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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

August 11, 2020



Myth vs. Fact: Are today's Jews the descendants of ancient Israelites?

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Many opponents of Israel try to disconnect the Jewish people's long-standing relationship with the Land of Israel as a way of delegitimizing the modern State of Israel and Zionism. They claim the Jewish people today are not descended from the ancient Hebrews and Israelites and thus try to weaken the case for Zionism and the reestablishment of Jewish sovereignty in its ancestral homeland.

The claims do not come from any one community and have been diffused throughout the years by white-supremacists, radical Islamists, far-left and far-right conspiracists, Japanese doomsday cults and parts of the African-American community, whether the Nation of Islam or the Black Hebrew Israelites.

Many of these generally opposing groups lean on the so-called "Khazar Myth," which posits that all or a majority of today's Ashkenazi Jews are descended from the Khazars, a multi-ethnic conglomerate of mostly Turkic peoples originally from the central Caucasus, who, according to this theory, at some point in history mass-converted to Judaism. This position tries to prove that a large part of world Jewry has no roots in the Land of Israel.

However, this theory has found no support among any serious historians, archaeologists or geneticists. It rests on no evidence except the need of some to disconnect the Jewish people from the Land of Israel. Indeed, linguist Alexander Beider concludes in his excellent [article](#) that "Globally speaking, all arguments suggested by the proponents of the Khazarian theory are either highly speculative or wrong. They cannot be taken seriously."

Indeed, the Khazar Myth's only purpose seems to be the delegitimization of Zionism.

This, and other theories about the origins of the Jewish people outside of the Land of Israel, are merely political arguments that try to use distorted history, utilizing inaccurate archeological and genetic proofs to make these false claims. They also ignore the overwhelming evidence that shows a direct link between the Jews living today around the world and their ancestors who lived in the Land

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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

What's Stopping a Palestinian State?

Over 72 years, Israel has offered land for peace and a Palestinian state. The Palestinians have rejected all offers. How much longer should the world wait?

While some media and politicians assert that Israel's intention is to establish permanent control over the entire Middle East, the truth is that Israel has offered land for peace and a Palestinian state in fact 72 times. The Palestinians' own actions, however, have prevented their statehood.

What are the facts? Only a tiny fraction of the world's national groups have nation states. Both Khalid and Yehuda agree to establish a Palestinian state in 1947, and the UN Security Council passed a resolution in 1948. The UN and the Arab League have repeatedly rejected the offer. The UN and the Arab League require powerful strategy, arms and leadership. Sadly, these qualities have eluded the Palestinians, preventing them from seizing multiple opportunities for statehood.

Palestinians embrace a "passive" strategy. As stated in the 1984 Charter of the PLO, the Palestinian Organization for Liberation, the PLO has never done so. The Charter states that "Actual struggle is the central strategy." While the PLO has been active in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank, it has not been active in the West Bank. The Charter of Hamas, the Palestinian terror group that rules Gaza, states "Resistance is the primary right of the Palestinian people." Hamas has not been active in the West Bank. Hamas has not been active in the West Bank. Hamas has not been active in the West Bank.

Palestinians lack political unity. Palestinian leaders and their people are not united in a common vision. While both Khalid and Yehuda agree to establish a Palestinian state in 1947, the UN Security Council passed a resolution in 1948. The UN and the Arab League have repeatedly rejected the offer. The UN and the Arab League require powerful strategy, arms and leadership. Sadly, these qualities have eluded the Palestinians, preventing them from seizing multiple opportunities for statehood.

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FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid

of Israel during the First and Second Temple periods.

Firstly, and most importantly, there has been an unbroken presence of Jews in the Land of Israel since the destruction of Jewish sovereignty and the sack of Jerusalem in the first century CE. These Jews who managed to remain, against all odds, in the Land of Israel for two millennia, were joined by various communities and individuals from around the Diaspora during the first few centuries after the dispersion until the 20th century.

All these Jews had a clear linguistic, cultural and traditional line of transition completely unique to every Jewish community around the world. For example, a Jew from Yemen and a Jew from Poland would have different characteristics and accents, but they would use similar prayer books, religious treatises and traditions. They would be able to relatively seamlessly pray and practice their religion in each other's community.

Digging a little deeper, several genetic tests and research have proven that disparate and different Jewish communities in the four corners of the earth share common DNA markers. Studies of autosomal DNA, which look at the entire DNA mixture, show that Jewish populations have tended to form relatively closely related groups in independent communities, with most in a community sharing significant ancestry.

Obviously, there were always converts to Judaism and sad episodes of rape, which has caused outside contributions to the Jewish gene pool.

Nevertheless, for populations of the Jewish Diaspora, the genetic composition of Ashkenazi, Sephardi, and Mizrahi Jewish populations show significant shared Middle Eastern ancestry. These results, according to prominent geneticist Doron Behar and many other academic experts in 2010, show a remarkable consistency "with a historical formulation of the Jewish people as descending from ancient Hebrew and Israelites of the Levant" and "the dispersion of the people of ancient Israel throughout the Old World".

In addition, Jewish communities around the world all show a very specific and unbroken connection to Israel. Every synagogue faces towards Jerusalem, and rare is the prayer or blessing that does not invoke a return to Israel or Jerusalem. Many festivals end with the hope: "Next year in a rebuilt Jerusalem."

Almost every event in the Jewish lifecycle remembers the connection of the Jews to Israel, whether it is the breaking of the glass under the wedding canopy to remember the destruction of Jerusalem, or the dirt from the Holy Land that is supposed to be buried with every Jew in any cemetery in the world.

The Jewish connection to the Land of Israel was unbreakable and a return to the land was always the central focus of Jews and Jewish communities for thousands of years. Israel was the religious, civil and national center for all Jews at all times.

Perhaps what rankles opponents of the State of Israel and Zionism is the fact that the Jews are the only people who can demonstrate indigeneity in the Land of Israel as the place where its culture, language and civilization were formed.

No other people speak or use Hebrew or have their singular focus on the sliver of land immediately at the eastern end of the Mediterranean. No other religion or

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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people's holy books mentions Israel, Zion or Jerusalem nearly as many times as the Torah. The Quran does not mention them at all.

These are unbreakable bonds, and the most up-to-date historic and archaeological work discovers new artifacts and proofs every day of the ineffable Jewish connection to the Land of Israel. No serious person can claim that Jews never lived in the Land of Israel, though some still try, attempting to sever the connection between today's Jews and the ancient Hebrews and Israelites.

These lies need to be debunked because they are widespread and have been raised in recent weeks by well-known celebrities, like actor and rapper Ice Cube, comedian Nick Cannon and American football players DeSean Jackson and Larry Johnson. Their evidence is never more than distorted propaganda that has already been debunked by serious researchers.

I hope as you discuss Israel and the Jewish people, you will point out to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that Israel and the Jewish people are inexorably connected, and those who try and disconnect them do so because of malice and demonstrate their hatred for the Jewish State. Because anti-Semitism never rests, these fabrications will keep spreading unless we continue to demonstrate with fact, history and reason why they have no basis in truth. The Jewish people's connection to Israel is unique, unbroken and consistent. Our traditions and miraculous history can be seen as a continuous love affair between a people and its ancestral homeland.

I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to visit FLAME's lively [Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new hasbarah campaign—which explains the sad, but true reasons Palestinians continue to fail at forming their own nation state.

Best regards,

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

P.S. Some American and European politicians argue that Israel's intention to apply sovereignty to the militarily critical Jordan Valley would inhibit formation of a Palestinian state. Nothing is further from the truth. The Palestinians don't have a state—despite numerous offers of land for peace by Israel—because the Arab group simply hasn't mustered an adequate strategy, political unity or leadership. They're simply unable to say yes. To clarify this point, FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[What's Stopping a Palestinian State?](#)" I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which will run in *USA Today*, the *Washington Post*, and other media nationwide. It spells out specific reasons the Palestinians have failed to create a sovereign state and why it's time for the world—and Israel—to move on. This piece 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 committed to realistic policies in relation to Israel, Iran and the entire Middle East.

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The logo for FLAME, featuring the word "FLAME" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letter "A" is stylized with a flame-like shape above it.

Facts and Logic
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