



After all, it's the Arabs (except those that live in Israel) who almost universally lack freedom, justice, equality and safety. It is the Arabs who have fought three major wars and launched murderous jihads against Israel in an effort to cleanse the Jewish people from their homeland and colonize their territory. What's more, today both Palestinian Arab factions are ruled by ruthless, anti-democratic dictators—both deny their people the vote and both oppose self-determination of Israeli Jews.

Another bizarre aspect of the upside-down alternative universe of anti-Zionist hate is the inexplicable support by Americans and other Westerners for the Palestinian people, who are cast as martyrs, instead of misfits.

In a sensical world, most Westerners would not even know who the Palestinians are, so indistinguishable are they from the general Arabic populace. After all, the Palestinians just starting calling themselves a people in the mid-Sixties.

In truth, as a stateless people, Palestinians are no more worthy of attention than Catalans in Spain, 1.5 million disenfranchised Rohingya in Myanmar or a million captive Uyghurs in China. Indeed, as a people, the Palestinians are virtually feature-less, save their most notable contribution to civilization—the technique of terrorist suicide bombing.

What's more, despite more than *\$40 billion dollars in international aid* over the past 70 years, the Palestinians have achieved little more than creating two murderously feuding factions—one in Judea-Samaria (the West Bank), run by Mahmoud Abbas, and one in Gaza, run by the Islamist terror group Hamas. Both groups are corrupt, bankrupt, autocratic societies that stand for nothing more than the defeat of democratic Israel by terrorist means.

Yet unlike most dispossessed peoples, Palestinians—at least those in Judea-Samaria—are far from destitute. To the contrary: Due to a constant flow of international *welfare* payments and substantial infrastructure support from Israel (water, electricity, roads), they enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the region.

In a right-side-up world, Americans and the West—especially humanitarian-minded college activists—should be forming support groups for the resilient, democratically inclined and U.S.-allied Kurds, who number 40 million and have been oppressed by the autocrats of Iran, Iraq and Turkey for decades. Or the six million Tibetans, whose beautiful, spiritual and peaceful land has been overrun, colonized and brutally oppressed by the Chinese since 1959.

Yet despite the supreme worthiness of the Kurds, Tibetans and dozens of other dispossessed peoples, support groups exist on campus only for the stateless Palestinians. Ironically, though, these groups' primary activity is not to support the Palestinians—such as raising funds for food, education, electricity—but to attack Israel, the world's one and only Jewish state.

Likewise, there are no members of Congress who actively advocate for other needy, dispossessed people the world over, as there are now for the Palestinians.

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Indeed, the sole virtue of the Palestinian people—and the source of the passionate sympathy they enjoy from the left—would seem to be their good fortune in choosing Middle Eastern Jews as their enemy.

After all, the left's anti-Zionist obsession trumps all their other political values. The Palestinians can be misogynist (which they generally are), homophobic (which they usually are) and autocratic (which they inarguably are) and risk no loss of affection from their left-wing intersectional allies.

In truth, unfortunately, we are never likely to break the hateful spell of the radical left's anti-Zionist alternative universe. But we can hope to reach the vast majority of people in the center—those who are not ideologically driven and who may uncritically support the Palestinians for "*humanitarian*" reasons . . . or because so many media lie about the Jewish state.

After all, it's true that the Palestinians as a people are horribly exploited and oppressed by their leaders—they do indeed deserve our sympathy. Yet this is different from characterizing Israel's "occupation" as the cause of Palestinian suffering.

The next time you're speaking with people who express sympathy for Palestinians, consider asking this question: "*I'm curious, exactly what is it about the Palestinians that makes them special to you, that causes you to support them?*"

This opens the opportunity to share your sympathy for the tragedy of the Palestinians—brought on by the belligerence of their leaders and by their refusal to accept Israel's generous offers of peace and their own state in 1948, 2001 and 2008. (Indeed, the Palestinians are the *only* stateless people to have been offered a state and refused it.)

Above all, this question gives you the chance to make clear that if the Arabs laid down their arms, there would be peace, but if Israel laid down its arms, *there would be no Israel* . . . because to this day the Palestinian Arabs have never accepted a Jewish state in the Holy Land.

Ironically, this seems also to be precisely why the Palestinians have attracted such extraordinary sympathy from anti-Semites.

As the Trump administration prepares to unveil its "peace deal" in Bahrain in June—a redevelopment proposal that seems more and more like a Marshall Plan for the Palestinian Arabs—it's useful to step back and offer a fresh perspective on why the U.S., Western Europe and the rest of the Arab world have devoted so much effort and treasure on the inauspicious Palestinians. Ultimately it seems to be borne more of *dislike* for Jews than any admiration for the Palestinians.

In addition to this important myth-busting, I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to visit FLAME's lively [new Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's most recent hasbarah campaign—on whitewashing misrepresentations made by the media and, alarmingly, by some politicians, about the insidious Boycott, Divestment

and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson

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

P.S. While the Combating BDS Act overwhelmingly passed the Senate (by a vote of 77-23) in February, some media and politicians, as well as the ACLU, opposed the bill based on its alleged infringement on free speech. Yet this representation is a lie, since BDS does not merely criticize Israel's policies toward Palestinians, but rather opposes Israel's very existence. This is not a free speech issue, but a thinly veiled hate speech issue. That's why FLAME has created a new hasbarah message called "[What Does BDS Really Want?](#)" I hope you'll review this hard-hitting paid editorial, which began running this month. It exposes the true motives of BDS supporters and explains why they are anti-Semitic at heart. It will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Pence 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 Israel's critical role in protecting U.S. interests in the region—as well as protecting itself.

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