

Opinion.

ANNEXATION:  
WHAT'S RIGHT AND  
WHAT'S WRONG?

A2.



Tradition.

HOW  
NOT TO  
ARGUE

A10.



WINONA  
RYDER  
RECALLS  
ANTISEMITIC  
EXPERIENCES

A11.

# THE algemeiner JOURNAL

\$1.00 - PRINTED IN NEW YORK

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2020 | 4 TAMUZ 5780

VOL. XLVII NO. 2460

## New US COVID-19 Cases Surge; Arizona, Florida and Texas Set Records



People eat in outdoor seating at a restaurant in Manhattan, New York City, June 21, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Jeenah Moon.

BY REUTERS  
& ALGEMEINER STAFF

The United States saw a 25% increase in new cases of COVID-19 in the week ended June 21 compared to the previous seven days, with Arizona, Florida and Texas experiencing record surges in new infections, a Reuters analysis found.

Twenty-five US states

reported more new cases last week than the previous week, including 10 states that saw weekly new infections rise more than 50%, and 12 states that posted new records, according to the analysis of data from The COVID Tracking Project, a volunteer-run effort to track the outbreak. Texas reported one of the largest rises in new cases at 24,000 for the week ended June 21, an increase of 84% from the previous week. The number of COVID-19

tests that came back positive in the state rose to 10%, from 7%.

New cases in Florida rose 87% last week to almost 22,000, with the state's positive test rate nearly doubling to 11%.

Arizona reported 17,000 new cases, a 90% increase, with 20% of tests coming back positive, according to the analysis.

The governors of all three states have attributed the

Continued on Page A3

## US Officials to Meet This Week on Israel's West Bank Annexation Plan

BY REUTERS & ALGEMEINER STAFF

US officials will gather this week to discuss whether to give Israel a green light for its plan to annex parts of the West Bank, as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's target date of July 1 approaches.

A senior administration official said on Monday that the US ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, will be in Washington to meet officials including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, senior White House adviser Jared Kushner and Middle East envoy Avi Berkowitz. President Donald Trump could also join in.



A general view picture shows houses in the Israeli settlement of Maale Adumim, in the West Bank, Feb. 15, 2017. Photo: Reuters / Ammar Awad / File.

Under Trump's Middle East peace proposal, unveiled in January, it is envisaged that the United States would recognize West Bank settlements as part of Israel.

The proposal would create a Palestinian state as part of a broader peace plan, but impose strict conditions on it. Palestinian leaders have dismissed the initiative entirely.

"Ultimately, as the team approaches this thought of annexation, the main thing going through our heads is, 'Does this in fact help advance the cause of peace?' And therefore that is what will help drive a lot of the discussion," the official said.

Limited annexation first?

Continued on Page A3

## Exploring the Rebbe

page A8



### ShabbatCalendar

Parshat KORACH  
פרשת קרח

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting  
Shabbat Begins: 8:13pm | Shabbat Ends: 9:21pm



the algemeiner

P.O.B. 208 East 51st St, Suite 185  
New York, NY 10022  
Tel: (718) 771.0400 | Fax: (718) 771.0308  
Email: editor@algemeiner.com  
www.algemeiner.com



## Opinion.

# The Law of Annexation: What's Right and What's Wrong?



DANIEL POMERANTZ  
JERUSALEM

On June 10, a website called opiniojuris.org circulated an article entitled An Open Letter to the Israeli Government, which claims that Israel's plans to annex certain parts of the disputed territories in Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank") *per se* violate international law.

The letter was electronically signed by a number of lawyers, legal "scholars," and "human rights experts." However, only some of the letter's signatories have experience in international law — many do not. In fact, anyone claiming to be an "expert" or "scholar" was able sign the letter simply by sending an email: there was apparently no vetting to verify a signer's credentials.

Despite the letter's lack of transparency and credibility, it is being touted by voices on social media such as The New York Times' Israel bureau chief David Halbfinger, former US Special Envoy Martin Indyk, Palestinian diplomat Saeb Erekat, and others.

The letter is clearly a political statement rather than an actual legal analysis; it makes vague reference to "rules of international law" without actually identifying which rules the writers have in mind. The point of the letter is that annexation in situations that involve force

is *per se* (always and by definition) illegal.

Aside from being unspecific and misleading, the claim finds no support in the relevant international treaty (Geneva Convention IV, art. 47) nor in the surrounding case law.

Indeed, the question of whether annexation is right or wrong is hotly contested even among Israelis. Yet whether annexation is *right* and whether it is *legal* are two different questions. The law is not some kind of popularity contest, like *American Idol* or Eurovision, and journalists should not imply otherwise to the public by touting a vague and misleading letter. A journalist should instead present credible legal opinions on both sides of the issue and educate the public as to what legal analysis truly requires: a rigorous examination of the original source materials.

The relevant legal question is actually not whether there is use of force, but whether there is violation of state sovereignty (forceful or otherwise). This is apparent in the Cook Islands (1900), Island of Palmas Arbitration (1928), and Eastern Greenland (1933) cases, all three of which were annexed under circumstances that did not involve sovereignty violations. Other cases did involve sovereignty issues but were completed via mutual consent, such as America's annexation of Texas and Hawaii, while still others do involve violations of sovereignty and of international law, such as Russia's 2014 "annexation" of the Crimea.

I recently addressed this topic on video

and in detail on *ILTV News*.

In the present case, Israel is considering annexation of specific areas within a region that is historically called "Judea and Samaria," and which is not subject to any existing sovereignty. This territory was previously held by Jordan, which had conquered it by force in an unsuccessful attempt to destroy Israel in 1948. During its 19-year occupation, Jordan renamed the region the "West Bank," but never declared sovereignty over it, nor would such a declaration have been valid.

Prior to Jordan's occupation, Judea and Samaria (or the "West Bank") was previously held by the British Mandate. The British had acquired the area from the Ottoman Empire, which was defeated in World War I and no longer exists. The Ottomans, in turn, had acquired the region by force from previous conquerors. In fact, the Ottomans were the last of a long chain of conquests going back 2,000 years — ultimately to the ancient Jewish Kingdom of David.

In short, unless one is attempting to defend the sovereignty of the now non-existent Ottoman Empire, there is simply no issue of valid national sovereignty at play.

Furthermore, the Geneva Conventions may not even apply at all. Legal scholars such as Eugene Kontorovich point out that bilateral treaties between Israelis and Palestinians have the effect of overruling the Geneva Conventions by mutual agreement,



Houses are seen in the Israeli settlement of Itamar, near Nablus, in the West Bank, June 15, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Ronen Zvulun.

and that the history of the region makes the term "annexation" not even appropriate to describe these events. Legal scholar Avi Bell explains that the current events are almost entirely symbolic, and amount to little more than political posturing.

Whether Israel *may* annex and whether Israel *should* are two different questions, with the latter being hotly debated even in Israel. Surprisingly, opponents of the plan include not only left-leaning Israelis but also a section of right-wing Israelis who fear that this process will lead to a Palestinian state, including some Jewish settlers who worry that their homes may actually end up inside such a state. Meanwhile, the annexation plan has some surprising support from niches of Palestinians who expect to end up receiving Israeli citizenship; they are currently citizens of the Palestinian Authority government, which many Palestinians find to be oppressive,

*Continued on Page A10*

aj.com  
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.  
and at additional mailing offices

POSTMASTER:  
Send address changes to  
Algemeiner Journal  
P.O. Box 250746  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11225 -3023

Let your voice be heard!  
Letters@algemeiner.com

To advertise in  
the new Algemeiner  
e-mail: ads@algemeiner.com

or call  
718-771-0400

# Washington Post Amnesia on Israel and 'Annexation'

SEAN DURNS/  
JNS.ORG

"History," the late historian Bernard Lewis wrote, "is the collective memory and if we think of the social body in terms of the human body, no history means amnesia and distorted history means neurosis." When it comes to its coverage of Israel, *The Washington Post* is very sick indeed. A June 16, 2020 column titled "For Israel, annexation is saying the quiet part out loud" provides the means for diagnosis.

In a 997-word dispatch, the *Post's* World Views columnist, Ishaan Tharoor, engages in heavy-handed historical revisionism, omitting key facts and details about Israel, Palestinians, international law, and the so-called "peace process." Tharoor darkly warns, "Israeli authorities may cross the geopolitical Rubicon" as "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu still appears bent on beginning the annexation of territory in the West Bank."

But Tharoor's terminology is inaccurate. As the renowned international law scholar Eugene Kontorovich has noted: "Annexation in international law specifically means taking the territory of a foreign sovereign country." And neither the Jordan Valley nor the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) belongs to a "foreign sovereign country."

Elsewhere, Tharoor refers to the land in question as "Palestinian territories." But this

is also inaccurate. No sovereign Palestinian Arab state has ever existed. Indeed, as *The Wall Street Journal*, among others, noted in a May 16, 2020 correction that was prompted by the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA): "Under the Oslo accords, sovereignty over the West Bank is disputed, pending a final peace settlement."

No final peace settlement has occurred, as Palestinian Arab leaders have rejected numerous US and Israeli offers for statehood in exchange for peace, in 2000 at Camp David, 2001 at Taba, and 2008 after the Annapolis Conference, among other instances. More recently, the Palestinian Authority, which rules the West Bank (Judea and Samaria), has rejected US proposals to restart negotiations in 2014, 2016, and 2019.

As part of the 1990s' Oslo peace process, Israel withdrew from much of the West Bank and supported — indeed, helped fund — the creation of the Palestinian Authority, the first instance of limited Palestinian Arab self-government in history. In exchange, Palestinian leaders promised to refrain from supporting terrorism, recognize Israel's right

to exist, and engage in bilateral negotiations — promises that they soon broke. The PA has refused US and Israeli demands to end its "pay-to-slay" program, which pays salaries to those who attack and murder Jews. Many of the murderers are memorialized as "martyrs" with streets and sports teams named after them. And the PA's official media routinely denies Israel's right to exist, referring to all of the Jewish state as "Palestine."

Indeed, on June 16, 2020 — the same day that Tharoor's column appeared — two important, but overlooked, stories broke. *AFP* reported that PA leader Mahmoud Abbas ordered his security services to destroy documents that, the news agency speculated, might give Israelis proof of the Authority's support for terror. Meanwhile, *The Times of Israel* reported that the European Union canceled a grant to a Palestinian nonprofit, the Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Rights and Residency, which had "refused to sign a so-called anti-terrorism clause that would obligate it to ensure that none of the funding goes to members of terrorist organizations." The *Post* failed to report either of these developments.

But curiously, in a nearly 1,000-word article warning that "annexation" could doom the chance for a Palestinian Arab state — creating "a Palestinian Bantustan, an archipelago of disconnected islands of territory" — Tharoor completely omits the real reason for the lack of a Palestinian state: Palestinian rejectionism and support for terrorism.

Regrettably, this is par for the course

*Continued on Page A7*



The former Washington Post building.  
Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

## World News.

## Group Expresses Concern After Supporter of Terrorism Appointed Secretary of Fatah in Canada

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

A major Canadian Jewish group expressed deep concern after it was announced that a supporter of terrorism would be the new head of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' political party in Canada.

Nabil Nassar, who has repeatedly glorified terrorists on social media, was recently appointed Secretary of the Fatah Movement in Canada.

In 2018, Nassar praised terrorists Karim Younis, Raed al-Karmi, and Ahmad Nasr Jarrar, the last of whom killed an Israeli rabbi.

In 2019, Nassar called Dalal al-Mughrabi, who participated in the murder of 37 Israelis, including 12 children, in 1978, "The epitome of the Palestinian woman ... a symbol of resistance and pride."

In January 2020, Nassar expressed support for Ali Hassan Salameh, who planned the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre. Earlier



Nabil Nassar, Secretary of the Fatah Movement in Canada. Photo: Facebook.

this month he mourned the death of Ramadan Shalah, an ex-leader of the Islamist terror group Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Michael Mostyn, Chief Executive Officer of B'nai B'rith Canada, said in a statement, "This questionable appointment by Mahmoud Abbas' political party raises real concerns about his supposed commitment to peace."

"How can Canadians or Israelis believe Abbas's claims of opposing terrorism if he does not honor these commitments when handing out honors in Canada?" he asked.

## New Tel Aviv University Study Shows Massive Wave of Coronavirus-Related Antisemitism Sweeping Globe

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

A new study published on Tuesday showed a wave of antisemitism has swept the world during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The study by Tel Aviv University's Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry was based on hundreds of reports from around the world, and showed that coronavirus-inspired antisemitism has gone viral on social media networks, with widespread claims Jews either created the disease or were profiting from it.

The report stated that coronavirus-related antisemitism was strongest in the US and the Middle East — particularly in Iran, Turkey, and the Palestinian Authority.

Among the specific assertions is that Jews have been infected with the virus because they rejected and crucified Jesus.

In other cases, cartoons have appeared showing Jews trying to conquer the world through spreading the virus.

In the Middle East, this has concentrated on "Zionists" in the US, who supposedly created the virus to kill large numbers of Muslims.

Israel has also been a target of coronavirus-related antisemitism, with the Jewish state being blamed for allegedly spreading the

virus among Palestinians deliberately.

Giovanni Quer of the Kantor Center commented, "The current wave of antisemitism is unprecedented because it has spread through social networks in a short time ... and quickly changed into another discourse according to social and political changes."

He pointed, for example, to the vast economic and social changes wrought by the virus, as well as the ongoing political crisis in the US over the issue of racism, which has also involved antisemitic elements, such as the libel that Israel had trained US police to kill minorities.

The shift of focus from the coronavirus to racism happened in "a few days," Quer said, and yet "the antisemitic discourse is just as powerful and the sources responsible for disseminating it have adapted [their] antisemitic narratives to the changing social context."



A man holding an antisemitic sign at a protest in Columbus, Ohio. Photo: Twitter.

## Belgium Curbing Religious Freedom With Ban on Kosher Slaughter, Top European Rabbi Says



Meat at a kosher butcher shop. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

One of Europe's top rabbis has warned that Jews on the continent may no longer be able to consume kosher meat because of legislation targeting "shechita" — the Jewish method of slaughtering animals for human consumption.

"Shechita is a vital religious practice within the Jewish faith that forms an inherent part of our religious identity, without which Jews would be deprived of the ability to eat meat," Rabbi Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt — president of the Conference of European Rabbis (CER) — said in a statement on Monday.

Goldschmidt was speaking ahead of a hearing at the European Court of Justice in July that is expected to rule on the legality of the ban on Jewish and Muslim slaughter methods adopted by Belgium in January 2019.

The hearing had originally been scheduled for April 21, but was postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Goldschmidt said that the supply chain

of kosher meat in Europe was not strong enough to rely solely on imports.

"In recent months, and particularly over the recent Passover holiday, which of course came at the height of the pandemic in Europe, the supply chain was simply not robust and many communities in Belgium — and indeed throughout Europe — suffered a shortage of meat due to the lack of supplies," he stated. "The experience of Passover served as a stark reminder that Jewish communities cannot rely entirely on the international supply chain ... Quite frankly, the option to import kosher meat into Belgium is unsustainable and the ban on the practice of religious slaughter is ultimately too restrictive."

If the ban was to be upheld, Goldschmidt remarked, the "message would be clear: Jews are not welcome."

He continued: "Such a notion is abhorrent and so I implore the judges to look at the evidence in front of them and do not allow the processes to be hijacked by intolerance under the guise of a concern for animal welfare regulations."

*Continued from Page A1*  
**COVID-19**

increases in new cases to more testing, and to younger residents not following social-distancing guidelines. Some health experts have criticized these states for reopening too quickly without adequate restrictions, for instance not making it mandatory to wear masks in public.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended states wait for new COVID-19 cases to fall for 14 days before easing social-distancing restrictions.

*Continued from Page A1*  
**Annexation Plan**

Among the main options expected to be considered is a step-by-step process in which Israel would initially declare sovereignty over several settlements close to Jerusalem instead of the 30% of the West Bank envisaged in Netanyahu's original plan, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The source said the Trump administration has not closed the door to a larger annexation, but fears that allowing Israel to move too fast could kill any hopes of eventually drawing the Palestinians to sit down to discuss Trump's peace plan.

There are also concerns about opposition to annexation from Jordan, one of only two

Thirteen states and the District of Columbia are in compliance with that guideline, the analysis showed, down from 17 states the prior week. New York leads with 10 straight weeks of declines, followed by Rhode Island, Illinois and Washington, DC.

Nationally, the number of new COVID-19 cases had been falling on a weekly basis through May. Last week's 25% jump came after a 1% rise in the second week of June and a 3% increase in the first week of June.

countries that have a peace treaty with Israel, as well from Gulf states that have quietly expanded engagement with Israel in recent years.

Washington has also made clear it wants Israel's unity government, which has been divided on the issue, to reach a consensus before going ahead with any actions, the source said. Defense Minister Benny Gantz, head of the Blue and White Party, has so far been reluctant to back Likud leader Netanyahu's plan.

Berkowitz has been fielding calls about the Trump plan from European and Arab nations, but the US side has privately expressed frustration that they are not offering constructive ideas on how to amend it, a source familiar with the issue said.

## World News.



Roger Waters. Photo: Jethro via Wikimedia Commons.

## Roger Waters Slammed for ‘Deranged Antisemitism’ After Asserting Jewish Billionaire Controls US Government

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Former Pink Floyd bassist Roger Waters — long known for his hatred of Israel — was slammed on Monday after a video of him claiming Jewish billionaire philanthropist Sheldon Adelson was a “puppet master” controlling the American government emerged online.

In an interview with the Hamas-affiliated *Shehab News Agency* on June 20, a disheveled and occasionally vaguely-unhinged Waters was shown asserting that Adelson was “the puppet master pulling the strings of Donald Trump, Mike Pompeo, and what’s his name... The ambassador, Greenberg I think his name is” — an apparent reference, using a stereotypical Jewish name, to US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman.

The vocal BDS activist further argued that Adelson held the “the tiny little...prick of Donald Trump in his pocket.”

Adelson, the 76-year-old Waters claimed, was a “right-wing fascist racist bigot who

doesn’t understand the first thing about the idea that human beings might have rights.”

“Sheldon Adelson believes that only Jews — only Jewish people — are completely human,” Waters claimed. “Everybody on earth is there to serve them.”

Waters’ comments were widely criticized, including by CNN anchor Jake Tapper, who described them as “more deranged anti-Semitism from Roger Waters.”

Anti-Defamation League (ADL) CEO Jonathan Greenblatt tweeted on Monday, “Waters claims that the U.S. gov. is being manipulated by a Jewish puppet master who is ‘filling the coffers and pulling all the strings.’ He has long been an anti-Zionist but these new comments venture into a new disturbing realm of antisemitic rhetoric.”

“The degree of derangement is breathtaking,” Greenblatt added. “Claiming that Jewish financiers are manipulating events behind the scenes is classic antisemitic conspiracy theory right out of the Protocols of Zion. Its obscene on every level, the kind of intolerance that deserves zero tolerance.”

## Israeli Tech Companies Should Treat South Africa as a Springboard, Says Trade Attaché

BY ALLON SINAI/CTech

South Africa, or for that matter Africa in general, aren’t markets that most Israeli companies have in mind when they set out to expand abroad. This is clearly evident in the fact that exports to all 54 countries in Africa added up last year to around 1% of Israel’s overall export.

The challenges are obvious and clear, and with the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic only complicating matters further, it isn’t difficult to understand why companies, and especially early-stage startups, are staying away.

But as the world’s second-largest and second-most-populous continent, the potential in certain sectors in Africa is nothing short of immense. Arguably the best gateway to these markets is South Africa, says Amit Lev, the head of Israel’s Economic Mission to South Africa, with any company that manages to succeed in making the right adjustments to operate in the country also putting itself in an ideal situation

to do business throughout the continent.

“For most Israeli companies this is not their main market. It isn’t their first or even second market. This is also a very complex market that requires the creation of a suitable business model, different pricing and perseverance,” Lev told CTech last week. “We see South Africa as a springboard. If a company comes here and manages to adapt its business model and pricing, it will also have a far easier time doing business in the rest of Africa.”

Israel currently exports in the region of \$300 million a year to South Africa. Around \$80 million of that is in the services sector, which Lev believes has great potential for growth as these software projects are relatively easy to implement and can often be done remotely.

“South Africa is somewhat of an anomaly. On the one hand, there are islands of excellence here that operate as if they are in the first world. On the other hand, it is a country with 60 million people with a high unemployment

## Palestinian Editorial Invokes Past Terror Attacks to Warn Against Israeli Sovereignty Moves

BY JNS.org

An editorial in the official Palestinian Authority daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* on Sunday invoked past terrorist attacks to warn against future such violence if Israel extends sovereignty to parts of Judea and Samaria, as outlined in US President Donald Trump’s “Peace to Prosperity” plan, Palestinian Media Watch reported on Monday.

According to the PMW report, the article glorifies terrorism and states that the “fact” that Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas’

Fatah faction has “a full quorum in Paradise” is proof that it is focused on the right “national path.”

This, PMW explains, is in reference to Fatah’s vanguard role in attacks against Israelis, during which terrorists have died as “martyrs” for “Palestine.”

“The enemies and rivals know the Fatah movement well,” PMW quoted the editorial as saying. “They know that when it speaks, it acts... it will turn [the rejection of the plan] into actions of popular struggle on various levels, because our people will not agree to the annexation of one centimeter of its land.”

rate and most of them don’t have the buying power for products and technologies that are sold in more developed countries,” said Lev. “We always tell Israeli companies that in order to do business here they need to come and meet the people and make contacts. But then coronavirus arrived and now we are telling them that they need to try and sell their product from afar. This change is going to take some time to get used to on both sides. South Africa isn’t a country of early adapters. It isn’t an innovative country in the way people and companies here think. They want products that are already working in the US and Europe. They are very scared of being the first to adopt something. That does have certain advantages as this state of mind allowed them to build a very advanced financial system, more advanced than what we have in Israel.”

Cybersecurity is of particular interest to the South Africans due to their developed banking system and the high rate of hacking attempts in the country. However, the most active Israeli companies in South Africa come mainly from the agtech industry. “South Africa exports around \$10 billion worth of crops a year. These companies also have buying power as they sell their products in foreign currency. In addition, South Africa is located in the southern hemisphere which in agriculture is crucial due to the seasons. So they aren’t competing with the US or Europe but rather complementing them,” explained Lev.

South Africa is continuing to ease Covid-19 restrictions despite verified cases being on the rise. South Africa has registered so far 97,302 cases and 1,930 deaths, with the past week being its worst to date. But despite being nowhere near flattening the curve, South Africa’s President Cyril Ramaphosa opted to ease lockdown restrictions last week due to the dire economic situation.

South Africa had initially implemented one of the strictest lockdowns seen anywhere in the world, with almost all movement outside, including dog walking, being banned. Even the sale of alcohol and cigarettes was prohibited.

Nevertheless, restaurants, hotels, and casinos are all now able to reopen, with Ramaphosa saying last Thursday that “even after 100 days, we are still near the beginning of this epidemic and it will remain with us for many more months, possibly years.”

Interestingly enough, the restrictions did actually reduce overall deaths in South Africa. Research carried out by the BBC showed that between March 25, just before the first death from coronavirus was recorded, to June 2 the number of deaths in South Africa was actually 9% lower than the average from other years. That adds up to over 7,000 fewer people dying than usual, with the number of homicides reportedly almost being cut by half since the start of the alcohol ban.

South Africa’s GDP is currently expected to fall by around 7.5% in 2020, but Lev said

Israeli companies should be focusing on their specific sectors when looking for opportunities, with the agriculture sector, for example, set to grow this year.

While Israel’s mission in Johannesburg is mostly focused on promoting business with South Africa, it is also responsible for the region of southern Africa in general. Lev said that they usually try to increase their efforts in an additional country each year, with Botswana being the focus last year and Zambia in 2020. Israel has three economic missions in Africa in all, with the other two being located in Kenya and Ghana.

“I understand that this isn’t the main market for most Israeli companies, but we need to show them why they should be considering it,” said Lev. “Both I and the other economic missions in Africa spend a lot of time trying to convince Israeli companies of the potential here. We would like to see more Israeli companies here, but I can understand their situation. They tell me that their investors who are from the US and Europe expect them to operate in those markets first and don’t prioritize Africa. This is a problem with the entire ecosystem. In a way, it is like the chicken and the egg dilemma. There aren’t enough investors from Africa so companies aren’t looking at Africa as a potential market and because companies aren’t coming to Africa there aren’t enough investors showing interest. We are trying to convince companies to come here through grants via the Israel Innovation Authority and local R&D collaboration deals.”

Lev said that the crisis is also being looked upon as an opportunity to implement necessary reforms in government bodies or companies like state-owned electricity provider Eskom. He’s well aware that South Africa, and Africa in general, aren’t the most attractive markets for Israeli companies, but believes the long-term benefits make the effort worthwhile.

“The motto here is ‘do more with less.’ You have to be able to prove some added value. Since I arrived here two-and-a-half years ago the local currency has fallen around 40% compared to the dollar. It is important to understand that buying power here is relatively small. But if you can show that you bring added value, save them money or provide a new service they couldn’t offer otherwise then there is certainly potential here,” he explained. “You have to treat South Africa and Africa in general as a long-term investment. We would like to see more Israeli companies coming here for the long run and not just to make a quick buck. You have to take into account that you might not make the profit margin you are used to making in other countries, but once you manage to settle here and create a good reputation that is something that will serve you in the long run. Your brand is what is ultimately important and that is what will ultimately increase your revenue.”

U.S. News.

# Pomona College Senior Class President Apologizes for Sharing Antisemitism on Social Media

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

The senior class president at a southern California college apologized on Monday after sharing antisemitic statements on social media last week.

"I have realized my previous Instagram story regarding Zionism and Yemen was anti-Semitic," wrote Malak Afaneh.

Addressing Jewish students on campus, she added, "I want to deeply apologize for the pain I've caused..."

According to the Claremont Independent, a student paper at Pomona College in Claremont, California, Afaneh had posted an image of a tweet on Instagram that said of the ongoing conflict in Yemen, "6 million people died in the Holocaust, we still commemorate it to this day. 18.4 MILLION people are dying in Yemen RIGHT NOW. That's 3 holocausts at once...SILENCE IS COMPLIANCE!!!"

Also on the re-posted image, in a message below the tweet, another social media user had ranted, "[O]nce again, zionist-Israel-birthright-vacation-stuck-on-comparing-holocaust-to-racism-WW2-worshipping bitches, this should be right up ur alley. Oh wait u hate brown ppl."

In her apology Afaneh said she "didn't mean to amplify" these remarks, and that her approval of the post only applied to the criticism of Saudi Arabia. In response, the Claremont Progressive Israel Alliance sent a letter to Afaneh, Associated Students of Pomona College Executive Vice President Payal Kachru, Dean of Students Avis Hinkson and President G. Gabrielle Starr saying it was "deeply saddened and appalled" by Afaneh's post, calling it "offensive, repugnant, and deeply hurtful."



We are outraged that the @pomonacollege senior class president accused "Zionist-Israel-birthright-vacation-stuck-on-comparing-Holocaust-to-racism-WW2-worship[pers]" of being indifferent to the plight of the Yemenis. No one with these vile views should represent Jewish students.

10:35 AM - Jun 22, 2020

Afaneh's endorsement of such sentiments, it noted, "directly isolates and targets the Jewish students she is supposed to fairly represent."

The group called for an "immediate explanation and

apology" from Afaneh, barring which she should resign.

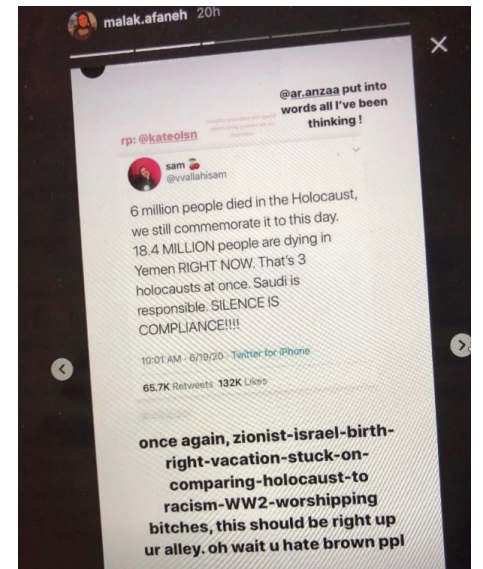
"She is wholly unable to carry out her duties representing Jewish students if she holds these beliefs," they said.

B'nai B'rith International also weighed in on the incident, saying it was "outraged."

"No one with these vile views should represent Jewish students," it declared.

Following Afaneh's apology, the Claremont Progressive Israel Alliance was quick to put the matter to rest.

Posting the full text of the apology on Facebook, the group wrote, "We have received a timely and gracious apology from the Pomona Senior Class President which acknowledged her role in spreading antisemitic content on social media. We accept her apology and hope this can be a teaching moment for all."



# Is Trump's Visa Decree the End of the American Dream for Israeli Tech Workers?

BY CTech STAFF

The dream of many Israeli tech workers to relocate to the US suffered a major blow on Monday, at least for this year, after President Donald Trump signed an executive order expanding restrictions on several work visas until at least the end of 2020.

Among those visas is the L-1 visa that allows companies to bring in employees from overseas offices and the H-1B program for workers in specialty occupations. The US's tech giants often use those visas to bring in thousands of foreign workers, including Israelis.

The new restrictions will take effect on June 24, with Washington think tank the Migration Policy Institute estimating that they would block 219,000 temporary workers.

"Immigration has contributed immensely to America's economic success, making it a global leader in tech, and also Google the company it is today," Google CEO Sundar Pichai said on Twitter. "Disappointed by today's proclamation — we'll continue to stand with immigrants and work to expand opportunity for all."

Tesla CEO Elon Musk said he very much disagreed with the Trump administration's decision. "In my experience, these skill sets are net job creators," he said in a tweet. "Visa reform makes sense, but this is too broad."

## WARNING

Tap into an **unlimited** source of healthy – refreshing water that is **friendly to the environment...** and saves you money.

Watermatic's purification systems feature proprietary technologies that convert ordinary tap water into tasty, healthy drinking water, delivered at the quick touch of a button. Instantly pure hot and cold water that is healthy. refreshing. unlimited!

as low as  
**\$19.95**  
monthly  
with coupon code

enter coupon code  
**SAVESNOW**  
and save up to 50%  
offer expires April 15, 2021

| 4-step Purification Process   | Benefits   |
|---|--|
| <p> <span style="color: orange;">A</span> Pre-Sediment &amp; Carbon Filter                        <span style="color: blue;">B</span> Carbon Filter<br/> <span style="color: orange;">C</span> Fine Micron Membrane                        <span style="color: blue;">D</span> Ultra Fine Membrane                 </p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Cost Affective</b></li> <li>✗ <b>NO Plastic Bottles</b></li> <li>✗ <b>NO Heavy Lifting</b></li> <li>✗ <b>Never Run Out of Pure Water</b></li> <li>✗ <b>NO Storage – Clutter</b></li> <li>✓ <b>GO GREEN!</b></li> </ul> |

## Opinion.

## Ignore EU Officials on Annexation

SHMULEY BOTEACH  
ENGELWOOD

With the release of the Trump peace plan, Israeli communities in the ancient Jewish heartland seemed poised to be absorbed into the modern Jewish state. Annexation, even in partial form, prevents Jews from being evicted from their homes and rules out a porous Jordanian-Palestinian boundary. Many Israelis are in favor, while others are opposed.

Right on cue, the European Union (EU) has erupted volcano-like, spewing threats against Israel should even limited annexation occur. For more than a month, the EU has been leading a “diplomatic push” to stop Israel from pursuing annexation, for which EU foreign policy chief Joseph Borrell claims to have enlisted “all diplomatic capacities.” Heading into a meeting of the EU Foreign Affairs Council this past May, Borrell declared Israel’s annexation plans “the most important item on the agenda.” Imagine that. There is a global pandemic that has killed hundreds of thousands of people the world over. But the EU’s foremost issue on this day was tiny Israel and preventing its annexation plans.

Throughout this “diplomatic push,” Assad’s genocidal war still rages on in Syria, with Russia’s support. Turkey, an EU-member hopeful, beyond hunting Kurds in Idlib, has launched airstrikes in Iraq and supported insurgencies in Libya and Yemen. China threatens India, as North Korea escalates

tensions with the South. Iran, significantly, blocked the IAEA from inspecting its nuclear sites. And yet, the EU marches on with its unceasing obsession with Israel.

In a sanctimonious speech given last week, the EU foreign minister offered one especially questionable rationale: Borrell claimed the EU opposed annexation in part because it would “negatively affect ... potentially, the security of Israel, which is something non-negotiable for us.”

Following the Holocaust, classic European antisemitism died down. But European anti-Jewishness has been reborn in its diplomatic bias against Israel. While economic cooperation with Israel has surged, politically, most of Europe remains anti-Israel. In the media as at the UN, whether through sharp condemnations or boycotts of Jewish-owned businesses in “disputed territories” — too many leading European diplomats have made Israel-bashing their policy of choice. Recently, Israel’s mistrust has been reinforced by the EU’s rise as the Western world’s foremost apologist for Iran. And the Jewish community, globally, is losing trust in Brussels’ resolve to protect Jews living within the EU.

Thus, it’s inherently insulting, if not entirely laughable, that the EU would even dare tell a country that actually protects Jews how exactly they should do it. Worse, though, is Europe’s insistence that it meddles with Israel’s security for the sake of Israel’s security.

Suspiciously, it’s only on the topic of annexation that Borrell suddenly finds Israel’s security “non-negotiable.” What about Iran? Over the first few months of 2020, Iran upped

weapons-grade uranium production while continuing to threaten Israel. After receiving Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif in Brussels in January, Borrell personally visited Tehran in February to meet President Rouhani and parliament president Ali Larijani. Of course, Israel’s security couldn’t have mattered that much to Borrell since he refused to so much as stop in Israel to hear their security concerns. Instead, he visited Jordan — to help them thwart the “other threat” to Israel’s security — the annexation movement.

In the months since, he’s proven himself arguably the most powerful international pro-Iran lobbyist on earth. When the Trump administration announced in late May it was ending the waivers that had allowed some European businesses to sidestep sanctions on Iran, Borrell condemned the move. A few weeks ago, when the US announced its push for an indefinite UN conventional arms embargo on Tehran, Borrell joined Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov in defending Iran’s right to buy weapons — even as those weapons find themselves all over the Middle East, and particularly on Israel’s doorstep.

While their foreign office huffs and puffs, EU member states are less decided as to how they’ll respond to an Israeli annexation bid. Austria, Hungary, and the Czech Republic seem OK with annexation. Germany, for one, has indicated it won’t support sanctions against Israel. But others have insisted on a harder line: European elder statesman Jean Asselborn, veteran foreign minister of little Luxembourg, has already called on Europe to unilaterally recognize a Palestinian state on



Demonstrators protest — amid coronavirus restrictions — against Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu’s plan to annex parts of the West Bank in Tel Aviv, Israel, June 6, 2020. Photo: REUTERS/Amir Cohen.

Israel’s 1967 borders. Like Borrell, EU foreign policy guru Asselborn’s eyes swirl when he’s talking about Israel.

In an absolutely repulsive interview, Asselborn invoked the eighth commandment, “Thou shalt not steal,” to warn Israel against absorbing Judaism’s oldest and holiest lands — apparently oblivious to the fact that the Jewish holy book, which predates every other nation on earth, literally proves their ancient claim to these lands.

Ultimately, the debate surrounding annexation is legitimate, as is the concern expressed by several settler leaders that the Trump plan could lead to a Palestinian state. Still, what’s completely illegitimate is Europe’s chiming-in. On matters of Jewish security, it would be wise of Europe to follow another of the Ten Commandments, namely number nine: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, “America’s Rabbi,” whom *The Washington Post* calls “the most famous Rabbi in America,” is the international bestselling author of 30 books, including the forthcoming *Holocaust Holiday: One Family’s Descent into Genocide Memory Hell*. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @RabbiShmuley.

## UK Op-Ed Attacks the ‘Injustice’ of Israel’s Founding

ADAM LEVICK  
JERUSALEM

Anti-Zionist Israeli-British “historian” and activist Avi Shlaim penned an op-ed in *The Guardian* arguing that the UK should recognize Palestine, but ultimately attempted to undermine Israel’s right to exist.

Shlaim’s op-ed (“By recognizing Palestine, Britain can help right the wrongs of the Balfour Declaration,” June 22) begins thusly:

On 2 November 1917, the foreign secretary, Arthur James Balfour, issued his famous declaration in support of “a national home for the Jewish people” in Palestine. In 1917, Jews constituted 10% of the population, the rest were Arabs. Yet Britain recognized the national rights of a tiny minority and denied it to the majority.

Shlaim’s predictably selective presentation of events omits other important factors, such as the creation in 1921 of the Emirate of Transjordan out of land previously designated for the Jewish National Home. He also omits the fact that, at the time of the Balfour Declaration, no such separate identity as “Palestinian Arabs” was recognized — certainly not by Arab powers, who had their

own territorial designs.

Shlaim continues:

*The Balfour declaration enabled the Zionist movement to embark on the systematic takeover of Palestine...*

In addition to the fact that Shlaim ignores the Jews’ historical connection to, and continuous historical presence in, the land of Israel, he evokes, in describing Israel’s founding, the canard of an invading army capturing the territory that legally belonged to others — “Palestinians.”

Indeed, quite the opposite is true.

Jews founded their state on land that, following the fall of the Ottoman-Turkish Empire and the end of the British Mandate, had no sovereign — a founding based on the Balfour Declaration and the 1920 San Reno Conference, both of which confirmed international recognition of the right of Jewish self-determination.

Shlaim continues:

*In 1917, only 2% of Palestine was owned by Jews. In 1947 the UN proposed partitioning the territory of the British mandate in Palestine into two states, one Arab and one Jewish. Under this plan, the Jews were allocated 55% of the land although they still owned only 7%.*

This is extraordinary misleading, if not intentionally deceitful.

As CAMERA researchers have demonstrated, in 1948 the overwhelming majority of land in the region (roughly 78%) was state

land. Only 14% was privately owned by Arabs, and the rest (between 7% and 8%), was Jewish. So, the fact that Jews “only” owned (privately) between 7% and 8% of the land and were granted a state representing 55% of the land is meaningless, since, as we’ve shown, Arabs also only (privately) owned a small percentage of the overall territory.

Shlaim:

*In the course of the 1948 war, the newly established State of Israel extended the territory under its control to 78% of Mandatory Palestine. This postwar status quo was confirmed in the 1949 armistice agreements concluded by Israel with its Arab neighbors, the only internationally recognized borders it has ever had.*

Shlaim neglects to mention that the war was initiated by Arab states who opposed the creation of Israel within any borders, and sought nothing less than the total annihilation of the nascent state — only three short years after six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust. Moreover, the boundaries established in 1949 were, as he initially alludes to, armistice demarcation lines, not, as he later declares, “internationally recognized borders.”

Shlaim continues:

*In the June 1967 war, Israel completed the conquest of Palestine by occupying the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. By signing the Oslo Accord with Israel in 1993, the Palestine Liberation Organisation gave up its claim to 78% of Palestine. In return they hoped to achieve an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with a capital city in East Jerusalem. It was not to be.*

Again, referring to “the conquest of Palestine” is completely ahistorical.

Further, Shlaim’s dishonesty is again on display, as he conveniently omits the fact that the Six-Day War was initiated by the Arab states, which again sought nothing less than Israel’s total destruction. Moreover, the reason

why “an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip” — a two state solution never in fact mentioned in the Oslo Accords — was “not to be” was because their leaders rejected multiple Israeli proposals that would have given them just that.

Shlaim continues:

*There were many reasons for the breakdown of the Oslo peace process but the most fundamental was the relentless expansion of Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land in flagrant violation of international law.*

Characteristically for a *Guardian* contributor, Shlaim doesn’t mention Palestinian decisions that contributed to the failure of Oslo: the rejection of statehood offers, and onslaughts of deadly terror initiated by PA leaders that traumatized Israeli society and led to a reassessment regarding the fundamental premise of the “peace process.” As we’ve argued previously, settlements represent a consequence of the conflict — and Palestinian leaders’ refusal to take yes as an answer — not its cause.

Shlaim then pivots to the present day, and the possibility that Israel will apply sovereignty to a portion of Judea and Samaria (the West Bank), and proceeds to attack even left-wing Jewish critics of “annexation”:

*Netanyahu is inundated with protests against annexation from leftwing Israeli political parties, from a network of diaspora Jewish organisations, and from a group of 220 former Israeli generals and heads of security services who call themselves Commanders for Israel’s Security. The main arguments advanced by these diverse groups are that annexation will be detrimental to Israel’s security, that it will be difficult and costly to police the extended borders, that it risks igniting a third Palestinian uprising, poses a threat to the peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan, ends the prospect of normali-*

Continued on Page A7

## Opinion.

# Will Israel's Move Towards Sovereignty Harm Burgeoning Relations With Arab Gulf States?

ISRAEL KASNETT/  
JNS.org

As the July 1 date for Israel to begin the process applying sovereignty to parts of Judea and Samaria approaches, there has been no shortage of opinions from the left and the right over the soundness of the move, spearheaded by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In particular, concern has been raised that the plan could end up damaging the carefully crafted relations that Israel has developed with several key Arab Gulf states in recent years under Netanyahu's direction.

Amid the debate, representatives of the Kohelet Policy Forum recently met with Netanyahu to present him with its most recent paper supporting Israeli sovereignty over Judea, Samaria and the Jordan Valley.

According to Kohelet founder Moshe Koppel, by applying sovereignty, the Jewish state would change the calculus by which the Arab-Israeli conflict is measured. He told JNS that it "establishes that Israel is not leaving."

The Trump administration's Mideast peace plan has received criticism from all sides. Detractors on the right dislike the part of the plan that requires Israel to freeze building in Jewish communities in Area "C," as well as the plan's allowance for the establishment of a Palestinian state. Detractors on the left said this is not the right time to go ahead with such a move, and that it will provoke the United Nations, European Union, International Criminal Court (already with Israel in its judicial crosshairs) and Arab nations.

This view includes former Israeli



US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman with Efrat regional council head Oded Revivi, and the heads of local councils in Judea and Samaria, during a visit to Efrat on Feb. 20, 2020. Photo: Gershon Elinson/Flash90.

security officials like Amos Gilad, who said sovereignty would be a "disaster" for Israel's national security.

In Gilad's view, Arab countries have become Israel's strategic partners, "even friends," in a way few could have imagined just a few years ago. Annexation, or the more accurate term of "sovereignty," would place these relationships at risk.

For Gilad, Israel's flourishing relationship with Arab countries and its good security coordination with the Palestinians is reason enough not to introduce cause for anger and disruption.

"Why do we need to make them angry?" he asked in a recent discussion with the American Jewish left-wing Israel Policy Forum. "We need to enhance the relationship and not make them nervous, even if you think they are wrong," he said.

"In the long run," he concluded, if Israel applies sovereignty, it "will be doomed."

This week, key figures of the Trump administration are expected to meet to discuss the upcoming Israeli sovereignty plan. Since taking office, the Trump administration has helped to foster Israeli-Gulf relations. Indeed, several key Arab ambassadors in the region attended the unveiling of the U.S. "Peace to Prosperity" plan in January, with Bahrain having hosted the launch

Palestinians are entirely victims and Israelis entirely aggressors, the only truly moral action that Jews can take is one that emphasizes and tries to alleviate Palestinian suffering.

The only moral Jew, for Shlaim, is an anti-Zionist Jew.

Gerald Steinberg has observed that adherents of this view, those who seek to empower groups defined as disenfranchised and oppressed, and to weaken the strong "colonial" parties, patronizingly view the latter as "incapable of moral or ethical choices." Indeed, though most *Guardian* contributors avoid directly employing post-colonial rhetoric, their likewise failure to assign agency to Palestinians is one of the defining characteristics of their coverage.

The objective of such writers (or "historians") isn't to carefully consider the myriad of factors that contribute, and have contributed, to the conflict, and engage in an objective analysis of events based on moral standards applied equally to each party. It's to "speak truth to power" and be on the "right" side of history — political activism masquerading as journalism, where truth and history are often the greatest casualties.

Adam Levick is Co-Editor of CAMERA UK, the British division of Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA).

of the economic component of Trump's peace plan in June 2019.

## 'Recalibrate the Arab-Israeli conflict'

But for those Israelis who support sovereignty, doing so would recalibrate the Arab-Israeli conflict by setting more realistic parameters and would remove veto power from the Palestinians, who have consistently rejected peace proposals for years.

While Gilad believes that sovereignty "is a direct threat to the security of Arab nations" and "a provocation to Arabs," most Israelis, as well as many Arabs, disagree.

While the United Arab Emirates' ambassador to Washington, Yousef Al Otaiba, wrote in the Israeli daily *Yediot Achronot* last week that Israel cannot expect to normalize relations with the Arab world if it pushes ahead with sovereignty, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash said last week that Israel and the UAE could separate the political from the non-political.

"Can I have a political disagreement with Israel, but at the same time try and bridge other areas of the relationship? I think I can. I think that is fundamentally where we are," Gargash said in an interview for the American Jewish Committee Virtual Global Forum.

Signaling is important; in the Middle East, it is essential. By applying sovereignty, Israel sends the message that it will no longer be dragged through tried-and-failed formulas to achieve peace with the Palestinians.

Nevertheless, in a recent radio interview in Israel, former US Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk said, "The damage to Israel's reputation and its relationship with Arab countries will be irreplaceable."

Still, not everyone agrees with that assessment. Some Arab countries appear to have understood Israel's signals.

Yoel Guzansky, a senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies, noted the "alleged understanding that Arab leaders, including those in the Gulf, have given the American team on the issue, in effect, a 'green light' to continue mapping work" to promote sovereignty. "This, despite their official position against the plan," he told JNS.

Against the background of these contradictory positions, Guzansky questioned whether and to what extent sovereignty could indeed harm Israeli-Persian Gulf relations.

According to Guzansky, the shared Iranian threat to the region will not go away anytime soon, so the issue of sovereignty is not expected to have a long-term impact on the deep security cooperation that currently exists between Israel and the Gulf countries.

Instead, those leaders fear that sover-

eignty "will provoke unrest that will hamper the stability of their regimes," said Guzansky. "They will be portrayed not only as having abandoned the Palestinians, but as cooperating with Israel."

Kohelet emphasized in its report that the reason sovereignty is important is that years of Israeli hesitance in Judea and Samaria provided the Palestinians with the opportunity to run a false campaign against Israel that presents it as a conqueror in a foreign land. In order to put an end to this delegitimization and remove this false claim, Israel must back up its justification for sovereignty in deeds.

By not applying sovereignty, Israel signals to the world that its presence in the territories is temporary. "Applying Israeli law on the ground will present to the world a new reality in which the State of Israel is the sovereign in the disputed territories, both legally and practically," said the report.

Joshua Krasna, a fellow at the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security, told JNS the Arab countries "didn't really care that much"; however, the high-profile debate is "forcing them to care."

"No Arab government can be seen to officially acquiesce to Israel's 'taking off the table' a large part of the disputed territory," he said. "Also, once Jordan has taken such a strong stance, the other Arab conservative states line up with her to various degrees."

While the acquiescence of Arab states is taken as a given—and even trumpeted—and used as a key argument for sovereignty by Israel, Krasna warned that "while they are far from being democracies," these Arab countries must also worry about the Arab "street."

"There may be an aspect in which the upcoming American elections and questions about the identity of the next administration may have them wishing that there not to be major changes on the ground, which would require them to take a clear stand on the Trump initiative," he said.

Kohelet emphasized though that a historic opportunity exists now to apply sovereignty, saying "it is doubtful whether such a golden opportunity will ever return. Washington has never been as sympathetic to Israel as President Trump has been."

"It is unclear whether Trump will be re-elected. Hence the urgency," explains the report. "There is a historical opportunity ahead of us: to fully return to the homeland where our national, spiritual and religious identity was formed, and from which we were expelled 2,000 years ago. A window of opportunity is about to close. If we don't take advantage, it could be a cry for generations."

But it's not what Tharoor, who has previously labeled terror supporter Issa Amaro a "Palestinian Gandhi," wants to write about.

Tharoor's claim that Israel applying sovereignty to parts of the West Bank and the Jordan Valley violates "international law" is also incorrect. The League of Nations Palestine Mandate, adopted later by the United Nations, calls for "close Jewish settlement on the land" west of the Jordan River in Article 6. The UN Charter, Chapter XII, Article 80, upholds the Mandate's provisions. The 1920 San Remo Resolution and the 1924 Anglo-American Convention also enshrined Jewish territorial claims into international law.

"We live in a time," Bernard Lewis observed, "where great energies are being devoted to the falsification of history." Regrettably, that falsification often starts with what the late *Post* publisher Philip Graham called "the first rough draft of history": journalism.

Sean Durns is a senior research analyst for CAMERA, the 65,000-member, Boston-based Committee Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America.

Continued from Page A6  
UK Op-Ed

sation with the rest of the Arab world, and turns Israel "officially" into an apartheid state. Significantly, all these arguments are more concerned with Israel's welfare and reputation than with Palestinian rights.

The same can be said of the group of prominent British Jews describing themselves as "committed Zionists and passionately outspoken friends of Israel." In a letter to Mark Regev, Israel's ambassador to London, they warn that unilateral annexation "would pose an existential threat to the traditions of Zionism in Britain, and to Israel as we know it." Concern for the wellbeing of the oppressor rather than the oppressed is another well-worn trope of colonial discourse. [emphasis added]

Shlaim's suggestion that even Israeli and diaspora Jews who criticize annexation aren't sufficiently moral if they fail to highlight the "injustice" to Palestinians is a well-worn post-colonial narrative that insists all political discourse must be based on the empowerment of those considered "victims" and the removal of those considered "aggressors."

This modern intellectual theory that Shlaim embraces, by definition, elides any and all facts and historical events that contradict the chosen moral binary. So, it naturally follows for Shlaim and fellow radical leftists that, since

Continued from Page A2  
'Annexation'

for Tharoor. As CAMERA has highlighted, the World Views columnist has authored no fewer than three dozen articles on the Jewish state, nearly all of them blaming Israel for the lack of a Palestinian state. Not once has he so much as hinted at the culpability of Palestinian leadership.

Instead, Tharoor resorts again to old habits, warning that with "annexation" the "specter of entrenched apartheid looms." This is not the first time that Tharoor has used the apartheid canard. For example, in a Sept. 17, 2019 column, *The Washington Post* columnist warned of a "shadow of apartheid" in Israel's upcoming elections. Instead, that election witnessed record turnout from Israeli Arabs — disproving Tharoor's entire thesis less than 48 hours after it was published.

Indeed, more Arabs vote in Israel than in the neighboring PA, which hasn't held elections in more than a decade. Jews are forbidden, under penalty of death, to rent or own land in areas ruled by the PA. That is actual apartheid.

## Impressions.

# Exploring the Rebbe in the Social Realm

**BY JEREMY ROSEN**

Social Vision: The Lubavitcher Rebbe's Transformative Paradigm for the World by Philip Wexler (with Eli Rubin and Michael Wexler).

There is no shortage of books that extol the influence and charisma of the late Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe. In recent years, several excellent biographies by a varied range of authors have given us a pretty accurate picture of his history and achievements — and how Chabad, the movement he headed, has brought Judaism to millions of unattached Jews and is a worldwide resource for all denominations.

There are hundreds of volumes of the Rebbe's own extensive writings and talks in literally tens of languages. There are thousands of hours of recordings of him, as well as of those who experienced his charisma on record. So there is little that anyone can tell us about what he thought and what his impact was on his movement and so many lives that is new.

The book *Social Vision, The Lubavitcher Rebbe's Transformative Paradigm for the World* is written by Philip Wexler, an emeritus professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and previously a professor at the University of Rochester. Wexler says of himself that he “was led to leave my career in traditional sociology behind and to extend the horizons of my research to include the Jewish mystical tradition.”

He was assisted by Michael Wexler, a graduate of Princeton University and adjunct professor of writing at the University of Missouri, and Eli Rubin of Chabad.org.

In this work, Professor Wexler sets out to show that the Rebbe's world view could be expressed as a legitimate sociological solution to the problems of modern societies that reject the spiritual and communal for the secular and the individual.

He draws on the works of some early pioneers and giants of the field of the sociology of religion

such as Max Weber (no, he was not Jewish) and the French Emile Durkheim (yes, he was), who were the preeminent thinkers of the 19th century and focused on the social and religious components that helped in the development of modern societies. Whereas Marxism stressed the material, both Weber and Durkheim emphasized the influence of religion on the development of societies. Both men worked within an academic, rational framework to produce theories and constructs that held an important place in the academic world. Is there any validity to suggesting that the Rebbe had an academic social theory to compare to theirs?

The Rebbe wrote within the context of Chabad Hasidism, drawing on ideas from Hasidic literature. What sets the Rebbe's ideas apart from others are the specific choices and interpretations that he placed on certain traditional ideas.

The foundations of Hasidism emerged during

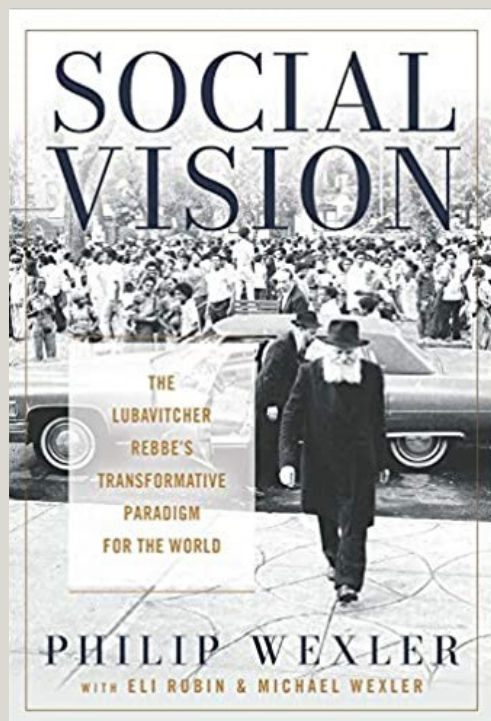
Baal Teshuva movement we recognize everywhere today. But in the 1950s, it was unheard of. Hasidic groups, hitherto and still today in the main, tended to be inward looking, defensive, and the opposite of evangelical. And to achieve his goals, the Rebbe, instead of spurning modernity, turned to the new vehicles of public relations and advertising. He was the first Madison Avenue Rebbe, and it was this, as well as his personal magnetism, that set him apart as much as any ideology.

He also wanted to expand beyond the boundaries of the Jewish community, and encouraged his followers to get involved in political life, to lobby and reach out to local government, state legislatures, and Washington, and to take up issues of state and religion. In Israel, he campaigned against adulterating the law on Jewish identity and giving up any land for peace.

All of this is impressive, and his achievements



*Menachem Mendel Schneerson — the Lubavitcher Rebbe — at the Lag BaOmer parade in Brooklyn, New York, May 17, 1987. Photo: Mordecai Baron via Wikicommons.*



the 18th century. It brought religious devotion to the Jewish masses in a simplified, non-judgmental, and supportive way, regardless of the degree of one's learning or commitment. God should be served out of love and joy rather than fear and anxiety (certainly not a Hasidic innovation given the number of times joy is mentioned in the Bible). It was an antidote to Lithuanian sobriety and conventional attitudes. It asserted that wealth belonged to the people rather than to individuals and should be shared with the community. It required devotion, separation, and a distinct social character even within Judaism. As well as piety, Messianism was a crucial aspiration that bred hope and optimism. Later came the idea of the Super individual, who represented the ultimate goals of Hasidism and could inspire his followers either to reach God through him as an intermediary or because of him. Closeness to the Rebbe meant imitating him in dress, mannerisms, and speech, and drawing inspiration from his very presence.

What was truly remarkable was the Rebbe's practical as well as ideological program for Chabad in the United States, and the drive to bring passionate Judaism to the mass of assimilated or alienated Jews regardless of how far they may have strayed. This, in effect, brought about the whole Jewish evangelical

do not need rehearsing here — but it was a matter of his genius and leadership rather than theoretical innovation. His was a social, universal agenda rather than a social philosophy. Although his followers like to refer to the brief time he spent at universities in Europe, and despite his own passionate interest in the sciences, he remained in all his public statements an unreconstructed fundamentalist.

You could say the Rebbe was very influential socially. But to make a case for a rationalist, academic social theory in the tradition of Weber and Durkheim as this book implies, simply does not withstand scrutiny. Even so, in describing the Rebbe's work in the social realm, this book is a valuable addition to Chabadology and a testament to the Rebbe's greatness.

*Rabbi Jeremy Rosen received his rabbinic ordination from Mir Yeshiva in Jerusalem. He also studied philosophy as an undergraduate at Cambridge University and went on to earn his PhD in philosophy. He has worked in the rabbinate, Jewish education, and academia for more than 40 years in Europe and the US. He currently lives in the US, where he writes, teaches, lectures, and serves as rabbi of a small community in New York.*

## Legals.

## LEGAL NOTICE



Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: ISLAND BEAUTY MASSAGE & SPA LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/13/2020. 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: Island Beauty Massage & Spa LLC 942 Utica Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11203. Purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 5/29; 6/5/12/19/26; 7/3

Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC) Name: 521 HENRY ST., LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on April 27, 2020. Office Location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 175 Van Dyke Street, Brooklyn, New York 11231. Purpose: to engage in any and all business for which LLCs may be formed under the New York LLC law.  
AJ; 6/5/12/19/26; 7/3/10

**DIFFERENT DEP MANAGEMENT, LLC** Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC). Name: DIFFERENT DEP MANAGEMENT, LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/06/2017. NY office location: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is 1804 Saint Johns Place, 2, Brooklyn, NY 11233. Purpose/character of LLC: Any Lawful Purpose  
#179803

AJ; 6/5/12/19/26; 7/3/10

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: STEVANT MUSIC,LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 03/27/2020 . Office location: Richmond 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: STEVANT Music,LLC, 42 Gina court staten Island, NY 10314. Purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 6/5/12/19/26; 7/3/10

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: PYRAMYD STUDIO'S LLC. Articles of Organization filed with secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 06/14/2019 . 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: Pyramyd Studios LLC 225. N. 7th St. Apt. 3 Brooklyn, NY 11211. Purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 6/12/19/26; 7/3/10/17

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: LIVLEX TRADING CO LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary

## Opinion.

## The US Finally Begins to Stand Up to the ICC

CLIFFORD D. MAY/  
JNS.org

So America is not a member of the ICC, does not accept its jurisdiction and is under no obligation to abide by its rulings. And there is a basic principle of international law: Treaties cannot bind nations without their consent.

Over the 18 years since the court evolved from an idea to a brick-and-mortar bureaucracy in The Hague with a staff of nearly 1,000, it has spent more than \$1.5 billion securing a total of four convictions for major crimes, plus four convictions for lesser crimes.

Now, the ICC has fixed its sights on what may seem a softer and sexier target: It intends to investigate, prosecute and, if it can, convict

of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/04/2020. Office location: Richmond 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: Livlex Trading Co LLC, 936 Carlton Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10312. Purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 6/19/26; 7/3/10/17/24

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC) Name: 217-44 Realty LLC Articles of Organization filed by the Department of State of New York on: 02/18/2020 Office location: County of Kings Purpose: Any and all lawful activities Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: c/o S Charatan Realty 236 East 13th St. New York, NY 10003  
AJ; 6/19/26; 7/3/10/17/24

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: AHAVAALLURE LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 05/28/2020. 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: Shleymah Ben-Levi 1923 McDonald Avenue suite #194 Brooklyn NY 11223 purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 6/19/26; 7/3/10/17/24

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ITALIAN AMERICANS IN FILM & TELEVISION LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/07/2020. 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: The LLC 200 1/2 22ND St. Brooklyn, NY 11232, purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 6/19/26; 7/3/10/17/24

American military personnel for “war crimes” and “crimes against humanity” allegedly committed while fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2003-4. Once branded as criminals, such Americans could be imprisoned in foreign countries, including those of America’s allies.

In May, 262 House members and 69 senators, Democrats and Republicans alike, wrote to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, urging that he “call on the ICC to cease its politically motivated investigations.” Earlier this month, The Military Coalition, which has more than 5.5 million members, sent a letter to the president and congressional leaders asking them to “protect America’s service members, veterans, and families from the politically-motivated and inappropriate actions of the ICC.”

The US government has asked the ICC to please back off, to abide by its own charter which authorizes investigations only when national justice systems are “unwilling or unable” to perform competently.

As for the ICC’s competence, that’s open to question. The court’s chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, is a former legal adviser to Yahya Jammeh, a brutal and corrupt dictator who took power in Gambia through a coup. Bensouda was also a Gambian minister of justice. According to Freedom House, Gambia’s judiciary is “hampered by corruption and inefficiency” and its constitutional “guarantees of due process remain poorly upheld.”

On June 11, President Donald Trump issued an executive order proclaiming that “any attempt by the ICC to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any United States personnel without the consent of the United States ... constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.”

The following day, Pompeo, Attorney General William Barr, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, and National Security Advisor Robert O’Brien gathered before reporters to emphasize the administration’s resolve.

Pompeo authorized the imposition of economic sanctions against ICC officials seeking to haul “US personnel or allied personnel” before “a kangaroo court.” (The “allied personnel” he has in mind: Israeli soldiers, also in the ICC’s crosshairs for alleged “war crimes” committed while defending their country from Hamas attacks.) The United States is to expand visa restrictions against such officials and their families as well.

Barr said the ICC has become “a political tool employed by unaccountable international elites.” He added that “foreign powers, like

## The Achievements of Birthright Israel

MIRIAM ADELSON/  
JNS.org

There are some sights that embody the eternal spirit of the people of Israel in one glance: a grandfather holding his newborn grandson at a circumcision ceremony; a female Israel Defense

hundreds, of times, and may there be thousands more. We will never tire of these images.

It is the sight of young Diaspora Jews who discover their ancient homeland and connect with it — from the holy sites in Jerusalem to the Jaffa market, and from the summit of Mount Carmel to ascending Masada — connecting with and discovering their Israeli brothers and sisters.

This is what it looks like when



Taglit-Birthright Israel trip participants visit the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, Aug. 18, 2014. Photo: Flash90.

Forces’ soldier taking her oath with a Bible in one hand and an Israeli-made weapon in the other; a kibbutz founded by Holocaust survivors, producing milk and honey aplenty.

For my husband Sheldon and me, another such sight is the wonder and delight on the faces of Birthright Israel (Taglit) participants when they experience Israel for the first time. We have witnessed this sight dozens, maybe

the present unites forces with the past, for a glorious future.

Sheldon and I joined the Birthright cause in 2007, when its co-founders, Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt, introduced it to us and charmed us with their vision.

We heard that the waiting list was huge, and it pained us to know that some souls are unable to realize the dream of visiting the ancestral land. We immediately volunteered to fund the arrival of

*Continued on Page A10*

Russia, are also manipulating the ICC in pursuit of their own agenda.”

O’Brien echoed: “We have every reason to believe our adversaries are manipulating the ICC by encouraging these allegations.”

Sooner rather than later, administration officials should tell us more. However, it’s not difficult to imagine the means by which the ICC might be influenced, especially given how China’s rulers took control of the World Health Organization to the detriment of the health and well-being of people around the world.

America’s adversaries have increasingly been commandeering and subverting international organizations. The most obvious example is the UN Human Rights Council, long under the control of serial human rights abusers. But the People’s Republic of China is singularly adept at taking the reins.

Among the 15 most significant UN agencies, four are currently run by Chinese citizens who are kept on a short leash by China’s rulers. Citizens of the US, Britain, and France combined lead the same number of UN agencies. Those individuals regard themselves as international civil servants who do not take instructions from their capitals.

The Trump administration, to its credit, recently succeeded in preventing Beijing’s candidate from heading up the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Beijing, of course, steals intellectual property on an historically unprecedented scale.

Much more can and should be done about the ICC in particular, and international organizations beholden to America’s authoritarian adversaries in general.

America’s allies could help. NATO members and Japan depend on American troops to defend them. Yet they both support and fund the ICC even as it unlawfully targets the American troops putting their lives on the line for them. At a time of growing isolationism in America on both the left and the right, a time when those of us who support strong relations with America’s democratic allies are on the defensive, do they not see how unstrategic and unwise that is?

Clifford D. May is founder and president of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) and a columnist for *The Washington Times*.

This article was first published by *The Washington Times*.

## Tradition.

# How Not to Argue



JONATHAN SACKS  
LONDON

Korach was swallowed up by the ground, but his spirit is still alive and well, and in the unlikelyst of places – British and American universities.

Korach was the embodiment of what the Sages called, argument not for the sake of heaven. They contrasted this with the schools of Hillel and Shammai, who argued for the sake of heaven. The difference between them, according to Bartenura, is that argument for the



sake of heaven is *argument for the sake of truth*. Argument not for the sake of heaven is *argument for the sake of victory and power*, and they are two very different things.

Korach and his followers came from three different groups. Korach was from the tribe of Levi. Datan and Aviram came from the tribe of Reuben. And there were 250 leaders from different tribes. Each had a specific grievance. The 250 leaders resented the fact that leadership roles had been taken from them after the sin of the Golden Calf and given instead to the tribe of Levi. Datan and Aviram felt aggrieved that their tribe – descendants of Jacob's firstborn – had been given no special status. Moses' reply to Korach – "Now you are trying to get the priesthood too ... Who is Aaron that you should grumble against him?" – makes it clear that Korach wanted to be a Kohen, and probably wanted to be Kohen Gadol, High Priest, in place of Aaron.

The three groups had nothing in common except this, that they wanted to be leaders. Each of them wanted a more senior or prestigious position than they currently held. In a word, they wanted power. This was an argument not for the sake of heaven.

The text gives us a clear picture of how the rebels understood leadership. Their claim against Moses and Aaron was "Why then do you set yourselves above the Lord's assembly?" Later, Datan and Aviram said to Moses, "And now you also want to lord it over us!"

As a general rule: if you want to understand resentments, listen to what people accuse others of, and you will then know what they

themselves want. So for example, for many centuries various empires accused Jews of wanting to dominate the world. Jews have never wanted to dominate the world. Unlike almost any other long-standing civilisation, they never created or sought to create an empire. But the people who levelled this accusation against Jews belonged to empires which were beginning to crumble. They wanted to dominate the world but knew they could not, so they attributed their desire to Jews (in the psychological process known as splitting-and-projection, the single most important phenomenon in understanding antisemitism). That

is when they created antisemitic myths, the classic case being the protocols of the Elders of Zion, invented by writers or propagandists in Czarist Russia during the last stages of its decline.

What the rebels wanted was what they attributed to Moses and Aaron, a form of leadership unknown in the Torah and radically incompatible with the value Moses embodied, namely humility. They wanted to "set themselves above" the Lord's assembly and "lord it over" the people. They wanted power.

What then do you do when you seek not truth but power? You attack not the message but the messenger. You attempt to destroy the standing and credibility of those you oppose. You attempt to de-voice your opponents. That is what Korach and his fellow rebels tried to do.

The explicit way in which they did so was to accuse Moses of setting himself above the congregation, of turning leadership into lordship.

They made other claims, as we can infer from Moses' response. He said, "I have not taken so much as a donkey from them, nor have I wronged any of them," implying that they had accused him of abusing his position for personal gain, misappropriating people's property. He said, "This is how you will know that the Lord has sent me to do all these things and that it was not my idea," implying that they had accused him of making up certain instructions or commands, attributing them to God when they were in fact his own idea.

The most egregious instance is the accusation levelled by Datan

and Aviram: "Isn't it enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the wilderness?" This is a forerunner of those concepts of our time: fake news, alternative facts, and post-truth. These were obvious lies, but they knew that if they said them often enough at the right time, someone would believe them.

There was not the slightest attempt to set out the real issues: a leadership structure that left simmering discontent among the Levites, Reubenites and other tribal chiefs; a generation that had lost all hope of reaching the promised land; and whatever else was troubling the people. There were real problems, but the rebels were not interested in truth. They wanted power.

Their aim, as far as we can judge from the text, was to discredit Moses, damage his credibility, raise doubts among the people as to whether he really was receiving his instructions from God, and so besmirch his character that he would be unable to lead in the future, or at least be forced to capitulate to the rebels' demands. When you are arguing for the sake of power, truth doesn't come into it at all.

Argument not for the sake of heaven has resurfaced in our time in the form of the "cancel" or "call-out" culture that uses social media to turn people into non-persons when they are deemed to have committed some wrong – sometimes genuinely so (sexual harassment for example), sometimes merely for going against the moral fashion of the moment. Particularly disturbing has been the growing practice of denying or withdrawing a platform at university to someone whose views are deemed to be offensive to some (often minority) group.

So in March 2020, just before universities were shut down because of the Coronavirus crisis, Oxford University Professor Selina Todd was "no-platformed" by the Oxford International Women's Festival, at which she had been due to speak. A leading scholar of women's lives she had been deemed "transphobic," a charge that she denies. At around the same time the UN Women Oxford UK Society cancelled a talk by former Home Secretary Amber Rudd, an hour before it was due to take place.

In 2019 Cambridge University Divinity School rescinded its offer of a visiting fellowship to Canadian Professor of psychology Jordan Peterson. The Cambridge University Students Union commented, "His work and views are not representative of the student body and as such we do not see his visit as a valuable contribution to the University, but one that works in opposition to the principles of the University." In other words, we don't like what he has to say. All three of these, and other such cases in recent years, are shameful and a betrayal of the principles of the University.

They are contemporary instances of arguments not for the sake of heaven. They are about abandoning the search for truth in favour of the pursuit of victory and power. They are about discred-

iting and de-voicing – "cancelling" – an individual. A university is, or should be, the home of argument for the sake of heaven. It is where we go to participate in the collaborative pursuit of truth. We listen to views opposed to our own. We learn to defend our beliefs. Our understanding deepens, and intellectually, we grow. We learn what it means to care for truth. The pursuit of power has its place, but not where knowledge has its home.

That is why the Sages contrasted Korach and his fellow rebels with the schools of Hillel and Shammai:

*For three years there was a dispute between the schools of Shammai and Hillel. The former claimed, 'The law is in agreement with our views,' and the latter insisted, 'The law is in agreement with our views.' Then a Voice from heaven (bat kol) announced, 'These and those are the words of the living God, but the law is in accordance with the school of Hillel.'*

*Since both 'these and those are the words of the living God,' why was the school of Hillel entitled to have the law determined in accordance with their rulings? Because they were kind and modest, they studied both their own rulings and those of the school of Shammai, and they were even so humble as to mention the teachings of the school of Shammai before their own.*

This is a beautiful portrait of the rabbinic ideal: we learn by listening to the views of our opponents, at times even before our own. I believe that what is happening at universities, turning the pursuit of truth into the pursuit of power, demonising and no-platforming those with whom people disagree, is the Korach phenomenon of our time, and very dangerous indeed. An old Latin motto says that to secure justice, *audi alteram partem*, "Listen to the other side." It is through listening to the other side that we walk the path to truth.

Shabbat Shalom

**Continued from Page A2  
What's Right**

corrupt, and not a true democracy.

One misconception is that Israel is planning to annex the entire West Bank, thus foreclosing the possibility of a future Palestinian state. In fact, the specific areas that Israel is considering annexing are already primarily Jewish, and already under Israeli control. Indeed, the Oslo Accords were signed 25 years ago with the expectation that these particular areas would eventually become part of Israel under any future peace agreement.

Some proponents feel that by moving annexation forward, the Palestinian leadership will finally feel pressure to come to the negotiating table and cease its longstanding practice of refusing peace offers. Meanwhile, some annexation opponents feel that this process is merely political pandering to parts of Israel's right-wing, and is not worth the cost in international condemnation and

**Continued from Page A9  
Birthright Israel**

all those waiting, and the list grew longer over time. And still, we knew we would be willing to do much more, as we have over the years. It's a simple formula for saving the Jewish people.

The return was unbelievable – the type of philanthropy that not only benefits the individual but also redirects the path of entire nations to the benefit of the entire world.

Birthright graduates are more committed to their Jewish identity and are willing to support Israel from abroad. In many cases, they even stay in Israel to complete their education and some of them even become proud Israelis themselves.

A study at Brandeis University found that Birthright graduates have a 78% chance of marrying a Jewish spouse, compared to 46% among those who enrolled in the program but did not participate in it.

Each year, Sheldon and I speak to Birthright graduates at Independence Hall in Tel Aviv. On one occasion, a girl named Stacey challenged me, asking what was really included in her "all-included" trip to Israel.

"There's no such thing as free lunch," she said with graceful defiance. "What do you expect of me in return?"

My answer was simple: "You have already done your part by coming here; by learning about the true Israel. This truth will give you the strength and resolve to stand up for Israel wherever you go. Not everyone gets to serve in the IDF, but you can be 'soldiers' who defend Israel's image and actions vis-à-vis the world, and pass on all its beauty and grace."

Twenty years after it was founded, Birthright Israel has proven its worth. One can say that its hundreds of thousands of participants are "reborn" in Israel. They return to the ends of the earth with a renewed belief in Judaism and the unique place of the Jewish state in the world.

Birthright Israel is going strong. Let's reach the milestone of one million participants! We look forward to accompanying you there.

*Dr. Miriam Adelson, MD is a specialist in chemical dependency and drug addiction. She is the publisher of Israel Hayom and, with her husband Sheldon Adelson, the owner of Israel Hayom and the Las Vegas Review-Journal newspapers.*

*A version of this article first appeared in Israel Hayom.*

diplomatic penalties that Israel may suffer.

Whatever your opinion, you have the right to form it with a full and fair understanding of the facts, the law, and the overall situation. And journalists have a professional duty to give you that opportunity.

*Daniel Pomerantz is the CEO of HonestReporting. A version of this article was originally published by HonestReporting.*

## Social.



Winona Ryder. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

## Actress Winona Ryder Recalls Being Overlooked for Movie Role Because She Looked ‘Too Jewish’

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

Jewish actress Winona Ryder revealed in an interview on Sunday that she was once overlooked for a movie role because she looked “too Jewish” for the part.

Ryder, 48, speaking to *The Sunday Times* newspaper, said, “There are times when people have said, ‘Wait, you’re Jewish? But you’re so pretty!’ There was a movie that I was up for a long time ago, it was a period piece, and the studio head, who was Jewish, said I looked ‘too Jewish’ to be in a blue-blooded family.”

Talking further about her Jewish background, the “Stranger Things” actress explained that she is “not religious, but I do identify.” She added, “It’s a hard thing for me to talk about because I had family who died in

the camps, so I’ve always been fascinated with that time.”

She also talked about encountering antisemites in the film industry and retold one incident involving actor Mel Gibson, who is known for past antisemitic behavior. Ryder said the 64-year-old “Braveheart” star called her an “oven dodger,” a clear reference to the crematoria at Nazi concentration camps during World War II.

Ryder recalled: “We were at a crowded party with one of my good friends, and Mel Gibson was smoking a cigar, and we’re all talking and he said to my friend, who’s gay, ‘Oh wait, am I gonna get AIDS?’ And then something came up about Jews, and he said, ‘You’re not an oven dodger, are you?’”

The actress added that Gibson later tried to apologize to her.

## Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for New Holocaust Memorial in Vienna

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Construction of a new memorial wall to the victims of the Holocaust in the Austrian capital of Vienna began on Monday with a groundbreaking ceremony in the city park where the wall is being assembled.

Scheduled for completion in the fall of 2021, the wall commemorates “the Jewish Children, Women and Men from Austria Murdered in the Shoah.” The names of more than 64,000 Austrian Jews murdered in the Holocaust will be engraved onto the wall.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony, Karoline Edtstadler — the Austrian government’s minister for the European Union — said the wall was intended to pay tribute to the “identity” and “dignity” of the victims. She added that history would judge the present genera-

tion through “what we are doing to create a society free of extremism.”

The Holocaust survivor who initiated the memorial project, Kurt Tutter, told the gathering that the wall was a “warning for the future.”

Tutter was also the subject of a warm tribute from Wolfgang Sobotka, president of Austria’s National Council, who spoke of the duty to remember the Holocaust. In that regard, he highlighted the resurgence of antisemitism on both the left and right, as well as among Muslim communities in Europe.

Oskar Deutsch — head of the Jewish community in Vienna — told the ceremony that society was duty-bound to “do everything together every day to ensure that this never happens again.”

“We owe it to the victims of the Shoah, whose individual names are engraved here,” Deutsch said.

## Nefesh B’Nefesh Signs Deal With El Al for 14 ‘Group Aliyah Flights’

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

The NGO Nefesh B’Nefesh, which facilitates immigration to Israel from North America and the United Kingdom, announced that it had signed a contract with EL AL Airlines for 14 “Group *Aliyah* Flights” from New York to Tel Aviv over the course of the next three months.

The announcement comes in the wake of an unprecedented spike in interest from North American Jews to move to Israel, with Nefesh B’Nefesh reporting its highest number of applications in May since the organization’s founding in 2002.



New immigrants arrive in Israel, many coming alone to serve in the nation’s military. Photo: courtesy of Nefesh B’Nefesh.

During the first half of June, more than 900 applications for *aliyah* were submitted to Nefesh B’Nefesh, as compared with the entire month of June last year, when only 399 applications were submitted.

Many of those making the move said that the coronavirus crisis helped prompt a decision they long had in the making, especially those from countries hard-hit by the pandemic.

Nefesh B’Nefesh operates in partnership with Israel’s Ministry of *Aliyah* and Integration, The Jewish Agency for Israel, Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael and JNF-USA.

“We deeply appreciate the patience and understanding of our *olim* [immigrants to Israel] as we navigate *aliyah* together during this unprecedented time,” said Rabbi Yehoshua Fass, co-founder and executive director of Nefesh B’Nefesh. “It is incredible to witness and take part in this moment, where there is an unparalleled increase in *aliyah* interest. With hundreds of seats now available for *olim*, we look forward to taking a large step forward to ensuring that we can assist in the fruition of these *aliyah* dreams.”



A model of the Holocaust memorial Photo: The Association for Building a Wall of Names Memorial.

# Attention Not-For-Profit Organizations

## Be part of the Tribul Merchant Services Charity Ventures Program

For over 10 years Tribul Merchant Services have been working with **Not-For-Profit Organizations** across the country, now we invite you to join our **Charity Ventures Program**.

All you need to do in order to enter the program is to refer us to any business that currently accepts credit cards — tell them to expect a phone call from Tribul Merchant Services.



**We keep it simple:** Leave it to us to take care of all the necessary paperwork and details.

For each approved application you will receive a check from us for \$180.

We will also send you a residual check **every month** for as long as the account processes with Tribul.

**Earn a monthly residual,  
PLUS \$180 for every  
approved referral**

**Over \$1,000,000 paid out  
in less than 3 years via the  
Charity Ventures Program**



Contact Kutty for details:

**Tel: 877.336.1925**

Email: [Kutty@tribulonline.com](mailto:Kutty@tribulonline.com)