

Wiping Out the Jews: A Work In Progress

☒ In my more desperate moments I like to imagine that Ronald Reagan is still in the White House, and that he is contemplating the menace posed by Iran's development of nuclear weapons and nuke-bearing missiles. You may recall that Iran released the U.S. embassy hostages in 1981 at virtually the same moment that Reagan lugged his jar of jelly beans into the Oval Office. The mullahs had sized up this man Reagan and had properly concluded that he wasn't going to take any kaka from them, the kind they had dished out with impunity to Jimmy Carter.

Let's give Barack Obama the benefit of the doubt and assume that he doesn't secretly want the Iranians to blow Bebe Netanyahu and the rest of the Israelis into radioactive dust. Let's assume, instead, that Obama, with his reliance on diplomatic negotiations and economic sanctions, is simply gutless. When the first mushroom cloud rises over Tel Aviv, the world can confidently expect that Obama will react with solemn indignation and appoint a committee to study what happened.

The perennial effort to wipe out the Jews has been going on for all the thousands of years since this persecuted minority first organized itself at some sort of town hall meeting in the Middle Eastern desert. Because the extermination effort has been pursued with such singleminded intensity, one is tempted to attribute it, somehow, to a single intelligence. But how can that be, unless one believes in Satan?

The Jews have been everybody's favorite scapegoat. The Egyptians tried their hand at wiping them out under the pharoahs. The Iranians – that's right – had a go at it under Haman. Later there were the Spanish inquisitors, the Tsarist

pogroms. And let's not forget Hitler, whose extermination program was the most ambitious and successful of all. He had several years of unfettered opportunity to carry it out, and he was backed by that famous German efficiency.

I'd rather not speculate why the Jews have always been the target of murderous bigots. Some people think it is because, by and large, they succeed in their earthly endeavors, thus arousing the envy of the majority in the communities where they dwell. Some think it is because they revel in their differentness and stubbornly adhere to their separate identity – although that hardly seems to have been the case in pre-war Germany.

Never mind why. There is always someone carrying on the tradition, and today it is the Iranians, whose vile mouthpiece, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, keeps vowing to wipe Israel "off the map". He hopes to resume Hitler's mission – although, curiously, he denies that Hitler pursued any such mission. Why should he be shy about admitting that there was a Holocaust when he wants to pull one off himself?

Some experts estimate that Hitler reduced the world's Jewish population from 17 million when the war began to 11 million when it ended. If he had been the peacenik that Ahmadinejad seems to think he was, the Jewish population today might be in the neighborhood of 20 million. Instead, it is estimated at 13 million, so Hitler still can claim a net plus – or a minus if you are looking at things from the Jewish side.

Hitler did not have today's technology – read nuclear weapons – to help him carry out his task, nor was there such a high concentration of Jews in his day as one finds today in Israel. The Jewish state, which is a little less than the size and population of New Jersey – minus Snooki – has the largest Jewish population of any nation in the world, some 5.7 million. The only other nation that comes close is the United States, with 5.3 million. France ranks a distant third with a

little less than a half-million.

Perhaps a half-dozen well-placed atomic bombs of Nagasaki size – the kind of starter bomb one might expect a nuclear nation to develop initially – would either incinerate outright, or condemn to death by radioactive poisoning, or simply ruin forever the lives of more than 40 percent of the Jews left in the world. Quite a haul for just a few minutes' work.

Let's finesse the fact that millions of Arabs and Christians in and near Israel also would perish. That, as Timothy McVeigh might put it, has to be accepted as collateral damage in pursuit of a just cause.

Hitler had to acknowledge that he couldn't kill them all, but the effort was under way before he came on the scene, and thanks to his spiritual heir, Ahmadinejad, it continues. Someday history's serial killers may achieve their genocidal goal. It is a work in progress.

Musings About Israel and Obama

✘ I believe that eventually there will be peace in the Middle East. It will probably only take a few more of these "peace process" sessions before Israel cedes so much land to its enemies that it will simply disappear from the face of the earth.

Part of Israel's problems is that it got suckered into calling some of its territory "settlements". That was so dumb that it gave the lie to the long-held notion that we Jews are smart negotiators.

Let's face it, most of the United States at one time or another belonged to some other country. Sometimes we paid for it, as we did with France and Russia, and sometimes we fought for it. But once it was ours, it stayed ours. We didn't call it a settlement and we didn't hand it over, although I believe that Obama has plans for Arizona that he's not quite ready to announce.

A motto for Jews everywhere, but especially for Israelis, is "never again". It means that never again will Jews quietly enter cattle cars and go off to be exterminated by Nazis – be they pagans or Muslims. That's why I was so surprised that Netanyahu was wasting his time chatting with nincompoops in Washington when he should have been back in Tel Aviv, planning an attack on Iran.

I can only assume that Netanyahu, poor misguided schnook that he is, has his eye on a Nobel Peace Prize. Has everyone forgotten that Hamas, a gang of murderous thugs that everyone but Imam Rauf agrees is a terrorist organization, a group dedicated to the elimination of Israel, controls Gaza? It seems to me that if anyone even utters the words "peace process" within earshot of an Israeli prime minister, he should run in the opposite direction.

Speaking of Hamas reminds me that when people suggest that democracy is the answer to peace on earth, I say it's a load of hoey. Democracy sounds good, but it all comes down to who's voting. In Gaza, Turkey, New York, Minnesota and California, we can readily see the downside of democracy.

The tragic truth is if Iran gets its nukes, "never again" will be as absurd a motto as "hope and change" because, for Israelis, there won't be an "again."

I am not the least bit surprised that, considering his family background and his 20- year affiliation with the Trinity United Church, Obama favors the Arabs and the Muslims in the

Middle East. What does astonish me is the silence and apparent acquiescence of Jewish politicians like Charles Schumer, Henry Waxman, Barbara Boxer, Brad Sherman and Dianne Feinstein, who invariably play the Israel card in order to garner votes and fill their war chests when they're campaigning, but are mute when their party leader shows his obvious preference for the other side.

When Obama was first elected, bigoted liberals predicted that, because he was a black man, a white conservative, no doubt a Tea Bagger, would do him in.

Fortunately, in spite of allowing party crashers to slip into the White House, the Secret Service has managed to keep him safe. I, for one, never believed he was in any greater danger than any other president. In fact, I was confident that his greatest risk is that he might fall victim to an exploding ego.

Frankly, I think Obama is the least competent chief executive in my lifetime. And, no, I didn't forget Jimmy Carter. However, if you say that to a liberal, he'll defend Obama, insisting that the president isn't concerned with details because he's a big picture guy.

I couldn't quite grasp the concept until I realized that some of the really big pictures over the past several years have been "Ishtar," "Battlefield Earth," "Alexander the Great," "The Postman," "Town and Country," "Cutthroat Island," "Heaven's Gate," "Waterworld" and "Howard the Duck."

Obama, a big picture man? I should say so. "The Rise and Fall of a Community Organizer" certainly ranks with the worst of those turkeys.

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