

FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

June 26, 2018

If you support Israel, can you also support President Trump? (Or, is Donald Trump good for the Jews?)

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Let me ask you a question: If President Trump does something good for Israel, can you support him wholeheartedly for that?

I ask, because in a speech I gave recently to a mostly Jewish audience, I praised Mr. Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. One of the audience members immediately raised her hand and commented derisively that, "Trump only did it because his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, is Jewish. Trump could change his mind at any time."

While this woman's observation may be 100% true—and I'm not sure it is—it doesn't change the fact that moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem is a good thing for Israel.

Yet since about 65% of Jews are Democrats, it's no surprise that most Jews oppose Donald Trump. Which is fine. I understand.

The President gives us many reasons to dislike him—he's crude, he's rude, he lies, and he does change his mind mercurially. Indeed, we could easily make a longer list of why so many Americans—Democrats and Republicans—dislike the President personally and politically.

But what's surprising is that so many Jews—even FLAME supporters—oppose Trump even when he takes actions completely supportive of the Jewish state.

Indeed, 85% of Israeli Jews supported Trump's decision to move the embassy, while only 46% of American Jews did. Huh?

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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

Palestinian Mythology

Palestinian Arabs claim full ownership of the Holy Land, denying any Jewish connection or rights—all based on deceptive lies, all easily proven false.

In this era of "fake news," it's often hard to tell truth from fiction. Indeed, Palestinian Arab leaders have constructed an elaborate false mythology to justify their war against Israel and the Jewish people. It's time to tell the truth about these myths—no separate truth from Palestinian.

What are the facts?

It is wrong to give the right to create an area, narrative—or such a narrative should be based on truth, regardless where it denies the rights of others. We may disagree on interpretation, but at least we should agree on the facts. So, let us consider the consequences of the Palestinian narrative and judge their moral worth by adherence to the truth. It is not that the modern Palestinian myth is an earlier arrangement to disenfranchise the Jewish people from their—our—ancestral homeland.

1. Palestinians are indigenous to the Holy Land.

False. President Mahmoud Abbas often claims Palestinians are related to the biblical Canaanites, a group that vanished 2,800 years ago. This claim has no basis in archaeological or genetic research. Nearly all Palestinians trace their lineage to Arab lands. What's more, unlike the Jews, Palestinians have no unique language, culture or religion—essential markers of indigenous peoples. Indeed, historians, anthropologists, biblical records, and the Quran itself affirm conclusively that Jews founded a kingdom in the Holy Land some 3,000 years ago—their arrival at the Arabs—and have lived in the lands of present-day Israel, Syria and Jordan ever since.

2. Israel occupies Palestinian land.

False. No, it does not. Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. It is not a result of any "occupation" of Palestinian land. The UN Partition Plan for Palestine, which was adopted in 1947, called for the creation of a Jewish state and an Arab state. The UN Partition Plan was a result of the UN's recognition of the Jewish people's right to self-determination. The UN Partition Plan was a result of the UN's recognition of the Jewish people's right to self-determination.

3. Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian people.

False. Palestinian leaders commonly herald Jerusalem as a "Nation and 70,000 years ago" territory, including 1,000 years of Jewish history and Jerusalem's centrality to Judaism. Indeed, history shows King David founded Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish kingdom around 1000 BCE, before the advent of Islam. Jerusalem is a holy city for the Hebrews, Muslims and not a single time in the Quran. Moreover, Jerusalem has never been an Arab capital, and for most of the city's history, Jews have been the majority population.

4. Palestinians have a right of return to Israel.

False. The UN Partition Plan for Palestine, which was adopted in 1947, called for the creation of a Jewish state and an Arab state. The UN Partition Plan was a result of the UN's recognition of the Jewish people's right to self-determination. The UN Partition Plan was a result of the UN's recognition of the Jewish people's right to self-determination.

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The same poll, by the American Jewish Committee, shows that 77% of Israeli Jews support the President's handling of U.S. Israel relations, while only 34% of American Jews do.

Why do the Jews who live in the Promised Land—whose stake in Israel is literally a life-and-death matter—think Trump is great for Israel (and the Jews)? Why do American Jews—whose stake in Israel rises only marginally above that of interested spectators—think Trump's treatment of Israel is harmful?

If we are to be optimistic, we could say that the position of American Jews seems to be a triumph of pure Democratic partisanship over rationality. After all, if you're a Zionist—if you truly support Israel—why on earth would you not support recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, especially since the U.S. Congress did so 23 years ago in 1995?

Is your hate for Trump so powerful, that you believe he can do no good whatsoever—no matter what the issue?

If you're a Jewish, Israel-loving Democrat, let me ask this: Why would you not support Trump's disengagement from the disastrous Iran deal—which even a bipartisan majority of Congress did not support at the time of the agreement?

Do you really oppose Nikki Haley's consistent condemnation of the U.N.'s various bodies for blatant, hateful treatment of the Jewish state? Can you find no praise for the administration's recent exit from the misnamed, anti-Israel U.N. Human Rights Council?

If we are to be pessimistic, we could explain this apparent contradiction by saying that many American Jews are so far gone they simply don't support Israel at all any longer—they've given up on Zionism. They *oppose* an American foreign policy on Israel that Israeli Jews wholeheartedly support.

Unfortunately, this abandonment of Israel increasingly characterizes the Democratic left wing—so-called progressives.

If you are a Democrat who indeed supports Israel, you'd do well to resist the "hate Trump" chorus, hold your nose and voice full-throated support of Donald Trump's policies that support Israel.

You'd also be doing the Democratic party a favor by disavowing the likes of Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, who signed a letter a few weeks ago condemning Israel's

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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humane and restrained response to violent Palestinian rioters on the Gaza border. Your party is in danger of leaving you . . . and the Jewish state.

Support of Israel is not a partisan issue and should not be allowed to become one. If you support your party above Israel's best interests, you fall into that trap. This is not to argue that you should vote for Donald Trump in the next election. It is to argue that you should insist that the people you vote for should support Israel.

This week's FLAME *Hotline*-featured article (below), by commentator Jonathan Tobin, editor of the Jewish News Syndicate, explains why the Trump administration's decision to leave the corrupt, anti-Semitic U.N. Human Rights Council was long overdue. He argues that criticism of this action merely represents hollow attacks by the left on everything Trump does, no matter what.

Tobin asserts, too, that those who forego support of Israel in favor of Trump hate or blind support of their party have lost their moral compass. They do neither Israel nor the United States nor the Democratic party any favors.

I hope you'll forward this analysis to friends, family and fellow congregants. It will help them understand why it's critical to remain rational on the defense of Israel and to support anyone—even the current President—who supports the Jewish homeland.

Finally, while we're on the topic of U.N. abuses, I hope you'll also quickly review the P.S. immediately below, which describes FLAME's long-running *hasbarah* campaign demanding that the U.S. exit from the UNHRC. This is why we at FLAME applaud Mr. Trump's and Nikki Haley's resignation from the organization—a move we called for during the last administration as well.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson

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

P.S. Did you know: While the U.N. discriminates against Israel in many ways, the organization's most outrageously unjust agency is the U.N. Human Rights Council, long a harbor for oppressive regimes to pass judgments on other nations, and above all against Israel. The Middle East's only democracy and truly a light unto nations in so many ways, Israel suffers more condemnations by the UNHRC than all other nations together. In just the last year, the UNHRC passed twice as many resolutions against Israel as against North Korea and Syria combined. In order to make Americans—especially college and university students—aware of this injustice, FLAME has for the last year published an outspoken position paper: "Exit the U.N. Human Rights Council." This paid editorial appeared in magazines and newspapers, including college newspapers, with a combined readership of some 10 million people. In addition, it was being sent to every member of the U.S. Congress, Presidents Obama and 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 and the U.S. Congress end our support of blatantly anti-Semitic international organizations.

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An end to the UN's human-rights farce

Trump's critics prefer to attack him, rather than acknowledge that he was right to withdraw from a Human Rights Council that engages in anti-Semitic bias against Israel.

By Jonathan Tobin, *Jerusalem Post*, June 20, 2018

U.S. President Donald Trump has been on the receiving end of a lot of criticism for his willingness to flout tradition and engage in needless fights with friends while at the same time ingratiating foes. Trump seems at times to view the world as a Hobbesian war of all against all, in which the United States has no real allies or enemies. But there are times when his instinctive distrust of the foreign-policy establishment isn't just on point. It's absolutely necessary.

Such a moment came again this week when U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley [announced America's withdrawal from the U.N. Human Rights Council](#). As she eloquently stated, "For too long, the human-rights council has been a protector of human-rights abusers and a cesspool of political bias. Regrettably, it is now clear that our call for reform was not heeded."

But the irony here is that the U.S. move, which Haley indicated was motivated by American concern over the HRC's targeting of Israel, is being used as fodder for attacks on Trump by his critics. While the president gives his critics plenty of ammunition, their willingness to come to the defense of a morally bankrupt institution tells us a lot more about them and the hysteria Trump generates on the left than it does about his shortcomings.

The merits of the case for leaving the UNHRC are unassailable. As Haley pointed out, the council's obsessive hatred for Israel has turned it into a sad joke:

"Earlier this year, as it has in previous years, the Human Rights Council passed five resolutions against Israel—more than the number passed against North Korea, Iran and Syria combined. This disproportionate focus and unending hostility toward Israel is clear proof that the council is motivated by political bias, not by human rights. If the Human Rights Council is going to attack countries that uphold human rights and shield countries that abuse human rights, then America should not provide it with any credibility."

Unfortunately, the United States has been lending credibility to the council ever since U.S. President Barack Obama decided that America should join it in 2009. Created in 2006, as a replacement for a predecessor body—the Human Rights Commission—that was equally tainted by hatred for the one Jewish state on the planet, U.S. President George W. Bush saw no reason to grant the agency any legitimacy.

Indeed, with the ranks of its member nations swollen by some of the worst human-rights offenders, the council has become more of a parody of advocacy for the cause of freedom than anything else.

But Obama's faith in multilateralism and the United Nations was such that he overlooked the HRC's faults. For the next eight years, America kept returning to the council even though it was clear that its members viewed it as little more than a platform for venting their indifference to the behavior of genuine human-rights offenders and efforts to brand Israel as a pariah nation.

Some critics of Trump's decision claim that the United States could do more good by remaining in the organization than by leaving it. But the Obama administration's record proved just the opposite. Human-rights offenders laughed at the empty rhetoric of U.S. representatives. Every year, it continued to pass resolution after resolution damning Israel and barely paying attention to real catastrophes. Secure in the belief that the U.S. and the European democracies were too invested in this institution to hold it accountable, the council became more irresponsible and outrageous as every measure of Israeli self-defense against terror was falsely labeled as a crime.

But, as [Lauren Wolfe's article in *The Atlantic*](#) demonstrated, Trump's critics are as obsessed with him as the UNHRC is with demonizing Israel. Quoting anonymous "human-rights experts," Wolfe claimed the true motive for Trump's decision was to protect the United States from being labeled a violator.

While no nation, including democratic ones, are perfect, the attempt to assert a moral equivalence between America and tyrannies like Iran, Cuba, China and Venezuela is nothing less than a partisan slur that gives cover to Israel-bashers.

What is the evidence for the attempt to label America as a violator of human rights? According to Wolfe, Trump's border-security policies are criminal. But while [Trump's "zero tolerance"](#) policy was wrong, it was, alas, no different from the way virtually every other nation enforces its right to decide who may cross their borders. Illegal immigration to America is not a human right.

Wolfe also claims that Trump's "threats" to press freedom merit scrutiny from the United Nations. But while the president's attacks on his media foes are foolish, the U.S. government has taken no actions to repress freedom of the

press. Indeed, this administration has been less zealous than Obama's when it comes to investigating leaks. Nor was Obama shy about abusing his press critics. But in the eyes of his fans, attacking Fox News was acceptable, but calling out CNN, MSNBC and *The New York Times* for their partisan bias is not.

The talk of Trump as a human-rights violator in this context is nothing more than a partisan ploy on the part of those who are more interested in delegitimizing the administration than in holding the United Nations accountable for a bias against Israel that is indistinguishable from anti-Semitism.

As with his decision to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem and to withdraw from a fatally flawed Iran nuclear deal, Trump's latest declaration flouts the conventional wisdom of the foreign-policy establishment. But each of these moves was the right thing to do by any reasonable moral standard.

The debate over Haley's announcement shows that some people are willing to sacrifice Israel and the defense of human rights in order to vilify Trump. But if the anti-Trump "resistance" is willing to defend the United Nations' worst excesses in order to justify their opposition to this necessary move, then it is they who have lost their moral compass.

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