

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Why it is not resolvable under the current circumstances

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<http://www.lakesidepress.com/Israeli-PalestinianConflict.pdf>



Jerusalem, 2019

NOTE on November 14, 2023: This essay was posted over two years before the Hamas massacre of Israelis on October 7, 2023, and the ensuing war in Gaza. This war does not change anything originally posted, but in fact emphasizes the points made, that the conflict was not resolvable at the time of posting.

In 2021, in the section on Progressive American Jews, I pointed out how Jewish Voice for Peace is a radical organization that supports anti-Semitic organizations like BDS. In going over my 2021 links, I note that two of the JVP websites proving this point are no longer working. I have left those in the essay.

Then I came upon an ADL website that points out the true nature of JVP.

https://www.adl.org/resources/blog/jewish-voice-peace-jvp-what-you-need-know?gad_source=1&qclid=Cj0KCQiAugKqBhDxARIsAFZELmljfaKtvMStp9xCjbrAQ9KzOXH8kAPVuITbVRwy63sVJP50OLQBf2MaAjFcEALw_wcB.

Clearly, the Hamas attack has opened people's eyes to the ignorance of too many American Jews, and may have led JVP to take down the two websites.

My plan is to update this long explanation of the conflict once Hamas is eradicated from Gaza, and some semblance of peace has resumed.

You can go to Israel and come away with impressions to support any opinion or interpretation of history regarding this century-old conflict. After two trips to Israel (Oct 2017 and Nov 2019), and in-depth study of the issue, I am of the opinion that the “Israeli-Palestinian Conflict” is not resolvable under the current circumstances.

For some factual background, I recommend a website that answers many basic questions about the conflict in a straightforward manner.

<https://www.vox.com/cards/israel-palestine>.

This essay is in seven parts. You may go right to any part by clicking on the title.

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I.

The Arabs Want All the Land, from the River to the Sea

The Palestinians, or perhaps more accurately their political and thought leaders – *no matter from what era* – do not want to co-exist with Israel. They want all the land, not just the West Bank, or the West Bank and East Jerusalem. They want the whole place, all the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. Their fighting motto is “from the river to the sea.” Total elimination of Israel as the primary goal has been espoused so often, by so many Arab leaders, that one could fill several books with just their quotes. You can find them on the internet. See:

<https://www.adl.org/news/article/hamas-in-their-own-words>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/1671798.Hassan_Nasrallah
<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/myths-and-facts-quotes>
<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/bds-in-their-own-words>
<https://honestreporting.com/iran-regimes-incitement-destroy-israel/>
<https://www.memri.org/>

Here are a few quotes from these websites.

“If the Jewish state becomes a fact, and this is realized by the Arab peoples, they will drive the Jews who live in their midst into the sea... Even if we are beaten now in

Palestine, we will never submit. We will never accept the Jewish state... But for politics, the Egyptian army alone, or volunteers of the Muslim Brotherhood, could have destroyed the Jews.”

- Hassan al-Banna, Muslim Brotherhood founder
(*New York Times*, August 2, 1948)

“Peace for us means the destruction of Israel. We are preparing for an all-out war, a war which will last for generations... We shall not rest until the day when we return to our home, and until we destroy Israel.”

- Yasser Arafat
The Times, UK, August 5, 1980

“It is an open war until the elimination of Israel and until the death of the last Jew on earth.”

- Hezbollah statement, issued under Islamic Jihad
(United Press International, March 24, 1992)

“Israel is destined for destruction and will soon disappear.”

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, 2006

“Oh Allah, vanquish the Jews and their supporters. Oh Allah, vanquish the Americans and their supporters. Oh Allah, count their numbers, and kill them all, down to the very last one.”

- Ahmad Bahr, Palestinian Legislative Council
(Sudan TV, April 13, 2007)

“The PLO... has not changed its platform even one iota... the Israeli ideology will collapse in its entirety, and we will begin to progress with our own ideology, Allah willing, and drive them out of all of Palestine.”

- Abbas Zaki, Palestinian Authority representative in Lebanon
(NBN TV, April 9, 2008)

“The Jews are the most despicable and contemptible nation to crawl upon the face of the Earth, because they have displayed hostility to Allah.

Allah will kill the Jews in the hell of the world to come, just like they killed the believers in the hell of this world.

The Jews kill anyone who believes in Allah. They do not want to see any peace whatsoever on Earth.”

Sermon delivered by Atallah Abu Al-Subh, former Hamas minister of culture, which aired on *Al-Aqsa TV*, April 8, 2011, translation by MEMRI

“Israel is our enemy. This is an aggressive, illegal, and illegitimate entity, which has no future in our land. Its destiny is manifested in our motto: 'Death to Israel.'”

— Sayed Hassan Nasrallah, head of Hezbollah

In essence, leaders of the Palestinians, and their supporters – principally Iran and its proxy terrorist groups – have, throughout the decades, espoused the belief that Israel has no right to exist, that it has no right to occupy the land immigrant Jews began settling in the late 19th century. This is one reason why Arabs in the region have never agreed to negotiate a two-state solution in good faith. They have turned down or simply ignored the following opportunities to forge a two-state solution:

- a. The Peel Commission Partition Plan 1937
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peel_Commission
- b. The Woodhead Commission Partition Plan in 1938

<https://thenewporphyry.blogspot.com/2016/06/the-woodhead-commission-1938.html>

- c. The UN Special Committee on Palestine Proposal in 1947
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Partition_Plan_for_Palestine
- d. The Israeli “Conquered Lands for Peace” Proposal Plan in 1967
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum_Resolution
- e. The Camp David Summit Proposal by Israel in 2000
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000_Camp_David_Summit
- f. Prime Minister Olmert’s proposal to Mahmoud Abbas in 2008
<https://www.voanews.com/world-news/middle-east-dont-use/abbas-admits-rejecting-two-state-peace-plan-israel-2008>

There have been so many meetings, negotiations and summits over the decades, it’s fair to say you can extract any facts you want from this history to show how one or the other side has been unreasonable in its demands. But it is more than not agreeing to any specific proposal. Israelis have made proposals; the Palestinians have not responded with serious counter proposals, serious meaning something that would allow Israel to exist and thrive as a Jewish state. As one blogger wrote:

“Critics of Israel will try to demonize Israel by posturing and only looking at The Jews/Zionists/Israel’s supposed eternal goal of wanting it all. But we need to distinguish between wanting and *accepting*. It’s normal to want more than you are willing to accept but in negotiations what is most important is what you are willing to accept. And that is the difference between Israel and the Arabs and has always been the difference. Regardless of what both sides supposedly want, Israel has always been willing to accept a two-State solution and the Arabs have not.”

<https://thenewporphyry.blogspot.com/2016/06/the-woodhead-commission-1938.html>



U.S. President **Bill Clinton**, Israeli prime minister **Ehud Barak** and Palestinian leader **Yasser Arafat** at **Camp David**, July 2000

Insight into the Palestinian wish for no two-state solution can be gleaned from the Camp David Summit in 2000, under President Clinton. The principle negotiators were Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. The Palestinians claim the Summit failed because Israel’s offer of a two-state plan did not remove many of the elements of the Israeli occupation regarding land, security, settlements, and Jerusalem. President Clinton requested that the Palestinians make a counter-offer, but Arafat proposed none. Former Israeli Foreign Minister

Shlomo Ben Ami who kept a diary of the negotiations said in an interview in 2001, when asked whether the Palestinians made a counterproposal: “No. And that is the heart of the matter. Never, in the negotiations between us and the Palestinians, was there a Palestinian counterproposal.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_conflict

II.

Seven More Reasons the Conflict is Not Resolvable

1-Israeli Skepticism

At this juncture, most Israelis do not believe two side-by-side states is workable. Since the 1967 six-day war, when Israel took over the West Bank, some 500,000 Jews have settled there. These settlements are what most Americans think of as the “occupied territory,” although as stated above, to the Palestinians the whole country is illegally occupied. However one wishes to define “occupation,” having 500,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank presents, *as intended*, a formidable obstacle to returning the West Bank to full Palestinian control (currently some sections are under Palestinian authority, but not the Jewish settlements). Israel is not about to move half a million people to satisfy some peace agreement they have no guarantee would ever be honored. One can view these settlements as a guarantee that no future Israeli government will succumb to the siren song of a “two-state solution,” if it means giving up all of the West Bank.

The last time Israel moved out Jewish settlers and gave up land, hoping for peace, was 2005 in the Gaza Strip. Exiting Gaza has proved a disaster of sorts. Hamas took control of Gaza in 2007 and since then Israel has suffered innumerable attacks from this terrorist group. Many in Israel feel this could also happen if the West Bank was fully controlled by Palestinians -- terrorist groups would quickly take over and present yet another border from which to fire missiles.

2-The Refugee Situation

Israel took in an estimate 700,000 Jews fleeing Arab countries during and after the 1948 War of Independence. While some of the Palestinians fleeing Israel after the 1948 war did end up in Jordan, most remained exiled in Gaza and the West Bank.

Refugees around the world are commonly assimilated into other countries, as when Muslims fled from India to Pakistan after the India-Pakistan partition in 1948. But there was almost no effort among the surrounding Arab countries to take in the Palestinian refugees. At the time, the Arabs who left Israel actually considered themselves part of Syria, not of a separate Palestinian nation. The demand for a separate Palestinian nation only took hold in the 1960s, with the rise of the PLO under Yasser Arafat. When Jordan controlled the West Bank, from 1948 to 1967, there was no such demand.

It is likely that the area called Palestine would have become part of Syria had the Arabs won the 1948 war against Israel. Instead, having lost the war, the surrounding Arab countries chose to treat those Arabs who fled what was now Israel, as permanent exiles, or refugees. By keeping them close to Israel, but essentially stateless, they could be used as a wedge to continue the fight against the Jews – in the belief that one day Israel would be conquered and these “refugees” could return.

It didn't happen that way, and today no one wants these Palestinian refugees. Not Jordan, which had to fight to expel Yasser Arafat's PLO in 1970

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_September). Not Syria, which is exporting refugees of its own during a prolonged civil war. And not Egypt, which shares a border with the Gaza Strip, a 10-km long border that is blocked to keep Hamas out of Egypt. In closing this border, Egypt actually discovered and destroyed more than 1,600 tunnels, some over a kilometer long that contained lighting, ventilation and phone systems. Like Israel, Egypt knows the importance of keeping a secure border between it and a terrorist-led government.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza%E2%80%93Egypt_border

Map from: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gaza_Strip_map2.svg



The Palestinians are now mere pawns in a tragic situation of their own – and their Arab neighbors' -- making. They have consistently refused a two-state solution, instead resorting to terrorism. And no Arab country wants to import terrorism.

The Palestinian leaders continue to claim “Right of Return” of Palestinian refugees from the 1948 War of Independence. This is the war Israel was forced to fight against 5 Arab countries. See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_right_of_return

An estimated 700,000 Palestinians either fled, or were forced out of Israel, during the war. But what is a refugee? Throughout the world, the U.N. recognizes as “refugees” only the actual people who fled a country during a conflict. Only for Palestinians does the U.N. recognize as refugees *all the descendants* of the original refugees.

Thus, there are *two* U.N. agencies for the world's refugees: United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for the Palestinians, and The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the rest of the world. The number of “Palestinian refugees” fitting UNRWA's bloated definition is now over 5 million. Why two completely different UN agencies for each class of “refugee”? The answer is apparent: it allows the UN to perpetuate policies that are anti-Israel and pro-Arab, reflecting the huge voting bias the UN has taken against Israel over many decades. See:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-quits-the-uns-human-rights-council-citing-its-chronic-bias-against-israel/>

<https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/the-united-nations-anti-israel-bias-is-undeniable-lets-stop-pretending-otherwise>

Obviously, if UNRWA's “refugees” were returned to Israel, there would be no more Israel, and everyone knows this. Thus, the demand of “Right of Return” is a clear sham, meant to guarantee that Israel would not, could not, ever agree to a “peace deal.” See: <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/43055>
If the Palestinians truly wanted peace, they would take this absurd demand off the table, completely.

In addition to the blatant double standard for two sets of refugees, there is also the almost-never-discussed-issue of Jewish refugees following the 1948 War

of Independence. After the war started there were anti-Jewish pogroms in the Middle-East Arab countries with large Jewish populations, and virtually all the Jews were expelled over the next several years. Altogether some 800,000 Jews forced to leave these Arab countries, and in the process lost all their property. Most fled to the new nation of Israel, where they were truly refugees. However, neither the United Nations nor any other international agency took up their cause or argued their case for restitution of lost property. See <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jewish-refugees-from-arab-countries>. “More than 100 UN resolutions have been passed referring explicitly to the fate of the Palestinian refugees. Not one has specifically addressed Jewish refugees.”

Unlike the way the original Palestinian refugees were treated by countries that should have welcomed them (Egypt, Jordan, Syria), the Jewish refugees were gladly taken in, supported, and eventually assimilated into Israeli society. If they had ever claimed “right of return” to their countries of origin, you can guarantee the answer would have been a resounding “No.”

3-Palestinian children taught to hate the Jews. It’s part of the school curriculum, starting in Kindergarten. Go to MEMRI (<https://www.memri.org/>) to see videos of Palestinian kids staging plays where they kill Jews. In this scene from the graduation ceremony of the Al-Hoda kindergarten in Gaza, pre-schoolers carrying mock guns and rifles simulated Islamic Jihad militants storming an Israeli building on “Al-Quds Street.” They are capturing a child dressed in stereotypical garb as an Orthodox Jew, intent on killing an “Israeli soldier.”



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtErUuBvcRc>

If each new generation of Palestinians grows up with this type of education, what chance is there to develop leaders who want to co-exist with the Jews and not kill them? Very little.

4-Corruption and hypocrisy dominate the Palestinian leadership. This is common knowledge and not anything new. See:

- <https://www.cfr.org/blog/corruption-palestinian-authority>
- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ex-pa-minister-says-he-quit-over-rampant-corruption-in-ramallah/>
- <http://www.thetower.org/article/terrorists-kleptocrats-how-corruption-is->

- [eating-the-palestinians-alive/
https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170801-palestinian-efforts-to-oust-corrupt-abbas/](https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170801-palestinian-efforts-to-oust-corrupt-abbas/)
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/27/opinion/sunday/mahmoud-abbas-resign.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fopinion&action=click&contentCollection=opinion®ion=rank&module=package&version=highlights&contentPlacement=4&pgtype=sectionfront>

The NY Times article (last link above) describes the Palestinian government under Mahmoud Abbas as “a corrupt gerontocracy.” Negotiations with Palestinian leaders who are corrupt and seem more interested in self-aggrandizement than their own people is not conducive to securing a solution to the conflict. Unfortunately, pointing out Palestinian corruption inevitably leads the anti-Israel crowd to crow about Israeli corruption and “moral equivalence,” arguing that “Israeli leadership is also corrupt.”

The indictment of Israeli president Netanyahu on charges of corruption is a concern, but even if all the charges are proved in court, they are not, in my opinion, morally equivalent. See <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/21/world/middleeast/netanyahu-corruption-indicted.html>.

The Israeli leadership is not focused almost exclusively on destroying another country to the neglect of its own citizens’ well-being. Israel does not stifle dissent nor jail journalists who object to Israel’s policies. Whatever Netanyahu’s failings that led to these charges, the Israeli people are free and for the most part prosperous. The billions of dollars Israel receives in U.S. military aid and charitable contributions are not being stolen from the people.

If not for their leaders’ manifest corruption, the Palestinian people would surely lead a better, healthier and more productive life. But it is very dangerous for Palestinians who object to this corruption. See:

- <http://www.thetower.org/5461-hamas-prosecutes-journalist-for-exposing-corruption-in-gaza/>
- <https://www.wsj.com/articles/if-the-oslo-accords-are-over-the-real-work-of-peace-can-begin-1516233947/>
- <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/11016/palestinian-journalists-prison>

5-Terrorist organizations set the narrative. There are Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, both dominated by Sunni Arabs, and Shiite Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

Though Hamas won an election in Gaza in 2006 (over the PLO), it is recognized as a terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union. Hamas has stated repeatedly that Israel has no right to exist. Since 2007 Hamas has carried out hundreds of attacks against Israel and Israel-occupied territories. The Hamas Charter is unambiguous, stating in Article 6:

“...raise the banner of **Allah** over every inch of Palestine, for under the wing of Islam followers of all religions can coexist in security and safety where their lives, possessions and rights are concerned”

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamas>

Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) does not rule Gaza but still functions as another, smaller, terrorist group, with its own missiles that are sometimes fired on Israel. Its goal, too, is the destruction of Israel. PIJ has been labelled a **terrorist organization** by the United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and of course Israel. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Jihad_Movement_in_Palestine

Hezbollah is a political party and militant group based in Lebanon. Israel last fought an all-out war with Hezbollah in 2006, and there have been numerous skirmishes since then. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006_Lebanon_War

All three terrorist organizations are supported by Iran and some other Arab countries, and the stated goal of all three is to destroy Israel – not to live in peace, not to have a two-state solution. Hamas has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on tunnels dug into Israel to attack from the ground, and on rockets to attack from the air. Gazans suffer in part because much of the money intended for their welfare has been siphoned off for rockets and tunnels.

Fatah, the main Arab political party in the region, controls the Palestinian National Authority in the West Bank. It is the party of Mahmoud Abbas, the President of the “State of Palestine” and Palestinian National Authority. Palestinian president since January 2005, Abbas is currently in his 15th year of a four-year term. The Authority hasn’t held an election in over a decade, because its leaders can’t guarantee they will be re-elected. Thus the main Arab factions are Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, and Fatah. The first three are designated terrorist organizations. While Fatah is currently not attacking Israel via missiles and tunnels, the organization is obviously anti-Israel, and (as stated above), manifestly corrupt.

6-Moderate Palestinian leaders risk assassination.

Three Middle-east leaders who have actively worked for peace with Israel have been assassinated: one Jordanian, one Egyptian, and one Israeli.

King Abdullah I of Jordan. Abdullah entered into peace talks with Israel following the 1948 War of Independence, including several meetings with Moshe Dayan and other senior Israelis. He was assassinated July 16, 1951, while visiting the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem by a Palestinian, hired by the Husseini clan, a rabidly anti-Semitic group that included Amin Al-Husseini, Hitler’s collaborator during WWII.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdullah_I_of_Jordan

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. In 1979 Sadat entered into a peace treaty with Israel. Menachem Begin was Israel’s prime minister at the time, and both subsequently received the Nobel Peace Prize. The main features of the agreement were “the mutual recognition of each country by the other, the cessation of the state of war that had existed since the 1948 Arab–Israeli War, and the complete withdrawal by Israel of its armed forces and civilians from the rest of the Sinai Peninsula, which Israel had captured during the 1967 Six-Day War.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anwar_Sadat

Sadat's treaty enraged radical Islamists, who plotted his assassination. On October 6, 1981, Sadat was gunned down by one of the radicals, during a military parade in Cairo. The attack took place before the parade grandstands.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel. Rabin had been instrumental in the Oslo Accords, which granted Palestinian authority over sections of the West Bank. This infuriated a young Israeli named Yigal Amir, a right wing extremist. On November 4, 1995, Amir attended a mass rally at the Kings of Israel Square (now Rabin Square) in Tel Aviv, where Rabin spoke in support of the Oslo Accords. When the rally ended, Rabin walked down the city hall steps towards the open door of his car, at which point Amir fired three shots at him with a semi-automatic pistol. Rabin died on the operating table less than 40 minutes later, due to blood loss and a punctured lung.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yitzhak_Rabin

The lesson in these assassinations is not lost on Palestinian leaders. It seems probable that one reason for Yasser Arafat's and Mahmoud Abbas's refusal to negotiate a peace plan was their real fear of assassination if they did so. This threat is a powerful dis-incentive for Palestinian leaders to sign a meaningful peace agreement with Israel.

7- One-state solution is a no-state solution. Palestinians talk about a "one-state" solution, and it's easy to see why. A one-state solution is not realistic for Israel because of the demographics. About 21% of Israel's 8.5 million citizens are Arabs, a group integrated into the economy and with representation in the Knesset. If you add in all the people living in Gaza and the West Bank, the total comes to a population of around 13 million people. Of this number, only about 50% are Jewish. See <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/03/israels-dreaded-tipping-point-has-finally-arrived/273830/>

A fully-unified Palestinian nation, encompassing the present borders of Israel, plus Gaza and the West Bank, and with Arabs in the majority, would almost certainly be run by terrorists or corrupt politicians in league with the terrorists. And it is abundantly clear that the Palestinian leadership, certainly the terrorist factions, want what Hitler wanted: for the Jews to disappear. And if it requires all the Jews to be killed to achieve that purpose, so be it. The average Palestinian may not feel this way, and would likely choose (if given a choice) for a better standard of living over spending vast sums to terrorize Israel. But like the German citizens before and during WW2, the Palestinian people are going to follow their leaders, no matter the cost in terms of dollars or lives lost; this could be because of real conviction, or simply because they know dissent would lead to imprisonment or death. Thus if militant Arab leaders obtained real power over Israel, there is no stopping another Holocaust. Israelis know this. For them, "Never Again" is not just a slogan.

Israel has fought three major wars against the Arabs that, had Israel lost, would have led to the country's dissolution (1948, 1967, 1973). In addition there have been several smaller wars, against Hamas and Hezbollah, plus numerous skirmishes. Israel has also suffered

through two intifadas. Yet despite the fighting, the hatred, the frequent condemnations of Israel by the UN (the most condemnations of any nation), and despite the country's small size, it remains one of the most prosperous on the planet, and the only true democracy in the Middle East. It has a first-world economy and standard of living, and more high-tech start-ups than any other country in Europe and Asia. Compare what Israel has accomplished in the last three generations with other Arab countries. Israel is not perfect, and there are many aspects deserving of criticism, but in terms of true diversity, democracy and economic opportunity for ordinary citizens, it has no equal in the region.

III.

Progressive American Jews: Well-meaning but naïve?

In the 1930s Germany made war on its Jewish citizens, an intelligent, prosperous, highly productive group. The war against the Jews was irrational and insane, the result of delusion, megalomania and unchecked power, made possible by a culture steeped in centuries-old anti-Semitism. However, before Hitler's rise and despite the history of European anti-Semitism, most German Jews were reasonably well accepted in German society, and many fought for Germany in WWI.

What happened? The key word is, I think, "irrational." An irrational Hitler could build on the widespread anti-Semitism always under the surface and, in so doing start a war that killed not only 6 million Jews and untold more millions throughout the world, but roughly 7 million *Germans*, including 5 million German soldiers. And for what? If anything, the war against the Jews probably hastened Germany's defeat, by expelling or killing all the Jewish scientists and physicists. (Einstein was in the U.S. when Hitler came to power in 1933 and did not return to Berlin.) The United States, not Germany, built the atomic bomb, unfortunately too late for Europe's Jews.

What happened to the Jews 1933-1945 informs us of what could happen again. Or did the holocaust happen at all? Not according to Hamas. The following is from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamas#Statements_on_the_Holocaust.

Hamas has been explicit in its Holocaust denial. In reaction to the Stockholm conference on the Jewish Holocaust, held in late January 2000, Hamas issued a press release that it published on its official website, containing the following statements from a senior leader:

"This conference bears a clear Zionist goal, aimed at forging history by hiding the truth about the so-called Holocaust, which is an alleged and invented story with no basis. (...) The invention of these grand illusions of an alleged crime that never occurred, ignoring the millions of dead European victims of Nazism during the war, clearly reveals the racist Zionist face, which believes in the superiority of the Jewish race over the rest of the nations. (...) By these methods, the Jews in the world flout scientific methods of research whenever that research contradicts their racist interests."

That the world (or much of it) would repeatedly condemn the only democracy in the Middle East because it tries to defend itself is, on the surface, hypocritical, irrational. It simply makes no sense except as a manifestation of root prejudice.

Those progressive, liberal academics in this country (and their student followers) who

support a “boycott Israel campaign,” known formally as Boycott, Divestiture, Sanctions (BDS), exemplify the utter hypocrisy of this prejudice. They never rally against Arab countries that treat women like second class citizens, that foster and finance terrorism, or that operate as totalitarian theocracies. Instead, they go after Israel, a successful democracy and ally of the U.S., because... Well, there is no “because.” They might tell you it’s about the settlements in the West Bank, or the treatment of the Palestinians, or the latest wall Israel has put up to keep out stone-throwing hoodlums. But it’s really not. It is root hatred that is at its core anti-Semitic, unexplainable by anything rational, a hatred that has manifested over millennia: the Romans’ destruction of the Jewish Temple in A.D. 70; Jews expelled from numerous European countries throughout history; innumerable Russian pogroms; and of course the German-inspired holocaust. The hatred is irrational and immensely hypocritical, and it won’t go away.

And yet, incredibly, many U.S. Jews play into this irrational hatred. Of the top 10 anti-Israel groups in the U.S., one is actually a Jewish organization: Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP). For starters, JVP supports the BDS movement.

<https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/jvp-supports-the-bds-movement/>

But there’s more. The following is from

<https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/assets/pdf/israel-international/Top-10-Anti-Israel-Groups-in-America.pdf>

“Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP): A central feature of the American anti-Israel movement has long been the role of Jewish anti-Zionist individuals and groups. Among them, Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) is the most active and influential, with at least eleven chapters around the U.S. JVP, founded in Berkeley, California, in 1996, calls for an end to U.S. aid to Israel, accuses Israel of “apartheid” policies, and supports divestment campaigns against Israel. Like other Jewish anti-Zionist groups, JVP uses its Jewish identity to shield the anti-Israel movement from allegations of anti-Semitism and provide a greater degree of credibility to the anti-Israel movement. JVP recognizes its role as such, specifically noting that the group’s Jewish nature gives it a “particular legitimacy in voicing an alternative view of American and Israeli actions and policies” and the ability to distinguish “between real anti-Semitism and the cynical manipulation of that issue.” JVP activists regularly attend anti-Israel events wearing t-shirts and holding signs proudly broadcasting their Jewish identity. In March-April 2010, leaders of JVP unsuccessfully lobbied for the passage of a divestment resolution at the University of California, Berkeley, targeting companies that do business with Israel. Sydney Levy, the Director of Campaigns for JVP, wrote a letter on behalf of the group to the Student Senate and described the bill as an “inspiration” and “in line with JVP’s current campaigns to support divestment.” Members of JVP, in a further show of support, attended the student senate meeting where the resolution was being considered.”

In addition to JVP, there are many Jewish intellectuals and academics who support policies that would lead to Israel’s destruction. Among them are Noam Chomsky and Norman Finkelstein. You can read about their positions on the internet, and detailed critiques in books by Alan Dershowitz.

When I read the severe critiques of Israel by Jews, like this one, “I am a Second

Generation Holocaust Survivor. Let me Tell You About Israel.”

<https://medium.com/world-issues-politics-economics-and-more/i-am-a-second-generation-holocaust-survivor-let-me-tell-you-about-israel-be2d0e790dab>

I am struck by one simple fact. Their progressive ideology has led them to revise history, to twist the truth, to fabricate – all in order to promote their condemnation of Israel and appeal to ignorant Jewish progressives.

I have never read anything by an intellectual, Israel-hating Jew that made any attempt to present the facts of the Conflict. It’s always Israel did this, Israel did that, Israel is the problem. They try to gain credibility by blaring their Jewishness or, as in the Medium.com article above, that they are descendants of Holocaust survivors. The author of that article, a self-proclaimed progressive named Tessa Schlesinger, conveniently left out the following information in her condemnation of Israel.

- That the Balfour Declaration specifically stated the British government viewed “with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for Jewish people...it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine.” Instead, she made it seem like the Balfour Declaration declared all of Palestine for the Jews, to the exclusion of any Arabs living there.
- That the Arabs went to war against the Jews long BEFORE May 14, 1948. The local Arabs within Palestine went to war against the Jews as soon as the UN proposed a two-state solution in November 1947.
- That the declared war on May 15, 1948 which “The Israelis won” was against five Arab nations, intent on destroying the new country. She totally omits the number of countries formally declaring war, and instead makes it seem like just the local Arabs fought Israel.
- That the Palestinian loss of land she shows on familiar maps is a result of the Palestinians intransigence in making a peace deal. Instead, she makes it seem like Israel just gobbled up the land, that there was no war in 1967, no war in 1973, no offer of peace by Israel at any time.
- That the Palestinians’ claim of “East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state” is actually a claim of a future state WITHOUT any Israel, that every word, every action, every declaration of the Palestinians since 1948 is for one Arab country, no Jews “from the river to the sea.” The Palestinians have NEVER, NOT ONCE agreed to a two-state solution that would allow Israel to exist as an independent Jewish-majority country. She totally omits this little bit of history.
- That her suggestion readers look “at the actual numbers of Jewish deaths and Palestinian deaths” means nothing without the following context: Israel uses the Iron Dome to deflect the thousands of missiles Hamas sent over; Israel has bomb shelters for its citizens, Hamas doesn’t; Hamas puts its missiles in schools, hospitals and office buildings, so attacks on the missiles are sure to kill innocent civilians; unlike Hamas, Israel cares about the safety and lives of its citizens.

Ms. Schlesinger goes on to quote two Israel-hating Jews, Norman Finkelstein and Senator Bernie Sanders. Finkelstein’s work has been severely critiqued by Dershowitz; like Schlesinger’s diatribe, it is full of revisionist history, designed to appeal to truly ignorant progressives. Sanders, a politician and no intellectual, also writes from the standpoint of a dishonest progressive, trying to appeal to his base of ignorant Democrats. My critique of his NYT column is at <http://www.lakesidepress.com/BernieSanders.pdf>.

Dershowitz has probably done the most to publicize (and debate) the extreme anti-

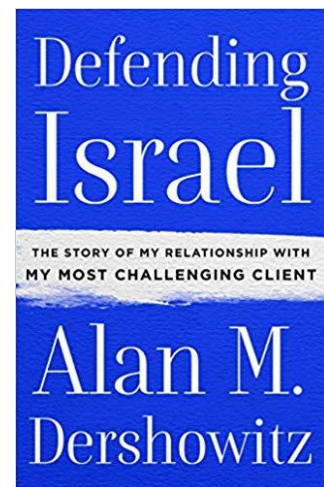
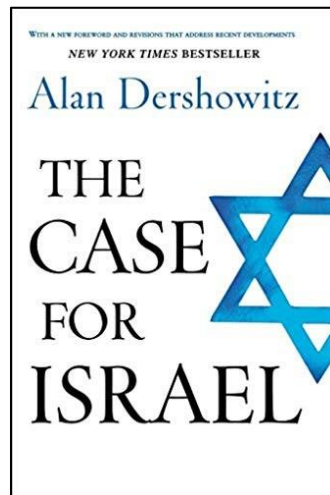
Israel views of Jewish intellectuals. Although a brilliant legal mind and prolific writer, his books on Israel come with some “baggage.” He has written books and articles that have defended President Trump’s legal positions, including arguing in the Senate against impeachment on constitutional grounds. Though he is quick to point out that he also argued against the impeachment of President Clinton, and considers himself “non-partisan,” progressives and never-Trumpers are appalled by his position.

It also hasn’t helped that Dershowitz was also on the legal team for O.J. Simpson and convicted (now deceased) pedophile Jeffrey Epstein, and is currently on the legal defense for alleged sexual predator Harvey Weinstein.

For many American Jews, Dershowitz’s choice of clients – mainly President Trump – make him a pariah, and as result they denigrate or simply ignore his views on anything. “Don’t talk to me about Dershowitz” is a typical response I hear from progressive Jews when I bring up his books about Israel.

That’s an unfortunate situation, because his pro-Israel arguments are cogent and well-founded. You may not like the messenger, but the message is worth listening to. No one writes more clearly about the hypocrisy and double standards Israel has to put up with than Alan Dershowitz.

In 2004 he published *The Case for Israel*, which was a New York Times Bestseller. In 2019 he published *Defending Israel*. He calls Israel his “most challenging client.”



<https://www.amazon.com/Case-Israel-Alan-Dershowitz/dp/0471679526/> -
<https://www.amazon.com/Defending-Israel-Relationship-Challenging-Client/dp/1250179963/>

There are other Jewish organizations that profess to be *pro*-Israel and *against* the BDS movement (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions), but advocate for what, at this point in history, seems highly unrealistic – a two-state solution. They include:

- Ameinu, <https://www.ameinu.net/>
- Americans for Peace Now, <https://peacenow.org/>
- Hashomer Hatzair, <http://www.hashomer-hatzair.net/cgi-webaxy/item?enIndex>
- Jewish Labor Committee, <http://www.jewishlabor.org/>

- J Street, <https://jstreet.org/>
- National Council of Jewish Women, <https://www.ncjw.org/>
- New Israel Fund, <https://www.nif.org/>
- Partners for Progressive Israel, <https://www.progressiveisrael.org/>
- Reconstructing Judaism, <https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/>
- T’ruah, <https://www.truah.org/about/>

The problem is not their wish for a two-state solution – history shows that Israel would love one that was workable and guaranteed peace – but how they present their case for it. Too often their true agenda seems to be to promote progressive left wing politics, and not to understand the needs and goals of the Jewish state. Always omitted is any honest recounting of the conflict’s history. Their websites and speeches and articles all seem to be full of platitudes about promoting peace and harmony between the Israelis and Palestinians, Kumbaya. Almost nothing about the Palestinians’ decades-long goal to remove all the Jews and take all the land.

Thus, it’s no surprise that the above organizations sent a letter to Democrats in the U.S. Congress in April, 2019, advocating that the House pass Resolution 326 in support of a two-state solution. See: <https://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Jewish-groups-to-US-House-Pass-resolution-in-support-of-two-state-solution-593174>.

The letter, in part quoted below, is actually a political statement, very much anti-Trump.

“His [Trump’s] administration has gone on to close the PLO mission in Washington and the US consulate in Jerusalem; terminate US aid to UNRWA and attempt to take the issue of Palestinian refugees ‘off the table’; cut off remaining humanitarian aid to the West Bank and Gaza; and recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. Meanwhile, Trump has stood by as Prime Minister [Benjamin] Netanyahu’s government has opened the floodgates to future settlement construction.”

So, these Jewish organizations strongly disagree with the Trump administration’s policies toward Israel. But what they don’t acknowledge – because of their progressive politics, and the fact it was sent to House Democrats, the letter had to be mainly anti-Trump – is a painful reality. The Palestinian leaders (terrorist and otherwise) don’t want a two state solution; they want it all, starting with the pre-1967 territories, which includes East Jerusalem, and that’s not going to happen. The letter’s statement criticizing the administration’s “attempt to take the issue of Palestinian refugees “off the table” shows incredible ignorance of “refugee” history (see item II-2, above). Persistence in claiming “right of return” guarantees zero chance of meaningful negotiations. Position letters like these are full of nice-sounding language that might make their authors feel good, but are totally unrealistic and will lead nowhere.

Probably the best known of the above 10 Jewish organizations is J Street, a powerful Washington, D.C. lobbying group. The J Street website lists 5 principles of the organization. Principle 2 states:

2. The future of Israel depends on achieving a two-state solution to the conflict with the Palestinian people.

We believe the Palestinians too have the right to a national home of their own, living side-by-side with Israel in peace and security.

We support the creation of an independent, de-militarized state of Palestine with defined borders. We believe a two-state solution to the conflict serves Israel's and America's interests and fulfills the legitimate national aspirations of the Jewish and Palestinian peoples.

Israel must choose among three things: being a Jewish homeland, remaining democratic and maintaining control over all the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. It can only have two — it can only remain both Jewish and democratic by giving up the land on which a Palestinian state can be built in exchange for peace.

For too long, pro-Israel advocacy has defined this conflict in zero-sum terms, as “us versus them,” a conflict in which there can be only one winner. But being pro-Israel doesn't require an “anti.” Israel's long-term security actually depends on fulfilling the aspirations of the Palestinian people through a two-state solution.

This sounds good and well-intentioned, but nowhere on the J Street website is there any mention of the Palestinian's refusal of a two-state solution multiple times, or of the Palestinian terrorists' demand for all of the land, or really any of the relevant history. Instead, read this propaganda by J Street and the other organizations listed above, and you might think, ‘Well, if only Israel did this, that or the other, there could be peace in the Holy Land.’ In fact, Israel *has* done this, that, and the other, and gotten nowhere with the Palestinians. The danger of J Street propaganda, as I see it, is how it plays to Jews who are simply ignorant of the history. If anything, J Street and similar organizations help perpetuate the problem by keeping Jews ignorant, by mis-representing the history instead of trying to educate them.

Mis-representing the history? Without a doubt. While one section of their website does mention rocket attacks by Palestinian terrorists, the page goes on to blame Israel for continuing to build settlements in the West Bank, thereby preventing a possible two-state solution. The page lists five specific reasons why the settlements are bad, as shown in this partial screen shot.

<https://jstreet.org/policy/security/#.XiDPiMhKguU>

In discussing Item 4, the narrator says the settlements fuel international delegitimization and hurt Israel's ability to defend itself, and cites as evidence the U.N.'s September 2009 Goldstone Report, which condemned Israel's counter-terrorism efforts in Gaza. Not one word of mention about problems with the Goldstone report.



Here is information about the Goldstone report from Wikipedia; yellow highlighting is added.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Fact-Finding_Mission_on_the_Gaza_Conflict

The Goldstone report, also known as the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, was supposed to be an independent international fact-finding mission "to investigate all violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by the occupying Power, Israel, against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip, due to the current aggression". South African jurist Richard Goldstone, a Jew, was appointed to head the mission.

The Goldstone Report accused both the Israel Defense Forces and the Palestinian militants of war crimes and possible crimes against humanity. It recommended that each side openly investigate its own conduct, and to bring the allegations to the International Criminal Court if they failed to do so.^{[4][5]} The government of Israel rejected the report as prejudiced and full of errors, and also sharply rejected the charge that it had a policy of deliberately targeting civilians...The controversial report received wide support among countries in the United Nations, while Western countries were split between supporters and opponents of the resolutions endorsing the report...Critics of the report stated that it contained methodological failings, legal and factual errors, and falsehoods, and devoted insufficient attention to the allegations that Hamas was deliberately operating in heavily populated areas of Gaza.

On 1 April 2011, Goldstone retracted his claim that it was Israeli government policy to deliberately target citizens, saying "While the investigations published by the Israeli military and recognized in the U.N. committee's report have established the validity of some incidents that we investigated in cases involving individual soldiers, they also indicate that civilians were not intentionally targeted as a matter of policy."

Alan Dershowitz points out, in his book *Defending Israel* (p. 173):


"The report was commissioned by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The commission was widely discredited because its members and chairpersons included some of the worst human rights offenders in the world, such as Iran, Syria, Belarus, China, Russia, Venezuela, Cuba, Saudi Arabia and Iraq. In order to lend credibility to the report it commission on Gaza, it appointed Richard Goldstone to be its chairman. It was a cynical, if brilliant, choice. Goldstone was a prominent Jew from South Africa, much of whose family lived in Israel. He had served as a judge during the apartheid period in South Africa, but had redeemed himself by his commitment to human rights following Nelson Mandela's assumption to the presidency of South Africa. But Goldstone was also ambitious to achieve status within the UN structure.

"I wrote a 50-page rebuttal of that error-filled report, which contributed to Richard Goldstone's decision to retract its most damning conclusions."

Goldstone's retraction received considerable publicity in 2011. Below is a partial screen shot and link to an article from the British newspaper The Guardian, April 3, 2011. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/apr/03/goldstone-regrets-report-into-gaza-war>

Judge Goldstone expresses regrets about his report into Gaza war

Richard Goldstone writes that Israeli military investigations have revealed that civilians were not targeted as a matter of policy



▲ An injured Palestinian is helped from the rubble following an Israeli missile strike in the Gaza Strip on Saturday 27 December, 2008. Photograph: Hatem Omar/AP

The judge who chaired the controversial UN inquiry into **Israel's attack on Gaza from December 2008** has expressed regret that his report may have been inaccurate.

Richard Goldstone, who led the committee that produced the Goldstone report, said in a newspaper article that "if I had known then what I know now, the Goldstone report would have been a very different document".

The judge's article was welcomed by Israeli leaders. Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, told ministers on Sunday: "There are very few incidents in which false accusations are taken back, and this is the case with the Goldstone report."

He said that **Israel** would now try to get the report retracted by the UN.

In the following link, you can read Judge Goldstone's *mea culpa* in his own words, as published in the Washington Post.

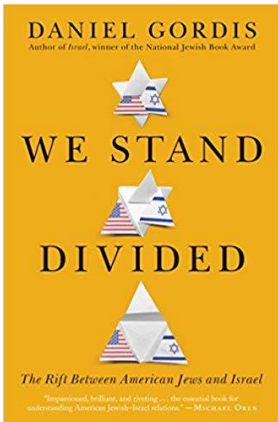
https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/reconsidering-the-goldstone-report-on-israel-and-war-crimes/2011/04/01/AFg111JC_story.html

Thus, whether or not you discount everything written by Dershowitz, it's at least fair to say that the U.N. Goldstone report was flawed, contained inaccuracies, ended up at least partly discredited, and was certainly controversial. Tell that to J Street. Without a hint of these issues, J Street cites the report as "evidence" for its claim that the Israeli settlements are a hindrance to a two-state solution.

There are many such examples of mis-representation by J Street and other progressive or left-wing Jewish websites and published media. There is of course propaganda on the right as well. But since most Jews lean left, and tend to rely on left-leaning media and websites, the real danger is one of promoting ignorance in the quest for "feel-good" values.

From my perspective, Jews in these organizations are well-meaning but naïve. By blaming Israel for the conflict, or the persistence of the conflict, and refusing to acknowledge its long, troubled history, they are indirectly supporting a cause that is actually antithetical to their own interests -- in this case the Palestinian cause, whose leaders would kill their American Jewish advocates if given the opportunity. If that sounds too hyperbolic, consider this: under the Palestinian regime, none of the Jews in these organizations would have any rights or freedoms. And, not one of their progressive causes – gay rights, abortion rights, eliminating fossil fuels, voter registration, income equality, decriminalizing drug use – would gain traction in any Arab regime.

J Street advocates would no doubt claim my last point as irrelevant, that they are not advocating for Palestinian culture or politics, only for a peaceful solution to the conflict. Yet, through their speeches and publications, they seem to insist that Israel redirect its policies to accommodate a regime that simply wants to get rid of all the Jews. It makes no sense.



It is not easy to explain what seems to be irrational blame placed on Israel, by many Jews, for the Palestinians' plight.

Daniel Gordis has written an interesting book on this topic, *We Stand Divided*. <https://www.amazon.com/We-Stand-Divided-Between-American/dp/0062873695/>

As he explains it, Israel and America have fundamentally different ideas about issues ranging from democracy and history to religion and identity. Progressive American Jews interpret events very differently from most Israelis. On our last trip to Israel, the only natives we met who were angry with Trump were two Arab cab drivers in Jerusalem. Everyone else was thankful for his support and the actions he has taken on Israel's behalf.

IV. American Politics as a Determining Factor

Do not mistake the above paragraphs as being “pro-Trump.” His behavior as president – the ill-conceived tweets, his bullying of opponents, his extreme narcissism, his actions encouraging the January 6, 2021 Capitol Hill riots– are certainly reprehensible. (Also problematic was how he changed loyalties so quickly. A joke among our 2019 Israel tour group -- about half of whom supported Trump, the other half loathed him -- was that he would turn on Netanyahu and Israel if Ivanka ever divorced her Jewish husband.)

But more and more, it seems that if you are a progressive Democrat you are either against Israel, or at least find major fault with Israel in its decades-long battle with the Palestinians. And if you are a conservative Republican, you stand with Israel and realize the hypocrisy and double standard of the pro-Palestinian Democrats. While a generalization, it does seem your political persuasion puts you in one camp or the other.

Among anti-Israel progressives there is a blatant double standard. Congresswoman Marjorie Green is condemned by Democrats and left-leaning media in part because of her anti-Semitism, but these same critics never call out the “Squad” for its overt anti-Semitism. If you’re a Democratic politician and anti-Semitic, you get a free pass by the mostly liberal media, and as a consequence by the progressives, Jewish and non-Jewish.

There are three principal reasons demagogic, anti-Semitic Democrats get this “free pass.”

- Trump was (and still is) so hated by the left that his support of Prime Minister Netanyahu turned many progressives against Israel and its right-wing government.
- Progressives love the socialist proposals of politicians like AOC and Bernie Sanders, and so turn a blind eye when these same politicians either espouse anti-Semitic tropes or print blatantly dishonest revisionist history to support their anti-Israel bias (see my commentary on Sanders’ Opinion piece in the May 14, 2021 NYT, <http://www.lakesidepress.com/BernieSanders.pdf>).
- Progressives who blame Israel for the plight of the Palestinians are, by and large, profoundly ignorant of the history of the I-P conflict.

Regarding this last explanation, it is not ignorance borne out of stupidity or inability to read. It is willful, purposeful ignorance. Jews siding with AOC and other anti-Semitic Democratic politicians simply don’t want to know (or if they do know, to acknowledge) the history of the conflict, that:

- it dates to the early 20th century, with anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist opposition arising after the Balfour Declaration of 1917
- Arabs rioted against Jews in Hebron in 1929 and murdered many of them (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1929_Hebron_massacre)
- there was an Arab revolt 1936-1939 over Jewish immigration to Palestine https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1936%E2%80%931939_Arab_revolt_in_Palestine
- the Arab leader in the 1940s, Amin al-Husseini, moved to Germany and colluded with Hitler to exterminate the Jews
- the day after Israel declared Independence (a move, by the way, supported by President Truman), five Arab nations invaded Israel intent on destroying the country
- Egypt and other Arab countries were again prepared to destroy Israel in 1967, and could have, had Israel not pre-empted the Arab attack and eliminated Egypt’s Air Force
- after Israel’s resounding victory in the June 1967 six-day war, a land for peace offer was made, to which the defeated Arabs, meeting in Khartoum just a few months later, responded:

“No peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with it.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum_Resolution

From 1948 to 1967, when Jordan controlled the West Bank, there was no move to form a Palestinian nation. And, in the first few years after the 1967 war, when Israel had control of the West Bank and very few Jewish settlements, there was no effort to form a Palestinian nation (instead, the 3 “No’s”).

Had the Arabs wanted a two-state solution in the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, or even the 1960s, it would have been feasible. But they did not. They wanted – and still want – all the land, from the river to the sea. Thus, they continued their war against Israel: the Munich Olympics massacre in 1972; the Yom Kippur War in 1973; the two intifadas, 1987-1993, and 2000-2005; the Hamas and Hezbollah attacks that continue to this day.

People who think Trump moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, or his support of Israel sovereignty over the Golan Heights, or the 2020 Abraham Accords https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Accords/ are somehow obstacles to the peace process are – to repeat – showing purposeful, willful ignorance. They are willfully ignoring all the failed attempts of previous presidents to secure peace between the Palestinians and Israelis. They are willfully ignoring all the Israeli offers of land for peace that the Palestinians have turned down. They are willfully ignoring history.

Thus, having a largely ignorant base for their twitter rants, politicians like Alexandria Ocasio -Cortez (AOC) and Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib get away with their revisionist history and anti-Semitic speech. I have met progressive Jews who actually admire AOC, which is astounding considering her overt anti-Semitism. When I have tried to explain this assessment, they do one of two things: tell me that some Republican -- Trump or Marjorie Greene or Matt Gaetz or Sean Hannity or Tucker Carlson, is a worse human being -- which is totally unrelated to the argument; or, they just walk away. The evidence is there, but they either refuse to acknowledge it, or if they do, brush it off as “not a big deal.” For them, AOC’s progressive policies are far more important than her colluding with people and policies that seek to destroy Israel. Consider the evidence:

AOC is anti-Semitic by Association

AOC is part of the Squad, all of whose members manifest various degrees of anti-Semitism. The worst are the two anti-Semitic Muslim women, Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib. They often appear together in photo-ops, vote together, and speak together in Congress. There are many references to their overt anti-Semitism. Here are a few.

- [CAMERA Snapshots: NY Times Praises Ilhan Omar’s Book While Glossing Over Her Antisemitism](#)
- <https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2019-07-17/ilhan-omar-seizes-spotlight-to-push-pro-bds-resolution>
- [Rashida Tlaib scrubs anti-Semitic tweet \(nypost.com\)](#)
- [Rashida Tlaib Wrote Op-Ed for Anti-Semitic Louis Farrakhan Outlet -- Report | National Review](#)

AOC is anti-Semitic by Language

She has accused Israel of “apartheid” in well-publicized tweets. See:

- [US legislator AOC calls Israel an ‘apartheid state’ | Israel-Palestine conflict News | Al Jazeera](#)
- [Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez calls Israel an apartheid state - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

AOC calls Israel an apartheid state without ever mentioning (or caring about) the true apartheid states of Egypt, Syria, Iran, or the Gaza strip, where there are no Jews, and where there is also no freedom of religion or freedom of the press (unless you want to be killed). Israel has 20+% Arab citizens, several in the Knesset. This is apartheid? Of course not. The term is nothing more than a buzzword to energize U.S. progressives against Israel.

AOC is anti-Semitic by being a vocal supporter of BDS

AOC’s support for BDS is well-documented.

- [Ocasio-Cortez Co-Sponsors Omar’s BDS Resolution – The Forward](#)
- [AOC letter on Israel's West Bank annexation has BDS support \(nypost.com\)](#)
- [Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's activist group called to annihilate Israel - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

It’s always “boycott Israel,” so Israel will change its behavior. AOC and the other congressional anti-Semites never rally against Arab countries that treat women like second class citizens, that foster and finance terrorism, or that operate as totalitarian theocracies. Instead, they go after Israel, a successful democracy and ally of the U.S., because...that’s where the Jews are.

More on the BDS movement

Most progressives seem to be clueless about the real purpose of the BDS movement, so they turn a blind eye when AOC says she’s for it.

The goal of BDS is, quite simply, the destruction of Israel. In the founders’ own words, Omar Barghouti:

“The BDS movement was launched because of the ongoing failure to protect the rights of the Palestinian people. Some of these rights were frittered away: The Right of Return is in danger, the right of our people to the 1948 lands is in danger, and even the right of our people to the 1967 lands. Some of these rights are ignored. The BDS movement was created in 2005, in order to focus on the elimination of the occupation, on the elimination of the system of racial segregation – the Israeli apartheid – and on the right of the refugees to return to the homes from which they were expelled.”

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/bds-in-their-own-words>

Barghouti doesn’t mean the actual refugees from 1948; he means their 5+ million descendants, which of course would mean the elimination of Israel as a Jewish state.

And this, from a professor at California State University:

“The real aim of BDS is to bring down the state of Israel... That should be stated as an unambiguous goal. There should not be any equivocation on the subject. Justice and freedom for the Palestinians are incompatible with the existence of the state of Israel.”

As’ad AbuKhalil

<https://ratemyracistprofessor.com/professors/anti-israel/asad-abukhalil/>

There is a ton of information on the BDS movement and its real goals – destruction of Israel. From my perspective, there are only two possible ways to view a proponent of the movement: woefully ignorant, or anti-Semitic (or both). See:

https://www.factsandlogic.org/ad_169-what-does-bds-really-want/?gclid=CjwKCAjwp-X0BRAFEiwAheRui36KJbeMjmh7kx8hzMApfPmBb1sRM_G-DF0FrFY1GmQ2Xs5PeJn6_BoCtDEQAvD_BwE

It is interesting to ponder how many of the college students who buy into BDS understand its true purpose, and if so, how many agree with it.

Note that on the “Rate my Professor” website, AbuKhalil gets a 4.2 “racist score” out of 5. This is a high score, but not the highest. That award goes to one Julio Cesar Pino, a professor at Kent State University. As stated on the website, he is a “Cuban-born convert to Islam who promotes anti-American, anti-Israel and anti-Semitic ideas.” Makes you wonder how long a professor in Gaza, who promoted anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian ideas, would last. My guess is about a day.

AOC has millions of “followers” on twitter, and many think she is the new, progressive voice of the Democratic Party. Older folks, particularly of a more conservative bent (defined anyway you want), are frankly appalled that any Jew could think highly of her.

A perceptive comment about the Squad’s speeches in Congress in May 2021 is in this website.

[Watch AOC, Rashida Tlaib, The Squad's Powerful Speeches On Palestine and Israel \(jezebel.com\)](https://jezebel.com/watch-aoc-rashida-tlaib-the-squad-s-powerful-speeches-on-palestine-and-israel/)

“In what the Intercept called a “historic moment on the House floor,” Rashida Tlaib, Ayanna Pressley, Cori Bush, Ilhan Omar, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez gave talks that, taken together, signal a broader shift when it comes to Americans’ willingness to criticize the policy decisions of both the U.S. and Israeli governments. What was once an untouchable third rail in U.S. politics, even for many so-called progressives, is no longer unspeakable.”

If the criticism was fair, rational, even-handed, honest as to the history of the Conflict and the true goals of the terrorists, then it would be appropriate. But the criticism is so unfair, so irrational, so not-even-handed, and ignores the history of the Conflict.

Now, the excuse the critics often give is, “We are not anti-Semitic when we criticize Israel, just “anti-Zionist.” The false distinction between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism is discussed further in the next section.

V. **Anti-Zionism vs. Anti-Semitism**

An oft-heard claim by critics of Israel is that their criticisms are not anti-Semitic, but anti-Zionist: against Israel’s policies, not against the Jewish people, per se. Certainly, Israel is not immune to criticism. Among its biggest critics are its own citizens (see <https://www.haaretz.com/>, Israel’s left-leaning English daily newspaper, which offers relentless criticism). But far more often than not, the “anti-Zionist” criticisms are really, unequivocally, anti-Semitism in flimsy disguise. How so?

There is a simple test, discussed in Dershowitz’s latest book, called the 3 D’s: Demonization, Double Standards, and Delegitimazation. To this list I have added a 4th D, Destruction.

- Demonization – when the critic makes absurd comparisons, as comparing Israeli treatment of Palestinians to Nazi treatment of Jews, or comparing Israel’s treatment of its Arab citizens to South Africa’s apartheid policy against blacks – that is blatant anti-Semitism. It is simply lying about reality to demonize one nation, and only one nation.
- Double Standards – When criticism is applied selectively to Israel, such as blaming Israel for human rights abuses while ignoring countries with far worse human rights issues like China, Iran, Cuba, Syria and Venezuela.
- Delegitimazation – When Israel’s fundamental right to exist is denied, along among all peoples of the world.
- Destruction – When the policies proposed would, inevitably, lead to destruction of Israel as a Jewish nation. Here the BDS movement takes center stage. People who claim the BDS movement is not against the Jewish people per se, but only Israel’s policies, are blowing smoke. And they know it. The BDS movement calls for:
 - Ending its **occupation** and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the **Wall**;
 - Recognizing the fundamental rights of the **Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel** to full equality; and
 - Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of **Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties** as stipulated in **UN Resolution 194**.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boycott,_Divestment_and_Sanctions)

All this sounds good until you realize that the first and third items translate into total destruction of Israel. “All Arab lands” means all the land between the river and the sea.

As for UN Resolution 194, it refers to a resolution passed in 1948, stating that refugees from the December, 1948 war should be allowed to return to their homes in Israel. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly_Resolution_194

But the BDS movement interprets it the way the UNRWA does today. “Refugees” means *all the descendants* of the original refugees, i.e., some 5 million Palestinians. See II-2 above. Same argument. *Let’s destroy Israel this way.* That is the BDS movement.

So yes, there are many valid criticisms of Israel, as there are of any other country. But if the criticism fits into one or more of the 4-D’s, it is anti-Semitism, not anti-Zionism.

VI.

Summary: Irreconcilable Views

The Arab intransigence after the 1967 war, followed by the Yom Kippur war in 1973, and the many unprovoked attacks on Israel since then, have hardened Israel at the negotiating table. Israel’s reprisals have hardened the Arabs as well.

Indeed, Israel’s reactionary treatment of Palestinians has served as major rallying point for further indictment of Israel as the aggressor and oppressor. In this version of history, it’s not the Arabs and their wars against Israel, nor the Palestinian leaders’ refusal to consider a two-state solution when they had the chance, nor the manifest corruption of the Palestinian leaders that have prevented a ‘peaceful solution’; the reason is Israel’s oppressive treatment of the occupied Palestinians. See:

- https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/deconstructing-netanyahu_b_11371564.html?utm_hp_ref=israeli-palestinian-conflict
- <https://www.lrb.co.uk/v36/n23/nathan-thrall/rage-in-jerusalem>

Israel would love a solution that guaranteed its sovereignty and also satisfied the Palestinians, but that solution simply does not exist. As David Remnick wrote in a 2013 New Yorker article on the West Bank settlements:

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/01/21/the-party-faithful>

“There have been countless plans for division and resolution—the U.N. partition plan in 1947; the Oslo process in the mid-nineties; Ehud Barak’s offers to Yasir Arafat at Camp David and Taba, in 2000 and 2001; Ariel Sharon’s unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, in 2005; Ehud Olmert’s offer to Mahmoud Abbas, in 2007—and with what results? Wars, intifadas, terror, rocket fire, Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, hostility in the U.N. and Europe, threats of boycotts and delegitimatization. Most Israelis no longer care that the Palestinians see this stark narrative of rejectionism and terror in a very different way; there is scant recognition of the role of settlements, roadblocks, harassment, evictions, detentions, the abuses of the I.D.F., and much else.”

Yes, the Palestinians and Israelis see all this history – the attacks on Israel and Israel’s acts of defiance and retaliation – in very different ways, and this is a major reason why there is no two-state solution. All the talk and posturing and statements and proposals are not going to lead to peace. To summarize:

Pro-Palestinian View

- Israel was founded illegally, a result of European colonialism and imperialism.
- UN Resolution 181 in 1947 violated principles of self-determination. The UN vote was held under great pressure and duress, making it doubly invalid.
- Israel is occupying a land that rightfully belongs to the Arabs.
- Israel is a racist nation, and practices “apartheid”.
- Refugees from the 1948 Arab-Israeli war should be allowed to return to their homes in Israel, with “refugees” defined as ALL descendants of Arabs who left Israel during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.
- Israel’s responses to Arab terrorist attacks over the years have been “disproportionate”, leading to deaths of innocent civilians
- Acts of terrorism that kill Jews are fully justified because of Israel’s oppression of Palestinians.
- **Israel has no right to exist as an independent, Jewish state and must be eliminated.**

Pro-Israeli View

- Israel was founded legally, based on UN Resolution 181 in 1947. Palestinians had a chance to form their own country at the time, and chose instead to start a war with Israel.
- Jews have been in the Holy Land for thousands of years and have as much right to be there as Arabs.
- Like any other country, Israel has every right to defend itself, and to secure its borders.
- In no other place on earth does the UN recognize as “refugees” all the descendants of original refugees, in perpetuity. This refugee claim is a charade perpetuated by the Arab block in order to assure an impossible demand Israel could never agree to; if it did, there would be no more Israel.
- Terrorist groups use Arab civilians as human shields, so that if they are killed the UN and Arab-sympathetic governments and American progressives will condemn Israel.
- Over decades, Arab leaders have spent billions trying to destroy Israel, instead of spending to improve the lives of their own people.
- Palestinians are unfortunate pawns played by other Arab nations wishing to delegitimize Israel and gain power in the region.
- The greatest threat to Arabs is not Israel but *other Arabs* (Sunni-Shi’a wars; Syrian Civil War; Taliban and ISIS who invade and kill wantonly).

- **Israel has made every effort to secure peace, and been consistently thwarted by Arab intransigence.**

VII. The Solution As I See It: A Radical Change in the World Order

The only solution to the conflict as I see it is a radical change in the world order. Based on the history as recounted above, this seems highly unlikely to occur any time soon. At the least, it will likely take one-two generations, if not more. By radical change in the world order, I mean:

- A revolution in Iran that removes its Jew-hating theocracy and leads Iran to give up its quest for regional dominance.
- The emergence of strong Palestinian leaders who care more about their own people than they do about killing Israelis, and who can avoid assassination for expressing and acting on this belief. This means giving up the charade of “right of return” of all descendants of the 1948 Israeli-Arab war.
- Establishing freedom of press and of speech in Palestinian-controlled areas, while eliminating school curricula that only teaches Palestinian children to blame the Jews for everything.
- Restructuring the UN to eliminate UNRWA and put all true Palestinian refugees under UNHCR.
- Full acceptance of Israel as a sovereign Jewish nation by Israel’s Arab neighbors, which would also require them to aid in emasculating terrorist groups like Hamas, Hezbollah, and Islamic Jihad.
- Agreement by the Palestinians to form a nation state that is: a) not run by terrorists; b) acknowledges Israel’s legitimacy and right to exist; c) agrees to an unequivocal peace agreement with Israel; d) accepts any Jews living in its borders as citizens, just as Arabs living in Israel are Israeli citizens.

Since Israel is determined to remain Jewish and sovereign, and has the military muscle to stay that way, the solution to the conflict lies with the Palestinians and their Arab supporters. In closing, it is worth quoting two of Israel’s Prime Ministers.

“Peace will come when the Arabs will love their children more than they hate us.”

-- Golda Meir

“If the Arabs put down their weapons today, there would be no more violence. If the Jews put down their weapons today, there would be no more Israel.”

-- Benjamin Netanyahu

