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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

July 09, 2019



How the Palestinian Strategy of Lies Subverts the Promise of a Palestinian Future.

Dear Friend of FLAME:

I watched the disturbing HBO mini-series, "Chernobyl," last week. Among many powerful impressions the series delivers, one of the most distressing is the <u>culture of abject lying</u> that permeated political society—and therefore life—in the USSR in the mid-Eighties, when the Soviet nuclear reactor blew up.

This lying exacerbated the Chernobyl disaster and cost hundreds, if not thousands, of unnecessary lives because of delays in addressing the explosion's true magnitude and causes.

As I heard the opening lines of the series' first episode, I thought instantly of the Palestinians' similar, <u>unashamed dedication to lies</u>. Here's what the main character in "Chernobyl" says:

"What is the cost of lies? It's not that we'll mistake them for the truth. The real danger is that if we hear enough lies, we no longer recognize the truth at all. What can we do then? What else is left but to abandon even the hope of truth and content ourselves instead with *stories*. In these stories it doesn't matter who the heroes are—all we want to know is, who's to blame."

A sterling example of Palestinian prevarication occurred just last week, as Israel opened to tourists the recently excavated Pilgrimage Road, on which devout Jews walked to the first Temple two thousand years ago. In response to this undeniable, tangible evidence of a Jewish connection to Jerusalem, chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat claimed the Pilgrimage Road is a "lie that has nothing to do with history."

But Erekat was only following a tradition venerated and emulated by other Palestinian leaders, most famously Yasser Arafat, who, on the ninth day of the Camp David Summit in 2000, tried in vain to convince U.S. President Bill Clinton that "Solomon's Temple was not in Jerusalem, but in Nablus."

Since the 1967 Six-Day War, after Muslims lost control over the Temple Mount, the myth that no Jewish temple existed in Jerusalem has become an article of

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FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid

doctrine among Palestinians. Ironically, official Muslim guidebooks up until Israel became a state in 1948 had agreed that the location of King Solomon's Temple on the Temple Mount was "beyond dispute."

Despite literally tons of archeological findings of Jewish artifacts by secular scientists in the Temple Mount area, a Palestinian lecturer at Bir-Zeit University, Dr. Jamal Amar, claims that after "60 years of digging . . . they've found nothing at all. Not a water jug, not a coin, not any earthen vessel, no bronze weapons, not piece of metal, absolutely nothing of this myth . . . because it's a lie."

Of course, these falsehoods are just a tiny sample of those issued by Palestinian leadership, clergy in mosques and teachers in Palestinian schools, so that today most of them are <u>believed unquestioningly by Palestinians</u> generally.

Mahmoud Abbas' Ph.D. thesis denied the Jewish Holocaust during World War II. In 2016, Abbas also falsely proclaimed to the European Parliament that Israeli rabbis had called for Israel's government to <u>poison Palestinian water</u>. (After an outcry, Abbas later retracted the statement.) Palestinian imams have asserted for decades with zero evidence that Israel was planning to dismantle the Al Aksa mosque atop the Temple Mount, which has led to many Arab riots, causing deaths.

These untruths pile up on top more fundamental lies, such as one in the Palestinian National Authority charter, stating "Palestine is the homeland of the Arab Palestinian people." This is a lie because it characterizes the "Arab Palestinian people" as a distinct group historically, which it never had been, but even more so because it <u>ignores the indigenous Jewish people</u> who have lived there for 3,000 years, long before any Arabs arrived in the region.

Certainly Palestinian lies are evil first because they are false and second because they attempt to deny the legitimate rights of *Am Yisrael*—the Jewish people—to self-determination and a nation in their ancestral homeland. But these lies are also evil, because, as the Chernobyl quote concludes, they devolve into stories —*fiction*—in which it doesn't matter who the heroes are, but only who is to blame.

We all know who is to blame in the Palestinian narrative: It is the Jews, and it is Israel. This is perhaps the greatest tragedy and greatest harm that comes from Palestinian lies. Because these lies tell a story not of struggle, achievement, or heroism—but rather a narrative of victimhood, failure, rejection, hopelessness.. and ultimately a tale that allows Palestinian leaders to disavow responsibility for their future and shift it to "the other."

I hope in your conversations with friends, family and colleagues you'll clarify this <u>unjust and tragic character of Palestinian society</u>, especially the strategy of lies that permeates Palestinian political strategy.

In addition to advocating for an end to lies about Jews and Israel from Palestinians, 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 new hasbarah campaign—a refutation of the myth of "Palestinian territories."

Best regards,

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

P.S. Critics of Israel, from The New York Times to BDS and the United Nations, usually base their condemnation of Israel on accusations that Israel's settlements (or its "occupation of Palestinian territory") are illegal. These accusations are false and deserve to be exposed once and for all. That's why FLAME has created a new hasbarah message called "What Is 'Palestinian Territory'?." I hope you'll review this hard-hitting paid editorial, which will begin running in national media this month. It provides a plain-English explanation of the legal issues surrounding Israel's historical and entirely legal presence in its Biblical homeland. 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 focused on Israel's critical role in protecting U.S. interests in the region—as well as protecting itself.

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