

## THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

By Peter M. Friedman

The Land, the Refugees, the United Nations, Islam, and Yasser Arafat

The continuing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian “refugees” is very simple, but also complex because of the politics and outside influences. To understand the issues involved one must understand the meaning of the terms used by the parties and the media. The term “refugees” refers to those Palestinian Arabs allegedly displaced by Jewish immigration prior to May 1948 combined with the attack of the Arab nations surrounding Israel on May 15, 1948, the day after Israel declared itself a sovereign state. Since that time the Palestinian refugees have descended to the third generation. The original 1948 refugees are the grandparents now of the younger refugee population. What began in 1948 as roughly 400,000 refugees has blossomed into roughly 3 million over the three generations without any resolution. The United Nations funds and operates various refugee “camps” in the West West Bank, Jordan and Lebanon since 1948. Many of the refugees left these camps years ago and resettled elsewhere in the Arab and Western world and lead prosperous, productive lives today. The refugees who remained in the camps did so with the Arab promise that they would be returned to their original land in Palestine after Israel was destroyed. It was a promise that was never fulfilled by the Arabs after several major attacks on Israel since 1948.

To fully understand the present conflict circumstances one must understand the history that led there. There were promises that were made and broken by major superpowers resulting from WW1 and WW2, strategic oil interests, and religious interests for Jews, Christians, and Muslims. It was an impossible situation from the inception of the idea of the League of Nations in 1922 to create a Jewish Homeland. Prior to the League of Nations mandate, Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Palestine got along fairly well, not to mention the usual diverse population issues which really were more in the nature of individual crime vice religious or ethnic prejudice. Jews, Christians, and Muslims had lived in the area side-by-side for thousands of years. It was only when the League of Nations forced the British Mandate on Palestine after WW1 that the conflict, as we know it today, began. Had the Arabs not sided with the Germans at the beginning of WW1, and then sided with Hitler in WW2 as a result of broken British promises, things might be very different today.

### THE LAND

Why did Jews want a national homeland? For the past 3000 years Jews have had nowhere to go. They have always been strangers in strange lands. In spite of the fact that Jews throughout history, as a community, have made the best doctors, educators, scientists, merchants, and especially bankers, they have had to exist as second-class citizens, most times not “citizens” at all. It is because of this second-class treatment throughout history that Jews have excelled. It is

because of this treatment that Jews have relied upon education and knowledge rather than material wealth. In 1300 Jews were ordered out of England and were not allowed to return until 1600 under James I. The history of England between 1300 and 1600 is one of bankruptcy and feudal wars. When Ferdinand and Isabella ordered all Jews from Spain in 1492 as a part of the Catholic Inquisition, the Jews migrated to Africa, Portugal, and France. Their departure signaled the end of the "Golden Age of Spain". Jews were not allowed to become citizens of Spain again until 1870. In 1894 the French Army framed Col. Alfred Dreyfus and deported him to Devil's Island for life. It set off terrible anti-Semitism in France and around the world. While Dreyfus was finally exonerated in 1899, the anti-Semitic feelings never left France and exist even to today. One of the reporters at the Dreyfus trial was a Viennese Jew, Theodore Herzl. It was Herzl who began to petition and argue for a Jewish national homeland. It culminated in the first Jewish Congress held in Basle, Switzerland to bring the issue to the world's attention. Persecuted Jews needed somewhere to go!

In 1854, according to a report in the New York Tribune, Jews constituted two-thirds of the population of Jerusalem. This report was made by a journalist on assignment in the Middle East that year for the Tribune. His name was Karl Marx! When Mark Twain visited the Holy Land in 1867, he was greatly disappointed. He didn't see any people. He referred to it as a "vast wasteland". The land we now know as Israel was practically deserted. A travel guide to Palestine and Syria published in 1906 by Karl Baedeker confirms the fact that the Muslim population in Jerusalem was far less than the Jewish population. According to the guide, the total population of the city was 60,000, of whom 7,000 were Muslims, 13,000 were Christians and 40,000 were Jews. "The number of Jews has greatly risen in the last few decades, in spite of the fact that they are forbidden to immigrate or to possess landed property," the book stated. Even though Muslims today claim Jerusalem as the third holiest site in Islam, when the city was under Islamic rule, they had little interest in it.

The Jews came, drained the swamps and made the deserts fertile, and the Arabs followed. The Arabs came for jobs and a higher standard of living!

Winston Churchill observed in 1939, "So far from being persecuted [by the Jews], the Arabs have crowded into the country and multiplied till their population has increased more than even all world Jewry could lift up the Jewish population." Then in 1947 came the UN partition because of the growing hostility by the Arabs toward the Jews. The United Nations proposed the creation of two states in the region one Jewish, one Arab. The Jews accepted their assigned 17% of the land gratefully. The surrounding Arabs rejected it unanimously and declared war. The Palestinians didn't want to leave Israel and the good jobs they had. In fact, Israel pleaded with them to stay, and told them they could, because there were not enough Jewish workers to take their places. The other Arabs scared them into fleeing!

In May 1948 Arab leaders urged the Palestinian Arabs to leave the area so they would not be caught in the coming crossfire. They were told they could return to their homes after Israel was crushed and the Jews destroyed. But, it didn't work out that way. Several hundred thousand Palestinian Arabs were displaced by this war, not by Israeli aggression, not by some Jewish real-

estate grab, not by Israeli expansionism. They chose to leave because their Arab brothers convinced them the Jews would massacre them!

The sons and daughters, and grandsons and granddaughters of those 1948 refugees are still living in UN refugee camps because they are being misused as a political tool of the Arab powers. This diverts attention from the internal problems of the Arab countries. Palestinian Arabs could be resettled immediately by the rich Arab oil states that control 99.9 percent of the Middle East landmass, but they are kept as virtual prisoners, filled with misplaced hatred for Jews and armed as suicide martyrs by the Arab power brokers. This is the real history of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

At no time did the Jews uproot Arab families from their homes. When there were deeds to be purchased, the Jews bought them at inflated prices from the Grand Mufti in Cairo. The property that encompassed the borders of Israel prior to 1967 was bought and paid for through the Jewish Agency set up in 1922 specifically for this purpose resulting from the Balfour Declaration in 1917 and the League of Nations Mandate in 1922. Jews from all over the world donated money to purchase this land to resettle the persecuted Jews of Eastern Europe, especially from Russia and Poland.

The Ottoman Turks had controlled Palestine for nearly 400 years prior to World War One. At the outbreak of the War they sided with the Germans, When the War was over and the Germans lost, the Ottoman Empire was dissolved by the Allies. The territory of Palestine was mandated to Great Britain. The problem was that the British lied to the Arabs. They promised the Arabs independence if they fought the Ottoman Turks and sided with the British. The problem began when the British refused to grant Arab independence and the League of Nations made the territory a mandate. The British were caught in a trap between the Arabs and the Jews who were promised resettlement.

If there is a “villain” it has to be the British! The British colonization of Palestine was a disaster from start to finish. No other mistake, even the loss of the American colonies in 1776, brought such humiliation for such an absence of gain. Britain would have been better off not interfering in Palestine at all. But, there were “strategic” issues at stake which they felt at the time were of consuming importance.

The British promised a piece of land to the Jews, in keeping with the Balfour Declaration, prior to the close of the War when it appeared that Allied victory was within reach. This was partly a political decision because Britain wanted to escape from another wartime promise made to France – that Palestine would be placed under international control. The British had seen the Turkish advance through Palestine to the Suez Canal and decided that this access was too important to Britain’s interests to be in “international” or French control. The British needed a post for British military to guarantee access to the Canal. Making the deal with the Jews seemed the best excuse to have a British presence in the area. The Jews needed a home, and the British needed a defensive post. It was as simple as that!

The British had good reason to believe that the Jews and Arabs might get along. Emir Feisal agreed that the migration of the Jews could “do much to improve the lot of the Arab population.” The mandate for Palestine clearly required the “establishment of the Jewish national home” and

instructed Britain to “facilitate Jewish immigration”. As a reward for assisting with the creation of the mandate, the British gave Emir Feisal the ex-Turkish province of Syria. However, Britain had also promised Syria to France and, after twenty months, the French threw Feisal out and took control. As a consolation prize, the British then gave Iraq to Feisal for Feisal’s promise that the British could keep a military base there. The British went farther though.

Winston Churchill had become Colonial Secretary in 1921. To further curry favor with Arab leaders, Churchill created another territory called Transjordan, and then he gave it to another son of Sharif Hussein, Abdullah. Abdullah said he would accept the Jewish national home in Palestine. Britain had, in effect, colonized the Middle East. Britain maintained a controlling influence now in Transjordan, Iraq, Egypt and Persia (Iran). In the words of Lord Peel in 1937:

“It was assumed that the establishment of the National Home would mean a great increase of prosperity for all Palestine. It was an essential part of the Zionist mission to revivify the country, to repair by Jewish labour, skill and capital the damage it had suffered from centuries of neglect. Arabs would benefit therefrom as well as Jews. They would find the country they had known so long as poor and backward rapidly acquiring the material blessings of western civilization. On that account it was assumed that Arab fears and prejudices would gradually be overcome.”

Nothing pleases a politician more than the merging of morality and interest! Thousands of Jews had fled from the pogroms of Russia and Europe, as well as the slaughter of Jews by Christians through the Crusades and the Inquisition. It was a way to make restitution and to create a valuable, reliable, and trusted ally in the Middle East.

Jewish immigration began in earnest around 1921. From approximately 1895 through 1918 some 70,000 Jews had migrated to Palestine without much event. The Zionists had raised money and were buying up land on which these Jews settled. Churchill reported to the House of Commons after visiting Palestine in 1922:

“The Arabs believe that in the next few years they are going to be swamped by scores of thousands of immigrants. There is really nothing for the Arabs to be frightened about... There is no doubt whatever that at the present time the country is greatly underpopulated. Anyone who has seen the work of the Jewish colonies which have been established during the last twenty or thirty years in Palestine will be struck by the enormous productive results which they have achieved.”

Britain was also very pleased that the new Jewish settlements had been financed 100% by the international Zionist organization. Not one penny came from the pockets of the British taxpayer! And the land being purchased was bought from willing Arab landowners, much of the time at greatly inflated prices.

Between 1922 and 1926, 75,000 Jews settled in Palestine. Many of these settlers were doctors who offered their services to the Arab community without charge, teachers who offered to teach Arab children about the world, and scientists who offered to teach the Arabs about the new technologies in farming they had brought from Europe. To the Palestinian Arabs they were all a threat. In many cases, the land sold by an Arab farmer was the only employment possibility for his Arab tenants. The Jews wanted to farm the land themselves. Many times the British authorities had to evict the tenants from the land that was purchased by the Jews. As more Jewish

immigrants arrived, they were hired by Jewish settlers instead of hiring the jobless Arabs. The Jews were taking care of their own and the Arabs didn't like it. That simple.

The first Governor of Palestine under the British mandate was Sir Herbert Samuel, a Jew. One of his first acts was an attempt to form a local council made up of Palestinian Arabs, but they refused to take part. Sir Samuel then went to the Supreme Muslim Council who appointed a local tribal leader, Haj Amin al-Husseini, to the Council. But al-Husseini, to cover his own corruption, started many of the anti-Jewish riots. He then refused to take any part in the meetings set up by the British and the Jews to remedy the situation. He even refused to acknowledge the legitimacy of the mandate. Rather than get rid of him angering the Arabs further, the British decided to put restrictions on further Jewish immigration. Then matters became even worse!

Adolph Hitler came to power in Germany in 1933. Jews began to flee to Palestine overwhelming the British and angering the Arabs even further. In 1935 alone more than 35,000 European Jews entered Palestine. Hitler's threats of conquest made many British politicians feel as though they needed these Arab states they helped to create as allies and the influx of more Jews into Palestine was exacerbating the situation.

In 1937 Britain sent Lord Peel to assess the situation. Peel reported that the only way to rectify the situation was to partition the land into a Jewish state and an Arab state, and for the British to get out altogether! The Jews were to get a small area in the north with the Arabs getting the rest. The Jews agreed, but the Arabs wanted it all and refused. By this time there were over 400,000 Jews who had settled there, which was about one third of the total population.

The Arabs demanded a complete halt to further Jewish immigration. The British decided that angering the Jews would not hamper their continuing war preparations. They assumed that Jews would have to side with Britain in a war with Hitler no matter what. Britain had to protect the oil that flowed from the Middle East and the Suez Canal. The British promised Amin that they would never allow the Jewish population to become greater than 40%, and for five years restrict the immigration to 75,000 each year. Many Jews never trusted the British again! The Peel Commission had one important benefit for the Jews; for the first time it made a public offer of their own state. In the words of Chaim Weizman in 1937:

“The Jews would be fools not to accept [a state] even if it were the size of a tablecloth.”

England was now at war with Hitler. In order not to swing the Arabs to Hitler's side, Churchill stopped immigration into Palestine of Jews fleeing from Europe. Britain could not afford to lose the Middle East, which might cost it the war! Things got so bad that Jews escaping from Hitler were actually sent back to their deaths. On December 12, 1941 an overloaded ship named the *Struma*, designed for only 100 passengers, left Constanza, Rumania with 769. After four days across the Black Sea they reached Istanbul. The Turks sent the ship back into the Black Sea and would not let the Jews continue. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, the ship sank from an “unexplained” explosion and everyone but two died.

Were the Arabs completely against Jewish immigration into Palestine? Absolutely not! In fact, most of the top Arab leaders were for it. They realized that Palestine was “under-developed”, and they and the other Arab countries did not have the wherewithal to change things for the better.

Sharif Hussein is quoted in *Al-Qibla* on March 23, 1918 stating,

“The resources of the country are still virgin soil and will be developed by the Jewish immigrants. One of the most amazing things until recent times was that the Palestinian used to leave his country, wandering over the high seas in every direction. His native soil could not retain a hold on him, though his ancestors had lived on it for 1000 years. At the same time we have seen the Jews from foreign countries steaming to Palestine from Russia, Germany, Austria, Spain, and America. The cause of causes could not escape those who had a gift of deeper insight. The return of these exiles to their homeland will prove materially and spiritually [to be] an experimental school for their brethren who are with them in the fields, factories, trades and in all things connected with toil and labor.”

The son of Hussein, Emir Feisal, who led the revolt against the Turks after WWI, stated,

“The racial kinship and ancient bonds existing between the Arabs and the Jewish people...are the surest means of working out the consummation of their national aspirations...through the closest possible collaboration in the development of the Arab states and Palestine...and to encourage and stimulate immigration of Jews into Palestine on a large scale, and as quickly as possible to settle Jewish immigrants upon the land through closer settlement and intensive cultivation of the soil.”

The above statement was a part of the agreement between Feisal and Chaim Weizman made during the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. Feisal went on to state on March 3, 1919,

“The Arabs, especially the educated among us, look with deepest sympathy on the Zionist movement... We will wish the Jews a hearty welcome home... We are working together for a reformed and revised Near East and our two movements complete one another. The Jewish movement is nationalist and not imperialist. And there is room in Syria for us both. Indeed, I think that neither can be a real success without the other.”

The First Arab Congress held in March 1913 issued the following statement,

“All of us, both Muslims and Christians, have the best of feelings toward the Jews. When we spoke in our resolutions about the rights and obligations of the Syrians, this covered the Jews as well. Because they are our brothers in race and we regard them as Syrians who were forced to leave the country at one time but whose hearts have always beat together with ours, we are certain that our Jewish brothers the world over will know how to help us so that our common interests may succeed and our common country will develop both materially and morally.”

As far as the land purchased by Jews in Palestine is concerned, by 1947 they owned some 463,000 acres. 45,000 were purchased from the British directly; 30,000 purchased from various churches; and 387,500 purchased from Arabs! Between 1880 and 1948 73% of land purchases were made from wealthy Arab landowners, not from the poor farmers. Even the father of PLO Chairman Ahmed Shuqeri sold land to the Jews! Leaders of the Supreme Muslim Council sold land to the Jews. So much for Jews “stealing” the land.

So what happened to the idea of peaceful Jewish immigration? Again, the British are in the middle of everything! British anti-Semitism together with Arab tribal politics came together to foment more trouble for the Jews.

In 1921, Haj Amin el-Husseini organized his own local militia to terrorize Jews. The British were unwilling to stop el-Husseini because they didn't want to anger the Arabs because of oil interests. The British military were against Zionism now because of the oil interests and subverted the Jews at every instance by spreading lies and rumors. In fact, the British encouraged attacks on the Jews. In 1920 Haj Amin had met with British Col. Waters-Taylor, military advisor to the Palestine Administration, who told him,

“[you have] a great opportunity at Easter to show the world...that Zionism was unpopular not only with the Palestine Administration but in Whitehall [London] and if disturbances of sufficient violence occurred in Jerusalem at Easter, both General Bols and General Allenby would advocate the abandonment of the Jewish Home.”

As a result, the ensuing riot caused the British to abandon Jerusalem and leave the Jews defenseless against the Arabs! A year later the British even appointed Haj Amin the Mufti of Jerusalem! There was no “nationalist” ideology in Amin. In fact, in 1921, rather than demanding independence for Palestine, he demanded that Palestine be reunited with Syria and Transjordan to increase his control of the area. Unfortunately, the **Arabs discovered through Haj Amin that violence and rioting was an effective political tool to gain what they wanted.**

In 1929 the Arab radicals spread a rumor that Jews wanted to seize the holy Temple Mount, a tactic that has been repeated many times including as recently as 2000 when Ariel Sharon visited it instigating the current intifada. The Arabs waited until Jews went to pray at the Wailing Wall, which forms a part of the Temple Mount, and then attacked them. The ensuing riot spread to other parts of Jerusalem and surrounding villages. The Arabs murdered 133 Jews and wounded 399. The British did nothing to stop it.

In 1941 Haj Amin went to Germany to meet with Hitler. He attempted to get Hitler to extend his anti-Jewish “program” to the Arab world. In 1945 Yugoslavia indicted Haj Amin as a war criminal for recruiting over 20,000 Muslims as volunteers to the Nazi SS troops to kill Jews in Croatia and Hungary. He was actually detained by France in 1946, but escaped to Cairo and then Beirut where he died in 1974.

The Arabs never equivocated about their intentions toward Jews. On May 15, 1948, right after Israel declared itself a state, the secretary-general of the Arab League, Azzam Pasha, stated in an interview with the BBC,

“The Arabs intend to conduct a war of extermination and momentous massacre which will be spoken of like the Mongolian massacres and the Crusades.”

There was no intent by any Arab organization at the time to live peacefully with Jews in Palestine, or in any of the other Arab countries as well. Even prior to May 15, 1948 there was clear intent to exterminate the Jews. On April 26, 1948 King Abdullah of Transjordan stated,

“All our efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Palestine problem have failed. The only way left for us is war. I will have the pleasure and honor to save Palestine.”

On April 16, 1948 the Arabs specifically took credit for starting the war with Israel when Jamal Husseini addressed the UN Security Council,

“The representative of the Jewish Agency told [the UN] yesterday that they were not the attackers, that the Arabs had begun the fighting. We did not deny this. We told the whole world that we were going to fight.”

The official American position has not always been supportive of Israel. In 1947 America refused to sell arms to the Jews and, in fact, imposed an embargo on December 5, 1947. The position was that “Arabs might use arms of US origin against Jews, or Jews might use them against Arabs.” President Truman thought this might keep the peace. Wrong. The retreating British, by the way, had armed the Arabs! In fact, the military leader of Jordan’s Arab Legion was none other than a British officer. In 1949 British RAF fighter flew with Egyptian fighters over the Egypt-Israel border. On January 7, 1949 Israeli fighters shot down four British fighters. The Jews, on the otherhand, had only nine obsolete aircraft and not a single tank or cannon. But they had 60,000 trained soldiers. Even so, Yigael Yadin, Chief of Operations, stated to David Ben-Gurion, “The best I can tell you is that we have a 50-50 chance.”

Had the United Nations enforced the Partition Plan agreed to in 1947, undoubtedly many lives could have been saved.

## REFUGEES

The history of modern Palestine is replete with myths and outright lies by the Arabs about the Jews, which have directly led to violence, riots, and other atrocities. Most of the violence has been fomented by the Arabs as a result of rumors spread by other Arabs. One of the worst rumors concerned the alleged “massacre” of Arabs at the village of Deir Yassin in 1948. This one rumor is probably more responsible for the current Palestinian refugee problem than any other, and it was entirely fabricated!

On May 16, 1948, the day after Israel declared itself a sovereign state, the Arab armies of Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon attacked. The Arabs laid siege to Jerusalem and attempted to cut off relief supplies traveling between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Along this road lay the village of Deir Yassin. It sits on a hill about 2600 feet elevation and within a mile of Jerusalem providing a good vantage point. The population of Deir Yassin was about 750, all Arabs. On April 6<sup>th</sup> the Jews launched an operation to keep the road open for supplies into Jerusalem. Deir Yassin needed to be occupied because of its close proximity to Jerusalem and the height it provided to keep an eye on any Arab movements towards Jerusalem. On April 9<sup>th</sup> the Jews, 100 strong, approached the village. A small truck was outfitted with a loudspeaker and driven to the village entrance. The Jews broadcast a request for the Arabs to evacuate the village. The broadcast was made in Arabic and it told the Arabs to put down any weapons and leave the village peacefully. Instead of following this request, the Jews were immediately fired upon by Arab soldiers! An investigation revealed that Arab troops were, in fact, based in the village.

The rumor arises from the fact that, after the Arabs had purportedly surrendered, they started firing on the Jewish soldiers. There were women and children in the street mixed in with the surrendering Arabs, a ploy consistently used by Arabs even today. Some of the women were killed because Arab soldiers had disguised themselves as women and, from a distance, it was impossible to tell the difference. More rumors started after the Jewish soldiers began to search “women” who were suspected of being Arab men in disguise. The Arabs then spread the rumor that Jews were molesting Arab women, which scared the Arabs even more. No evidence has ever been found that indicates that any Arab woman was molested by any Jewish soldier, but the Arab propagandists had a field day and exploited the rumor to the fullest even though the rumor was refuted by Abu Mahmud, a resident of Deir Yassin, who stated in an interview with the BBC,

“There was no rape. We have to say this so the Arab armies will come to liberate Palestine from the Jews.”

While this rumor was first spread by the Palestinian Arabs to coerce other Arabs to come to their assistance, it had the reverse effect! It scared the Palestinian Arabs so much that they began to flee from the advancing Jews.

Palestinians left between 1947 and 1949 for a variety of reasons. Wealthy Arabs left in anticipation of the coming war. Most left because of the anti-Israel rhetoric, lies, and rumors spread by Arabs, not wanting to be caught in the impending crossfire between the advancing Arab armies and the Israelis. The claim by Arabs that over 1 million Arabs were displaced is specious at best. The British census in 1945 found only 1.2 million Arabs in all of Palestine! The UN found, after the refugee camps were set up, only 472,000 registered refugees.

Most people don't know about the Jewish refugees from the surrounding Arab countries. The Arabs certainly don't talk about it! There were 820,000 Jewish refugees who fled after the Egyptian delegate to the UN General Assembly stated in 1947, “The lives of one million Jews in Muslim countries would be jeopardized by partition.” Once again Jews were robbed of all their possessions and valuables as they fled and with no compensation whatsoever. One of the issues in the continuing conflict is the matter of compensation by the Arab countries for these Jews, not just compensation by Israel for the Arab refugees. The Arabs, of course, will not even discuss it!

The former PLO Prime Minister appointed by Yasser Arafat, Mahmud Abbas (“Abu Mazen”) stated in 1976,

“The Arab armies entered Palestine to protect the Palestinians from the Zionist tyranny but, instead, they abandoned them, forced them to emigrate and to leave their homeland, and threw them into prisons similar to the ghettos in which the Jews used to live.”

This is the same “Abu Mazen” that engineered the murder of the Israeli Olympic athletes in Munich in 1972, and murdered wheelchair bound Leon Klinghoffer on the cruiseboat Achille Laro. Now he has high diplomatic status!

The sad truth is that, if the Palestinians had accepted the 1947 UN partition plan, not a single Palestinian would have become a refugee! The problem with repatriation of these refugees is that they will represent a fifth column in Israel, which Israel can't afford. This population is the

origin of the terrorists from Hamas and Islamic Jihad who murder Jews inside Israel and elsewhere in the world. They claim it is in the interests of Palestinian repatriation, but it is simply because of their hatred for Jews. They will never live peacefully with Jews no matter what concessions are made. Until the Arabs themselves destroy these factions, there will be no peace.

## THE UNITED NATIONS

What's wrong with the United Nations and why does it appear that they can't ever get their act together? It's really simple if you understand the mission of the UN.

During the prelude to the current Iraq conflict the words *sovereignty* and *legitimacy* kept being used by various media sources and UN representatives who opposed it. These people stated that the conflict would "threaten the sovereignty of an autonomous state (Iraq) and it would lack the legitimacy conferred by the backing of the United Nations." There is a paradox.

Sovereignty and legitimacy are crucial elements of modern internationalism, but then so is the defense of human rights. Where the UN Charter is concerned, these are at odds with each other. If a sovereign state violates the human rights of its citizens, does the world community have an obligation to intervene? According to the UN, the answer is no. That is why such terrorist states as Syria and Libya wind up on the UN Human Rights Commission, with their own disastrous records on human rights.

The modern system of "states" dates back to the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648. It established independent nations that used to comprise the Holy Roman Empire. It established the principle that only the state government can determine the rights of its citizens, the religion they may practice, and the freedom it allows. It established the idea that a state could do what it pleased within its own borders.

WWI threatened the concept of state sovereignty when the conflict bred new levels of violence and destruction. The League of Nations was formed after the war to try to prevent such further carnage. In the words of historian Alan Brinkley, it was a vision "...that once the international community accepted certain basic principles of conduct, and once it constructed modern institutions to implement them, the human race could live in peace."

Central to the League of Nations ideology was the concept of democracy and human rights. While WWI resulted in safeguarding the rights of states, WW2 resulted in attempts to safeguard the rights of individuals resulting from the attempts by Japan and Germany to "race-cleanse" their populations.

In 1945 50 nations met in San Francisco and generated the United Nations Charter. The UN was supposed to provide a guard against "regional conflict" under the impression that small conflicts grow into larger ones. The UN Charter specifically recognized the sovereignty of states within their own borders. In 1947 the UN generated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Commission that drafted the declaration was comprised of Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Communists, Socialists, Liberals, and Fascists, all there to "concur on a guiding set of ideals that would protect human dignity without compromising cultural differences." This Declaration of

Human Rights, while a wonderful sentiment, is at odds with the rules governing the UN. Article 2 of the UN Charter is very clear: the United Nations “is based on the sovereign equality of all its members.” This is how terrorist states like Syria and Libya get an equal position on the Human Rights Commission! This is the contradiction of modern internationalism. It tries to balance state’s rights with individual rights. The UN exists to protect state’s rights. If you want to put the rights of human beings first, you must get away from the United Nations!

The UN’s expression of concern for the Palestinian’s cause in repatriation is, and can only be rhetorical. When human rights are involved, nations must work around the UN, but when borders are concerned, the UN is the place to be!

History proves that the only constraint on authoritarian states is force and power. In 1948 the United Nations recognized Israel as a sovereign and legitimate state. The UN has the responsibility to safeguard Israel’s right to exist, nothing more. The Palestinian’s have no sovereign or legitimate state. With respect to any UN intervention in the Arab (Palestinian)-Israeli conflict, the UN is powerless to act in any decisive way other than rhetorically. The world needs to stop looking to UN to make changes in the Middleeast unless borders or sovereignty are at issue. In the words of our former UN Ambassador, Jean Kirkpatrick,

“The UN has the image of a world organization based on universal principles of justice and equality. In reality, when the chips are down, it is nothing other than the executive Commission of the Third World dictatorships.”

## ISLAM

What has been the role, if any, of Islam in the Arab-Israeli conflict?

To the Muslim, the Koran is the very word of God. It is eternal and literal. It is supposedly a complete record of the exact words revealed by God through the angel Gabriel to Muhammad. This book allegedly provides guidelines for “just societies, proper human conduct, and equitable economic principles.” Maybe if you’re a Muslim!

The Koran claims that it is directly from God. Passages assert divine inspiration and Muslims believe these are sufficient to demonstrate its claims. One must note the Koran's chain of “inspiration.” “The Koran is a message from Allah [God] to humanity. It was transmitted to us in a chain from the Almighty Himself to the angel Gabriel to the Prophet. This message was given to the Prophet in pieces over a period spanning approximately 23 years (A.D. 610 to A.D. 622). The Prophet was 40 years old when the Koran began to be revealed to him, and he was 63 when the revelation was completed” ([www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/Koran/](http://www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/Koran/)). It is historical fact that “The Prophet” was illiterate and had to dictate the revelations to others to record. Since he couldn’t read or write, it may have been difficult for him to edit what was being written. Here is a book, the basis of a major world religion, which is based completely on the private experiences of one man. Only one person allegedly saw the angel. Only one person allegedly heard a voice. Only one person allegedly saw the visions. The only way to become a Moslem, then, is to take this one man’s word for it.

It would appear that Muhammad devised a religious system rooted in a quest for temporal gratification. Besides Muhammad's sanctioning polygamy, nowhere is this truth more evident than in the Koran's picture of the faithful Muslim's eternal reward. Sura 56:15, for example, depicts heaven as an eternal "brothel" where Muslim men can fulfill their lusts of the flesh. Consider this passage:

"On thrones decorated, Reclining on them, facing one another. Round about them shall go youths never altering in age, With goblets and ewers and a cup of pure drink; They shall not be affected with headache thereby, nor shall they get exhausted, And fruits such as they choose, And the flesh of fowl such as they desire. And pure, beautiful ones, The like of the hidden pearls: A reward for what they used to do. They shall not hear therein vain or sinful discourse, Except the word peace, peace. And the companions of the right hand; how happy are the companions of the right hand! Amid thornless lote-trees, And banana-trees (with fruits), one above another. And extended shade, And water flowing constantly, And abundant fruit, Neither intercepted nor forbidden, And exalted thrones. Surely We have made them to grow into a (new) growth, Then We have made them virgins, Loving, equals in age, For the sake of the companions of the right hand. A numerous company from among the first, And a numerous company from among the last."

The Koran forbids fornication in this world, but it certainly promises it in abundance in the next world. This is why Islam appeals to the oppressed and the ignorant.

The problem is that most Muslims consider critically analyzing the Koran to be blasphemous and, in many cases, a capital crime punishable by death, such as in Saudi Arabia! The conclusion can therefore be made that Islam has created terrorism, not been "hijacked" by terrorists as many would have us believe. Anyone reading the Koran will note that Muslims are told to have only other Muslims as friends, to treat anyone who is not a Muslim as an "inferior", and to "submit" themselves to the requirements of the Koran without question. Islam is a dictatorial theocracy demanding absolute obedience. By analogy, Islam personifies the worst of the Catholic Spanish Inquisition, with orthodox factions killing anyone, even other Muslims, who don't measure up to the literal letter of the Koran! This explains why there are Muslims killing other Muslims in the world even though the Koran forbids it.

What role does Islam play in the conflict between the Palestinians and Israel – absolutely nothing politically. Practically, Islam creates the suicide/homicide bombers that blow themselves up in pizza parlors, restaurants, and nightclubs in Israel. These bombers are ideologues, mostly teenagers easily brainwashed, created by politicians such as Yasser Arafat and Osama Bin Laden, who have been convinced that they will be with Allah and the virgins forever by references to the Koran. They are no different than the Crusaders, or the Spanish Inquisitors, or even the French clergy who murdered Joan of Arc. In conclusion, the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is not rooted in, nor caused by anything in Islam. It is a conflict purely over land rights.

YASSER ARAFAT

Yasser Arafat was a pure terrorist and a clinical sociopath. Arafat had no conscience whatsoever and fully believed that any means justify his ends. Arafat had no interest in resolving the conflict if it meant he lost his power and authority. Arafat passed up numerous opportunities to achieve a sovereign state for the Palestinians. He failed to understand the mission of the UN and instead, only used the UN as a political tool. If he agreed to establish a state, the UN would have to defend it. Until he did, the UN could only issue rhetorical resolutions that aren't binding on anyone. The original Partition Plan of 1947 could be enforced by the UN because it established sovereign states and recognized borders. One can only surmise what the current situation might be had the Arabs accepted Partition and Israel had to exist with a sovereign terrorist state right next door. Arafat provided a continuing, but false symbol of Palestinian resistance to Israeli "occupation" of land lost during the conflict of 1967. Had Jordan not attacked Israel, there would be no occupation of the West Bank. While Jordan was in control of the West Bank prior to 1967, it refused to accept responsibility for the Palestinian refugees after 1967. The UN was powerless to force Jordan to care for the refugees because the West Bank was no longer part of Jordan! That is why the refugee camps are funded and operated by the UN.

There could be no progress toward peace while Arafat lived. He was an *agent provocateur* every time negotiations come close to some settlement. The conflict will continue indefinitely until a major event occurs such as a decisive battle where there is a winner and a loser. Unfortunately, Arabs only understand and respect power, not logic and reason.

Western civilization is at war with Islam regardless of what politicians say. Islam is not "peaceful" unless you are a Muslim and agree to "submit", the meaning of the word Islam. You must submit to Allah and those who profess to be his messengers. Otherwise your choice is to die or pay "inferior" taxes. Islam is purely racist by any definition of the word, Webster notwithstanding. The Palestinian/Israeli conflict is merely one battle in the war, not the war itself. Those who profess peace if Israel is destroyed are in error and ignorant. The Islamic invasion of Europe and Asia has nothing to do with Israel! It is a redux of world history from 700 to September 11, 1683 at the gates of Budapest.

Every Muslim country in the world is an authoritarian dictatorship. There is no democracy of any kind. The prospects for any country espousing Islam to become a democracy is antithetical to the very nature of Islam, submission. Free people don't "submit". They have open discourse and input on events that affect their lives. Without relegating Islam to an ancillary position, no Muslim country can embrace democracy and join civilized society. Islam must go through the same reformation process that Christianity did in the Middle Ages. If it doesn't, it must be defeated and destroyed. It remains a threat to freedom and democracy.

So what's the solution?

There are various solutions, any one of which might ameliorate the situation. They should be divided into two categories; conciliation and victory.

1. "Victory through defeat."

History tells us that complete victory leads to peace and reconciliation. WW2 is a prime example of how this can happen. Japan and Germany were highly militant and ideological countries. Once completely defeated and decimated, the United States “reconstructed” them under the Marshall Plan. This is the quickest option to resolving the Israeli-Arab conflict. In fact, had the United States not stopped the Lebanese Christians in Beirut in 1982 from destroying Arafat and the PLO, things today would be quite different in the area. Again, Arafat was the *agent provocateur* for thirty years for no other reason than to stay in power. One has to always question the intelligence of any constituency that keeps such a person in power when it is antithetical to their best interests! Once Hamas and Islamic Jihad are destroyed, Israel and the United States could implement a “Marshall Plan” in the area rebuilding infrastructure, providing jobs, etc. You need to break eggs when you make an omelet!

## 2. Repatriation.

This is a waste of time even discussing! It would cause a dilution of the Jewish citizenry and create a fifth column, which Israel can't tolerate.

## 3. Resettlement.

This is the best solution to the problem. Resettlement has been proposed for the past 100 years! With the US in Iraq, now is the time to resettle these “refugees” in the Fertile Crescent area, which was once the food breadbasket of the Middle East. The problem is that other Arab countries don't want these Palestinians because they're violent and cause trouble. However, resettlement resolved the Greek-Armenia issue and the India-Pakistan issue to great extents. Any resettlement would have to include some compensation, especially incentives to those countries taking these people.

## CONCLUSION

The world must stop using the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for political purposes. Israel is not, and has never been the aggressor. As a sovereign and legitimate state, Israel is entitled to defend herself anytime and anywhere. Israel is not the enemy of the Palestinian's. However, the Palestinians have made it very clear that they are the enemy of Israel. “Islam” has made it clear that it is the enemy of Israel both in the Koran and the anti-Israeli rhetoric coming from the Islamic ideologues. The Western world has an obligation today to defend itself, including Israel, from “Islam”. If Israel goes down, we will all go down!

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