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Life or Death for Israel in the Time of “Apocalypse”

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Threats to literally annihilate Israel are now unremarkable. Almost nowhere do we find any reason for camouflage or concealment. Were it not for Israel’s “*bomb in the basement*” – its still-unacknowledged nuclear force – these openly genocidal threats would represent much more than verbal bluster. Nonetheless, barring any last-minute Israeli preemptions (*anticipatory self-defense* under international law), Iran’s ascent to full membership in the Nuclear Club is now less than several years away.

Such membership may also coincide with a persisting Iranian leadership belief in the *Shi’ite apocalypse*. Israel, therefore, might soon have to face not only Palestinian suicide-bombers, but also what amounts to the “*suicide bomber*” in macrocosm.

The goal of *all* Israel’s Islamist enemies is “simply” Jewish *extermination*. Significantly, this goal is unhidden. In the bitterest of ironies, an ancient nation that was ingathered and reborn to prevent another Holocaust has now become the explicit and determined focus of a second “Final Solution”.

In essence, the goal of all Israel’s enemies, especially Iran and the still-impending Palestinian state, is to be *left standing* while Israel is made to disappear. For these enemies, there can be no coexistence with Israel. *Never*. This is because their own indispensable survival presumably *requires* Israel’s extinction.

In the US, President Barack Obama does not appear to understand. Again, Mr. Obama has extolled the clichéd virtues of an altogether twisted cartography. Ironically, in the fashion of his predecessor, Mr. Obama also favors the “*Road Map to Peace in the Middle East*”. Yet, like the ill-fated Oslo Agreements that came before, this one-sided plan is premised on Israel’s coerced acceptance of *land for nothing*.

It would be a fatal mistake for Israel to believe that *Reason* and *Justice* govern the world. It would be a grievous error for Israel to continue to project its own Western, rational and humane sentiments upon the most relentless and barbarous *Jihadist* foes. It would assuredly

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be a “life risk” for Israel to seek to endure by continuing to cling to numbingly false promises and manifestly false hopes.

Barack Obama will not save Israel. Once Iran had decided to launch nuclear missiles at Israel – possibly a plausible prospect in a few years – Washington’s only real assistance would be to help Jerusalem bury the dead. And for this, whole Israeli cities would have to be transformed into a necropolis.

Whether in Gaza, Judea/Samaria or Tehran, Israel’s *Jihadist* enemies wish to kill *Jews* because any such homicide is always felt to be a *sacred* obligation. For these enemies, killing Jews is indisputably a praiseworthy expression of *religious sacrifice*. Such killing is expected to confer *immunity from personal death*. Could there ever be a more precious or compelling expectation?

The idea of death as a zero-sum commodity – “*I kill you; I therefore remain alive forever*” – has been explained elsewhere. It is captured perfectly, for example, in Ernest Becker’s grotesque paraphrase of Nobel Laureate Elias Canetti: “Each organism raises its head over a field of corpses, smiles into the sun, and declares life good.”

To stay alive, Israel must finally understand what Otto Rank had once revealed: “The death fear of the ego is lessened by the killing, the Sacrifice, of the other; through the death of the other one buys oneself free from the penalty of dying, of being killed.” This difficult insight is at the very heart of *Islamist* orientations to Israel. It explains almost everything about these genocidal orientations.

Israel’s enemies, in order to remain standing – and to prevent Israel from standing up – seek to **sacrifice** the Jewish state on an endlessly bloodstained altar of war and terrorism. Sacrifice is central to what is now happening in the Middle East. **Genocidal destruction of Israel is integrally part of a system of religious worship that is directed toward an enhancement of life, and – simultaneously – the conquest of personal death.**

The true source of global influence is *power*, and the highest expression of power is always the conquest of death. For Iran, and for that proposed government (*Hamas*, *Fatah*, it makes little difference) of executioners now battling each other for control of some future Palestinian state, killing Jews – indeed, “killing” Israel itself – offers an incomparable fusion of private ecstasy and personal survival. These enemies of Israel are more than dimly aware that in killing Jews and in “killing” Israel, they *will also have killed their own death*. For the Islamist “martyr”, whether as a terrorist individual or as a murderous individual writ large, *killing Jews and the Jewish state is the optimal way of affirming life*.

The overwhelming security costs to Israel of former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s Gaza “disengagement” are now plain to see. To the extent that *Hamas* continues to collaborate closely in Gaza with *al-Qa`idah*, these costs may soon also have to be borne by citizens of the United States. *Hamas* has already begun to allow *al-Qa`idah* to fashion various terror weapons and tactics for potential use in New York, London, Washington and certain other selected “crusader” targets in the West. *Isn’t it time for an American president to recognize that Israel’s implacable enemies are also the sworn enemies of this country?*