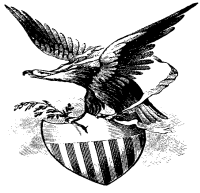


Light Brings Salt

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The Middle East conflict is hard to solve but easy to explain

By Dennis Prager

The Middle East conflict is difficult to solve, but it is among the simplest conflicts in history to understand.

The Arab and other Muslim enemies of Israel (for the easily confused, this does not mean every Arab or every Muslim) want Israel destroyed. That is why there is a Middle East conflict. Everything else is commentary.

Those who deny this and ascribe the conflict to other reasons, such as "Israeli occupation," "Jewish settlements," a "cycle of violence," "the Zionist lobby" and the like, do so despite the fact that Israel's enemies regularly announce the reason for the conflict. The Iranian regime, Hizbollah, Hamas and the Palestinians — in their public opinion polls, in their anti-Semitic school curricula and media, in their election of Hamas, in their support for terror against Israeli civilians in pre-1967 borders — as well as their Muslim supporters around the world, all want the Jewish state annihilated.

In 1947-48, the Arab states tried to destroy the tiny Jewish state formed by the United Nations partition plan. In 1967, Egypt, Syria and Jordan tried to destroy Israel in what became known as the Six-Day War. All of this took place before Israel occupied one millimeter of Palestinian land and before there was a single Jewish settler in the West Bank.

Two months after the Six-Day War of June 5-10, 1967, the Arab countries convened in Khartoum, Sudan, and announced on Sept. 1, 1967, their famous "Three NOs" to Israel: "No peace, No recognition, No negotiations."

Six years later, in 1973, Egypt invaded the Israeli-held Sinai Peninsula, a war that ended in a boost in Egyptian morale from its initially successful surprise attack. Though nearly all of the Sinai remained in Israel's hands, the boost in Egyptian self-confidence enabled Egypt's visionary president, Anwar Sadat, four years later (November 1977), to do the unimaginable for an Arab leader: He visited Israel and addressed its parliament in Jerusalem. As a result, in 1978, Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty in return for which Israel gave all of the oil-rich Sinai Peninsula back to Egypt.

Three years later, in 1981, Sadat was assassinated by Egyptian Muslims, a killing welcomed by most Arabs, including the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization). Why welcomed? Because Sadat had done the unforgivable — recognized Israel and made peace with it.

The lesson that Palestinians should have learned from the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement was that if you make peace with Israel, you will not only get peace in return, you will also get all or nearly all of your land back. That is how much Israelis ache for peace.

Think about Israel for one moment: Israel is one of the most advanced countries on earth in terms of culture (most books published, translated from other languages

and read per capita; most orchestras per capita, etc.); major advances in medicine; technological breakthroughs; and decency as a society, as exemplified by its treatment of its women, gays and even its large Arab minority (particularly remarkable in light of the widespread Arab and Muslim anti-Semitism and desire to annihilate Israel). This is hardly a picture of some bloodthirsty, land-grabbing society. And Jews, whatever their flaws, have never been known to be a violent people. If anything, the stereotypical Jew has been depicted as particularly docile.

As a lifelong liberal critic of Israeli policies, the New York Times foreign affairs columnist Thomas Friedman wrote just two weeks ago: "The Palestinians could have a state on the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem tomorrow, if they and the Arab League clearly recognized Israel, normalized relations and renounced violence. Anyone who says otherwise doesn't know Israel today."

Give Israel peace, and Israel will give you land.

Which is exactly what Israel agreed to do in the last year of the Clinton administration. It offered PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat about 97 percent of the West Bank and three percent of Israel's land in exchange for peace. Instead, Israel got its men, women and children routinely blown up and maimed by Palestinian terrorists after the Palestinians rejected the Israeli offer at Camp David. Even President Clinton, desirous of being the honest broker and yearning to be history's Middle East peacemaker, blamed the ensuing violence entirely on the Palestinians.

Israel's Camp David offer of a Palestinian state for Palestinian peace was rejected because most Palestinians and their Arab and Muslim supporters don't want a second state. They want Israel destroyed. They admit it. Only those who wish Israel's demise and the willfully naive do not.

If you don't believe this, ask almost anyone living in the Middle East why there is a

Middle East War, preferably in Arabic. If you ask in English, they will assume you are either an academic, a Western news reporter, a diplomat or a "peace activist." And then, they will assume you are gullible and will tell you that it's because of "Israeli occupation" or "the Zionist lobby."

But they know it isn't. And it never was.

From the Website
www.JewishWorldReview.com

THE LEFT IS FALLING FOR THE NEW HITLER

by Joel Rosenberg

(WASHINGTON, D.C., AUGUST 11, 2006) -- Is the American Left completely blind to the existential threat posed by radical Islamic leaders such as Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad?

Last night I was on MSNBC and later on the Alan Colmes radio show. I was completely taken aback by how quickly the hosts and guests dismissed the apocalyptic, genocidal theology and rhetoric coming out of Tehran. They completely dismissed Iran's recent \$1 billion arms deal with Moscow. They couldn't care less about Iran's feverish pursuit of nuclear weaponry. Something very troubling is happening. In the past, liberals I've spoken with agreed that Iran is a problem but argued that Ahmadinejad is not a big enough threat to go to war over. But that is changing fast. In the last 24 hours, liberals have begun saying Iran is little or no threat at all. They're saying President Bush is more dangerous than Ahmadinejad, and that those of us who are noting the chilling similarities between Ahmadinejad and Adolf Hitler are off our rockers. Alan Colmes last night actually tried to make the case to me that the Iranian leader is all talk and no action and that the Russians arming Iran is no different than the U.S. providing defensive arms to Israel. Sure, Alan, Neville Chamberlain was convinced that Hitler was no threat either. But Chamberlain was wrong and tens of

millions died by such horrific miscalculations. Are you prepared to miscalculate just as badly? Apparently so.

Did you hear Sean Hannity's interview yesterday with "60 Minutes" host Mike Wallace? Unbelievable. Sean did a great job, but Wallace was appalling. Wallace has become an apologist for one of the most dangerous men on the planet. Despite the fact that Ahmadinejad wants to bring about the end of the world, deny the Holocaust, and wipe Israel and the U.S. "off the map," Wallace actually called Ahmadinejad a "reasonable" and "sincere" man who was in no way trying to use the CBS interview for propaganda purposes. Wallace said Ahmadinejad believes the time for using bombs is over, that he wants a peaceful coexistence between Iran and the West, and that the Iranian leader is not anti-Jewish, only "anti-Zionist." In an interview with Reuters, Wallace went on to call Ahmadinejad a "rather attractive man, very smart, savvy, self-assured, good looking in a strange way...He's very, very short but he's comfortable in his own skin."

How does one respond to such utter nonsense? Moreover, how does one deal with such blindness to evil? To misunderstand the nature of evil is to risk being blindsided by it. America was blinded by Hitler in the 1930s because we didn't understand the evil he posed. We were blindsided by Japan at Pearl Harbor. We were blindsided on 9/11. I fear we may be blindsided by Iran as well. After all, once Ahmadinejad has nuclear weapons (he already has the missiles to deliver them), he will be able to accomplish in about 6 minutes what it took Hitler 6 years to do -- kill 6 million Jews. And remember, Israel is the just the "little Satan" for Ahmadinejad. The U.S. is the "Great Satan" and thus the ultimate target.

In slobbering all over the Tyrant of Tehran, CBS has completely lost it. But they are not alone. The American Left is falling for the new Hitler. God help us all.

Sometimes survival gets a bit noisy
[Excerpts from article by Wesley Pruden]

If the Jews would just die without making a lot of noise, the Nice People could get on with the really important things in life, stuffing their faces with salmon and bean sprouts, watching the Rev. Billy Don Moyers pontificate on PBS, and making more Nice People.

The Nice People, manipulated by the coverage of the fighting in Lebanon, are getting fed up with the Israelis, who are acting as if they have the right to survive in peace to live lives of quiet exasperation. But the Jews insist on "disproportionality," on firing back when fired on by the Hezbollah "guerrillas," as the newspaper and television correspondents insist on calling "terrorists."

Louise Arbour, the high commissioner of human rights at the United Nations, is typical of the Nice People of the West who are losing patience with the Jews. She's against killing, and not only that, she "strongly condemns" it. Or some of it. She demands an investigation, but only of the Israelis, and not just an investigation by anybody. She wants "international expertise."

"In order to establish facts and conduct an impartial legal analysis," her "office" says, employing the magisterial third person, "the high commissioner reiterated the need for independent investigations." To this end, she advocates "the active involvement of international expertise."

It's important to be fair, even to be fairer to some than to others, so we can guess who these paragons of "international expertise" might be, recruited from the crowded ranks of the compassionate of Zimbabwe, Sudan, Iran, maybe even North Korea, all, naturally, determined to protect and preserve human rights.