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There's no doubt that Arabs have lived in the Holy Land for many hundreds of years. You can't blame them for making claims to some of the land.

The problem is, Palestinian Arabs flatly deny that Jews have *also* lived in this land—especially that they have dwelled on their tiny sliver of territory continuously for over 3,000 years. This rejection of Jewish history thus leads Palestinians to nullify the right of Jews to settle there and create their own nation.

In other words, the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is *not* about two states—not about sharing real estate in the Holy Land. Rather, Palestinian Arabs claim all of this land—from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea—including all of Israel.

What many see as a violent Israel-Palestinian struggle over land, is instead much more a conflict about narratives and legitimacy —about *truth*.

The Palestinian attempt to negate Jewish history has been going on since the beginning of the conflict. To this day Palestinian leaders still reject widely accepted historical research and archeological artifacts—coins, seals, inscriptions—that prove Jewish history, legitimacy and rights.

These leaders believe if they can disconnect Jewish history from the Land of Israel, they can justify their violent struggle. Their goal is to convince the world that the conflict is about colonialism, “apartheid” or “occupation.”

If they admit the Jews had a civilization on this land 3,000 years ago—before Arabs conquered it—their argument falls apart. Obviously, no indigenous people—as the Jews clearly are—can occupy or colonize its own territory.

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A recent example of this is the uncovering of a section of Jerusalem's city wall built some 2,700 years ago during the First Temple era that was mostly destroyed by the Babylonian army in 586 BCE. This finding is another piece of the puzzle that proves not only Jewish history in the land stretching back millennia, but is also entirely consistent with ancient Jewish sources and religious texts.

Since such an archeological find is devastating to Palestinian mythology, it was no surprise their reaction came fast. Hamas spokesman Muhammad Hamadeh claimed that, "The aggression of the occupation did not stop at the limits of falsifying history. Rather, it seeks to change the reality. The announcement of these alleged discoveries comes in conjunction with the normalization agreements that gave it an international cover."

Palestinian leaders have consistently disputed any historic Jewish connection to Israel in general and Jerusalem in particular. In the early 1900s, mass riots and murder by Arabs against Jews were largely motivated by the accusation that Jews were "Judaizing" Jerusalem and other holy sites. These were the rallying calls of Hitler's friend and colleague, Grand Mufti Haj Amin al-Husseini.

This lie continues. Jerusalem expert Nadav Shragai reports, "Mahmoud Abbas's religious-affairs adviser, Mahmoud al-Habash, asserted that 'Jewish Jerusalem is a legend'; former Palestinian Prime Minister Abu Ala declared that a gold medallion discovered in an archeological dig at the Southern Wall of the Temple Mount, notable for its classic Jewish symbols such as a menorah, a shofar, and a Torah scroll, is just a forgery; Adnan al-Husseini, the Palestinian Authority's (PA) minister for Jerusalem affairs, has stated that 'Israel has a policy of 'Judaization' and 'fabrication,' whose aim is to invent a Jewish connection with Jerusalem.'"

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas has used similar themes as a rallying cry to mass rioters on the Temple Mount and its environs. Last year, the PA produced a TV filler of Abbas again denying Israel's history in Jerusalem, saying Palestinians must "confront the [Israeli] plots that are being woven against it to forge its identity and to change its character."

These assertions create a major problem for the Palestinians—and all who respect the truth. No serious expert, historian or archeologist doubts the historic, indigenous connection of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel.

Indeed, the evidence is overwhelming: There is not a spot anywhere in the Holy Land—Israel proper or the disputed territories—that is not replete with irrefutable proof of Jewish history and civilization. Barely a day passes without some new archeological discovery again confirming Jewish roots in this land.

Nonetheless, the delegitimization of Jewish history in Israel serves another Palestinian purpose: It provides Palestinian leadership an excuse to whip its people into a frenzy. This directly leads to such violence and bloodshed as we witnessed recently in Jerusalem and that ultimately led to Hamas' missile attacks on Israeli civilians.

Official PA TV summed up the fabrications about Jewish history in a broadcast in 2015, translated by Palestinian Media Watch: "The story of the Temple is nothing but a collection of legends and myths for political reasons. They [Jews] have set Palestine and Jerusalem as their goal, and have used the myths in the

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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service of their declared goals of occupation and imperialism. In the spirit of the delusions and legends, they try to get rid of the Al-Aqsa [Mosque] and establish their so-called 'Temple'—the greatest crime and forgery in history."

Mahmoud Abbas has actively sought to replace Jewish fact and history with fiction. In 2014 he said, "The Israeli occupation authorities are rushing . . . to erase and remove the Islamic-Christian Arab character of East Jerusalem . . . continuing their efforts to achieve their final goal of Judaizing Jerusalem."

I hope you will point out to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that archeological evidence is simply a provocation for the Palestinian leadership to wage war. They need to protect their lie with violence. They know the international community will be distracted from the original sin by images of Israelis and Palestinians fighting.

This creates a win-win for Palestinian leadership. They can continue promoting their myths about Jews' lack of connection to Israel—against all evidence and fact—hoping to attract sympathy for their colonization, occupation and apartheid myths.

They are also able to achieve a rallying call to mobilize Palestinian masses to violence as a distraction from the truth . . . and thus gain another round of sympathy.

This battle for truth goes to the heart of the Israel-Palestinian conflict—because verifiable facts reveal who the occupiers and colonizers are, who came by force and conquest, and who the real indigenous people are . . . the ones who returned to liberate and resettle their homeland.

I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to forward this message to friends, visit FLAME's lively [Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new *hasbarah* campaign—which exposes "The Ugly Truth About Hamas" and those who support the terrorist group.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson

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

P.S. During the war between Hamas and Israel last May, many mainstream media, as well as leftists and a few progressive politicians, opposed Israel's defensive actions against unprovoked missile attacks by the Palestinian terrorist group. Some even actively supported Hamas's aggression. This despite the fact that Hamas is one of the world's most oppressive and warlike ruling parties. To dispel the myth that Hamas is an "underdog" representing legitimate Palestinian interests, FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[The Ugly Truth about Hamas](#)." I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which ran on July 4 in the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and other media nationwide. It spells out specifically Hamas's avowed mission to kill Jews and destroy the State of Israel. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Harris and President Biden. 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 Biden stay committed to realistic policies in relation to Hamas, Iran, Israel and the entire Middle East.

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