

**FIAMMA NIRENSTEIN**

**with Nicoletta Tiliacos**

**OCTOBER 7,  
ANTISEMITISM  
AND THE WAR  
ON THE WEST**



**Foreword by Dr. Dan Diker**



**Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs**

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# Foreword

Dr. Dan Diker

Fiamma Nirenstein's pathbreaking book *October 7, Antisemitism and the War on the West* is a vital contribution to understanding the convergence between Hamas's *jihadi* rape, murder, torture, and kidnapping of 1,200 Israelis and foreign residents, which has been accompanied by an unprecedented outbreak of genocidal antisemitism across the United States and Europe. The meeting between Hamas's Middle Age pogrom, in which children were murdered in front of their parents and parents murdered in front of their children, and the antisemitic-fueled glee and enthusiasm at Western universities and international human rights organizations, seems incomprehensible.

Nirenstein's book sheds light on this unaccountable state of affairs. She explains in cogent and direct terms how Jew-hatred, of the same type that has percolated for decades in international institutions, particularly the United Nations, has driven the October 7 atrocities. In her previous books, *Jewish Lives Matter* and the more recent *Barbarians at the Gates*, Nirenstein makes the case that the lethal mixture of jihad and genocidal antisemitism threatens not only Israel but the entire free world.

The pathway of evil exposed by the October 7 invasion and massacre of nearly 1,400 innocent children, women, and men, leads directly back to the Iranian regime and its murderous

proxies: Hamas, Hizbullah, the Houthis, and terror militias in Iraq.

For decades, the Iranian regime has promised “death to America” and “death to Israel.” Iran’s nonstop attacks since October 2023, including its direct missile and drone assaults on Israel on April 14, 2024, and October 1, 2023, prove that the regime’s threats are not mere rhetoric. The Iranian regime has been the primary supplier, financier, and inspiration of Palestinian terror attacks against Israel on all of its borders. Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Fatah’s al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigade are all beneficiaries and subcontractors of Iran’s terror, subversion, and political replacement strategy against Israel, set in motion 45 years ago in Iran’s Islamic Revolution.

Iranian regime psychological warfare utilizes antisemitism as a tool and pressure tactic against Jews in Israel and around the world. We have borne witness to a professor at an Ivy League university extolling as “exhilarating” Hamas’s atrocities on October 7. Jews have been attacked in American and European cities, as thousands of pro-Hamas supporters in democratic countries hold up signs calling for the genocidal elimination of the nation-state of the Jewish people.

The October 7 attacks mark only the beginning of the hybrid terror and antisemitism phenomenon. Israel still faces a perspective massive war against Iran’s Hizbullah proxy, which has continually bombed northern Israel since October 2023, preventing tens of thousands of Israelis from returning to their homes, and making them refugees in their own country. Ultimately, Israel and hopefully, a consortium of Arab nations backed by the United States and leading European powers, who all face Iranian threats and assaults, must cooperate to oust the regime that tortures, oppresses, and murders its own people with the same determination that it attacks its enemies.



The Iranian regime has used antisemitism to distract Western attention from itself as the root cause of international terrorism, subversion, and instability. Nirenstein offers us a critical assessment and warning that the terror and antisemitism phenomenon that begins with the Jews quickly metastasizes into a global disease that threatens the security, stability, and safety of the world order as we know it.



# Publisher's Note

Francesco Giubilei Regnani

Fiamma Nirenstein, through her books and public interviews, has always been at the forefront of defending Israel and Western values. However, *October 7, Antisemitism, and the War on the West*, holds particular significance as a dutiful tribute to the victims of the Hamas massacre, keeping their memory and what happened on that terrible day, alive forever. This book is essential reading for Europe and the West, where, unfortunately, the significance of October 7, 2023, was quickly weakened with “buts” and outright lies that have led to outright antisemitic actions. What has happened in universities, public squares, and marches in the West, with indefensible episodes such as the “hunt for Jews” in Amsterdam, is the result of a more general attack on Western culture, repeatedly misconstrued by European democracies.

Therefore, it is important to recount the barbarity of the Islamic terrorists that some downplay, or even deny. Within the framework of its Program to Combat Antisemitism, the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs’ initiative to translate Fiamma Nirenstein’s book is an important step to spread her crucial message and to restore basic truths that are too often forgotten, ignored, or, worse still, that some attempt to distort.



# Introduction

## One Year after October 7

Moving on after October 7 is difficult. The Jewish people have the primary task of doing so, and it is simply a stage in their infinite journey. Today, October 7<sup>th</sup> poses questions that we can choose to answer or ignore. The questions posed to the Jewish people are also fundamental for all humanity. They concern good and evil, from history's beginning to its end, in the flow of time throughout the millennia, while facing the present, which we do in tears while fighting and rebuilding at the same time.

Exhausted from the effort and mortally wounded, the Jews futilely seek support. Sometimes people wonder whether Jewish existence is worth its high price. Abraham Heschel, the philosopher who gave meaning to Jewish courage, making it a universal good, asked this question after the Holocaust. October 7<sup>th</sup> once again places the Jewish people at a central global turning point; it makes them both the cause and the victim, the protagonist and the antagonist and, as in the past, places them at the center of the history of the entire Western world.

Today, as a Jew, I am with my people. Not as a spectator but as an activist, a protagonist, as the target of October 7<sup>th</sup> with all my people – the worst racist massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. Over the millennia, I could be a Jewish woman

enslaved, in the great exodus from Egypt; one that fought against the Romans, overwhelmed by them, clinging to Jerusalem; or a small part of our story that passed through the hands of the Crusaders, the Arabs, the Inquisition, the pogroms, communism, the Holocaust, to resist, to keep rebuilding before rebuilding after returning to our original home.

Today, here we are once again in Israel, the same Jews, the same people. Nothing has changed, we have resisted throughout our daily lives and now another frightening wave of antisemitism accompanies us. Once again, we must overcome with courage and determination to survive, as always – and we will succeed – as we have after all the other October 7ths of our history. We're the only ones that can do it, the Jewish people. This time, too, all those who want to live in peace and freedom, Christians or Muslims or those of any other faith, who have learned the lessons of history, will have to decide to stand by their irreplaceable brothers and sisters.

Our existence is vital for the West. Our death is the objective of any enemy of the West. We must fight together a battle that is not obvious to everyone: one against antisemitism. We could give up because of disgust, exhaustion, or fear. Or we can continue believing in the inestimable price of Judaism living on. We can believe in the Jewish people who have walked this earth for thousands of years, burdened with the Ten Commandments, with the history of civilization and democracy, with the resourcefulness with which they were able to build a nation after the catastrophe of the Holocaust, and with the determination, amidst a thousand criticisms, that defends it. Never before have Jews and the West been so connected in the task of defending the democratic world's aspiration to "human rights," the rights of all people.

When a Jew acts, he is always first of all a Jew – even whenever we say "good morning" to anyone. Jewish identity



is a gift for Jews who support Israel, helping them to defend their own existence. The Jews, by remaining who they are, offer humanity a strenuous and indispensable service. Today it is up to those who want to accompany Jews to pay the price of courage.

Now is the time to fight together, since antisemitism threatens the Western world and its freedoms. Israel, the land that God gave to the Jews, is the pledge of the moral salvation of all men, and Israel seeks to preserve it for all, in a difficult war as all wars are.



## Fighting with One Hand Tied Behind Your Back

October 7 continues to be a front in the battle for survival; but it has been hampered by the persistent hostility of Western countries, including America, which continue to reject the fearful idea that this is also their battle. Some Western states have limited their help thinking this policy would avoid a possible world war. Many military experts believe that the war could have been shortened had Israel been allowed to head towards the south of the Strip, without obstacles, immediately after the attack. This option was rejected by the West. The ban on entering Rafah and then the Philadelphi Corridor had become the mantra of the Biden Administration, representing a political attempt to mitigate the war while pro-Palestinian dissent in the United States was on the rise, to make aiding Israel acceptable to American Democrats. Without this limitation, maybe the war could have been abridged.

October 7<sup>th</sup> marks the first time since 1948 that the existence of the magnificent creation of the only democracy in the Middle East is at risk. If Israel were to ever lose, the entire Western world would lose its meaning and impede its progress. The West would find itself in a shameful war. It would be the victory of Sinwar, of Ayatollah Khomeini, of Nasrallah. It

would rekindle the memories of Stalin, Hitler, and even of the Pharaohs, who prevented the Jewish people from returning to their land, Israel, until Moses prevailed, and led them out of slavery. It would be the victory of barbarism over civilization.

Flavius Josephus, in 94 CE, writes that every nation seeks the origins of its institutions in the most remote times, to create the impression that, far from imitating others, it is itself the example for its neighbors of an orderly life, under the principles of a law. “Now, I affirm,” adds the historian who recounted the fall of Jerusalem, “that our Legislator (Moses) is the most ancient of all Legislators, according to what the whole world transmits. Our Legislator, who lived in the most remote past, has shown himself to be the best guide, the best counselor... after having drawn up a code that embraces the entire conduct of life, he has persuaded the people to embrace it and to maintain it as a sure and firm basis.” This was the basis, even before Athens, of the history of the West. As we read in the Bible, Moses designed the system of popular participation in government, the rule of associating, electing, voting, being free, and learning; for this, he asked for the help of his brother; he honored his wife and his sister; he raised a young replacement to the rank of command when he felt tired. With the Ten Commandments, he condemned lies, crime, and the abandonment of the elderly. Yet Moses honored family and gave loyalty to the people in the name of a superior, invisible, immense, and yet personal principle.

In short, in times of elementary subjugation, of cruel religious myths, he taught that freedom and order in life are necessary for human beings to be worthy of the greatest gift, life itself.

## The Chronicles of Ordinary Antisemitism

Golders Green neighborhood, London, Great Britain, Europe, the heart of the West, September 2024. For a few weeks now, the new 310 bus has been directly connecting the two areas with the largest Jewish presence in the English capital (the other is in Stamford Hill). Previously, two buses needed to be taken, but at each change, Jews risked aggression. The 310 bus is one of gentle apartheid, established to save the Jews from the antisemitism of London, the heart of the history of Western democracy.

It is not science fiction. It's one of the many signs of Jew-hatred that has been unleashed in the West after the pogrom suffered by Israel on October 7, 2023.

Antisemitism is the traveling companion of the massacre, the rapes, the murdering of entire families, and the kidnappings, and it walks hand in hand with Hamas. It supports the massacre of innocent Jews, even children. It demands, "from the River to the Sea," the destruction of the Jewish state, where the Jews have rebuilt their lives after the Holocaust.

In a paradoxical and obscene reversal of roles, the fact that Israel has had twelve hundred deaths, killed in the most

unspeakable ways, and that it is fighting a defensive war, indispensable to prevent similar massacres from happening again, somehow makes Jews all around the world the guilty ones.

In the Russian republic of Dagestan, on October 29, 2023, an antisemitic mob, shouting “*Allahu akbar*,” invaded the local airport runway where a plane from Tel Aviv had landed, in an attempt to lynch Jewish passengers. In Western cities, squares, schools, and universities, sons and daughters of good families from the capitals of the Christian world associate with young people who wear their Islamic culture as a cloak of revenge, attacking and terrorizing Jews with a violence that would have been unthinkable in frequency and intensity a year ago. The eve of the night of broken glass – Kristallnacht – is every day. Sometimes the broken windows and the homicides have already happened, among us very civilized Europeans and Americans, in the heart of our liberal democracies.

Shame!

The history of antisemitism is that of the “oldest god,” as the great historian Robert Wistrich called it. What is unprecedented among the worshipping crowd is the deployment of global hostility against the Jews while they still have fresh wounds from a genocidal assault. October 7 has become an object of praise in public opinion, the media, and politics; Israel’s persecution is amplified and globalized by social media, a fertile breeding ground for lies and anti-Jewish and anti-Israeli hatred. Even the Nazis tried to hide their crimes. Current antisemitism in the wake of Hamas glorifies it.

Young Palestinians in Italy, for example, had no qualms about calling a demonstration in Rome to celebrate October 7<sup>th</sup> and its massacres: “October 7, 2023, is the date of a revolution. After a year, the value of the Palestinian resistance operation and the battle of the Al Aqsa Flood is clear to the whole world,”



they wrote on Instagram. Yes, it is clear, it is the call to kill Jews. In Italy, an unidentified “New Communist Party” has spread a list of “Zionists”, Jews and non-Jews, that is, anyone who supports Israel’s rights on its website: journalists, intellectuals, NGO representatives, and businesspeople. Their call is an invitation to violence, even murder: everyone mentioned by the supporters of the Palestinian and “anti-imperialist” cause, must begin to fear for themselves and their children.

Last April, a Milanese representative of the UGEI (the Union of Young Italian Jews), Anna Tognotti, spoke of the danger and difficulty of fighting the battle “for democracy and civil rights that takes place in classrooms and on the streets when we have to hide our habits, revise our friendships and when we do not feel safe inside our universities.”

Jewish life has also changed in Italy, France, Belgium, and England; they are packing their bags because the fundamental principle of coexistence with religious minorities has been broken. Violence surrounds Jews and prejudices flood the newspapers, even the most honored by the public, as well as the talk shows.

They are overwhelmed by lies, insinuations, and manipulations, and they all point to one direction only: Israel is guilty of crimes against humanity, and the Jews who do not condemn it, are complicit supporters not only of the war in progress but of a rogue State marked for eradication, like the racist apartheid regime of South Africa.

Affirming Israel’s rogue status, even Italy has begun boycotting Israeli universities, including the suspension of agreements and the cancellation of exchanges. The same thing is also happening in Denmark, Belgium, France, Holland, Spain, Ireland, Norway, and Sweden: academic boycott of Israel goes together with physical threats, intimidation, and the impossibility for Jews to speak at public events. This is

what happened at the University La Sapienza in Rome, for example, and at the Catholic University of Milan, the core of Italian culture.

In Italy, we have also allowed January 27, Holocaust Remembrance Day, and April 25, the day commemorating Liberation from Nazism-Fascism, to be transformed into two antisemitism festivals, infested with the Palestinian flags of Hamas and their supporters. American, Canadian, and Australian campuses are seething with anti-Jewish and anti-Israeli hatred.

Even in Australia, a group of pro-Palestinian activists has released a detailed list of hundreds of names and details of Jews so they can be hunted down. Between a burned synagogue in Paris and a desecrated Jewish cemetery in Alsace, one in a hundred per month, the Berlin students of the Tiergarten Gymnasium have set fire to their school, shouting “Are you burning Gaza? We will burn Berlin.” In Germany, the homeland of the Holocaust, antisemitic incidents increased by eighty percent after October 7. In France, a twelve-year-old Jewish girl was kidnapped and raped by some of her “friends,” who reproached her for being Jewish and “having kept it hidden.”

Hamas schools the youth of the Parisian suburbs with its unprecedented violence, and with political and racial kidnappings. The chief rabbi of the Paris synagogue, Moshe Sebbag, says that France is now lost for Jews: “I advise all young people to go to Israel or a safer country,” he told the *Jerusalem Post*.

## The Era of the *Auto-da-fé*

What is the depth of the West's antisemitic night? Growing lists of Hamas collaborators are a clear indication of it: Jewish journalists, intellectuals, writers, filmmakers, and musicians. Those who, like the *autos-da-fé* requested during the Inquisition, have not missed the opportunity to distance themselves from Israel, which is engaged in a defensive war for survival for their own home, while one hundred and one children, elderly and women are still being held hostage by Hamas. The collaborators' excuse is almost always blaming Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, portrayed as a diabolical warmonger, for his advantage. Though in 2022, Netanyahu was peacefully and democratically reelected, his long term in office and his government, whose majority is predicated on two very right-wing ministers, Itamar Ben Gvir and Betzalel Smotrich, is logically criticized by the left. This all puts the Prime Minister in the crosshairs of "anyone but Bibi" (*rak lo Bibi* in Hebrew) public opinion that doesn't let up even in wartime.

While Netanyahu stands constantly accused he tries to maintain a government that is endangered and divided. His secularism and his loyalty to democratic institutions go hand

in hand with his determination to lead Israel to victory over Hamas. The great crowd that opposes him in the media and in the public squares, which has been free to express their opposition in Knesset, in demonstrations, on TV, and in the newspapers, continues to say that Netanyahu has yet to perform a *mea culpa* for October 7<sup>th</sup>. This may be true, but this situation will not last forever. In the end, together with the entire army and the secret services, they will have to answer for the colossal failure of that day.

Leading a government and a security apparatus guilty of not having foreseen the attack, today Bibi's fate is carrying out the most difficult war: which has been fought with one hand tied behind their backs. While Sinwar has cunningly hidden behind the hostages, and while American allies hold back in fear of a general explosion, or better stated, a world war, Netanyahu finds himself the commander in this storm. If we want to understand what he is doing, while trying to prevent his government from falling apart, we need to understand the terrifying war that must be won. His choices in Gaza and the North are for the life or death of a very small country, without margins for retreat or places to hide. At the same time, a large movement demands the government to accept any agreement to see the hostages come home, connected to the heart of Israel. Sometimes Netanyahu, in comments and conversations, becomes the lightning rod and the pretext for antisemitism.

Jewish opposition to Israel is a tradition of the left, which this time, however, has found itself directly associated with an unexpected wave of antisemitism. Thus, for example, after his Oscar acceptance speech for "The Zone of Interest," the British director Jonathan Glazer drew an obscene equivalence between Nazi persecution of the Jews, the theme of his film, and the "present situation in Gaza." And while attending the Venice Film Festival, the young American Jewish director, Sarah

Friedland, who also won an award, launched her invective against “genocidal” Israel. It was sickening to see her say she was sorry for being a Jew while trying to redeem herself by embracing Hamas’ motivations.

An influential American Jewish intellectual, Judith Butler, a woke prophetess, while presenting her latest book, also in Italy, between one thesis on gender identity and another, didn’t fail to define what happened on October 7, 2023, in Israel as an “act of armed resistance.” It has nothing to do with antisemitism and even less to do with terrorism, according to the Berkeley scholar. Of course, Hamas has committed atrocities. But in Gaza a “genocide” is underway, and “today fascism is in Israel, in the homicidal frenzy against women and children” (she said this in Bologna during the presentation of *Fascist Passions*).

Antisemitism was the underlying passion that led to the Second World War. It can lead to any type of senselessness and intentional and unintentional confusion. Through the incredible moral confusion with which every “Queer for Palestine” carries today, determined to ignore that Iran hangs gays from cranes and that Hamas lynches them, we ignore the reality before our eyes and embrace the risk to our security and our civilization.

October 7, 2023, provided a distraction from antisemitism. While Israel fought in Gaza and the North, hatred for the West was spreading. Over a year, antisemitic ideology, its cruelty, its fanaticism, and its blood-thirsty killing of innocent people in Israel and throughout the world, now spread across the globe. Terrorism support and hatred towards Western democracy, in a conflict that has been brewing for decades, was anchored in the centuries-old hatred. If one could ask Sinwar, from the depths of the tunnels from which he gave orders to Hamas and enveloped himself in Israeli hostages used as human shields, he would have said that he was winning; Nasrallah was also

aiming for victory, in Lebanon, from where, following Iran's orders and the same genocidal hatred, he had been organizing to flank Hamas since October 8, 2023.

Even if you ask the students of Baruch College in Toronto, or students in Philadelphia, Manhattan, Milan, Florence, Paris, and Berlin, they would all consider the slogan "Get Zionism out of the universities" to be a winning one. They will shout "*intifada*" and they will use slogans such as "Let the *intifada* pave the way for the people's war," while Jews and their organizations are isolated at campuses by accusations of being racist, violent, and fascist. The antisemitic ethnic cleansing operation takes place while at university campuses, all the literary, philosophical, and historical studies, are redesigned and remodeled on their lies.



## The War is Still Raging

The war that began on October 7, 2023, in Israel has a new episode every day. First of all, the continuing tragedy of the kidnapped, of which the news and films that drive their families to despair, are often spread cruelly by Hamas. And every day, we are hit by a different story that speaks of children who have seen their parents killed, terrorist attacks everywhere, women who have just given birth when the news of their husband's death in Gaza reaches them, and funerals of newly identified people a year after their murders on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

The siege is evident. It still occurs on ordinary days, like September 1, 2024, when six young people who had been kidnapped were mercilessly shot on the threshold of a prison tunnel, while probably hoping that their incredible resistance to eleven months of torture in the most terrible conditions: in the dark, without food and water, without a toilet, without being able to stand up, would have redeemed them from death. They fought and defended each other up until the last minute, just to affirm the greatness of their souls. On the same day, three policemen were killed in a terrorist attack near Hebron, while two car bombs threatened to massacre children

who were on their way to school on a school bus. And in the meantime, a soldier was killed and another seriously wounded in battle in Jenin, where houses are full of weapons.

The United States has warned that Iran, which procures those weapons and trains thousands of Palestinians to use them, is still preparing a revenge attack with its missiles. At the same time, Hezbollah is bombing the North, emptying it of people and crops, and preventing children from going to school. Funerals take place all over Israel every day. Farewell speeches are almost always addressed to young people who were sculptors, scientists, singers, high-tech experts, volunteers serving autistic and wheelchair-bound children, and Torah scholars. Their human and civil qualities create voids that will last for years and years. This war is the longest that Israel has ever fought. Surviving or even dying from terrible wounds that are inflicted when someone from an underground tunnel attacks you from behind with a machine gun or hand grenades, or when you have to enter a booby-trapped building, are still seen as miracles in the counterbalance of the daily renewed choice to hold on, to fight, to resist, to win.

In Gaza, the war seems to be ending, with 80 percent of the tunnels now neutralized. The terrorist beasts of Hamas have mostly been eliminated, the daily missile launchers fired on Israeli civilians destroyed, and important leaders like Ismail Haniyeh, Muhammad al Deif, Yahya Sinwar, and Hassan Nasrallah have been eliminated. Gaza is in ruins, but all this must be consolidated in a plan that guarantees security. To do this, the borders of the conflict must be expanded. It is clear that receives orders from Iran, as does Hezbollah, and that Hamas aims to rebuild a terrorist force stronger than ISIS and Al Qaeda. This is because it is heavily supported by a large international, antisemitic, and anti-Western public opinion,

with a shared intention to destroy Israel and the West. For this reason, and above all, October 7<sup>th</sup> is not over yet.



## The Courage of Lions

“*Harbu darbu*” is the title of a hit rap song that came out in Israel after October 7, 2023. I listened to it like a breath of fresh air on a 40-degree day, when two children, a mischievous boy and a young girl, proletarians in T-shirts, performed it with serious faces: enraged, they called all of Israel to fight, name by name all the war units, Givati, Golani, tank drivers, pilots... “Who do you think you are,” they sang to Hamas, “You think you can beat us, we’ll show you... we’re all here, my father came and my grandfather too, we’re all at the front, and we’ll destroy you.”

They sang it the “day after” the massacre that most resembled the Holocaust, that Israel had ever known. It is a very direct rap. The purists criticized it but it became indispensable even for those who love Mozart. It was the furious war song against monsters, the one that only kids can sing when they have to fearlessly fight a dragon. “We will do ‘*harbu darbu*’, a big mess awaits you, we will show you.” Had Sinwar heard all of Israel running to the borders to take up their M16s, he must have understood for the first time that Israel would now enter Gaza. Had he forgotten that Israel knows how to fight? Or had he really thought of destroying the Jewish state by overwhelming

the unaware contemporary Western culture, its pacifism, its immoderate presumption with carnage?

In the pompous era of technological communication, the “startup nation” brought to its knees, it was yet again, as for the Greeks when the Persians approached Attica, the rush of all, the unity, the weapon in hand, the desperate physical presence of men and women armed with everything they could find to fight, that saved Israel and brought it back to the battlefield.

It was that lion’s spirit, which only in the War of Independence of 1948 finds a due comparison, the patriotic inspiration that, as if by a miracle from then until today, has brought back into the field the strength of the people who were bereft to the point of nakedness and who discover new horrors daily: Jewish history had been asked to remember the fact that the most persecuted people in history had ceased to be so because the existence of Israel burdened it with immense responsibilities and with an unusual power over itself and the world’s attention. The time had now come to immediately respond, under penalty of death.

Overwhelmed by the ambush of October 7<sup>th</sup>, the Jews decided to fight again, to destroy the enemy, rushing to the front from the first moment, even while Netanyahu, wanting to declare war, did not yet have permission from the Supreme Court to strike the enemy (and the reaction, which will have to be thoroughly investigated in the coming years, ended up delayed by many hours).

Perhaps Sinwar had not considered this lesson in general collective patriotism, which overcame every political fracture, even if the prediction of a late, astonished reaction was part of his sophisticated plan. He had imagined starting a sort of occupation aimed at the North, which would symbolically make him the new Saladin occupying the land, at least for a few hours. This was his first failure: he wasn’t successful. Israel,



after just eight or nine hours of paralysis, pushed back the enemy. Many paid with their own lives not only for Hamas's aggression but also for the heroic effort to push it back with their bare hands, running to the aid of their family and friends, returning again and again to the battlefield until they were overtaken.

Sinwar then began to use tunnels and human shields, as planned, for the second phase of the war. His people took Allah's pledge of death: civilians who had followed the monsters on motorcycles into the kibbutzim to rape, steal, and take slaves back home ("I found a beautiful cow," a Gazan told his friend on the phone, on tape, "I'm taking her home"). They waited for the bloodied, kidnapped, dead or alive, raped and dismembered, to divide among the crowd, which screamed with joy.

Incomprehensibly and unbelievably in the eyes of the West, Sinwar established the war criteria for his people: "We want our people to be *shahids*, they are exactly where they need to be." That is, to cover the armed men of Hamas, from above, on the sand of the Strip, while the squads below continued to wage war against the Jews and the West that they represent. This determination created the most asymmetric war known to date, even more than in Mosul; meanwhile, the Western mind launched all its criticism against Israel for unintended victims, rather than against those who had desired and planned it, focusing instead on Gaza civilians. The human sacrifices of the people of Gaza were part of the strategy to destroy Israel, morally and physically, and to create antisemitism.

It is still October 7<sup>th</sup>. Each minute something new happens. The radio and TV continue to show images of terrorist attacks in Israel and of missile attacks by Hezbollah, while from Gaza come news of fallen soldiers and tortured hostages. It is the interweaving of events that has allowed Hamas to wound the

world with its sharp edge of destruction, planned together with its international supporters backstage. The horror films and the hemorrhage of hostages that fall every day, like a rain of fire on Israeli society, have been accompanied since day one by Hezbollah's daily war in the North, and then by the attacks by Iran. And with the increasingly *intifada*-like attacks coming from the Palestinian Authority, shooting or running over the people of Tel Aviv or Jerusalem with their cars. Ambushes multiply daily in the streets, terrorist suicides and car bombs, drones from the North, Houthi missiles launched from 2000 kilometers away, and now from Iraq and Syria.

As we are writing, the Northern front has become the most incandescent; Hezbollah, Iran's most favored proxy, has outdone itself in flanking Hamas with bombings that have evicted the people of Israel from their homes in the North. As with Hamas, here too, the negative reaction has been obligatory. As with Hamas, Western public opinion pretends not to, or maybe cannot, understand.

## A Psychotic Reversal

The war that since October 7, 2023, has continued to attack Israel on seven different fronts has brought with it a psychotic reversal, affecting knowledge and judgment. The word war is a fundamental taboo for democracies.

The smallest country in the world, engaged in a survival war after a genocidal attack, is described in all latitudes as a ferocious giant wearing seven-league boots who traverses the world with its wickedness and embodies the worst sins of which the West is stained. It reflects its feelings of guilt. As Douglas Murray writes: look at what the anti-Semite accuses the Jew of and you will see his portrait.

It is interesting how fast dementia develops. Since October 7<sup>th</sup>, in a collective cognitive decline that is completely evident, we can no longer make sense of anything. The world has been turned upside down. Those who decided to wage war are considered the ones attacked; those who used (even by collecting filmed and recorded evidence themselves) incredible cruelties against innocent civilians, sexual assaults, dismemberments or even burning people alive, are considered the victims.

Those who responded with an indispensable war to save

themselves, subjecting themselves to ethical rules, are the criminals. Those who should defend peace, namely the great international organizations such as the United Nations, condemn those attacked. Those who were supposed to help them, have entangled themselves in a thousand snares to prevent them from winning, or in any case, to slow them down. Those who have dedicated their lives to the defense of women, the feminist movements themselves, have not been able to recognize the blatant spectacle of the rape and killing of hundreds of women; Those who defend children at organizations such as UNICEF have not seen the children who were murdered in the arms of their parents and grandmothers, murdered after them, nor those who were kidnapped. They have not protested. Not one person from the international institutions has made humanitarian solidarity in Gaza conditional on the return of the hostages; rather, all the pressure has been shifted to Israel, asking for concessions that, while leaving Hamas in power, did not test Sinwar's willingness to strip himself of his belt of human shields.

The cruelty has been transferred from the murderer to the victim, like in a Hitchcock film. Since October 7<sup>th</sup>, we have been facing a world whose culture and politics are in the grip of that suicidal delirium that the Sinwar's world, and therefore of the ayatollahs, has programmed for him. Israel also defends the mental safeguard of the war of survival.

The soldiers are the country's saviors and heroes. War at least reminds people who their real enemies and allies are. Itay, Matan, Ori, and Benny, speak to their mothers and girlfriends from the front lines, after weeks of not being able to call home. With a smile, they reassure their loved ones, "I'm fine. We're fighting. We're defending you. Don't worry, we're here. We're saving you from another October 7<sup>th</sup>. We will win. *Am Israel chai*, the nation of Israel lives." The wounded

insist upon immediately returning to their comrades to fight. The stories that the soldiers tell are full of unique, cinematic acts of courage and solidarity, repeated every day along a few kilometers of the Strip's Mediterranean coast. The army fights in the South and in the North, against Hezbollah, an indispensable defense for the people, which demands and preserves their will and mental health.

Unfortunately, since October 7<sup>th</sup>, with no end in sight, one must fight to save himself. The world must consider this, instead of blaming Israel. Israel is always asked: What is the prospect of ending the war? It's a good question. But what are the prospects for a ceasefire? Letting Hamas and Hezbollah win?

It is hard to accept, but the public discourse, whether from universities to public squares to social media and television news programs spout invented numbers. They refuse to study, understand, or even look at the map and history books, or to listen to the simple and heartfelt stories of those who have lived through the war. There are astonishing chasms of knowledge in which the precise story of the proven crimes of which Hamas continues to boast, which are denied or even approved by public opinion. Hamas has publicized films in which, under obvious duress, the kidnapped recount the physical and psychological horrors inflicted on them after day, to weaken Israeli public opinion. After all, others have been killed and buried in the tunnels for months, like the six hostages killed in August 2024. No horrified reaction was expressed by the crowds who want victory "from the River to the Sea."

Facts have no value and are discarded in exchange for ideological exaltations without context, of a presumed battle for the good of humanity in the name of the "oppressed." Thus, everything that seemed unspeakable can be said, and forbidden

cruelty becomes logical, and even commendable, while the right to the truth is denied. If a missile hits and kills someone inside Gaza, it somehow is considered “ontologically” Israeli, or rather, Jewish, so that it doesn’t matter if it was launched by the Palestinians themselves, as was the case of a Palestinian Islamic Jihad missile which landed in Al Ahli Hospital. If humans are used as shields for missile launchers, and terrorist units that strike Israel, and they become instruments of war, this too is ignored. It doesn’t matter if a UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) school is in fact a Hamas lair, or if some teachers are terrorists of the Nukhba, or if a hospital is the mouth of a maze of tunnels overflowing with weapons and armed men.

They reevaluate past episodes of terrorism and massacres, coining them a “war of liberation”: kidnappings, bombs, buses, and restaurants that exploded, planes that were hijacked, attacks on airports and schools, like the one in Ma’alot or the one at the Munich Olympics. The worst events in human history are justified and, indeed, praised, while lies become truth without verification. The numbers of the dead are invented. What is said is said. And four-digit figures are invented regarding the children killed. The only thing needed is for Hamas’ “Ministry of Health” to communicate the data, all the while ignoring the fact that the majority of those killed are terrorists.

## A Farewell to Human Rights

Simply stated, human rights have been overturned. As a Jew, having unknowingly transformed myself into an enemy, I have become once again, as in the times of the great persecutions, a cockroach of history, and I'm to be crushed. This is what Hamas and Khamenei want and repeat. They are joined with an immense group whose demands and condemnations are accepted by the international institutional assembly.

For a year now I have been trying, as I've always done, but with a much more astonished sense of urgency, to object, to reason, to inform, only to realize that, apart from a very small group that listens, a little group of heroes who dare to challenge friends who no longer invite them to dinner, I am only asked to get out of the way. I am not welcome, just as Jewish actors are not welcome at theater and film festivals, artists at the Italian Biennale, Jewish professors at universities, and authors in bookstores where novels are presented. Jews are colonialists, white supremacists, murderers, especially of children, and imperialists. The Hamas attack "did not happen in a vacuum" UN Secretary General Guterres told us, creating epistemological and political damage that will remain in history. By establishing that the oppression of the Palestinians

is 76 years old, which is as old as the very existence of the State of Israel, and obliterating all the international legitimacy it has received on several occasions, Guterres has thus confirmed the premise of the slogan “from the River to the Sea,” establishing the accusation of genocide, hence the desired eradication of the State of Israel.

According to the woke revision and its previously Stalinist version, the Jews have no roots in their land, in Israel: before the time in which they appeared as colonial imperialists, they never existed. They arrived on the ship of evil, with the army that occupied the innocent world of the aborigines. It is of no avail that they arrived not with the army, but with ploughs and books, to reach a fringe of other Jews that had never left, not even after the destruction of the Temple by the Romans, in 70 AD. It is of no avail that for three thousand years, that is, since the time of Abraham, and then since Moses brought his people home and David conquered Jerusalem, Israel has been the indigenous and diaspora center of the Jewish people, calling themselves the people of Israel since their return from the Babylonian exile (538 BCE). Every hill, every stream, every town has a present-day name, its memory engraved in the Bible and, later in time, in Greek, Roman, and Christian texts; every place and every line that the whole world has fed on to found the West has its history in Israel, and only the woke movement, with its sordid and malicious ignorance, erases it, just as in the universities it erases Homer, Dante Alighieri, and Shakespeare. Thus, the human, cultural, and political turning point that the Jews in Jerusalem have always represented for everyone is denied, together with the legacy of Athens. The great gem of Western thought and therefore of democracy that Nazism, Communism and today Islam have existentially hated.



## From Antisemitism to Anti-Western Israelophobia

I thought I belonged to the “happy” page of Jewish history. For me, being Jewish implied an eternal awakening from the nightmare of the Holocaust. That Israel could be realistically threatened with death seemed to me a sick fantasy. That the Jewish people could once again be associated with the verbs “expel,” “eliminate,” “drive out,” “kill,” “destroy”... was unimaginable.

In Florence, my grandmother Rosina Volterra and my grandfather Giuseppe Lattes quickly rebuilt their bourgeois nest after the Holocaust, with the tapestry of Queen Esther making the Persian king fall in love, on the entrance wall. From a 20-year-old partisan to a left-wing journalist, my mother had immediately become the image of an emancipated woman full of life. My father, a historian of the Holocaust and a soldier of the Jewish Brigade, burdened with his memory of the shtetl, and afterward of the streets of Israel built with his hands, singing in Polish and Hebrew for us little girls, had sealed the fate of each of his three daughters in our house at Via Marconi 16 and then in Via Cocchi. Behind us, beloved and mourned, the sweet ghosts of grandparents and uncles deported and killed in Italy and Poland, did not however destroy our hope in building

the present and the future. The Jewish people were awakening to life and my family with them.

*Am Israel Chai*, and how true it is. As little girls, we danced the Hora with my grandmother in the corridor. Zionism was an integral part of returning to life. On the horizon, it loomed like a great indispensable adventure, the vista of our fantasies. My father had landed there in 1936. My primary school teacher, Raffaella D'Elia, who had been a fascist, flitting around me like a swallow that feeds its chicks. By teaching me to write at the Giosue Carducci school in Florence, she was finally rebuilding her inner nest which had been destroyed. It was a privilege of fate for her to have this little Jewess among her students, she was finally free to love her and to love life. It was her way of being reintegrated into democracy. It was spring for the Jews too. It was the return to the West. After Nazi-fascism, the eternal rules reappeared for everyone: "Thou shalt not kill" and "Love thy neighbor."

But as if by fate, while the logic of history proposed Jewish reintegration and the horrified detachment from that wall of shame that the genocide and anti-Semitic theories had built, almost as in a tragic mockery, my father was held and persecuted for four years in communist Poland, where he had taken a journey in search of the memory of his people of the shtetl of Baranov and of his family, mostly exterminated. The story was not over.

Israel, where my father had come from, had already become for Stalin the new target of anti-Jewish hatred. A new antisemitism was taking shape. While the crematoria were still closing, the next great war against the Jews and the State of Israel was opening. Natan Sharansky languished with many other Jews in Soviet prisons, only for having requested an emigration visa to Israel, while a new episode of the antisemitic extermination was taking place in the Gulag. It was

the same war of denial of the Jews' right to self-determination, the criminalization of the right to Jewish identity and to the land of their Fathers. The most popular accusation was, in fact, that of infidelity to the Soviet state, of espionage and treason. While my father was being held, a massacre of Jews was taking place that stopped only in 1953 with the death of Stalin, and would only really end with the fall of communism.

It is incredible how the terminology has remained identical since then: the hatred that culminated on October 7, 2023, with the genocidal massacre that continues to loom over us all, has the same Paleolithic bat wings, immense and black. It has been flying for fifty years now, the international post-Nazi antisemitism, hating Israel. It has settled in the world of the media, passing from mouth to mouth, from square to square. It is the same now, while the battle is still being fought. Antisemitism has very powerful commanders: the leaders of the left, extreme Islamists, the bosses of states at war with the West, big countries that wish to dominate the world, and international institutions convinced they are serving the cause of justice, like the UN. Antisemitism was the gadfly of Nazism just as it is in this competitive war of domination. It remains the greatest strategic danger that the Western world has encountered since the Second World War.

Hitler chose to associate the Norse goddess Valkyrie who accompanied dead soldiers' souls to the upper world, with the conquest of Europe and the world. In Nazism, antisemitism took on a racial character, one of its many incarnations. Unlike today, the millenarian ecstasy with which Nazism carried out the extermination was nourished by the physical weakness of the body to be quartered: the Jewish people were unarmed and scattered, completely unprotected; from the beginning to the end, the Jews, except in extraordinary cases, could do nothing but raise their hands and be led, in some cases after

months of humiliation in the ghettos, to the extermination camps. Men, women, and children lined up with their school teachers. Only a few ghettos rose up, even though they knew that the Germans had all the weapons of annihilation. Hitler decided to continue to use trains from Greece to transport the Jews to the concentration camps rather than to bring his soldiers home. That was Nazism's war, even as it was about to end in defeat.

But today Israel fights. It has not put an end to the ancient threat to the Jews, but when it fights it does so to win, to live. In the aftermath of October 7, 2023, we are still the same Jews as in the time of the Pharaohs, as in the time of the Crusades, as in the time of the first ghettos, as in the time of the pogroms, as in the time of the Nazis and the Soviets, but with weapons in hand. We are Jews as always, objects of envy and genocidal hatred, but we are Jews in the time of the State of Israel. It is a great privilege and a great responsibility.

## Where Does Today's Antisemitism Originate?

Genocide was a theological event over the centuries, then an ethnic-racial event, and then it became contemporary politics against Israel. I wrote about it when no one wanted to believe it yet. Only the fortune of having met and learned in depth from two immense figures of reflection on the Middle East and antisemitism, Bernard Lewis and Robert Wistrich, allowed me at least thirty years ago to understand that antisemitism was transforming into Israelophobia. I would never have believed it. Antisemitism, I had deluded myself as a left-wing girl, was a perverse cultural vulgarity of the minority, unpresentable in the West, at most a battlefield chosen by the stupid and the wicked. The memory of the Holocaust defended me. It would remain a moral wall for Europe; the combative spirit of the United States would always be a stumbling block.

When, with the Soviet, Arab-Muslim, and Third World vote dominated, and the resolution “Zionism is racism” was passed at the UN on November 10, 1975, American Ambassador Daniel Patrick Moynihan declared: “A great evil has descended upon the world... the abomination of anti-Semitism has taken the form of international sanction.” Following the expression used by Roosevelt and quoted by Norman Podhoretz, the

ambassador called this date “an infamous day,” like that of Pearl Harbor, “an attack on the foundations of the UN and of human progress.” (Ruth Wisse, “The Logic of Jewish History,” *Mosaic*, November 9, 2023)

Even on October 7<sup>th</sup>, a war on Israel and the Jewish people began that has undermined, the foundations of our worldview and of the institutions built to defend democracy, security, and peace. No less than this happened that day: the forced intrusion on our land, an intrusion parallel to that of Russia in Ukraine, of the most devastating force in contemporary history, with destructive intent.

The weakness of Europe, which, after the trauma of the two world wars sought stability and international influence, the opposite of what was happening in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia which during the same period, experienced the upheavals of decolonization and Soviet support. Islam, which in the distant past had led the world in medicine, mathematics, and war, only to disappear, was slowly but surely resurfacing, recalling the fall of Constantinople to the Turks in 1453. (Today, Erdogan is the living monument to this memory.) Faced with European disorientation, its postcolonial sense of guilt and moral confusion, Islam gradually rose – albeit amidst a thousand crises that made it, once again, a wild torrent of molten lead – as an antagonistic culture and human force, determined to reclaim the space that history had taken away from it. Now, writes Douglas Murray, London is no longer an English city: it suffers from no-go zones, Islamic bullying, and Sharia courts. If one analyzes the Islamist crimes over the decades, the hijackings of airplanes, the growth of terrorism and the kidnappings, and with them the tectonic transformation of the European human landscape since 25 million Muslims, it is estimated, live in Europe, one cannot help but understand that there has been a strategic turning

point, a sort of rallying call in the West, of the Islamist forces that have not been able to create an organized society in Libya, Syria, Egypt, and in the African countries with a Muslim majority.





## The Red (Marxist)-Green (Islamist) Alliance

There is a victorious place for Islam in the Western world: with the forces of the left and the extreme right, both anti-Western, who promise to conquer the world together, against colonialism, under the banner of antisemitism. With false human rights – those that allow one to have four wives and marry them when they are twelve years old, and also to hang gays – against true human rights. The placement between Europe, the United States, and the Islamic world, has important consequences in spreading genocidal antisemitism, making October 7, 2023 a universal event, with possible large-scale consequences. These depend on the determined construction of left-wing anti-Zionist propaganda that connects to Islam. Its origins are in Soviet politics, which aimed to destroy Western liberal, democratic, and capitalist society.

For a long time, this plan remained misunderstood. The reasons why Israel has been unable to understand that Hamas was preparing for October 7<sup>th</sup> are linked to the sea of political, psychological, and strategic confusion prevalent in the world. Europe turned pale in the face of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, unprepared and divided, even though Putin's ambitions had been clear to everyone for years. The

United States blushed with shame in fleeing Afghanistan, returning it to the Taliban, knowing that the symbolic meaning of those armed forces flights with clusters of desperate people clinging to the airplane wings was the denial of its hegemony. America put aside the fact that the war in Gaza is the match in a minefield of radical Islam: since 1979, the dictatorship of the ayatollahs was established in Iran, and it has never stopped spreading its tentacles. I saw with my own eyes, collected in the kibbutzim after the battle, the ingenious, low-cost, small-sized, elementary, and easy-to-use weapons with which the Nukhba terrorists had been training for years before October 7<sup>th</sup>. They are almost all Iranian or self-produced with Iranian help. The atomic bomb is certainly a real threat to the existence of Israel, but it is just an aspect of Islamic aggression.

Netanyahu's famous speeches to the United States Congress and the UN have demonstrated the progress of the nuclear plans prepared by the Shiite power's Revolutionary Guards. Though he was correct, the attention with which he focused on the great strategy of the most powerful weapons, and on the great technological balancing act of Iran that was setting up the regime's atomic structures, he ignored the strategic force that knows neither Shiite nor Sunni, a boiling lava, of an immense population in arms, nourished by hatred for Israel and the West, whose most powerful weapon is the religious ecstasy of the mass *shahid*.

## How Did It Happen?

One wonders in amazement, “How did we not understand what was being planned?” Good question. We are faced with a universal, not an Israeli, problem. It is the Western chorus about peace and war, enemies, identity, civic life, coexistence, and pluralism, that led Israel and the whole world to that day. The day left the world stunned at the new horizons of human cruelty, the bloodthirsty exhibitionism of insult, the supreme rudeness with which one can harm, even to the point of dismemberment of a child, an old man, or a woman.

Who was responsible for failing to predict this event? Of course, the government, the Prime Minister, the Chief of Staff, Mossad, the army, the command and information chain. Shahar Tzemach, a 37-year-old father of three young children and a member of the Be’eri kibbutz advocacy group, finally, hours after the Hamas attack began, seeing a helicopter circling over the kibbutz, telephoned the command, “Shoot! Can’t you see the terrorists on the children’s playground?” “I don’t have permission, we don’t have enough information,” he was answered. This was told to me by Shahar’s father, who later died fighting.

The whole world, not only Israel, was wrong and did not

understand before October 7<sup>th</sup>. Nothing was understood about what Hamas could do and is still doing and, that it was principally backed by Iran. It was not understood in Jerusalem, Brussels, or Washington. Even today, they don't understand what poses an immense risk for us all. Oriana Fallaci had sensed the enormous grip of Islamic anger in Europe and the world and the risks it posed. But her analysis was still missing one of the main elements of the physical and cultural aggression that this novelty would bring to the European and American scene: antisemitism.

## The Woke “Children” of the USSR: United in the Struggle

Where does the power of the alliance between Western political forces and institutions and Islam originate? The answer is: in the “Third Worldist” policy of the Soviet Union, especially after the Six Day War. In November 1967 (Izabella Tabarovsky recounts this in a fine essay in *Tablet*, “Zombie Antizionism”), at the New Delhi conference of the World Peace Council, one hundred and fifty delegates from the Third World and socialist block met. This event was organized by the USSR, with Indira Gandhi, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Fidel Castro, Houari Boumedienne, and the leaders of Sudan, Syria, Jordan, Algeria, Kuwait, and Mongolia. It was, however, Herbert Aptheker, an influential member of the American Communist Party, who defined for everyone the terms of the Arab-Israeli conflict: “Imperialism and colonialism versus liberation and social progress.”

The Six-Day War was portrayed by the global left as a war of aggression and occupation, denying the historical truth. The war therefore was an inspiration for anti-imperialist and Third Worldist ideology. The term colonialism, was now conjugated with the word “occupation,” outside any legal and political reality, and swallowed once and for all the more than

legitimate, very ancient presence of Jews in their land. At the UN, the myth of the Nakba, the Palestinian “Holocaust,” was first constructed, and later that of the “illegal occupation.” In the European Union, in universities and public squares, the “appeal to the world’s conscience” took shape against the State of the Jews formed after the Holocaust, and attributed Palestinian terrorism with the qualification of “resistance.” And this was after the Jewish Brigade’s armed struggle against the Nazi-fascists alongside the real Resistance. The undoubted international legality of the founding of the State of Israel was branded as “imperialist and Zionist propaganda.”

The equation between Israel and “apartheid South Africa” already dates back to that period. At that time, it built the set for today’s show, giving it great political vigor, financing, and international space to the ends of the earth. That is, the global platform was being built for the destruction of the State of Israel, on which antisemitism was increasingly the tool, using even the immortal roots of the “oldest hatred” by renewing it in the criminalization of the Jewish State.

Thus, in parallel, the lack of resolvability of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was also being constructed: from the beginning, from the rejection of the partition plan of 1948, which Israel had accepted, one could see how it was the only conflict in which one side, the Arab side, while cloaking itself in territorial demands, was actually seeking neither independence nor self-determination and statehood. It only wanted the destruction of the enemy. It was based on the idea that the very existence of Israel was a metaphysical, religious, and moral crime for which no diplomatic solution nor compromise is possible. Only its cancellation.

This is the reason that the conflict cannot be resolved. Today, Israel’s surrender to genocidal antisemitism has grown, and it is incredibly common among young people in universities, as

well as across the borders of Islamic movements. The current negotiation for the release of the hostages falls under the same chapter: with Israel, we do not really negotiate, we demand its capitulation. Only if Israel surrenders by withdrawing from Gaza altogether, allowing Hamas to organize the next undisturbed aggression, will negotiations be spoken of vaguely. Since April 2024, as Netanyahu has made clear that Israel has accepted, at least five times, the increase in Hamas's "price" for returning hostages. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, the U.S. negotiator, has certified this, praising Israel's "incredible generosity" and denouncing Hamas's refusal. It doesn't matter: for the world, Israel is always to blame for the failure to reach an agreement. It's not Hamas's fault, not even after murdering in cold blood six innocent human beings tortured for an entire year under the sands of Gaza, knowing that no one would condemn it. Antisemitism is out of control.

The antisemitism of various origins that accompanied Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> and invaded the world is patricide. In the West, Jew-hatred becomes self-hatred: by cutting off, boycotting and excluding Israel, the bastion of civilization, medicine, water and food research, literature, science, and the war on terror, the West also separates itself from Israel's prolific production for the common good, including Israel's generous help to any nation experiencing natural disasters, disease, agricultural challenges and assistance in maximizing resources.

It was through the context of the Cold War that the USSR decided to build an alliance with the Arabs, a united front against the West, coalescing all anti-Zionist movements. Since then, this army has advanced in many trenches, clutching Israel by the throat: from borders, to international organizations, to Third World states, to American and European socialist movements. Over time these movements have joined the woke

revolution, adding new fronts, such as the solidarity of Black Americans.

In September 2001, while reporting in Durban for the newspaper *La Stampa* we journalists, who had been invited to cover the UN-associated World Conference Against Racism, found ourselves bombarded with speeches by Yasser Arafat, Fidel Castro, and Robert Mugabe against imperialism and against Israel. The stunned Israeli delegation was dumbfounded in the face of the officially enforced antisemitic position, that devolved into physical violence on the streets and in the side auditoriums where the NGOs gathered. The meetings were full of hatred, distributing leaflets and chanting slogans against Jews, spewing senseless accusations of apartheid, racism, and colonialism. Meanwhile, Jews who were present were even physically assaulted. On the streets of the city's dilapidated suburbs, a demonstration hoisted a poster of Bin Laden.

Nothing has changed, except that in today's demonstrations people march behind a Hamas flag, and if Al Qaeda and ISIS were more prominent and active, they would surely become major players in today's anti-Western movement. The attack on the Twin Towers took place three days after the conclusion of the Durban Conference. While the international strategy of Islamic terrorism was being defined in South Africa, whose greatest target is Jews, it also attacked the United States, the stronghold of the West, face to face.



## The Secret Weapon, Psychology

About a year after the Six Day War and shortly before he was appointed PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat perfected his program: to engage Israel in a direct and exhausting conflict in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. The goal was, to “hinder immigration and encourage the emigration of Israelis from the country ... ruin tourism ... weaken the Israeli economy by forcing Israelis to budget a large part of their resources for security purposes ... the creation and maintenance of an atmosphere of tension and anxiety which would cause the Zionists to understand that they could not live in Israel,” – in a word, disrupt the Israeli way of life.” (From Joel Fishman, “‘Decomposition’, is a weapon of political warfare in which the ‘Resistance’ treats the state as if it is a foreign country.” *Israel National News*, August 3, 2023)

Terrorism became a worldwide phenomenon during that period, peaking in the 1970s: in Munich in 1972, with 11 Israeli athletes killed at the Olympics; in Kiryat Shmona, in 1974, with 18 dead, including 8 children; in the same year in Ma'alot, with 27 children killed at the school; at the Savoy in Tel Aviv in 1975, 11 dead; with the Entebbe operation, in 1976. Simply stated, it aimed to destroy Israeli life from within, impairing its function as the homeland of the Jewish people, by attacking it from without. The objective was to make life in Israel impossible, fragile, unstable and, with it, that of all Jews around the world.

In 1982, there was a terrorist attack on the Jewish Temple in Rome, where a two-year-old boy, Stefano Gay Taché, was killed, and in the same year, a series of attacks began in cities with the greatest numbers of Islamic immigrants, with France in the lead, followed by Belgium and Great Britain.

Terrorism was the blueprint for the decomposition of the entire Jewish world, redesigned so many times. Terrorism was practiced by Israel's vast patchwork of physical and moral aggressors, reimagined by the head of the Lebanese terrorist organization Hezbollah, Nasrallah, as recently as in his July 2024 speech. Continued attacks would lead to internal rifts, confusion in Israel, and then flight. Several decades ago, in a 1993 speech entitled "On the collapse of the State of Israel," spoken secretly in the Hall of Mirrors of the Grand Hotel in Stockholm to 40 Arab diplomats as he publicly managed the Oslo negotiations, Arafat was recorded saying, "Take everything, including Jerusalem, within five years we will have six to seven million Arabs in the West Bank who will make life impossible for the Jews with psychological warfare... The Jews will not want to live cramped among the Arabs... We need all the help we can get for a united Palestine under total Arab domination."

The PLO leader clearly echoed Lenin's theory of the two camps, with the world separated between the Bolsheviks – the revolutionary camp – and the capitalist camp. The revolutionary one was referred to as the "peace camp." It is hard to underestimate the strength that this fraudulent concept had in paving the way for the antisemitic war that still threatens Israel and Western democracies today. It is amazing, as Izabella Tabarovsky observes, Soviet propaganda conceived in the belly of the Cold War mirrors the exact language used by the entire spectrum of the left and anti-Jewish Islam since October 7<sup>th</sup>. The whole of the USSR-sponsored Third World and

the international left have contributed to a systematic, costly, and accurate construction to demonize Israel and Zionism, relying on anti-racist, anti-apartheid, anti-colonialist, and anti-imperialist propaganda, to the point of justifying mass murder, rape and kidnapping by use of these concepts. Antisemites are the secret glue.

We are witnessing the resurrection of a defeated culture, being brought back to life with an explosion of pride and anger, after the failures of its imperialism (that of Turkey), of its alliance with Nazism (that of Haj Amin al Hussein, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem who allied with Hitler), of the socialist adventure of leaders who learned in Moscow at university to deny the Holocaust (Mahmoud Abbas), of pan-Arabism (Nasser), and after the failures of the sad revolutions of the Arab Spring, and the disaster of the most vicious dictators (Saddam, Qaddafi).

After all possible disasters, as the Arab countries sunk into ruin (except for those, such as the Emirates and Saudi Arabia, that made order, in their economy and by deterrence, making them indispensable in the Middle East). Iran emerged as a terrorist world power alongside Russia and China, embarking on the construction of the Axis of Evil, its military strategy.

The theological basis is classical Shiite one: the Mahdi will come at the end of time; the ayatollahs will be ready to launch the final war; Islam will win. The chaos will be gigantic, according to Shiite tradition: the prediction of victory is clear and the sparing of lives is not contemplated. On the contrary: every Islamic attack, even by Sunnis, has the specific characteristic of suicide terrorism, which we in the West stubbornly refuse to understand, despite the fact that the Palestinians have given numerous demonstrations of it, beginning with the Second Intifada. The *shahid*, the suicide

martyr, and bringer of death, has now become the principal hero of contemporary antisemitic culture.

This aspect, the repeated theme “we love death more than you love life,” perhaps the Soviet Union did not foresee, or may have believed they could contain it within its hegemonic designs. Believing it was making the Muslim world its own weapon, Moscow covered the globe with an endless number of initiatives, leaflets, booklets, conferences, youth festivals, women’s assemblies, workers’ assemblies, peace committees, congresses for nuclear disarmament, for science and agriculture. And while a conference was being organized, for example, in Malaysia, droves of delegates were being invited at the expense of the USSR from Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam, as well as delegations of British, Italians, Germans, French, Arabs, who thus had an opportunity to meet their Third World heroes.

## The Great Front against Israel and the West

From the 1960s, in particular, and onward, Palestinians began to be the life of the party: they were welcomed and hailed as heroes, along with the protagonists of South Africa's anti-American campaigns and anti-apartheid struggle. Being a declared anti-Zionist and anti-Israeli made an activist, especially a black one, an international star, which is what happened, for example, to the Black Panthers' Angela Davis and Stokely Carmichael. Being Fidel Castro's personal friend as well as various African dictators, such as Ahmed Sékou Touré and Kwame Nkrumah, was a mark of undying fame and vast financial grants for their anti-American and anti-Israel actions.

Unfortunately, even within the Biden Administration, not to mention in Obama's time, we found culturally registered players, such as the Special Envoy of the United States to Iran, Robert Malley, whose father, a militant Egyptian communist, had been editor of the Paris newspaper *Africasia*. Robert received an upbringing very consistent with his family's ideas, reportedly playing as a child with his father's friend Arafat. Meanwhile, the Soviet ecosystem produced some members of the Labour Party in England aligned with Corbyn, such as George Galloway, who on his hatred of Israel

and love for the USSR built a still-ongoing career, and a whole series of intellectuals and founders of magazines, such as Ken Livingstone or Seumas Milne, director of “Straight Left.” Jeremy Corbyn arrived in the 1980s when he joined an organization whose distinct purpose was to specifically “eradicate Zionism from the Labour Party.”

I, myself, remember in Rome, on a sunny morning, the unexpected and furious indictment of an intellectual gentleman, the famous and courteous founder of the daily paper *Il Manifesto*, Valentino Parlato, whose intense hatred toward Israel left me speechless, nailed to and frozen on the cobblestones of Rome, though I was trained against the anti-Israel indictments of the Communist Party, of which I had been a member in my youth. I had already been burned in 1967 by the antisemitic fury encountered among the students and my friends, when, as a girl, having returned from Israel after the Six-Day War where I had lived in Kibbutz Neot Mordechai. Always, during the years when I was a communist and then, as now, a feminist and liberal-conservative, I felt that I was being asked over and over again to apologize for that magnificent experience. It felt as if I was only to show others the part of me in which the memory of my Jewish life was linked to my family’s past as victims of the Holocaust and Nazi-fascism, of antisemitic laws and persecution. Woe to me for supporting or justifying the victorious war, especially the Six-Day War. This was even though Israel, after offering to return the territories of the West Bank, Judea and Samaria – over which it had all rights, having been attacked by Jordan, which had occupied them previously. Instead, at the Khartoum summit the three famous “no’s” were declared against Israel marking the entire future road: no to peace, no to recognition, and no to negotiations.

After the 1967 war, in particular, the Third Worldist leaders

of Latin America (today Lula de Silva and Gustavo Petro) were drafted into the anti-Israeli and anti-Western army. Nonaligned countries became increasingly aligned with the USSR. South Africa's African National Congress became linked to the Soviet patron, which immediately made it an antisemite and anti-Zionist, despite the fact that the lawyer who defended Nelson Mandela was Irwin Cotler, a prominent exponent of Canadian Jewry and later minister of justice in his country.

The style of South African political language and hatred is the fruit of Soviet upbringing. It has arrived intact and mummified today, where at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, yet another manifestation of the encirclement by the United Nations was staged against Israel, by accusing it after October 7<sup>th</sup> of "genocide." "Ethnic cleansing" is the other expression used to accuse Israel since its birth. Nothing could be more ridiculous, given the exponential growth of the Palestinian population in the territories.

It was actually Nikita Khrushchev who sensed the power that would give the USSR an anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist U.N., when in 1960, while spending a month at the United Nations in New York, he saw 17 Third World countries, which had just joined the international organization, attacking Western imperialism right in the heart of the country that was considered its symbol. Thus, in 1961, Soviet propaganda was entrusted to professionals who placed "national liberation" movements and "anti-imperialist forces" at the center, against the United States and its allies. Soviet newspapers and propaganda materials were used, but above all, they used intellectuals who had given themselves the task of redeeming the world from American imperialism. The voices of those allies of the USSR became more powerful and well-distributed every year.

In October 1967, fifty-thousand American students were

convoyed in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington to protest the war in Vietnam and to offer their tribute to the memory of Che Guevara. Vietnam demonstrations were the bread and butter of anti-American activism. The 1960s and 1970s were crucial in the entrenchment of the same ideology that today, almost without modification, is explicitly combined with antisemitism and the anti-Western vehemence of Islam. At that time, an article from the *World Marxist Review*, an English version of the Soviet journal *Problems of Peace and Socialism*, was translated into 40 languages. It was entitled *Anatomy of Israeli Aggression*, accompanied by coverage of a gigantic “Second Conference in Support of the Arab Peoples,” attended by representatives of 145 countries.

The famous reversal of Zionism into Nazism began in the 1960s, with accusations of Israel persecuting Palestinians like the Nazis persecuted Jews, of killing them with the same cruelty, of being a transmission belt of imperialism, a modern form of fascism, a proponent of genocide, a bearer of racism, perfidy, duplicity.

The woke ideology, sliding down the slope together with anti-imperialism and anti-colonialism to the present day, links antisemitic hatred to the concept of the oppressors – oppressed: two camps that are indissolubly destined to struggle against each other, allowing for no identification with Israel’s motives even at times like October 7<sup>th</sup>. Not even the most heinous horrors, such as rapes and the deliberate killing of infants, have been admitted and condemned, nor has the cautious and moral behavior of the Israeli army, which, like no one else, has allowed humanitarian aid, been acknowledged. After all, in 1973, when Israel was squeezed in the nutcracker between Egypt and Syria, risking death, the Soviet front and comrades demanded “that all public organizations and countries launch a great campaign of protest against the barbaric actions of the



Israeli military action.” The machine of criminalization was in full motion.

In fact, it is precisely when Israel is risking its life that the enemy comes back to life, the one who dreams of the *dar al-harb* becoming *dar al-Islam* again under its jurisdiction, i.e., that wherever Muslims live Islam will be established. Today, jihadist Islam perceives that its Western ally is ready: one who has suffered a defeat on the left and who will not rest in peace, greedy for power and violence, ready to build the “anti-imperialism” front with the Arab world. As the Labor Party resurges after the last British elections, Jeremy Corbyn has already formed a new “internationalist” organization called the “Independent Alliance” together with four Arab members of the British Parliament. Naturally, their action will be centered around fighting Israel and Zionism.



## The Weapon of Ignorance

The moral insanity that sees the only democracy in the Middle East as a rogue state, unworthy of existence and the source of all evil, stems from a cultural, as well as political, turn of events that has accelerated dramatically in recent times. The West's cultural self-hatred has undergone various stages, "intersectionality" being a keyword in the latest metamorphosis of the process. In short, it imagines that every oppression is linked to all the others, and if you are born male and white you are guilty, even as an innocent child. You are guilty even if you are female and white, and possess a binary sexuality, because you are "ontologically" racist towards blacks, the disadvantaged, and the non-binary.

Being born in the West is for this ideology a guilty sentence to be served by erasing the entire cultural baggage aimed at class, ethnic oppression, gender, and discrimination related to religion, sexual orientation, age, and so on. From Homer to Aristotle, from Dante to Shakespeare, from Ovid to Alice in Wonderland, from Peter Pan to Cinderella, everything in the West that has been produced in the cultural field is a crime, overt or covert, because everything is based on delinquent

stereotypes. The Bible is certainly the pillar of all this, and so are the Gospels.

The grotesque catalog of this demonization is inexhaustible, and it now heavily influences and frames all knowledge on the subject. Schools and universities create young generations ignorant and full of new biases, and in the meantime the orientation and action of movements, such as the Black Lives Matter movement, which has become racist and violent, or the feminist movement, which has been completely distorted in “intersectional” feminism.

We witnessed this in 2015 in Cologne, with dozens of girls being harassed by young North African men, and in one case even raped, during New Year’s Eve celebrations in the town square (similar occurrences involved 1,200 women across Germany that year). Those attacked who called for justice and conviction of the perpetrators were accused of being “racists,” crying “white tears” against “poor blacks.” The feminists who opposed this view were rebuked, for example, by Sussex University gender studies professor Alison Phipps, and were called agents of reaction: “White and middle-class feminists called for more police, more convictions, and longer sentences.” Shame.

After October 7, 2023, we saw the horrific consequence of this attitude: the abandonment of Jewish women raped, murdered, and kidnapped. In Italian demonstrations against sexual violence on November 25<sup>th</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup>, the intersectional feminists of “*Non Una Di Meno*” refused to make even the slightest reference to the rapes and killings of October 7<sup>th</sup>. Indeed, on March 8<sup>th</sup>, they even dropped any reference to the struggle of Afghan, Kurdish, and Iranian women, which appeared in their manifesto in the previous year, to avoid even the most timid condemnation of Hamas members.

The failure of the UN and its women’s rights organizations

to acknowledge, then belatedly, and in any case, only partially, the rapes and femicides that occurred at the hands of Hamas had unthinkable consequences. The testimonies were not accepted. The same videos proudly filmed by the terrorists for a very long time were considered insufficient. It was not until March 6, 2024, that the results of the timid investigation by the UN delegation led by the UN representative on sexual violence in conflict, Pramila Patten, were released. The report acknowledged “reasonable grounds to believe that conflict-related sexual violence occurred during the October 7<sup>th</sup> attacks.” But Patten specified that it was not the role of the investigation to attribute specific responsibility to Hamas, Islamic Jihad, or other factions that participated in the attack.

It must be remembered that long before woke ideology, cancel culture and intersectionality transformed college campuses, schools and public squares into fertile ground for support of Hamas “resistance,” and long before the LGBTQ+ and neo-feminist movements turned out to be mendacious and inane, before the de facto alliance with those who oppress and segregate women and marry them off at the age of 11, who rape them in Cologne, who rape and murder them in kibbutz and music festivals, who lynch and hang homosexuals, long before all that, there was the call to the struggle alongside Ayatollah Khomeini by the French left intelligentsia, first and foremost, Sartre and Foucault. In Italy as well as in the rest of Europe, the Shiite revolution was exalted.

In 1978, Jean-Paul Sartre publicly supported the future Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic, whom Michel Foucault called “a saint.” Nor can it be said that Khomeini was reticent in declaring his intentions: from his Parisian exile he preached the end of the corrupt West, the destruction of Israel, and exemplary punishment for adulteresses, unveiled women, and homosexuals. The fascination with that character,

who religiously demolished any concept of human rights, in the name of hatred for the West, according to the Marxist philosophers of the Left Bank, was born of an incoherent feeling (Foucault was homosexual, Sartre a libertine): hatred against America, therefore against the West and its liberal institutions and, consequently, against Zionism. Hence against Israel, the Little Satan, enslaved to the Great American Satan.

## Iran on Campus

On May 25, 2024, Khomeini's successor in the office of Iran's Supreme Leader, Khamenei, addressed his warm applause to American students engaged in pro-Palestinian initiatives, "Dear University Students of the United States of America! This message is an expression of our empathy and solidarity with you. As history turns the page, you are on the right side." The letter contains common propaganda about "usurping Zionism," the enemy cause of all evil. The assassin of opponents and not-sufficiently-veiled women is unintentionally humorous: "The support and solidarity of your professors represent a significant and consequential development. To some extent, this may offer comfort in the face of your government's police brutality and its consequent pressure." Police brutality, says the country's Supreme Leader where, in the first week alone since the new President Pezeshkian, described as "reformist," took office, 27 death sentences of opponents were carried out. The end of the letter exhorts, "I advise you to acquire familiarity with the Koran."

When Iran's Supreme Leader praises the faculty's stance on student *intifadas*, the indifference of Harvard's president, Claudine Gay, immediately comes to mind. Questioned in

December 2023 by the U.S. Congress on the issue: Is it legitimate in a university to invoke in the course of demonstrations the genocide of Jews? “It depends on the context,” she replied. The university’s Board of Trustees did not feel it necessary to punish her, and if Claudine Gay later had to give up her role, it only was because of plagiarism issues.

Western academia, from America to Europe, is now dependent on funding from the Arab world. From Qatar alone, which hosts Hamas leaders in exile, \$4.7 billion (\$894 million of which was dedicated to Harvard) was placed into the coffers of American universities from 2001 to 2023. A detailed article by Giulio Meotti, in “Il Foglio,” based on research conducted after Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> by the Network Contagion Research Institute, describes the magnitude of the forces at play: “Two hundred U.S. colleges and universities have withheld information about \$13 billion of foreign contributions, many of them from authoritarian Islamic countries. Moreover, although correlation is not causation, the number of antisemitic incidents on a campus has a relationship to whether that university has received funding (disclosed and undisclosed) from Middle Eastern regimes. According to a new report, Ivy League universities from Brown to Harvard have also accepted millions of dollars in donations from foundations located in the ‘State of Palestine.’” In Europe, eight English universities have received some 233 million pounds from Islamic countries in a few years, and the Qatar Development Fund has donated £3 million to the Thatcher Fund at Oxford University, and £11 million to St Antony’s College, Oxford. A single foundation in Kuwait brought in more than \$8 million to the London School of Economics.

In Italy, La Sapienza University has dozens of academic agreements with Iran, twice as many as with Israel, which the Student Intifada calls to cancel. A similar proportion is found



in Turin, 16 agreements with Iran and nine with Israel. Right in the lobby of the University of Torino which was occupied last May, an imam delivered his religious sermon inciting the fight against Israel in front of an audience where women were kept separated by a net, as the Sharia law dictates. But the venue was a free university in the Italian state.

In the plans of radical political Islam, the university trenches are very useful. This was shown by the alarm sounded last July by Avril Haines, director of the American National Intelligence, who denounced the pervasive activism on social platforms of figures linked to the Iranian government. Presenting themselves as simple pro-Palestinian activists, they also provide financial support to those engaged in organizing anti-Israel protests at universities. And so, it is, that students at the Parisian Sciences-Po have renamed the faculty's main lecture hall the "Gaza Amphitheater."



## Israel in a Chokehold

Iran's influence on the scene on October 7<sup>th</sup> brings with it an enormous strategic challenge: we are in fact facing a project of conquest that imposes an unavoidable war of defense. Indeed, we aren't dealing with a war of liberation or a demand for self-determination, but a metaphysical assertion that Israel's existence is a crime that can only be eliminated and destroyed by force, overriding all diplomatic standards. Until Arafat's time, the Palestinians at least lied about their actual goals, but gradually they have come out into the open about their objective to destroy Israel. Even Abu Mazen has become increasingly bold in declaring his explicit hatred.

First, it happened with the bloodbath of the Second Intifada, and then as America became weaker, Iran got away with its acts of conquest and international terrorism while creating, day by day, increasingly threatening alliances, all with the primary objective of encircling Israel.

Hezbollah was born out of Imam Moussa al-Sadr's Shiite enterprise. He founded the Movement of the Disinherited, organized the Islamic High Council and legitimized Assad's Alawites as the Shiites' temporary patron, who were later driven out to make way for Iran. Hezbollah will set up an

armed militia that, in concert with the PLO, aims at targeting the Middle East, as well as the entire world, with suicide terrorist attacks and kidnappings. They are the mullahs' best creation, a large, intelligent, power-packed robot that in November 1982 killed 141 soldiers in Beirut, and in October 1983 took out 242 U.S. Marines with suicide trucks loaded with explosives. In the same year, Hezbollah carried out the attack on the U.S. Embassy in the Lebanese capital (63 dead), and in 1994 orchestrated the attack on the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association in Buenos Aires (85 dead and 300 wounded).

Through a policy of kidnappings and assassinations, including that of Lebanese President Rafik Hariri in 2005, Hezbollah gained control of Lebanon. Its strategy of violence teaches all jihadis, Shiite and Sunni, the technique of exchanging Israeli abductees, dead or alive. In 2004, after four years of being held as a hostage, soldier Elhanan Tannenbaum was freed, together with the bodies of three young men who had been killed, were returned in exchange for 400 Palestinian and 23 Lebanese prisoners.

The fatal misunderstanding that led to Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> lies in underestimating the strength of the continuous ambushes, in ignoring the power of Hamas's organization, and its determination to build the war infrastructure of weapons, tunnels, and train men. For a long time, Hamas, after each war, endured Israel's declarations of victory and was looked upon, along with Palestinian terrorism as a whole, with disdain and detachment, while believing it could never be considered an effective strategic danger against the strength of the Israeli army. I remember my own behavior as I watched the test attacks in the months leading up to that Black Saturday in the "no man's land" between Gaza and the kibbutzim. I saw miserable, bandana-wearing, would-be terrorists barred from entering Israel, playing games in the air with kites, fire, and

balloons. I watched these excursions without ever imagining that these were real combat rehearsals.

Today, we know that as many as seven thousand terrorists entered Israel with the Nukhba, Hamas's well-organized central combat unit, which had very detailed orders and was determined and able to penetrate Israel without anyone stopping them. Behind them were legions of Gazans, old and young, children of the established religious upbringing of hatred, who followed them to slit their throats, shoot, rape, and steal. Only after seeing the weapons they were carrying, which I described earlier, did I understand a little better.

Prominent among the weapons I saw, were Iranian ones, simple and deadly, neatly lined up under a tent by the Israeli soldiers. There was a thermobaric grenade as big as a black cat, leaving you seven seconds to escape and bursting at three thousand degrees temperature. In the houses in Be'eri and the other kibbutzim, families were burned alive, in an instant. The girl soldiers keeping watch and those who had their hands clutched together in the dining rooms were scorched as the zombies arrived. Thus, grandparents hugging their grandchildren were burned alive. The saints of the MADA rescue organization struggled to separate and bury the charred bodies in their final embrace because the bones had fused into each other. The bombs that are fired with the RPG launcher are Iranian, as are the iconic Soviet-era weapons that can be attached under any tank or vehicle, in addition to Iranian-made remote-controlled drones. The entire Iranian strategy was relocated to the Gaza underground. Iranian short- and long-range missiles were consequently built directly in the tunnels with the help of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards.



## The Iranian Octopus

At the heart of the October 7<sup>th</sup> attack is a road the world unknowingly travels, perhaps by deliberately ignoring it. Iran's strategic choice, defined and led by IRGC General Qasem Soleimani, until he was eliminated in January 2020, is to destroy Israel through the wounds inflicted on its society, through a war waged by financed solidarity and proxies, trained, and supplied with good-quality weapons. Drones have taken on a strategic function; Iran sells them to Russia, which considers them indispensable. This all converges with Arafat's strategy mentioned above: to break the population by continuous physical and psychological torture in order to achieve mass destruction.

Iran, on its way to the atomic bomb and exalting in the fiercest antisemitism, has brilliantly set up for this purpose a large network of militarized, anti-Western, anti-Jewish, anti-Christian Islamist movements worldwide. A large, seething world is ready to believe in the religious redemption and martyrdom that war promises to impoverished and dispossessed masses, disgusted by corrupt leaders, thieves and profiteers of popular misery. Jonathan Spyer correctly writes that it is the joining of these two choices, religious

populism and local militias, that, as part of a strategy of Iranian domination, prepared October 7<sup>th</sup>. It is also a way for Iran to overcome the rift with much of the Islamic world since it is a Shiite country, not a Sunni Arab one. Putting itself at the head of the war to destroy Israel allows it a predominant role, not only in the Middle East, but in the entire Muslim world, including the immigrant diaspora in Europe and America.

Today, Iran is number one in the war against the “oppressors.” It can increasingly rely on the line of appeasement that the United States has tried not to abandon despite a thousand provocations, including the killing of American soldiers by Iraqi Shiite militias. The friendship between Hamas and Iran is a form of subjugation, similar to that of Hezbollah, while different from the relationship with Qatar or Turkey, which have hosted and financed it without, however, providing it with what Iran has not hesitated to grant it: military assistance, armaments, training, teaching to produce weapons independently, and strategy. The Fajr missiles and the Syrian M302 systems are obvious proof of this collaboration. The intense shower of missiles that accompanied the invasion on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> was the first result of this, in addition to the continuous bombardment that continues over Israel, reaching as far as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Again, the direct attack of Iranian missiles on April 13<sup>th</sup> on the entire State of Israel was a sign of its leadership and direct involvement with Hamas.

However, Hezbollah is still the master of the Iranian missile accumulation which is presently the target of the Israeli counterattack. Iran understood that supporting paramilitary terrorist groups, unmediated, borderless, Shiite and Sunni, was the most immediate and easy way to surround Israel. This way they could terrorize the world (especially the United States), galvanize enemies of Israel and Jews everywhere, and



the two world powers, namely Russia and China. that never condemned October 7<sup>th</sup> could remain menacingly seated with weapons in hand in the background. While the Americans provided a weak deterrent to stop a world war, Iran suggests a continued possibility of explosion, by flanking Hamas and Hezbollah.

Iran's idea is original and is the result of careful analysis. It is a populist override of military power, of Israel, starting by weakening Western and democratic societies, with a low-cost construction of ideologically strong militias guided by an iron fist, though the militarily poor. Thus, by circumventing the technological wall, Iran has taken the Sunni Palestinians, Hezbollah from Lebanon, its largely Shiite proxies in Yemen and Iraq, and its former Alawite enemies in Syria. Then, with large weapon supplies filling the closets of every West Bank home, the Palestinians of Hamas and Islamic Jihad of Judea and Samaria, may besiege, in addition to Jerusalem, Abu Mazen, with Islamic ideology paid for by Iran.

Iran has now succeeded, with patience and through great investments, in bringing Hezbollah into positions of control over the entire Lebanese state, and had Gaza in its grasp. Since Gaza is a heap of ruins and while Lebanon burns, its attention is increasingly and successfully focused on the West Bank. A cascade of terrorists from there may arrive to perpetrate the next October 7<sup>th</sup>, through organized means of motorcycles and pick-up trucks, may attempt to mow down as many Jewish lives as possible throughout Israel, not only in its South.

The construction of the atomic bomb, which the ayatollah government relentlessly pursues and is close to completing, is a form of insurance for its attack politics. This attack manifests itself without any qualms against targets in Paris, Sweden, Belgium, Germany, South America, and the United States. Iran makes it known frankly, affirming its threat capacity. It is a

typically Islamic choice, to show aggression and to terrorize with money, weapons, and men, and to hunt first and foremost Jews. In the West, this policy is all but ignored, while they pitifully seek an agreement, a handshake, a little smile, at which Iran is magnificent, since it costs them nothing.

The investment Iran has devoted to the Palestinians is successful in cementing its relationship with the Arab world, of which it is not even a part. Even when the Sunni world does not feel any sympathy for the ayatollahs, or, the Shiites, as is the case, for example, with Egypt and Saudi Arabia, it still finds itself, precisely in the name of the “Palestinian cause” and American weakness, which has no clue how to protect moderate Islam, accepting meetings and agreements. The “Palestinian cause” is a good reason to summon all those who want to make themselves look good in public opinion who know nothing but Soviet pan-Arab style propaganda, or who believe that killing Jews is a religious obligation, handing out candy when Jews are killed. They seek the same consensus for which even Erdogan – a hater of the Kurds, an invader of other people’s territory, a leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, and the worst enemy of many opposing factions – crowns himself with Israel hatred, calling Netanyahu and the Jewish State “Nazis,” and calling for the formation of a Muslim alliance to destroy it. He is like Iran, and he competes with Iran.

## From Pan-Arabism to “the Unity of the Arenas”

The Palestinians have replaced the pan-Arab cause, serving as an ideal band-aid for the rifts. Iran is the major product of the same forces of Islamic revival that characterized Hamas’s seizure of power. The Middle East is a ram’s head to be used in the conquest of the world, and Israel is the only real obstacle on the road to Islam, not least because it violates, by occupying land considered Islamic, a fundamental dictate of the Koran. Immediately after October 7<sup>th</sup>, which Iran shamelessly praised even in the face of the most wicked actions (as did actors, directors, and singers on Western red carpets), a second, ongoing installment opened. Hezbollah took up arms against Israel, but it wasn’t Nasrallah who declared war on October 8<sup>th</sup>, but rather Iran’s foreign minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. He announced that day to the state agency IRNA that “in a matter of hours, the Axis of Resistance would conduct preemptive operations against Israel,” adding that “all options are open and we cannot be indifferent to the war crimes committed against the people of Gaza.”

Since then, the Wahdat al Saha’at, “the unity of the arenas,” has been the favorite expression to indicate that a large group of Islamic forces is united against Israel and anyone who

defends it or identifies with its values. It is the same war as ISIS and Al Qaeda, the same anti-Western mobilization aiming at the great final victory. Khamenei does not fail to repeat at every opportunity the banner- expression of his war, against the Little Satan, but also, above all and always, against the Great Satan. The hundreds of missiles, including ballistic missiles, launched against Israel on April 13, 2023, by Iran were also a form of intimidation aimed toward the United States and the entire world as a prospective model of the Third World War. And in fact, during the middle of the night as Israel's air force, shot down the enemy, an awakened makeshift coalition was deployed at its side. Soon afterward, however, Biden took a second initiative, warning Israel that it was forbidden to respond with a bargain. One had to sit back, wait, avoid, keep quiet, and hope for the best. Biden could not risk that his next election would take place in the glare of another war, this time much larger than the one, which from the beginning and while helping Israel, he had already tried to contain. But as the operation against Hezbollah's insistence on bombing proved later, nothing except the defeat of the Axis of Evil, will ever prevent Israel from defending itself off again and again.

## The “Don’t” Policy

Biden said “don’t” to anyone who intended to attack Israel by taking advantage of the October 7<sup>th</sup> crisis. Yet we did not realize how much “don’t” also pertained to Israeli action. It was therefore, a double “don’t,” unheard of in any conflict where survival is at stake, and you must shoot to kill.

Instead, unprecedentedly, the Israeli army had to prevent the inevitable. That is, what it was not responsible for: the use of citizens as human shields in schools, hospitals, and children’s bedrooms, all mercilessly transformed into nests of missiles and terrorists. It was clear that the new immense wartime challenge, was the network of tunnels on which Gaza was built, centimeter by centimeter, providing shelter and supplies to the armed, yet deliberately neglecting ordinary people.

Israel, in need of ammunition and time, became a bouncing ball between the U.S. and the U.N. Israel suffered condemnations and demands, never before observed in a vaguely comparable situation to that of Israel, attacked by an avalanche of cruelty and violence seen at work on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The insistence with which Israel has been asked to take care of all the basic needs of a de facto enemy still ruled by Hamas,

to provide it with humanitarian and first aid, to warn the population before any action and bombardment, has always found positive and clear responses. This can also be seen from the massive warnings, to the distribution of food, water and electricity, to the attention to the sick and doctors during operations in hospitals, which have actually become hiding places for the terrorists.

But Hamas's manipulation and aggression on the ground and its appropriation of emergency vehicles and aid made Israel's mission a hike up Everest as demands multiplied. Was this kind of surveillance and insistent moral condemnation ever required of the Americans in the war with Saddam Hussein and then with Al Qaeda? Going back further in time, has anyone ever asked for an account of the fate of the Germans in Berlin at the time of Nazism? And yet, it is all too easy to realize the Nazification of Gaza, the adherence of its inhabitants – by love, almost always, or by force, in some cases – to the cruelty of their leaders, who also made them fodder for slaughter. No one will be able to forget the images of the crowd grasping the shattered limbs of Shani Louk, murdered at the Nova Festival, and carried as a trophy on the back of pickup trucks to Gaza. Bloody images that will forever be impressed in our minds.

Never, for the wars against Saddam Hussein, Al Qaeda, ISIS, had we seen from European and American public opinion, and the UN, such attention, such a forest of prohibitions and heartfelt condemnations for those who fought them. The attention is reserved for the Jewish state. The generalized blame was never invested in other wars; they were deemed indispensable responses to terror. Besides this, there is the sanctimonious, hypocritical, and continuous call for a ceasefire, repeated in chorus with Hamas, which has made it its weapon of choice, the key to rebuilding itself for the

next installment, in the name of a peace that neither Hamas nor its sponsors ever cared about. Peace is not a word in their vocabulary.

American, European, and UN condemnation and surveillance occurred under the satisfied eyes of the large anti-Western coalition led by Russia, China, and Iran. The strategic prohibitions for responding with a truly deterrent war operation to the Hezbollah attacks that have deserted the North by dint of missiles, and of responding to the Iranian attack in April, were not pure. They did not express innocent anxiety for the people, much less confirmation of a new Muslim attitude of peace, which is definitely still not on the horizon. It appears much more like a political game cutting declawing Israel, and which, in addition to being tied to elections in the West (first European, then American), points to an accommodation of Iran, while the mullahs continue to prepare their nuclear bomb.

For the U.S. Administration, at the moment, the prospect of another Afghanistan or Iraq is a nightmare to be erased.





## The UN, International Anti-Israel Agency

While Israel has tried to defend itself by never abandoning the military's humanitarian code, in the thicket of condemnations by the UN over the years, a very special one stands out: The 2016 Security Council resolution, which saw the American vote in favor, against the "occupation," which was defined as illegal. Thanks to U.S. President Obama, who considered Israel and Netanyahu living affronts to His Pacifist Majesty (as soon as he took office, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize), the UN increasingly became the home of the Palestinian rejection of any compromise, of any possibility of the Palestinians acceptance Israel's existence. The monument to this rejection, which in the meantime was being consolidated with the building of the anti-Western Shiite and Sunni front, was the strengthening of UNRWA, an agency that, in fact, was tasked with directly increasing the practical aggressiveness and determination of the Palestinians for war and terrorism, with the goal of making the Oslo Accords collapse.

UNRWA's mandate initially covered displaced persons from the wars of the 1940s, only to be expanded to include any other Palestinians, including refugees from '67. UNHCR, the UN organization that deals with refugees from the rest

of the world, assists refugees by repatriating them or aiding and advocating for them. If a return is not feasible, it focuses on reception and integration. Contrarily, UNRWA is a unique case, it has its own definition for “refugee.” As long as they are Palestinian, it also includes those who have never fled, even those who have been granted citizenship elsewhere. It also includes their children, their children’s children, and their great-grandchildren, with no time limits – that is, for eternity – as long as they are Palestinians. Palestinian schools are also dependent on UNRWA , whose educational and advocacy efforts are uniquely geared toward the instruction of returning, perhaps to Tel Aviv or Haifa, a teaching promoted with incitement to murderous violence on Jewish civilians.

All this can be easily verified by opening any UNRWA textbook: “study” materials are tied to practical terrorism. They work. This was witnessed when UNRWA teachers were discovered in the field with the terrorists on October 7<sup>th</sup>. They kept hostages, and hundreds of them exulted, on a Telegram channel, the bloody Saturday massacres. Yet there was neither a sigh of regret from that institution nor the slightest sign of repentance or condemnation. Its insistence on declaring itself oblivious to educational terrorism, and unaware of its facilities being used as Hamas bases, even after the unequivocal discovery of its staff’s participation in the October 7<sup>th</sup> pogrom, and despite the repeated investigation of textbooks intended for children, UNRWA was successful in unblocking sanctions for most of the millions which had been held .

The consolidation of the anti-Zionist and antisemitic stance grafted into Third Worldism in the 1960s and 1970s, thus finds its most natural expression in UN policy: the proliferation of organizations, institutes, branches of action, and consequently of decisions, sanctions, resolutions, stances, documents, and exhibitions. All these possess the chrism of the institution that

was created with the responsibility of safeguarding the entire world from antisemitism and dictatorship. Therein lies the Western origin, Ariadne's thread of actualized antisemitism. It's almost a sign of destiny that UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim (whom I personally had the good fortune to unmask, with a worldwide scoop in the *European* edited by Nini Briglia, as one of the German officers responsible for the annihilation of the Jewish community in Thessaloniki, among the oldest and noblest in the diaspora) was in office in 1975, right at the time of the famous "Zionism is racism" resolution, one of the first to institutionalize hatred for the heart of contemporary Jewish life, Israel.

Over time, the UN, as indeed all its actions confirm, has worsened its attitude toward Israel to the point of paroxysm. A sad and disgraceful tradition of hostility that has not been mitigated, but has instead deepened after October 7<sup>th</sup>, based on the automatic vote that until September 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 passed resolutions banning Israel from defending itself and declaring its presence illegal even Jerusalem.

In December 2023, South Africa brought Israel before the Hague Tribunal (the International Court of Justice, ICJ, the U.N.'s judicial body), accusing it of violating the Convention against the Crime of Genocide for its military action in Gaza. Israel dismissed all charges, reiterating that its military operations have as their sole and legitimate objectives the release of hostages and the annihilation of the threat posed by Hamas, whose terroristic nature can only be doubted by those in bad faith. But the ICJ, in an order dated January 26, 2024, and pending consideration of the merits of the accusations against Israel, took some of the precautionary measures requested by South Africa against it, deeming those unbelievable allegations "plausible." On May 20, the chief prosecutor of another organization of international jurisdiction, this time

not directly linked to the UN but still based in The Hague, the International Criminal Court (ICC), announced the request for arrest warrants for Netanyahu and the Israeli Minister of Defense, Gallant, and for Hamas leaders, unbelievably equating a bloody, terrorist pogrom against civilians with the legitimate defense of a democratic, sovereign state under deadly attack.

## Culture at the Root of Failure

The preparation for the October 7 War occurred while Israel was living in a completely different reality from which it lives today. A beautiful novel, with a shortened military service on a voluntary basis, specialized groups, and an intelligent and technological army. A system suited to cope with a conflict with a people who, according to their needs and aspirations, would, in the end, adapt. An idea that underlies the Oslo Accords is that the Palestinian people, by their self-definition, appealed to Israeli public opinion as a people who, like everyone else, desired peace and security. They were considered substantially open to dialogue, with a desire to affirm their national identity, and to provide a future for their youth. Israel, like the rest of the world, was expected, not only by the Palestinians, but by all Third World peoples, to choose this path rather than the destructive one of frontal warfare and hatred until death or victory.

The signs of this war in Gaza could be read everywhere in advance. But over the decades, they have been undervalued or ignored. Moreover, Israeli society, on the eve of October 7<sup>th</sup> had been divided for months over the proposed judicial reform. They were caught up in the protests against Netanyahu and his

government, which went as far as suggesting military refusal even among pilots, the military's inner sanctum. Many Arabs reported that this rift in Israel prompted Hamas to decide to attack the country, which was shocked and weakened by the politicization of the armed forces.

Furthermore, in order to enable or initiate the attack, Iran used advisers who had a strong impact on its proxies, people intimately familiar with Israeli society, having been imprisoned there, and even treated in its hospitals. Sinwar himself received brain surgery in Israel while in prison, was completely cured, and subsequently released in 2011, together with the 1,027 Palestinian prisoners exchanged for kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit. This story says much about the misunderstanding that has dominated Israeli culture for decades.

The Palestinians' physical wars are always fought against the backdrop of major ideological wars. Firstly, in the context of the antisemitic destruction of World War II, and secondly, in that of the Cold War. The third phase is that of jihadism's attack on free societies. It has never gone well for them, and I hope that this time, too, their third war will follow the same fate.

However, this time and for far too long, Israel has been fighting in pure defense. Without a ruthless and definitive explanation of the enemy's goals, Israel has confronting it in a decidedly insufficient manner. After the first two great wars were won, in part because of our daring and spirit, and in part because we found ourselves on the right side of history, we now are fighting for more than a year an immense, lengthy, ideological, militarily demanding war like no other. We are fighting not only against Hamas but on the great front we have described, against the most powerful ideological force in our post-World War II world, that of humanitarian pacifism.

This in no way means that the desire for peace and even

the most intense effort to pursue it should not subsist or be inconsequential. But we must certainly set as a first goal the saving of lives and human rights. In Israel, the opposite happened: the passion for the hope of peace, traceable in many Zionist texts including those of Ben Gurion and Begin, designed the Israeli psyche by erasing or minimizing the harsh reality of a wholly evident rejection ever since 1948. Peace was then gradually taken for granted and considered surmountable – all the failed stages of the Israeli proffer of peace, including the Oslo Accords and the successive evacuations, confidently postponing success for the next time.

The reality, however, from the beginning, demonstrated that Israel risks its life precisely in the “peace processes.” The enemy is trained that way from elementary school. The nature of Palestinian education is very easy to verify in books and media, as well as in mosques. It has been so for decades, and yet it remains entirely funded by the West, i.e., by the enemies whose elimination is, more or less explicitly, promoted in the educational path itself.

In the days of Ben Gurion, in addition to its socialist progressivist particularism, such as kibbutzim, Israel defined itself as a pluralist democracy respectful of minorities, including Arabs, who sit in the Knesset and the Supreme Court and participate in all civic life. Israel’s daily life in schools, hospitals, and shopping centers, can be described as the nest of a host of ethnicities, languages, religions, and liberal beliefs (e.g., on women’s rights and LGBTQ+), all of which I have been and continue to be a fierce advocate.

At that time, I remember with what satisfaction I considered myself a privileged journalist given the number of interviews granted to me by Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, and how heartily they communicated to me what then appeared to be a creed that replaced religion, with Jewish characteristics. I

learned from them the faith of “*tikkun olam*,” “taking care of the world,” is a gift to the peoples of the world of the goodness that Jews not only carry within themselves but who, like bees turning pollen into honey, transmit it to the whole world.

Here lies the error for which the country, including me, had to necessarily account for: Israel wanted to be a semi-socialist saint among nations, to make wars a collateral phenomenon, and turn the Palestinians’ “no” into an unfortunate but surmountable moment. It wanted to transform secular Judaism into a contemporary new religion, setting aside the religious and traditional inspiration, the lifestyle of Sephardic Jews, which was more conservative, less modern and Western than that of Ashkenazim. The religion, despite having blatantly saved the very existence of the Jews in the concentration camps, became a handmaiden of the Zionist construct. Today, if not for the religion itself (with its very numerous and complex rules, its social structure is geared toward the family, and separates boys from girls) one feels the need for knowledge of and adherence to Jewish culture, including its history and texts which help overcome grave moments. Previously, the kibbutz comrades – the progressive cadre – prevailed among the soldiers on the front lines. This is no longer the case. Religious soldiers are fighting on the front lines, and the number of their fallen has surpassed that of the non-religious in this war.



## A Tragic Awakening

Those who, like me, were feminists and progressive Jews, could only believe in a future of peace, hoping that it was true. I used to read A.B. Yehoshua and David Grossman, being a good friend of both, and of much of the Israeli, and even Palestinian, intelligentsia. It was Yehoshua, called “Bouli” by friends, who said to me one day, “You’ve become really conservative,” as his wife tried to defend me from his fury. He scolded me because my pieces on the *intifada* after each terrorist attack debunked the “peace process.” He always believed in it, up until the end.

Instead, Oriana Fallaci, who, in a letter sent to me between our late-night conversations (she was in New York, I was in Jerusalem), in which she tried to understand the Islam she would later write about, told me how happy she was to be able to consider me an adopted daughter through my now delineated skepticism in many writings, books, and articles, on peace. And regarding my piece recounting the famous battle of Jenin, which was instead dismissed by others as an Israeli massacre, she doted on me, saying how much she liked my “objectivity.” There, I very clearly refuted the common interpretation of Israeli guilt, in the name of direct experience with the truth, on the ground. “The finest piece I had absolutely ever read,”

Oriana Fallaci generously told me,” since Mark Twain’s piece about the San Francisco earthquake.” Jenin was and remains a nest of terror. So, too, are all the symbolic places we did not want to realize were a danger to life itself, an unknown chasm. Yes, we imagined that Israel was, as Ehud Barak put it, “a villa in the jungle,” but solid, stable, never again destined to fall prey to the wilderness. Instead, in Jenin today, there is a jungle of weapons supplied by Iran to the PNA Palestinians.

Thus, 2023 was the year of the biggest crisis ever known to Israel, and perhaps to the world, since World War II. Before October 7<sup>th</sup>, the idea was that Israel had a consolidated deterrent force against its enemies, having erected a wall against world jihadism. Mossad had a magical name. It was unfathomable that Israel’s enemies would even entertain the thought of direct military aggression, in fear of the Jewish State’s response. However, the division between one side determined to cope with the danger and the other that insisted instead on the Palestinian, and Arab interest in general, in finding a peaceful accommodation, had already resulted in an isolated and slippery situation. This was not a question of left and right, only military experience and character. Rabin, who was a military man, was faced with successive, multiple exchanges to bring home various Israeli abductees, for example, suggested that whenever possible it would be better to attack the enemy to free the hostages by force.

When the October 7<sup>th</sup> attack took place, two elements came to light that contradict the concept that human beings are inclined to peace and goodness. The first is the ecstatically savage element that had been buried in the TV images of the Oslo negotiations, despite numerous examples of this element’s survival. This was exemplified by the lynching of two Israeli soldiers in Ramallah in October 2000, their body parts thrown to the applauding crowd under the windows of the PNA police

station, which ruled then and still rules today in Ramallah. The murderers jubilantly displayed their bloodied hands, a gesture now obscenely repeated in pro-Palestinian demonstrations in the West, with pins displayed on celebrities' clothing on the red carpet of the 2024 Oscars. The second underestimated element is that the jihadists' attacks included the planned slaughter of their own people, i.e., the Gaza Palestinians, who were used as a perfect weapon to ignite the great religious war of Islam on the world, garnering commiseration, solidarity, and thus consensus.

In addition, the exhibition of filth on the bodies of Jews, caught on the terrorists' cameras by the terrorists themselves as the executioners, shouting "Yahud" – "Jew" – and hacking the victims to pieces, wanting to show off. Of this the demonstrations in the West staged a mimesis, destroying centuries of Christian civility.

Israel brutally realized that the cards of diplomacy and peace, as well as leaving Gaza's doors open to international aid, especially that of Qatar, were all obsolete and fallacious. Those elements had only put the Jewish state into a situation of weakness, a sure mark of death in the Middle East. Suddenly, even the alliance with the Sunni world of the Abraham Accords, built by the states that had signed it out of common sense, social economic utility, and against Iran's dominance, was in danger of collapsing. Its survival during the war is a miracle and a demonstration of its economic and strategic necessity.

Despite its violence, October 7<sup>th</sup> has still not been successful in shaking the pillars of contemporary thinking: the idea that the enemy is the same as us; that it has the same needs; that ethnoreligious movements aim for an autonomous and defined nation, self-determination, autonomy, not the extermination and invasion of the enemy's land and its elimination from

the face of the earth. They remain embedded in our collective consciousness.

As a journalist sleeping on the beach, I covered the 2005-Gaza eviction while desperate Jewish families were dragged away while insisting that they belonged to that very dangerous area (please note that Jews have never intruded or settled inside the inhabited areas of Gaza) and their right to cultivate cherry tomatoes.

Those evictions were deemed vital to Israel's security. The idea was that in this part of the Palestinian state "a Middle Eastern Taiwan," as Sharon put it, could be built. He again told me that "Gaza was not as small as it looked. It was a beautiful strip of land where the Palestinians could build an economic miracle and the heart of the new state." There was surely no shortage on international financial support to do so. The pied piper of peace was followed by many hopeful singers, and it was also very exhilarating to observe how, in the end and without any violence, the settlers tearfully agreed, in the face of a sovereign vote by their democratic State, to leave home, embraced by the soldiers that cleared them out: a pacifist apologue. For a few days I almost fell for it.

Harsh and unmistakable was the immediately subsequent lesson, when furious hordes frantically ran to destroy houses, greenhouses, synagogues, even taking away the electricity wires, as they began fulfilling Hamas's orders. It is surprising how, that from the beginning, Israel did not enter into a state of alarm. From the beginning, Hamas was not building Taiwan, but rather a giant, multimillion-dollar, unprecedented underground fortress designed to destroy Israel. The very Palestinians who were vying for power were thrown off the rooftops.

Hamas was already home to young terrorists with bandanas around heads who invaded the kibbutzim shouting "*Allahu*

Akbar” as they rode off on motorcycles. We witnessed a myriad of them on October 7<sup>th</sup> including one who called home shouting, “Mom, Mom I just killed ten Jews with my own hands.” His mom praises him and tells him that she would like to be with him. “Call daddy too,” the exemplary son tells her.

There’s one story which I find especially representative of the terrible misunderstanding that gave rise to October 7<sup>th</sup>. Among the young terrorists was Mahmoud (a fictitious name): For some time Batia Holin, an Israeli photographer and artist who believes in peace, had been in a very friendly relationship with this young man who sent her photographs from Gaza. Naturally, she considered him an artist and a friend. Having survived the October 7<sup>th</sup> raid on Kfar Aza, a kibbutz that had 62 murdered, Batia had to accept the harsh reality. Earlier, in addition to her commitment to activities on behalf of the Palestinians of Gaza, common among kibbutz families (accompanying Gaza children to the doctor in Israel, bringing requested gifts and groceries to the border, etc.), Batia decided to organize an Israeli-Palestinian photo exhibition, entitled “Between Us,” inspirations on a peaceful future at Kibbutz Nahal Oz (which would have fifteen murdered and eight raped on October 7<sup>th</sup>). Mahmoud was part of the group promoting the exhibition, which gradually gained international recognition. Batia had approached the government several times for permission for fellow Gazan photographers to enter the kibbutz.

Mahmoud, however, had his own idea of getting in: with the Nukhba militias. On the day of the disaster, Batia’s phone in the shelter records a call from Mahmoud who, she recounts, “began asking a number of questions: Where was I? With whom? Where was the army? Were there soldiers there? etc.” Batia, realizing that Mahmoud had entered with the monsters who were carrying out the worst massacre ever imagined in

Israel, hung up the phone and hid. She stayed in the hiding place 26 hours with her husband, and was rescued by the IDF soldiers from the Givati Brigade.

Israel has still not fully acknowledged this reality. After just a few days of severity toward the murderers, the discussion regarding peace with the Palestinians was rekindled. Social workers at the prisons where the Nukhba prisoners are held reopened the case regarding their diet, which was nutritionally deficient, and the rough treatment they were being given. Before any of the charges had been proven, in front of their entire squadron, the military police arrested, some soldiers accused of violence against the arrested terrorists. In the past, we looked at the “other” with tolerance, as do good Westerners. We observed the UNRWA summer camps, where children with machine guns in their hands seemed carnivalesque, and where classes in which, in order to learn arithmetic, you subtract the Israelis that the student kills from those still alive, seemed like exaggerated nonsense. Of the “other” who will eventually live by our side, we have made a simulacrum of our will – to purify ourselves, now guilt-ridden by all the accusations by which we are pelted – as “white” and, as Jews. Besides, no one wants to discover that someone wants to kill them, that his hatred is waiting around the corner, like in a horror movie. But evening has already come. Every sound now warns of what is coming. It is a bad movie where the gentleman in the jacket, with whom you sat so many times, has a Nazi agenda, and when a white pickup truck stops on your street, you look from behind the window to see what is coming.

## The Oslo Deception and “the Territories”

The Oslo Accords should have taught this lesson long ago. When the Declaration of Principles for an Interim Agreement was voted on August 30, 1993, and then ratified by a handshake between Rabin and Arafat in front of the White House on September 13, 1993, everyone in Israel rejoiced. At last, after much suffering, a peace accord had been reached. The Palestinians would commit to UN Resolution 242, the one that provides for negotiations and recognition by the Palestinians of the State of Israel.

In reality, a wave of violence was being prepared which can be compared to that of October 7. As a journalist, I wrote about of Arafat's triumphant return, to city-by-Palestinian-city, from exile. The agreements gave him, by handing him the government, 90 percent of the Palestinian population (before Bethlehem and Ramallah, Arafat took over Jericho, which bordered the Arab world and the South of Israel, and then everything else). The funding that was conferred to him to begin building the state that, according to Israel, was to be created in the unfolding of the subsequent negotiations, ended up being invested immediately in weapons and the organization of terrorism. The terror preparation reached its

exponential peak, while details were being defined at Camp David. The al-Aqsa Brigades, led by Marwan Barghouti, whom I interviewed in his home, became the distribution center for explosive belts for Arafat's martyrs.

As expected, the bloodbath flooded everything. A concert of international forces, with the UN and EU in the lead, instead of making the accords a benchmark and insisting that Arafat and then Abu Mazen abide by them, committed to create a distorted war manifesto out of them, relying on a forged copy of the document. "Occupation" became the code word.

The fraudulent assumption is still fundamental today in creating an ideology. The "territories" are called "illegally occupied," rewriting history and the accord as if they were in fact a property of the Palestinians. Arguing that the Palestinian claim to take possession of them must be fulfilled as a moral duty, with no regard to the safety of Israeli citizens, and that any defense against terrorism should also be forbidden to Israel is considered an activity of a country confined to the ranks of oppressors.

The Oslo peace accords, which were violated by unprecedented terrorist attacks over the course of years, prepared while Fatah emissaries in suits and ties participated in the negotiations, became a pretext for seeking Israeli violations. In fact, never were Areas A and B declared illegally occupied, even though they were entrusted by the Oslo document to the jurisdiction of the PLO. To this day they await their fate, to be decided by an agreement, that the Palestinians reject. Israel was given jurisdiction over Area C, where the largest settlements have been removed. Oslo is a simple document, which awaits an agreed solution. This all starts from a now-disavowed assumption: occupation is not illegal, and it is also not an occupation.

First, the territories were originally occupied by Jordan,



which attacked Israel, forcing it into a defensive occupation. Israel couldn't have defended itself without that land, from which it could control the coastal and central areas, including the airport, the only consistent way out of Israel from its territory. Foreign Minister Abba Eban described the pre-1967 borders as "Auschwitz borders" because of their vulnerability. Furthermore, peace with the area's previous inhabitant, Jordan, was sealed in 1994, and Israel, of its own accord accepted that the Palestinians would inherit its West Bank. The Oslo Accords again enshrine a choice, not an obligation, to agree to negotiations, not by prior decision, for the Palestinian rule of Gaza and the West Bank, subject to the security of the ultimate recognition of the Jewish State.

Just a lot of talk. The UN, followed by other international institutions including the European Union, has made the alleged occupation a totem, an unspeakable indication of Jewish criminality. The premise, while never officially stated, is that Israel is an outsider without rights. All United Nations agencies, even UNESCO which has gone so far with its resolutions as to ignore the Jewish people's connection to the holy sites in Jerusalem, have tried to introduce the concept that Israel is an "illegal," "occupation" power everywhere it can. This is a concept devoid of legal and historical content. Israel does not occupy a damned thing. The areas referred to as "occupied Palestinian territories" are, as mentioned above, areas which formerly were occupied by the Jordanians. As part of their right to self-determination, the Israelis have the right to build their State there, because they are areas that belong to, according to documented evidence and memory, Jewish history. If the principle of illegitimacy of the acquisition of territories by force were to be applied, the first to suffer the consequences (but it has never happened) would be Jordan and Egypt, not to mention China and Turkey.

Arafat saw Oslo as a Trojan horse, according to the famous phrase of Palestinian politician and warrior Faisal Husseini, whom I interviewed at his home, under the portrait of his father with rifle in hand, who was killed in the decisive Battle of Castel in 1948, after which the siege that starved and destroyed the Jews of Jerusalem was finally broken. Jews have never been settlers. Since the nineteenth century, they were even the majority in Jerusalem. Yet Arafat, in a speech that is still famous today, praised the beauty (“nothing is more beautiful...”) of seeing Palestinian children fight and become *shahids* for Jerusalem.

The image of Mohammed al-Dura, the *shahid* which the cruelty of the soldiers had killed while in his father’s arms, was the manifesto of the Second Intifada. A hotly contested theory by so many TV stations, such as a German one, ruled that it had all been staged like so many other shows, altogether calling it “Pallywood.” Judea, Samaria and Gaza became the main targets of intensive terrorism whereby, as Arafat said, “the Zionists will realize that they can’t live in Israel.” Precisely in Gaza, taking possession of it, he had also declared, “I know you are against the Oslo Accords but remember... the day will come when you will see millions of Jews fleeing Palestine... the Oslo Accords will help us accomplish this project.”

It was the *shahids*, certainly not the diplomats negotiating peace, who became the heroes of those years. The cities soon resounded with constant explosions of buses and restaurants, while instead Israel repeatedly insisted on seeing the phenomenon of rejection and terror as a collateral choice, which could be patched up with further concessions and with a more willing attitude. Ehud Barak, in addition to promising Arafat at Camp David all of the West Bank, Gaza and part of Jerusalem, while the Palestinian leader disdained any

agreement, left the South Lebanese security zone, promptly occupied by Hezbollah.

From then until this 2024 war, a firestorm rained down, depopulating the Golan and parts of Galilee. Another Israeli premier, Ehud Olmert, offered in turn a boundless series of concessions, all of which were refused, and eventually Ariel Sharon, haunted by those who hurled the worst accusations of cruelty and imperialism at him, decided to leave Gaza, uprooting eight thousand Israelis from the Strip.

From Oslo, Israel expected international credit and respect. Instead, it received a terrorist war in which the country that had accepted a very unpleasant peace agreement became the target of a thousand criticisms and sanctions, from the entire world.



## Pain as a Shield

Israel's traditional elite, or rather, the leftist elite that is cultured, powerful, and charming in its endless, wasteful liberalism, a year after October 7<sup>th</sup> has this time entrenched itself, in a new fortress, behind an armor of grief, especially over the tragedy of the hostages still in the hands of Hamas. It doesn't hold itself accountable to a collective Israeli and Jewish identity, built on the ashes of the Holocaust and eschatological hopes of secular redemption, not to the culture, the history, or the underlying concept with which the nation was imagined, as if it were an impossible Sweden, but blames Netanyahu, to put it simply. Netanyahu, who ruled, according to almost half the country, for too long; who won elections by the power of the right, even when a broad coalition was striving to elect, as they said, "anyone but Netanyahu;" the prime minister invested in the tragedy of the most difficult war in history, of the news which wasn't passed along to those in charge and therefore not understood, of the army not mobilized in the right places... They want an account, of when things will calm down, of what happened. He was blamed, backed by the endorsement of the Biden-Harris administration, who possess a different political color. Netanyahu doesn't only bear responsibility but blame.

For the pain of war. The blood of war. The death brought by war. The heartbreak of the kidnapped... The name “Bibi” is a healing balm for the Israeli and Jewish opposition and critics of Israel. Even during a war, he had to resist a mob led by the old leftist elite, defeated in elections now several times over, whose main goal is “anyone but Netanyahu,” at the cost of returning to the divided country on the eve of October. 7<sup>th</sup>.

Yet the most urgent awakening in facing the situation is that which forces one to cope with the most difficult of all realities. That is, Israel has on its borders and in the world incorrigible and malicious enemies, the very image of malevolence. Indeed, Israel faces the Axis of Evil. The double challenge of the southern front and the northern one with Hezbollah, which bombs the now-empty North every day, as well as other complementary fronts. At the moment, the worst is that of the West Bank. Dangerous and even embarrassing is that of the Houthi, who continue to bomb the vacation city of Eilat from 2,000 kilometers away. Then the Syrian one, occupying the border supplied by Iran, and Shiite Iraq, all of which are protected by Russia, Turkey, and China. In light of all this, it is clear that there is a need to quickly rectify an army that has been depleted in its number of ground soldiers, especially tank crew, and the shortage of necessary ammunition, for which Israel depends largely on the United States. The *Kipat Barzel* (Iron Dome) defense system is excellent, but technology has not solved and will not solve the problem, and the “cyber-snooty” philosophy does not win this war. Nor can the basic concept of Israeli military behavior, “defend and never attack,” be successful in preventing wars that have been brewing underground for decades. Deterrence does not work in those cases, neither against Iran nor against the Palestinians and Hezbollah. No wall has defended Israel from the maniacal and continuous preparation of its destruction, which finds

breaches, identifies weaknesses, and splits Israeli society to stab it in the back.





## The Two-States Non-solution

The continued push on the American side to negotiate, with an intractable Hamas, a solution for the abductees that Sinwar never considered, and which, in fact always came across as an unconditional surrender by Israel, has always pointed toward a conclusion of the war without a clear Israeli victory. Who doesn't want the kidnapped to return home? The answer is clear: It is Hamas that has no interest in returning them, while the Israeli government, especially Netanyahu, is willing to do anything: even, at an advanced stage of the exchange, and when it seems realistic, to find a system of international control of the Philadelphi corridor. But it cannot accept that Hamas will rise again and prepare another October 7<sup>th</sup>. It cannot accept defeat and surrender.

The history of hostage exchanges shows that much can be accepted, but not everything. Suppose Hamas asks to destroy the Knesset in exchange for the kidnapped. Would that be acceptable? However, Netanyahu's choices, theoretical since Hamas has no intention of negotiating, have been accused of indifference or, even worse, of personal motivations in a project for his political survival, preventing an eventual agreement. The consequences were that of an internal rupture, in which

an “American” side, led by Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and a few other generals, became evident, while the public squares were dominated by the movement of the kidnapped families standing against Prime Minister Netanyahu, who since the time of Obama *delendus est*.

A frequent accusation is that Netanyahu does not want to agree to draft a “strategic” solution on the American model that points, once again, to the Palestinians, and believes or pretends to believe in Abu Mazen as a partner for the future: in the Middle East, as Arafat once told me, the dunes of desert sand are always changing, even if they still contain the same amount of dust. With this choice, however, Hamas would only be weakened, and yet, as a survivor, would legitimize the formation in Gaza of a section, at least, of the Palestinian state, with the institutional entry of the PNA in charge. Under the dunes, the fabrication of the next October 7<sup>th</sup> would be fabricated. This would accomplish the American imposition of the famous “two-state solution,” two states for two peoples, that of the Nobel laureates which takes away all political substance from other Nobel laureates.

In reality, a Palestinian State is impossible, not least because, even if Spain or Ireland vote for its existence, there is no foundation to build the future political viability and culture necessary for a state. Meanwhile, it would be a “Judenrein” state, void of Jews, and that is not a good premise. Certainly, then it would be a dictatorial state, and who needs another one in the Middle East? Above all, its birth would simply mark the victory of Hamas. Fatah glorified and extolled the October 7<sup>th</sup> torture and murder festival, vainly claiming to have participated in the massacre. A video on Telegram from the West Bank has been repeatedly cited by official Fatah sources to prove that the terrorists with Kalashnikovs and yellow bandanas who killed innocent people in the kibbutzim

are part of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the one that set up the Second Intifada at Barghouti's orders. In the video, one of them exclaims: "Today we walked on their heads," while others kick a murdered man. Another film lists the names of their "martyrs" who died in the attack, and flew, they say, "to heaven." If elections were held today, elections that have been suspended for decades by Abu Mazen realizing that he's in the minority, Hamas would be the clear winner.

In the days of the war with Gaza, the West Bank is nothing more than another front from which, from Hebron as well as from Jenin, terrorist attacks depart daily. This is the main activity in the area that is supposed to become a "Palestinian State," therefore extending its authority over Gaza. This is simply ludicrous, especially remembering how all the funding, all the international support, and all the pacifist dreams over the years have been poured out for the Palestinians, who were not thinking about peace at all. Another perfect case of cultural misunderstanding.

I cannot forget, back in the days of the Second Intifada, a day when I was leaving Bethlehem. The church had been occupied by terrorists and there was shooting in the streets. Where I had been interviewing almost every day, the criminals had been preparing, in between prayers and readings from the Koran, the belts of suicide terrorists. Tired and distracted, I noticed at the entrance to the town a quantity of beautiful metal pipes, stacked in bulk. "What are they?" I asked the Palestinian collaborator accompanying me. "They are actually a gift from Italy," he said with a smile. "They are needed to rebuild the aqueduct, but who thinks about these things... ." The only thought of the Palestinian National Authority was to build the *intifada*. Today it also believes the idea that Jews have nothing to do with the area. A friend of mine who teaches Hebrew in a Bedouin school, after having explained to the

astonished pupils that he was a Jew, was asked whether he believed in Satan or God. Israeli Arabs, too, who are sometimes infected by the criminalization of Jews, often learn from these textbooks themselves. Even though, like those children, they have many opportunities to observe reality up close.

One of Hamas's most prominent leaders, Khalil al Hayya, explained how the planned attack, had it not been foiled by the heroic, rushing Israelis, was to reach out and engage their comrades in the West Bank, once they penetrated deep. With the help of Fatah, Hamas wanted to cut Israel in two, bringing the Palestinians together in one design. Biden's plan was, then, not far off: to reunite what remains of Hamas with the Palestinian Authority in Gaza. Again, then it can prove lethal and achieve a great victory for Hamas, based on the all-Western projection about what we desire: peace, as opposed to what it is the Palestinians truly desire. For decades, this illusion has rejected the horrible idea that they dream of nothing but a lake of Jewish blood, that they have no desire for peace other than what one might feel in a cemetery over the bones of one's enemies.

Research proves that the Palestinian Authority is now seen as an impediment to the desired total war by about 85 percent of a populace that, if given a state, would see it as a useful tool on a path to death. Eleven days after October 7<sup>th</sup>, the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Religion distributed the weekly Friday prayer, which this time included the hadith, the sacred narrative, pointing to the extermination of the Jews as an inescapable imperative: "The Hour of Resurrection will not come until all the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them, until the Jews are hidden behind the rocks and trees and the tree says, Muslim, servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me: come and kill him."

## Mutual Respect, the Key to the Abraham Accords

Not only would a solution for Gaza based on a Palestinian state not contain any peace premises, but one must also consider how the other Arab components would take it, which, according to all the predictions, could guarantee a peaceful life for Israel and consequently, for Gaza. While it's true that Israeli civilian occupation would be burdensome, undesirable, costly, and, in prospect, even bloody, as was the one that later led to the eviction decided by Sharon, also, unlike in 2005, it is understood that Israel must follow, albeit *pro-tempore*, to keep a watchful eye on the area, at least militarily. This means control of the border with the Arab world, i.e., the famous Philadelphi Corridor, so that neither Iran nor any other power dares to use it to build a major anti-Israel terrorist base; and it means controlling Gaza (probably by controlling the Netzarim road), making it possible to discover, and thus prevent, the movement of militant battalions' intent on a new criminal organization. It also means showing Arab countries that touch the Abraham Accords, such as Saudi Arabia, i.e., countries aimed at a convenient regional peace, that when it comes to the Strip in the future, Israel remains a strong partner. The United States should understand that weakening Israel with

a peace agreement that strangles it, putting in the driver's seat a Palestinian Authority now polluted by Iranian money and boiling jihadist ideas is first and foremost a bad deal for America itself.

We recalled that among the reasons why October 7<sup>th</sup> became urgent for Hamas, as an ally of Iran, was the now-ripe possibility of Saudi Arabian recognition of Israel. An enlargement of the Abraham Accords, a peaceful way of conceiving the future of the Middle East that, as events showed, was not at hand. Radical political Islam has 250,000 missiles in Lebanon, and in Europe and America hundreds of thousands of terrorists, which are its most important weapon. Suicide terrorism was an ingenious invention: a new and lethal weapon, it built the nexus between all terrorist movements in the figure of the *shahid*, the religious martyr. It was existential and successful, leading much of the Muslim world to embrace the Palestinian cause and the frightened and bewildered Western world to invent all possible avenues to attempt an impossible *appeasement*. This resulted in direct talks, promoted by Israel and, in the background, the insistent push by the whole world, "for peace," which was relentlessly repeated even in the aftermath of the *intifada*. It was under the pressure of a terrorist attack that the slogan, which even Rabin had never concretely thought of, "two states for two peoples" was born.

## Time to Make a Change

Israel has come to the crossroads that the century has tiresomely prepared for it, dominated by feelings and ideologies that in part prevent it from renewing itself. The road to renewal is obstructed first of all by limited resources in terms of weapons and men, as with Ukraine, and then by the surrounding sea of pacifists, contradicting the victory essential to survival, since liberal democracy is de facto incapable, after the two world wars, of conducting a war without – a great paradox! – despising and opposing leaders who lead it, because they lead war, and not in times of peace. Because war is war, violence is violence, abhorring it is an imposition. Its conclusion must be the aim as soon as possible, especially considering the suffering that can be avoided here and now, ignoring the potential suffering in the future. Today, the storm of news and opinions in the news oppose the secrecy and firmness that wars have always imposed. Progressive ideology, in particular, criticizes the war at every moment, at every newscast.

Jews in particular, as an island of democratic civilization distilled from hatred for the autocracies that, all indistinctly, have persecuted and killed them, are always tempted by

historicizing evil, by placing it in the past, by imagining it as belonging to a dark and distant era, now surpassed.

First of all, it is all very difficult to overcome, in addition to the pain, the outrage of the dismembered bodies in honor of the Koran, the outrage that wonderful people, who belong to our family, should be held captive by savage jailers who have all the means to disgrace us, to use all psychological means that destroy our democratic society. The monster who ordered the killing and raping of Jewish women and children is the same Sinwar who, according to the document reported by the German newspaper *Bild*, assigned himself as a primary task, codified and distributed as a work order, that of smashing and torturing Israeli society. And he succeeded very well at it: Rachel and Jon, the parents of Hersch Goldberg – one of the six murdered at the mouth of a foul-smelling hole where, in the bowels of the earth, they had been held captive – before and after the death of their son, behaved with exemplary dignity, yet they did not shy away from the protests and invectives of the relatives of the abductees whose majority, instead of lashing out at Hamas, blamed their suffering on Netanyahu, almost as if he were another warden, trying to push him to surrender everything, right now, to recover their loved ones.

All of this is understandable. But, just for the sake of argument, if the terrified and pietistic world had not all sided with the call for a halt to war operations, from Biden to the European Union, from Italy to Spain, from France to England to Germany ... would we not have witnessed a conflict in which decisive rescue operations would have brought home more abductees than those whom Sinwar, after the first 78 had returned, never had the will to return them?

The restitution of the hostage is a fictitious battleground, as was that of the withered strategy of preventing Israel from entering Rafah, and today that of *Tzir Philadelphi*. These are



stances that, by blaming Israel and not Hamas for the deaths in Gaza, including the hostage deaths, play the old guilt game whereby terrorism is the responsibility of the West. This time, it is Netanyahu's responsibility. It is the same guilt that prevents them from understanding that there is violence, that it is absolute and untreatable, and that the only thing that can be done to stop it is to fight it. It will not be by demanding a "ceasefire" that the war will be stopped, or by insisting on an agreement that Hamas does not want, or the beautiful prospect of "two states for two peoples."



## Dismantling the Death Cult

On the first anniversary of October 7<sup>th</sup>, one thing is becoming increasingly clear: support for Israel is the barometer of the West's self-confidence, and it has plummeted to a record low. After the Six-Day War in 1967, stickers on cars proudly proclaimed, "I stand with Israel." Today's complaining about war and the continual call for a ceasefire, actually push to war those in and out of the Middle East who want to see Jews on their knees, confused, divided, immobilized by moral doubt, dictated by a sense of guilt, one that Hamas will never feel.

There are, however, some human rights advocates, liberals, and feminists, who have courageously stayed put. They believe in our future. Arthur Herman wrote in *Mosaic* that the shift in opinion against Israel occurs when the West suffers, such as when it was faced with the Arab oil embargo and rising prices decided by OPEC. After the United States withdrew from Vietnam, and the Club of Rome warned that Western economic growth would stall, negative views of Israel as the general cause of Mideast woes took hold. Meanwhile, the UN attacks continued to grow (in 1975, the resolution on "racist" Israel was passed, revoked only in 1991) and innumerable developments of criminalization and delegitimization. These were followed

by Western astonishment and fear in the face of unexpected Islamic world aggressions, which paralleled the woke revision of its relationship with the Jewish world. The relationship with the Arab world was filled with fear and awe.

Israel returned to being regarded as an ally, an aid to the West, only in need, after September 11<sup>th</sup> with the war against Al Qaeda and ISIS and after the Islamist attacks in Spain in 2004 and in London in 2005. Israel proved to be an indispensable field fighter in the war on terror.

As it grew militarily and technologically, with Iran increasingly threatening, Israel approached the Abraham Accords, while the American Embassy moved to Jerusalem without the Palestinians noticeably daring to protest.

Only if Israel concludes this war with honor and strength, beating Hamas, and only if America doesn't get in the way, like the UN with all its institutions, and with the support of the European Union, will Israel be able to credibly move forward with a prospect of peace similar to the Abraham Accords guaranteed by Saudi Arabia. It's the exact opposite of what the Americans promised, "ceasefire and Bin Salman will be with us." Also, "trust the Palestinians and their future state, a pillar of the region's future."

On this basis, no possible peace is built, because none of this is realistic. Instead, it is upon Israel, on the strength of a recognized victory, to re-establish the necessary deterrence response to Iran and its proxies, with air and ground forces, and intelligence. That is, to restore the military and civilian reputation of the concord and the united patriotic spirit lost on October 7<sup>th</sup>. This is what Israel strives to do, and it is a task of peace while conducting the best possible war.

It is now clear that the obstacles are the European and American elites. Only those in Eastern Europe and the Baltics see Israel and the aggression that it suffers as a mirror of their

long history of resistance in the face of Russia, which seeks to destroy their freedom and their very existence, as well as the memory of Soviet anti-Israel hatred, an additional element that encourages them to remain on Israel's side. The invasion of Ukraine, however, has generally made even this sentiment fragile and attackable. Hungary, also Israel's friend, deflects when it comes to confronting the great enemy axis of which Russia is also a part of, and which Iran dominates.

Russia's proximity to Iran has increased their mutual fear. The awe in the face of the Islamic threat leads some of the most influential Western elites in the European Union to dodge the issue of their Judeo-Christian affiliation: snubbed, sidelined, and ignored by the French, Belgian, and German ruling classes, who prefer to pretend that they are unaware or, worse, show themselves oblivious to the problems that globalism has brought and continues to bring.

But the elites who consider themselves bulwarks of a Europe that guards its history, its values, and its books, have no chance of surviving by retaining their identity if they accept, even obliquely, the institutional antisemitism that is invading their countries. Europe is worthless if it allows antisemitism to take over. Worse still, if it does so as a pious cultural game of misunderstandings and masochistic lies, in which forces that hate it dominate.



## Orientalism

The basis of this surrender is the underlying misunderstanding of the interaction between the West and non-Western countries, which since the 1960s, as we have recounted, have acquired a strong political imprint. Its ideological basis became a mainstay of universities around the world, and instead of disappearing as it should have, the importance in *curricula* of the collection of dogmas drunk by the Academy from the texts of Edward Said, foremost among them *Culture and Imperialism*, actually grew.

For Said, the whole relationship of Western man with the Arab and Black world is tainted by colonialism and imperialism. The West cannot define itself except by pitting itself against the East. The consequence of this is a war that must end with Arab and other Eastern cultures spreading, without borders and without end, defeating the enemy, Israel, first.

Said's pages are in tune with his Jerusalemite roots. His wealthy family's base was in Cairo, with frequent and eventually permanent forays to the United States. His relationship with Jerusalem consisted of a temporary residence, before 1948, when his mother had decided to be treated by German Christian doctors living in the city. Having

interviewed Said in New York, I experienced the academic conceit, the star posture, beginning with his masterpiece, the idea that decolonization, opening with the struggle against Israel, would uproot the whole construction of the democratic West.

Above all, Said hated Israel and the Jews. All the rest – that is, the crumbling of the West, who, interestingly and paradoxically, loved him – results from this.

In this way, it became commendable, and indeed, desirable for him, even if he used a fluty academic tone, to take an action of war, even mass slaughter or rape, in any city in Europe or America. Said, however, was not a terrorist. He was even a Christian. But he was a theorist of world anticolonial violence because for him the whole history of Western civilization was colonialism.

The violence against Israeli civilians, with the *intifada* and terrorism, anticipates the violence against our entire civilization. On October 7<sup>th</sup>, we saw this exemplified. But the anti-colonial revolt, religious or secular, is a program planned for Rome, London and Paris.



## The Responsibility to See Clearly

All available studies indicate that the path of agreement, of compromise, which since 1948, with the acceptance of the partition, has been the one pre-chosen by Israel and advocated by the whole world to try to deal with the so-called Israeli-Palestinian issue, is today irrelevant. We could cite the endless explanations of true Orientalists such as Bernard Lewis or Harold Rhode: every lie that is uttered by the *ihadists* in the name of the victory owed to Islam is more than justified, indeed, it is imperative.

Immediately after the Oslo Accords, the Palestinian Authority, in violation of its promise to recognize the existence of the Jewish State and to take measures that would allow a coexistence, the premise for final negotiations, greatly increased the aggressiveness of school texts, rich in the culture of hatred and designed specifically for constructing the jihad from childhood. I have described a thousand times, with astonishment, the abhorrence that Palestinian and Arab children are being taught. The Second Intifada was organized, and no one did anything about it, then or since. The same books, the same terrorism.

The way for the entire West to deal with antisemitism, which

also threatens its institutions and edifices, is to examine with open eyes, also social media, how imperatively, decisively, and minutely it instructs to fight the West. As explained above, this is now at the center of the antisemitic, “anti-colonialist,” “anti-imperialist” woke alliance. It relies upon a large military and civilian array of people and has chosen the use of unidentified violence. This pleases the crowds and the reckless institutions.

What are we waiting for to take countermeasures? We are inundated with statistics that tell us how much Western taxpayer money goes to fund widespread teaching, in books, media, movies, and summer camps, devoted completely to cultivating hatred for Jews and “infidels,” which refers to six-year-olds as targets to be eliminated. How do you expect to cut off funding to those who print and disseminate those books? It is necessary to singularly tackle the UN institutions that, in addition to UNRWA, build the antisemitic fortress with a thousand different bricks.

When will the decision be made, with righteous indignation, to confront the lies of UNESCO, which displays only Islamic World Heritage signs in Jerusalem, having erased Jewish history? Who will demand from the organizations that are supposed to defend children, such as UNICEF, to provide physical, moral, and political help and defense to the Jewish children who are bombed every day, deprived of their family members, not only in October 7<sup>th</sup> but incessantly, because of the bombings and terrorist attacks that have been perpetrated over the years, without respite?

When will people realize that there are more than seventy thousand Israeli refugees? Refugees from their homes, jobs, schools, and the agricultural fields of the North, along the border, bombed daily by Hezbollah after October 7<sup>th</sup>? And the refugees from the South, where the kibbutzim are still in ruins and deserted in large part? And that the number of

these displaced people is enormous compared to an Israeli population of less than ten million. Full-fledged refugees, who day after day live cramped in hotel rooms and live off of subsidies? When will we see international institutions taking care of them like other refugees in the world, talking about them, publicizing their fate, and trying to remedy it? And that large regions in the North and the South, are “occupied” by the violence of those who continue to shoot at people who have put them on the run and cleared them out?

And when will the Red Cross kneel and ask for forgiveness for never confronting Hamas, nor demanding it to report on the health of, or at least the number of, living and dead Israeli hostages? Finally, when will we see the sports, scientific, and cultural organizations finally engage in a real battle to warn, perhaps by tearing up badges, or demonstrating in the streets, that Jewish lives matter and that without them, you don’t create, you don’t invent, you don’t compete?

It is through continuing incitement that the world’s most difficult battle must be waged face-to-face while resisting on the battlefield in Gaza and the North.

The glorification of violence is one of the astonishing choices of today’s antisemitic attack, along with the demonization and dehumanization of Jews and all those who share its path and goals. Today, the united pro-Palestinian front addresses democracies with blackmail: We will put you to the sword if you don’t agree to expel the Jews and fight Israel. And the fear spreads, from Paris to Madrid, London to New York, to Hollywood’s red carpet, as well as Venice’s red carpet.



## Our September 11<sup>th</sup>

Twenty-three years ago, on September 11<sup>th</sup>, when the attack on the Twin Towers created an analogous situation, with the challenge brought to the heart of the West by Al Qaeda and its allies (we were on the eve of ISIS's territorial conquests, accomplished at the tip of the executioner's knife), it was a sad honor for me, that my article that had appeared in *Commentary* was chosen by the *Wall Street Journal* of September 12<sup>th</sup>, among others, to comment on the attack on America, and was then chosen by the *New York Post*, and later distributed far and wide. Why did the article by an Italian journalist from *La Stampa* become an important elucidation? Because it lumped together antisemitism, anti-Israel hatred, and the anti-American terroristic attack on New York.

The choice of those newspapers was to examine the weight of antisemitism and its general murderous virulence, as I did, beginning with the words with which, in May 2001, Syrian President Bashar al Assad had welcomed visiting Pope John Paul II at the airport: "The Jews kill every religious principle with the same mentality with which they betrayed Jesus Christ and even tried to betray and kill the Prophet Muhammad." I went on to describe in detail how from Cairo to Gaza,

from Damascus to Baghdad, influential political, religious, and cultural figures of the Arab world – singers, writers, educators, the very ones with whom the Jewish world was striving to communicate every day – were instead producing, following and praising, propaganda for the demonization and destruction of the Jewish world.

It was an imaginary world described as all-powerful, in which lies about Israeli cruelty, including stories of “poisoned chewing gum” that induced corruption in women, and infectious diseases imported and spread by Jews, were viral, as they are today. At Davos, Arafat said that Israel used depleted uranium and nerve gas against Palestinians, and invented child murders... the oldest antisemitic tropes, such as that of the use of the blood of Christian infants in Passover unleavened bread, joined a chorus in which Israel’s “atrocities” became, to this day, the subject of continuous repetition, in the exaltation of the goal of killing, destroying, tearing apart Jews.

Holocaust denial was renewed as a battlefield, especially by Iran: Supreme Leader Khamenei proclaimed that “there is evidence that the Zionists had close relations with the Nazis and they exaggerate the data of the killing of Jews... as an opportunity to attract solidarity and to pave the way for the occupation of Palestine and justify Zionist crimes.”

## The Complicity of Silence

These accusations and so many others, accompanied by the continuous homicides of civilians, were uttered, printed, and spread under the eyes of the Arab leaders of Jordan and Egypt, peace signatories, without them ever saying a word, together with Western leaders. The Pope never responded to Assad, nor did Hillary Clinton react when the PLO leader's wife, Suha Arafat, accused Jews of poisoning the Palestinians' water, just as in Davos no one objected to Arafat's spouse's lies. In 2016, Abu Mazen was also applauded in the European Parliament after saying that rabbis suggested poisoning Palestinians' water. He was later forced to deny it, but in the meantime, the lies run amok and submerge the truth.

Why has all of this happened? A hidden, underground antisemitism and the idea that perhaps *jihad* has its justifications, can perhaps explain this attitude, but today it has reached beyond all limits. Silence becomes blatant complicity when the International Court in The Hague equates Netanyahu with Sinwar and calls for the arrest of Israeli leaders on par with that of the dismembering assassins. How can we fail to see that we are facing an antisemitism that, while pulverizing Western institutions into dust, has nothing to do with the

social justice it claims to advocate? Nor does it even insist on a democratic Palestinian state, suggesting that only Hamas's way is the way forward.

Those who suggest nothing but the destruction of the Jews are the same ones who suggest among their war goals, the burning of the Vatican (there are many examples of the clear demonstration of this threat) and the American flag. The West does not react, except by imagining, even demanding, a "ceasefire agreement." In Israel many repeat the cliché, "It takes two to tango." There is no partner for peace at this moment in history, only the prospect of a war that can be victorious or lost, and is, in any case long, bloody, dragged out in ambiguity and hypocrisy. Get over it, and decide which side to be on.

All peace offers and negotiations have ended, again and again, in the presence of a Western, democratic, and liberal state on Middle Eastern territory. But Spain, too, in the Islamic, Shiite, and Sunni religious vision, is an Arab territory of reconquest, as are Vienna and Rome. Today this also will include all the areas in Europe with heavy Islamic immigration and then in the Far East and Africa. Even Turkey, with its history of domination, has its religious messianic-imperialist vision of a world to be reconquered. The current spread of Islam among us can only be considered a prospect of coexistence if we first resolutely fight the war against antisemitism and our civilization. Again, my suggestion is: the democratic state enforce its laws; let there be a clear distinction between the right to free expression and incitement to violence; let there be clear rules about what can or cannot be said on the web, about slogans that incite killing, about the relationship with women (Polygamy is forbidden! And female genital mutilation!) even when they have a religious facade. Schools and universities cannot become a hotbed of hatred by those who, bad teachers



or students, want to turn them into bases for political and physical threats.

It's time to react; and if the dominant United Nations is the pinnacle of international antisemitism, which seems clear today, this is where the attention must be aimed for critique, with the goal of disassociation and abandonment, at least temporarily. And since the United States has graciously provided the UN's beautiful New York building, where the constant lynching of Israel and the West takes place, and then still finds itself in the odious role of Great Satan, it would be nice if someday that sick body would at least move elsewhere, losing the home and shelter provided by what it sees as a vituperative American host.

A Palestinian textbook for high school classes points the way: "Don't look at the occupant as human." (Henry Kopel, *The War on Hate*, [2021] p. 132).

Textbooks mirror how children and schoolchildren become a sure vehicle for conquest over territory. The Soviet dissident Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn said: "Shakespeare's murderers stop at a dozen corpses because they have no ideology (to follow). Thanks instead to the ideology, the 20th century has been destined to know evil on a scale that can be calculated to millions of individuals."

The crowds watching from the land of democracy at the unfolding disaster generally consist of individuals who largely consider themselves moderate, innocent of the most heinous crimes invoked by shouted slogans. It is easy to imagine that they are not antisemitic or anti-Western but merely democratically critical of Israel's policies, or, like Kamala Harris, that they want to accuse Israel simply of overreaching in war operations.

But the difference in judgment that Israel is an "occupier" while neither China nor Turkey is, the strenuous three

D's enunciated by Natan Sharansky, Demonization, Delegitimization, and Double Standards, tell the truth, that it is almost always antisemitism. It is revealed, above all, by the fury of the crowds, the evil smirk with which the themes of the dominion of the press, of money and lobbying... come out in the TV debate, and then all of a sudden, the beast of the blood libel accusation, the one that Israel is a willing killer of innocent children, appears. While exactly the opposite is true. The fact is that those who want to avoid being run over by the blanket of infamy built up all over the West by the USSR, by Said, by the non-aligned countries, by Black Lives Matter, by feminists-not-feminists, must know how to counter, to shout, to proudly wave the flag with the Star of David.

## Israel Must Win for the West

I believe that the Jewish people whose destruction has been attempted for three thousand years will also emerge victorious this time.

I see this because those who have been here since October 7<sup>th</sup> have experienced so many miracles of generosity, in defending their siblings in danger, by giving their own lives, and resilience to grief by mothers who, burying their son, told what a flower they had lost, but also how much he would have wanted to give his life for his Nation. I have seen elderly men return to the Reserves, *miluim*, Gaza, and the North, risking their lives, leaving women who are just

as courageous as they are, at home. I have seen my brothers face death and severe extensive wounds (many lost limbs and asked to return to the war, as do almost all the wounded still in the hospital) and my sisters who in a blink of an eye take care of children and the elderly.

One learns every day from the life stories of the young men who fell, who had built their lives here, told by their parents and friends: stories of boundless generosity, wisdom, art, science, assistance, and voluntary work on behalf of the weak, gestures of valor without comparison, stories of unremovable

determination to save the country, to overcome evil, to continue down the road of the Jewish people. A miraculous road of survival that today has its own State and its army, and always acts in the name of something abstract and ancient, that still guides the lives of young people watching YouTube and playing web games.

We saved ourselves from the pogroms and deportations, and now, since October 7<sup>th</sup>, the hatred that descends on us is the same as that of the Nazis, once again. Without Israel, the attack on the Jews on October 7<sup>th</sup> would have been final.

## Now and always, “*Harbu Darbu*”

To me, this is the road on which Israel will save itself and the entire West. A great battle in which it selects and definitively banishes cultural hatred: from the institutions that will choose to fight, whatever the cost, by cleaning up the universities, by staking out the streets, by waging a decisive war on terrorism and its social nests hidden in homes, mosques, and schools, and that safeguards the Jews of the Diaspora by force.

“I need weapons, not a vacation,” Zelenskyy said when the U.S. administration offered him to flee Kyiv on news of the Russian invasion. Similarly, Israel needs weapons, not a vacation.

Why is it worthwhile for the world to fight antisemitism with all its might? First of all, Israel, with its insane tenacity and millennia-long resistance, provides the world with knowledge on how to not live in a vacuum, and how to channel the past into the present to live in the future. A Jew is a living guarantee of meaning, of the happiness that one can experience even in the most difficult times. Regarding being Jewish, this person has continued to be happy, taking from life all that life represents as a gift in itself.

Dante Lattes says, as I have mentioned elsewhere, that “the

idea of Israel has for millennia been open to men of all races and languages and is the ideal humus on which humanity sows the seeds of its moral harvests. The Hebrew Bible and its derivatives are the purest and most universal instruments of human education, the ladder of men's ascensions," and above all: "It must have had a great beauty this Hebrew idea if, entrusted to the hands of a small unknown people of the Mediterranean, girded and besieged by the great empires that competed for its small territory, it succeeded in crossing the ancient ages despite the dangers and misguidance that threatened its life without respite; if without the aid of material forces and unaccompanied except by foolish solitary apostles he conquered the nations; if of so many helpful conveniences and desires he caressed men, sowing their lives with flowers and lights."

# Conclusions

We have tried to explain how October 7<sup>th</sup> is a date that does not just draw a war to wipe Israel off the map. It is by no means true that if Israel were to be wiped off the map, then the Middle East would quiet down, the world would have a different relationship with the Arab and Islamic world and the fury of those who want war would be appeased. No. The disappearance of Israel that the antisemites, the fanatics, and the fools desire, far from being the solution to a conflict always charged with acting out the whole world, would take away from the United States, from Europe, and the moderate East the shield that stands between them and a war of domination. Those who want it would now continue to fight it unimpeded, with their broad, well-defined, weapons-rich arsenal determined to dominate the world. Without Israel, there would be no peace, but a great war. Without the determined strength and courage of Israel, Iran's plan for domination, combined with that of its proxies and even Turkey, would spill over first into the Middle East and then beyond its borders, just as without the heroic Ukrainian resistance, Russian imperialism would overflow first into the European East, and then who knows how far.

The European Union is beginning to show some signs of awareness of this, by finally appointing a person responsible

for common defense; even Mario Draghi, before the plenary of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, explained that it is imperative if Europe wants to remain free and the master of its destiny, “to increase European productive capacity in strategic sectors and expand our industrial capacity for defense and space.” And in NATO, too, the contributions of the various members to increasing military capacity have taken the path of greater implementation.

Today, the news on the northern border is becoming more and more dramatic, while there is hope that the fighting can soon be eased and the search for a secure solution for Gaza, in the sense of ensuring the neutralization of Hamas, can begin. Since immediately after October 7<sup>th</sup>, when Hezbollah chose the strategy of exhausting Israel with a painful war of attrition, the Jewish State has known that war is around the corner in the North as well. It knows that it cannot afford to leave the entire border area under missiles (Lake Tiberias, Part of the Galilee, the Golan Heights), devastated and deserted and that the situation must be dealt with, even as it brings ever closer the direct clash with the real puppet master: Iran.

As previously mentioned, Hezbollah has an uncharacteristic number of Iranian missiles, concealed in civilian structures everywhere in Lebanon, which in the event of war, will have become the major target of the Israeli army: this creates a widespread and difficult war that, like in 2006, will see Nasrallah’s use of civilian structures and human shields. It will repeatedly raise the pseudo-pacifist wave that will try to stop Israel, like what happened and is still happening in Gaza. And just like with Ukraine, fake pacifism will again scream for hypocritical arms and ammunition blockades, like those Israel has already suffered in recent months from Spain, England, Germany, and even the Americans.

The origin of the war unleashed on October 7<sup>th</sup> is found in



the Iranian attempt to sabotage that rare and bold renewal and pacification movement in the Middle East known as the Abraham Accords. In the same moment that Saudi Arabia was in the process of making those agreements broader and more solid, Iran moved Hamas, then Hezbollah, and later also the Houthis and Iraqi militias to the West Bank: a path that, this time in earnest, represented and still represents a hope for peace for the Middle East, and thus an effective boycott of the mullahs' plans, had to be blocked.

As we write, Iranian newspapers are reporting that on the very fourth anniversary of the Accords signed on September 15, 2020, Iran's deputy foreign minister, Majid Takht-Ravanchi, has sought closer relations with the Gulf countries. In turn, the new president, Masoud Pezeshkian, issued to IRNA, Iran's state agency, declarations in which he proclaimed himself "eager to interact with the eight Arab countries on the edge of the Persian Gulf."

Iran wants a phalanx of Arab states mobilized against Israel, and it wants to be their locus: It managed to broker a deal with the Saudis from China; the new president went to Iraq, considered a gateway to the Gulf, dealt with Turkey and consolidated its armed presence in Syria, a transit station for the weapons it distributes. Whenever an operation on Syrian territories is unveiled, immediately Israeli origin is claimed, but never confirmed, in the continuous and tireless bombardment of Iranian sites, men, factories and weapons depots, and even poison factories destined for chemical and biological weapons. Not only does Iran guard its friends to keep them active against Israel and the United States, but it now guides them toward numerous attacks directed at U.S. bases in Iraq and Syria, signaling a willingness to widen an ever-declared hostility against the United States.

For Iran, the Abraham Accords are an unconceivable rift

in the Muslim world: Israel's dealings with Bahrain have always been seen as a direct affront, like the agreement with Oman. Hamas is a regular guest of Qatar, which, despite its relationship with America, has never accepted the agreements, and which holds a giant instrument of power: Al Jazeera, the television station where some of the militia who participated in the October 7<sup>th</sup> pogrom also worked as journalists. Al Jazeera, which has a presence in almost every Arab home in the Middle East and the rest of the world, has built the most effective weapon in the current war: disinformation on the television screen, where the Middle Eastern culture reigns.

This culture relies on the number of people who uncritically buy into it, on the weapons, on the large and now established trades in missiles and explosives, on money from an international network of drug trafficking in which Hezbollah is a master, especially in Latin America, the scene of large-scale attacks. In Europe, too, the Iranian war is being waged using groups of preying criminals. This grand construction has only one obvious goal: the domination that comes with war.

Autocracies no longer hide their intentions to dominate the world. Russia, China, North Korea, Iran: tracing their mutual exchange of arms, and know-how, from the war in Ukraine onward and now more than ever, while Israel is under attack, means seeing a strategic project of antagonistic domination to the West unfold.

The Iranian Shi'a project to destroy Israel – as it's always stated *raison d'être* – is the launching pad for a much broader war of conquest, which is affecting and will increasingly affect our civilization as a whole, and which is taking on our days the contours of a war that is no longer imminent but is already taking place, here and now, starting with the two seething Ukrainian and Middle Eastern fronts, and on through terrorism, in many European capitals, in the American cities,

in Africa and on the Asian continent. Even Australia is the subject of pro-terrorist antisemitic propaganda.

If preventing the path to the Abraham Accords was the reason for the October 7<sup>th</sup> attack by Iran and its proxies as a matter of urgency, verifying their resistance and creating for the future a victorious Israel that is again the partner in a wave of regional peace, then is the true way to seek peace. In March 2023, a definitive setback was feared for the Accords, with the restoration of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran, but the path to the Accords, despite everything, has not been interrupted.

Today we know – the information has been the subject of public statements by the United States and Britain – that in exchange for nuclear and space technology supplied to Tehran, which the ayatollahs need to build the atomic bomb, Moscow (which already has the largest number of nuclear warheads in the world) is receiving technology from the Iranian regime to make drones itself. It had already bought many from Iran at the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine, while President Zelenskyy denounced Russia's use of North Korean weapons on Ukrainian territory. The group of European countries involved in nuclear negotiations with Iran (abandoned by the United States in 2018), namely France, Germany, and Britain, declared – known for some time – that Iran's reserves of enriched uranium confirm the construction of the atomic bomb, and not civilian energy uses. The Iraqi nuclear missile capable of traveling eight thousand kilometers per hour is also getting closer and closer to the hands of the mullahs.

Signs of the activation of the Axis of Evil on the road to aggression against the West are multiplying. Joint Russia-China-Iran naval exercises; intensified exchange of nuclear know-how with North Korea, itself well on the way to a multiplication of its destructive arsenal; sinister

Russian-Chinese exchanges of courtesies, with Putin needing Xi Jinping to continue fighting in Ukraine and in return providing China with innovative nuclear submarine-building technologies. As we can see, what is at stake is not just the survival of Israel, but a new world order, of which the anti-Semitic siren sings the horrid march of entry into the century.

In days when the climate heats up, the international news prefers to follow the daily internal crisis in Israel, the demonstrations calling for a change of government, another incredible phenomenon is also being reported: "*Am Yisrael Chai*," "Israel lives," despite difficulties that for anyone would be unbearable, and the same can be said of Ukraine. From the beginning, some said that sooner or later Zelenskyy would have to surrender, so he might as well accept the territorial impositions and decrease in dignity and sovereignty, that Russia wanted right away. Instead, by resisting, he showed the world that Putin could be fought and even beaten and that Europe must win over the ancient Russian menace.

Thus Israel: The fact that Netanyahu is holding out, in the face of pressure from around the world, for the country to surrender; the painful but tenacious resistance, in a very long war, with heavy daily losses and aggravated by anguish over the kidnappings; the incredible feat of September 17, 2024 whereby Mossad, returning to the legendary cunning of its origins, blew up the beepers of the Hezbollah officers' network in Lebanon, inflicting an unprecedented crisis on the organization and leaving Iran stupefied... all of which reminds one of the certainty of a destiny of victory in which Israel continues to trust, all the way to the end.

It's been this way since the beginning. In the '48 War, when Israel was attacked by all the Arab countries, even though it was yet an adventurous aggregation of immigrants, and seemed doomed to certain defeat; in '67, it appeared doomed

to succumb in the face of Egyptian and Syrian strength, both sustained by the Soviet Union; in '73, when a surprise attack by an Arab coalition left thousands of Israelis dead and the country seemed close to ultimate collapse, but then won. There is a song that says "*lo biglal ha koah, rak biglal ha ruah*," "not because of force, but only because of the spirit." If this spirit is also found by Western civilization, the war will be won.

## About the Authors

**Dr. Fiamma Nirenstein** is a multi-award-winning author of more than 20 books and thousands of articles. She is a Senior Fellow and Director of the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs Programs on Antisemitism and Israel-Europe Relations. She serves as the Israel Foreign Ministry's Special Advisor for Combating Antisemitism and also serves on the Israel Council on Foreign Relations of the World Jewish Congress. She was previously President of the World Jewish Parliamentarians Association.

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Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs is one of Israel's leading policy, diplomacy, and communications institutes. Established in 1976, the JCPA has transformed from its longtime primary focus as a research institute on regional security, strategy, and international law.

Since 2023, JCPA has evolved into a “do tank,” becoming a trusted partner and fashioning shared security policy and strategic relationships with many decision-makers and public-opinion influencers, both in Israel and the Arab and Muslim worlds, producing joint security initiatives, position papers, conferences, monographs, books, podcasts, and extensive social-media activity. The Jerusalem Center initiates and develops overt and under-the-radar strategic relationships with senior representatives of Arab and Muslim countries and stands at the forefront of the fight against BDS and global antisemitism.

### **Programs and Publications of the Jerusalem Center:**

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The October 7 War Room: A public-diplomacy effort to strengthen pro-Israel opinion in North America and among Arabic-speaking populations. The activity includes a war on Iranian and Hamas disinformation, which today funnels most of the relevant information to the West and the Middle East, and making available information and professional analyses from Persian and Arab analysts and commentators. The project's team includes experts in the spheres of international law, the psychology of terror, the history of the conflict, and others. In addition, it includes fluently English-speaking Arab journalists who support Israel and whose articles are distributed in their own countries and the West.

#### **Diplomatic, Strategic, and Security Issues in the Middle East: Defensible Borders**

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is focusing on changing Israel's security conception on the day after the war in Gaza and the north.

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#### **The Fight against Antisemitism, BDS, and the Delegitimization of Israel**

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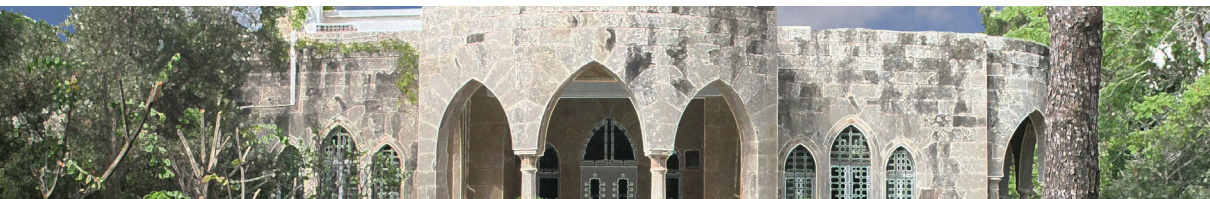
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After the October 7, 2023, Hamas massacre, a global wave of depraved antisemitism has inverted victims and aggressors and confused good with evil. Israel's present war will decide the fate of the free world.

### *Fiamma Nirenstein*

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