National Council committed suicide soon after the Bermuda Conference. He had lost all his family to the death camps. He wrote in one of his final letters:

The responsibility of this crime of murdering the entire Jewish population of Poland falls in the first instance on the perpetrators, but indirectly it is also a burden on the whole of humanity, the people and the governments of the Allied States which thus far have made no effort toward concrete action for the purpose of curtailing this crime. By the passive observation of the murder of defenseless millions and of the maltreatment of children, women, and old men, these countries have become the criminals' accomplices....<sup>56</sup>

Eleven days after the Bermuda Conference, William Langer of North Dakota warned the Senate of the moral responsibility of being passive bystanders:

2,000,000 Jews in Europe have been killed off already and another 5,000,000 Jews are awaiting the same fate unless they are saved immediately. Every day, every hour, every minute that passes, thousands are being exterminated.<sup>57</sup>

His plea fell on deaf ears. Winning the war was the priority. The tide of battle was turning. Allied bombers were pounding German targets. Hitler stepped up his extermination program, even diverting trains needed to resupply his beleaguered troops on the Russian front for the purpose of transporting Jews to the death camps. Appeals to

bomb Auschwitz were rejected on the grounds that such a mission would compromise essential war missions. “We are over there to win the war and not to take care of refugees,”<sup>58</sup> was the response of the United States War Department.

Between August 7 and 29, 1944, the Auschwitz area was a hotbed of American bombing activity. On August 20, 127 Flying Fortresses escorted by 100 Mustang fighters dropped 1,336 high explosive bombs on the factory areas of Auschwitz, less than five miles from the gas chambers. Conditions were excellent for visual bombing. There was little German resistance. All necessary intelligence was in the hands of the Allies.<sup>59</sup> The gas chambers were unharmed. An Auschwitz survivor lamented:

Hundreds of planes, no bombs. We couldn't understand. We then knew that the people of the world didn't care about us.<sup>60</sup>

Anne Frank herself might have lived had the gas chambers been bombed at that time. She was on the last deportation train out of Holland on September 2, 1944. That train may well not have left had the mass-killing machinery been destroyed.<sup>61</sup>

Eventually, Jews at Auschwitz managed to smuggle in explosives and blow up one of the crematorium buildings themselves. It was clear no outside help would ever arrive.

In America, visa procedures had been strictly tightened and only a small percentage of the small immigration quota was filled. No person born in an enemy country was allowed entrance. Refugees not in “acute danger” were barred. For those *in* “acute danger” there were no American consuls available to issue visas. Numerous applications were denied on the basis of vague and unsubstantiated charges of communist sympathies. Treasury Department lawyers who covertly looked into State Department immigration procedures concluded:

If anyone were to attempt to work out a set of restrictions specifically designed to prevent Jewish refugees from entering this country it is difficult to conceive of how more effective restrictions could have been imposed than have already been imposed on grounds of “security”.<sup>62</sup>

Between Pearl Harbor and the end of the war in Europe, only 21,000 refugees, mostly Jewish, entered the United States. 90%

of the U.S. quota for Axis-controlled countries, almost 190,000 openings, went unfilled due to bureaucratic obstacles. And the United States was the *most* helpful Western nation. In Palestine, by October 1943, the severely restrictive White Paper quotas had been only 60% filled. The British rejected all appeals for assistance to Jews, yet admitted to Palestine thousands of non-Jewish refugees from Greece and Poland. One Jew wrote:

The world at large replies to our protests and prayers and dramatizations only with resolutions and expressions of sympathy—never with deeds.<sup>63</sup>

A Zionist leader wrote on Jewish New Year of 1943:

All our cries and pleas for life-saving action were shattered against walls of indifference until we began to stifle in the black realization that we are helpless. It was the year of our endless, bottomless, helplessness.<sup>64</sup>

In 1944, under pressure from the advancing Allies, Himmler offered to trade one million Jews for 10,000 trucks, to be used only on the Russian front. No one knows if the Germans were bluffing. They did release almost 1,700 Jews in a good faith gesture. The Allies ignored the offer, saying they would not negotiate with Nazis. To accept the offer, it was feared, might lead to more such offers. Joel Brand, a Hungarian who had been sent to present the offer to the Allies, was arrested and imprisoned by the British as a spy. He protested:

Do you know what you are doing? This is simply murder! If I don't return [to Budapest], our people will be slaughtered. My wife, my mother, my children will be the first. I have come here as an envoy, but not as an envoy of the enemy. The Germans are *my* enemy, too! I'm here as the envoy of one million people who are sentenced to death. Their lives depend on my return. Who gives you the right to arrest me? What have I done to England?<sup>65</sup>

Back in Hungary, 15,000 Jews were rounded up and herded into a brickyard. One of them smuggled out a letter that ended with a plea: “Pray for us that we shall die soon.”<sup>66</sup>

A Swedish diplomat in Budapest, convinced that reports were exaggerated, looked for himself. In the brick factory, he

found 10,000 Jews herded into an area so small they had to stand, pushed closely together, old and young alike, with no sanitary facilities. Many died standing up. He witnessed Jews being loaded into boxcars, eighty to a car, and the doors being nailed shut.<sup>67</sup> When the Hungarian head of state refused to cooperate with the Nazis, he was forcibly replaced and a reign of terror was released against Budapest's Jews. More than 10,000 were killed and their bodies left in the street or floating in the Danube.

As the war neared its end, the Nazis conducted death marches. In November 1944, 40,000 Hungarian Jews were driven on foot through freezing rains toward Austria. 15-20% died en route. Those who reached Austria but were judged unfit for hard labor were pushed back into Hungary and driven into the winter woods to die of starvation, exposure, or disease.<sup>68</sup>

In Palestine, resident Jews did everything they could to help friends and family members in Europe, with little success.

Palestinian Arab leader Haj Amin al-Husseini, on the other hand, was warmly received by Hitler and given a promise by the Axis powers to assist in settling the "Jewish problem" in Palestine in accordance with the "racial interests of the Arabs and along lines similar to those used to solve the Jewish question in Germany."<sup>69</sup> Husseini toured the death camps with Himmler and wrote in his memoirs, "One fundamental condition for cooperating with Germany was a free hand to eradicate every last Jew from Palestine and the Arab world."<sup>70</sup>

British efforts to appease the Arabs had failed, but their policy against Jewish immigration to Palestine remained firm.

*One of the lessons of the Holocaust was that people of good will are often unwilling to believe that people who threaten evil will in fact carry out their malevolent intentions.*<sup>71</sup>

being loaded into boxcars, eighty to a car, and the doors being nailed shut.<sup>67</sup> When the Hungarian head of state refused to cooperate with the Nazis, he was forcibly replaced and a reign of terror was

## After the War

Soviet troops liberated Auschwitz on January 27, 1945. But for their rapid advance, many more people would have died. Soviet prisoners of war, who had suffered much as the Jews, were condemned by their own government as traitors and spies, then sent to labor camps in Siberia until Stalin died in 1953.

After Germany's unconditional surrender on May 7, 1945, captive Jews were free to return home. But their former neighbors had little respect for pre-war property rights. More than 1500 Jewish survivors were murdered by Poles alone when they attempted to return to their homes. In the town of Kielce on July 4, 1946, more than a year after the Germans had withdrawn, local Poles murdered more than forty Jews and wounded another sixty. When the Polish Catholic primate was asked to condemn the murders, he stated that the Jews had brought it on themselves.<sup>72</sup>

Auschwitz survivor Lieba Schdrena reported her experience:

All the houses which had previously belonged to my family were now occupied by others. Everybody treated me as if I were poison. They were probably afraid they'd have to return the property. I left the next day and never went back. To return home was my worst experience.<sup>73</sup>

Rudolf Höss was captured and tried at Nuremberg. Said the prosecutor, "He struck me as a normal person. He had no emotion, no sense of guilt. Not in the remotest degree was he apologetic. In a sense, he showed a certain pride in his accomplishment." Höss wrote in his memoirs, "History will mark me as the greatest mass murderer of all time."<sup>74</sup>

During his imprisonment, repentant Nazi Hans Frank wrote: “A thousand years will pass and the guilt of Germany will not be erased.”<sup>75</sup> Yet now in 2005, within living memory, the Holocaust is denied, especially in the Muslim world. Oskar Gröning, former member of the Auschwitz SS, explained his reason for granting interviews about his part in the killings:

I see it as my task, now at my age, to face up to these things that I experienced and to oppose the Holocaust deniers who claim that Auschwitz never happened. And that’s why I’m here today, to tell those deniers: I have seen the crematoria. I have seen the burning pits. I want you to believe me that these atrocities happened. I was there.<sup>76</sup>

Few Nazis were arrested or prosecuted after the war. The focus was on rebuilding Europe. Many Nazis who were convicted had death sentences commuted. Postwar immigration policies in some countries preferred Nazis to their victims.

Most Germans went on to make good lives for themselves in postwar Germany. Many Nazi leaders escaped to other continents. Except for a few Jewish organizations, no one persevered in searching for or bringing war criminals to

*They thought they could kill six million Jews and go on as though they never existed.*

—Elie Wiesel

justice. Adolf Eichmann was captured on May 11, 1960 in Argentina and sentenced to death in a public trial in Israel. Argentina condemned Israel for what it called his “illegal arrest” and violation of political asylum. A fellow Nazi said of Eichmann: “He would leap laughing into the grave because the feeling that he had five million people on his conscience would be for him a source of extraordinary satisfaction.”<sup>77</sup>

The figure of six million Jews killed comes from a report made to Himmler by Adolf Eichman. No one knows exactly how many died. Some argue that six million is an exaggeration. But would a figure of four or five million be more acceptable?

After the war, some 11 million people were homeless refugees. Many were housed in former concentration camps, in conditions little better than they had known under the Nazis.

In 1945, the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry was appointed to investigate what could be done with millions of Jewish displaced persons (DPs) still in Europe. There was no possibility of sending all of these people back to their own countries. They had no country of their own. One suggestion was to open Palestine for immigration. The committee sailed for Europe and Palestine early in 1947.

Ignatius Mubarak, a Maronite Lebanese leader, testified to the Committee in favor of Zionism and Jewish statehood:

If you oppose Zionism in Palestine it means returning the people to the domination of savagery and the country to the state of anarchy and bribery in which it existed under the Ottoman Sultans...here is a struggle between civilization and regression, and the Jews represent civilization.<sup>78</sup>

One American member of the committee, Frank Aydelotte, recorded his impressions after the investigation:

I left Washington pretty strongly anti-Zionist. But when you see at first hand what these Jews have done ...the greatest creative effort in the modern world. The Arabs are not equal to anything like it and would destroy all the Jews have done.... This we must not let them do.<sup>79</sup>

The committee reported that “although a year has passed since their liberation, the majority of [Jews] in Germany and Austria are still living in assembly centers, the so-called ‘camps,’ island communities in the midst of those at whose hands they suffered so much.”<sup>80</sup> It was recommended that the centers be closed and camp life ended.

We know of no country to which the great majority can go in the immediate future other than Palestine. Furthermore that is where almost all of them want to go. There they are sure that they will receive a welcome denied them elsewhere. There they hope to enjoy peace and rebuild their lives. ... Partition seems to offer at least a chance of ultimate peace. We can see none in any other plan.<sup>81</sup>

Britain faced an acute oil shortage after the war. The policy of Arab appeasement continued and Britain did everything in its power to prevent surviving Jewish refugees from landing on

Palestine's shores. By 1947, Zionists were chartering European ships to run the British blockade and smuggling nearly a thousand Jewish refugees into Palestine each week.

The United Nations appointed a Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) to investigate and make recommendations. Committee members were struck by the cleanliness and development in the Jewish areas as well as the dirt and backwardness in Arab villages. The Arab Higher Committee rejected the idea of partitioning Palestine and advocated a state from which "illegal" immigrant Jews would be expelled and remaining Jews would have no political rights.

Fortunately for the Zionists, UNSCOP was on hand when the *Exodus*, a ship carrying 4500 immigrant Jews, was boarded by the British. Hundreds of soldiers in full combat dress used rifle butts, rubber hoses, clubs, grenades and tear gas on emaciated survivors of the death camps, 400 of whom were pregnant women hoping to give birth to their babies in Palestine. The Jews were forcibly locked into wire cages and returned to DP (displaced person) camps in Germany.

UNSCOP members agreed that the British Mandate must be terminated. A majority of members endorsed a partition plan, separating mandatory Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state.

The partition plan was approved on November 29, 1947 by a 2/3 vote of the United Nations general assembly. Britain abstained. The Soviet bloc voted in favor. All six Arab delegations walked out, declaring that "the partition line shall be nothing but a line of fire and blood."<sup>82</sup>

Haj Amin, Hitler's ally, had been appointed to Arab leadership by the British. The majority of Arabs did not obey his call to arms after partition. As a result, more Arabs were killed by fellow Arabs for refusing to rise up against the Jews than were killed by the British or the Jews during this time.

Several Arab Palestinian leaders tried to work with Jewish politicians on arrangements for partition, but the call to war was shrill. Palestine's well-to-do Arabs fled the country during the waves of violence that followed the UN partition vote.

## Independence and War

On May 14, 1948, the British withdrew and Israel declared independence. It was the year 5608 in the Hebrew calendar. The 5608th verse of the Torah is Deuteronomy 30:5:

He (God) will bring you into the land that belonged to your fathers, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers.

It seemed a miracle, even the fulfillment of prophecy as written in Isaiah 66:8:

Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment?

William Foxwell Albright, director of the American School of Oriental Research at Johns Hopkins University, wrote:

No other phenomena in history is quite so extraordinary as the unique event represented by the Restoration of Israel. At no other time in world history, so far as it is known, has a people been destroyed and then come back after a lapse of time and reestablished itself. It is utterly out of the question to seek a parallel for the recurrence of Israel's restoration after 2500 years of former history.<sup>83</sup>

The area had been united under native rule only twice before in history, during the reign of David and Solomon (1006-928 BCE) and during the Hasmonean Dynasty (142-63 BCE). At all other times, it had been ruled by occupying powers.

The Arab states flatly rejected partition, denying UN authority to divide and distribute territories. The day after independence, Israel was attacked on five fronts. Just 19,000 defenders were available to turn back attackers intent on

destroying every Jew in the area. To the Arabs, their former *dhimmis* (subservient persons) had stepped over the line in gaining a state. It was unthinkable that Jewish “dogs” should rule over a single Arab or a single inch of Muslim land.

Golda Meir had secretly visited Jordan’s King Abdullah in early November 1947. He promised her he would not join any Arab attack. He desired peace! Haj Amin al-Husseini, the mufti of Jerusalem, was his enemy, too, he said.

On May 10, 1948, days before independence, Mrs. Meir visited again, disguised as an Arab woman. “Have you broken your promise to me, after all?” she asked the proud Bedouin.

“When I made that promise,” Abdullah answered, “I thought I was in control of my own destiny and could do what I thought right. Since then I have learned otherwise.”<sup>84</sup>

When the war began, 100,000 Jews and 65,000 Arabs lived in Jerusalem. Egyptian and Jordanian troops surrounded the Old City and mercilessly shelled it. The world community said

*This will be a war of extermination and a momentous massacre, which will be spoken of like the Mongolian massacres and the Crusades.*<sup>85</sup>

—Abd al-Rahman Azzam Pasha  
Secretary-General of the Arab League

nothing about damage to the holy places.

When the British officered Arab Legion occupied the Old City, every single Jew who remained alive was thrown out, their homes and possessions confiscated. The great

Hurvah synagogue was completely destroyed. Jewish gravestones were used to build urinals for Jordanian troops. The Western Wall itself would likely have been destroyed had it not been part of the retaining wall for the Temple Mount, on which stood the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa Mosque.

For the next 19 years, Jews were barred from the Western Wall. No one protested except the Jews. “In view of the deafening silence,” wrote Golda Meir, “we could hardly be expected ever again to rely on anyone else to protect Jerusalem

or take seriously any Christian or Muslim protestations of anxiety about the holy places.”<sup>86</sup>

Despite an American arms embargo, Israel stopped the attack on all fronts. The war the Arabs thought would be over in a week exhausted them after a month. After a truce, they attacked again with fury. Israel counterattacked and the Arabs called for another truce 10 days later. The Egyptians, who had conquered the Negev, broke that truce and the counterattack left Egypt almost defenseless. England then insisted that Israel retreat or face war with the British.

Overwhelming victory for Israel was within the bounds of possibility when the Arabs finally signed armistice agreements. Permanent peace treaties were supposed to follow, but the Arab nations refused even to meet and talk about peace. Their desire to destroy the Jewish state was still very much alive.

Arab pride had been damaged by the loss. 2000 square miles that had been allocated by the UN for an Arab Palestinian state was now part of Israel. It could have been traded back as part of a peace treaty, but the Arabs would have nothing of it.

Had the West *enforced* the partition plan, or supported the Jews in their defense, many lives on both sides would have been saved. For Israel, the alternative to victory was not defeat, but obliteration. There would have been no Jewish refugees had the Arabs won in 1948, just Jewish corpses.

There would have been no Palestinian refugees if the Arabs had acknowledged the right of the Jewish state to exist.

Soon after the 1948 war, a joke circulated:

“A friend of mine has started reading antisemitic papers.”

“Why?”

“Well, there is all the austerity. We do not have enough to eat. The taxes are high. The cost of living is great. There are many sacrifices. Life is monotonous. The papers urge one to do without and to work harder lest we starve and die. The papers warn us there will be another war. So I read the antisemitic papers. What are they saying? They are saying the Jews have all the money and are going to rule the world!”<sup>87</sup>



*Israel at Partition*



*Israel after 1948 war*



*Israel after 1967 war*



*Israel currently*

At Partition, Israel was granted only a small percentage of the original mandated territory. 80% of the Mandate went to the Arab nation of Jordan. Arab states control 5,414,000 square miles in the Middle East. Israel administers just 23/100 of that (less than 10,000 square miles). It is 290 miles north to south and at most 85 miles east to west. Prior to 1967, it was just 9-10 miles wide in places.

## Refugees

In 1948, the number of refugees in the world was between sixteen and eighteen million. The nation of Israel was created in an attempt to solve part of a horrendous refugee problem.

After the UN partition vote, there were terrible riots in Yemen. Jews had lived in Yemen for nearly 3,000 years and are said to have had the longest unbroken history of any Jewish community. Life had long been difficult. Of every 1000 Jewish children born there, nearly 800 died. Jews were required to wear distinctive dress, were forbidden to work except as serfs, and were not even allowed to walk on the same side of the street as Muslims. When the riots broke out against them, Yemenite Jews left all their possessions behind, gathered their families and began to walk across the desert to the Promised Land.

They walked in groups of 30 or 40, set upon by Arab brigands, eating only the pita, honey and dates they could carry and paying exorbitant ransoms to the various desert sultanates they passed en route for each man, newborn baby and Bible. Most of them reached Aden, where camps had been organized. But the Suez Canal had been closed. The only way to get them to Israel was by air. Each day, 500 or 600 Yemenite Jews were flown to Israel in Operation Magic Carpet. In the end, 48,000 Yemenite Jews were thus brought to Israel.<sup>88</sup>

Elsewhere in the Arab world, fury was unleashed on Jews regardless of their Zionist sentiments. Approximately 870,000 were expelled from newly independent Arab nations and their property (estimated at between \$13 and \$30 billion in 1950 dollars) was confiscated. Many left with nothing but the shirts

on their backs and were grateful to be alive. A large number of these refugees found their way to Israel. Huge numbers arrived from the DP (displaced person) camps in Europe, many of them too traumatized and weak to work. Immigration to Israel did not taper off until 1952, to 1000 a day. Israel's population doubled and doubled again as it absorbed refugees from all over the world, including more than 70,000 Ethiopians. "For the first time in history," wrote William Safire, "thousands of black people are being brought into a country not in chains, but as citizens."<sup>89</sup> Some 7,000 Ethiopians *walked* to Sudan for rescue.

The religiously based partition between Pakistan and India took place in 1947, creating hundreds of thousands of refugees on both sides and great hardship.

After World War II, eastern European nations were given the right to expel people of German heritage. Many of them had been living away from Germany for generations, but their forebears were German and they spoke German. 12 million were expelled, their property confiscated. According to some estimates, as many as two million were killed in the process.

Years later, Egypt built the Aswan High Dam. Numerous Arab villages were destroyed and 100,000 Arabs were forcibly relocated. According to the World Bank, dam construction displaces 1.2 to 2.1 million people *every year*.<sup>90</sup>

Against this context, consider the Palestinian refugee situation, which has persisted for 57 years. Upon independence, Israel offered citizenship to all resident Arabs. For the first time in history, Arab women had the right to vote.

Had the Arabs accepted the UN decision, there would have been *no* Palestinian refugees. The Arabs' stated desire was to eliminate Israel and destroy the Jews.

The Iraqi Prime Minister at the time, Nuri Said, said:

We will smash the country with our guns and obliterate every place the Jews seek shelter in. The Arabs should conduct their wives and children to safe areas until the fighting has died down.<sup>91</sup>

When a string of Arab villages fell to Jewish forces near Jaffa, nearby Arabs fled. Jaffa's Arab militiamen looted their

empty houses and occasionally robbed and abused the remaining inhabitants.<sup>92</sup>

Golda Meir was sent to Haifa to plead with the Arabs there to go home. She said they had only one answer: "We know there is nothing to fear, but we have to go. We'll be back." British military intelligence in Haifa at the time stated: "The Jews have been making extensive efforts to prevent wholesale evacuation, but their propaganda appears to have had very little effect."<sup>93</sup>

*The Arab governments told us: Get out so that we can get in. So we got out, but they did not get in.*

According to *The Times*, a rumor circulated that any

—*Jordanian daily newspaper,*  
September 6, 1954

Arabs who remained in Haifa would be regarded as traitors and treated as such when Arab forces captured the town. Tens of thousands fled. Those who stayed are still there.

On September 6, 1948, Emil Ghory, the Secretary of the Arab High Council, was quoted in a Lebanese daily paper:

The fact that there are these refugees is the direct consequence of the action of the Arab States in opposing Partition and the Jewish State.<sup>94</sup>

Nevertheless, Syria's delegate to the UN called the Jewish takeover of Haifa "a massacre" and said that it was "further evidence that the Zionist program is to annihilate Arabs."<sup>95</sup>

It cannot be said that no Jewish atrocities occurred, or that *any* atrocity is justifiable. But Israel as a nation has not condoned atrocities or advertised an intention to exterminate Arabs. American military personnel have committed atrocities, but that doesn't mean Americans approve!

Years later, the Syrian Prime Minister during 1948, Haled al-Azm, wrote in his memoirs:

Since 1948 we have been demanding the return of the refugees to their homes. But we ourselves are the ones who encouraged them to leave. Only a few months separated our call to them to leave and our appeal to the United Nations to resolve on their return.<sup>96</sup>

A research report by the Arab-sponsored Institute for Palestinian Studies concluded that most refugees were not expelled. 68% of them left without seeing an Israeli soldier.

Soon after the war, the United Nations allocated \$29,500,000 to assist Palestinian refugees. Resolution 194 was passed in December 1948, calling for negotiations toward permanent peace, assurance of free access for all to the holy places, and the return of refugees to their homes:

Refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and ... compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return.

The Arab states unanimously rejected the resolution. The holy places were *not* opened to all. Jews were barred from praying at the Western Wall for 19 years, until they captured Jerusalem in the 1967 war. *No* Arab state negotiated for a permanent peace (until 1978, thirty years and several wars later). Had the Arabs agreed to peace in 1949, the refugees could have been readmitted and could have returned to their homes. As it was, hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees entering Israel needed shelter, *any* shelter available.

Concerning the stipulation about refugees wishing to return home and *live at peace* with their neighbors, Egyptian Foreign Minister Salah al-Din said it best, on October 11, 1949:

It is well known and understood that the Arabs, in demanding the return of the refugees to Palestine, mean their return as masters of the Homeland and not as slaves. With greater clarity, they mean the liquidation of the state of Israel.<sup>97</sup>

In December 1949, UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) was established to aid Palestinian refugees. A year later, UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) was established to aid all other refugees. Over the years, UNHCR has protected refugees and resolved refugee problems worldwide. Some 50 million people have been helped to resettle and restart their lives.

By contrast, the original 700,000 or so refugees under UNRWA's care are now more than four million. Palestinian

refugees *only* may bestow refugee status on future generations. UNRWA's definition of "refugee" applies *only* to *Arab* refugees from *Israel*. There are currently many Arab refugees from Arab states. UNRWA rules do not apply to them. An Arab in 1948 could be counted as a refugee even if he moved just a few miles from one part of Palestine to another and even if he *returned* to a village which had been his home just two years earlier and in which his family still lived.

Many millions of dollars were pledged to help the Palestinians displaced in the conflict. In 1952, UNRWA set up a fund of \$200 million to provide homes and jobs for the refugees. It went untouched. By August 1958, former director of UNRWA Ralph Garroway acknowledged:

The Arab states do not want to solve the refugee problem. They want to keep it as an open sore, as an affront to the United Nations, and as a weapon against Israel. Arab leaders don't give a damn whether the refugees live or die.<sup>98</sup>

The US has been UNRWA's primary contributor through the years. Oil-rich Arab states have contributed less than 1% of UNRWA's budget.<sup>99</sup> As recently as 1994, Israel gave more than any Arab country except Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Morocco. But 99% of UNRWA's staff is Palestinian. Terrorist attacks are staged from the camps. UNRWA schools have consistently refused to remove antisemitic material from textbooks. When Arafat returned to head the Palestinian Authority in 1994, he immediately decreed that no one would be moved out of the camps or given better housing.

To the surprise of the world, Israel was not destroyed in 1948. But the dream lives on. Meanwhile, only by continuing to be refugees can Palestinians ensure the flow of UN relief funds. Some of those funds end up in the hands of terrorists.

There's a story about David Ben Gurion, Israel's first prime minister. He was desperately trying to figure out how to pay the bills and accommodate the never-ending stream of destitute refugees. Someone jokingly suggested that Israel declare war on America, lose, and then be rebuilt with American help.

## Wars, Wars and More Wars

Almost immediately after the 1948 armistice agreements were signed, cross border raids into Israel began. At first, most raids were against property. There were 11 Israeli civilian casualties in 1949, 19 in 1950, and 48 in 1951. In 1954, Nasser seized power in Egypt and proclaimed a goal of uniting the entire Arab world under Egyptian leadership. He aligned himself with the Soviet bloc and began to train and sponsor *fedayeen* (self-sacrificers) to conduct deadly border raids into Israel. He concluded a large arms deal with Czechoslovakia. America refused to sell arms to Israel. France did not.

Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal and expelled the British and French. He closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping. Britain, France and Israel secretly agreed to attack Egypt. On October 29, 1956, the Israel Defense Forces entered the Sinai and crossed to the Suez Canal in less than 100 hours.

The nests of the fedayeen were cleaned out. The fortresses and battalions concealed in the desert were put out of commission. The hundreds and thousands of weapons and millions upon millions of rounds of ammunition—mostly Russian—stockpiled for use against [Israel] were worthless.<sup>100</sup>

Egyptian soldiers had Arabic translations of *Mein Kampf* in their backpacks.

The world was horrified, and placed the blame squarely on Israel and its allies. The UN called for an immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Egyptian soil. The US threatened to cut off all aid to Israel. UN peacekeepers were stationed along the Suez Canal and, later, at Sharm al-Sheikh, to safeguard Israeli shipping.

Nasser was hailed a victor in the Arab world for his political and diplomatic victory over the hated “imperialist” West. He had stood up to Western powers and gotten his way. Nasser and other Arab leaders began to speak openly of a “third round” in which Israel and the Jews would certainly be destroyed. Israel’s “existence” was the problem.

In May 1967, Nasser expelled the UN peacekeepers. He closed the Straits of Tiran and blocked Israeli shipping. His stated goal was to “liberate” Palestine. Egyptian troops poured across the Sinai and massed on Israel’s border. Nasser said: “If Israel wants war—well then, Israel will be destroyed.” A leading Egyptian daily printed that quote next to a similar one by Hitler. According to the Voice of the Arabs radio: “Every Arab has been living for the past 19 years on one hope—...to see the day Israel is liquidated.” Arab leader Shukiery declared: “There will be practically no Jewish survivors.”

The width of Israel at its narrowest point before 1967 was less than 10 miles. Defending it on all fronts would be difficult.

Israel mobilized and a waiting game ensued, during which Egypt signed mutual defense pacts with surrounding Arab countries and Israel sought diplomatic assistance to ease the tension. The United States and other Western powers who had promised to guarantee Israeli freedom of shipping in 1956 were not inclined to help. France instituted an arms embargo.

Every day that passed strengthened Egypt’s hand and weakened Israel, in the minds of Israeli military commanders. Egypt had a professional military, but demoralization and economic stagnation in Israel was a danger with so many citizen soldiers away from their jobs. Two weeks passed and every diplomatic possibility was explored before the order for a preemptive strike was given on June 4, 1967.

Within hours, Israel achieved air superiority. Yet a false message was sent to Jordan’s King Hussein that Egypt was winning. Fearing to be on the wrong side in case of an Arab victory, he attacked the new city of Jerusalem. Nearly 1000 private homes were hit with artillery and machine gun fire, and

numerous civilians were killed. Israel's counterattack lost Jordan the West Bank and Jerusalem.

Israel had promised King Hussein that Jordan would not be attacked if he remained neutral. Thirty years later, he confessed to his people that going to war in 1967 had been a mistake. He had been prepared to sign a peace treaty with Israel when the war began.<sup>101</sup> Had Egypt not provoked war, or had King Hussein honored his promise and remained neutral, Israel would not have "occupied" the West Bank or taken Jerusalem.

On Wednesday, June 7, the old walled city of Jerusalem from which Jews had been utterly excluded since 1948, was taken without a battle.

The Jordanians had withdrawn. For the first time in more than 2,000 years, Jerusalem came under Jewish control.

*We earnestly stretch our hands to our Arab brethren in peace, but we have returned to Jerusalem never to part from her again.*<sup>102</sup>

—Moshe Dayan, June 7, 1967

Almost immediately, control of the Temple Mount was returned to Muslim religious leaders.<sup>103</sup> This was a good-will gesture, not a requirement. Israel could have demolished the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque and rebuilt the Jewish Temple had it so desired.

In just six days, Israel had conquered the West Bank, the Golan Heights, and the entire Sinai Peninsula. Had not the UN demanded a ceasefire, Israel may well have captured enemy capital cities. The war has been called "one of the most brilliant military campaigns in history, conducted by a citizen army intent not on conquest but on self-protection."<sup>104</sup>

The Arab states were humiliated by the loss. United Nations Resolution 242, issued November 22, 1967, called for Israel to withdraw from territories occupied in the conflict and for the "termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force."

Israel offered to exchange land for peace. The Arabs, meeting in Khartoum, Sudan, issued their famed "three noes": NO peace with Israel, NO negotiations with Israel, NO recognition of Israel. Communist bloc countries broke off diplomatic relations with Israel. The PLO was formed, initially under Nasser's direction, and the War of Attrition began in an effort to recapture the Sinai with its oil reserves. Said Nasser:

If the enemy succeeds in inflicting 50,000 casualties in this campaign, we can go on fighting nevertheless, because we have manpower reserves. If we succeed in inflicting 10,000 casualties, he will unavoidably find himself compelled to stop fighting, because he has no manpower reserves.<sup>105</sup>

He was willing to sacrifice as many young Arabs as it took to wipe Israel off the map. Can you imagine what the response would be if an American leader said something like that?

In 1970, Nasser finally agreed to a cease-fire. He died suddenly before peace could be negotiated.

His successor, Anwar Sadat, longed to restore Arab pride. He said war with Israel was inevitable and he was prepared to sacrifice a million soldiers to the cause of destroying the Jews.

On October 6, 1973, Egypt and Syria launched a massive surprise attack on Yom Kippur, the highest holy day on the Jewish calendar. Radio and TV stations were shut down for the holiday, making Israeli mobilization difficult. The attack was unexpected in part because it was during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Had Israel initiated a war during that time, the world would never have forgiven them!

During the first minute of the attack, 10,500 artillery and mortar rounds fell on Israel's Bar-Lev line in Sinai.<sup>106</sup> More than 150 planes flew low over the Suez Canal and simultaneously struck military camps, radar installations, airfields and intelligence bases. Israel's defenses collapsed in ninety minutes.

In the north, Syria quickly captured half the Golan Heights. The destruction of Israel, for a time, seemed certain. France and England instituted an arms embargo on Israel, but this time, America did not. America's close friendship with Israel began with the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Israel rallied and two days later, in the greatest tank battle in history, Syria lost 1,200 of 1,500 Soviet-built tanks. Israel Defense Forces raced across the Sinai, crossed the Suez Canal, and encircled Egypt's Third Army. Israeli troops were 20 miles from Damascus and 60 miles from Cairo when the UN demanded a ceasefire October 24.<sup>107</sup>

It is interesting that little or nothing was done by the UN or world community until the Arab states were clearly in danger of losing. Arab aggression had once again been given tacit approval. The Egyptians viewed the war as an unalloyed victory. Arab pride had been restored and it was thought that the destruction of the Jewish state would certainly have been accomplished had not America intervened by resupplying Israel.

Golda Meir, then Prime Minister, addressed the Knesset:

I want to make public our gratitude to the president and the people of America, and equally clear, our rage at those governments ... that chose to impose an embargo on the shipments of arms to us when we were fighting for our very lives. I want the world to know what would have happened had we withdrawn before the war to pre-Six-Day War lines—the very same lines, incidentally, that had not prevented the Six-Day War itself from breaking out, although no one seems to remember that.<sup>108</sup>

Israel agreed to exchange land for peace. The Arab states, for the most part, steadfastly refused, standing by their “three noes.” For months, Syria even refused to provide Israel with a list of POWs or to give Israeli army chaplains permission to search the battlefields for the dead.

Years later, Egyptian president Anwar Sadat expressed a willingness to do what it took to negotiate peace with Israel. This led to the Camp David Accords in 1978 and the return of the Sinai, with all its mineral wealth, to Egypt. One sticking point was Sadat's demand that Israel pay reparations for war damage and for the oil pumped from the Sinai since 1967.<sup>109</sup> Sadat's willingness to relinquish the goal of destroying the Jews cost him his life. He was assassinated during a military parade commemorating Egyptian victory in the 1973 war.

## Palestinians Among the Arabs

Things might have gone a lot differently in the Middle East had it not been for a Pakistani Muslim leader named Mawdudi. He looked earnestly for a reason to explain the decline of Muslim power in the world, and concluded that diversity was the culprit. Interfaith mixing had weakened and watered down Muslim thought and practice. The solution, as he saw it, was to purge Islam of all alien elements.

Mawdudi formed a radical Islamist party in 1941. He based his call to  *jihad*  on a passage in the Koran which stated: “I have been ordered to fight people until they say ‘There is no God but Allah.’ If they say it, they have protected their blood, their wealth from me.” Mawdudi's goal was to wage  *jihad*  until the entire world was brought under the rule of Islam. He wrote:

Islam wants the whole earth and does not content itself with only a part thereof. It wants and requires the entire inhabited world. ... In order to realize this lofty desire, Islam wants to employ all forces and means that can be employed for bringing about a universal all-embracing revolution. It will spare no efforts for the achievement of this supreme objective.<sup>110</sup>

Mawdudi had been profoundly influenced by the founder of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, which later included Yasser Arafat among its members. Not all Arabs jumped on the  *jihad*  bandwagon, but many did. Those who did considered their own co-religionists as traitors worthy of death if they did not support the all-encompassing goal of Islamic world domination.

From 1948 to 1967, Gaza was occupied by the Egyptians. Resident Palestinians were not offered citizenship nor were they

allowed to move into Egypt. When Begin wished to cede Gaza to Egypt at Camp David, Sadat declined.

Emmanuel Winston, a Middle East commentator, wrote:

Even the radical nations of Syria and Lebanon, Iraq and Iran, keep [Palestinians] segregated in squalid refugee camps, knowing full well their reputation for breaking agreements and conspiring against their host government.<sup>111</sup>

King Abdullah annexed the West Bank in 1950 and extended citizenship to its Palestinian residents.

After the 1967 war, Yasser Arafat set up a “state within a state” in Jordan’s refugee camps. Tensions built between Palestinians and Jordanians. Civilians resented bullying by undisciplined Palestinian gunmen, who often acted like thugs.

PLO raids and terrorism brought Israeli retribution down on Jordan. By 1969, there were bloody clashes between Hussein’s army and Arafat’s irregulars. Finally, Hussein reached an agreement with Arafat to restore order. Palestinians were prohibited from carrying guns and wearing uniforms in towns, from seizing cars, arresting people, or recruiting Jordanian army deserters. Arafat agreed not to shell Israeli targets from Jordan. In exchange, Jordan agreed to serve as a base for the PLO.

Arafat broke the agreement within days, calling it a US backed plot. Hussein then tried appeasement.<sup>112</sup>

The final straw came on September 6, 1970, when Palestinian terrorists hijacked three Western jetliners and landed them outside Amman. Jordanian troops were helpless to intervene. King Hussein, embarrassed by the international incident, unleashed his army in a full-scale assault on PLO camps and bases. Most of Jordan’s population and most Arab states opposed this action and sided with the Palestinians.

Syria even deployed three brigades to support the PLO. Only after the US approved an Israeli strike did the Syrians back down. Arafat fled in disguise and sued for peace. Hussein wished to destroy Arafat’s organization completely, but was pressured to negotiate “peace” and sign. An estimated 3500 Palestinian civilians and 900 guerrillas died in the conflict.<sup>113</sup>

King Hussein decreed death for anyone caught with a weapon. In an interesting footnote, when Jordanian forces pushed the last of the PLO out, seventy of Arafat’s men so feared the wrath of Jordan’s soldiers that they waded the Jordan River and surrendered to the Israeli army rather than face their Arab pursuers.<sup>114</sup> Jordan never again attacked Israel.

Lebanon was embroiled in a civil war. Arafat and his terrorists moved into southern Lebanon and began attacking Jordanian citizens abroad. Black September (a terrorist group named after the month in which Hussein drove the PLO out) launched its first operation. It gunned down Jordan’s prime minister, Wasfi Tal, in Cairo’s high-rise Sheraton Hotel. One assassin lapped Tal’s blood. A few months later, Egypt freed the six assassins on low bail and let them leave the country.<sup>115</sup>

Black September initiated the “successful” use of letter bombs. One was even sent to U.S. President Nixon.

In their most well-known attack, Black September put the Palestinian “cause” high on the world agenda during the 1972 Munich summer Olympics. Eleven Israeli athletes were killed, nine of them after being kidnapped. Six weeks later, the killers were set free and flown to Libya in a blaze of publicity.<sup>116</sup>

Just two years after Munich, Arafat was invited to speak to the UN General Assembly, the first ever representative of a nongovernmental organization to receive such an invitation. He wore his revolutionary garb and holster (he agreed to leave his pistol in the hall). He received a standing ovation.

Jordan later tried to reestablish its influence on the West Bank. King Hussein persuaded four Palestinians to accept office as mayors. One, on good terms with Arafat but not a PLO member, became mayor of Nablus. He was murdered for taking the job.<sup>117</sup> Finally, all PLO offices in Jordan were closed and their officials expelled. King Hussein relinquished all claim to the West Bank in 1988, leaving Israel without a negotiating partner. Hussein said coordination with PLO leadership would only be possible when “their word becomes their bond, characterized by commitment, credibility and constancy.”<sup>118</sup>

Hafez Assad seized power in Syria in November 1970. The Muslim Brotherhood, a terrorist group to which Arafat had once belonged, tried to topple his regime, calling Assad an “enemy of Allah.” The president’s younger brother, Rifaat, pledged a readiness to fight “a hundred wars, demolish a million strongholds, and sacrifice a million martyrs” to defeat the Muslim Brothers. In the end, Assad’s forces leveled the Syrian city of Hama, a stronghold of the terrorists. Rifaat bragged of 38,000 deaths in the action, most of them Palestinian.<sup>119</sup>

Iraq hired anti-Arafat Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal to assassinate members of the PLO. Arafat’s group Fatah responded by shooting Iraqi officials in Britain, France, Pakistan and Lebanon.<sup>120</sup> Many Palestinians lived in Kuwait, but after Arafat aligned himself with Saddam Hussein in the first Gulf War, more than 200,000 of them were expelled. The PLO lost \$12 million a month in funding from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq after Saddam’s loss.<sup>121</sup> (Note that Arafat signed the Oslo agreement soon afterward, which brought in \$3.5 billion. The U.S. became his fundraiser in the western world.)

In Lebanon, Arafat set up a state-within-a-state that the Lebanese government was too weak to control. Christian border villages formed militias to fend off PLO attacks, and accepted military, financial and medical aid from Israel.<sup>122</sup> PLO guerillas turned Shiite villages into battlegrounds and helped themselves to any home, car or product that struck their fancy. Countless tales were told by Lebanese civilians of rape, mutilation and murder committed by PLO forces.<sup>123</sup>

Finally, the Lebanese government asked Israel to intervene and Israel complied. Terrorist training camps in southern Lebanon were emptied. Eventually, the US mediated an end to the struggle by finding refuge for the PLO fighters. No Arab state wanted them at first. America eventually assisted in evacuating some 14,000 combatants out of Beirut. The PLO was distributed among so many Arab states that Arafat bragged he had more Middle East bases than the U.S.<sup>124</sup> With America’s help, Arafat was able to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

## Terrorism Enabled

The word “terrorism” dates to the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror which claimed 18,000 lives. To “terrorize” is “to coerce, make submit, etc. by filling with terror, as by use or threat of violence” especially in a political context. The message of terrorism is that every member of a society is “guilty”, that *anyone* can be a victim, that *no one* is safe. The more innocent the victims, the greater the terror. Defenseless victims are preferred.

A British investigation of Arab riots that broke out in 1917 concluded, “All the evidence shows that these attacks were of a cowardly and treacherous description, mostly against old men, women and children—frequently in the back.”<sup>125</sup>

Spectacular media coverage is crucial to achieving terrorists’ desired effect. One West Bank leader candidly acknowledged that the deaths of so many Arab children was well worth it. “It would cost us millions of dollars to receive this kind of publicity on European and American television.”<sup>126</sup>

From the very beginning, Jewish settlers in Palestine were faced with a difficult choice: conciliation (interpreted by the Arabs as weakness) or firmness (used to justify further Arab violence). The British adopted a firm policy of appeasement, thus rewarding violence. Muslim leader Haj Amin al-Husseini (who, incidentally, was a relative of Yasser Arafat) became convinced that enough terror would cause the world to abandon the idea of a Jewish homeland.

Although Jews had not embraced violence since the fall of Jerusalem nearly 2000 years before, the Holocaust and the

Warsaw ghetto uprising left them determined to henceforth defend themselves. When Arab mobs gathered in the 1920s to shout, “Slaughter the Jews!” and “Palestine is our land and the Jews are our dogs,” (slogans used in the recent *intifadas* as well), their threats were taken seriously.

Soviet Military Intelligence opened a training center for foreign terrorists in the late 1960s. The curriculum included propaganda, bomb making, urban warfare, and assassination techniques.<sup>127</sup> Arafat was welcomed into the presence of Leonid Brezhnev. Terrorists provided deniability in the Cold War. The

*The more destruction I see, the stronger I get.*<sup>128</sup>

—Yasser Arafat, May 2002

Soviets trained thousands of PLO operatives, awarded them special diplomatic status, and allowed them freedom of movement throughout the Communist bloc.<sup>129</sup>

With generous Soviet support, Arafat set up his terrorist training camps in southern Lebanon, offering a safe haven and base of operation for international terrorists. Representatives from groups throughout the world, including the IRA, the Sandinistas, and Iran’s Revolutionary Guards, received their training and were armed before being sent out to train others. It was only after Israel destroyed those camps in the 1980s that terrorist training centers relocated to Sudan, then to Afghanistan.<sup>130</sup> Arab nations cut deals with terrorist organizations, allowing them offices, financing and refuge in return for services directed at enemies of their choice.

Palestinians, whose individual freedom of movement was restricted and who often didn’t even have passports, could live vicariously through Yasser Arafat. He was allowed to travel anywhere. He didn’t even need a passport. He had a private jet. He was welcomed by the nations of the world with 21-gun salutes, motorcades, marching bands, and red carpets. He was treated as an Arab head of state equal to all the others. He always wore a holstered Smith and Wesson pistol on his hip. He gave the Palestinians dreams of victory and grandeur, dreams of destroying Israel and the Jews.

An aide to Osama bin Laden wrote that the best proof of terrorism’s strategic value was the fact that Arafat was honored by the UN just 18 months after the Munich Olympic massacre.<sup>130</sup>

Arafat had an amazing ability to not only turn truth on its head, but be believed. He could present himself simultaneously as victim and victor, and convincingly blame others for his every failure. In an interview with *Playboy* in 1988, he said:

Everyone has now discovered who is the REAL terrorist organization: It is the Israeli military junta who are killing women and children, smashing their bones, killing pregnant women. You just have to look at the television to see this. So now it is clear and obvious who the real terrorists are.<sup>132</sup>

Yasser Arafat was initially inspired by the Algerian guerrilla’s defeat of the mighty French, who surrendered unconditionally and left. The triumph of Khomeini in Iran in 1979 was a great boost to the Islamist cause. The PLO was assigned the former Israeli embassy building in Teheran.<sup>133</sup> The Ayatollah’s own son attended Arafat’s training camps.

In 1983, America policy was neutralized with just 12,000 pounds of dynamite and a stolen truck in Beirut. The illusion of American invincibility was shattered. When the Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989, the myth of the superpower died. Radical Islamists who dreamed of world domination through *jihad* were jubilant! Anything was clearly possible!

America’s withdrawal from Somalia in 1993 “proved” to militant Muslims that if Americans are hit hard enough, they will turn tail and run. Said Osama bin Laden:

I don’t believe that America is a superpower. How come this “superpower” fled in Lebanon when there was a truck bombing in Beirut and 240 American marines were killed? How come this “superpower” left Somalia when some American soldiers were killed and their bodies were dragged through the streets of Mogadishu? America is a coward and you will see that America will have to leave.<sup>134</sup>

Bin Laden adopted much of what had worked successfully for Arafat in creating a mystique. Although wealthy, he lives simply. Instead of a pistol, he carries an AK-47.

Western media has often portrayed terrorists as “guerrillas” and “freedom fighters.” Governments have surrendered to their demands, put planes at their disposal, and released them quickly from jail when they were apprehended. Westerners have seemed unwilling or unable to see a growing danger.

The United Nations proved, for the most part, to be united against Israel. By 1997, 370 of 370 UN condemnations were anti-Israel.<sup>136</sup> The Arab nations and the PLO

received not a single condemnation. This despite the fact that Israel was attacked in 1948, 1976 and 1973 with the clearly stated objective of obliterating a member state (Israel). The PLO charter, adopted in 1964, calls for the elimination of Israel.

Years before Jews had any military power to oppress anyone or to occupy any land, Islamists had declared war on the secular West. As Benjamin Netanyahu put it, “The soldiers of militant Islam and Pan-Arabism do not hate the West because of Israel; they hate Israel because of the West.”<sup>137</sup> In his book *Fighting Terrorism*, published in 1995, he writes:

Far from being fighters for freedom, terrorists are the forerunners of tyranny. ... Terrorists use the techniques of violent coercion in order to achieve a regime of violent coercion. They are undemocratic to the core, making use of the pluralism and freedom guaranteed by liberal societies in order to crush this very pluralism and freedom.<sup>138</sup>

Appeasing hatred allows it to thrive. As Churchill once observed, appeasers feed other people to the crocodiles in the hope that they will be eaten last. Appeasement is occurring when every concession leads to fresh demands. Terrorism is *evil*. Terrorists won’t happily settle down and raise children if their current demands are met. They will gladly sacrifice children to their cause. They will kill anyone who opposes them, Jew or Arab, old or young. Arafat wrote a public letter of congratulations to the Chinese government after the Tiananmen Square Massacre in 1989.<sup>139</sup> Israel’s enemies are our enemies, too!

## A Culture of Death

Israel’s terrorist enemies are also the enemies of peaceful Muslims and Palestinians. Radical Islam, with its goal of destroying the “World of Arrogance” (the west), is a cult, a fringe movement that has inflamed the imaginations of young people and given them hope and a purpose.

“Culture” is the sum total of *learned*, not innate, behavior. It has the same root as “cultivate.” Human beings are created equal, but cultures are not. Some cultures nourish virtue and life. Others nourish violence and death. You might think of culture as the personality of a group. Cultural norms exert tremendous influence on the behavior of individuals.

Palestinian children are marinated in hatred from their earliest years. They are systematically indoctrinated to be “martyrs” in kindergartens, schools, and summer camps. Organizations similar to Hitler Youth exist.

Brigadier General Ya’acov Orr recalls an experience he had in a refugee camp in the late 1980s.

I was walking down a street and I saw this little boy—I think he was a boy—he wasn’t much more than one year old. He had just learned to walk. He had a stone in his hand. He could barely hold on to it, but he was walking around with a stone to throw at someone. I looked at him and he looked at me, and I smiled and he dropped the stone. I think it was probably too heavy for him. I’m telling you, he had just learned to walk. I went home and he went home. I thought about it later and I thought, for that little kid, anger is a part of his life, a part of growing up—as much as talking or eating.<sup>140</sup>

Pride and shame are twin pillars of Arab Muslim society.<sup>141</sup> Western values, such as equality and public service, are alien. Change and progress are considered immoral, secular evils that will destroy traditional values. Memory, not judgment or analytical thinking, is the greatest virtue for a Muslim theologian. Students must recite the Koran by heart to be admitted to top universities. The ideal life is a life similar to Muhammad's.<sup>142</sup>

*Education is a weapon whose effects depend on who holds it in his hands and at whom it is aimed.*

—Joseph Stalin

Despite Arab petro-dollars, very few everyday people in Muslim countries have benefited. Instead, rich rulers have become richer and more powerful. The only way a Palestinian can access oil wealth for his family is to become a suicide bomber. For those who live in poverty, it might make sense to trade earthly life for a guarantee that parents, grandparents, and siblings will be supported in comfort for the rest of their lives. Besides, there's the promise of Paradise and 72 virgins, your face on a poster, and the adulation of millions of youngsters.

The *only* assurance a Muslim has of gaining paradise is to be a martyr for the cause of *jihad*. According to radical Islamists, the ideal Muslim youngster is the one more eager to enter paradise by way of martyrdom "than is our enemy to continue living in this world."<sup>143</sup>

But why would *girls* agree to be martyrs? Surely, the 72 virgins carry no appeal! In some cases, girls have been raped or impregnated, then convinced that the only way to restore their family's honor is to kill the infidel. Pride and shame.

*Dying does not mean nothingness. It is life.*<sup>144</sup>

—Ayatollah Khomeini

In April 2002, Saudi state TV ran a telethon which raised more than \$100 million for the families of Palestinian suicide bombers. Saddam Hussein's Iraq, which contributed nothing to UNRWA, donated \$10 million a year to families of the bombers. Other governments continue to provide "assistance."<sup>145</sup>

Death is glorified by radical Islam. Killing is commanded. Osama bin Laden in May 1998, declared:

In compliance with God's order, we issue the following *fatwah* (command) to all Muslims. The ruling to kill the Americans and their allies, civilian and military, is the individual duty of every Muslim who can do it in every country in which it is possible to do so. We, with God's help, call on every Muslim who believes in God and wishes to be rewarded, to comply with God's order to kill the Americans and plunder their money.<sup>146</sup>

Islamist ideologies are the cheap currency with which the lives of young Arabs are purchased. Israel and the secular west are blamed for every ill. Hatred fulminates. Youngsters are encouraged to defy their own clan and family heads who speak in favor of peace, even to kill them as suspected collaborators. Accusations of "collaboration" can be a pretext for acts of personal vengeance. Husbands kill suspected admirers of their wives. Women thought to have behaved "immorally" become victims. Activists torch buses taking Palestinian workers to jobs in Israel. There is no due process; no individual "rights." A Palestinian merchant explained that shopkeepers fear the wrath of the youngsters far more than anything Israelis might do to them.<sup>147</sup> All means of struggle, including savage torture, are condoned and practiced in the struggle for world domination.

The video of journalist Daniel Pearl's head being severed is used for recruiting. So is footage of the World Trade Center towers collapsing, symbols of the "World of Arrogance."<sup>148</sup>

In the fall of 2000, two Israeli reservists were headed home when they took a wrong turn and ended up in the West Bank town of Ramallah. They were seized and taken to the town's Palestinian police headquarters. An angry mob gathered, demanding their death. They were slaughtered in an upper room under the eyes, if not by the hands, of Palestinian Authority police. Their bodies were thrown to the cheering crowds below. The murderers appeared in the upper windows and brandished their bloody hands to further cheers.<sup>149</sup>

Can *anything* justify such behavior? Should *any* country be asked to “turn the other cheek” when faced with this?

In January 2002, Israel navy and air force units captured a Palestinian freighter, the *Karine A*, loaded with 50 tons of illegal weapons including long-range rockets. Arafat’s response to being caught red-handed: “This is not us. This is an Israeli plot. It’s not true, this allegation of a ship full of weapons.”<sup>150</sup>

On March 28, 2002, Jews prepared to celebrate the first day of Passover, a celebration of life and freedom. But in Palestine, another “celebration” had been planned. According to Muama Abu Sheikh, a member of Hamas:

We recruited suicide bombers. We would prepare things. When the time came, we would arm the explosive belts and get hold of the weapons. We called the guys in Nablus who made the bomb belts. I got the belts and hid them.

We did it in my grandfather’s house. We got the martyr ready and dressed him in the belt. Then we videotaped him in normal clothes with a rifle, like we always do.

He said on the tape: “Our blood, Sharon, isn’t cheap. Our homeland is not easily taken. No one can protect you from my body’s shrapnel nor from the army of Muhammad. The living martyr, Basset Oadeh, the son of Palestine.”

Our commander said to him: “Today, God willing, you will die a martyr. Tomorrow Israeli planes will attack but you will be in the Garden of Paradise.”

He’d brought a blouse, a sweater, and a blond wig. He was a pretty boy. It was appropriate to dress him as a woman. We shaved off his beard. We cut his hair and put on the wig. He made a very pretty girl.

The driver continues the story:

We set off from Tulkarem. We were looking for any gathering of people. Inside the West Bank, you can hardly move ten kilometers without hitting a roadblock. But we were able to pass through easily.... The suicide bomber and I hardly talked. When we got to Netanya, we chose the target by a hunch. I dropped him at the hotel.

Thirty people died in the worst suicide attack yet, most of them elderly. The oldest was 90. The recruiter continues:

We heard on Israeli radio that there had been a suicide bomb. I had hoped that people would be killed but I didn’t dare hope for so many. I felt God’s hand had guided us.<sup>151</sup>

How could the Israeli government respond? The decision was made to attack an area of the refugee camp of Jenin from which the Palestinian Authority itself acknowledged 28 suicide bombers had set out.<sup>152</sup> The stated goal was to dismantle terrorist infrastructure.

Arafat quickly announced an Israeli massacre in Jenin: “We have 1600 missing men.

How many people here were massacred? We say that the number will not be less than 500.”<sup>154</sup> Headlines raced around the world. The London *Evening Standard* reported that Israelis aimed for “the near-total destruction of the lives and livelihoods of the camp’s 15,000 inhabitants.”<sup>155</sup> Israel was compared to the Taliban. “We are talking here of massacre and a cover-up, of genocide.”<sup>156</sup>

The story told to the Arab press was a bit different. As a Palestinian bomb-maker, Omar, explained:

We had more than 50 houses booby-trapped around the [Jenin] camp. We chose old and empty buildings and the houses of men who were wanted because we knew the soldiers would search for them.... We cut off lengths of main water pipes and packed them with explosives and nails. Then we placed them about four meters apart throughout the houses—in cupboards, under sinks, in sofas... The women went out to tell the soldiers that we had run out of bullets and were leaving. The women alerted the fighters as the soldiers reached the booby-trapped area.<sup>157</sup>

Those women lured thirteen Israeli soldiers to their deaths.

Palestinian commanders in Jenin told Arab reporters that children filled their school bags with explosive devices, that between 1000 and 2000 bombs and booby traps had been placed. They raged against “collaborators” because wires to more than a third of the bombs were cut with Arab help.

*The resurrection of the dead at the End of Days is conditional on every last Jew being destroyed.*<sup>153</sup>

—PLO detainee

An Israeli medic tried to show a reporter a photograph album of children aged six and up. Photos were marked with dates when the children would be “ripe” for martyrdom. The reporter wasn’t interested. *Her* story was the Israeli “massacre”.

In the end, 56 Palestinians died, according to the Palestinian Authority, nearly all of them combatants. Some civilians fell victim to Palestinian booby traps. Twenty three Israeli soldiers died, 13 in a single attack. 8-9% of the buildings in the camp were bulldozed. Most of them had been heavily booby-trapped. Yet the legend of a massacre in Jenin lives on.

Had the Israelis intended genocide, why not a big bomb? Ground troops were deployed intentionally to minimize civilian deaths and injuries. When schoolchildren pack book bags with explosives and women lure soldiers into traps, it’s hard to know

*The purest joy in Islam is to  
kill and be killed for Allah.*<sup>158</sup>  
—Ayatollah Khomeini

who’s actually a civilian!  
The mother of a suicide  
bomber said she encouraged  
her son to die because she  
loved him. “What we see  
every day—massacres, destruction, bombing—strengthened, in  
the souls of my sons, especially Muhammad, the love of *jihād*.”<sup>159</sup>

The father of another bomber felt differently. He railed against leaders who “use religious rulings and statements to urge more and more of the sons of Palestine to their deaths—knowing full well that sending young people to blow themselves up in the heart of Israel deters no enemy and liberates no land.”

“Why,” he asked, “until this very moment, haven’t we seen one of the sons, or daughters, of these people don an explosive belt and go out to carry out in deed, not in words, what their fathers preach day and night?”<sup>160</sup> I wonder if that man still lives.

Historian Michael Oren puts it this way:

For all the kudos discreetly given SS killers by the regime, Nazi Germany never publicly lionized them, never plastered their pictures on the streets, or openly encouraged children to emulate them. That kind of adoration for mass murderers can only be found, in abundance, among the Palestinians.<sup>161</sup>

## Jews Are News

**T**he intense media spotlight on Israel contributes to some very strange double standards. Part of the reason for it is that Israel is a democracy with a free press. The Arab/Islamic world is called the “arc of silence” by journalists. Everything is censored. Words of criticism can cost a journalist his life.

NBC’s correspondent in Israel was asked why reporters turned up for Palestinian demonstrations in the West Bank they knew had been staged. He said, “We need the pictures.”<sup>162</sup>

Much media coverage is hypercritical of Israel and gentle with Israel’s enemies. When Dennis and I were last in Israel, in 1998, we were the first tour group through the Western Wall tunnel after a young orthodox Jew had been murdered in the Muslim quarter as he walked to morning prayers. We got on a plane the next day to see the coverage in *USA Today*. It was a captioned photo of an Arabic woman in tears with three Israeli soldiers standing behind her with machine guns. The caption read: “Jerusalem dispute: Israeli police guard a building that a Palestinian woman says belongs to her family. Settlers occupied the building to protest the stabbing of a Jew.”<sup>163</sup>

Nothing was mentioned about the fact that the Jew *died* or that he himself was *not* a soldier! Nothing about his young wife and children, who certainly had more cause to weep than the woman pictured! This is not atypical. Nothing was exactly “false” but the coverage gave an utterly false impression.

Governments that stood by silently during the Holocaust claimed high moral ground when they condemned Israel for standing by as Lebanese Christians massacred Palestinians in

the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. When Lebanese Shiites massacred Palestinians in the same camps a few years later, it hardly made news.<sup>164</sup> Shortly after Israel withdrew from Lebanon, Druze forces slaughtered 1,000 Christians and expelled 50,000 from their homes.<sup>165</sup> It wasn't news. No Jews.

When Israel deported four Palestinians, it made headlines. When Kuwait deported 200,000, not much was said.<sup>166</sup> When Israel invaded Lebanon at the invitation of the government, UN condemnations followed. When Syria invaded Lebanon with a stated goal of annexation, no alarms were raised.

Iraq's poison-gas attacks on the Kurds and the shooting of more than 200 student rioters in Algeria occurred during the first *intifada* in the late 1980s. Which story do you remember?

When India built a fence to protect civilians from Pakistani Muslim infiltrators, no one said a word. When Israel started to build a similar fence, the world went apoplectic.

One Palestinian terrorist who had blinded himself while making a bomb was charged with a later murder. He demanded mercy on the ground of his handicap. *The Boston Globe* headline read: "Israelis Convict Blind Palestinian."<sup>167</sup>

As Alan Dershowitz put it:

More always seems to be demanded of the Jewish nation and of the Jewish people than of others. Jews, unlike other groups, are expected to be in the forefront of defending the rights of their sworn enemies.<sup>168</sup>

The wife of the head of the European Central Bank was horrified by the Israeli occupation of the West Bank. She thought it worse than the Nazi occupation of Holland because Israelis demolish Palestinian homes, and even the Nazis never did that! Never mind that the Nazis murdered more than 100,000 Dutch Jews and demolished an entire Dutch city, Rotterdam, to force surrender.

Those who would destroy our freedoms have learned to use propaganda and media coverage to maximum advantage. Fool me once, your fault. Fool me twice, my fault. Hitler fooled the world. It will be *our* fault if his admirers do so again.

## The "Peace" Process

Golda Meir put it succinctly: "Peace is—and always has been—dependent entirely on only one thing: The Arab leaders must acquiesce in our being here." To date, few have done so. Some of those who did paid with their lives.

After the 1967 war and just 10 days before his death, Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke on the subject of peace for Israel:

Peace for Israel means security, and we must stand with all our might to protect its right to exist, its territorial integrity and the right to use whatever sea lanes it needs. Israel is one of the great outposts of democracy in the world, and a marvelous example of what can be done, how desert land can be transformed into an oasis of brotherhood and democracy. Peace for Israel means security and that security must be a reality!<sup>169</sup>

Most Israelis are weary of war and occupation and would like nothing more than to be left alone to live their lives. But Arab leaders have a different idea of what "peace" means. In the words of Yasser Arafat:

Peace for us means the destruction of Israel. We are preparing for an all-out war, a war that will last for generations. Since 1965, when Fatah was born, we have become the most dangerous enemy that Israel has. We shall not rest until the day when we return to our home, and until we destroy Israel.<sup>170</sup>

When Arab leaders speak of "liberating Palestine" they mean ALL of it, not just the West Bank and Gaza. Although Arafat on paper agreed to a "two-state solution" his statements in Arabic to his own people clearly indicated that such a

compromise would only be a step toward the real goal, the elimination of Israel and the destruction of the Jews.

After Anwar Sadat refused Gaza and after King Hussein washed his hands of the West Bank, there was no one left to negotiate with but Arafat. To everyone's surprise, he did

*When I am weak,  
how can I compromise?  
When I am strong,  
why should I compromise?*

negotiate, and the Oslo accord was signed in 1993. Arafat returned to Gaza in a blaze of publicity (with several notorious terrorists in the trunk of his car).<sup>171</sup>

Arafat broke his part of the agreement immediately, as had been his standard practice for years. He appointed a mastermind of the Munich Olympic operation as head of general intelligence. He refused to remove statements calling for Israel's destruction from the PLO Charter .

In 1996, he said in a speech: "We Palestinians will take over everything, including all of Jerusalem.... We plan to eliminate the State of Israel and establish a Palestinian state."<sup>172</sup>

Ehud Barak was elected Israel's Prime Minister in 1999 on a platform of peace at almost any price short of Israel's demise. In 2000, Barak and Arafat met with American President Clinton.

Arafat took a rigid stance. He instructed his delegates to develop no original proposals, introduce no counteroffers, and suggest no compromises.

Barak offered an independent state that would include all the Gaza Strip, the equivalent of 92% of the West Bank, East Jerusalem as a capital, and compensation for refugees who had lost their property. Arafat refused. He would only accept full PLO control over all holy places. Jews wishing to pray at the Western Wall would need Palestinian permission. He denied that there *were* any Jewish holy sites in Jerusalem. That, he asserted, was pure myth.<sup>173</sup>

On December 23, 2000, Clinton made a last, desperate effort to broker an agreement. Nearly every Palestinian demand was met, including sovereignty over the Temple Mount.<sup>174</sup> The only

thing not included was a right of return for all refugees and their descendents as full citizens. Israel had already agreed to a limited right of return for family reunification and to compensation. Israel reluctantly agreed to Clinton's plan. Arafat said NO.

*You are leading your people and the region to a catastrophe!*<sup>173</sup>  
—Bill Clinton to Yasser Arafat

A Fatah (PLO) position paper published afterward offered clarification. The Palestinians insisted that all returnees, even if they regained their old property, be given a great deal of money. To leave nothing vague, the paper explained that the purpose of

*If we lose this opportunity, it won't be a tragedy. It will be a crime!*<sup>176</sup>  
—Bandar bin Sultan, Saudi Ambassador

demanding a full right of return was to ensure the end of Israel as a Jewish

state. The huge number of returning refugees would change Israel's structure and "get rid of the racist Zionism."<sup>177</sup>

Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Washington and a go-between during the negotiations, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, was quoted in *The New Yorker* on March 24, 2003:

I still have not recovered, to be honest with you, from the magnitude of the missed opportunity that January. Sixteen hundred Palestinians dead so far. And seven hundred Israelis dead. In my judgment, not one life of those Israelis and Palestinians dead is justified.

Someone once observed that Yasser Arafat never missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity.

Arafat threw away the chance for an independent Palestinian state and billions of dollars in aid to build that state and to compensate individual refugees and their families. He told his people there had never been a reasonable offer. Many westerners, unable to understand why a good offer would be rejected, refuse to believe one was ever made.

One of Arafat's greatest skills was his ability to convince others that he really wanted peace, but had been cheated and victimized. His sheer audacity helped promote that claim.

## Preludes to Genocide

Let's return to the question that started my research. Why the September 11 attack? An 80-year-old Egyptian cleric and host of a popular Cairo TV show, explained to a reporter:

"Waco," he said. "The Branch Davidians attacked the World Trade Center, the McVeigh people. The Mossad gave them help. Did you know that the Israelis who worked at the World Trade Center were told to stay home?"

He had learned this, he said, from the Internet.

"It is impossible for Osama bin Laden to do this," Mahmoud continued. "No Arab could have done this."

"For moral reasons?" I asked.

"No!" he said, "For technical reasons. Arabs are always late! They aren't coordinated enough to do this, all at once on four airplanes. What does Osama bin Laden know about American air travel, anyway? He lives in Afghanistan."

Mahmoud said he is not sorry about the destruction of the World Trade Center. "This was an attack on American arrogance."<sup>178</sup>

It may sound crazy to us, but this is what people are being told in the Muslim world. *Mein Kampf* is a best-seller. The *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* was made into a multimillion dollar TV series. Arafat's wife told Hillary Clinton that Israel is poisoning Palestinian water. Even the Columbia space shuttle disaster was an Israeli plot. The Holocaust never happened. In a 2002 article in the Egyptian government daily *Al-Akhbar*:

Hitler himself...is in my eyes no more than a modest 'pupil' in the world of murder and bloodshed. ... But I, personally and in light of this imaginary tale (the Holocaust), complain

to Hitler, even saying to him from the bottom of my heart, "If only you had done it, brother, if only it had really happened, so that the world could sigh in relief."<sup>179</sup>

The movie *Schindler's List* was banned in Arab nations. So was *Independence Day*, not because it has anything to do with Israel but because a Jew is cast as a hero. Rumors abound. Jews supposedly kidnap Arab children, gouge out their eyes and sell their organs. They supposedly sell hormonally altered fruit that kills men's sperm, and deliberately spread cancer by distributing carcinogenic cucumbers and shampoos.

Jews are called "the brothers of apes and pigs", "the most despicable people who walked the land and the worms of the entire world. They are all evil."

"They are the plague of the generation and the bacterium of all time." A video game called "Ethnic Cleansing" has caricatures of Jews as the targets. Even in 1954 (long before occupation of the West Bank), the king of Saudi Arabia said, "Israel to the Arab world is like a cancer to the human body, and the only way of remedy is to uproot it, just like a cancer."<sup>181</sup>

The cartoon to the right appeared in an Egyptian daily paper in 2001.<sup>182</sup> It shows Arabic children being fed into a flattening mill by soldiers. Jews drink their blood with joyous laughter.

The official website of the Palestinian Authority press service showed a caricature of Ariel Sharon with a



blood-covered axe slaughtering a baby against a background of butcher's hooks with children hanging from them. A sign says, "Sale." Comparable cartoons have won awards in Europe!

Jews are often cast as Nazis. One motif is the Star of David intertwined with the swastika.

The world did not pay attention when Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf*. There's an old saying that those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it. Radical Islamists who seek the destruction of Israel and the Jews also seek *our* destruction, and the downfall of western civilization.



The hatred being nurtured in the Muslim world toward Israel is in many ways much *worse* than the hatred that preceded Hitler's genocide. But what is of more concern to me is the reaction of many in the free world. Hating Jews is politically correct in some circles. There is no free press in the Arab/Muslim world, so people there cannot check to see if what they are being told is *true*. We can check, and we *must*.

A good working definition of antisemitism is taking a trait that is widespread, even universal, and blaming it only on Jews. When there's a reckless disregard for the factual and the proportional, or when people denied the right to be judged as individuals, there's a problem with racism. Jews are *people*. They are *individuals*. They are all over the map politically. One observer remarked that a friendly discussion between two Israelis sounds a lot like an argument among four Americans.<sup>183</sup>

An friend of mine once told a story about a young, as yet poorly trained German Shepherd she owned. One day he saw a poodle in the park and raced toward it, barking. The owner of the poodle picked it up and held it tightly. But as the big dog came near, she suddenly threw the poodle at him and ran!

If America withdraws its support for Israel, we may be doing much the same thing. The problem is, we're all stuck on the same planet. There's no place to run and no place to hide.

## Choosing the Future

A traveler during the Middle Ages said that the soul of a community could be seen in its treatment of its Jewish neighbors. The same might be said about any minority. The Jews are unique in that they were in the minority *everywhere* until Israel was established in 1948.

Some people claim not to be antisemitic, just anti-Zionist. But a Zionist is nothing more than a person who believes Israel has a right to exist. What are the realistic alternatives? If Israel were to be wiped off the map in a grand gesture of appeasement, what would anti-Zionists suggest be done with its *people*? What would they have proposed be done with the millions of penniless Jewish refugees in the DP camps after World War II?

The Arab goal of eliminating Israel remains. Syria's defense minister said in 1990, "The conflict between the Arab nation and Zionism is over existence, not borders."<sup>184</sup> But the strategy has changed to a war of words, fought on a battlefield of public opinion. A fabricated history was invented for the purpose. Yasser Arafat said in his 1974 speech to the United Nations:

The Jewish invasion began in 1881. Palestine was then a verdant area, inhabited mainly by an Arab people in the course of building its life and dynamically enriching its indigenous culture.<sup>185</sup>

That statement flatly contradicts multiple observations of people who were alive at the time. Historian and geographer Sir George Adam Smith wrote of the area in 1891:

Nor is there any indigenous civilization in Palestine that could take the place of the Turkish except that of the Jews who...have given to Palestine anything it ever had of value.<sup>186</sup>

The Palestinians sided with the Ottoman Turks in World War I, with Hitler in World War II and with Iraq in the Gulf Wars. They attempted to destroy Israel in 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973. They continue their war against Israel using “armed struggle” (terrorism). It is probably safe to say that in no other case in history has a repelled aggressor been allowed to demand the return of territory from which its aggression was launched.

Richard Meinertzhagen, Britain’s chief of intelligence in the Middle East in the 1930s, was a one-time antisemite whose views changed as a result of his work with Jewish and Arab agents. He argued that Britain and the West should befriend those most likely to be loyal friends. The Arabs, he asserted, do not know the meaning of gratitude. The Jews can be relied on to keep agreements whereas the Arabs can never be relied on. As Britain’s policy moved toward appeasement, he wrote:

We are backing the wrong horse, and, my God, we shall suffer for it if and when another war is sprung on us.<sup>187</sup>

As he predicted, Arab leaders flocked to Berlin in the darkest days of the next war, and even formed an Arab legion that became part of the SS. Top Palestinian leaders name their children after prominent Nazis to this day.

Not all Muslims support radical Islam, any more than all Germans supported Hitler’s extermination program. Those who disagree are terrorized, too. Most dare not speak out.

One American Sunni Muslim, Seif Ashmawy, did speak out:

I know that by appearing before you I am placing my life, as well as that of my family, in jeopardy; since I will be accused by the extremists as a traitor to Islam. ... The mask of religion, which the extremists wear, must be torn from their face and they should be recognized for what they stand for, greed and power. It is my opinion that the extremists among Muslims are not motivated by religion but by their own political agenda.<sup>188</sup>

That might explain why Islamist leaders don’t dispatch their *own* children to blow themselves up.

Gideon Levy, an ardent advocate of a Palestinian state, was asked to come to a Gaza apartment in December 1995 to hear

testimonies by Palestinians under Arafat’s new regime. The room was dark. People whispered. A father said security men had come for his son. “[They] said they were taking him for five minutes; seven months have passed since then. In my life I have seen the Turks, the British, the Egyptians, and the Israelis. But I have never experienced this kind of situation....”

A Palestinian woman told Levy:

I am coming to you from under the earth. My husband does not know I am here. He was told that he and his whole family would be liquidated if he reveals anything. We are endangered people now.... That’s the face of the PA and that’s what’s come of it. We were happy, thinking we were being liberated from occupation. Now God should chop off our hands which threw stones at the Jews. We brought this disaster on ourselves. Now there is no law and no justice.<sup>189</sup>

Less than 20 years passed between *Mein Kampf* and the Final Solution. The free world appeased the aggressor, then turned its back and acquiesced in the mass murder of millions of Jews and other helpless people. Those who can see no right on the side of Israel and no wrong on the side of those who seek to destroy her may well be risking complicity in a future holocaust.

Why do Arabs and Muslims hate Jews? That is what they are taught. That is what their parents were taught. Islamic University polled 1000 Palestinian youngsters between the ages of 9 and 16. 73% said their life ambition was to die a martyr! One study of nearly 250 aspiring suicide bombers found that “none were uneducated, desperately poor, simpleminded or depressed.” They did not express hopelessness or a sense of “nothing to lose.” They were not ignorant nor disenfranchised

Walid Shoebat is a former Palestinian terrorist who says that at one time he would have eagerly signed up to fly a plane into the World Trade Center. His college education in the U.S. and a chance meeting with an Israeli opened his eyes to the lies he had been taught. He now speaks against terror and for Israel. There is a \$10 million reward for any Muslim who kills him for “apostasy.” He says negotiation with Palestine will never work, that fundamentalist Islam must be defeated.<sup>190</sup>

Jöel Kotek, a political scientist at the Free University of Brussels, put it this way:

Israel isn't perfect, but once you become aware of the enormous hate and demonization of Israel, you have to defend Israel. I am horrified by the impact of anti-Zionism combined with the great ignorance I often find among people about Israel.<sup>191</sup>

During my own research, the first big shock came as I read through the UN website on the "Question of Palestine."<sup>192</sup> The next came when I read translations of Arab media.<sup>193</sup> I knew then, I had to write this book, even if people disagree, even if people become angry, even though I still have a *lot* to learn.

Is security *really* an Israeli "pretext" as claimed by Kuwait? Was Yasser Arafat's lifelong dream *really* a two-State solution with peace and stability, as asserted by Lesotho's UN delegate?<sup>194</sup> Is the Arab side *really* genuine in its pursuit of achieving peace? Are Palestinians *really* suffering under terrorism unprecedented in the history of humankind?<sup>195</sup> Can we *trust* what we are told by representatives of dictators?

Tyrants maintain "peace" by silencing all opposition. For the most part in Arab states, there are no individual rights, no constitutional constraints on power, and no freedom of the press. Light is being shed on conditions that existed in Saddam Hussein's Iraq. Children as young as five were indoctrinated to adulate Saddam, denounce their own family member and beat animals to death. At least 130 women were beheaded for "indecency."<sup>196</sup> Arab *individuals* don't benefit from tyranny!

Many Arab leaders who profess a desire for "peace" think of it not as an end in itself but as a *means* to an end. It's like a coin with which you buy something else, such as territory or military supplies or support from the West. Peace can be signed one day and discarded the next, once the payoff has been pocketed.

This does not mean peace in the Middle East is impossible, but rather that it may need to be a peace of deterrance rather than a peace of tolerance and good will, at least in the near future. The relative peace of the Cold War was a peace of deterrance. It worked, sort of.

T. E. Lawrence (*Lawrence of Arabia*) wrote in 1928 that most Arab regimes are "tyrannies cemented with blood." Whatever nonradical Arab governments may wish in private, they are ultimately under the thumb of extremists. He believed only external force could curb Arab dictators and terrorists.<sup>196</sup>

What is the best choice for the future? The very *idea* of a "future" comes from the Jews, according to Thomas Cahill in *The Gifts of the Jews*.<sup>197</sup> Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote:

The people of all other nations but the Jewish seem to look backwards and also to live for the present; but in the Jewish scheme everything is prospective and preparatory; nothing, however trifling, is done for itself alone.<sup>198</sup>

According to Bill Gates, Israel is on the cutting edge of modern technology. Israelis developed two of the top three medications used to treat multiple sclerosis. Christopher Reeve called Israel the world center for research on paralysis treatment. You may have heard of the PillCam, invented in Israel. It's an indigestible video camera that can travel through the small intestine taking pictures to help in medical diagnosis.

AOL's instant messenger came from Israel. So did numerous inventions we use daily in cell phones, satellite TVs and computers. Israelis pioneered innovations in solar technology that have reduced American dependence on foreign oil.<sup>199</sup> We all stand to benefit from a future that includes Israel.

The Bible seems to indicate that in the future, a charismatic world leader will arise and negotiate a seven-year peace treaty between Israel and her enemies. If that ever happens, you might want to check out the rest of the story, in Daniel and Revelation.

Arab nationalist Negib Azoury wrote something way back in 1905 that may prove in the end to be amazingly prophetic:

Upon the final outcome of the battle between these two peoples [Arabs and Jews], representing two opposed principles, the fate of the entire world will depend.<sup>200</sup>

The next several years may determine that final outcome, the very fate of the world. May the right choices be made today.

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. —Psalm 122:6*

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## Footnotes

To save time, paper and shipping costs, I am not including footnotes for each quote and fact. That information is on my web site under "Resources". If you have a question as to where exactly I found a particular statistic, quote, or piece of information, just ask! Also, feel free to argue with me or recommend resources that I should know about.  
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