

The **10 Lies** about Israel

Fiamma Nirenstein

Foreword by Dr. Dan Diker



Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs

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Foreword

Dr. Dan Diker

Since its birth in 1948, the State of Israel's adversaries have spread lies about every aspect of its existence, from the integrity of Jewish legal and historic rights in the Land of Israel to the essence of the Zionist movement. Inspired and incited by Islamist leaders from the "Grand Mufti of Jerusalem" Haj Amin al-Husseini in the 1920s and Muslim Brotherhood founders Hassan al-Banna and Sayed Qutb, to Cold War politics, and proponents of Marxist ideology and Arab nationalism, those who have sought to erase Jewish self-determination persist in repeating the lies that today constitute the most pervasive form of modern antisemitism.

Fiamma Nirenstein, Senior Fellow at Jerusalem Center for Foreign Affairs, has produced a vitally important book that exposes and refutes the leading lies about the Jewish State, and by extension, the Jewish people. Her latest pathbreaking work, *The Ten Lies About Israel*, fits neatly in her decades-long career in guarding Israel and protecting Zionism from vicious and mendacious claims made by its many opponents and enemies.

Nirenstein, a veteran award-winning journalist and former

Deputy President of the Italian parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, has forecast global trends and threats to the Jewish people and its small nation-state for decades. This was true in her seminal work *Terror: the New Anti-Semitism and the War against the West* (2005), to the far-reaching role of Iran's aggressions in *The Caliph and the Ayatollah: Our World Under Siege* (2015) to the effects of anti-Zionist-powered antisemitism in *Jewish Lives Matter* (2022).

Nirenstein's profoundly consequential contributions align closely with the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs' pioneering studies on the use of political warfare to assault the State of Israel. These include *Israel Under Fire* (2024), *Oslo at 30: Lessons Learned* (2023), *Israelophobia and the West* (2020), and numerous books on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions, Students for Justice in Palestine, and other global pro-jihadi movements.

The Ten Lies about Israel crowns the JCFA as a leading research-powered "do-tank" in its battle to uproot the deceptions and political warfare that have been mainstreamed in the Western public discourse – in governments, parliaments, media, social networks, and universities. These delegitimizing discourses have negatively impacted international public opinion. This is why Nirenstein's *Ten Lies* is critical reading for those concerned with the fate of the State of Israel and the Jewish people and in advancing the truth.

Dr. Dan Diker

President, Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs

Foreword

Bruno Gazzo

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Italy and Israel, the Federazione delle Associazioni Italia Israele decided to publish Fiamma Nirenstein's concise but significant book, *The 10 Lies About Israel*, to combat the falsehoods constantly spread in the press and social media about Israel.

As Nazi propaganda has demonstrated, continuously repeating lies about Jews generates the grossly mistaken impression of the truth. This is equally applicable to lies about the State of Israel, perpetuated from the time of its inception.

Now more than ever, there is a need for clarity. After October 7, 2023, when Hamas terrorists barbarically slaughtered the largest number of Jews in a single day since the Holocaust, telling the truth about Israel is also an urgent necessity.

We are facing a monstrous wave of antisemitism, comparable to that which led to the Holocaust in the 1930s. Lies about Israel only fuel antisemitic hatred in the Western world.

This book was first published in 2016 as a supplement to *il Giornale*. Today, author Fiamma Nirenstein has extensively updated and actualized this edition, which is a factual handbook for those who want to know the truth about Israel.

Thank you, Fiamma!

The Federation would also like to give special thanks to Gianluigi Mazzufferi, who inspired the reprint project and was the tireless organizer of the initiative. Also, with him, Domizia Carafòli for supporting the project, Paolo Formiconi, editor of the editing and reprinting, and the Società Europea di Edizioni S.r.l. in the person of Davide Valeri for granting the release. Special thanks also go to Nicoletta Tiliacos for helping to revise the text.

The purpose of this book is not only to inform the reader properly but also to provide an agile tool to refute the lies of Israel-haters publicly.

Bruno Gazzo
President, Federazione Associazioni Italia Israele

Genoa, March 2024

Introduction

Telling the truth about Israel is an urgent necessity. For many years, the view of Israel has been polluted to the point of asphyxiation by a well-prepared set of lies that, over the decades, have become widespread mindsets that fuel not only incitement to terrorism in the Arab world but also antisemitic hatred in the Western world. The resulting ignorance is an abyss of shame. The young people who take to the streets against Israel know nothing but myths and lies while ignoring even the most basic facts of Israel's history and current events. Almost no one knows when or why the State of Israel was born and what it means to demand that "Palestine" replace it "from the river to the sea."

Which river, which sea? Rivers and seas of anti-Jewish hatred. The rest is unknown. The very idea of "two states for two peoples" is far from the crowds fed on lies who want only one state, the one of Palestine, which does not exist and has never existed.

Basic knowledge of history and facts has been replaced by prejudice, accusations, fantasies, and antisemitic inventions

that aim at the destruction of Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people. The lies are purposely created to deny the most obvious of truths: the Jewish people have the right, like any other people, to live in peace in their own land, especially after centuries and millennia have proven how perilous it is for Jews to survive when dispersed and divided. These lies destroy the most logical and fundamental right to defend oneself and live.

It is tragically paradoxical that Western crowds are marching against Israel, attempting to destroy, in the name of human rights, the country that treasures those rights perhaps more than any other in the world. Israel stands as a beacon of freedom in the Middle East, where in all the surrounding countries (as well as among the Palestinians of Gaza and the Palestinian Authority), those rights do not exist and are violently denied. This surrounding ethos persecutes homosexuals, subjugates women, and raises children in a culture of violence, both at school and in the family, that fosters the worship of terrorism, with the prospect of “martyrdom” as a desirable horizon.

The refutation of lies about Israel has become indispensable because we are facing a monstrous wave of antisemitism, comparable to that which led to the Holocaust in the 1930s. Now, as then, the wave of anti-Jewish hatred is built on the systematic reinvention, brick by brick, of contemporary Jewish history and reality. This distortion of the truth is manifested as an explosion of antisemitism in all its horror in Hamas’s vicious attack on October 7, 2023, against the defenseless citizens of the kibbutzim and villages close to Gaza. The atrocities in which 1,200 men, women, and children were murdered and in which 253 citizens of all ages and health conditions were abducted could only be imaginable through

the lens of the darkest moments of history, including those of Nazi barbarism, the Spanish Inquisition, and the brutal conquests in the Dark Ages.

These atrocities, however, are happening now, in this day and age: children were murdered and burned in their mothers' arms, infants decapitated, parents slaughtered in front of their children, women raped and murdered, pregnant women eviscerated, older men hacked to pieces and defaced, Filipino and Thai workers hacked to death, Bedouins kidnapped or murdered with axes, reduced to logs of flesh, decapitated and burned.

It is hard to believe one's own eyes, but as a journalist, I had to see all of this in the films documented by the Hamas terrorists themselves. They planned to publicize their footage to terrify Jews and the whole world, hoping to bring Israel to destruction and abandonment. The cry of "*Yehud, Yehud*" ("Jew, Jew") resounded like that of "*Juden*" on Kristallnacht, as even those who managed to survive the Holocaust more than half a century ago were now killed by this new incarnation of the monster.

By now, many have heard the recorded phone call of an enthusiastic, excited young terrorist calling his parents, who expressed family jubilation because he too could finally boast of having "killed Jews." The congratulations and delight issued from the parents should make clear what has been known for decades: the boundless hatred of the Palestinians is pervasive, and its racial and religious character is matched by its ferocity. Its goal, with the October 7 attack, was unequivocal: to wipe the State of Israel off the map.

Yet, in the face of this abomination, international solidarity was there only in the days of initial astonishment at the lows humanity can sink. Immediately after, the season of doubts, lies, and even justifications for what had been perpetrated by Hamas began. It is deplorable that the great institutions, first and foremost the United Nations (UN) and all of its derivatives, the European Union, and the universities, among others, did not seize the unique opportunity to take a firm stance against what has become a veritable tsunami of antisemitism.

Instead, thanks to Antonio Guterres, secretary-general of the UN, a free pass was offered to the antisemitic propaganda that had been raging over the years against Israel and its right to exist. It was at the UN that the most astonishing antisemitic hatred ever seen since Nazi-fascism began to emerge.

The State of the Jews has officially become the target of blame and vilification, the real focal point of hatred against the People of the Book, which has suffered continuous *pogroms* over the millennia. It began with religious persecution, especially by Christians, then proceeded to racial persecution, exemplified by the Nazi-fascist variety, followed by the socio-political Communist hatred that inaugurated the present phase: the State of Israel is portrayed as the ultimate enemy of human rights.

Israel has been tossed to a gang of global oppressors drawn from Stalinism, which does not forgive Israel for the “sin” of practicing a liberal, capitalist concept of democracy predicated by that of the United States. According to this strategy, in the aftermath of the October 7 massacre, Guterres presented Hamas’s horrific attack to the human rights proscenium.

It did not result in the expected condemnation of Hamas as perpetrators of the largest massacre of Jews in a single day since the Holocaust. No. It seems that the Palestinians, according to him, suffer from a 75-year occupation (i.e., since the founding of Israel) and the lack of their own state (always stubbornly rejected, despite Israel's many proffers). Referring to October 7, Guterres said, without shame, "There are reasons for this; it does not happen in a vacuum." This latest UN travesty of justice is reminiscent of that of many countries surrounding Israel: excuse the rapist while stoning the raped.

This obscene perspective is woven into a fabricated picture of Israeli history and politics, revising the past in order to skew the present, according to the idea of Hitler's propaganda strategist Goebbels, who said: "Repeat a lie a hundred, a thousand, a million times, and it will become a reality."

Arafat, the Egyptian-born, Nobel Prize-winning leader of the PLO, was the genius founder of the double-edged-sword approach to Palestinian politics: with the political edge he negotiated a peace he never really intended to keep with Prime Minister Ehud Barak at Camp David, in the presence of U.S. President Bill Clinton; with the other edge, he invented grand terrorism, still the model for all the world's most brutal groups. Arafat is the terrorist who conceived the massacre of Israeli athletes in Munich, the slaughter of children on school buses, the hijacking of airplanes, and the mass attacks on synagogues. He also planned and implemented the second Intifada, which claimed nearly 2,000 innocent lives from 2000 to 2005.

Above all, Arafat succeeded in weaving a new mythology of the Palestinian people. He did so at the suggestion of the

Vietnamese military leader Giap: the key to success was to rewrite the entire history of his world in an “anti-imperialist” key, making it a node in world politics and the struggle between oppressed and oppressors. Here is where the so-called “Palestinian question” is founded, which becomes the main focus of anti-Western Third-Worldism and draws Israel as a colonialist, imperialist, capitalist country. It is the reinvention of the Palestinians as a persecuted and occupied people upon whom, unexpectedly, the Jewish people had swooped in, devoid of any relationship with what Arafat continued to draw as a land not to be conquered but to be won back at any cost.

It is a gigantic lie based on the invention of a past that never existed in a land that was never Palestinian. The vastness and incongruity of the lie are seen in the ridiculous attempt to turn Jesus Christ into a “Palestinian” instead of a Jewish personage of his time or in the outrageous appropriation (endorsed by UNESCO) of the city of Jerusalem, the cradle of Judaism and thus of all monotheistic religions, a city named in the Bible 669 times, while it is never mentioned in the Quran.

The historical lie has aligned itself with tenacity to the moral one, starting with a perverse UN resolution in 1975 declaring Israel to be a racist country. Today, it is even accused of being an “apartheid” state, in absolute contradiction of the wholly observable reality evident in the administration of justice, politics, parliament, hospitals, and even in the abundant representation of all faiths and ethnicities in the Israeli military and throughout the land; all people are considered equal in Israeli legislation.

This road of moral delegitimization, which clings above

all to the lie of an “illegitimate occupation,” signifies the precise direction in which all the lies about Israel are going: that of cancellation, the destruction of the Jewish State, and the erasure of its people. This is happening at the historical moment when Israel’s fabulous realization is being fulfilled, full of technological and cultural successes, health and scientific breakthroughs for the entire world, and miracles that have led to victory in wars that have always been about defense against continued aggression by its enemies since 1948.

The sense of guilt in the West after the Holocaust, the fear of the strength of an Islamic world antagonistic to Western culture and increasingly invasive with the waves of migration to Europe and America, together with the leftist Third Worldist culture mentioned earlier, have been the trench in which Arafat has been able to lay the foundation for the worst of all the insane Palestinian accusations, repeated in these days of war. This is a war that Israel neither sought nor wanted but is fighting to defeat the vicious, ruthless threat of Hamas.

The insane, abominable accusations make Israel something comparable, even overlapping with the worst of all enemies of the Jews, namely Hitler. The “Nazification” of Israel, spoken of by the great historian of antisemitism Robert S. Wistrich, is the current coinage in the movement that now marches with banners, placards, and slogans of “Free Palestine.” The linkage blatantly calls for the continuation of Hitler’s work by “freeing” Israel of Jews (by killing them all) “from the river to the sea” while at the same time obscenely superimposing a swastika on the blue and white flag with the Star of David.

Incredibly, the lies about Israel have been validated by major

international institutions, first and foremost the UN, with a court of diplomats, with the help of the European Union, and have become commonly accepted “truths” in much of the ignorant and facile younger generation. The notion that the rejection of peace and the continuing situation of tension and war are due to Israel’s supposed “occupation” of “Palestinian lands” (that never existed in history) is necessary to debunk. Equally so is the misconception that Israel has rejected territorial compromise, when, in fact, compromise has been proposed by all Israeli leaders, left and right – and has always been rejected by Palestinians, ever since the partition of 1948 and repeatedly via the three “no’s” of 1968.

These incidents have been followed by continuous Palestinian rejections of any compromise, accompanied by an explicit policy of indoctrination and incitement to radical hatred, and by extensive horrific acts of terrorism against men, women, and children throughout Israel. The diplomatic and terrorist attacks accompany Hamas’s continuous bombardment from Gaza with missiles, rockets, and mortars, daily aimed at civilian facilities, schools, roads, homes, and workplaces throughout Israel.

Despite this, UN resolutions against Israel abound, vastly disproportionate in number to those dedicated to countries that serially violate all human rights, such as Iran or Syria. Likewise, condemnations against Israel for its “occupation” are not comparable to those of other countries whose occupation of extraterritorial spaces is at issue, such as Morocco, China, and Turkey.

But of all the unconscionable offenses suffered by a country

that remains irreducibly democratic, despite constant wars and aggression, a country that currently faces a war declared by strategists to be “the most difficult in the world,” above and below ground (while the enemy uses every civilian structure and every person as shields and warriors), the worst has come from the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Indeed, the ICJ is actually discussing South Africa’s accusation that Israel is conducting a “genocidal” policy toward the Palestinians.

Nothing could be more false or paradoxical. Since Hamas declared war on October 7, 2023, Israel has granted the civilian population of Gaza excessive precautionary consideration, behaving as the most moral army in the history of war. Gazans are warned to clear areas in advance of necessary operations or bombing. The Israeli military created civilian escape routes and suspended fighting to allow safe passage. Israel has also provided continuous delivery of humanitarian aid, not only of water, food, and medicine but also gasoline—a bizarre choice, literally fueling the enemy. Israeli military orders insist on all possible caution toward noncombatants, even in battle, paying the price for that caution in casualties, in the suffering of the soldiers who continue to fight with valor and determination, aware of the presence of hostages on the ground, including children, older adults, girls and boys suffering and abused.

One thing must never be asked of Israel, and that is to lose, withdraw, or stop fighting for its survival. This is the ultimate truth: that the people of Israel live in freedom and democracy for themselves and for all the world that truly believes in human rights. And that is why, as we write these lines in

wartime, we know that Israel will win not by its physical strength but by its spirit.

Fiamma Nirenstein

Jerusalem, March 2024

Lie No. 1

Jews are colonizers of other people's land

The lies about Israel tend to describe the construction and development of the State of Israel in terms of a criminal enterprise; Jews are misleadingly equated in the category of colonizers. Palestinians are presented to the world as the landowners evicted by an overbearing outsider, Israel. But they are not. There has never been a “Palestinian” civilization or nation, much less an Arab-Palestinian nation. Indeed, there are ancient inhabitants of the area and the oldest civilization of all: the Jews. There has never been a Palestinian culture or language nor a state ruled by Palestinian Arabs. Israel, however, became a nation as early as 1312 B.C., two thousand years before the birth of Islam.

Israel's first king, Saul, reigned in 1020 BCE. Twenty years later, the great figure of King David appeared. In 960, Solomon built the first great Temple in Jerusalem. In 586 BCE, Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon destroyed the First Temple in Jerusalem, which stood on the hill where the al-Aqsa Mosque (the third holy site for Islam) would eventually stand 1,200 years later. The mosque is mentioned just once in the Quran as “al-Aqsa,” meaning “the farthest,” referring to Jerusalem being

a city far away from Saudi Arabia, where Mecca and Medina, the primary holy towns for Islam, are located. Those two cities are mentioned in the Quran hundreds of times. On the other hand, Jerusalem does not appear in the Quran, but it appears in the Bible 669 times. The term “Zion” appears 154 times.

After the destruction of the First Temple and exile in Babylon, those Jews who were allowed to stay or return to their homeland after the 538 BCE edict of Cyrus the Great rebuilt the Second Temple and their nation until 70 C.E. when the Romans destroyed it again. Emperor Titus enslaved the Jews, deporting many of them to Rome, as evidenced by the relief on the Arch of Titus. The relief is an actual pictograph of captive Jews carrying on their shoulders the seven-armed candelabrum, the Menorah, which today is the institutional symbol of the State of Israel.

After that, while the Jews maintained a persecuted and precarious presence that most always saw them as the majority in Jerusalem (especially in the last two centuries), a variety of dominions followed: Greeks, Romans, Maccabees, Byzantines, Arabs, Egyptians, Crusaders, Mamluks, Ottoman Turks, and then the British, who replaced the Ottoman Empire with the British Mandate established by the League of Nations (1936-1948). As part of decolonization, the Mandate pledged to allow Jews, true natives of the area and the relative majority in Jerusalem since 1863, to build their own state.

Lie No. 2

The term “Palestine” and the foundation of the Palestinian state

The name “Palestine,” given by the Romans to refer to one of the provinces of their empire, had nothing to do with a preexisting nation but with a people among the many who reached Israel’s shores from the Mediterranean and who are not identified with the present Palestinian people. Already extinct for centuries, by the time of Emperor Hadrian, the people were the Philistines of Aegean-Cretan origin and certainly not Arab. The Arabs of Palestine came essentially from Syria and Jordan and became considerable in number only after the rise of Zionism. Even Arab leaders included Palestine in the territories of “Greater Syria.” Palestinians increased in numbers coming from the various surrounding countries only when Zionist pioneers opened the doors of work in that abandoned land, which no one had ever tended before them, first by draining the malaria-bearing swamps by the sweat of the brows of so many immigrants, as did, for example, the parents of Yitzhak Rabin. More than 90 percent of the area’s Arabs immigrated during the first Aliyot, the mass immigration of Jews that began in 1880, simultaneously and independently, from both Yemen and Europe. There is no

ethnic or historical difference between the Arab mass of the country and those of the 22 Arab nations in the area.

Historically, there has never been a Palestinian state. If people in such a state want it to exist, they must deal with Israel on its borders. This would involve precisely the elusive decision, now almost a magic formula, for seeking a solution to the conflict, to draw two states for two peoples, that is, to proceed with establishing a Palestinian state.

After October 7, 2023, the Biden administration, the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), and some Arab allies would like to draw a solution to the conflict based on an immediate realization of the “two-state solution.” But the reality of the situation is that the Palestinians themselves do not aim for this solution at all but draw their borders and hopes from the perspective of destroying Israel and replacing it entirely after erasing it “from the river to the sea.” Hamas leader Khaled Mashal expressed the Palestinian attitude very explicitly, “After October 7, there is a renewed hope for a Palestine ‘from the river to the sea,’ from the north to the south... we reject the ‘two states for two peoples’ solution because that would require us to recognize the legitimacy of the Zionist entity, and this is unacceptable.”

Mashal’s position is supported by most Palestinians, of whom, when asked to comment on the October 7 atrocities, 72 percent applaud the massacre (including the rapes, beheadings, kidnappings, etc.), while 74.7 percent want a state that completely supplants Israel.

Palestinians choose this radicalization, not only those under

the leadership of Hamas but also those under that of Fatah. This is evidenced in the education of children, who are brought up in the cult of violence and idolization of the *shahid*, the terrorist “martyrs” whose images are plastered on schools and city walls, while in summer classes and television shows, the basest stylistic features of classical antisemitism are propagated. This makes it very difficult to imagine a good neighborly relationship with a Palestinian state. The Palestinian Authority (PA) government, after October 7, still spends about \$2.8 million a month on the salaries of Hamas terrorists, now in Israeli prisons, who perpetrated the massacre near Gaza. The PA has never condemned the attack, and from its cities, by the dozens, deadly attacks on innocent Israeli citizens continue to come unabated. From the cafes of Tel Aviv to the streets of Jerusalem to the gas pumps of Eli, no one is terror-safe in Israel. When they speak of “occupation,” all Palestinian leaders are referring to the entire territory of Israel, which they strike indiscriminately. The Oslo Accords enabled the creation of a joint police force between the Palestinian Authority and Israel. Still, it is often violated by the use of weapons by Palestinian police to carry out terrorist attacks.

Asking Israel, in the current situation, to put its trust in a Palestinian state with unilaterally established rules would not only violate and permanently destroy the Oslo Accords, but it would have the distinct feature of giving the Palestinians the grand prize of recognition, funds, international aid, and general support, and as a direct result, an actual award for the monstrous operation conducted by Hamas on October 7. It has been said, mockingly, that Sinwar would thus become the Ben Gurion of the Palestinian people.

Only direct negotiations, as established by the UN and the Oslo Accords, can help bring a rapprochement of the two sides. But this can only happen after Israel has defeated Hamas, taking away any Charter-enshrined Palestinian ambitions to destroy the Jewish state. A Palestinian state must be born for peace and not for a new war, which would be increasingly lethal; its demilitarization and deradicalization must be guaranteed.

Both Germany and Japan, after World War II, were able to rebuild their historical perspective as democratic states, but this came only after their unconditional surrender and a long “reconstruction,” which saw the complete dismantling of wartime leadership. Violence was eradicated from their educational system, as was the use of weapons.

Lie No. 3

The “Esplanade of Mosques” erases the Temple Mount

The whole heap of lies about Jerusalem and the attempt to deny its very Jewish roots has focused on the Temple Mount. The al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock are admirable constructions, completed in 705 and 691 CE, respectively. The Dome was copied from the Holy Sepulcher, which had existed for several centuries. These buildings, now considered symbols of Islam, were built on the very site of the First and Second Temples, the Beit ha-Mikdash, the most sacred place of worship in the world for Jews. Here stands the Wailing Wall, a remnant of the retaining wall that supported the plateau of Herod’s Temple, which was one of the wonders of the world. You can still see the sacrificial stone there, the steps from which masses of Jewish pilgrims went to the ritual baths. Then, the forbidden areas (marked in scripture) where only a priest could enter, and all this next to the hill of Zion, conquered in battle by King David around 1010 B.C., when he decided to make Jerusalem his capital.

Further down is the Kidron Valley, called in the Old and New Testaments the “Valley of the Kings,” because of the tombs there, or the “Valley of Jehoshaphat.” Princes, queens,

prophets, and many from the lineage of David are buried there. The Jewish heritage is complete. Jesus, as a child, made his Passover pilgrimage here, as did every Jew of Israel, along with Mary and Joseph (this is the New Testament episode in which he preaches to the Teachers of the law). One can still see the stairs the family climbed and the stores below.

Arafat, however, chose the path of denial, so threateningly insisting that “Esplanade of Mosques” should be the unique designation that erases the “Temple Mount” that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) voted for in an enigmatic and deleterious resolution declaring the “Mount” to be of pure Islamic heritage. This is a disgrace laden with violent and even terroristic consequences, as Palestinian propaganda does not tire of suggesting to its youth that Israel wants to change the “status quo” established in 1967, which gives the Waqf (the Islamic religious authority based in Jordan) jurisdiction over Islamic holy sites. “Dying for al-Aqsa” is a slogan as much in vogue as it is merely propagandistic since Israel has no intention of taking over the Mosques. However, it is undoubtedly controversial that, right up there, in the holiest place to the Jewish people, it is forbidden even to the few visiting Jews to pray.

Lie No. 4

The prosecution of blood

After the atrocities committed by Hamas on October 7, 2023, antisemitic attacks against the Jewish people, this time associated with Israel, have taken dimensions not seen since the Holocaust, from New York to Milan. The meeting of the far-left “woke” culture with the new Islamist immigration has forged an identification between anti-Western, Third Worldist hatred and anti-Israel hatred. A long list of falsehoods has driven the aggression of mobs, who in squares throughout the West have called for the erasure of Israel from the map, accusing it of genocide, occupation, apartheid, and war crimes; in short, of becoming a clone of Nazi Germany. The willfully deaf and blind attacks, laden with lethal blame, are now a habit. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, two days after the Hamas attack, accused Israel of somehow causing the carnage with “75 years” of oppression of Palestinians. In June 2016, in the European Parliament, Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority, got a standing ovation with a speech in which he renewed the traditional “accusation of blood,” the cause of *pogroms* and bloody persecution since the Middle Ages, proclaiming in front of European Parliamentarians that some rabbis had suggested that Israelis poison Palestinian waters.

Today, anyone in the public square or in universities who accuses the Israeli army of cruel, unconscionable, even intentional slaughter of women and children is applauded without the intervention or inconvenience of critical thinking. There is no attempt to understand what the more serious analysts explain daily: Hamas terror provoked a war of necessity, forcing the Israeli army to fight to dismantle the terrorist organizations that dominate Gaza and that have been attacking Israeli civilians for decades with thousands of rockets and terror attacks. After Hamas's murder of 1,200 people, taking 253 people hostage, and the resulting forced evacuation of 200,000 Israeli civilians from their homes and jobs, Israel naturally pursued their attackers into Gaza, attempting to retrieve their children, elderly, men, and women who were torn from their loved ones.

Hamas's warring style is characterized by the systematic use of the population and civilian structures as human shields by Hamas; the schools, mosques, and hospitals are connected to a crazy network of hundreds of kilometers of underground tunnels that protect the missile launchers, weapons, and Hamas men and supplies while hiding the pitiable Israeli hostages, often in dungeon-like conditions. All Gazans have been enlisted and incorporated into a Nazified, compactly terrorist society, whether complicit or acting despite itself.

When one uses the "blood libel" accusation against Israel, one is merely retracing an old, terrible path of lies. Despite the truth emerging and necessitating public recantations, we all know that the retraction of an accusation always has minimal effect in the face of the original allegation, which viciously continues to circulate. Responding to Israel's outraged reactions

regarding the spread of lies about poisoned Palestinian water, Abu Abass's staff issued a denial, stating, "It having become clear that the alleged statements by a rabbi about the poisoning of Palestinian wells are, in fact, baseless, President Mahmoud Abbas said that he had no intention of harming Judaism or offending Jews." These mendacious falsities keep reemerging as "truths" as in the case of the BBC, which twice had to retract its accusations that Israel bombed the Al-Ahli hospital in Gaza and deliberately "targeted" the hospital's patients and staff, while the rocket responsible for the explosion was actually the Islamic Jihad's own. "In fact," the BBC corrected, referring to the Israeli army, "it was cooperating with the medical staff and patients." Meanwhile, new black canards are making their way into the public every other day.

The press has played an explosive role in constructing a complete misconception about Israel. Based on a fabricated French report, all the world's newspapers and TV stations told the tale of a Srebrenica-like massacre in Jenin in 2002, spreading the manifesto on which Arafat launched the Intifada: that the Israelis had viciously killed the child Mohammed Al-Dura in 2000 (which several non-Israeli investigative sources later proved false). Stories of the heinous cruelty of settlers have been invented, tending to portray them as a gang of racist lunatics. In reality, however, of these 400,000 Jews, only a very tiny fraction committed crimes – for which they were prosecuted by Israeli law, receiving up to the maximum prescribed sentence, life imprisonment, when it came to murder.

The new Israelophobic antisemitism has become a banner, conscious or unconscious, of all major international

institutions. The European Union (EU, the United Nations (UN), and the Human Rights Council (HRC) stationed in Geneva devote at least one-third of their resolutions of condemnation each year to Israel instead of to mass murderers in Syria, Iran, China, Eritrea, etc.

Then there is UNESCO, which, as we have already mentioned, recently ruled that the Esplanade of the Mosques, with the whole of Jerusalem, belongs only to the Islamic tradition, wiping out with a stroke the Jewish heritage proven by a thousand historical testimonies. All of these organizations are members of the club that has made its mission to criminalize and delegitimize Israel continually, which increasingly distances any possibility of peace, and which today seeks to guarantee the survival of Hamas effectively with its calls for a Gaza cease-fire.

Lie No. 5

The occupation of Palestinian territories is the leading cause of the conflict.

October 7, 2023, has become a watershed date in this latest revival of antisemitism and has been attributed as comeuppance for the “occupation” of “Palestinian territory.” This “occupation” refers to the birth of the State of Israel “75 years” ago. The UN’s Guterres, the European Union leaders, the protagonists of the street demonstrations, and the leftist professors in the universities assert with great carelessness and presumption that for 75 years, the Palestinians have been suffering oppression (another key word) by the Jewish state, which occupies their land. According to this myth, the occupation is the leading cause of the lack of peace. All of this is false.

Israel, which includes Judea and Samaria, has always been the epicenter of the Jewish people’s origin and life. Even in the years of forced exile, many cities, such as Safed and parts of Jerusalem, where the expulsion of Jews was targeted and bloody, have always remained Jewish. Israel has always maintained a Jewish presence. Since it is the only Jewish state, control of the territory is essential for its very existence and survival.

In 1950, Jordan illegally annexed Judea and Samaria, naming them the “West Bank [of the Jordan River].” Although the international community has never accepted that occupation, no one challenged the legality of the situation since 1967 except Israel.

In contrast, 75 years ago, the founding of the State of Israel occurred entirely legally. The right to a homeland for the Jewish people, recognized in 1917 by the Balfour Declaration, was ratified by the San Remo Declaration, which in 1920 dismantled the Ottoman power that had ruled the Middle East. In 1922, The League of Nations reaffirmed “the historic connection of the Jewish people with Palestine and for the land that will rebuild their national home there.” In November 1947, by a majority vote of the United Nations, a territorial division, called partition, was also defined: the State of Israel was not in any way established as a replacement for a Palestinian state (which never existed), and neither was it rejecting the existence of the Arabs in Mandate Palestine under the British.

Had the Arabs not reacted with an armed rejection of the partition voted by the United Nations, the decision of the Jews to live in peace with the Arabs would have immediately resulted in two states, side by side.

Peaceful coexistence has always been the guiding star of the democratic and semi-socialist State of Israel, born in 1948. Conversely, led by the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem Haj Amin al-Husseini (who collaborated in Hitler’s genocidal project of exterminating the Jews), it was the Arabs who created the racist clash against the Jews, imposing genocidal and expulsionist policies against them. Even the refugee issue

was born of jihadi Arab aggression, not the result of Israeli injustice. Israel merely defended itself against Arab attacks, of which the Palestinians were but a small part. The very word “Palestinians” actually referred not to Arabs but to the Jews living in Mandate Palestine.

The 1967 “occupation” was not the progenitor of the ongoing confrontation. As early as 1920, terrorist attacks began to follow one another at an increasingly furious pace, testifying simply to Arab rejection of a Jewish presence. The infamous 1929 attacks on Hebron and Safed, two of the cities where, along with Jerusalem and Tiberias, there had always been a Jewish majority and where actual *pogroms* took place, cost the lives of a hundred Jews.

The 1967 settlements were born as indispensable defense garrisons, without which, as evidenced by the current reality, Israel would have been forced into an indefensible position, a memory of an ancient

Jewish presence on territories that were under Jordanian rule until the Six-Day War in June 1967. Israel was forced to wage war with Jordan, occupying Judea and Samaria because it would have otherwise been mortally wounded in its center and in Jerusalem. Israel’s fight is an existential one, solely in self-defense against a war fueled by the burning desire to destroy it.

The abused term “occupied Palestinian territories” has no basis and is not supported by any historical or legal documents. The agreements signed over time between the Palestinian leaders and the Israelis do not stipulate that those territories are destined for a Palestinian state at all, but only specify that the

dispute over their fate should be resolved through negotiations, as prescribed by UN resolutions. It is noteworthy, however, that Israel immediately offered an international accommodation that included the withdrawal from the occupied areas, facing the ferocious rejection from the other side, which has always been the final banner position of any negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis.

Following its unexpected victory in the Six-Day War, Israel offered to negotiate for the return of its new conquests (Sinai and Gaza from Egypt, the Golan from Syria, and the West Bank from Jordan). However, the Arab League, meeting in Khartoum in 1967, produced the famous “Three No’s” resolution, in which it asserted: no to peace, no to negotiations, and no to recognition of Israel.

Here begins the long road of offers Israel presented, at every opportunity, (with both right-wing and left-wing governments) to return the “Territories” in exchange for peace. This formula seems to repeat endlessly over time. In November 1967, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 242 to resolve the diatribe over the “Territories.” It does not define them as “illegal.” It does not dictate at all, as Arafat continuously repeated and as the EU today advocates, the return of “*all* the Territories,” but rather the withdrawal “from the Territories.” It also stipulates that a “peaceful and mutual agreement must be reached between the two sides that can guarantee the parties to live in peace within secure and recognized borders.” The resolution thus speaks of allocating borders to the Palestinians “from the Territories” in a manner befitting the two sides, meaning that the two sides must find an agreed solution between them,

not imposed from above or by third parties, keeping in mind Israel's need to safeguard its security.

To claim that the occupation is the cause of the conflict is simply a malicious, superficial, and wholly unrealistic assertion: in a word, false. To claim that this conflict originated 75 years ago is essentially declaring that the very existence of the State of Israel must be erased. Unfortunately, this genocidal intent is blatantly apparent in the many proclamations and expressions of solidarity with the Palestinians.

From the Oslo Accords to the four offers of a Palestinian state (including part of Jerusalem), the history of Israel's outstretched hand has been an occasion, contrary to legitimate expectations, for the growth of Palestinian violence and rejection. Arafat's "no" at Camp David in July 2000 heralded the second bloody Intifada with two thousand Israelis murdered. Abbas's refusal to engage in peace talks without preconditions (specifically proscribed by UN Resolution 242) and his demand that the '67 borders be considered a *sine qua non* of renunciation for the Jewish state, signaled an incredible uptick in terrorist attacks that, even after October 7, have plagued Israeli cities, from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv, from the towns in the "territories," to Haifa and Lake Tiberias.

Lie No. 6

Palestinians as perpetual victims

The tale of the “Palestinian as victim” is one of the great moral corruptions based on the lie that “Palestinians” have been forcibly ousted from their territory and have been oppressed by Israeli persecutors. Since October 7, 2023, this mythological contrivance has been trotted out *ad nauseum* by Hamas’s supporters as the absurd justification for the perpetration of the most horrific acts of terrorism.

This myth is the foundation of the UN’s repeated assertions of the usefulness and necessity of continued support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). This agency deals with “Palestinian refugees.” Sixteen of its members were discovered among the ranks of those who committed the atrocities in Israel’s kibbutzim. As evidence of the conspiracy and complicity of its members with Hamas’s terrorist policy continues to emerge, this foundation of lies is beginning to crumble.

Far beyond the issue of terrorists, however, UNRWA precisely demonstrates the falsehood on which the “Palestinian victimhood” is based. It is a mighty, super-funded UN

organization that sustains five million people defined as “refugees” according to parameters that differ from those applied to any other refugees in the world. All the world’s refugees, in fact, except Palestinians, are supported by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR – High Commissioner for Refugees) with a view to resettlement following their geographical displacement, taking care of their welfare, employment, language, and education. This was the case, for example, for Muslim and Hindu refugees involved in the population exchange on the Pakistan-India border, and this is so in numerous other cases, such as the circumstances in Europe after World War II.

UNRWA is dedicated solely to the “Palestinians” and enjoys a budget of \$1.5 billion (partly curtailed by the current scandal because some countries have suspended their funding for the agency). It differs totally from the general refugee organization run by UNHCR because out of the entire world’s refugee population, Palestinians are uniquely excluded from any policy of absorption or relocation. This means that generations after generations remain a “refugee” for life, passing on to children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in perpetuity, a status that maintains the lethal clash against Israel (thanks in part to the UNRWA schools’ systematic hatred indoctrination from the youngest ages).

A refugee, according to UNRWA, “is a person who lived in Palestine between June 1946 and May 15, 1948, and who lost his livelihood there as a result of the 1948 conflict.” At that time, as noted above, while Israel accepted the UN partition, the Arab states attacked and called upon Arab residents to leave, with the promise to bring them home. This created some 500,000

Arab refugees – as opposed to about 800,000 Jewish refugees from Arab countries, who, rather than perpetuating their status by remaining perpetual victims, adapted to live in the countries that received them (this happened to Italian refugees from Istria after World War II: none of their descendants could be considered “refugees” today).

UNRWA, however, has the political mandate to perpetuate refugee status, even for those who meanwhile have passports from other countries. In 1965, the third generation was included, and in 1982, it was further extended. Perpetuating the idea of “return,” especially the armed return of fourth-generation “victims,” makes peace impossible.

More than three thousand UNRWA members use the Telegram channel and many of those shared October 7 massacre photos and enthusiastic cheers from its teachers – some of whom later served as jailers of the hostages in Gaza. Do not be surprised by this, since the walls of UNRWA schools are adorned with portraits of the “*shahids*,” the terrorist “martyrs,” and in the Askar summer camp near Nablus (just one among many examples), when children talk about their hopes, they declare their intention to become a *shahid* by killing as many Jews as possible. They effortlessly rattle off all the names of the terrorists who died in their missions. This is what UNRWA teaches.

Another little-known chapter of the victimization issue ignores the fact that, since the 1995 interim agreement and the 1997 Hebron agreement, Palestinians have gained a great deal of autonomy to manage their own present and future. This is necessarily interrupted by military intervention when the

security of Israeli citizens (e.g., during the Second Intifada, when daily terrorist incursions bloodied Israel's territory) is impossible to protect except by physical presence, with blockades and checkpoints, often very dangerous for the Israeli guards themselves, who have fallen victim to attacks.

Under the above agreements, Israel's army left all the major Palestinian cities, leaving Arafat in complete administration. These are the so-called "Territories A," under full Palestinian jurisdiction since the mid-1990s. The idea was precisely to end the attacks and the conflict through a territorial concession that would resemble an embryonic state.

This was the significant and promising first step, to be perfected by subsequent agreements, recalling the "Declaration of Principles" in 1993, with the famous handshake between Rabin, Arafat, and Clinton at the White House. The new agreements would remain in force for five years, during which a final, shared arrangement would be negotiated. Instead, suicide terrorism erupted, mowing down more than a thousand Israeli civilian victims.

After the first Palestinian general elections in 1996, Israel's administration was dissolved, and since that time, 98 percent of Palestinians have not lived under occupation; they self-regulate and self-govern with their own laws, their own education and health system, and their own press and TV. Thus, an autocratic system run by a totally corrupt ruling class was created despite the existence of a parliament (now dissolved) dedicated to utterly rejecting Israel.

The power of Mahmoud Abbas is uncontrolled; general

elections are now a distant memory, never reconvened since 1996 (elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council were held in 2006, won by Hamas, then nothing more). Palestinian children grow up in a cult of war against Jews (they don't specify "Israelis," preferring the generalization of "Jews," spat with hatred and contempt). The popular dream is not of peace, which Israel, in contrast, sings of and proffers on nearly all occasions, but the erasure of Israel itself; it is not the perfecting of agreements but their unraveling under the banner of the destruction of the Jewish state. It is very significant that Abbas has never condemned the atrocities of October 7, 2023, and that on the international stage, his associations, like those of Hamas, are with Russia and Iran.

Lie No. 7

Israel: a racist, apartheid, genocidal state

In 2001, in Durban, South Africa, the “UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Intolerance” ushered in a new phase of antisemitism under the cunning aegis of combating apartheid, what is rightly counted among the greatest and most unacceptable human rights violations. The international meeting effectively turned into a racist, discriminatory, xenophobic, and intolerant conference against Israel.

From the first smear campaigns of “Israel is an apartheid country,” South Africa has enthusiastically pointed its hypocritical finger. To imagine the Jewish state as racist is both hateful and repugnant. Everyone knows what South African apartheid was: a government of appalling systematic discrimination of citizens from birth to death by laws that determined everyone’s life on the basis of skin color.

None of this happens in Israel, nor has it ever. Israel is a multiracial and many-colored society, even within the Jewish people, and the Arab population actively participates in the exercise of political rights and suffers no preclusion with

respect to education, worship, or employment. Israeli Arabs enjoy total equality: they elect representatives to the Knesset (parliament), serve as judges on the Supreme Court, are heads of hospital departments, and serve as decorated officers in the army and police. Unlike Arab states where there is a state religion, Israel considers Judaism, Islam, and Christianity to be official religions and guarantees total equality. Incitement to racism in Israel is a crime punishable by law.

The campaign launched at Durban has accused Israel of the most repugnant crimes in the contemporary world, denouncing it as a rogue state that must be boycotted to extinction, as was precisely the case with apartheid South Africa. Based on this campaign, “apartheid weeks” are organized every year in universities around the world, now including some Italian universities. The vast BDS (Boycott Divestment and Sanctions) movement has been built on this accusation, which aims to replicate for Israel the policy of delegitimization implemented in its time for South Africa.

BDS is an extremist and violent movement that aims at the destruction of Israel, much like its proponents, Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood. It is, moreover, a hypocritical movement because, while it evangelistically boycotts Israeli academics, sportsmen, scholars, and representatives of society, it will not deny itself the many benefits of the indispensable products of Israeli science and industry in the medical and technological fields.

In 1975, the famous as well as mystifying “Zionism equals racism” resolution passed at the UN. But the only connection Jews have with racism and apartheid is that which they have

suffered themselves: ghettoization of Jews for the purpose of their segregation followed racial criteria, as did the attempts at their systematic physical elimination.

In Israel, there is no institutionalized racism, let alone apartheid; the accusation is too stupid to be taken seriously. In Israel, there is only that level of racism that unfortunately lurks in any democratic society, and it is both monitored and combated by law. Israel's legislation does not distinguish between races, ethnicities, or religions, except for immediate admission to Israeli citizenship, which is reserved only for Jews, as is the case for a great many countries, including Italy.

Israel does not prevent anyone from practicing their religion or customs and is indeed the only country in the Middle East where this happens. Just take a tour of the Knesset or the hospitals. The malls, with their stores and recreational spaces, are a frenzied intersection of people of all ethnic and religious beliefs, Jews, Christians, and Muslims all together. At the coin-operated games, the mothers line up with their children; some wear the Islamic veil or the Orthodox Jewish woman's wig. Appropriately, October 7 has not altered any part of Israeli Arabs' role in society. Indeed, it is overlooked that Israeli Arabs were victims, too, on October 7, 2023.

It is certainly true that there are many measures, especially in the Territories and at the checkpoints beyond the Green Line, where the Arab part of the population endures queues and interrogations, but as always, the security issue is overriding. It is for the safety of all citizens of Israel – a significant number of Arab lives have also been claimed by jihadist terrorist attacks. It is an undeniable fact that thousands of

armed terrorists from Hebron, Bethlehem, and Ramallah have entered and carried out massacres, and for their acts, they have been idolized and financially rewarded. Of course, Gaza has closed borders, but one has only to think of Hamas's genocidal, antisemitic, and anti-Western program, enshrined in its own Constitutional Covenant, and of how much blood it has shed inside and outside of the Green Line, to understand that racism has nothing at all to do with the defense measures Israel is forced to apply.

The delegitimization of Israel has become a big industry, unfortunately, the biggest industry in the Palestinian world. Israelis are continually depicted in the same old stereotypes with the newly added feature of weapons: large noses plus machine guns; money, plus children's blood on their lips. This is how Ariel Sharon was depicted in a London cartoon contest: naked, holding a cluster of children hanging from his bloody mouth, munching on them.

If Jews are so mean and racist, it is really very difficult to understand why a poll reported by the *Jerusalem Post* in 2014 found that 72 percent of Israeli Arabs want to live under Israeli jurisdiction and not under Palestinian jurisdiction.

Regarding rights practiced and recognized by Israel, consider the recognition of LGBTQ rights, which has given a good reason for all homosexuals in the Middle East, including hundreds of Palestinians, to flee to Israel when they have been persecuted, as they are everywhere in the Islamic world, sometimes to the point of the death penalty. One case among many is that of Payam Feili, an Iranian gay poet who fled in 2016 to Israel, where he was granted political asylum. Yet even this, for

Israel's enemies, becomes suspect and subject to accusation, as if Israel's commitment to respecting and protecting the rights of homosexuals is just propaganda to cover up the violation of other human rights (so-called "pinkwashing").

Israel is a paradoxically free country in a state of war, a phenomenon more unique than rare. The Israeli press, television, and media, in general, are highly active in endlessly offering opposing and shouted opinions; it is even caricatured how Israeli public opinions challenge and confront each other, and the political echelons are constantly questioned.

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are equal under the law in Israel despite the latter two being minorities; freedom of religion for all has been guaranteed in Israel since the 1948 Declaration of Rights. In contrast, under the Jordanian rule of Jerusalem (1949-1967), Jews were not permitted to go to the Wailing Wall. Under Ottoman rule, Jews could pray in a small space in front of that one sacred place for Judaism.

Now, everyone can access their holy places, from the Holy Sepulcher to the Esplanade of Mosques. Even the massive flow of tourists is coordinated with the needs and regulations of the various religions, to the extent that it is undisputed that only Muslims (according to the dictates of the Waqf) have the right to access the Mosques on certain days and at certain times. Only in exceptional cases involving serious security threats, not religious or political reasons, does Israel restrict access to Mosques.

The discrepancy between Arab and Israeli prohibitions and control over the holy sites of others is vast. If one compares, for

example, the Israeli attitude with that of any Islamic state, one can see that the level of democratic openness toward freedom of worship is incomparable to the Saudis or the Palestinians themselves.

Lie No. 8

The Israelis are war criminals who are carrying out a systematic genocide

In mid-January of 2024, at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, in a tragicomedy theater of the absurd, South Africa charged Israel with committing “genocide” against the Palestinians. A mere three months after Israel suffered a genocidal attack by Hamas on October 7, this is evidence of how much energy, for decades now, has been put into the complete delegitimization of the Jewish state. The court, in a first opinion issued on January 26, 2024, did not concur with the insistence to impose a cease-fire on Israel. Yet, while rejecting the substance of the accusation, it left the door open to further discussion and scrutiny in the future, tacitly agreeing to continue this mad discussion.

The accusation speaks of a planned genocide, reminiscent of the Nazi genocide, that began with the expulsion of Palestinians from their land in 1948. This is the real news: those who recognize that Israel has a right to exist are now shamelessly countered by spurious arguments of the colonial and criminal nature of the Jewish state, which attempt to promote its erasure, as was the case with apartheid South Africa.

The historiographical basis for the genocide theme was provided in the late 1980s by the writings of Israeli historian Benny Morris, who, in 2005, wholly revised his initial assumption, where he supported the idea of genuine ethnic cleansing at the time of the 1948 defense war. It was an assumption so contrived and unsubstantiated by documents that Morris was later forced to distance himself from his own theses and to conclude that in the flight of the Arabs who left their homes during the war, there was no Israeli planning, but an aggregate of reasons related to the situation of confrontation, which was extremely harsh even for the Israeli soldiers, many of whom had just escaped the Holocaust.

The idea of a genocidal view of Israel-building is so absurd that if it were not so widespread by now, especially in this period of mass antisemitism, it would not merit any response. But this portrayal of a reversal of roles, of the transformation of Jews from victims to perpetrators, constitutes a great retroactive justification for anti-Jewish hatred: yesterday for the persecution of Jews throughout the world, today, for the condensed focus of political and horrific terrorist attacks on Israel.

Israel did not expel Arabs, who were not then called Palestinians, from their homes, let alone plan their physical destruction. The very founder of the State of Israel, David Ben Gurion, held and preached an opposite view and hoped from the beginning for peaceful coexistence with the Arab minority: "We do not want and do not need to oust the Arabs. There is room for both peoples here." Though accepted by the Jewish leadership, it was the Arab rejection of the 1947 UN Resolution on Partition that prompted five Arab countries to send their

armies to oust the Jews from these lands. Azzam Pasha, the first head of the Arab League, announced a genocidal ethnic cleansing program against the Jews: “This will be a war of extermination, a memorable massacre equal to those of the Mongols or the Crusades.”

It is well known that the Palestinians largely evacuated their homes at the urging of the Arab call (broadcast by radio from Syria) to evacuate, to allow the advancing Arab armies a quick victory, which would then bring the fugitives home straddling the barrel of rifles. In Haifa, from which the significant clearing took place, the Histadrut, the powerful Jewish union, the central backbone of Zionism, begged the Arabs to stay, but to no avail.

A combination of natural fear of conflict, harkening to the Arab invitation, and some bloody episodes expected in a war of life and death (which the Jews never wanted to fight – to the extent that they accepted partition) were responsible for the displacement of those who would later become the Palestinian refugees.

The suggestion that Israel is “genocidal” and manipulates and reverses historical facts, accuses Jews of committing the very acts they themselves have suffered. The exponential growth in the number of Palestinians in Gaza, in the Palestinian Authority, and of Israeli Arabs in the territory of Israel is clear evidence that no genocide has taken place. The Palestinians’ own living conditions are very good in the context of the Arab world despite the circumstance of their authoritarian leadership (which invests vast sums of international donations into warmongering instead of the welfare of its population).

Today, the responsibility for a large number of deaths in the Gaza war is due to the dystopian misuse of Gaza's civilian facilities (hospitals, schools, private residences) and the Gazan citizens themselves as part of a war without uniforms, in which missile launchers and weapons are hidden everywhere. Anyone can be used as a human bomb or blend into the general populace in battle. They abide by no rules. Consequently, the casualty numbers are unverifiable, inflated as they are by Hamas's propaganda campaign and by the fact that tens of thousands of battle deaths are actually Hamas terrorists clad in civilian garb – soldiers without uniforms. Hamas has flatly declared that the more deaths it can boast, the more this will generate political and religious retribution.

The widespread dissemination of the “Israel-as-genocidal-monster” image is an entirely new phenomenon and has a distinctly antisemitic character. Implicating Israel as a willful and indiscriminate aggressor perfidiously ignores the atrocities that Hamas has already perpetrated and has promised to repeat with gusto at every possible opportunity. Portraying Israel so destructively intentionally disregards that Hamas's presence on the border is life-threatening and thereby intolerable because Israeli citizens cannot return to their homes along the border.

The very word “genocide” was coined in 1944 by Jewish scholar Raphael Lemkin, whose entire family was exterminated by the Nazis in Poland. Israel has never designed a plan to destroy the Palestinian people. Never has it considered carrying out a campaign or policy intended to destroy the ethnic and national structure of the Palestinians. Conversely, the Palestinians' plans are evidenced in both Hamas's and the PLO's foundational

charters, which call for the destruction of the State of Israel for religious and political reasons. This plan has also been thoroughly demonstrated throughout their history via open jihadi declarations and “small” to mass-casualty terror attacks, in which neither children nor unarmed citizens have ever been spared.

Israel has never slaughtered masses of unarmed Palestinians as Jordan did with Black September in 1970; it did not expel 400,000 Palestinians as the Kuwaitis did in 1990; it did not cause the dispersion of 390,000 Palestinian refugees to Syria in 2011, nor did Israel deliberately trap them, killing 18,000 Palestinians, as occurred in the Yarmouk camp in Syria.

To definitively dismantle the obscene accusation of “genocide” against Israel, it would suffice to stick to the facts of the matter. The most reliable calculations define the number of original Palestinian refugees at about 500,000.

It must be remembered that, in the same years, 800,000 Jews were driven out of Arab countries, most of whom resettled permanently in Israel and then around the world, including Italy.

Palestinian refugees (exceptional from all other refugees thanks to UNRWA’s broadly generous definition), multiplied by the millions up to the fourth generation. They continue to demand the right of return that would, in effect, wipe out Israel. In short, had Israel actually wanted to wipe out the Palestinians, it could be deemed the most monumentally incompetent “genocide” in history, as the numbers do not lie. In Gaza, with periodic bloody wars and indeed the hottest place

in the confrontation between Israel and the Palestinians, there were 731,000 inhabitants in July 1994, while today, there are about two and a half million. The Territories and Gaza have experienced a growth in the Palestinian population from about 1.1 million in 1950 to 5.5 million today.

Israel has not and is not conducting any genocide. Genocides in history have similar and unmistakable characteristics: systematically killing people, starving them, depriving them of medical care, and making their lives impossible in terms of civil liberties. Now, according to the UN Human Development Report, the development of Palestinians in PA-run areas has an average standard similar to that of middle-elevated Arab countries as far as schooling, health, nutrition, and life expectancy.

Israel is not directly responsible for Palestinian development, but neither does it hinder it; indeed, it supports its infrastructure, from electricity to the Internet, even though its technicians are often attacked and have been killed.

Astonishingly, the 13-year-old daughter of Ismail Haniyeh, the political head of Hamas; the wife of Mahmoud Abbas, president of the PA; and countless children of Gaza (alongside civil-war-injured Syrian children), have been admitted, free of charge, to Israeli hospitals for extensive medical treatment. In February 2024, Haniyeh's sister was assisted during a difficult delivery in Israel's Soroka Hospital.

During the Second Intifada, when a young terrorist, badly burned by his own attack, was brought to the hospital, Dr. Aryeh Eldad (then a renowned dermatologist, later a Knesset

parliamentarian for a right-wing party) ordered that he be kept under care with continuous skin transplants for an extended period. When the hospital administration asked the doctor to conclude his treatment, Eldad transported his patient's bed to the director's office and threatened a sit-in. Israel does not limit its care to Palestinians; it transported and treated countless wounded Syrians who reached the northern border on the Golan Heights.

Among those killed or kidnapped on October 7, were many people from the kibbutzim who were continuously caring for the lives of Palestinians in Gaza, with good neighborly and volunteer relationships. Some of these people would regularly volunteer to drive Gazans from the border to their appointments at Israeli medical centers, accompanying them and waiting to drive them back. This did not save them from Hamas's genocidal rampage.

Lie No. 9

Israel makes disproportionate use of military force

The international community and the media are obsessively focused on the notion of “proportionality,” claiming that the response to the October 7 massacre is excessive and dictated by a sense of revenge that disregards the innocent civilian population. Contrary to common supposition, in war, the term “proportionality” involves not the number of casualties but the proportion between the military advantage of an operation and the danger that is possibly inflicted on those involved. The legions of lawyers who near-daily deliberate whether to strike a building must consider the risks. They weigh the few people who might remain hidden inside the building (after hundreds of warnings the army issues in leaflets and by calls to every phone number in the building) versus the estimated civilian casualties via a missile launcher hidden in that building aimed at (for example) schools and passers-by in Sderot. Proportionality. This is a very delicate job, which Israel performs meticulously.

The responsibility for the high number of casualties in Gaza lies in Hamas’s malignant use of every kind of structure that could claim civilian protection, that should be deemed

militarily taboo (homes, schools, mosques, hospitals, etc.), as their terror headquarters and as missile launch-pads. When Gazan children are directed toward soldiers carrying bombs and firearms (as has happened repeatedly), when soldiers are lured into traps by citizens waving white flags, when the most basic rules of war and simple humanity are flouted, then parsing verbiage of misconstrued “proportionality” becomes a sadistic joke.

Journalist and author Douglas Murray illustrates that the misused concept of “proportionality” is nonsensical after what was witnessed in the small towns of Israel since October 7:

Proportionality, according to the accusers, should then mean that Israel, after placing a music festival in Gaza, would go out of its way to rape the same number of women who were raped at the Nova Festival, and to kill the same number of boys...or that in a town of the same size as Sderot, door after door, it should kill the same number of children murdered in Sderot and should shoot the same number of elderly people as in the kibbutzim in the head.

Murray astutely notes the world’s hypocrisy in pointing fingers at Israel:

Israel seems to be the only country in the world that is not allowed to act to win a war. From all over the world comes the call for a cease-fire, and, in fact, this today diminishes Israel’s sheer right to security, to which it is entitled like any other state. The number of those killed in Gaza, which every news report and internet message is talking about, is itself a misunderstanding and a hoax.

As we write, it is claimed that there are 22,000 civilians and 6,000 fighters killed, while Israel estimates the latter amount to be more than 12,000. For all of them, however, one must consider the number killed by Israel and those accidentally mowed down by Hamas's own missiles and weapons on its territory. It is estimated that more than two thousand Hamas missiles have fallen on Gaza territory (including the one that in the parking lot of the Al Ahli hospital killed dozens of people). It should be added to this that the percentage of civilians killed in this latest war is much smaller than that of civilians killed in almost all other known wars, including those in Yemen, Sudan, Congo, Syria, Iraq, and Myanmar. However, even considering the combatant-to-civilian ratio as four to one, it is a lower number than that of urban warfare conflicts fought by a professional army, which is ten civilians for every combatant. If one accepts Israel's figures, the ratio becomes, for every terrorist killed, two civilians. Keeping the ratio low costs Israel daily, painful losses of conscript and reserve service soldiers, who leave home and work to defend the country from the deadly danger posed by Hamas.

Lie No. 10

Palestinian terrorism is different from terrorism in the rest of the world

Palestinian terrorism is frequently portrayed romantically as a war of liberation waged by “freedom fighters” and “resisters.” Palestinian terrorism is not, however, based on the demand for a Palestinian state, because that could have been obtained many times over. Instead, it is based on the ambition to obliterate the state of Israel.

The textbook definition of terrorism is ethnic or religious hatred directed toward innocent civilians through violent and murderous means. Palestinian terrorism is the “poster child” for that, extending hatred not just to Israelis, but antisemitically calling for the kidnap, attack, and murder of all the Jews of the world.

Palestinian terrorism was literally the match that lit the fire of world terrorism, financed at its inception by the extreme Muslim world and then swelled by alliances and support throughout it over time. Its alliances do not rest on its original affiliation with the Sunni part of that world, led by the Muslim Brotherhood, but encroach into a deadly relationship with the Shia of Iran and Hizbullah.

The first to take up arms alongside the terrorist atrocities of Hamas on October 7 were Iran's top proxies, the Lebanese Shiite Hizbullah, and with them the Houthis, also Shiite, from faraway Yemen. It is an alliance that knows only cruelty, death, and violence. It so blatantly negates every human and civil principle that it is mindboggling that the international movement that claims to be fighting for human rights does not realize the murderous, fascist, misogynistic, anti-gay, anti-dissident, anti-Western, and antisemitic hatred that characterizes the very existence of that alliance.

Palestinian terrorism is the prototype of all terrorism, that of ISIS as well as Al Qaeda. Its overt intent is to bend the world to its own ends while destroying the State of Israel and the Jewish people. From the Red Brigades to the *Rote Armee Fraktion* (the Baader-Meinhof Band), all of the world's worst terrorist gangs have been implicated in illegal trade, reaching far beyond the Middle East, financing the murderous aims of Arafat, his followers, and his successors, to the present day. It is Arafat who paved the jihadist way of aerial hijackings and lethal explosions in places of civilian life, from schools to airports, restaurants to synagogues and churches.

Arafat was the great teacher in the kidnapping and slaughter of children, athletes, old men, and women, and Israel is perhaps the country that has suffered most from that scourge that the whole world is now confronted with.

It is estimated, roughly and always on the lower end, that, in violation of the Oslo Accords, from September 1993 until September 2000, Palestinian terrorism was responsible for the deaths of 300 people and then responsible for over

1,500 more deaths during the four years of the Intifada, to which hundreds more were added – up to 1,200 – on October 7, 2023. Already in this same year, before Gazan terrorism took the lead, Israeli cities were bloodied by a wave of terror emanating from the West Bank that resulted in 35 dead and hundreds injured. Through 2015, Israel counted 3,773 deaths wrought by terrorism, horrors against civilians that would have brought any European country to its knees. In Israel, one need only sit at a bar, take a bus, or go to the supermarket to be in the crosshairs: Palestinian terrorists strike to make Israeli families, mothers, and children suffer.

However, how many times has the accusation, “Israelis target children,” been brandished? Those familiar with the Israeli mentality can attest to the outlandishness of such defamation. Libel of this nature should not warrant a response. However, a few words need to be written because it is now an accusation that has taken unfortunate hold. Apart from the outright falsehoods that have been written on the subject, such as the news story about the killing of three Gazan children on the beach during the 2014 war, later proven false, it is, unfortunately, true that children are often the victims of the Israeli-Palestinian confrontation.

Israeli forces are occasionally and sadly compelled to strike targets of civilian use as they are used as missile launch pads against the Israeli civilian population. Hamas’s malevolent and programmed choice to use children and civilians as human shields ultimately bears the responsibility for such casualties.

Criminal disregard for the lives of their fellow Palestinians is morally abhorrent in the extreme. Still, the intentional,

targeted slaughter of children that Palestinian terrorists have perpetrated descends to the lowest rungs of hell. A baby girl, only a few months old, Shalhevet Pass, was shot in the head by a sniper in 2001; entire families, including infants, were bludgeoned to death (Fogel Family, Itamar, 2012) parents were murdered in front of their children (Michael Marc, 2016. Children have been slaughtered in their beds (Hallel Ariel, 2016); high-schoolers were kidnapped and shot like dogs (Eyal, Gilad, and Naftali, 2014); a young boy was lured over the Internet by a Palestinian girl to Ramallah and then hacked to pieces in a garage (Ofir Rahum, 2001; the perpetrator of the deadly ambush, Mona Awana, was released in the 2011 exchange of 1,027 terrorists to free soldier Gilad Shalit, kidnapped in 2006 by Hamas). These are just a few examples of the heinous, constant terrorism, comparable in mercilessness only to that of Al Qaeda and ISIS, especially after the deliberately planned atrocities of October 7 that Israel has suffered.

Relegating Israel to being a country where these terrors are acceptable and somehow justified has become a prevalent ethical fraud. This was well illustrated at the Paris Climate Conference in 2015 by then-U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon calling for a minute's silence for all victims of terrorism around the world, naming all the countries afflicted by this scourge one by one...while omitting Israel. It is a moral outrage and very alarming as if it is understood that killing Jews is something allowed by international public opinion. It is a pure form of contempt for the Jewish dead, as has been evident since the Second Intifada. The perverted everyday chatter is that this mass of wanton murder is part of the "war of liberation" of the Palestinian people.

Palestinian terrorism, however, has existed long before what the European Union and the UN like to refer to as the “cause” of the current terrorism, namely the growth of settlements in the Territories. The misperception seems to be that Israel is to be held responsible for the horrors perpetrated against its citizens by some reprehensible but marginal extremists, while the Palestinian people are perfectly ready and willing to compromise. Of course, it is true that there are those among the Palestinians who desire peace, but this is a sentiment that has rarely been freely and publicly expressed. Terrorism is the de facto choice in the Palestinian war against Israel. This is explicitly so, as far as Hamas is concerned, and implicitly so, as far as Fatah is concerned.

Arafat not only pioneered modern terrorism, but he also laid the foundation for the steady financing of domestic and international terrorism with substantial handouts from Western taxpayers. Ironically, Judeo-Christian values of “might does not make right,” when applied to asymmetrical warfare, would paint Israel as a mighty bully Goliath (on the contrary, Israel has refrained every single time from flattening all of Gaza). Being the lesser power, however, should not automatically grant the Palestinians a moral high ground, a sacrosanct pedestal of ethical impunity.

Western money has consistently poured into the coffers of Palestinian organizations through numerous mechanisms, including both the EU and the UN. Recent media has drawn attention to the abuse of these funds, particularly those of UNRWA. UNRWA textbooks and teachers have been implicated in infusing even the earliest education of the younger

Palestinian generation with unadulterated hate. This features the idealization of major terrorist operations.

Long before October 7, the Palestinians claim a host of atrocities to their “credit”: the Maalot school children’s massacre (1974, 25 hostages killed); the murder of the 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics; the 1976 hijacking of an Air France flight in Entebbe with 248 passengers on board; the 1973 and 1985 Fiumicino Airport terror attacks, which were brought back to traumatic memory by the Brussels airport bombing in 2016. The idea of terrorism as the primary tool for capturing world attention, thus polarizing fear and disorder to political advantage, is purely a creation of Arafat, which further evolved over time into the attacks on the Twin Towers and then the horrific attacks in Madrid, London, and Paris.

The attack on Jews is always central and vindicated, not simply because of territorial demands, but in the name of an ideologically and religiously characterized rejection. In the case of radical Islam, a Jewish presence in the Islamic Ummah is a wound to be wiped out. It can be said that the genocidal approach of current Palestinian terrorism is, not surprisingly, connected with Hitler’s extermination programs. Haj Amin al-Husseini, Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and Palestinian leader of the 1930s and 1940s, was Hitler’s friend and associate and the first among the Palestinians to consider a “final solution” for the Jews through their physical elimination, which he did not fail to advocate to the Nazi leader. This attitude has profound roots in extreme Islam. The Hamas Statute (1988) prescribes killing Jews one by one:

The Last Day will not come until all Muslims fight against

Jews, and Muslims kill them, and until Jews hide behind a stone or a tree, and the stone or the tree says, O Muslim, or servant of Allah, there is a Jew hiding behind me – come and kill him. (art. 7)

These words are also repeated often within Fatah. Mahmoud Abbas, chairman of the Palestinian Authority, said on September 16, 2015, in a televised address:

We say welcome to every drop of blood shed for Jerusalem. Pure blood, clean blood, blood that goes up to Allah; with Allah's help every martyr will be rewarded in paradise and every wounded person will have his reward.

On the same occasion, he added, "Jews are filth, they profane and contaminate Jerusalem."

To back up Arafat's offers of rewards, the Palestinian Authority incentivizes and rewards its martyrs, pouring more than ten percent of its annual budget of three and a half billion dollars into the pockets of Palestinian detainees or the families of suicide terrorists. These are higher amounts than a normal local salary, ranging from \$400 to \$3,500 monthly. Obviously, the longer the prison sentence (the more serious the crime), the more the reward increases. When the terrorist gets out of prison, he or she is entitled to a guaranteed job and plays the enviable role of a "hero," held up as an example for young people to emulate.

Jew-hatred can be described as metaphysical, inspired in large part by the religious purpose of defending the al-Aqsa Mosque, portrayed with fevered imagination in the media as

being in constant danger of usurpation. The message of radical Islamic social networks and media is that it is worth becoming a *shahid*, a martyr, to defend the Mosque. The institutionalized veneration of the *shahid* in Palestinian society is canonized and calculated to inspire emulation. It is the reason why, apart from major terror operations, so many “lone wolves,” boys with knives in hand, seek Israeli victims, often resulting in their own deaths as well. This is cause for glorification throughout Palestinian society. Viewed through this lens, the sickening carnage of October 7, 2023, sets the stage for future terror attacks by Palestinians seeking their eternal lionization, with the genuine risk of taking the cruelty and horror of Palestinian terrorism one step further.



Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs is one of Israel's leading policy, diplomacy, and communications institutes. Established in 1976, the JCPA has transformed from its longtime primary focus as a research institute on regional security, strategy, and international law.

Since 2023, JCPA has evolved into a “do tank,” becoming a trusted partner and fashioning shared security policy and strategic relationships with many decision-makers and public-opinion influencers, both in Israel and the Arab and Muslim worlds, producing joint security initiatives, position papers, conferences, monographs, books, podcasts, and extensive social-media activity. The Jerusalem Center initiates and develops overt and under-the-radar strategic relationships with senior representatives of Arab and Muslim countries and stands at the forefront of the fight against BDS and global antisemitism.

Programs and Publications of the Jerusalem Center:

War Room and Media Center: The Public-Opinion Struggle

The October 7 War Room: A public-diplomacy effort to strengthen pro-Israel opinion in North America and among Arabic-speaking populations. The activity includes a war on Iranian and Hamas disinformation, which today funnels most of the relevant information to the West and the Middle East, and making available information and professional analyses from Persian and Arab analysts and commentators. The project's team includes experts in the spheres of international law, the psychology of terror, the history of the conflict, and others. In addition, it includes fluently English-speaking Arab journalists who support Israel and whose articles are distributed in their own countries and the West.

Diplomatic, Strategic, and Security Issues in the Middle East: Defensible Borders

This project is concerned with Israel's security needs, developments in Iran and other regional countries, and global terrorism. It includes research as well as extensive activity in the international arena, presenting Israeli positions and measures regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the war on terror, and examines new ideas for regional solutions. As the war in Gaza continues, the Center

is focusing on changing Israel's security conception on the day after the war in Gaza and the north.

The International Law Forum

The forum addresses issues involving international law in Israel's fight against terror, and responds to accusations against Israel concerning the IDF's conduct in wartime and Israel's right to self-defense in accordance with international law.

The Fight against Antisemitism, BDS, and the Delegitimization of Israel

The Jerusalem Center acts in all the relevant arenas against efforts to undermine Israel's status as a legitimate state in the family of nations, and against the defamation of Israel by international legal bodies, hostile NGOs, and various UN organizations.

Exposing the Palestinian Authority's Violations of the Oslo Accords

The Jerusalem Center works to mobilize international support among policy-makers and public opinion influencers, and to expose the reality of the Palestinian Authority, including its payments to terrorists and their families and the incitement in its education system and media.

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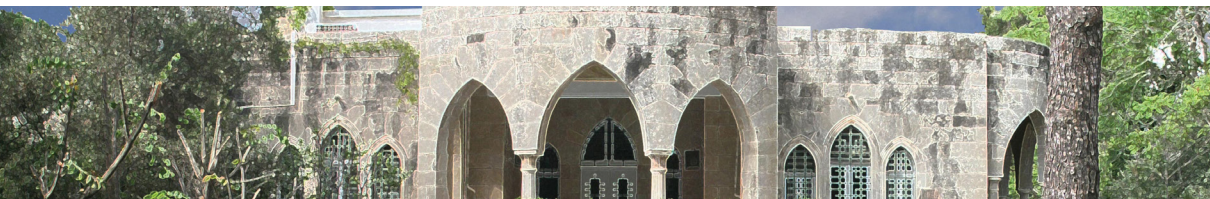
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Telling the truth about Israel is an urgent necessity after the October 7th massacre and the unexpected wave of antisemitism that we witnessed afterward. For many years Israel's image has been polluted to the point of asphyxiation by a well-prepared set of lies that, over the decades, have become widespread – mindsets that fuel not only incitement to terrorism in the Arab world but also antisemitic hatred in the Western world.

The resulting ignorance is an abyss of shame. The young people who take to the streets against Israel know nothing but myths and lies, while ignoring even the most basic facts of Israel's history and current events. In this little book, we offer our contribution to the truth facing the ten basic lies about Israel.



Jerusalem Center for
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