

A close-up photograph of a red and orange flower, possibly a gerbera, lying on its side on a surface with a blue and white star pattern, resembling the Israeli flag. The flower's petals are vibrant and layered, with some showing a gradient from red to orange. The green stem and leaves are visible on the left. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the flag's pattern.

THE  
EPOCH  
TIMES

SPECIAL EDITION

# ISRAEL RESPONDS TO TERROR

*The Hamas terror attack on Israel that sparked  
a new war in a troubled region*

NOVEMBER, 2023

Special Report



AMIRAD GHARABEL/AP/VIA GETTY IMAGES

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(Above) A woman reacts as people light candles in memory of the victims of the Oct. 7 Hamas terrorist attacks, at Dizengoff Square in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Oct. 18.

THE EPOCH TIMES

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COVER PHOTO BY  
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# The Report

Abandoned and torched vehicles at the site of the Oct. 7 Hamas terrorist attack at the Supernova desert music festival near the Reim kibbutz in the Negev desert in southern Israel on Oct. 13.

PHOTO BY JACK GUEZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES





# 'We Are In the Fight of Our Lives'

HOW A DIVIDED ISRAEL  
UNITED IN RESPONSE TO TERROR

*By Dan M. Berger*







**W**HEN HAMAS TERRORISTS attacked Israel with horrifying brutality on Oct. 7, Israelis responded immediately.

The nation counterattacked with plans of finishing Hamas, which rules Gaza, once and for all.

At the time, Israelis were embroiled in demonstrations over the conservative ruling coalition's plan to take control of the nation's liberal Supreme Court—they set that aside, for now, to face the new threat.

Nearly every Israeli knows someone who was killed, kidnapped, wounded, raped, or left homeless by Hamas that day. Almost every Israeli family has a son, father, husband, or daughter already on active duty or called up in the reserves.

Reservists living overseas flew home to go to war. So did Israelis no longer under military obligation but wanting to rejoin their comrades.

The ultra-orthodox usually avoid military service by studying at yeshivas. But on Nov. 8, Yanki Deri, the 40-year-old son of Aryeh Deri, the leader of the ultra-orthodox Shas party, enlisted in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF).

Civilians organized themselves instantly to meet new needs caused by the overnight mobilization of hundreds of thousands of people, usually beating their government to the punch.

"We know we have nowhere else to go. We are in the fight of our lives," Caryn Oberman told *The Epoch Times*.

The mother of six, with two sons and a son-in-law now in uniform, joined efforts in her community, Yad Binyamin, to provide supplies to soldiers heading to the frontlines. The community sits at a major crossroads.

Mrs. Oberman credits a 10-year-old boy with realizing, as air-raid sirens wailed and cellphone alerts went off early on Oct. 7, that his brothers were probably being called up and that many soldiers would be passing by.

The boy took food intended for Sabbath and holiday meals that day and



David and Kerry Greene (C) with an Israeli army unit they donated supplies to.

started giving it away to soldiers at the community's front gate, she said.

The boy and other community youth then started distributing bottled water.

Then, people realized that the soldiers needed food.

"The community started making sandwiches and bringing food," Mrs. Oberman said. They've now prepared hundreds of thousands of meals, she said, sending food to supplement soldiers' army rations.

The soldiers "left [with just] a go bag, which doesn't have much in it. So we started collecting socks and underwear. Our community started a volunteer logistical center," she said.

### Meals and Supplies

Meira Herman, who lives in Jerusalem, said Israeli soldiers aren't starving. But their rations can be monotonous,

with the IDF overwhelmed, supplying hundreds of thousands of reservists simultaneously.

She has volunteered to pack meals. A friend told her that his unit had nothing but falafel and rice for two weeks, she told *The Epoch Times*.

"I don't think that they've ever had this number of reservists respond and report for duty. They've never had this kind of numbers. They didn't have enough to supply everybody," David Greene of Jerusalem, who gathers goods to donate, told *The Epoch Times*.

Three of Mr. Greene's four sons are in uniform now, two in the IDF and one in the Border Patrol. During the family's telephone conversation with *The Epoch Times* on Nov. 12, one of his sons, Aaron Greene, had just arrived home on a 48-hour leave with two buddies.

Aaron Greene and his then-fiancée,





Tamar, had decided to go ahead with their planned wedding despite the attack. With the young man needing to report for duty, they moved it up forward days, downsized and replanned

**When the crisis began, life first turned upside down, with much work halted, schools closed, and people throwing themselves into volunteer work. Now, many return to jobs and businesses, to normal life—but only to a point.**

it, and carried it off on Oct. 9.

Aaron Greene told *The Epoch Times* he'd seen supply shortages for helmets, vests with armor plate carriers, kneepads, and gun scopes.

As a reservist, he said, his unit is a lower priority for late-model gear. They have helmets—older U.S. Army surplus ones that don't fit well—and older body armor that are heavier and less comfortable.

One of Aaron Greene's friends told *The Epoch Times* that he was using a Vietnam-era M-16 rifle, albeit one in fine shape.

"Before you go into Gaza, they usually catch you up with better gear," Aaron Greene said.

David Greene described different channels that donations move through. At the outset, civilians bought goods at local stores to donate. Those supplies,

though, sold out quickly.

Mr. Greene started working with Americans. He has a friend in New York City who always knows people coming to Israel willing to take extra luggage. Mr. Greene orders goods on Amazon, ships them to the New York friend, and she gives them to the travelers.

He said he speaks to soldiers or unit commanders to determine what that unit needs. They need everything from boxer shorts and socks to wipes and Leatherman tools to toothbrushes and toothpaste.

"The wipes we bought here in Israel. Everything else I ordered on Amazon," he said.

Cold weather gear, particularly for soldiers stationed in the north, facing Hezbollah, is now becoming a priority, Ms. Herman said. ♦



(Left) Meira Herman of Jerusalem holds letters written by children for Israeli soldiers. (Right) Kerry and David Greene with a car load of cold-weather gear donated to soldiers in the IDF.



“It’s been getting quite cold. We’ve helped a few units get fleeces so they can stay warm. Thermal gear has been requested a lot,” she said.

Mrs. Oberman said Yad Binyamin found steady traffic available to take goods from there to the front.

Some items won’t be found in U.S. Army surplus stores.

“We need 80 pairs of green tzitzit,” Mr. Greene said as he ticked off a typical list that he might try to gather. Tzitzit are observant Jewish men’s tasseled undershirts. Soldiers wear green ones to blend with their fatigues.

Ms. Herman said she was working on a project to tie the tzitzit tassels onto green T-shirts for soldiers. They’re sent to soldiers requesting them.

“You would not believe the generos-

**“It’s kind of like Israelis are the best when we’re under fire. We just do anything, anything for anyone. Unfortunately you don’t always see it. But when we’re in a crisis, we’re good.”**

**Kerry Greene**, local resident

ity,” Mr. Greene said.

A friend just flew in from New Jersey, Mr. Greene said.

“He said he was checking in at El Al and a woman walked up to him and said, ‘I’m so-and-so. I routinely do this for soldiers. I have four duffel bags. I’ll pay for all the excess duffel bags. Would you take it for me?’ He said no problem.

So the amount of goods that are coming here has been unbelievable,” Mr. Greene said.

### **Stepping Up**

The crisis has created endless needs, disrupting every aspect of life. The Greens know retired people folding laundry to labor-strapped hotels. Others have



Israeli civilian volunteers offer food for soldiers at a barbeque prior to their deployment to the zone along the Israel–Gaza border near southern Israeli city of Ofakim on Oct. 16.

FROM LEFT: MENAHEM KAHANA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES, LEON NEAL/GETTY IMAGES



gone to farms to help harvest tomatoes, avocados, and olives.

Mothers with small children, their husbands off to war, now need child care as they return to work. Some have moved in with grandparents. New childcare programs have sprung up to help them.

Zak Vilschick immigrated to Israel from the United States over the summer. He'll join the IDF in January.

He's currently in a program for soon-to-be soldiers like himself, called "lone soldiers," with no family in Israel. Ramat Yohanan, a kibbutz near Haifa, adopted his group. That means they'll call it home while in the army, going back when on leave or for holidays. They're living there now.

"The kibbutz has changed," he told *The Epoch Times* on Oct. 10. "Because all the young men have, for the most part, been deployed on reserve duty."

Children were tense, and their mothers were overwhelmed carrying on without their husbands.

"Everything's a little off. Everyone's very understaffed here. Our supermarket near the kibbutz has long lines and shorter operating times," Mr. Vilschick said.

He and his pals were frustrated, he said.

"We're here to draft. Everything's happening and we're unable to do anything," he said.

They opted to pitch in around the kibbutz.

"A lot of that has been helping young families," he said.

They started a daycare for three hours a day.

"We have arts and crafts and soccer," giving the moms a break, he said.

It's not just children who need care. A reservist who Ms. Herman knows has a rescue animal. With its owner called up indefinitely, the blind dog needs reliable care. Ms. Herman took in Coco on Oct. 12.

Some animals need foster care like this. Others were orphaned when their families were murdered on Oct. 7. Some are taking in those animals as well, David Greene's wife, Kerry Greene, told *The Epoch Times*.



Young Israeli boys make tzitzis, a type of traditional religious fringe, which will be attached to garments worn by members of the IDF, at a school in Beit Shemesh, Israel, on Oct. 16.

She said chat groups on WhatsApp list all kinds of volunteer opportunities. She's seen neighbors gathering new and slightly used clothing for evacuees and mounting a toy drive for evacuee children for Chanukah in December. People donate snacks such as beef jerky and Bamba, a popular Israeli snack brand.

**"We know we have nowhere else to go. We are in the fight of our lives."**

Caryn Oberman, local resident

"There are a lot of weddings on the fly. Caterers and wedding planners are just donating their time, their energy, their efforts, anything to get these young couples married," she said.

"It's kind of like Israelis are the best when we're under fire. We just do anything, anything for anyone. Unfortunately, you don't always see it. But when we're in a crisis, we're good."

### Opportunities for Everyone

Some volunteers have put their professional skills to work.

Adina Kamien is the modern art curator at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and has a son serving in Gaza.

The first weeks after Oct. 7, she told *The Epoch Times*, she worked making sandwiches at the Casa Lavi restaurant, which lent itself to donating food to soldiers and others in need.

Then she saw an ad looking for volunteers to work with evacuees at the Grand Court Hotel in East Jerusalem, now housing those fleeing from communities attacked on Oct. 7 or under rocket attack by Hezbollah in the north.

Two educators launched a makeshift school and kindergarten at the hotel.

"It was natural for me to do something in art," she said.

She got together some other women in their 50s to start an art court for the school, with tables set up for crafts such as gouache, collage, beads, and pom-poms, "just simple stuff."

It started out being open in the morning. As schools reopened and the Ministry of Education took this one over, the project moved to afternoons to



A newlywed Israeli soldier is visited by his wife as he takes a break near the border with Gaza in southern Israel on Nov. 14.

give children an after-school activity.

"It's still like that now," she said. It's supported by donated supplies and money, plus help from youth volunteers doing a community service gap year.

Ms. Kamien had the time to do this initially because the art museum halted normal functioning.

Other professionals with disrupted routines were freed up to help as well. Allison Pollock, a health care social worker, found time on her hands as hospitals and clinics cut back non-essential operations.

"So I started working in this hotel with older senior citizens, older adults from Yechini, a Yemenite moshav near Sderot,"

she told The Epoch Times. Moshavs in Israel are rural communities, but not collective farms like the kibbutzes.

They're a tight-knit community, she said.

"They've been there for 60 years at least. They all know each other. Some of them married each other's relatives. They've known each other forever."

They came as young children and have acclimated to Israeli life, she said. But some don't know their exact birthdays.

Two groups formed, she said, one for those from Yechini and one for those from Sderot. Social workers and psychologists work there to keep acute

trauma from turning into PTSD.

Yechini lost five or six people on Oct. 7 but wasn't as heavily damaged as some other communities, Ms. Pollock said. A man ran from house to house to warn residents. Most hid in their safe rooms for hours.

One woman in her group lives near the front gate and witnessed a soldier killed in front of her house. It's unclear when they'll return home. A few have been back to keep agriculture going.

Her clients, older, are not that oriented toward therapy. Sometimes, they want to talk, but other times, they feel like it's all been said.

So she looks for other activities.



"We're going to have a cooking workshop. There's apparently a full two-hour process for how you make couscous from scratch," she said.

Mrs. Pollock has a son doing his regular army service, a daughter doing her service working with wounded soldiers, and that daughter's twin sister is a civilian working with children after school.

Labor-intensive volunteer projects help in other ways, Ms. Herman said.

When the crisis began, life first turned upside down, with much work halted, schools closed, and people throwing themselves into volunteer work. Now, many return to jobs and businesses, to normal life—but only to a point.

How normal can life be with a war raging, with so many men called up, with so many grieving those murdered, kidnapped, or abused on Oct. 7? She thinks of this time as "the Twilight Zone," she said.

"It's a weird time. At the beginning, people needed something to do with their time. Now, a lot of people go to their normal day of work, [but] it's incredibly hard" to stay focused, she said.

"They need to feel like they're giving back to someone. A lot of people need to stay distracted, especially if they have people close to them in the service right now.

"It's good for the soul," she said. "The worst thing people can do during times like this is sit at home, do nothing, and

## "People need to stay distracted, especially if they have people close to them in the service right now. It's good for the soul."

Meira Herman, local resident

feel overwhelmed."

Working with other people and spending time with them helps alleviate the misery.

Mrs. Oberman said her volunteer work helps her cope. As a physical therapist and with her husband a doctor, she's lately worked gathering medical supplies. Israeli health care has been impacted. The pool therapy she does with the elderly has been put on hold because they can't get to safe rooms quickly enough under rocket attack.

Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon has been hit by at least four Hamas rockets since Oct. 7, something the world press has been largely silent about, Mrs. Oberman said with some bitterness.

She wasn't the only interviewee who told The Epoch Times she isolates herself from news about the Hamas attack.

"I have chosen not to read and not to hear about the horror. I don't feel like I need to know the extent of how barbaric it is. I made a decision that I am

focusing on the kindness and the unity that the people are doing," she said.

American Jews, she said, "have to know it. I don't have to know it, because everywhere I go, I see the change in people's behavior. I can feel it in the air. I see the signs. There's nowhere you go where somebody doesn't know somebody that's been murdered or kidnapped.

"Every now and then, I read a sentence or hear a sentence, and I wish I didn't know. Because I like the naivete of thinking that nobody can be that barbaric."

She wants, she said, "to focus on the good in human nature and the good in people, and the resilience and the kindness of what everybody's doing for each other." And her volunteer work is part of that.

"If you remember, on Oct. 6, the country was very divided. And literally, that very, very quickly turned. So it's my own personal choice. I like my bubble," she said. ■



An art project set up for evacuees after the Oct. 7 attacks, at the Grand Court Hotel in Jerusalem. The volunteer-run project gives evacuee children staying there something to do after school.



# THE LONG BEHIND TERRO



ILLUSTRATION BY THE EPOCH TIMES,  
GETTY IMAGES, SHUTTERSTOCK



# RED SHADOW ISLAMIC RISM





# DECADES OF COMMUNIST subversion by China underlie the terror currently witnessed in the Middle East

By Eva Fu

**T**RY SEARCHING FOR “Israel” on China’s biggest search engine Baidu, and you’ll find that the nation’s name is no longer on the map.

The discovery, which caught many in China by surprise on Oct. 30, is the latest twist in a calculated silence by the regime in Beijing, in contrast to other major world powers that have rushed to Israel’s side.

Positioning itself as a mediator and advocate for peace, the regime has criticized Israel as going too far in its counterattack against Hamas.

As hostility proliferates against Israel on China’s heavily censored internet and in state media, the terrorist group responsible for the deadly assault hasn’t elicited a single mention in official statements coming out of Beijing.

Pressed twice during a recent news briefing about why Chinese authorities had refused to “say the word ‘Hamas,’” a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson maintained that the regime stands for justice and opposes “all violent attacks.”

But that’s “basically a different way of siding with Hamas,” Miles Yu, a China policy adviser at the U.S. State Department during the Trump administration, told *The Epoch Times*.

To Mr. Yu and other China watchers, Beijing’s reticence is little more than a façade. Far from being the peace advocate that it asserts itself to be, he said, the regime is “giddy about all the crises elsewhere in the world” that divert attention away from its own ambitions.

## ‘Ultimate Enabler’

Since Hamas carried out its horrific attack on Israel on Oct. 7, much scrutiny has been directed at Iran over its alleged

role in making it possible, with reports suggesting that Tehran furnished the Hamas terrorists with training and logistical support.

Iran hasn’t been shy in demonstrating its support for Hamas. The regime cheered the rampage as a “historic victory,” organized rallies in support of Palestinians, and vowed to “continue cooperation” in advancing the group’s goals. It provides about \$100 million annually to Palestinian groups such as Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, according to a U.S. State Department report from 2020. In 2022, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh publicly said the group had received about \$70 million from Iran that year, which it used to make rockets.

“The spider in the web is Iran—it had it not been for Iran, then Hamas wouldn’t exist,” Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, spokesperson for Israel Defense Forces, told *The Epoch Times’* sister media outlet NTD.

However, China analysts, including a longtime insider from the elite ranks of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), say that an overemphasis on Iran misses the point.

“China is the ultimate enabler of the Iranian terrorist-sponsoring regime,” Mr. Yu said. “Indirectly, China is responsible for this crisis.”

While there’s no direct link that points to China’s hand in the current conflict, China has forged close ties with Iran to counter U.S. influence in the Middle East. Besides being Iran’s biggest trade partner for 10 consecutive years, China in March helped to mend ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran at a time when Israel was seeking to restore relations with Riyadh.

Meanwhile, Chinese entities have re-



Members of the Palestine Liberation Organization read copies of quotations from Mao Zedong’s *Little Red Book* in Jordan in 1970.

peatedly flouted U.S. rules to supply military equipment to Iran to help it develop drones, missiles, and its nuclear program.

Eyal Pinko, a retired Israeli navy commander, said it’s “obvious” to him that China, Iran, and Hamas are part of “one gang.”

“Even in the nuclear program, Iran is involved with China,” he told *The Epoch Times*. “Their cooperation is definitely strategic and very tight.”

Christopher Balding, a research fellow at the Henry Jackson Society, a trans-Atlantic foreign policy and national security think tank, agrees.

“It defies any logic that China is unaware that it’s at the very least tacitly or implicitly supporting Hamas,” he told *The Epoch Times*.





He further pointed to the presence of Chinese telecom operators Huawei and ZTE in the Middle East—including in Iran and Lebanon. These tools have likely been feeding intelligence to Beijing “at scale.”

He added that it’s likely that “China’s data gatherers knew there was chatter” about Hamas’s activities before the attack occurred.

### Emerging ‘Axis of Evil’

A protracted war in the Middle East would be a clear victory for Beijing on many fronts. It would drain Western resources and distract from the Indo-Pacific region, where the Chinese regime is aggressively wrestling for control.

With the United States increasingly focused on Ukraine and Israel, the CCP has an opening to expand its wings elsewhere, solidifying an anti-Western coalition that could fulfill its pursuit of

a new world order. With Russia’s weakened position since it opened its war on Ukraine, Chinese leader Xi Jinping would naturally be the “boss,” Cai Xia, who made a career teaching and train-

ing high-ranking Chinese officials at the CCP’s Central Party School, told The Epoch Times.

“Just watch. Whoever is the biggest benefactor, that’s probably the instigator behind the scenes,” she said.

“They will seize any and every resource in the world they can get their hands on that serves their goals. In their eyes, everything’s about power and status. There’s no moral limit.”

The Kremlin and Beijing’s alignment on the Israel-Hamas war is evident in their joining hands to coordinate on Middle East policy. On Oct. 26, about a week after Beijing rolled out the red carpet for Mr. Putin, a Hamas delegation appeared in Moscow to discuss the release of detained Russian hostages, after which Hamas released a statement praising Mr. Putin’s effort to end what it called “the crimes of Israel that are supported by the West.”

At the United Nations, China has a record of consistently amplifying the Palestinian cause. Together with Russia, it blocked a U.S.-led resolution on Oct. 25 that sought to condemn Hamas’s attack and support Israel’s right to self-defense.

A new “axis of evil” is already “quite apparent” between China, Iran, Russia, and North Korea, Cheng Chin-mo, an expert on international relations at Taiwan’s Tamkang University, told The Epoch Times. To the communist regime in China, the rule of thumb is simple, he says.

“‘As long as you are against America, you are my friend.’ This is their bottom line,” he said.



Weeks after the start of the Israel-Hamas war, Israel’s name is now missing from the Chinese language map showing the Middle East region on Chinese search engine Baidu, on Oct. 31. The names of the surrounding countries remain.





Masked Palestinian terrorists from the Hamas group's Al-Qassam Martyrs Brigade march in the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip on April 19, 2005.

### A 'Communist Construct'

The history of Beijing's ties with the Palestinians dates to the mid-1960s, when China became the first non-Arab country to recognize the newly created Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as a representative of the Palestinian people and granted it an office in Beijing.

State media reports describe Yasser Arafat, who presided over the PLO from 1969 until his death in 2004, as a loyal fan of CCP founder Mao Zedong. The latter's guerrilla warfare strategy achieved "great effect" in the PLO's fight with Israelis, according to one 2021 article shared on Chinese embassy and consulate websites.

The "deep camaraderie" was likely why Arafat traveled to China "whenever the Palestinian cause faced a turning point," the same article said, noting that Arafat "made a habit of exchanging views with Chinese leaders once a year."

Party mouthpieces in China have taken pride in the regime's influence in the Palestinian areas. A 1969 report in

Chinese state outlet People's Daily cited Palestinian fighters as saying Mao's quotations and writings were their "spiritual food" and "most powerful weapon."

The reporter said the Palestinians held Mao in such awe that they hung his por-



**"China is the ultimate enabler of the Iranian terrorist-sponsoring regime. Indirectly, China is responsible for this crisis."**

*Miles Yu, former policy adviser,  
U.S. State Department*

trait across Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan and worshiped his writings as more vital than food and water.

Moustapha Saphariny, the Palestinian ambassador to China from 1992 to 2002, had received political and military training in China at the age of 19 before going on the battlefield against Israel. He met his wife while studying international politics at Peking University and considered China his "second hometown," according to a 2016 book that his alma mater published under his name.

"These terrorist organizations always drew on Maoism," said Trevor Loudon, an expert on communist infiltration and an Epoch Times contributor. That socialist groups started coming out in force across the world to rally in support of Hamas strikes him as no coincidence.

"What we call Islamic terrorism is a communist construct," and whether or not the "guerrilla at the bottom of the heap" realizes it, the leadership is "pursuing communist goals," he said.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: SAUD KHATIB/AP VIA GETTY IMAGES; XINHUA/AP VIA GETTY IMAGES; ANDREW WONG/POOL/AP VIA GETTY IMAGES; TAL ATZMON/THE EPOCH TIMES



The regime's support for the Palestinians has continued. After signing a December 2022 pact on the Belt and Road Initiative—the infrastructure mega-projects through which Beijing exports its political and economic clout—in June, they formed a strategic partnership during Mr. Abbas's fifth visit to China, at the same time as the Chinese city of Wuhan announced a friendship agreement with Ramallah that marked the first of its kind between China and the Palestinians.

### 'Nothing Is Accidental'

China was directly implicated in aiding Hamas more than 10 years ago, when victims of bombing and rocket attacks in Israel filed a \$1 billion lawsuit against the Bank of China, accusing the central bank of knowingly facilitating payments to Hamas. While initially throwing its weight behind the suit, the Israeli government backed away in late 2013 and barred a former counterterrorism agent critical to the case from giving testimony, reportedly due to Chinese pressure.

"Money is the oxygen for terrorism," Israeli lawyer Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, who was involved in the case, told *The Epoch Times*. Beijing controls the Bank of China, she said, so any step by the bank is a reflection of Chinese government policy.

"At the time, it was very disturbing that China was basically supporting Hamas."

Beijing has meanwhile made clear that it intends to engage with the Palestinians on its own terms.

Ignoring U.S. and Israel opposition, Chinese authorities in 2006 welcomed senior Hamas leader Mahmoud al-Zahar to the Chinese capital.

Such a gesture legitimizes Hamas and "cements Hamas's position as the voice for Palestine and for the Palestinian people," Matthew Johnson, a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution, told *The Epoch Times*.

Militarily, Chinese arms shipments to the PLO began as early as the year of its creation in 1964 and continued through the early 1980s, with at least two "large quantities of heavy weapons" delivered

in a week's span in September 1981, according to Mark Morrison in his 1984 thesis paper for the Naval Postgraduate School, a U.S. Navy-run school that trains military officers.

Researcher Lillian Craig Harris in 1977 characterized Beijing as "the most consistent big power supporter of the Palestinian guerrilla organizations, arming them, criticizing them, seeking to unify them and, despite fluctuations in the relationship, providing moral and material support."

Without the Chinese military aid, "the PLO might not be the politically powerful organization it is today," she wrote in the academic journal *Journal of Palestine Studies*.

In the current war, as in the past, weapons based on Chinese technology have trickled into Gaza and appeared in Hamas's hands.

Mr. Pinko recalled that while still in the Navy during the 2006 Lebanon

War, the flagship Israeli ship *Hanit* was hit by Iranian missiles that appeared to be Chinese replicas. Israel officials in 2014 identified smuggled Syrian rockets based on long-range systems developed by China's state-owned Sichuan Aerospace Industry Corp.

In 2009, battlefield photos showed pipes from a Chinese steelmaker in the rockets of Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas's military wing in Gaza. The backlash that ensued prompted the Shandong Province-based company to clarify that the pipes were destined for a Middle Eastern gas company.

"The only thing it shows is that our factory's products are top grade and reasonably priced," the company said, adding that it can't reveal "which nation is the client," but it was "definitely not Lebanon."

In a 2014 military parade, Hamas also showed off a Chinese armored personnel carrier known as the Type 63, which has been popular in the Middle East, according to the Chinese state-owned media platform *Ifeng*.

"Nothing is accidental with the Chinese," Mr. Pinko said.

To Mr. Loudon, the various political groups in Palestinian areas are no different from "different factions of the mafia."

"They might bash each other for territory at times," he said, "but they're all united in supporting communism, hating the West, and wanting to destroy Israel."

While Israel has been a longtime close trade partner with China, the war might lead it to reassess the relationship. Israel's de facto ambassador Maya Yaron called Taiwan "really a good friend" for its vocal support, while calling China's response "very disturbing."

There's no crystal ball, but a sense of danger is clear.

"We're getting closer and closer to a World War III scenario," Mr. Loudon said. "Will it go over the edge? I hope not, but that's what we should be looking at here."

As for now, he said, "these countries are taking their opportunity while they can." ■

*Luo Ya contributed to this report.*



(Top) Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai (R) speaks with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat in Beijing in 1971.

(Bottom) Chinese leader Jiang Zemin (L) greets visiting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at Zhongnanhai leadership compound in Beijing on Aug. 24, 2001.



A photograph of a man's hand gesturing while speaking, with a bookshelf and a map in the background. The hand is in the foreground, palm facing up, with fingers slightly spread. The background shows a bookshelf filled with books, a map of the Middle East, and various decorative items including a Hamsa, a small statue, and a model of a ship.

# ISRAELI WAR HERO SPEAKS HARD TRUTHS ABOUT THE WAR

‘I’M SORRY, I’M VERY CRUEL, but I don’t have the patience for games anymore,’ says retired Israeli Brig. Gen. Avigdor Kahalani

♣ By Dan M. Berger





Brig. Gen. Avigdor Kahalani, former Israeli internal security minister and veteran of the Golan front in the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, gives an interview at his home in Tel Aviv on Sept. 7.

PHOTO BY JACK GUEZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

**A** HALF-CENTURY AGO, Avigdor Kahalani distinguished himself in desperate times for Israel, times as desperate as those today.

In the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Syria and Egypt's surprise attack on the most solemn Jewish holiday left Israel reeling on a day when the country virtually shuts down.

Egypt's armor crossed the Suez into the Sinai Peninsula, occupied by Israel

since 1967, as Syrian tanks lumbered across the Golan Heights, with Israel's Galilee vulnerable below, no more than 15 miles away.

Syria's thrusts were thwarted by vastly outnumbered Israeli tanks. One of its battalions was led by then-Lt. Col. Kahalani on the battle site that is now called "The Valley of Tears."

Israeli tank resistance in the Golan gave the nation time to reorganize, mobilize, and fight back. The young battalion commander won Israel's Medal of Valor,

its highest military honor.

Now a retired brigadier general, Mr. Kahalani, 79, sees Israel's latest Hamas war in stark terms.

"I'm sorry, I'm very cruel, but I don't have the patience for games anymore," he told The Epoch Times' Israel bureau on Oct. 12.

"You have to shoot and eliminate and destroy. It's either us or them."

On Oct. 7, Hamas terrorists blew dozens of holes in Israel's border fence, disarmed security cameras, roared ♦♦



through the damaged fence with motorcycles and trucks, and landed fighters using paragliders. They used their access not only to attack Israeli military and police installations—lightly defended during the joyous Simchat Torah holiday—but to murder hundreds of mostly defenseless civilians at a music festival, in a kibbutz, and along roadsides.

“The experience we are going through now is much worse than [the] Yom Kippur War. I have no doubt at all about it. In the Yom Kippur War, we fought army against army. Here, the citizens of the country have been abandoned. Until now, I don’t understand why,” Mr. Kahalani said.

“I’m not going to make public inquiries now. At the moment, all we need to do is strengthen our soldiers who are going to enter Gaza; maybe some are going to enter Lebanon. This is what we need to do now.”

### **‘If Lebanon Starts a War, We Have to Blow Up Beirut’**

“I’ll start with Lebanon because it’s ... on the brink. If Lebanon starts a war, we have to blow up Beirut. Unequivocally. To blow up all the water systems, all the electricity systems,” Mr. Kahalani said.

“Let there be no situation where we are fighting against Hezbollah. Hezbollah should not interest us. We will hit the places from which the missiles are launched, but what needs to be taken down in Beirut is the big towers. Destroy the infrastructure, shut down the electricity, and shut down their economy.

“This is all the state of Lebanon. We are fighting against a state. We must give them such a blow that they will not recover in the next 20 years, and [we must] without mercy—without mercy—bomb and

eliminate and destroy. Unequivocally.”

### **Seeks Change of Government in Gaza**

Mr. Kahalani expressed caution about Gaza, though, while maintaining that deposing Hamas is essential.

“Regarding Gaza, I’m not sure that the plan the prime minister presented—to eliminate Hamas, uproot it, and so on—is realistic,” he said.

“Let’s say we go inside Gaza with tanks and find all the terrorists. Once residents stay there, what will happen after a year? Won’t they build a Hamas youth movement, and then it will develop into an army?

“That’s why the government there should be changed, and the government should be controlled by foreign countries, so that they will not be able to develop any weapons, and will not be able to develop such a regime of hatred and enmity for the State of Israel.

“And if that happens, maybe there will be a chance for quiet. If not, then we will advance to Gaza City, then we will advance to Khan Yunis, and maybe we will also reach Rafah.

“All I care about is that not even one Israeli soldier gets hurt in all this, and I say to the soldiers, ‘Shoot. Don’t move 1 meter forward. Don’t be heroes.’

“Make sure [everyone] in front of you lies on the floor. Don’t enter a trapped house and get killed. ... Blow up the house if you realize it’s trapped.”

### **‘They Only Understand the Language of Power’**

Mr. Kahalani continued: “And stop pitying. ... Constantly think of the images of what they have done now in the Gaza Strip. Remember these images and

shout, ‘O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongs.’

“Arabic is a language, but it’s also a mentality. We’re constantly talking to them in a language they don’t understand. They only understand the language of power.

“And now the question is—us or them. And for me, there is only one answer: us.”

What does his image of victory look like?

“The image of victory is that they are asking for a ceasefire,” Mr. Kahalani said.

“But in my opinion, you have to be realistic. Is it possible to kill [all of Hamas]? You cannot distinguish who is Hamas and who is not. These are civilian people, and one can turn around and hold his two children by the hand and say: ‘What do you want from me? I’m a citizen, a farmer,’ and so on.

“That’s why this business is much more complex. You have to be there and stay and do the action until a new government is established there, which will not allow the establishment of an army. The new government has to rely on other countries and maintain their close connection and dependence on the State of Israel. The State of Israel will make them want to not harm us.”

### **‘They Bit the Hand That Fed Them’**

Before the war, Israel controlled Gaza’s access to diesel fuel, water, and money and, in recent years, has sought a lower-tension balance with Hamas and Gaza, Mr. Kahalani acknowledged. Israel, meanwhile, sought peace with the Gulf States, resulting in the Abraham Accords and, more recently, Saudi Arabia.

“And they bit the hand that fed them. So obviously, there’s no logic here—it’s like the scorpion that stings the frog. There’s no logic here in the Middle East. But only a different government will make a difference. Until that happens, we’ll rule the territory. We need to protect ourselves,” he said.

Israel needs to bomb Gaza, even flatten it, “as much as necessary” to conquer it, Mr. Kahalani said.

“You need to move a kilometer or two. Don’t rush. If you see suspicious houses, flatten them. ... You need to find their tunnels, where they are, and burn them in one way or another. It requires us to go

Syrian soldiers raise their hands in surrender on the Golan Heights, five days into the Yom Kippur War, on Oct. 10, 1973.







Israeli army soldiers sit atop a tracked vehicle at a position in the upper Galilee region of northern Israel near the border with Lebanon on Oct. 28.

inside; it's unavoidable," he said.

Mr. Kahalani discussed the war's impact on Israelis, which is different from that of the 1973 attack.

In the earlier war, he said, "they thought we were going to lose the state. And indeed, we were in a very difficult situation."

#### 'How Did We Get to This?'

"But now the citizen has been abandoned, and there is a very big rift between the state and the citizen. This rift is deep," Mr. Kahalani said.

"The last time this happened was in the Holocaust. The Jew hid, they came to him, they found him, and they slaughtered him. Now, even though there is a State of Israel, the Jew is hiding; they come to him and slaughter him.

"So, the entire State of Israel must ask itself, 'How did we get to this situation?'

"The citizens should protect themselves. They should make sure they have all the protection measures that will give them a sense of security.

"The citizens will stand behind the army, embrace the army, because the

embrace of the army by the citizens is a weapon.

"The soldier who fights on the battlefield should feel he is fighting for his commander, for his friends, but most importantly, he must feel that the homefront is behind him, supporting him every minute and every second, and embracing him."

Then a soldier who asks himself what he's fighting for will know, Mr. Kahalani said.

#### 'We Don't Have Another Way'

"The citizens have to go through such difficult experiences. That's life. It's unavoidable, and take it as a difficult experience that we need to go through and that eventually we will win," he said.

"Is there light at the end of the tunnel?" Mr. Kahalani asked. "Surely, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Do we have another way? We don't have another way."

After being injured on the battlefield, he spent a year in the hospital.

"I said to myself, 'Avigdor, you are going to go through a very difficult experience, and I see you growing to

become a man out of it.

"I went through the worst suffering one can experience—you need mental strength for that. Leadership needs to be an example. It needs to radiate power. There are 1,001 things that can be done.

"First of all, the leaders in this country need to set an example to the citizens."

If he were at the front, speaking to soldiers and commanders, Mr. Kahalani said that he would tell them:

"You are now going through a difficult experience. Remember that we don't have another country. You are now going to go through an experience experienced by every new generation that guards the country.

"Look back and see the flag of the country being raised. Look back and see what happened to our nation throughout all these years. Look at the Holocaust and see what can be done to us if we are not strong.

"And in that respect, you will be the best professional in the world. Take care of yourself, but get the job done." ■

*The Epoch Times staff in Israel contributed to this report.*



# A TIMELINE

*Key events over*

The Old City of Jerusalem.

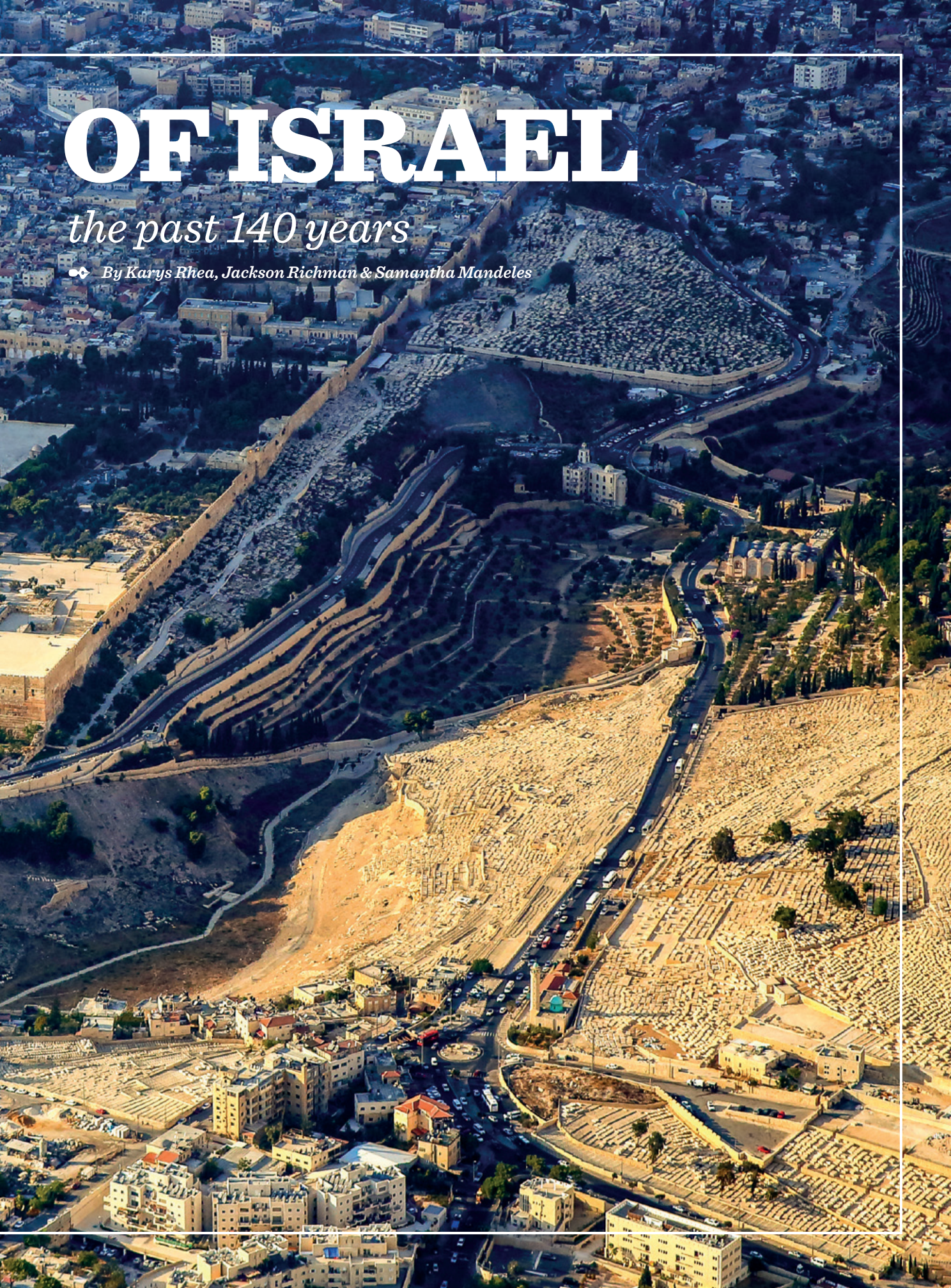
PHOTO BY CORBIS DOCUMENTARY/GETTY IMAGES



# OF ISRAEL

*the past 140 years*

◆ By Karys Rhea, Jackson Richman & Samantha Mandeles





# TIMELINE



## 1881–1903 1st Aliyah

Though there has been a continuous Jewish presence in the land of Israel for more than 3,000 years, the first major wave in modern times of Jewish migration to the area begins in 1882. The area is occupied by the Ottoman Empire.

Many Jews migrate from Yemen and from Russia, after Czar Alexander III enacts the May Laws, which bar Jews from owning land, and restrict where they can live and how they can operate businesses in the country.

The Muslim population during this time numbers approximately 400,000, Ottoman records suggest, but with the new arrivals, Jews become the demographic majority in Jerusalem for the first time in centuries.



## Aug. 29, 1897– Aug. 28, 1898 1st and 2nd Zionist Congress

Following the 1896 publication of Theodore

Herzl's founding manifesto, "Der Judenstaat" ("The Jewish State"), which promotes the idea of a Jewish nation in response to growing anti-Semitism in Europe and as a rejection of rising assimilation demands, the First Zionist Congress is called in Basel, Switzerland, in 1897. The first congress is followed by another one year later, again in Basel.



## 1904–1914 2nd Aliyah

The early 20th century sees the second major wave of Jewish migration, with approximately 35,000 Jews immigrating to what is today Israel. Most flee worsening persecution in Eastern Europe, though Jews also continue to emigrate from Yemen.

By the time World War I breaks out in 1914, approximately 90,000 to 100,000 Jews live in the Ottoman-ruled region. Today, historians generally credit this second wave of Jews with reviving Hebrew as a spoken language and establishing it as the lingua franca for Jews in Israel.

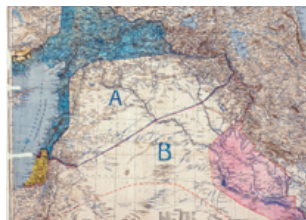


## 1909–1921 Levantine Arab and Muslim Boycotts of Jews

Boycotts of Jews in the Levant begin as early as 1909, when local Levantine Arabs and Muslims boycott Jewish businesses, according to the American Jewish Yearbook's archives.

"In Hebron, where out of a total population of 18,000 about 2,000 are Jews, the Arabs decide to boycott Jewish merchants," according to a Feb. 5, 1909, entry.

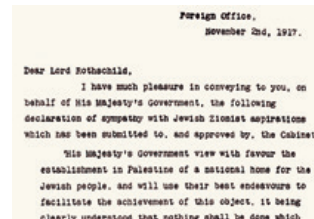
In January 1914, "in Hebron, Jewish storekeepers are boycotted by Mohammedan women," and in 1921, "on June 10, in Haifa, Arabs issue a proclamation urging the populace to boycott Jews and drive them out of their villages," entries state.



## Jan. 3, 1916 Sykes–Picot Agreement

Great Britain and France sign a secret wartime treaty, the Sykes–Picot Agreement,

to divide Ottoman territory between the two powers and to establish an international zone in the area around Jerusalem and Haifa, assuming an Allied victory.



## Nov. 2, 1917 Balfour Declaration

On the eve of World War I's conclusion, British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour pens a letter pledging Britain's support for "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people" and the British government's intention "to facilitate the achievement of this object." The Balfour Declaration is soon endorsed by much of the international community, including some Arab and Muslim leaders.

In August 1918, the Ottoman Empire's Grand Vizier Talaat Pasha declares his "sympathies for the establishment of a religious and national Jewish center in Palestine by well-organized immigration and colonization."

Today, the declaration is considered the first international document that forms a legal basis for Israel's existence.



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ISRAEL



## Nov. 17-Dec. 30, 1917 Battle of Jerusalem

By 1917, Ottoman authorities have expelled thousands of Russian Jews from Jaffa and Tel-Aviv, viewing them as infiltrators during World War I.

On Nov. 17, 1917, fighting breaks out in Jerusalem and intensifies as the British battle Ottoman forces.

On Dec. 11, 1917, British General Edmund Allenby enters Jerusalem with his troops. Skirmishes continue until Dec. 30, 1917, two weeks after the city is liberated from 400 years of Ottoman rule.



## April 18-26, 1920 San Remo Conference

Representatives of the victorious Allied powers gather in San Remo, Italy, to deliberate on the future status of a Jewish state and to determine the boundaries of the post-Ottoman Middle East. The goal is to establish new states based on both Jewish and Arab claims to territory.

The San Remo Resolution, adopted on April 25, is

a formal international treaty that promises that nothing will be done that “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.” Like the Balfour Declaration, the resolution codifies a future Israel’s right to exist.



## Mid-1919-July 24, 1922 Mandate for Palestine and Transjordan

Post-Ottoman rule, the League of Nations Mandate for Palestine affirms previous pledges for a Jewish state, including the Balfour Declaration and the San Remo Resolution.

The mandate is awarded to Great Britain with the explicit purpose of administering a transition to create an independent Jewish homeland.

In April 1920, the League of Nations instructs the Mandate for Palestine to include all the lands today known as Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan.

But in March 1921, the British designate more than 70 percent of that land as a new entirely Arab entity known as Transjordan—the land east of the Jordan River—and appoints Abdullah Hussein as its ruler.

The future Jewish homeland is now less than 30 percent of what had originally been promised. Some frame the establishment of Transjordan as a “de-facto two-state solution for Palestine,” as the Arabs of the region now have their own Emirate that eventually becomes the independent state of Jordan.

The official Mandate for Palestine is adopted on July 24, 1922.

Incited by Haj Amin al-Husseini, who in 1921 is appointed grand mufti of Jerusalem, Arabs rebel against the mandate, rioting and killing five Jews, and injuring hundreds.



*Hassan al-Banna, the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood.*

## March 22, 1928 Founding of the Muslim Brotherhood

The Society of the Muslim Brothers is founded in Ismailia, Egypt, by schoolteacher and Imam Hassan al-Banna. The group is initially an Islamic revitalization movement, dedicated to ridding Egypt of foreign power and influence and establishing a state

governed exclusively by Islamic law.

The Brotherhood’s members are openly anti-Semitic and encourage violence toward Jews. In a 1948 New York Times article, al-Banna threatens that if Israel is formally established, “the Arab peoples ... will drive the Jews who live in their midst into the sea.”

Al-Banna is a close, longstanding associate of the enthusiastic Hitler collaborator Amin al-Husseini, the grand mufti of Jerusalem. The grand mufti was the chief Muslim religious authority.

Al-Husseini, who preaches that Jews have been the enemies of Islam for 1,300 years and exhorts listeners of Arab radio to murder Jews in their midst, becomes the Brotherhood’s most prominent leader in Mandatory Palestine.

SEPHARDICCOUNCIL.ORG/ISRACAST



## Aug. 23-24, 1929 Hebron Massacre

From Mandatory Palestine, Al-Husseini witnesses an increasing number of Jews at the Western Wall in Jerusalem as more Ashkenazi Jews flee persecution in eastern Europe.

Beginning on Aug. 23, Arabs embark on a two-day murderous rampage through the streets of Hebron after al-Husseini spreads the false rumor that Jews are planning to take over the Temple



Mount, destroy the al-Aqsa mosque atop it, and kill Arabs.

Armed with knives, axes, and clubs, Muslim mobs go door to door screaming “Kill the Jews!”

At least 67 Jewish people are confirmed killed.

GUSTAV HILLE



**1933–1945**

## Hitler’s Rise and the Holocaust

In the aftermath of Germany’s crushing defeat in World War I and the humiliating conditions imposed on it by the Treaty of Versailles, the country is hungry for a strong leader to revitalize its national identity.

In 1933, Adolph Hitler rises to power on an anti-Semitic and Aryan platform based on the ideology expressed in his infamous manifesto, “Mein Kampf.” The 1935 Nuremberg Race Laws revoke Jewish civil rights in Germany.

In 1938, on Nov. 9 and 10, Hitler and his Nazi regime orchestrate Kristallnacht (the Night of Broken Glass)—a massive wave of violence against Jews in Germany and German-annexed parts of Austria and Czechoslovakia.

During the night, Nazi forces abduct more than 30,000 Jews and ship them to concentration camps.

Today, Kristallnacht is considered the beginning of the Holocaust, in which approximately 6 million Jews



*Haj Amin al-Husseini meets with Adolf Hitler on Nov. 28, 1941.*

are killed throughout Europe, Asia, and North Africa in an attempt to fulfill Hitler’s Final Solution.

In 1942, the Final Solution plan for the mass extermination of all European Jews is formalized at the Nazi’s infamous Wannsee conference.

The day after the conference, the Nazi Foreign Ministry gives al-Husseini a personal briefing. An impressed al-Husseini responds with a request to “send an expert” to Jerusalem to instruct Arabs on “setting up death camps and gas chambers,” which the Nazis later agree to do.



**April 19, 1936–  
Aug. 26, 1939**

## Arab Revolt in Palestine

Beginning in April 1936, al-Husseini begins a three-year terror campaign across Mandatory Palestine against British authorities, Jewish villagers, and moderate Arab mayors and community members, who support the partition of Palestine and oppose his brutality and extremism.

The mufti’s armed militias hunt down and ferociously target these groups. Those who they

don’t slaughter are tortured, kidnapped, or flogged.

During the revolt, al-Husseini receives weapons shipments from the Nazi regime. The number of deaths is disputed and losses include slaughtered livestock and destroyed farms.

Having successfully abolished the rule of law as he worked to rid his community of moderate voices, al-Husseini turns to Germany’s ideology of National Socialism, setting the stage for collaboration with Adolf Hitler’s regime.

**1937–1945**

## Arab–Nazi Alliance

During World War II, al-Husseini closely allies with Nazi Germany, calling for the Reichstag to bomb Tel Aviv. He has a personal relationship



with Hitler and sends his aides to Nazi training sessions on how to commit mass murder. In 1937, al-Husseini offers German diplomats support in exchange for the promise of destroying “the Jewish home in Palestine.”

In November 1941, he meets with Hitler, who pledges to make al-Husseini the leader of the Arabs. Al-Husseini also plays a role in organizing a Bosnian SS Division.

From 1941 to 1945, al-Husseini resides in Berlin, where he serves as leading adviser and contributor to the Third Reich’s Arabic language propaganda, which saturates the Middle East and North Africa via millions of leaflets and hundreds of thousands of hours of radio broadcasts.

On Radio Berlin, he condemns the Balfour Declaration and blames the Jews for World War II. On March 1, 1944, al-Husseini says: “Arabs, rise as one man and fight for your sacred rights. Kill the Jews wherever you find them. This pleases God, history, and religion.”



## 1936–July 7, 1937 Peel Commission

The British launch the Peel Commission in 1936 to investigate the unrest in Mandatory Palestine.

At the Peel Commission

hearings in 1937, the Palestinian-Arabs insist their land is part of “South Syria” and not an independent entity.

Syrian leader Auni Bey Abdul-Hadi tells the Peel Commission: “There is no such country as Palestine. ‘Palestine’ is a term the Zionists invented. There is no Palestine in the Bible. Our country was for centuries part of Syria.”

On July 7, 1937, the commission issues its report, which proposes the first “two-state solution,” dividing the land west of the Jordan River into two separate states.

The Jews accept the proposal, while the Palestinian-Arabs oppose it.



## May 23, 1939 British White Paper

The toll of the Arab revolt on British personnel culminates in the white paper of 1939. In an effort to appease Arab Muslims and avoid future uprisings, the British renege on their commitment to encouraging a future Jewish national home under the League of Nations Mandate for Palestine.

This new policy prevents Jews living in countries conquered by Nazi Germany from seeking asylum in Mandatory Palestine.



## 1941–1952 The Farhud and Jew Airlifts

For centuries, Jews made up roughly one-third of the population of Baghdad, but by 1933, prominent Iraqi politicians and others had created ties with Hitler’s regime.

In 1941, a pro-Nazi coup d’etat overthrows the pro-British Iraqi government, only to collapse within months as the British reclaim their position within the country. Without a functioning government, a power vacuum is left.

On June 1, 1941, led by the rallying cries of al-Husseini in Mandatory Palestine, the Farhud (“violent dispossession”) begins, in which Arab nationalists loot Jewish businesses, murder between 150 and 780 Iraqi Jews, and injure thousands. The massacre continues for two days.

By 1948, Jewish banking rights are restricted and businesses are boycotted. Jews are banned from most civil service positions, and countless Jews are arrested and dispossessed.

Over the coming years, with the assistance of the Kurds, thousands of Jews escape Iraq.

In 1951 and 1952, Israel carries out Operation Ezra and Nehemiah, in which almost the entire community

of 135,000 Jews is airlifted out of Iraq to Israel.

SAMI SOLH ALBUM/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



## 1945–1951 Arab League Boycotts

In March 1945, the Arab League is officially formed, and as part of its strategy to limit Jewish immigration to Mandatory Palestine, it adopts a formal resolution to boycott Jewish products.

By 1946, the Arab League has created an official boycott committee and adopted a resolution demanding that the entire Arab world participate.

By the time Israel declares its independence in 1948, the Arab League boycott has officially prevented interaction with the Jewish state in any form, including economic, political, diplomatic, social, and cultural.

In 1951, following its failure to prevent Israel’s formation, the League creates the Central Boycott Office in Damascus, Syria, to centralize and reorganize boycott efforts.

Today, the Arab League maintains its official boycott of Israel, including a blacklist of global firms alleged to do business with Israel. The League also prohibits citizens of member nations from doing any business with Israelis or the Israeli government. ❖❖





*The King David Hotel in Mandatory Palestine after it was bombed by the Jewish Irgun on July 22, 1946.*

## July 22, 1946 King David Hotel Bombing

On June 29, 1946, in what becomes known as Black Saturday, British forces in Mandatory Palestine arrest members of the Jewish Agency Executive in an effort to quell Jewish resistance against the British.

As a result, the resistance effectively ceases all acts of sabotage, and resistance members say they'll accept a solution based on the partition of the land.

But to placate the Arab population, the British prepare to deport Jewish refugees who fled the Holocaust.

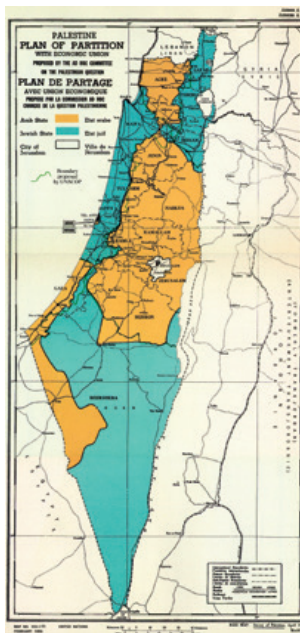
In retaliation, the Jewish Irgun, a paramilitary group founded in 1931 whose mission is to drive the British out of Palestine, bombs

the King David Hotel, which is the site of the British administrative headquarters in Mandatory Palestine.

Despite warnings by the Hebrew Underground to evacuate, many at the hotel remain and 91 people are killed in the explosion, including 28 Brits, 41 Arabs, and 17 Jews.

The Irgun, headed by Zionist leader Ze'ev Jabotinsky, opposes the official Haganah ("defense") movement, which is allied with the Jewish Agency Executive. The Irgun views the Haganah as being too weak in compromising with the British.

After the creation of the state of Israel, the Haganah, Irgun, and other Jewish resistance groups would merge to form the Israel Defense Forces.



*A map of the U.N. Partition Plan for Palestine, adopted on Nov. 29, 1947.*

## Nov. 29, 1947 UN Partition Plan

The Mandate for Palestine comes to an end as a war-weary Britain, seeking to relinquish the territory, turns to the United Nations to vote on its fate.

The General Assembly adopts its landmark partition plan for the region, Resolution 181 (II), to establish two states for two peoples: one for Jews and one for Arabs. It envisages Arab inhabitants as a minority in a Jewish state, and vice versa.

The slightly larger Jewish state primarily consists of non-arable desert with a sliver of land along the Mediterranean. It covers 56.47 percent of Mandatory Palestine, and its population comprises 498,000 Jews and 325,000 Arabs.

The Arab state is largely fertile and covers 43.53 percent of Mandatory Palestine, with a population comprising 807,000 Arabs and 10,000 Jews.

Jerusalem, with a population of 100,000 Jews and 105,000 Arabs, is excluded and designated under a special U.N.-administered international regime.

Despite the local Jewish leadership's deep disappointment that Jerusalem isn't its capital, and having to accept roughly 70 percent less land than had been promised in the San Remo Resolution, the Jewish Agency for Israel supports the proposal.

Palestinian-Arab leadership and the surrounding Arab countries unanimously reject the proposal, refusing any Jewish authority in the region and vowing to go to war to prevent its implementation.



## 1948–1970s The Expulsion of Jews From Arab Countries

Having failed to stop the creation of a Jewish state, Arab governments take revenge on their Jewish inhabitants.

From 1948 until the 1970s, nine Arab countries and Iran expel nearly 1 million Jews, including 265,000



from Morocco, 140,000 from Algeria, 135,000 from Iraq, 105,000 from Tunisia, 75,000 from Egypt, 55,000 from Yemen, 38,000 from Libya, 30,000 from Syria, and 5,000 from Lebanon.

The estimated value of expropriated property in countries such as Egypt and Iraq is in the hundreds of billions of dollars.

More than 600,000 Jews seek refuge in Israel, while roughly 300,000, mostly from French-speaking countries such as Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia, flee to France. Contrary to the popular narrative that Israel is a country of white, European settler-colonialists, these displaced Jews, along with other Mizrahi (natively Eastern) and Sephardi (natively Spanish or North African) Jews, now make up more than half of the roughly 7 million Jews in Israel.

Though Mizrahi and Sephardi immigrants continue to experience prejudice from Ashkenazi elites, they become more integrated and prominent in Israeli society. Politically,



## May 14, 1948 Israeli Declaration of Independence

The State of Israel is established, and David Ben-Gurion, Israel's soon-to-be first prime minister, signs a declaration of independence.



## May 15, 1948– March 10, 1949 Israel's War of Independence

On May 15, 1948, as the British flag is lowered in Jerusalem for the last time and the Mandate for Palestine expires, Palestinian-Arab militias, together with a coalition of armies from Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Lebanon, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq, launch a war intended to eradicate the young nation.

Surrounding Arab leaders order Palestinian-Arab civilians to evacuate, promising that they can return once the Jews are driven out.

The Arab forces expect an easy victory, but Israelis mobilize and drive them away. The Israeli triumph is a disaster for the Arabs, as the Israelis quickly establish provisional boundaries and take full control of the towns within the areas they hold.

In early 1949, the United Nations brokers a series of ceasefire agreements that are signed by all warring nations, with the exception of Iraq.

This first Arab–Israeli war resulted in the deaths of between 5,000 and 15,000 Arabs and roughly 6,000 Jews. The fighting also displaced between 400,000 and 750,000 Palestinian-Arabs, who either fled or were forced from their homes.

—AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



## Feb. 24, 1949–June 1967 Occupation of the Gaza Strip by Egypt

Egypt would control the Gaza Strip until 1967, when Israel would capture the territory in the Six-Day War.



## June 1949–Sept. 1950 Operation Magic Carpet

Over a 14-month period, Israel rescues Middle Eastern Jews from increasing persecution in Arab-Muslim lands in an effort known as Operation Magic Carpet.

On some 380 flights, Israel airlifts approximately 47,000 Jewish refugees from Yemen alongside hundreds from Aden, Djibouti, Eritrea, and Saudi Arabia.

MOHAMMED ABED/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



## Dec. 8, 1949 Creation of UNRWA

The U.N. Relief Works Agency (UNRWA) is established to serve and resettle some 400,000 to 750,000 Palestinian-Arabs who were uprooted in the first Arab–Israeli war.

Today, UNRWA says it serves more than 5 million Palestinian-Arab refugees throughout Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria.

All other refugees around the world fall under the jurisdiction of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

ARTHUR DEROUNIAN



## April 24, 1950– June 1967 Jordanian Annexation of the West Bank

After the War of Independence, Jordan annexes most of Jerusalem and the entire West Bank. Before this time, it has been referred to as “Judea and Samaria,” due



to its Jewish indigeneity.

The Jordanian Arab Legion, in efforts to hide the Jewish connection to the region, renames it the “West Bank” to denote that it’s located west of the Jordan River. Jordanians forcibly evict all Jewish people from the territory.

Jordanians destroy the Jewish quarter in Jerusalem, including its religious academies, and nearly 60 synagogues are razed. Jewish cemeteries are desecrated, including the Mount of Olives, where Jews had buried their dead for 2,500 years.

A wall is built, and Jews are denied access to their holiest sites in Jerusalem. Any Jew attempting to reach the Old City is shot.

Many Jewish-Israelis who today are considered “illegal settlers” in the West Bank are refugees or descendants of refugees who were expelled by Jordan during this time and returned once Israel recaptured the territory in the 1967 Six-Day War.

## Oct. 29–Nov. 7, 1956 The Suez Crisis

For many years, Egypt violates the Egyptian–Israel armistice agreement and blocks Israeli vessels from passing through the Suez Canal, a critical international waterway.

In 1956, Egyptian President Nasser blocks off the straits of Tiran, which effectively cuts off the Port of Eilat on the Red Sea and damages Israel’s trade routes with Asia.

The move is internationally recognized as an act of war, as nationalizing the Suez Canal also threatens British and



*Smoke rises from oil tanks beside the Suez Canal hit during the initial Anglo–French assault on Port Said, Egypt, on Nov. 5, 1956.*

French oil supplies and trade.

On Oct. 29, 1956, the Western powers, along with Israel, launch an assault on Egypt. On Oct. 31, Britain and France join the battle. The combined forces capture the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula. By Nov. 5, hostilities end, with 172 Israelis and 1,650 Egyptians killed. The United States, which is vehemently opposed to the attack, successfully pressures Israel to withdraw from all captured Egyptian territory.



## May 28, 1964 Founding of the PLO

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is founded by Yasser Arafat. It represents

the Palestinian people and seeks to establish an Arab state in the former Mandatory Palestine and advocates for the elimination of Israel.



## June 5–10, 1967 6-Day War

For 10 years, a U.N. Emergency Force (UNEF) is stationed in the Sinai to enforce the terms of the 1949 armistice agreement and maintain a neutral buffer zone between the two nations.

But in mid-1967, Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser receives faulty intelligence from the Soviet Union suggesting that Israel is assembling forces on its border with Syria.

Though Israel invites the Soviet ambassador to visit the area, he refuses, and Nasser expels UNEF forces from the Sinai.

Egypt’s Arab allies begin mobilizing for another war against Israel and blocks Israeli access to the Straits of Tiran.

On the morning of June 5, 1967, Israel launches a preemptive strike on Egypt’s air force, destroying most of the planes in the Egyptian arsenal—more than 300.

Hours later, Nasser, armed again with faulty intelligence reports, informs Jordanian King Hussein bin Talal that Egypt has destroyed Israel’s air force. Believing that Israel’s defeat is imminent and fearing the other Arab states’ inevitable ire should Jordan resist helping them expel the Jews from the region, King Hussein sends troops to attack Jerusalem.

A fierce battle rages, and on the evening of June 7, Israel defeats the Jordanian offensive, liberating the West Bank—including the Jewish holy sites of the Old City—from Jordanian occupation. The ancient Jewish capital city is now under Jewish control for the first time in 2,000 years.

By June 10, the war is over, and Israel more than doubles its size. Besides Judea and Samaria and eastern Jerusalem, Israel captures the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt and the Golan Heights from Syria. With these areas under Israeli control, Jews are again permitted to live there.





**Sept.-Oct. 1967**

## Khartoum Resolution and the Sinking of Eilat

After the Six-Day War, Israel says it's prepared to trade captured territory for peace agreements. Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban says that in direct talks with Arab leaders, "everything was negotiable," short of Israel having to return to the armistice lines of 1948 and 1949 or to a divided Jerusalem.

In September 1967, Arab states gather at a summit conference in Khartoum, Sudan, and pen the Khartoum Resolution, which becomes known as the "Three No's": no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with Israel, and no peace with Israel.

On Oct. 21, the Egyptian navy sinks the Israeli destroyer Eilat, killing 47 sailors.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES



**Nov. 22, 1967**

## UN Security Council Resolution 242

Following the Six-Day War, the U.N. Security Council issues Resolution 242,



*The wreckage of three planes that had been hijacked and blown up by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the Jordanian desert, in Sept. 1970.*

recognizing Israel's takeover of new territories as legal and entitling Israel to remain in Gaza and the West Bank until secure and peaceful borders are agreed upon between parties. Only then would Israel be obligated to return land.

Critics of Israel and Zionism interpret Resolution 242 as a requirement to cede all captured territory. The resolution's wording indicates that Israel need only withdraw from "territories captured in the recent conflict," rather than "all territories" or "the territories."

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Arthur Goldberg says in the U.N. Security Council discussions preceding the resolution's adoption: "Historically, there never have been secure or recognized boundaries in the area. Neither the Armistice Lines of 1949, nor the Cease-Fire Lines of 1967, have answered that description.

"The resolution speaks of

withdrawal ... without defining the extent of withdrawal."

**1970**

## Black September

Post 1967, PLO chief Arafat sets up guerrilla training camps and military bases in Jordan as a staging ground to terrorize Israel. Since 1948, Jordan has absorbed hundreds of thousands of Palestinian-Arabs fleeing Israel.

The 40,000-strong Palestinian-Arab armed fighting force develops into a state within a state in Jordan by 1970. King Hussein of Jordan narrowly escapes a succession of assassination attempts.

In early September 1970, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a Marxist-Leninist faction of the PLO, hijacks five planes, forcing three of them to land in the Jordan desert.

PFLP terrorists take hundreds of passengers and the flight crews hostage for a short time, demanding a prisoner exchange, and blow up three planes.

King Hussein responds by ordering his military of 50,000 to expel the Palestinian-Arab terrorists from Jordan.

After the deaths of 3,000 Palestinian-Arab combatants, Jordanian soldiers, and civilians, the Palestinian Wahdat camp, which functioned as the PFLP stronghold in Amman, was reduced to rubble.

On Sept. 27, 1970, a ceasefire is signed in Cairo. This period comes to be known as Black September.

Growing out of the defeat, the so-called Black September terrorist group is founded in 1970 as a branch of the PLO.

By July 1971, all Palestinian-Arab armed factions are banished and relocated to Lebanon. ♦♦



—/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



*Armed police officers, disguised as Olympic competitors, are seen on the roof of the Israeli housing in the Olympic village in Munich, Germany, on Sept. 6, 1972.*

**Sept. 5–6, 1972**

## Munich Olympic Massacre

In 1972, a team of 15 Israeli athletes travel to Germany to participate in the Olympics. On Sept. 5, after 10 days of Olympic Games, eight heavily-armed members of the Black September terrorist group storm the Olympic Village, murder two Israeli athletes, and take nine more as hostages, whom they brutally torture.

In exchange for the hostages, the group demands the freeing of hundreds of Palestinian-Arab terrorists from Israeli jails and the release of two members of the Baader-Meinhof gang, also known as the Red Army Faction, a communist terrorist organization in Germany.

Attempts by German authorities to deal with the hostage crisis fail. Multiple rescue attempts fall apart or are

abandoned. During Germany's final attempt, the terrorists murder all nine hostages.



**Oct. 6–25, 1973**

## Yom Kippur War

On the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, on Oct. 6, 1973, Egypt, Syria, and a coalition of other Arab states launch a devastating, multi-front surprise attack on Israel, nearly destroying it and puncturing the illusion of Israeli invincibility.

Outgunned, outmanned, and caught unaware, the first days of the fighting prove catastrophic for Israel's military.

The Egyptian army crosses the Suez Canal with tens of thousands of troops, to be met by only 411 Israeli reservists holding 17 Canal-side forts.

Initially, the United States doesn't supply Israel with ammunition, and Europe refuses to allow American supply planes to refuel in its territories.

After eight or nine days, Israel recovers militarily and is able to counterattack effectively.

After 19 days, on Oct. 24, 1973, Israel manages to penetrate deep into enemy territory and achieve victory. But it comes at a heavy cost, with 2,688 soldiers killed.

The Yom Kippur War is considered the greatest intelligence failure in Israel's history and a transformational event.

UN PHOTO/MICHOS TZOVARAS



**Nov. 10, 1975**

## UN General Assembly Resolution 3379

Israel's decision to side with America during the Cold War deals a blow to the Soviet Union, which in 1948 was the first country to recognize an independent Israel.

The Soviet Union turns toward its Arab enemies and Africa for support. The KGB, with the oversight of communist party ideologues, designs a massive, long-term delegitimization campaign

against the state of Israel, depicting the Jewish nation as a trojan horse for Western imperialism and colonialism.

On Nov. 10, 1975, after a failed first proposal in 1965, the United Nations passes Soviet-drafted and sponsored General Assembly Resolution 3379, which defines Zionism "as a form of racism and racial discrimination" and implies that a Jewish state is illegal.

Referred to as the "Zionism is Racism" resolution, it paves the way for demonization of Israel within the United Nations. The resolution is eventually revoked during the fall of the Soviet Union.

GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE OF ISRAEL/  
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**June 27–July 4, 1976**

## Plane Hijacking and Entebbe Raid

Two Arab terrorists from the PLFP and two German terrorists from the Revolutionary Cells board a plane operated by Air France flying from Tel Aviv to Paris during a stopover in Athens on June 27, 1976.

The terrorists hijack the plane and divert it to Benghazi, Libya, where it stops to refuel, offloads one passenger, and lands in Entebbe, Uganda. Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, who's openly supportive of the Palestinian-Arab cause, allows four more terrorists to board the plane.

The hijackers move the



hostages to a transit hall in the airport terminal and demand the release of 58 jailed Palestinian-Arabs and US\$5 million.

Over the next few days, the hijackers separate the Israeli and Jewish passengers from the others and release the latter, retaining 106 hostages in captivity, including 12 Air France crew members.

The deadline the hijackers give to the Israelis before they start killing hostages is extended after the Israeli government agrees to negotiate.

Israel asks the United States for diplomatic assistance. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, at the request of the United States, attempts to convince Amin and the terrorists to free the hostages, to no avail.

In the meantime, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) plans a rescue operation, the Entebbe raid, codenamed Operation Thunderbolt, which is led by the older brother of Benjamin Netanyahu, Yonatan Netanyahu, who's killed during the mission. All but three hostages are saved. Amin arrests 14 Ugandan soldiers under suspicion of collaborating with Israel and kills 12 of them.

**Jan. 7, 1978–  
Jan. 20, 1981**

## Islamic Revolution in Iran

Radical cleric Ruhollah Khomeini, living in exile in Paris, returns to rule Iran on Feb. 1, 1979, after a grassroots revolution deposes the Shah and forces him into exile on Jan. 16, 1979.

On Nov. 4, 1979, 52 U.S. diplomats and citizens are held hostage by Iranian Islamists at

the U.S. Embassy in Tehran for 444 days until their release on Jan. 20, 1981.

Iran, with Khomeini as its head, becomes a theocratic state with the aim of developing a nuclear weapon to “wipe Israel off the map.”

Iran eventually becomes the biggest state sponsor of terrorism around the globe, labelling America as the “Great Satan” and Israel as the “Little Satan.”

US GOVT. ARCHIVES



**Sept. 1978–  
March 26, 1979**

## Egypt–Israel Peace Treaty

In September 1978, Arab leader Anwar Sadat meets with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin at the U.S. presidential retreat, Camp David, where, under the auspices of U.S. President Jimmy Carter, terms of a treaty are ironed out. The prior Ford administration had suspended arms sales to Israel four years earlier to pressure Israel into a peace deal with Egypt.

The Egypt–Israel peace treaty is signed on the White House lawn on March 26, 1979.

Although the treaty gives Egypt back all of the Sinai Peninsula it had lost in the Six-Day War, it voids the 12-year-old Khartoum Resolution and provokes a virulent backlash from the Arab League, which expels Egypt from its membership.



—/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

*Demonstrators hold a poster of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini during a demonstration in Tehran, Iran, in January 1979.*

While the treaty lays the groundwork for diplomatic and commercial relations between the previously arch enemies, it becomes known as a “cold peace,” in which the Egyptian population as a whole aren’t generally accepting of peace with Israel.

Iraq, which was being built in collaboration with French and Italian companies. Israel is condemned for its attack, called “Operation Opera,” including by the United States.

Formal U.S. military aid to Israel is implemented, as opposed to loans and cash-on-delivery arms sales. The same treaty provides a comparable sum of U.S. military aid and arms to Egypt, which, for many years, is the second-largest recipient of U.S. foreign military financing, after Israel.

JOYCE BATTLE AND WILLIAM BURR/CC BY-SA 4.0



**June 7, 1981**

## Destruction of Iraqi Nuclear Reactor

Israel bombs the unfinished Osirak nuclear reactor in

ATEF SAFADI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



**Dec. 14, 1981**

## Israel Annexes Golan Heights

Israel passes the Golan Heights Law, effectively annexing the territory. However, this is a mere formality, as Israel took over the Golan Heights in 1967 during the Six Day War.

The Golan Heights, according to Israel and many military analysts, is strategic geographically in detecting and preventing attacks by malign actors, especially Hezbollah, north of the Jewish state. ➡



ISRAEL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



**Nov. 21, 1984–  
Jan. 5, 1985**

## Operation Moses

Israel, in collaboration with the United States and Sudan, rescues nearly 8,000 Ethiopian Jews from famine and civil war in Ethiopia in a covert seven-week operation. The Jews, also known as the Beta Israel, are airlifted to Israel.

MAGGIE AYALON/AFP FILES/  
AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



**1985**

## Operation Joshua

A U.S. operation continues the rescue of Ethiopian Jews stranded in Sudan after Sudan blocks Operation Moses following pressure from Arab nations.

**1991**

## Operation Solomon

Israel conducts 35 airlifts of Ethiopian Jews to Israel as Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam's regime collapses, leading to instability in the African country. Eight babies are born on the flights, and one of the flights breaks the world record for having the most passengers—1,122 passengers on a Boeing 747.

PATRICK BAZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



*Ethiopian Jews aboard an Israeli Air Force Boeing 707 during an airlift from Addis Ababa to Tel Aviv in 1991 as part of "Operation Solomon."*

FAYEZ NURELDINNE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



**1987–1988**

## Hamas Founding

Hamas, an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, is founded in late 1987 by Ahmed Yassin and six other Muslims. Hamas stands for "Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya," or "Islamic Resistance Movement."

Hamas's original charter, published in 1988, calls for the Jewish state to be eradicated and for Jews to be slaughtered everywhere. The charter states, "There is no solution for the Palestinian question except by Jihad."

It is designated a terrorist

organization by the United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and the Organization of American States.

FAYEZ NURELDINNE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



**1987–1993**

## First Intifada

After a false rumor spreads that the IDF deliberately murdered four Palestinian-Arabs in a Gazan refugee camp, Palestinian-Arabs respond with a series of terrorist attacks against both the Israeli military and civilian populations, killing roughly 200 Israelis and injuring more than 3,000. The IDF kills more than 1,100 Palestinian-Arabs.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS  
ADMINISTRATION



**Oct. 30–Nov. 11, 1991**

## Madrid Peace Talks

Following the Gulf War, Spain hosts a peace conference in Madrid. Sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union, the conference represents the first major direct peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians. The three-day Middle East conference attempts to revive Arab–Israel peace negotiations in the presence of U.S. President George W. Bush, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and representatives from Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, among other countries.



JONAS JORDAN/UNITED STATES  
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS



1990–1991

## Kuwaiti Expulsion of Palestinian-Arabs

In the summer of 1990, on the eve of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the tiny Gulf nation's Palestinian-Arab population is approximately 350,000.

Arafat and the PLO support Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and his invasion and occupation of Kuwait. This prompts Kuwait to persecute its Palestinian-Arab residents.

Iraqi soldiers and security forces harass Palestinian-Arabs, while thousands of workers are fired from their jobs. Within a single week in March 1991, in the aftermath of the Gulf War, more than 200,000 Palestinian-Arabs flee or are expelled from Kuwait.

## September 1993–1995 Oslo Accords

Led by Arafat for 35 years, the PLO promises to relinquish violence, recognize Israel, and negotiate for peace

In 1993, in Oslo, Norway, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Arafat sign the first agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians, known as the Oslo Accords.

Brokered by the United States under President Bill Clinton and witnessed

by the European Union, a critical component of the treaty separates the West Bank into three jurisdictions.

Area A is to be exclusively controlled, both for civil and security matters, by the Palestinian Authority. Area B is to be administered in all civil matters by the Palestinian Authority with peripheral security maintained by the Israeli government, and Area C is to be solely administered by Israel.

The agreement stipulates that the Oslo Accords can only be replaced if direct negotiations take place to determine the permanent fate of the territories that were occupied by Jordan until 1967.

In 1995, Arafat reneges on his Oslo commitments, stating, “We all seek the path of martyrdom, and in the name of the martyrs who are still alive, I say to the martyrs who have already given their lives: Our pledge remains, and we remain loyal to this pledge, to continue the revolution.”

PATRICK BAZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



## Feb. 25, 1994 Cave of the Patriarchs Massacre

Baruch Goldstein, an Israeli religious extremist, opens fire



J. DAVID AKE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

*U.S. President Bill Clinton (C) stands between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (L) and PLO leader Yasser Arafat (R) as they shake hands for the first time, at the White House in Washington on Sept. 13, 1993.*

on Muslim worshippers in the Ibrahimi Mosque at the Cave of the Patriarchs, killing 29 and wounding 125.

In ensuing rioting, 20 to 26 more Arabs and nine Jews are killed, including Goldstein. The attack is condemned at all levels of Israeli society, and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin calls it “a shame on Zionism and an embarrassment to Judaism.”

JACK GUEZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



As with the Egypt–Israel peace treaty of 1979 Egypt, this treaty is considered a cold peace between governments, not between people.

GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE OF ISRAEL/  
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## Oct. 26, 1994 Israel–Jordan Peace Treaty

Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and Jordanian King Hussein sign a formal peace treaty after maintaining de facto peace for 27 years.

Nov. 4, 1995

## Assassination of Rabin

Israeli ultranationalist Yigal Amir radically opposes Prime Minister Rabin for his Oslo peace initiatives with Arafat.

Rabin makes it clear in his last appearance before the Knesset, on Oct. 5, 1995, that he opposes the idea of a Palestinian-Arab state. However, Amir assassinates him in Tel Aviv on Nov. 4, 1995. ❖



**Oct.–Dec. 1998**

## Wye River Memorandum

The Wye River Memorandum is the second agreement between Israel and the Palestinian-Arabs to reinstate Oslo II, the 1995 Interim Agreement, which faltered due to Arafat's resistance to a controversial Jewish community planned in Har Homa, Jerusalem. With President Clinton's goading, the parties sign the memorandum on Oct. 23, 1998, at the White House.

The Wye River Memorandum outlines the next stage of Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, in which it is to relinquish 13 percent of the land—10 percent of which is to be turned over to Palestinian-Arab control and the rest to nature reserves.

In return, Arafat agrees to take measures to prevent acts of terrorism, to apprehend potential actors planning terrorist activities, and to punish those engaged in such endeavors.

Additionally, Palestinian-Arab police are to be reduced from 36,000 to 30,000 men and all illegal weapons confiscated. Arafat also agrees to ratify a January 1988 letter sent to President Clinton nullifying the provisions of the PLO Charter that call for the destruction of Israel.

Optimism over the Wye River Memorandum fades quickly due to Arafat's failure to live up to his commitments. Soon after signing, he announces his intention to unilaterally declare a Palestinian-Arab state. In response, on Dec. 20, 1998, Israel halts its implementation of the agreement until Arafat retracts his statement and demonstrates nonviolence.



*(L–R) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Houghton House during the Wye River Memorandum talks, on Oct. 16, 1998.*

STEPHEN JAFFE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



**July 11, 2000–Jan. 2001**

## Camp David Summit, the Clinton Parameters

In peace talks hosted by President Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak offers Arafat an independent state of Palestine, comprising 92 to 95 percent of the West Bank, all of Gaza, half of Jerusalem, and land swamps of Israeli territory to partially compensate for the remaining 5 to 8 percent of the West Bank.

Mr. Barak promises to evict hundreds of thousands of Jews living in what could become a Jew-free Palestinian-Arab homeland. In addition, the Palestinian-

Bandar bin Sultan, calls Arafat's rejection of the proposal a "crime."

**Sept. 29, 2000–Feb. 8, 2005**

## Second Intifada

Shortly after Arafat rejects the Clinton Parameters, he launches a campaign of terror against Israel, known as the Second Intifada, or al-Aksa intifada, in which daily suicide bombings, shootings, and other forms of violence take place in populated areas throughout Israel.

Arafat commands his people to defend their holy sites and take to the streets after Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon visits the al-Aqsa mosque.

For almost five years, suicide bombers easily cross into Israel from the West Bank and blow themselves up on buses and at cafes. One of deadliest attacks occurs on Aug. 9, 2001, when a suicide bomber detonates himself at the Sbarro pizza restaurant in downtown Jerusalem, killing 16 people.

DAVID SILVERMAN/GETTY IMAGES



*Israeli police and rescue workers surround the remains of a passenger bus shortly after it was blown apart in a suicide attack in Jerusalem on Jan. 29, 2004.*



The entire terror campaign takes the lives of thousands of Palestinian-Arabs and almost 2,000 Israelis.

The Israeli government installs checkpoints and a security barrier along its border with the West Bank, known as the Green Line. The barrier, which is 90 percent chain-link fence and 10 percent concrete wall, is successful in stopping 90 percent of terrorist attacks against Israelis.

—/PPO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



## Aug. 31–Sept. 8, 2001 World Conference Against Racism

In 2001, 5,000 officials from 1,500 organizations gather in Durban, South Africa, for an international nongovernmental organization (NGO) forum, sponsored by the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, to combat racism and xenophobia as well as to commemorate the struggle against apartheid.

Under the banner of human rights, members of NGOs heckle “Zionists” and prevent them from speaking. A poster is displayed throughout the conference picturing Adolf Hitler and the caption, “What would have happened if I had won? The Good Things. There would be no Israel and no Palestinian-Arab bloodshed. The rest is your guess.”

Language from Arafat’s speech at the conference is incorporated into a final declaration that states: “We

declare Israel as a racist, apartheid state in which Israel’s brand of apartheid as a crime against humanity has been characterized by separation and segregation, dispossession, restricted land access, denationalization, ‘bantustanization,’ and inhumane acts.”

The declaration recommends “a policy of complete and total isolation of Israel as an apartheid state, which means the imposition of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions and embargoes, and the full cessation of all links (diplomatic, economic, social, aid, military operation, and training) between all states and Israel.”

The conference revives the Palestinian-led Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement against Israel.

The United States delegation walks out of the conference in disgust.

SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES



## Sept. 11, 2001 Attack on United States

Nineteen al-Qaeda terrorists hijack four commercial airplanes and fly two into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, one into the Pentagon, while the fourth crashes in Pennsylvania.

LANCE CPL. MICHAEL R. MCMAUGH, 1ST MARINE DIVISION COMBAT CAMERA VIA GETTY IMAGES



*U.S. soldiers set up security after landing in the desert about 133 miles west of Baghdad, Iraq, on Sept. 21, 2005.*

The attack kills nearly 3,000 people and injures more than 6,000 in the deadliest foreign attack on U.S. soil.

Following the attack, celebrations break out in the Palestinian-Arab territories.

IDF SPOKESPERSON’S UNIT



## 2002 Battle of Jenin

In response to a slew of suicide bombings that leave 600 Israelis dead, the IDF goes into Jenin to rout out those involved.

Instead of surgical air strikes, to minimize civilian casualties, the Israeli soldiers go door to door in hostile areas to weed out the combatants and prevent civilian casualties. The IDF kills 52 to 56 Palestinian-Arabs, of which 40 are confirmed terrorists, and the

Israeli army loses 23 soldiers.

The world largely continues to view this event as a “massacre” and an act of Israeli aggression that resulted in the deaths of hundreds, or even thousands, of Palestinian-Arabs.

## March 19, 2003 Start of the Iraq War

The United States launches the Iraq War in response to intelligence that Hussein has weapons of mass destruction.

Hussein would target Israel with long-range missiles during the war, but the United States would persuade Israel not to respond in order to avoid spreading the conflict. ➡



TAKVER/CC BY-SA 2.0



## July 9, 2005 Establishment of the BDS Committee

The Palestinian Boycott Divest and Sanctions (BDS) National Committee is founded, and chapters proliferate throughout the Western World.

Although leaders of the BDS movement say it's modeled on boycotts of apartheid South Africa, critics say it's actually modeled on the 20th-century Arab boycotts of Jews.

YORAY LIBERMAN/GETTY IMAGES



## 2005 Gaza Withdrawal

In an effort to bring about peace, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon unilaterally withdraws all Jewish presence from Gaza. This includes the forced evacuation of 9,000 Israeli citizens from their homes and the removal of all security forces.

Israel leaves behind functioning assets such as greenhouses and industry infrastructure. However, marauding Arab hordes would destroy all of these income-producing assets.

ABID KATIB/GETTY IMAGES



## Jan. 25, 2006 Palestinian Legislative Election

Jan. 9, 2005 - Mahmoud Abbas, chairman of the PLO, is elected as President of the Palestinian Authority after Arafat's death.

Jan. 25, 2006 - An open election is held in Gaza and Palestinian-Arab voters, upset with the misgovernance and corruption of Fatah—the political party of the PLO—elect the terrorist group Hamas, which enjoys considerable funding from Iran and Qatar, and whose top commanders and fighters continue to train in the Islamic Republic.

One year later, Hamas violently purges Gaza of its political rivals and rules the Strip with an iron fist, in which dissent is crushed, women are violently suppressed, and religious freedom isn't tolerated.

Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, continues to cancel elections and has been in power for more than a decade, because of repeated polls suggesting that Hamas will win if an election is held in the West Bank. Mr. Abbas worked for the KGB in the Soviet Union in the 1980s, where he published his infamous, Holocaust-denying college dissertation.

MANDEL NGAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



## Nov. 27, 2007 Annapolis Conference

A forum in Maryland's capital seeks to relaunch Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. However, no agreement is reached.

## July 12–Aug. 14, 2006 2nd Lebanon War

By 2006, Hezbollah, which began as an Iranian-trained Shia militia group fighting in Lebanon, is now the most successful terrorist group in history and a direct instrument of the state, both a political party and the de facto ruler.

On July 12, 2006, the group crosses into Israel and kidnaps Israeli soldiers Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev. Hezbollah is caught unaware as the IDF reacts with great force, destroying Hezbollah's long-range missile stockpile and its headquarters in Dahieh, as well as its social institutions and the homes and offices of Hezbollah associates.

Ayatollah Khamenei of Iran encourages Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah to reject ceasefire conditions, and Qasem Soleimani, head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, travels to Lebanon to help manage the war; there, he stays in close

proximity to Mr. Nasrallah and reports to the Ayatollah on a daily basis.

Hezbollah and Israel battle to a military stalemate. The war strengthens Mr. Nasrallah's hold on the organization. He later admits that he made a mistake in kidnapping the two soldiers.

After the war, Hezbollah amasses more than 150,000 mostly Iranian-made rockets, aiming them at the heart of Israel.

PATRICK BAZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



## Dec. 27, 2008– Jan. 18, 2009 Operation Cast Lead

On Dec. 27, 2008, Israel begins a three-week military operation in which the IDF kills as many as 700 Hamas military or security operatives. Hamas embeds itself in the civilian population of Gaza, and media coverage largely condemns Israel.

The United Nations issues its famous Goldstone Report, which accuses the IDF of war crimes and possible crimes against humanity.

Though militarily defeated, Hamas leaders emerge from the warfare politically strengthened. Roughly 60 percent of the thousands of Palestinian-Arabs killed were actively engaged in combat.



YORAY LIBERMAN/GETTY IMAGES



Israeli soldiers cover their ears as a mobile artillery unit fires into south Lebanon at a position along the Israeli–Lebanese border on Aug. 8, 2006.

ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES/CC BY-SA 2.0



Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit calls his parents after arriving in Israel after being held in captivity by Hamas for five years, on Oct. 18, 2011.

## Oct. 18–December 2011 Gilad Shalit Prisoner Exchange

In June 2006, Hamas terrorists cross into Israeli territory, murder multiple IDF soldiers, and kidnap Gilad Shalit, a soldier who's kept hostage in Gaza for five years.

After an emotional campaign for his release, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agrees to free 1,027 incarcerated Palestinian–Arab terrorists in exchange for Mr. Shalit.

The terrorists include Hamas's current Gaza leader, Yahya Sinwar, as well as the architect of the 405 bus suicide attack that claimed the lives of 16 people, and Ahlam Tamimi, who had received 16 life sentences for planning the infamous Sbarro restaurant suicide bombing.

Upon her release, Ms. Tamimi meets privately with Hamas leader Khaled Mashal before flying to Jordan, where she's received as a hero.

Today, she resides in Jordan and works as a presenter for Hamas-affiliated TV.

URIEL SINAI/GETTY IMAG



## November 2012 Operation Pillar of Defense

During a 24-hour period, Palestinian–Arab terrorist groups launch more than 100 rockets at Israeli civilians, attack an Israeli military patrol jeep within Israeli borders, and set off an explosion near Israeli soldiers.

In response, the IDF launches Operation Pillar Defense, an eight-day campaign that kills Ahmed Jabari, then chief

of the Hamas military wing, and strikes more than 1,500 terrorist sites in the Gaza Strip.

During the operation, Islamic Jihad intensifies its rocket attacks, reaching Tel Aviv for the first time since the Gulf War. By the end of the war, six Israelis and more than 100 Palestinian–Arabs are killed.

ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES



## 2013–2014 Kerry–Obama–Led Talks

Secretary of State John Kerry, under the Obama administration, attempts to sponsor direct peace talks between the Israelis and Palestinian–Arabs.

Based on Ehud Olmert's 2008 framework, Mr. Kerry presents his plan to Mr. Netanyahu, which includes a \$4 billion investment package to the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Netanyahu says, “Yes, let's work on it.”

When President Obama asks the Palestinian Authority's Mr. Abbas to accept the plan, he responds, “I'll get back to you.”

There is never any formal follow-up. ➡



JACK GUEZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



## 2014 Operation Protective Edge

On July 8, 2014, Israel arrests hundreds of Hamas members in the West Bank following the abduction and murder of three Israeli teenagers from Gush Etzion in June.

Israel calls up roughly 80,000 Israeli reservists for Operation Protective Edge, which lasts for two months.

Hamas responds by launching thousands of rocket and mortar shells from Gaza toward Israeli civilian targets. Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system intercepts many of the attacks, causing Hamas to focus on using tunnels to kidnap Israelis and bring in weaponry.

SAID KHATIB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



## Sept. 2015–June 2016 Knife Intifada

Beginning in September 2015, Palestinian-Arabs carry out numerous stabbings and vehicular attacks against Israelis. The violence is triggered by a speech that Mr. Abbas makes, in which he repeats the accusation that Jews disrupt the status quo on the Temple Mount: “The Al-Aqsa [Mosque]

is ours, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is ours, and they have no right to defile them with their filthy feet,” he says.

“We welcome every drop of blood spilled in Jerusalem. This is pure blood, clean blood, blood on its way to Allah.”

Israel temporarily erects checkpoints and unmanned barriers in Jerusalem that had previously been dismantled during the six-month wave of violence dubbed the “knife intifada” or the “stabbing intifada.”

Hundreds of Israelis and Palestinian-Arabs are killed or injured, yet Palestinian-Arab officials refer to the uprising as “popular and peaceful.”

FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



## 2015 Nuclear Deal With Iran

The United States and other partners, called the P5+1, reach a deal with Iran for it to roll back its nuclear weapons program in exchange for sanctions relief.

Critics say the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is rife with problems and actually rewards the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism by legitimizing the production of Iranian nuclear weapons upon expiration of the sunset clauses.

In 2018, under President Trump, the United States withdraws from the JCPOA,

restoring the sanctions that, by the end of Trump's term, leaves the Iranian regime practically bankrupt, with only \$4 billion in foreign reserves.

When President Biden enters office, he waives the sanctions on Iranian oil sales, and today, Iranian foreign reserves are at \$70 billion. Biden is trying to bring the Iranians back into the JCPOA.

SAID KHATIB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



## 2018 Hamas March of Return

Palestinian-Arabs try to breach the border between Gaza and Israel and when they refuse to heed Israeli warnings, are shot. Hundreds of Palestinian-Arabs are killed by Israel during demonstrations that last more than a year.

## Dec. 6, 2017–2018 US Recognizes Jerusalem as Capital of Israel

President Donald Trump promises to implement the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, a law passed by Congress that has been ignored by presidents of both political parties. The Act orders the relocation of the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. President Trump signs a presidential proclamation on Dec. 6, 2017, and on May 14, 2018, the new embassy in Jerusalem opens.

Papua New Guinea, Honduras, Kosovo, and Guatemala also open embassies in Jerusalem, with several other countries announcing intentions to do so, including Serbia, Croatia, Moldova, Romania, the Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, and Malawi.

Also in 2018, the Trump administration shuttered the PLO office in Washington, which has been there since 1994, saying the PLO has still “not taken steps to advance the start of direct and meaningful negotiations with Israel.”

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES



*President Donald Trump holds a proclamation that the U.S. government will formally recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, at the White House in Washington on Dec. 6, 2017.*



SAUL LOEB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



package and political statehood, which includes all of Gaza, 70 percent of the West Bank, and additional territory from the South Negev.

Palestinian-Arab leadership reject the plan before it's released.

## June 22, 2019-Jan. 2020 Trump Peace Plan

Mr. Netanyahu and President Trump release the economic part of their peace plan, titled Peace to Prosperity, on June 22, 2019, followed by the political portion in late January 2020.

The plan offers Palestinian-Arabs a \$50 billion international aid

ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES



## 2020 Abraham Accords

Brokered by the Trump administration, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco normalize ties with Israel, signing the Abraham Accords.

The hope today is that Saudi Arabia will follow suit.

FATIMA SHBAIR/GETTY IMAGES



## May 10, 2021 Gaza War

Gazans attempt to breach the border with Israel, which responds with military action. The eviction of six Palestinian-Arab families in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah fuels a barrage of rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel, which responds with aerial strikes. The fighting ends in a ceasefire.

**Oct. 7, 2023**

## Hamas Massacre

Hamas commits the largest single-day massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, invading southern Israel and murdering roughly 1,200 people in Israel, while taking more than 200 hostages, including women, children, and the elderly.

Israel retaliates against Hamas, launching air and ground attacks in Hamas-controlled Gaza. ■



*Hadas Kalderon, whose children were taken hostage, breaks down in tears at the burnt out family home in Israel, on Oct. 30.*





רבע השנה  
לא איתנו  
הטור  
עוד לפני  
החורף  
עכשיו!

מתן אנגרסט  
(21)  
BRING HIM HOME NOW!  
RESCUE HIM AND HIS FAMILY

KIDNAPPED  
Ohad & Raz  
Ben-Ami  
54/57-year-old  
Israelis  
Kidnapped from  
their home by Hamas  
On October 7th, nearly 250 innocent civilians were abducted from  
Israel and taken into the Gaza Strip. These abductions include  
more than 1,000 women, men, and children. Many of the  
abducted are still in Gaza, and many are being held in  
prison. Please help bring them home alive.

אלה איתנו  
EYAL  
(8.5)  
BRING HER HOME NOW!  
RESCUE HER AND HER FAMILY

איתן  
אוהד  
BRING HIM HOME NOW!  
RESCUE HIM AND HIS FAMILY



# SPOTLIGHT

## March for Freedom

**A FOUR-DAY MARCH FROM TEL AVIV to Jerusalem, which started with a few hundred people, grew to thousands, and then tens of thousands in support of the families of around 240 hostages being held by Hamas, on Nov. 18.**

PHOTO BY ORI AVIRAM/MIDDLE EAST IMAGES/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES





# A YOUNG PALESTINIAN *WHO FOUND REFUGE* IN ISRAEL

DOR SHACHAR GREW UP AS Aiman Abu Suboh in a Muslim family of five in the Gaza Strip city of Khan Yunis. *At age 7, he was taught in school that he had to kill Jews.* At the age of 12 1/2, he ran away from home and lived on a construction site in Israel. In an interview with The Epoch Times in Israel, Mr. Shachar tells his story. ♡ By Oren Shalom





Dor Shachar ran away from his home  
in Gaza at age 12 to live in Israel.

PHOTO BY ALEX GUREVICH/EPOCH MAGAZINE ISRAEL





**DOR SHACHAR:** When I started school, in first grade, for about a month, they taught us to write letters in Arabic and read. After a month, they began teaching us to kill Jews. They told us at school, “It’s a great commandment to kill Jews because they took your land, and you will fight until the last drop of blood to regain the land.” They explained to us that the land includes Jaffa, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, the entire country of Israel, basically.

I knew Jews who came to the market [in Khan Yunis] to shop. It was a time when there was no intifada, nothing; it was absolute quiet.

They told us in school that Jews

have three legs, that they kill children, women, men, and the elderly. That once they were Muslims, but they turned into Jewish infidels, and the biggest commandment is to kill Jews. All the students in the class had to say, “In the name of religion, in the name of God, in the name of Mohammed of Islam—kill Jews.”

I refused to accept this. All the kids in the class say “Itbah al-ya-hud,” or slaughter the Jews. I asked the teacher to go to the restroom to wash my face because I really didn’t feel well, and I just wanted to get out of that place. In response, he slapped me and took me to the principal’s room, where he whispered something in his ear about me. The principal asked me to stand facing the

wall and hit me on the back with a rubber hose. Then he told me to ask my dad to come with me to school the next day.

The next day, my dad came to school for a meeting with the principal. After about 10 minutes, my dad entered the classroom. He started hitting me and said, “Yes! We need to kill Jews.”

My dad worked in Israel for 27 years. He made money, bought clothes, bought gifts—and he supported killing Jews.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** In 1987, at the age of 12-and-a-half, you traveled to Israel with your father?

**MR. SHACHAR:** We traveled on Sun-





Palestinian boys hold a gun belonging to a Hamas member, in Gaza City on June 14, 2021. From a young age, Palestinians are taught to hate Jews.

day and returned on Thursday. We slept the whole week in the country, and on Thursday, we would go back home to Gaza.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** After three months, you ran away in Israel?

**MR. SHACHAR:** I found a place to escape to in Israel and started working in security at construction sites at night.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** After you ran away, no one knew where you were? They didn't look for you?

**MR. SHACHAR:** That's exactly the point—they don't care. Children have no value there, in the Gaza

**“All the students in the class had to say, ‘In the name of religion, in the name of God, in the name of Mohammed of Islam—kill Jews.’”**

Strip. It's not like a Jewish child, if his mom doesn't see him for a second, she goes crazy.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** What happened after you ran away from your father?

**MR. SHACHAR:** After I ran away, I started working in security and later in construction in Israel. I worked in that industry for several years. The place where I worked was a neighborhood of villas in the final stages of construction. One day, a Jewish man came. I greeted him, and he asked me where my father was. I told him I didn't have a father. He went home and came back with hot soup, food, clothes, games, a stereo system, and a cassette of a famous singer in



Israel. I connected with him.

Two weeks before Passover, he moved to the villa neighborhood where I worked. He invited me to the Passover holiday, and I didn't know what that holiday was. He told me that the Jews were slaves in Egypt for 400 years and in the desert for 40 years and that God opened the sea for them, and the people of Israel crossed the sea, and all of Pharaoh's soldiers drowned in the sea. He said the Israelis are the "chosen people."

After hearing this, what came out of my mouth, even though I didn't know Hebrew, was: "I want to be Jewish" in Hebrew. He couldn't believe it. He asked me, "What do you want?" and then I repeated the same sentence. He told me, "No, no, no. A Jew remains a Jew, an Arab remains an Arab; you can't change your religion, that's how God created the world."

He didn't convince me. I went to the neighbors and asked them. They told me, "Yes, you can be Jewish." I went back to him and said, "Yes, I can be Jewish because I asked the neighbors." He said, "OK, we'll talk to the rabbis and everything will be fine."

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** You decided to convert to Judaism and went to Rabbi Avior Hai?

**MR. SHACHAR:** He told me, "OK, I'll convert you. I just need a letter from your family in Khan Yunis agreeing that I can convert you." At that time, I was already 16. I told the rabbi that if I contacted my family, they would simply kill me, so he told me to wait until I was 18.

When I was 17, a Palestinian from Gaza murdered a girl from Bat Yam [a city in Israel]. Following this, there was chaos between Jews and Arabs in

**"They tied me upside down. They submerged me in cold water, hot water, electric shocks. For about half a year. Every day the same thing."**

Jaffa and Bat Yam.

"The government decided to deport all Arabs working in the country to their homes in the Gaza Strip because there were no permits at that time; they would freely enter. After the murder of the girl, everything became

a mess, and the government decided to grant permits to work in Israel only to those aged 40 and above. Anyone below the age of 40 was forbidden to stay in the country. It meant that I became illegal.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** What did you do?

**MR. SHACHAR:** Every time the police came, I ran away so they wouldn't arrest me. When I turned 18, we went to Rabbi Avior Hai in Ramat Gan. The rabbi said: "Now we need approval from the state because there's a new law, and it doesn't suit you because those who receive approval are 40 and older. Anyone below that age, nothing can help him."

At the age of 19, I went to the police and said that I wasn't legal. They arrested me and took me to court. In court, I said that I had been in the country for seven years and that I wanted to convert. My adoptive father brought 250 signatures from the neighbors to show that they knew me and that I truly wanted to convert. But the judge didn't address it. He sentenced me to 45 days in prison plus 10 months of conditional release.

During the hearing before the judge, there were other Palestinians tied to me by our feet. We were linked to each other. They whispered in my ear, "Wait, wait, see what we will do to you."

I knew what they were capable of doing. They have one goal—to kill Jews. They took me to prison in Be'er Sheva [a city in Israel] with the other prisoners. I suffered severe beatings because the other prisoners were told that I wanted to become Jewish. The prison guards separated me and took me to a cell with the Jews. After prison, they deported me to Gaza.

They deported me toward the Erez Crossing. There, the Palestinian police—at that time it was Fatah, PLO—those who detonated in the first and second intifadas. They received me.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** What happened there?

**MR. SHACHAR:** They interrogated



A Palestinian terrorist, a member of the Islamic Jihad movement, drags a hooded Palestinian man, who's accused of being a spy for the Israeli military, through Gaza City on Nov. 5, 2006.





Israeli medics evacuate an injured woman from the site of a Palestinian suicide bombing in Jerusalem on Aug. 9, 2001.

me, asking what I had done in the past seven years in Israel. I told them, “I worked and guarded.” They asked, “What else?” I told them: “That’s it. That’s what I remember, there’s nothing more. That’s what I know.”

I really didn’t remember anything. It’s like someone took away all my memory. Before I underwent torture, I didn’t remember anything from my time in Israel. I had no memory, and it was good that way.

They tied me upside down, legs to the ceiling and head down. They submerged me in cold water, hot water, electric shocks, cut my hands, and beat me on the stairs with fists, with sticks, and with kicks with their legs. For about half a year. Every day the same thing.

The interrogators brought a board, placed it under the center, to my throat, pushed me against the wall, and lifted me up. I choked and passed out. They released me. And then again. That’s how it continued over and over.

Only after half a year, they told me that they heard that I was in court in Israel and that I said I wanted to be Jewish and everything that happened in court. At that moment, all the memories came back to me. If I had remembered it earlier, I would have confessed, and they would have given me the death penalty. What I believe is that the Almighty erased my memory during that time.

Then I told them, “No, I’m Palestinian, I’m proud.” I lied. They decided to put me under house arrest in Khan Yunis, in my family’s house.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** At this point, you see your family for the first time in seven years?

**MR. SHACHAR:** Yes. They told me, “You bring shame to the family, and if you respected the family, you would have killed several Jews.”

They told me that I wasn’t their son. They accepted me because they respected the Palestinian police, ♦





not me. They told me to sleep on the roof, so I wouldn't talk to anyone. For a month, I was on the roof.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** Did your mom also refer to you like that or just your dad?

**MR. SHACHAR:** For women there, it's forbidden to speak, forbidden to interfere.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** Meaning, your mom is there and doesn't say anything to you?

**MR. SHACHAR:** Nothing. My mom

didn't say anything to me. After a month, they kicked me out of the house. I was homeless in the streets of Khan Yunis. I encountered the Palestinian police, and they beat me. After a while, I started working at a construction site in Gaza. I saved money and escaped back to Israel.

But after two months, I was arrested again because I wasn't legal, and there was a conditional arrest against me. Again, they took me to court. I told the judge my entire life story. She listened and said, "I will release you, and I won't put you under conditional arrest." My adoptive father signed the bail, and they released me.

Since then, it took me seven years to get approval from the state to convert. After seven years, we applied to the Supreme Court, and they accepted my request. I became a religious Jew who observes Shabbat and fulfills commandments. I got drafted to the army.

Someone interviewed me for a TV program and asked, "If they send you to evacuate Israeli settlers, what will you do?" I answered that I was enlisting in the army to defend the country and its citizens and that I wouldn't evacuate any Israeli settlers or synagogues and I wouldn't remove any women and children from their



Sunset at the Wailing Wall and the Dome of the Rock in the Old City of Jerusalem, Israel.



homes. It's a big mistake to do that. After that, I received a call from the army saying that I was exempt and that they wouldn't enlist me.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** Are there others like you?

**MR. SHACHAR:** Where are they? The Jewish people have a very short memory. Some 150 years ago, before the establishment of the State of Israel, Palestinians murdered Jews and raped women. Then they developed organizations like Fatah, the PLO, Tanzim, and Islamic Jihad. What about them? Why do we only talk about Hamas?

**“If you eliminate Hamas, the Islamic Jihad will come. If you eliminate Islamic Jihad, another organization will come.”**

They're all Hamas, but they go by different names. They all killed Jews.

Now, if you eliminate Hamas, the Islamic Jihad will come. If you eliminate Islamic Jihad, another organization will come. For all these factions, no matter what their names are, they have one common goal, and that's us, the Israeli Jews. They don't know how to distinguish between left and right. They don't care.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** Why do we hear from the IDF spokesperson that there are many Palestinians who want to leave Gaza and Hamas won't let them? Are they all driven by the goal of killing Jews?

**MR. SHACHAR:** For the avoidance of doubt I'll say 1 percent. What we're witnessing is a religious war between Islam and Judaism. When we don't believe in Muhammad, we're considered infidels, and the punishment for infidels is death. We've seen where they've reached. They've reached Ofakim and Sderot (cities in Israel). Keep going like this, and within 10



Dor Shachar spent years trying to become an Israeli, suffering torture and imprisonment in Gaza along the way.

years, they'll also reach Tel Aviv, I believe even less.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** I'll ask this from a different angle. Let's say tomorrow Hamas is eliminated. Who will be the citizens left in Gaza in your view?

**MR. SHACHAR:** Islamic Jihad. It's a different name, but the goal is the same.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** What do you think is the solution?

**MR. SHACHAR:** The solution isn't to settle scores with everyone. We need to fix this, and if we don't, there will be another Noah's Ark, because God will erase those who don't know how to behave or how to be human.

In Israel, when someone dies, like what happened on Oct. 7, the whole country is in mourning. Everyone is crying. Everyone feels the same pain.

But with the people on the other side, it's not like that. They think, “My son is in prison, he is a hero.”

Do you see the difference? ■



# Kibbutz Resident Recounts Harrowing Hours Hiding in Her Safe Room

ADELE RAEMER SURVIVED 7 harrowing hours sheltering in her safe room on Oct. 7 as Hamas terrorists rampaged in her kibbutz a mile from the Gaza border. She says something in her and in many Israelis changed that day. *By Dan M. Berger*





**T**HOSE IN KIBBUTZ NIRIM have long endured the risks of living close to that frontier. They know that they only have about 10 seconds to get to the safe room in their homes once the sirens start to wail.

Then, the rockets start to fall.

“Horrific stories. I’m full of them,” Ms. Raemer told *The Epoch Times* in a telephone conversation from the Israeli city of Eilat, where she and her daughter’s family evacuated.

One man, hiding in his safe room and trying to hold the door closed to keep the terrorists out, was fatally shot through the door. Another man and his daughter were dragged out by terrorists and shot on the spot, according to Ms. Raemer.

A 75-year-old woman and her two adult sons were kidnapped.

“The terrorists used her phone and took pictures of her being abducted by a man with a rifle and sent it to her daughter. That’s how [the daughter] knew she was being abducted,” Ms. Raemer said.

“I’ll tell you: they’re barbarians. This is not an army. Armies don’t act this way. These are barbarians. Their only aim is to conquer, destroy, and colonize.”

Ms. Raemer, 68, who was born in the United States, had traveled to Israel for a youth program in 1972. A year later, she returned to the United States for college, but the Yom Kippur War broke out that October.

“I said, ‘What am I doing in America? Israel needs me.’”

She returned, was immediately drafted, did her military service in Kibbutz Nirim, and stayed.

On Oct. 6, the kibbutz had a big party to celebrate its 77th anniversary, Ms. Raemer said. Her daughter also lives there with her husband and three chil-

dren, and her 33-year-old son was visiting.

On Oct. 7, they were awakened by air-raid sirens and the sound of massive rocket fire at about 6:30 a.m. and retreated to their safe room. At about 7 a.m., the kibbutz sent a notification that terrorists were on site.

Most Israeli homes near frontiers have safe rooms now, although they don’t have locking doors, so someone hurt inside during a rocket attack can be rescued.

“They are built to be safe against rockets, not infiltrators,” Ms. Raemer said.

The army was notified that the kibbutz was under attack. Overwhelmed with reports, they took seven hours to arrive.

“For seven hours, we were alone, with terrorists rampaging through the kibbutz,” she said.

The kibbutz has trained, armed first responders—who killed some terrorists—but there weren’t enough of them, according to Ms. Raemer.

Not all of the first responders could go out and fight. Ms. Raemer’s son-in-law, separated from her daughter, had to stay behind with their three daughters.

“Thank God he could not leave the house to join the team. Because when the terrorists tried to enter his house, he went outside the safe room,” she said. “He closed the door. Behind it was where the girls were. And he shot the terrorists that infiltrated his house.” ♦



Adele Raemer in the pomegranate grove of Nir Oz, Israel, where a friend lives.



(Left) Israeli soldiers stand near the covered bodies of killed civilians, in the southern city of Sderot on Oct. 7. An estimated 1,200 Israelis were killed in the attacks by Hamas.

(Right) Hamas terrorists abduct an Israeli civilian from the Kfar Azza kibbutz into the Gaza Strip on Oct. 7.





Large blood stains on a child's bunk bed and sheets inside a safe room, as seen through the window, in a kibbutz near the border with Gaza in Nir Oz, Israel, on Oct. 19.

Ms. Raemer and her son remained in her safe room and had been told via the kibbutz's text message system that under no circumstances should they leave it. At one point, she heard Arabic shouting outside.

At some point, she couldn't avoid going to the bathroom and crept out of the safe room.

"I saw the slats on my window were busted because they tried to get in," Ms. Raemer said.

"I don't know why they gave up so easily—if it was dumb luck or divine intervention or my husband looking over me."

At about 2 p.m., they were informed that the army had arrived and was hunting down the terrorists to clear the kib-

butz. While nine terrorists were killed there, at the time, they didn't know how many were there. Security cameras later showed that about 50 had infiltrated, although not all of them were armed.

"Some of them came just to loot and plunder," Ms. Raemer said. "They went into people's houses. They went into one woman's house. She's over 90, and she had a foreign worker who's her caregiver. They demanded money.

"She gave them money, and they took things and left.

"Other houses, they went in and they smashed things up. They stole whatever they could. They shot up cars. They slashed tires. Anything, just to destroy."

One young woman was alone in her safe room, she said. She held the door

closed with both hands so they couldn't get to her.

"They decided to smoke her out. They set fire to her apartment," Ms. Raemer said.

The woman was on the phone with her mother, who advised her to crack the window to let in fresh air.

The steel door got so hot from the fire burning outside that she had to wrap the handle in a pillowcase to keep holding it closed against the intruders, she said. The first responders finally rescued her.

Ms. Raemer is particularly distraught over a friend who was out for her daily early morning walk through the fields. Judy Weinstein Haggai, 70, and her husband were outdoors at 6:30 ♦

FROM LEFT: ALEX J. ROSENFIELD/GETTY IMAGES, AMIR LEVY/GETTY IMAGES





People take refuge in a shelter  
as sirens blare, in Tel Aviv,  
Israel, on Oct. 7.





Hamas terrorists abduct an Israeli civilian, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, on Oct. 7.

a.m. when the rockets started flying overhead.

"She took a picture of a rocket in the sky," Ms. Raemer said. "That was the last contact we had with her."

Later, she learned that Ms. Haggai and her husband were among the missing.

"She was an English teacher, like me," Ms. Raemer said. "She works with special education students especially. She taught English through puppetry. She taught mindfulness. This is the sweetest, kindest, funniest soul you ever want to meet. She was certainly the first one who would want to sit down with people and make peace and make people happy."

"These animals took her."

Ms. Raemer and her son evacuated with other kibbutzniks to the community's members' lounge in the afternoon, after the army told them it was safe to move. There, they spent an uncomfortable, crowded night. Some were dispersed to other safe buildings, also protected by the army, at about 9 p.m. as the rocket barrage resumed.



Gunshots and blood stains on a door and walls of a house where civilians were killed days earlier in an attack by Hamas terrorists, in a kibbutz near the border with Gaza in Kfar Aza, Israel, on Oct. 10.

The next day, they were escorted, a few families at a time, back to their homes to pack small bags. They walked via a circuitous route.

"I understood afterward it was because there were all these terrorist bodies that they hadn't cleaned up yet, and they didn't want us to see it," Ms. Raemer said.



"They didn't want us exposed to that."

When she went to pack, she called a first responder to check her attic, where she kept her suitcase.

"He went up with his gun and checked it out to be sure there weren't any terrorists hiding up there," Ms. Raemer said.

"There are people in my kibbutz who don't have a home to go back to."

Loading the buses was harrowing. It took a long time.

"I was in that bus for about 40 minutes. That in itself was petrifying, because you never know when there's going to be an incoming rocket," she said. "With zero to 10 seconds (to get to safety), if we're sitting on the bus when there was a rocket, there's no way we could get out of there in time."

They departed on four buses at about 1 p.m. on Oct. 8.

The main highway serving their community "was a war zone," but the buses had no other way out.

"There were burning cars on the side," Ms. Raemer said. "I saw charred bodies and tanks driving by. We heard artillery. We were evacuated under fire. It was petrifying.

"I was sure this was the end. I was sure I would not live to see another sunrise."

A four-hour journey took them to Eilat, the port on Israel's southern tip. She and her daughter's family are now staying in a hotel.

"I've lived in the kibbutz since 1975," Ms. Raemer said. "I've never feared for my life like I did that day, those two days."

She said her outlook and those of many people she knows have changed permanently.

"The Israel of today and tomorrow will not be the Israel of three days ago," Ms. Raemer said. "Our DNA has been changed by this horrific massacre.

"I consider myself left-center [politically]. And I'm talking [now] like far right-wing extremists to my [own] ears, but we have to learn our lesson."

She, for one, thinks Israel must end the "knock on the roof" policy.

When targeting buildings in Gaza with Hamas members inside—and Hamas routinely uses human shields this way, which is a war crime under the Geneva Conventions—the military drops a light explosive, the 'knock on the roof,' and sends text messages telling residents

they've got 10 minutes to get out. The terrorists usually leave with them.

"I'd say, no more knock on the roof. If you live in a building that has Hamas offices, you're taking your life in your hands," Ms. Raemer said.

"I mean, no more Mr. Nice Guy.

## "I'd say no more knock on the roof. If you live in a building that has Hamas offices, you're taking your life in your hands."

Adele Raemer, local resident

"These are people who carry out random acts of violence and hate and terror and don't care if you're a foreign worker or a Jew. If you're in Israel, you're fair game to slaughter, to massacre as brutally as possible.

"And they're so proud of it. They take pictures. I mean, they're totally like the Nazis, who kept track of all the names, of all the people, everything was so documented.

"These are not people anybody can

make peace with. This is ISIS, Iran-proxied ISIS.

"Nobody in their wildest nightmares could have conceived of what happened."

She said her heart goes out to innocent Gazans for what they're enduring, which will likely get far worse.

"I know they want to live as good neighbors," Ms. Raemer said. "But their leadership leads them a different way."

She cited the well-publicized incidents of Gazan children who, for their end-of-school-year play, dress up as Hamas fighters capturing Israeli soldiers.

"That's how they educate them," Ms. Raemer said. "They teach their children to hate us. And those are the terrorists that were in my kibbutz two days ago. They've been training them like this for two decades since Hamas took over in 2005. That's what they've been teaching them to do."

She doesn't know what the prospects are for her kibbutz rebuilding. Many people lost their homes.

"I can't see people going back there until something has been done to sufficiently neutralize the threat from Gaza," Ms. Raemer said. "Because the country has to finish this off properly. Because if not ... the region where I live is finished.

"You can't keep running away from borders because then the border keeps getting smaller and smaller and smaller, and there's no place left to run." ■



A phone displays footage released by Hamas showing three hostages—Rimon Buchshtab Kirsht, 36; Danielle Aloni, 44; Lena Trupanov, 50—purportedly held in captivity in Gaza, on Oct. 30.







SPOTLIGHT

## Ruins of War

**BUILDINGS DESTROYED BY ISRAELI AIR strikes in the Jabalia camp in Gaza City on Oct. 11.**

PHOTO BY YAHYA HASSOUNA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES





Smoke ascends over the northern Gaza Strip following an Israeli strike, amid the ongoing battles between Israel and Hamas, in a picture taken from the southern Israeli city of Sderot on Oct. 25.

PHOTO BY RONALDO SCHEMIDT/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES





# Stranded in Israel as War Starts

QUIGG LAWRENCE, an Anglican bishop, and his wife, Annette, had the misfortune to fly into Israel on Oct. 7, the day that Hamas terrorists began their massacre of Israeli civilians

✦ *By Dan M. Berger*

**A**FTER ARRIVING A DAY OR two early to prepare for a church tour they had planned to lead, the couple from Virginia spent the rest of that day sorting things out before finally canceling the tour.

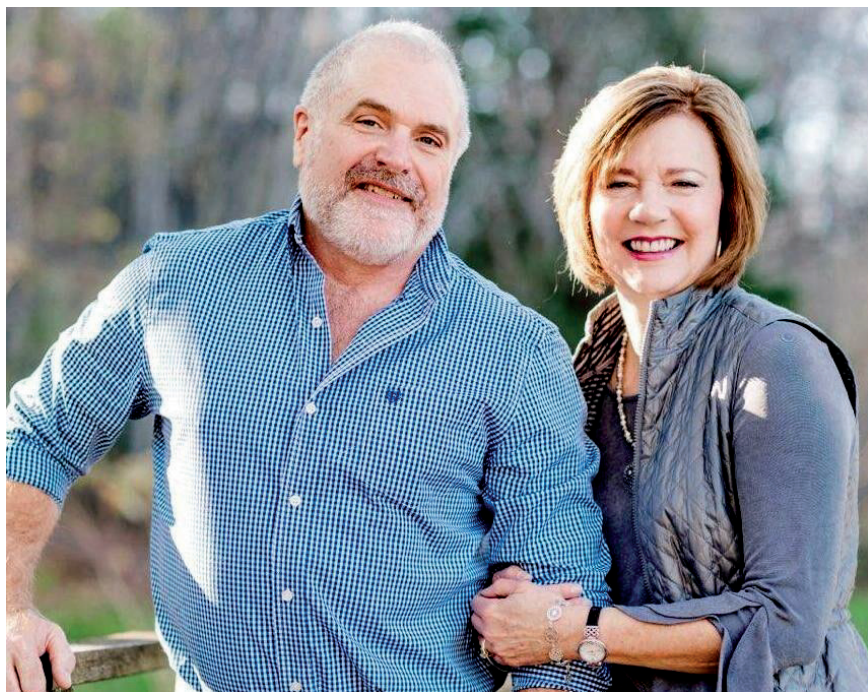
To try to ensure their safety, they called the U.S. Embassy for guidance. They were appalled, they said, that when they asked for shelter, they were rejected by embassy personnel. They didn't help the Lawrences arrange to leave the country and even refused to give them the embassy's address in Jerusalem, Bishop Lawrence told The Epoch Times.

He didn't expect that treatment ✦



Bishop Quigg Lawrence and his wife, Annette Lawrence, were stranded in Israel when Hamas attacked on Oct. 7.





Keith and Kathy Martin of Roanoke, Va., arrived in Israel on Oct. 7, with Quigg and Annette Lawrence for a church tour that was subsequently canceled.

from the embassy, he said. He's the suffragan bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Christ Our Hope, which includes about 40 congregations in Virginia and North Carolina.

"I've traveled all over the world as a pastor and bishop," he said. "I've watched too many movies. You run to the embassy, they open the doors, and you're safe."

State Department officials didn't respond to a request for comment from The Epoch Times.

The Lawrences said they spoke with U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-Va.), who represents their Roanoke district; he told them he had heard of other such complaints.

"I am so thankful Bishop Lawrence and his wife were able to safely get out of Israel," Mr. Griffith told The Epoch Times in an email. "Before and after my conversation with Bishop Lawrence, I have heard from a number of my colleagues about other situations where the State Department was not helpful."

The Lawrences were preparing to lead a tour of more than 30 people from four countries and eight states, including an Anglican archbishop from Rwanda and a retired cleric from Nigeria. They flew into Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport on Air France, landing at about 11 a.m. local time, a few hours after the

Hamas attack had begun.

Their flight didn't have Wi-Fi, Bishop Lawrence said, so they were unaware of the situation.

After they landed, he said, his phone blew up with word of the massacre that included children and the elderly.

Their friends, Keith and Kathy Martin, also from Roanoke, who arrived 90 minutes after the Lawrences, already knew the situation. Their flight did have Wi-Fi, and they had been sitting next to an Israeli with intelligence ties who'd spent the whole flight on his phone.

The airport itself seemed calm when they entered. Customs was almost vacant, Bishop Lawrence said, which he found strange, since he was familiar with Israel's strict security there and elsewhere. The Lawrences had made two previous trips to Israel.

"As the day went on, people were getting more and more frightened. They were hearing stories about loved ones. Israel is so small, it's like a small town. Everyone knows your business. Everyone knows someone who was killed or kidnapped," Bishop Lawrence said.

"I saw a deep sadness."

He initially told his group, most of whom were preparing to leave, that the tour would go ahead. On the afternoon of Oct. 7, they considered altering the tour to accommodate late-arriving group members, condensing it, or delaying its start, although many airlines had begun canceling flights. By dinner time, it was clear that the tour would have to be canceled.

They went to dinner, served buffet-style at their beachfront hotel in Netanya, north of Tel Aviv, with many large Orthodox families in attendance. He said that as they were finishing, around 7:30 p.m., "two bombs exploded directly overhead."

"We all ran down the stairwells to the safe room in the basement. There was pandemonium. There was screaming. Kids were screaming, speaking a language we didn't know."

When they got to the basement, they found a small group of about a dozen men who were conducting a religious service, to mark the beginning of the Jewish holiday Simchat Torah. It celebrates the completion of the annual cycle of Torah reading and the start of the next one.



Jewish men conduct a Simchat Torah service in a hotel basement in Netanya, Israel, during an air raid on Oct. 7.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF KEITH MARTIN, COURTESY OF BISHOP QUIGG LAWRENCE





Ben Gurion Airport on Oct. 9, after the Hamas terror attack and the beginning of the Israel-Hamas War.





Exterior of the U.S. Embassy building in the Israeli coastal city of Tel Aviv on Jan. 20, 2017.

“The men just kept doing their thing, like nothing was happening. Everyone else was freaking,” Bishop Lawrence said.

The crowd finally calmed down, and after an hour, the hotel told them they could return to their rooms.

It was a sleepless night, he said. They heard bombing intermittently. They heard helicopters and jets nearby. Rumors circulated that Hamas was attacking from the sea, and the hotel was right on the beach in Netanya.

Mr. Martin contacted him at around 5 a.m. on Oct. 8, saying he’d been trying to book flights out. Mr. Martin had clicked on a link he thought took him to United, Bishop Lawrence said, although perhaps because of a lack of sleep, he ended up talking to a fly-by-night travel agency.

Over the next few hours, the agent assembled a complex itinerary—four legs, beginning with an Ethiopian Airlines flight to Addis Ababa, connecting to Dublin, Chicago, and then Roanoke; the trip would take them 46 hours.

“The guy was an angel and a devil in the same package,” Bishop Lawrence said.

The tickets came to \$1,336 for each of the four of them, which took seven credit cards between them to cover. The two couples, who were eventual-

ly charged more than \$17,000 by the agent who inflated the bill by \$12,000, are now disputing the charges, Bishop Lawrence said.

On Oct. 8, they called the embassy.

“They said, ‘Fill out this form.’ I said: ‘Come on, man. It’s a war zone. Fill a form out?’”

They asked if they could come to the embassy, he said. They were refused, and the staff member wouldn’t even tell

them where the embassy was located.

Bishop Lawrence was unimpressed.

“Why pay for an embassy when they won’t respond to the needs of their citizens?”

The day passed uneventfully. He and his wife left the hotel for lunch and found a café where Israelis were eating.

“No one seemed uptight.” However, Bishop Lawrence suspected that something lay beneath the calm.

“I’m a former paramedic,” he said. “In stressful situations, some people panic and scream. Others get stoic, like the shock of everything, the brain is trying to figure out how to assimilate.”

Their expensive flights home, including two lengthy layovers, were uneventful.

He said he remains dismayed over the treatment by the embassy.

“We wrote off the embassy,” Bishop Lawrence said. “It was apparent to me ... that they were not going to do anything. Nada. Zip.”

He noted that, by contrast, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis mobilized the state government to evacuate Floridians free of charge, more than 700 as of this writing.

“It’s no joke that DeSantis makes [President Joe] Biden look incompetent by comparison.” ■



Annette Lawrence, wife of Anglican Bishop Quigg Lawrence, is greeted by her grandchildren when she and her husband arrive in Roanoke, Va., upon returning from Israel.



# Moment of Respite

**A FATHER IN RESERVE DUTY HOLDS** his children near a rest stop in southern Israel on Nov. 13.

PHOTO BY ALEXI J. ROSENFELD/GETTY IMAGES





# DEI MEASURES ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES HAVE FUELED IDEA OF ISRAELI 'OPPRESSION'



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION ideology is used as a tool to ignite protests, with pro-Palestinian factions having ties to Marxist organizations in America

*By Darlene McCormick Sanchez*





**A** WILD JUMBLE OF emotions runs through Jewish college student Keren Binyamin's head nowadays—a mix of terror, outrage, and determination.

At the University of Maryland, she has seen what began as peaceful pro-Palestinian protests devolve into gatherings that exude seething anger.

It's a phenomenon erupting on college campuses across the country.

Experts say what's propelling the rage-filled pro-Palestine demonstrations isn't just a reaction to the Israel–Hamas war. That conflict began after the terrorist group Hamas, based in Gaza, came across the border into Israel on Oct. 7 to brutally murder 1,200 civilians and carry off more than 200 hostages. ♦♦

Protesters hold signs in support of Palestine “resistance” during a rally at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., on Oct. 14.

PHOTO BY JOSEPH PREZIOSO/AFP  
VIA GETTY IMAGES





Students participate in a rally and vigil in support of Israel in response to a neighboring Pro-Palestinian student rally at Columbia University, in New York, on Oct. 12.

Many voicing opposition to Israel now blame it for the attack. They call Israel an “oppressor” nation.

It’s the same way Marxists view the United States.

And that’s what’s causing the sudden rise in violent rhetoric and actions, according to some experts. They blame diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) ideology for the rapidly spreading anti-Israel sentiment.

“I think that’s what we’re seeing—the protests in support of Hamas on college campuses and against Israel—are clearly linked to DEI,” said Sherry Sylvester, a distinguished senior fellow at the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

Palestinian student groups have marched with signs calling for the end of Israeli “occupation” of Palestine’s land and accusing Jews of colonizing Gaza. Anti-Israeli protests have become in-

creasingly aggressive.

Protesters echo the same ideology of the DEI programs, classes, and rhetoric that has infiltrated institutions of higher learning worldwide. But behind it all is Marxism, some experts have said.

The presence of DEI—an offshoot of Marxism—on campuses has created a “distorted, ugly, hateful culture,” Ms. Sylvester said.

No matter what’s fueling these emotional expressions of hate, the result is chaos and a sense that danger is increasing, students told The Epoch Times.

Ms. Binyamin recalled an intense fear that shook her when she saw about 300 fellow students chanting anti-Israel slogans and support for Palestine on campus. Angrily, they shouted for an uprising against Jews.

“I was terrified in that moment to hear the anger and the hate in their voices as

they called for ‘One solution, intifada revolution,’” she told The Epoch Times.

Intifada refers to attacks against Israel in retaliation for what Palestinians consider to be the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. “One solution” alludes to wiping out the nation of Israel so Palestinians can occupy “from the [Jordan] River to the [Mediterranean] Sea.”

Ms. Binyamin said she saw where Palestinian protesters scrawled in chalk on campus walkways the words “[expletive] Israel” and “Holocaust 2.0.”

It was a chilling sight for her and her peers, she said.

But Ms. Binyamin has vowed to swallow her fear and speak against the tide of anti-Semitism she’s witnessing firsthand.

She’ll stand strong, she said, even as her campus newspaper writes about the Palestinian protests without mention



# THE PRESENCE OF DEI—AN OFFSHOOT OF MARXISM—ON CAMPUSES HAS CREATED A ‘DISTORTED, UGLY, HATEFUL CULTURE,’ MS. SYLVESTER SAID.

of the violence and even as online comments are supportive of the protests.

Ms. Binyamin won't waver when people make snarling remarks about empty chairs set out to represent hostages held by Hamas, even when Palestinian supporters say that if chairs were set out to represent the dead in Gaza, they would need many more.

The anti-Israeli, anti-American sentiment prevalent within her generation doesn't surprise her. Classes on campus are taught through a lens of critical theory, she said.

Critical theories—which include DEI ideology—involve neo-Marxist thinking that substitutes race, gender, or identity groups for what was known as “class struggle” in traditional Marxism. It also promotes “fighting racism” with purposeful discrimination against people seen as “oppressors.”

The Democratic Socialists of America put out a statement recently in support of Hamas. Black Lives Matter (BLM) did too.

“BLM posted something like ‘We support our Palestinian brothers and sisters,’” Ms. Binyamin said. “And the image they chose to use was someone paragliding, like how Hamas came into Israel.”

She attended a Jewish rally in Washington on Nov. 14. With about 250,000 participants, it was a human sea of unity, she said. American flags flew beside Israeli flags. Christians attended in support of Jews.

But when Ms. Binyamin sees the pro-Palestinian protests, American

flags are absent, she said, unless they're being burned.

“They're like the Bolsheviks of 1917,” she said of her generation.

They think they're fighting for a better world with “idealistic notions” but a “loose grasp on reality and the true facts of history,” according to Ms. Binyamin.

Jewish students across the country have witnessed the bewilderingly rapid escalation in hateful rhetoric and aggressive demonstrations.

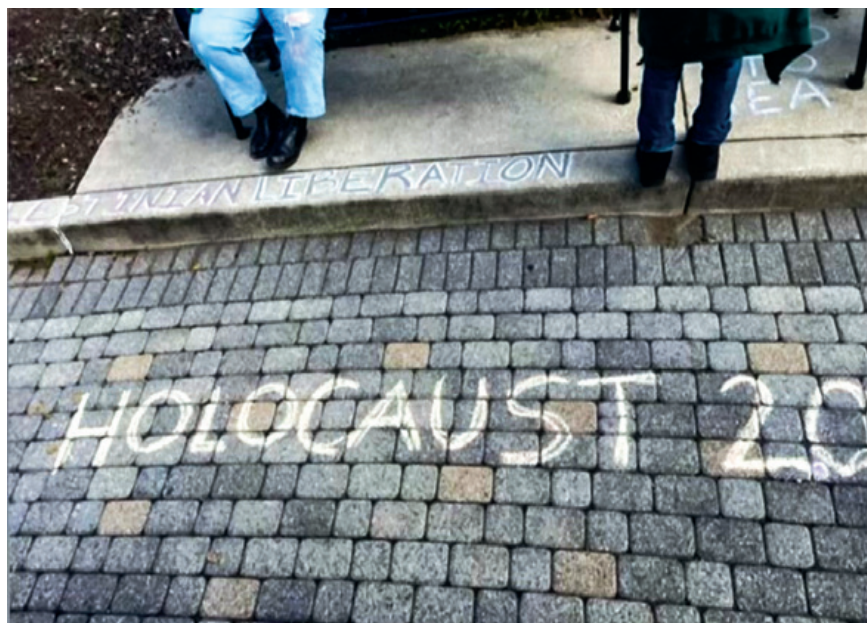
At Cornell University, a junior was

arrested on Oct. 31, accused of making online threats against Jewish students. Patrick Dai, an engineering student, allegedly threatened to shoot up a dining hall that caters to Jewish students, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York.

“In another post, Dai allegedly threatened to ‘stab’ and ‘slit the throat’ of any Jewish males he sees on campus, to rape and throw off a cliff any Jewish females, and to behead any Jewish babies,” the statement reads.

At The Cooper Union, a private college in New York, Jewish students were locked inside the school's library for their safety last month. Video footage posted on YouTube shows a mob of Palestinian protestors who moved past a security checkpoint and began beating on the library doors.

And on Nov. 10, two Jewish students attending Ohio State University were punched in the face near campus after being asked by two males whether they were Jews. Campus police said the incident is being investigated as a hate crime.



Campus police at the University of Maryland are investigating the origin of an anti-Jewish message left after a pro-Palestinian protest. During protests, anti-Israel slogans such as “One solution, intifada revolution,” have been heard.



## The Link to DEI

With DEI being taught on most college campuses, the violence comes as no surprise, experts told *The Epoch Times*. DEI ideology teaches students that the United States is a racist, colonizing nation. Its allies, such as Israel, are too, DEI proponents insist.

Those promoting DEI ideology accuse Western countries of stealing land from indigenous people, who are “oppressed.”

They say DEI measures are needed to right the wrongs of past generations of white Americans who discriminated against minorities. They speak of white people who wield their “white supremacy” and “white privilege” to the detriment of “marginalized groups.”

Measures that will help right such wrongs include hiring people based on skin color, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, they say.

Some on the political left say atoning for the United States’ sins should include reparations to minorities and giving back land “stolen” from Native Americans.

Ms. Sylvester considers that thinking to be like that of a cult. And it’s been exposed as such by the recent violence, she said.

“It’s really lifted the veil of the cult that’s on our campuses,” she told *The Epoch Times*.

Ms. Sylvester, a political communications expert, pointed to recent large protests at the University of Texas and other campuses as evidence of Marxist DEI incubators.

On Nov. 12, student groups helped organize a massive pro-Palestinian protest in Austin, Texas, according to the University of Texas student newspaper.

Some 10,000 pro-Palestinian protesters marched on the state Capitol on Nov. 12 and railed against both Republicans and Democrats for helping Israel in its war against Hamas.

The *Epoch Times* asked the office of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, about the demonstration.

Governor’s office spokesman Andrew Mahaleris said: “Governor Abbott condemns heinous acts of violence and inhumanity against Israel and its people by ruthless terrorists, and we stand



Rep. Cori Bush (D-Mo.) at Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington on March 12, 2021. According to Ms. Bush, during the Ferguson protests, Palestinian groups educated BLM members on how to deal with tear gas.

ready to offer our complete support to the Israeli and Jewish communities. Texas will always stand with Israel and our Jewish neighbors here at home and across the world.”

## THE SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP BLACK LIVES MATTER, FOUNDED BY SELF-DESCRIBED ‘TRAINED MARXISTS,’ WAS AFFILIATED WITH PALESTINIAN GROUPS FROM THE START, MR. JACOBSON SAID.

### Stopping the Spread

The best way to stop DEI’s negative effects on campuses is for donors and state legislators to pull funding from universities that continue to promote DEI, according to Ms. Sylvester. The red states of Texas and Florida have passed anti-DEI legislation that doesn’t allow it in institutions of higher learning.

But a national effort is needed, she said.

“There’s always been a huge anti-Semitic strain running through Marxism ... because of the suspicion of hard work, entrepreneurial success,” Ms. Sylvester said.

Israel is seen as an outpost of the Western civilization that cultural Marxists oppose, she said.

Those now protesting against Israel are some of the same groups that have been protesting in the name of social justice related to race and LGBT issues, according to Ms. Sylvester.

That irony wasn’t lost on comedian Bill Maher, who recently mocked a “Queers for Palestine” sign held at a campus rally. Homosexuality is forbidden in many Middle Eastern cultures. In those societies, gays often are executed.

A guest on the comedian’s show, journalist James Kirchick, followed up with, “Did you hear [about] their sister organization, Blacks for the KKK?”

### Joining Forces With Marxists

William Jacobson, a clinical professor at Cornell Law School, called on the Cornell Board of Trustees to reevaluate the university’s DEI initiatives after fellow professor Russell Rickford said he was “exhilarated” by the Hamas attack.

Mr. Rickford later apologized for his



choice of words and took a leave of absence amid demands for his dismissal.

When asked whether the university intends to reexamine DEI measures on campus, a spokeswoman referred The Epoch Times to a statement by university President Martha Pollack. It states that the school's DEI programming needed to be enhanced to fight anti-Semitism.

The school missed the point, Mr. Jacobson told The Epoch Times.

"The whole DEI structure is the problem," he said. "You can't cure that structure by throwing a bone to the Jewish community."

Mr. Jacobson said he has been sounding the alarm against DEI and CRT for years.

"We started an entire website, CriticalRace.org, to document the deep penetration of critical race theory in its various incarnations, including diversity, equity,

and inclusion," he said.

The idea is to racialize the conflict between Hamas and Israel by putting Israelis into the "white" category, Mr. Jacobson said.

Using race as a divisive force was successful in 2020 after the death of George Floyd, a black man who died while being taken into custody by white officers.

The social justice group BLM, founded by self-described "trained Marxists," was affiliated with Palestinian groups from the start, Mr. Jacobson said. Its rise in prominence began after a white police fatally shot Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014.

During the protests that followed the shooting, Palestinian groups educated BLM members on how to deal with tear gas, according to U.S. Rep. Cori Bush (D-Mo.), who's affiliated with BLM.

Mike Gonzalez, a fellow with The

Heritage Foundation who writes about identity politics, agreed that pro-Palestinian factions have ties to BLM in the United States.

During riots after Mr. Brown's killing, Palestinian groups signed a statement saying they backed the black revolutionary movement's fight against the "supremacist system that rules the land."

Mr. Gonzalez told The Epoch Times that, oddly, Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, is painted as the oppressor of Hamas, a terrorist group that murders civilians.

Karl Marx, who first outlined his philosophies in 1848 in "The Communist Manifesto," believed in the total obliteration of one class by another.

"And that is what this is about," Mr. Gonzalez said. "It's just pure, unadulterated Marx."



Fighters from the Hamas terrorist group use paragliders to train for landing in Israel in video footage released on Oct. 9.



ANNABELLE CHIH/GETTY IMAGES



A woman holds a placard, “Queers 4 Palestine,” during the parade of Taiwan Pride in Taipei, Taiwan, on Oct. 28.

### ‘Indictment’ of US Schools

David Closson, director of the Center for Biblical Worldview at the Family Research Council, said he sees the anti-Israel rhetoric on college campuses as an indictment of the U.S. educational system.

Teachers have encouraged a generation of social justice warriors, steeping classroom instruction with ideas linked to cultural Marxism instead of foundational knowledge. Now, the country is reaping the effects, Mr. Closson said.

“Spending all of our classroom time on drag queen story hours and gender queer theory and feminist theory [has] supplanted reading, writing, arithmetic, and history,” he told *The Epoch Times*.

So now, many college students appear to be “historically illiterate” about Israel, which became the country it is now in 1948 after a United Nations vote, according to Mr. Closson.

“Guess who’s had a continuous presence [in Israel] for 3,000 years—well, it’s

**COMEDIAN BILL MAHER RECENTLY MOCKED A ‘QUEERS FOR PALESTINE’ SIGN HELD AT A CAMPUS RALLY. HOMOSEXUALITY IS FORBIDDEN IN MANY MIDDLE EASTERN CULTURES. IN THOSE SOCIETIES, GAYS OFTEN ARE EXECUTED.**



the Jews,” he said.

Jews occupied the land where Israel sits, as did many different peoples through the millennia, including Arabs, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, and the British, Mr. Closson said.



SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES



Left-wing groups have been protesting against Israel, he said, but, ironically, many Jews consider themselves liberals.

### Universities Begin to Act

College chapters of the National Students

for Justice in Palestine (SJP) have come under increased scrutiny at universities because of their support for Hamas.

In response to anti-Semitism, big donors to some institutions have publicly announced that they'll stop contrib- ♦

Pro-Palestinian students take part in a protest in support of the Palestinians amid the ongoing conflict in Gaza, at Columbia University in New York, on Oct. 12.



MADALINA VASILIU/THE EPOCH TIMES



“The whole DEI structure is the problem,” says William Jacobson, a professor at Cornell Law School and the founder of the Legal Insurrection Foundation.

uting. And companies have revoked job offers they had made to students identified as pro-Hamas protesters.

Intimidation targeting Jewish students at Columbia University prompted the school to suspend SJP and the Jewish Voice for Peace, pro-Palestinian student groups.

The groups violated campus policies, according to a university announcement on Nov. 10. The statement said the groups held an unauthorized event that “proceeded despite warnings and included threatening rhetoric and intimidation.”

“Lifting the suspension will be contingent on the two groups demonstrating a commitment to compliance with University policies and engaging in consultations at a group leadership level with University officials,” the statement reads.

The groups posted a notice on Instagram calling for a student walkout and protest on Nov. 9 titled: “Shut It Down! For Palestine.” The event was described as a “peaceful” art protest.

Similar demonstrations were held on campuses nationwide that same day.

## YOU JUST DON'T SEE THE VITRIOL TOWARD PALESTINIANS THAT YOU SEE TOWARD ISRAEL.

William Jacobson, professor,  
Cornell Law School

At the University of Maryland, that’s when Palestinian students apparently scrawled “Holocaust 2.0” on a walkway. The university, which has a sizable Jewish student population, condemned the anti-Semitic sentiments expressed at the demonstration organized by SJP.

Campus police are investigating which promised that “responsible parties will be held accountable,” according to the statement.

In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis called for SJP to be shut down in the state for supporting Hamas. In Massachusetts, Brandeis University, a private, nonsecular Jewish university, banned SJP.

Mr. Jacobson said he has monitored the actions of SJP for a decade. Until now, colleges have ignored their agenda and tactics, he said.

“Some colleges are finally taking the step of recognizing what Students for Justice in Palestine is,” he said.

Rarely, if ever, are Israeli students the aggressors in the college protests, according to Mr. Jacobson.

“You just don’t see the vitriol toward Palestinians that you see toward Israel,” he said. ■





NATASHA HOLT FOR THE EPOCH TIMES

Chairs, one for each Hamas hostage taken from Israel, line the Plaza of the Americas courtyard at the University of Florida in Gainesville on Nov. 7.











# SPOTLIGHT TRAINING

A "SAVE PALESTINE" SIGN ADORNS a wall as Israeli infantry soldiers take part in a live firing tactical exercise near the Gaza border in southern Israel on Nov. 20.

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES

SAVE  
PALESTINE



ANALYSIS

# US Media Showing Its Bias, Say Critics

OCT. 7 WAS THE BIGGEST single-day massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, with Hamas launching a barrage of terrorist attacks against Israel. Despite that, too many in the US media have shown bias against the Jewish state, according to critics. *By Jackson Richman*



The complex housing the Ahli Arab hospital in the aftermath of an overnight blast, in Gaza City on Oct. 18.



**U**.S. MEDIA OUTLETS have uncritically relied on the Gaza Health Ministry, run by the terrorist group Hamas.

In one notable incident, outlets including The New York Times and CNN cited the Hamas claim that Israel bombed the al-Alhi Hospital in Gaza—only for U.S. intelligence to conclude that Palestinian terrorists, not Israel, were behind the Oct. 17 explosion. Surveillance footage has also shown that the explosion wasn't at the hospital itself but at a nearby parking lot.

The New York Times subsequently issued an editors' note expressing regret over its coverage of the bombing.

"Given the sensitive nature of the news during a widening conflict, and the prominent promotion it received, Times editors should have taken more care with the initial presentation, and been more explicit about what information could be verified," it stated, in part.

### Militants or Terrorists?

According to experts, media outlets show bias when they call Hamas "militants" or "fighters" instead of "terrorists."

Jonathan Greenblatt, national director and CEO of the Anti-Defamation League, called out MSNBC for using "fighters" during an interview on the network on Oct. 9. But his call for outlets to stop using such terminology for Hamas has fallen on deaf ears.

"Fighters don't butcher children, militants don't rape women," Mr. Greenblatt told The Epoch Times on Nov. 14. "These were terrorists. These were murderers, and they need to be described that way by every network, by every outlet, every single time they refer to them."

It isn't only left-wing media that has been using this terminology. Trey Yingst, who's on the ground in Israel and Gaza for Fox News, has used "militants" and "fighters."



The New York Times Building in New York on Feb. 1, 2022.

## According to experts, an example of media bias is calling Hamas 'militants' or 'fighters' instead of calling them what they really are: terrorists.

"Too many in the media don't want to offend terrorists by calling them terrorists. Others believe that 'one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter,'" Clifford May, a columnist and the founder and president of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a Washington-based think tank, told The Epoch Times.

"Which is as absurd as saying 'one man's arsonist is another man's fire-fighter.'"

Sean Durns, senior research analyst at the Boston-based Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis, told The Epoch Times,

"The use of 'fighters' and 'militants' is one of many ways that some press outlets seek to minimize the genocidal ambitions of Hamas and other Iranian-backed terrorists that seek Israel's destruction."

By softening the labels, the media justifies their actions and creates "a fallacious moral equivalency between what is happening and trying to describe the events since Oct. 7," Asaf Romirowsky, a Middle East historian and the executive director of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East, told The Epoch Times.

Steve Krakauer, a right-wing media critic who's a contributor to The Hill and NewsNation, told The Epoch Times that the terminology is about members of the media trying to avoid online backlash.

He said the incentive structure in the corporate press is "so warped" that journalists are "terrified" of seeming unsympathetic to Palestinians.

Palestinians are "portrayed by the extremely online progressive left as the perpetual victims, so they go overboard and make ridiculous editorial decisions like 'fighters' and 'militants,'" according to Mr. Krakauer. ♦





A woman places flowers at the site where Paul Kessler, a Jewish man who died after being struck by a pro-Palestinian protester during dueling pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli demonstrations, in Thousand Oaks, Calif., on Nov. 7.

### **Coverage of Pro-Palestinian Allegedly Killing Jewish Man**

Another example is how some media covered the story of Paul Kessler, a 69-year-old Jewish man who died in Los Angeles after being hit on the head with a megaphone by a pro-Palestinian demonstrator at a Nov. 5 rally, causing him to suffer a fatal fall.

An Associated Press story ran a headline saying, “Man involved in confrontation with Jewish protester who died called 911 and cooperated with police.”

NBC ran a headline, saying, “Man dies after hitting head during Israel and Palestinian rallies in California, officials say,” for an article that

mentions that Mr. Kessler’s death was ruled a homicide by the Ventura County Medical Examiner’s Office.

The outlet later updated its headline to “Jewish man dies after hitting head in altercation at dueling pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian rallies in California.”

The pro-Palestinian protester, Loay

DAVID SWANSON/AFIP VIA GETTY IMAGES





Alnaji, 50, a computer science professor from Moorpark, California, was arrested on Nov. 16 and charged with involuntary manslaughter.

Also of note is the media coverage of the House passing a resolution censuring Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) on Nov. 7. The House censured Ms. Tlaib for “promoting false narratives” and “calling for the

## Mr. Durns accused The New York Times and other legacy outlets of having ‘one standard for other countries and another one entirely for the Jewish state.’

destruction of the state of Israel.”

The resolution notes that Ms. Tlaib had called the Hamas attack “resistance” to “apartheid” and that she had defended her use of the phrase “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free”—a call for Israel to be wiped off the map.

Outlets, including The Washington Post, NBC News, and The Hill, reported Ms. Tlaib’s rhetoric as mere criticism of Israel.

### Difference in Media Coverage of Ukraine and Israel

The coverage in the media of the Israel–Hamas conflict contrasts with the sympathetic coverage of Ukraine, which has been fighting a Russian invasion since February 2022.

There are numerous reasons for this discrepancy, according to critics.

“Especially in a post-Trump era, support of Israel has become almost associated with a ‘right-wing’ perspective—which, of course, is ridiculous,” Mr. Krakauer said.

“Russia is seen as the ultimate evil in today’s establishment world, of which so much of the media exists, and so Ukraine gets the coverage that Israel will never get.”

Mr. May said he’s “pro-Ukrainian,” but it shouldn’t be forgotten that “Vladimir Putin wants to subjugate Ukrainians [while] Hamas and its allies want to exterminate Israelis.”

The difference is historical and polit-

ical, according to Curtis Houck of the Media Research Center, which combats left-wing media bias.

“With the case of Israel, the issue goes back to a deep-seated sentiment the left has toward Gazans and the rhetoric used about ‘apartheid’ and ‘occupation’ that scratches their inner revolutionary itch that Israel was some sort of conquering force and Palestinians were innocent victims and the rightful heirs to the land,” he told The Epoch Times.

“Vladimir Putin being the lead aggressor against Ukraine certainly helps Ukraine’s case as the liberal media have been hellbent for what feels like a lifetime seeking to tie him to the Republican Party and former President Trump.”

David Gerstman, a pro-Israel media critic, echoed Mr. Krakauer and Mr. Houck.

“Ukraine became a cause because [the left-wing media] were able to use it against Trump,” he told The Epoch Times.

“Because Trump was supposed to be a big supporter of Russia even though his policies in office didn’t necessarily comport with that ... support for Ukraine was, I believe, a counter to Trump.”

Mr. Durns accused The New York Times and other legacy outlets of having “one standard for other countries and another one entirely for the Jewish state.” ■



Paul Kessler attends a demonstration in Thousand Oaks, Calif., on Nov. 5.

PHOTO BY JLTVA VIA AP





# Eyewitness Recounts Death of Jewish Protester in California

WITNESS SAYS HE SAW THE MAN  
who allegedly hit Paul Kessler in the face  
with a megaphone, causing him to fall *By Jill McLaughlin*

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY** came together this week to grieve the death of Paul Kessler, a Jewish man who died on Nov. 6, the day after an altercation at dueling pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel protests in Thousand Oaks, California.

Mr. Kessler was hit in the face with a megaphone at the Nov. 5 rally, causing him to suffer a fatal fall. Thousand Oaks resident Jonathan Oswaks, who was with Mr. Kessler at the protest supporting Is-

rael, witnessed what happened.

Mr. Oswaks said he had only met Mr. Kessler, 69, also of Thousand Oaks, the weekend before at the same intersection where the pro-Palestinian group had rallied multiple times since the Oct. 7 attack on Israel by Hamas terrorists.

Although they had just met, they shared some deep conversations, Mr. Oswaks said.

“He was passionate,” Mr. Oswaks told

The Epoch Times. “He was committed. He was a man who was not very large in stature, but he had the heart of a lion. He was not afraid to stand his ground.”

The two men felt compelled to stand up for Israel in their community—a quiet suburb that’s about 40 miles northwest of Los Angeles—after pro-Palestinian supporters staged protests at the busy intersection.

Mr. Kessler was the only person ♦





Jonathan Oswaks (C) speaks to the press about his friend Paul Kessler, a Jewish man who died following an altercation during dueling pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli demonstrations the previous day, on Nov. 7.

who responded to a social media post by Mr. Oswaks that called out to the Jewish community to counter-protest at the pro-Palestinian rally.

They met on Oct. 29 for the first time near the protesters and were threatened with a gun, according to Mr. Oswaks.

As they walked through the crowd, a man began following them and flashed a gun from beneath his shirt, according to Mr. Oswaks. The man wore a black hoodie, a green vest, and a black-and-white checkered scarf covering most of his face.

"He pulled up his shirt, and he showed me his gun," Mr. Oswaks said. "At that point, the police were called."

Mr. Oswaks and Mr. Kessler left after police were unable to find the perpetrator, but the two decided to come back the next weekend.

### Nov. 5 Rally

They arrived at the Nov. 5 rally at the intersection of Westlake and Thousand Oaks boulevards at about 2:45 p.m. with Israeli and American flags.

"Paul and I met there and got the flags we were going to use," Mr. Oswaks said. "We were standing in the same spot where he was struck."

Behind them, the pro-Palestinian group was setting up speakers and yelling phrases, including "Death to Israel," "Allahu Akbar," and "From the river to the sea," into the microphone, according to Mr. Oswaks.

The two decided to split up and stand on different corners but promised to keep an eye on each other for safety reasons.

As Mr. Oswaks set up on an opposite corner, two men, including the man sus-

pected of pushing Mr. Kessler, came up behind him and started yelling in his ear using the megaphone.

After that, the suspect and the other man walked across the street to where Mr. Kessler was standing, according to Mr. Oswaks.

Shortly after that, the man allegedly struck Mr. Kessler in the face with a megaphone and struck him with his hand on the left side of his face, according to Mr. Oswaks. Mr. Kessler fell to the ground, striking the back of his head on the concrete.

"The man holding the megaphone was the man that struck him," Mr. Oswaks said, referring to a photo that his friend took of the suspect and another pro-Palestinian protester crossing the street. "That is the murder weapon right there."

FROM DAVID SWANSON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF JONATHAN OSWAKS; REUTERS



Mr. Oswaks drove to the hospital to see his friend but was told that he was being treated and that law enforcement was with him. He left his information and went home, only to learn the next day that Mr. Kessler had died.

The fall caused a traumatic brain injury, and Mr. Kessler died early the next morning at Los Robles Regional Medical Center, according to Ventura County Chief Medical Examiner Christopher Young.

"I was completely shocked," Mr. Oswaks said. "It hasn't really hit me. Really, what I'm dealing with is a tremendous amount of guilt."

However, Sheriff James Fryhoff said at a press conference on Nov. 7 that a 50-year-old suspect from Moorpark was cooperating with law enforcement in the investigation and stayed at the scene to answer questions. He was also said to be one of the people who called 911 to get medical help for Mr. Kessler.

On Nov. 8, the sheriff's office issued a statement revealing that many eyewitness statements from the scene conflicted with each other, making it a challenge to investigate the case.

"Conflicting statements from multiple witnesses can make it difficult to prove a case beyond a reasonable doubt," the statement reads. "Witnesses with conflicting statements impair witness credibility, create reasonable doubt, cause unreliable testimony, and strain a prosecutor's ability to prove a case."

A suspect in the case, Loay Alnaji, was arrested on Nov. 16 and charged with one count of felony involuntary manslaughter and one count of felony battery causing serious bodily injury. Also

included in the charges is an allegation of personally inflicted great bodily injury, which is an enhancement to the charges and would add to his penalty or prison time if convicted.

Mr. Alnaji, 50, is a computer science teacher at Moorpark College in California. His bail will be set at \$1 million, according to the sheriff's office.

**"[Paul Kessler] was passionate. He was committed. ... He was not afraid to stand his ground."**

Jonathan Oswaks,  
California resident

Family, friends, and loved ones came together on the night of Nov. 8 at the Temple Etz Chaim in Thousand Oaks under heavy security to grieve and remember Mr. Kessler's life. People from many different faiths gathered to mourn.

### Increase in Anti-Semitic Attacks

The number of anti-Semitic incidents has dramatically increased in the United States since the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas in Israel, according to the Anti-Defamation League, which documents a nearly 400 percent jump in reports from the same time period last year.

"The amount of anti-Semitism that has been happening has truly been mind-blowing," Thousand Oaks Police

Chief Jeremy Paris told those gathered at the vigil.

Several fights broke out outside the Los Angeles Museum of Tolerance on the night of Nov. 8 following a screening of "Bearing Witness to the October 7th Massacre," assembled by the Israel Defense Forces, which showed violent footage—primarily captured from body-worn cameras of Hamas militants—of the murders, beheadings, and rapes of Jewish people during the attack.

Video footage captured by local media and people in the area shows two groups clashing at the corner of West Pico Boulevard and Roxbury Drive near the museum. Some of those involved appeared to be pepper sprayed. Officers with the Los Angeles Police Department responded and formed a skirmish line while asking people to disperse.

No arrests were made, but two battery reports were taken, according to Los Angeles Police Department officer and spokesperson Annie Moran. Details about the reports weren't available.

"The victims refused medical treatment," Ms. Moran told The Epoch Times.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass took to social media to urge the community to unite.

"We cannot allow current worldwide tension to devolve into this unacceptable violence in our city," Ms. Bass said on X, formerly Twitter. "This is a time of immense pain and distress for thousands of Angelenos. We must stand together."

The Anti-Defamation League stated that it was "horrified" by the violence and called it a case of "blatant anti-Semitism."

"Last night's violence at the Museum of Tolerance is incomprehensible but not surprising," the organization stated in a Nov. 9 post on X. "The level of hatred directed at the Jewish community here and worldwide is unprecedented, horrific, and becoming deadly."

The league called on leaders across Los Angeles to speak out against the "hateful targeting." ■

(Far Left) Loay Alnaji (L), the suspect in the death of 69-year-old Paul Kessler, a Jewish man, carries a megaphone in Thousand Oaks, Calif., on Nov. 5. (Left) Paul Kessler lies on the ground after being hit in the face with a megaphone by a pro-Palestinian protester.









# *Light Among the Darkness*

WITH THEIR WEDDING set for just 2 days after the horrifying Hamas attack, a young Israeli couple had to decide whether to celebrate

◆ *By Dan M. Berger*

Aaron and Tamar  
Greene on their  
wedding day in  
Jerusalem on Oct. 9.

PHOTO BY RAN BERGMAN PHOTOGRAPHY





Aaron and Tamar Greene were married on a Jerusalem rooftop on Oct. 9, two days after Hamas massacred 1,200 Israelis.

**O**N OCT. 7, ISRAEL endured the worst attack against the Jewish people since the Holocaust. That day, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared the nation to be at war against Hamas. Hundreds of thousands of reservists were called up to active duty.

Some went into battle immediately against the Hamas terrorists still holding out on Israeli soil near Gaza. It was where they had ravaged kibbutzim and brutally murdered 1,200 Israelis and foreigners—most of them unarmed civilians—and kidnapped more than 200.

The nation reeled. Everyone seemed to know someone among the victims or hostages. Everyone knew soldiers

who had been called up.

Amid this chaos, with hundreds of funerals in the offing, one young couple had a difficult choice to make.

The wedding of Aaron Greene and Tamar Fest was planned for two days later, on Oct. 9. And, as a reservist, the groom had been called up to serve in Israel's military six days later.

They wondered if they should postpone or move forward with the celebration, considering the profound grief all around them.

They chose joy.

#### **A Chance to 'Bring Some Light'**

It wasn't an easy decision, the newlyweds told *The Epoch Times* in a telephone conversation a few days later.



# “We just had to decide to do it then—to not wait.”

Tamar Greene, newlywed



ued, “I was to have 30, 40, 50 friends at my wedding. And they were all called up by the army. So, not one of my friends—none whatsoever—would be able to make it.”

“Saturday morning, Aaron and I weren’t seeing each other,” Mrs. Greene said. “It’s customary for the bride and groom not to see each other the week before.

“And when we sort of realized what was going on ... we just had to decide to do it then—to not wait—because we have no idea what would happen over the next few days when we were supposed to have our wedding.

“And we thought, as well, it could bring some light and some happiness in all of

this terrible situation, and, of course, we wanted to do that.”

## The Scramble to Celebrate

After the Hamas attacks, Mr. Greene—a reservist and paratrooper—was told to report for duty. Officials gave him until the following Sunday, because of the wedding.

He had moved to Jerusalem from Atlanta with his family when he was 17. Three years ago, Mrs. Greene and her family moved there from Sydney. Now, for both of them, it’s home.

Even as the couple decided to proceed with their plans, the vendors that they’d booked for the wedding began to cancel. The venue. The caterer. The band. ♦♦

“On the one hand, it’s according to Judaism,” the 21-year-old bride explained. “You’re not really supposed to delay a wedding. You’re not supposed to push it off.

“We spoke to a rabbi, and he said exactly that—that you’re not supposed to delay it. That you should go forward with it.

“But on the other hand, how are we supposed to celebrate when everyone you know—our friends—are being murdered? And other friends are fighting for our country. I have a friend. ...”

Her voice trailed off.

“... Who was kidnapped, her 23-year-old husband said, helping to finish the sentence too awful for his young wife to say aloud.

“And all my good friends,” he contin-



Aaron and Tamar Greene dance alongside hundreds of strangers on their wedding day in Jerusalem on Oct. 9.



So, to plan a party in two days, they had to scramble.

“Honestly, Tamar’s family was fantastic,” Mr. Greene said.

“Right away, her sister and her brother-in-law decided they would take it upon themselves to cater everything.”

His future in-laws helped him to arrange to go to a mikvah—a bathing facility in contact with a natural source of water—for a Jewish pre-wedding tradition, a ritual bath for purification.

“Everyone had a specific role,” he said. “Everyone took it upon themselves to help out.”

Within 12 hours, almost miraculously, a new plan was in place.

“Thank God everything worked out,” Mrs. Greene said, “through the support of our family and friends.”

### **Dancing With Strangers**

The event was supposed to have happened in a big venue, she said.

Instead, it was an intimate affair of about 50 people on a rooftop belonging to a neighbor in Mr. Greene’s parents’ apartment building.

But “we danced with hundreds of strangers,” Mrs. Greene said.

“People just heard the music, and they came, and they wanted to be supportive, and to help out,” Mr. Greene said. “It’s one big family.”

Throughout the ordeal, they noticed a unique spirit in the nation, they said.

They felt fortunate that they’d already obtained an apartment to move into together after the wedding in West Jerusalem’s Baka neighborhood, south of the Old City, near Mrs. Greene’s parents.

But after the wedding, they needed to go shopping to furnish their new home and supply the kitchen.

“People are good, resilient, generous, supportive,” Mr. Greene said. “It’s absolutely amazing what’s going on in Israel right now. There’s all this sadness.”

Yet, at the supermarkets, they see children asking people to donate goods, such as toiletries and electronics, to fill boxes being sent to reservists who need supplies.

“To raise their morale,” Mrs. Greene said.

People are supporting each other, sometimes total strangers, she said, and “everyone asks if you’re OK.”



Aaron and Tamar Greene on their wedding day in Jerusalem on Oct. 9.

*“We’re still not sure what the future holds.”*

**Tamar Greene**, newlywed

Mr. Greene reported to duty with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) as planned. On Oct. 25, he sent a text message to The Epoch Times, saying that he was on duty and that he and his bride were doing well.

Do they hope to hold a larger wedding celebration when circumstances permit?

“We’re still not sure what the future holds,” Mrs. Greene said.

“When all this clears up, we’d love to get to celebrate with our family and friends who weren’t able to make it there, and all of our friends who were called up.

“So, hopefully.” ■



# Perspectives

Pro-Palestinian supporters protest in New York on Nov. 24.

PHOTO BY SAMIRA BOUAOU/  
THE EPOCH TIMES



## THE CCP AND HAMAS

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## A CHANGING AMERICA

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## ONE SICK WAR

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## China Joins Hamas, Erases Israel From Map

**N**O GREATER PROOF of John Dalberg-Acton's famous quote about power tending to corrupt and absolute power tending to corrupt absolutely exists today than the leadership of the People's Republic of China.

Lord Acton added in his letter to Bishop Mandell Creighton, "Great men are almost always bad men."

Well, the "great men" who rule the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) have achieved what Hamas, despite its endless chants of "From the river to the sea," was unable to do.

They have wiped Israel off the map—literally.

The Wall Street Journal reported, "Internet users in China are expressing bewilderment that the name Israel doesn't appear on leading online digital maps from Baidu and Alibaba, an ambiguity that matches Beijing's vague diplomacy in the region and contrasts with its attentiveness to maps generally."

"Vague" diplomacy? It hardly seems vague when you erase an entire country. Even tiny Luxembourg is identified.

In the case of Baidu, key Israeli cities are shown but not the country in which they're located. (Baidu and Alibaba are major Chinese companies that exist by permission of and under the supervision of the CCP.)

This omission didn't happen by accident; neither was it meant to be ignored. The WSJ isn't the only media outlet that discovered it. Many news outlets and their audiences across the globe will know about it, if they don't already.

The erasure of Israel is a form of twisted virtue signaling to China's allies (Russia, Iran, and North Korea, plus terror proxies such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis) that the regime is on their side, while being able to remain somewhat above the fray and avoid any involvement that these days is known as kinetic.

None of this is new, of course. The CCP, with its Maoist roots and alignment with so-called liberation movements, has always supported the Palestinian cause.

But the CCP didn't jump in on Hamas's side immediately, initially calling for calm and so forth. Perhaps, it realized that the "optics" of Hamas's atrocious barbarian behavior might not be the best.

Recently, however, the state news agency Xinhua reported, "Israel's actions have gone beyond the scope of self-defense."

Almost simultaneously, Israel was erased from the online maps.

The hypocrisy of this is monumental. Imagine how China would have reacted had it been attacked.

But that doesn't matter, since the only principle China has followed in all this is the one that guides them always: world domination, gradual and inexorable. And yet, so many of our leaders choose to ignore China's behavior for fear of shaking the tiger or out of self-interest.

In other cases, our politicians do a little virtue signaling of their own, thereby avoiding dealing with the reality of Chinese expansionism.

California's Democrat Gov. Gavin Newsom informed us of his priorities on his recent trip to Beijing in this X (formerly Twitter) post from Fox's Elex Michaelson.

"I ask @GavinNewsom why not bring up human rights directly w Pres. Xi?" Mr. Michaelson wrote.

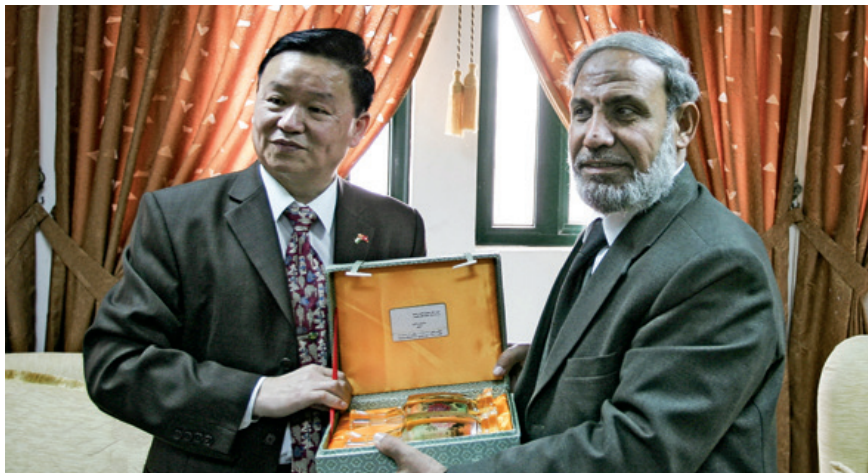
"He says the State Department advised he bring it up with China's VP & Foreign Minister so he could focus on climate change w Xi.

"I had the opportunity to talk about the most important issue in our lives!"

Forget the Uyghurs. Forget Falun Gong. Forget democracy demonstrators. Forget the Belt and Road infrastructure program that's exploiting the globe. Forget the Wuhan Institute of Virology. For Gavin Newsom, it's climate change!

I could go on about how Chinese leader Xi Jinping's China profits from the climate obsession by being the world's greatest exporter of solar panels and rare earths for electric cars, much of which comes from Chinese-owned mines in the Congo that depend on child labor, but why bother? It wouldn't make a dent with Mr. Newsom.

Meanwhile, Israel is erased from the map.



Palestinian Foreign Minister Mahmoud al-Zahar (R) receives a gift from Chinese Ambassador to Palestine Yang Weiguo in Gaza City on April 4, 2006.





## The Parallels Between Terrorism and Communism

**“B**IRDS OF A FEATHER flock together,” so goes the saying. It’s known that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) supports Iran and other sponsors of terrorism, which, in turn, support terror groups such as Hamas.

In the latest round of conflict, the CCP has actually come out in support of Hamas and against Israel, dashing long-standing hopes of successive Israeli governments that if they just make nice with the CCP, it won’t be as supportive of Israel’s enemies.

Michael Pillsbury, a China expert and envoy for many U.S. administrations going as far back as U.S. President Richard Nixon’s, recalled in an interview with *The Epoch Times* that a Russian spy once told him when President Nixon was getting close with the CCP:

“They screwed us over, and they will do the same to you.”

The CCP is happy to support as much chaos as possible to weaken the United States and countries that still support freedom. Israeli leaders, and other countries’ leaders, have, for years, been acting like teenagers who think it’s all about them, not wishing to see the true big picture. In its long march to dethrone the United States, the CCP will always support U.S. enemies. One hopes that the past few weeks would at least serve as a horrible wake-up call.

Actually, there are similarities between the CCP and terrorist organizations that go much deeper. Both creatures have a similar nature, one different from that of normal countries and organizations. Both creatures have similar “fingerprints.”

To confuse the populace, both the CCP and terrorist organizations conflate themselves with the state:

“The CCP is China.”

“Hamas represents the Palestinian people.”

And so, the warped logic goes. If

you’re a patriotic Chinese, then you have to support the CCP and everything it does. If you so much as doubt some actions of the CCP, you then become a traitor to China.

It’s the exact same with terrorist organizations and totalitarian regimes: If you’re a patriotic Palestinian, you have to support Hamas and everything it does. If you don’t support some actions by Hamas, you’re a disloyal traitor to the Palestinian people.

### In its long march to dethrone the United States, the CCP will always support U.S. enemies.

In normal countries, both citizens and foreigners can easily distinguish between a country, its people, and whichever government is in power.

The CCP cares not for its citizens. It treats them as property, to do with them as it pleases, and dispose of them as needed. In its long infamous history, even before COVID-19, about 90 million citizens died of unnatural causes during its more than 70 years in power. CCP leaders aren’t bothered by the prospect of losing half of China’s population in a potential war with the United States. Terrorist organizations likewise treat their own citizens as property and tools. They hide military assets under schools and hospitals to put their opponents in zugzwang—retaliate and you kill civilians, don’t retaliate and we win this round—and the more civilians hurt, the better the propaganda.

There’s no real way to close a long-term deal or reach peace with such entities, since the only acceptable “end-goal” of both the CCP and terrorist organizations is the complete annihilation and subjugation of their

enemies. Any deal is only a temporary state used to stave off disaster and regroup. The only ones honoring such deals are Western democracies, which have been duped time and time again.

The only morality is the endless struggle to “create the communist utopia and free the proletariat from oppression” or for Hamas to “free the Palestinian people.” In pursuit of this stated cause, any and all means are viable, and even considered moral, to use. If need be, the appropriate party or theocratic authority would issue a permit. The struggle isn’t just with external enemies but also against internal enemies and must be violent and continuous.

From an early age, children are captured and indoctrinated with the ideology of hate and struggle. The stories of children ratting out their parents during the Cultural Revolution and the videos of young children in Gaza proudly aspiring to kill all the Jews are equally abominable.

As in many other corrupt dictatorships, money and resources meant for the people are siphoned off by leadership at different levels, leaving huge swaths of the populace in unnecessary squalor and benefiting the few—from the billionaire children of CCP leaders to multimillionaire Hamas leaders living in Qatar in luxury and using private jets—while the dictatorships keep preaching piety and sacrifice.

Both kinds of entities use people’s real suffering and desperation, which is why their propaganda is effective, but the medicine offered is worse than the disease. And it corrupts and destroys the societies that it claims it’s trying to “heal.”

The above and other similarities aren’t that surprising considering that the “original” terrorist organizations were raised by Soviet Russia to wreak havoc on the West. And even though Hamas is ostensibly a religion-based organization, it has inherited most of the traits of the communist specter.





## Those Who Promote Anti-Semitism Will Destroy America, Too

**A**FTER THE OCT. 7 slaughter in Israel, author Brigitte Gabriel posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, about her experiences growing up in Lebanon. She described her childhood in the once-prosperous and peaceful country as “idyllic” and recalled how its capital, Beirut, had been hailed as the “Paris of the Middle East.”

All that changed as Muslim extremists gained control of the country and plunged it into war. Both Jewish and Christian families such as Ms. Gabriel’s were persecuted. After the destruction of her home and a decade spent living in a bomb shelter, Ms. Gabriel and her family were able to escape to the United States, a country she loves dearly for the opportunities it afforded her.

Ms. Gabriel’s account reminded me of the decade I spent living in the Detroit area. During that time, I met so many people with stories similar to Ms. Gabriel’s. They left nations wracked by war and economic privation and came to the United States.

In Dearborn, Michigan, I frequented their pastry shops, where you could buy traditional baklava, and their cafés that featured exotic coffees. My favorite restaurant in Birmingham, Michigan, was famous for its mouthwatering Mediterranean entrees and desserts and was owned by a Lebanese couple who always spoke to me in French.

And in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, my friends and I patronized a day spa run by a Jewish woman who had fled the former Soviet Union with her family when Jews were allowed to leave with only the clothes on their backs and a suitcase in each hand. They immigrated first to Israel and then came here.

I loved hearing these people’s

stories; I admired their hope, their resilience, and their determination. There was nothing remarkable about any of the modest businesses they started here; they simply enabled their owners to live lives in peace and freedom, with some semblance of financial stability. That’s all that their owners wanted for themselves and their families.

That’s what most people want.

We’re told that “there will never be peace in the Middle East” because of the centuries-old hostilities between the countries and the peoples there. And yet people from those same countries can come here to the United States and live peacefully, not only in the same nation but in the same city, the same suburbs, the same neighborhoods.

It’s a testament to our founding principles that this isn’t only possible but commonplace. Those principles are why the United States is a country of (for the most part) peace and prosperity. It’s why so many flee their native countries and come here.

But as sacrosanct and successful as those founding principles have been, their continuity isn’t inevitable. In that vein, the vicious anti-Semitism and apparent support for the barbaric murder of Jews and the destruction of Israel that has erupted across the United States needs to be a wake-up call.

Mobs have swarmed into our city streets, decrying Israel as an “oppressor” and an “apartheid state.” Israel is blamed for making Gaza an “open-air prison,” without the corresponding acknowledgment that if the Palestinian “leadership” wasn’t devoting every dollar and ounce of effort into wiping Israel off the map—if they hadn’t spent tens of billions of dollars of foreign aid on instruments of war and terrorism—Gaza could be a little paradise, and its residents would

be able to freely go between their home country and Israel the way that Americans travel between states.

Social media is filled with videos of people tearing down posters of kidnapped Israelis, screaming obscenities at pro-Israel speakers, and carrying signs calling for “decolonization” or the “cleansing” of Jews from the Middle East.

Most Americans are shocked; where has this come from?

In no small part, from our colleges and universities. Consider that, over the past few years, we’ve seen incident after incident of speakers being shouted down, threatened, and even physically attacked. Polls of college students reveal astonishing support for censorship and the characterization of political viewpoints with which they disagree as “hate speech.” Some of the most appalling support for Hamas’s brutality has taken place on college campuses this month. Students at George Washington University recently projected slogans praising Hamas butchers as “martyrs” and calling for the eradication of Israel onto the campus library named for the family of a Jewish alumnus.

For decades, faculty at U.S. institutions of higher education have been promoting—not merely educating about—uber-leftist philosophies of moral relativism and myriad versions of Marxism. At its core, Marxism is a philosophy rooted in resentment, devoted to the abolition of religion and the replacement of God with government. For the diehard Marxist, there’s no “truth,” no ultimate arbiter of “right” or “wrong,” no natural law, no divine source of fundamental human dignity or inherent individual rights. There’s only power and whatever it takes to wield it to bring about the “revolution.”

It’s no coincidence that anti-Semitism festers in this climate. And these





People rally during the “National March on Washington: Free Palestine” while calling for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, at Freedom Plaza in Washington on Nov. 4.

DREW ANGERER/GETTY IMAGES

ideologies are equally antithetical to the U.S. founding principles. The incident at George Washington University is a metaphor: The writing is, literally, on the wall. The same voices calling for the eradication of the state of Israel won't stop there. They won't rest until America—a country ex-

pressly founded “under God” and in opposition to totalitarian regimes—is brought to its knees as well.

What has been built here in the United States isn't perfect, but it's precious and exceptional, and the successes of people of every conceivable background, ethnicity, and

socioeconomic class are proof. We can't permit it to be destroyed from within by the greedy, the corrupt, the ignorant, or those who want to marinate perennially in the hostilities of our own bygone eras.

It's time to hold academia accountable.





## Moral Clarity About the War in Gaza

**I**T'S SAID THAT A PICTURE is worth a thousand words.

Complex as the situation in the Middle East is, a good preliminary understanding of the conflict between Israel and Hamas can be summed up in an image that's been making its way around the internet.

On the left of the image is an Israeli flag. Underneath is a baby carriage and, in front of the baby carriage, a soldier on one knee protecting the carriage and aiming a rifle to the right of the frame.

On the right side is a Hamas flag. Underneath is a baby carriage, behind which is a soldier, protected by that carriage, on one knee pointing a gun toward the left side of the frame.

See the difference?

The Israeli soldier is protecting the baby.

The Hamas operative is exploiting the baby for his own protection.

That dynamic explains a large slice of what's happening in the Gaza Strip now.

Did you know that Gaza commanders reportedly offered their foot soldiers \$10,000 and an apartment for bringing back a hostage?

With incentives like that, it isn't surprising that Hamas hoovered up more than 200 hostages when it embarked on its unspeakably savage, murderous rampage on Oct. 7.

Those hostages are deployed partly as insurance.

Knowing that the Israelis put a high premium on civilian lives, especially the lives of Israeli civilians, Hamas is using the hostages as bargaining chips on the one hand and apotropaic totems on the other.

Do what we say, or at least do not do what we forbid, and we will periodically release a hostage or two for "humanitarian" reasons—i.e., for public relations.

Think twice about trying to revenge yourselves on us for the 1,400 people

we slaughtered in our surprise attack on Oct. 7, because any assault will endanger the hostages we've taken.

It will also endanger our own civilians.

That's by design.

Israel has pleaded with civilians in Gaza to move south, away from Gaza City, which is the headquarters of Hamas and the location of most of its infrastructure and military matériel.

Apparently, about 800,000 civilians (out of a total population of some 2 million) have moved south, away from the likely theater of operations.

However, Hamas is actively discouraging the exodus, allegedly confiscating the car keys and gasoline of civilians.

### **So far as Hamas is concerned, every civilian death is a publicity coup.**

The bottom line is that Hamas wants civilians in harm's way.

So far as Hamas is concerned, every civilian death is a publicity coup.

Not only does it play well in the court of public opinion, bolstering the anti-Israel rhetoric that's a constant Hamas refrain, but it also establishes an atmosphere of brutality that's simultaneously anesthetizing and intimidating—just the sort of atmosphere that terrorists like to cultivate.

Last week, a rocket landed near a hospital. Hamas reported that Israel had targeted the hospital and that 500 civilians were dead.

The New York Times, the BBC, and other Western outlets ran with the story—Big bully Israel is bombing hospitals: Hundreds of innocent civilians are dead!

Except that the rocket in question

was likely fired by Palestinian Islamic Jihad, not Israel.

It malfunctioned and plummeted to the ground, exploding in a parking lot adjacent to a hospital.

Drone footage showed many incinerated cars but no bodies.

Eventually, the NY Times issued a hand-wringing "explanation" and pseudo-apology, walking back its original headline "Israeli Strike Kills Hundreds in Hospital."

Yes, "war is hell," as Gen. William Sherman put it.

There always have been and always will be civilian casualties.

Charlie Kirk recently noted that the 12th-century Greek Orthodox church of St. Porphyrius in Gaza was damaged when an Israeli air strike targeted an adjacent building.

An Israeli spokesman acknowledged the mishap but explained that the strike "did not target that or any other church."

"We struck a Hamas military operative who coordinated rocket fire towards Israel from that vicinity. He was a legitimate target," the spokesman said.

"We will continue to be careful of any sensitive facility."

But the critical moral distinction is this: Do the belligerents deliberately target civilians?

Hamas does.

Israel doesn't.

But remember: There's another dimension to the perfidy of Hamas.

By siting rocket launchers and other military tools near schools, mosques, hospitals, and other civilian facilities, the terrorist group essentially declares open season on civilians.

Hamas's procedure not only guarantees civilian casualties, which it then trumpets as evidence of Israel's callousness, but also underscores—and is another dimension of—the savage barbarism of the way it operates.



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# Victor Davis Hanson

## Does Iran Realize Its Own Growing Danger?

**I**RAN UNDERSTANDABLY believes it's riding quite high.

It's flush with cash. It hints it almost has the bomb—and might use it soon.

The Iranians are bragging about their new tyrannical allies such as Russia and China.

Iran boasts of now being the self-proclaimed leader of jihad on behalf of all Muslims. It gloats that it's feeding the Russian war machine by exporting its own drones.

Tehran proudly supplied and funded Hamas's savage murdering of Jewish children in Israel.

It eggs on its other pawn, Hezbollah, to launch a reputed 100,000 Iranian-supplied missiles into Israel.

It constantly provokes the United States—mostly by veiled threats to unleash anti-American terrorists in the Middle East and perhaps inside the United States itself.

But above all, Iran is giddy over the appeasing Biden administration.

President Joe Biden resurrected the unhinged Obama administration plan of empowering a "Shiite crescent"—of Iran, Syria, and Hezbollah, including Hamas.

This U.S. idea of a radical bloc would supposedly birth "creative tension" and thus on autopilot balance the dominance of our friends in Israel and the Gulf regimes with our new Iranian clients. Yet the logical result of such madness was the massacre we saw in Israel.

President Biden put pro-Iranian envoy Robert Malley—now under FBI investigation—in charge of begging Iran to restart the disastrous Iran Deal.

The anemic Biden administration has reportedly replied only four times to some 83 Iranian attacks on Americans.

President Biden lifted sanctions allowing Iran to garner tens of billions of dollars in new oil sales—to be routed to all of Israel's terrorist enemies.

He sought to pay ransom to Iran to get back five American hostages—at a cost of \$1.2 billion per captive and a green-light for Tehran to take more.

The Biden administration restored in aggregate \$1 billion in aid to the West Bank and Gaza, despite the long history of radical Palestinian terrorism.

This mollification of Iran also led its appendages Hamas and Hezbollah to believe that if any of them started a war against Israel, then Iran would guarantee their victory and the United States would do nothing—and likely force Israel to do the same nothing.

Yet a delusional Iran still isn't fully aware how its loud bragging about and support for its client Hamas's barbaric killing of Jewish civilians have put it into an unprecedented dangerous predicament.

For the first time in decades, there is no nation that can restrain Israel from destroying Iran's pawn Hamas—not after it butchered 1,400 Jewish citizens while radical Palestinians in Gaza keep celebrating the slaughter and promising more such savage mass murdering.

Iran's other proxy, Hezbollah, still issues blood-curdling threats to launch missiles. But it privately knows that if it hits Israel with them, Beirut will resemble something far worse than its rubble of 2006 during the previous Middle East war.

The world despises Iran and now finally accepts that it cannot be appeased. Arab nations don't want Gazan refugees anywhere near them, nor do they want their terrorists whom Gazans one-time voted into power.

Even Europe abhors Hamas's precivilizational butchery of Israeli civilians.

Russia, Iran's new patron, will be of little help to it—bogged down in Ukraine and hemorrhaging under sanctions and global ostracism. And Moscow hasn't forgotten its own long violent history with Islam.

China cares only about the delivery of Middle East oil, calm sea lanes—and injuring the United States.

Otherwise, Beijing has no desire to risk its economy by pushing an Iranian theater war—especially when China has jailed a million Uyghur Muslims in forced labor camps.

If the two huge U.S. carrier groups parked in the Eastern Mediterranean are attacked by either Iranian or Hezbollah missiles, public opinion will force even President Biden to retaliate. And the response will not be street-fighting block to block in Tehran or Beirut.

Instead, it will be a medieval rain of destruction on either or both from the air.

After the Afghanistan humiliation, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Chinese flagrant spy balloon mission over the American heartland, 8 million illegal aliens waved in across the southern border, and "woke" hysteria, Americans may have finally woken up to the fact that they dangerously—almost fatally—have squandered prior hard-won deterrence and must reboot.

To play its global jihadist role, Iran must always keep upping its terrorist ante and constantly louder threats.

It assumes the Middle East is business as usual—when it's insidiously becoming just the opposite. An appeasing President Biden isn't driving events but being driven by them, whether he knows it or not.

The Iranians have little clue that they and their vassals are one stupid missile volley or one reckless intervention away from a devastating Western response that wouldn't necessarily be "proportionate."

And such a retaliation would be welcomed by Iran's numerous enemies, privately applauded by its small number of supposed "friends," and largely shrugged off by its even fewer allies.



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## One Sick War

**T**HERE IS SOMETHING surreal, even sick about the current Gazan war.

Throughout European and American cities and campuses, tens of thousands of Middle Eastern immigrants and students and radical leftists chant nonstop, “Free Palestine from the river to the sea.”

More recently, they are also yelling, “Israel, you can’t hide, we caught you in genocide.”

Consider the hypocrisy of that dual messaging.

Hamas and its supporters are openly and eagerly calling for the genocidal end of Israel by wiping it out from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

Yet at the same time, they also claim that it’s Israel that is committing genocide—the very current self-described agenda of Hamas and its expatriate community of devotees!

The war has become crazier still.

Hamas and its megaphones abroad also blast Israel daily for retaliating for the Oct. 7 butchery of some 1,200 Israeli infants, children, women, and the elderly.

They further demand that Israel must be selective in its airborne targeting of the Hamas killers, who burrow beneath hospitals and mosques while using civilians as shields.

Hamas takes for granted that a supposedly heartless Israel nevertheless will be reluctant to strike the Hamas terrorists when and if they are surrounded by civilians.

Indeed, Gazans are put in more danger by Hamas than they would otherwise be by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

Yet the world accepts that Israel itself would never employ such a ruse of using civilians to shield its cities from indiscriminately fired Hamas missiles.

The world further knows that if Israel ever employed such a barbaric tactic, Israeli civilian shields would attract—

not deter—Hamas rockets.

Hamas’s apologists insist that Israel warn civilians in advance to keep clear of Israeli bombs.

Yet at the same time, Hamas launches rockets daily into Israel. And no one in the international community lectures Hamas first to drop leaflets or text Israeli civilians that Hamas rockets are on the way to their vicinity.

Instead, the only purpose of Hamas rockets is to indiscriminately strike and kill Israeli civilians.

So the real issue isn’t about the principle of civilian deaths—given Israel is damned when it tries to avoid noncombatants and Hamas is cheered on when it deliberately targets them.

Instead, the asymmetry is explained by the efficacy of the Israeli response and the impotence of Hamas rocketry.

In other words, Hamas can’t stop the IDF from hitting its targets, while Israel can knock down far more Hamas rockets.

So Israel is being blamed for being too effective—or “disproportionate”—in its bombing, and Hamas is rewarded for being too ineffective in its rocketing.

There are other sick paradoxes in this war.

Hamas started the conflict by sending death squads of 2,000 killers into Israel at a time of peace to surprise murder more than 1,000 Israeli civilians. There was no precivilizational, unspeakable atrocity that the butchers didn’t commit—torture, beheading, rape, mutilation, and necrophilia.

The terrorists were followed into Israel by a multitude of opportunistic Gaza civilians, who, in turn, joined in the violence and looting.

Back in Gaza, crowds reviled and tried to harm Israeli captives bound as hostages to trade for jailed terrorists in Israel.

In sum, the population that once elected Hamas into power, and cheered on its bloodletting—as long as there was yet no Israeli response—now

claims to have no connection at all with Hamas. Yet the world assumes correctly that the people of Israel are inseparable from its military.

The surreal paradoxes of this war still do not end there.

In its mass murdering spree on Oct. 7, Hamas butchered at least 32 American citizens, and perhaps another 11 who are still unaccounted for—and are likely hostages inside the tunnels of Hamas in Gaza.

Yet the Biden administration has not forced Hamas to return kidnapped Americans, much less responded to its killing of U.S. citizens.

Why then, despite all the rhetoric of solidarity, is the United States constantly pressuring Israel to be measured in its retaliation against the Hamas terrorists in Gaza, pressure that will only make things easier on Hamas?

Why are we seeking to restrain those who are trying to destroy the killers of Americans and indirectly aiding those who murdered them?

And why is the global elite community siding with the murderous aggressors and not those seeking justice for the murdered?

Lots of reasons.

There are 500 million Arabs in the world and nearly 2 billion Muslims—but only 9 or so million Israelis.

Nearly 50 percent of the world’s oil reserves are found in the Muslim Middle East.

Westerners, like tiny Israel, are considered too rich and powerful, while non-Westerners are romanticized as blameless, victimized underdogs.

But the best way of understanding this sick war is that Israelis are Jews and the ancient plague of anti-Semitism is again sweeping the globe.

Pictures of more than 1,000 persons abducted, missing, or killed in the Hamas attack are displayed on empty seats at Tel Aviv University in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Oct. 22.



Why are we seeking to restrain those who are trying to destroy the killers of Americans and indirectly aiding those who murdered them?





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