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## Judges Order Accused Antisemitic Murderers of Mireille Knoll to Face Criminal Trial



Mireille Knoll, the 85-year-old Holocaust survivor who was murdered in her Paris apartment.  
Photo: Knoll family.

BY BEN COHEN

French judges on Monday ordered the two men accused of robbing and killing a Holocaust survivor at her Paris home in 2018 to stand trial on a charge of murder aggravated by antisemitism.

Yacine Mihoub, 30, and his associate Alex Carrimbacus, 25, are alleged to have brutally murdered 85-year-old Mireille Knoll — a survivor of the mass

deportation of the Jews of Paris in July 1942 — in her apartment on the Avenue Philippe-Auguste on March 23, 2018.

The pair were understood to have targeted Knoll after Mihoub, a neighbor of Knoll's since the age of eight, told Carrimbacus that she would have plenty of money as she was Jewish.

Firefighters who arrived at Knoll's building later that night to answer an emergency call discov-

ered her partially-burned body with 11 stab wounds.

French media outlets reported that Mihoub and Carrimbacus — who met each other in prison — possessed lengthy criminal records for offenses that included theft, possession of narcotics and violence. Mihoub additionally had a conviction for sexual assault.

A police investigation  
*Continued on Page A3*

## Editor Bari Weiss Quits The New York Times

BY IRA STOLL

Author, writer and editor Bari Weiss has resigned from *The New York Times*, complaining in a letter to *Times* publisher A.G. Sulzberger of “unlawful discrimination, hostile work environment, and constructive discharge.”

In the letter, Weiss wrote that she had become “the subject of constant bullying by colleagues who disagree with my views.”

“I have learned to brush off comments about how I’m ‘writing about the Jews again,’” Weiss writes.

Weiss, a graduate of Columbia University, is the author of the 2019 book *How To Fight Anti-Semitism*. For the



Bari Weiss on 'The View' Photo: Screenshot.

*Times*, she wrote movingly about, among other topics, the 2018 deadly attack on the Tree of Life synagogue in her hometown of Pittsburgh.

Before the *Times*, she worked for *Tablet*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The New York Sun*. In a 2018 column she wrote with her *Times* colleague Bret Stephens, they described themselves as “unhinged Zionists.”

In 2017, she received *The Algemeiner's* Journalist of the Year award.

“I joined the paper with gratitude and optimism three

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## Should Jews Support Reparations?

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### ShabbatCalendar

Parshat MATOT-MASEI | Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting  
פרשת מטות-מסעי | Shabbat Begins: 8:06pm | Shabbat Ends: 9:11pm



the **algemeiner**

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## Opinion.

# Who in the Black Community Will Speak Out Against Farrakhan's Hate?

MARVIN HIER &  
RICHARD TRANK

"The only two certainties in life are death and taxes" was coined by Benjamin Franklin, and few can doubt its veracity. Today, it might be revised to add a third certainty: Louis Farrakhan is an antisemite and a hate monger. We cite as evidence his July 4 address, "The Criterion," that was scheduled to air on, but cancelled by, *Fox Soul*, a new streaming service run by the broadcast giant.

It was then aired on *Revolt TV*, a channel founded and run by Sean "Puffy" Combs, also known as P. Diddy, Diddy, and Puff Daddy. The rapper and songwriter, worth an estimated \$885 million, evidently was proud to air Farrakhan's message, tweeting: "Everyone can watch. ... Just not the scared ones."

Truth be told, Jews have every reason to be scared. They recall another hate monger from the 1930s who started out by putting across his message in the beer halls, until he had millions of followers goose-stepping with him through the streets of Germany.

During his speech, Farrakhan — who has called Jews "termites" and falsely accused Jews of being behind the slave trade — stated that Jews are "responsible for this filth and degen-

erate behavior that Hollywood is putting out, turning men into women and women into men." He has questioned whether the Holocaust occurred, stated that the Jewish people are "Satan," and claimed that Jews rejected the Torah and replaced it with the Talmud.

"They made that word in their minds, and in their believers' minds, greater than God's words," Farrakhan said. He warned Black and brown Americans not to be immunized against COVID-19 if a vaccine is created, saying it will be a plot to depopulate them.

In the weeks leading up to Farrakhan's address, personalities such as rappers Ice Cube and Snoop Dogg tweeted out remarks in support of Farrakhan to their millions of followers. The founder of Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles, Melina Abdullah, has been outspoken in her support for Farrakhan, as has Tamika Mallory, one of the organizers of the 2017 Women's March.

A few days after "The Criterion" aired on *Revolt TV*, Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver DeSean Jackson posted on Instagram his admiration for Farrakhan and published a quote that Farrakhan maintains came from Adolf Hitler, stating that white Jews "knows [sic] that the Negroes are the real Children of Israel and to keep Americas [sic] secret the Jews will blackmail America. They will extort America, their plan for world domination won't work if the Negroes know who they were."

Jackson was criticized by Philadelphia

Eagles management for his remarks and then issued an apology that later was condemned by sportswriter Reuben Frank of *NBC Sports* as showing a "profound lack of understanding for why people are offended." He said: "It wasn't an apology at all."

While the reaction in the Jewish community to Farrakhan's latest diatribe and the messages of support from prominent Black celebrities was predictably negative, what is most upsetting is the absolute silence from America's Black leaders and clergy with regard to the hateful, antisemitic message.

Many Jews have proudly expressed their solidarity for African-Americans in the wake of the horrific deaths of George Floyd and other Blacks at the hands of police. American Jews, in large numbers, and leaders of the American Jewish community, have been outspoken in their support for racial justice and police reforms.

So we believe it's fair to ask why there hasn't been any condemnation or criticism by African-American leaders of Louis Farrakhan's hateful rhetoric. Why do they remain silent, when he defames not only Jews but others, including the LGBTQ community? He has spread falsehoods about those who are working to find a cure for the coronavirus pandemic, which so far has killed more than 130,000 Americans, a large number of them Blacks. As Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us all, "He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it."



Louis Farrakhan during his Fourth of July address "The Criterion" on Revolt TV.  
Photo: Screenshot.

At a time when our nation is faced with a health emergency, when our economy has been shut down and millions of people have been thrown out of work, when there is the very real issue of finding a way to repair the wounds of racial injustice, this is the moment when haters and antisemites must be criticized — not supported. We must condemn Farrakhan's words, not ignore them. As writer James Baldwin once said: "Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced."

Just as Jewish Americans are trying to understand the realities faced by many Black Americans, the African-American community also should be willing to examine the realities faced by American Jews. The virulent antisemitism of Louis Farrakhan is one such reality. And just as Jews are willing to stand with their Black brothers and sisters in the fight for racial justice, African-Americans should be willing

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## Beinart Has Reached His Yavne

BY YISRAEL MEDAD/  
JNS.org

Peter Beinart has laid out his political vision once again. Once again too, he trots out his ignorance, his serpentine reasoning and his shocking immorality.

It's always crisis time for him. However, this time, it's not a solution of two states in the territory west of the Jordan River he is championing, for "the classic two-state solution is dead," he writes. The solution, rather, is just one state; well, sort of. And no, he is not promoting Caroline Glick's book. Rather, he seeks an "equal Israel-Palestine."

Returning to an ideological position promoted by HaShomer HaTzair, Brit Shalom, and others in the pre-state era during the British Mandatory regime, and which was not only unrealistic, impractical in the circumstances, and a fringe viewpoint consistently rejected by the Arabs, he has published a call that a new "Yavne" construct be adopted and a new Jewish identity be imagined — one that no longer equates Palestinian equality with Jewish genocide.

However, that "Yavne" has a subtextual meaning: a phase of Jewish history had run its course. Yes, Beinart is still pursuing the tearing down of establishments, be they community institutions, historical facts, or ideas.

Previously, I have expressed my view that since his 2010 *New York Review of Books* essay, Beinart, assuming a mantle of the "bad boy," has been seeking to rip out from the hearts of Jewish youth their Jewish solidarity

and pit them against Israel. Ever since then, in his book, on his closed-down Open Zion website, and other platforms, he has been twisting ideas, terms, and concepts so as to confound and discombobulate a younger generation of Jews.

Moreover, he is understood to be "encouraging the Jewish community to welcome discomfort." In 2015, he wrote an op-ed in *Haaretz* that pushed that element of discomfort a bit too close for comfort to an outright supporter for Arab terror when he wrote:

*It would be wonderful if Palestinians could win those freedoms without causing Jews discomfort. But it hasn't happened that way because it never happens that way. People are not given freedom; they take it. ... Mahmoud Abbas is finally taking that maxim to heart.*

Arguing with Beinart — besides awarding him a profile and attention he does not deserve — is frustrating because almost every source to which he refers is corrupted, and he has a sophisticated method of argumentation.

Approvingly, he quotes Hebrew University's Dmitry Shumsky as arguing that "the demand for a Jewish state did not define Zionism until the 1940s," and that was true also for Ze'ev Jabotinsky. In 1931, Jabotinsky proposed at the 17th World Zionist Congress



Peter Beinart.  
Photo: Joe Mabel via Wikimedia Commons.

that it decide the Zionism's *endziel*, its ultimate goal, is a call for a Jewish state, with a Jewish majority, on both sides of the Jordan. A group that split off from his Revisionist Party and contested the Congress elections in 1933 was called the Jewish State Party.

Beinart bumbles — or he depends too much on research assistants (this one lists three), as he actually knows very little of his subject.

In a form of dangerous psychological claptrap, he sees that:

*Jews have retroactively projected Nazism's exterminationist program on Palestinian opposition to pre-state Zionism.*

This is a horrible downplaying of the willingness of the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Amin al-Husseini, to collaborate with the Nazis proactively beginning in 1933, receiving financial assistance from Germany in the late 1930s, residing in Berlin during the war years, and broadcasting Nazi propaganda in Arabic to the Middle East. That is in addition to raising a Waffen SS Muslim unit, halting the emigration of Jewish children, sending his comrades from the 1930s to parachute into Palestine to kill Jews, and plan for crematoria to be built for Jews in the Dotan Valley in Samaria.

As Daniel Gordis observes, Beinart displays "an astonishing array of sleights of hand and misrepresentations" and his "piece [is] so intellectually dishonest — and manipulative."

More outrageously, Beinart claims: *The depiction of Palestinians as compulsive Jew-haters — and the corresponding belief that anything short of Jewish statehood constitutes collective suicide — stems less from Palestinian behavior than from Jewish trauma.*

Less? For more than a century, the Arabs

*Continued on Page A10*

## World News.

# Iran Threatens Retaliation if a 'Regime' or 'Government' Behind Natanz Nuclear Facility Blast

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

Iran threatened retaliation on Monday should it determine that a state actor was behind a recent explosion at the Natanz Nuclear Facility.

The semi-official state news agency Mehr quoted an Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Abbas Mousavi as saying, "The necessary explanations on this incident have been declared by experts of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) and the Secretariat of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC). After summarizing, a full report will be presented in this regard and then, we will take the necessary actions in accordance with the findings that will be made after the investigation."

"If a regime or a government is involved in the Natanz incident, Iran will react decisively," he added.

The incident — initially described as a "fire" — took place July 2, and was described as causing "significant damage."

Three Iranian officials — who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity — said they believed the fire was the result of a cyber-attack, but did not cite any evidence.

"The incident could slow down the development and production of advanced centrifuges in the medium term," the spokesman for Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, Behrouz Kamalvandi, was quoted as saying.

"The incident has caused significant damage, but there were no casualties," he continued.

The New York Times reported last week that the incident was, in fact, an explosion and the result of what appeared to be a carefully-planned operation.

Citing two anonymous "intelligence officials," the Times said it could take the Iranian nuclear program two years to recover.

The explosion has been widely attributed to Israel, but the Jewish state's defense minister, Benny Gantz, stated, "Not every incident that transpires in Iran necessarily has something to do with us."

Continued from Page A1  
Criminal Trial

following Knoll's death established that Mihoub was attracted to Islamist ideas and slogans, and was already known to the authorities for having praised the Kouachi brothers, who carried out the deadly terrorist attack against the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in January 2015.

According to Le Figaro, Mihoub was also "compulsively addicted to antisemitic websites and a staunch defender of Hamas."

The news that antisemitism would figure as an aggravating factor in the two men's upcoming trial was welcomed by Knoll's family.

"As far as my mother's murder is concerned, there is no doubt that it was an act of antisemitic hatred," Alain Knoll, her son, told Israeli broadcaster i24's French-language service on Monday.

Knoll said he was "relieved" by the judges' decision, having feared that they might have "taken a different direction" because of the prevailing political climate in France.

"When we see what is happening in France, that politicians and judges are very often reluctant to recognize the antisemitic nature of [such] acts, we are afraid," he remarked.

Uppermost in mind was the very different judicial outcome in the case of Sarah Halimi — a 65-year-old Jewish widow murdered in her Paris apartment in April 2017, 11 months before Knoll's killing, by an

Continued from Page A1  
Editor Quits

years ago," Weiss wrote. "I was hired with the goal of bringing in voices that would not otherwise appear in your pages: first-time writers, centrists, conservatives and others who would not naturally think of The Times as their home."

She warned that "the lessons that ought to have followed the [2016 US presidential] election — lessons about the importance of understanding other Americans, the neces-

intruder who yelled Islamist slogans as he repeatedly beat her before ejecting her from a third-floor window.

To the fury of the French Jewish community, a ruling by the Paris Court of Appeal last December excused Halimi's alleged murderer, Kobili Traore, from a criminal trial, on the grounds that his intake of cannabis had supposedly wiped out his mental awareness and his judgement.

Gilles-William Goldnadel, a lawyer who has represented both the Knoll and Halimi families, said that he too had feared a repeat of the Halimi decision.

"Without a doubt, the Sarah Halimi case served as a model," Goldnadel told Le Figaro. With Mireille Knoll, he said, "we were faced with a heinous crime committed against an old lady and, since she was Jewish, it was even better for her murderers."

While Goldnadel declared himself pleased that Mihoub and Carrimacus would now go on trial, he regretted the judges' decision to show leniency to Mihoub's mother, who had been accused of concealing the evidence of Knoll's murder.

Mihoub's mother had "removed evidence, in this case the murder weapons, from the knives which she cleaned, and she also broke her judicial obligations by conversing with her son during his preventive detention in order to agree on the version of the facts," Goldnadel explained.

sity of resisting tribalism, and the centrality of the free exchange of ideas to a democratic society — have not been learned. Instead, a new consensus has emerged in the press, but perhaps especially at this paper: that truth isn't a process of collective discovery, but an orthodoxy already known to an enlightened few whose job is to inform everyone else."

"I certainly can't square how you and other Times leaders have stood by while simultaneously praising me in private for my courage," she added. "Showing up for work as

# Israeli Cabinet Approves \$7 Billion 'Safety Net' Economic Rescue Program



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu holds the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem June 28, 2020. Photo: REUTERS/Ronen Zvulun.

BY JNS.org

Israel's Cabinet on Monday approved the remaining elements of the "Safety Net 2020-2021" rescue plan for the country's struggling economy.

The Cabinet approved a draft law for several aspects of the plan that will require changes to legislation, as well to expand the 2020-2021 budgetary framework by NIS 24 billion (\$7 billion) to pay for the plan's implementation. The draft legislation will be immediately submitted to the Knesset for approval, according to a joint statement by the Prime Minister's Office and the Finance Ministry.

The plan, which was first presented by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Israel Katz on Thursday and part of which was approved on Sunday, includes the extension of full unemployment benefits until June 2021 or until unemployment falls below 10 percent, and the payment stipends of up to NIS 4,000 per month (\$1,163) to those aged 67 and over until December 2020.

Under the plan, the self-employed and business owners are also eligible for an immediate assistance stipend for May-June, 2020. This stipend, which was approved for immediate implementation on Sunday, has already been paid to over 300,000 self-employed individuals and business owners "and is expected to enter bank accounts in

the coming days," according to the statement. The total amount disbursed thus far is NIS 1.8 billion (\$532 million), the statement said.

In addition, businesses and self-employed individuals with an annual turnover of up to NIS 100 million (\$29 million), and whose sales turnover declined by at least 40 percent in comparison to the parallel period, will receive bimonthly-to-monthly stipends until June 2021.

The plan also includes tax relief measures, business license extensions and NIS 3.5 billion in assistance to populations with special needs, such as the elderly, the disabled and citizens under lockdown due to the pandemic.

While calling the plan "comprehensive" and "unprecedented" in his opening remarks to Monday's Cabinet session, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu acknowledged that there were "holes in the net" that needed to be addressed.

"I know that it is not complete; I also know that there are holes in it. The finance minister and I have already spoken, and I intend to speak about this also with [Defense Minister] Benny Gantz, in order to provide a response to the holes in the net. There are many things that need to be dealt with, including help for families, sectors and other things. We will deal with all of these; at the end of the meeting, we will discuss the best way to do this," said Netanyahu.

a centrist at an American newspaper should not require bravery. Intellectual curiosity — let alone risk-taking — is now a liability at The Times. Why edit something challenging to our readers, or write something bold only to go through the numbing process of making it ideologically kosher, when we can assure ourselves of job security (and clicks) by publishing our 4000th op-ed arguing that Donald Trump is a unique danger to the country and the world? And so self-censorship has become the norm."

Weiss noted that "independent-minded young writers and editors would take away the lesson, "Never believe an editor or publisher who urges you to go against the grain. Eventually, the publisher will cave to the mob, the editor will get fired or reassigned, and you'll be hung out to dry."

As recently as October 2018, Sulzberger publicly defended Weiss and Stephens. Asked about them by CNN's Brian Stelter, Sulzberger

said, "I think our readers absolutely want to be challenged," adding, "I understand that people aren't always happy with particular stories or even writers that we bring on staff, but I do think that, when measured in sum, that those folks have added a ton to our report, and that the bulk of our readers have really welcomed them."

The Weiss resignation letter said the situation at the paper had deteriorated. "Op-eds that would have easily been published just two years ago would now get an editor or a writer in serious trouble, if not fired," she said. "The paper of record is, more and more, the record of those living in a distant galaxy, one whose concerns are profoundly removed from the lives of most people... nowadays, standing up for principle at the paper does not win plaudits. It puts a target on your back."

A spokeswoman for the Times did not immediately reply to an email seeking a response from the paper.

World News.



A tram in Munich, Germany. Photo: Maurits90 via Wikimedia Commons.

# German Official Chides Bystanders for 'Lack of Civil Courage' After Munich Rabbi Verbally Accosted by Antisemitic Assailants

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

A German government official has criticized bystanders for a "lack of civil courage" after a Munich rabbi was verbally accosted last week.

Last Thursday evening, Rabbi Shmuel Aharon Brodman was followed after he got off a tram by four men who showered him with personal insults and anti-Israel comments.

According to the victim, the assailants

spoke English to him and conversed in Arabic among themselves.

Ludwig Spaenle — the Bavarian commissioner on combating antisemitism — said, "I'm particularly concerned about the fact that citizens who obviously saw the incident did not rush the aid of the rabbi or informed the police."

"We cannot allow people of Jewish faith to be victims of assault and insults," he added. "An attack on Jews is always an attack on ... society."

A similar antisemitic incident took place in Munich last August.

# Canadian Political Party Leader Calls Jews 'Liars and Deceivers,' 'Tribe of Parasites'

BY JNS.org

A Canadian political party leader has called Jews "liars and deceivers" and a "tribe of parasites."

A flier posted on the Facebook page of the Canadian Nationalist Party, led by Travis Patron, is titled "Beware The Parasitic Tribe." It includes New Testament phrases and antisemitic tropes, such as calling Jews "so-called 'inside manipulators'" and stating "Everywhere these people go, they infiltrate the media, they hijack the central bank, and they infect the body politic like a parasite."

The July 11 flier also accuses Jews of being "black sheep" who "hide and they perpetrate and they pull the strings ... And they laugh about it ... And they watch us ... And we fight each other ... And they profit from our wars ... And they seek to control and demoralize us in every aspect of what we try to do."

The flier then states, "It's their world and we're just a number to them. If they had their way, our entire way of life would be eradicated. They don't like us. In [fact], they despise us because of what we are and the spirit we represent. They cannot coexist with it."

"And what we need to do, perhaps more than anything, is remove these people, and one-and-for-all, from our country," continued the flier.

Toward the bottom of the sheet, "The people we speak of are not *truly* Jews.' They

are liars and deceivers attempting to shield themselves from criticism using a false identity. Let us be aware and expose them for what they are: a tribe of parasites." The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center has filed a hate speech complaint with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, which is the Canadian equivalent of the FBI in the United States, against Patron.

"By calling Jews parasites, by accusing Jews of being invaders and conspiring to control the media and banking system, this man is evoking some of the most dangerous antisemitic tropes in history," said Rabbi Meyer May, executive director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

"Canada's hate speech laws were designed to draw the line at exactly this kind of venomous, inciting language, and we urge the police to enforce the law," said Jaime Kirzner-Roberts, director of FSWC's Campaign Against Antisemitism. "There is no doubt that Travis Patron is willfully promoting hatred against the Jewish people, and we are urging the RCMP to take action and lay charges against him as soon as possible. The hate spewed by Mr. Patron has absolutely no place in our country."

Incitement of hatred towards an identifiable group and the promotion of genocide are illegal in Canada, as outlined by sections 318 and 319 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

## BETH SHIFRA

Promoting Jewish Identity for 50+ years  
www.bethshifra.org

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- Jewish Services • Boxing
- High School Programs In Public Schools
- Chess Tournament • Free Bar Mitzvahs and Mezuzas by Rabbi Zalmen
- Several English Classes (Green Cards)
- Work Release Programs • Release Hours
- Free Flea Market • Homeless Shelter

"We urge you to do whatever you can do to help Beth Shifra, תבוא עליהם ברכה" RABBI AVIGDOR MILLER ZT"L

20 Adar I, 5779/ February 25, 2019

In years past, Beth Shifra maintained a Free Soup Kitchen all year round, open seven days a week, serving free meals three times a day, without charge. During the week of Pesach, Beth Shifra sponsored free Kosher for Pesach Sedorim and daily meals around the city for thousands of people. We are personally familiar with the outstanding work that they do under the leadership of Rabbi Chaim Prussman, and urge you to help Beth Shifra with any support that you can, including publicizing their inspiring work in your Shul or organization.

This year, 2019/5779, Beth Shifra is sponsoring free Kosher for Pesach Seders and meals daily from Friday, April 19, through Saturday (Shabbat), April 27, at The White Shul, 2102 Avenue T & East 21 in Brooklyn. Free Kosher for Passover food packages will be offered on Thursday, April 18, at the White Shul, 2102 Avenue T & East 21 in Brooklyn from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. We proudly invite you to join us in making this year a memory of a lifetime for those in need.

Take the time now to have the merit and joy of helping a hungry family celebrate Passover. Please help Beth Shifra with any assistance that you can, including publicizing their good work in your Shul or organization. May all those that participate in this holy effort be blessed from Heaven.

On behalf of the Igud/RAA Presidium and of the Beth Din, I extend greetings of Torah.

Rabbi Mendy Mirocznik Executive Vice - President, Rabbinical Alliance of America

July 17, 2018

For almost 50 years, the Beth Shifra organization, located in Brooklyn, NY, has provided year round daily free meals to those who are most needy in the New York Jewish community. I am personally familiar with the outstanding work that they do under the leadership of Rabbi Chaim Prussman, and urge you to help Beth Shifra in any manner possible, including publicizing their work in your shul or organization.

During the Pesach holiday, the organization sponsors Kosher for Passover sedorim, food packages, lectures and programs to hundreds of people who would otherwise be unable to celebrate the holiday.

In 2019, they will be sponsoring free kosher for Passover Seders and daily meals from Friday. Pesach food packages will be distributed on Thursday, April 18 at the synagogue between the hours of 12:00-2:00 PM.

In the merit of helping the hungry and poor, may you only receive the choicest blessings from Heaven.

Dov Hikind  
Member of Assembly

Published in Jewish Press '84

Meir Kahane speaks The Summer of 84'

GREETINGS FROM RABBI MEIR KAHANE BETH SHIFRA

I have always said that in Heaven there is a great Synagogue. And as with all synagogues there is an East wall at which, like in all synagogues, sit the truly distinguished. But, unlike all synagogues where the truly distinguished are distinguished for their money and external attributes, in this great synagogue, we will be stunned to see whom the Almighty - the great Gabbai, warder, of Heaven - seats at the East Wall and who is relegated to the "ordinary" rows.

In every generation there walk in our midst the greatly simple, whose quiet task in life is to be simply great. They are famous in their anonymity. No reporters know their names and no television or cameras record their faces and words. They walk in the streets in perfect tranquility for no one knows that they are people to be touched. They are touched only by the greatness of their deeds.

I rarely use this column to specifically praise someone and urge their support time and space are too precious. But I stand in tribute and ask you to do the same even as you write a generous check, for a simple tzadik (and are there any other?).

His name is Chaim Prussman and no one at Time magazine has ever heard of him. But I tell you that he is famous in the streets of Heaven. Daily, he walks and talks and worries and lives the pain of Jews. In the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn, where he lives, he sees the talons of the missionaries ripping away the souls of Jews, simple Jews, mostly from the Soviet Union. With meals and gifts and money they buy and destroy Jewish souls. There are synagogues and organizations and rabbis and leaders but no one stood up to cry out and do, except a little Jew named Chaim Prussman.

With no funding from government or any group Chaim Prussman manages through sacrifice and G-d's help to give the poor Jews:

- a) The only traditional Talmud Torah and nursery school programs offered FREE to underprivileged families, including transportation.
- b) Special religious classes held in local public high schools.
- c) Free Bar Mitzvah lessons.
- d) Assistance for Bar Mitzvah celebrations.
- e) Shabbaton activities.
- f) Trips and rallies celebrating Jewish holidays.

Without your generous support, Beth Shifra cannot compete with the \$0.5 breakfasts and \$0.10 chicken dinners of the missionaries.

Chaim Prussman is the kind of Jew for whom I stand daily and salute. I urge you to stand, salute and then sit. And write a check. Make it out to Beth Shifra and Save a Jew. And then, in the Great Synagogue of Heaven, you may - as a reward - sit close to Chaim Prussman at the East Wall. Beth Shifra. A monument to simple greatness. Support it. Today.

לשנה טובה

Reprinted from the Jewish Press • Friday, March 20, 1987

Bogus Purim Service Broken Up

A group of missionaries in Brighton Beach who rented Public School 225 on the premise they were holding a social, attempted to hold a bogus "Purim Megilla" reading. The missionaries widely advertised their program in Russian as well as English throughout the Manhattan Beach and Brighton Beach area in an effort to entice young people to their service. However, when the real purpose of the "service" was discovered, groups from Boro Park, Flatbush, Crown Heights and Monsey descended on the area to help the staff of the Beth Shifra Institutions break up the rally.

Since many of the protesters missed the Megilla reading, the staff of Beth Shifra held to Megilla readings, so those who were instrumental in breaking up the rally could observe the Mitzva properly.

The Beth Shifra rally, held at the Jewish Center of Ocean Parkway, was termed a huge success by the children and parents who attended. There was a live band and a puppet show to entertain the children.

Tzedaka Donations: : Beth Shifra P.O. Box 700 Bklyn, NY 11229 (718) 449- 1397

U.S. News.

# Fight for Control of US Senate Starts With Maine, Texas, Alabama Primaries

BY REUTERS & ALGEMEINER STAFF

Democrats could take a step toward wresting control of the US Senate from Republicans on Tuesday when voters in Maine, Texas and Alabama cast ballots in nominating contests.

Maine Democrats pick a challenger to Susan Collins, one of the Senate's most at-risk Republicans; Texas Democrats choose who will go up against Republican Senator John Cornyn in a Republican-leaning state analysts say has become more competitive, and Alabama Republicans pick a candidate to take on Doug Jones, widely considered the chamber's most vulnerable Democrat.

Republican President Donald Trump's public approval has dropped as the coronavirus pandemic surged through the United States, killing more than 130,000 people and throwing tens of millions out of work.

That is weighing on his fellow Republicans, dimming the re-election hopes of senators in Colorado, North Carolina and Arizona and leaving even senior Republicans in conservative states like Mitch McConnell's Kentucky having to work harder than expected to defend their seats.

Democrats would need to pick up four seats in the 100-member chamber for a majority if Trump is re-elected, or three if presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden wins the White House, giving the party a tie-breaking Senate vote.

"If the coronavirus continues to get worse and the economy doesn't improve, it's hard to imagine any president ... getting re-elected very easily, and it's hard to imagine that president's party doing well," said Joshua Blank, research director of the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas at Austin.

**Top Democratic opportunity**

Democrats see Collins' Senate seat representing Maine as one of their top pick-up opportunities. Democrat Sara Gideon, the speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, has been leading Collins by a few percentage points in recent opinion polls even before Tuesday's primary between Gideon and two more left-wing Democrats, Betsy Sweet and Bre Kidman.

Collins is a moderate Republican first elected in 1996 who has long enjoyed a reputation for bipartisanship in a state with many independent voters. Her support eroded after she sided with Trump in several votes, including backing his Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh in 2018.

Collins' vote for Kavanaugh served to "enrage many Mainers, and it's caused a different reaction to Collins than there ever really has been before," said Mark Brewer, political science professor at the University of Maine.

**Texas tangle**

In Texas, state Senator Royce West and Air Force veteran MJ Hegar are battling in a runoff race for the Democratic nomination to take on Cornyn.

The growth of young non-white populations on the outskirts of Texas' urban areas has made the state long dominated by Republicans more competitive, Blank said. Biden has built a five-point lead over Trump in Texas, a Dallas Morning News/University of Texas at Tyler poll said Sunday.

The voting in all three states was delayed by the coronavirus pandemic.

**Democrats play defense in Alabama**

In Republican stronghold Alabama, Republicans will pick between Jeff Sessions — a former US attorney general fired by Trump who now wants his old Senate job back — or political newcomer Tommy Tuberville, a former Auburn University football coach endorsed by Trump.

A poll from Auburn University at Montgomery last week said Tuberville is 15 points ahead of Sessions. The results also showed the incumbent, Jones, faces a difficult battle for re-election against either Sessions or Tuberville, said poll director David Hughes.

In a 2017 special election, Jones became the first Democrat to win a Senate seat from Alabama in a quarter century after defeating Roy Moore, whose campaign was derailed by accusations of sexual misconduct with teenage girls.

"Look, we've won when no one thought we could win," said Joe Trippi, strategist for the Jones campaign. "Most of the conventional wisdom out there about Alabama and this race is wrong."

# Police Make Arrest Following Robbery, Abuse of Jewish Teens

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Police in Baltimore, Maryland, confirmed on Tuesday that they had arrested a "person of interest" in connection with the robbery of four Jewish teenage boys in a shopping mall by an assailant who reportedly used an antisemitic epithet.

A spokesperson for Baltimore County Police told local CBS-affiliate WJZ that the individual had been apprehended in the city of Baltimore. The July 9 robbery took place at Towson Town Center, a shopping mall in the Baltimore suburb of Towson.

According to police sources, the suspect had been carrying a knife which he made visible to his victims.


The four boys were forced to hand over their cellphones, cash and shopping bags.

At least one of the boys was wearing a kippah which was also taken by the assailant, who used an antisemitic expletive during the attack.

The suspect fled back into the mall following the robbery.

The crime is being investigated as a bias incident because the victims felt targeted due to their religion, police added.


## WARNING



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## Opinion.

## America in Crisis

SHMULEY BOTEACH  
ENGELWOOD

I was born in 1966, so I never witnessed the turmoil of that turbulent decade. But having read countless book on it, and spoken to those who were active members creating the turmoil, I know that many thought America was finished.

Police brutality, massive demonstrations, racial strife, an unbridgeable political divide — all set against the backdrop of Vietnam, America's most unpopular war — led many to believe the country was lost. But America bounced back, and would go on to five of its most prosperous decades ever.

But here we are again, with much of the same unrest, only this time you add in a once-in-a-century pandemic that has already killed more than 130,000 Americans and collapsed our economy. One can be forgiven for being depressed about America, especially walking around a once-vibrant world capital like New York City.

The teeming streets are largely deserted. The office buildings empty glass shells. Only the parks and the river walks seem full, which is actually a good omen. But walk further and you'll see the boarded up storefronts that remain from the looting and possible future violence. People walk away from each other on the streets, suspicious that each one carries the pathogen that might kill them.

And whereas TV used to be an escape, turn it on today and get ready to pop some Prozac. Trump and the Democrats are killing each other. And whereas that's only metaphorical, innocent black citizens are literally dying at the hands of the police who for the most

part are heroes, but contain enough bad apples that a racially charged murder seems to have become a nearly monthly American abomination.

With all this set against a level of personal loss and tragedy that the country has rarely seen in so short a space of time — I personally lost my father just a month ago — is there reason to hope? Can America come back from the brink?

We all know the answer to that question. America will of course rebound. With perhaps the sole exception of Israel, it is the most resilient nation on earth with the most durable citizens.

But the path to recovery involves first diagnosing the problems.

Our ailment is not one of politics, but values; not one of a social divide, but one of principles; not caused by an infectious disease, but rather a manifestation of a disease of the soul.

Americans were never united by politics. Go back to the times of Washington and Jefferson, Hamilton and Burr, and you will see politicians that so detested each other that they sometimes shot each other. But there are some things on which we all agree.

The first is that America is founded on the principle that all men are created equal, which is why the abomination of slavery could not continue and hundreds of thousands of Americans died to make that truism a reality.

It follows therefore that those who rebelled against the United States and fought in the Confederacy do not deserve to be honored.

There are imperfections and then there are unforgivable flaws. Joining a rebellion against the United States, and one fought to keep people in chains, is unforgivable. You may be a great general like Robert E. Lee,

impeccable in your personal life, and perhaps even personally opposed to the institution of slavery, yet it makes no difference. There should be no statue honoring you in the country against which you took up arms.

I was astonished to see — when I first visited Richmond, Virginia with my kids — Monument Avenue, with all the statues to Confederate generals. Whatever anyone thought of states' rights, what did that have to do with starting a war that took hundreds of thousands of lives, and then get, literally, put on a pedestal for it?

The statues to Confederate heroes should come down, but not the way it's being done now — because the second principle of the American Republic is law and order. We are not the French Revolution, which was characterized primarily by mob rule. Crowds don't pull down statues. Legislatures vote on them — as Mississippi has now done to remove the Confederate battle flag from its state flag — and then action is taken. And you don't destroy the statues. They are part of our history and legacy, for good and for bad. You put them in a museum, intact, and have the museum explain the sometimes ugly history of our country and how people who fought for slavery were often lionized even after they lost.

Is that embarrassing? Yes. But a willingness to accept human flaws, imperfections, and limitations, sometimes horrible ones, is an honest truth that the United States has always accepted and forms our third core value.

European kings always portrayed themselves as ruling by divine right. Their portraits, painted by official court artists, always showed them in glorious perfection, holding an orb as masters of the world. They lived in 100-room palaces, in an exalted station above the puny people.

Not so in America, which called its leader president, rather than majesty, put him in a

those occurring out of state and by those with no ties to the university. On June 1, Interim President Jay Hartzell in his email "UT Austin: Turbulent and Difficult Times" condemned George Floyd's murder at the hands of police officers in Minnesota as "senseless," while also stressing "we must continue our struggle for meaningful and enduring change to overcome acts of racism and violence that continue to erode our community."

Does UT not believe Spencer Wells' hatred also corrodes our community?

This is certainly not the only example of prospective antisemitism affecting UT's Jewish community. In 2017, a window at UT's Hillel was bashed in. And Wells' comments are not the first time that university officials have looked the other way. A number of instances of campus antisemitism, as reflected by Wells' hatred of Israel and Jews, is fueled by misconceptions regarding the Jewish state. Many of these misconceptions are regularly perpetuated by the UT Middle Eastern Studies Department.

Since the 1990s, that department has been problematic enough that it inspired UT Professor Michael Craig Hillmann's book *From Classroom to Courtroom*, which explores allegations of internal "favoritism, intimidation, abuse, harassment, and racism" and "ethnic, religious, and gender discrimination."

Writing about UT, Benjamin Baird of the Middle East Forum has noted: "No such constraints deter these professors from presenting ahistorical, one-sided accounts of the Middle East. Whether designing anti-Israel curricula for secondary education, accepting funds from Islamist organizations, teaching from radical sources, or producing



The House of Representatives Building and the East Portico of the US Capitol. Photo: Flickr.

Georgian mansion that looked like any fancy house of a well-to-do citizen, and made that magistrate go before the people every four years to receive a new mandate or be thrown out.

And those are the statues that should remain — those who acknowledged their flaws and limitations while espousing the core virtues of the Republic. Thomas Jefferson owned slaves while still writing that he shuddered for his country when he thought that God is just and that God's justice against slavery could not be held off for long. He also gave us our founding document, which every demonstration against racism invokes today — that all men are created equal and have inalienable rights. Abraham Lincoln once thought of encouraging blacks to move back to Africa, but he paid with his life to free them. Ulysses Grant had a drinking problem and he once even barred Jewish merchants from selling to the US Army at Vicksburg. But he shredded the Confederacy, apologized for the incident with the Jews and other mistakes, and wrote a memoir where his imperfect humanity was on display for all to see.

This leads to our final American value — forgiveness, and a willingness to see the good in each other, something we need a lot more of today if we are not only to survive, but flourish.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach's book *on Judaism and the messiah, The Wolf Shall Lie With the Lamb*, is available on Amazon and at [Shmuley.com](http://Shmuley.com). Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @RabbiShmuley.

## Former College Professor Is a Rabid Antisemite — and Must Be Condemned

JORDAN COPE/  
JNS.org

Former adjunct professor at the University of Texas (UT) Spencer Wells went on a recent Twitter tirade against Israelis. Wells, who also served as a member of the UT College of Natural Science's Advisory Council, dreams of a nuclear war with Israel, and calls on people to "bomb [Israel] until the sand turns to glass." He denied Israelis a right to self-defense and even their lives, saying, "You're Apartheid oppressors. You deserve to die."

He writes: "I just hope that with the upcoming US pullback from its role of Middle East protector that the Iranians feel empowered to take bolder steps in dealing with Israeli aggression."

Yet Wells is a celebrated figure. A former "explorer in residence" at the National Geographic Society, he is considered a world expert on the subject of "personal genomics." He has given TED talks, been a guest on *The*

*Daily Show* with Jon Stewart, and is regularly interviewed by media outlets around the world. Wells also served as a member of the College of Natural Science's Advisory Council.

Although his service to the university expired last May, his legacy remains. He remains an "Outstanding Young Texas Ex" as awarded by TexasExes, the university's "official alumni association." Other recipients elevated to such honor include Governor Greg Abbott and film star Matthew McConaughey.

While Wells' most recent tweets were issued after his work at UT, his antisemitism also manifested during his employment there. In April, while still an adjunct professor, Wells attacked Jews for their spending habits. He noted on Twitter "Jews hiring private jets to fly to Israel for burial. Utterly insane." Despite Wells making said statement during his time and in his capacity at UT, the university did not condemn it.

In its official statement, the university merely observed that it has no "association with the views held by Wells," who "is no longer a faculty or advisory member."

UT's failure to speak out appears in stark contrast to promises by university officials last month to condemn all acts of hate, such as



University of Texas football game. Photo: University of Texas.

scholarship that advances an anti-American, anti-Western agenda, professors in CMES [the Center for Middle Eastern Studies] have clearly been hired and promoted with an eye to their ideological purity."

With these biases, perhaps it's not too surprising that an anti-Israel, anti-Jewish academic found a home at the university. Was UT merely jumping on a bandwagon when it spoke out against Floyd's murder? Or is it truly committed to calling out hate? If the latter is true, then UT must prove its dedication. The president's office must condemn comments by Wells, whether expressed while a UT professor or afterwards.

Lastly, given the university's failure to apply equal standards, administrators must adopt an objective standard for antisemitism, such as the IHRA's. After all, UT must not be allowed to pick and choose what type of hatred it deems fashionable to oppose.

Jordan Cope is a law student at the University of Texas, where he also earned his bachelor's degree in international relations with a minor in Middle Eastern Studies. He has been published in multiple forums on counter-terrorism and the Middle East.

## Opinion.

# Is the US Strategy on China Creating an Opening for Russia and Iran?



EMIL AVDALIANI  
TBILISI

The world is in flux. Global geopolitical trends that existed before the onset of the coronavirus will only intensify in its wake, and US-China competition will become more pronounced across the Eurasian landmass.

The major struggle will play out in the newly emerging Indo-Pacific region. Though this geographic concept only recently replaced the outdated Asia-Pacific vision, it has surfaced from time to time in the writing and speeches of past political thinkers and politicians.

The Indo-Pacific region refers to the confluence of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, which interconnect in Southeast Asia. Beijing is opposed to the Indo-Pacific concept as it views it as the product of American efforts to contain its own rising economic and military capabilities. Many believe the emergence of this new concept is indeed a matter of cold-blooded, Cold War-style geopolitical thinking.

That is a misreading. The shift from the Asia-Pacific to the Indo-Pacific is not just a matter of *realpolitik*. It reflects tectonic geopolitical shifts that have occurred in the world over the past two decades or so.

A primary motor behind this change is exponential economic growth ranging from India to China and Japan. The entire Indo-Pacific rim of island states, larger countries like Vietnam and South Korea, and the Indian and Chinese giants have become economically interconnected and now represent the world's biggest trade markets. Several studies show that at least 50% of global GDP will be shared by the Indo-Pacific region.

Another tectonic development is China's rise. Through its near-trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), it has expanded its economic (and, some argue, military) foothold in the Indian Ocean. Though the Chinese might disagree with the emergence of the Indo-Pacific concept, it was their economic ambition that showed how the two oceans are economically and militarily inseparable.

A bit of history helps prove this point. Consider Marco Polo, the famous Venetian traveler, and his trip to China in the 13th century. On his way home, Polo traveled through Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean, and the Persian Gulf. He provided a detailed portrait of the broad web of trade relations that existed between Chinese mainland ports and cities in modern day Indonesia, India, and along the Persian Gulf. Chinese products reached east African shores in what are today Somalia and Eritrea as well as other neighboring territories.

China's geography always propels it to seek an outlet to the Indian Ocean when it wishes to pursue economic and military expansion. With mountains, steppes, and deserts to the west and northwest, the only natural highway for China's expansion is Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean. This was the case in Marco Polo's time and it is still true today.

Another example proving this premise was Chinese mariner Zheng He, who traveled into the Indian Ocean in the early 15th century in an attempt to establish a long-term Chinese presence there. The Indian and Pacific Oceans



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian attends a news conference in Beijing, China April 8, 2020. Photo: REUTERS/Carlos Garcia Rawlins/File Photo.

are thus very much interlinked. Japan's expansion during World War II showed a military trajectory toward Southeast Asia and further into the Indian Ocean.

Historical context and geography aside, the emergence — or rather reemergence — of the Indo-Pacific concept is underpinned by today's closer India-Japan relations. Both countries neighbor China and are worried about how far Chinese power can extend. Both see the need to cooperate on military and economic matters and to try to entice Australia and get stronger US support. A kind of quadrilateral format is emerging, perhaps even some version of a long-term strategy toward the region and specifically China.

There is one caveat to bear in mind when evaluating this new geopolitical concept. To cast it as a new containment policy would not bring much of a result. China should be engaged, not simply cut off from the Indian Ocean. Were China more like the former Soviet Union — that is, only a powerful military player — then containment would be a sensible approach. But because China is an integral part of the world economy and especially critical to the Indo-Pacific region, containment would likely fail to bring about the same results it achieved in the Cold War era.

An interesting twist might take place even in the Chinese vision. Accepting the Indo-Pacific region might be an inescapable geopolitical development. In fact, abandoning the Asia-Pacific concept could allow China to better justify its deep involvement in the Indian Ocean, which is so much feared by India and other states.

The emergence of the Indo-Pacific region will have wider repercussions as well. Global trade and a subsequent growth in China's military presence at the confluence of the two oceans will shift American and European attention away from the depths of Eurasia and the possibility of a confrontation with Russia toward China.

The US will need to bolster its presence in the region by building deeper cooperation platforms with India, Japan, and Australia. This will have to involve attracting large-scale investment. The US will not be able to match the economic potential of China's BRI, but together with its allies it could set up mechanisms for open investment programs that could provide a striking contrast to Chinese investment models.

The US should act in the emerging Indo-Pacific realm similarly to the way the UK acted from the 18th century until World War II. Recognizing that its real strength was as a sea power, the British worked hard to prevent the emergence of a dominant European power on the continent. It accomplished this by building a variety of military coalitions. The British also understood the limits of their human resources, which prompted them to seek help from other continental powers and maintain constant engagement with all

European states.

The US now faces similar constraints when it comes to China. Washington needs India, Japan, and Australia first and foremost, as well as smaller states like South Korea, Vietnam, and Indonesia to balance China.

The shift of American attention from inner Eurasia to the Indo-Pacific region will accelerate in the 2020s. This will benefit Russia, as it will have a much freer hand in dealing with its immediate neighborhood. It should also result in a further delay of NATO/EU expansion, which works to Moscow's benefit.

The emergence of the Indo-Pacific region should also benefit Iran, since it has been under immense US pressure ever since the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq in the early 2000s. The rise of the Indo-Pacific region

could mean Iran has more room to maneuver in Iraq and the Persian Gulf.

The Indo-Pacific region is already a geopolitical constant. It connects large swaths of the globe into one unit. The region has the largest and wealthiest states in the world and will attract the US and other global players. It is on the way to becoming a major playground for geopolitical influence.

*Emil Avdaliani teaches history and international relations at Tbilisi State University and Iliia State University. He has worked for various international consulting companies and currently publishes articles on military and political developments across the former Soviet space.*

*A version of this article was originally published by The BESA Center.*

## Peter Beinart's 'Peace' Plan Is Similar to Hamas'



ELDER OF ZIYON  
NEW YORK

Does Peter Beinart's peace plan for Israel resemble Hamas'?

In 2017, Hamas famously took out the blatantly antisemitic language in its manifesto that was supposed-to-but-not-really replace the original Hamas charter:

*Hamas affirms that its conflict is with the Zionist project not with the Jews because of their religion. Hamas does not wage a struggle against the Jews because they are Jewish but wages a struggle against the Zionists who occupy Palestine. ...*

*Hamas rejects the persecution of any human being or the undermining of his or her rights on nationalist, religious, or sectarian grounds. Hamas is of the view that the Jewish problem, antisemitism, and the persecution of the Jews are phenomena fundamentally linked to European history and not to the history of the Arabs and the Muslims or to their heritage.*

See? Hamas doesn't say it wants to persecute Jews in its one-state solution.

Other parts of the 2017 Hamas manifesto sound very close to what Beinart would want:

*Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance. It provides an umbrella for the followers of other creeds and religions who can practice their beliefs in security and safety. Hamas also believes that Palestine has always been and will always be a model of coexistence, tolerance, and civilizational innovation.*

*Hamas believes that the message of Islam*

*upholds the values of truth, justice, freedom, and dignity and prohibits all forms of injustice and incriminates oppressors irrespective of their religion, race, gender, or nationality. Islam is against all forms of religious, ethnic, or sectarian extremism and bigotry.*

Life in an Islamic state under Hamas rule sounds like a dream!

Senior Hamas official Mahmoud al-Zahar also said in 2006 that he could see Jews, Muslims, and Christians all living together in an Islamic state.

Does anyone believe Hamas?

Beinart was skeptical in his 2012 *Crisis of Zionism* book, but he felt that their conciliatory statements should be considered by Israel and Zionists as reflecting an evolution of Hamas' thoughts. Now? Outside the Islamic part, Hamas' manifesto sounds remarkably like Beinart's plan for peace and happiness in the Middle East.

Beinart will claim that his solution is different, because Isratine would not be defined as an Islamic or even an Arab state. But can that really be stopped? Lebanon is a perfect example of how a nation that is constitutionally committed to equal rights is not the same as one actually committed to equal rights.

Of course, Beinart studiously ignores the thousands of statements from Hamas every year that contradict the language of tolerance in its manifesto. To Beinart, Arabs must be judged favorably; only Jews must be judged harshly. Palestinians must have sovereignty, Jews should be happy with whatever they can get.

Which is exactly what Hamas believes.

*Elder of Zion has been blogging about Israel and the Arab world for a really long time now. He also controls the world, but deep down, you already knew that.*

## New IDF Recruits Prepare for Any Future Challenge

YAAKOV LAPPIN/  
JNS.org

The Artillery Corps of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is responsible for delivering a large portion of the military's firepower to an

increasingly complex battlefield. Its units take part in a large array of activities — from firing artillery guns, to guiding advanced missiles and operating unmanned aerial vehicles. But before all of that, according to Lt. Col. Yotam Burstein, commanding officer of the Artillery Corps Training Battalion, everything begins with basic training.

The 37-year-old commander has spent

*Continued on Page A9*

## Impressions.

# Are Jews Obligated to Support Reparations for African-Americans?

BY JONATHAN S. TOBIN  
/ JNS.org

When writer Ta-Nehisi Coates made “The Case for Reparations” in *The Atlantic* in June 2014, few thought his idea had merit or had a chance of being put into effect. Six years later, the country is caught up in a moral panic about a perception that the United States is an irredeemably racist society fueled by outrage over the killing of an African-American man by a Minneapolis police officer.

That event has sent millions into the streets to support the idea that Black Lives Matter, an anodyne idea that is supported by almost all people, yet at the same time a catchall phrase used to justify a raft of radical proposals. It has also transformed the notion of requiring contemporary US taxpayers to pay reparations not just for slavery, but for any racist discrimination that occurred in the last 150 years from a fantasy to a realistic possibility.

Part of the reason why the push for reparations has not only garnered momentum, but may also be increasingly difficult to oppose in the coming years, has a lot to do with Jewish support for the proposal.

Such support is not just because of the activism of liberal groups like the Reform movement, which has endorsed the idea. It's also the argument that reparations for the Holocaust that have been paid out by Germany to survivors have provided an irrefutable analogy that ought to silence all opposition. That was the justification for the latest endorser of the scheme: Minneapolis Mayor Jacoby Frey. And at time when challenging the Black Lives Matter movement on even the smallest aspect of its agenda has become a perilous business — risking being canceled, shunned, or silenced — the role the organized Jewish world will play in the coming debate about reparations may become a matter of crucial importance.

That a full-scale debate about reparations in the coming years is likely is almost certain. The near-revolutionary impact of the death of George Floyd on American society is already evident. The essay by *New York Times* writer Nikole Hannah-Jones, “What Is Owed,” was the latest broadside to be fired on the subject. Like the paper's influential “1619 Project” that she authored last year, her points are tendentious, and the historical arguments she puts forward are slanted and misleading. But her ability to set the national agenda should not be underestimated. In the current atmosphere, speaking up against anything that can be identified with the BLM movement is difficult.

Hannah-Jones can count on having some formidable Jewish allies in the form of the largest American Jewish religious denomination, in addition to the legitimacy that the Holocaust analogy lends to her quest.

There are good reasons to oppose reparations because of the toxic impact any such scheme would have on race relations. Additionally, there is the fact that it's primarily an effort to divert attention away from the problems that continue to promote poverty among African-Americans,

which can't be fixed by the kind of radical and neo-Marxist thinking behind the BLM movement and the writing of Hannah-Jones.

The impact of slavery was a multi-century tragedy that required more than an Emancipation Proclamation to undo the damage done to its victims. The failure to reconstruct the post-Civil War South in such a manner as to disenfranchise the forces of white supremacy was a catastrophe that led to a century of Jim Crow laws and racist segregation. Along with such overt prejudice were more subtle forms of de facto discrimination,



*A protester carries an injured counter-protester to safety, near the Waterloo station during a Black Lives Matter protest following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody, in London, Britain, June 13, 2020. Photo: REUTERS/Dylan Martinez.*

like the denial of mortgages and other economic practices that hurt African-Americans even after the triumph of the civil-rights movement removed de jure bias from the law books.

While this did create problems that still linger, Hannah-Jones's contention that the United States is an intrinsically racist nation that hasn't changed much are rooted in fallacious readings of history and ideological extremism that distorts and twists the reality of 21st-century America. The widespread belief that there is an epidemic of police violence and murder directed against blacks is also divorced from the facts.

Black poverty in 2020 is more the product of the same factors that create poverty among whites. Single-parent homes and absent fathers, lack of educational opportunities, communities wracked by violence and addiction all play a larger role in determining wealth than skin color. Those who point out these truths — like Terry Crews, the African-American host of the “America's Got Talent” program — get excoriated for saying so.

But admitting these truths, even as we also acknowledge the persistence of prejudice, doesn't satisfy the ideological agenda of radicals with other goals. They seek to not so much raise up the poor as to bring down the entire political and economic structure of America, as Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) recently admitted. Their goal is not rectifying injustice, but dismantling the engine of American freedom — both political and economic — that has helped fuel the rise of liberty from the country's flawed, but still inspiring, beginnings.

Indeed, as Hannah-Jones outlined in the

Times' reparations manifesto, her vision is of a federal government not only handing out money to anyone who identifies as black, but also pursuing projects that seem more in keeping with the Socialist nightmares that created disasters in Russia, Venezuela, and so many other places. Among them would be the construction of “segregated communities” for blacks and “segregated schools that serve a disproportionate number of black children.” This means that not only is the BLM movement seeking to discard Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of a race-blind society,

but actually to recreate the segregated world he sought to fight. Such ideas don't merely help undermine racial harmony; they actively seek to exacerbate it under the banner of intersectional guilt in which “whiteness” is considered a sin.

That liberals, like those running the Reform movement, would ally themselves with such ideas is appalling.

But the Holocaust analogy with which they are weaponizing the reparations movement is equally wrongheaded.

As I've previously pointed out, reparations only work as a legal solution when compensation is granted to those who suffered or their immediate heirs.

The Germany that began paying reparations to Jews in the 1950s was the same country that had murdered six million Jews and stolen the property of countless others only a few years earlier. In so doing, Germans were giving up the profits of genocide to the actual victims and entities like Israel that had provided refuge for the survivors.

Righting the wrongs of the distant past is a lot more complicated, and bringing the Holocaust — a different sort of historical event than the atrocity of American slavery — into the conversation does nothing to help us understand either tragedy.

Though the wealth of the antebellum South was largely the product of the capital accrued from slave labor, those profits were largely consumed by slave owners, who passed little down to their heirs — all of which was subsequently destroyed by the devastation of the Civil War. Almost none of it survived to the 20th century, let alone to the

*Continued on Page A10*

## Legals.

## LEGAL NOTICE



Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: PYRAMYD STUDIOS 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  
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AJ; 6/19/26; 7/3/10/17/24

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AJ; 6/19/26; 7/3/10/17/24

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: PLISSKEN ANARCHY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with secretary of state of New York (SSNY)on : 06/12/2020 Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom

*Continued from Page A7  
IDF Recruits*

more than 18 years in the military. After being drafted into the Artillery Corps himself in 2002, he has since served in command roles in almost every artillery unit. Previously the commander of an operational combat battalion, Burstein has spent the past two years commanding the training battalion.

"Everyone who takes their first steps in the Artillery Corps passes through me," he said. That includes all future Artillery Corps combat soldiers, combat-support soldiers, and instructors. "It's a very significant role," he said.

With its powerful firepower and array of systems, the Artillery Corps of 2020 is relevant to every IDF operation. "There is no operational scenario today [where] the corps doesn't play a significant role," said the commander.

"In basic training, we have to give soldiers all of the basic skills they will need as combat soldiers, and only afterwards do they acquire skills for their specialized role," explained Burstein. Whether soldiers are destined to operate artil-

lery guns, missiles, or drones, the emphasis of the training battalion is first on achieving basic combat soldier capabilities.

lery guns, missiles, or drones, the emphasis of the training battalion is first on achieving basic combat soldier capabilities.

"This includes personal discipline, military discipline, and operational discipline," said the officer. "It means the basics of firearm maintenance and marksmanship, an ability to treat the injured, and being able to live in the field. On the way, we certainly help them acquire a 'can do' approach and independence. These are the foundations of being a combat soldier."

During Burstein's time as battalion commander, the Artillery Corps significantly reduced basic training time from eight to four months after an extensive assessment. Burstein said the training remains high quality, adding that it provides longer operational experience for soldiers –meaning that those who go on to be commanders have four additional months of real-life operations to fall back on.

"It puts them in a different operational place, and their mental readiness to command others is far higher," said the commander. "The best proof that this has succeeded is the fact that young crews who completed the first shorter training cycle were the first to take part in firing incidents, and they did so successfully."

The Artillery Corps is preparing to receive a new gun to replace its veteran howitzer. Last year, the Israeli Defense Minister signed a contract with Elbit Systems for the fully automatic self-propelled new artillery gun.

"The new gun brings new levels of accuracy, efficiency, utilization of personnel, and availability for firepower," said Burstein. "It needs far less personnel. We are waiting for it keenly."

One of the challenges that the Artillery Corps must face is targeting a "hidden enemy" that embeds itself deeply into civilian areas. During the 2014 conflict with Hamas, artillery units rescued a Golani battalion in the Gazan neighborhood of Shejaiya, which had become surrounded by Hamas operatives firing from residential buildings. The artillery units instructed the Golani personnel to enter their armored personnel carriers and created a ring of protective fire, destroying the buildings from which Hamas was firing.

"That was a very significant incident for us. We drew many lessons from it," said Burstein. "Operation Protective Edge' challenged us with a hidden enemy. In any future operation in Gaza or elsewhere, we will find ourselves facing this in an even more challenging manner."

The key solution is the close cooperation that the Artillery Corps and the IDF's Intelligence Directorate have built together, enabling firepower units to accurately know enemy locations.

"Today, firepower and intelligence cannot go without the other," said Burstein. "This cooperation has been especially high in recent years, in training and in operations. ... It is a force multiplier. In the past, each acted on its own. Today, the understanding is that we must join forces. Even physically, we sit together in cells. There is a clear understanding that intelligence and firepower are part of one whole."

At the level of individual soldiers, the Artillery Corps prepares soldiers

## Opinion.

## A Reply to The Honorable Prime Minister Boris Johnson



JULIO MESSER/  
JNS.org

Dear Prime Minister:

Your friendship and "profound attachment to the State of Israel" are undoubted and highly appreciated. It is a sad fact of life, however, that great prime ministers like you come and go and, as one of your predecessors put it with brutal frankness, "[n]ations do not have permanent friends or enemies, only interests." A brief review of the ebb and flow of the United Kingdom's support for the Jewish state over the past century proves his point.

Thus, while the U.K. "favour[ed] the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people" in the Balfour Declaration (1917), less than four years later, Colonial Secretary Winston Churchill detached from Palestine the territory east of the Jordan River and bestowed it to Emir Abdullah—in violation of the San Remo Resolution, to which the U.K. was a signatory.

Shortly thereafter, the U.K. accepted from the League of Nations the "Mandate for [the remainder of] Palestine" and undertook to "facilitate ... close settlement by Jews on the land." But instead of implementing this mandate, the U.K. issued White Papers in 1930 and 1939 that severely limited Jewish immigration to Palestine with tragic consequences for millions of Jews forced to remain in Europe.

In 1956, after Egypt blockaded Israel's port of Eilat (an act of war), the U.K. rallied to Israel's side. But in 1973, after Egypt (and Syria) attacked Israel on Yom Kippur, the U.K. not only imposed an embargo on arms transfers to Israel, it refused to provide landing rights for U.S. aircraft to refuel on their way to supplying the Israeli military with much-needed supplies.

After the Six-Day War, the U.K. enshrined Israel's right to "secure and recognized boundaries" when it drafted and submitted U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 calling for

the "withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict." According to George Brown, foreign secretary at the time, "[Resolution 242] does not call for Israeli withdrawal from 'the' territories recently occupied, nor does it use the word 'all,' " and U.N. Ambassador Lord Caradon explained that "[i]t would have been wrong to demand that Israel return to its positions of June 4, 1967, because those positions were undesirable and artificial." Sadly, the U.K. reversed this position in 2016 when it voted for U.N. Security Council Resolution 2334, all but sanctifying the June 4, 1967 lines as Israel's border.

No peace-loving person can disagree with your statement that "we must ... strive to hammer out a solution [to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict]." The question is how. The Palestinians have repeatedly rejected all proposals that have been put on the table. Israeli and other world leaders share part of the blame, as every time a Palestinian leader said "no," they received a better offer.

The major contribution of U.S. President Donald Trump's "Peace to Prosperity" plan is the message it sends to the Palestinians that time is no longer on their side. The reward of better offers with every "no" is henceforth replaced by diminishing returns with every rejection. Is it still your position that the Trump plan contains "serious proposals for peace?" Will your government give the new paradigm a fair chance or insist on the same unsuccessful approach of the past?

In closing, Honorable Prime Minister, there are many factors that Israel should weigh when considering whether to apply sovereignty to parts of Judea and Samaria, as contemplated by the "Peace to Prosperity" plan. The notion that "the U.K. has always stood by Israel and its right to live as any nation should be able to, in peace and security," unfortunately, is not one of them.

*Julio Messer is a former president of American Friends of Likud.*

physically and mentally to encounter an enemy from 360 degrees. Unlike in the past, when armies faced armies, contemporary soldiers must be aware that they can meet threats from underground, the ground, and the air, noted the commander. "Soldiers have to be prepared for that. It means working on their training, on Krav Maga, on their marksmanship, and their ability to conduct selective shooting. Mentally, they have to be prepared and not surprised by an encounter with the enemy."

Burstein said the coronavirus pandemic forced the battalion

to make adjustments, such as spending a lot more time in the field, eating and studying in tents and spending more time on base.

"We are in the last week of training, and as I look back, I am satisfied with what we managed to do," he summed up. "The soldiers drafted three months ago have displayed mental resilience and maturity. We were pleasantly surprised. The commanders made the required adjustments to the pandemic and displayed flexibility. The battalions will be pleased with the soldiers they are going to receive."

## Tradition.

# My Teacher: In Memoriam



JONATHAN SACKS  
LONDON

There are moments when Divine Providence touches you on the shoulder and makes you see a certain truth with blazing clarity. Let me share with you such a moment that happened to me this morning.

For technical reasons, I have to write my essays for the *Covenant & Conversation* series many weeks in advance. I had come to Matot-Masei, and had decided to write



about the cities of refuge, but I wasn't sure which aspect to focus on. Suddenly, overwhelmingly, I felt an instinct to write about one very unusual law.

The cities were set aside for the protection of those found guilty of manslaughter, that is, of killing someone accidentally without malice aforethought. Because of the then universal practice of blood vengeance, that protection was necessary.

The purpose of the cities was to make sure that someone judged innocent of murder was safe from being killed. As Shoftim puts it: "And he shall flee to one of these cities and live" (Deut. 19:5). This apparently simple concept was given a remarkable interpretation by the Talmud:

The Sages taught: *If a student was exiled, his teacher was exiled with him*, as it is said: "(And he shall flee to one of these cities) and live," meaning do the things for him that will enable him to live.

As Rambam explains: "Life without study is like death for scholars who seek wisdom." In Judaism, study is life itself, and study without a teacher is impossible. *Teachers give us more than knowledge; they give us life.* Note that this is not an aggadic passage, a moralising text not meant to be taken literally. It is a halachic ruling, codified as such. Teachers are like parents only more so. Parents give us physical life; teachers give us spiritual life. Physical life is mortal, transient. Spiritual life is eternal. Therefore, we owe our teacher our life in its deepest sense.

I had just written the text above when the phone went. It was my brother in Jerusalem to tell me that my teacher, Rabbi Nachum Eliezer Rabinovitch, *zecher tzaddik livracha*, had just died. Only rarely in this "world of concealment" do

we feel the touch of Providence, but this was unmistakable. For me, and I suspect everyone who had the privilege of studying with him, he was the greatest teacher of our generation.

He was a master posek, as those who have read his Responsa will know. He knew the entire rabbinic literature, Bavli, Yerushalmi, Midrash Halachah and Aggadah, biblical commentaries, philosophy, codes and responsa. His creativity, halachic and aggadic, knew no bounds. He was a master of almost every secular discipline, especially the sciences. He had

been a Professor of Mathematics at the University of Toronto and had written a book about probability and statistical inference. His supreme passion was the Rambam in all his guises, particularly the Mishneh Torah, to which he devoted some fifty years of his life to writing the multi-volume commentary *Yad Peshutah*.

By the time I came to study with the Rav, I had already studied at Cambridge and Oxford with some of the greatest intellects of the time, among them Sir Roger Scruton and Sir Bernard Williams. Rabbi Rabinovitch was more demanding than either of them. Only when I became his student did I learn the true meaning of intellectual rigour, *shetihyu amelim ba-Torah*, "labouring" in the Torah. To survive his scrutiny, you had to do three things: first to read everything ever written on the subject; second to analyse it with complete lucidity, searching for *omek ha-peshat*, the deep plain sense; and third, to think independently and critically. I remember writing an essay for him in which I quoted one of the most famous of nineteenth century Talmudic scholars. He read what I had written, then turned to me and said, "But you didn't criticise what he wrote!" He thought that in this case the scholar had not given the correct interpretation, and I should have seen and said this. For him, intellectual honesty and independence of mind were inseparable from the quest for truth which is what Talmud Torah must always be.

Some of the most important lessons I learned from him were almost accidental. I remember on one occasion his car was being serviced, so I had the privilege of driving him home. It was a hot day, and at a busy junction in

Hampstead, my car broke down and would not start up again. Unfazed, Rabbi Rabinovitch said to me, "Let's use the time to learn Torah." He then proceeded to give me a shiur on Rambam's *Hilchot Shemittah ve-Yovel*. Around us, cars were hooting their horns. We were holding up traffic and a considerable queue had developed. The Rav remained completely calm, came to the end of his exposition, turned to me and said, "Now turn the key." I turned the key, the car started, and we went on our way.

On another occasion, I told him about my problem getting to sleep. I had become an insomniac. He said to me, enthusiastically, "Could you teach me how to do that?" He quoted the Rambam who ruled that one acquires most of one's wisdom at night, based on the Talmudic statement that the night was created for study.

He and the late Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein zt"l were the *Gedolei ha-Dor*, the leaders and role models of their generation. They were very different, one scientific, the other artistic, one direct, the other oblique, one bold, the other cautious, but they were giants, intellectually, morally and spiritually. Happy the generation that is blessed by people like these.

It is hard to convey what having a teacher like Rabbi Rabinovitch meant. He knew, for example, that I had to learn fast because I was coming to the rabbinate late, after a career in academic philosophy. What he did was very bold. He explained to me that the fastest and best way of learning anything is to teach it. So the day I entered Jews' College as a student, I also entered it as a lecturer. How many people would have had that idea and taken that risk?

He also understood how lonely it could be if you lived by the principles of intellectual integrity and independence. Early on, he said to me, "Don't be surprised if only six people in the world understand what you are trying to do." When I asked him whether I should accept the position of Chief Rabbi, he said, in his laconic way: "Why not? After all, maybe you can teach some Torah."

He himself, in his early thirties, had been offered the job of Chief Rabbi of Johannesburg, but turned it down on the grounds that he refused to live in an apartheid state. He told me how he was visited in Toronto by Rabbi Louis Rabinowitz who had held the Johannesburg position until then. Looking at the Rav's modest home and thinking of his more palatial accommodation in South Africa, he said, "You turned down that for this?" But the Rav would never compromise his integrity and never cared for material things.

In the end, he found great happiness in the 37 years he served as head of Yeshivat Birkat Moshe in Maale Adumim. The yeshiva had been founded six years earlier by Rabbi Haim Sabato and Yitzhak Sheilat. It is said that when Rabbi Sabato heard the Rav give a shiur, he immediately asked him to become the Rosh Yeshiva. It is hard to describe the pride with which he spoke to me about his students,

all of whom served in the Israel Defence Force. Likewise it is hard to describe the awe in which his students held him. Not everyone in the Jewish world knew his greatness, but everyone who studied with him did.

I believe that Judaism made an extraordinarily wise decision when it made teachers its heroes and lifelong education its passion. We don't worship power or wealth. These things have their place, but not at the top of the hierarchy of values. Power forces us. Wealth induces us. But teachers develop us. They open us to the wisdom of the ages, helping us to see the world more clearly, think more deeply, argue more cogently and decide more wisely.

"Let the reverence for your teacher be like the reverence for Heaven," said the Sages. In other words: if you want to come close to Heaven, don't search for kings, priests, saints or even prophets. They may be great, but a fine teacher helps you to become great, and that is a different thing altogether. I was blessed by having one of the greatest teachers of our generation. The best advice I can give anyone is: find a teacher, then make yourself a disciple.

Shabbat Shalom

### Continued from Page A2 Speak Out

to stand with their Jewish brothers and sisters in the fight against antisemitism.

Let us recall that the only real winner in the US decision to attend the 1936 Olympics in Berlin was Adolf Hitler. Likewise, in today's world, when celebrities and sports figures honor Farrakhan and African-American leaders remain silent, only hate wins.

*Rabbi Marvin Hier is founder and dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and a two-time Academy Award-winner for producing the documentaries The Long Way Home (1997) and Genocide (1982).*

*Richard Trank is writer, director, and executive producer of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's award-winning Moriah Films division and an Academy Award winner for The Long Way Home. A version of this article was originally published by The Hill.*

### Continued from Page A8 Reparations

present day. Like all restrictions on freedom, Jim Crow laws also hurt the economy of the pre-Civil Rights era South rather than helping it.

Reparations advocates claim that America's status as an economic superpower was built by slavery. But it's actually the result of the innovations and creative energy of entrepreneurs (both white and black), coupled with the hard work of immigrants and other Americans — not an obsolete and unproductive system that was thankfully discarded more than 150 years ago.

The question of reparations also obscures the role that Americans of all races played in

### Continued from Page A2 His Yavne

of Palestine have raped Jews, slaughtered them, burned them, stabbed them, stoned them, and engaged in the most horrific acts of murder and maiming. And all that is somehow just a reflection of Jewish trauma.

On this, Ross Singer notes that "imagining the enemy as a Nazi is not limited to the Israeli side. ... I have heard countless claims by both Palestinians and sympathizers that Israel's treatment of Palestinians parallels Nazi treatment of Jews. I have heard that Zionism is Nazism."

This cancerous dehumanization Beinart blames on the Jews.

He parades his perverse immorality by claiming that:

Only Palestinian freedom — a precondition for true peace in Israel-Palestine — can make Jews whole. Palestinian liberation [is] integral to our own.

Essentially, Beinart cares more about Palestinians than he does about Jews. Paradoxically, if it were not for Zionism's diplomatic victory in getting the League of Nations to award the Jews the right to reconstitute their Jewish National Home predicated on their historic connection to the Land of Israel, including close settlement on the land, and create a Palestine Mandate, the Arabs living in that area would still be known today as Southern Syrians.

He blindly supports Yasser Arafat's former adviser, Knesset member Ahmed Tibi, and his vision as being "profoundly in line with the central principle aspects of Zionist political imagination." And he requires that Israel "would need consider the trimming of the Law of Return."

But already, on the other side, they are ridiculing him and proving that he still has a long way to go to placate them. As one pro-Palestine activist tweeted: His 1-state vision entails no decolonization or reparations. It's a last-ditch effort at averting radical struggle that happens outside of voting booths," adding "no redistribution of wealth or land." Another responded that Beinart was but another Jew "self-centering once again."

For Beinart, Yavne signifies that a phase of Jewish history had run its course. He now has reached his Yavne.

*Yisrael Medad is an American-born journalist and political commentator.*

the movement to abolish slavery. Hundreds of thousands of Americans gave their lives in the Civil War to accomplish liberation. And a century later, people of goodwill (including many Jews) worked to further that cause by fighting for civil rights for all citizens.

Reparations are a dead-end solution that won't fix social and economic problems in America. Those who invoke the Holocaust as part of their desire to right old wrongs are hurting the cause of racial equality more than helping it.

*Jonathan S. Tobin is editor in chief of JNS-Jewish News Syndicate. Follow him on Twitter @jonathans\_tobin.*

## Social.



Sarah Silverman. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

## Jewish Celebs Share Experiences With Antisemitism in ‘#Jewish-Privilege’ Push Back on Twitter

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

After antisemitic Twitter accounts began posting tweets on Sunday with the hashtag “JewishPrivilege,” comedian Sarah Silverman and other Jewish social media users pushed back by using the hashtag to share their experiences with Jew-hatred.

Far-right and white supremacist Twitter users posted the hashtag as they tweeted about Holocaust denial, claims of Israel committing genocide and conspiracy theories involving Jewish world domination and control of the media.

The UK-based Campaign Against Antisemitism (CAA) explained, “The idea that Jews are a ‘privileged’ group is a slur designed to deny that antisemitism exists and to imply that Jews are a cause of racism towards other minorities.”

The CAA said that when “challenged to take action against the hashtag, Twitter reportedly refused, saying that it did not breach its terms of service, which evidently permit the platform to be used for the dissemination of racist material.”

Not long after “#JewishPrivilege” went viral on Twitter, Jewish Twitter users flipped the hashtag and used it to tell their personal stories about facing antisemitism.

Silverman wrote on Sunday the following post:



She also said, “People like Jews when they’re suffering. Less comfortable with Jews if they’re thriving. ... tbh Jews basically feel the same... Pooh Pooh Pooh #JewishPrivilege.”

Former 2020 Democratic presidential candidate Marianne Williamson responded to Silverman’s post, saying: “It’s people emailing & tweeting to me that Jews need to be quiet now & that ‘that’s not just a suggestion’ or friends who don’t realize I’m Jewish making it clear how anti-Semitic they are or family members afraid to wear a Star of David in their own neighborhood.#JewishPrivilege.”

“Central Park” star Josh Gad tweeted about the family members his mother lost in the Holocaust.

*Guess we’re at the #JewishPrivilege part of 2020 because Neo-Nazis have a social platform. Where to start? Is it the privilege of my mom never getting to meet her grandparents because they were murdered or is it her parents being robbed of their childhoods by being put in camps?*

— Josh Gad (@joshgad) July 12, 2020

Television producer David Simon, best known as the creator of “The Wire,” wrote: “My #JewishPrivilege? Garden-variety stuff. Eleven dead relatives at Auschwitz and in the Russian woods and a father who was a hostage and suffered PTSD years after the Jewish non-profit where he worked was stormed by angry dudes with guns & scimitars who threatened to behead him.”

Former New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind — founder of Americans Against Antisemitism — wrote, “I had the #JewishPrivilege of growing up without grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins because my parents’ family were nearly entirely wiped out by Hitler.”

## De Niro Talks About Visiting Israel, Future of Filmmaking With Tel Aviv University Students

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

US actor Robert De Niro reminisced about his first trip to Israel and what lay ahead for the film industry during a webinar on Friday with Tel Aviv University students.

“The Irishman” star, 76, recalled visiting the Jewish state for the first time four decades ago. During that trip, he met and formed lifelong friendships with late Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and late President Ezer Weizman.

The Oscar winner’s most recent trip to Israel was



Robert De Niro during a webinar with Tel Aviv University students. Photo: Tel Aviv University.

in 2013 with one of his children for late President Shimon Peres’ 90th birthday celebration. The actor described Peres as “a great person, a great statesman.”

More than 2,000 participants — including students from TAU’s Steve Tisch School of Film and Television — took part in the webinar, which was part of an ongoing series of talks with major figures in the film and television industries as well as TAU experts in various fields.

The virtual conference was moderated by TAU graduate and former Israeli Consul in New York Ido Aharoni.

De Niro, whose film “The Irishman” was financed by Netflix and is streaming on the platform, also discussed whether he thought streaming services could signal the end of cinema, especially in light of current lockdowns and social-distancing restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic.

He said, “Streaming is good because you can tell a story in a much longer and detailed way. But I don’t know where we are going with it, especially with this COVID-19. There will always have to be theaters. You want to watch a movie with an audience. I do at times, especially a comedy or any movie that has something in it.”

He concluded the event with advice to TAU students: “Keep your own voice, specifically yours, as much as possible... Personalize your performance, along the lines of what is demanded of it. Follow your instincts.”

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