

Are The Times Really Changin'?

Lost in the din of the Trump impeachment hearings in the Senate is the significant outreach by this Administration to the Arab world, and in particular those Arab-Muslims living on the West Bank of the Jordan River who say they want their own independent state. The reason for the use of the terminology "Muslim-Arab Palestinians" is because there are a significant number of Christian-Arabs. They live peacefully in Israel, and the last thing they want is to be dominated and potentially exterminated by their fellow Arabs who believe that Christians are crusaders worthy of death and that Jews in the Middle East must be subservient to Islam.

The current administration follows in a long line of those who believe that the Arabs in the region can be placated by the creation of a 23rd Arab country and the 50th Muslim majority nation. It is important from a geopolitical point of view to appreciate that the third world block controls the United Nations and that a majority of that block are Muslim majority countries.

Every President since Dwight Eisenhower tried to find a way to buy off Arab hate. In truth, the efforts go back to Woodrow Wilson and the League of Nations. Virtually every Arab state that was created in the Middle East was either about Western access to oil or attempts to build alliances against the Axis powers. All those efforts failed in one way or another.

Prior to the run-up of World War II and during World War II itself, the Middle Eastern Arabs allied themselves with Adolf Hitler and the Germans. They fought the allies, while the Jews in Palestine were on the side of the British and the Americans.

After World War II, the United States decided to support the Hashemite minority in Jordan. Jordan was supposed to be the Palestinian Muslim-Arab country. In fact, it has an overwhelming majority of Palestinian Arabs, Palestine being the name for modern Jordan, the West Bank of the Jordan River and Israel, along with Gaza. The King of Jordan and his American wife rule over a restive people, capable of overthrowing the kingdom at any time. The United States backed that minority government when Jordan was created in order to assure access to oil.

The price that must be paid for British and American blundering in the Middle East is, and always seems to become, Israel's responsibility. Israel had to give up Jordan, and instead of getting a Palestinian Arab state, the Arabs are now asking to push their territorial acquisition across the Jordan River west, to within four miles of the Mediterranean.

President Johnson tried to reconcile the parties after Israel was threatened with destruction by six Arab nations in 1967. The Arabs made it very clear that they would never enter into a peace treaty with Israel or accept its right to exist.

Jimmy Carter was able to bring together Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. Sadat was assassinated, paying for the Israel-Egypt peace treaty with his life. Sinai, which was given to Egypt, has been turned into a terrorist haven by groups attempting to overthrow the Egyptian government.

President Clinton pressured King Hussein of Jordan to start peace negotiations with Israel, which led to a peace treaty between the two countries. This was the only deal Israel ever made with the Arab world where nobody gave up any substantial land, but merely decided to work together. That peace has held, and the long border between Israel and Jordan is virtually free of military.

No U.S. President, whether it was Reagan, Bush, or Obama had been able to get the Arabs on the West Bank of the Jordan River to agree to any peace agreement, even though every single proposal has been accepted by Israel. The bottom line is that the regime on the West Bank continues to pay for terrorism against innocent civilians; teaches hatred and expulsion of Jews and Christians from the Holy Land; and will only agree to terms which would make it impossible for Israel to exist.

The current Administration plan was rejected by the Palestinian Arabs long before any of its details were revealed to the public. It does not matter who makes the deal.

None of this should miss the fact that aside from the Palestinian Arabs living in the West Bank (mostly in Area A), 24% of Israel itself is Arab with 24% of the Israel Knesset consisting of Arab legislators. Incredibly, those elected officials in the Israeli government itself do not accept the Jewish State as legitimate. While they deny democracy in written documentation, they say that their supporters only vote and they only serve to work for the destruction of the "Zionist entity" in the Middle East. How crazy is that?

The Trump plan, of course, will fail like every other. The only possible difference this time around is the good relationship this Administration and Israel have with a number of other Arab states. Aside from two peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan, Israel has robust economic relations with Saudi Arabia and a number of the Gulf States.

I asked my daughter, Kaila, what her view is, since she served in the Israeli Army and both lives and works there. Her response was as follows: "I think the times they are a-changin, as Dylan said. Israel and the United States of America are in good relations with most Arab countries, or at least the most powerful ones. It only benefits the Palestinians to give up their act and realize that they should accept peace in order to prosper. The battle of theirs only hurts them; they are poor, no jobs, no hope, and Israel will always prevail. Those Arabs that are employed, work with the Jewish people in the West Bank. I think that for genuine peace and stability, I would be willing to go along with the proposal, but that means no terror and no funding terrorists, recognizing Israel, etc." Further, "Also, just like any other people who want statehood, they have to prove

that they are capable of having a state and taking care of their people. Everyone would be willing to help them out A LOT if they start acting like civilized people.”

The question is whether the times have really changed enough?

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