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THE **algemeiner** JOURNAL

\$1.00 - PRINTED IN NEW YORK

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2020 | 14 IYAR 5780

VOL. XLVII NO. 2453

Researchers Double US COVID-19 Death Forecast, Citing Eased Restrictions



Health workers move a patient at the NYU Langone Hospital, in New York City, May 3, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Eduardo Munoz.

**BY REUTERS
& ALGEMEINER STAFF**

A newly-revised coronavirus mortality model predicts nearly 135,000 Americans will die from COVID-19 by early August, almost double previous projections, as social-distancing measures for quelling the pandemic are increasingly relaxed, researchers said on Monday.

The ominous new forecast

from the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) reflect "rising mobility in most US states" with an easing of business closures and stay-at-home orders expected in 31 states by May 11, the institute said. "We expect that the epidemic in many states will now extend through the summer," the IHME director, Dr. Christopher Murray, said in a statement.

The projections reinforced

warnings from public health experts that a rising clamor to lift restrictions on commerce and social activities — in hopes of healing a ravaged economy — could exact a staggering cost in terms of human lives.

The novel coronavirus is already known to have infected almost 1.2 million people in the United States, including 68,762 who have died from COVID-19, the respi-

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Air Force Strikes Forcing Iran Out of Syria, Israeli Officials Say

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

Under the pressure of continuing IAF air strikes, Iran is beginning to draw down its military presence in Syria, unnamed Israeli security officials were quoted as saying on Tuesday.

The Israeli news site *Walla* cited the officials saying, "For the first time since Iran entered Syria, it is reducing its forces there and evacuating bases."

"Syria is paying an increasing price due to the Iranian presence on its territory for a war that is not [Syria's]," they added.



Israeli Air Force F-15 planes. Photo: Reuters / Amir Cohen.

"Iran has turned from an asset for Syria into a burden," the officials asserted.

They added that Israel would maintain pressure on Iran "until it leaves Syria."

Recently, Israel has stepped up its attacks on Iranian targets in Syria, including an air strike on Monday night near Aleppo. Strikes last week hit Homs, Quneitra and the outskirts of Damascus.

Defense Minister Naftali Bennett vowed Israel would not permit Iran to entrench itself in Syria, saying, "For Iran,

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Remembering Herman Wouk

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ShabbatCalendar

Parshat EMOR
פרשת אמור

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
Shabbat Begins: 7:42pm | Shabbat Ends: 8:47pm



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Opinion.

How Much of Trump's Foreign Policy Would Biden Preserve?



JONATHAN S. TOBIN
JNS.org

Democrats can't wait until next January. They're hoping that the next inauguration day will be the end of their long nightmare and they can put the presidency of Donald Trump in the rearview mirror. Should they get their wish, they're hoping that his successor will toss out everything he's done.

That's the way it usually works when one party takes over from its rivals, and it largely characterized the transitions from Bill Clinton to George W. Bush and then from Bush to Barack Obama, and then Obama to Trump. Should prospective Democratic nominee Joe Biden defeat Trump in November, it's certain that with respect to many issues, the government clock will be turned back to where things stood in January 2017.

But despite the general feeling among Trump's detractors that his presidency has been a bad dream from which they long to wake, the notion that all of his decisions can be simply erased is itself an illusion. A lot has happened during these years, especially with respect to the Middle East, and Biden and his advisors would be foolish to want to roll back everything that's been done.

That was made apparent when Biden said that he will not move the US embassy

back to Tel Aviv from Jerusalem. While Biden continues to pay lip service to the foolish mindset that kept the United States from formally recognizing Israel's rights to its capital for 70 years, his concession that a long overdue action that he still insists should not have happened — his claims that the embassy should only have been moved in the context of a comprehensive peace with the Palestinians, which, considering that they have consistently rejected every offer of peace, it tantamount to saying it will never happen — is not without significance.

Biden's foreign-policy team will look like an Obama administration alumni reunion committee. But even they know that what Trump did with respect to Jerusalem cannot be undone without doing far more harm than the theoretical good they imagine might come from appeasing the Palestinians in this manner. That is why the arguments from Jewish Democrats, who would have cheered if a president they voted for had moved the embassy, that Trump's action was insignificant were so disingenuous. The impact of America finally recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the ancient capital of the Jewish people can't be diminished.

Nevertheless, as top Biden adviser and former Obama Deputy Secretary of State Anthony Blinken made clear this week, a new Democratic administration would return to Obama's fruitless quest for a two-state solution that the Palestinians don't want.

That is a goal that was also embraced

by Trump in the Middle East peace plan he floated earlier this year. But the furious opposition of the Biden team to any prospect of Israeli annexation of West Bank settlements shows that they are still laboring under the delusion that any Israeli government can be persuaded to return to the dangerous 1967 lines, and that doing so would make any difference to Palestinians, who have already rejected several peace offers that conformed to those parameters.

In some ways, one can say that time has stood still since 2017, because the Palestinians are as determined to avoid peace with Israel as they were during Obama's eight years in office, despite his consistent efforts to tilt the diplomatic playing field in their direction. And the majority of Israelis are just as determined to avoid repeating blunders — like the Oslo Accords and Ariel Sharon's 2005 withdrawal from Gaza that led to so much bloodshed — as they were when Obama exited from the White House.

But while Biden, Blinken, and company may talk of two states and hope that they can outlast Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in office — something Obama failed to do — they may also understand that their chances of making the Palestinians negotiate seriously remain nonexistent. The constant bickering with the Israeli government that was the hallmark of Obama's Middle East policy may return. But in practice, Biden is likely to find himself managing the conflict in a manner that is similar to that of Trump in that he is



Democratic US presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden, in Washington, DC, March 15, 2020.

Photo: Reuters / Kevin Lamarque.

probably going to be hoping to maintain, rather than demolish, the increasingly close though largely informal ties between Israel and Sunni Arab states that look to it as an ally against the threat from Iran.

And despite the bitter denunciations of Trump's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal coming from the Obama alumni, as well as Biden's promise to return to it, the idea that they can simply happily revert to a policy of appeasing Tehran is also illusory.

In the years since Obama left office, Iran's continued support for international terror and its efforts to destabilize Arab nations as part of its quest for regional hegemony have continued, even as the Iranian people persist in making clear their disgust with the misrule of the theocratic tyrants that oppress them.

Biden will need to understand that relaxing or ending Trump's sanctions on Iran, which have shaken the Islamist regime and exposed its inherent weakness domestically,

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THE

the
Algemeiner Journal

(USPS 927800) is published weekly (except for the week of Passover and Succos)

Subscription rate \$40 per year

Algemeiner Journal
208 E 51st Street, Suite 185
New York, N.Y. 10022

Periodicals Postage
Paid at Brooklyn, N.Y.
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Why Israel Will Beat COVID-19



ARI HAROW
JERUSALEM

Sitting in the tiny, closet-like office, we could barely move the chairs around to get the four of us into the cramped space. There was a small desk behind which sat Benjamin Netanyahu, head of the Opposition, while facing him on the opposite side, I sat with our two guests. The year was 2008, and Dan Senor and Saul Singer were interviewing Netanyahu, as both a former prime minister and former minister of finance for a book they were working on.

They peppered Netanyahu with questions for over an hour on both the how and why Israel had become such a technological powerhouse. A central theme in this discussion was the Israeli military, and how central this rite of passage is in shaping the Israeli ecosystem. The women and men of the IDF are trained with a unique attitude and approach, and this was seen as critical in shaping the drive and motivation for a burgeoning tech sector, unparalleled the world round.

Roughly one year later, Senor and Singer's bestseller, *Start-up Nation*, hit US bookshelves and became an instant hit. Not only did the book become a must-read among the pro-Israel and international business communities, but its title became synonymous with the tiny Jewish state.

When asked by a family member in the United States why Israel has been so successful in our battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, the start-up nation premise came to mind. The approach to which Senor and

Singer attribute our success in the world of technology has another element to it. While Israeli soldiers are encouraged to ask questions and not just accept military strategy dictated from above, once a decision is finalized, military discipline is enforced without compromise. While the ability to question authority is a strength in developing a certain work ethic, the ability to follow final directives is an asset when fighting a pandemic.

Military service in Israel is mandatory, and as such much of the population has served or is currently serving. Thus, when Prime Minister Netanyahu, after much government debate and deliberation, outlined clear restrictions and regulations, military discipline kicked in. While many other countries struggled at first to take the necessary steps needed to slow this ugly wave, Israel was quick and agile in its response with a united and regimented front.

In contrast, the two groups in Israel that are less likely to serve in the IDF, the Haredim and the Arabs, were also the two groups hesitant in their response to government restrictions. As a result, the virus spread like wildfire through places like Bnei Brak and also in Jerusalem's Haredi and Arab neighborhoods.

Another security reality that has ingrained



Medical workers react as Israeli Air Force planes fly over Jerusalem, as part of Israel's 72nd Independence Day celebrations, April 29, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Ronen Zvulun.

in us a similar discipline has been the years of living under rocket fire. For many years, the only active bomb shelters were in Northern Israel and near the Gaza border, while the rest of Israel was felt to be out of range. Starting with the Gulf War and later from Lebanon and Gaza, all of Israel became a target. While the Iron Dome and other missile defense systems have limited the efficacy of these attacks, we the people were trained to not take chances. When the sirens sound, the people of Israel head for a safe room or find cover. When security and safety are at risk, our army discipline kicks in.

There are obviously many other factors and figures that account for our relative achievement. Defense Minister Naftali Bennett has done a fantastic job in navigating the ministry's many critical roles in this battle, but Bennett's greatest impact was his initial public campaign, which eventually went global. When Bennett explained that loving our parents and grandparents meant staying away, Israeli children and grandchildren saluted and immediately followed this directive. Isolating the most vulnerable demographic from groups most likely to be asymptomatic has proven essential.

Israel's demography is another important factor. Israel's median age is roughly a full decade younger than the likes of Italy, France, the UK, the United States, and much of the Western world. This has a direct and clear impact on the number of sick and dead. Age is one of a handful of additional factors and explanations which have thankfully played out for us to this point.

The road to ultimate success remains a lengthy one, with many challenges and difficulties ahead. While the health compo-

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World News.

Jewish Human Rights Icon Natan Sharansky Urges Unity in Fight Against Antisemitism

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

Former Soviet refusenik Natan Sharansky called for unity in the fight against antisemitism during an online forum on Monday.

In a conversation hosted by the American Jewish Committee (AJC), the 72-year-old Sharansky — who currently serves as chairman of the Institute of the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy — said, “We just have to overcome unbelievable polarization, which is happening all over the world, but which is also happening now in the Jewish world, when even the problem of antisemitism, which always united us, today there is antisemitism on the left and antisemitism on the right, and it’s very difficult to convince people to fight antisemitism in

their camp and not in the opposite camp.”

“We have to be very clear that those who say that they love Jews but hate Israel and those who say that they love Israel but hate Jews, they are equally our enemies,” he stated.

“There should always be a lot of freedom to criticize ourselves as people or ourselves as the state,” Sharansky added. “We should never even try to restrict ourselves or anybody else in their right to criticize. ... It’s in our culture, it’s so natural. But just because of this, we have to draw a clear border when criticism of Israel turns to antisemitism.”

Sharansky noted he was certain that “in spite of the antisemitic attacks...none of our enemies will undermine our future, because today there is a State of Israel—that changes the life of every Jew in the world.”

Continued from Page A2

Will Beat

nent was initially the lone concern, today we face many daunting tasks. Staggering unemployment, widespread bankruptcy, and significantly increased poverty have left millions of Israelis vulnerable and fearful for what the future may bring. Now more than ever, we will need true leadership, perseverance, and a united front. Just as we were taught in the IDF, no brothers and sisters should be left behind.

Public debate in Israel is extremely dynamic on the various strategies to defeat coronavirus, how to navigate our economic recovery, and how to restore our education

system. The age-old adage — two Jews and three opinions — is definitely applicable to our political and policy debates, and is partially what makes Israel the start-up nation. Facing this horrific pandemic, we can be grateful that in the implementation of safety rules and regulations, our military instincts kick in and we strictly adhere to decisive orders. In the words of a leading US thinker, discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment.

Ari Harow is the former chief of staff to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and is currently a leading international political and business consultant.

A version of this article was published in The Jerusalem Post.

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Air Force

Syria is an adventure a thousand miles from home, for us it’s our lives.”

“We are much more determined” than

Continued from Page A1

Death Forecast

ratory illness it causes, according to *Reuters’* own tally.

The institute’s predictive coronavirus model, periodically revised to account for changing circumstances and scientific insights surrounding the pandemic, has become an influential data point often cited by the White House and public health authorities in gauging the crisis.

The IHME projections are presented as a statistical range of outcomes. The latest forecast predicts the cumulative number of U.S. deaths from COVID-19 will run from as few as 95,092 to as many as 242,890 by Aug. 4 — with 134,475 lives lost representing the most likely, middle ground.

By comparison, the previous revision issued on April 29 put the middle-case figure at 72,400 deaths, within a range between 59,300 and 114,200 fatalities.

Eased social distancing

The upward spike reflects increasing human interactions as more states begin to ease social-distancing requirements — the chief public health tool available to curb the spread of a highly contagious virus for which there is no vaccine and no cure.

The relaxation of social-distancing rules will more than offset any decline in transmissions that might come from warmer weather and stronger containment measures, such

Iran, he declared.

Iran has been a staunch ally and sponsor of Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad during the nine-year civil war in Syria in which hundreds of thousands of people have been killed.

as more wide-scale testing and tracing the contacts of infected people so they too can be tested and isolated, Murray said.

The revised IHME projections coincided with disclosure of an internal Trump administration forecast predicting a surge in COVID-19 cases killing 3,000 Americans a day by the end of May, up from a current daily toll that a *Reuters* tally places at around 2,000.

That projection, first reported by *The New York Times* and confirmed by a *Reuters* source, also forecast about 200,000 new coronavirus cases each day by the end of the month, up from the current rate of about 25,000 cases every 24 hours.

Trump’s predictions

Asked about the confidential forecast, White House spokesman Judd Deere said: “This is not a White House document, nor has it been presented to the Coronavirus Task Force or gone through interagency vetting.”

President Donald Trump has given varying predictions for the number of people in the United States who will succumb to COVID-19. As recently as Friday, he said he hoped fewer than 100,000 Americans would die, and had talked last week of 60,000 to 70,000 deaths.

But on Sunday night, the president acknowledged the death toll may climb much higher.

“We’re going to lose anywhere from 75, 80 to 100,000 people. That’s a horrible thing,” he told *Fox News*.

Facebook Deplatforms Antisemitic Conspiracy Theorist David Icke Over False Coronavirus Claims



David Icke. Photo: Tyler Merbler via Wikimedia Commons.

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Facebook has removed the official page of British antisemitic conspiracy theorist David Icke for publishing “health misinformation that could cause physical harm,” the BBC reported on Friday.

According to the report, the 68-year-old Icke — a bestselling author who believes that an alien race of humanoid reptiles secretly controls the world — has promoted a number of false claims about the coronavirus, including a charge that Jews are responsible for the pandemic.

Icke tweeted on Friday, “Fascist Facebook deletes David Icke – the elite are TERRIFIED of him because they are terrified of the truth.”

The Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) has launched a campaign to have Icke widely deplatformed.

In an open letter to social media companies, the CCDH wrote, “We, the undersigned, call on you to remove David Icke’s accounts from each of your platforms.”

“Since the outbreak of the coronavirus, Icke has used your platforms to spread dangerous conspiracy theories and medical misinformation to his audience of millions of followers and subscribers,” it said. “The potentially harmful claims he has made include denying the existence of Covid-19; linking the current crisis to 5G mobile technology; suggesting that Jewish cultists are behind

the crisis; that viruses cannot be transmitted through direct physical contact or intermediary objects; and that people with healthy immune systems are safe from contracting the virus. Videos of Icke making these claims have been viewed at least 30 million times.”

“During this time, we have seen a spate of arson attacks on 5G masts, which Icke has claimed are being erected under the cover of lockdown,” the letter continued. “A recent academic study suggests that belief in conspiracy theories, of the type promoted by Icke on your platforms, makes members of the public less likely to follow the official guidance to wash their hands regularly, stay at home, and socially distance.”

“That Icke would use his accounts on your platforms in this way could have been predicted,” it noted. “He has been using them to spread racism, medical misinformation and conspiracy theories for years. Whether it’s fake news stories about Muslims cancelling Christmas and the legalisation of rape by Muslim men, implying that migrants are morally inferior, using racist imagery, or the conspiracy theory that Jews are secretly behind antisemitic attacks on their own communities, Icke has consistently violated your terms.”

The letter concluded, “In the face of this global pandemic that has already claimed hundreds of thousands of lives, it is more urgent than ever that accounts spreading harmful misinformation are prevented from doing so. There is a moral duty on each of you to act. Please remove David Icke from your platforms.”

In New York, the state that accounts for about a third of all US infections, Governor Andrew Cuomo on Monday outlined plans to ease restrictions on a regional basis.

Without giving a specific time frame, Cuomo told a daily briefing that construction, manufacturing and the wholesale supply chain would be allowed to start up under the first phase of a four-step return to normality.

A second phase would permit insurance, retail, administrative support and real estate businesses to open again, followed by restaurants, food services, hotels and accommodation businesses in the third stage, Cuomo said. In the final phase, arts, entertainment and recreation facilities and education would restart.

Cuomo suggested that rural parts of New York might be relaxed ahead of “higher-risk regions,” including New York City.

California Governor Gavin Newsom said on Monday he would ease the state’s stay-at-home orders by Thursday, expanding the number of retail businesses that can provide curbside services.

“This is an optimistic day, as we see a little bit of a ray of sunshine,” Newsom told a news conference.

Florida began a gradual restart of its economy on Monday. In the first phase, retail merchants and restaurants will open, with indoor patronage limited to 25% of capacity. Eateries are also allowed to open outdoor seating with social distancing and medical practices can resume elective surgeries and procedures.

In Ohio, Governor Mike DeWine was allowing construction and manufacturing to reopen on Monday, and letting office workers return.

World News.



Members of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps march in a parade in Tehran, Sept. 22, 2011. Photo: Reuters / Stringer / File.

Strong Majority of US House of Representatives Urges Renewal of UN Arms Embargo on Iran

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

An overwhelming bipartisan majority of the US House of Representatives on Monday called for the extension of the United Nations arms embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Foreign Affairs Committee Republican Leader Michael McCaul and Chairman Eliot L. Engel as well as Representative Stephanie Murphy and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick led a group of 387 members "encouraging robust diplomacy to prevent the expiration of the embargo and of UN travel restrictions on Iranians engaged in proliferation activities," an accompanying statement said.

The statement noted that the "group of members — more than three quarters of the House — underscored that permitting Iran to buy and sell weapons would pose a grave risk to security and stability around the world."

Following the vote, McCaul said that "nearly every member of the US House of

Representatives is in agreement: Iran must not be allowed to buy or sell weapons."

McCaul added that the embargo "isn't a Republican or Democrat issue, or even just an American issue. We need to extend the UN arms embargo on Iran for the sake of international peace and security."

Engel argued that the Trump administration's abandonment of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran meant that "it falls to the administration to solve this crisis, not make it worse."

Continued Engel: "Iran continues to be a danger to the United States, our interests, and our allies. We need a realistic and practical strategy to prevent Iran from becoming a greater menace."

The leading pro-Israel lobbying organization, AIPAC, welcomed the vote in a statement on Monday. AIPAC warned that Russia and China were eager to resume selling weapons to the Iranian regime once the embargo imposed by UN Security Council expires this coming October.

enriched and become an even greater threat.

Obama left Trump a more dangerous Middle East than Bush left him. Biden should gratefully accept the gains Trump has made in weakening Iran and would be ill-advised to try to give them back. Though Democrats may think Trump's era will be quickly erased, they're likely to preserve more of his foreign policy than they may want to admit.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor in chief of JNS-Jewish News Syndicate. Follow him on Twitter @jonathans_tobin.

Despite Passionate Defense of 'Academic Freedom,' Scholar at Center of Antisemitism Row Campaigned to Exclude Israelis

BY BEN COHEN

A prominent South African academic whose invitation to address a cultural festival in Germany has been at the center of an angry row over antisemitism and free speech himself threatened to boycott a university conference in 2018, because of his objection to the presence of colleagues from Israel.

Achille Mbembe — a cultural theorist described by national broadcaster Deutsche Welle as a "popular public figure in Germany" — had been invited to give the opening address at the renowned Ruhrtriennale festival on Aug. 14.

Although the annual event has since been canceled in accordance with coronavirus-related restrictions, the dispute over Mbembe's invitation has roiled on.

Germany's federal antisemitism commissioner, Felix Klein, and local Jewish groups were among those who condemned the invite, pointing out that Mbembe had made the "antisemitic" equation between the former apartheid regime in South Africa and the Israeli government, endorsed the anti-Zionist campaign to boycott, divest from and sanction the Jewish state, and diminished the Holocaust by bracketing it with the apartheid system.

Mbembe has been an active participant in the subsequent debate, emphasizing in several media interviews that while he was a strong supporter of the Palestinians, he had no connection with organizations promoting the boycott campaign against Israel.

"The truth is that although I am committed to Palestinian equality and freedom, I have no

Lithuanian Tourism Chiefs Condemned for 'Immoral' PR Stunt in Ongoing Fight Over Jewish Cemetery

BY BEN COHEN

The head of Lithuania's Jewish community has strongly condemned a government-sponsored publicity stunt that showed hundreds of chairs marked with fake 1,000-euro notes lined up outside a state-of-the-art convention center that is being constructed on top of a Jewish cemetery.

Simon Gurevich — chair of the Jewish community in the capital Vilnius — told local broadcaster LRT that the display staged by tourism agencies was "immoral," as the chairs had been stacked "over the heads and bodies of the people who created the 'Jerusalem of the North,'" invoking a term that was often used to describe Vilnius, then known as Vilna, before the Nazi Holocaust.

Jewish activists and human rights groups have spent the past three years opposing the government's construction of the convention center on the site of the Old Šnipiškės Jewish Cemetery, where thousands of graves are buried beneath the surface.

Last Friday's display at the site was organized by Lithuanian tourism chiefs as a mocking response to the continued delays in the construction of the convention center, with the fake cash intended to symbolize the amount of money allegedly being lost because of the continued protests of Jewish organizations and others.

According to *Defending History* — a specialist website that monitors and analyzes the official depiction in contemporary Lithuania of the country's Jewish past — Friday's widely-reported display may have been the result of a photoshopping exercise, rather than an actual event.

One of the site's reporters asked a contact at the Vilnius municipality "about whether

relationship whatsoever with BDS," Mbembe told journalist René Aguigah in a German radio interview on April 23.

Mbembe's record, however, would indicate otherwise. In addition to having signed a 2015 petition endorsing the academic boycott of Israel, the Cameroon-born professor threatened to withdraw from a conference at a South African university in 2018 because a leading Israeli psychologist was among the invited speakers.

Prof. Shifra Sagy — who teaches in the psychology department at Ben Gurion University (BGU) in Israel — was disinvented from the conference at Stellenbosch University following pressure on the organizers from, among many others, Mbembe.

Entitled "Recognition, Reparation, Reconciliation: The Light and Shadow of Historical Trauma," the purpose of the Dec. 2018 conference was "to deepen understanding of trans-generational trauma and to develop strategies to deal with the repercussions of genocide and colonial oppression." Sagy, whose work centers on peace education, had been due to speak on two panels at the conference.

The planned presence of Sagy and other Israelis sparked the ire of Mbembe and his colleague at Witwatersrand University, Prof. Sarah Nuttall, resulting in a statement in which the pair emphasized their support for "the boycott as a non-violent strategy for ending the occupation."

Referring to the demand of South Africa's



The protest display organized by Lithuanian tourism chiefs on the site of a former Jewish cemetery in Vilnius where a new convention center is being built. Photo: Screenshot.

the city's permission had been given. The employee, who asked not to be named, said: "Of course it was virtual, photoshopped, but reported in the press release as being on the ground, in order to wind up the Jews so they will go crazy about their so-called cemetery."

Commented *Defending History*: "Whether on the ground or the web, this is one of the most disturbing manifestations of 'elite antisemitism' in Eastern Europe in recent times. Besides the humiliation of thousands of buried from the minority annihilated in the Holocaust, there is the classic antisemitic trope associating 'Jews and banknotes,' alongside the insinuation that only a convention center at *this* location can bring back the tourist industry after Covid-19."

Local officials insist that there is no other appropriate site for the convention center, which is being presented as a major boon for the tourism and hospitality industry.

"We have been waiting for the Congress Center to be located in this place for many years, but in the face of the crisis, it is becoming critical for our sector," Evalda Šiškauskienė, president of the Lithuanian Hotel and Restaurant Association, told local news outlets over the weekend.



South Africa-based academic Prof. Achille Mbembe. Photo: Screenshot.

influential pro-BDS lobby for a ban on Israelis at the conference, Mbembe and Nuttall wrote: "We let the organizers know this morning (Nov. 27, 2018) that we would have no option but to withdraw from the conference if a satisfactory agreement was not found between the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and the Organizing Committee. A short while ago, we were informed by the organizers that the Israeli speakers who were on the program have rescinded their participation at the conference and for this reason, we are open to participating in the conference."

At no point in recent weeks has Mbembe addressed his actions over the Stellenbosch conference, confining himself to general statements in support of academic freedom. In his interview with German radio, Mbembe went on to argue that the row over his festival invite suggested that Germany was struggling "to uphold three key principles of any liberal state: the freedom of conscience, the freedom of expression and academic freedom."

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U.S. News.

Congress Members Push for Extradition of Wanted Terrorist Ahlam Tamimi From Jordan

BY JNS.org

A group of Republican members of Congress have called on the Jordanian ambassador to the United States for the Hashemite Kingdom to extradite wanted Palestinian-Jordanian Hamas terrorist Ahlam Tamimi to the United States.

Tamimi has been accused of being the mastermind behind the Sbarro Pizzeria bombing in Jerusalem on Aug. 9, 2001, that killed 15 people, including eight children, and wounded 121 others. Among those killed were two American citizens, 15-year-old Malki Roth and 31-year-old Judith Greenbaum, who was pregnant at the time. A third American, Chana Nachenberg, has remained in a permanent vegetative state ever since.

"Today, appallingly, Tamimi is a media celebrity, the subject of wide popular admiration. She has appeared publicly side-by-side with prominent political figures and received extraordinary recognition in Jordan's mainstream press and television media as a respected commentator and as an object of Jordanian national pride," wrote the group of Republican congressmen to Jordanian Ambassador to the United States Dina Kawar.

The signees were Reps. Greg Steube (R-Fla.), Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), Ted Yoho (R-Fla.), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), Brian Mast (R-Fla.), Scott Perry (R-Penn.) and Louie Gohmert (R-Texas).

"She has been showered with acclaim by the students of the Arab world's most important graduate school of journalism, the Amman-based Jordan Media Institute, who declared her to be their 'success model,' they wrote.

TERRORIST

AHLAM AHMAD AL-TAMIMI

Conspiring to Use and Using a Weapon of Mass Destruction Against a United States National Outside the United States Resulting in Death and Aiding and Abetting and Causing an Act to be Done



An FBI "Most Wanted Terrorist" poster for Palestinian terrorist Ahlam Ahmad al-Tamimi, one of the masterminds of the Aug. 9, 2001 bombing of the Sbarro pizzeria in Jerusalem. Photo: FBI.

"For five years, she traveled widely and often to deliver public speeches throughout Jordan and in numerous Arab countries beyond Jordan's borders. Her theme has always centered on promoting terror and terrorists."

Tamimi, who planned the attack, has shown no remorse, saying she has "no regrets."

She had been awarded \$51,836 until she was released from prison, as part of a 2011 prisoner exchange that included Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit's release from Hamas captivity, when she then escaped to Jordan. The Palestinian Authority allots \$7,321 monthly to the Sbarro terrorists and their families, according to a 2019 Palestinian Media Watch report.

Tamimi is on America's "Most Wanted Terrorist" list, but the United States has been unable to secure her extradition as a 1995 extradition agreement was not ratified by Jordan's government. The United States has offered a \$5 million reward for her capture and conviction.

Jordan has refused to extradite her to the United States.

"This is a matter of grave and growing concern to the Congress and to all Americans. The American view concerning the treaty is that it is certainly valid. It continues to be listed in the US government's authoritative Treaties in Force document," wrote the members of Congress.

The letter noted that "up until the Tamimi case and its Israeli victims, Jordan had extradited terrorists to the United States multiple times."

In November 2019, the Trump administration rejected

Continued from Page A4
Campaigned to Exclude

The 63-year-old Mbembe, who obtained his doctorate at the Sorbonne in Paris, has enjoyed a sterling academic career across four decades. He has held visiting professorships at several American colleges, including the University of Pennsylvania, Duke University, Harvard University and the University of California, Berkeley.

In Germany, Mbembe has been the recipient of numerous prizes, among them the 2015 Geschwister Scholl-Preis, the 2018 Gerda Henkel Award and the 2018 Ernst Bloch Award.

claims that Tamimi couldn't be extradited to the United States, which claims that its extradition treaty with Jordan is valid even though a Jordanian court in 2017 ruled the opposite.

The Republican signees noted that "Congress legislated sanctions in December 2019 which, subject to certain conditions, will apply to 'a country which has notified the Department of State of its refusal to extradite to the United States any individual indicted for a criminal offense' [certain details follow], and is 'a country with which the United States maintains diplomatic relations and with which the United States has an extradition treaty,' and 'that country is in violation of the terms and conditions of the treaty.'"

"The potential seriousness of these sanctions provisions reflect the deep concern of the Congress, the administration and the American people," continued the members

of Congress. "We believe it is of the highest importance to US/Jordan relations that an outcome is found that honors Jordanian law while ensuring this unrepentant terrorist and murderer of innocent Americans is brought to US justice. Extraditing Tamimi within the framework of a long-standing, effective treaty is a powerful statement that Jordan will not tolerate terrorism nor its promotion."

The Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET) was behind the letter and has long been raising awareness about Tamimi's case and calling for her to be extradited from Jordan to face justice in the United States.

In a statement, EMET Founder and President Sarah Stern wrote "that as long as the United States turns a blind eye to the murderers of American citizens, we will be reinforcing their resolve against the United States."

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Opinion.

On Anniversary of Hitler's Death, Remembering His Birth



SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

This week marked the 75th anniversary of the suicide in a German bunker of Adolf Hitler, the most evil man that ever lived.

In the summer of 2017, I took my family on a trip to visit the killing fields of Europe where six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust. We arrived in Braunau am Inn, Hitler's birthplace in Austria, on July 16. The town is adjacent to the Inn River, which serves as the border with the German state of Bavaria. When we speak of Hitler as an Austrian, we also have to acknowledge that he was born just a few miles — literally — from the German border.

I had to see the place where Hitler was born, but when I got there, I was disgusted. It was vile. There was a palpable sense of evil. When you grow up learning about Hitler and the Holocaust, places seem so far away and the time seems so distant. Now, walking down the street of this provincial town on a beautiful summer day, I could not wrap my head around the fact that the man responsible for the Holocaust was born right here.

Although I knew there was no answer, I hoped to somehow find a clue in his hometown to explain Hitler's motivations. How did this person come into this world? How could he have caused so much suffering to so many people? How could one person have done that? It wasn't just one person — it was the German people, it was the Austrian people, and all the people who participated. But Hitler was the leader who galvanized

them all. Of course, we found nothing in the air nor the water. Still, there's a part of you that wants to blame the city. But the city is not evil, the people are not evil — except the ones who participated in the Holocaust.

The residents are aware of their town's horrific claim to fame, but can do little about it. One indication of their discomfort was the decision by the town council in 2011 to revoke any honorary citizenship that may have been conferred on Hitler in 1933. The vote was held despite the lack of evidence that Hitler received such an honor.

We walked down the street to where Hitler's family lived. It is a residential area with a restaurant we found filled with diners. Everyone was eating and laughing outdoors in the nice weather, and I'm sure they gave no thought to the town's most infamous resident. I felt it was inappropriate to have a place of food and drink here. They should block off the whole street.

When we reached the address, it was unremarkable. The building had been a guest house where Hitler's parents rented rooms to be close to the office where his father Alois worked as a customs official. Adolf was born to Klara, Alois' third wife, on April 20, 1889, joining half-siblings Alois Jr. and Angela in the family. Three years later, they moved when Alois was transferred to Passau.

In April 1938, after the Anschluss, Braunau renamed the street Adolf-Hitler-Straße and its town plaza Adolf-Hitler-Platz. Hitler's personal secretary, Martin Bormann, purchased the house for the Nazi Party, and it was used as a cultural center. The letters MB, presumably for Bormann, appear above the door.

The building was briefly occupied by US troops at the end of World War II, and temporarily housed a documentary exhibition on

Nazi concentration camps. It was kept intact because it was part of the historic city center and was returned to its original owners. In later years, the building housed a library, a bank, and classrooms for a high school. Its last tenant was a charity for people with learning disabilities. Since 2011, it has been empty.

You would not recognize the house if you did not know the address — Salzburger Vorstadt 15. There is no plaque or marker that says: This is the building where Hitler was born. In fact, there was nothing at the house until 1989 — two weeks before the centenary of Hitler's birth — when the mayor, Gerhard Skiba, directed that a granite memorial stone be placed directly in front of the house on public ground. His predecessor had wanted to put a tablet on the house, but the owner of the building, Gerlinde Pommer, objected because she said it violated her property rights and feared it would make it a pilgrimage site for neo-Nazis or target of anti-fascists.

The only hint that Hitler was born in the building is that memorial stone. On one side, facing the building, is the German inscription: "Stone from Concentration camp Mauthausen." On other side, it says:

For Peace, Freedom and Democracy.

Never Again Fascism.

Millions of Dead Remind [us].

I found this message strange. What did it mean? Why is the emphasis on unnamed fascists who carried out the Final Solution? As is the case for too many memorials created by the Polish, Austrian, and German governments, there is no reference to Jews. Yes, Hitler was responsible for the death of millions of people, but it was only the Jews and the Roma whom he sought to exterminate. This was a pretty pathetic way to distinguish the house of the world's greatest mass murderer.



Adolf Hitler giving a Nazi salute.
Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Walking through the city is eerie. There is a silence between onlookers and visitors. As in other towns we visited, the residents all know why you are there — but don't want to say anything. We are a Jewish family. We look Jewish. We are traveling around Austria and Germany, and not a lot of people know much about the Jewish people other than they were slaughtered in these places — and many young people do not even know that. They look at us. They don't mean to look at us in a weird way, but they do because they don't see a lot of Orthodox Jews.

Neo-Nazis and other admirers of Hitler are aware of his birthplace and are drawn to it. Every year, on Hitler's birthday, anti-fascist protesters rally outside the building. Partly as a response, the Austrian government adopted a special law to expropriate the property from Pommer in 2016 and is now considering demolishing the building. That recommendation has been controversial and I agree with the opponents.

I am completely and utterly opposed to the building's demolition. Instead of destroying the building, it should be turned into a museum of the Holocaust. Each of these historic places presents an opportunity to educate against genocide, against fascism, against bigotry, against hatred, against racism, and against antisemitism. It is especially important now with the global growth of antisemitism.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach's memoir, "Holocaust Holiday: One Family's Descent into Genocide Memory Hell," will be published later this year. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @RabbiShmuley.

British Jews Are Too Eager to Embrace Starmer's Still Dubious Labour Party



MELANIE PHILLIPS
/JNS.org

In both Britain and America, the Jewish community is increasingly badly served by leaders who seem less and less able to distinguish between the friends and the enemies of the Jewish people.

In America, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations has been convulsed by controversy over appointing Dianne Lob as its new chairman. Lob is the former president of HIAS, an organization originally established to assist Jewish refugees, but which has morphed into a body closely associated with anti-Israel and Islamist groups.

In Britain this week, Conservative MP Robert Halfon mounted a startlingly outspoken attack on the Jewish community's main representative body, the Board of Deputies, for

having a "left of center political agenda."

His criticism was triggered by its weekly bulletin that, he said, read like a "political broadcasting service" for the Labour Party.

The background to this fracas is the replacement of the Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn by Sir Keir Starmer — a former human rights lawyer, Director of Public Prosecutions, and more centrist figure than his far-left predecessor.

Since he became leader a month ago, Starmer has strenuously portrayed himself as anxious to deal with the scourge of antisemitism that consumed the party under Jeremy Corbyn. His instant charm offensive towards Jewish community leaders had them purring straightaway. What he says, however, is less important than what he does. And this is causing some concern.

For although he has rid his shadow ministerial team of most of Corbyn's far-left faction, he has still appointed some Labour MPs with backgrounds of deeply problematic views about Israel and the Jewish people.

For example, he appointed the Bradford MP Naz Shah as shadow minister for commu-

nity cohesion, the post dealing with race relations.

In 2014, Shah supported an image posted on Facebook suggesting that the State of Israel should be relocated in the United States. She also tweeted a link to a blog that claimed Zionism had been used to "groom" Jews to "exert political influence at the highest levels of public office." In another post that year, she appeared to liken Israel's policies to Hitler's.

Shah was suspended from the party, but was accepted back after she declared her contrition and said she had now learned more about Judaism.

But in March 2018, in a blog about the armed and murderous uprising by Gazans on the border with Israel, she claimed that the Israel Defense Forces had used "brute force" and "indiscriminate killing" against unarmed civilians just because "people who have been driven out of their land protested for their right to return."

Even more disturbing was Starmer's appointment of Wigan MP Lisa Nandy as Labour's foreign-affairs spokesman. Nandy is a former chairman of Labour Friends of Palestine and the Middle East.

The group's website, which calls for the "immediate recognition of Palestine," is stuffed with gross historical and legal omissions and distortions that present Israel falsely as an illegal aggressor and occupier denying the Palestinians their civil rights.

Nandy, who calls herself a Zionist, has promised in the past to oppose what she calls "the illegal occupation of Palestine" and the "blockade of Gaza," and has supported BDS

by tweeting against businesses "profiting from the occupied Palestinian territories."

Worse still, she supports the Palestinian Arabs' "right of return." This places her among the opponents of Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state. For the "Palestinians" have no such legal, moral, or historical right. The so-called "right of return," which would flood Israel with Arab immigrants, is merely a device to destroy the State of Israel.

Yet in the bulletin that triggered Halfon's fury, the board not only gave Nandy a free pass for her previous comments but sanitized her backing for the "right of return."

It said it was pleased to hear her express her commitment to safeguard Israel against Hamas and Hezbollah, "restate" her opposition to BDS, and "clarify that her support for a Palestinian right of return was on the understanding of making this work in the context of a viable two-state solution."

But giving the Arabs the "right of return" would mean the end of Israel, turning the two-state solution into one Arab state. In its rush to normalize relations with the Labour Party, the Board of Deputies in effect farcically endorsed Israel's annihilation through agreement.

The criticisms made by the Conservative Halfon went further. The board, he said, "certainly doesn't represent me or those Conservatives who are very sympathetic and who work day and night for the Jewish community."

The Board's bulletin had made lengthy and gushing references to meetings with

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Opinion.

Coronavirus and the Arab Culture of Secrecy

Celebrating San Remo and Jewish Sovereignty



EDY COHEN
JERUSALEM

Misinformation is a pillar of governance in most Arab regimes.

Anyone trying to follow current events in the Arab world could be misled into believing the royal families and political leaders never get sick. Illness among officials is treated as a state secret, possibly to avoid creating an image of weakness that could invite coup attempts.

Even without that concern, a strong and respected personal image is highly valued among Arab leaders, and they go to great lengths to preserve it. Most of them dye their hair to downplay the appearance of aging. In the Arab world, old age symbolizes weakness, whereas in Western culture it often denotes wisdom and a rich sense of life experience. (Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority, is one of the few Arab leaders to keep his natural hair color.)

Sickness that befalls an Arab leader is routinely kept secret from the public. On average, an Arab leader remains in power for about 30 years. They almost invariably use hospitals and healthcare outside their borders. They do this for two reasons: first, they don't trust their local healthcare systems; and second, they fear the negative public image that might accompany news of the leader's illness. Many Arab leaders have sought medical treatment abroad. Former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak was accustomed to receiving medical care in Germany, and the royal Jordanian Hashemite family receives its primary health care in the UK. Jordan's former king Hussein was treated in New York, and the Saudi and Kuwaiti royal families are known to go to the US for medical treatment. The list goes on.

An interesting case that illustrates Arab leaders' distrust of Arab medical staff, no matter where they are located, is the case of Algerian president Abdelaziz Bouteflika. In September 2018, while he was receiving urgent care in Geneva, the Swiss hospital's staff was surprised to see Bouteflika's brother step in to keep a doctor and nurse of Tunisian and Moroccan origin, respectively, away from the Algerian leader.

The vast majority of media outlets in Arab countries are state-controlled, and they serve to protect and preserve the regime in power. There is often an official representative



Workers load bread on a bus to sell it to people close to their homes after Jordan announced it would extend a curfew indefinitely, amid concerns over the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Amman, Jordan March 24, 2020. Photo: REUTERS/Muhammad Hamed.

from the government whose role is to stay in direct contact with broadcasters and authorize any content released to the public, which is viewed with suspicion. The intelligence services in Arab countries were established in great measure to protect the regimes from domestic threats.

In the Arab world, media outlets do not criticize the government — on the contrary, they are regime mouthpieces. Anyone who dares speak out against the regime is likely to find him- or herself in prison or expelled from the country. Citizens wanting to voice their opinions must be very careful on social media platforms as well. They can face harsh punishments and even death for posting critical opinions about the regime.

For the time being, Arab leaders have no choice but to remain at home, even in cases when they need medical attention. Western countries have closed their borders to stem the spread of the coronavirus, and their hospitals are at maximum capacity. Even if an Arab leader were to manage to leave his country at this time, the media — censored by the regime — would likely report falsely that he was still at home.

There are currently rumors circulating on Arab social media asserting that several heads of royal families have abandoned their countries for fear of infection with coronavirus. Accurate information about the state is always hard to come by in the Arab world. Misinformation is a fundamental tenet of the political culture of Arab authoritarian regimes. This is particularly evident today, when it is impossible to gain any reliable sense of the true extent of coronavirus infection and death in the Arab world.

*Dr. Edy Cohen is a researcher at the BESA Center and author of the book *The Holocaust in the Eyes of Mahmoud Abbas* (Hebrew).*

A version of this article was originally published by Israel Today and The BESA Center.

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Embrace

Labour MPs, while its meeting with the Conservative party's new chairman had been afforded just two lines — and even those criticized the party.

Halfon is a greatly respected MP who is also a staunch defender of Jewish interests. Yet the board responded by calling into question his "courage and integrity" and describing his comments as "ignorant ... disingenuous and outright false."

This calumny enraged more than 20 Board members who promptly signed a letter in Halfon's support, saying there has "long been cause for concern" over the "imbalanced partisan leanings" of left-wing senior board officials.

In the Jewish community, which unlike

American Jews mostly votes Conservative, impatience has been growing over the Board's lengthening record of knee-jerk leftism and related gross incompetence.

Last year, for example, it denounced Conservative MP Suella Braverman, now the Attorney-General in Boris Johnson's government, who had spoken about fighting "a battle against cultural Marxism." This brought a rebuke from the Board that declared "the term 'cultural Marxist' has a history as an antisemitic trope."

This was a disgraceful and deeply stupid smear. For Braverman — the daughter of immigrants from Kenya and Goa, and whose husband is Jewish — has the warmest feelings towards the Jewish people.

And "cultural Marxism" is a term that's been used by political theorists for decades to



BROOKE GOLDSTEIN
NEW YORK

Last week, we celebrated the momentous occasion of the 100-year anniversary of the San Remo Conference (April 19-26, 1920), convened in San Remo, Italy by the Supreme War Council of the allied powers (the British Empire, France, Italy, and Japan) at the conclusion of World War I.

There is a widespread misconception that the State of Israel derives its legal existence from United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181 (II) of November 29, 1947 — popularly known as the "Partition Plan." In fact, Israel's legal foundation under international law derives not from Resolution 181 (II), which was merely a non-binding recommendation without any force of law, but rather from the San Remo Resolution (April 24-25, 1920), signed, ratified, and proclaimed by the Supreme Council at the San Remo Conference.

The purpose of the San Remo Conference was to formulate the terms of a peace treaty with the former Turkish Ottoman Empire. As a consequence of the military victory by the allied forces, the Supreme Council possessed the legal right of disposition due to the "Right of Conquest," the prevailing international law, and decided to dispose of the former Ottoman territories by putting into effect the recently established Mandate System, which was in accord with Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations (April 28, 1919).

The San Remo Resolution created three separate mandates: (1) Palestine, (2) Mesopotamia, and (3) Syria and the Lebanon. Each Mandate vested de jure sovereignty and transferred legal title specifically to the peoples who were the beneficiaries as they were the geographic inhabitants living in each of the respective newly mandated territories, and/or the people indigenous to the land (both were the case for the Jewish people and Palestine).

The Supreme Council chose the British government to be the Mandatory (i.e., the "Trustee") for Palestine (i.e., Israel) and Mesopotamia (i.e., Iraq). The British government was thereby legally obligated

to administer the allocated Mandates as a sacred trust until such time as the beneficiary peoples could govern the land themselves. France was chosen to be the Mandatory in Syria and the Lebanon under the same terms and conditions.

The terms of the San Remo Resolution were incorporated into the Treaty of Sèvres (August 10, 1920), the Franco-British Boundary Convention (December 23, 1920), and then in the Preamble of the Mandate Charter (July 24, 1922), the latter of which was approved by 52 members of the League of Nations (and, in time, 63 nations, including Iraq and Egypt), as well as in the Treaty of Lausanne (July 24, 1923). The terms were then also incorporated in a separate treaty between the United States and the United Kingdom, known as the Anglo-American Convention on Palestine.

Significantly, the Anglo-American Convention was ratified on March 2, 1925 and proclaimed by President Calvin Coolidge on December 5, 1925. The Anglo-American Convention also incorporated by reference the Balfour Declaration (November 2, 1917), and contained verbatim the full text of the Mandate for Palestine, including the following:

Preamble: "Whereas the Principal Allied Powers have also agreed that the Mandatory should be responsible for putting into effect the declaration originally made on the 2nd November, 1917, by the Government of His Britannic Majesty, and adopted by the said Powers, in favor of the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."

Article 5 states: "The Mandatory shall be responsible for seeing that no Palestine territory shall be ceded or leased to, or in any way placed under the control of, the Government of any foreign Power."

Article 6 states, in part: "The Administration of Palestine ... shall facilitate Jewish immigration and shall encourage ... close settlement by Jews on the land, including State lands and waste lands not required for public purposes."

Article 6 of the US Constitution states, in part: "This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the Supreme Law

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describe the revolutionary socialist agenda to destroy Western civilization by subverting its culture from within.

After general outrage, the Board retreated and declared it had found Braverman to be "in no way antisemitic." It had assumed the term "cultural Marxism" to be antisemitic just because, among white supremacists and neo-Nazis, it's used to highlight the Jewish origins of some leading supporters of this agenda.

In the same spirit of reflexive leftism, the board brands as an anti-Muslim bigot anyone who criticizes the Islamic world or draws attention to Muslim antisemitism. Repeatedly, it grovels to the enemies of the Jewish people while attacking their defenders.

In both Britain and America, most of the Jewish left subscribe to the default position among progressives — a narrative about Israel based on the egregious lies and distortions of Arab propaganda that is fundamentally anti-Jew.

Starmer, whose wife has a Jewish father, won't rid Labour of its antisemitism because

he won't challenge this progressive narrative. He claims that he supports Zionism. But he's also a member of Labour Friends of Palestine.

Along with their other comrades on the left, British and American Jews tell themselves they aren't anti-Israel and certainly aren't anti-Jew. They claim merely to oppose Israeli policies.

Refusing to acknowledge the truths that challenge their worldview, they will never see how they themselves have become weaponized against Israel, kowtow to its enemies, and unwittingly fan the flames of antisemitism. In both Britain and America, such flawed leaders are leading Diaspora Jews off the edge of the civilizational cliff.

*Melanie Phillips, a British journalist, broadcaster and author, writes a weekly column for JNS. Currently a columnist for The Times of London, her personal and political memoir *Guardian Angel* has been published by Bombardier, which also published her first novel *The Legacy* in 2018. Her work can be found at www.melaniephillips.com.*

Impressions.

If You Hate Flying Now, Just Wait

BY DAVID SUISSA /
JNS.ORG

Everyone's got an opinion on what the post-corona world will look like. What will the economy look like? Which businesses will remain and how will they adapt? How will our work lives and social and communal lives change?

Most of us agree it will be a different world; we're just fuzzy on the details.

There's one detail, however, that I feel pretty confident about: We're going to hate going to airports.

If you think flying is a schlepp now, wait until you see what our nervous airlines and transport authorities have in store for us.

Remember how annoying it was to adjust to the post-9/11 world of flying, with endless lines and security checks and the humiliation of having your skin cream confiscated because it was more than 3.4 ounces?

That was a picnic.

"The impact of COVID-19 on air travel will be even more far-reaching," says airline consultant Shashank Nigam, CEO and founder of SimpliFlying, in a blog post.

He's not kidding. In a report titled, "The Rise of Sanitized Travel—70 areas of the Passenger Journey Set to Change Forever," Nigam's website lays out a future for air travel that might as well be called "The Biggest Schlepp."

I won't list all 70 areas, but to give you an idea, here are seven highlights of the report from the excel-



Empty Cabin Photo: owyzzz

lent Morning Brew newsletter:

1. Online check-in: Besides choosing their seat or paying for checked bags, passengers might also need to upload a document to confirm the presence of COVID-19 antibodies in their blood before they fly.

2. Airport curbside: Passengers could be required to arrive at least four hours ahead of their flight and pass through a "disinfection tunnel" or thermal scanner to check their temperature before being allowed to enter the airport.

3. Check-in and bag drop: New, touchless kiosks would allow passengers to check in by scanning a barcode, or using gestures or voice commands. Agents would be behind plexiglass shields, and bags would be disinfected and then "sanitized."

4. Health check: Passengers would undergo a health screening, and potentially even have their blood tested. In April, Emirates became the first airline to conduct rapid on-site COVID-19 testing of passengers before boarding.

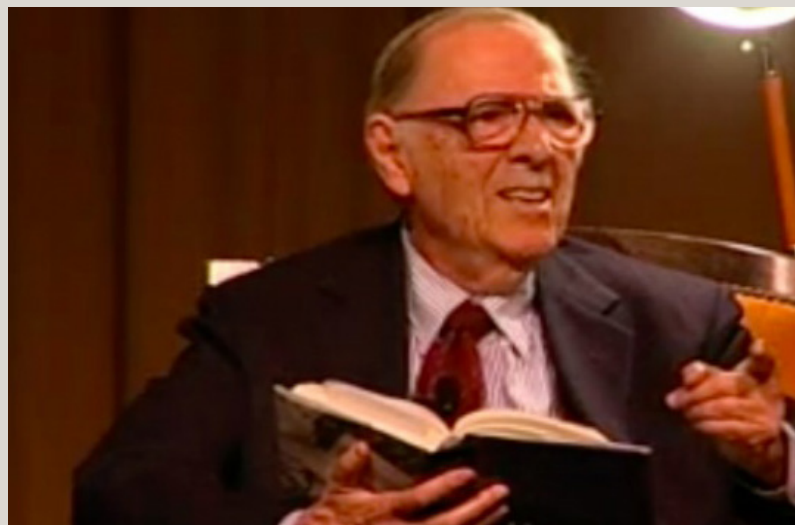
5. Security: Each carry-on bag and security bin would be disinfected when entering the X-ray

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Remembering Herman Wouk, the Zionist, on His First 'Yahrzeit'

BY MOSHE PHILLIPS /
JNS.ORG

Herman Wouk, the famed novelist who first became a household name for his 1951 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Caine Mutiny*, died one year ago this month — on May 17, to be exact. In addition to his remarkable endurance as a professional writer, he was also a lifelong Zionist. But



Herman Wouk. Photo: Screenshot.

Wouk's love affair with Zionism and the State of Israel was mostly absent from the coverage of his passing. The *Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and most major US news outlets failed to mention it. Whether deliberate or not, this missing element in the portraits of his life surely matters, as one simply cannot understand Wouk without realizing the central place that Zionism occupied in his life — no less than his love of Torah and his deep faith.

In his "Historical Notes" epilogue to *The Hope* he told readers: "Like my father before me I have been a lifelong Zionist." And he made sure that there could be no doubt: The author's photo on the novel's dust-jacket shows a widely grinning Wouk with several Israeli flags fluttering behind him.

Again and again — from his 1959 first non-fiction work *This Is My God: The Jewish Way of Life*, through his pair of books about modern Israel *The Hope* (1993) and *The Glory* (1994), until his second and final non-fiction book *The Will to Live On: This Is Our Heritage* (2001) — Wouk focused much of his literary talent on Israel.

Perhaps no line in any of his books demonstrates his love of Israel more than this one from *This Is My God*: "The first time I saw the lights of the (Israeli) airport in the dusk from the descending plane, I experienced a sense of awe that I do not expect to know again in this life." Wouk, an Orthodox Jew, synthesized his love of Torah with his love of the reborn Jewish state.

And his view of Zionism is also clearly laid out in *This Is My God*: "Zionism is a single long action of lifesaving, of snatching great masses of people out of the path of sure extinction."

Herman Wouk penned the introduction to the 1980 English version of *Self-Portrait of a Hero: The Letters of Jonathan Netanyahu*. Yoni's brothers, Benjamin and Iddo Netanyahu, put together the book. "My parents like his were Zionists," writes Wouk. Later in the introduction, he explains his connection to Israel: "Like most American Jews we believe in Israel and support it, buy Israel Bonds, make frequent trips there; I give speeches for Israeli causes and so forth," he says, and then relates how the book allowed him to

better understand his own son's desire to make his home in the modern Jewish state.

In *The Will to Live On*, Wouk weaved a survey of Jewish history together with personal stories of his interaction with David Ben-Gurion, Yitzhak Rabin, and other leading Israeli politicians and generals in what was his second and final non-fiction book. This book showed that his love of Israel was clearly undiminished. "The resurgence of Jewry

in the Holy Land is nothing but phenomenal," he wrote.

Wouk had been a US naval officer during World War II, and his respect for the Israeli military and its accomplishments was a large part of his Israel-based novels *The Hope* and *The Glory*. Those two books can be juxtaposed with his pair of widely acclaimed World War II novels *The Winds of War* (1971) and *War and Remembrance* (1978). In them, the heroine Natalie Jastrow undergoes a long and tortured journey from American Jewish girl to Holocaust victim to Zionist.

In the "Historical Notes" section at the end of *The Glory*, he wrote about a conversation he had with Menachem Begin. Wouk says Begin planned to spend his retirement writing a book he wanted to call *The Generation of Destruction and Resurgence*. The conversation had a profound effect on Wouk. He related to the idea of "a book about the Jewish epic of the twentieth century ... both the Holocaust and the rise of Israel."

Wouk's passion for the well-being of his fellow Jews and for Israel should serve as a reminder to American Jews of how the Greatest Generation saw the horrors of the Holocaust and the miracle of Jewish statehood in the Land of Israel. Those who chose to reflect upon what happened were forever changed.

Wouk loved Israel and Zionism, and we should strive to emulate that in his memory.

Moshe Phillips is national director of Herut North America's US division and a candidate on the Herut slate in the 2020 World Zionist Congress's US elections. More information is available at www.herutna.org.

Legals.

LEGAL NOTICE



Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: CLJ DEVELOPMENT LLC Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 02/14/2020. Office location: Kings county . SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Chuleung Leo Joo 67 West Street #319 Brooklyn, NY 11222 Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 4/10/17/24; 5/1/8/15

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: AINMHIRE PROPERTIES,LLC . Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) 03/20/2020. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Nicole Convery 264 Cumberland Street APT.13 Brooklyn, NY 11205. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 4/17/24; 5/1/8/15/22

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: LAST LETTER LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 02/04/2020. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Last Letter LLC 348 Hancock St., Brooklyn, NY 11216. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 4/17/24; 5/1/8/15/22

61 RUSSELL LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/17/20. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 61 Russell Street, Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. AJ; 5/1/8/15/22/29; 6/5

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: GRUNTAL ACQUISITION PARTNERS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 04/10/2020. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: DANIL KARPOV 2329 East 70 Brooklyn, NY 11234. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 5/1/8/15/22/29; 6/5

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: THE MELANIN PROJECT LLC . Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 04/18/2014. Office location : Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Stephanie Pierre 745 E 31st Street Apt.5G Brooklyn, NY 11210. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 5/1/8/15/22/29; 6/5

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: E.R.A ETHNICITY REP APPARELS LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York on

Continued from Page A8
Hate Flying

machine, using fogging or UV-ray techniques, then “sanitaged.”

6. Boarding: Passengers would need to be present an hour before departure, maintain social distancing in the gate area and board only when they receive individual notifications on their smartphones, to prevent crowding in the jet bridge.

7. On the plane: The pre-flight safety video might include sanitation procedures, as passengers wipe down their seats and tray tables. In-flight magazines will be removed, seatback pockets emptied, and passengers will likely use their own devices to watch videos. An in-flight janitor might keep lavatories and other high-touch areas disinfected after passenger use.

Get the picture? The “friendly skies” of a COVID-19 world will be neither friendly nor pretty.

Of course, it’s not as if the authorities and companies have much choice. In these pandemic times, “safety first” has gone from a cliché parents utter at children’s playgrounds to the mantra of an era.

When you’re dealing with a lethal virus that can pop up anywhere and can break out anytime, and you’re trying to bring “safety first” to crowded public spaces like airports and airplanes, extreme levels of precautions become the norm.

Just as we paid a high “schlepping price” for the safety measures implemented after 9/11, we’ll be asked to pay an even higher price in the world

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San Remo

of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby.”

Thus, the American ratification of the Anglo-American Convention rendered the treaty part of the supreme law of the United States. The United States is therefore legally bound to the principles contained in both the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate for Palestine, as both were incorporated into the Anglo-American Convention.

Suggesting that a Jewish presence anywhere within Mandated Palestine is illegal or must be stopped is a violation of the treaty. Enforcing a “two-state solution” within the mandated borders of Palestine is akin to ceding land and would constitute a violation of the treaty.

By way of example, in 1783, the Treaty of Paris marked the end of the American Revolutionary War, and the rights we enjoy as Americans today stand on this document. What keeps the English from canceling this treaty and giving the land to someone else is the principle of estoppel. Once the rights are given, they simply cannot be taken back. Such is the case with the Mandate for Palestine, and the rights that the United States accepted and committed itself to uphold as

01/02/2020. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC 555 49th St. Apt. 1R Brooklyn, NY 11220 Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 5/8/15/22/29; 6/5/12

of the coronavirus.

It’ll come down to one question: Is the hassle worth it?

Before booking flights, we will ask ourselves: Do I absolutely need to go on this trip? Can I do the business on Zoom? Can I visit family or friends fewer times? Can I take the car or train?

In other words: Can I do without this flight?

As someone who’s hooked on visiting Israel about twice a year, this is not happy news.

But “not happy news” is our new normal. We can look for all the silver linings and hidden blessings in the world—and yes, there are several—but in so many areas of our lives, this crisis is forcing us to confront grim realities.

In the first phase of the crisis, the fear of being infected has dominated. We’re now approaching a second phase, when we’ll fear losing some of the freedoms and conveniences we’ve long taken for granted.

Flying around the country and the globe is certainly one of those conveniences. At least for the foreseeable future, in this new safety-obsessed world we are entering, the option of staying put in our own towns may become more appealing.

Instead of schlepping through airports, we’ll do more schlepping on freeways.

David Suissa is editor-in-chief and publisher of Tribe Media Corp and Jewish Journal. He can be reached at david@jewishjournal.com.

This article was first published by the Jewish Journal.



Delegates at the San Remo conference in 1920. Photo: YouTube.

enshrined in the Anglo-American Convention.

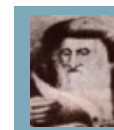
During the Mandate Period (1920–1948), while acting as the Mandatory, Britain illegally signed the Treaty of London with Transjordan on March 22, 1946, giving it the appearance of being officially severed from Palestine and illegally acknowledging the sovereignty and independence of Transjordan contrary to Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations (April 28, 1919); the San Remo Resolution (April 24–25, 1920); Articles 2, 5, and 25 of the Mandate for Palestine (July 24, 1922); the Franco-British Boundary Convention (December 23, 1920); the Anglo-American Convention (December 3, 1924); and Article 80 of the UN Charter (October 24, 1945).

Following these actions of the British government, all land east of the Jordan River, constituting approximately 77% of Palestine’s territory, was illegally transferred to the administrative control of the Hashemites, who unlawfully asserted de facto sovereignty over the eastern part of Palestine, which was known as Transjordan. This wrongful directive by Britain as the Mandatory was in violation of the second and third recitals of the Mandate, as well as Articles 2, 4, 5, 6, and 16 of the Mandate.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Opinion.

Why Would Anyone Celebrate the Anniversary of UNRWA?



ELDER OF ZIYON
NEW YORK

Last week, UNRWA celebrated its 70th anniversary. The question is — why? What is there to celebrate?

UNRWA was originally meant to be a temporary refugee agency for those displaced from the 1948 war — Arabs and Jews — until a permanent solution could be found for them.

Originally, UNRWA tried to find permanent housing and jobs for Palestinian refugees in Arab countries. It tried to ensure that non-refugees couldn’t get free services. It tried to act like a responsible agency.

But over its first few years, it lost that focus. It changed into a permanent welfare agency. It adopted the Palestinian narrative that there is no solution without

“return” — i.e., destroying the Jewish state demographically. It made a mockery of the Refugee Convention by creating its own definition of refugee that would ensure that it would become a permanent bureaucracy with an ever-growing set of clients. According to UNRWA, even American families of multi-millionaires are considered “refugees.”

Now the organization is a joke. It teaches children to hate. Its teachers are often rabid antisemites. It meekly accepts demands from terror groups like Hamas — for example, not to teach the Holocaust. It claims not to be political, but it is completely political and partisan, even bringing children to anti-Israel rallies. It keeps the “refugee” problem festering by keeping camps open even under PA rule, and even when the residents are citizens of Jordan and not refugees by any definition.

There is nothing to celebrate. UNRWA needs to be dismantled.

The ‘Getcha’ Sting

NATHAN LEWIN
WASHINGTON DC

The Wall Street Journal’s op-ed page on May 1 attacked “The FBI’s Flynn Outrage,” but neglected an identical, if not greater, outrage that the FBI perpetrated seven years ago against Orthodox Jews who wanted to assist women whose husbands cruelly left them unable to remarry after a civil divorce. *Wall Street Journal* editor Kimberley A. Strassel condemned Robert Mueller’s prosecution of former Trump National Security Adviser Michael Flynn for perjury because FBI notes reveal that Flynn was interrogated by two FBI agents in order to trap him into committing perjury. “The FBI exists,” said Ms. Strassel, “to inves-

tigate crimes, not to create them.”

Rabbi Mendel Epstein and Jay Goldstein are now at the federal prison camp in Otisville, New York under 10- and eight-year jail terms imposed after the FBI perpetrated against them the same — if not more scandalous — injustice that it recently inflicted on Flynn. Their lives are endangered by the coronavirus, but federal judge Freda L. Wolfson, who presided at their trial and sentenced them, has refused to direct their immediate release, as she could do under the “First Step Act” and the “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.” The judge’s justification is that neither has “exhausted administrative remedies” and the Bureau of Prisons “is uniquely situated to make determinations regarding eligibility for home confinement.”

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Netanyahu has continually and consistently resisted all calls to re-divide the city of Jerusalem, the 3,000-year-old eternal capital of the Jewish people and the modern State of Israel, and has recently and publicly confirmed his dedication to assert de facto sovereignty over parts of Judea and Samaria, an intrinsic part of the land of Israel as defined in the Mandate for Palestine. By doing so, the State

of Israel would thereby be fulfilling its legal role and capacity as agent and assignee of the Jewish people, to whom the sovereign legal rights belong.

Brooke Goldstein is a New-York based human rights attorney and award-winning filmmaker, as well as the founder and director of The Lawfare Project and director of the Children’s Rights Institute.

Tradition.

Words That Heal



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

There is something very strange about the festival of Succot, of which our parsha is the primary source. On the one hand, it is the festival supremely associated with joy. It is the only festival in our parsha that mentions rejoicing: "And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days" (Lev. 23:40). In the Torah as a whole, joy is mentioned *not at all* in relation to Rosh Hashanah,



Yom Kippur or Pesach, once in connection with Shavuot and *three times* in connection with Succot. Hence its name: *z'man simchatenu*, the festival of our joy.

Yet what it recalls is one of the more negative elements of the wilderness years: "You shall live in booths seven days; all citizens in Israel shall live in booths, so that future generations may know that I made the Israelites live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I the Lord your God." (Lev. 23:42-43)

For forty years, the Israelites lived without permanent homes, often on the move. They were in the wilderness, in no man's land, where it is hard to know what to expect and what dangers lie in wait along the way. To be sure, the people lived under Divine protection. But they could never be sure in advance whether it would be forthcoming and what form this protection might take. It was a prolonged period of insecurity.

How then are we to understand the fact that Succot of all festivals is called *z'man simchatenu*, the festival of our joy? It would have made sense to call Pesach – freedom's birthday – the festival of joy. It would have made sense to call Shavuot – the day of revelation at Sinai – the festival of joy. But why give that title to a festival that commemorates forty years of exposure to the heat, cold, wind and rain. Remembering that, why should we feel joy?

Besides which, what was the miracle? Pesach and Shavuot recall miracles. But travelling through the wilderness with only temporary

homes was neither miraculous nor unique. That is what people who travel through the wilderness do. They must. They are on a journey. They can only have a temporary dwelling. In this respect there was nothing special about the Israelites' experience.

It was this consideration that led Rabbi Eliezer to suggest that the succah represents the Clouds of Glory, *ananei kavod*, that accompanied the Israelites during those years, sheltering them from heat and cold, protecting them from their enemies, and guiding them on the way. This is a beautiful

and imaginative solution to the problem. It identifies a miracle and explains why a festival should be dedicated to remembering it. That is why Rashi and Ramban take it as the plain sense of the verse.

But it is difficult, nonetheless. A succah looks nothing like the Clouds of Glory. It would be hard to imagine anything *less* like the Clouds of Glory. The connection between a succah and Clouds of Glory comes not from the Torah but from the book of Isaiah, referring not to the past but to the future:

Then the Lord will create over all of Mount Zion and over those who assemble there a *cloud* of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night; over everything the glory will be a canopy. It will be a succah for shade from heat by day, and a shelter and hiding place from the storm and rain. (Is. 4:5-6)

Rabbi Akiva dissents from Rabbi Eliezer's view and says that a succah is what it says it is: a hut, a booth, a temporary dwelling. What, according to Rabbi Akiva, was the miracle? There is no way of knowing the answer. But we can guess.

If a succah represents the Clouds of Glory – the view of Rabbi Eliezer – then it celebrates God's miracle. If it represents nothing other than a succah itself – Rabbi Akiva's view – then it celebrates the *human* miracle of which Jeremiah spoke when he said: "Thus said the Lord, 'I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved Me and followed Me in the wilderness, through a land not sown'" (Jer. 2:2).

The Israelites may have complained and rebelled. But they followed God. They kept going. Like Abraham and Sarah, they were prepared to journey into the unknown.

If we understand this to be the miracle, we can infer a deep truth about faith itself. *Faith is not certainty. Faith is the courage to live with uncertainty.* Almost every phase of the exodus was fraught with difficulties, real or imagined. That is what makes the Torah so powerful. It does not pretend that life is any easier than it is. The road is not straight and the journey is long. Unexpected things happen. Crises suddenly appear. It becomes important to embed in a people's memory the knowledge that we can handle the unknown. God is with us, giving us the courage we need.

Each Succot it is as if God were reminding us: don't think you need solid walls to make you feel safe. I led your ancestors through the desert so that they would never forget the journey they had to make and the obstacles they had to overcome to get to this land. He said, "I made the Israelites live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt." (Lev. 23:43) In those booths, fragile and open to the elements, the Israelites learnt the courage to live with uncertainty.

Other nations told stories that celebrated their strength. They built palaces and castles as expressions of invincibility. The Jewish people was different. They carried with them a story about the uncertainties and hazards of history. They spoke of their ancestors' journey through the wilderness without homes, houses, protection against the elements. It is a story of spiritual strength, not military strength.

Succot is a testament to the Jewish people's survival. Even if it loses its land and is cast again into the wilderness, it will lose neither heart nor hope. It will remember that it spent its early years as a nation living in a succah, a temporary dwelling exposed to the elements. It will know that in the wilderness, no encampment is permanent. It will keep travelling until once again it reaches the promised land: Israel, home.

It is no accident that the Jewish people is the only one to have survived 2,000 years of exile and dispersion, its identity intact and energy unabated. It is the only people who can live in a shack with leaves as a roof and yet feel surrounded by clouds of glory. It is the only people who can live in a temporary dwelling and yet rejoice.

Economist John Kay and former Governor of the Bank of England Mervyn King have just published a book, *Radical Uncertainty*. In it they make the distinction between *risk*, which is calculable, and *uncertainty*, which is not. They argue that people have relied too much on calculations of probability while neglecting the fact that danger may appear from a completely unexpected source. The sudden appearance of the Coronavirus just as their book appeared proved their point. People knew

there was a possibility of a pandemic. But no one knew what it would be like, where it would come from, how rapidly it would spread, and what toll it would take.

More important than the calculation of probabilities, they say, is *understanding the situation*, answering the question, "What is going on?" This, they say, is never answered by statistics or predictions but rather by narrative, by telling a story.

That is exactly what Succot is about. It is a story about uncertainty. It tells us that we can know everything else, but we will never know what tomorrow will bring. Time is a journey across a wilderness.

On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we pray to be written into the Book of Life. On Succot we rejoice because we believe we have received a positive answer to our prayer. But as we turn to face the coming year, we acknowledge at the outset that life is fragile, vulnerable in a dozen different ways. We do not know what our health will be, what our career or livelihood will be, or what will happen to society and to the world. We cannot escape exposure to risk. That is what life is.

The succah symbolises living with unpredictability. Succot is the festival of radical uncertainty. But it places it within the framework of a narrative, exactly as Kay and King suggest. It tells us that though we journey through a wilderness, we as a people will reach our destination. If we see life through the eyes of faith, we will know we are surrounded by clouds of glory. Amid uncertainty we will find ourselves able to rejoice. We need no castles for protection or palaces for glory. A humble succah will do, for when we sit within it, we sit beneath what the Zohar calls "the shade of faith."

I believe that the experience of leaving the protection of a house and entering the exposure of the succah is a way of taming our fear of the unknown. It says: We have been here before. We are all travellers on a journey. The Divine Presence is with us. We need not be afraid. That is a source of the resilience we need in our interconnected, hazardous, radically uncertain world.

Shabbat Shalom

Continued from Page A9
The Sting

President Trump tweeted that the recent disclosures of FBI corruption may justify pardoning Flynn if he is not vindicated in court. That remedy – a presidential pardon – is owed to the seven men, including Rabbis Epstein and Goldstein, who were encouraged by an FBI sting to travel to a New Jersey warehouse in October 2013 to coerce a fictional husband to authorize a Jewish divorce for a female FBI agent. The agent was meticulously trained to act like a "chained woman" (*agunah*) and coached to persuade Rabbi Epstein to help her win her freedom.

I represented one of the men accused in the FBI's prosecution and tried in federal court in Trenton. Binyamin Stimler joined the group that was filmed and recorded in the FBI's creation of a

crime. He participated only because he was ready to witness and sign the Jewish bill of divorce (*get*) that Rabbi Epstein hoped would be authorized by the phantom "husband" who was a creature of the FBI's drama. Judge Wolfson excluded at the trial any evidence of the religious motivation of the defendants because the prosecutors preposterously objected that such evidence would lead to "nullification" of the federal kidnapping law by the overwhelmingly non-Jewish jury. She sentenced my client to 39 months' imprisonment. He is, thankfully, no longer at Otisville.

The FBI embarked on its "sting" with (1) front-office approval of a scheme to lure rabbis, (2) extensive training of two undercover agents at an FBI acting school in Quantico, Virginia, and (3) fabrication of an authentic-looking *ketubah*, a Jewish marriage contract. Agents then lied to the Beth Din of America to obtain a rabbinic summons to the fictional husband and a rabbinic contempt decree against him. With these tools, the FBI's scenario snared rabbis who had been assisting chained wives.

The rabbis believed the FBI actress' tale that her husband had relocated to South America without giving her a Jewish divorce and that her brother, another FBI performer, would lure him to a New Jersey warehouse (thereby creating federal jurisdiction in a New Jersey federal court). The FBI rigged the warehouse with cameras and recorders, arrested all those who participated, including some who never contemplated violence of any kind, and subjected them to criminal prosecution and jail, just as the FBI recently attempted with Michael Flynn.

The FBI might justify a "sting" where, as in the sale of drugs, neither party to an illegal transaction will be a complaining witness. Effective law enforcement may necessitate creating a false scenario in order to apprehend the more culpable party in an illegal transaction. But recalcitrant husbands who are assaulted in an effort to coerce them to give a Jewish divorce can (and do) complain to the police and cooperate in a criminal prosecution. In fact, an incident of *actual* assault was also prosecuted in the New Jersey trial. The jury – obviously repelled by the obnoxious victim – returned a not guilty verdict, but convicted the defendants who had succumbed to the FBI's fake tableau.

There was far less justification for the elaborate production that the FBI devised to trap rabbis in 2013 than there was to assign agents to question Michael Flynn in 2017 in the hope that he would lie about conversations with the Russian ambassador. Those who are rushing to Flynn's side should immediately see to it that Rabbis Epstein and Goldstein are instantly released from Otisville and that all the victims of the FBI's "Getcha" sting are presidentially pardoned.

Nathan Lewin is a criminal-defense attorney with a Supreme Court practice who has taught at Georgetown, Harvard, University of Chicago, George Washington, and Columbia law schools.

Social.



A still from the Israeli film "Asia." Photo: Tribeca Film Festival.

Israeli Film 'Asia' Wins Awards at Tribeca Film Festival

BY JNS.org

The Israeli movie "Asia" won three awards at the Tribeca Film Festival, including one for Israeli actress Shira Haas and the Nora Ephron Award, organizers announced on Wednesday.

"From the writing, to the directing, to the camera moves, to the direction for the acting, to the way Ms. Pribar told a story through non-speaking was just outstanding," the jury said about Israeli director Ruthy Pribar's first feature film, which revolves around a mother-daughter relationship.

The Nora Ephron Award was created seven years ago "to honor excellence in storytelling by a female writer or director who embodies the spirit and boldness of the late filmmaker."

"Asia" also won Best Cinematography in an International Narrative Feature for Daniella Nowitz. The jury said, "We were impressed with how the cinematography was supporting the emotionality of the story and was allowing us to really deeply feel with the characters."

Haas, who now stars in the Netflix series "Unorthodox," won Best Actress in the international category for the film.

"Her face is a never-ending landscape in which even the tiniest expression is heartbreaking; she's an incredibly honest and present actress who brings depth to everything she does," the jury said about her performance.

While the coronavirus pandemic forced the festival to reschedule, jury members were still able to view the films and vote on winners.

Israeli MyHeritage Project Documenting Remote Tribes Grabs Webby Award Nomination

BY CTech Staff

A web project documenting the lives of isolated tribes around the world, created by Israeli genealogy company MyHeritage, has been nominated for a Webby Award for corporate social responsibility, MyHeritage announced Saturday.

Called Tribal Quest, the project was also selected as an honoree in the Best Use of Photography category, the company said.

The Webby Awards are presented annually,

celebrating the best online projects including websites, interactive advertising, online media, and mobile device content. Nominees and winners are selected by a jury of specialists and a people's choice award is also handed out for each category.

For Tribal Quest, MyHeritage employees volunteered for excavations to distant locations including Eastern Siberia, savannas in Namibia, jungles in Papua New Guinea, and the Amazon rain forest. The project's goal was to document the lives, histories, and traditions of isolated tribal communities through videos, still

Nursing Staff Gets Out Red Carpet For Holocaust Survivor Who Beat COVID-19

BY JNS.org

A nursing home in New Jersey pulled out the red carpet for a Holocaust survivor last week when he was released from quarantine after overcoming COVID-19.

The staff of CareOne at Hanover cheered for 94-year-old Jack Holzberg when he was discharged from their care, applauding his release, and holding balloons and a poster that read "We love you."

Holzberg was diagnosed with COVID-19 in mid-April, said his granddaughter, Erica Wasserman. After about a week at New York's Weill Cornell Medicine



Staff of CareOne at Hanover in New Jersey cheers for recovered coronavirus patient Jack Holzberg, 94, as he is discharged and reunited with his family outside the facility, April 2020. Photo: Screenshot.

hospital, he was transferred to the New Jersey nursing home and quarantined until doctors said he was well enough to go back to his home in Queens, N.Y., where he lives with his wife of 68 years, Betty.

"When we heard about the diagnosis, we were all scared, but this was a miracle," said Wasserman. "The fact that he's still here [after] all that he's been through, and that he was able to survive this, it's amazing." "We're just so grateful that he's on his way home," she added. "It was an emotional day for everyone."

Holzberg, a teenager in Poland when World War II started, spent much of the Holocaust in different concentration camps, reported the New York Post.

Most of his family died in the Holocaust. After the war, he immigrated with his brother, who also survived, to New York, where he built a successful clothing business.

photography, and interviews.

This year's Webby Awards, dubbed Webbys From Home, will culminate with a ceremony "to honor this year's best Internet work and the outstanding individuals and organizations who are using the Internet to respond to the incredible difficulties imposed by the coronavirus pandemic," the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, the organization behind the award, said in a recent statement.

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