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The Tehran tangle in Middle East peace

A peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians could turn out to be the best way to neutralise Iran's nuclear ambitions

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- Manuel Hassassian and Edward Edy Kaufman
- guardian.co.uk, Monday 20 September 2010 08.00 BST
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Success in the current [Israeli-Palestinian negotiations](#) will depend on active bridging by the third party, the United States. At the same time, we should not forget the destructive role played in the past and present by spoilers on both sides, as well as others further afield. As the US secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, [stated last month](#), "the enemies of peace will keep trying to defeat us and derail these talks".

Regionally, Iran is pressing ahead with its nuclear programme. In the words of its foreign minister, it will continue to enrich uranium despite receiving Russian fuel for its nuclear reactor. This has become a high priority strategic concern for the US and its allies, who believe Iran's real intention is to build nuclear weapons.

Zalman Shoval, a former Israel ambassador to the US who is close to power circles in Jerusalem, [remarked](#) that "the Obama administration felt that progress on the peace process would set the stage for an effective regional coalition against Tehran. The Israeli approach was the exact opposite, stressing that if Iran's nuclear programme were neutralised, then that would set the stage for a real peace process, since that would

weaken the most radicalised elements in the Arab world who sought to actively undermine any prospects for peace, especially Hamas, Hezbollah and Syria."

This linkage is further complicating the situation. Most of Binyamin Netanyahu's coalition partners, and even members of his own Likud party, view this linkage as a double nightmare. Strong indications that Israel is preparing unilateral, surgical air strikes against multiple Iranian nuclear facilities darken this bleak picture. Not only would such an operation be militarily difficult to carry out, it cannot achieve Israel's ultimate objective of eliminating the Iranian threat. As the US defence secretary, Robert Gates, has warned, at best it will postpone the development of a nuclear strategic capability.

We – an Israeli and a Palestinian – believe there's a way out of this tangle. As the risks grow, so do the benefits of bold thinking. We teach our students at the University of Maryland: "The Israelis and Palestinians are doomed to live together." This summer, we added to this formulation, "... or are doomed to die together". This state of affairs demands a striking paradigm shift, through which an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement could actually neutralise the Iranian nuclear peril. This kind of linkage may be the only way to achieve results in which all the parties – Israelis, Palestinians, Americans and Iranians – can "win".

With a peace agreement in hand, the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, could then address his Iranian counterpart, and pointedly ask: "Mr Ahmadinejad, have you been developing a nuclear weapons capability to stand against Israel in solidarity with the Palestinian people?" – and then add, "I am the president of the Palestinians and I say to you now, 'No thanks'. We have made peace with our neighbours and need to move on to a new constructive era."

The international community understands that Iran has provided weaponry and monetary support to non-state actors such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, undermining progress towards regional peace. If Abbas can offer a credible alternative, it offers excellent prospects for trumping the rejectionists' appeal.

Historical Jewish fears of another Holocaust have been aggravated by the growing nuclear threat from an unpredictable government, by the recent terrorist acts of suicide bombers, and the new long-range rockets that move the front from the borders of Israel to homes all over the country. These realities make the price of trading territory for a peaceful future a goal that many Jews in Israel still find worthwhile.

At the same time, the Palestinians have come to appreciate that a militarised uprising cannot guarantee their independence or put an end to their own traumatic experience of occupation. The Palestinian Authority has slowly, but progressively, supported the concept and practice of nonviolent action. In the West Bank areas that are under Palestinian control, police now provide credible security, even though Israel has not fully reciprocated by removing checkpoints and ending nightly army incursions.

If the Israeli government declares support for the 2002 [Arab Peace Initiative](#), this may secure diplomatic relations with the 22 members of the Arab League and may even lead to the establishment of normal ties with all 57 Muslim countries that have endorsed the plan. Notably, Iran is still among those signatories.

Concluding a regional peace with Israel would minimally allow for the long-term possibility of making the Middle East a nuclear-free zone, Israel included. We believe this approach is congruent with President Obama's, as set forth when he won the Nobel peace prize, and can deliver its expected fruit. Perhaps, then, we could coin a new phrase for our class: "Israelis and Palestinians are blessed to be neighbours."

• Manuel Hassassian and Edward Edy Kaufman, are team-teachers at the University of Maryland and senior research associates at its centre for international development and conflict management. Kaufman formerly directed the Truman Peace Research Institute at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Hassassian, former rector of Bethlehem University, currently serves as the Palestinian ambassador to the UK

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- [Leo999](#)

20 September 2010 8:15AM

progress on the peace process would set the stage for an effective regional coalition against Tehran

Such coalition is already in place, although not admitted publicly by the Arab leaders. (There were numerous publications on this issue.)

Every single country in the ME (with the exception of Syria, perhaps) wants Iran to be stopped.

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- [Leo999](#)

20 September 2010 8:18AM

If the Israeli government declares support for the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative

... It will lead to the end of Israel - as this initiative states that all the refugees will return to Israel. (There's a good reason why all the Arab states, including Iran, signed on it.) It is, therefore, unpractical.

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[idiocr4cy](#)

20 September 2010 8:20AM

The Israeli approach was the exact opposite, stressing that if Iran's nuclear programme were neutralised, then that would set the stage for a real peace process

The Israeli approach has always been to deceive the US, from [Netanyahu's mouth](#):

...revealed tape of Netanyahu in 2001, being interviewed while he thinks the cameras are off, shows him in a radically different light. In it, Netanyahu dismisses American foreign policy as easy to maneuver, boasts of having derailed the Oslo accords with political trickery, and suggests that the only way to deal with the Palestinians is to “beat them up, not once but repeatedly, beat them up so it hurts so badly, until it’s unbearable”

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[monotypes](#)

20 September 2010 8:22AM

The palestinians will have to come to terms with the simple fact,that they are in no position to dictate terms to Israel..

There will never be a real and lasting peace,after all this IS the ME.Where deals are made just to be broken later on.

The solution would have to be Peace for Peace.

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[bergamo](#)

20 September 2010 8:26AM

One, the West suspects Iran of wanting to build a nuclear bomb, while Iran claims not to be. The IAEA has found no proof of Iran diverting enriched uranium for weaponisation. And yet you take for granted that Iran is building an A bomb. On the basis of the Western intelligence that so effectively discovered WMD in Iraq?

Two, Hamas is short on political cunning. Its best way to win the war with Israel is through the hearts and minds of Western liberals, and lopping ineffective rockets on Sderot does the opposite.

But to say that peace could have not been achieved with the PLO over the West Bank is false. Annapolis was predicated on the idea that the West would reward the PLO for its good behavior and punish Hamas for its bad. But in the West Bank nothing has happened, except for a minor blip in the economy since -- except the motions of peace negotiations.

There is no doubt in my mind that Israel does not want peace even with a enfeebled and humiliated PLO because it does not want to give the minimum that the PLO can accept: at least 22% of Mandate Palestine, including some swaps of land, Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state and some sort of recognition of the rights of the Palestinian refugees.

Netanyahu, the Israeli and their Jewish supporters in the West want to keep the West Bank. And this is what stands on the way to peace, not Hamas.

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[jimgreen](#)

20 September 2010 8:27AM

Just wondering Leo999 what kind of peace deal would you like to see?

- - Recommend? (10)
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[Leo999](#)

20 September 2010 8:30AM

idiocr4cy

The Israeli approach has always been to deceive the US

Really?

So when PM Barak offered Arafat a peace deal in Camp David (in 2000) he was deceiving the US?

So when PM Olmert offered Abbas a peace deal in 2008/9 he was deceiving the US?

When Israel signed a peace agreement with Egypt and withdrew from the entire Sinai peninsula it was deceiving the US?

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[monotypes](#)

20 September 2010 8:31AM

There should be better and more practical ways to stop Iran, and having these pipe dreams of peace between Israel and the Palestinians that will neutralize Iran's nuclear ambitions, is downright silly.

It will take a lot more than that to neutralize Iran's nuclear ambitions.

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[kurdi](#)

20 September 2010 8:31AM

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[Leo999](#)

20 September 2010 8:33AM

jmgreen

Just wondering Leo999 what kind of peace deal would you like to see?

Along the lines of what was offered in Camp David. A Palestinian state within the 1967 borders, with minor land swaps.

As for the refugees (funny how someone can be a refugee after more than sixty

years, isn't it?) they should be allowed to immigrate to the new Palestinian state, or, in small numbers, into Israel (which is what Olmert proposed).

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[jimgreen](#)

20 September 2010 8:36AM

Leo999 - so what do you think of the 'ROR' after thousands of years then?

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[idiocr4cy](#)

20 September 2010 8:37AM

Leo999, I meant the current Israeli leadership. The right wing party in Israel.

- - Recommend? (12)
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• [Leo999](#)

20 September 2010 8:37AM

bergamo

Israel has already offered what you detail in your comment, and the Palestinians turned it down.

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• [monotypes](#)

20 September 2010 8:40AM

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• [doubledecker](#)

20 September 2010 8:41AM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.



• [LukeRijnhurt](#)

20 September 2010 8:44AM

@idiocr4cy
20 September 2010 8:37AM

Leo999, I meant the current Israeli leadership. The right wing party in Israel.

There is no right wing Party, but a lot of parties that each hold a different position

Lately (last week) the right wing Parties (lets stay at this overwhelming generalization) mentioned that today's Netanyahu stand to the left of Olmert and Livni .

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[millfield](#)

20 September 2010 8:44AM

You absolutely have it the wrong way round.

You need to contain Iran, by force or extreme sanctions, in its quest to obtain nuclear weapons and prevent its aggressive funding and support of terrorist activity including its activities to destabilise Iraq and its support for the Taliban – then you might have a chance to resolve the I/P problem.

In the highly unlikely event that the I/P issue is ever resolved. Iran in any case will still seek nuclear weapons as a powerful factor in which to support Shiite Islamic groups in order to overthrow the Arab Sunni monarchies and replace them with an Islamic hegemony by proxy, headed by Iran.

At this point Iran could control the West's oil supply and then you will find out why the West should have supported Israel to the hilt. A strong Israel is the first line of defence against Islamic terrorism,

- - Recommend? (33)

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- [pretzelberg](#)

20 September 2010 8:45AM

A peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians could turn out to be the best way to neutralise Iran's nuclear ambitions

In that case I'm afraid that Iran's nuclear ambitions will not be neutralised in the near future.

A compromise resolution of the I/P conflict in accordance with the wishes of the two peoples is possible - but there are indeed various spoilers (both internal and external) who simply don't want to see a two-state solution.

Pity.

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- [jimgreen](#)

20 September 2010 8:45AM

monotypes - America keeps giving and giving arms to Israel which calls into question it role as a 'peacemaker' and leads to low expectations all round.

-

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• [Leo999](#)

20 September 2010 8:46AM

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• [Leo999](#)

20 September 2010 8:52AM

doubledecker

Iran v Saudi Arabia is the real conflict, Palestine is just a sideshow now.

I agree with you.

It is another case of the Sunni Shia conflict.

-
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• [bananachips](#)

20 September 2010 8:55AM

Iran no more gives a damn about the Palestinians than any other countries in the area , whose abuse of them rarely gets a CIF mention, its nuclear ambitions have no real bearing on that fact.

Iran's nuclear ambitions will push ahead regardless of what the outside world does or say. Even if such a pace would be achieved against all odds, such a pace between Israelis and Palestinians will make no difference to that and such a pace would require Iran to stop using its proxies for attacking Israel , Hamas and Hezbollah, in what it sees as its fight with Saudi Arabia for 'leadership' of the Islamic world.

On the nuclear front Israel needs to remind Iran why it was what MAD stands for , and needs to remind the other Arab countries that no nuclear war can ever be 'limited' in any real sense.

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- [monotypes](#)

20 September 2010 9:02AM

If Iran's nuclear ambitions are not curtailed, then pretty soon every single state in the ME, will want nuclear weapons.

The Arab states around Israel tolerated Israel allegedly having nuclear weapons.

There is no way that these same Arab states would be willing to live with a nuclear Iran run by mad mullahs. Too scary.

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[pretzelberg](#)

20 September 2010 9:05AM

idiocr4cy

Leo999, I meant the current Israeli leadership.

A-ha. So that's why you said "The Israeli approach has always been to deceive the US".

Always? The current regime has been in power for just 18 months! And it is in any case unwise to make such a blanket statement based on one single reported quote from Netanyahu - well, unless you have a biased agenda, that is.

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[monotypes](#)

20 September 2010 9:09AM

If push came to shove, the palestinians well being would have to be the last thing that would be on Iranian mullahs minds.

These mullahs have no regard for their own citizens, what makes you guys think that they would worry about the well being of the palestinians.

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• [Edward Rice](#)

20 September 2010 9:10AM

[The Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Hague Regulations of 1907 forbid occupying powers to alter the lifeways of civilians who are occupied, and forbid the settling of people from the occupiers' country in the occupied territory.](#)

The settlements are illegal, if the Palestinians want some or all of them removed that is what should happen. If the US is serious about a peace deal it would treat Israel as any other state and end it's billions a year hand outs. Enforce the illegal tax deductible donations from Christian Zionists and other US charities that fund and support WB settlements.

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• [Bobemax](#)

20 September 2010 9:14AM

The enemies of piece are actually gaining in strength, and any idea that they are being contained is based on nothing more than hope. Iran's - and indeed Islams - aims of achieving religious supremacy is an unstoppable commitment, and no amount of talking, wishing, hoping or agreements, will alter that fact.

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• [GoloMannFan](#)

20 September 2010 9:16AM

Leo999

It will lead to the end of Israel - as this initiative states that all the refugees will return to Israel.

Hang on. For a start, it states that they will have a right to do that, not that they will. More importantly, though, if the enforcement of a **right** guaranteed in international law (it's amazing, the number of people who seem not to understand the meaning of that word) would lead, in your opinion, to the 'end of Israel' (which is absurd in itself, but let that pass) - does that not suggest something faulty in your conception of what Israel is, or ought to be?

- - Recommend? (36)
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• [BalsamicVinegar](#)

20 September 2010 9:18AM

Manuel & Ed

While a peace deal between Israel and Palestinians in the West Bank will lead to massive benefits for both, it won't do anything to appease Iran or its proxies HAMAS and Hezbollah.

While both terror groups claim to champion Palestinian rights, in reality they care not one jot for them. HAMAS is not the PLO. It does not seek to establish a

Palestinian state, even one that replaces Israel. It does not describe itself as the Palestinian Resistance Army.

If they did care they wouldn't have provoked the wrath of Israel which lead to casualties in 2006 and 2009. Dead and mangled Palestinians make good media coverage, especially when killed by Israeli jets. These are lapped up by the left and anti-Israeli media who give tacit support to the groups by mis-reporting or faking the images. It is surprising that dead and mangled Muslims, slaughtered by Al-Q and the Taliban in Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and Iraq on a daily basis, don't seem to bring the same groups out onto the streets here.

HAMAS is the Islamic Resistance Army with one goal.

The removal of Israel and the re-establishment of the Islamic caliphate that would encompass Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the wider Arab world. Under this pan-Islamic umbrella existing countries and tribes would be subsumed into one giant Islamic state. The ultimate goal would be Europe and the rest of the World.

This is one of the reasons why HAMAS always ups the terrorism whenever the Palestinians (of West Bank) and Israel get round to peace negotiations. They have no desire for the Palestinians to reach any deal with Israel as this would undermine their aims.

The Iranian regime, (and not its long-suffering population) needs to be neutralised, This will stem the flow of funds to HAMAS and Hezbollah.

If Netanyahu and Abbas emerge from the peace talks with a deal, expect the missiles to start landing on Israeli cities and suicide bombers to do their deadly work.

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-  [Bamboo13](#)

20 September 2010 9:18AM

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[Ajaib](#)

20 September 2010 9:27AM

There is no link between the two. Iran has everyright to nuclear weapons if it chooses to do so. The whole confrontaton with Iran is for Israel and its so called security concerns.

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[benderBR](#)

20 September 2010 9:31AM

GoloMannFan

20 September 2010 9:16AM

Hang on. For a start, it states that they will have a right to do that, not that they will. More importantly, though, if the enforcement of a right guaranteed in international law (it's amazing, the number of people who seem not to understand the meaning of that word) would lead, in your opinion, to the 'end of Israel' (which is absurd in itself, but let that pass) - does that not suggest something faulty in your conception of what Israel is, or ought to be?

According to former Israeli PM Olmert, Bush agreed for 100,000 refugees to be given American citizenship and other European countries also agreed to take some of them in.

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[victorjara](#)

20 September 2010 9:32AM

Israel will never except an Iran with a bomb, not because the Mullahs are insane enough to attack Israel. The main reason being it changes the balance of power away from Israel and the US.

The other regimes in the region would then have to choose who to ally themselves with an apart from the Saudi's nobody would be looking Israel way.

While a settlement with the Palestinians off sets some of the antipathy to Israel on arab st. The threat of an Iranian bomb would be a game changer and will not be allowed by the Hawks in jersulem and Washington

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[epidermoid](#)

20 September 2010 9:34AM

bananachips

On the nuclear front Israel needs to remind Iran why it was what MAD stands for,

and needs to remind the other Arab countries that no nuclear war can ever be 'limited' in any real sense.

Precisely. MAD is predicated on both sides sharing an approximation as to the value placed upon human life, and an anxiety not to lose it as a virtual certainty, should hostilities be opened. With men whose rationality is unstable, and understood only through distorted eschatological dreams where death is triumphant, what most precious in their imagination would deter the President of Iran and his guiding eminences from destroying Israel? Would the rendering of the Holy Land as dust eternally denied to worship be sufficient? Nuclear conflagration is imprecise and may overwhelm whole areas at the centre of the world's great religious movements. Is Iran prepared to risk these losses and are we prepared to let him?

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• [Edward Rice](#)

20 September 2010 9:35AM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.



• [Leo999](#)

20 September 2010 9:35AM

GoloMannFan

Let's take it step by step:

Israel is a democracy with a Jewish majority, founded as the country of the Jewish people, with the preconceived notion of being a safe haven to the most persecuted minority in the history of this planet.

Israel is also situated in the ME, and is surrounded by Arab dictatorships with an overwhelming Muslim majority, whose population far exceeds that of Israel.

If a country of about 5 million Jews has to absorb a group of 1/2/3 million Palestinians it will drastically alter its identity. (Imagine if 30 million Muslims immigrated into the UK.)

There are multiple historical examples of refugees fleeing in the face of armed conflict, which never returned, nor have they had any "right" to do so, to their original homes.

A UN resolution on the subject stated that:

refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbour should be permitted to do so at the earliest **practicable** date.

Such wording is highly given to interpretation (and in fact, as I detailed above, their return to today's Israel is highly impracticable), therefore please note what international law you refer to (because it certainly not this).

- - Recommend? (38)
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[kurdi](#)

20 September 2010 9:41AM

The international community understands that Iran has provided weaponry and monetary support to non-state actors such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, undermining progress towards regional peace

The "*international community*" also understands the hypocrisy and lies of the coalition forces on Israel's WMD/free state of art weaponry and arms to do their dirty work in the region.

As to your nonsense on *non-state actor's* remark, you better check your facts before writing lies & make a fool of yourselves.... fyi, Hezbollah & Hamas were democratically elected in both Lebanon & Palestine unlike Mahmoud Abbas who is an expired puppet (*presidency* expired in January 2009).

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- [Papalagi](#)

20 September 2010 9:43AM

I agree that peace between Israel and the Palestinians would do a lot to make the situation better in the region. I only have doubts about some assumptions made by the authors.

First of all the article speaks about the most radicalized elements in the Arab world and that they seek to undermine any prospect of peace. In this context the authors mention Hamas, Hezbollah and Syria. This is absurd as there are no prospects of peace simply because Israel is not offering peace, Israel is not ready to talk with anyone seriously, Israel is still occupying Syrian lands and has been refusing to negotiate. If there is someone who is an obstacle to peace it's in the first place Israel. And if there is a party that is radicalized, it seems to be Israel.

The authors say: "The Israelis and Palestinians are doomed to live together." But this doesn't seem to reflect the views of members of the Israeli government. I quote: "comments by Lieberman at today's cabinet meeting suggesting that the peace talks with the Palestinian Authority should focus around expelling large masses of Israel's Arab ethnic minority from the nation."

Next the article speaks about Iran's support for Hamas and HBL. I'd like to call attention to an article by Stephen Walt that mentions this question: [Did Tony Blair endorse preventive war on Iran?](#)

Third, the article mentions the Israeli fear of violence. If this is so, why don't they make peace with the Palestinians, why don't they stop their own violence against the Palestinians and wars against neighbours? If they are afraid, why didn't they accept cease fire offers by the Palestinians and insisted on violence? Why did Israel break every period of calm and kept killing Palestinians? You cannot justify everything that you do saying that you are afraid.

Lastly, there is no evidence that Iran has a nuclear weapons program. Iran can be a good pretext for Israel not to deal with the Palestinians while at the same time keeping its regional supremacy and hegemony which allow them to do whatever they want with the Palestinians and to keep occupying Syrian lands.

-

- Recommend? (49)
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[kurdi](#)

20 September 2010 9:45AM

Every single country in the ME (with the exception of Syria, perhaps) wants Iran to be stopped.

Is this what most expert fearmongers keep preaching to the rest of your country and world; FEARMONGERING every single day, every single month, every single season, every single year; GIVE US A BREAK!

-
- Recommend? (41)
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[WebbMark](#)

20 September 2010 9:47AM

Getting back to the article, the usual hawks are now saying that the road to Middle East peace lies through Tehran. These are the very same people who said that the Middle East peace lies through Baghdad. I even recall Tony Blair saying that he was offered progress in the Middle East peace process in return for his support in the invasion of Iraq. That was an enormous disaster by any standards with over a million excess deaths, 4.5 million displaced and religious separation barriers in Baghdad.

Let's not forget that Netanyahu was opposed to Oslo.

Iran is surrounded by the US in Iraq and Afghanistan. Under the NPT Iran is entitled to enrich Uranium to 20% (for medical isotopes) and its recent deal with Russia which provides fuel for its nuclear power reactor means that, in addition to IAEA inspection, Iran is a long way from having a nuclear weapon.

Perhaps, pressure should be applied to friends India, Israel, Pakistan and 'enemies' North Korea should be encouraged to join the NPT?

Leo999 - seven comments in an hour. You must watch CiF all day.

- - Recommend? (107)
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• [Papalagi](#)

20 September 2010 9:47AM

BalsamicVinegar

What you write seems rather to fit Israel than any Palestinian party, including Hamas. It would be very easy for Palestinians to think of Israel what you attribute to Hamas.

- - Recommend? (39)
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[kurdi](#)

20 September 2010 9:50AM

A UN resolution

I somehow doubt you understand the meaning of *UN resolutions*. How many UN resolutions has Israel observed with regards to her inhumanity against the Palestinians in the past 60 odd years?

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[Teacup](#)

20 September 2010 9:51AM

Dear Professors,

Clearly you are folk of good will and it is heartening to read an article by an Israeli **and** a Palestinian! May such collaborations increase!

I do have problems with some of what you have witten.

Any bridging activity by the US will probably result in a drawbridge entirely under Israeli control.

Regionally, Iran is pressing ahead with its nuclear programme. In the words of its foreign minister, it will continue to enrich uranium despite receiving Russian fuel for its nuclear reactor. This has become a high priority strategic concern for the US and its allies, who believe Iran's real intention is to build nuclear weapons.

Iran may or may not intend to build nuclear weapons, but, to sound Scottish even though I am not, this is not proven. You seem to forget that Israel HAS nuclear

weapons and has used cluster bombs and white phosphorus against its neighbours.
Double standards?

The international community understands that Iran has provided weaponry and monetary support to non-state actors such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, undermining progress towards regional peace.

Is Iran the only country that has supported "non-state actors"? Remember all that stuff about people in glass houses hurling boulders>

- - Recommend? (53)
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 -



- | [Link](#)



[Leo999](#)

20 September 2010 9:51AM

Papalagi

Israel is not offering peace

In the years since Oslo agreements, in 1993, Israel has offered peace multiple times.

The very signing of the Oslo agreements proves your statement to be false.

The Camp David summit in 2000, again proves you false.

The withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, proves you false.

Olmert's offers to Abbas, prove you false.

You can even take it further back, to the 1978 peace between Egypt and Israel, for which Israel withdrew from the entire Sinai peninsula - time and again the Israelis sought peace, and were willing to go to extreme concessions to achieve it.

- - Recommend? (24)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [Leo999](#)

20 September 2010 9:53AM

WebbMark

Actually, having a sort of "day off" at work... so yes, I have some free time today.

- - Recommend? (9)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [epidermoid](#)

20 September 2010 9:54AM

@edwardrice

Article 49 was intended to prevent forcible movement of populations into or out of occupied territory. To what State does the 'occupied' West Bank belong to, and who has forced settlers to go there?

- - Recommend? (15)
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 -



- | [Link](#)



• [bananachips](#)

20 September 2010 9:55AM

Papalagi

Still pushing out your tired old fantasy that the wars lurched against Israel , to drive the Jews into the sea , where Israel fault. That's is displacement at work ,unable to accept that they failed, you tried and change history so 'in your mind' Israel started them. Hamas as you are well have their made their aims clear , all the land from the river to the sea and death to the Jews , merely lying about that makes no difference at all. So no pace has be offered , has no pace is possible if it requires Israel to commit national suicide, even if such idea brings a smile to your face.

Iran has chosen to make Israel its enemy and a useful tool in its real fight which is with Saudi Arabia, but once again you cannot accept reality.

- - Recommend? (20)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



• [Papalagi](#)

20 September 2010 9:55AM

Couldn't it be that there isn't peace simply because Israel doesn't have the intention of withdrawing from territories that they took from the Palestinians and where they have building their houses for dozens of years?

- - Recommend? (40)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [Papalagi](#)

20 September 2010 9:57AM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.



- [hideandseeker](#)

20 September 2010 9:58AM

an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement could actually neutralise the Iranian nuclear peril.

The day that Israel makes peace with the Palestinians will be the day that Israel's neighbours, including Iran, makes peace with Israel. It's that simple. Iran has a long history of seeking to live in peace with its neighbours and let's not forget that the Jewish minority living in Iran have largely chosen to remain there rather than move to Israel. Their action speaks for itself...

- - Recommend? (65)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [callforjustice](#)

20 September 2010 9:59AM

A Palestinian-Israeli peace accord will not solve the nuclear imbalance in the ME.

Everyone saw what happened with India, then Pakistan.

Iran would probably not have nuclear ambitions were it not for Saddam's american backed war which killed over a million iranians and israel's nuclear arsenal again supported by american technology.

to curb iran, israel should give up its useless nuclear weapons.

- - Recommend? (30)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [Fomalhaut88](#)

20 September 2010 10:00AM

A peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians could turn out to be the best way to neutralise Iran's nuclear ambitions

And now, Story Time for Children.

Are you sitting comfortably?

Then I will begin.

- - Recommend? (5)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [Jubilation1](#)

20 September 2010 10:00AM

The Palestinian Authority has slowly, but progressively, supported the concept and practice of nonviolent action. In the West Bank areas that are under Palestinian control, p

Yup, to these authors 'The Palestinians' consist of a certain defined group, disregarding Gaza and the Hamas contingent outside Gaza too.

Hamas is the partner, not the enemy, of Iran. How can they effectively prove a solution to the problem when they identify with the problem?

- - Recommend? (10)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [TakeNoPrisoners](#)

20 September 2010 10:00AM

It's very interesting to see an article in the Guardian expressing a shared point of view across the divide.

I hope this represents a new editorial line for CIf, because frankly under the previous editor, the relentless demonization of Israel did nothing to advance the cause of peaceful co-existence, and everything to increase divisions.

Given its previous record of misrepresentation and hysterical reporting about the Middle East, I doubt many people now believe what the Guardian prints about it anymore. However, if the Guardian wishes to regain some credibility on the Middle East, and contribute to understanding, let's have more of this type of reasoned article.

- - Recommend? (16)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



• [Teacup](#)

20 September 2010 10:02AM

Leo999,

I am sure that most Indian residents and citizens of Indian origin in the US or UK have **bought** [your emphasis] land in the country of their residence. That doesn't allow them to gang together and take the land out of US or UK administration.

- - Recommend? (41)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



• [epidermoid](#)

20 September 2010 10:03AM

kurdi

fyi, Hezbollah & Hamas were democratically elected in both Lebanon & Palestine unlike Mahmoud Abbas who is an expired puppet (presidency expired in January 2009).

Electing 'democratically', men whose moral values are base and regressive does nothing to redeem or elevate them, but merely reflects adversely on the people who elected them who clearly share their ignoble aspirations.

- - Recommend? (13)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [LukeRijnhurt](#)

20 September 2010 10:03AM

@Papalagi

20 September 2010 10:01AM

Leo999 (20 September 2010 9:51AM)

you are a troll. Your posts cannot be taken seriously. You just write your things like a broken record

Don't you have any Pape quote ? if talking about broken records , how come Hamas actions todays is comparable to Historical Zionist Documents or whatever that means ?

- - Recommend? (10)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [Leo999](#)

20 September 2010 10:04AM

hideandseeker

The day that Israel makes peace with the Palestinians will be the day that Israel's neighbours, including Iran, makes peace with Israel.

Then why is Ahmadinejad so opposed to these peace talks?

- - Recommend? (11)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [Teacup](#)

20 September 2010 10:07AM

Jubilation1

Hamas is the partner, not the enemy, of Iran. How can they effectively prove a solution to the problem when they identify with the problem?

Many have the same reservations (in the other direction) about the US as an honest broker. The US is the partner of Israel, not an objective and open-minded facilitator of peace deals.

- - Recommend? (35)
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 -



- | [Link](#)



- [Leo999](#)

20 September 2010 10:07AM

Teacup

That doesn't allow them to gang together and take the land out of US or UK administration.

The administration in Palestine was that of the Ottoman empire. Afterwards the British mandate. Afterwards there was Israel, alongside Egypt and Jordan. Out of whose administration have the Jews taken the land? There was never such a thing as a Palestinian state (hardly a there was a concept of a Palestinian people before 1967).

- - Recommend? (14)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [Jubilant1](#)

20 September 2010 10:09AM

If the Israeli government declares support for the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative, this may secure diplomatic relations with the 22 members of the Arab League and may even lead to the establishment of normal ties with all 57 Muslim countries that have endorsed the plan. Notably, Iran is still among those signatories.

This might have been a good idea except for the fact that several Arab leaders have made it clear that the Arab Peace Initiative is not open to negotiation. They have altered it slightly but when it was issued and President Katsav wanted to discuss it with them, who knows, perhaps he wished to accept it? offer to meet wherever and whenever they wished there was no response. The Arab Peace Initiative is unfortunately just a red herring.

- - Recommend? (10)
 - [Report abuse](#)
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- | [Link](#)



• [Jubilation1](#)

20 September 2010 10:11AM

Regionally, Iran is pressing ahead with its nuclear programme. In the words of its foreign minister, it will continue to enrich uranium despite receiving Russian fuel for its nuclear reactor

Okay, you've scared me effectively. Now show me how you are going to separate Hamas from Iran, or do you not consider Hamas to be part of the Palestinians?

- - Recommend? (11)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



• [epidermoid](#)

20 September 2010 10:11AM

callforjustice

to curb Iran, israel should give up its useless nuclear weapons.

Iran would see this as the victory it yearns for, and as a mark of triumph that is as deserved as it is divinely inspired. That this cannot be seen despite the shouting of its inevitability from the rooftops of Tehran does little to reassure. It is wise counsel to listen closely to your enemies.

- - Recommend? (9)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [Teacup](#)

20 September 2010 10:12AM

epidermoid!

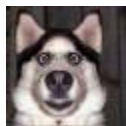
Be careful! How often "democracy" has been held up as the ultimate goal for all humans on this site? You are knocking holes in policy of "armed liberal intervention", where a vote is clearly said to be more important than life, limb, property or security. If I understand correctly, if people vote freely and fairly for someone, you have to abide by the choice they have made.

Oh, I forgot, one is free to vote for anyone, as long as it the person the "West" wants you to vote for. [Bangs head against brick wall.]

- - Recommend? (21)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [Yotam](#)

20 September 2010 10:13AM

Manuel Hassassian and Edward Edy Kaufman:

Regionally, Iran is pressing ahead with its nuclear programme. In the words of its foreign minister, it will continue to enrich uranium despite receiving Russian fuel for its nuclear reactor. This has become a high priority strategic concern for the US and its allies, who believe Iran's real intention is to build nuclear weapons.

I think that at this point even the IAEA believes that Iran's Nuclear Program isn't peaceful in nature. But of course that organization is pathetically impotent and entirely irrelevant...So they'll probably file another report voicing their "concerns".

With a peace agreement in hand, the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, could then address his Iranian counterpart, and pointedly ask: "Mr Ahmadinejad, have you been developing a nuclear weapons capability to stand against Israel in solidarity with the Palestinian people?" – and then add, "I am the president of the Palestinians and I say to you now, 'No thanks'. We have made peace with our neighbours and need to move on to a new constructive era."

This is wishful thinking, bordering on the delusional really. The Iranians do not care that their bomb is hurting Palestinian moderates and the peace process. Indeed, I imagine that they view it as a pleasant side effect.

The international community understands that Iran has provided weaponry and monetary support to non-state actors such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza

Yes, the Iranian regime will "resist" Israel to the last drop of other people's blood.

The Palestinian Authority has slowly, but progressively, supported the concept and practice of nonviolent action.

They have, to the endless derision of armchair generals on CIF and elsewhere.

Concluding a regional peace with Israel would minimally allow for the long-term possibility of making the Middle East a nuclear-free zone, Israel included.

I doubt that. But perhaps Israel could agree to freeze its production of new weapons, if it hasn't done so already.

- - Recommend? (10)
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 -



- | [Link](#)



20 September 2010 10:15AM

In response to Leo 999.

As Edward Said eloquently put it Oslo was not so much a plan for peace as one for pasification. It gave the corrupt Arafat the illusion of power and the wealth that went with it, while the Palestinian people were offered as much autonomy as a POW camp.

I wonder a;lso if you recall the infamous Sharon call to the settlers to grab every hill top speech.

The final map at camp david was never shown and coupled with the refugee problem not being resolved, this is what doomed Oslo.

- - Recommend? (37)
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- | [Link](#)



[Teacup](#)

20 September 2010 10:19AM

Leo999,

Israel hadn't existed for nearly 2 millenia, so how come it came into being. That wasn't exactly a land without a people unless Palestinians don't count as people. The British called it the British Mandate for Palestine in the 1920s, so "Palestine" came into legal existance two decades before modern Israel.

- - Recommend? (42)
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- | [Link](#)



• [bchowdhury](#)

20 September 2010 10:20AM

No matter what who says but the great news is that, Iran is no longer as a weak state that outsider's propaganda will effect on Iranian politics .

Once a nation become powerful in multiple way, there will be no power left to pinch behind that nation . such as China, India or Russia .

Iran has military might to defend its nation from outsider's influences.

The Iranian know very well that their leader are lifting their pride on the top of the world stage and 100% of literacy of Iran, well enough to understand outsider's failed propaganda against its nation.

Iran's march on the technological world will be continued and new type of scientific invention would be incalculable gift for the welfare of mankind .

Therefore, it is time for writers and the media world to take rest with regard of Great Iran. Any senseless articles will remain just waste of time but nothing else .

Rather, it is time to get rid of all Israeli nukes and transfer them to Iran for UN inspection and destruction .

- - Recommend? (32)
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- | [Link](#)



• [callforjustice](#)

20 September 2010 10:21AM

it is ironic that israel claims to be threatened by iran seeing as iran's Cyrus the Great liberated them, and even helped them re-build their temple.

the new liberators, in america, are supposed to go even further and allow them to "re-claim" their biblical lands at the expense of the palestinians.

where will israel find their next "liberator", if their plans for palestinian land annexation fail? China?

They've been selling them illegally, highly sophisticated american military gear, so maybe we'll be seeing China as their new "patron state"!

Sure would a weight off the american taxpayer!

- - Recommend? (47)
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- | [Link](#)



- [Jubilation1](#)

20 September 2010 10:21AM

Teacup

Many have the same reservations (in the other direction) about the US as an honest broker. The US is the partner of Israel, not an objective and open-minded facilitator of peace deals.

The US are facilitators. They are not going to be signatories to the deal.

There is no danger that the US will be the next government of either of the partners. There is that danger with Hamas which is the party that encourages 'resistance' by which they mean firing missiles at Israeli civilians. Your comparison is not valid.

- - Recommend? (9)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



• [Leo999](#)

20 September 2010 10:22AM

victorjara

the infamous Sharon

It was the same Sharon that later withdrew from Gaza.
People's conceptions tend to change, you know.

The final map at camp david was never shown

To whom?

To Arafat?

Or to the general public?

- - Recommend? (12)
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 -



- | [Link](#)



• [monotypes](#)

20 September 2010 10:23AM

The Arab states would love to stop the Iranian mullah's nuclear wet dreams.

But they would prefer Israel to do it, The US is too busy in Iraq, Iran, and everywhere else.

- - Recommend? (7)
 - [Report abuse](#)

o



o | [Link](#)



• [Keo2008](#)

20 September 2010 10:23AM

@Teacup: Your answer to Leo seems rather confused. The first 2 sentences you write are true but are nothing to do with the point Leo was making. It is of course true that a state called Palestine was created by the British in the 1920s- but with the specific purpose of turning it into the Jewish National Home. The British never intended that it should go to the Palestinian people, so I am unclear how that relates to Leo's point either

•

o Recommend? (8)

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o



o | [Link](#)



• [benderBR](#)

20 September 2010 10:24AM

Teacup

20 September 2010 10:12AM

epidermoid!

Be careful! How often "democracy" has been held up as the ultimate goal for all humans on this site? You are knocking holes in policy of "armed liberal intervention", where a vote is clearly said to be more important than life, limb,

property or security. If I understand correctly, if people vote freely and fairly for someone, you have to abide by the choice they have made.

Oh, I forgot, one is free to vote for anyone, as long as it the person the "West" wants you to vote for. [Bangs head against brick wall.]

I haven't seen Arab or Western leaders respect the elections in Israel and the choise for foregin minister either.

- - Recommend? (4)
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- | [Link](#)



20 September 2010 10:25AM

Agreed with Teacup that it's good to see an Israeli and Palestinian working together and there needs to be far more of this - and with the rest of her post. Until the Western governments accept that Israel's having a nuclear arsenal (as confirmed by Ehud Olmert) while condemning another nation for wanting them is widely viewed as rank hypocrisy, their stance on Iran will be viewed in the same light.

I know that many in the Gulf area are already fearful of what's coming - both from Iran and from the US/Israel, with any military action probable to lead to sectarian civil war. In Bahrain and Kuwait there has already been an upsurge of tension between the Sunni majority (roughly two-thirds in Kuwait) and the Shiite minority, with both governments attempting to clamp down on sectarianism. The results of any such action will not be confined to Iran,they will provoke war across the region, whatever delusions the US and Israel harbour about quick "surgical strikes." If for no other reason than the astronomic rises in oil prices it would certainly lead to (which seems to be the one thing giving the hawks pause) I hope and pray that sanity prevails - although it hasn't previously, so my optimism is limited.

- - Recommend? (12)

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-



- | [Link](#)



[Papalagi](#)

20 September 2010 10:26AM

I think that at this point even the IAEA believes that Iran's Nuclear Program isn't peaceful in nature.

No, they don't think this although Israel makes a lot of pressure and although a lot of false information is spread by lobby journalists about Iran's nuclear program.

This is wishful thinking, bordering on the delusional really. The Iranians do not care that their bomb is hurting Palestinian moderates and the peace process. Indeed, I imagine that they view it as a pleasant side effect.

This comment makes no sense. It's Israel that foils peace processes.

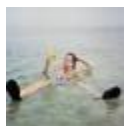
Yes, the Iranian regime will "resist" Israel to the last drop of other people's blood.

This is a delirium. Contrary to what you say, they are not resisting Israel besides giving words of support. Read the article by Walt that I mentioned in my post.

-
- Recommend? (28)
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-



- | [Link](#)



[pretzelberg](#)

20 September 2010 10:27AM

Papalagi

Couldn't it be that there isn't peace simply because Israel doesn't have the intention of withdrawing from territories that they took from the Palestinians

What kind of non-question is that? Do you honestly believe that the lack of a solution is "simply because" of Israeli policy - or are you just claiming that to support your anti-Israel agenda?

- - Recommend? (6)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [callforjustice](#)

20 September 2010 10:28AM

yotam writes;

I think that at this point even the IAEA believes that Iran's Nuclear Program isn't peaceful in nature. But of course that organization is pathetically impotent and entirely irrelevant...So they'll probably file another report voicing their "concerns".

+++

funny how int. organizations who do not "comply" to desired wishes are sidelined.

the IAEA stated that they had found no WMD in Iraq? Remember?

The true "concerns" the international community has are with those states who believe they can take the rule of law into their own hands. We have seen what monumental mistakes were made by bush&blair in doing so.

- - Recommend? (44)
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- | [Link](#)



- [ZacSame](#)

20 September 2010 10:28AM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.



- [Papalagi](#)

20 September 2010 10:30AM

Pretzelberg

Do you honestly believe that the lack of a solution is "simply because" of Israeli policy

yes, I do believe this and I've given dozens of reasons for that and based my reasons in articles published by the Guardian or Haretz. Could you tell us what Israel has done to favour peace in your opinin? Why do they keep building in the West Bank?

- - Recommend? (44)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [Leo999](#)

20 September 2010 10:31AM

Teacup

I'm sure you're aware that in November 1947, the United Nations voted in favor of the partition of Palestine, proposing the creation of a Jewish state, and an Arab state - thus creating Israel.

Also, I'm sure you know that **Roman** authorities (almost 2 thousand years before the British), following the suppression of the Bar Kokhba rebellion in the 2nd century CE, **renamed "Provincia Judea"** (Iudaea Province; originally derived from the name "Judah") to **"Syria Palaestina"** (Syria Palaestina), **in order to complete the dissociation with Judaea.**

- - Recommend? (12)
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 -



- | [Link](#)



- [monotypes](#)

20 September 2010 10:32AM

There have always Jews living in the Holy Land, There has always been a Jewish presence in the Holy Land for the last 3,500 years.

There is this myth that the Jews have no claim to this land called Israel.

- - Recommend? (13)
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 -



- | [Link](#)



- [Lokischild](#)

20 September 2010 10:35AM

"A peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians could turn out to be the best way to neutralise Iran's nuclear ambitions."

As I read this sub heading the definition of parallel lines surfaced from the recess of my brain where it has lain, undisturbed, for many a long year; 'two lines that meet in infinity.'

- - Recommend? (0)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [Teacup](#)

20 September 2010 10:36AM

BenderPR,

Egypt? Jordan? They may not be happy about it, but they do accept it, or them rather.

- - Recommend? (6)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [prebender](#)

20 September 2010 10:36AM

How about peace in the ME is preferable in itself rather than using it as a way to stitch up Iran. Would any peace agreement then include Israel not only admitting to have these lousy weapons, but also a timetable for getting rid of them?

- - Recommend? (30)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



[bigfacedog](#)

20 September 2010 10:42AM

hideandseeker

20 September 2010 9:58AM

an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement could actually neutralise the Iranian nuclear peril.

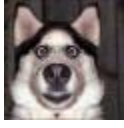
The day that Israel makes peace with the Palestinians will be the day that Israel's neighbours, including Iran, makes peace with Israel. It's that simple. Iran has a long history of seeking to live in peace with its neighbours and let's not forget that the Jewish minority living in Iran have largely chosen to remain there rather than move to Israel. Their action speaks for itself...

You are obviously intelligent enough to use a computer and to type but -with respect - how can you not absorb facts that play out in front of your own eyes. For example why do Hamas and Hezbollah which are under direct Iranian control deliberately seek to scupper peace talks? In fact it is their stated strategy to derail such talks. In that context how do you imagine that we will move from today - non peace - to a situation of peace?

- - Recommend? (7)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



- [Yotam](#)

20 September 2010 10:43AM

Papalagi:

No, they don't think this although Israel makes a lot of pressure and although a lot of false information is spread by lobby journalists about Iran's nuclear program

They certainly cannot say so in public, so I'll concede that I was speculating in that respect. But it is my view that the IAEA knows that Iran isn't going through all this trouble to fuel a medical center in Tehran or whatever they've come up with now. And I suspect that you do too.

This comment makes no sense.

I'm here to help. Which part of my comment didn't make sense to you?

It's Israel that foils peace processes.

So you say. I'd posit that elements on both sides have contributed to the ongoing failure of the peace process. But you don't do nuance do you?

This is a delirium. Contrary to what you say, they are not resisting Israel besides giving words of support.

Pathetic. The Israeli navy has intercepted Iranian ships brimming with arms. Where do you think Hamas and Hezbollah get their rockets, RPGs etc. Do they come directly from Allah PBUH?

- - Recommend? (12)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



20 September 2010 10:44AM

monotypes: There have always been Palestinians living in the Holy Land too; previous to the arrival of Jews there from Egypt, they were known as Canaanites, according to the Bible anyway, which seems to be the primary source of knowledge for many (so much for humanity evolving) - why not one secular state for both as equals? Or is that just for the rest of us?

I suspect you'll say 'Ah, but look at all the Muslim nations there,' but turning to brutal, repressive theocratic states and dictatorships as role models/justifications for anything doesn't seem a good way of moving forward.

Anyway, I'll keep hoping for an outbreak of sanity and a wish for coexistence as equals (although among the religious on all sides, these seem depressingly rare - give us all a few millenia, we may manage to get beyond religion, here's hoping).

- - Recommend? (49)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



20 September 2010 10:45AM

In response to Leo 999.

The disengagement from Gaza was part of a plan to cast it adrift. It was done in conjunction with the completion of the separation (apartheid) wall in the west bank to keep the demographics in the remaining territory with a Jewish majority.

He figured he could contain Gaza by what he called "closure" and the remaining Palestinians in their bantustans.

- - Recommend? (26)

- [Report abuse](#)
-



- | [Link](#)



[Keo2008](#)

20 September 2010 10:45AM

@Monotypes: It is true that some Jews have always lived in Palestine, but

- 1) From Roman times to the 1920s they formed a tiny % of the total population- at some points it was as little as 1% of the population
- 2) There are other groups who can also claim to have lived continuously in Palestine- the Canaanites, Philistines and Samaritans for example. They too have been tiny minorities, but none of them have claimed this gives them the right to the all the land
- 3) From around 700AD to 1947 the vast majority of the population were the Palestinians. Yet you ignore their claim to the land, based on population numbers and a long History.

- - Recommend? (22)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



[bigfacedog](#)

20 September 2010 10:46AM

monotypes

20 September 2010 10:32AM

There have always Jews living in the Holy Land, There has always been a Jewish presence in the Holy Land for the last 3,500 years.

There is this myth that the Jews have no claim to this land called Israel.

Europeans have a big problem with Israel because European dominance was built on genocide and colonisation. We are now supposed to 'move on' from this fact as it was a 'long time ago' and focus our attention on Israel.

If the human race was suitably intelligent and developed it is true we would not need an Israel. But over 2000 years the Europeans have tried to wipe Jews out many times (I would add not only Jews but aboriginal people all over the world). Israel is a permanent reminder that Europeans cannot control their racist urges enough to let people live in peace. I am a Zionist for sure but my Zionism is predicated on the 'never again' school

- - Recommend? (8)
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 -



- | [Link](#)



- [spectreovereurope](#)

20 September 2010 10:49AM

Mahmoud Abbas; Mr Ahmadinejad, have you been developing a nuclear weapons capability to stand against Israel in solidarity with the Palestinian people? – I am the president of the Palestinians and I say to you now, 'No thanks'. We have made peace with our neighbours and need to move on to a new constructive era.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad No, I haven't been developing nuclear weapons. Secondly, *if* I were to develop such weapons, it would be to serve as a deterrent to attack by rogue states such as the Zionist entity or the United States which have an unparalleled record in the modern age of launching wars of aggression. Thirdly, you are not the president of the Palestinians as your presidential term expired a considerable time ago as you well know. Anyway, I already know your definition of "peace"? Your people get a bantustan and you get a Nobel prize. Now run along and shake hands with your partner for "peace" Mr Netanayhu-you wouldn't want to keep him waiting.

- - Recommend? (42)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



[epidermoid](#)

20 September 2010 10:50AM

Papalagi:

Could you tell us what Israel has done to favour peace?

Israel favours peace because it is of the essence of Judaism that men remain committed to behaving well towards their fellows rather than with violence and contempt. Israel committed itself to such generous toleration of her enemies that it insisted that their interests would be looked after within the new state rather than behaving as would those enemies by driving them out or murdering them. No Arabs were driven from Palestine because they wished to live in peace. Many were pleaded with to remain. Israel wins wars and concedes as if defeated. Israel takes land from which armies have advanced and returns it so that its enemies may relaunch their offensive.

- - Recommend? (6)
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[benderBR](#)

20 September 2010 10:50AM

Teacup

20 September 2010 10:36AM

BenderPR,

Egypt? Jordan? They may not be happy about it, but they do accept it, or them rather.

Really? Their leaders refuse to meet with him and it seems that even EU and American leaders do the same.

Peres and Barak are active foreign ministers in this government because of world refusal to accept Israel's democratic elections.

- - Recommend? (1)
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- | [Link](#)



- [pretzelberg](#)

20 September 2010 10:53AM

Leo999

There was never such a thing as a Palestinian state

Not that old chestnut again!

All states have their beginnings. You might just as well say "there never was such a thing as an Italian/Kenyan/Judean state" until they actually existed.

You seem to be denying the Palestinians their right to self-determination. How would you react to someone denying Israel's right to self-determination?

- - Recommend? (8)
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o



o | [Link](#)



[Leo999](#)

•

20 September 2010 11:01AM

pretzelberg

You seem to be denying the Palesitnians their right to self-determination

No, I don't. They have a right to their own state.

All states have their beginnings.

Which doesn't contradict the fact that there never was a Palestinian state.

•

o Recommend? (10)

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o



o | [Link](#)



[pretzelberg](#)

•

20 September 2010 11:02AM

@ Leo999

I am contacting my lawyers to investigate a potential breach of copyright in your 10:11AM comment.

;-)

•

- Recommend? (0)
- [Report abuse](#)
-



- | [Link](#)



• [Teacup](#)

20 September 2010 11:03AM

BenderPR,

Egypt? Jordan? Holding their noses, perhaps, but accepting. No western leaders accept Netsie and his foreign minister? They may bad-mouth them, but they are certainly accepted. Surely there are western embassies and consulates in Israel?

Keo and Leo (luverly),

At the most simplistic, actual Palestine preceeded actual Israel.

They didn't call it the Israel Mandate or the Jewish Nation Mandate - it clearly shows that there was an entity the then Brit rulers saw as "Palestine".

Leo,

If I understand you correctly, you are saying that what the Roman overlords did in renaming a place was wrong, but the Brits doing the same thing is right?

Back to the topic (and yes, *mea culpa*, I am the one who wandered off).

Callforjustice,

You would think that the horrible recent history of Iraq would stop people from making claims with little or no evidence. I suppose that Iraqis, like Palestinians don't really count as human, and neither do the Iranians. I wish I were theist and could pray that this decade is less bloody than the last, I don't know what else ordinary people can do.

-
- Recommend? (30)
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- [Leo999](#)

20 September 2010 11:06AM

pretzelberg

It's very possible I read it before.

It was a flash response...

If it's yours, I apologize for the plagiarism...

-

- Recommend? (4)

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-



- | [Link](#)



- [Teacup](#)

20 September 2010 11:06AM

BenderPR,

No blockades, no sieges, no dropping of bombs...

Sticks and stones, old chap(pess).

Like I said, holding their noses.

-

- Recommend? (10)

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○



○ | [Link](#)



• [Bukharin](#)

20 September 2010 11:09AM

We – an Israeli and a Palestinian

Always fun!

- - Recommend? (1)
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 -



○ | [Link](#)



• [Leo999](#)

20 September 2010 11:11AM

Teacup

If I understand you correctly

No, you misunderstood me completely.

What I meant to say was, that the name "Palestine" doesn't exclude the presence of Jews or of a Jewish state.

You should read about the origins of this name and its designation.

- - Recommend? (8)
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o



o | [Link](#)



• [pretzelberg](#)

20 September 2010 11:12AM

@ Leo999

No apology necessary. Quite the contrary, in fact.
At least it's clear we do agree on some things.

•

o Recommend? (0)

o [Report abuse](#)

o



o | [Link](#)



• [monotypes](#)

20 September 2010 11:12AM

There will be no peace in the ME, and the Palestinian state will never see the light of day as long as Ahmadinejad and the Iranian mullahs keep arming Hamas, Syria, and Hizballah.

Ahmadinejad will do everything to sabotage the peace talks, and will keep pushing these states to attack Israel.

Abbas is no different than what Arafat was, preaching peace and in fact Abbas has no intention in making peace with Israel.

Even if Abbas agreed to a peace deal with Israel he wouldn't last too long. He has Hamas casting a long shadow on him.

- - Recommend? (8)
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[Ajaib](#)

20 September 2010 11:12AM

You got it all wrong. What the article should have said is that once israel does away with its Nuclear arsenal , then there will no need for the Iranians to pursue a nuclear weapons program themselves.

Simple. But instead we have all this other B as a smoke screen

- - Recommend? (42)
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- | [Link](#)



[HerbertH](#)

20 September 2010 11:14AM

Papalagi

This is absurd as there are no prospects of peace simply because Israel is not offering peace,

To late Papalagi. The cat is out of the bag. It was the Palestinians that had to be dragged to these Peace Talks. Not Israel. It is the Palestinians who, every day, are threatening to withdraw from the Peace Talks. Not Israel.

It is the Palestinians who do not want peace because they are not yet ready to recognise any Jewish entity on land that was once Ummah land.

The world is slowly understanding this.

- - Recommend? (11)
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- [Keo2008](#)

20 September 2010 11:19AM

@Teacup: I am totally bemused by your post which seems to have no relevance to anything I wrote.

- 1) The word (and state of) Judea clearly pre-dates the first mention (by the Romans) of a state called Palestine. (Not that this gives the Jews any special claim to the land)
- 2) The fact that the British called the state "Palestine" proves nothing. It was simply a name they chose. The conditions of the Mandate made it clear that they were to prepare the way for a Jewish National Home. Once the Jews attained statehood they could call their new country anything they liked. Calling the state "Palestine" does not mean they ever intended to hand it over to the Palestinians (the concept of a people called "Palestinians" did not even exist at that time in British minds).

In similar style the British named other areas they controlled in a random way- "Jordan, Iraq, Tanganyika, Rhodesia" etc. These are just NAMES. The latter for example does not mean that the British intended to give it to the Rhodes family when they left.

Look- to put it bluntly this is a trivial point and has absolutely nothing to do with the Palestinians claim to their land, which is based on their being the indigenous and majority population for 1500 years. Please don't get hung up about who named what when and what this "proves". The claim of the Palestinians is much stronger than that

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- | [Link](#)



[Clunie](#)

20 September 2010 11:24AM

HerbertH: I'd say that the world (which actually extends beyond the US and Europe, believe it or not) is slowly understanding that without one wholly secular state for all this blood-drenched and obscene merry-go-round of hatred will never stop. Odd that equality for all peoples of every and no faith is good enough for "us" in Europe and the US but not for "them."

Israel is in the Middle East, not in Europe, not in the US - hating Palestinians, other Arabs and Muslims generally won't change geography or the need to coexist as equals, not superiors or enemies, with the people there - as Jawaharlal Nehru wisely put it, "The only alternative to coexistence is codestruction." Although none of us - there or elsewhere - seem to have quite grasped this very basic point as yet.

- - Recommend? (15)
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[HerbertH](#)

20 September 2010 11:27AM

Leo999

pretzelberg - It's very possible I read it before. It was a flash response... If it's yours, I apologize for the plagiarism..

.

Oh dollup. Go and stand in the corner for 10 minutes.

- - Recommend? (1)
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- | [Link](#)



- [toryzionist](#)

20 September 2010 11:32AM

A naive but well meaning post by the authors.

Ahmadinejad has no intention of accepting any peace settlement other than on his warped terms of the destruction of the Jewish State of Israel.

He simply sees Israel as "muslim land" that can only be controlled by theocratic rulers. The man believes in the prophecy of the 12th Iman - and is quite prepared to accept the deaths of millions including members of his own professed faith to accomplish this prophecy.

The idea that ahmedinejad or for that matter the extreme religious rulers in Iran would accept any settlement that would be reasonable to both Netanyahu and Abbas is just wishful thinking.

- - Recommend? (11)
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- | [Link](#)



[pretzelberg](#)

20 September 2010 11:32AM

HerbertH

It is the Palestinians who do not want peace because they are not yet ready to recognise any Jewish entity on land that was once Ummah land.

Sounds like Papalagi logic to me. You two have more in common than you would want to believe.

- - Recommend? (1)
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- | [Link](#)



[ZacSame](#)

20 September 2010 11:33AM

@Clunie

I'd say that the world (which actually extends beyond the US and Europe, believe it or not) is slowly understanding that without one wholly secular state for all this blood-drenched and obscene merry-go-round of hatred will never stop.

It's great that the world is slowly coming to an understanding etc, however, that understanding is not extending to the Palestinians and Israelis who are still stubbornly in favour of two separate states. How do you suggest we cajole them into doing something they don't want to do?

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- [HerbertH](#)

20 September 2010 11:35AM

Clunie

Israel is in the Middle East, not in Europe, not in the US - hating Palestinians, other Arabs and Muslims generally won't change geography or the need to coexist as equals, not superiors or enemies, with the people there - as Jawaharlal Nehru wisely put it, "The only alternative to coexistence is codestruction." Although none of us - there or elsewhere - seem to have quite grasped this very basic point as yet.

I'm sorry Clunnie.

The horrible 'Western' nations are the preferred destination for 95% of the worlds wandering immigrants. The dreadful way the 'West' respects women, tries to trivialize sexual preferences, idolizes secularism etc etc, **does make me feel superior to those who are the opposite**. The transfer of populations between Islamic countries and the "West" is almost one way. Yet there are ridiculously rich Islamic countries which somehow do not have the allure of the disgusting Western Liberal Democracies.

Go figure that out.

- - Recommend? (5)
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- [upandatom](#)

20 September 2010 11:36AM

if evil could be personified. it would be as the current leadership in Iran.

Because they will AND do interfere in the vital peace process between 2 peoples that really has nothing at all to do with them apart from sort of phoney muslim brotherhood that is convenient to cause major mischief but vanishes when their brothers need real help see Pakistan floods as a good example

Iran and their servants in Hezbollah and Hamas and Syria under the cover of a peaceful and merciful God promote a genocide (Israel) that will also spell the end of the Palestinians, the Lebanese, The Jordanians and Egyptians.

The authors are quite correct. Peace will thwart the evil plans of Iran. Iran will try to ruin the plans path for peace.

If they succeed in their evil ways then the whole Arab world, not just Israel is in real danger.

STOP IRAN FUELLING THE HATRED.

- - Recommend? (7)
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[zendancer](#)

20 September 2010 11:36AM

NEXT !.

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[zabs](#)

20 September 2010 11:36AM

and then add, "I am the president of the Palestinians and I say to you now, 'No thanks'.

Don't you need to be elected by the Palestinian people to be the President of Palestine? Abbas has no constitutional legitimacy to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians. Until the whole of Palestine which includes Hamas is not involved in peace there cannot be peace.

You make peace with your enemies not with has been guerillas who have no relevance today.

- - Recommend? (26)
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[HerbertH](#)

20 September 2010 11:37AM

pretzelberg

Sounds like Papalagi logic to me. You two have more in common than you would want to believe.

Your sense of humor slipping through again?

-

- Recommend? (0)
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- | [Link](#)



[Clunie](#)

20 September 2010 11:40AM

toryzionist: And the idea that attacking Iran - even with "surgical strikes" - would result in anything other than immediate retaliation against US allied nations in the Gulf, along with regional Sunni-Shiite sectarian civil war, is very naive too, The Gulf nations' governments are already clamping down hard on sectarian unrest - any attack would be seen as the starting gun for war, and Iran has already warned that it will target oil and other crucial facilities across the Gulf (and it has proxies in place there).

I realise that the resulting deaths would mean little if anything to you, since "they're only Arabs/Iranians/Muslims," but perhaps the idea of \$200-plus per barrel of oil (and any war would not be brief) and the resultant depression that would make the recession look like a tea party might give the hawks pause for thought. I suspect Ahmadinejad and the regimewould be happy as pigs in shit to see war - it's the only way they could get all the Iranian people behind them and it would give them the justification for expansionist war themselves. It is not a video game and while Ahmadinejad's a loathsome arse, he's certainly not stupid.

-
- Recommend? (11)
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[monotypes](#)

20 September 2010 11:41AM

The palestinians have every right to self determination, but not at Israel's expense .

Israel's total population is made up of 20% Israeli Arabs, who have freedom of religion, and every other freedom that Israeli Jews enjoy.

There will be no ROR. If there is any ROR it should be to Jordan, which is a palestinian state in everything but name.

Israel treats its minorities better than the EU/UK treat the minorities in their midst.

And a thousand times better than Iran treat its own citizens.

- - Recommend? (9)
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20 September 2010 11:42AM

HerbertH: Try reading what I said earlier - I'm not a supporter of dictatorships and theocratic states. I don't see this as a bloody shoot-em-up video game - good guys vs bad guys.

- - Recommend? (4)
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• [pennine](#)

20 September 2010 11:43AM

My understanding is that the Iranian government wants to give the impression that it has or will soon have nuclear weapon capability (or even just a dirty bomb) as a deterrent against an attack by Israel, the USA, Iraq or any other hostile force.

They are using the same thinking as Saddam's regime who wanted to maintain ambiguity about chemical and/or biological weaponry as a deterrent. Obviously Saddam's ploy back-fired because the USA and UK used the ambiguity as an excuse to attack anyway, knowing that there wasn't much real danger to them as they had no evidence to suggest that such weapons actually existed.

Another issue is national pride. The Iranians think that if Israel, Pakistan, India, North Korea, China, Russia, France, the UK and USA have such weapons then they should have them too.

So a solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict is unlikely to have much impact on Iranian nuclear policy.

- - Recommend? (15)
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• [Clunie](#)

20 September 2010 11:46AM

Zac Same: I don't think that anyone can be coerced - how long and how many horrific wars did it take us in Western Europe to realise that sectarianism, hatred and division are not good grounds for building functioning, equal democracies at peace with and living in cooperation with one another? Centuries. Unfortunately, I see it taking the same amount of time in the Middle East.

•

- Recommend? (3)
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- | [Link](#)



• [shiran](#)

20 September 2010 11:46AM

Ajaib: You got it all wrong. What the article should have said is that once israel does away with its Nuclear arsenal , then there will no need for the Iranians to pursue a nuclear weapons program themselves.

So that's what all this is about. Their supply of weapons to Hamas, and Hizbollah/Syria has nothing to do with wishing to get rid of Israel. Their support for Shiites in Iraq and Yemen is nothing to with exporting the Islamic revolution, and no doubt they'd stop that if Israel de-armed itself.

Funny how Iran isn't threatening Pakistan, India, Russia ,nuclear states nearer to them. Its only concern is Israel's nuclear weapons because.....oh that's right ,because Israel, the size of a peanut, has territorial ambitions to jump over Jordan and Iraq, and take over Iran, in keeping with its other "expansionist" policies which include **withdrawing** from Lebanon, Sinai and Gaza.

-
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• [Teacup](#)

20 September 2010 11:47AM

Keo88,

Let's drive both Israeli and Palestinians out of the place. The Old Testament says it belonged to the Cannanites before Joshua strutted his stuff, so we shall give it back to them and to them only. If we can't find it, we can give it back to Ma Nature.

That is it, I am going to stick to the topic [burnishes halo].

Why is the US so very determined to demonise Iran? I have trouble believing that the US considers Iran likely to attack the US on US soil. It is the US that has been belligerent in Iran's backyard (Iraq and Afghanistan), in the case of Iraq without sense or reason. If I were an Iranian, I rather doubt that I would appreciate a country fighting two others giving me sanctimonious lectures.

Still, if it motivates the US work hard at the peace process, the Palestinians should take the opportunity to press for every advantage possible. With a little luck, the potential regional coalition will keep the "coalition of the willing in mind" and decline to follow their wretched example.

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• [Bukharin](#)

20 September 2010 11:51AM

What does this piece add, other than filling space and getting more traffic BTL?

Seriously, I'd be happy for anyone's constructive answer.

- - Recommend? (2)
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[monotypes](#)

20 September 2010 11:51AM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.



[toryzionist](#)

20 September 2010 11:54AM

Clunie

toryzionist: And the idea that attacking Iran - even with "surgical strikes" - would result in anything other than immediate retaliation against US allied nations in the Gulf, along with regional Sunni-Shiite sectarian civil war, is very naive too, The Gulf nations' governments are already clamping down hard on sectarian unrest - any attack would be seen as the starting gun for war, and Iran has already warned that it will target oil and other crucial facilities across the Gulf (and it has proxies in place there).

The results would be the same for any attack on Israel oil prices and other commodities would rocket, world trade collapse and of course there would be other economic disasters.

But this only further proves the complete de-coupling of the I/P peace process and the current Iranian dictatorships objectives.

Iran is not interested in any reasonable settlement. It's leaders simply use it as convenient tool to whip up hysteria.

The Iranian leadership, would happily see the deaths of millions of both Muslims and Jews as worthwhile to "liberate" Israel from non Muslim democracy.

- - Recommend? (6)
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- | [Link](#)



• [Clunie](#)

20 September 2010 11:56AM

Bukharin: They know that anything on I/P will bring in traffic and generate hundreds of posts - and the advertisers, which the Guardian is as reliant on as any other medium, like that.

monotypes: I'm fairly sure that teacup has a good grasp of the history of the M.E. - not just from the Bible either. I'm very glad that we no longer rely on holy text to guide policy and human rights decisions (although I suspect that the Tea Party-ers in the US would rather like to see it become the foundation of government, which is rather scary).

- - Recommend? (4)
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• [Bukharin](#)

20 September 2010 11:59AM

@Clunie

I get that. But is that a roundabout way of saying that the piece itself adds *nothing*?

If so, what's the point of us chasing out tails BTL?

- - Recommend? (1)
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- | [Link](#)



- [Clunie](#)

20 September 2010 12:00PM

toryzionist: I think the Iranian regime knows very well that any attack on Israel would result in automatic nuclear annihilation for much of the country - as far as I can see, they're more interested in taking over the Gulf region, which has a sizeable Shiite minority; opposing Israel is a handy rallying cry. As I said, the regime may be loathsome, but it's not stupid.

-

- Recommend? (8)

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- [ZacSame](#)

20 September 2010 12:00PM

@Bukharin

If so, what's the point of us chasing out tails BTL?

We have no lives?

-

- Recommend? (7)

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- | [Link](#)



- [HerbertH](#)

20 September 2010 12:03PM

pennine

So a solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict is unlikely to have much impact on Iranian nuclear policy.

That's heresy pure and simple.

Everybody knows that when the I/P conflict has ended, everybody in the Middle East will be just 'lovey dovey' all the time.

It stands to 'reason'!

- - Recommend? (5)
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- [Clunie](#)

20 September 2010 12:03PM

Bukharin: You're absolutely right. It achieves nothing, we all just shout over each other rather than talk while giving the Guardian advertisers the traffic numbers they want to see. I'm off to bang my head against a wall, it may achieve more:)

- - Recommend? (5)
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- | [Link](#)



- [gwillikers](#)

20 September 2010 12:04PM

CLUNIE -- I am a Tea Partier and I don't even believe in God. Why not try reading a real news source instead of the Grauniad?

-

- Recommend? (9)

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- | [Link](#)



- [Clunie](#)

20 September 2010 12:04PM

Zac Same: There's life outside CiF?! Nah, I don't believe it.

-

- Recommend? (7)

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- | [Link](#)



• [Yotam](#)

20 September 2010 12:06PM

spectreovereurope:

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad No, I haven't been developing nuclear weapons. Secondly, if I were to develop such weapons,

This strikes me as O.J. talk, Mr. President. You know, "had I done it I would've done it like so"...

it would be to serve as a deterrent to attack by rogue states such as the Zionist entity or the United States which have an unparalleled record in the modern age of launching wars of aggression.

Mr. President, this "Zionist Entity" which you speak of... You've called it a weak country on the verge of implosion. What are you so worried about?

Thirdly, you are not the president of the Palestinians as your presidential term expired a considerable time ago as you well know.

We should have elections then, in the West Bank as well as Gaza...Perhaps you could get Hamas on board as they do not seem too keen on that.

Anyway, I already know your definition of "peace"? Your people get a bantustan and you get a Nobel prize.

Surely you're not jealous, sir? Why we could arrange any number of distinguished awards for you to receive in lieu of a Nobel. How about the Irving Prize for Holocaust Denial?

Now run along and shake hands with your partner for "peace" Mr Netanyahu-you wouldn't want to keep him waiting.

Certainly not. In any case, I believe you have more pressing engagements as well. You wouldn't want to be late for your daily woman stoning now would you?

- - Recommend? (9)
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- [Bukharin](#)

20 September 2010 12:07PM

@Clunie and ZacSame

OK, glad we've sorted that one then. I'm off to do the dishes.

- - Recommend? (6)
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- | [Link](#)



- [aep1](#)

20 September 2010 12:07PM

Come and hear Hassassian argue his view, and pose questions of your own, in London **tomorrow** (Tuesday 21st).

Other speakers will include **Martin Indyk, Shlomo Ben-Ami, and Mustafa Barghouti**. For more info or to book tickets go to

<http://www.intelligencesquared.com/events/the-middle-east-peace-process-is-a-charade>

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• [haikara](#)

20 September 2010 12:11PM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.



• [MiniApolis](#)

20 September 2010 12:15PM

"With a peace agreement in hand, the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, could then address his Iranian counterpart, and pointedly ask: "Mr Ahmadinejad, have you been developing a nuclear weapons capability to stand against Israel in solidarity with the Palestinian people?" – and then add, "I am the president of the Palestinians and I say to you now, 'No thanks'. We have made peace with our neighbours and need to move on to a new constructive era."

To which, Mr Ahmedinajad will reply with a suitable Middle Eastern curse that includes references to Abbas' mother and camels.

This is an article from an alternative universe.

- - Recommend? (6)
 - [Report abuse](#)
 -



- | [Link](#)



• [Teacup](#)

20 September 2010 12:16PM

Pennine,

The news reports that I have read constantly describe Iran as saying that they are NOT working on nuclear weapons. That sounds pretty UNambiguous to me. They may be lying, they may not, but what they are saying is clear.

Yes, Saddam's ploy backfired, but the results for the US weren't exactly great, were they - more Americans killed in Iraq than on "9/11" - money spent like water, to be paid back by future generations of Americans, if I understand that correctly. More money was spent on "rebuilding" much of which appears to have been wasted or futile, and a country mostly in shambles. I wouldn't be proud of that if I were the US.

If they or their ME proxy attack Iran, I suspect that there will be a terrible blowback, not in the near future, but someday. I hope that Iran is not attacked and that the US rebuilds its economy and is able to live in peace, without attacks and without attacking others.

Everybody,

Have a good day!

- - Recommend? (15)
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- | [Link](#)



• [Leo999](#)

20 September 2010 12:16PM

pennine

So a solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict is unlikely to have much impact on Iranian nuclear policy.

OMG... I totally agree with you!
(never thought this would happen :))

- - Recommend? (2)

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-



- | [Link](#)



[benderBR](#)

20 September 2010 12:17PM

haikara

20 September 2010 12:11PM

If, just imagine if, Israel had taken responsibility for its guilt in the murders the IDF committed in operation Cast Lead and other crimes against humanity presented in large numbers of reports, including Goldstone's, then, and only then, could we start thinking of respecting Netanyahu. Lieberman is, I'm afraid not legible for respect ever again.

Besides the fact Liberman looks evil and doesn't talk politely what have ever done wrong?

Corruption charges not yet proven are the only thing up to now.

- - Recommend? (4)
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- | [Link](#)



[haikara](#)

20 September 2010 12:18PM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.



- [MiniApolis](#)

20 September 2010 12:21PM

Oh - one more thing about Abbas talking to Ahmedinejad and persuading him to give up his nuclear plans - the latter is supporting Hamas and Hizbollah, not the PA, with whom he has no contact.

The whole idea is silly beyond belief.

- - Recommend? (8)
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- [haikara](#)

20 September 2010 12:26PM

Oh, this is a fantastic article! So sincere and in all its parts based on reality. Soon Obama will shake hands with Abbas and Netanyahu; they will come out of the White House and announce Peace, peace and Iran will be defeated and all will be well and Manuel Hassassian and Edward Edy Kaufman are the very essence of deep political analysis and now back to my Prozac and my padded cell. I see the blue van that is not quite an ambulance is waiting for me.

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• [SiamakInFlorida](#)

20 September 2010 12:28PM

Hassanian and Kaufman;

We – an Israeli and a Palestinian – believe there's a way out of this tangle. As the risks grow, so do the benefits of bold thinking. We teach our students at the University of Maryland: "The Israelis and Palestinians are doomed to live together." This summer, we added to this formulation, "... or are doomed to die together". This state of affairs demands a striking paradigm shift, through which an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement could actually neutralise the Iranian nuclear peril. This kind of linkage may be the only way to achieve results in which all the parties – Israelis, Palestinians, Americans and Iranians – can "win".

I wish you both luck in Maryland, but this Gorilla in the room ain't going away just because you two wish it to.

Iran's regime nuclear ambitions did not start with the I/P issues, nor will it cease to exist if by some far fetched miracle (and as fancy a show as you two hacking things out in Maryland and on public grants) I/P conflict were to end tomorrow.

Iran's regime needs weaponization of its forces and access to nuclear weapons in order to continue to exist as a dominant regional force in order to protect their leaders interests in the rape and exploitation of its natural resources.

The continued existence of the regime has little to do with Israel and everything to do with economy and how deep European and Russian corporations have their heads stuck up Iran's regime butt.

So I'm sorry to say that it seems to me that while you two have your little cute *Arab/Israeli joint venture* going on in Maryland, you may have become a little out of touch with realities on the ground.

Regards,
Siamak

- - Recommend? (22)
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- | [Link](#)



[epidermoid](#)

20 September 2010 12:30PM

HerbertH:

It is the Palestinians who do not want peace because they are not yet ready to recognise any Jewish entity on land that was once Ummah land.

The world is slowly understanding this.

I do believe it is. Its tangible. As the West woke to the hideous reality of Stalin's Russia and Mao's China, the lies told lost their edge, and only the wilfully blind or naively ignorant remained to praise. The hopeless repetition that Israel 'stole' the Palestinian's land, that she 'ethnically cleansed' her peaceable inhabitants and deliberately attacks helpless civilians, wears thin after a few years as truth makes her persistent and inevitable entry. The defenders of the Palestinians will come to be seen like those that preached for Stalin or marched through London with little red books; an embarrassment and a properly defeated threat.

- - Recommend? (12)
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[monotypes](#)

20 September 2010 12:32PM

It is Israel that has to face an Iran that will be nuclear armed, and it will be Israel that will have to decide whether Iran gets a nuclear weapon or not, and what Israel intends to do about it.

The rest is just a side show.

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• [Jubilation1](#)

20 September 2010 12:33PM

Oh yes, a very realistic article this is. Note that at the moment Hamas agrees to a two state solution - Israel within 67 ceasefire lines - but no mention of PEACE. They want a long ceasefire as a tactic so that they can attack Israel at any moment that they think they have the upper hand and thereby fulfil their charter which never gives up on what they consider to be wakf land.

At the same time they accuse Abbas of "providing a cover for Israel to pursue its policy of settlement construction in the West Bank, eliminating the refugees' "right of return" and Judaizing Jerusalem and the Aksa Mosque." thereby showing exactly what they consider to be justice and how they would fulfil any commitment to a 2 state solution.

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• [monotypes](#)

20 September 2010 12:40PM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.



[victorjara](#)

20 September 2010 12:40PM

In response to epidermoid.

Its what Jewish entity they shoud recognize.

The 1948 one or the 1967 or todays colonized west bank one. Israel is the only country that has set unilateral borders or as Golda Meir quaintly put it. Israel is anywhere the Jewish people choose to live.

Under International law no country can do this and has to negotiate its borders with its neighbours.

Most Arabs all be it reluctantly except the existance of Israel. What they do not accept is the idea of a greater Israel between the river and the sea.

- - Recommend? (7)
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[Jubilation1](#)

20 September 2010 12:54PM

victorjara

Its what Jewish entity they shoud recognize.

Jewish entity?

ah, I've got it. You mean Israel.

Can't you bring yourself to say the name?

-

- Recommend? (20)
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• [DrDelaney](#)

20 September 2010 1:02PM

Can anyone still be so naive? Poor Maryland students.

So, some ("the US and it's allies") believe Iran's real intention is to build nuclear weapons. It's just a belief then.

And if it just so happens they ARE building it, then it's to defend the interests of the poor benighted Palestinians, whose interests as mostly Sunni Arabs are so close to the hearts of the non-Arab, Shiite Iranians.

Whose regime has nothing closer to home to worry about.

Whose regime has just been slaughtering as many Sunni Arabs across the border in Iraq as it could.

Whose theocratic regime want to use the clout of the Bomb to export its barbaric medieval version of Islam.

Wakey wakey. It's not exactly as if the use of the Palestinian question as a useful pawn is anything new in the region.

-
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• [victorjara](#)

20 September 2010 1:04PM

In response to Jubilation 1

I was quoting epidermoid and if you note in my last paragraph I used the name Israel.

So why not answer the point of increased colonization by settlers and the impact on a two state solution?

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• [MartynInEurope](#)

20 September 2010 1:08PM

The conflation of entirely separate issues is yet another layer of cynicism heaped upon the whole peace process to nowhere that has been going on between Israel and Palestine, under the auspices of the USA, since as long as I can remember.

Maybe if the Middle East is cleared of all nuclear weapons then any lingering ambitions that anyone in Iran might have, to have their own nuclear deterrent, might just evaporate.

To reiterate what has been said by others. It is still far from clear that Iran is actually pursuing the development of nuclear weapons.

Still, separate issues. A real peace between Israel and Palestine would of course mean that the supply of arms to Gaza would probably no longer be seen as a

necessity by some of the parties in that area, and if the pundits are right, this would also disengage some elements in Iran from the conflict, once it was resolved, that is.

Fat chance of that happening, I suppose, especially when low level conflict seems to be an acceptable price for once side, and repression on the other side is also accepted by its leadership, even if not by the people who are repressed and dispossessed.

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• [DrDelaney](#)

20 September 2010 1:09PM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.



• [Jubilation1](#)

20 September 2010 1:38PM

Building the settlements has no influence on peace at all unless you want it to have. Settlements will be exchanged for land the Palestinians desire or need for their state - like a land-bridge to Gaza or an approach to the Kinneret.

The impression that the press gives is that the settlements are being extended whereas the truth is that all building that has been going on for more than the past decades (except on those counted as illegal that are dismantled by the authorities) is building on already enclosed land. How can it affect peace if it goes on in a Jewish/Israel neighbourhood?

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• [CraigSummers](#)

20 September 2010 1:38PM

Mr. Hassassian and Mr. Kaufman

"We believe this approach is congruent with President Obama's, as set forth when he won the Nobel peace prize, and can deliver its expected fruit."

The current US administration believes that solving the IP conflict will undermine the growing regional power of Iran, thus a peace agreement is the highest priority of the Obama administration. Currently, Iran (and Turkey) uses the IP conflict as a source of propaganda to drum up support at home and in the Arab world, and provide cover for their nuclear weapons program. Obama further believes that the IP conflict undermines US regional strategies in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as alliances with the Arab moderates (dictators) which was the basic point of General Petraeus. Furthermore, long time US ally, Turkey, is slowly edging away from the west and into the camp of the Syrian-Iranian axis which is a major concern for the US. Finally, the US government and the EU believe that the IP conflict feeds Islamic radicalization .

All of this is, in part, true. For example, Erdogan masterfully used (engineered?) the flotilla incident and used the war in Gaza to strengthen the AKP Islamic Party at home. None the less, this approach is simplistic at best. First, US diplomatic efforts Iran (and syria) failed. The reason is simple. Iran does not build nukes on behalf of the Palestinians, or because Israel has nuclear weapons, but to feed their growing regional power, and as a deterrent from a US military strike. Iran will build nuclear weapons whether a peace agreement is signed or not, and Israel will remain under constant nuclear threat either from Iran or their client-terrorist organizations. Regime change in Iran is the only solution to the Iranian nuclear question.

Secondly, Hamas remains a force in Palestine, and they act on behalf of Iran as their regional hegemon irrespective of a peace agreement. Hamas has the second most powerful army in Palestine and is a threat to take power in a new Palestinian state. Hamas, which was elected by the Palestinians, will never agree to any peace agreement (short of six million Jews in exile), and is committed to perpetual war

with Israel. Iran will continue to stir the pot through Hamas, only in the future, they will be backed by nuclear weapons. In fact, an independent Palestinian state could actually undermine peace which is why Israel has been reluctant to enter peace talks with Abbas. You cannot force peace on the Palestinians.

Third, the Arab Peace Initiative is unrealistic. Israel will never pull back to the 67 borders - nor should they. The Arabs had every opportunity to opt for peace from the very beginning and rejectionism won out, thus a lost opportunity was lost forever by the Arabs.

Fourth, while it sounds really nice, a nuclear free Middle East is also unrealistic. Israel, for reasons of security, will not give up their nukes any more than Islamic extremist will give up trying to remove Israel from the Middle East.

While the US effort to find a solution to the IP conflict is laudable, tying this to a regional strategy to undermine Iran will fail. In addition, the US has played their most important card in deterring Iran by taking the military option off of the table leaving Israel the task of preventing Iran from attaining nuclear weapons.

- - Recommend? (14)
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[AjaiB](#)

20 September 2010 1:46PM

Shiran-

"So that's what all this is about. Their supply of weapons to Hamas, and Hizbollah/Syria has nothing to do with "

Firstly there is nothing wrong with Iran supplying weapons to Hezbollah. Someones got to.

Secondly Syria can purchase its own weapons from Russia , the current sale of of P-800 missiles demonstrates this. Israel as usual opposes this sale.

When Israel is prepared to dismantle its Nuclear arsenal then progress can be established. It has nothing to do with the palestinians.

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• [TheShermanator](#)

20 September 2010 1:52PM

This article is a bunch of Utopian nonsense.

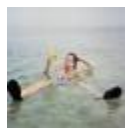
Even if Israel and the Palestinians were to miraculously achieve some kind of a peace deal it will be denounced by Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah and Syria as a sellout.

If anything a peace deal will cause Iran & Co. to cause even more trouble in the region.

- - Recommend? (9)
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• [pretzelberg](#)

20 September 2010 1:58PM

Anybody know if Hamas at least accept mazah balls as a Jewish entity? Coupled with Israeli recognition of falafel it could be a start, you never know ...

- - Recommend? (5)
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[pretzelberg](#)

•

20 September 2010 2:05PM

@ Jubilation1

Building the settlements has no influence on peace at all unless you want it to have.

What if the Palestnians had their own state, occupied Israel and built their own settlements in the latter - would you say the same then?

@ TheShermanator

This article is a bunch of Utopian nonsense.

Yes - especially that bit about "With a peace agreement in hand, the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, could then address his Iranian counterpart".

- - Recommend? (5)
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[monotypes](#)

•

20 September 2010 2:10PM

Have peace in the ME and you will kill the goose that lays golden eggs.

The ME conflict is a growth industry that generates billions of dollars in income to millions of people.

You name anything at all, and it will have something to do with the conflict in the ME, whether it be movies, books, whole web sites and blogs are dedicated to this conflict, why kill it and disappoint a lot of people.

May it go on for ever.

- - Recommend? (7)
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- | [Link](#)



- [SiamakInFlorida](#)

20 September 2010 2:13PM

CraigSummers;
A fair analysis with only a slight error;

While the US effort to find a solution to the IP conflict is laudable, tying this to a regional strategy to undermine Iran will fail. In addition, the US has played their most important card in deterring Iran by taking the military option off of the table leaving Israel the task of preventing Iran from attaining nuclear weapons.

The so called

military option

[remains on the table.](#)

As a matter of fact this [military] option has grown somewhat stronger since last year when Obama administration finally caved in to [Iranian demand of joining discussions in Switzerland](#) (which ultimately lead to no where with the Iranians

scoring yet another point against the *Great Satan* by forcing US attendance at the talks)!.

What most observers fail to understand about the regime of Iran, is its uncanny capacity for survival no holds barred. (and not limited to deception, lies, misinformation and evasive maneuvering of the international community).

Pretzleburg;

Anybody know if Hamas at least accept mazah balls as a Jewish entity? Coupled with Israeli recognition of falafel it could be a start, you never know

[Hamas has already received it marching orders from Tehran](#) and been paid for their services by the Islamic Republic.

They will be a partner in these talks in a "*Thrash-n-Burn*" capacity...No falafels barred.!

- - Recommend? (20)
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- | [Link](#)



- [Jubilant1](#)

20 September 2010 2:13PM

Pretz

@ Jubilant1

Building the settlements has no influence on peace at all unless you want it to have.

What if the Palestinians had their own state, occupied Israel and built their own settlements in the latter - would you say the same then?

IN Israel? within the borders of Israel?

Where are the borders today? Isn't that why we're having the 'peace talks' - just because there are no borders.

- - Recommend? (7)
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- | [Link](#)



[bigfacedog](#)

20 September 2010 2:14PM

Building the settlements has no influence on peace at all unless you want it to have. Settlements will be exchanged for land the Palestinians desire or need for their state - like a land-bridge to Gaza or an approach to the Kinneret.

Good point and one which I have argued for consistently. In an ideal world the settlements would not exist, but given that they do, they should be a negotiating point. To dismantle them unilaterely actually reduces the chance of peace (a la Gaza). In fact Israel has very few cards to play given a lot of geo strategic factors but settlements are one.

As to Iran - this 'debate' is a macabre dance of death led by the left wing conductors of peversion. Anyone with even 1 working eye can see that Iran is a fundamentalist anti rational entity that like all authoritarian regimes can only survive through conflict and enemy creation. The left are a disperate and desperate conspiracy which grabs at every last straw to undermine freedom

- - Recommend? (10)
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• [benderBR](#)

20 September 2010 2:18PM

pretzelberg

20 September 2010 2:05PM

@ Jubilation1 Building the settlements has no influence on peace at all unless you want it to have.

What if the Palestnians had their own state, occupied Israel and built their own settlements in the latter - would you say the same then?

Don't be silly ofcourse there wouldn't be any influence on the peace process by those settlements because there wouldn't be any peace process if Palestnians were ever able to conquer Israel.

- - Recommend? (11)
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- | [Link](#)



• [DrDelaney](#)

20 September 2010 2:24PM

pretzel

What if the Palestnians had their own state, occupied Israel and built their own settlements in the latter - would you say the same then?

Let's not forget that their are a million Arabs living more or less happily in the what victor so lovingly calls the "Jewish entity". I presume they build new houses occasionally for the kids and stuff.

When peace eventually comes I can't see the problem in a few Jews living in Palestine.

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[Ulrich2010](#)

20 September 2010 2:30PM

"The international community understands that Iran has provided weaponry and monetary support to non-state actors such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, undermining progress towards regional peace."

Hmmm. So support for the democratically elected government in Gaza undermines "progress towards regional peace" does it? I suppose technically that's true - if Iran left Hamas to its fate it probably would struggle to survive and its collapse probably would speed progress towards "peace", as Gazans would have no way to resist Israel's occupation of their land. Its just that it would be a peace imposed on Palestinians through utter defeat and, as such, probably wouldn't last very long.

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[DrDelaney](#)

20 September 2010 2:32PM

There seems to be general agreement that the thesis of this article is to be polite, "contrarian", to be less polite, bonkers. Iran will not willingly be part of the solution.

Necessary preconditions for peace:

- 1) The most influential Sunni Arab states' fear of Iran overcomes their loathing of the Jews.
- 2) Those states successfully contain Iran.
- 3) Those states join (at least tactly) with Israel, US, the Palestinian Authority in eliminating Hamastard physically.

Then the PA will have the permission of the Arab ex-spoilers to make peace, and Iran won't be able to stop it happening.

- - Recommend? (11)
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• [CraigSummers](#)

20 September 2010 2:32PM

SiamakinFlorida

This is all show by the US. That the US is stepping up military pressure is too be expected (especially because of the failure of diplomacy). But, a military strike by the US would undermine their own Middle East strategy which is a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians which they see as regionally important for US interest, and undermining Iran. Hamas and Hezbollah would likely retaliate. In addition, Obama spent the first year of his Presidency reaching out to the Muslim world. The US, in my opinion, is already in containment mode. Israel, however is another story.

Thanks for your reply.

- - Recommend? (6)
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• [Ulrich2010](#)

20 September 2010 2:39PM

@Bigfacedog: "Anyone with even 1 working eye can see that Iran is a fundamentalist anti rational entity that like all authoritarian regimes can only survive through conflict and enemy creation."

You sure you're not talking about America there? Eisenhower's warnings about the military-Industrial complex anyone?

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- | [Link](#)



• [Berchmans](#)

20 September 2010 2:45PM

DrDelaney

•
The most influential Sunni Arab states' fear of Iran overcomes their loathing of the Jews.##

To be fair, if the *Christadelphians* had landed a few million hungry angry folk on a parched bit of crowded land , their loathing would be of the *Christadelphians*.

You make it sound like *anti Semitism of the old school* which was that the Jews were hated because of their religion.. rather than their country's amazingly successful military operations.

B

- - Recommend? (6)
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- | [Link](#)



• [SiamakInFlorida](#)

20 September 2010 2:48PM

CraigSummers;

In addition, Obama spent the first year of his Presidency reaching out to the Muslim world. The US, in my opinion, is already in containment mode. Israel, however is another story.

"Containment strategy", although another story by itself, still remains relevant to the ongoing efforts at peace talks.

Islamic regime of Iran was at its inception a creation of hatred supported by the leftists (of all colors) in Iran, back in 1979 when they came to power storming the American Embassy in Tehran and holding American diplomats hostage for 444 days.

Observers and analysts must be constantly reminded as to what exactly fuels the regime of Iran. The answer is much simpler than most would think.

The regime of Iran is fueled by any indication of failure on the part of US Foreign

Policy in the region.

In my opinion therefore, the US has got to stop appearing as if its struggling to win. (i.e cut down on such blatantly bullcrap sideshows such as as "*Obama reaching out to the Muslim world*", or accommodate terror groups in the process of peace talks over I/P issues.)

Face issue head on and deal with the the American way. Any other way is simply too uncharacteristic of the US and will eventually lead to undermine its global interests.

As you are ware, Ahamdinejad is now in New York for his annual ritual of throwing insults at the US. lets wait and then review our response.

Thanks for your response.

- - Recommend? (9)
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20 September 2010 2:49PM

Iran getting the bomb would be the worst possible news for the Palestinians.

A super-strong Iran would NEVER let peace be made.

It would also ensure Hezbollah's complete dominance over Lebanon. Goodbye democracy. Welcoem theocracy

- - Recommend? (11)
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- | [Link](#)



[ragworm](#)

20 September 2010 3:04PM

@SpectreoverEurope.....excellent post, sums up the issues very succinctly

@Papalgi.....strikes me that Hamas are considerably closer to the international community than the Israeli Government.

@Pretzelberg.....how does Israel move the settlers without civil war? God is after all a higher authority than the Israeli Government.

- - Recommend? (4)
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- | [Link](#)



[HerbertH](#)

20 September 2010 3:11PM

victorjara

Most Arabs all be it reluctantly except the existance of Israel. What they do not accept is the idea of a greater Israel between the river and the sea

They must accept that the finally agreed borders are no longer part of the Muslim Ummah. This goes against imperatives in the Koran about land controlled by the Ummah **which can never be relinquished.**

That is why Israel is demanding formal recognition as a **JEWISH** state. (The rub). That is why the Arabs/Palestinians are not yet ready for peace.

True peace.

Never ending peace.

They will try to keep a dream that at some point in the future, **armies of the righteous rulers** will re-impose Islamic rule in Palestine.

What is called takkiyah.

- - Recommend? (4)
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- | [Link](#)



- [SiamakInFlorida](#)

20 September 2010 3:17PM

Herberth;

What is called takkiyah.

Jeramaya 51:11 also directly implecates the Medes(Persians) in a future ctasrophic destruction of babylon (now in US Domination).

- - Recommend? (4)
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- | [Link](#)



- [RumRiver](#)

20 September 2010 3:19PM

Several rules pertaining to ME political "solutions."

- 1) More complicated = less probable.
- 2) When you bump up against the words "honor" or "justice," stop reading. Only anti-peace Arabs use this kind of language.
- 3) Proposals that include Arab plans to remake the Israeli state, require that they militarily defeat the Israelis. Probably, most of them understand that, but there are some who don't. Ignore them.
- 4)The region doesn't turn on the Palestinians any more. It doesn't even really turn on the Arabs any more. The centrality of the Palestine Cause= wank.

- - Recommend? (3)
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- | [Link](#)



- [pretzelberg](#)

20 September 2010 3:20PM

@ Jubilation1 / benderBR / DrDelaney

Thank you for consciously avoiding answering my question!

@ bigfacedog

Good point and one which I have argued for consistently. In an ideal world the settlements would not exist, but given that they do, they should be a negotiating point

What an honest post! Jubilation1 and others could learn from you.

- - Recommend? (1)
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- | [Link](#)



• [bananachips](#)

20 September 2010 3:29PM

Berchmans

Hamas make it very clear they hate Jews that is all Jews and by no means are they the only ones to state that the ‘difficulty’ they have is with Jews , not Israelis.

Why lie about it , are you still in total denial of Hamas hate filled extremely racist charter ?

- - Recommend? (9)
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- | [Link](#)



• [constitutionforever](#)

20 September 2010 3:30PM

My fear is not a nuclear exchange between Isreal and Iran. iran would never do such a thing if they do care about the Palestinains as they claim, any nuclear fallout in Isreal will effect and harm the Palestinan territories. No, my fear is if Iran does make nucelar weapons, then Saudi Arabia will follow suit and God forbidd if it doesn then the Wahabbist take over the nation. Then you will see an imploded ME.

Now as for Iran I am a little concern with the fact that Ahmidinajad, I refuse to even try and spell his name right do to my absoutle lack of respect for him, recently said in an interview that his nation is the future, but I ask future of what? Future of the world or future of the ME?

- - Recommend? (2)
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- | [Link](#)



- [epidermoid](#)

20 September 2010 3:31PM

Berchmans:

You make it sound like anti-Semitism of the old school which was that the Jews were hated because of their religion.. rather than their country's amazingly successful military operations.

This is an indication of a 'orientalist' approach that Said would be proud of as an illustration of the West's concept of Arabs as being unable to account for their actions save as a result of their responses to the determinations of white men in Europe and America. Hamas behaves badly because Israel is next door, and the grossest of behaviour is of course permissible should anyone have the misfortune to be in a similar predicament. The scholarly recording, dissection, and explanation of thousands of years of Jewish persecution punctuated by pogrom, massacre and humiliation, is brushed aside, and the grotesque proposal made that, despite the consuming anti-Semitism of Muslim text, the florid rejection of Jews in the Holy Land long before their return in number, the vicious lies against their humanity, and the preparations for their disposal, despite all this, should the Israelis give in to the demands of Hamas and Iran, then all will be well in the Middle East, and all those nasty events which are so understandable in those other people far away, all will fade, and we shall have laughter and the gentle sounds of conciliation. Astonishing.

- - Recommend? (5)
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- | [Link](#)



• [alef](#)

20 September 2010 3:36PM

"neutralize Iran's nuclear ambitions"

Firstly we need some proof of such ambitions.

Secondly, if such ambitions are indeed real, they are directed against Saudi Arabia first and foremost which is the real enemy of Iran as a regional rival and energy supplier. The same Saudi Arabia which together with US and Kuwait were the main forces behind the Iraq's aggression against Iran.

Now it's a chicken game of "who is going to play the next Iraq" against Iran while the current Iraq is virtually destroyed by its American sponsor?

In this game, Israel may wish it will be Saudi Arabia (whose second best dream after destruction of Iraq is destruction of Israel) or America which will tie itself to Israel even more.

Saudi Arabia wishes it will be Israel so all the Arab's street rage will fall on it while the price of oil will reach the sky and make them richer and more important to the West.

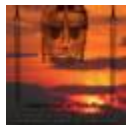
And America wishes the current situation will continue so it can sell arms to both - Israel and Saudi Arabia and build and expand the military bases surrounding Russia as a pretext of defense against Iran.

The Palestinians are, as usual, just a pawns in a grand game.

- - Recommend? (18)
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 -



- | [Link](#)



• [Angelcynn](#)

20 September 2010 3:36PM

DrDelaney....*Iran getting the bomb would be the worst possible news for the Palestinians*

Worse!!!!!!! I think most Palestinians would take that chance.

A super-strong Iran would NEVER let peace be made.

Well, it might put the brakes on a super-strong Israel stomping all over their neighbours.

- - Recommend? (8)
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 -



- | [Link](#)



• [ragworm](#)

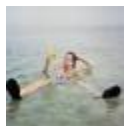
20 September 2010 3:40PM

@bananachips..... Hamas' last election manifesto called for borders on the 67 lines. Ismail Haniyeh suggested the same...on CiF. And he's repeatedly said that Hamas' problem is with colonial Zionists not Jews. Not that I'm defending Hamas particularly, I just wish you'd stop conflating issues and being hysterical.

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• [pretzelberg](#)

20 September 2010 3:43PM

Those would pour scorn on the Zionist cause and the creation of Israel are deemed by some to be anti-Semitic - understandably so.

So what are we to make of RumRiver's assertion that "*The centrality of the Palestine Cause= wank*"?

What does that tell us about RumRiver?

Any opinion on this, Jubilation1?

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- [constitutionforever](#)

20 September 2010 3:47PM

ragworm-This I do agree with bananachips on. Elements in both Hamas and Hezbollah have stated they will never accept a Jewish state in the region and Hezbollah has stated it's goal as to be the destruction of Israel. If the Hamas leadership is willingly to allow 67 borders that's fine, but they need to ring in the men calling for the destruction of Israel, because the Israelis will never trust Hamas as long as men affiliated with it keep talking like that and blow up buses with children on it.

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-  [callforjustice](#)

20 September 2010 3:50PM

if the israelis fear a "nuclear holocaust" from iran, why not trade-off theirs for irans in ME-wide NFZ ?

- - Recommend? (4)
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-  [epidermoid](#)

20 September 2010 3:52PM

Ulrich2010

a peace imposed on Palestinians through utter defeat and, as such, probably wouldn't last very long.

Interesting point. An analysis of the cultural and religious determinant of those that allow the election of Hamas, might predict the opposite. The cardinal mistake the Jews made initially, and the West continues to make, is that they imagine that their enemies think as they do, and wish for a future whose construction of law and liberty is similar. This is a dissonant position that expects too much of an enemy to whom has been extended the courtesy of an assumed moral and ethical equivalence. Conceding something to Hamas is not seen, as we imagine it, as an act of generosity that indicates good will and prepares for more, but as weakness to be exploited. The cessation of hostilities against Arab armies is not seen as the superior moral determination of the Jews not to crush their adverseries but as a victory giving time to regroup. Should the Israelis fight as Palestinains would fight, then they would win, and peace would prevail, but they cannot, for they do not fight in such ways.

-

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[epidermoid](#)

20 September 2010 3:56PM

callforjustice

if the israelis fear a "nuclear holocaust" from iran, why not trade-off theirs for irans in ME-wide NFZ ?

Because another united assault by combined Arab Armies from all directions has only to succeed once, and Israel and her inhabitants are finished.

-
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[Ajajib](#)

20 September 2010 4:05PM

epidermoid --

"Should the Israelis fight as Palestinians would fight, then they would win, and peace would prevail, but they cannot, for they do not fight in such ways"

You are taking the P i take it? The Goldstone report was very clear about the way the IDF "fight". The intentional targetting of palestinian civilians and there use as human shields by the brave IDF.

The world has witnessed how the IDF "fight". And even then with all there military advantage they cannot win.

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• [JohnCan45](#)

20 September 2010 4:07PM

More to the point, linkage of concerns for Iran makes a good excuse for Israel not to be genuine about peace with the Palestinians.

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• [constitutionforever](#)

20 September 2010 4:12PM

Ajaib-Then explain why after 3 attempts the Arab nations failed to conquer all of Isreal, and I will need more then the usual Arab excuse of, "The Isrealis cheated."

•

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[pretzelberg](#)

20 September 2010 4:15PM

constitutionforever

the Isrealis will never trust Hamas as long as men affialted with it keep talking like that and blow up buses with children on it.

Indeed, and the recent murder of four Israelis in the West Bank - followed by celebrations among some Hamas supporters in Gaza - wasn't exactly a massive confidence builder.

- - Recommend? (6)
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[pretzelberg](#)

20 September 2010 4:17PM

JohnCan45

More to the point, linkage of concerns for Iran makes a good excuse for Israel not to be genuine about peace with the Palestinians.

Oh, you cynic, you! How could you even entertain such a thought?!

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[Ajaib](#)

20 September 2010 4:18PM

constitutionforever -- Good intelligence , tactics, a well equiped, trained motivated military machine.

But Hezbollah kicked the IDF's arse.

- - Recommend? (2)
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[ragworm](#)

20 September 2010 4:18PM

@constitutionforever

but they need to ring in the men calling for the destruction of Isreal

...would you expect Israel to *ring in* the men calling for the destruction of Palestine (ie greater Israel)? Not really I suppose. Israel's fired a lot of rockets at Gaza (a lot more than ever Gaza has fired at Israel), a lot of people have died and a lot of people are very angry at Israel. That's the background against which some

are calling for the destruction of Israel.....which is sort of inevitable don't you think? But, however, not Hamas' leadership.

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- [constitutionforever](#)

20 September 2010 4:19PM

epidermoid-Interesting theory, I don't think it applies to berchmns but I will certainly be on the watch for such things on Isrealis threads from now on.

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- [Ajaib](#)

20 September 2010 4:22PM

"the Isrealis will never trust Hamas as long as men affialted with it keep talking like that and blow up buses with children on it."

The palestinians will never trust the Government of Israel as long the IDF continues to kill inocent men, women babies.

- - Recommend? (7)

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[epidermoid](#)

20 September 2010 4:22PM

Ajaib:

The Goldstone report was very clear about the way the IDF "fight". The intentional targeting of Palestinian civilians and their use as human shields by the brave IDF.

Dreadful accusations against the most moral army in the world, and unworthy of this debate. Israelis never deliberately target innocents, and never use human beings as shields to protect them against enemy bullets. The very idea is absurd, for it is predicated on the idea that the enemy would hesitate to fire at their own.

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[Ajaib](#)

20 September 2010 4:27PM

epidermoid

"Dreadful accusations against the most moral army in the world, and unworthy of this debate"

Your really making me laugh today. "Immoral army" is a better term. Ever read the Goldstone report?

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- [constitutionforever](#)

20 September 2010 4:27PM

ragworm and Ajaib-Then tell me when does it all end. If a Hezbollah rocket kills an Isreali child is that just, and therefore wrong for the Isrealis to retaliate? Are you expecting the Isrealis to just allow terror attacks to continue unabated and not defend it'self and it's people? Who is always right and who is always wrong in this conflict?

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- [Ajaib](#)

20 September 2010 4:33PM

constitutionforever

"Then tell me when does it all end. If a Hezbollah rocket kills an Isreali child is that just, and therefore wrong for the Isrealis to retaliate"

What about the Palestinian children killed by 500 pound smart bombs. Your so one sided. RachelCorrie killed by a bulldozer. How was she a threat?

No civillians should be harmed in any conflict.

- - Recommend? (5)
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- [callforjustice](#)

20 September 2010 4:37PM

epidermoid

20 September 2010 3:56PM

callforjustice

if the israelis fear a "nuclear holocaust" from iran, why not trade-off theirs for irans in ME-wide NFZ ?

Because another united assault by combined Arab Armies from all directions has only to succeed once, and Israel and her inhabitants are finished.

+++++

i understand - meaning their nukes, in a "united assult by Arab armies" (excuse my chuckle), would be destined for Cairo, Beruit, Damascus, Amman, Tehran, Bagdad, why not Malyasia!

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• [DrDelaney](#)

20 September 2010 4:38PM

After Iran, the second greatest enemy of the Palestinian people and the peace and staehood they need is the international anti-Israel movements which illudes the more extreme Palestinian elements into believing they can hope to have it all rather than talking peace for real and ignoring the other spoilers in the region.

Shame on these movements. Real shame. They have much much blood on their hands

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• [constitutionforever](#)

20 September 2010 4:38PM

Ajiab-Then please condomn all Hezbollah and Hamas attacks on Isreali civilians. I condem Isreali attacks on Palestinian civilians but that doesn't mean I support Hamas or Hezbollah attacking Isreali civilains.

- - Recommend? (4)
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[Ajaib](#)

20 September 2010 4:44PM

constitutionforever --- Civillians should not be targetted by anyone. That includes Hezbollah and Hamas. I totally agree with you.

- - Recommend? (5)
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[constitutionforever](#)

20 September 2010 4:51PM

Ajiab-Thank you, that's all I wanted to hear. My point in all of this is the following. The deaths and bombings and rockets will never stop as long as both sides continue to attack for retribution. Everytime Hezbollah fires a mortar or a rocket into Isreal that kills Isreali civilians, the Isrealis will retaliate with airstirkes that will kill Lebanese civilians. Everytime Hamas deteonates a car bomb or suicide bomber on an Isreali school bus, the Isrealis will retaliate with gunships that will no doubt kill Palestinian civilains. Then Hamas and Hezbollah will use these deaths to unleahs retaliation against Isreal. it's an endless cycle that seems to continue, on, and on, and on, and on until both sides seemed destined to wipe each other out completely. This has to stop and it means both sides have to stop attacking each other.

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• [marajoven](#)

20 September 2010 4:59PM

I would like to know what is the issue of Iran with Israel. Iran doesn't even share a border with Israel. What is the problem? The Holocaust never happened? O.k, it didn't happen. It is just a lie invented by the Jews. So? And Israel is "an artificial state". But nearly all countries in the ME were created by either France or GB. Is it out of love for the Arabs? The same Arabs that they killed 500,000 of them in Iraq? Is it because the Arabs only have 22 countries, 2 in Palestine (Jordan and Gaza)? What about the Kurdish minority in Iran? Why can't they have their independence, their one and only country?

And why are Iranians Muslims? Whatever happened to their original religions? To the ones they had before the Arab invaders converted them by the sword? Can anyone Iranian answer that one?

- - Recommend? (4)
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• [SiamakInFlorida](#)

20 September 2010 5:12PM

marajoven;

And why are Iranians Muslims? Whatever happened to their original religions? To the ones they had before the Arab invaders converted them by the sword? Can anyone Iranian answer that one?

History of Persia suggests what's happened;

-Cyrus the great wrote the [first \(known\) document on "human rights and multiculturalism"](#) sometime around 2550 years ago, and things went well up until 1400 years ago when Arab influence (of the sword) started to take hold in Persia about 1100 years later.

Things have been going downhill since, proving that Multiculturalism and Human Rights are indeed very fragile notions of civility and very much prone to perils of mayhem, disorder and barbarism initiated by a minority ideology. (see fragile liberal democracies of Europe today and their concerted efforts at keeping Islamic extremism at bay. i.e. France outlawing of the Berka in public)

Hope that answers part of your question.

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• [Jubilation1](#)

20 September 2010 5:16PM

We teach our students at the University of Maryland: "The Israelis and Palestinians are doomed to live together." This summer, we added to this formulation, "... or are doomed to die together".

It's lovely that you teach your pupils togetherness. And it's significant that it's in far-away Maryland. If you were to live with the consequences of your actions, or saw the realities on the ground, your attitudes might be slightly less utopian.

Unfortunately there are those who demand the second half of your formulation.

PA Arab peacemakers have been calling their Israeli partners and asking them not to mention their names or the names of groups because they have been threatened for talking peace. That's not a good sign and it might be part of your reasoning if you lived here, in the ME.

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- [alJabhahalShabiyyah](#)

20 September 2010 5:18PM

Success in the current Israeli-Palestinian negotiations will depend on active bridging by the third party, the United States.

"Bridging" from what and to what? There is no conceivable bridge between what the Zionist state will concede willingly and the very minimum of Palestinian demands, i.e. independence and self-determination.

These negotiations are at best a farce and at worst a hoax.

- - Recommend? (5)
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- [SiamakInFlorida](#)

20 September 2010 5:23PM

P.s.;

The support of barbarism and despotic regional rulers was the flagship of old European colonial foreign policy.

In a way, the new world has been in conflict with this outdated policy since the last world war.

See [France's decision to re join NATO last year after 40 years](#) of poo pooing it.

- \
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- [KrustytheKlown](#)

20 September 2010 5:25PM

Arab influence (of the sword) started to take hold in Persia about 1100 years later.

Quite aside from the fact that most people in what is now Iran converted to Islam willingly and without coercion, if someone had written a post blaming the decline of civilisation on the "barbarism" of Jewish influence (rather than Islamic or Arab influence, as per your post) the post would have been deleted and the poster likely placed in the sin bin by now.

- - Recommend? (13)
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- [SiamakInFlorida](#)

20 September 2010 5:29PM

Krusty;

Quite aside from the fact that most people in what is now Iran converted to Islam willingly and without coercion,

You will find most people *willingly* convert to anything when alternatives are grim (such as being beheaded).

See the rule of muslim despots in Iran, such as the brutal reign of the Safavids and Shah Abbas.

- - Recommend? (11)
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[CAPLAN](#)

•

20 September 2010 5:34PM

hideand seeker

check your facts about the mid east

the jewish MAJORITY left Iran

according to simpson of the bbc 60 years ago 25% of baghdad was jewish . now there is one old man left where are the jews of egypt, syria, algeria , libya, lebanon?

Note that morroco is an exception in having a viable jewish community... WHY?

- - Recommend? (3)
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[alJabhahalShabiyyah](#)

•

20 September 2010 5:38PM

@KrustytheKlown

Quite aside from the fact that most people in what is now Iran converted to Islam willingly and without coercion, if someone had written a post blaming the decline of civilisation on the "barbarism" of Jewish influence (rather than Islamic or Arab influence, as per your post) the post would have been deleted and the poster likely placed in the sin bin by now.

Such "commentary" is very common indeed, on here, and is stain on the "liberal" credentials of this paper. For many, though not all, it is fairly clear that their "Zionism" or pro-Zionism is a function of their Israeli chauvinism and/or anti-Arab racism.

1.

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[CommunityMod](#)

20 September 2010 5:52PM

This thread will shortly close.

1.

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• [SiamakInFlorida](#)

20 September 2010 5:55PM

For many, though not all, it is fairly clear that their "Zionism" or pro-Zionism is a function of their Israeli chauvinism and/or anti-Arab racism.

So many "isms" I do not know where to begin.
I was simply recounting history of the past 2550 years. Lets face it, it is somewhat undeniable.

1.

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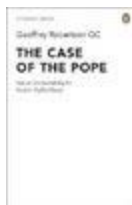
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