

# Israel Isn't Reason Arabs Dislike America

By Maurice Weinstein

*We are facing you in the battle and are burning with desire for it to start to obtain revenge.*  
— Gamal Abdel Nasser, 1967

After the death of Muhammad, the prophet and messenger, in 632, his followers conquered both the Byzantine and Persian empires. They moved north to subdue Christendom and were defeated at Poitiers, France, in 732. These 100 years of war, prior to the defeat, have been referred to as the days of glory.

Later, the Muslims, as the Ottoman Empire, endeavored to conquer Christendom in 1529 and 1683, but were repulsed at Vienna each time.

These failures to extend the domain of Islamic law were blamed on the Christians. Instead of humiliating the Christians, as the Koran says, the Muslims were humiliated. They have a keen sense of history, and the stories of the days of both glory and defeat are repeated through the generations, bolstering the enmity toward the West.

The third cause of hatred of the West was the colonization of the Arab countries. In 1798, Napoleon shocked the Arab world by invading Egypt. During the next 150 years, England, France, Spain and Italy conquered and colonized nearly all the Arab lands. It was a traumatic experience. Arabdom was dormant, in pain and ruled by the West. The pain was intensified because the Muslims were meant to rule over others. They gradually received their independence around the time of World War II. The resentment continues to this day.

Why resentment against the United States? It was never involved in fighting the Muslims nor in colonizing them. Nevertheless, the Muslims consider the United States part of the Protestant and Catholic Christendom that convulsed and oppressed the Arab world.

On his television show, William Buckley interviewed an Arab who said, "Israel is an expansionist country." Buckley responded, "Yes, every time you attack them, they expand."

Israel must use great caution to protect its citizens, for at its waist, Israel's width is smaller than the city of Charlotte.

Israel declared its independence in 1948, based upon a resolution of the United Nations. The next day five

Arab armies invaded. They were defeated. The Arabs clamor that Israel created refugees. Every war produces refugees. If the Arabs had not attacked, there would have been no refugees.

Again in 1967, the Arabs attacked Israel. Israel pushed the Arab armies back in all directions and defeated them. The Arabs clamor that Israel occupies Arab lands. If the Arabs had not attacked, Israel would not have occupied the lands.

In 1981, Israel bombed and destroyed the facilities where Saddam was developing an atomic bomb. If not for that, the present confrontation on the Persian Gulf would be far more perilous.

All these events caused consternation and humiliation in the Arab world; but neither these events nor aid granted Israel by the United States initiated nor caused hatred of the West. That already existed, with intensity.

Another point: In his third article, Rolfe Neill takes after Sen. Jesse Helms. He says: "Yet Helms must have noticed later (after the 1984 campaign) that pro-Israel PACs put \$222,342 into Hunt's \$9.8 million treasury," and none to Helms. And, further, that "since then, Helms has become one of Israel's friends."

The connotation is that Helms changed his views to get PAC funds next time around. That is nonsense. The PAC contribution to Hunt amounted to about 2% of his campaign funds — not enough to cause any candidate to change his views, and certainly not Helms, a man of strong convictions. Even Neill says that five months before the Hunt-Helms election, Helms advocated moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv. Helms speaks frequently on the floor of the Senate in the interest of Israel's security. He became an ardent friend of Israel because he has studied Israel's cause and knows that it is in the national interest.

In his three articles Rolfe Neill adopted a theme, and sought to justify it — but mostly with speculation and innuendo.

Kuwait. Moreover, the Israeli lobby was not strong enough to counter the efforts of the powerful farm and business lobbies to provide Saddam Hussein with the commerce and resources that strengthened his army and prepared him for the invasion of Kuwait. Nor was it strong enough to stop the military-industrial lobby's efforts to sell to Hussein and other unstable Mideast countries the weapons that may soon be used to kill our own soldiers. To the very date of the invasion, high persons in the Bush administration and Sen. Robert Dole were openly promoting more trade with Saddam, extending \$4 billion of credits to him and opposing a congressional bill to sanction him. At the same time, they were attacking the Israeli lobby for opposing such things.

As long as leaders like Saddam Hussein control Iraq and other major Mideast countries, we should all be grateful to the Israeli lobby for reminding all of us that the Mideast is a dangerous and violent place which threatens the security of not just Israel but the entire world.

— Mark R. Bernstein



## Being Paranoid In the '90s

By Abe Warshenbrot

When *The Charlotte Observer* and its publisher devoted three weeks in a row to bashing AIPAC and its influence in the U.S.A., the writings seemed familiar. I was sure I read it some time in the past. I went searching and found my hunch correct. I copied a few sentences. Can you guess who wrote them?

A. Jews are more advantageously placed than Arabs throughout this country to tell their story. The consequences can be seen in American knowledgeability.

B. A second weapon in the service of the Jew: the Press. With all his perseverance and dexterity, he seizes possession of it. With it he slowly begins to grip and ensnare, to guide and to push all public life, since he is in a position to create and direct that power which, under the name of "Public Opinion," is better known today than a few decades ago.

C. Many senators and representatives are intimidated by the massed might of nearly 80 political action committees with a pro-Israel agenda and a success record in defeating politicians who oppose them... Pro Israel means discouraging in U.S. arms sale to Arabs and getting ever bigger funds from Congress... Through interlocking actions, they target congressional enemies and blow them away with big money for TV. That's why there is now mostly silence on Capitol Hill when it comes to matters Arab vs. Israeli. It's a national shame and not at all healthy in the long run for Israel itself.

D. Our present-day party Christians debase themselves to begging for Jewish votes at elections and later try to arrange political swindles with atheistic Jews parties — and this against their own nation... Now the Jew begins to reveal his true qualities. With repulsive flattery he approaches the governments, puts his money to work, and in this way manages to secure new license to plunder his victims...

E. Although Jews are 2½% of the country's population, they furnish more than 50% of the money raised by Democrats and perhaps 25% of

the funds going to Republicans. F. Proportionately as the power of the princes begins to mount, he (the Jew) pushes closer and closer to them. He begs for "patents" and "privileges" which the lords, always in financial straits, are glad to give him for suitable payment. However much this may cost him, he recovers the money he has spent in a few years...

A, C and E were taken from Mr. Rolfe Neill's three articles. B, D and F were taken from "Mein Kampf" by Adolf Hitler (Houghton Mifflin 1971 Edition, translated by Ralph Manheim, pages 317-320).

Is Mr. Neill anti-Semitic? Probably not. Is he just ignorant of the facts? I hope he is willing to learn those facts. Unfortunately, Mr. Neill's articles give legitimacy to anti-Semitic feelings. I discussed it the other day with a member of the Jewish community. "You're paranoid," he said. Maybe so. But six million victims of the Holocaust would have wished they were paranoids. And as a known psychiatrist once said, even a paranoid can be right once in a while.

It is time for the Jewish community as a whole to initiate a dialogue that will get to the source of these feelings and stop further undesirable development. It is a problem that affects us all.

## Be Grateful for Israel Lobby

In a recent column, my friend Rolfe Neill asks that we try to understand the Arabs better during the present Mideast crisis, and then blames Israel and the Israeli lobby in Washington for our present ignorance of this subject. By implication, he echoes Saddam Hussein's contention that the Israelis are to blame for the crisis.

It is quite clear that both Rolfe and Saddam Hussein are wrong, that Israel has nothing to do with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and that the Arab-Israeli conflict is not the sole cause of the upheaval in the Mideast.

Nor can the Kuwait crisis be blamed on the Arabs. It was an Arab country that was invaded, and the armies of five Arab countries are shoulder to shoulder with our army in opposing the Iraqi aggression. One does not, as Rolfe suggests, have to take an advanced course in Arab history to understand what is happening in the Mideast today, nor to appreciate the important contribution the Arabs have made to world civilization.

The real issue is not the history or the character of the Arab people but the quality of the leadership in the confrontational Arab states. Saddam Hussein, Muammar Gadhafi, Yasir Arafat and Hafez Assad are dangerous, relentless men who gained power through violence and repression. They practice terrorism against innocent women and children, seize and cynically use hostages to accomplish their ends and resort to practices unrestrained by civilized norms.

These men have treated the world

to hijackings, political assassinations, the murder of more than 20,000 Syrians at Hama, endless bloodshed in Lebanon, the Iran/Iraq war in which more than a million people died, the use of poisonous gases in war and against innocent civilians, and now the rape and pillaging of Kuwait. They have betrayed their own people by cynically exploiting the Palestinian issue for their own selfish purposes and by diverting resources that could be used to improve the lives of their citizens into weapons of mass destruction.

As long as this kind of leader is in control of important Mideast nations, there will never be peace there, nor will Israel be willing to give up the territory which stands between it and destruction. By aligning with Saddam Hussein and refusing to join the world community in condemnation of the invasion, Yasir Arafat has once again proven that he is an unreliable "partner" in the peace process.

Fortunately, not all the Arab leaders are of this stripe. Anwar Sadat was one of the great statesmen of the 20th century. He had the vision and the courage to make peace with Israel. In return, the Israelis trusted and respected him and gave him back the Sinai and the precious wells that provided most of Israel's oil. The peace made by this great man has survived. When men like Sadat lead the Arab countries, Israel will make peace with its Arab neighbors.

Rolfe surely knows it was Saddam Hussein and not the Israeli lobby, powerful as it is, who invaded

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