



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET



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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Israel is engulfed once more with righteous fury that translates into destructive policies in the Gaza Strip. This appalling self-justification for the inhumanity and impunity is not just annoying, it is a subject worth dwelling on, if one wants to understand the international immunity for the massacre that rages on in Gaza. It is based first and foremost on sheer lies transmitted with a newpeak reminiscent of darker days in 1930s Europe. Every half an hour a news bulletin on the radio and television describes the victims of Gaza as terrorists and Israel's massive killings of them as an act of self-defence.

Israel presents itself to its own people as the righteous victim that defends itself against a great evil. The academic world is recruited to explain how demonic and monstrous is the Palestinian struggle, if it is led by Hamas. These are the same scholars who demonized the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in an earlier era and delegitimized his Fatah movement during the second Palestinian intifada.

But the lies and distorted representations are not the worst part of it. It is the direct attack on the last vestiges of humanity and dignity of the Palestinian people that is most enraging. The Palestinians in Israel have shown their solidarity with the people of Gaza and are now branded as a fifth column in the Jewish state; their right to remain in their homeland cast as doubtful given their lack of support for the Israeli aggression..."

"Israel's Righteous Fury and Its Victims in Gaza" by Ilan Pappé, 3rd January, 2009.
Ilan Pappé is chair in the Department of History at the University of Exeter.

HOW ISRAELI LEADERS KILL FOR THEIR PEOPLE'S VOTES – **Gilad Atzmon:** *Israeli-born musician and writer Gilad Atzmon, who has renounced his Jewishness and Israeli nationality, explains Israel's massacre of Palestinians in Gaza in terms of Israeli culture, which is imbued with racism and a murderous hatred of Arabs in general and Palestinians in particular.* Source: <http://www.redress.cc/zionism/gatzmon20081230> (30/12/08).

"In order to grasp the latest devastating and murderous Israeli expedition in Gaza, one must deeply comprehend the Israeli identity and its inherent hatred towards anyone who is not Jewish and towards Arabs in particular. This hatred is imbued in the Israeli curriculum, it is preached by political leaders and implied by their acts, and it is conveyed by cultural figures, even within the so-called "Israeli left".

I grew up in Israel in the 1970s. People of my generation are nowadays leaders in the Israeli army,

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politics, economy, academia and the arts. We were trained to believe that "a good Arab is a dead Arab". A few weeks before I joined the Israeli armed forces in the early 1980s, General Rafael Eitan, the chief of staff at the time, announced that the "Arabs were stoned cockroaches in a bottle". He got away with it; he also got away with the murder of many thousands of Lebanese civilians in the first Lebanon war. In a word, Israelis manage to get away with murder. Luckily enough, and for reasons that are still far beyond my comprehension, at a certain stage I woke up out of that lethal Hebraic dream. At some point I left the Jewish state, I evaded the Jewish hate-mongering, I had become an opponent of the Jewish state and any other form of Jewish politics. However, I am utterly convinced that it is my primary duty to inform every being that is willing to listen about that which are we up against.

A 'state of their own' has failed miserably: Although the central purpose of Zionism was to transform Jews by "giving them a state of their own" and making them like any other people, it has failed miserably. The Israeli barbarism that we saw this week and too many times before is far beyond bestiality. It is killing for the sake of killing. And it is indiscriminate. Few people in the west are aware of the devastating fact that killing Arabs and Palestinians in particular is a very effective Israeli political recipe. The Israelis are indeed a confused people. As much as they insist upon seeing themselves as a "shalom-seeking" nation, they also love to be led by politicians with an astonishing record of murderous activity. Whether it was Sharon, Rabin, Begin, Shamir or Ben Gurion, Israelis love their "democratically-elected leaders" to be belligerent hawks with their hands dripping with blood and backed by a solid record of crimes against humanity. We are weeks before an election in Israel and it would seem that both the prime ministerial candidates of Kadima and Labour, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and Defence Minister Ehud Barak, are trailing well behind the Likud candidate, the notorious hawk Binyamin "Bibi" Netanyahu. Livni and Barak need their little war. They must prove to the Israelis that they know how to engage in mass slaughter. Both Livni and Barak have to provide the Israeli voter with some real exhibition of devastating carnage, so that the Israelis can trust their leadership. This is their only chance against Netanyahu. Seemingly, Livni and Barak are throwing tons of bombs on Palestinian civilians, schools and hospitals because this is exactly what the Israelis want to see.

Israelis are not known for mercy and grace: Unfortunately, Israelis are not known for mercy and grace. Instead, they are appeased by retaliation and vengeance, they are cheered by their own limitless brutality. When former Israeli Air Force commander Dan Halutz was asked how it feels to drop a bomb on a highly populated neighbourhood in Gaza, his answer was short and precise. "It feels like a light bump on the right wing," was his reply. Halutz's cold, deadly manner was enough to secure his promotion to armed forces chief of staff shortly thereafter. It was General Halutz who led the Israeli army into the second Lebanon war. It was this man who perpetrated the destruction of Lebanese infrastructure and large parts of Beirut.

Seemingly, in Israeli politics Arab blood is translated into votes: It would obviously be very reasonable to charge Livni, Barak and the current armed forces chief of staff, Gabriel Ashkenazi, with first-degree murder, crimes against humanity and obvious breaches of the Geneva Conventions. But it would be far more meaningful to take into account that Israel is a "democracy". Livni, Barak and Ashkenazi are giving the Israeli people that which they want: it is called Arab blood and it must come in vast quantities. This repetitive murderous practice, conducted by Israeli politicians, reflects on the Israeli people as a whole rather than just a few politicians and generals. We are dealing here with a barbarian society that is politically driven by bloodthirstiness and lethal inclinations. There should be no mistake: there is no room for these people among civilized nations.

This somehow allows them to punish Palestinians for Nazi crimes: Why the Israeli people are so remote from any notion of humanism is a big question.

The generous and naïve humanists among us may argue that the Shoah, or Holocaust, left a big scar in the Israeli soul. This may explain why Israelis are obsessively cultivating that very memory with the support of their Diaspora brothers and sisters. The Israelis say "never again" and what they mean is that Auschwitz should never reoccur. This somehow allows them to punish the Palestinian for the crimes committed by the Nazis. However, the realists among us do not buy this argument anymore. They are now beginning to acknowledge that it is more than possible that the Israelis are so incredibly brutal just because this is how they are. It goes far beyond rationality or pseudo-analytical assumptions. They say: "this is what the Israelis are and there is not much we can do about it anymore". The realists among us have come to admit that killing is how the Israelis interpret the meaning of being Jewish. Gravely, many of us are coming to admit that there is no alternative humanist secular Jewish value system to replace the murderous Hebraic one. The Jewish state is there to prove that Jewish national autonomy is an inhuman concept.

I grew up in post-1967 Israel. I was raised in the wake of the Israeli mythical victory. We were trained to worship the "Israeli who shoots from the hip", the platoon commando who shoots his Uzi automatic rifle in the direction of the Arabs and manages to win against four armies in just six days. It may have taken me two decades too long to understand that the Israeli who "shoots from the hip" was actually the master of indiscriminate killing. Barak was one of those 1967 heroes, he was a master indiscriminate killer. Apparently, the Israeli cabinet has just approved his plan for the biggest raid on Gaza since 1967.

Livni is more or less my age and, as we know from the news, she has internalized the message. She is now accumulating the necessary credentials as an indiscriminate murderer. Both Barak and Livni are taking Israel and Palestine into an election campaign of slaughter. Arab and Palestinian blood is the fuel of Israeli politics. I may just suggest to Livni and Barak that it may not help them in the polls. Netanyahu is a genuine, authentic hawk. He doesn't have to pretend to be a murderer, and as much as I despise him, he has yet to take Israel into a war. He probably understands better than them what the power of deterrence is all about.

Memo from the same webpage: This article by Gilad Atzmon is refreshingly candid. I would add that everything he says about 'Israelis' applies also to American Zionists – including those who are surprised to discover Israel's essential racism – and then find that this does not induce them to audibly oppose racist violence that was never really disguised in the first place.

The blindness of U.S. Zionist support for Israel is not caused by an urgent need to support something which cannot be justified as it really is, in plain sight. That notion, like all excuses for Israel, requires 'angry' denial of reason. The cause and effect go the other way. The luxurious chauvinistic approval Israel enjoys from U.S. Zionists is the source of the unlimited financial support provided by all U.S. taxpayers (over eight million dollars a day) – wangled from us through our inability to believe the obvious truth our Zionist friends, neighbours, and mass-media want us to deny. That unlimited support, with no questions asked, is what causes Israeli policies to be determined by the psychopaths who inevitably rise to top Israeli leadership by getting the quickest, bloodiest results: the policies that take utmost advantage of unlimited money and no accountability.

The geographic distance and psychic disconnect between the complacent soccer-mom Zionists among us and the hideous results of their comfy support for Israel, is exactly the disconnect that allows unthinkable barbarism – 'the insanity of war' – to prevail in Palestine and all the spin-off wars in the Middle East, belying all our espoused beliefs. The pleasing congeniality of our Zionist friends turns to resentment and censorship if we mention the ethnic-cleansing of Palestine. And that hostile reaction, just inside the congenial surface, is the near end of the racist violence which, at the other end, slaughters perfectly innocent men, women, and children, as 'regrettably required' for the constant expansion of an officially 'Jewish' state in multi-ethnic Palestine.

GREAT TWENTIETH CENTURY SCRIBES by Betty Luks: Gilad Atzmon's article (above) brought to mind such men as Eric D. Butler, Ivor Benson and Douglas Reed. All three wrote from a traditional-historical Christian viewpoint and all three wrote on the Jewish-Zionist question.

(Some of the smaller booklets are available online under the Library section of www.alor.org. A fuller list of important books that are available from all Heritage Book Services and Veritas Publications at the end of this article.)

I well remember when Douglas Reed's book "The Controversy of Zion" was released in 1978, it caused such consternation among some Christian groups, while the Zionists ignored it. Here was a writer analysing and criticising the ideology behind portions of the Old Testament in the light of Christ's teachings and how the ideology was outworked in this day and age.

These were fearless men who suffered the hate and malice of the Zionist's mouthpieces – be they politicians or journalists – to tell the people how it is really was and is. Ivor Benson saw the story of "The Controversy of Zion" as "part of the history of the 20th Century" which "throws light on a struggle of which the multitudes know nothing" even though the struggle is "conducted relentlessly and unceasingly on the battleground of the human mind."

Douglas Reed was a London *Times* correspondent in Central Europe and author of numerous books each amplifying a hundredfold the scope available to him as one of the world's leading foreign correspondents of an earlier time.

In the epilogue of his book "The Controversy of Zion" he wrote: "I have written with feeling: the feeling of a contemporary, participant, eye-witness and of a journalist thwarted in his calling, which in my belief should serve truth without fear or favour, not special interests. I have seen more of the events of our century and of the secret perversions of national purposes than most, and have discovered through this experience that it was not all chance, but design. Therefore I have written a protest, but it is a protest against the suppression of truth, not against life. It is a contemporary's tale of history in the making..."

Anyway. I leave the dispassionate analysis to the future scribe, whose flesh and heartbeat will not be involved: to him the microscope, to me the living spectacle. I am involved. "In history" (said Lord Macaulay) "only the interpretation according to doctrinal necessity ever seems to survive, as the inconvenient and contradictory facts are forgotten or ignored." On that count, this living scribe may be acquitted.

I have not ignored anything known to me and I have presented what I know as truly as I am able. I have given the picture of our century as it appeared to a man involved, and as it was withheld from the public masses, who as they went along received only "the interpretation" according to what politicians held to be necessity.

In our time, I judge, a barbaric superstition born in antiquity and nurtured through the ages by a semi-secret priesthood, has returned to plague us in the form of a political movement supported by great wealth and power in all great capitals of the world. Through the two methods used, revolution from below and the corruption of governments from above, it has come far towards success in a fantastic ambition of achieving world dominion, using these two instruments to incite nations against each other...

Continued in The Bulletin

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