

## The Unspoken Tragedy of History

Pennsylvania had not even been given to William Penn when there were attempts made in the Delaware Territory to bar Jewish traders. Dutch trading companies, remarkably decent for their time, did not support that boycott. Thereafter, Jewish traders were permitted in the Delaware Territory.

In the American Revolution, Jewish citizens and traders aided the cause of the Colonists overwhelmingly. Whether it was Jewish merchants who smuggled the ingredients for gun powder to the Colonies, or Jewish Colonists who paid with their blood, the war became a Jewish war for independence as well. The great Chaim Solomon of Philadelphia helped to finance the Revolution, for which he was never repaid. Solomon is probably the only debtor who was not paid after the American Revolution. Many Presidents praised him, and a statue of him stands in Philadelphia today.

During the Civil War, Grant attempted to prevent Jews from traveling to or within Kentucky. Fortunately, Republican President Lincoln summarily reversed that order.

Lincoln, like Washington, had a close relationship with the Jewish community. While Washington wrote to the Jews of America, praising their efforts in the Revolutionary War, and promising them safety in the new nation, Lincoln utilized the services of his Jewish doctor to try to make peace with Judah Benjamin, one of the Jewish leaders in the Confederacy. The two men almost reached a deal, but neither the northern nor the southern cabinet would agree and American blood continued to flow.

During World War I, the British wrestled the Middle East from Turkey. Thereafter, the British Empire promised the Jewish people a homeland and independence in the ancient land of Palestine, where the Jews had already been living for well over 3,000 years. The Balfour Declaration was the recognition of the facts on the ground.

The League of Nations and the nascent United Nations also recognized the right of Jews to settle in and live in Palestine. Unfortunately, these were only words and when Jews needed the land during the Holocaust of World War II, they were denied entry.

During World War II, Palestinian Jews fought bravely with the British armies against the Germans who controlled North Africa. The British and Americans routed the Germans from North Africa and initially the Americans wanted the administration of North Africa to be turned over to the Germans. Churchill opposed this, and got his way. Thank goodness for Winston Churchill, or the same slaughter that occurred to the Jews in Europe would also have occurred in North Africa. There were considerable ancient Jewish populations throughout North Africa at the time of World War II.

During the height of World War II, in 1944, when millions of Jews were dying in the gas ovens of Germany and Poland, the United States and the West were turning back Jewish refugee ships from Europe and denying additional Jews' entry into Palestine. The Jews who fought for the United States and England received little for their efforts, except closed doors when they most needed places of refuge. Adolf Hitler, may his name be erased, knew this when he attempted to ship 300,000 Jews out of Germany before World War II. He was turned down, and he clearly understood that to be a green light that no one cared about the Jews. When the United States had the opportunity to bomb the rail links that led to Auschwitz, the most heinous of death camps, the United States claimed that its

bombers could not reach the site. This turned out to be a lie, as U.S. bombers were hitting industrial sites around Auschwitz on a daily basis.

In 1944, the Republican platform specifically accused Roosevelt of not telling the truth and not helping the Jewish people. That platform demanded that Jews be permitted to enter Palestine. Interestingly, the same Republican platform demanded statehood for Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico, since 1898 and right up to the present, consists of American citizens who are denied the right to vote in American elections!

It is clear that had Roosevelt lived and Truman not become President, the 1948 recognition by the United States of the State of Israel would never have occurred. When Department of Treasury officials complained to Roosevelt, claiming American acquiescence in the murder of European Jewry, Roosevelt created a rump committee to study the refugee problem. It did absolutely nothing.

Many people claim that at the time they could not fully appreciate Roosevelt's perfidy towards the Jewish people. However, that simply cannot be the truth. A rally in Madison Square Garden was intended to draw public attention to the plight of European Jews. Letters were written and protests occurred decrying the administration's abandonment of the Jewish people during wartime. Renowned Rabbi Stephen Wise supported the Roosevelt administration and became the "palace Jew" compliant with the administration and touting its virtues. Others, like the "Bergson Group", decried the hypocrisy of Roosevelt.

After World War II, in 1948, the British, who had been so ably assisted by Jewish partisans in Palestine, turned over their weapons to the Arabs. The British opposed Jewish independence and repaid Jewish blood lost in the European butchery and in fighting the Germans in North Africa with absolutely **nothing**. Nevertheless, brave Israelis hung on to a tiny strip of land, at some points only 4 miles wide, which became the 1949 Armistice Boundaries. Israel, in 1948, had been attacked by five nations. The Israeli's had no weapons except what they could beg, borrow and steal. The brave Jewish heroes managed barely to hang on. It is those borders and boundaries that the Obama Administration said Israel must go back to!

The land seized from Israel in 1948, which rightly belonged to the Jewish people under international law, was illegally seized by Jordan from 1948 until 1967. Never was there a resolution by the United Nations demanding that Jordan give up that land to anyone. It became known as the West Bank of the Jordan River, rather than the Palestine given to the Jewish people by the Balfour Declaration, the League of Nations and the United Nations.

Perhaps the biggest mistake Israel made was agreeing to the United Nations Resolution 242 after the 1967 war of survival in which Israel agreed to give back "territory." Who were they giving it back to? The West Bank did not belong to Jordan and had been illegally won. The same is true with the rest of the land, namely Sinai and the Golan Heights. Israel did give back Sinai to Egypt in return for a bilaterally negotiated peace treaty with that nation. Today, Egypt and Israel are actually working together to fight terrorism in the Middle East.

In 1967, it was the Johnson Administration which forced on Israel United Nations Resolution 242, which was so ambiguous as to be worthless. Resolution 242 also ran against prior understanding of who would control the infinitesimally small nation of Jewish Palestine.

In the subsequent years, Israel did make the Golan Heights part of its nation, a military necessity. Israel has also incorporated all of Jerusalem into Israel, which had been split when Jordanians defeated the ragtag Jewish Army in 1949. Unfortunately, Israel had never taken the legal steps it should have to fully integrate the entirety of Jerusalem within its midst, including the suburbs.

The question remains as to why the current administration has been willing to help Israel militarily, but seems intent on emasculating Israel's ability to live within reasonably recognized borders and in safety. By enabling Iran to develop better and more powerful nuclear weapons, Washington has empowered the world's greatest terrorist sovereign. Why would the administration do that? Why would the administration then turn around and fail to veto a resolution in the United Nations which would make Israel an outcast, pariah state? Syria and the rest of the Middle East are in flames and Christians are being ethnically cleansed not only from Africa but also from the Middle East. The same day that Washington gave the green light to criminalizing Israel, the United Nations vetoed a resolution addressing genocide in Southern Sudan which represents the worst human rights abuse on earth! What is it about this administration that is so tone deaf to the pain and suffering in the world, while taking unnecessary steps to undermine the safety and security of the only strong and capable democracy the Middle East has ever known? How is it in America's interests to empower our sworn enemies while declawing our friends?

Only time will answer this. Historians who study this administration will come to find out that President Obama and John Kerry were motivated by a personal agenda which unfortunately became divorced from our national interests.

The fate of American international security and the viability of our democratic ally should not rest upon whether one is a Republican or Democrat, liberal or conservative. International interests will not thrive where American policy cannot be relied upon to support our friends and isolate our enemies. Hopefully, the next administration will have a more consistent, comprehensive approach.

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