

October 28th, 2008
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One thing that for me has been a palpable result of my experiences and associations is a respect and admiration for the State of Israel. It has a unique place in history and in the world and its precarious position in the Middle East.

Israel has a tumultuous democracy, holds a status as a bastion of freedom in the Middle East, and is symbolic as both a beacon of hope and a haven of safety for the Jewish people. Israel's position as the place for Jews to protect is what I call priority number one – Life...and given that theme – election priority number one – Life.

Politics is an ever-changing array of issues; the current dominant issue is the Economic crisis and who's to blame? But other issues enter into the equation: Abortion, Immigration, Health care, Social Security, and others.

But none of these mean anything if you're dead; you have to prioritize by what's important fundamentally. Election priority number one is life and liberty and then the pursuit of happiness comes later.

As an amateur historian – my friends would say an insufferable amateur historian – in my historical readings, there seem to be 10 Hitlers, Stalins, or Torquemadas to every one Mother Theresa, dozens of aggressors for every Gandhi. It's just that way.

Islamofascism is a fundamental threat. The recent successful Iranian rocket launch into earth's orbit¹ terrifies me – a nuclear Iran with a delivery system. It's terrorists with technology – frightening. As a supporter of Israel, this kind of image represents an existential threat for the State of Israel.

I have followed closely the words of one of our candidates this election cycle that is extraordinarily rhetorically gifted. His views, while they may sound good, echo the same old liberal psycho babble, or are simply naïve in this dangerous world of ours. Take for example his statement on September 19, 2001. This candidate said of the 9/11 tragedy that “the essence of this tragedy, it seems to me, derives from a fundamental absence of empathy on the part of the attackers.”² This lack of empathy grows “out of a climate of poverty and ignorance, helplessness and despair.”³

¹ (2008, August 28), [Beijing Review](#). Page 9

² Spencer, Robert (2008, September 22). Change' Candidate Would Revive Failed Foreign Aid Policies. [Human Events](#). Page 12.

³ Ibid.

In other words, poverty excuses Islamic jihad. Harvard professor Albert Abadie studied one thousand seven hundred seventy-six terrorist incidents, only to find no connection between poverty and terrorism. “When you look at the data” to find such a connection, he said, “it’s not there.”⁴

If this candidate is elected president, will he continue excusing terrorism by linking it to poverty? The lack of even the smallest shift in his views between 2001 and 2008 does not bode well for the answer to this question.

I paid particular interest to his Berlin Wall speech where 200,000 Germans were screaming approval to where he said “...the world came together and the walls came down.” What? My history says 40 million people died, Ronald Reagan demanded that Mr. Gorbachev tear this wall down, and Reagan, backed by billions of dollars of investment in “Star Wars” research, is what tore that wall down.

What kind of imaginary, fantasy world does he envision?

In a Thomas Sowell column, he describes this candidate’s fantasy world as one where we can just talk to Iran and just work things out, instead of having to fight unpopular wars and pour tons of money into military equipment to keep them at bay. He calls this “change” but in fact it is a set of notions that were tried out by the Western democracies in the 1930s – and which led to the most catastrophic war in history and to the Holocaust!⁵

For those who bother to study history, it was precisely the opposite policies in the 1980s, spending billions on military technology, which brought the Cold War and its threat of nuclear annihilation to an end. People like Obama fought bitterly against that “arms race” which in fact lifted the burden of the Soviet threat.⁶ Personally, I wish Ronald Reagan could have talked the Soviets into being nicer, instead of having to spend all that money. But, real world experience makes me skeptical about that ‘kinder and gentler’ approach and the naïve vision behind it. Change? Yes, but what kind of change?

We all know that there is a historical palpable backdrop of isolationism, anti-war sentiment and a history of ‘war weariness’ in this country. We were late to WWI and it took an attack by Japan for us to react to WWII. We completely ignored evidence of the Holocaust to avoid getting involved. Obama’s parsing on the right vs. wrong war clearly preys upon our Iraq war weariness while trying to have it both ways.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Sowell, Thomas. (2008, September 9). Grow Up – The vision of the Left. [National Review](#).

⁶ Ibid.

By that, I mean that Mr. Obama is most definitely NOT anti-war nor is he anti-intervention. He insists he is anti-Iraq war (the wrong war) and pro Afghanistan war (the right war). He even advocates invading a supposed ally, Pakistan, to “get Osama.”⁷

Both wars, Iraq and Afghanistan, are in Israel’s “dangerous neighborhood” and I don’t see, under any scenario, how a US force between Syria and Iran is not in Israel’s, and for that matter, the world’s best interest; a buffer of territory in the midst of the Middle East’s most menacing Islamic fascist theocratic dictatorship bent on the destruction of Israel and every Jew in it. This is all with a stated intent to acquire the technology to do so.

Mr. Obama is indeed most pro interventionist; he has called for or endorsed interventions in Zimbabwe, Sudan, Darfur, and in Kenya⁸ He advocates intervention in the genocidal “neighborhoods” of his father’s homeland, yet ignores a similarly genocidal Iraq in Israel’s neighborhood. Does he choose to forget Hussein’s genocidal mass killing of the Kurds (5,000 in Halabja and 182,000 at Anfal) and our troops’ discovery of thousands mass graves around Baghdad in 2003 or Sadaam’s threats to the world of having weapons of mass destruction after having actually used those weapons on the Kurds and on Iranians? What about Hussein’s \$25,000 per terrorist’s family reward for strapping on a dynamite vest and killing innocent Israelis? But, it is inexcusable to use our war weariness for political gain while sacrificing our safety and Israel’s very existence to attract naïve young votes and anti-war and war-weary....American voters.

In the book by Theodore S. Hamerow, “Why We Watched,” Mr. Hamerow discussed why the West did little or nothing about Hitler’s Holocaust. Hamerow follows and documents European anti-Semitism for its 1600 years, highlighting the financial crash of 1929 which added the charge of “Jewish speculation” to anchor that anti-Semitic cultural base. Could this historical experience be informing attitudes today? Why did the World stand by? Was it because leaders like Neville Chamberlain appealed to the anti-war and WWI war weariness of his people? Besides, it was the Jews who were suffering. By 1942, the United States knew full well of the Holocaust, yet no action was taken. We were similarly war-weary and we didn’t want to get involved.⁹

Could the unpopularity of the Iraq War be further informed by a historic undercurrent of anti-Semitism? Is it a tendency to let Israel fend for itself or let them take care of it?

Then, there is his Jerusalem gaffe. In a June 4th speech to a predominantly Jewish audience at AIPAC (American Israel Political Action Committee), Barack Obama said, “Jerusalem will remain the capital of Israel and it must remain undivided.” Twenty-four hours later, following

⁷ Obama, Barack. (2008, October 7). Presidential Debate, St. Louis, Missouri: CNN Transcript.

⁸ Weigel, David (2008, October) Obama’s Wars, Reason. Page 16-18

⁹ Hamerow, Theodore S. (2008, September) Why We Watched – Europe, America, and the Holocaust. London: W.W. Norton & Company, Ltd.

protests from Palestinian, Hamas government officials, and other Arab nations, Obama reversed his statement telling CNN, “Obviously, it’s going to be up to the parties to negotiate a range of these issues, and Jerusalem will be a part of these negotiations.”¹⁰

Up to the parties? What parties? The Palestinians? They can’t agree amongst their own terrorist groups – Hamas in Gaza, Fatah and Hezbollah in the West Bank. All that they can agree upon is the destruction of Israel. Could Hamas, Fatah, and Hezbollah “join hands and the walls come down?” What fantasy world does he live in? Are we getting the truth? This stuff is critically important.

Which is it, Mr. Obama? War or no war? Intervention or non-intervention? Intervene in a failed state’s genocide in your father’s backyard or in state sponsored genocide and terrorism in Israel’s backyard? A strong, united Jerusalem or one united only when Hamas, Fatah, and Hezbollah agree? You can’t have it both ways unless we let you. We listen to your wonderful, uplifting speeches, but we must now read your words and observe your actions because this is crucial to Israel’s survival and election priority number one – life itself.

The Anti-Defamation League’s (ADL) Deputy National Director, Kenneth Jacobson wrote an article entitled “Jimmy Carter, So What’s New?”¹¹ wherein he states Carter’s current anti-Israel bias plays into the hand of the anti-Semites worldwide and is reflected in his own book “Palestine, Peace Not Apartheid.” Jacobson points out that Carter’s anti-Israel sentiment actually began to be evidenced much earlier, at the very beginning of Carter’s presidency in his meeting with Yitzhak Rabin in February 1977. Yet we did not pay attention to his words then and Jews voted for Carter over Reagan in 1980: Carter 44%, Reagan 39% and of course 17% for John Anderson.¹² Carter’s early indications of his attitude towards Jews and Israelis inform us that words indeed do matter. We must listen carefully.

Abe Foxman, National Director for ADL, stated in a recent letter and I quote, “ADL routinely exposes the inflammatory words of Iran’s president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who has called for Israel to be ‘wiped off the map.’ We cannot allow radical Islam’s hatred of Jews to become normalized with the world’s politicians and media by talking seriously to those who seek to destroy Israel and every Jew in it. We’ve put it into the world that Ahmadinejad must be isolated.”¹³ Given Abe Foxman’s words in this latest communication to this very organization, should anyone meet with this guy? Especially meet with him without preconditions?

¹⁰ Republican Jewish Coalition Press Release,. (2008, June 18) Advisor Says Obama Misused ‘Undivided’ Jerusalem

¹¹ Jacobsen, Kenneth. (2008, May 1) Jimmy Carter: So What’s News? [New Jersey Jewish Standard](#).

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Foxman, Abraham. Letter, Anti-Defamation League

So, there we have it. We have a candidate that is providing liberal, psychobabble as excuses for terrorist actions¹⁴ while spinning unrealistic naïve visions of invented history to 200,000 cheering Germans in Berlin.¹⁵ He is criticizing the Iraq War while advocating for the Afghan/Pakistan War because Iraq is unpopular. He is doing this while supporting additional interventions in Dafur, Zimbabwe, Sudan, and Kenya¹⁶ while equivocating on the all-important issue of an undivided Jerusalem.¹⁷ He speaks of the ‘legitimate claims’ of Hezbollah and Hamas¹⁸ while advocating unconditional discussions with Ahmadinejad.¹⁹ He has a list of advisors and supporters like Jesse Jackson and associations with anti-Semites like Rev. Wright, Louis Farrakhan, and a Muslim outreach advisor Mazen Asbah who resigned because of his connection to the Muslim Brotherhood.²⁰ He has endorsements from the infamous list of Israel bashers like the Palestinians of Gaza and the West Bank and Amad Yousef the head of Hamas...with 80% of the West Bank Palestinians and 99% of those of the Gaza Strip supporting him.²¹

In the United States, Democratic candidates typically get 65% of the Jewish vote. As I mentioned earlier, Jews voted for anti-Semite Jimmy Carter over Ronald Reagan in 1980.²²

Israel Harel, founder of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, summed up the liberal Jewish sentiment in most of Israel by stating, “As a humanitarian, I am delighted that Obama has become America’s first black presidential candidate.”²³ “And if my main concern wasn’t Israel’s existence, I would vote for Obama. But, because Obama is closer emotionally to the Third World – also the Arab World – I would vote for McCain because that

¹⁴ Stern, Willy. (2008, August 4) Moderate Islam, African-style – Meet the beer-swilling Muslims of Mali. Weekly Standard. Volume 13, Issue 44.

¹⁵ Obama, Barack (2008, July 24), Political Speech. Berlin, Germany: CNN Transcript.

¹⁶ Weigel, David (2008, October) Obama’s Wars, Reason. Page 16-18.

¹⁷ Republican Jewish Coalition Press Release,. (2008, June 18) Advisor Says Obama Misused ‘Undivided’ Jerusalem.

¹⁸ Amitay, Morris J. (2008, October 10) Foreign policy is reason to Vote McCain. JTA.

¹⁹ Obama, Barack (2008) *President Website, Foreign Policy Section*. <http://origin.barackobama.com/issues/foreign-policy/>

²⁰ Slater, Dan (2008, August 7) Obama Advisory, Schiff Hardin Associate, Resigns Over Ties to Imam. Wall Street Journal.

²¹ Stern, Willy. (2008, August 4) Moderate Islam, African-style – Meet the beer-swilling Muslims of Mali. Weekly Standard. Volume 13, Issue 44.

²² Jacobsen, Kenneth. (2008, May 1) Jimmy Carter: So What’s News? New Jersey Jewish Standard.

²³ Stern, Willy. (2008, August 4) Moderate Islam, African-style – Meet the beer-swilling Muslims of Mali. Weekly Standard. Volume 13, Issue 44.

would be a vote for a secure Israel and therefore a vote for securing the existence of the Jewish people.”²⁴

How much more evidence is needed?

Remember, words have meaning. For Hitler, Sadaam, Ahmadinejad, Jimmy Carter and now Obama, oratory is only the way they are presented. Barack Obama is one of the best orators in history. Don't be an 'Obamie,' a zombie-like memorization with his rhetoric; get a print out of what he says. I did on his Berlin Wall speech. It is in his own words, not in his delivery, where truth can be found.

This election is threshold for Israel; take the time to read the candidates' words, follow their deeds, research their advisors and supporters, and don't be fooled by wonderful, uplifting rhetoric. Remember, election priority number one – LIFE. This election is all too important for Israel and the safety of these children of ours running around in this great big dangerous world.

²⁴ Stern, Willy. (2008, August 4) Moderate Islam, African-style – Meet the beer-swilling Muslims of Mali. Weekly Standard. Volume 13, Issue 44.