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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

October 3, 2023

## Israel doesn't demand all of "Greater Israel," but still wants connection to its biblical homeland

Dear Friend of Israel, Friend of FLAME:

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu caused a stir when, in his recent speech to the United Nations General Assembly, he showed a map depicting Israel covering the entire region from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River. The Palestinians and ultra-left Americans for Peace Now accused Netanyahu of promoting an expansionist "'Greater Israel" strategy.

However, what the critics mistook as an aspirational map of a future "Greater Israel" was actually a map of the Land of Israel, past and present—which includes Judea and Samaria (aka the West Bank), plus today's State of Israel.

Although many media, progressive politicians and some Jews describe Judea and Samaria as "occupied Palestinian territory," that itself is aspirational, since the Palestinians have no legal status therein. Indeed, Israel has the strongest legal claim under international law to Judea and Samaria—as well as the strongest moral claim, since it comprises the core of the indigenous Jewish people's ancestral homeland.

Surely a final peace treaty between Jews and Palestinians should be able to honor both peoples' needs for land. Claims by Jews to significant portions of their ancient homeland should be considered, while still leaving space for Palestinian land and autonomy.

**The overwhelming majority of Israeli Jews actually oppose the idea of a Greater Israel—annexing all of Judea and Samaria.** According to a poll conducted in 2020 by Commanders for Israel's Security, just 26% of Israeli Jews support such a move.

On the other hand, the Palestinians show maps in schoolbooks and other official documents completely eliminating the State of Israel—confirming their desire eventually to destroy and replace the Jewish state with their own. As for a

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**THIS MONTH'S AD  
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**YOU OBSERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...  
Can Biden's Plan Beat Antisemitism?**  
President Biden's new strategy to counter antisemitism got good press. But now we need courageous action to fight rising Jew hatred on our streets and campuses.

The Administration's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism arrived just as attacks against Jews—and especially Jewish students—are surging at over America. The question is whether Mr. Biden has the commitment to combat antisemitism free of corners of American society.

**What are the facts?**  
A Jewish center in Detroit is vandalized. Colorado students may have gained resolution after a 10-hour protest. The Palestinian activist lost a Jewish man on a New York street. An Illinois state lawmaker called Jewish registration. A congressional speaker at USCNY Law School attacked the Jewish state—students and faculty alike.

Though Jews are only 2.4% of the U.S. population, they are the victims of 43% of religiously motivated hate crimes. Reported antisemitic incidents rose by 80% to a new high of 1,047 in 2022. Moreover, hating and intimidating Jewish students on college campuses tripled last year, while attempts to silence Jewish students doubled, according to ADL-USA.

**ADL-USA Initiative:** Issuing Jewish protesters in their Congress, over 100 of U.S. Jewish students on New York Jewish identity according to a broader center study.

**Will the President back his National Strategy with courageous opposition—no matter who the offenders are?**  
The President's National Strategy promises four pillars of action to combat Jew hatred: 1) Increase awareness and understanding of antisemitism and its dangers. 2) Support the coordination of antisemitism. 3) Increase the coordination of antisemitism. 4) Increase the coordination of antisemitism.

In addition, the Biden Strategy adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism—endorsed by 110 nations worldwide, including 48 U.S. states.

While these principles establish a foundation for fighting Jew hatred, the Administration must also support Jewish and good intentions. Will Mr. Biden have the courage to oppose antisemitism across the broad spectrum of those who practice it—whether politically right or left, no matter race or ethnicity, Republican or Democrat? Such a commitment would be the true test of the President's commitment.

**Aggressively prosecute and prosecute campus antisemitism.** Antisemitism on college campuses spans a range of tactics: from vandalism and "swastika" attacks, against Jews... to discrimination of Jewish and Arab against students who support the Jewish state. Many of these attacks clearly violate Title IV of the Civil Rights Act. To increase awareness of these antisemitic trends, the Administration must prosecute them aggressively. In addition, when students or faculty deliver antisemitic speeches—such as several recent congressional addresses—of the Administration,

including the President, must condemn them.

**Reverse the normalization of antisemitism in the classroom and in Congress.** Under the guise of "Jewish hatred," students at all levels are being indoctrinated to believe that Jewish people are "white supremacists" and that Israel is a colonial state. These ideas, through influence of antisemitic provocations—specifically because Jews were not considered "white"—and a Jewish law 1948 year struggle against colonial power in the land of Israel. In addition, many members of Congress increasingly regulate Jews with antisemitic language about under Jewish influence and dominance the Jewish state with false accusations of apartheid—antisemitism under the IHRA definition. The Administration must actively reverse this Jew hatred. Its antidiscrimination, antisemitic, ethnic studies programs and discrediting Jewish students by denied attacks.

**Build solidarity and collective action to counter Palestinian hate.** The reality of American Jews—and American generally—antisemitism opposes antisemitism when it simultaneously antagonizes Jewish support to establish Jewish rights to self-determination. According to the most recent research by the Anti-Defamation League, 65% of U.S. Jews—some 15% of Palestinian-backed antisemitism. Indeed, the highest rates of any people worldwide. To require Palestinian member received Jew hatred daily in Israel. Worse, the Biden Administration has given the Palestinians more than it follows—with no requirement they reduce Jew hatred. The Administration must back its commitment by identifying specific antisemitic groups.

If the Biden Administration is truly serious about combating antisemitism, it must act today against the most visible Jews of Jew hatred. That means support of prosecution on campus and on our streets, unapologetic criticism of all who commit antisemitism—no matter race, social or political identity—after immediate identifying of groups that actively engage in antisemitic propaganda and behavior.

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Executive Office of FLAME

FLAME is a non-profit, non-partisan organization to ensure the most comprehensive and rapid response to the rise of antisemitism in the United States. The organization is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation in California.

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Palestinian state alongside Israel, the Palestinians were offered land for a state on three separate occasions in the last 23 years—all of which they rejected.

Thus, the criticism by Palestinians and Americans for Peace Now alleging that Israel wants to achieve a “Greater Israel” is a paper tiger. The idea finds no favor among most Israelis or with Prime Minister Netanyahu, who has never advocated it.

**However, it’s worth recalling that terms of seminal international resolutions called for the *entire* Land of Israel—from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea—to become a “national home for the Jewish people.”**

This land was originally designated for the Jewish state under the Balfour Declaration of 1917, then the San Remo Resolution of 1920, and, finally, the League of Nations’ Mandate for Palestine, which lasted from 1922 to 1948, when Israel declared independence.

The Palestine Mandate recognized powerful reasoning for a Jewish state in this land, asserting, “recognition has thereby been given to the historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine and to the grounds for reconstituting their national home in that country.”

**International law also holds that a country should inherit the borders of the former entity.** Thus, Israel should have inherited the borders of the former Mandate of Palestine. In 1950, Jordan belligerently annexed Judea and Samaria, but this annexation was almost universally rejected by the international community. Yet notably, there was no talk by local Arabs (later called Palestinians) or the United Nations of an “occupation” by Jordan.

In the 1967 Six-Day War, Israel captured Judea and Samaria from the Jordanians, and since this territory was part of the Mandate of Palestine, the Jewish state was within its rights to exercise sovereignty over it.

Nevertheless, since 1967, the international community has accused Israel of illegally occupying “Palestinian” land—bizarre, since Palestinians never in history controlled Judea and Samaria. Even stranger, since Israel signed a peace treaty with the Jordanians, who relinquished claims to this territory.

Notwithstanding that Israel had every right to annex Judea and Samaria, it did not. Instead, it offered to trade land for peace, which it repeated several times since, only to be answered with terror and murder on the part of the Palestinians.

**Judea and Samaria form the core of the biblical Land of Israel, the ancestral and spiritual home of the Jewish people.** It is where Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, Leah and Rachel gave birth to Judaism and the Jewish people. It’s where Jesus was born, preached and performed great deeds. The territory is home to many of the Jewish and Christian people’s historic and sacred sites—including Jerusalem, the ancient Jewish capital and home to the First and Second Temples. They also include Hebron, home to the Tomb of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs of the Jewish people, and Shomron, the capital of the northern Kingdom of Israel.

But in a flagrant perversion of history, the Palestinians and their allies have tried

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to erase Jewish heritage from Judea and Samaria. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, for example, has denied any Jewish connection to the Temple Mount. The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), lists several sites in Judea and Samaria as World Heritage Sites in “Palestine,” though they are primarily Jewish sites. While the Palestinians and UNESCO can deny Judea and Samaria’s Jewish and Christian heritage, they can’t change factual history.

**However, here’s good news: The Land of Israel is large enough to share: While some 2.5 million Palestinians live in Judea and Samaria, about 90% of this Arab population lives on only 40% of this land.** Almost all Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria are located in areas in which Palestinians are the minority population, leaving almost 60% of this ancient territory unpopulated or underpopulated.

Surely it will be possible to create a land-sharing peace in which most ancient Jewish lands can remain Jewish and protected, while giving the Palestinians sovereignty. But of course, this will only be possible when the Palestinians finally accept the Jewish state and agree to share the land—which they have for 75 years refused to do.

Please make the point when speaking with family, friends, colleagues—or in letters to the editor—that the State of Israel has both a moral and legal claim to sovereignty over the Land of Israel that supersedes any other entity. Nevertheless, Israel has shown its willingness to share this land in exchange for peace with the Palestinians. Unfortunately, the Palestinians have always declined. Having rejected every offer, they surely have no right to dictate how Israel should appear on a map. Indeed, Prime Minister Netanyahu’s map simply reflects the reality on the ground, past and present.

Best regards,  
James Sinkinson, President  
Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME))

P.S. You’ve surely seen headlines describing skyrocketing attacks on Jews in recent years and months—and you probably heard about the President’s new National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. But all evidence indicates that the Administration is *not* committed to fighting antisemites among its own voters and party officials. I hope you’ll agree that we opponents of antisemitism across all sectors of American society need to speak out. FLAME’s new *hasbarah*—explanatory message—“Can Biden’s Plan Beat Antisemitism?”—enumerates some of the antisemitic offenders most damaging to American Jews . . . and most likely to be *ignored* by the Administration. I hope you’ll review this convincing, fact-based editorial, which FLAME intends to publish in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Star Tribune* and *Los Angeles Times*. 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 with

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