

who can now review his outrageous falsehoods all at once. Here are just a few of Abbas's prevarications from last week:

- “This has been our land (*Abbas refers to greater Palestine, including Israel*) since the days of the Canaanites.” In fact, today's Arabs, including Palestinian Arabs, have no hereditary relationship to the ancient Canaanites—most came thousands of years later from eastern Arab and Egyptian lands.
- The Zionist movement “constitutes a colonialist movement that has nothing to do with Judaism.” Of course, Zionism has everything to do with the yearning of the Jewish people—articulated in our daily and Holy Day prayers and hundreds of times in the Torah—to return to our ancient homeland. On Passover we say, *l'shanah haba'ah b'yirushalayim*—next year in Jerusalem!
- Abbas asked, “When have we ever rejected negotiations (*with Israel*)?” While Palestinians have shown up several times, briefly, for negotiations, they walked away from them every time—even in the face of Ehud Olmert's exceedingly generous (and likely never-to-be-repeated) offer to the Palestinians of 97% of Judea and Samaria and a capital in Jerusalem. Since 2014, the Palestinians have refused to negotiate at all.

Which brings us to this week's FLAME Hotline featured article—on why Abbas will never be able to make peace with Israel, by *Times of Israel* editor David Horowitz. He makes the case that Abbas—and his people—have become so indoctrinated with decades of Palestinian lies that they're incapable of making peace.

Horowitz provides his own unsettling review of desperate Palestinian efforts to rewrite Middle East history to fit their narrative and disenfranchise the Jewish people from the Holy Land. Fortunately, those efforts look more effete and futile every day.

I hope you'll forward this short, simple, compelling email to friends, family and fellow congregants to help them understand why Americans should urge the President and Congress to continue to tell the truth to the Palestinians—and act accordingly.

I hope you'll also quickly review the P.S. immediately below, which describes FLAME's latest *hasbarah* campaign to urge the President and U.S. Congress to back up their rhetoric on Iran with definitive action. I hope you agree with and will support this message.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson
President, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid editorial *hasbarah* messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

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P.S. As you know, Iran has become the largest state sponsor of global terrorism and the most dangerous enemy of the U.S. What's worse, the Islamic Republic continues to spread its jihadist tentacles throughout the Middle East, and now has armed forces on Israel's borders in Syria and Lebanon. No wonder FLAME has created a new editorial message—"[We Must Stop Iran Now](#)"—which is about to start running in mainstream magazines and newspapers, including college newspapers, with a combined readership of some 10 million people. In addition, it is being sent to every member of the U.S. Congress and President Trump. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME's powerful ability to influence public opinion—and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you'll consider giving a donation now, as you're able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate online, just go to [donate now](#). Now, more than ever, we need your support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and President Trump stay focused on—and take actions against—Iran's threat to our country, Israel and the entire world.

As of today, more than 15,000 Israel supporters receive the FLAME Hotline [at no charge](#) every week. If you're not yet a subscriber, won't you join us in receiving these timely updates, so you can more effectively [tell the truth about Israel](#)? Just go to [free subscription](#).

Abbas can't make peace with the Jews because he believes his own lies

In 2008, the Palestinian leader rejected Ehud Olmert's unsurpassable peace offer. Sunday's revolting speech in Ramallah underlined why

By David Horowitz, Times of Israel, January 18, 2018

Almost a decade ago, in the dying months of his premiership, Ehud Olmert offered Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas pretty much everything the Palestinians ostensibly seek from Israel.

Olmert offered Abbas what amounted to 100 percent of the West Bank—with one-for-one land swaps enabling Israel to extend sovereignty to three major settlement blocs and the Palestinians compensated with territory inside Israel's current sovereign borders. He rejected the "right of return" for millions of Palestinians to Israel

—an influx that would doom the Jewish state—but indicated a willingness to meet the Arab Peace Initiative’s call for a just and agreed solution to the refugee issue, including a compensation fund and the symbolic absorption of several thousand refugees.

Most dramatically of all, he proposed dividing Jerusalem into Israeli- and Palestinian-controlled neighborhoods and relinquishing Israeli sovereignty on the Temple Mount and throughout the Old City. Instead, said Olmert, the “Holy Basin” would be overseen by a five-member, non-sovereign international trusteeship, comprising Israel, the PA, Jordan, the US and Saudi Arabia.

Olmert wouldn’t give Abbas his map unless the PA chief signed off on it. This, Abbas refused to do. Rather, at the end of their extraordinary meeting, it was decided that the two sides would meet again the next day, to work on finalizing terms. As Olmert would recall in a 2015 Israeli TV interview, “I told him, ‘Remember my words, it will be 50 years before there will be another Israeli prime minister that will offer you what I am offering you now. Don’t miss this opportunity.’”

But miss the opportunity is precisely what Abbas did. He headed back to Ramallah, where he quickly [sketched out his own map](#) of what Olmert had proposed. Hours later, his chief negotiator Saeb Erekat called to say the Palestinians couldn’t meet as scheduled because they had to go to Amman, but would return for talks the following week. That never happened. For years afterwards, Olmert would say sorrowfully that he was still waiting to hear back from Abbas.

In 2015, the [PA chief acknowledged that he had rejected Olmert’s terms](#), complaining that the refugee proposal was not satisfactory, and asserting disingenuously as regards the division of territory: “He showed me a map. He didn’t give me a map... He told me, ‘This is the map’ and took it away. I respected his point of view, but how can I sign on something that I didn’t receive?”

Unsurprisingly, Abbas made no mention of Olmert’s extraordinary peace proposal during his two-hour-plus anti-Israel, anti-Trump and anti-peace ramble before members of the PLO leadership in Ramallah on Sunday. Yet [that appalling speech](#) nonetheless provided the dismal explanation of why the man charged with leading his people to statehood had, nearly a decade earlier, rejected the best chance he would ever have to achieve that declared ambition.

Out of Abbas’s embittered 82-year-old mouth came the truth: He himself believes the vicious propaganda disseminated first by his late and unlamented predecessor Yasser Arafat and then maintained during his own 13 years at the helm of the Palestinian

Authority.

Of course, Abbas chose not to accept Olmert's unbeatable offer of statehood. It would have required the Palestinians to acknowledge the legitimacy of an Israel which, in Abbas's own words, is just an unrooted "colonial project that has nothing to do with Judaism." It would have required the Palestinians to share the territory with a people to whom the holy land was so alien, in his foul rewriting of history, that they would rather go to their deaths at the hands of the Nazis than live here. "The Jews did not want to emigrate even with murder and slaughter," as he put it. "Even during the Holocaust, they did not emigrate."

So unwanted was the holy land by the Jews, he further elaborated in his revolting revisionist narrative, that David Ben-Gurion resorted to forcing Middle Eastern Jews to come here. "Ben-Gurion did not want Middle Eastern Jews to come [to Israel]," Abbas told his rapt audience, "but when he saw the vast land, he was forced to bring Middle Eastern Jews... that didn't want to come. From Yemen they flew 50,000 Jews... Then they went to Iraq, which had large reserves of Jews..."

The man whose doctoral thesis blamed Zionist agitation for the Holocaust, and disputed the number of Jewish victims, on Sunday set out a series of falsehoods obvious to the most casual student of 20th century events. He detailed a narrative that allowed no historic Jewish connection to this land — no Biblical history, no Temples, no ancient sovereignty. He airbrushed the Jewish nation out of its own past.

Obviously, no leader so determinedly blinded to his enemy's legitimacy could ever have agreed to reconciliation. Abbas's public excuse for rejecting Olmert's statehood offer in 2008 may have been "He didn't give me a map." What plainly motivated his rejection, however, was his insistent conviction that the Jews have no right to be here whatsoever.

The tragedy is that first Arafat's, and then Abbas's, dead-end leadership affects us all. However inconvenient, the fact is that there are millions of Israelis and Palestinians—Jews, Christians and Muslims—between the river and the sea and we somehow have to find a way to live here together.

The solution, as has always been clear to those who are prepared to open their eyes, lies not in some attempted quick diplomatic fix—trying to strong-arm the two sides into an accord on terms they do not want, against an artificial timetable they will not honor. Rather, the long path ahead requires education—education regarding the discomfiting fact that there are competing, conflicting claims to this land.

Cognizant that the Palestinians are not going anywhere, and desperate for an accord that might liberate us from the choice of living by the sword or perishing, Israelis have shown a willingness—most dramatically represented by Olmert’s offer—for far-reaching territorial compromise. They have ousted prime ministers—notably Benjamin Netanyahu in 1999—who they thought were missing opportunities for peace.

The Palestinians, by contrast, have refused to acknowledge Jewish legitimacy, and convinced themselves that Israel is a transient, shallow presence that can ultimately be ousted. This, despite the spectacular evidence of our strong, resilient, thriving nation.

A century ago, it was axiomatic in Islam that there were Jewish temples atop the Temple Mount; that’s why the Muslims subsequently placed mosques there. What Abbas’s speech so dismally underlined is that the false narrative of Jewish history that has taken hold in more recent decades is not only cynically disseminated by Palestinian leaders to their people, but also thoroughly accepted by the leaders themselves.

The UN can vote itself blue in the face against Israel. Foolish nations can unilaterally recognize Palestinian statehood—to the detriment of the Palestinians, since such “support” merely deepens their obduracy. But the only route to Palestinian independence runs via a negotiated settlement with Israel.

The Olmert offer of a decade ago showed how far Israel was prepared to go to partner the Palestinians to statehood. The despicable, tragic, self-defeating Abbas speech of Sunday night showed that so long as the Palestinians blind themselves to the fact of Israel’s legitimacy, no Israeli offer is going to be good enough.



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