Political Pariah or Prophetic Fulcrum?

The MYSTERY *of* ISRAEL

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The Mystery of Israel

Global Pariah or Prophetic Fulcrum?

Explore the roots of the world's #1 conflict.
Discover the history that shaped today's Middle East.
Feel God's heart to unify the broken family of Abraham.
Marvel at his plans for a new world - and for YOU.

By Denis Beauséjour



King Press

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Title: The Mystery of Israel - Political Pariah or Faithful Fulcrum?

Description: An analysis of the nation of Israel from Scriptural, historical, cultural and worldview perspectives. An examination of the Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and Critical Theory worldviews and their impact on the differing perspectives about Israel.

Dig behind conflicting narratives. See how the Scriptures predict and give understanding to current world events. Discover the tectonic shifts underway in the return of Jews to Israel, the religious persecution rising globally, and the battle of ideas seeking global dominance.

Subjects: Biblical history and eschatology, history of Israel, Palestinian History, worldview analysis, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, travel in Israel, languages in Israel, Judeo-Christian values, the rich tapestry of people in Israel including Israeli Jews, Messianic Jews, Israeli Arabs and Christians, Palestinian Arab Muslims and Christians, Druze and other minorities.

BISAC: RELIGION, HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY

Chapter 5 - "No!": The Palestinian Tragedy

"The victory march will continue until the Palestinian flag flies in Jerusalem and in all of Palestine."

~ Yasser Arafat, Former PLO Chairman

"I believe the land of Palestine will be returned to owners of the land with the help of God."

~ Hassan Rouhani, Former President of Iran

Citizens pay dearly for the failures of their leaders.

In the valley of Shechem, the Palestinian city of Nablus sprawls through the hills. From our windy observation deck on Mount Gerizim, we see the red roof tiles of an Orthodox church building. It is built on top of Jacob's well.

The story of the Samaritan woman who met Yeshua at that well comes immediately to mind.[1] There, Yeshua told the woman that he was the Messiah.

She was the first person he chose to tell.

Mount Gerizim is still the home of the Samaritans. Unlike that woman, the Samaritans still believe this is the mountain where true worship takes place. Below, there is a Palestinian refugee camp holding thousands of people who live in squalor.

To our left about a half mile back, is an opulent mansion called the House of Palestine, owned by Munib Al-Masri. The wealthiest Palestinian made his money in oil, and is known as the Godfather of Palestine, or the Palestine Rothchild. [2]

Masri was a good friend of Yasser Arafat, who visited here often. From this palatial overlook, the PLO leader could see his people suffering and know that he too was becoming fabulously wealthy at the expense of the people he was to serve.

The Land still speaks.

We've seen so far that the Jewish claim to the Land is a combination of theological covenant and historical residency, and tenacity despite extensive foreign occupation and wars.

The Arab claim is based on their ancestry in the land since the Muslim conquest and their population majority through 400 years of Turkish rule.

Statehood is an aspiration for many people groups. It became a reality for many after WW II. Thirty-six new states were established between 1945 and 1960.

The achievement of statehood requires that some criteria be met, starting with establishing that the group is a people functioning as a nation.

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[1] See John Chapter 4

[2] https://www.jpost.com/magazine/munib-al-masri-the-journey-one-of-the-wealthiest-palestinians-472229

Since the treaty of Westphalia in 1648, which ended two horrible religious wars, nation states have sought stability and peace based on sovereignty, land, ability to provide security and a functioning government.

Recent conventions have required the ability to enter into functioning relationships with other nations.

Nation states require effective leadership, national unity, respect of other nations' sovereignty, and the ability to police the country's borders and maintain law and order.

The Palestinians' refusal to accept the existence of Israel, and their inability to produce effective governing leadership have been two key barriers in their journey to statehood. So has their identity relative to the Arab world, which makes a Palestinian claim much more confusing.

So when and how did today's Palestinian identity begin?

That identity is extremely recent and was not differentiated from other Arab populations until about 1967. The Palestinian identity only emerged after successive lost wars and rejection of refugees by the Arab world.

Let's look at the Palestinians and their cause in greater detail.

Perhaps the leading Palestinian historian is the Palestinian American professor of Arab studies at Columbia University, Dr. Rashid Khalidi. Dr Khalidi has been deeply involved in the efforts of the PLO, helping with press briefings as far back as 1982. Dr. Khalidi has published several books on the Palestinian movement.[3]

Dr. Khalidi begins with Britain's Balfour Declaration in 1917 to substantiate his book's sub-title. He argues that the Zionist colonists were working with the British imperialists, seeking to supplant the native Palestinians.

Dr. Khalidi identifies the oldest references to the Palestinian claims as part of his work. As an example, he quotes his great-great-great uncle Yusuf Diya Khalidi, who was a former mayor of Jerusalem and a member of the Ottoman parliament.

In March 1899, Yusuf wrote Zionism's founder Theodor Herzl: "Who could contest the rights of the Jews in Palestine? My God, historically it is your country." He added that since Arabs now populate the land, a Zionist influx would lead to bloodshed.

This reference seems to undermine his case.

Further, it is hard to see Britain as the imperial power seeking to help Zionists colonize Palestine, especially when you consider that the British abandoned the Jews in favor of the Arabs.

Importantly, Khalid offers a withering criticism of the Palestinian leadership, starting with Mufti Husseini, and later Arafat. He laments multiple missed opportunities for statehood.

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[3] *The Hundred Years War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917-2017,* by Rashid Khalidi, 2020. This is his most recent work.

He criticizes the key Arab leaders of the day, especially Egypt's Nasser and Sadat and Syria's Assad for constantly using the Palestinians and their cause for their own ends.

Despite Khalid's effort to "backdate" the Palestinian movement, we will see that the Palestinian identity did not become part of the everyday identity of the Arabs in the land until 1967.

From 1517 to 1917, the identity of people in the Holy Land was Ottoman. At the end of WWI, the identity of the Arabs in the Land was Syrian and later, Southern Syrian.

As the Arab nationalism movement was forming in academic and elite circles in the 1920's and 1930's, it was constantly shifting along with efforts to form a United Arab Empire. There were annual local conferences about the future vision for Palestine held during this time, with few attendees, due to the larger Arab conversation.

The first such local Arab conference held in 1919 produced a resolution declaring, "We consider Palestine nothing but part of Arab Syria, and it has never been separated from it at any stage. We are tied to it by national, religious, linguistic, moral, economic and geographic bonds." They called for Palestine to remain undetached from the Arab Syrian Government."[4]

The language of the Peel Commission on Palestine in 1937, and the UN partition plan for Palestine in 1947 both referred to "a Jewish State and an Arab State".

In other words, at this point, all the people in the land were understood to be Palestinian, and they were called "Jewish Palestinians" and "Arab Palestinians".

As noted earlier, the Arab response to Jewish immigration was violence. This jealousy was unjust, because every single piece of property owned by Jewish immigrants was purchased by them, usually at inflated prices. Jewish development improved the Arab standard of living in virtually every situation.

Many of these properties were in swamplands or deserts. Good land was paid for as well, and this did often displace tenant farmers. The British established special programs to compensate displaced tenant farmers, making it very hard to see the Jewish immigration as settler colonialism.

Arab violence in response to Jewish immigration was driven by the Mufti Husseini, who was determined to exterminate the Jews. His alliance with the Nazis was the embodiment of his hardline zero-sum mentality.

The Palestinian tragedy is more than their hate of the Jews. It is embodied by a cadre of leadership lacking a positive vision for nation-building.

In fact, their plan from the beginning was to eliminate Israel.

A U.S. State Department telegram sent on April 15, 1961, to Near East and North African posts says it all: "At Arab League meeting at Shtaura (Lebanon) last August, decision was made to establish Palestine "personality" or "entity" with implication of Algerian-type movement designed to eliminate Israel." [5]

[4] *The Origins of Palestinian Nationalism*, Muslih, p. 181-82. Cited by Brog p. 47
[5] https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1961-63v17/d34

We will examine the development of this Palestinian movement, and note some of the key dates and decisions. What stands out most dramatically is the constant decision of Palestinian leaders to refuse the one thing they said was most important.

Their leaders refused to say yes to a Palestinian State – not once or twice - but six times. Let's look at these refusals and consider the consequences resulting from each refusal. [6]

1. No to the Peel Commission

Anti-Jewish Arab violence resulted in the Peel Commission and the proposal to partition the land in 1937, which the Arabs flatly rejected. This "No" was based on their refusal to acknowledge the right of Israel to exist.

Not only did they refuse the opportunity for self-determination, but their activism resulted in a stop to Jewish immigration to the Land, which ultimately contributed to the death of six million Jews trapped in the Holocaust.

With the end of World War II and the power-sharing decisions of the victorious Allies, it became clear that Britain was going to abdicate their Palestine Mandate, torn between the desire for Arab oil and the violent behavior of the Arab community.

They punted to the United Nations, and as noted earlier, soon saw the demise of their Empire and their move to a lessened role on the global scene.

2. No to the United Nations

The second offer of an Arab State was made by the UN declaration in November of 1947. Again, led by the "all or nothing" attitude of Husseini, the Arabs rejected the offer.

When the Jews accepted the UN plan, the violence began, as Arabs began attacking Jewish neighborhoods.

Israel's War of Independence began in late 1947 as a civil war, with hundreds of Arab militias attacking Jewish homes and communities throughout the Land.

Realizing that they were losing badly because they were only defending themselves, the Jewish leadership realized they would have to attack and destroy Arab villages.

They knew the International Arab invasion was coming.

The Jews destroyed Arab villages because they would simply be re-occupied by the incoming Arab armies. In other words, the Arabs started a war, and the Jews would have to start fighting like any army fights in a war for survival.

The hostilities caused several Arab families to flee the Land. By the time the war shifted from Civil to International, large parts of the Arab population had already left. They waited out the war with friends and family in nearby countries.

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[6] *Reclaiming Israel's History*, Brog, p. 203-215 Brog notes 5 refusals, I count 6.

The Arab exodus continued as the Jewish army began to destroy Arab villages. As the foreign armies joined in, they encouraged local Arabs to leave until they won the war. As noted earlier, most Arab refugees followed the direction of Arab armies.

Jewish immigration continued to rise in the hope of a national home, and this steadily increased the strength and quality of the Israeli army. More than 250,000 Jews immigrated to Israel between 1947-1950.

As an example, I met haircutting legend Vidal Sasson in 1992 when my division at Procter & Gamble introduced his hair care line in Japan. His grandmother had been saved by Schindler and infused Vidal with dreams of a Jewish state.

As a British Jew, only 18 years old in 1948, Vidal came to Israel to help the army fight and win the War of Independence.

As the Israelis grew in strength and produced more guns, bullets, and armored equipment, the Arab strategy to control the roads was overcome, and the tide of the war turned.

The innovative Israelis built an underground bullet-making factory that was covered by loud washing machines from a commercial laundry, remaining undetectable to the Arabs. You can still visit that factory - a testimony to ingenuity and grit.

They found underground water pipes in the Judean hills and redirected water to Jerusalem without the Arabs realizing their siege was ineffective. The Arab defeat was complete in 1949.

Sadly, this catastrophe produced no new leadership thinking.

Between 1948 and the next major war in 1967, the Arab nations were responsible for the 700,000 Arab refugees from the war.

Some Arab countries took limited numbers of refugees and resettled them. Sadly, Egypt would not take any from Gaza, which they controlled. And Jordan would not take any from the West Bank, which they controlled.

The refugees became pawns stranded by lack of identity, lack of care, and lack of respect from the rest of the Arab world who had so eagerly joined in the war.

During the 50's and 60's, the movement to define the Arab identity moved ahead slowly. The elites and academics had conferences, but there was little traction globally or among the Arab population that remained in Israel.

The Israelis made the Arabs who stayed in the Land citizens of Israel with full participation in the democratic process. The Arab Israelis' standard of living rose along with the Jews as the nation of Israel grew and prospered.

In conferences held by the Arab League in Cairo and Jerusalem in 1964, the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was founded with Soviet influence as the communist regime aimed at Middle East dominance.

The founding goal of the PLO? To establish an Arab Palestinian state over the entire area. Note the zero-sum thinking. This goal required the elimination of Israel.

It was not until after the 6-day war of 1967 that this Palestinian identity gained traction among the Arab population. Nasser's promised multinational Arab attack on Israel backfired badly, as Israel devastated their opponents.

The dream of a Great Arab Empire and Nasser faded away, adding urgency for the Palestinians to fend for themselves.

3. No after the Six-Day War

There was a critical moment in July of 1967 when the victorious Israelis seriously considered the possibility of trading their newly won territory for peace with their neighbors.

This resulted in Prime Minister Levi Eshkol sending a high-level team into the West Bank to discuss the possibility that the Arab refugees could self-govern, independent from Jordan.

In August 1967 the Arab League met in Khartoum, Sudan, and adopted a hard anti-Israel position of no negotiations, no peace, and no recognition. That was their third tragic "No".

The implications of this third "No" were substantial.

It led to the Yom Kippur war, where 2500 Israelis and 15,000 Arabs were killed. Before the 1967 war, Jews were not allowed to live in Gaza and the West Bank. Israeli occupation and Israeli settlements – two prime Palestinian grievances – could have been avoided had they agreed to negotiate for peace.

In 1969, a new day dawned in the leadership of the cause of the Arab Palestinian refugees. Yasser Arafat became the Chairman of the PLO. The Palestinian identity was coming into focus, and Arafat had the opportunity to chart a new path with Israel for the benefit of his people.

Sadly, he followed the zero-sum thinking of Husseini.

Arafat was committed to the destruction of Israel. He chose the route of terrorism, violence, and corruption. Decades of deception, suicide bombings, and false narratives followed. This was manifested in the first 'uprising" or Intifada.

Following the first Intifada, the PLO was designated a terrorist organization by the USA in 1987. Arafat moved his headquarters to Tunisia because the King of Jordan would have nothing to do with him or the PLO.

At this time, another movement was founded by a Palestinian Islamic scholar named Ahmed Yassin. Yassin was connected to the Muslim Brotherhood. He named his organization the Islamic Resistance Movement.

The Arabic language acronym of this movement, using roman letters, gives the name Hamas. Sadly, Israel supported this organization in the early days, hoping to have an alternative to negotiating with Arafat.

Ironically, Hamas is the Hebrew word for violence.[7]

After two decades of total failure to reach his goals, and possibly the growing influence of Hamas, Arafat changed his tune.

In his declaration of the Palestinian State on November 15, 1988, in Algiers, he affirmed the UN declaration 181 which was the partition plan for a Jewish and an Arab state.

Was Arafat declaring Israel's right to exist? This has been a matter of heated debate for decades. Let's explore that.

In a speech to the general assembly of the UN in Geneva on December 13, 1988, Arafat again quoted UN resolution 181 and specifically mentioned the State of Israel as a player who would be needed in the negotiations he was proposing. [8]

It seemed like he had decided to recognize Israel, and he also committed to the elimination of terrorism from the PLO platform. Arafat agreed to reopen negotiations with Israel.

That led to the 1993 Oslo Accords signed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin and PLO leader Arafat. The accords established a negotiating sequence that would lead to a two-state solution in a series of carefully planned steps.

Unfortunately, the Israeli nationalists did not believe these negotiations were in good faith. They believed the Palestinians were only playing games and still intent on Israel's destruction.

Rabin was assassinated in 1995 by ultranationalist Yigal Amir in Tel Aviv, slowing the process.

4. No to PM Barak at Camp David

To rekindle progress, U.S. President Bill Clinton invited Arafat and newly elected Israeli PM Ehud Barak to Camp David in July 2000. They met for two weeks.

Barak offered Arafat the Gaza strip, 91% of the West Bank and control of East Jerusalem. Arafat did not respond or make a counteroffer.

Clinton exploded at Arafat's unresponsive behavior.

After refusing the offer, the Palestinians launched the second Intifada, with all kinds of murderous terrorist attacks in Israel.

It is debated if Arafat started this or if he lost control of the more violent wing of his party, but he certainly embraced it.

Arafat never published a Palestinian policy to recognize Israel.

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[7] See Genesis 6:11 for the first use of the word "hamas" in the Bible.

[8] https://www.palquest.org/en/historictext/9677/yasir-arafat's-speech-forty-third-session-united-nations-general-assembly

5. No to President Clinton

Ehud and Clinton continued to hope and work. On December 23, 2000, in the waning days of his Presidency, Clinton made Arafat the most generous offer yet.

Clinton offered Arafat all the Gaza strip, 95% of the West Bank, 1-3% of additional Israeli territory, a safe passage corridor between the West Bank and Gaza through Israeli territory, and the Arab neighborhoods of Jerusalem.

Barak accepted Clinton's proposal, but Arafat said "No".

The implications of these refusals were tragic for Israel, as Palestinian suicide bombings killed over 1000 Israelis. They also hurt the Palestinians.

If they had accepted the offer, they would have had full control over Gaza and the West Bank. If they really wanted peace, there would be no Jewish settlements, and no Israeli security fence.

The second Intifada resulted in the building of the security fence, which was mostly made of see-through fencing. About 10% of the border required a 30-foot-high concrete barrier to protect Israeli citizens.

The fence network did stop the terrorists, but it also made it much harder for Palestinians to get passes for much higher-paying work in Israel.

When he died in 2004, Arafat had bank accounts in Europe totaling $1.5 Billion, with some estimating $6 Billion. Imagine leading millions of people living in squalor and pocketing that much money which was given by the international community in support of the Palestinian cause.

Incredibly, that is not the whole story.

Today, Arafat's daughter Zahwa lives in London and Paris with a reported net worth of $8 Billion. And according to the UNWRA, she still has right of return to the Land.

Arafat's successor Mahmoud Abbas has continued with the same approach. Abbas has led the PLO since 2004. The impact of his leadership on his people has been devastating.

None have been hurt more severely than the Palestinian Christians. Looking at the town of Bethlehem, we see the effects of religious discrimination by the local Muslim leadership.

When the Oslo accords were adopted in 1993, Bethlehem was 90% populated by Arab Christians who enjoyed a peaceful and prosperous lifestyle with significant tourism coming to the birthplace of Yeshua.

Over time, the PLO violence, the anti-Christian political environment, and the Israeli need to stop violence with the building of a wall and checkpoints, resulted in devastation of tourism, and a very difficult daily life as a disrespected minority.

Bethlehem is only 10% Christian today, the fruit of the PLO's commitment to displace Arab Christians and to destroy Israel.

Despite this, committed Palestinian Christian families in Bethlehem have merged their business networks to try and survive. They have been thwarted from starting new businesses. They have been pressured to pay their taxes daily. It is pure abuse.

Some Arab Christians have blamed Israel for the exodus of Palestinian Christians, responding to misguided efforts like "Christ at the Checkpoint" and Palestinian propaganda.

The facts are that Palestinian terror forced Israel to tighten security, and that effort has worked. The real culprit is the failed leadership of the PLO, who have operated in corruption and violence.

Shortly after the start of the second Intifada, Ehud Barak was voted out. The Israeli electorate gave up on the continually futile pursuit of peace and voted in Ariel Sharon, a decorated IDF General who promised to restore security.

The barrier fence was built, and security was restored. Amazingly, in 2006, the voters once again gave peace a chance and elected Sharon's hand-picked successor Ehud Olmert as Prime Minister. Olmert would go the extra mile for peace.

6. No to Prime Minister Olmert

The sixth "No" came after Olmert met with Abbas thirty-six times between 2006-2008. Olmert made the most amazing offer, showing Israel's overwhelming desire to live together in peace.

Olmert added land from Israel to offer 100% equivalent of the West Bank, and a land link with Gaza.

He offered a Palestinian capitol in East Jerusalem to be shared with a Jewish capitol in West Jerusalem.

He offered to place all the Jewish, Christian and Muslim Holy Sites under the authority of a committee that would include Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Palestine, Israel, and the United States.

Lastly, he offered that Israel would take 1000 Palestinian refugees into Israel every year for five years.

Abbas never responded.

As recently as 2014, Abbas said that even if he was given a state, he would not declare an end to the conflict with Israel. Israel can give land, but the Palestinians will not give peace.

The damage of this "No" was not more violence, although Abbas has been unable to control Hamas and continues a policy of legitimizing terror and rejection of Israel's right to exist.

The real losers are the Palestinian people.

Every effort by Israel has been thwarted. Israel's withdrawals under the Oslo accords - leaving Gaza, West Bank cities, and Lebanon has resulted in increased violence and loss of life.

Let's look at Gaza in greater detail.

In 2005, per the Oslo accords peace process, Israel left Gaza to the Palestinians. To implement this, Israel forced 11,000 Jewish residents to leave their homes and farms in Gaza. They had to be removed by their own military, handing over assets and political administration to the Palestinian Authority.

There were billions of dollars in foreign aid pouring into Gaza, some estimate 25 times per capita compared to the money that went into rebuilding Europe after WW II.

Sadly, giving Palestinians land did not produce peace.

In 2006, Hamas defeated Fatah in parliamentary elections and took control of Gaza in 2007, ostensibly under the authority of the PLO, but practically as an independent jihadist terror group.

With enough resources to build something truly amazing, Hamas went about building another Afghanistan.

Hamas killed political opponents and began a rule of terror.

They took every PLO strategy and made it twice as lethal, setting off a pattern of violence against Israel. That resulted in a constant state of war, with major conflicts in 2008, 2012, 2014, and the barbaric 2023 attack.

Hamas have fired over 20,000 missiles into Israel since 2007, carried out more than 100 suicide bombings, and most recently killed over 1200 people and taken 254 hostages.

This history makes a two-state solution quite unlikely.

Very few people seem to understand the geographic, prophetic, and religious importance of Judea and Samaria to the promises of God. Let me explain further.

Knowing what we now know about the demonstrated lack of Palestinian commitment to lasting peace over decades, it is highly unlikely Israel will ever again negotiate to give land for peace.

Geographically, what the media calls the West Bank is more than the land west of the Jordan river. It has been known as Judea and Samaria for three millennia.

Topographically, the distance from these mountain overlooks to the major population, airport, and industrial center of Israel is about 35 miles on average and in spots is only 10 miles. This makes having a violent neighbor absolutely a nonstarter.

It would be indefensible.

Judea and Samaria are the historic footprint of the Patriarchs and the prophetic heartland of the nation known as the "Mountains of Israel".

I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. [9]

Religiously, it is a tenet of Sharia Law and jihad that once land is conquered by Muslims, that land is permanently Muslim. Even if the conquered people fight back and win back the territory, it is still considered Muslim land.

[9] Ezekiel 34:13-14, NIV

Beyond antisemitism and hatred, this unrealistic claim may be the unstated objection to sharing the Land with the Jews. Is this why Husseini, Arafat and Abbas all said "no"?

This thinking is reinforced by the education happening among the Arab refugees in Gaza, and the areas under Palestinian control. Years ago, I met a Palestinian who worked at a restaurant frequented by tourists.

He was taught to hate Jews and the West.

However, as he met tourists and learned more, he was stunned to realize what brainwashing he had experienced in the Palestinian education system. He decided to emigrate and pursue a better life for himself and his family.

Perhaps the best way forward is for the Muslims to obey the Qur'an, which instructs the faithful to read the Torah, the Psalms, and the Gospels.

These are the books given to Moses, David, and Yeshua by God, highly viewed by Muhammad (peace be upon him) and Islam.

By knowing these books, they would see the details of God's plan that are not in the Qur'an and find a new beginning. Millions of Muslims are obeying, reading the texts they are commanded to read, and discovering the Way of God.

The heart of God is to unite his human family in the ways of God. He is offering the same inheritance that he offered Abraham, and the peace that passes understanding, which has been made available to the whole world by grace through faith.

The most difficult parts of the Palestinian story for me are the civilian families who find themselves governed by terrorists, used as human shields and then suffering loss of life and limb.

Thankfully, Hamas approval in Gaza is plunging. Hamas leaders are now saying that if they could have seen the outcome of their plan for October 7, they would have never done it.

Meanwhile the Israeli army fights with impossible options, and the Palestinian terrorists twist the story and seek the world's sympathies. Their PR has been astoundingly successful.

Few truly understand the history, and the consequences of that ignorance are destructive. I will explore these issues further in Chapter 8.

The most maligned group are undoubtedly the Palestinian Christians. They are marginalized and seen as infidels in the Muslim culture, whether PLO or Hamas.

Palestinian Christians have largely been driven from Gaza by Hamas, and as noted earlier, are being steadily exterminated from Bethlehem.

If given an opportunity, these Palestinian Christian leaders would offer integrity of leadership. I have met those who can lead in humility and truly care for their people. They have the perspective and wisdom to finally make lasting peace with Israel.

But Islam will not recognize them.

Despite having signed the Oslo accords, the PLO unfortunately rescinded their commitment to Israel's existence in 2018. We are back to square one of the hatred and broken commitments.

This situation leaves us with a few conclusions.

First, the Palestinians have never produced credible leaders of integrity who are willing to build a peaceful and economically viable state of their own.

Second, they have never been able to shed the hatred and commitment to violence, deception and coercion that is the core of the terrorists who have overrun their communities.

Third, they have said no to a state so often that the credibility of their quest for statehood has been destroyed.

In that sense, the Palestinians simply do not meet a reasonable standard for a people desiring to become a viable state among the global community of nations.

It might help to look at the bigger picture. There are hundreds of people groups in the world seeking statehood, many much larger and better led than the Palestinians.

In fact, of the world's 6000 people groups, only 3% have achieved statehood. Why the international community has given such disproportionate attention to the Palestinian cause in comparison with the refugees of history is a logical question.

Much bigger refugee problems have been solved and are in process of being solved.

Consider the 12-14 million ethnic German refugees who were forcibly expelled from Stalin's Eastern Europe following WW II. Some families had roots there for 700 years.

The difficulties of the mass deportations were extreme; some estimates are that 500,000 to 1,000,000 died in the horrible conditions imposed by the Communists or in the awful conditions of transportation to their new home.

However, instead of violence, these refugees renounced revenge and committed themselves to rebuild Germany and Europe.

With the help of the Marshall Plan, Germany was transformed into an economic powerhouse. These refugees ended in freedom and flourishing instead of living under communist oppression and the deadly doctrine of Marx.

One of the displaced Germans was Czech-born Oskar Schindler, who had rescued 1200 Jews from the Holocaust. He used up the rest of his wealth to get his family out and never recovered financially.

That refugee experience 70 years ago is likely one of the key reasons that Germany has received so many of Syria's refugees.

Why do we hear so much about Palestinian refugees, and almost nothing about the Syrians who are twice in number?

For the past 70 years, the world's refugee efforts have met the needs of millions of people displaced by intractable wars. Most are finding a better life, as are the Palestinian Arab Christians who have left Gaza and the West Bank and emigrated to welcoming countries.

Given that the UNWRA has most definitely been infiltrated by Hamas, I believe it is time to close the UNWRA and treat the Palestinians the same way refugees have been treated in the rest of the world.

The Palestinian tragedy raises many questions. Let's consider some.

What Could Have Been?

In a report by Patrick Clausen from the Washington Institute in 2009, the extent of the wasted opportunity compared with global historical precedents is stunning:

"A comparison to the Marshall Plan is telling. The Marshall Plan distributed $60 billion (at today's prices), which worked out to $272 per European in the main participating countries.

By contrast, by the end of last year according to the World Bank, the Palestinians had received $4 billion since Oslo, which translates into $1,330 per Palestinian.

In other words, the Palestinians have already gotten more than four times as much as the Europeans got from the Marshall Plan. Or if done on an annual basis, the Palestinians have gotten $161 per person per year compared to $68 per person annually under the four-year Marshall Plan.

The Palestinians have gotten more than twice as much aid for twice as long as Europe got under the Marshall Plan.

Another way to gauge aid to the Palestinians "WBG" (West Bank and Gaza) in the lexicon of international agencies is to compare aid levels to other poor areas.

In 2000, according to the World Bank's World Development Indicators 2002, WBG received $636 million in aid or $214 for each of the three million WBG residents.

That is the highest in the world by far. Only Bosnia, at $185, is close; shamefully, Israel is third at $128.

Compared to the $214 for the Palestinians, the average for sub-Saharan Africa is $20; for South Asia, it is $3. Those areas are much, much poorer than the Palestinian territories.

Consider a country like Ethiopia, which got about the same amount of aid as the Palestinians but has more than 20 times the population.

In Ethiopia, national income is $100 per person - that is per year, not per week. In other words, each Ethiopian's income from all sources is, on average, less than half what Palestinians receive from foreign aid alone.

The cynic could suggest that if the Ethiopians caused more terrorism or threatened global political stability, they would see more dollars headed their way.

But that is not all that is at work here. Even compared to countries of great terrorism concern, the Palestinians are in a special class.

The world has become concerned about unemployed Pakistani youth educated in radical madrassas, but aid to Pakistan was a mere $7 per person, one-30th the Palestinian level." [10]

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, aid to Palestinians totaled over $40 billion between 1994 and 2020. [11] So, if the numbers quoted by Clausen above were updated, the Palestinians have now received ten times what the Europeans received.

I hope this book will help educate the world to understand the utter waste of humanitarian aid and rebuilding investment given in good faith to the Palestinians. It is one of the most tragic stories in the annals of International aid.

Isn't it time for accountability?

The only contribution these vast sums of money have produced is tunnels, rockets, death, and still, $8 billion in the hands of the Arafat family! Only God knows how much other corrupt Palestinian leaders have stolen, while their people suffer.

The Palestinian Leadership were given a golden opportunity in 2005 when Israel withdrew from Gaza in search of peace.

If the Palestinians had accepted reality taught by history, truly sought to make peace with Israel, and had some leadership, vision, and imagination, they could have shown the world what a Palestinian State could look like.

They could have built something like a Hong Kong, or a Macao, or a Singapore, even a Monaco, if they were truly interested in building something.

As you can see below, they had plenty of money and space, even enough to accommodate all six million Palestinian refugees:

Gaza has 2 MM people in 141 square miles (a density of 14K/square mile) let's look at what might have been possible.

Build another Hong Kong - 7.4 MM people in 430 square miles (18K/square mile)

Build another Macao - 700K people in 12 square miles
(62K/square mile)

Build another Singapore - 5.8 MM people in 270 square miles (22K/square mile)

Build another Monaco - 38K people in .8 square mile
(47K/square mile)

Build a Palestinian State – 6 MM people in 141 square miles (43K/square mile)

[10] https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/palestinians-lost-marshall-plans

[11] https://arabcenterdc.org/resource/international-aid-to-the-palestinians-between-politicization-and-development/

The emphasis is on the word build, rather than destroy.

Naphtali Bennett, former Prime Minister of Israel comments:

"We founded the first Palestinian state – in Gaza. We handed the keys over to the Palestinian Authority. They got ownership of Gaza, and they got their chance.

What happened? Within days they started shooting rockets at us from the very locations we vacated. We were hoping it was going to turn into Singapore, but they opted to turn it into Afghanistan.

I'm not about to carve out the heart of Israel – Judea and Samaria – (aka West Bank) – and hand it over to the Palestinians and pray that this time they will not turn it into a terror base." [12]

It is time for accountability.

At this point, the global community must call on the Arab Muslim world to take constructive action. Make peace with Israel, include Palestinian Arab Christians in Palestinian leadership, and take responsibility for their hurting people who want to live in peace.

Renounce the violence of Islam. Invite Palestinian Arab refugees to find a welcoming and understanding culture in Arab nations, so they can build a life of peace and prosperity.

But the Muslims are not alone in fighting against God's plans.

Let's look next at the Christians.

Discussion Questions:

1. What most stood out to you in this chapter?

2. What new thoughts or questions did this chapter prompt?

[12] https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2018-03-07/ty-article/.premium/bennett-palestinians-turned-gaza-into-afghanistan-never-again/0000017f-f02f-da6f-a77f-f82f80e50000?v=1741142393151