IRAN TARGETS ISRAEL: THE FATEFUL CONFRONTATION

BY DR. HAROLD BRACKMAN
1970: “Jews . . . wish to establish Jewish domination … Since they are a cunning and resourceful group of people, I fear that . . . they may one day achieve their goal … Jews have grasped the world with both hands and are devouring it with an insatiable appetite; they are devouring America and have now turned their attention to Iran and still they are not satisfied.”

1979: “[Israel is] the enemy of humanity throughout the world.”

2001: “There is evidence which shows that Zionists had close relations with German Nazis and exaggerated statistics on Jewish killings. There is even evidence on hand that a large number of non-Jewish hooligans and thugs of Eastern Europe were forced to emigrate to Palestine as Jews . . . to install in the heart of the Islamic world an anti-Islamic State under the guise of supporting the victims of racism.”

2011: “This gentleman [Muammar Qaddafi] wrapped up all his nuclear facilities, packed them on a ship and delivered them to the West and said, ‘Take them!’ Look where we are, and in what position they are now.”

2012: “The Zionist regime is a true cancer tumor on this region that should be cut off. And it definitely will be cut off.”
IRAN targets ISRAEL
THE FATEFUL CONFRONTATION

December 14, 2001:
“Jews . . . wish to establish Jewish domination . . . Since they are a cunning and resourceful group of people, I fear that . . . they may one day achieve their goal . . . Jews have grasped the world with both hands and are devouring it with an insatiable appetite; they are devouring America and have now turned their attention to Iran and still they are not satisfied.”

October 26, 2005
“Our dear Imam [Khomeini] ordered that this Jerusalem-occupying regime must be erased from the page of time [alternative translation: wiped from the map]. This was a very wise statement . . . Soon this stain of disgrace will be cleaned from the garment of the world of Islam, and this is attainable.” (In a Program Entitled “The World Without Zionism”)

October 27, 2005
“Anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation’s fury.”

December 14, 2005
“Today, they [Europeans] have created a myth in the name of Holocaust and consider it to be above God, religion and the prophets. This is our proposal: give a part of your own land in Europe, the United States, Canada or Alaska to them [Jews] so that the Jews can establish their country.” (At the Opening of the “Support for the Palestinian Intifada” Conference in Tehran)
HOLOCAUST DENIAL, GLOBAL JEW HATRED, AND NUCLEAR INTIMIDATION: IRANIAN LEADERS IN THEIR OWN WORDS

PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD:

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“Our dear Imam [Khomeini] ordered that this Jerusalem-occupying regime must be erased from the page of time [alternative translation: wiped from the map]. This was a very wise statement . . . Soon this stain of disgrace will be cleaned from the garment of the world of Islam, and this is attainable.” (In a Program Entitled “The World Without Zionism”)

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April 14, 2006
“The Zionist regime is an injustice and by its very nature a permanent threat. Whether you like it or not, the Zionist regime is heading toward annihilation. The Zionist regime is a rotten, dried tree that will be eliminated by one storm. If there is serious doubt over the Holocaust, there is no doubt over the catastrophe and holocaust being faced by the Palestinians. Holocaust has been continuing in Palestine over the past 60 years.”

April 24, 2006
“We say that this fake regime [Israel] cannot not logically continue to live. Open the doors (of Europe) and let the Jews go back to their own countries.”

May 28, 2006
“I believe the German people are prisoners of the Holocaust. More than 60 million were killed in World War II. . . . The question is: Why is it that only the Jews are at the center of attention?”

July 13, 2006
“The Zionists and their protectors are the most detested people in all of humanity, and the hatred is increasing every day. The worse their crimes, the quicker they will fall. [Israel] has blackened the pages of history.”
HOLOCAUST DENIAL, GLOBAL JEW HATRED, AND NUCLEAR INTIMIDATION:
IRANIAN LEADERS IN THEIR OWN WORDS

PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD:

July 16, 2006
“The Zionists think that they are victims of Hitler, but they act like Hitler and behave worse than Genghis Khan.”

July 27, 2006
“The occupying regime of Palestine has actually pushed the button of its own destruction by launching a new round of invasion and barbaric onslaught on Lebanon.”

October 4, 2006
“A new Middle East will prevail without the existence of Israel.”

October 19, 2006
“The Zionist regime is counterfeit and illegitimate and cannot survive.”

November 13, 2006
“Israel is destined for destruction and will soon disappear. [It is] a contradiction to nature. We foresee its rapid disappearance and destruction.”

December 12, 2006
“Thanks to people’s wishes and God’s will the trend for the existence of the Zionist regime is downwards and this is what God has promised and what all nations want. Just as the Soviet Union was wiped out and today does not exist, so will the Zionist regime soon be wiped out.” (Comments to Iranian Holocaust Conference)

February 28, 2007
“The Zionists are the true manifestation of Satan. . . . Many Western governments that claim to be pioneers of democracy and standard bearers of human rights close their eyes over crimes committed by the Zionists and by remaining silent support the Zionists due to their hedonistic and materialistic tendencies.”

March 27, 2007
“It is quite clear that a bunch of Zionist racists are the problem the modern world is facing today.”
POSCO REPORT

IRAN targets ISRAEL
THE FATEFUL CONFRONTATION

HOLOCAUST DENIAL, GLOBAL JEW HATRED, AND NUCLEAR INTIMIDATION:
IRANIAN LEADERS IN THEIR OWN WORDS

PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD:

June 3, 2007
“With God’s help, the countdown button for the destruction of the Zionist regime has been pushed by the hands of the children of Lebanon and Palestine. . . . By God’s will, we will witness the destruction of this regime in the near future.”

August 18, 2007
“The Zionist regime is the flag bearer of violation and occupation and this regime is the flag of Satan.”

August 28, 2007
“Zionists are people without any religion. They are lying about being Jewish because religion means brotherhood, friendship and respecting other divine religions. They are an organized minority who have infiltrated the world. They are not even a 10,000-strong organization.”

October 5, 2007
“After the Second World War, they created a scenario called ‘pogrom against Jews’. All over Europe and the countries under Western rule, an anti-Jewish movement has been concocted. The climate of propaganda and psychological warfare on the one hand and on the other hand using the issue of ovens burning human beings, they have concocted a myth of deprivation and innocence for the Jews of Europe. They use this pretext of the innocence of Jews and the suffering of some Jews during the Second World War. Riding on the crest of a wave of anti-Jewish sentiments, they have laid the foundations for the Zionist regime. . . . You cannot tolerate the presence of Zionists in Europe but want to inflict them on the people of our region? You have so much land in your possession. This vast land of Canada and Alaska can be used to resettle the Jews. Save yourselves.” (Al-Quds Day Speech)

January 30, 2008
“I warn you to abandon the filthy Zionist entity, which has reached the end of the line. It has lost its reason to be and will sooner or later fall. The ones who still support the criminal Zionists should know that the occupiers’ days are numbered. Accept that the life of Zionists will sooner or later come to an end.”

February 5, 2008
“A people falsified, invented. [Israel] will not last.”
February 20, 2008
“The world powers established this filthy bacteria, the Zionist regime, which is lashing out at the nations in the region like a wild beast.”

May 8, 2008
“Those who think they can revive the stinking corpse of the usurping and fake Israeli regime by throwing a birthday party are seriously mistaken.”

August 23, 2008
“About 2,000 organized Zionists and 7,000 to 8,000 agents of Zionism have dragged the world into turmoil. The powerful hand of the nations will clean these sources of corruption from the face of the earth.”

September 23, 2008
“The dignity, integrity, and rights of the American and European people are being played with by a small but deceitful number of people called Zionists. Although they are a miniscule minority, they have been dominating an important portion of the financial and monetary centers as well as the political decision making centers of some European countries and the US in a deceitful, complex and furtive manner.”

December 30, 2008
“The real Holocaust is now taking place in Gaza Strip and Palestine.”

April 21, 2009
“Wasn’t the military action against Iraq planned by the Zionists and their allies in the then U.S. administration in complicity with the arms manufacturing companies and the owner of the wealth?” (Remarks before UN Conference on Racism)

September 18, 2009
“They [the Western powers] launched the myth of the Holocaust. They lied, they put on a show, and then they support the Jews.” (Al-Quds Speech)
September 21, 2010
“The question is, why don’t we allow this subject [the Holocaust] to be examined further. . . It is incorrect to force only one view on the rest of the world. How come when it comes to the subject of the Holocaust there is so much sensitivity?” (News conference in New York City)

September 23, 2010
“The Zionists have imposed five all-out wars on the neighboring countries and on the Palestinian people. The Zionists committed the most horrible crimes against the defenseless people in the wars against Lebanon and Gaza. The Zionist regime attacked a humanitarian flotilla in a blatant defiance of all international norms and kills the civilians. This regime which enjoys the absolute support of some western countries regularly threatens the countries in the region and continues publicly announced assassinations of Palestinian figures and others, while Palestinian defenders and those opposing this regime are pressured, labelled as terrorists and anti-Semites. All values, even the freedom of expression, in Europe and in the United States are being sacrificed at the altar of Zionism.” (Speech before UN General Assembly)

August 27, 2011
“The Zionist regime is a center of germs and cancerous cells and if it exists in even one small part of Palestine it will mobilize again and hurt everyone. . . . The goal of all believers and seekers of justice should be the disappearance of the Zionist regime. . . All of the foundations for the creation of this [Israeli] regime were based on a lie and deception, and the Holocaust was one of these big lies,” he said. (Al-Quds Day Address)

September 22, 2011
“Who imposed, through deceits and hypocrisy, the Zionism and over sixty years of war, homelessness, terror, and mass murder on the Palestinian people and on countries of the region? . . . Who used the mysterious September 11 incident as a pretext to attack Afghanistan and Iraq, killing, injuring, and displacing millions in two countries with the ultimate goal of bringing into its domination the Middle East and its oil resources? . . . If some European countries still use the Holocaust, after six decades, as the excuse to pay fine or ransom to the Zionists, should it not be an obligation upon the slave masters or colonial powers to pay reparations to the affected nations?” (Speech before UN General Assembly)
IRAN TARGETS ISRAEL

THE FATEFUL CONFRONTATION

HOLOCAUST DENIAL, GLOBAL JEW HATRED, AND NUCLEAR INTIMIDATION:
IRANIAN LEADERS IN THEIR OWN WORDS

PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD:

December 13, 2011
“[The US administration is under control of] Zionists whose survivals are tied to war and bloodshed and plundering the wealth of other nations.”

January 3, 2012
“Zionists, who have no faith in religion or even God, now claim piety and intend to take away the Islamic identity of the Holy Quds.”

July 1, 2012
“It has now been some 400 years that a horrendous Zionist clan has been ruling the major world affairs. And behind the scenes of the major power circles, in political, media, monetary, and banking organizations in the world, they have been the decision-makers, to an extent that a big power with a huge economy and over 300 million population, the presidential election hopefuls must go kiss the feet of the Zionists to ensure their victory in the elections.” (Speaking to Ambassadors of Islamic Countries)

September 9, 2012
“Arrogant powers and enemies of nations are trying to manage the developments in the region so as to save the Zionist regime [from obliteration]. We should not downplay and underestimate the plots and actions of the enemies...they may pretend to rebuke the Zionist regime, but their main objective is to save this regime,” the Iranian president said. . . . We have to be more vigilant in a bid to be able to neutralize their conspiracies.” (Meeting with senior Hamas official Mahmoud Zahar in Tehran)

September 24, 2012
“Israel will be eliminated”

FATEMEH BOLOURI KASHANI:
(WIDOW OF MOSTAFA AHMADI ROSHAN, ASSASSINATED DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NATANZ URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY)

February 21, 2012
“Mostafa’s ultimate goal was the annihilation of Israel.”
IRAN VICE PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD-REZA RAHIMI:

June 26, 2012
“The Islamic Republic of Iran will pay for anybody who can research and find one single Zionist who is an addict. They do not exist. This is the proof of their involvement in drugs trade. . . . [The Talmud teaches to] destroy everyone who opposes the Jews. . . . [There is a difference between Jews who] honestly follow the prophet Moses” [and the Zionists who are] the main elements of the international drugs trade. They think God has created the world so that all other nations can serve them.” (Before a UN Forum in Tehran on Fighting Drug Addiction. The English-language Iranian news agency falsely translated Rahami’s use of “Jews” to “Zionists.”)

IRANIAN REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS GENERAL:
AMIR ALI HAJIZADEH
HEAD OF AEROSPACE DIVISION IN CHARGE OF MISSILE SYSTEMS

July 1, 2012
“If they [Israel] take any action, they will hand us an excuse to wipe them off the face of the earth.” (Announcing new Iranian tests of missiles with 2,000-kilometre range.)

MAJOR GENERAL HASSAN FIROUZABADI
CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE IRANIAN ARMED FORCES

August 5, 2012
“The Iranian nation is standing for its cause that is the full annihilation of Israel.”
This year, the United Nations scheduled Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to speak before the General Assembly on Yom Kippur. Nothing could more starkly represent the world community’s failure to confront the global evil posed by a man and a regime deserving indictment under international law for inciting and planning genocide against Israel.

A few months ago, Foreign Affairs, the prestigious journal of the Council on Foreign Relations, featured an essay—”Why Iran Should Get the Bomb: Nuclear Balancing Would Mean Stability”—by Harvard University Professor Kenneth N. Waltz. Also the coauthor of The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy (2007) arguing that a Jewish cabal controls American Mideast policy, Waltz in his new essay went further: “It is Israel’s nuclear arsenal, not Iran’s desire for one, that has contributed most to the current crisis”—the “solution” to which is to allow Islamic Republic of Iran to develop nuclear weapons!  

Not since ancient times—when Queen Esther foiled Haman’s genocidal designs—has Iran constituted such a threat to the Jewish people. The difference is that, in those days, there were no apologists for Haman occupying tenured positions at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government.

Recently in Foreign Affairs, James Traub suggested that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s mind occupies “a zone of insanity.” Of course, geopolitical madness has a very different address in the Middle East. A nuclear-armed Iran would contribute to regional “stability” in the same way that supplying a mad bomber living next door with nitroglycerin would make your neighborhood safer. If you have any doubts—don’t ask the Israelis—just ask King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia who has repeatedly said the only “solution” to the Iranian bomb is to “cut off the head of the snake” that is Iran’s ruling mullahtocracy. 

Long before the current nuclear crisis, Islamist Iran’s blood feud against the survival of the Jewish state was a horrific fact of life for the region and the world. This report traces its origins back four decades to the Ayatollah Khomeini’s overthrow of the Shah, to the creation of an Iranian terror network with links stretching from Syria and Lebanon as far as North Korea and Venezuela, to the evolution of Holocaust Denial and Jew hatred as the cornerstone of Iranian statecraft, and to emergence of the current Iranian nuclear threat.

Israel and those in the western world sharing its democratic values and commitment to freedom and tolerance—as well as the Arab countries threatened by Iran—face a terrible dilemma with deep roots in recent Mideast history and a long shadow that now overhangs the twenty-first century. There are no easy answers to the question: What To Do About Iran? The only certainty is that to do nothing—retreating into wishful thinking and anti-Israel scapegoating, will produce catastrophic results akin to those that befell the world during World War II and the Holocaust.
As Rabbi Marvin Hier, Dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, warned in his recent Rosh Hashanah message: “Israel cannot wait like America or England. She is not separated by an ocean or sea. She has nowhere to hide. The Ayatollahs will not change their minds. It is we who must change ours. The leaders of the Western world should tell Iran, in plain language, ‘give up your nuclear weapons program or we will join Israel in wiping out your nuclear capacity.’”

The 1979 Iranian Revolution that resulted in the power seizure by a theocratic regime under the iron fist of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini came as a rude shock to the Israelis because of the contrast between the mullahs’ new anti-Israel hardline and what came before. Under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Iran became the second Mideast nation after Turkey to extend Israel implicit recognition in 1950. Between the 1950s and 1970s, not an Israeli-Iranian formal alliance, but a de facto partnership developed. The Iranian Jewish community was left in peace to prosper for the most part (in contrast to being held as virtual hostages subsequently under the Ayatollah). Israel trained four hundred Iranian pilots, paratroopers and artillery men, and sold Iran high-tech military equipment. Claims that the Mossad also trained the Iranian Savak in torture and investigative techniques are based on anonymous, unsubstantiated allegations.

David Ben Gurion’s “peripheral strategy” to outflank Israel’s Arab enemies with Turkish and Persian allies—Iran being “the jewel in the crown of the alliance of the periphery”—did not go altogether smoothly. Even before 1979, Israel and Iran always did not see eye-to-eye. The Shah sought to play both sides during the 1973 War, supplying Israel with oil and weapons, but also selling oil to Egypt and acting as conduit for Soviet arms to Iraq. Ostensibly acting as an “honest broker” during the postwar Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, the Shah in fact insisted that Israel return all occupied territory, and voted for UN resolutions for a “nuclear free” Mideast and branding “Zionism as racism.” In a fateful move that compromised Iran’s position during its future war with Iraq, the Shah also signed the 1975 Algiers Agreement with Saddam Hussein ending Iranian support for Iraq’s Kurdish insurgents. Even so, as late as 1977, Iran and Israel cooperated on the missile development “Project Flower.”
All this problematic history paled in comparison with the dramatic reversal of Iranian policy toward Israel beginning in 1979. When Yasser Arafat with a large party appeared on February 11, the day that the Islamic Republic was declared, they were given control of the Israeli trade mission, designated “the Embassy of Palestine” on “Palestine Avenue.” Arafat set up PLO offices were established in Ahvaz in Khuzestan, and the Ayatollah called for Israeli to be expelled from the UN and driven into the sea by an Islamic Army. The last Friday in Ramadan was also declared Quds or Jerusalem Day by Ayatollah Khomeini. Rooted in Shiah Islam’s traditional disparagement of Jews as ritually impure, Khomeini’s obsession with Israel as a “cancerous growth in the Middle East” was first expressed as early as 1963; it was reaffirmed in 1970 “Programme for the Establishment of an Islamic Government” accusing “cunning and resourceful” Jews—“may God curse them”—of conspiring to undermine “the very foundations of Islam”; and it was memorialized in his 1979 official declaration that Israel is “the enemy of humanity throughout the world.”

Despite the mullahs’ ongoing suspicions of the PLO—too secular for their tastes and accused of plotting to manipulate Iran’s Arab minority—their new policy of hostility to-the-death toward Israel was in place in 1979, only to grow more extreme with time. Only the imperatives of regime survival partly muted this hostility for half a decade when back-channel contacts between Israel and Iran continued during Iran’s war with Iraq until the Iran Contra Affair of 1985-1986 because when the Iranians were in desperate need of military resupply (particularly, for Hawk ground-to-air missiles).
The 1980s and 1990s witnessed the creation by Iran—“the most active sponsor of terrorism”—of a globe-spanning terror network: first primarily to outflank Saddam Hussein’s Iraq, but then after the Iran-Iraq War ended and Saddam was cut down to size with Israel, the Jewish Diaspora, and ultimately the U.S. as prime targets. The network has continued to evolve and expand in the twenty-first century, waging according to the latest U.S. State Department Report a terror campaign “at the highest levels in more than a decade” on five continents and in countries ranging from Thailand, India, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, and Bulgaria where a bus-bombing killed eight and wounded 37 in July, 2012.  

Even when bogged down in a war for survival with Iraq decades earlier, Iran had created an Islamic Revolutionary Council to export its apocalyptic brand of Shia Islam to its immediate neighbors, Iraq and Afghanistan (both targets of Iranian terrorist outreach), to the Gulf states, to the Mediterranean, and beyond. Like Leninists earlier, Iran’s mullah assumed that their revolution must expand—or die. The same impulse thrives today, reflected in reports of high-level meetings between Iranian spy agencies and the intelligence head of post-Mubarak Egypt whose President Mohamed Morsi recently visited Tehran and its Bushehr nuclear plant.  

Initial attempts to ignite Shia uprisings in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and southern Iraq failed, but the Ayatollah immediately switched focus to Lebanon. There, he could rely on Iran’s anti-Iraq partnership with Syria where Hafez al-Assad’s dictatorship, based on the minority Alawite sect, shared Saddam’s secular Baathist ideology but feared and loathed him for his ruthless ambition and Sunni faith.  

Iran’s vehicle in Lebanon was Hezbollah—“the Party of God.” Modeled on a Khomeini political-military auxiliary of the same name, Hezbollah chose as a symbol a globe with an upraised arm brandishing an AK-47. Even before Khomeini came to power in 1979, a budding alliance between Iranian and Lebanese Shia led the Ayatollah, then in exile, to have his two sons find haven in Lebanon. A key figure in Hezbollah’s rise to terrorist prominence was Hezbollah’s first operational military leader, Hussain Mussawi, a chemist turned terrorist educated in Iran under the tutelage of Khomeini’s Defense Minister. Mussawi’s transnational, pan-Islamic credo— “We are her [Iran’s] children. . . . The Islamic revolution will march to liberate Palestine and Jerusalem, and the Islamic state will then spread its authority over the region of which Lebanon is only a part”—led him to form a strongly pro-Iranian faction of the Syrian-backed Amal Militia that evolved into Hezbollah in 1982-1983.
GLOBAL REACH OF LEBANON’S “PARTY OF GOD”

Contrary to the usual view that Hezbollah was “a Frankenstein monster” emerging among southern Lebanese Shias in spontaneous reaction to Israel’s June, 1982, attempt to root out the PLO’s state-within-state in southern Lebanon, Hezbollah’s founding leaders like Mussawi were already establishing training bases in Baalbek in eastern Lebanon’s Bekaa Valley where as many as 1,000 Iran Revolutionary Guards (Pasdaran) became active with Syrian authorization by July, 1982. Regarding car bombings, it should also be noted that the November, 1982, attack against the Israeli military headquarters in Tyre was preceded by a 1981 attack on Iraq’s Beirut Embassy showing that Lebanese terrorists put the priority on striking out against Iran’s enemy: Saddam Hussein. 12

Mussawi was a leader in the kidnapping of Americans and other foreigners that became the Lebanon Hostage Crisis, a few years after the occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Iran. So too was Imad Fayez Mughniyah, aka Abu Dokhan (“the father of smoke”). He was involved in the 1980s in the kidnapping of William Francis Buckley, CIA Beirut station chief who was beaten to death. Growing out of crossborder attacks during the 1990s were the kidnappings of Israelis in 2000 and in 2006, planned by Mughniyah, that precipitated the Second Lebanon War. A mastermind of car bombings including suicide bombings inspired by Iran’s cult of “sublime martyrdom,” Mughniyah was dubbed by Israeli intelligence “a triple Hezbollah-Iran-Al Qaeda and terrorist executive.” A Lebanese who joined Yasser Arafat’s student bodyguard, he then studied engineering as the American University in Beirut before gravitating toward Iran’s rising star in Lebanon despite the fact his early secular politics. 13

Credited with the deaths of more Americans than any other terrorist before the 9/11 attacks, Mughniyah helped plan 1983’s Beirut Marine Barracks and U.S. Embassy bombings, killing over 350 people. The FBI put a $5 million bounty on his head for the deadly 1985 airline hijacking of TWA Airliner 847. He set up Hezbollah Unit 1800 which worked with Iran’s al-Quds Force—Iran funds Hezbollah with $200 million a year—in global terror operations. He met with Osama bin Laden in Khartoum around 1990. He was indicted in Argentina for his role in the bombing of Israel’s Buenos Aires Embassy in March 17, 1992, with 29 fatalities. That crime was followed by the bombing of the AMIA cultural building in in Buenos Aires in July, 1994, leaving 86 people dead. Mughniyah may have been involved in the deadly Khobar Towers Bombing in Saudi Arabia in 1996. He was a point man in the Karine A ship incident in 2002, in which Iran attempted to supply the Palestinian Authority with fifty tons of weapons. He was finally killed in a car bomb blast in Damascus in 2008. The Israelis were blamed but disclaimed responsibility. His legacy lived on in the foiled Iranian-Hezbollah plot in April, 2009, to attack Egyptian tourist spots. 14
Mughniyah’s career personified Hezbollah’s global reach. This stretches from Syria and Iran to Palestine—where Hamas terrorists deported by Israel to Lebanon in the 1990s trained in Hezbollah camps—and to Africa where Sudan’s Hassan al-Turabi was a patron of Hezbollah and Hamas as well as Al Qaeda and Hezbollah. Hezbollah raises funds from the West African “blood diamonds” trade. In Europe, Hezbollah’s followers ritually celebrate Al-Quds (Liberation of Jerusalem) Day in London and particularly Germany where its terrorist cells are entrenched. Hezbollah’s influence also extends to Latin America where the lawless Tri-Border region of Paraguay, Argentina, and Brazil serves as resource-and-recruitment center, Then there is their U.S. presence—including a North Carolina-Michigan crime circuit specializing in immigration and credit card fraud, counterfeiting, and cigarette smuggling with proceeds divided between remittances to Lebanon and American terrorist training, and allegations of drug running and human trafficking across the Mexican border. Globally, Hezbollah was responsible for nine anti-Israel or anti-Jewish terrorist plots from January to September, 2012. Finally, there is Hezbollah’s projection of genocidal ideology into cyberspace through its satellite television station, Al-Manar (“The Beacon”), which has been designated a “Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity” by the U.S. Treasury Department, and reaches Western Europe, Canada, and Australia with programming demonizing “Talmudic Jews” and popularizing The Protocols of the Elders of Zion. In 2002, in response to Israel’s Operation Defensive Shield in the Palestinian territories, Hezbollah fired 600 missiles and rockets and 300 anti-tank missiles into Israel—a prelude to the 4,000 missiles it fired into Northern Israel during the 2006 Lebanon War.”

Given Hezbollah’s impact before the 2006 Lebanon War and even more since—current estimates of its arsenal include 40,000 rockets and missiles such as the medium range Zelzal (Earthquake) 1 and 2, Fahr (Dawn), Fateh 110 with a range up to 155 miles, and the hi-tech Chinese-made C-807 ship killer—it is easy to understand why Former U.S. Deputy of State Richard Armitage called it global terrorism’s “A team” compared to Al Qaeda’s “B team.” In November, 2009, Israeli naval commandos boarded the MV Francorps, a cargo ship carrying thousands of tons of weaponry from Iran to Hezbollah. Politically even more than militarily, Hezbollah’s power waxed following the 2005 Cedar Revolution, forcing Syria to withdraw troops from Lebanon. Its genocidal intent toward Jews as well as Israel remains unmistakable in current secretary-general Hassan Nasrallah’s declaration: “If we searched the entire world for a person more cowardly, despicable, weak and feeble in psyche, mind ideology, and religion, we would not find anyone like the Jew. Notice I do not say the Israeli.”
Revolutionary Iran has masterfully deployed surrogates or proxies to extend its influence. State actors include Syria, Sudan, Venezuela (Iran’s “advance outpost” in the Americas), and North Korea. Nonstate actors include the Dawa Party and Muqtada al-Sadr’s Mahdi Army in Iraq, Azeris among Afghani Taliban elements (though not the movement as a whole), and of course Hezbollah (Iran’s “forward base” against Israel). Individual Al Qaeda figures have received haven in Iran, but there has never been a formal alliance. On the other hand, the Iranian and Syrian regimes have been joined at the hip, with Tehran sending 150 senior Revolutionary Guard commanders to prop up the faltering Assad regime and promising to step up terrorist attacks worldwide in support of embattled Damascus. Yet increasingly important have been Palestinians—first Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), then Hamas, and (to a lesser degree) Fatah.  

Iran’s courting of Palestinian factions began with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad which, despite its secularism, was inspired by Khomeini’s Revolution. The smallest and most violent Palestinian terrorist organization, the PIJ continued to look to Tehran for money and training after its expulsion in the late 1980s from Gaza, moving first to Lebanon and then establishing headquarters in Damascus. 

Slower to blossom was Iran’s relationship with theologically Sunni Hamas, which opened an office in Tehran in 1991. A turning point was Israel’s mistake in 1988-1992 by deporting, after the murder of an Israeli policeman, Hamas activists to Lebanon, where they were trained in bomb making at a special camp run by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. In 1993, 415 Palestinian militants mostly belonging to Hamas returned from Lebanon to Gaza where they built new bridges with Iran in a common “rejectionist” front against the Oslo Peace Accords. In 1995-1996, Iran gave Hamas $25-$30 million to finance its bus-bombing campaign. In 1997, Hamas “spiritual leader” Sheikh Ammad Yassin visited Tehran—a precedent for the subsequent frequent visits by Damascus-based Hamas political point man Khaled Mashall. 

Iranian financial and military support of Hamas experienced a quantum leap forward after Hamas won the January, 2006, Gaza elections and then staged a coup against Fatah in June, 2007. “Hamastan has been formed, a proxy for Iran in the image of the Taliban,” said Benjamin Netanyahu, then Israeli opposition leader. Disputed Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, a Hamas member whose authority is limited to Gaza, declared on a visit to Tehran that Iran is “the strategic depth of the Palestinians,” and announced a $240 million grant by Iran. 

Ahead of Operation Cast Lead—launched by Israel in December, 2008, to preempt Hamas’ growing missile threat—Iran supplied Hamas with 122m Katyushas like those used by Hezbollah, IEDs of the same kind deployed against American forces in Iraq, and some longer-range rockets capable of hitting Ashkelon, south of Tel Aviv. By 2012, Hamas was believed to have rocket production lines and storage centers in the Sinai.
**IRAN’S PALESTINIAN PROXIES**

Reciprocating Iran’s support, Hamas has reached out theologically to the Islamic Republic by distributing to its activists a 2010 booklet arguing (as summarized by Ehud Yaari) “that the Muslim Brotherhood—with Hamas as its Palestinian branch—is a natural partner of Iran, with which it shares a common set of values and a joint vision of the revival of the caliphate, despite the [historical] divide” between Sunni and Shia Islam. The author, Dr. Ahmed Yousef, is director-general Hamas’ Foreign Ministry in Gaza with prior experience as part of Mohammed Abu Marzook’s circle in the U.S. where, based in Virginia, he headed “a think tank.” Hamas PM Ismail Haniyeh attended the recent –Non-Aligned Movement summit in Tehran.  

Finally, Iran—despite strained relations with Yasser Arafat going back to his meeting with Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979—reached out to Fatah, especially after the Second Intifadah was declared in 2000. Tehran hosted a “Support for the Palestinian Intifadah” Conference in 2001, attended by Fatah representatives. In 2002, a new stage in support was reached when Iran chose direct rather than indirect aid through Hezbollah by loading 50 tons of armaments on the Palestinian-chartered ship, Karine A, which Israeli commandos intercepted in the Red Sea.) In 2010, Iran attempted the same thing through a more circuitous route when Nigerian authorities intercepted 13 tons of Iranian weapons, headed for Gambia, to be trucked through Chad and Sudan, and ultimately through Egypt to Gaza. In February, 2012, Iran sent a destroyer through post-Mubarak Egypt’s Suez Canal.

**EMERGING TRIANGLE: NORTH KOREA-IRAN-VENEZUELA**

Until 2000, Iran relied mostly on Hezbollah—responsible for the 1992 and 1994 terror attacks on Jewish targets in Argentina—to exert its will in the so-called nonaligned world. This has changed with Tehran forging formal alliances to further its anti-Israel, anti-American agenda. This ranges from the establishment of warm diplomatic and economic relations with countries ranging from Sudan and Mugabe’s Zimbabwe in Africa to a budding friendship with Brazil, its largest, $1.8 billion per year trading partner in Latin America.

More sinister is what might be called a new “axis of evil”—the phrase President George W. Bush used in 2003 to describe Iran, Iraq, and North Korea. The difference is that Saddam Hussein’s Iraq was no friend of Tehran whereas the new axis member—Hugo Chavez’s Venezuela—is its closest friend after Syria where the Iranian Revolutionary Guards are currently propping up Bashir al-Assad’s failing regime.
Iranian President Khatami paid an unprecedented visit to Caracas in 2000. This was followed by 14 exchanges between the two heads of state during the next seven years. In 2006, President Chavez said Venezuela “will be next to Iran at all times and under any circumstances,” and that “together, we will defeat the Empire. Any U.S. attack on Iran will find an immediate response from Venezuela.” By 2007, 181 trade agreements had increased bilateral Venezuela-Iran trade from virtually nothing to $20 billion dollars in such items as steel and oil, automobiles, and ammunition. That year, Chavez and Ahmadinejad established a $2 billion Iranian-Venezuelan Development Bank to influence Third World countries.

Chavez has long been associated with extreme leftist Venezuelan anti-Semites such as William Izarra, Diego Salazar, Juan Salazar, and Kleber Ramirez as well as extreme rightist anti-Semites from Argentina such as Norberto Ceresole, Aldo Rico, and Mohamed Seineldin. In 2003, his government-controlled media incessantly equated “Hitler and Sharon” while blaming Israel for the Iraq War. In 2004, while Chavez was in a state visit to Iran, his police mounted a 6:30 A.M. raid on the Caracas’ Club Hebraica with a Jewish day school attended by 1500 children. The children of the Caracas Jewish community were, literally, held hostage while Chavez’s uniformed thugs ostensibly looked for contraband arms smuggled in from Israel. At Christmas, 2006, Chavez blamed “the descendants of the same ones who crucified Christ” for all South America’s ills.

Voting against sanctions against Iran for its nuclear program, Chavez has brought in Iranian Revolutionary Guard technicians—who fly between Tehran and Caracas on top-secret flights with a stopover in Damascus—to develop his nuclear industry including the capacity to export raw uranium to Iran. Chavez has offered to supply F-16 fighters to Tehran which may be deploying its Shahab 3 and Scud missiles as well as naval assets in Venezuela. The two rogue regimes may be currently collaborating to build a predator drone modeled on the U.S. pilotless aircraft that crashed in southern Iran. According to an Israeli cabinet minister, “This is the Cuban Missile Crisis all over again. The only difference is that the United States does not appear to be doing anything about it.”

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s secret police train their Iranian counterparts. Most ominous are reports Tehran and Caracas collaborate in operations designed to bring down Colombia’s democratic government as well as to sow the seeds of terror elsewhere in the Americas. In October, 2011, the FBI announced a successful sting operation against U.S. citizen Mansour Arbabsiar who attempted to hire the Mexican drug cartel to assassinate Saudi Ambassador to the U.S. Abdel al-Jubeir. Also indicted but not apprehended was Gholam Shakuri, described as a senior official in Iran’s terrorist al-Quds Force.
EMERGING TRIANGLE: NORTH KOREA-IRAN-VENEZUELA

North Korea predates Venezuela as a friend of the mullahs. Iran’s medium and longer range missiles are adaptations of North Korean models, and Pyongyang has not only provided Tehran with nuclear development advice since the 1990s. In 2006, Iranian scientists attended North Korea’s “breakout” atomic weapons test—a model for what they have in mind, according to an Iranian newspaper. Simultaneously, North Korean technicians, apparently paid for by Tehran, were behind the covert development of Syria’s al-Kibar reactor which was taken out by Israel’s “Project Orchard” military strike in September, 2007. Then in April, 2008, a video surfaced showing North Korean technicians at a secret site Syrian nuclear site. Tehran may be able to flight test its own ICBM, capable of hitting the U.S., by 2015.  

TEHRAN’S PRE-GENOCIDAL IDEOLOGY AS STATECRAFT

Ayatollah Khomeini moved from the holy city of Qom to Tehran during World War II when the streets of the Iranian capitol buzzed with rumors that “the Twelfth Imam has been sent into the world by God in the form of Adolf Hitler”—or Haider (meaning “lion,” a honorific title for the coming Mahdi). Blaming his arrest by the Shah’s regime in 1963 on “Zionist agents,” Khomeini came to power in 1979 with a full-blown anti-Israel, anti-Jewish ideology with both traditional religious and modern political roots. Khomeini was succeeded as “Supreme Spiritual Leader” by Ali Khamanei who, over the course of twenty years of pronouncements, declared Zionism a “rotten and dangerous tumor” in need of being destroyed “root and branch,” Israelis “wild beasts” guilty of “bloodthirstiness, barbarism, and indifference towards all rules of ethics,” and the Nazi crimes a Jewish “exaggeration.” The Khomeini-Khamanei ideology was shared by “hardliners” and ostensible “reformers” like President Hashemi Rafsanjani who announced on Tehran Radio in 1998 that he was convinced by European Holocaust Deniers that “Hitler had only killed 20,000 Jews and not six million.”

Daily life in Iran for the Jewish community—which decline from over 100,000 to under 30,000—was lived under the ominous cloud of period “show trials” and executions of “Zionist spies,” warning of the danger of poisoning by imported Israeli foodstuffs, a television series dramatizing Palestinian children with eyes surgically removed and stolen by Israelis, the Tehran Times characterizing the Holocaust as “one of the greatest frauds of the twentieth century,” and regulations allowing the study of Hebrew but banning the distribution of Hebrew books—in an act reminiscent of Pharaoh telling the Hebrews to make bricks without straw!  

IRAN TARGETS ISRAEL TEHRAN’S THE FATEFUL CONFRONTATION
Worse yet came after the 2005 election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a non-pragmatic “Principlist” committed to an apocalyptic ideology promising to use nuclear development to hasten the second coming of the Twelfth Imam or Mahdi and to returning Iran to the revolutionary purity of the 1980s when the Ayatollah sent a million teenagers to their deaths in the war with Iraq equipped with little more than a plastic key guaranteeing their admission to paradise.  

Revolutionary Iran’s mutual love affair with western Holocaust Deniers dates back to the 1990s when Austrian engineer Wolfgang Fröhlich, Swiss Revisionist Jürgen Graf, German-born Canadian Ernst Zündel, France’s Roger Garaudy, and American racist David Duke were lauded by the regime. In May, 2000, the Iranian embassy in Vienna granted refuge to Austrian Holocaust denier Fröhlich who had testified as a defense “expert witness” on Zyklon B and the gas chambers at Graf’s trial in Switzerland. In 2002—after soon-to-be-assassinated Lebanese President Rafiq Hariri banned from Beirut a Holocaust Denial Conference that billed as speakers German Far Right leader Horst Mahler and National Alliance head William L. Pierce, author of the infamous racist tract, The Turner Diaries, which served as blueprint for Timothy McVeigh’s terrorist attack in Oklahoma City—Tehran stepped into the void.

In 2006, Ahmadinejad’s regime hosted a December, 2006, “International Conference to Review the Global Vision of the Holocaust” featuring 30 speakers from 67 countries including David Duke, convicted French Denier Robert Faurisson, Fredrick Töben, Moroccan-born Swedish Denier Ahmed Rami, and Yisroel Dovid Weiss of anti-Israel Neturei Karta. Keynoter President Ahmadinejad predicted that “the Zionist regime will be wiped out soon the same way the Soviet Union was,” while presenters lectured on “The Holocaust, the Achilles Heel of a Primordial Jewish Trojan” and showed a model of Treblinka to prove that diesel exhaust gas chambers to be “an outright lie.”

In 2005, President Ahmadinejad invoked “our dear Imam Khomeini [who] said the occupying [Zionist] regime must be wiped off the map” to justify this own vision of the end of “the Holocaust myth,” and promised “a world with America and Zionism,” while praying at the UN for the Mahdi’s end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it reappearance. In 2006 on October’s Al-Quds Day, he promised and “the elimination of the Zionist stain of shame”—but not without a “wave of destruction [that] will not be limited to our region.” In 2007, he called Zionists “true manifestations of Satan” and prophesied that “the countdown button for the destruction of the Zionist regime has been pressed.” On September 23, 2008, before the UN General Assembly in New York, he updated The Protocols of the Elders of Zion to fit the current global financial crisis b explaining that Jews have been “dominating an important portion of the financial and monetary center continued on next page
as well as the political decision-making centers of some European countries and the United States in a deceitful, complex, and furtive manner.” In 2009, he called the Holocaust “a lie based on an unprovable and mythical claim.” In 2012, he said: “It has now been some 400 years that a horrendous Zionist clan has been ruling the major world affairs. And behind the scenes of the major power circles, in political, media, monetary, and banking organizations in the world, they have been the decision-makers, to an extent that a big power with a huge economy and over 300 million population, the presidential election hopefuls must go kiss the feet of the Zionists to ensure their victory in the elections.”

Going hand-in-hand with Holocaust Denial, Tehran is also obsessed with the claim that “the Zionist regime . . . spreads homosexuality,” making Tel Aviv the gayest place on earth!

Preaching and practicing a unique, potentially genocidal brand of Holocaust Denial and Jew Hatred as statecraft extreme for even the Middle East, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has become the embodiment and apotheosis of Revolutionary Iran’s soon-to-be-nuclear apocalyptic vision. As Elie Wiesel put it, he believes: “That there was no Holocaust, but there will be.” Top Iranian military brass such as Major General Hassan Firouzabadi, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, and Revolutionary Guards General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, Head of Aerospace Division in Charge of Missile Systems boast of their work to operationalize Ahmadinejad’s genocidal threats.

**IRAN’S NUCLEAR DIPLOMACY**

Started under the Shah as an ostensibly peaceful program, Iran’s nuclear industry temporarily came to a halt under the Ayatollah, under the combined impact of the withdrawal of German technical assistance and the impact of the Iraq war. Revived around 1984, the program made real strides in the 1990s with the secret importation from China of a metric ton of UF6 fuel and Russia’s decision to rebuilding a damaged reactor at Bushehr.

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Beginning the covert construction of an enrichment facility at Natanz in 2001, Iranians were embarrassed in 2002 when the exile National Council of Iran revealed Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty violations at both Natanz and Arak. Following a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) disclosing 15 years of covert Iranian activity, the EU-3 (the UK, France, and Germany) persuaded “reformist” President Khatami to agree to a verifiable suspension of enrichment that ostensibly lasted three years. Iran’s restraint, if authentic, was probably a pragmatic reaction to fears the U.S. might follow up the ouster of Saddam with the pursuit of “regime change” in Tehran. These fears diminished as America became bogged down in Iraq, and the bellicose Ahmadinejad was elected president in 2005.

There followed six years of effective dissimulation by Ahmadinejad’s regime:
- In 2005, Iran was found in “non-compliance” with non-proliferation safeguards.
- In 2006, the IAEA Board voted to refer Iran to the UN Security Council, and Iran resumed its gas centrifuge program.
- In 2007, a highly dubious U.S. National Intelligence’s conclusion that Iran had ceased nuclear weapons program was leaked to the press.
- In 2009, the U.S. joined the EU3 in new negotiations with Tehran that, however, went nowhere. The existence of an underground enrichment facility at Qom was revealed, and there was no real progress on negotiations for Iran to send most of its enriched uranium to Turkey or elsewhere.
- In 2010, in the context of an emerging international consensus that Tehran was pursuing nuclear weapons capability (with the U.S. Britain’s MI6, and Israel agreeing that Iran, after deciding to go ahead, could build a crude bomb within a year or two and achieve a reliable delivery system soon after), the UN Security Council passed the fourth round of mild sanctions.
- In 2012, the P5 + 1 (the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany) opened new negotiations with Tehran that rotated between Istanbul, Baghdad, and Moscow, but so far have failed because Iran backed out of a new deal with IAEA inspectors while the U.S. and the EU to impose new tougher sanctions. U.S. sanctions, however, exempted countries such as China and Iran deemed to be showing “a willingness to reduce” Iranian oil imports, while the U.S. Treasury Department has issued thousands of companies exporting to Iran. The sanctions have hurt Iranian oil exports and the value of the Iranian currency, but according to U.S. intelligence experts has had no effect on Iran’s nuclear program.39
IRAN’S NUCLEAR DIPLOMACY

Who is to be believed? On the one hand, there is Supreme Leader Ali Khameini’s supposed 2003 fatwa banning nuclear weapons development as “a sin.” Khameini is also said to have declared “the Islamic Republic of Iran, based on its fundamental religious and legal beliefs, would never resort to the use of weapons of mass destruction. In contrast to the propaganda of our enemies, fundamentally we are against any production of weapons of mass destruction in any form.” Yet we now know, thanks to the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), that no fatwa was ever issued. On the other hand, there are Khameini’s second thoughts in 2011: “This gentleman [Muammar Qaddafi] wrapped up all his nuclear facilities, packed them on a ship and delivered them to the West and said, ‘Take them!’ Look where we are, and in what position they are now.”

For forty years, Israel has honored its “no first use” policy, not only in theory, but in practice. In 1973, when its very survival was threatened by the combined Egyptian-Syrian surprise Yom Kippur attack, Israel stayed conventional though the aggression could have been easily repulsed by tactical nuclear weapons. Israel has never signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but it attended a 2008 conference dedicated to removing the threat of nuclear war from the Mideast. Israeli President Peres pledged to former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that Israel would be willing to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty within two years after the establishment of “regional peace.” Of course, now with the Arab Spring replaced Mubarak with a Muslim Brotherhood-dominated government that may ultimately align itself with revolutionary Iran, the prospects for such a peace are further away than ever.

With Israel publicly committed to using force if other means fail to halt Iran’s nuclear weapons program, the clock is ticking while 10,000 centrifuges spin at Natanz. The director of national intelligence testified to Congress at the beginning of the year that they had zero effect in slowing the nuclear program.

According to an August 2012 report from the International Atomic Energy Agency, whose member-nation board as censured the Tehran regime, Iran has doubled the number of high-speed centrifuges at Fordow, the impregnable facility built into a mountain outside Qom. The IAEA reported Iranian advances in calculating the explosive power of an atomic warhead. It noted once again Iran’s refusal to allow inspection of its weapons-testing facility at Parchin, and cited satellite evidence of Iranian attempts to clean up and hide what’s gone on there. Despite an unprecedented concession by the western powers to acquiesce in Iran’s enrichment of uranium, the Istanbul-Baghdad-Moscow diplomatic negotiations have collapsed. Rather than isolate Iran, the international community then rewarded it with the appearance of 120 nations, plus UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, at the Tehran meeting of the international Non-Aligned Movement.
IRAN’S NUCLEAR DIPLOMACY

If nothing is done to stop Iran now, then the world may have to learn to live with the threat from former President Rafsanjani—dubbed Iran’s “atomic Ayatollah”—in 2001: “If a day comes when the world of Islam is duly equipped with the arms Israel has in its possession, the strategy of colonialism would face a stalemate because application of an atomic bomb would not leave anything in Israel but the same thing would just produce damages in the Muslim world.” 43

CONCLUSION

Iran is NOT Nazi Germany translated into Farsi and moved to the Middle East. Yet there is inescapable common sense in Israeli President Shimon Peres’ measured observation: “Having imperialistic ambitions and a nuclear bomb is a very dangerous combination because a single bomb today is like a whole army in other times.” 44

Analogies with the Holocaust should not be used lightly, but as Yossie Klein Halevi and current Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Michael B. Oren have noted, it’s inevitable that “the Iranian threat has returned the Final Solution to the heart of Israeli discourse.” Historian Benny Morris—no knee-jerk defender of Israel—writes:

The second holocaust will not be like the first. The Nazis, of course, industrialized mass murder. But, still, the perpetrators had one-to-one contact with the victims. . . . [In contrast], One bright morning, in five or 10 years, perhaps during a regional crisis, perhaps out of the blue, a day or five years after Iran’s acquisition of the Bomb, the mullahs in Qom will convene in secret session, under a portrait of the steely-eyed Ayatollah Khomeini, and give President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, by then in his second or third term, the go-ahead. 46

Those who dismiss this as paranoia should contemplate this juxtaposition in a picture from a military parade: Shahab-3 missile with a 1,200 range bearing the inscription from Ayatollah Khomeini: “Israel must be uprooted and wiped off the pages of history.” 47

Whatever one else can be said about Iran’s Islamist leadership, they have a deep (if distorted) sense of history—together with a fanatical commitment to make sure Israel has no future. Only the emergence of a new, enlightened Cyrus, friendly to the Jewish people, could change this equation.

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In recent years, the western world should have been having a wide-ranging, no-holds-barred debate about whether or not the moment of truth is near when Israel, the U.S.—both or neither—should decide to take military action to prevent “wipe Israel from the map” Iran from joining the nuclear club and igniting “a sacred fire” transforming the Mideast. Unfortunately, what we too often have had instead is a tunnel-vision, videogame simulation in which complicated real world issues are being discussed along pre-programmed channels determined by ideological predispositions and ugly prejudices. Canada is exceptional for its willingness to put words into practice by closing its embassy in Tehran and expelling remaining diplomats.  

Of course, there are not only two sides to all these regional and global existential issues, but three and four and more sides. If Iran goes nuclear, will it openly exult in its WMDs or instead continue to try to hide its capabilities? Will the mullah’s apocalyptic, Götterdämmerung mentality lead them to preemptively strike Israel, as the widow of assassinated Iranian nuclear scientist, Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan, and a Revolutionary Guard General have both recently hinted? Or will they delegate mega-destruction, subcontracting annihilation of Israel to third party terrorist movements while Tehran maintains (im)plausible deniability? And what will be the response of the Sunni Arab Gulf regimes? There are already rumors that Saudi Arabia have arranged to buy, Sears Roebuck-fashion, ready-to-assemble nukes that will give them chips with which to play in an escalating regional nuclear arms race that post-Mubarak Egypt as well as multiple Gulf States will enter. And should it come to an Israeli-Iranian nuclear war, what will be the fallout—economic and political as well as military—affecting the United States and the entire global community? 

All positions are open to debate except one: what Ron Rosenbaum called “inconsequentialism” or the view that—though the Holocaust really happened in Europe—the danger that it might happen again in the Middle East is of no consequence. Those who sit idly by are spectators unfazed by what Harvard Professor Graham Allison calls “a Cuban Missile Crisis in slow motion.”  

Israel and its American friends of all faiths have no secret agenda. They openly state their commitment to maintaining the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance behind a shared strategy of deterring Iran from becoming a nuclear power—by diplomatic means, if possible, but military means—if necessary. “I do not have a policy of containment; I have a policy to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.” The joint U.S.-Israel challenge is to move beyond words to deeds to free the world from this terrible threat.
NOTES

1 Many of these quotations herein are given specific attribution in the discussion that follows. Primary though not exclusive reliance for sources and translations has been placed on Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) Reports as well as Joshua Teitelbaum, “What Iranian Leaders Really Say About Doing Away With Israel: A Refutation Of The Campaign To Excuse Ahmadinejad’s Incitement To Genocide,” (Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, 2008), pp. 1-22 <http://jcpa.org/text/ahmadinejad2-words.pdf>; Elihu D. Richter and Alex Barnea, Tehran’s Genocidal Incitement Against Israel,” Middle East Quarterly, Vol. 16, No. 3 (Summer, 2009), pp. 45-51, <http://www.meforum.org/2167/iran-genocidal-incitement-israel>; Anti-Defamation League, “Iran’s President Ahmadinejad in His Own Words,” May 11, 2012, <http://www.adl.org/main_International_Affairs/ahmadinejad_words.htm?Multi_page_sections=sHeading_5>. I use “wiped from the map” and “erased from the page of time” or “pages of history” interchangeably. They are all defensible renderings that convey Ahmadinejad’s meaning.


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27 Katz and Hendel, Israel vs. Iran, p. 197.
28 Heydemann, “Iran’s Alternative Allies,” p. 194; Katz and Hendel, Israel and Iran, pp. 198-99.
30 Wistrich, Lethal Obsession, pp. 840-51.
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33 Alireza Jafarzadeh, The Iran Threat: President Ahmadinejad and the Coming Nuclear Crisis (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008); Kaye, Nader, and Roshan, Israel and Iran, p. 73.


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44 Quoted in Katz and Hendel, Israel and Iran, p. 202.


