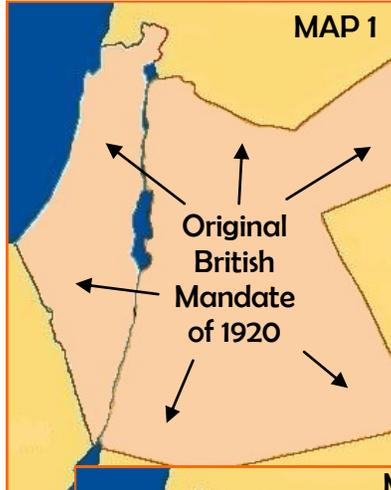
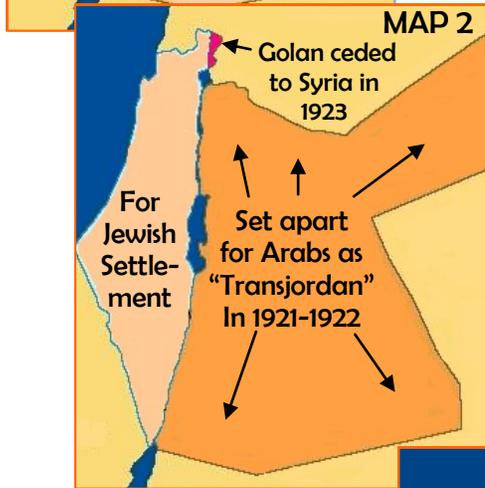


Peace & Justice



Great Britain issued the *Balfour Declaration* in 1917, promising to help establish “a national home for the Jewish people... provided it would not “prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine.”

The *British Mandate* of 1920 designated a large area for settlement generally to include both Jews and Arabs (*Map 1, left*). Immediate Arab pressure led to redefinition of the Mandate. By 1923, Transjordan and the Golan were essentially excluded from Jewish settlement (*Map 2, middle*). Note that Arabs were not excluded from settlement in Israel.



In 1947, the U.N. *Partition Plan for Palestine* further restricted Jewish settlement (*Map 3, below*).

Behind these attempts to balance ancient Jewish nationalism and new Palestinian Arab aspirations loomed the constant specter of Muslim religious extremism backed by petro-dollars, always pressuring the world to reduce its commitment to Jewish national restoration.

The pivotal issue behind establishing peace and justice in Israel today is the unwillingness of Arab Muslim leaders in the region to accept a sovereign Jewish state in their midst. Lacking this willingness, there is no real hope for peace because Israel is always forced into fighting for survival, as it has since its inception.



In Israel

Is it possible? If not, what are the obstacles?

Modern Israel has been plagued by war ever since it was founded in 1948. In fact, five Arab nations attacked Israel the day after it was formed.

Where does the strife come from in Israel? Why is it important to the rest of the world? While Israel is often depicted in media as the aggressor, is this accurate? Is it possible to speak realistically of peace and justice in Israel in our day?

Creation of Modern Israel

Modern Jewish immigration to the region of Palestine began in 1882, when Jews fleeing persecution in Russia and Poland returned to their Biblical homeland and began purchasing land. Barely 20 years earlier Mark Twain had described the region as “desolate... given over wholly to weeds.”

Jewish immigrants to Palestine encountered a significant indigenous Jewish population. In 1839, some 10,000 Jews lived in Palestine according to British Consular records from that time, which also

mentioned that “Sephardic Jews were numerous on the ground.”

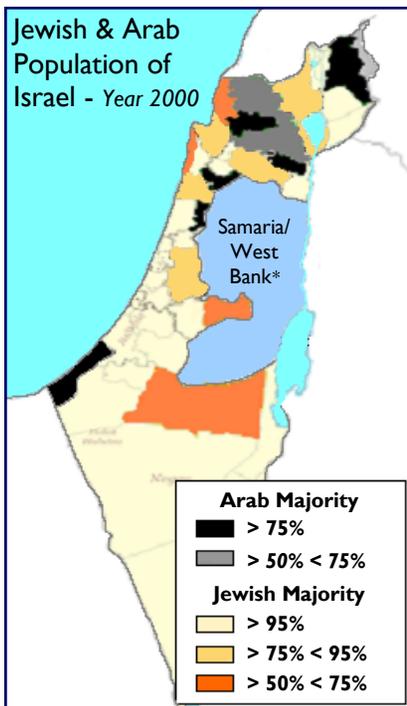
One remarkable eyewitness account by British Consul James Finn, writing in 1858, held that Jews comprised a majority of the population of Jerusalem—while Muslims barely exceeded 25%!

In the late 1800s, the need to “afford protection to the Jews

generally” was also stated in British records, which indicate that under the Turkish Ottoman Empire (1299-1923) Jews faced judicial inequality, discrimination and persecution.

Turkish rule was undistinguished with regard to improving the life of most Arabs and injurious toward the Jewish population.

By 1925, British rule had superseded the Turks in Palestine, and Jews living there officially totaled 137,484. Still, Arabs comprised the majority in the region overall. Their numbers increased in Palestine under the British administration as both Arabs and Jews sought to improve their social and economic prospects.



Research Resources

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Authorship of This Pamphlet

This pamphlet was written by T.E. Miller, a retired high tech industry marketing executive and co-founder, with his wife, of a non-profit project that distributes harps for worship, prayer and intercession in Israel.

“Having traveled the land of Israel multiple times from end to end during 2006-2009, my goal in researching this document was to identify the primary factors driving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

“There is no question that Arab Palestinians have suffered enormously and unfairly during their years as refugees. Still, I found that the deepest root of their suffering has more to do with the worldview of Islamic *jihaddists* and Arab jingoism than with Israeli persecution.

“For Americans to conclude superficially that Israeli militarism or ethnic prejudice is the primary source of the violence is not only a gross injustice to the Israeli people, whose suffering dates back centuries. It is also a grave error in geopolitical judgment that leads invariably to greater suffering for Arabs and Jews alike and increases the risk of violence in the Middle East and elsewhere.”

Israel's Right to Exist

Ultimately the war in the Middle East is about the right of the Jewish people to live in Israel and freely determine their own future without threat of destruction. Obviously, Palestinian Arabs have the same right. Yet, when Gaza was turned over to them, the infrastructure left behind by Israel was quickly destroyed in order to re-purpose every available resource toward *Jihad* against Israel.

For their part, Muslim fundamentalists see Israel as a pawn of the secular West, especially the U.S., aimed at the geographical heart of Muslim territory. However, this anti-Israel perspective blatantly ignores the U.N. mandate to set apart land for Jews and denies the reality on the ground. Nearly six million Jews now live in Israel, comprising three quarters of the country's total population. By far most Jews are willing to live at peace with Palestinian Arabs if the latter will only genuinely cease calling for the destruction of Israel.

Why are Jews so often singled out for criticism while Palestinian Arab extremism is overlooked or justified, if not because of anti-Jewish discrimination? The Holocaust should have taught us all we need to know about this evil!

Is Peace with Justice Possible in Israel Today?

The answer to this question is definitely not until Arab and Islamic leaders set aside demands that Israel be destroyed. At present this is so unlikely as to seem impossible.

Westerners must not allow themselves to be fooled or intimidated. The new Arab face of anti-Semitism is virulent, violent and threatens the West as well as Israel. Even if Americans do not care about what happens in distant Israel, they should care about the

deep-set propensity toward violence found in fundamentalist Muslim thinking and behavior.

Muslim *jihadists* are a minority in the Muslim world,

but they have very deep roots and have gained ascendance in the past 50 years in terms of power and their ability to manipulate the West. Today, *jihadist* factions are actively targeting the U.S. and other countries. Until authoritative voices emerge within Islam to repudiate this violence, the world is foolish to trust Muslim peace-making efforts.

If another World War should occur in the 21st century, it may well erupt from this tragic mismatch of cultural realities.

Why are Jews so often singled out for criticism while Palestinian Arab extremism is overlooked or even justified, if not because of anti-Jewish discrimination?



In 1947, the U.N. voted to partition Palestine, proposing to create both a Jewish and a Palestinian state. In part, this was a response to the horrors of the Nazi Holocaust and the murder of some six million Jews, including more than a million Jewish children.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill described the formation of modern Israel in 1948 as a historical event unparalleled in the past three thousand years. In 1954, Churchill wrote: "I think it is a most wonderful thing that this community should have established itself so effectively, turning the desert into fertile gardens and thriving townships, and should have afforded refuge to millions of their co-religionists who suffered so fearfully under Hitler...."

In other words, modern Israel is a unique historical event that has brought restoration to a people who have experienced more persecution than perhaps any

other ethnic group in history.

The Refugee Problem

Arab nations surrounding Israel rejected the U.N. partition plan and attacked when Israel declared statehood in 1948. Israel's surprise victory in that war ensured that Jews would be able to continue to relocate in the land, but also led to inevitable displacement of some native Palestinian Arabs. Tensions grew as room was made for more Jews, most of whom came from countries formerly occupied by Nazi Germany.

Precedents for this type of population relocation occurred elsewhere after both WWI and WWII. In 1923, some two million people were exchanged between Greece and Turkey. After WWII, 2.1 million Poles and Ukrainians were relocated in Eastern Europe. On a larger scale, nearly 14 million people (half Muslims and half Hindus and Sikhs) were relocated

between Pakistan and India after borders were established between the countries in 1947.

In Israel, despite Jewish offers to purchase Arab land, political pressure mounted from surrounding Arab nations for Palestinian Arabs to reject such offers on the promise that the whole of Israel would be returned quickly to Arab control *by force*. (Recent interviews with Palestinians have verified these promises were indeed made to them.)

Meanwhile, the same Arab nations that urged Palestinians not to sell their land to Jews refused to allow all but a few Palestinians to relocate to their own

countries, intentionally creating a huge problem for Israel. In the resulting debacle, thousands of Arabs were moved to refugee camps, sure breeding grounds for trouble. The U.N. estimates that 711,000 Palestinian Arab refugees were created as a result of these actions.

In 1957, a U.N. refugee official said: “The Arab States do not want to solve the refugee problem. They want to keep it as an open sore, as an affront to the U.N. and as a weapon against

Israel.”

The Hidden Plight of Jewish Refugees from Arab Nations

Largely unrecognized by the world is the fact that 800,000 or more Jews were forced to flee Arab nations surrounding Israel following the 1948 war.

Persecution and violence against Jews broke out in several Arab countries, especially Yemen and Syria, and a large number of Jews were killed. In Libya, Jews

were deprived of citizenship. In Iraq, and elsewhere, Jewish property was seized without compensation.

Jewish property left behind in Arab countries

after 1948 is valued today at more than \$300 billion, according to the World Organization of Jews from Arab Countries. Jewish-owned real-estate left behind in Arab lands totaled 100,000 square kilometers, *four times the size of modern Israel!*

Israel welcomed the multitude of Jewish refugees from Arab lands despite the hardship on the country's fragile new infrastructure. By 1952, about a third of Jews living in Israel had come from Arab nations, rising to 40% today.

“The Arab States do not want to solve the refugee problem. They want to keep it as an open sore, as an affront to the UN and as a weapon against Israel.”

- Rolf Garroway, Director of UN Relief & Works Agency, 1957

This review concludes that today it is more accurate to see Israel as the victim, not Palestinian Arabs. The main reasons for this conclusion, in summary, include:

- **Arab nations refuse to accept a Jewish state in their midst.** Palestinian Arab leaders have failed to provide meaningful economic development for their people despite receiving millions of dollars in international aid for that purpose. Their leaders regularly employ deception, media manipulation and terror to achieve their goal of destroying Israel.
- **Arab nations insist on Land for Peace but don't need Israeli land.** For every square kilometer of land in Israel there are 750 square kilometers of land in Arab nations! There is plenty of room to relocate Palestinians in Arab countries.
- **Arab nations spend outrageously on jihad.** Two-thirds of the world's oil reserves are found in Arab nations. They don't need Israeli money or resources. Yet, for every dollar spent by Israel on military

defense, Arabs spend five dollars to arm themselves and the Palestinians! This is not *defensive* military spending.

Hamas, the party that governs Gaza, presents a carefully crafted picture of itself as a victim to the media, yet its leaders have been documented as recently as 2009 shooting Gazan citizens over political differences, cutting off limbs,

and even engaging in crucifixion of political enemies! Hamas doesn't even pretend to foster freedom of religion in Gaza, and Fatah is not far behind in the West Bank.

Westerners who support the Palestinian cause would cringe at Arab treatment of women and homo-

sexuals, both of whom are subject to stoning under Muslim law. There is clearly no equal justice under the law for all citizens among Palestinian Arabs or in surrounding Muslim countries.

Assessment of these realities leads to the conclusion that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is more accurately defined as a Muslim-Western conflict in which Palestinian Arabs have been used for decades as pawns by Islamic jihadists and self-interested Arab politicians.



Hamas Jihadist “training”!

- In 2009 a Swedish newspaper repeated Palestinian claims that Israel harvested body parts from Arab casualties during the 2009 Gaza conflict—a modern example of blood libel charges.
- A 2006 *Washington Post* article found that Saudi Arabian textbooks label Jews “apes” and Christians “swine” and demand that students avoid Jews. The texts also claim that Jews worship the devil and encourage Muslims to engage in *jihad* to vanquish Jews.
- Anti-Semitic tracts have been found at the Iranian booth at the Frankfurt book fair.
- Hezbollah’s *Al-Manar* TV channel often airs anti-Semitic broadcasts, including excerpts from *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. These broadcasts regularly reach Muslim populations in Europe.

Much of the Muslim world today imbibes this Nazi-styled rhetoric to buttress Islam’s obsession with retrieving formerly Muslim lands

and defeating the secular forces of the West.

Palestinian Arab children are especially vulnerable to this kind of malicious stereotyping, which breeds serious challenges for overcoming ethnic tensions in the years ahead. Palestinians now systematically train their children as early as kindergarten to celebrate suicide bombing as the highest calling in life!



This 2009 cartoon published in Jordan and the UK calls Jewish leaders “the new Nazis”—even while Arab television continues to extol Hitler! Only one side in this conflict is calling for Nazi-like eradication of an undesired population, and it is *not* Israel.

Who’s the Real Victim?

On the surface, the recent wars in Gaza and Lebanon give every appearance of political oppression of a victimized Palestinian Arab minority.

Certainly, many Arabs living in Israel have suffered

very deeply, having lost homes, property and the lives of relatives as a result of the creation of modern Israel. Had their political leadership chosen a path of cooperation rather than *jihad* , a far different outcome could have occurred and many Palestinian and Jewish lives could have been saved.

Jewish Population Then & Now

Most Jews displaced from Arab/Muslim nations after 1948 moved to Israel.

	1948	2000		1948	2000
Morocco	265,000	5,800	Syria	11,000	200
Algeria	140,000	100	Iraq	150,000	100
Tunisia	105,000	1,300	Iran	100,000	12,500
Libya	38,000	0	Afghanistan	5,000	0
Egypt	75,000	200	Pakistan	2,000	300
Lebanon	6,000	0	Yemen	63,000	200

Source: www.factsofisrael.com (data rounded to nearest 100)

In stark contrast to the Jewish model, Arab nations refused to absorb Arab refugees from Israel, despite the availability of unsettled land in Jordan and elsewhere and the emergence of huge oil wealth in Arab nations. Instead, Arab leaders exploited the unrest to create a social and political problem that still festers today.

The root of this asymmetry was hinted at in a resolution passed by an Arab refugee conference held in Syria in 1957, which stated:

“Any discussion aimed at a solution of the Palestine problem which will not be based on ensuring the refugees’ right to annihilate Israel will be regarded as a desecration of the Arab people and an act of treason.” (Emphasis added.)

The Religious Root of the Problem

Why did five Arab nations attack Israel the day after it was formed despite a U.N. decision that land should be set aside for Jews? And why did these same nations re-

Some 800,000 Jews were forced to flee from Arab nations surrounding Israel following the 1948 War. Jewish property left behind in those countries would be valued today at more than \$300 billion.

fuse to accept Palestinian refugees when other nations in the 20th century participated in much larger population exchanges?

The answer to this question is rooted in Islam’s

centuries-old geo-political world-view. Many people think of Islam as a religious system similar to other great world religions, but Islam has at its core a potent world-view that calls for continual expansion of its rulership, by force if necessary, until the whole world is united in one community under Muslim law. Sociologist Ernest Gellner, author of *Muslim Society*,

wrote that Islam is a “blueprint of a social order.”

Many serious misunderstandings have resulted from differences between Islam’s worldview and that of the Judeo-Christian West, which places far more emphasis on personal freedom and human rights. Indeed, the word “Islam” means “submission” and applies both to an individual’s acceptance of Islam’s tenets as well as to the surrender of whole societies to Muslim armies.

Islamic tradition divides the world into two parts (not found in the *Koran*, incidentally): *dar al-Islam*, or the “house of Islam”, and *dar al-Harb*, or “the house of war.” The latter denotes all nations that are not under Islamic rule and essentially defines them as lands where it is legal to conduct war in order to bring about Islamic rule.

From its inception in the seventh century, Islam embarked on a long series of imperial conquests known as *jihad*, or holy wars, to impose religious conversion upon non-Muslims. After three centu-

ries of expansion, Muslim growth slowed as factions and regional dynasties began to fight against each other, and as other countries began to repel Muslim incursions. These setbacks undermined Islam’s dream of total world submission, at least temporarily.

The historical reality remains that no central Islamic authority has ever succeeded in being moderate and powerful enough to establish a widespread Muslim worldview based on the principle of equality with non-Muslims.



No central Islamic authority has ever succeeded in being moderate and powerful enough to establish a widespread Muslim worldview based on the principle of equality with non-Muslims.

Despite claims that Islam allows other faiths to live freely under Muslim law in peace, the history of Islamic rule since the 13th century reveals that non-Muslims in Muslim nations of-

ten receive secondary status, pay added taxes, or face other forms of discrimination.

Militant Jihad Today

In practice today some Muslims understand *jihad* as primarily a spiritual struggle against personal impulses toward evil. However, many powerful streams of modern orthodox Islam, especially in the

Nazi Influence on Modern Arab Anti-Semitism

Scholar Matthias Kuntzel reports that the Nazi radio service during WWII had a staff of 80 and broadcast every day in Arabic, stressing the similarities between Islam and Nazism. This activity was supported by the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, the ranking Arab in charge of Muslim holy sites. The Nazis also helped fund the Muslim Brotherhood, which began calling for boycotts of Jewish businesses in Egypt in 1936. Sayyid Qutb, the leading intellectual of the Muslim Brotherhood, was also the primary ideologue for *Al Qaeda*.

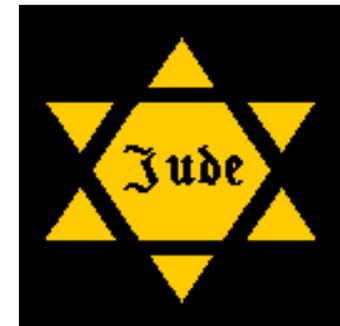
many and continue to foster Nazi-styled anti-Jewish propaganda. Hitler was a hero of the Palestinians during WWII, and movies about him are still popular on Arab television. *Jihadists* invoke his memory today as a rallying cry

To cite history, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, leader of Jerusalem’s Arabs, fled to Germany during WWII, where he organized Arab military support for Germany—even appointing advisers to Nazis such as Adolph Eichmann. Shockingly, the Mufti, himself, developed plans for a Nazi-styled concentration camp to be set up in Nablus, in the very heart of today’s West Bank region.

The 1988 founding charter of Hamas is blatantly anti-Jewish and includes quotes from the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, a discredited conspiracy theory from Russia that claims a cabal of Jewish elders manipulate the world financially.

King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, Colonel Gaddafi of Libya, and the *current* Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, have all endorsed the *Protocols*.

Mahmoud Abbas, current head of Fatah, the “moderate” Palestinian wing, wrote a university thesis in Moscow that included the claim that the holocaust never happened. Now he negotiates with world leaders.



Vicious anti-Jewish diatribes are a disturbing part of the media litany in many Arab countries but go largely unnoticed by the rest of the (*non-Arabic speaking*) world. Arab writings, political cartoons and editorials rou-

tinely invoke anti-Semitic images from the past, including charges that Jews seek the blood of innocent women and children (termed “blood libel” in anti-Semitic literature).

A few examples of this Arab-influenced outpouring of modern anti-Semitism include:

paigns—1987-1993 and 2000-2007—were initiated by Palestinian Arabs to gain recognition and pressure Israel to return the West Bank (and Gaza) to Arab control. These terror campaigns killed 1,200 Israelis outright, including many children. They also led to five times that many Palestinian deaths when Israeli forces reacted to contain the terror onslaught.

To some outside observers, the disproportionate number of Palestinian deaths is construed as “Israeli aggression.” For its part, the IDF had to learn to develop more effective terror countermeasures that could reduce civilian casualties, a challenge complicated by the Palestinian tactic of using civilians as human shields behind which to launch attacks.

The truth is that Palestinians are willing to sacrifice their own civilians in order to win the war of public opinion, contrary to any moral standard of warfare.

This Arab tactic was also used by Hezbollah in Lebanon in 2006, and by Hamas in Gaza in 2008-2009. Both wars began with the launching of rockets and mortars against Israeli civilians, often fired from schools and apartment buildings.

Israel has responded by developing what military experts today describe as the most humane warfare methods ever used in the history of war. Experts point out that the IDF took unprecedented measures to avoid causing civilian casualties during the 2009 conflict in Gaza, even *telephoning Palestinian civilians prior to military operations to help them escape the violence.*

The impact of these efforts was limited in part because Hamas hyped inflated casualty reports immediately after major battles,

while the IDF took a month or more to assess the facts before releasing their own reports. The IDF found far fewer civilian deaths and twice

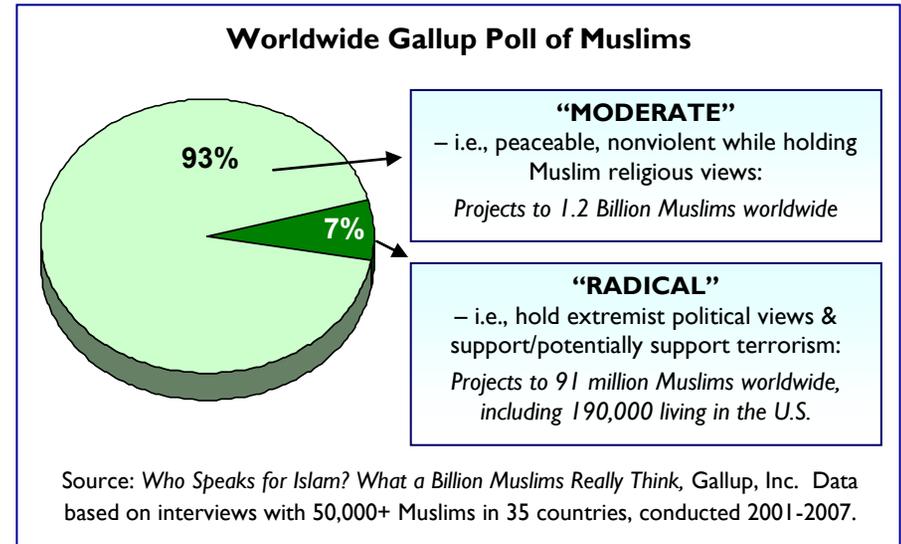
as many Palestinian combatant casualties, the exact opposite of Palestinian claims.

Civilian casualties are a terrible but inevitable result of war. In WWII, civilian casualties from Allied attacks in countries occupied by Germany totaled some 2.7 million people. Still, only the most ardent pacifist would argue the war should not have been fought to stop Hitler.

The New Arab Face of Anti-Semitism

Alarming, modern Arab leaders exhibit historical ties to Nazi Ger-

Asked in two polls in 2008 whether they would prefer to be citizens of Israel or a new Palestinian state, 62 percent of Israeli Arab adults wanted to remain Israeli citizens!



Middle East and Asia, continue to view *jihad* as a fundamental mandate to conquer by force what are seen as Westernized, corrupted, or otherwise degenerate nations.

There is no escaping the profound root of *jihadist* thinking in Islam, even if modern forces also exist within Islam that sometimes express a more balanced view of co-existence with other cultures.

A large, global Gallup poll conducted between 2001 and 2007 concluded that seven percent of all Muslims worldwide support anti-Western terrorism and are sympathetic to violent Islamic extremists. (See chart, above.) Unfortunately, this small percentage totals 91 million “radical” Muslims worldwide—including 190,000 Muslims living in the U.S.!

Despite their relatively small numbers percentage-wise, these violent streams within Islam con-

tinue to paralyze more moderate expressions of Islamic geo-political thought through intimidation and violence.

The most notorious *jihadist* faction in Islam is *Al-Qaeda* . *Al-Qaeda* ’s religious ideology was heavily influenced by teachings of Palestinian theologian Abdullah Azzam, who studied in Egypt with the radical Muslim Brotherhood. The latter’s credo reads: “ *Jihad* is our way. Dying in the way of Allah is our highest hope.”

Another prominent advocate of *jihad* included the Ayatollah Khomeini, whose followers overthrew Iran in 1979. Iran’s current president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, repeatedly calls for the destruction of Israel. Iranian oil money is widely recognized as being used to fund terrorists in Syria, Lebanon (*Hezbollah*), Gaza (via *Hamas*), and the West Bank of Israel.

Fundamentalist *jihadist* factions are all on record as seeking the complete destruction of Israel and the downfall of the U.S., along with the demise of Western secular culture. Major terror attacks in Spain, Thailand, India, Indonesia, Britain, Russia and the U.S. in the past decade underscore the seriousness of these threats.

Factors that Promote Muslim Violence Today

Traditional Islamic law holds that any land that was once ruled by Muslims must be returned to Muslim rule, by force if necessary. Any compromise short of full restoration is seen by fundamentalists as re-

jecting Islam's core mandate to bring the world into submission—a form of apostasy. Thus, a significant portion of Muslims today hold it as a religious duty to return Israel to Islamic rule as it once was under the Ottoman Empire.

This principle of “Islamic primacy” helps account for the dramatic threats and bold invectives of Arab leaders who call for the total destruction of Israel. West-

ern failure to recognize the deep religious root of these strident voices leads to serious misunderstanding of Islamic diplomatic initiatives.

Another factor that leads to gross misunderstanding is the Islamic principle of *hudna*, which maintains that any international agreement may be broken by a Muslim nation for the sake of advancing the conquests of Islam.

To Islamic fundamentalists, *hudna* refers very specifically to a temporary truce negotiated by the prophet Muhammad with a tribe that once controlled Mecca. Within two years of the truce, Muslim

forces re-armed and conquered Mecca, setting a precedent for using *hudna* as a diplomatic tactic to regroup and attack under more favorable military conditions.

Hudna is even encoded in writing in modern Islamic legal statutes and was invoked to justify Yasser Arafat's terror attacks against Israel in September 2000, two short months after he negotiated peace at Camp David. The Palestinian leader set the stage for



“Jihad is our way. Dying in the way of Allah is our highest hope.”

Creed of the Muslim Brotherhood

Israel's Wars to Defend Itself Against Arab Aggression

- **The 1948 War of Independence:** Israel defeated a coalition of five attacking Arab states: Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon
- **The 1967 Six-Day War:** Israel pre-empted an imminent attack from Egypt and defeated Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, who were assisted by Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria.
- **The 1973 Yom Kippur War:** Israel repelled a surprise attack by Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq, aided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Morocco, Pakistan, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Sudan, Uganda and Cuba.

Remarkably, Palestinians who commute into Israel from the West Bank receive Israeli state welfare benefits and legal protections! They commute in large part because economic development in the West Bank under Palestinian rule is sacrificed for military goals.

Also in contrast to South Africa, where whites once governed predominantly black territories, the West Bank is primarily governed by the Palestinian Authority (PA), not Israel. Israel has turned over policing in most areas to the PA. Conditions there are not solely imposed by an “occupier” but are often the result of choices made by Palestinian politicians.

A telling point in this discussion was found in two polls of Israeli Arab adults released in January 2008, by Keevoon Research, Strategy & Communications and the Arabic newspaper *As-Sennara*.

Asked whether they would prefer to be citizens of Israel or of a new Palestinian state, a startling

62 percent of Arab adults wanted to remain Israeli citizens, and only 14 percent wanted to join a future Palestinian state. These are hardly the views of an oppressed, “occupied” people.

When considering the apartheid label, *the truth is that Arab separatists are the exclusionary party, not Israel.* The proof is that there are virtually no Jews living in most Arab countries surrounding Israel because it is too dangerous. Yet in Israel, the vast majority of Arabs and Jews live and work together side by side. They could continue to do so indefinitely were it not for *jihadists* and self-interested Arab politicians who incite separatist views and exploit world opinion to try to destroy Israel altogether.

What about Israeli Military Brutality?

Are Israeli Defense Force (IDF) policies exceptionally aggressive or brutal? Again, the facts belie the charges. The reality is that two successive *intifada* terror cam-

should soon become a democratic minority. Ben-Gurion bravely chose otherwise, and history has confirmed his decision.

Is Israel Really an Aggressor?

Israel is often accused of being the aggressor toward Palestinian Arabs, a contention heightened by frequent media references to the West Bank as “occupied” territory. To find the truth, one must look closely at the historical events that led to this “occupation.”

Israel holds sway over the West Bank today because surrounding Arab states attacked on successive occasions with the intent to destroy Israel, and failed. In the course of repelling these attacks, Israel captured land and has held onto it to deter further attacks from these same nations. (See text box, top of next page.)

Had Israel initiated war with Arab countries *with the intention of expanding its territory*, it would be appropriate to call Israel an aggressor/occupier, but that’s clearly not the case.

The “occupier” perception is amplified by images of Israel’s West Bank Barrier, a 400-mile no-man’s zone, and stories describing stringent restrictions on Palestinian commuters traveling into and out of the West Bank. If there were no terror threat, there would be no need for the barrier. However, by all accounts the border restrictions have reduced the number of terrorist attacks emanating from the West Bank and



Israel holds sway over the West Bank today because surrounding Arab states attacked on successive occasions with the intent to destroy Israel, and failed.

are justifiable on that basis.

Is Israel an Apartheid State?

Israel has also been labeled an “apartheid state”, but this comparison has been rejected by careful observers.

Unlike South Africa, where

blacks under apartheid lacked political representation, Israel is a majority-ruled democracy with voting rights for Israeli Arabs who have their own political parties and representatives in the Israeli Knesset. An Arab even sits on the Israeli Supreme Court. There is a free Arab press and Arabs live, study and work alongside Jews throughout Israel despite the West Bank travel impediments.

future diplomatic duplicity by speaking conciliatorily to Western leaders while at the same time inciting violence to his own followers back home. What looked like brazen deception to the West was acceptable to the Islamic world within the context of *hudna*.

Land for Peace?

The West approaches Arab diplomacy today as if Muslims have the same desire for peace that we have, as if we share common goals and speak a similar negotiating language.

A major negotiating point among U.S. and European peacemakers has been that Israel must return territories captured from Arab nations in the 1967 and 1973 wars, when Israeli forces repelled Arab aggression from Egypt, Jordan, and Syria.

“Land for Peace” was formalized as a principle of Middle East peacemaking by U.N. resolution 242, adapted in 1967, which called for the withdrawal of Israeli

armed forces from territories occupied in the 1967 war. Egypt and Israel made peace on this basis and the Sinai was returned to Egypt. Afterwards the same principle was put forward as a way to resolve the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights.

Jordan eventually made a treaty with Israel giving up its claims to West Bank territories, but the principle of land for peace resurfaced in the 1993 Oslo accords with the PLO under Yasser Arafat’s leadership.

Returning land consistently fails to achieve peace because of the concept of *hudna*, described earlier, which sees peace as merely a temporary

step toward renewed conflict.

It might be argued that Egypt has not resumed overt war with Israel after receiving back the Sinai region, but Egypt remains a significant enabling factor by allowing other *jihadists* to target Israel.

The Muslim Brotherhood, with



Land for peace flies directly in the face of the Muslim principle of *hudna*, which calls for the resumption of *jihad* after arranging temporary truces to regain a Muslim military advantage.

documented ties to Al Qaeda and Hamas, won 88 of 444 elected seats in Egypt's most recent parliamentary elections in 2005, by far the largest opposition bloc. Their campaign slogan was: "Islam is the solution." Observers point out that Egypt has also failed to stop arms smuggling into Gaza, thus enabling Hamas to launch rockets throughout the Gaza truce.

Gaza is a vivid example of the failure of land for peace policies. When Israel forcibly removed over 8,000 Jews from Gaza in 2007 before turning the district over to Palestinian rule, Israeli politicians hoped for peace on the border. Instead, Israel has endured an almost daily drum-beat of rocket and mortar attacks from Gaza, totaling thousands of strikes from 2005 to 2010, leaving a trail of dead, wounded and traumatized civilians. Even after the Gaza conflict ended in early 2009, the attacks on Israel have continued.

By all international standards of national defense, the Israeli military operation in Gaza was justifiable both to stop the attacks and to interrupt the relentless arms smuggling to Hamas. From the perspective of *hudna*, the arming of Hamas is perfectly ethical. But

from the Israeli perspective, the reward for conceding Gaza has been violence, not peace.

Is there an Arab "Population Mandate" in Israel?

It is sometimes argued that Palestinians comprise a democratic majority of the population of the West Bank, and that high Palestinian Arab birthrates threaten the Jewish majority even in the state of Israel. Thus in 2009, the Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., Michael Oren, called Arab demographic trends an "existential threat" to Israel (*Commentary Magazine*, May 2009).

Yasser Arafat said: "The womb of the Palestinian woman will defeat the Zionists", but the validity of Palestinian population statistics has come into question.

However, there may be fewer Arabs in the West Bank and Israel than previously assumed.

Some studies even show Jews holding a majority over Arabs in the West Bank. In wider Israel, as of 2010, Jews have a solid 76% population majority.

A pivotal issue is the validity of Palestinian population statistics. A 1997 Palestinian census (re-confirmed by Palestinians in 2007) projected there to be 2.3 million Palestinian Arabs living in the West Bank. A more accurate total may have been 1.5 million, according to the World Bank and the American-Israeli Demographic

Contested Palestinian Population Data

Palestinian population benchmark data may be inflated by as many as 1.1 million people.

Total Population in Millions of People:	Palestinian Data (PCBS, 1997, 2007)	Israeli Data (AIDRG, adjusted data)
West Bank (Judea/Samaria)	2.3	1.5
Gaza	1.5	1.2
TOTAL: West Bank + Gaza	3.8	2.7

Research Group (AIDRG). (See chart, above.)

The inflated Palestinian total included some 600,000 Israeli Arabs who either lived abroad or in Jerusalem but were double-counted as living in the West Bank. The data also ignored 200,000 Arabs who had left Palestinian territory, according to AIDRG.

Similarly, the number of Jews living in the West Bank is officially held to be 280,000, but some experts say there are double that number. Higher estimates include more Jews living in "illegal" settlements (many Arabs also live in illegal settlements), as well as 250,000 Jewish residents living in Jerusalem suburbs built after the Six-Day War in 1967.

Regarding population growth, Arab birthrates are known to be higher than Jewish birthrates, but modernization tends to reduce birthrates. AIDRG says that modern Israeli Arab birthrates have declined steadily from about

8 children per family in 1970, to a low of 4.5 or lower today. A 2010 CBS poll found the birthrate in the Israeli Muslim community overall had dropped to 3.84.

Currently, the Israeli Jewish total fertility rate is about 2.7 children per woman. AIDRG concludes that Palestinian population projections overestimate Arab births by 300,000, while also overestimating Arab immigration into Israel.

Summarizing these adjustments, AIDRG believes that in 2025, Jews will comprise 80% of the total population of Israel, the West Bank and Gaza combined. If AIDRG data are correct, Israel does not have to fear being overwhelmed demographically any time soon.

It is worth noting that demographics have been used before to try to dissuade Jews from taking forceful political action. David Ben-Gurion was urged to delay declaring independence in 1948, lest the 600,000 Jews of that time