



Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs

Action and Impact
in Israel and around the World



Activity Report

October 2021



Dear Friends of the Jerusalem Center,

A “think tank” serves as an incubator of ideas, a forum for opinions, and as a resource for media, analysts, and government policy advisors. At the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, which I have headed since I left the UN in 1999, we are well aware of this diplomatic and academic responsibility. But located in Israel, the Jerusalem Center also serves as a defense vehicle in the war of ideas. We research the words and actions of Iran and its proxies, follow trends in the Arab world, focus on the actions and factions of the Palestinian leadership, and expose the mendacity of the new manifestations of anti-Semitism. Our special areas of accomplishment include:

- While the Government of Israel launched its own official contacts with Arab states, like the United Arab Emirates, the Jerusalem Center initiated a network of the top think tanks of the Abraham Accord countries. These pages record our progress to date.
- The Jerusalem Center used Zoom technology to open dialogues with Bedouin leaders in Iraq, Syria, and the Ahvaz (along the northern shore of the Persian Gulf) in Iran. This recalls our initiative in 2013 when the Jerusalem Center maintained a dialogue with a prominent think tank in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- The Jerusalem Center, which has systematically been exposing anti-Semitism over the last two decades, now martialed this experience to show how these same forces were driving forward with what they hoped would become a global Corona conspiracy against the Jewish people and Israel. New centers of radical Islamist ideology growing in Canada seek to spread their ideology to the U.S.
- As Israel’s borders heated up in both the north and south, the Jerusalem Center closely monitored developments within our adversaries’ camps, through the original and widely-read analyses by Brig.-Gen. (ret.) Dr. Shimon Shapira, Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser, Col. (ret.) Dr. Jacques Neriah, Lt.-Col. (ret.) Michael Segall, Amb. Alan Baker, and others.
- As Palestinian spokesmen continually used the argument that without the resources that the West provided, the Palestinian Authority would eventually collapse and create a new security

vacuum, Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser raised the pointed question of what would be the consequence of that finally happening, given the corruption of its leadership and the multiple ways it had been motivating terrorism in recent years. His analysis appeared in the *New York Times*.

- The Jerusalem Center recognizes the importance of effective information delivery in the war of ideas in order to achieve international impact. Our experts regularly share their knowledge with a wide range of institutions such as governments, think tanks, and major media outlets, including France's *Le Monde*, Britain's *Sunday Telegraph*, and the *Washington Post*. The Jerusalem Center quickly adjusted to the new realities brought by Corona and leveraged all possible information platforms including Zoom to promote crucial issues and reach out to all relevant audiences.

The very shape of the international community clearly changed as a result of the pandemic. In many corners of the world a thirst for the latest Israeli analysis grew, generally, and the work of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs in particular gained much attention. Despite the constraints under which we worked, the team at the Jerusalem Center continued to generate research studies that draw the interest of a global community of experts. It is our hope that our work will make a contribution to solidifying many of the new contacts now being made by Israel, defeating our enemies, and forging new alliances for the new era in which we live.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Selt".

In the Wake of Normalization, Jerusalem Center Initiative to Create Consortium of Abraham Accords Think Tanks Gains Momentum

Bahrain – Jerusalem Center Agreement with Bahrain Center for Strategic, International, and Energy Studies (Derasat)

The **Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat)**, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, has signed a cooperation agreement with the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.

Amb. Dore Gold stated at the occasion: “When I left my first main diplomatic assignment as Israel’s ambassador to the United Nations, I was told that the main goal that I will have to try to achieve was winning the war of ideas. That’s the struggle we’re waging. Our cooperation can become a critical factor in winning that war, and that’s what we have to try and do.

“When people of similar sentiments in the Middle East work together and expose what the Iranians are doing across our region and suggest a different path, we can actually win that war of ideas, and that’s what I hope we do.

“It’s not only going to be a military engagement, it’s a struggle of how people think. That’s where think tanks are pivotal in preserving peace and security. So, Sheikh Abdulla, that’s one thing I feel very much in common with you and I hope no matter which hat we’re wearing, we will wage this struggle successfully.”



Amb. Dore Gold, Dr. Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Deputy Foreign Minister and head of Derasat, joined by Derasat Executive Director Dr. Hamad Al-Abdulla, in Jerusalem, August 2021.

United Arab Emirates – Jerusalem Center Agreement with Emirates Policy Center

The signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Jerusalem Center and the **Emirates Policy Center (EPC)** paves the way to promote the exchange of knowledge and fruitful cooperation. As the UAE’s top think tank with close ties to its government, Dr. Ebtessam Al-Ketbi, founder and President of EPC, and her colleagues are motivated to discuss areas of common concern.

The first examples of such cooperation have been jointly-sponsored webinars on the topic of the growing Iranian threat to regional and Western security.

These meetings, alongside current contact with leading think tanks in the Gulf and elsewhere, reinforce the Jerusalem Center as a hub of this new think tank consortium dedicated to the premises of the Abraham Accords.



Dr. Ebtessam Al-Ketbi (center), founder and President of the Emirates Policy Center, hosting Amb. Dore Gold (left) and Jerusalem Center senior research fellow Brig.-Gen. (ret.) Dr. Shimon Shapira (right) in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

An Impromptu Exchange with a Senior Saudi Diplomat and Former Intelligence Chief at Bahrain Security Conference



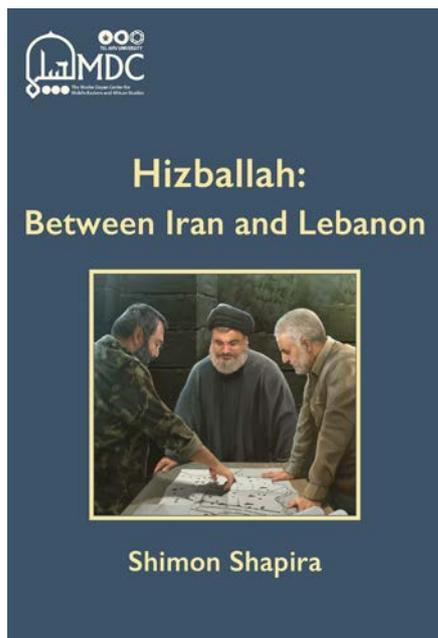
Amb. Dore Gold and Prince Turki Al Faisal in a “friendly dispute,” in Manama, Bahrain.

Our Experts' Initiatives



Brig.-Gen. (ret.) Dr. Shimon Shapira is former Military-Secretary to the Prime Minister and chief of staff to the Foreign Minister.

Hizballah: Between Iran and Lebanon (The Moshe Dayan Center, Tel Aviv University, 2021)



“This volume is the product of the author’s work as a scholar and analyst focusing on an unusual entity, Hizballah. Dr. Shapira tells us the story of Hizballah’s evolution and deciphers for us the secrets and enigmas of its career.”

— Itamar Rabinovich

Former Ambassador of Israel to the United States; former President of Tel Aviv University

Tablet Magazine published Shapira’s study, “Inside the Struggle Between Israel and Hizballah,” which detailed Hizballah’s plan to use 5,000 special forces in the Radwan battalions, trained by Iran, to seize lands in the Galilee.



Iraqis and Syrians Consider the Abraham Accords

Arab Affairs expert **Pinhas Inbari** continues to represent the Jerusalem Center in the Israeli, Arab, and international media. He is formulating a new paradigm for the Middle East which aims to create a new relationship between Israel and the Arab region, opening new opportunities for Israel. This includes behind-the-scenes contact with senior Palestinian leaders of the Fatah movement at the Jerusalem Center and in Ramallah.



His recent analyses include:

“Internal Hamas Tensions May Prevent a Prisoner Release Deal with Israel”

“Palestinians in a Quandary How to React to Possible Israeli Territorial Action”

He also plays an instrumental role in enabling contact with a number of influential individuals from a variety of Arab states with which Israel does not have diplomatic relations, who have reached out to the Jerusalem Center.



The Syrian branch of the Federation of Iraqi-Syrian Arab Tribes and Clans

Sheikh Numan Al-Kaood of the Albu Nimr tribe in Iraq's Anbar province met on Zoom with Dore Gold and Pinhas Inbari on August 24, 2020.





Lt.-Col. (ret.) Michael Segall specializes in analysis of Iranian military strategy and tactics.

His recent analyses include:

“New Houthi Attacks on Strategic Targets in Saudi Arabia and Yemen”



Houthis attacked Saudi targets with long-range armed drones and ballistic missiles (*Al-Masirah News*)

“Iran Threatens a Bold Response If the U.S. Strikes Iranian-Backed Shiite Militias in Iraq”

“The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Navy Confronts the U.S. Navy in the Arabian Sea”

“Iran Is Operating an Airlift to Venezuela”

“BBC: IRGC-Affiliated Mahan Air Is to Blame for Spreading the Coronavirus in the Middle East”

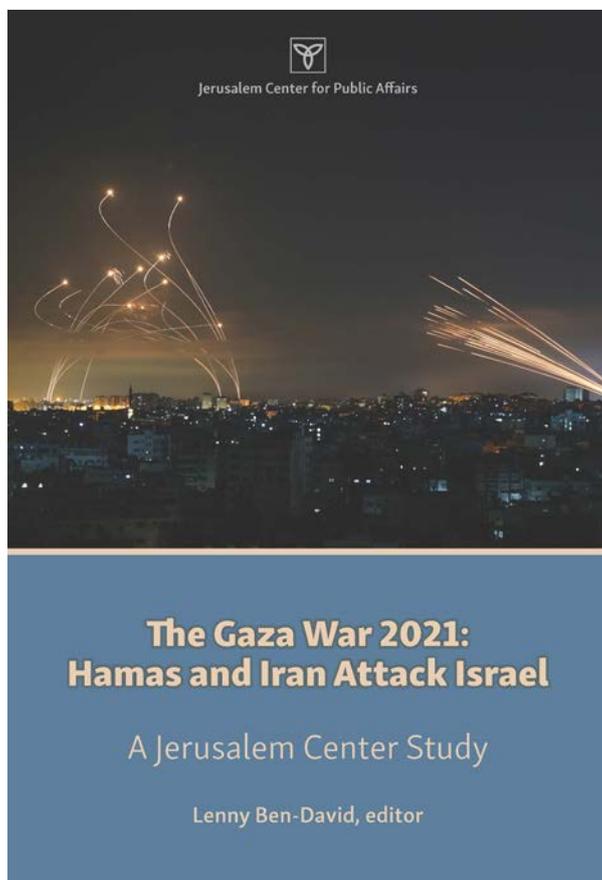
“Is Iran Seeking a Historic Compromise with the United States?”

“Iran Presents the ‘Final Solution’ – to the Question of Palestine”

The Gaza War 2021: Hamas and Iran Attack Israel

What motivated Hamas to attack Israel for the fourth time since 2008 after Israel had withdrawn from the entire Gaza Strip? This Jerusalem Center study, edited by **Lenny Ben-David**, compiles original studies and analyses of the period as they took place.

Since the early 20th century, the Palestinian leadership in Jerusalem has sought to use the so-called threat to the Muslim religious shrines on the Temple Mount as an instrument to rally public opinion, and Hamas did so once again in 2021 when Israel sought to end rioting and stone-throwing from inside the barricaded al-Aqsa Mosque.



Contents:

- “The Gaza War 2021: An Overview,” Amb. Dore Gold
- “Hamas’ Goals, Strategy, and Miscalculations,” Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser
- “How Iran and Hizbullah View the Attacks on Israel,” Brig.-Gen. (ret.) Dr. Shimon Shapira, Lt.-Col. (ret.) Michael Segall, and Jerusalem Center - Iran Desk
- “The Media in the 2021 Gaza War: The *New York Times*’ Journalistic Malpractice,” Lenny Ben-David
- “The Legal War: Hamas’ War Crimes and Israel’s Right to Self-Defense,” Ambassador Alan Baker
- “Hamas’ Human Rights Violations in the 2021 Gaza War,” Amelia Navins and Lenny Ben-David
- “Hamas’ Advanced Weaponry: Rockets, Artillery, Drones, Cyber,” Lenny Ben-David
- “The Hamas and Islamic Jihad Leadership and their Ties to Iran,” Evan Brown and Lenny Ben-David
- “Casualties in the 2021 Gaza War: How Many and Who Were They?,” Eli Nirenberg and Lenny Ben-David
- “Did Israel Lose the Social Media War over Gaza?,” Jonathan Conn

Standing Up to Modern Anti-Semitism



Fiamma Nirenstein served as vice president of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the Italian Chamber of Deputies and chaired the Committee for the Inquiry into Anti-Semitism at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

Her recent analyses include:

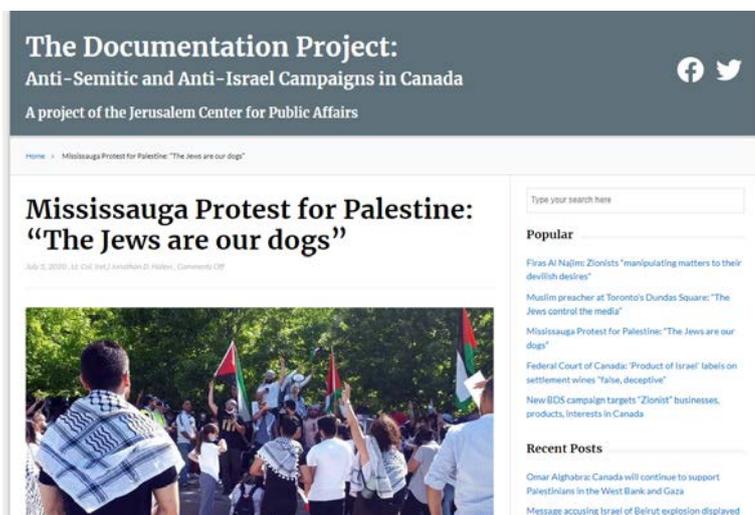
“The Third Wave of Anti-Semitism is on the Way”

Joining Forces Against Anti-Semitism in Social Media



On August 11, 2020, **Facebook** announced that it was updating its policies against implicit hate speech to include combating anti-Semitism, after the Jerusalem Center joined other organizations calling on Facebook to incorporate the widely accepted International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism in its hate-speech policy.

Countering Anti-Semitic and Anti-Israel Campaigns



IDF Lt.-Col. (ret.) Jonathan D. Halevi, a veteran Israeli intelligence officer and a senior researcher of radical Islam at the Jerusalem Center, who is now based in Canada, has pioneered a project to expose anti-Semitic and anti-Israel incitement in Canada. The project he heads has published hundreds of articles on such incitement.

Studying the Attitudes of Jewish-Americans toward Israel

Dr. Irwin J. Mansdorf has been studying the attitudes of Jewish-Americans toward Israel through a series of focus groups and surveys starting in the summer of 2018.

On July 21, 2020, the Jerusalem Center published his extensive research on “American Jewry in Transition? How Attitudes toward Israel May Be Shifting.” On July 31, 2020, Shmuel Rosner published an extensive report on American Jewry for *Maariv* in Hebrew, based in part on the Jerusalem Center report.



Experts' Briefings Move Online and Live

As the coronavirus epidemic blocked the traditional venues for briefings by Jerusalem Center experts, the Center quickly switched to online formats.

Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser, Col. (res.) Michael Segall, former Iranian minister **Djavad Khadem**, and **Dr. Michael Doran** held an Online Experts' Briefing to discuss “Iran in Crisis: Corona, Sanctions, Uranium.” Key findings were published in the Center’s *Jerusalem Viewpoints*.

U.S. Anti-Semitism envoy **Elan Carr**, former Jewish Agency chairman **Natan Sharansky**, and **Malcolm Hoenlein**, Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, joined Jerusalem Center experts and the Israel Ministry of Strategic Affairs for a Zoom roundtable to discuss “Coronavirus, Conspiracies, and Israelophobia: A National Security Challenge?”

Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser was featured in a Facebook live streaming event on “The New Anti-Semitism and the Threat to Israel’s National Security,” hosted by the Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council.

Dore Gold was interviewed by **Chris Matthews** for the European Coalition for Israel on “100 Years Since the San Remo Conference.”

Brig.-Gen. (ret.) Dr. Shimon Shapira brought his expert perspective on how an incomplete understanding of Hizbullah’s roots and goals hampered Israel’s management of its 18-year presence in southern Lebanon that ended 20 years ago, in Israel *Channel 11*’s program, “The War Without a Name.”

Dore Gold discussed “The Strategic Implications of the U.S. Peace Plan” in a Zoom webcast for foreign diplomats in Israel.

Our Intelligence Analysts View Regional Middle East Developments



Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser, former Director General of the Israel Ministry of Strategic Affairs and head of the Research Division of IDF Military Intelligence, has written extensively on the issue of applying Israeli sovereignty in parts of the West Bank, the Iranian issue, PA payments to terrorists, and anti-Semitism.

His analyses include:

“Applying Israeli Sovereignty to Parts of Judea and Samaria according to the U.S. Peace Plan – Implications”

“If the PA Lacks Funds to Combat the Coronavirus, It Should Stop Paying Salaries to Terrorists”



“What If the Palestinian Authority Disbands?”

Our Arab Experts View the Arab World

Yoni Ben Menachem, a veteran Arab affairs and diplomatic commentator for Israel Radio and Television, is a senior Middle East analyst for the Jerusalem Center.



His recent analyses include:

“Israeli expert: ‘Increased security coordination with Egypt in Sinai’,”
Middle East Monitor-UK

“Saudi Arabia Puts Hamas Activists on Trial for Supporting Terrorism”

“Whistleblower Exposes Palestinian Authority Corruption”

“Nepotism in the Palestinian Authority Angers the Public”

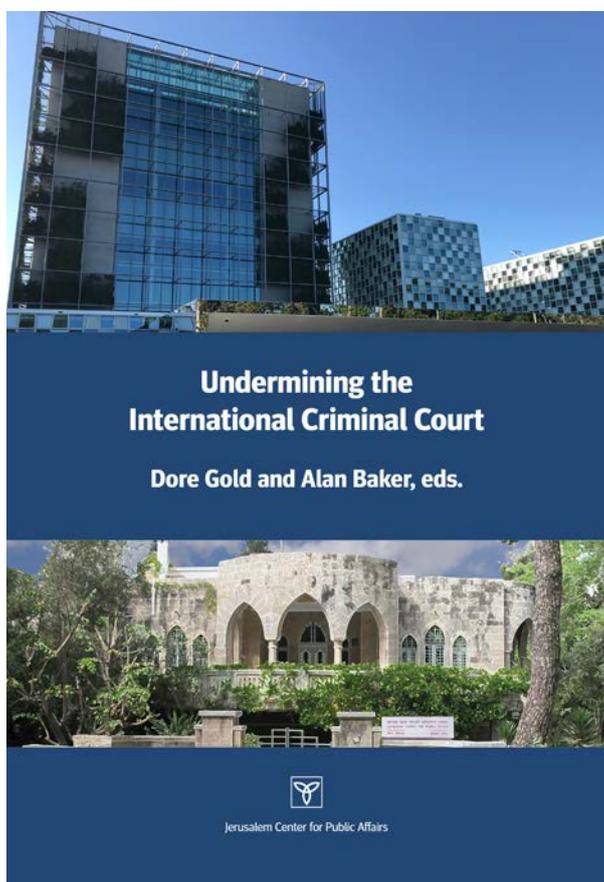
“Conflict Breaks Out Between the Iraqi Government and Pro-Iranian Militias”

“Tightening Military Cooperation between Iran and Syria”



Countering the Palestinian Legal Onslaught Against Israel

At the request of the Palestinian Authority, the Chief Prosecutor of the **International Criminal Court** is seeking to open a formal investigation into war crimes by Israel's political and military leaders in connection with the armed violence along the separation line between Israel and Gaza. In addition, there is a continuing, concerted Palestinian propaganda campaign aimed at enhancing their status both in international and non-governmental organizations as well as with individual states.



In a response led by **Amb. Alan Baker**, head of the Center's International Law Program and former legal adviser and deputy director-general of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we have been actively countering the ongoing campaigns to delegitimize Israel and its leadership. Using legal and political argumentation, facts, and history, in research papers, video presentations and media interviews, we have sought to expose the ongoing trend to "turn a blind eye" to the Palestinian manipulation and abuse of the organs of the international community.

More analyses by **Alan Baker**:

"Can Jordan Revoke Its Peace Treaty with Israel?"

"The Trump Plan, Political Wisdom and Double Standards," *Jerusalem Post*

"Sovereignty in the West Bank Areas of Judea and Samaria: Historical and Legal Milestones that Make the Case"

Fighting for Israel's Rights in Jerusalem



Jerusalem Center Fellow **Nadav Shragai** has documented Jerusalem for *Ha'aretz* and *Israel Hayom* for over thirty years.

His latest book, published in Hebrew, is *Al-Aqsa Terror: From Blood Libel to Bloodshed*, which explores the Palestinians' (and now the Turks') use of the "blood libel" that the Jews are endangering the Al-Aqsa mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

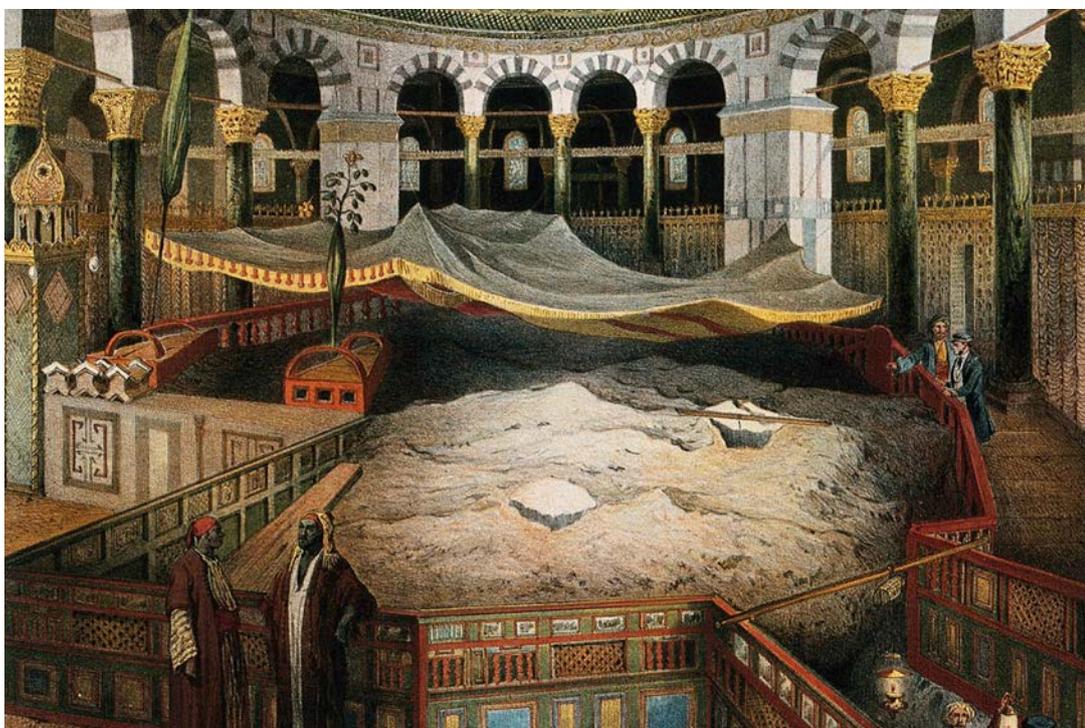
A section of the book was translated into English and published as *Ancient Muslim Texts Confirm the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem*, presenting the testimonies of esteemed Islamic religious authorities from more than 1,000 years ago.

His recent analyses include:

"Jerusalem's Changing Demographics"

"Turkey's Intrusion into Jerusalem"

"The Western Wall and the Jews: More than a Thousand Years of Prayer"



Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem. Chromolithograph by H. Clerget and J. Gaildrau after François Edmond Pâris, 1862. (Wellcome Collection. CC BY 4.0)

Responding to “Israelophobia” and BDS

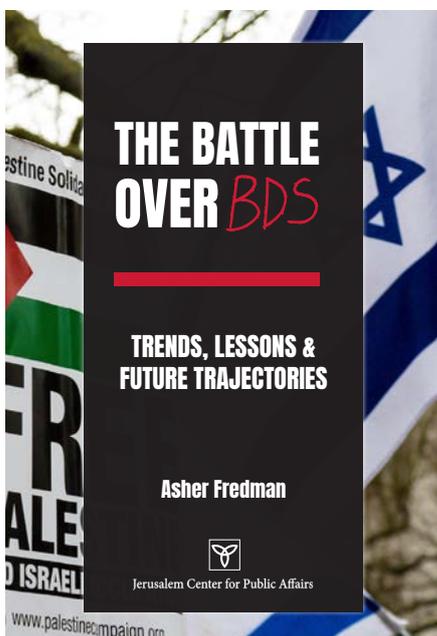
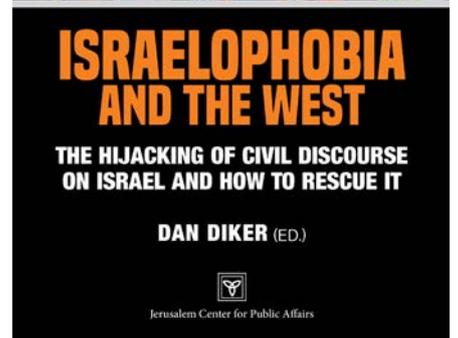
Dan Diker is Director of the Jerusalem Center’s Project to Counter BDS and Political Warfare.

His new study, *Israelophobia and the West: The Hijacking of Civil Discourse on Israel and How to Rescue It*, exposes and contextualizes the intensifying wave of anti-Israel rhetoric that has entered mainstream discourse. The volume includes contributions from Jerusalem Center Fellows as well as **Natan Sharansky** and African, Black American, Arab Israeli and Ethiopian Israeli authors who refute the “racist” and “apartheid” Israel myths. One leading American scholar referred to *Israelophobia* as “the Bible for understanding the new anti-Semitism.”

The book’s launch was underscored with a YouTube live streaming event together with **Prof. Alan Dershowitz** and Israeli journalist **Ben-Dror Yemini** on Feb. 26, 2020.

More analyses by **Dan Diker**:

“The Alignment of BDS and Black Lives Matter: Implications for Israel and Diaspora Jewry”



In June 2020, the Jerusalem Center published *The Battle over BDS – Trends, Lessons, and Future Trajectories* by **Asher Fredman**, former Chief of Staff and International Affairs Advisor to Israel’s Minister of Strategic Affairs, Gilad Erdan.

Perspectives on the Impact of Covid-19

Jerusalem Center experts analyze the impact of the coronavirus epidemic on Israel, the Middle East, and the world.



“The Coronavirus and the Palestinians,” **Pinhas Inbari**

“Enforcing Compliance with Covid-19 Pandemic Restrictions: Psychological Aspects of a National Security Threat,” **Dr. Irwin J. Mansdorf**

“The Significance of the Coronavirus Epidemic for Israel’s National Security,” **Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser**

“Has the Coronavirus Infected Israelophobes?” **Dan Diker**

“How Hizbullah Is Dealing with the Coronavirus,” **Brig.-Gen. (ret.) Dr. Shimon Shapira**

“The Impact of Covid-19 on the Middle East and North Africa,” **Prof. Hussein Solomon** of South Africa

“ICRC Displays Bias on the Covid-19 Crisis in the Middle East,” **Amb. Alan Baker**

“In the Covid-19 Pandemic, What Are the Reciprocal Israeli and Palestinian Obligations?” **Amb. Alan Baker**

“How the Coronavirus Pandemic Has Sparked Anti-Semitic Conspiracy Theories,” **Fiamma Nirenstein**

Effective Information Delivery in the Battle of Ideas

The Jerusalem Center has developed one of the most extensive, state-of-the-art, networks of Israel information websites, delivering content in 4 languages (English, Hebrew, French, and German). The Center's websites registered 1,610,284 pageviews in May 2021 by 123,433 unique visitors. The Center maintains a strong and ever-growing presence on social media, including *YouTube* (27,466 subscribers), *Facebook* (16,426 likes), and *Twitter* (23,975 followers). In addition, the Center's *Daily Alert* newsletter is considered the "gold standard" Israel news digest.



The Jerusalem Center utilizes all avenues to deliver its messages in print, social media, and video. We invest resources to populate our written material with appropriate visual and eye-catching photographs, maps, embedded videos, and charts that complement the written word.

Thanks to our extensive video expertise, the Jerusalem Center has been selected as a recipient of the **Genesis Prize** for their global "Speak Out for #Israel" campaign to combat anti-Semitism and efforts to de-legitimize Israel. We have prepared videos as part of the project: "Three Minutes of Truth: Challenging the Lies about Israel."



The Jerusalem Center's Experts



Ambassador Dore Gold, President



Jennifer Roskies, Director General



Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser, Director of the Project on Regional Middle East Developments



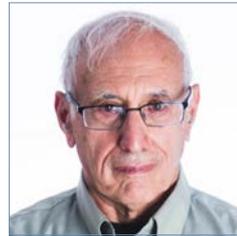
Ambassador Alan Baker, Director of the Institute for Contemporary Affairs



Lt.-Col. (ret.) Michael Segall



Lenny Ben-David, Director of Publications



Pinhas Inbari



Brig.-Gen. (ret.) Dr. Shimon Shapira



Fiamma Nirenstein



Col. (ret.) Dr. Jacques Neriah



Nadav Shragai



Dan Diker, Director of the Political Warfare Project



Lt.-Col. (ret.) Jonathan D. Halevi



Yoni Ben Menachem



Ambassador Freddy Eytan



Col. Dani Tirza



The Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs is a leading independent research institute specializing in public diplomacy and foreign policy. Founded in 1976, the Center has produced hundreds of studies and initiatives by leading experts on a wide range of strategic topics. Dr. Dore Gold, Israel's former Ambassador to the UN and Director-General of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has headed the Jerusalem Center since 2000.

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