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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

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Israel's Enemies Create an Alternative Universe in Which the Palestinians Are Martyrs, Instead of Misfits

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Say one thing for the Israel haters: Over the 71 years since Israel's founding, its enemies and other haters have created the closest thing to an alternative universe.

In this perverse, upside-down world, what would should be praised is widely disdained, especially by the anti-Semitic political left. That's an impressive accomplishment, especially considering Israel's amazing contributions to the world in its short, adversity-filled history—starting with Israel's miraculous birth and its extraordinary technological, medical, military and economic achievements.

Due to the extraordinary black magic of anti-Semitism, Israel's many exemplary virtues in this alternative universe are turned into vices—and the dastardly deeds of its enemies are revered.

A sterling recent example is provided by Marc Lamont Hill, the disgraced Temple University Professor who was fired from CNN for anti-Semitic comments.

Keynoting a leftist political dinner recently, Hill said, "We ain't got to walk around struttin', talking about two-state solutions . . . What about a world where everyone has freedom, justice, equality, safety and self-determination? One person, one vote? Getting rid of the settler-colonial project altogether?"

Given Hill's solid anti-Zionist *bona fides*, we can assume his reference to the "settler-colonial project," was an attempt to delegitimize Israel's existence and argue for its destruction. But a stranger to the upside-down world of anti-Israel rhetoric—or any rational person—might be forgiven for thinking Hill was in fact criticizing the *Arabs*.

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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

What Does BDS Really Want?

Media often report that the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement is a "protest against Israeli occupation of the West Bank"—but facts prove otherwise.

Some mainstream press and politicians view the BDS position, representing an aggressive criticism of Israel's policy toward Palestinians. The truth is, BDS stands against the very essence of Israel's moral and democratic values. BDS is a strategy to destroy the Jewish state.

What are the facts?

The U.S. Senate recently passed a landmark bill—the Combating BDS Act—affirming the rights of Jews to peaceful expression that denounces antisemitism against Israel. While the ACLU, five Israeli and several Israeli-American organizations have filed lawsuits to block the Act, the bill's passage is a landmark victory for the Jewish community.

In fact, BDS has nothing to do with political speech and everything to do with antisemitic discrimination against a religious and ethnic group. BDS is an attempt to Jewish national self-determination. Imagine those words and positions appearing in an act of Congress aimed to protect the existence of a religiously Muslim or racially Black country that is opposed by its citizens solely for religious or racial reasons.

Yet, as these bills would single out Israel for discrimination, this is precisely the intention of the BDS movement.

BDS doesn't just criticize Israeli policy, it opposes the state of Israel. BDS doesn't simply question Israel's "occupation" of its Jewish-occupied territories, Judea-Samaria (the "West Bank"). Rather, BDS opposes Israel's occupation of the entire Holy Land. The BDS agenda says it will "pressure Israel to live from the Jordan river to the Mediterranean sea—ending the entire state of Israel. Indeed, BDS demands, under the guise of justice, that the occupation ends, would have full support for BDS. No, it wouldn't—no." Why do the media neglect this damning fact?

BDS doesn't criticize any other nation for its treatment of Palestinians. While BDS attacks Israel exclusively for its detestable policies in the disputed territories and Gaza, the movement does not criticize any other nation or ethnic group. It ignores the slaughter of Palestinians in Syria. It voices no objection to brutal discrimination against Palestinians in Arab-Egyptian, where for 70 years Palestinians have been prohibited from leaving their refugee camps, practicing free professions and even owning land. This double standard proves that BDS is not a Palestinian support group—and it is an anti-Semitic, anti-Israel group, bent on the destruction of the only Jewish state. Why do journalists fail to reveal that BDS doesn't criticize Hamas or the PLO for their brutal oppression of Palestinians. Israeli-Palestinians enjoy full equality under law and more civil liberties and economic opportunity than do the anywhere in the Middle East. By contrast, Palestinians living under the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Judea-Samaria suffer under rampant corruption and the systematic discrimination of Mahmud Abbas. Palestinians under the Abbasist rule of the governing PLO in Gaza suffer even more.

Political criticism is not. Like any democracy, Israel welcomes valid criticism—especially since the country, at just 70 years old, is a thriving, dynamic work in progress. Israel's legal system has rigorous, systematic work in progress. Israel's legal system has rigorous, systematic work in progress. Israel's legal system has rigorous, systematic work in progress.

BDS doesn't seek policy changes—it seeks the end of the only Jewish state.

But the BDS movement does not seek policy changes. As the BDS website, www.bdsinfo.com, and public speeches make clear, BDS seeks to end the Jewish state into the 21st Muslim majority nation. While the U.S. constitution protects free speech, it also prohibits discrimination against ethnic, religious and racial groups. For this reason, the Combating BDS Act is legal, ethical and politically appropriate, especially since Israel is by the United States' ancestral Middle East ally.

The demand that the Combating BDS Act is a violation of their sacred right of religious, free speech. The United States already has hundreds of laws that prevent economic discrimination based on ethnic, religious and racial identity. Indeed, this objection appears to have more than a hypocritical air about it. Israel has no right to single out the world's only Jewish state.

This message has been published and sent out by FLAME.

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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.

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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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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