

ZF CONNECT

THE LEADING ISRAEL ADVOCACY MAGAZINE IN THE UK | ISSUE NO. 10 | SEPTEMBER 2020



COMBATTING CORONA
AMIDST CONFLICT

SHOULD PAKISTAN BE NEXT
AFTER THE UAE ISRAEL PEACE DEAL

LOBBYING AGAINST INCITEMENT IN PALESTINIAN TEXTBOOKS

COVER ARTICLE

FROM BALFOUR TO PEACE

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Welcome to ZF Connect Magazine

Friends,

We are very excited to present to you the latest edition of the ZF Connect Magazine.

Even during these unprecedented and challenging times, we were determined to deliver to you a high-quality publication which would be relevant, thought-provoking, and inclusive of diverse ranges of voices and perspectives.

Since the last issue there have been a lot of changes in everyone's lives, but all of us at the ZF have tried to carry on as usual by bringing Israel closer to home via our webinars and online events, such as #HomeAtzmaut - celebrating Israel's 72nd Independence Day in our own homes in which thousands participated.

This year we have chosen a specific project in 'The Very Best of Israel', a project which will showcase the best of Israel to diverse audiences across the UK and Ireland. Further details can be found inside the magazine. We do hope that you will agree that this is a very worthwhile cause and that you are able to help us by donating generously.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking our chairman Paul Charney and our president Estelle Gilston for their ongoing invaluable support and involvement, which the ZF team sincerely appreciates.

If you would like to be kept up to date, please do sign up to our weekly newsletter either by filling in your name on our website homepage at www.zionist.org.uk, or by emailing office@zionist.org.uk and be sure to look out for more exciting events coming up, whether virtual or physical.

Wishing you and your families a healthy and sweet New Year!

Steve Winston, Dalia Hajioff, Rowena Rosenberg, Melissa Stock and Sigal Borok

ZF Team

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Dear reader,

A warm welcome to the Rosh Hashanah – Jewish New Year – edition of our ZF Connect magazine. Reflecting over the past year, one of course cannot ignore the global pandemic which, for several months, literally shut down the world and affected all of us in so many ways. However, as I write this, I am both thankful and proud that the ZF has weathered the storm and has done so creatively and successfully. Our activity and achievements have only been possible due to the dedicated ZF team, who despite some of them being furloughed, managed to quickly adapt and continue the great work the ZF does. I want to thank all the ZF staff for all their hard work, especially our new Executive Director, Steve Winston, whose input has been invaluable.

Despite the pandemic, the ZF was resolute that Israel's 72nd birthday – 'Yom Ha'atzmaut', would not pass without celebration and so we brought it to everyone's homes with 'Home Atzmaut' and almost 10,000 people who came together online to watch the Home Atzmaut singalong concert with Israeli actress and entertainer Einat Sarouf.

As the pandemic lockdown was enforced, the ZF quickly mobilised and joined forces with the WZO UK to launch our "Bringing Israel Closer to Home" series of weekly webinars, which will continue running until we can once again bring the speakers from Israel in person.

Our cover story this year, 'From Balfour to Peace' by Chloe Tsila, reflects on the journey of modern Zionism - the recreation of our Jewish homeland and Israel's continued striving for peace with its neighbours. Arguably the most positive news this year was the announcement in August 2020 that Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had entered into a peace accord, making it the third ever peace deal between Israel and an Arab state. Read our insightful article in this edition on the thinking behind PM Netanyahu and the Gulf states by James Marlow. Amongst the other articles in this edition of ZF Connect, you can read all about the positive collaboration and cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians in their fight against Covid-19, how one Israeli tour guide's innovative approach has brought the joys and wonders of Israel to people's homes. There is so much more inside this edition of ZF Connect, so please take time out over the Holidays to enjoy it all.

Our Rosh Hashanah appeal this year is for our new project, 'The Very Best of Israel'. Read all about this exciting new showcase project on pages 6-7 and we hope that you will consider giving generously and help us make this project happen.

So, as the year 5781 begins, and considering the recent Israel-UAE deal, as well as Israel's advances in its fight against Covid-19 and its continued humanitarian innovations which benefit the entire world, now is the time for us all to come together and celebrate our Jewish homeland. Now is the time to loudly and proudly celebrate Israel and its achievements, from democracy to diplomacy and everything in-between. Now is the time to stand up and be proud Zionists and celebrate our homeland.

I wish you all a Shana Tova, a healthy and happy New Year, and I look forward to continuing to work closely with the ZF team to bring 'The Very Best of Israel' to all of you.

Paul Charney
ZF Chairman



THE PRESIDENT

Jerusalem, September 3, 2020

Dear friends,

As we approach Rosh Hashana, I would like to send the Zionist Federation of the United Kingdom and Ireland my warmest greetings from Jerusalem.

Friends, this past year has been one of highs and lows. Only nine months ago, around fifty world leaders came together in Jerusalem to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, committing to fighting anti-Semitism and preserving the memory of the Holocaust.

Unfortunately, since then we have all been dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. We have lost loved ones. Our schools, synagogues, and community centres have been closed and we still face great uncertainty about the future.

As the year ends and the new year begins, we all hope and pray that the new year will bring a cure for the coronavirus and that we will, once again, be able to meet each other in person, and return to our normal lives.

I hope and believe that this period has reminded us that כל ישראל ערבים זה לזה, that the entire Jewish people is one family, that we must take responsibility for one another and that what unites us is much greater than what divides us.

Dear friends, we are witnessing a historic moment for Israel and the Middle East, with the agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates. I hope that this new spirit of cooperation will help us move forward with our Palestinian neighbors and with all countries of the Middle East.

May the coming year be a year in which the bonds between Israel and the global Jewish community grow ever stronger. From Jerusalem, I would like to wish you all ישנה טובה ומתוקה! May you all be blessed with happiness, joy and good health. I look forward to welcoming you next year in Jerusalem.

God bless you all.

With blessing from Jerusalem

Sincerely,

R. Rivlin
Reuven (Ruvi) Rivlin

From Balfour to Peace

Israel's legitimacy is constantly having to be fought for because the basis of its existence has been buried and continues to be buried ever deeper.

Israel's adversaries remain on a relentless endeavour to rob Israel of its legitimacy and demonise the country in every capacity. This is achieved by undermining and distorting every event in modern Zionist history, from the 1917 Balfour Declaration to the 2020 Abraham Accord, the name by which the recent historic peace agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has come to be known.



Jewish homeland by appealing to the empires of the day to relinquish the lands they controlled. Zionism was then, as it has remained until today, a decolonial, indigenous, and civil rights movement.

Friday the 2nd November 1917 was a day which changed the course of history for the Jewish people, bringing as it did that morning the delivery of a letter which paved the way for rectifying the injustices of the past few thousand years. This letter became known as the Balfour Declaration and was the first official statement of support by a government for Zionist aspirations, cementing the right of the Jewish people to reconstitute their ancient homeland. Written by Arthur James Balfour, then British foreign secretary in David Lloyd George's coalition, addressed to Lord Lionel Walter Rothschild and written for the attention of the Zionist Federation, the declaration favoured "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people" while clearly stating "that nothing should be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine".

Coming just three years later, the San Remo Conference of April 1920 - a blind spot in schools' history curricula, was also a monumental landmark in Jewish history and international diplomacy, for it was at San Remo that the allied powers of the time began the process of bestowing legal status on the Balfour Declaration by re-affirming the connection of the indigenous people of the land - the Jews, and their right to return to and



This attack has continued ever since the Jewish people's exile from Judea which was renamed by the Roman Empire to 'Syria Palaestina' - after the Philistines, in the Roman's attempt to deny and erase any and all Jewish connection to the land.

After centuries of persecution, the late 1800s saw the emerging Zionist vision of Theodore Herzl, which sought to re-establish a

"Friday the 2nd November 1917 was a day which changed the course of history for the Jewish people"

re-establish a Jewish national home in their ancestral homeland. San Remo transformed a letter of intent - the Balfour Declaration, into a legally-binding foundational document under international law. Aside from laying the legal and political foundations for the recreation of a Jewish homeland, San Remo laid the same for many of today's Arab states.



The recognition and commitments made at San Remo were further endorsed by the 52 League of Nations governments in July 1922, under the League of Nations (LoN) Mandate for Palestine, when the final partition of the Ottoman Empire was recorded, and the recognition of a Jewish homeland was drawn into international law.



Despite persistent challenges to its right to exist by international politicians, leaders and outright opponents of Israel who partake in relentless anti-Israel lobbying, Israel's right to exist is enshrined in international law and has never been reversed. It is upheld in Article 80 of the United Nations Charter which preserves intact all the rights granted to the Jews under the Mandate for Palestine, even after the Mandate's expired in May 1948.

Fuelled by the rise of decolonial terminology, USSR propaganda, and the manipulation of anti-Israel rhetoric by the UN, questioning Israel's right to exist has become a new face of Antisemitism, seeking as it does to distort and re-write history with the goal of seeing Israel's, and arguably the Jewish people's, demise.

In spite of this and for the past 72 years, Israel has - with an outstretched arm, continued to strive for the prospect of peace with its neighbours but has unfortunately, for the best part of those 72 years, been overwhelmingly met with rejectionism, intransigence, and terrorism.

Just two decades after the Balfour Declaration was issued, Arabs overwhelmingly rejected

and refused the 1937 Peel commission which envisioned a two-state solution that would have granted the Arabs the majority of the land. Then came 1947 and the UN Partition Plan for a two-state solution. Whilst the Jews accepted it, the Arabs overwhelmingly refused to. Despite Ben Gurion's call in the Declaration of Independence, to the "Arab inhabitants of the state of Israel to preserve and participate in the upbuilding of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions" and offering Israel's "hand to all neighbouring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighbourliness", five Arab states instead chose to attack the nascent Jewish state with the intention of destroying it once and for all.



Fast forward nineteen years to the Six-Day War of 1967, which resulted in a resounding Israeli victory. In this war of self-

defence, Israel captured the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip from Egypt, the Golan Heights from Syria, and Jerusalem, the Old City and Judea and Samaria / the West Bank from Jordan. Despite Israel's regaining control of the Old City and its Kotel / Western Wall, as history has shown, Israel continued to strive for peace and handed the Jordanians access to, and the administration of, the Temple Mount (Har HaBayit). This, in the spirit of peace, despite it also being an integral part of Judaism's holiest site. Not long after, and despite that gesture to Jordan, Jordan was among those Arab states which attended the Arab League summit in August 1967, the members of which collectively issued the Khartoum Resolution which called for a continued state of belligerency with Israel and most famously, contained the 'Three No's'; no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel and no negotiations with Israel.

Despite the Khartoum Resolution, and as testament to Israel's desire for peace with its neighbours, Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egypt's President Anwar Sadat signed a peace treaty in 1979. In exchange for peace with Egypt, Israel returned the Sinai Peninsula which it had captured just twelve years earlier.



Fifteen years later, in 1994, Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein signed the Israel-Jordan peace treaty. The treaty normalised relations between the two countries, addressed disputes over land and water and made provisions for cooperation in trade, tourism and security, including a pledge that neither country would allow its territory to become a staging ground for military strikes by another country. Following on from the Madrid Conference of 1991, Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, together with the PLO's Yasser Arafat, signed the Oslo Accords (1993-1995). This saw the formation of the Palestinian Authority (PA), granting the Palestinians their own autonomous government, while also relinquishing Israeli control of cities with Jewish holy sites, such as Bethlehem (burial place of Rachel and birthplace of King David), Hebron (Tomb of

the Patriarchs where Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Rebecca, and Leah are buried) and Nablus (Biblical Shechem), near where Joseph's tomb lay - a Jewish holy site which has come under repeated attack by Palestinian rioters. In 2000, during the Camp David negotiations led by U.S. President Bill Clinton, Yasser Arafat famously played into Antisemitic historical revisionism, denying that a Jewish Temple had ever existed in Jerusalem. Arafat's declaration lent weight to a malicious and dangerous global campaign of delegitimation, attempting as it does to deny the historical claims of the Jewish people to the land, a connection which just eighty years earlier, was recognised by the Balfour Declaration, the San Remo Conference and the LoN Mandate for Palestine.

Instead of Palestinian leaders turning to conflict resolution after 2000 - for the benefit of its citizens and the region, they instead actively continued to promote violence as 'resistance'. September 2000 saw the start of the Al Aqsa / Second Intifada. The Palestinians, under the leadership of Arafat, seized upon Ariel Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount as a reason to start a terror campaign against Israel, one which killed over 1000 Israelis and 3000 Palestinians.

“Unlike previous agreements with Egypt and Jordan, the UAE did not receive any land in exchange for peace.”

Unlike the successful formula of land for peace in the case of Egypt and Jordan, Israel's unilateral disengagement from Gaza in 2005 only ignited conflict in the region. Following internecine fighting in 2007, Fatah was overthrown by Hamas and the internationally proscribed terrorist group has waged relentless terror and outright war against the Jewish state ever since.

Despite attempts by the international community to portray Hamas as a movement which has changed its tone toward Israel in more recent years, one only need look at its charter to realise that its true intent remains the destruction of Israel in whatever borders. Below are three notable quotes enshrined into Hamas' charter: *“In order to face the usurpation of Palestine by the Jews, we have no escape from raising the banner of Jihad.”*

“Israel will rise and will remain erect until Islam eliminates it”
“The time will not come until Muslims will fight the Jews (and kill them); until the Jews hide behind rocks and trees, which will cry: O Muslim! there is a Jew hiding behind me, come on and kill him!”

The leaders of Hamas continue to condemn peace with Israel as a betrayal of the Palestinian cause, placing terrorism masked as 'resistance' before any real

attempt to negotiate. Hamas has continued to prioritise the death and destruction of Jews and Israel over the welfare of its people in Gaza and continue to act to manipulate the international media into portraying Hamas as the victim rather than the aggressor. Ongoing differences between the PA and Hamas are such that both sides have so far been unable to unify under one voice, despite both sides sharing the practice of inciting against Israel at every level of their societies.

Despite repeated International efforts over the past 15 years of Mahmoud Abbas's reign, to bring both sides together for negotiations towards peace, the PA's Abbas has consistently refused to negotiate a deal with three different Israeli prime ministers. For example, even after Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu froze settlement construction for 10 months in the West Bank in 2010 and again in 2014 under John Kerry's peace plan as a basis for negotiations, Abbas flatly refused to sit with Israeli leaders to negotiate.

Ongoing failed efforts to negotiate peace hangs over Israel to the current day, where in 2020, the Palestinians rejected US president Trump's peace plan before even seeing it, and then again after seeing it.

Former diplomat and politician Abba Eban put it perfectly: *“The Arabs [Palestinians] never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity.”* However, somewhat refreshingly, despite the common outcome of peace negotiations with the Palestinians being continued rejectionism and renewed violence, recent years have seen the tide change in the wider Middle East. Arab states have increasingly made overtures vis-à-vis Israel, showing acceptance and an understanding of the fact that Israel is a permanent fixture in the Middle East. Accordingly, peace with its neighbours is becoming more of a reality for Israel.

For example, the UAE showed its commitment to peace by naming 2019 as the 'Year of Tolerance', symbolised by beginning construction of a complex that comprises a Church, Mosque and Synagogue side by side.



Then came August 13th, 2020 - a day which will be remembered and celebrated for the rest of time. The State of Israel and the UAE announced the normalisation of relations between them - the Abraham Accord established diplomatic relations and ended decades of hostility. This move seemingly came off the back of a master stroke by PM Netanyahu, who followed in the footsteps of his predecessors whose political game of 'impending' annexation/ application of sovereignty to areas in the West Bank that the Trump peace plan had allocated to Israel, resulted in the unlikely peace deal of our time.

Unlike previous agreements with Egypt and Jordan, the UAE did not receive any land in exchange for peace. It instead received peace and coexistence in exchange for peace and coexistence, and it is certainly looking like more Arab states (for example Bahrain, Morocco, and



Oman) will follow suit in the coming months. Unsurprisingly, Palestinian leaders rejected the normalisation of ties, calling for a campaign of incitement against the Emirates, embodied by the burning of its flag on the Temple Mount.

Dr. Waseem Yousef, an Emirati cleric, tweeted *"When I see the flag of my country being burned by some Palestinians because of the peace treaty with Israel - I apologize to every Israeli man if I offended him in the past."* *"The happiness of the Israeli people with the peace agreement shocked me. I was not expecting it - the peoples want peace"*



We must pay close attention to those who praised the historic peace agreement and those who condemned it. 'Pro-peace' activists like Rashida Talib and Mehdi Hassan, who vehemently opposed the Israel-UAE peace deal, oppose coexistence simply because their careers are built upon the foundations of Jew-hatred and perpetual war. Even Israel relinquishing its rightful claim to Judea and Samaria is still not good enough for anti-Zionists (all too often Antisemites) worldwide, because any framework in which Israel still exists will never be good enough for them.

Despite those who condemn peace between Arab states and Israel, the Israel-UAE deal



is a wake-up call, one which highlights the fact that Arab states are no longer willing to sacrifice vital strategic interests for continued Palestinian rejectionism. The peace deal has eliminated false pretext; despite what the media portrays, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not the central threat in the Middle East.

Rather, the containment of Iran's expansive Shia regime and recognition of Israel's economic growth and achievements in valuable areas - e.g. agriculture, hi-tech, medicine, and defence, have become more important to many Arab states than the failed and unrealistic Palestinian cause.

The Israel-UAE peace deal highlights how current Palestinian leadership significantly lacks authenticity and forward thinking. They are willing to sacrifice more generations to see the fruition of their decades-old desire of Judean free land and their unrealistic demand for the right of return. Palestinian leadership must prioritise the opportunity to bring peace and prosperity to their own people over their determination to demonise, delegitimise and reject Jewish self-determination.

As Elliot Jager in 'The Balfour

Declaration: 67 Words, 100 Years of Conflict', writes *"continued Arab rejection of the Balfour Declaration one hundred years on makes any compromise leading to a genuine conflict resolution impossible."*

Until the Palestinians accept the legitimacy of the Jews' right to the land enshrined into international law and UN Charter, and until they drop their negative obsession with the Jews before taking a seat at the negotiation table with the aim of resolving the conflict, there will be no peace.

Never forget those who stood for peace, and those who stood against it. The International community must hold Palestinian leadership accountable, as well as all of those who continue to fan the flames of its Antisemitic anti-Zionist agenda.

Whilst we wait for that to happen, a peace has come to the Middle East once again, and we should all proudly embrace and celebrate it.

ARTICLE BY CHLOE TSILA

Chloe Tsila is a young Jewish activist and an undergraduate politics student. You can follow her on Twitter, @ChloeTsila

The thinking behind Netanyahu AND THE GULF STATES

One Thursday afternoon back in August (13.08.2020), Binyamin Netanyahu stood up in the middle of a cabinet meeting and walked out of the room. When he was asked, "Where are you going," the Prime Minister replied, "You will find out later."

What transpired was a conference call between US President Donald Trump, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed of Abu Dhabi and, when Netanyahu joined the conversation, a declaration of the first historic peace agreement between Israel and an Arab country in 26 years was announced.

Netanyahu later told the public, "This agreement is different from its predecessors because it is based on two principles, Peace for Peace and Peace through Strength. He reminded the people that under this doctrine, Israel is not required to withdraw from any territory and therefore can focus solely on trade, investment, health, tourism, agriculture, environmental protection and many other areas, including defence and security cooperation.

This peace was not achieved because Israel weakened itself by withdrawing to the '1967 lines'. It was achieved because Israel, under the leadership of Netanyahu, cultivated a strong free economy, along with huge military and technological strength. In doing so, Israel has achieved unprecedented international influence and Bibi has rightly taken credit for developing this strategy in the past 11 years.

Netanyahu's doctrine on how to make Israel a powerful force while



pursuing real peace was always about placing Israel in a position where almost every country would need the Jewish State.

For years, Bibi has worked hard on developing relationships with the four major world nuclear powers today, namely Russia, China, India and of course the United States. He is the only world leader who can pick up the telephone and speak directly to anyone of these leaders because of the strong relationship Netanyahu has with each one, and they highly respect him.

Netanyahu was also able to successfully undermine the European Union's attempt of a single foreign policy to weaken Israel, by creating special individual relationships with EU countries such as Austria, Czech Republic,



"Netanyahu's doctrine on how to make Israel a powerful force while pursuing real peace was always about placing Israel in a position where almost every country would need the Jewish State."

Poland, Hungary, Italy, Greece and Cyprus. This divided EU opinion on Israel which in turn weakened the Palestinian Authority's position in the world.

This was essential, otherwise the Palestinians would have a veto over the achievement of peace between Israel and Arab countries. The PA insisted that no Arab state could sign an agreement with the Jewish State until their own demands had been met. But Netanyahu predicted at the UN General Assembly in 2013 that peace would come to the region only once Arab states would make peace agreements with Israel. Then the Palestinians would make peace with the Jewish State.



As a result of these “games” Netanyahu played for years, individual countries including moderate Arab states, have seen that Israel could become a strong ally, and that the real threat to the stability of the region is the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In fact it was Netanyahu who saw the 1600 year old conflict between Sunni and Shia Muslims resurface, after the American invasion of Iraq in 2003. He could see that Arab Sunni states were genuinely fearful of Iranian expansion into Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen, and Netanyahu took advantage of the situation by highlighting the dangers of Iran’s aggression and its efforts to attain nuclear weapons.

In response, Arab states began to question the Palestinian issue and whether it was more of a burden to them, rather than in their own interests. Gulf States such as UAE, Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia were happy to openly have contact and cooperate with Israel, and in some cases, pictures of Israeli

leaders with their Arab counterparts were published.

Another advantage Israel has is the discovery of more than 30 trillion cubic feet of gas off the country’s coast, making it the largest natural gas reservoir in the world. Israel has now begun to export gas to Egypt and Jordan. But Netanyahu wasted no time in creating special relationships with Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Eastern European countries and even Russia, all of whom need this special Israeli resource, despite an outcry from some in Israel to first make the gas available for Israelis.

Netanyahu could see that through his policy of manoeuvring and posturing, the world would come to Israel because of what it could offer them.

The Director of Governability and Democracy in Israel, Danny Seaman, who has held various senior political positions over the years, and has known Netanyahu since he was appointed Ambassador to the United Nations in 1984, stated, “While

most politicians are busy playing checkers, Netanyahu has always been playing three dimensional chess.”

Today Israel is no longer the third world country it once was. Instead it is a thriving stable world power with huge influence over world affairs, and all this has occurred in the last 11 years under the leadership of Binyamin Netanyahu.

Along with a very strong President Donald Trump, who understands world affairs and the international “game,” Netanyahu believes many dictatorships will fall in line with the United States and this is what has brought about the deal between UAE and Israel.

Danny Seaman says Saudi Arabia also recognises that it’s smart to have ties with Israel, not just because of an Israel-Sunni / Muslim alliance against Shia Iran, but because of Saudi oil.

“It costs a huge amount of money for Saudi Arabia to ship its oil through the Suez Canal. If it had a trade

agreement with Israel, Saudi could set up a railway line and export its oil to Europe through the ports of Haifa and Ashdod,” said Seaman.

Of course, Israel recognises the benefits on an economic level and on an international standing if Arab states make peace with the Jewish State. But the UAE are using Israel for its own benefit, because it is smart business. It also paves the way for the Emirates to purchase stealth F35 fighter jets from US, something they have been trying to do for 6 years.

To understand Netanyahu, you have to understand that his goal has always been to isolate Iran. This has been done at the expense of not retaliating too hard against the Islamists in Gaza or applying sovereignty over parts of Judea and Samaria – that will come.

“In any case, Israel is still in full control of Judea, Samaria and all the Jewish communities, says Danny Seaman, “except for the autonomous cities given to the Palestinian Authority.”

But for now, the focus has to be on world affairs and undermining the threat that Iran poses, by destroying Iranian bases in Syria and ammunition transfers from Lebanon.

In addition, Israel is the “Start-Up Nation” and second only to the United States in this field. Research and Development is Israel’s speciality and Israel has become the R & D centre of the United States, both in high-tech and militarily, and this gives Israel a huge advantage.



The more stable states amongst the Arab world understand this and would benefit hugely by investing in Israel – they certainly have the money. And especially at a time when China is investing in Iran, it would make sense if moderate Arab states with strong economies and thriving abilities would invest in a stable Israel. The failing states like Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen, which are all fighting civil wars, are the same states that wish to destroy Israel.

Henry Kissinger once said that the more agreements and economic ties you have with other nations, the less likely those countries will want to go to war with you. This is what has happened with Egypt and Jordan and will likely happen with the Emirates and other Gulf States too.

Bar-Ilan University lecturer and expert on Middle East Affairs and Arabic culture, Dr Mordechai Kedar, told Avi Abelow on a zoom interview, “When Arab countries accept Israel is invincible, they will accept us and make peace with us.”

There is still talk that Bahrain and Oman will also sign an agreement with Israel. But in any case, an official Washington signing ceremony between Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed and Binyamin

Netanyahu on the White House lawn, with Donald Trump looking on, will likely take place before the American election.

Dr Kedar believes the signing ceremony will happen one week before the November 3rd election, in order to convince supporters of Israel to vote for Donald Trump. “Instead of the 6 separate hands of Trump, Netanyahu and bin Zayed shaking, you may instead have 10 hands, which will include the leaders of Bahrain and Oman.”

All the Gulf States are believed to want Donald Trump to remain in the White House because they fear a reverse of American policy on Iran under the Democrats.

However, one thing is for sure; in these Covid days, we are unlikely to witness any hand shaking between the parties on the White House lawn.

ARTICLE BY JAMES J. MARLOW

James J. Marlow is an Israeli political analyst and Middle East broadcast journalist. You can follow James on Twitter, @James_J_Marlow, and Facebook, @magic.marlow

Should Pakistan be next after the UAE Israel Peace Deal

It was a historic day indeed when the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel peace deal was announced to a very surprised world. Despite initial hopes and speculation that some other Arab states would likely follow with their own accords with Israel, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Morocco have publicly stated that they will not enter into any accord with Israel without the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Notwithstanding that, more and more Arab leaders are realising that the Palestinians will never achieve their aspirations for self-determination through wars and violence with the Jewish state, but rather through negotiations for peace and mutual collaboration. The UAE-Israel deal will not only bring diplomatic normalisation between the two countries, but also a bright future for both nations' people through education, technology, agriculture, science, medicine and even space.

We must look at the history of positive relations between Israel and some Middle Eastern countries which remain today. Turkey and Iran were the first Muslim countries to recognise Israel, but after the Islamic revolution of 1979, the Iranian regime chose to cut off relations with the Jewish state of Israel and declared it an enemy. In recent years, diplomatic relations

between Turkey and Israel have seen some strain but still remain in place. Egypt, and Jordan subsequently made peace with Israel, and whilst not necessarily the warmest of relations, those deals remain in place for the good of all involved.

Pakistan is the only nuclear Muslim country that has a powerful influence in the Muslim world, through its strong military and intelligence capabilities. The Arab states always seek help from Pakistan whenever they encounter political, regional and cross-border issues. Pakistan helped the Arabs in the historic Six Day War, providing military assistance as well as pilots.

Israel has always sought peace with its Arab neighbours, as well as with south Asian states, including India and Pakistan. India had always unconditionally supported the Palestinian cause in the international arena, but in recent years India realised that the Israel-Palestinian conflict could not be resolved by isolating one side and so India took the important step to engage more positively with Israel, a step



“Israel has always sought peace with its Arab neighbours, as well as with south Asian states, including India and Pakistan.”

which has seen the development of close ties between the two countries, with India benefitting from Israel's prowess in hi-tech, military, agriculture and more.

When Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu visited India, he suggested a peace deal with Pakistan, but it was rejected outright. After the recent Israel-UAE deal, Pakistan once again rejected the prospect of any peace deal with Israel. When Pakistan's PM Imran Khan was asked about the Israel-UAE deal and whether Pakistan would take steps to make another historic deal, Khan strongly rejected the idea, stating, “Our position on Israel is very clear. Pakistan can never recognise Israel. If we surrender to Israel, then we must leave Kashmir. We also have to answer to Almighty Allah about Israel and Palestine.”

Pakistan's cold attitude toward Israel will not achieve anything positive but could alienate Pakistan in the Middle East and the International arena. In an op-ed in Ha'aretz on 11th August 2020 entitled “Pakistan's Rejection of Israel Threatens



Pakistani Lives”, the author of the op-ed, Sumeera Asghar Roy wrote, “Today, India and Israel have celebrated more than a quarter-century of official ties. Pakistan, which focused its domestic energies and diplomatic capital in fighting for the right of Palestinian and Kashmiri self-determination, won nothing. The state of Jammu and Kashmir has been annexed by India. Israel is on the verge of annexing the West Bank.” Clearly, Pakistan's cold stance toward Israel did

nothing to achieve any progress on the issues of Palestine and Kashmir; the Arab world refused to lend support to Pakistan over Kashmir and they have become increasingly frustrated with what they see as ongoing Palestinian intransigence and rejection.

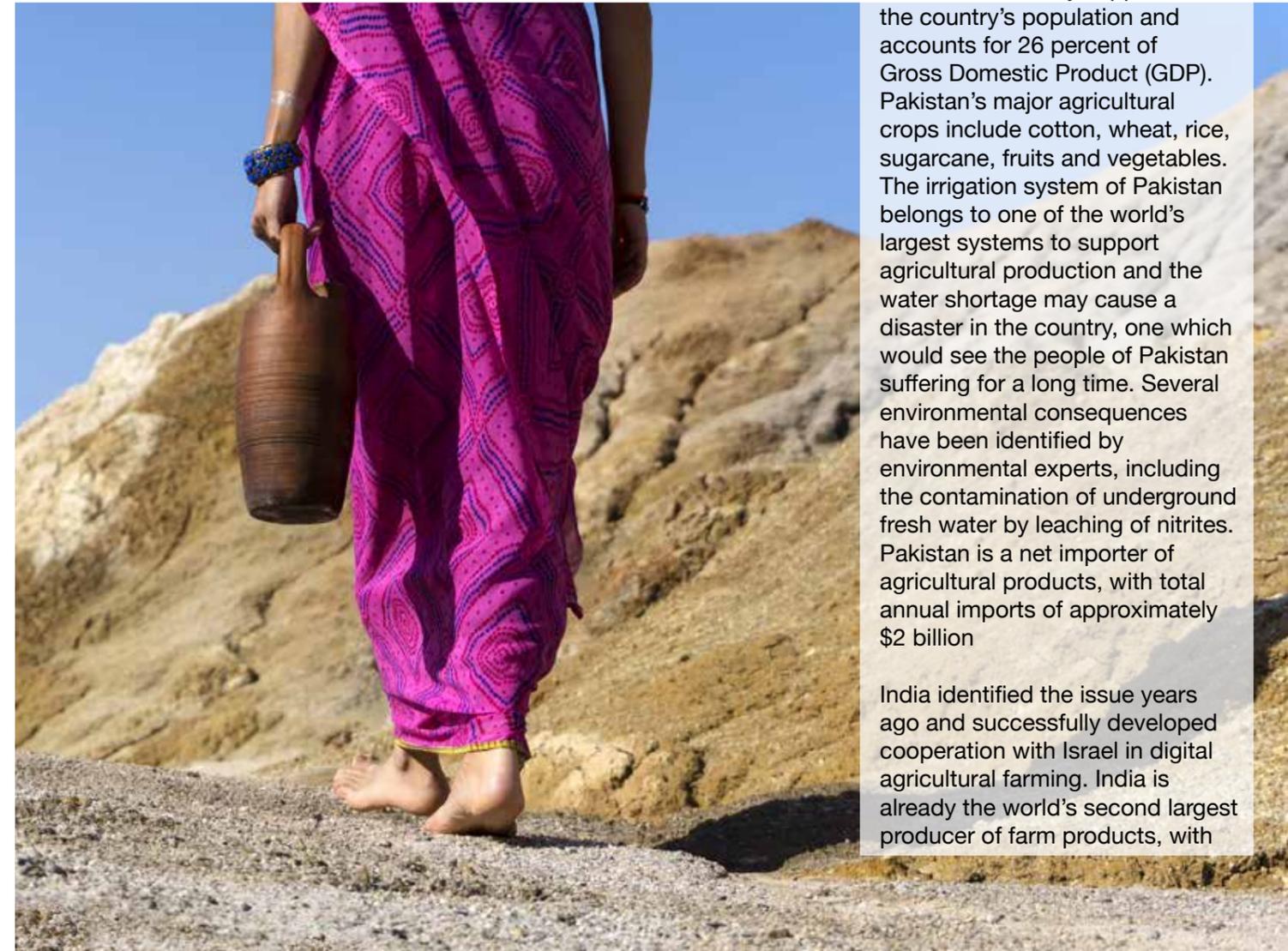
Israel is an innovation powerhouse. Western states benefit greatly from it, in fields such as agriculture and water shortage issues, a field in which Israel has made tremendous strides in water desalination, as well as developing a machine which produces drinkable water from the air! A drinking water shortage is one of the big problems facing humanity in the coming years; according to the World Health Organisation (WHO),

by 2025, half of the world's population will be living in water-stressed areas.

The Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources has also warned about the gravity of the situation, reporting that Pakistan first touched the water stress line in 1990, crossed the water scarcity line in 2005, and is at risk of a 30-million-acre-feet shortage in the years to come. Experts calculate that Pakistan will be the most water-stressed country in the region by 2040.

Pakistan has a great opportunity to benefit from Israeli innovation in many fields. Taking just agriculture as an example; agriculture is a hugely important sector of Pakistan's economy. This sector directly supports the country's population and accounts for 26 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Pakistan's major agricultural crops include cotton, wheat, rice, sugarcane, fruits and vegetables. The irrigation system of Pakistan belongs to one of the world's largest systems to support agricultural production and the water shortage may cause a disaster in the country, one which would see the people of Pakistan suffering for a long time. Several environmental consequences have been identified by environmental experts, including the contamination of underground fresh water by leaching of nitrites. Pakistan is a net importer of agricultural products, with total annual imports of approximately \$2 billion

India identified the issue years ago and successfully developed cooperation with Israel in digital agricultural farming. India is already the world's second largest producer of farm products, with





annual exports of agricultural products approaching £30 billion. In 2017, an online interactive simulation was conducted about Israeli involvement in Indian agriculture. Some forty experts were asked to identify areas of agriculture where there were favorable opportunities for India and Israel to collaborate in efforts to improve India's food security and agriculture sector."

From the survey, seven key areas were selected and highlighted for collaborative efforts:

- Hybrid seeds;
- Biopesticides;
- Comprehensive Irrigation, Fertigation and Chemigation Solutions;
- Farm Machinery;
- Advice and Knowledge Sharing;
- Resource Management and Precision Agriculture; and
- Post-Harvest and Integrated Value Chains

Pakistan has the potential to earn billions of dollars by developing its agricultural sector, through using hybrid seeds and modern

machinery/technology aimed at increasing per acre yield. There are so many fields in which Pakistan could benefit from Israeli innovation and technology but the reality is that by not having bilateral relations with Israel, Pakistan stands to negatively affect the quality of life of its citizens who have suffered, and continue to suffer, through an increasing water crisis as well as the effects of terrorism and political crises. Pakistan stands in stark contrast to countries such as Egypt and Jordan, countries who were directly involved in the wars of the Israel-Palestinian conflict, but who have relatively positive and peaceful relations with the Jewish state. In recent years, Turkey has intermittently shown a cold and threatening attitude towards Israel over the Palestinian issue, but did not cut off diplomatic ties, and especially not trade agreements because they know that trade is the only way to sustain the country economically. Pakistan and Israel have never been directly involved in hostilities or disputes with each other; it is only Pakistan's steadfast solidarity with Arab countries and its support of the Palestinians which keeps Pakistan from recognising Israel. Pakistan's history books and widespread stereotypes have played a major role in filling the hearts and minds of its people with hatred against Israel.

If those Arab countries that have been in active battles with Israel in the past can form diplomatic relations and peace treaties with Israel, why not Pakistan, a country which has no direct conflict with it? If Pakistan can have diplomatic relations, and all that goes with it, with India, a country with which it has fought many bloody wars, then why can Pakistan not agree to make similar with the Jewish state, a state which has never posed any threat against the sovereignty of Pakistan? Pakistan has had, and continues to have, secret military and intelligence relations with Israel, so why can Pakistan not open up trade and diplomatic relations with it? If Pakistan agreed to formalise relations with Israel, it could take an active role in mediating between Israel and the Palestinians to help resolve that ongoing conflict, and Israel could take a part as a mediator or broker to find a middle-way solution for the conflict with Kashmir.

I provide here the benefits that Noman Sajjad mentions in one of his articles in 2015, benefits that Pakistan could achieve by recognising Israel:

- To promote regional peace, foster inter-ethnic and interfaith harmony with understanding.
- The strategic location of Pakistan and geographical location of Israel can definitely complement one another well.
- To lessen the pressure of difficult neighbors - such an increase in the list of allies can do wonders.
- To better Pakistan's image as a friendly and moderate Islamic state.
- To boost the economy by building trade relations, importing foodstuffs, cotton, etc., since Israel offers a huge market, and benefiting with the Israeli export of military and agricultural technology.
- To put an end to hypocrisy, because after devastating wars with India and with the Kashmir issue still unsettled even after scores of years, India was not only accepted as a state but



voted a "most favoured nation." On the other side, Pakistan buys ammunition from Israel, allows Israeli products to dominate its market and yet is hesitant to recognise Israel as a free state. (Robert Fisk highlighted the arm deals between Pakistan and Israel in his book, 'The Great War for Civilisation'.
 • Pakistan-Israel ties could be an advantageous move as Israel has influential ties with the

- United States and India.
- Opening academic and cultural exchange opportunities for students.
- Allowing Muslim and Christian Pakistanis to visit their holy places in Israel.
- Jews, Muslims and Christians share some commonalities in their faith, which can definitely promote interfaith harmony.

Policies are not decoration pieces; they are meant to evolve with growing needs and for the protection of national interests and national security.

It is time for Pakistan's leaders to realise this and take bold steps for the good and future of its people.

ARTICLE BY NOOR DAHRI

Noor Dahri is the Executive Director of ITCT. He is a contributing writer at the US Homeland Security Magazine (HSToday) and a member of the British Association for Islamic Studies (BRAIS), UK. Follow Noor on Twitter, @dahriNoor2, and Facebook, @dahri.noor



COMBATTING CORONA AMIDST CONFLICT

Israel is all too often viewed negatively through the prism of the conflict with the Palestinians. But this year, along came a virus and the realisation that both the Israelis and the Palestinians needed to come together to coordinate their fight against the common enemy - COVID-19. And come together they did, managing for the best part to put aside their differences and grievances.

Early on in the pandemic, President Reuven Rivlin phoned PA President Mahmoud Abbas to discuss the pandemic, during which he told Abbas, *“The world is dealing with a crisis that does not distinguish between people or where they live,”* adding *“the cooperation between us is vital to ensure the health of both Israelis and Palestinians.”* Rivlin then added that *“our ability to work together in times of crisis is also testament to our ability to work together in the future for the good of us all.”*

Even the UN, an institution not known for its friendliness to the



Jewish state, praised Israel. The Palestine branch of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - most definitely not known for praising Israeli government activities - published an “emergency situation report,” noting “unprecedented cooperation on efforts aimed at containing the epidemic” between Israeli and Palestinian authorities whilst UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres mentioned the close cooperation between Jerusalem and Ramallah during a press conference in late March, saying *“To give an example, in fighting COVID-19, the Palestinian Authority and Israel have been able to work together, even if we know the extreme division that exists politically between the two”*.

The UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Nickolay Mladenov praised the “*excellent*

“Our ability to work together in times of crisis is also testament to our ability to work together in the future for the good of us all.”

coordination and cooperation that has been established with all Israeli and Palestinian interlocutors”, whilst his deputy, Jamie McGoldrick, who coordinates the UN’s humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians on the ground, took to Twitter, writing “I commend the Palestinian and Israeli authorities for their efforts to deal with COVID19 and for the exemplary levels of collaboration”, adding “Their close coordination and prompt actions will save lives.”



Israeli and Palestinian officials have long worked together on security and civil matters and used this cooperation to set up, early on, a special mechanism to communicate “moment by moment” on all issues related to the virus. Ibrahim Milhem, a Palestinian Authority (PA) government spokesman repeatedly mentioned working together with Israel in his daily press briefings, but perhaps not surprisingly, he and some other Palestinian top officials continued to sabre rattle against Israel.

One of Judaism’s fundamental values is the preservation of life and so during the very early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, doctors and medical teams in Israel began to reach out to their peer workers in the Palestinian health care sector and to colleagues in West Bank and eastern Jerusalem hospitals, offering to share their expertise and provide assistance. Recognising the need to work together for the good of their respective populations, the Palestinians accepted the offers.

One of many examples features Professor Elhanan Bar-On who works at the Sheba Medical Centre near Tel Aviv. He went to some Palestinian hospitals in the West Bank, taking equipment and medical training staff with him. He told Kan TV News, “None of us have time now to deal with peripheral issues, political or otherwise. We are all in the same boat, and we have to row together, to reach a safe harbour”.

It’s no secret that Israel has long provided medical care and other humanitarian aid to both neighbouring countries and those farther from its borders – often where no formal or diplomatic relations exist. At this time of writing, the people of Beirut, Lebanon are suffering the after-effects of the explosions in the Beirut port. Israel’s response? An immediate offer of whatever aid the Lebanese might need and the offer from some of Israel’s hospitals to take in victims of the explosions. Other examples include the amazing “Operation Good Neighbour” which has been featured in our Rosh Hashanah 2019

edition, as well as too many other examples to list here, but all perfect examples of Judaism’s – and by association – Zionism’s value of life.

Before the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were over 150,000 Palestinians working in Israel each day, most – if not all - of whom earn far more than they would in their home towns and villages. Once the virus started spreading, the number of daily workers permitted to enter Israel was drastically reduced, something that will no doubt be reviewed when the situation stabilises. For any Palestinian workers in Israel who become infected with COVID-19, a new law was passed in Israel ensuring that their medical insurance would be paid for by the Jewish state.



The pandemic has created major hardship on both sides, as both the Israelis and Palestinians continue to struggle with the effects of unemployment and loss of livelihoods etc. But one thing is for sure, whilst the prospect of peace is arguably farther away than ever, the Israelis and Palestinians have had to stop and ask themselves what really matters. Politics or people’s lives?

At the time of printing, 131,641 have been infected and 1,019 have died in Israel, while in Judea and



“None of us have time now to deal with peripheral issues, political or otherwise. We are all in the same boat, and we have to row together, to reach a safe harbour.”

and other medical equipment donated by the international community. In addition, joint training has been coordinated for medical teams from the Palestinian Authority’s territories and physicians from Israel for the sake of better learning about the new virus and about the ways of coping with it as well as providing treatment as necessary.

In addition, COGAT has been working during recent months to coordinate the return home, through Ben Gurion Airport, of hundreds of Palestinians who were stranded abroad, as well as the return of thousands more through the Allenby Bridge Crossing.



Samaria / the West Bank and Gaza, 26,127 have been infected and 181 have died. When we consider the facts on the ground in the Palestinian-controlled territories – the high density of the population and the lack of investment in quality health care by the Palestinian leadership – one might wonder how this can be. And the answer lies in the paragraphs above; it is exactly the placing aside of disagreements and the close cooperation between both sides that has prevented a potentially catastrophic higher number of cases and fatalities in the Palestinian-

controlled territories and Israel. Thankfully for both sides, an early agreement was reached to promote health and cooperate with each other. With both sides destined to live alongside each other, we can only hope that this pandemic-related cooperation will extend to other arenas, such as making peace.

COGAT & CORONA



The Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) is a unit in the Israeli Ministry of Defence and has played a key role in the ongoing collaboration with the Palestinians during the COVID-19 pandemic.

COGAT kindly sent us the following account of their ongoing work of facilitating the pandemic-related collaboration with the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza:

With the coronavirus ignoring geographical borders as it spreads

in Israel, in Judea and Samaria, and in the Gaza Strip, COGAT has been leading a number of collaborative efforts with the Palestinian Authority and the international community, doing what it can to block the further spread of the virus because both sides share an interest in keeping the region’s residents healthy.

As part of those efforts, COGAT and the Gaza Coordinations and Liaison Administration (CLA) have passed along tens of thousands of coronavirus testing kits, disinfectants, protective equipment,



Note that during this period, Palestinian patients have continued to enter every day for life-saving medical treatment.

Moreover, thousands of Palestinian workers residing in Judea and Samaria have been permitted to enter Israel and stay over in order to keep their jobs in Israel and continue supporting their families properly, with due attention to the health regulations.

We emphasize that COGAT officials are assessing the situation daily in light of the changing pace of infection and the incidence of illness among the population, in order to adapt the nature of the effort to the changes occurring in the field.

ARTICLE BY STEVE WINSTON



HODDER EDUCATION:

A case in confronting anti-Israel bias in British textbooks

How balanced can a textbook be when one of its reflective exercises, presented as a reflective question, asks students to reflect on “How could it be argued that the creation of Israel was a long-term cause of the 9/11 attacks?”.

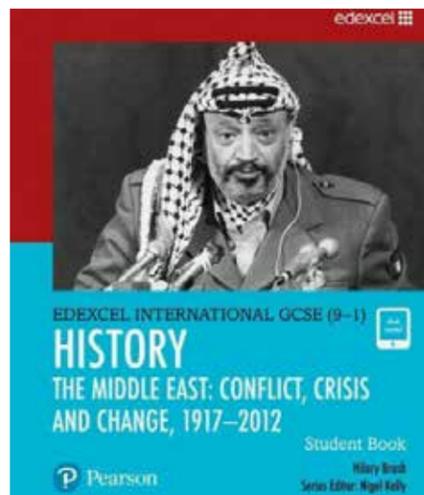
Earlier this year, such a textbook came to our attention via social media. The British textbook entitled ‘Understanding History: Key Stage 3: Britain in the wider world, Roman times – Present’ was published by Hodder Education/Hachette UK. Not only did the page in question contain that highly objectionable “question” but so too did it contain a paragraph whose opening statement regarding the 1948 War of Independence claimed Israel “took even more land”.

“we were both grateful and impressed that Hodder reacted swiftly and responsibly, notifying us that they were removing the book from sale and that they would review the content.”

The ZF immediately contacted Hodder Education on Twitter to notify them that we had sent a letter to them highlighting the problematic content in their textbook. The ZF’s letter is shown here, and we were both grateful



and impressed that Hodder reacted swiftly and responsibly, notifying us that they were removing the book from sale and that they would review the content. A further sign of goodwill came when Hodder requested the ZF’s input into the review, a task undertaken with the additional input of the Board of Deputies (BoD). Hodder subsequently issued both the ZF and the BoD with the revised content which both organisations reviewed and signed off.



This issue came just months after the ZF initiated and coordinated joint action, with UK Lawyers for Israel and blogger David Collier, to address a wholly unacceptable level of overt anti-Israel bias found throughout a GCSE textbook, published by Pearson Education through its Edexcel series. At the time, Pearson Education removed the book from circulation, as well as another one on the same subject, undertook a review and engaged with community organisations to review the revised edition.

All too often we hear and read about the level of incitement found in Palestinian school textbooks but, it is clear from the above, that the issue is sadly one that can be found closer to home. If any of you encounter any such textbook content in the future, please do not hesitate to contact the ZF immediately.

Call: 020 8202 0202
Email: office@zionist.org.uk

ARTICLE BY STEVE WINSTON



20th February 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you regarding the following book: Understanding History: Key Stage 3: Britain in the wider world, Roman times – Present by Michael Riley, Alex Ford, Kath Goudie, Richard Kennett, Helen Snelson, published by Hodder Education/Hachette UK - ISBN 1510454683, 9781510454682.

This book was brought to our attention recently through Facebook, where it was highlighted how one question in the book suggests that the creation of Israel is responsible for the terror attacks of 9/11.

Furthermore, a quick glance at the preceding paragraph states how Israel won what is commonly referred to as its War of Independence and “took even more land”. Whilst it is of course correct that Israel won the war launched against it by the neighbouring Arab states, it is absolutely incorrect that Israel “took even more land”. Israel only acquired the territories of the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights in 1967 when once again, neighbouring Arab states tried to destroy Israel. At best, this can be excused as shoddily researched by the authors and at worst, intentionally propagating a politically driven bias.

We therefore have a number of concerns which I list as follows:

- 1) With reference to the first paragraph of this letter, the question of Israel’s creation somehow being linked to the terrorist atrocities of 9/11 is entirely baseless, inappropriate and unacceptable, even more so when found in a textbook used for the education of children. Giving the book’s authors the benefit of the doubt, we would like to bring to your attention that anti-Israel activists, who rally for the destruction of Israel through the demonisation of Israel and Jews, regularly peddle the conspiracy theory that Israel was behind the 9/11 terror attacks which in turn has encouraged, and continues to encourage Antisemitism.
- 2) With reference to both the first and second paragraphs of this letter, we are very concerned that the content is liable to result in a lack of balance and the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of this book’s content.

As well as being extremely damaging, given the sensitivity of the subject and the risk of encouraging Antisemitism, we feel this breaches sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996.

We therefore ask Hodder Education to withdraw this book from sale, and have it reviewed and revised by a person whose impartiality is widely recognised on all sides. A warning that the book has been withdrawn should also be issued to any schools that have purchased it.

We look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully

Paul Charney
 Chairman
 Zionist Federation of the UK and Ireland

ZF

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ZF EVENTS

ACROSS 2019-2020

SOME OF THE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES THE ZF HAVE ORGANISED RECENTLY

BALFOUR LECTURE



ISRAEL TRIP



LOBBY DAY

BEN-DROR YEMINI



UN PARTITION PLAN



YH HOME ATZMAUT



BRINGING ISRAEL CLOSER TO HOME WEBINARS

SAVE THE DATES

FOR OUR FUTURE EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE
ZF ANNUAL BALFOUR LECTURE
 Commemorating 103 years of the signing of the Balfour Declaration
TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2020

SAVE THE DATE
Yom Ha'atzmaut 73
THURSDAY 15 APRIL 2021

The ZF annually holds the largest Yom Ha'atzmaut event in the UK and we hope to do so once again in 2021.
 Look out for exciting announcements nearer the time

Bringing Israel closer to home: a series of webinars

What a year 2020 has been so far.

COVID-19 hit and locked down the world. But in our effort to continue to bring Israel to our supporters, the ZF, in partnership with the World Zionist Organisation UK, launched the 'Bringing Israel Closer to Home' series of webinars.

From cuisine to Corona, television to tourism and of course politics too, our aim was to bring Israel closer to home during these challenging and restrictive times, and from the numbers registered – over 200 for each of our events to date, it certainly seems that we are succeeding.

Below is a short summary of just some of the webinars we have held since 1st April, as well as a full list at the end, so take a look and if you would like to request the recording of one or more of these webinars, please email the ZF at office@zionist.org.uk, specifying which one(s) you would like to view, and we will send you the link(s).

FROM ESAU'S LENTIL SOUP TO SHAKSHOUKA

Presenting this webinar was leading Israeli culinary journalist and television personality, Gil Hovav who is also the great-grandson of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, the man who revived Hebrew as the national language of Israel. During this webinar, Gil spoke

about how Israeli cuisine is one of the hottest in the world right now and the darling of Instagram. He spoke about its amazing street food, fresh produce and of course... Israeli chutzpah. From Israel's modest beginnings with biblical-style modest foods, to the here and now of new colourful creations such as designer shakshouka, green tahini and next generation hamburgers, Gil passionately shared the wonder that is Israeli cuisine

FIGHTING CORONA WHILE DEFENDING ISRAEL

This webinar was presented by Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, the head of the international media branch of the Israel Defence Force's (IDF) Spokesperson's Unit. In this webinar, Lt. Col. Conricus spoke at length about how the IDF was defending Israel on two fronts and the moves it had taken to ensure that Israel's defence capabilities would not be compromised by the virus, as well as speaking about the positive collaboration between the IDF and the Palestinians.

LGBTQ AND THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY IN ISRAEL

During Pride Month, we were delighted that Hen Mazzig, an openly gay Israeli speaker and writer who has inspired thousands with his story, joined us online to speak about LGBTQ life in Israel. It was of course no secret

that Israel's LGBTQ community has a level of freedom and rights that are the envy of the Middle East, but much like in many other countries, LGBTQ rights in Israel are still a work in progress, with much ground yet to cover.



ISRAELI TELEVISION - A GLOBAL SUCCESS STORY

This exciting webinar was presented by Maya Biton, Content Distribution Manager at Yes Studios, the international distribution arm of Yes TV - one of Israel's leading broadcasters. With many internationally acclaimed TV shows under its belt, such as Fauda, Shtisel and The Good Cop to name a few, Maya spoke about the uniqueness of the Israeli voice in the industry, how Israel became a hub for original sought-after content and why the eyes of the global television industry are on it.

A VIRTUAL TOUR OF BEN-GURION'S DESERT HOME

Presented by the Ben Gurion Heritage Institute's Esther Suissa – a native Londoner and ex JFS-er - this webinar gave the



audience an exclusive opportunity for an insightful virtual tour of "The Hut" - David Ben-Gurion's home on Kibbutz Sde Boker, where he spent the last 20 years of his life with his wife Paula, a move many attribute to his wish to settle and develop the Negev. Esther took us "hopping" across the museum ropes into hidden places not seen on a "regular" visit as well as an exploration of Ben-Gurion's vision for this beautifully rugged part of Israel.

ZIONISM AND BRITISH MODERNIST ARCHITECTURE.

Presented by British-Israeli architectural designer and researcher Ittai Frank, this was an exclusive opportunity to hear all about the Jewish architects who came to Britain to flee persecution in the early 1930s. These Jews, influenced by early Zionist ideology, made pre-war Britain their home and brought with them the innovative language of modernism as well as radical social ideas that found expression in their designs, a design ideology which was meanwhile being realised on a massive scale in the emerging Zionist state.



FROM THE GULF TO THE MEDITERRANEAN: TURKEY'S AMBITIONS

It's certainly no secret that Turkey, under the leadership of President Recep Erdoğan, seeks to extend its influence in the Mediterranean and the Middle East, even announcing that, after turning the Hagia Sophia museum back into a mosque, Turkey would next "liberate Al Aqsa." We were honoured to be joined by Professor Efraim Inbar, President of the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security and Professor Emeritus of Political Studies at Bar-Ilan University, who spoke at length about the threat of an expansionist Turkey.



The following is a full list, in chronological order, of webinars held since April 2020, correct at the time of printing:

- Treating the Coronavirus with Professor Ran Nir-Paz
- From Esau's lentil soup to Shakshouka with Gil Hovav
- Fighting Corona while defending Israel with Lt. Col. Conricus
- Responding to a Pandemic: saving Lives in the face of Covid-19 with Dov Maisel

- Recruiting the 'Green Prince' with Gonen Ben-Yitzhak
- Finally, A new government with Ashley Perry
- Heroes who brought Israel home with Uzi Eilam
- Jewish refugees from Arab Lands: The Jewish 'Nakba' with Ben Dror Yemini
- What it's like to be Christian in the Holy Land with Capt. (Res.) Shadi Khalloul
- A virtual tour of ancient Yafo/Jaffa and modern Tel Aviv with Joel Meyer
- LGBTQ and the struggle for equality in Israel with Hen Mazzig
- Circus Jews under National Socialism with Stav Meishar
- Israeli television - a global success story with Maya Biton
- A virtual tour of Ben-Gurion's desert home
- Zionism and British modernist architecture with Ittai Frank
- Extending sovereignty: The myths and the facts with Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser
- On the wings of an eagle: the story of the Jews of Ethiopia with Joel Meyer and Eginu Mashete-Meyer
- An Israeli General's views on "annexation" with Amos Gilead
- From the Gulf to the Mediterranean: Turkey's ambitions with Prof. Efraim Inbar

With sincere thanks to the WZO UK for their collaboration and to all of those who joined us.

ARTICLE BY STEVE WINSTON

Lobbying against incitement in PALESTINIAN TEXTBOOKS

In April 2019, the Institute for Monitoring of Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-se) issued a comprehensive report of their assessment of textbooks from the Palestinian school curriculum being taught in Judea and Samaria / the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem and UNRWA schools for the 2019-20 academic year.

IMPACT-se is a pioneer in the field of textbook analysis. It is a research, policy and advocacy organisation that monitors and analyses education, employing international standards on peace and tolerance as derived from UNESCO declarations and resolutions in order to assess compliance and to advocate for change when necessary.

Despite expectations that the new curriculum would be more moderate compared with previous curricula taught between 2000 and 2016, the main findings of IMPACT-se's analysis showed the new Palestinian curriculum to be more radical than those previously published, with a marked deterioration in content meeting UNESCO standards.

Accordingly, in March of this year, just weeks before the country was locked down due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Zionist Federation of the UK and Ireland (ZF) together with Christian Friends of Israel (CFI) once again held their annual Lobby Day for Israel in Parliament. The theme of this year's Lobby Day was the very issue mentioned in the above paragraph, and the use of British Foreign Aid which supports it.



With around 150 activists present, the Lobby Day began with an afternoon activist briefing session in Westminster, where activists were briefed by Dame Louise Ellman, former Labour MP and the person behind much of the parliamentary push on this subject, as well as Marcus Sheff, the CEO of the Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in school education (IMPACT-se), the organisation behind the review and exposure of this Palestinian school textbooks issue.

“...how important the ZF and CFI Lobby Day was to continue the effort to hold the UK government to account on this issue.”

Dame Louise Ellman spoke about her years of effort in Parliament to address this issue which, noting that the UK is a major financial contributor to the PA, culminated in her presentation of a Bill, in January 2019, of legislation that mandates that UK assistance to the Palestinian Authority education system complies with international values of peace and tolerance.

Marcus Sheff of IMPACT-se spoke about the level of incitement and glorification of terror which IMPACT-se's reviews had found, and how previous content relating to peace negotiations and recognition of Israel have all been removed from the last few years' cycle of textbooks. He also spoke about his organisation's international efforts to address the issue, how IMPACT-se had worked closely with British parliamentarians such as former MP Dame Louise Ellman and how important the ZF and CFI Lobby Day was to continue the effort to hold the UK government to account on this issue.

At the end of the afternoon briefing session, each activist was handed two printed copies of the ZF's booklet, "Teaching to Hate: The Palestinian Authority School Curriculum – one to keep for themselves and one to hand to their MP. The following week, the ZF sent a digital copy of the booklet to each of the House's 650 MPs.



In the early evening, the MP briefing session was held in Portcullis House. Those activists who were able to meet with their MPs did so, whilst the Boothroyd room was full of activists who came to listen to a variety of MPs speak about their support on this issue and of their general support for Israel, which all of them acknowledged is the Middle East's only true democracy. The MPs who spoke were John Howell – Conservative MP for Henley, Theresa Villiers – Conservative MP for Chipping Barnet, Matthew Offord – Conservative MP for Hendon, Bob Blackman – Conservative MP for Harrow East, John Spellar – Labour MP for Warley, Mary Robinson – Conservative MP for Cheadle, Sammy Wilson – DUP MP for East Antrim, Steve McCabe – Labour MP for Birmingham and Selly Oak and new Chair of Labour Friends of Israel (LFI), Ian Paisley – DUP MP for North Antrim and last but not least, Jonathan Gullis – Conservative MP for Stoke on Trent North who led a Westminster Hall debate on this very issue in parliament the following week, Tuesday 10th March. Peers who spoke were Baroness Altmann and Lord Monroe Palmer.



Following the issue of IMPACT-se's review of the textbooks in April 2019, then Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, announced that the EU would be funding a comprehensive review of the Palestinian Authority curriculum.

The Georg Eckert Institute (GEI) was appointed to carry out the review with a scheduled start date for spring 2019, with results to be made available by September 2019. An Inception Report outlining the methodology of the study was issued on 12th April 2019 but was, however, only made public on 18th June 2020 following an FOI request!

Concerns about the reliability of the study were raised after IMPACT-se reviewed the Inception Report and exposed a number of critical comprehension and methodological issues. IMPACT-se's review found that the prevalence of factual inaccuracies in the GEI Inception Report put the scholarship of the Interim Report into doubt for reasons including, but not limited to, the following:

- The report contained Arabic translation mistakes.
- The translation mistakes suggest a lack of familiarity with Palestinian Arabic usage and culture.
- Reference was made to research that does not exist.
- There were glaring omissions in the GEI word bank for an institute studying a modern Palestinian curriculum, such as "weapon", "soldier", "sacrifice", "Nakba", "martyr" and "Hamass".

As if this wasn't frustrating enough, news broke in August of this year that an online presentation was discovered of a classified EU report



"praising" Palestinian textbooks for their "careful consideration" of the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, it was revealed earlier this week that the GEI researchers had erroneously attributed the source to being part of the Palestinian Authority curriculum, when in actual fact, as confirmed in a report released by IMPACT-se, the source was actually from Israel's Jerusalem Municipality Arabic textbooks and edited by Israeli educators!!

As a result of this fiasco, Labour Friends of Israel vice-chair John Spellar MP wrote to MP James Cleverly, minister for the Middle East and North Africa, asking him to clarify the situation whilst Conservative Friends of Israel parliamentarians Stephen Crabb MP, Lord Pickles and Lord Polak jointly wrote to Foreign Minister Dominic Raab, asking him to confirm that it is not the intention of the British

government to use taxpayers' money for inciting violence in Palestinian schools. The EU meanwhile has sought to distance itself from the presentation, and told a Jerusalem Post journalist that the work referred to "a separate UK-funded study on the matter."



Surprised? Astonished? We certainly were!

IMPACT-se describes the EU-commissioned GEI report as "a comedy of errors from start to finish," adding that "It is hard to fathom how it went so wrong" given that the review was "not a particularly complex project."

And we quite agree!

If you would like to see IMPACT-se's reports on their review of the GEI Inception Report and leaked online EU presentation, please contact the ZF office by phone, 020 8202 0202 or email, office@zionist.org.uk

ARTICLE BY STEVE WINSTON

ZF ISRAEL TRIP 2019

My friend Nicki and I have had many conversations about 'most things Jewish', which of course included many aspects about Israel. I've been fortunate to have visited Israel on many occasions, whether it be 'missions' with different organisations or numerous holidays of varying duration. Nicki is well travelled but she had never been to Israel, so when the Zionist Federation announced their 2019 mission, we did not hesitate to register for the trip. The November departure date was fast approaching. Dalia Hajioff, the trip coordinator, was keeping us updated about the varied itinerary as it was being finalised, making for what turned out to be an excellent trip. Nicki & I arrived in Tel Aviv a few days ahead of the ZF mission's start date so that Nicki could get her first glimpse of Israel's bustling cosmopolitan vibe. We took a walk around Jaffa, Neve Tzedek & we joined a food tasting tour of Ha'Tikva market.



Our group gathered for a welcome dinner at the well-known Maganda restaurant in Neve Tzedek. Once the wine was flowing, it was clear that the varied participants were going to be enjoyable and interesting company.

Our first day started with a hearty breakfast at the Dan Panorama before heading to Jerusalem where we met with Deputy Mayor Fleur Hassan-Nahoum, who was most interesting and highly competent. She outlined many of the issues faced by the municipality in dealing with both the ultra-religious Jews and the Arabs in East Jerusalem. Our Palestinian tour guide then took us to a bookshop / café in East Jerusalem where we had a talk with the bookshop owners on the rights of the Arabs living in East Jerusalem. A heated debate continued about 'whose right to the land' with our tour guide

during our onward coach journey to Ramallah. It was interesting to see first-hand this bustling city with its official buildings of the Palestinian Authority, as well as some very impressive villas owned by PA officials. We continued to the newly built Palestinian town of Rawabi. Our tour guide and members of the Rawabi Town Council were clearly very proud of their newly constructed town, but even though there were many modern shops amidst plentiful new apartments, the place felt like a ghost town.



“It was interesting to see first-hand this bustling city with its official buildings of the Palestinian Authority as well as some very impressive villas owned by PA officials.”

The second day was a trip south to the Gaza border where we were given an overview of COGAT (Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories) at the Erez Crossing. With Hamas ruling Gaza, the Israelis have to deal with the Palestinian Authority, who in turn communicate with Hamas. There is no direct communication between the Israelis and Hamas. We then headed on to Kibbutz Alumim, which is very close to the Gaza border and therefore always under threat of rocket and other terror attacks. Only a few days earlier, a rocket fired from Gaza had landed inside the kibbutz, missing one of the homes by just a few feet. This is a religious kibbutz, and the Iron Dome could be seen from the synagogue window.



We then had a tour of Sderot where, due to its close proximity to Gaza and constant threat of rocket attacks, people have just 15 seconds to run to the safety of a bomb shelter in the event of incoming rockets. As a result, it is estimated that a whopping 80% of Sderot's children suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). We visited a trauma centre there and also saw how animals are used therapeutically to treat those children presenting with PTSD.

On our third day, we were taken to the West Bank where the trip started with an amazing view at Ramat Hakovesh. It was such a clear day that we could see all the way from Haifa to just south of Tel Aviv. We visited a plastics factory where we engaged with both Jewish and Palestinian workers from the West Bank, and saw products being made for the Addis brand. Lunch at a winery was delicious and our best lunch of the trip. En-route to HaYovel, an evangelical centre where volunteers from all over the world help pick grapes in the vineyards, we stopped for a quick view over the large Palestinian city of Nablus (biblical Shechem), where we could also see Joseph's tomb, but were not allowed to get close to it.



On our last morning of the trip, we heard from Mark Power, Deputy UK Ambassador to Israel, as well as a presentation from Major Keren Hajioff on the IDF's use of social media. At this point, I'm sure that our tour leader Dalia was a very proud mum.

All in all, our few days of this Israel trip had been full and varied, encompassing numerous aspects of Israel's rich and diverse culture, all of which were enriched by Jonathan Taylor's vast insight and knowledge which he shared with us at the



end of each day and in between destinations during the coach journeys.

Our mission appeared to be seamless, although I'm sure organising a group tour - especially in Israel - is not without its stresses. My thanks, and I'm sure on behalf of all the participants, to Dalia Hajioff for facilitating a most interesting, varied and enjoyable trip.

Many of the group continued with further travel in Israel. As it was Nicki's first time in Israel, we opted for a quick whistle-stop tour. We rented a car and headed to Caesarea where we stayed overnight and toured the old Roman ruins. We travelled on further to Acre and stayed in the old city, and for those fellow foodies, we enjoyed a superb



meal at Uri Buri. Next we headed to Merom Golan where we had a jeep tour up to the border with Syria. We headed down route 90, past Lake Tiberias (the Kinneret) with a stop at Capernaum, and our last port of call was a few nights in Jerusalem, during which our private tour of Yad Vashem was memorable, but painful.

Nicki is well aware of how modern-day Israel has become such a remarkable nation

in its 72-year history, in a neighbourhood of constant hostility. Seeing it for the first time, she realised its tiny size and experienced first-hand its amazing vibrant people. I had the pleasure of seeing her visit Israel for the first time and for me, "Israel the beautiful", you are always in my heart.

ARTICLE BY JEREMY BROWN

Tourism and the Pandemic: ONE GUIDE'S STORY

Joel Meyer has long been the ZF's go to tour guide for its ZF Israel activist trips. A former Brit, husband to Eginu Mashete Meyer – a former shlichah (emissary) for Israel in the UK and proud member of Ethiopia's ancient Beta Israel community – and father to 3 young daughters, Joel made Aliyah and, with his background in youth

education, decided to study to become an official tour guide in his new homeland. Today, Joel has become one of the country's leading guides and has used his knowledge and innovative approach to combat the effect that the current Covid-19 pandemic has had on overseas tourism.

So, having worked closely with Joel in the past, and his giving ZF supporters the opportunity of a virtual tour of Tel Aviv and Yafo/Jaffa in June, we approached him with some questions.

The following are those and his awesome answers.

Tell us a bit about your background

I was born in London but grew up in Reading which is about an hour's drive away from the capital. Though Reading is close to London, Jewish life there and the Jewish community was different but very close knit, warm and familial. Although not coming from a religious family, I always had a great appreciation of being Jewish and was very involved in the community youth movement with Hanoar Hatzioni.

I think that having two worlds that largely didn't connect with one another – the world of my Jewish family and friends, and the world of my non-Jewish life with school friends from a wide array of cultural backgrounds and religions (Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh etc.) - gave me a great respect for, and desire to learn about, other cultures but also, a strong connection to my Jewish identity and not taking it for granted.

When did you make Aliyah and why did you choose to?

I made Aliyah in August 2004. Technically, I was considered a citizen before my Aliyah as my grandparents on my father's side, originally from Germany and Belgium, had arrived to Israel shortly after its establishment and my father was born in Israel.

Despite this, I never spoke Hebrew growing up but that 'Israeliness' always formed a part of my identity. Also, growing up in the Hanoar Hatzioni youth movement, spending a gap year in Israel and eventually leading trips to Israel and becoming the Head of Education for the movement in the UK, was always a



massive part of my life and I think that, with hindsight, my parents knew I would end up in Israel even before I did!

How long have you been a tour guide and what made you become one?

I became a licensed guide at the beginning of 2009. Prior to that, I was working as an informal educator and so, bearing in mind my childhood involvement with the youth movement in the UK, for me, becoming a guide was a rather natural progression even though it took me a while to arrive to that conclusion. It was those around me that encouraged me to take it further! The course to gain the license was two years long – almost like doing a degree. It was a hugely educational and positive experience and, undertaking the course in Hebrew and studying alongside other Israelis from all walks of life, was as rewarding as gaining the qualification itself. I also previously served as a shaliach (emissary) for the Jewish Agency to Israel in the UK, so for me, it's a way of life and a part of who I am.

How has the pandemic affected your job and what have you been doing during this time without tourism?

The total cessation of international tourism as a result of the global pandemic has hit me very hard. My booked-up schedule completely evaporated, and I have had no guiding work since the end of February 2020 and, with Israel struggling to deal effectively with the pandemic and the situation as it is globally, it's of course not clear as to when that will change. For the first two months without work I was really concerned - living off savings set aside for such an eventuality (as guides in Israel we need to expect the unexpected - though the current pandemic has hit tourism harder than any war or intifada!). As I was watching others online in the media talk about all the spare time they had and the new skills and hobbies they were developing, I was busy trying to get my head around how to move forward and trying my best to home-school my three young daughters! However, after a couple of months I decided to step out of my comfort

“The response has been totally overwhelming - far beyond my expectations, and I am so very thankful to all those that are joining me on this new adventure!”

zone - the physical environment of Israel - and onto the computer, developing virtual tours across Israel on a wide range of themes, as well as creating educational sessions and hosting others for cultural experience.

As I began doing this, I realised that there must be many people who were missing the opportunity to travel, explore and learn. So I made it my goal and went out of my way to create virtual tours that are as close to really being here in Israel as possible! The response has been totally overwhelming - far beyond my expectations, and I am so very thankful to all those that are joining me on this new adventure!

We’ve seen you first-hand doing tours. You’re very animated and resourceful. What inspires you?

I try to guide as I would like to be guided myself - dates, facts

and figures are important but no less important are context and understanding.

In person, my aim is less to guide the site and more to guide the person - to see where the ideas, questions and dilemmas that arise from a place affect or connect with the traveller and the world around them.

So, I try and take these ideas into my virtual tours - focussing less on trying to provide all the answers and more on asking the right questions, so that each of us can form our own opinions.

Aside from that, and especially in these challenging times, I view what I’m doing online as a real opportunity to provide escapism for people - to have them ‘touring’ with me around the world, and the many appreciative responses I have had are an inspiration for me to give my all every time, and continue to help and challenge people.

What’s been your most memorable tour and why?

I have had so many memorable experiences on different tours in Israel. Normally the memories are connected to shared experiences that I have had with a group or with individuals that I have guided. Arranging a surprise wedding



proposal by the Kotel (Western Wall) was very memorable and guiding the New England Patriots American Football Team for a week along with the team’s owner Robert Kraft (who was a very enthusiastic tourist with lots of questions!) will live long in the memory, as will touring with a special ZF Muslim delegation, seeing the positive welcome they received in Israel. But every tour brings different experiences and I am very privileged to travel with, teach, and learn from so many incredible people.

Do you ever get people arguing with you about facts when you do historical tours?

Of course! Especially in the age of Google where it’s so easy for people to fact check you during the tours! It doesn’t bother me though. Firstly, it emphasizes the importance of continued learning and seeking to get things right, and secondly, I genuinely appreciate learning new things, concepts and ideas from those I tour with. Nobody knows everything and part of being a good educator is having the integrity to admit when you don’t know something and being open to learning from everyone that you meet.

What do you find challenging about your virtual tours?

Before beginning the tours, I was worried about how my personality would translate through the screen and how much it would truly be possible to make the tours really feel like tours and not just another Zoom lecture. But through hard work and trial and error, I feel that this is being overcome better than I could ever have imagined. The other



challenge is that those attending the virtual tours are all very different people - some like humorous, some like serious, some like an overload of information and some like a more experiential tour - so finding a way to satisfy everyone at the same time is a huge challenge, more so than on a physical tour.

Do you think this will have an effect on tourism in general?

When I began the virtual tours, I saw it as a way to provide an opportunity for those who wanted to come to Israel but couldn’t. But I quickly realised that virtual tourism has incredible potential to be so much more. The virtual model allows people to “travel” without the costs of travel, as well as enabling those who are physically unable to travel due to health or disability reasons, to be a part of a group experience of our wonderful country rather than missing out altogether.

Do you work with any Palestinian tour guides?

As a guide I enjoy very much working with Palestinian guides. It is often a necessity because there are many places that, as an Israeli, I am not able to visit. However, I am always looking to learn more myself and have joined Palestinian guides in Ramallah, Jericho and Bethlehem over the past year. I also work in a joint project with Palestinian, Egyptian, Jordanian and Israeli guides, creating a single programme across the wider region.

What are your favourite and least favourite aspects of your job?

The hardest part of my job is being away from home! I have an incredible

wife and three young daughters, and living relatively far from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv, I often spend considerable time away from home when touring with groups, which is hard for my family and tough for me! However, I feel very privileged to have a job that challenges me daily, encourages me to push myself and experience new things, brings me into contact with fascinating travellers from around the world, and enables me to bring joy to so many people. I hope that this will continue to be the case even virtually, and that sooner rather than later, we’ll all be able to tour together in person in Israel again soon!

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INTERVIEWED BY DALIA HAJIOFF AND STEVE WINSTON

From shepherd's tent to ambassador's residence

ZF Events Manager, Dalia Hajioff, caught up with Ishmael Khaldi, the 49-year old Bedouin diplomat who, in July 2020, was appointed as Israel's ambassador to Eritrea.

The following is in Ishmael's own words.

I was born in a little Bedouin village called Khawalid - of the Khawalid tribe - located on the hills northeast of Haifa on the eastern foothills of the Zevulun Valley. Originally a nomadic shepherd people, Bedouin came to the Galilee in the 19th century during the reign of the Ottoman Empire. Today, there are 20 Bedouin villages in the Galilee and several Bedouin neighbourhoods on the outskirts of some of the large Arab towns, comprising 28 different tribes with a total population of 65,000.

Like most of the Galilean tribes, the story of the Khawalid as an Israeli community goes back to the 1930's and 40's. Those were the years when the first Jewish pioneers - mainly from Eastern Europe - arrived in the region. Heads of the Bedouin tribes there made initial connections and built close relationship with the leaders of Zionist Jewish organisations. The relationship between both sides - who had nothing in common and could have just as easily been enemies - became stronger as more Jewish refugees fleeing the horrors of the Nazi



regime found shelter in what later became their national homeland, the Jewish State of Israel.

As a result, Bedouin started to settle down near the newly created Jewish agricultural settlements (Kibbutzim), working with them and other Bedouin, even serving in the pre-state Jewish military organisations (the Haganah and the Palmach), joining hands to protect Jewish communities at the time. That was my grandparents' generation and those were the years which defined our future status as the Bedouin community in the Jewish state.

But for a nomadic community, settling down wasn't a natural choice. It has taken us decades to transform into settled, organised

communities. In fact, this process is still ongoing.

Up until I was 8-years old, my family lived in a tent. Living in a tent, we obviously didn't have access to basic infrastructure or utilities like running water or electricity. Our livelihood came from raising livestock; sheep and goats. Us children had to walk 3 km each way every day to our school which was in an Arab village. We did our homework by the light of oil lanterns. After



school and on weekends I, together with my brothers, used to care for our flocks. We lived a simple life, poor but happy.

This however didn't prevent me from aspiring for more, and after finishing high school in Haifa, I continued with my education and gained a bachelor's and master's degree in Political Science. After this, I had an adventurous stint in New York City which today I look back on with amusement - me as the Bedouin version of Australia's Crocodile Dundee.

“More than anything, my recent appointment feels like a gate opener for the younger generation of Bedouin, an example and opportunity for them to join and integrate into Israel's modern thriving society..”

Fifteen years ago, I decided to join the Israeli Foreign service. I've come a long way since then, since making that decision after two of my Bedouin friends were killed during their border police service.

As part of my service, I served four years in the UK, from 2012 to 2015, as Counsellor for Civil Society Affairs at the Israeli Embassy in London. It had its challenges. Being a diplomat is not an easy thing, especially as an Israeli diplomat who is a Bedouin and a Muslim, but overall it was a very positive experience for me and a very educational time too, and I know that this will serve me well in Eritrea. More than anything, my recent appointment



feels like a gate opener for the younger generation of Bedouin, an example and opportunity for them to join and integrate into Israel's modern thriving society. My generation of Bedouin are smart. They are educated and organised and have a moral duty to lead, by example, to better integration while preserving the best of our Bedouin norms, culture and heritage.

Looking forward, I see Eritrea as a great country with much potential for its future. As Ambassador, my duty will be to represent my country Israel and to do everything needed to strengthen the ties between both countries.”



Bedouin and conscription:

Bedouin are not legally obliged to serve in the IDF. However, since 1948, more than 110 Bedouin soldiers have been killed defending Israel. During Operation Protective Edge in 2014 alone, more than a dozen Bedouin were killed. An estimated 1,500 Bedouin are currently serving in the IDF, which has stepped up attempts to recruit Bedouin soldiers, including sending Bedouin troops into towns to encourage youth to integrate into Israeli society further by enlisting in the IDF.



A SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL'S NEW AMBASSADOR

In June of this year, news broke that Benjamin Netanyahu had appointed MK Tzipi Hotovely as Israel's next Ambassador to the Court of St James's, replacing Mark Regev whose 4-year ambassadorship came to an end in July.

Born in Rehovot in 1978, Tzipi Hotovely graduated with a bachelor's and master's degrees from Bar-Ilan University and is a lawyer by profession.

In 2013, she married Or Alon - also a lawyer, and they have 3 young daughters. She practices Orthodox Judaism and so served 2 years 'Sherut Leumi', an alternative form of National Service available to religious women, during which she served as a guide in the Rabbi Kook House in Jerusalem as a shlichah (emissary) for the Jewish Agency in Atlanta, USA.



In contrast to her stance on Judea and Samaria/the West Bank, Hotovely has proven herself to be very liberal on other issues. During her early years as an MK in Israel's 18th Knesset, she chaired the committee on the status of women and gender equality and continues to campaign regularly on the issue of women's rights. Hotovely hit the headlines in December 2011 when a long-simmering dispute in Israel between Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) and secular opinion suddenly flared up. She insisted on sitting in the front seats of a Mehadrin bus, a public bus line whose seats were segregated by sex, where women were expected to sit in the rear seats. Her brave and principled stance was subsequently endorsed by Israel's Supreme Court. Hotovely's admirable stance on women's rights

also extends to her supporting the right of access to the Kotel / Western Wall for all. It is a matter of public record that she approves "egalitarian prayer" there, where "women can go together with their families, and men can go together with their daughters."

With the recent historic accord between Israel and the UAE now well underway, and with more hopefully to follow, the ZF is looking forward to welcoming Tzipi Hotovely to the UK and working closely with her, helping her to build bridges to all sections of the UK Jewish and Zionist communities, so that she is an ambassador for everyone.

ARTICLE BY STEVE WINSTON



SWEET NEW YEAR

The lead up to Rosh Hashanah tends to be a busy time for us all but it's also an exciting time; the coming dawn of a new year, the hopes and dreams that brings, as well as a time to start thinking about... Food!

As with most Jewish holidays, food is a main focus of home celebrations of Rosh Hashanah. So, for those who are tasked with creating the Rosh Hashanah menus, we have pulled together some of our favourite sweet recipes that we make for this holiday. Here are a few quick and easy recipes we hope you and your family will enjoy.



POMEGRANATE AND HONEY GLAZED CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS

1 4 lb chicken cut in 1/8ths (breasts cut in half if large)
4 tablespoons canola oil
1 large onion, chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 cup pomegranate molasses

1/2 cup sweetened pomegranate juice
1/2 cup honey
2 cups vegetable or chicken broth
1 teaspoon cumin
1/2 teaspoon powdered ginger
1/8 teaspoon allspice

1/2 teaspoon turmeric
salt and pepper to taste

FOR THE GARNISH

2 tablespoons parsley
2 tablespoons pomegranate arils (seeds)

PREPARATION

1. Heat 2 tablespoons canola oil in a large pan and Sauté chopped onion until soft and translucent.
2. Add minced garlic and sauté for 2-3 minutes (do not brown).
3. Add pomegranate molasses, juice, honey, broth and spices.
4. Stir and bring to boil. Reduce to an active simmer and cook uncovered for about 20 minutes or until sauce is reduced by about 1/2 the volume and slightly thickened.
5. Taste sauce and adjust seasoning, remove sauce from heat and pour into bowl. Set aside.
6. Rinse chicken parts, pat dry, season with salt and pepper.
7. Heat remaining 2 tablespoons of canola oil in pan and place chicken parts skin side down. Brown on both sides. Do not crowd chicken in the pan as this causes chicken to steam rather than brown.
8. Lower heat, pour simmered sauce over the chicken, cover pan and simmer on low for 35-40 minutes.
9. Remove from pan and platter, garnishing with chopped parsley and pomegranate arils.

APPLE MERINGUE DESSERT

INGREDIENTS

450g cooking apples, peeled and sliced
1-2 tablespoons water
1-2 tablespoons sugar
3 eggs separated
150g caster sugar

PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 180 C
2. Place the peeled and sliced apples in a saucepan with the tablespoons of water and sugar.
3. Cook gently over medium heat until the apples are soft.
4. Remove from the heat and gently stir in the egg yolks and set aside to cool.
5. Whisk the egg whites until stiff.
6. Add the sugar a little at a time and whisk until smooth.
7. Place the apple mixture on the bottom of a greased baking dish and spoon the meringue on top.
8. Bake for 30 minutes or until the meringue is brown on top.



HONEY CAKE

INGREDIENTS

227g Self Raising flour
1 cup sugar
1 cup oil
1 cup water
3 eggs
1 cup golden syrup
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon bicarbonate soda
½ teaspoon of ginger

PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 180°
2. Mix all dry ingredients together and then add remainder.
3. Beat well and pour into an 8-inch tin.
4. Bake for 1 hour



POMEGRANATE ICE CREAM

INGREDIENTS

10-13 large frozen strawberries
1/3 cup icing sugar
1 ¼ cup pomegranate juice
1.5 litre tub vanilla ice cream

PREPARATION

1. Blend strawberries with the icing sugar and pomegranate juice.
2. Add to softened ice cream and mix well
3. Freeze and enjoy!

PUMPKIN MUFFINS AS PART OF THE 'SIMANIM'

INGREDIENTS

3 cups plain flour
3 cups sugar
½ teaspoon baking powder
1 ½ teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon baking soda

1 can of pumpkin puree (425g)
1 cup of canola oil
3 eggs
Half a cup dried cranberries
Pumpkin seeds (optional)

PREPARATION

1. Heat oven to 170 C
2. Mix all of the above apart from the pumpkin seeds
3. Dough should be of a dropping consistency and spooned into individual baking cases
4. Sprinkle each case with pumpkin seeds (if using)
5. Bake in the oven for 40 mins or until firm to the touch



SWEET TZIMMES (CARROTS)

INGREDIENTS

1 large onion, cut in half or quarter rounds
2 tablespoons sunflower oil
1 lb carrots, sliced in ½-inch rounds
½ lb sweet potato, cubed
10 prunes, diced
1 ½ cups orange juice
½ cup honey
½ teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon salt

PREPARATION

1. Sauté the onion in the oil over medium heat for about 20 minutes.
2. Add the rest of the ingredients and simmer for 1.5 hours, until vegetables are tender.
3. Serve warm.



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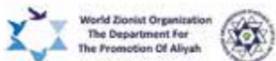
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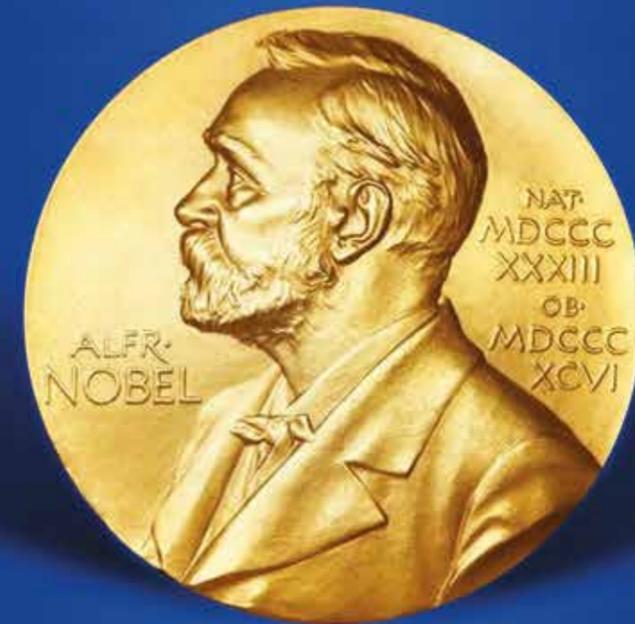
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ראש השנה תשפ"א

"After we have completed what we have started
Now it's time for love
After we fulfilled what we promised
Now it's time for love
After we have done what we dreamed of
Now it's time for love
After we have tried and became wiser
Now it's time for love
So please come
Because we still have some time, come
And let's continue from here
From the place we stopped
Now it's time for love" **Uzi Hitman**

Dear Friends and partners,

Ahead of the upcoming New Year, we summarise our achievements and look forward to our future. Together with our partners and with all those who are engaged in Zionist activities throughout the United Kingdom, we are proud to have succeeded in many missions, even in these difficult days of the pandemic and its restrictions - here and around the world.

We will continue our Zionist mission and together with you, we will succeed. Our inspiration in our daily work for Zionism and the State of Israel is a reflection of Theodor Herzl's vision: "Zionism is an endless ideal on an endless journey".

Shana Tova

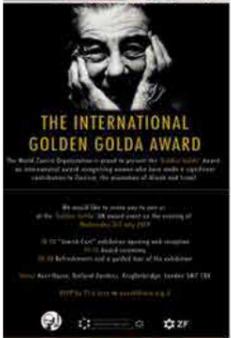
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Jenny & Howard Ross and family

wish you all a happy new year

Happy New Year to the ZF and all its supporters,

from **Keith & Estelle Gilston and family**



Eclipse Financial services would like to wish all the Zionist Federation and Supporters a Happy New Year

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Shana Tova from the ZF and WZO

This Rosh Hashanah, remember a loved one at the heart of Israel's National Memorial.

Mount Herzl is the National Memorial site of the Jewish People and the State of Israel. Interred there are Theodor Herzl, the father of modern Zionism, together with other founders of Israel, Prime Ministers and Presidents, as well as many of Israel's fallen soldiers.

The Zionist Federation of the UK and Ireland, in partnership with the World Zionist Organisation, is proud to offer this opportunity to remember a loved one at the resting place of so many great leaders of Israel and the Jewish people, on a Memorial Board at the entrance to Mount Herzl and the Herzl Museum.

RH OFFER 20% OFF UNTIL 1st Oct (new orders only)

If you require any further information, please contact Dalia Hajioff dalia@zionist.org.uk

The ZF is the UK's leading Israel advocacy organisation, which offer projects with the opportunities to educate, empower and engage with people about Israel and Zionism in the UK.

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THE LEADING ISRAEL ADVOCACY MAGAZINE IN THE UK | ISSUE NO. 8 | SEPTEMBER 2019

**FROM
ANTISEMITE
TO ZIONIST:**
MY JOURNEY
VIA THE ZF

BA
OVER 70 YEARS
OF SERVING ISRAEL

AWARDING
GOLDEN GOLDAS

HEBREW, HUMUS
AND THE HOLY LAND

COVER ARTICLE
15 SECONDS:
SDEROT'S REALITY

CONNECT MAGAZINE IS THE LEADING ISRAEL ADVOCACY MAGAZINE IN THE UK

THIS MAGAZINE IS THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE ZIONIST FEDERATION, THE OLDEST AND LARGEST ISRAEL-SUPPORTING ORGANISATION IN THE UK. WE RELY ON GENEROUS SPONSORS TO ENSURE ITS PUBLICATION.

IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SPONSORING CONNECT,
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