

Opinion.

ISRAEL
VERSUS
ANYONE?
A2.



Tradition.

THE
COVENANT
AND THE LOVE
A10.



700
MUSIC
EXECS
DISAVOW
HATE
A11.

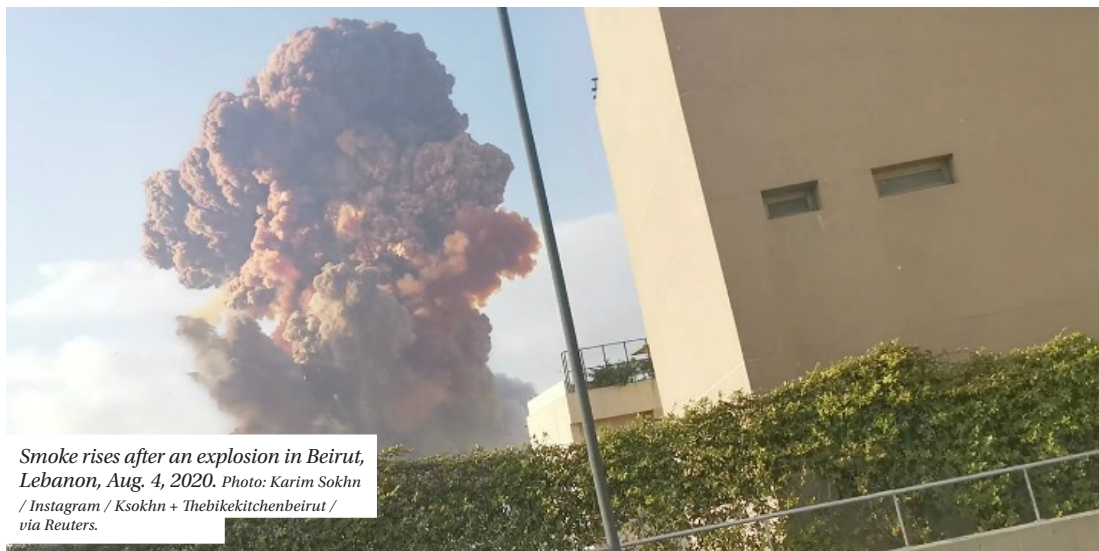
THE algemeiner JOURNAL

\$1.00 - PRINTED IN NEW YORK

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2020 | 17 AV 5780

VOL. XLVII NO. 2466

'Total Chaos' in Beirut After Massive Blast Rocks Lebanese Capital



Smoke rises after an explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, Aug. 4, 2020. Photo: Karim Sokhn / Instagram / Ksokhn + Thebiketikchenbeirut / via Reuters.

**BY REUTERS
& ALGEMEINER STAFF**

A huge explosion near the center of Beirut killed at least 10 people, injured hundreds and sent shock waves across the Lebanese capital, shattering windows and causing apartment balconies to collapse, witnesses and security sources said.

The most powerful explosion to

hit Beirut in years shook the ground, leaving some residents thinking an earthquake had struck. Dazed and weeping, some of them wounded, people walked through streets checking to see if relatives were hurt.

The blast occurred in the city's port area, where there were warehouses housing explosives, Lebanon's state news agency NNA and two security sources said. A third security source said there were chemicals stored in the area.

Footage of the blast shared by residents on social media showed a column of smoke rising from the port district followed by an enormous blast. Those filming what initially appeared to be a big blaze were thrown backwards by the shock of the explosion.

At least 10 bodies were taken to hospitals, a security source and a medical source told Reuters. The Lebanese Red Cross said

Continued on Page A3

Israeli Leaders Locked in Budget Battle as Economic Crisis Deepens

BY REUTERS & ALGEMEINER STAFF

A stand-off between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his main coalition partner over passage of Israel's budget threatens to trigger its fourth election in a little over a year amid an economic crisis fueled by the coronavirus outbreak.

A ballot is automatically mandated if a budget is not approved by parliament by Aug. 25. Analysts are concerned that a new election and likely protracted coalition talks afterwards would have a crippling impact on an economy already expected to contract 6% this year, with unemployment now



Israeli Alternate Prime Minister and Defense Minister Benny Gantz and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issue statements. Tel Aviv, July 27, 2020. Photo: Tal Shahar / Pool via Reuters.

above 21%. Such instability could also make prospects for any return to a long-dormant peace process with the Palestinians even more remote and complicate Netanyahu's bid to annex, with US approval, parts of the West Bank.

The budget is pivotal to a "unity" accord reached after an inconclusive March election. It calls for Defense Minister Benny Gantz of the centrist Blue and White party to take over as premier from right-wing Likud chief Netanyahu in 2021.

The power-sharing pact stipulated that Israel would pass a biannual budget but Netanyahu is now calling for a 2020

Continued on Page A3

The Judaism of Seth Rogan

page A8



ShabbatCalendar

Parshat EKEV
פרשת עקב

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
Shabbat Begins: 7:45pm | Shabbat Ends: 8:47pm



the **algemeiner**

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



Opinion.

Israel Versus Anyone: The Jewish State Is Not as Invulnerable as Believed

KENNETH S. BOWER
NEW YORK

Most published Middle Eastern military net assessments are based primarily on lists of units and equipment. Unfortunately, history proved that such lists are all too often incorrect. Even when they were correct, the overall assessments generally ignored the quality of personnel and/or equipment, as well as the extent to which rival defense systems could turn available financial, human, and material resources into actual military power.

Almost without exception, these earlier net assessments ignored the impact of the time required by all militaries to mobilize and deploy. This is particularly true for the major powers that were remote from the Middle East. These countries had to project their forces over intercontinental distances, which was, and is, a slow and difficult process.

The new study I have written contains no lists at all. Its assessments are based on historically proven combat data, which reflects the impact of human and technical quality on military combat effectiveness. The study first provides a summary of current Israeli military capability. Rather than simply providing figures, it provides a baseline for subsequent

comparisons of Israeli capability to the ability of remote countries to project military power into the region, or the threat posed by potential enemies. The first of these assessments discusses the ability of the US or Russia to project conventional military power into the Middle East, followed by threats posed by the Sunni Arab states and/or Turkey, and finally, Shiite Iran and its proxies.

The study's objective and fact-based assessments are often at odds with conventional wisdom.

First, it shows that, as compared to Israeli military capability, neither the US nor Russia can project meaningful conventional military power into the Middle East unless they are provided with both many months to mobilize and a lack of opposition during the long process of deployment. This conclusion implies that any US-proposed mutual defense treaty offered to Israel would be militarily meaningless. Moreover, the study shows that, over the long term, any such treaty would actually result in significantly diminished Israeli national security.

It is also demonstrated herein that Israel can defeat any attempt by Russia to militarily intervene against it.

The study assesses that a Sunni military threat, either with or without Turkey, could rapidly and unexpectedly emerge. The current combined military capability of the Sunni states is relatively limited compared to that

of Israel, but over the long term, Israel would likely prove unable to maintain the decisive technological superiority it now possesses versus the current Sunni militaries. In such a scenario, Israel's current exaggerated emphasis on combat with non-state light infantry, located within urban areas, under counter-insurgency rules of engagement, would combine to compromise its long-term ability to cope with a Sunni conventional combined arms threat that could arise in the future.

Israel can defeat Iran and its proxies at a relatively acceptable cost — but only if there is decisive Israeli political and military leadership, which is now lacking. If military power has to be used preemptively to neutralize the Iranian nuclear threat, Israel, acting unilaterally, is far more militarily capable than the US.

According to the study's assessment, Israel cannot convert to an American-style volunteer military based on active forces with relatively small, low-readiness reserves. Such a conversion would result in a significant loss of military capability that could ultimately put the state at existential risk.

The study provides a series of recommendations that would improve Israeli political-military leadership. The fundamental conclusion is that most Israelis, as well as their international supporters, have come to believe



The IDF's new 'Ghost Unit' conducts an exercise. Photo: IDF Spokesperson's Office.

decades of their own propaganda. They see weakness where the study sees strength. This compromises Israel's ability to effectively wage war and reach the compromises necessary to achieve peace with security. In the end, even if Israel somehow manages to achieve real peace with all its Muslim neighbors (which is doubtful), it will only remain secure if it is the sole nuclear-armed country in the Middle East. It will also have to maintain a decisive superiority in terms of conventional military power against any conceivable array of possible enemies.

Kenneth S. Bower is a naval architect and defense analyst specializing in the interaction of technology and tactics and the Middle Eastern military balance.

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

aj.com
THE

the Algemeiner Journal

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

Subscription rate \$40 per year

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

Periodicals Postage
Paid at Brooklyn, N.Y.
and at additional mailing offices

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

Let your voice be heard!
Letters@algemeiner.com

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

or call
718-771-0400

The Lonely, Angry Antisemite



BEN COHEN/
JNS.org

At high school, he made no friends and didn't belong to any clubs. He liked girls, but having a girlfriend was beyond his abilities. Academically, he was undistinguished, doing well in biology but failing in English. When it came to his free time, most of it was spent on the Internet. Once he graduated, he left home for a spell of military service. He lasted six months, dismissing the experience as "exhausting," "stupid," and "not a real army." From there, he enrolled as a student in a local college, but he quit that too after, as he put it, "falling ill."

For the last five years, he had done nothing at all. The day that ended with his name and awful deed inscribed in headlines across the world began with him as an unknown 27-year-old, unemployed and living at home with a mother whose doting couldn't quite quell the anger rising within him.

This is the portrait of Stephan Balliet — the German neo-Nazi who mounted an armed attack on a synagogue in the city of Halle last Yom Kippur — that has emerged from German media accounts of his trial, which began last week at the high court in Magdeburg.

Balliet's act, which he livestreamed over the Internet, shocked Germany and left its law-enforcement agencies heaving sighs of relief when it transpired that he failed to penetrate the synagogue's heavy doors that stood between the 51 worshippers inside the sanctuary and his bullets and grenades. But there was a death toll of innocents nonethe-

less: a 40-year-old female passerby who remonstrated with Balliet and a 20-year-old male customer at a Muslim-owned kebab restaurant targeted by Balliet after he sped away from the synagogue in his car. It is a macabre irony that neither of his victims were Jewish or Muslim.

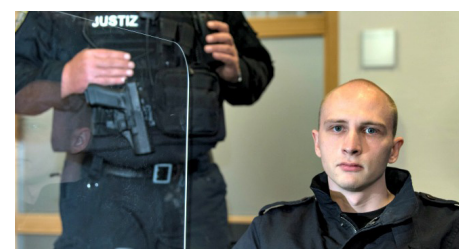
As horrifying as this attack was to outside observers, by the standards Balliet set for himself — his stated purpose was to kill as many Jews as possible — it was a colossal failure. "Balliet speaks of himself like a loser," noted the correspondent of Der Tagesspiegel on the trial's second day. And indeed, much of the reporting bolstered that impression as the details of Balliet's schooling, his home life, his record of antisemitic and racist utterances, and his conviction that "the Jews" were to blame for both Germany's systemic failure and his own deadbeat existence were unveiled in the courtroom.

But the proceedings also revealed another side to Balliet: haughty, cruel, and utterly without regret or remorse. When the video of his outrage that he livestreamed was replayed to the court, he grinned throughout like a Cheshire cat. When asked whether he would have slaughtered the children inside

the synagogue had he managed to penetrate the sanctuary, he readily answered in the affirmative. And when given the opportunity to explain his act, he embraced it: What mattered, he said, was that other lone white men considering similar atrocities should take heart from the attention garnered by his attack, just as he had taken heart from the massacre a few months earlier at a mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand by a white-supremacist shooter. (Not to mention the slaughter by another deranged lone-wolf white supremacist at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha congregation in October 2018.)

One question that arises from Balliet's trial is whether we will learn anything new about the intersection of political extremism with an individual's personal crisis, or whether, as the reporting thus far suggests, much of what we already know is being confirmed. "I have questioned a hundred people on the reasons for their antisemitism," wrote the French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre in 1946, sharing some of the various answers he received. A "young painter" told Sartre that Jews encouraged insubordination among domestic servants because of their "critical habits." A young woman told him that she had been continually cheated by furriers, all of whom were Jews. An actor insisted that he would have enjoyed a glittering career in the theater had the Jews not confined him to supporting roles. A former schoolmate complained that Jews were being favored by examiners, who deliberately gave them higher grades than non-Jews. And so it went on.

Similar prejudices about Jews persist today in America and Europe, alongside



Neo-Nazi Stephan Balliet on trial in Germany.
Photo: Reuters / Hendrik Schmidt.

Continued on Page A7

World News.

Antisemitism Is 'Front and Center' in Reactions to Pandemic, Expert Says

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

The global Jewish community is facing rising antisemitism due to the coronavirus pandemic, a senior Anti-Defamation League (ADL) says.

During a recent webinar titled "Anti-Semitism: Combatting the Other Global Pandemic," hosted by the American Society of the University of Haifa, ADL Senior Vice President of International Affairs Dr. Sharon S. Nazarian said, "As a vulnerable minority Jews feel sensitive to the rise of conspiracy theories — particularly in non-democratic governments which use scapegoating of minorities, and especially Jews, to deflect from their own failures."

"Governments that are not able to provide for their own citizens really use conspiracy theories as a mechanism for deflecting blame," she added.

Nazarian noted that in her conversations with Jewish communities in many countries, "one of the very common themes we saw were the economic anxieties people were expecting to happen."

"Jewish communities know that not only the pandemic itself, but the economic impact of a major slowdown like huge unemployment, what that historically rises to," she continued. "Usually, the front and center of the reaction is antisemitism."

Nazarian also addressed concerns about the Black Lives Matter movement, which has been accused of antisemitism and anti-Zionism.

"You have a big umbrella, with lots of organizations under it advocating for very similar issues and causes," she pointed out.

"We will call out antisemitism at ADL as we always have, at any instance where we see it," she pledged, "but as a civil rights organi-

zation with a long history of battling for civil rights, we stand shoulder to shoulder with the civil rights leaders of this country and all the people out demonstrating who really believe this is a moment of reckoning, and that we have to look at police brutality, and that we have to look at the racism that exists in the institutions in this country."

"When that narrative crosses the line and is hijacked into antisemitic or anti-Israel narrative, then we will call it out no questions asked," Nazarian said.

Turning to the much-discussed role of social media platforms in spreading antisemitism, Nazarian said that companies like Facebook must "come to terms with the fact that they have a role to play here and they have to be part of the solution."

"This is a moment of reckoning where these privately held companies have a responsibility just like any other sector, like the automobile industry and others, for the safety of their customers," she declared.

Commenting on a recent Haifa University and Institute for Counter Terrorism study that examined the platform TikTok, Nazarian said the company "targets very young people, and because access to this hate language and specifically antisemitic language is so readily available and the algorithms continue to provide you with more of it, I'm glad the attention has been brought onto TikTok through this study."

"I think it's the responsibility of parents to know as much as we can, what are our children are watching and experiencing, and also to explain to our children how those algorithms work — that even if you're not seeking it out, it will come to you," she stated. "It takes both sides, putting pressure on the platforms but also education."

Continued from Page A1
'Total Chaos'

hundreds of people were taken to hospitals for treatment. Lebanese President Michel Aoun called for an emergency meeting of the country's Supreme Defense Council, according to the presidency's Twitter account.

It was not immediately clear what caused the blaze that set off the blast or what kind of explosives were in the warehouses.

Lebanese Internal Security Chief Abbas Ibrahim, touring the port area, said he would not pre-empt investigations.

An Israeli official said Israel had nothing to do with the blast.

The governor of Beirut port told Sky News that a team of firefighters at the scene had "disappeared" after the explosion.

"I saw a fireball and smoke billowing over Beirut. People were screaming and running, bleeding. Balconies were blown off buildings. Glass in high-rise buildings shattered and fell to the street," said a Reuters witness.

Continued from Page A1
Budget Battle

budget instead. Gantz insists on sticking to the deal that was to be his insurance policy for a smooth transition of power.

Failure to resolve the dispute could provide Netanyahu with a quick way out of the deal with Gantz and enable him to remain prime minister through an election campaign, possibly as early as November or in March if a 2021 budget is not agreed.

Some analysts point to Netanyahu's corrup-

tion trial, which began in May, as a catalyst for the crisis. A snap ballot could lead to a delay in proceedings, and he could opt to pursue a law to block his prosecution if he wins another term.

"The whole issue is really mostly politics," said former Bank of Israel governor Karnit Flug. Uncertainty

Flug, now vice president of research at the Israel Democracy Institute, said a budget for only 2020 implied government instability, and "that really intensifies economic uncertainty."

Lebanon's health minister told Reuters there was a "very high number" of injured. Al Mayadeen TV said hundreds were wounded.

Another Reuters witness said she saw heavy gray smoke near the port area and then heard an explosion and saw flames and black smoke: "All the downtown area windows are smashed and there are wounded people walking around. It is total chaos."

UN spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters it was not immediately clear what the cause was, and that there was no indication of any injuries to any UN personnel.

"We do not have information about what has happened precisely, what has caused this, whether it's accidental or man-made act," he said.

The US Pentagon said: "We are aware of the explosion and are concerned for the potential loss of life due to such a massive explosion."

In Cyprus, an island lying west of Lebanon, residents reported two large bangs in quick succession. One resident of the capital Nicosia said his house shook, rattling shutters.

Economists said that with a 2020 budget effectively covering only the last quarter, at this late stage passing a separate one for 2021 made no sense.

Cedric Berry, associate director of sovereign ratings at Fitch Ratings, said any budget delay "would heighten concerns about Israel's ability to implement prudent fiscal policy and erode (its) track record of debt reduction." He said this could pressure Israel's ratings.

US Version of Iron Dome Air Defense System Nears Realization Following Raytheon, Rafael Deal



A battery of Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system. Photo: IDF.

BY UDI ETSION/CTech

Israeli defense contractor Rafael Advanced Defense Systems has signed a deal with US defense contractor Raytheon Missile & Defense Systems to set up a joint production facility for Iron Dome interceptors.

The production of the new partnership, called Raytheon RAFAEL Area Protection Systems, will take place in the US, with a site location to be finalized by the end of the year.

The new facility will produce both the Iron Dome Weapon System, which consists of the Tamir interceptor and launcher, and the SkyHunter missile, a US derivative of Tamir. Both Tamir and SkyHunter intercept incoming cruise missiles, unmanned aerial systems, and short-range targets such as rockets, artillery, mortars, and other aerial threats.

"We are excited about this new stage in our partnership with Raytheon and proud of our US production," said Brig. Gen. (res.) Pini Yungman, executive vice president for Air and Missile Defense of Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. "We have long partnered on US production of Iron Dome and are pleased to increase manufacturing and bring SkyHunter to the US."

The US defense establishment rarely purchases foreign weapon systems, but decided to acquire two Iron Dome air defense systems while it completes the development of its own solution. The systems, which were bought for \$373 million, are set to become

operational by the end of 2021. The cost of each Tamir interceptor is believed to be in the region of \$50,000, making it a relatively cheap interceptor and easier to sell abroad.

Around 50% of the components of the Iron Dome system are already being manufactured in the US before being assembled at Rafael's facility in Israel. This new venture is mainly meant to provide the US with the 240 interceptors it acquired with the two Iron Dome systems.

"This will be the first Iron Dome all-
round facility outside of Israel, and it will help the US Department of Defense and allies across the globe obtain the system for defense of their service members and critical infrastructure," said Raytheon Missiles & Defense Systems' Sam Deneke, vice president of Land Warfare & Air Defense business execution.

The new deal was announced as an Antonov An-225 Mriya, the heaviest aircraft ever built designed by the Soviet Union in the 1980s, landed on Monday at Ben-Gurion Airport with two Oshkosh trucks belonging to the US. These two trucks will be overhauled by Rafael so that they can provide logistical support for the US Iron Dome systems.

Iron Dome is the world's most-used air defense system with more than 2,500 operational intercepts and a success rate exceeding 90%. It has been extensively used by the IDF, protecting communities across Israel from hundreds of rockets fired by terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli leaders prone to taking populist moves leading to a loss in market confidence, a rise in risk premium and damage to credit ratings.

Amid a second wave of COVID-19 infections, public trust in Netanyahu's handling of the crisis has plummeted. Thousands of Israelis have taken to the streets, demanding his resignation over the graft charges, which he denies.

But opinion polls predict a weak showing for Gantz in any new ballot, with Netanyahu still backed by a large bloc in parliament.

Denying he is pushing for an election, Netanyahu argues that an annual budget would allow the government to stream money immediately to battle the coronavirus and that a longer-term budget would include spending cuts.

Gantz dismissed that as a "fairytale" in an interview with the Ynet website on Tuesday, saying Israel needed a long-term fiscal plan for economic and political stability.

World News.



A damaged vehicle is seen at the site of an explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, Aug. 4, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Mohamed Azakir.

Israel Extends Humanitarian Aid Offer to Lebanon After Devastating Beirut Blast

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Israel quickly offered humanitarian relief to Lebanon on Tuesday, following the devastating blast in Beirut in which dozens of people were killed and thousands more injured.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry tweeted, "At the direction of FM @Gabi_Ashkenazi and Defense Min. Gantz, Israel via security and international channels has offered humanitarian medical assistance to the government of Lebanon."

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin declared on Twitter: "We share the pain of the Lebanese people and sincerely reach out to offer our aid at this difficult time."

The Israel Defense Forces tweeted, "This is the time to transcend conflict."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his national security adviser, Meir Ben-Shabbat, to find out how the Jewish state could be of help to its neighbor to the north.

The cause of the massive explosion in Beirut's port area has yet to be definitely determined.

Ammonium nitrate stored at the port was being looked at as a potential source of the blast.

Rescue workers were still pulling bodies out of the wreckage as night fell on Tuesday.

Report: 2.6 Million Israelis Do Not Have Adequate Protection From Rocket Fire

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

A total of 2.6 million Israelis — approximately 28% of the population — do not have access to adequate protection from rocket fire, according to a new State Comptroller's report.

The report, published on Monday, found that Israel was facing a serious aerial defense challenge, with several hundred thousand projectiles in the hands of its enemies, and it noted that between 2000-2019 there had been 21,000 rockets and mortars fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip alone.

One major vulnerability was "vital facilities," only a small number of which have the proper aerial defense measures in place. The Defense Ministry was singled out for criticism on this issue.



Under the guidance of the @Israel_MOD and @IsraelMFA, Israel has offered to send humanitarian & medical assistance to Lebanon via security and international channels.

This is the time to transcend conflict.



3:37 PM - Aug 4, 2020

with reports of severe damage to nearby buildings and roads.

One eyewitness described vividly how the explosion was felt in every corner of the Lebanese capital.

"Actually we were shocked because usually when it happens, just one area will experience those happenings after an explosion, but this time it was all of Beirut, even areas outside of Beirut," Hadi Nasrallah, a resident of the city, told the BBC.

The report also severely criticized the current plan for evacuating the civilian population from border areas in the event of a conflict, characterizing it as deeply flawed and difficult to implement.

The IDF stated in response to the report, "The significant gap that emerges in the report concerns government decisions that have not yet been implemented."

It added that a plan for the defense of northern Israel was already in its initial stages, during which the IDF would survey communities up to a kilometer from the border and assess their security and defense requirements.

This information would then be used "to provide a defense solution for the communities who require it in this sector," the army said.

Israeli Team Wins International Mathematics Competition for University Students

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Israel's national student team has won the International Mathematics Competition for University Students, Tel Aviv University announced on Tuesday.

The global competition involving 546 students from 96 universities took place online this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, and the Israeli team came in first for team rankings. It also made the top ten for personal rankings.

During the competition, the participants answered questions on Algebra, Analysis (Real and Complex), Geometry, and Combinatorics. The answers were evaluated by team leaders and academics under the direction of the competition's jury.

The Israeli team was composed of five students from Tel Aviv University and one from Bar-Ilan University. The team was coached by Dan Carmon and Lev Radzivilovsky of the School of Mathematical Sciences at Tel Aviv University.

Student Shvo Regavim said of his team's victory, "It feels great. The competition was hard, we were short on time, trying to answer all the questions, and I'm glad we achieved all the goals we set for ourselves."

"On a personal level, this victory is a major achievement, but I mostly enjoyed the challenge of solving high-level mathematical exercises," he added.



A view of the Tel Aviv University campus. Photo: Ido Perelmutter via Wikimedia Commons.

Eilan Solan of Tel Aviv University, who supervised the team, commented, "I'm proud of our excellent students that brought great honor to the country and to the university."

"The Israeli students were competing against the best young minds in the world, and showed impressive mathematical knowledge, along with creativity and improvisation skills, which allowed them to solve very complex equations under restricting time limits and in a competitive environment," he noted. "I'm sure that those talented students will lead the Israeli market and academia to many achievements."

Carmon called the competition "hard and challenging," adding, "Our students successfully competed against very skilled and strong students from around the world."

"Making the competition online forced us all to make the needed adjustments," he said. "The Israeli team showed very high skills and I'm proud of the students and their impressive achievement."

Israeli Chemistry Students Win Gold, Silver and Bronze at 52nd Olympiad

BY JNS.org

A member of the Israeli delegation to the 52nd International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO), held this year in Istanbul, became the first Israeli competitor in a decade to win a gold medal at the prestigious event.

Israel's young chemistry whizzes competed against 240 youths from 60 nations, including Iran and Syria. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, this year's IChO was held via Zoom.

Roi Peer, 18, of Gan Haim scored a total of 90.35, qualifying him for the gold medal. He finished 26th in the competition rankings.

Prior to the competition, he said, "Last year, I won a silver medal, and I won bronze the year before that. It's been a weird year

because of coronavirus, mostly because the competition will take place on Zoom, and that kind of lowers your motivation."

After securing a gold medal, he said, "When they called my name, it was exciting. After three years in the competition, I found that the work paid off."

Peer's teammates, Ron Shprints and Bar Sheffer, both earned silver medals, with scores of 83.31 and 81.80, respectively.

Team member Ward Yahya of Taibe scored 62.05, earning a bronze medal.

The Education Ministry and the Maimonides Fund's Future Scientists Center oversaw the team's training. Education Minister Yoav Gallant congratulated the team, saying "We will support training for Israeli teams in scientific fields in 2021, as well."

World's Largest Plane Lands in Israel, With US Military Trucks to Be Fitted With Iron Dome

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

The world's largest plane — the Antonov An-225 Mriya — landed at Israel's Ben-Gurion International Airport on Monday, delivering a

cargo of American military "Oshkosh" trucks that were to be fitted with a pair of Iron Dome aerial defense batteries purchased by the US Army.

The one-of-a-kind aircraft — built in the 1980s by the Soviet Union — previously visited Israel in 2008.

U.S. News.

Pelosi Gives \$14,000 to Omar's Re-Election Campaign

BY JNS.org

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) has donated \$14,000 to the re-election campaign of Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) in Minnesota's 5th Congressional District, according to Federal Election Commission records released on Thursday.

Pelosi gave \$10,000 from her political action committee and another \$4,000 from her campaign committee to Omar on July 22, a week after Pelosi endorsed Omar's re-election campaign.

Omar will face four opponents in her district's Aug. 11 Democratic primary. Her top opponent, Antone Melton-Meaux, outraised Omar between April and June with \$3.3 million to Omar's \$470,000.

Melton-Meaux spent more than \$1.7 million during the first few weeks of July, while Omar spent \$784,000 during that period—leaving the former with \$695,000 on hand to Omar's \$732,000.

Omar has perpetuated antisemitic tropes on Twitter and introduced a resolution in Congress that promotes

boycotts of Israel, likening them to boycotts of Nazi Germany.

In February 2019, a month after being sworn in, Omar accused AIPAC of paying members of Congress to back Israel, saying it was "all about the Benjamins."

The following month, she pointed fingers at her "Jewish colleagues" for attacking her. She slammed her critics regarding "the political influence in this country that says it is OK to push for allegiance to a foreign country."

This led to the passing of a House resolution condemning antisemitism and other forms of hatred that did not call out Omar by name.

In response to Omar's dual-loyalty accusation, Pelosi said at the time, "I don't think our colleague is antisemitic. I think she



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi wears a face mask to protect from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Washington, US, May 19, 2020. Photo: REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque/File Photo.

has a different experience in the use of words [and] doesn't understand that some of them are fraught with meaning."

US Ambassador to Holland Visits Cemetery That Includes Graves of Waffen-SS

BY JNS.org

US Ambassador to Holland Pete Hoekstra visited a Dutch cemetery on Thursday where Nazis are buried.

"Walked among the graves at Ysselsteyn, a cemetery for German soldiers from WWI & WWII. A terrible reminder of the cost of going to war and why we must always work towards peace," he tweeted.


Buried at the cemetery are many members of the Waffen-SS, a military branch of the Nazi Party that killed Jews during the Holocaust.

It is unknown whether or not Hoekstra knew about the Nazi graves at the cemetery.

A US State Department spokesperson told JNS on Monday that "Ambassador Hoekstra and his team at the US embassy have made it their priority to honor and remember those who liberated the Netherlands from Nazi occupation 75 years ago," and that he "visited the German Military Cemetery in Ysselsteyn to see another of the many historical sites related to the liberation."

The spokesperson added that "Hoekstra is not the first US official to visit the cemetery and no new precedent was set by his visit. Officials from Canada, France, Israel, Poland, UK, the Netherlands and the United States have all participated in formal events at the cemetery."

Before becoming Washington's ambassador to Amsterdam in January 2018, Hoekstra, who was born in Holland, served in Congress, representing Michigan's 2nd Congressional District. He ran unsuccessfully for the US Senate and governor of Michigan in 2010 and 2012, respectively.

 **Ambassador Pete Hoekstra** @usambnl

Walked among the graves at Ysselsteyn, a cemetery for German soldiers from WWI & WWII. A terrible reminder of the cost of going to war and why we must always work towards peace.



Ysselsteyn German war cemetery in Holland. Photo: Alex Hoekerd/Flickr.

WARNING



Your bottled water may have some dirty secrets...

While promoting an image of health and vitality, bottled water companies burn millions of barrels of oil and generate millions of tons of greenhouse gases in the manufacturing, processing and transporting of their products. To top it off, an estimated 38 Billion bottles non-biodegradable plastic water bottles are tossed into our landfills annually!

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


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

as low as
\$19.95
monthly
with coupon code

enter coupon code
SAVESONOW
and save up to 50%
offer expires April 15, 2012




4-step Purification Process



A Pre-Sediment & Carbon Filter
 B Carbon Filter
C Fine Micron Membrane
 D Ultra Fine Membrane

Benefits

- ✓ **Cost Affective**
- ✗ **NO Plastic Bottles**
- ✗ **NO Heavy Lifting**
- ✗ **Never Run Out of Pure Water**
- ✗ **NO Storage – Clutter**
- ✓ **GO GREEN!**



Opinion.

Celebrity Antisemites Can't Be Absolved Through Private Apologies



SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

Recently, Mort Klein of the ZOA engaged Ice Cube in a two-hour conversation that was treated as an act of absolution for the antisemitic rapper. Mort was convinced, according to *JTA*, that “the rapper was not antisemitic.”

According to *JTA*, Ice Cube has “drawn widespread condemnation after repeatedly tweeting antisemitic images and support for Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who has disparaged Jews over the years, including comparing them to termites.”

I’m sure that Mort’s intentions were noble, and I do not question whether we in the Jewish community should be doing outreach to those whose hatred might be reversed. But I am increasingly disturbed at the growing number of celebrities granted clemency for public racism, antisemitism, and bigotry through private conversations rather than public penance.

If Ice Cube wants to repudiate his long history of antisemitism, he must do it in the forum where that Jew-hatred was uttered: in public.

Recently, influential rapper and producer

Jay Electronica told his nearly 400,000 followers on Twitter that Jews are “imposters” and black people are the “true children of Israel.” He also described the Simon Wiesenthal Center’s Rabbi Abraham Cooper as a “DEVIL” before capping-off his nearly all-caps tirade with “#SynagogueOfSatan.”

Jay Electronica has recorded songs with Chance the Rapper and Travis Scott, and his most recent album features Jay-Z on eight of its ten tracks. The album offended some with its sickening rhyme: “And I bet you a Rothschild I get a bang for my dollar / The Synagogue of Satan want me to hang by my collar...” The Jew-hatred was balanced out by the album’s non-stop Jewish biblical imagery — including references to Moses, Ezekiel, and even the rapper’s claim that it was “recorded over 40 days and 40 nights.”

Jay Electronica now joins a squad of leading cultural figures waging a concerted campaign to hijack Jewish nationhood, giving whole new meaning to the words “identity theft.”

A-List rapper Wiley told his 940,000 followers on Instagram and Twitter that Jews were “snakes,” “cowards,” at “war” with black people, responsible for the slave trade — and even suggested we deserve to be shot.

NFL player DeSean Jackson — with a million followers on Instagram — claimed to be of “the real Children of Israel,” and called

on black Americans to foil white Jews’ “plan for world domination.” To back up his claim, Jackson posted a fake quote attributed to Adolf Hitler. Yet former NBA star Stephen Jackson rose to DeSean’s defense on Instagram, saying, “The Jews are the richest. You know who the Rothschilds are? ... They control all the banks. They own all the banks.”

Pop-icon Nick Cannon also repeated the “true Jew” claim in an antisemitic podcast discussion that he aired himself. Interviewing “Professor Griff” Griffin — ejected from the rap group Public Enemy after blaming Jews for “the majority of wickedness that goes on across the globe” — Cannon went on to explain, “You can’t be antisemitic when we are the Semitic people.” Griffin, in turn, blamed his misfortunes on the villainous “Cohens and the Moskowitzes” who control everything. Cannon later gave the lip service of a public apology.

Most of this “true-Jew” talk spews from the sewer that is the mind of Louis Farrakhan, arguably the most high-profile antisemite in the United States. Having popularized the “Synagogue of Satan” slur, he calls Jews “termites” and claims we are guilty of countless sins.

Heroic voices like NBA greats Charles Barkley and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar weighed in, along with Stephen A. Smith and Michael Wilbon, to condemn the remarks, and Pittsburgh Steeler Zach Banner posted a series



Ice Cube in 2012. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

of video messages supporting the Jewish community.

But most of this Jew-hatred has gone unnoticed and unpunished.

DeSean Jackson was given clemency after posting a forgettable apology addressed insultingly to his Jewish managers and team-owner, and only then the general community of Jews. Cannon was ousted by Viacom, but managed to stay on the air with Fox, where he still hosts *The Masked Singer*. He also won a few high-profile defenders, including Sean “Diddy” Combs, who publicly offered Cannon a new job on his own station. Rabbi Cooper himself appeared on Cannon’s podcast to discuss antisemitism.

Instead of rushing into dialogues and granting errant clemency, we should demand public penance and repudiation of vile antisemitic words.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, “America’s Rabbi,” whom *The Washington Post* calls “the most famous Rabbi in America,” is the author of *The Israel Warrior*, *Judaism for Everyone*, and *Renewal: The Seven Central Values of the Jewish Faith*. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @RabbiShmuley.

Netanyahu Responded to COVID Much Better Than Trump, but Still Faces Challenges



JONATHAN S. TOBIN
JNS.org

Only a few months ago, the coronavirus pandemic seemed to illustrate the vast differences in management skills between President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The former was slow to react to the problem and, for the most part, reluctant to take drastic measures to cope with the spread of a deadly disease that proved to be the greatest challenge of his presidency. By contrast, the latter was in his element as the man to trust in an emergency. Netanyahu is an experienced crisis manager, schooled by many years in charge of a government that is always one step away from a war footing. While Trump was at his worst, the prime minister seemed to be at his best in guiding the Jewish state through the pandemic.

In April, his leadership skills helped him survive Israel’s third election in a year and induced his leading opponent, Blue and White Party leader Benny Gantz, to throw in the towel and join him in a coalition government whose creation seemed to justify his followers’ ritual sycophantic chatter about Netanyahu as a political wizard.

Only four months later, that moment of triumph seems like a very long time ago.

Netanyahu’s widely supported decision in May to allow the country to ease off the drastic lockdown policy that had allowed Israel to escape the worst effects of the pandemic is now seen as a terrible blunder. Infection rates soared; as a result, the prime minister’s image was transformed from that of a COVID hero to just another bumbling politician who was over his head in dealing with a problem he didn’t quite understand.

Is that fair? Not entirely.

The eagerness with which most of the Israeli media seized on the bad pandemic news as proof of the prime minister’s incompetence was dictated more by partisanship than anything else. And the protesters who turned out to demonstrate outside his official residence to demand his resignation were likely the same people who had worked for his defeat in three elections rather than being disillusioned former supporters.

Of course, that’s what happens when you’re the man in charge. He got the credit for everything that went right. But that means he also has to shoulder the blame for all the things that went wrong on his watch, even if they weren’t all his fault, and it’s likely that no one else would have handled things any better.

That’s the problem with being in power during a catastrophe. While incumbency is

usually a huge political advantage, it is very much a disadvantage when the country is going to hell in a handbasket, as is currently the case with both the United States and Israel.

Trump undermined confidence in his leadership by downplaying the pandemic and second-guessing those who urged the implementation of more drastic measures. If he loses his bid for reelection, it will primarily be due to the fact that the virus lockdowns tanked the booming US economy and set the stage for the summer’s chaos on the streets of American cities even if it’s not clear any Democratic president would have done any better.

That said, Israel’s death toll — now at nearly 550 — and the number of infected at about 75,000 remain comparatively small compared to most other countries, making it one of the safer places in the world in terms of contracting and recovering from COVID-19.

In Netanyahu’s case, the turnaround is particularly frustrating because it illustrates the cost of the prime minister’s obsessive focus on thwarting potential rivals, even if they might have helped him. The recent rise in the polls of the Yamina Party, which stands to the right of Netanyahu’s Likud, is instructive. Its leader, Naftali Bennett, did a good job in dealing with the pandemic during his short-lived tenure as defense minister prior to the coalition deal with Gantz. But Netanyahu wanted both Bennett and former Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked out of the government despite their talent and appeal because he sees them as would-be successors he wished to derail.

After the first of the three elections in April 2019, Netanyahu and his loyalists rejoiced when Yamina was knocked out of the Knesset. But it rebounded in the latter two votes. In April of this year, Bennett and Shaked had the good sense to stay out of the Likud-Blue and White coalition, and retained their independence. They have now been

rewarded for that decision by doubling their support since the last election while Likud has lost ground.

Bennett can also point to the fact that the pandemic policies belatedly adopted by Netanyahu are what he has been calling for all along. That is encouraging some to proclaim him a possible replacement for Netanyahu on the inevitable day when either the judges in his corruption trial, the voters, or providence ends his long reign as prime minister.

That may be unlikely, though it’s enough to give pause to those in the Likud who have been thinking about provoking a fourth round of elections as a way to avoid Netanyahu having to keep his word about allowing Gantz to replace him in the top job. And it’s a reminder to Israelis that Netanyahu’s efforts to ensure that his party had nothing but a pack of mediocrities waiting to replace him — so as to forestall any realistic challenge to his authority — remains a mistake.

Netanyahu’s admirers can claim that he will dig himself out of this hole as he has done so many times before. They may be right. But the prime minister’s inability to outfox a virus the same way he has his political opponents may also be a sign that belief in his political immortality will sooner or later be exposed as hubris.

In the meantime, efforts to dismiss his critics as incorrigible leftists and electoral sore losers — and many of them are both of those things — won’t be as effective as in the past. That will remain true if Israelis are, like Americans, focused solely on their pandemic misery that Netanyahu is helpless to alleviate. As long as the security situation, including the danger of a war with Hezbollah and Iran in the north, remains on the back burner, Netanyahu’s summer of political woe will continue.

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

Opinion.

The Fading Memory of Soleimani Exposes Iran's Sclerotic Regime



HILLEL FRISCH
JNS.org

The extent to which Qassem Soleimani's spectacular demise at the hands of the Americans affected Iran's ability to harm the US and its allies is debatable.

What is abundantly clear, however, is that his memory is fading fast within Iran despite the regime's efforts to maintain it.

An analysis of the contours of Soleimani's memory reveals that most of the Iranian population is interested in neither his killing nor his "revolutionary" legacy.

Soleimani was head of the Quds Force, Iran's most powerful weapon, and the mastermind of the regime's agenda to export its revolution and create a Shiite crescent of proxy militias in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Lebanon. His fast-diminishing memory is an indication that Iran's population does not support these policies, and probably does not support the regime behind them.

These inferences are drawn from an analysis of Google Trends, which records online search terms. Searches on Google reflect the degree of public interest in the terms or personalities being searched.

By far the greatest indication of Soleimani's lack of popularity, dead or alive, is the relatively low level of interest he evokes inside Iran versus the arenas where he operated. Just over six months after his killing, his biography was searched 50 times more often (relative to the population) in Lebanon than in Iran, and nearly 100 times more often in Bahrain, where the Shiite majority chafes under a Sunni minority regime backed to the hilt by Iran's arch-rival, Saudi Arabia.

But this does not only reflect paltry identification with Soleimani in Iran as a whole. The pattern of searches within Iran is problematic to the regime. The largest number of searches inside the country took place, unsurprisingly, in Kerman province, where Soleimani was born and raised. But searches for him in Tehran province — the political, economic, and demographic heart of the country — were only one-eighth the number of searches in Kerman relative to the population.

The same pattern holds true for other personalities and terms venerated by the Iranian regime, such as the Ayatollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic; his successor Khamenei; and revolutionary terms like "vilayat el-feqih" (the "rule of the Supreme Spiritual Leader," a key concept behind the Iranian theocracy). The inhabitants of Tehran appear to have little interest in these personalities, their ideological concepts, or their grand scheme of exporting the revolution and exerting Iranian domination, which was Soleimani's domain.

Even where Soleimani and the Quds Force operated with their local proxies, an analysis of the pattern of Internet searches



Iranians take part in a funeral procession for the late Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Tehran, Jan. 6, 2020. Photo: Nazanin Tabatabaee / WANA (West Asia News Agency) via Reuters.

shows support in the wrong places. In Lebanon, a clear positive correlation exists between the relative number of searches for Soleimani and the preponderance of Shiites in one of Lebanon's six provinces. Soleimani evokes the least interest in the almost exclusively Sunni northern province of Tripoli and the highest in Nabatiyeh, in southeast Lebanon, where Shiites form a sizeable majority.

There is, however, one major exception to this correlation: Beirut. In sparsely populated Nabatiyeh, Hezbollah's real stronghold, searches for Soleimani are at least 20 times higher relative to the size of the population than in Beirut, which includes the Dahiya agglomeration of Shiite neighborhoods in the southern part of the city. Dahiya is home to Hezbollah headquarters and contains the bunker where its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, resides.

Media sites usually add the phrase "Hezbollah stronghold" to designate this area. Shiites represent more than 60% of Dahiya's population. But how much support do those Shiites really give to Hezbollah? Google records relatively few searches there for Soleimani, Nasrallah's close ally.

This finding jibes with my searches for Hezbollah "martyrs," which I performed to determine from where Hezbollah recruits its fighters. I found (albeit from a very small sample due to Hezbollah censorship) that the organization recruits mostly from the periphery — the Lebanese south and Nabatiyeh — and only marginally from Dahiya, where the overwhelming percentage of Lebanese Shiites live.

In the periphery, where there are no jobs except for those paid for through Iranian largesse, young people are more easily recruited. In Beirut, where there are other ways to make a living besides fighting Bashar al-Assad's battles, Shiite youth look elsewhere.

These patterns add up to a much larger picture. Iran, over 40 years after the revolution, is going the way of the Soviet elite: it is exerting violent force wherever it can, but its legitimacy is hanging by a thread and still declining. Just as the Soviet Union projected power abroad only to lose the home front, so have the Iranian ayatollahs succeeded in giving the impression at least of growing regional power while their support declines at home.

Professor Hillel Frisch is a professor of political studies and Middle East studies at Bar-Ilan University and a senior research associate at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies.

A version of this article was originally published by The Jerusalem Post and the BESA Center.

will admit to doing so, and of those who do, very few are going to engage in the acts of deadly violence witnessed in Pittsburgh and in Halle. It is only on the basis of this last

Israel and India: Partners Against COVID-19

YAAKOV LAPPIN/
JNS.org



The Israeli delegation preparing to fly to India to develop breakthroughs in coronavirus testing. Photo: Israeli Defense Ministry.

An Israeli delegation organized by the Defense Ministry, consisting of 20 specialists, is in India working with counterparts to further develop four potentially groundbreaking Israeli innovations for the rapid detection of the coronavirus.

Faster detection enables governments and health authorities to enable a greater degree of economic activity, and testing kits found to be ready for use could be placed at the entrances of sites such as airports and shopping centers.

Among the technologies being tested is a test that uses artificial intelligence to analyze the voice, and identify changes and deteriorations in the condition of one's respiratory system. A second technology brought to India is a breathalyzer test based on the use of terahertz waves. The patient must breathe into a sterile sampling kit, after which the sample is analyzed using artificial intelligence for rapid virus detection.

A third innovation is an isothermal testing kit — a biochemical test that detects the detection of the virus in a saliva sample. A chemical reaction that takes place once the content is heated at about 60 degrees Celsius enables detection within 30 minutes.

Lastly, a test kit was brought to India that uses polyamino acids. It detects coronavirus proteins collected in a saliva sample within several minutes.

The delegation, led by Israeli Ambassador to India Ron Malka, includes representatives from the Defense Ministry, the Israel Defense Forces, the Ministry of Health, and various industries. It includes Israel's defense attaché to India, Col. Assaf Meller, and the medical personnel are being led by professor Nati Keller, an infectious diseases specialist from Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer.

"All four of the innovations have been chosen for further testing because they're considered to be more mature technology," a defense source told JNS in recent days. "They've already undergone testing here in Israel. In India, a massive scale of testing can be done. The delegation will work with our partners in the Indian Office of the Principle Scientific Advisor."

Last Sunday, the delegation took off from Ben Gurion International Airport on two separate Israir flights, and landed in Delhi on Monday morning.

In a statement, the Israeli Defense Ministry said "the cooperation between Israel and India will enable the delegation

observation that faith in tolerance education — teaching our children from an early age that differences should not be cause for enmity among humans — becomes possible. But by the same token, we know that there are those, like Balliet, who reject these notions as a modern form of Jews poisoning wells, and who are perversely reinforced in their worldviews when they encounter Jews (or those they perceive as Jews) speaking about the Holocaust, or the evils of racism, or the difficulties faced by immigrants in their host societies. No conventional form of education is going to work in these cases.

If we have learned anything from Balliet's trial so far, it is that we should assume that

and its Indian counterparts, to collect tens of thousands of samples in a short period of time, and to analyze them using computer systems based on artificial intelligence. This massive sampling will shorten processes and advance the approval of effective technology. It should be noted that all of the necessary Israeli and Indian approvals were acquired ahead of this joint activity.

Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi said in a statement that "since the start of the global pandemic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working to advance international cooperation and mutual assistance. I see great importance in the cooperation with India in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. This operation conveys a message of friendship and solidarity with India. It also provides a unique opportunity for scientific and technological cooperation that can assist Israel, India and the world in coping both with the pandemic and with the economic crisis that came with it."

Earlier this week, Dani Gold, head of the Directorate of Defense Research and Development, told reporters on a conference call that Israel and India are working together to gain control of the pandemic, and that one of the ways to achieve this is through a new generation of rapid testing. "PCR tests take too long to control the disease. We want to open economies in certain areas. We are trying to use new technology for fast testing that will take between seconds to minute. We aim for less than a minute."

The cooperation between Israel and India will enable the delegation, and its Indian counterparts, to collect tens of thousands of samples in just 10 days and analyze them using computer systems based on artificial intelligence. This massive sampling will shorten processes and advance the approval of effective technology. All tests will be validated using PCR tests, added the Defense Ministry.

"In recent years, Israel-India relations have developed into a strategic partnership and since the beginning of the corona crisis, the two countries have agreed to provide mutual assistance and to cooperate in areas of research," the ministry noted. "For the purpose of this specific activity, the government of India has designated a local team of around 100 professionals, as well as a team dedicated to the construction of testing sites that will be operated jointly by the Israeli and Indian delegations."

such attacks are always a possibility, in good times and in bad, and that our resources are best invested in preventing them. When it came to the synagogue in Halle on Yom Kippur last year, that challenge was as basic as stationing a police car outside the building — a measure that was, incredibly, not taken by the authorities in that city, despite the fact that it was Judaism's holiest and therefore busiest day. The analysis of the lonely pathology that Balliet represents will continue, as it must, but it has taken more than enough lives already.

Ben Cohen is a New York City-based journalist and author who writes a weekly column on Jewish and international affairs for JNS.

Continued from Page A2
Lonely, Angry

newer tropes about Zionism or Israel. However, not everyone who believes them

Impressions.

What Does Judaism Have to Offer Seth Rogen?

BY MARC ERLBAUM

Seth Rogen doesn't owe you anything. Rogen is Jewish, but he never claimed to be a spokesman for the Jewish people. He is an actor and entertainer. Why do we expect celebrities to represent us or promote our beliefs or causes? They can be hired to do so, but as far as I know, no one is paying Rogen to be their spokesman, and no one is writing him a script to read for the cameras. He is entitled to his beliefs and opinions, and you are entitled to disagree with him.

One of the many things Rogen said about Jews and Judaism on Marc Maron's *WTF* podcast recently was that he is afraid of Jews. Based on some of the responses to his remarks, it's hard to blame him.

The censure from more conservative quarters of the Jewish world has been swift and severe. There are those who have essentially branded him a traitor. What did Rogen do to earn such furor and condemnation? He voiced his apathy, and even antipathy, toward Israel. And he expressed his disinterest in Judaism, with the declaration that religion is "silly," and the assertion that he doesn't care that his wife is Jewish even though she wishes he did.

Admittedly, these are mortal sins in the world of Jewish advocacy. There are those who are angry that Rogen is not more positive about his Jewish identity. There are those who contest that as a high-profile celebrity with a large megaphone and a wide audience, he should be more educated on the subject of Jewish history and more sensitive to the influence he will have on the millions of young Jews who will be exposed to his words. But though they might wish that Rogen thought or felt differently, why should they assume he would? What has Judaism done for Rogen or other young Jews other than brand them with a target and laden them with something that they must defend, which they never chose and never understood?

What benefits has Judaism bestowed on young diaspora Jews that assure their devotion and allegiance? What have they learned of Judaism that merits defending? The primary lessons that Rogen seems to have gleaned from his Jewish experience and education are a) that everyone hates Jews, b) that every Jew has a funny uncle, c) that Jews today are "soft," and d) that Jewish summer camp is a breeding ground for young Jews to cohabit and replicate.

Is there something that Judaism provides someone like Rogen who is living the "American Dream?" Does it have anything to offer millions of young Jews who may not have attained Rogen's level of success but who believe that his fame and fortune are the summit of human accomplishment?

One of the most telling things about the *WTF* interview to me was toward the very end, when Maron asked Rogen if he and his wife were planning to have kids. Rogen said they're not, and Maron asked why. Rogen mentioned the absurdity of bringing children into a world so dysfunctional, but he also concluded that his carefree life is good and children can be quite a burden. "So they would cut in on your you-time?" Maron asked. "Exactly," Rogen responded, agreeing that they would.

In an interview several months ago with Jimmy Kimmel, Rogen made a similar point. Discussing his experience dealing with quarantine, he explained how he has actually enjoyed himself at home, smoking a "truly ungodly" amount of weed and spinning pottery.

"The fact that I have no kids is making this truly not that bad," he asserted. In both interviews, he commented that he may regret the decision to go childless in his later days when he is alone, but that loneliness would be worth all of the carefree me-time that he was able to enjoy now.

While others are devoting plenty of ink to the issue of Rogen's animus toward Israel, and by extension the trend in this direction for many young diaspora Jews, it may be worth focusing for a moment on this larger issue of Judaism's relevance to a generation that a) has been raised on values that are very different from those expressed in Torah, and b) has never really been exposed to the beautiful and truly radical ideas that Torah presents.

In other words, it may well be that the Judaism that Rogen deems "silly" is silly indeed, but it is not, in fact, Judaism at all. A stripped down and secularized version of Jewish practice and tradition which maintains rules but abandons all depth and spirituality is certainly no competition for a free and self-gratifying lifestyle that includes "ungodly" amounts of weed, entertainment, and personal liberty.

The "New World" offered Jewish immigrants an escape from not only violent persecution of antisemitic hordes, but also from the strictures of what was often an oppressive religious orthodoxy that stressed compliance over personal joy and self-actualization. The justifiable move away from self-denial and toward personal development eventually evolved, several generations down the line, into the culture that we inhabit today, which stresses immediate gratification and zealous self-concern.

This is not a judgment or condemnation of millennial Jews, but rather a recognition of their circumstances and an understanding of how we got here. The responsible next step, then, is not to denounce or excommunicate, but to ask ourselves what it is that Judaism truly has to offer, and how we can make that available to Rogen and the cohort that he represents.

To a generation for whom there is nothing more significant than the here and now, Torah suggests a more protracted gaze toward posterity and legacy. To those for whom the visceral and temporal is most valuable, Torah offers the spiritual and eternal. These alternatives are less immediate and palpable, but they are more profound and enduring. A life of intoxication and diversion may be fun and pleasurable, but it may also be the result of a deep-seated gnawing dissatisfaction which needs to be numbed and buried at all costs because it is never addressed or resolved.

If Judaism can fill the void that begs for constant palliatives and distractions, then it is worth exploring. The version of Judaism that has been offered to generations of diaspora Jews does not do so, but as someone who grew up secular and embraced a more traditional and devoted Jewish lifestyle after college, I can confidently affirm that authentic Jewish spirituality does.

Many friends and family members questioned my turn to a more observant and spiritual practice as a young adult. I was affluent and successful and married to a wonderful woman and seemed to have everything. In one particularly frank and probing conversation, a close friend said to me, "but we don't need God." After thinking about it a moment, it struck me, and I responded, "but what if God needs us?!"

Judaism gives us many things — among them,

the Golden Rule of "love your neighbor as yourself," an eternal code of law and morality, the notion of one God, and even more radically, the notion that God is one and there is nothing other; but one of the most significant gifts it affords us is the awareness that we are needed and we are capable of transcending ourselves and affecting the entire creation.

Why does God need us? If He's the infinite and omnipotent God, He doesn't need anything. And yet He created us, and He gave us a role to play and a job to do. That job is to be a "light unto the nations." This means to reveal Him in the midst of the darkness, to show the world around us that He exists. We do so by being Godly ourselves. Every time we overcome our self interest for



the sake of someone or something else, we are revealing God, because if there were no Godliness within us, we would be purely self-preserving and self-serving.

Each of us is charged with the job of being a light unto the nations, and each of us can fulfill it. When we neglect the job God gives us, He understands. It's not an easy job, and the world He created is distracting and seductive. But if we comprehend how precious the job is, how fortunate we are to be entrusted with such a job, and how great our effect will be when we perform it, we will then be more inclined to embrace our birth-right rather than eschewing it.

What Judaism gives us is something far more important and fulfilling than "me time." Seth Rogen believes that he doesn't need Judaism, and there are millions of young, impressionable Jews who are exposed to his beliefs and opinions and who agree with him. But Seth, and all of you others, there's something you should know: Judaism needs you! There's something in this stuff that's more enriching than money, more intoxicating than weed or fame, more captivating and addictive than video games or porn or other forms of entertainment. Check it out and see for yourself. Or hit me up, and I'll be glad to connect you with someone who can help you find what you didn't even realize you were looking for.

Marc Erlbaum is a filmmaker and social activist. He is the founder of Common Party (www.thecommonparty.com), a non-political social movement that is working to bring the country back together in these divisive times through the celebration of our overwhelming commonality.

Legals.

LEGAL NOTICE



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 process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Gian Staples 427 sterling place Apt. 3R Brooklyn, NY 11238. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 7/3/10/17/24/31; 8/7

The Brown Girl Allure LLC. Arts of Org. filed with the NY Secretary of State on 4/28/20. Legallnc Corporate Services Inc. designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. NY Secretary of State shall mail copy of process to Legallnc Corporate Services Inc. at 1967 Wehrle Drive Suite 1 #086 Buffalo, NY 14221. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
AJ; 7/3/10/17/24/31; 8/7

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: DIVINITYBK LLC. Articles of Organization filed with secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 06/16/2020. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: DIVINITYBK LLC 640 E. 57th St.Fl. 3 Brooklyn, NY 11234. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 7/10/17/24/31; 8/7/14

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: MS DYNAMIC LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on : 06/11/2020. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Moshe David Steinwurz 978 E. 26th St., Brooklyn, NY 11210. Purpose: all unlawful activity
AJ; 7/10/17/24/31; 8/7/14

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: JOY AND PEACE FAMILY GROUP DAYCARE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 06/05/2020. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Joy and peace family group daycare LLC 1412 E. 71st St., Brooklyn, NY 11234 purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 7/17/24/31; 8/7/14/21

NOTICE OF FORMATION of 1620 RALPH AVENUE OWNER LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/14/2020. Off. Loc.: Kings County. SSNY has been desig. as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy to is: 28 Liberty, New York, NY 10005. Reg. Agent: National Registered Agents, Inc., 28 Liberty, New York, NY 10005. Purpose: Any lawful act
AJ; 7/24/31; 8/7/14/21/28

How American Jews Championed Righteous Social Change

HAROLD BRACKMAN
LOS ANGELES

The years before America's entry into World War I were an age of progressive reform. In 1912, socialist presidential candidate Eugene Debs garnered 6% of the nationwide vote — and a much higher percent of the Jewish vote on New York's Lower East Side.

One facet of progressive reform in the era was the Social Gospel movement, which attempted to update traditional religion to remedy the inequities of an urban-industrial society where big business ruled. The Social Gospel was synonymous with Protestant ministers such as Walter Rauschenbusch, a Baptist who preached in New York's "Hell's Kitchen."

But Jews also participated in the Social Gospel, as Jonathan Sarna has shown. Reform Jews took the lead, such as Rabbi Kaufman Kohler, who was schooled in Orthodoxy in Germany but embraced Reform in the US.

And conservative rabbis were not immune to the call of social reform. The Jewish Theological Seminary of America was incorporated in 1902, with Solomon Schechter — who supported

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: MISS YOU LOVE YOU MEDIA LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 07/02/2020 . Office location: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Paula Berkenstadt 683 Union St.#2L Brooklyn, NY 11215.purpose: all lawfull activity
AJ; 7/24/31; 8/7/14/21/28

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: CREW CALL LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 06/05/2020 . Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to:Crew Call LLC 517 E. 45th St., Brooklyn, NY 11203. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 7/24/31; 8/7/14/21/28

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: ESF COUTURE, LLC. Articles of organization filed with the 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 process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Emmanuela Saint Fleur 188 Sterling Street Brooklyn, NY 11225. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 8/7/14/21/28; 9/4/11

Zionism, unlike most Reform Jews — as its leader, and social reform-minded banker Jacob Schiff financing the Seminary.

For all Social Gospellers, the new settlement houses that spread across urban America were spearheads for reform. Protestant women like Jane Addams, who launched Chicago's Hull House in 1889, are given much of the credit. The social settlements all focused on the diverse new European immigrants, mostly Catholics and Jews. They emphasized "Americanization" through English-language classes and civics.

In 1890, the *Jewish Messenger*, voice of uptown New York's Jewry, announced that the Russian Jewish immigrants "must be Americanized in spite of themselves." Hadassah founder and Zionist Henrietta Szold founded the first night school for Russian Jewish immigrants.

Jane Addams articulated the doctrine of "immigrant gifts" that encouraged the newcomers to be proud of their diverse Old World heritages and what they could contribute to enrich America.

Jewish pioneers of the settlement house movement deserve recognition. New York's Henry Street Settlement was launched in 1893 by Lillian Wald with the aid of Jacob Schiff. Henry Street was primarily a community resource for Jewish immigrants, but from early on, it maintained an "open door" policy toward African-Americans as well. Schiff made a stirring address at one meeting held in honor of the birthday of Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois.

There were four Jewish-founded settlements in 1895 — and 24 in 1910.

A lesser known but instructive example of Jewish-founded social settlements was Milwaukee's Jewish settlement house, the brainchild of Elizabeth Black Kander who broadened the concept of "women's work" from the family to "society," which she conceived as people's shared "home."

Insisting that religious and social reform was also Jewish, she joined the Milwaukee Chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), which provided sewing, cooking, and English classes to Russian Jewish immigrants. She then founded the Milwaukee Jewish Mission at Emanu-El Guild Hall, which evolved into a settlement house.

The leadership among Jewish settlement house workers shifted in the 1920s to the American children of Eastern European Jewish immigrants. They continued the Jewish social reform tradition.

Historian Harold Brackman is co-author with Ephraim Isaac of From Abraham to Obama: A History of Jews, Africans, and African Americans (Africa World Press, 2015).

Opinion.

Remembering Ze'ev Jabotinsky 80 Years After His Death

RONN TOROSSIAN
NEW YORK



Ze'ev Jabotinsky wearing the uniforms of the Jewish Legion of the British army, with his two sisters, Bela and Nina.
Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Ze'ev Jabotinsky died on August 4, 1940 — yet so much of what this great Zionist visionary said is still relevant today.

Picture Jabotinsky urging the Jews in Europe to leave in the days before the Holocaust. Picture the days before the State of Israel, when the Irgun forced the British to leave the land. Picture the boys of Betar, the youth movement Jabotinsky formed, who protected Jews who visited the Western Wall when Jews needed protection going there.

Those who have read and studied the work and words of Jabotinsky realize that this man's ideology offers — as he said — a proper "philosophy of life" and a guide to how to live life as a Jew.

There are many lessons that he taught us, but I would like to impart five key principles that are vitally relevant to our people, and the world in which we live, today.

Principal 1: Ahavat Yisrael — love of Jewry. Jabotinsky taught us we must stand by our fellow Jews — and love them as our own.

From Jewish education and learning Hebrew, to standing up and speaking out for the Jewish people, we must instill a love of Jewish culture and religion in ourselves, our children, and all future generations. And we must speak out against antisemitism whenever we see it, even if it's unpopular at the time.

Principal 2: Hadar: According to Betar.org, Hadar is a Hebrew word that is hardly translatable into another language. It combines various concepts such as outward beauty, respect, self-esteem, politeness, and faithfulness.

According to Betar, "Hadar Betar" must be the daily goal of each one of us: our every step, gesture, word, action, and thought must always be strictly executed from the Hadar viewpoint. In so many ways, it is the total essence of what it means

to have Jewish pride. Be a good person. Stand up. Have moral values. Have decency. Be grand, be strong, and sharp, courteous, and honest. Hadar is to do what is right, and not what is popular or convenient. Hadar is honor, splendor, glory, the mission of Jews having a backbone.

Principal 3: Barzel (iron) — be not afraid. Do not allow Jews to be taken advantage of. We must support Jews who fight and protect the Jewish people. The philosopher Max Nordau has been quoted as telling Jabotinsky that "the Jew learns not by way of reason, but from catastrophes. He won't buy an umbrella merely because he sees clouds in the sky. He waits until he is drenched and catches pneumonia."

Principal 4: Unity is one of the biggest problem Jews have faced throughout history.

Stand united in the face of the enemy — and be comfortable standing alone in unity. Today, Jewish unity is more needed than ever as we face threats at home and abroad, and the State of Israel is under constant attack. Jews must put aside their differences, and remember their shared values and history.

Principle 5: Bitachon (faith). Have faith in the indestructibility of the Jewish people. Strength matters. And faith is strength on so many levels. This includes faith in a free economy, faith in (and fear of) God, and faith in strong Jewish self-defense.

To our eternal teacher Jabotinsky, I say thank you. The words of Jabotinsky are as relevant today as they were when he wrote them many years ago.

Ronn Torossian is a public relations executive. Zeevjabotinsky.com is a project of the Ronn Torossian Family Foundation.

After COVID, India Must Foil China's Designs

JAGDOSH N. SINGH
NEW DELHI

On June 15, 2020, Chinese communist troops killed 20 Indian Army personnel, including the

commanding officer of the 16th Bihar Regiment, in the Galwan Valley of Ladakh. India's former Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao pointed out in "The Hindu" that "nothing on this scale was witnessed even in the run-up to the conflict between the two countries in 1962." According to one study, the recent

Continued on Page A10

Tradition.

The Covenant and the Love



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

An interesting phrase appears at the end of last week's parsha and at the beginning of this week's, and they are the only places where it appears in the Torah. The phrase is *ha-brit v'ha-chessed* (Deuteronomy 7:9) or in this week's parsha, *et ha-brit ve-et ha-chessed* (Deut. 7:12).

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; He is the faithful



God, keeping the brit and the chessed to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments. (Deut. 7:9)

If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the Lord your God will keep the brit and the chessed with you, as He swore to your ancestors. (Deut. 7:12)

The phrase is strange. The relationship between God and Israel is defined by *brit*, covenant. That, essentially, is the content of the Torah. What then is added by the word *chessed*?

The translators have a problem with it. The Jewish Publication Society's translation of the opening verse of our parsha is: "And if you do obey these rules and observe them carefully, the Lord your God will maintain faithfully for you the covenant that He made on oath with your fathers." This translates *chessed* as "faithfully" and takes it as a qualification of the verb "maintain" or "keep." This is a very stretched translation.

A non-Jewish translation, the New International Version, translates *ha-brit v'ha-chessed* as "covenant of love." This is a very Christian translation. The covenant entered into between the Israelites and God was a covenant of law, not just of love.

Aryeh Kaplan, in *The Living Torah*, got it right when he translated it as "God your Lord will keep the covenant and love with which He made an oath to your fathers." Not "covenant of love" but "covenant and love." But still: what is the covenant, and what is the love that is distinct from the covenant?

This might seem a minor matter were it not for the fact

that this phrase, which is rare in Tanach, makes an appearance at key moments of Jewish history. For example, it figures in King Solomon's great prayer at the consecration of the Temple in Jerusalem:

"Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like You in Heaven above or on Earth below—You who keep the covenant and love with Your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way." (1 Kings 8:23)

When, after the Babylonian exile, the nation gathered around Ezra and Nehemiah in Jerusalem and renewed the covenant, they said:

"Now therefore, our God, the great God, mighty and awesome, who keeps His covenant and love, do not let all this hardship seem trifling in Your eyes—the hardship that has come on us, on our kings and leaders, on our Priests and Prophets, on our ancestors and all Your people, from the days of the kings of Assyria until today. (Neh. 9:32)

At these critical moments, when Moses renewed the covenant on the banks of the Jordan, when Solomon dedicated the Temple, and the people in Ezra and Nehemiah's time rededicated themselves, they took care to define the relationship between God and the people as one of *brit* and *chessed*, covenant and love. It seems that both are necessary, or they would not have used this language on these three defining occasions many centuries apart.

What then is the meaning of *chessed*? Significantly, Maimonides dedicates the penultimate chapter of *The Guide for the Perplexed* to the analysis of three words: *chessed*, *tzedakah* and *mishpat*. On *chessed* he says:

In our Commentary on Pirkei Avot (5:7) we have explained the expression *chessed* as denoting excess. It is especially used of extraordinary kindness. Loving-kindness is practised in two ways: first, we show kindness to those who have no claim whatever upon us; secondly, we are kind to those to whom it is due, in a greater measure than is due to them ... The very act of creation is an act of God's loving-kindness: "I have said, 'The universe is built in loving-kindness'" (Ps. 89:3)...

The difference between the three terms is that I am legally

entitled to *mishpat*. I am morally entitled to *tzedakah*. But to *chessed*, I am not entitled at all. When someone acts toward me in *chessed*, that is an act of pure grace. I have done nothing to deserve it.

Maimonides notes, citing the phrase from Psalms that "The universe is built in loving-kindness," that creation was an act of pure *chessed*. No one ever creates something because it deserves to be created. Creations do not exist before they are created.

We can define this in human terms more precisely. The book of Ruth is known as the work, par excellence, of *chessed*: "Rabbi Zeira said, 'This book does not have anything in it concerned with impurity or purity, forbidden or permitted. Why then was it written? To teach us the greatness of the reward for acts of *chessed*.'"

There are two key scenes in the book. The first occurs when Naomi, bereaved of her husband and two sons, decides to return to Israel. She says to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me..." She was telling them that they had no further obligations toward her. They had been married to her sons, but now they are widows. Naomi has no other sons. Being Moabite women, they will be strangers in Israel: they have no reason to go there. You owe me nothing, she is saying. You have been kind, you have been good daughters-in-law, but now we must go our separate ways.

The second speech occurs when Ruth has gone to gather grain in the field of Boaz, who treats her with great care and consideration. She asks him: "Why have I found such recognition in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?" The two key words here are "recognition" and "foreigner." "Recognition" means that you have behaved toward me as if you had obligations to me. But "I am a foreigner." The word used here is not "stranger," i.e. a resident alien to whom certain duties are owed. It means, a complete outsider. Ruth is saying to Boaz, you do not owe me anything.

That is what makes Ruth the supreme book of *chessed*, that is, of good done to another who has no claim whatsoever upon you. What Ruth does for Naomi, and what Boaz does for Ruth, are not *mishpat* or *tzedakah*. They are pure *chessed*.

Now let us return to the question with which we began. Why did Moses, and Solomon, and Nehemiah define the relationship between the Jewish people and God not in terms of a single concept, covenant, but added to it a second idea, namely *chessed*, meaning an act of love.

Covenant is essentially reciprocal. Two people or entities pledge themselves to one another, each committing to a responsibility. This is how it was defined by God at Mount Sinai: "Now if you obey me fully and keep My covenant, then out of all nations you will be My treasured possession, for all the earth is Mine" (Exodus 19:5). If you are My people, I will be your God. If

you serve me, I will bless you. Every covenant has an if-then quality to it. Therefore, every covenant is inherently vulnerable. That is what Moses emphasised throughout Devarim. Don't take the land or its blessings for granted. If you do well, things will go well, but if you do badly, great dangers lie in store.

That is covenant. *Chessed*, in contrast, has no if-then quality. It is given out of the goodness of the giver, regardless of the worth of the recipient. When Moses, Solomon and Nehemiah referred to *chessed* in addition to the covenant, they were making an implicit request of God of the most fundamental significance. Even if we fail to honour the covenant, please God be gracious to us, for You are good even when we are not, and You do good even when we do not deserve it, when we have no claim on You whatsoever—*ki le-olam chasdo*, for His *chessed* is eternal.

The verses in our parsha sound conditional: "If you pay attention to these laws ... then the Lord your God will keep the *brit* and the *chessed* ..." This suggests that we will be shown *chessed* if we deserve it, but if not, not. But it isn't so. At the end of the curses in Bechukotai, God says: "Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or abhor them so as to destroy them completely, breaking my covenant with them: I am the Lord their God."

God will never break the covenant, even if we do, because of His *chessed*. Tanach describes the relationship between God and Israel in two primary ways: like a husband and wife, and like a parent and a child. Between husband and wife there can be a divorce. Between parent and child there cannot be. They may be estranged, but the parent is still their parent and the child is still their child. Marriage is a covenant; parenthood is not. Do not forsake us, we say to God, because whatever we have done, You are our parent and we are Your children. *Chessed* is the kind of love a parent has for a child, whether they deserve it or not. *Chessed* is unconditional grace.

I believe that *chessed* is the highest achievement of the moral life. It is what Ruth did for Naomi, and Boaz for Ruth, and from that kindness came David, Israel's greatest king. Reciprocal altruism – I do this for you, and you do this for me – is universal among social animals. *Chessed* is not. In *chessed* God created the universe. In *chessed* we create moments of moral beauty that bring joy and hope where there was darkness and despair.

Shabbat Shalom

Continued from Page A9
India

violence was the worst since 1967.

In a media interview, India's former ambassador to China and Pakistan Gautam Bambawale confirmed that Beijing does not believe in its 1993 Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement and subsequent confidence-building agreements with India. China has assumed the right to unilaterally define the LAC (Line of Actual

Control) and move its ground positions accordingly.

Former diplomat Jayant Prasad warns against any complacency vis-à-vis China because of the defusing of recent standoffs in Depsang, Chumar, and Doklam. There are reports of a Chinese build-up at Pangong Tso, in India's eastern Ladakh.

New Delhi would do well to take steps to counter Beijing's anti-India designs.

India cannot take on China economically. The current balance of India-China trade, according to one estimate, is in favor of Beijing. India's imports from China in 2019-2020 reached \$65 billion out of \$81 billion in two-way trade.

New Delhi exports raw materials and intermediate products and imports finished products. Indian manufacturing depends on supplies from China. India imports fertilizers from China as well as critical medical supplies.

India does not attract global supply chains. China is still central to a large number of such chains. Some companies are moving out of China, but they are heading mainly toward Southeast Asia, not India.

India is not without options, however. New Delhi could use its status as the world's largest democracy to rope powerful democratic states, including the US, Canada, the UK, France, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and Israel, into the project of isolating China on the diplomatic chessboard.

Much of the enlightened international community is furious over China's role in the outbreak of COVID-19. There is widespread feeling that the WHO is under Beijing's influence and has done little to arrest the virus. India could lead efforts to tackle the global health challenge and in the process expose China and isolate it internationally.

New Delhi could use its naval command to compel China to behave reasonably. Over 90% of Chinese trade moves through the Malacca Straits, which are near India's Andaman-Nicobar Islands. India could play its card from there.

India's ever growing bonhomie with the US can also be put to good use. The time is ripe for this. During his 2016 election campaign, Donald Trump claimed the Chinese were stealing jobs from the American people. US-China friction has only risen since then, hitting a new high during the pandemic. Trump claims that China is responsible for the virus, which has paralyzed the US economy and resulted in historic levels of unemployment and more than 150,000 American deaths.

The current administration in Washington is on excellent terms with India. President Trump has said he would like to expand the G-7 to G-11 by adding India (as well as Australia, Russia, and South Korea). Trump has even invited India's leader Narendra Modi to attend the G-7 summit, which is likely to be held around the UN General Assembly session in September of this year. China is excluded from the prospective G-11.

Jagdish N. Singh is an Indian journalist based in New Delhi.

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

Social.



Seth Rogen speaking at the 2016 San Diego Comic Con International. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Seth Rogen Accuses Jewish Agency Chief of ‘Misrepresenting’ Call, Amid Ongoing Furor Over Israel Remarks

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

Jewish Agency Chairman Isaac Herzog spoke with Seth Rogen over the weekend, amid the ongoing furor over the controversial remarks about Israel the Canadian Jewish actor and comedian made during a recent podcast interview.

In a Facebook post, Herzog said that during a “frank and open conversation” with Rogen, the star of the upcoming film “An American Pickle” was “kind enough to make clear to me that what was missing in the published interview was what he did not say: How important Israel is to him. And that, of course, Israel must exist.”

Rogen “explained his words were meant as a joke, taken from a critical, humorous exchange with a fellow Jewish comedian, he was misunderstood and apologized for that and I accepted his explanation,” Herzog added.

Furthermore, Rogen noted that he was “very concerned about rising anti-Semitism, which he himself is combatting daily and is also assisting the Jewish community on this front,” recalled Herzog.

Rogen also referenced how “raising doubt, asking questions, and arguing differing positions are fundamental in Judaism,” Herzog said, “and in some interviews, he humorously asks questions about almost everything, as part of the process of casting doubt, which he says is an important motif for the Jewish people. He told me that while he was speaking in jest during the noted conversation, we cannot ignore the fact that Jews outside Israel often have to stand at the forefront and explain the State of Israel, and sometimes they do not know how nor what to explain.”

On Sunday, Israeli-American journalist Mairav Zonszein shared on Twitter a link to an article about Rogen’s call with Herzog, calling it “truly ridiculous.”

Shortly after, Zonszein tweeted that Rogen had contacted her and revealed that the only reason he had spoken with Herzog was because “my mom made me call him.” Zonszein even shared a screenshot of what Rogen had messaged her.

On Monday, Rogen tweeted a link to a *Haaretz* interview in which he accused Herzog of “misrepresenting our conversation” and violating a privacy pledge.



Herzog “sent a letter to my mother somehow, on official letterhead — very fancy letterhead,” Rogen told *Haaretz*. “My mom implored me to call this guy and I did and told him I thought this was a private conversation and I hoped it was a private conversation. After all, I did it because he reached out to my mother asking to talk to me. At no point did I give him permission to publish any part of the conversation.”

700 Members of British Music Industry Sign Open Letter Vowing to ‘Wipe Out’ All Forms of Racism

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

More than 700 music industry leaders in the United Kingdom committed to combating racism in an open letter on Saturday that cited incidents of anti-Jewish bigotry.

The open letter, titled “#NoSilenceInMusic,” stated that “In recent months through a series of events and incidents, the anti-black racists and antisemites, plus those who advocate islamophobia, xenophobia, homophobia and transphobia, have repeatedly demonstrated that they clearly want us all to fail.”

The letter referenced “systemic racism and racial inequality” and “anti-Jewish racism promulgated



Rita Ora. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

through online attacks,” saying, “the result is the same: suspicion, hatred and division. We are at our worst when we attack one another.”

The letter was signed by musicians, managers, top music industry executives, agents, labels, lawyers, songwriters, producers and others. Artists who endorsed the open letter include Rita Ora, James Blunt, The 1975, Lewis Capaldi, Leona Lewis, Lily Allen, Niall Horan, Labrinth and Violet Skies. Among the major labels that attached their names to the statement are Sony Music, Warner Music, CAA, Universal Music Group, Island Records UK, Capitol, Domino, EMI Records, TaP Music, UTA and X-Ray Touring. The letter also stated: “Minorities from all backgrounds and faiths have struggled and suffered. From slavery to the Holocaust we have painful collective memories. All forms of racism have the same roots — ignorance, lack of education and scapegoating. We, the British music industry are proudly uniting to amplify our voices, to take responsibility, to speak out and stand together in solidarity. Silence is not an option.”

“There is a global love for music, irrespective of race, religion, sexuality and gender. Music brings joy and hope and connects us all. Through music, education and empathy we can find unity. We stand together, to educate and wipe out racism now and for our future generations.”

The letter comes after British rapper Wiley had his Twitter account suspended and Facebook and Instagram accounts deactivated, following an antisemitic rant on social media.

Attention Not-For-Profit Organizations

Be part of the Tribul Merchant Services Charity Ventures Program

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



Contact Kutty for details:

Tel: 877.336.1925

Email: Kutty@tribulonline.com