

Excerpts from Articles on Narrative

“...The political purpose of Middle Eastern Holocaust denial is to delegitimize the state of Israel. Since Israel, in this view, was created by the West out of Holocaust guilt, disproving the Holocaust removes the reason for Israel's existence. “The entire Jewish state,” said one Jordanian newspaper, “is built on the great Holocaust lie.” Iran's foreign minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, argues that if “the official version of the Holocaust is called into question,” then “the nature and identity of Israel” must also be questioned.

This conception of Israel's history is itself a distortion. The Holocaust is important to Israeli identity; it is not identical to Israeli identity. Zionism existed well before the European genocide. The ties between Jews and the land of Israel reach back for millennia. Israel does not exist merely because of Holocaust guilt. It exists because of its own tenacity, sense of purpose and national success...”

-Michael Gerson, The Washington Post, June 10, 2009

“...The magic words “historical right” have the capacity to change the entire equation in the Middle East. They convey a genuine commitment to permanence, and can therefore invigorate the peace process with the openness and goodwill that it has been lacking thus far...”

-Judea Pearl, The Wall Street Journal, June 12, 2009

“...But our rights in this land are not predicated solely, or even primarily, on the tragedies that have befallen us during our history in exile. Those rights relate, rather, to the fact that we were in exile - from this land, this historic Jewish homeland. This is the only place on earth where the Jews have ever been sovereign, the place we never willingly left, the place to which we always prayed to return.

The culminating tragedy of the Holocaust occurred only because we had been denied that rightful homeland. Six million Jewish lives were lost because that legitimacy was not internationally internalized in time...”

-David Horowitz, The Jerusalem Post, June 4, 2009

“...But besides being historically inaccurate, this false connection strengthens one of the strongest canards of anti-Israel propaganda in the Muslim world; that Europeans guilty of Holocaust crimes established a Jewish state in Palestine at the expense of the local Arab residents to atone for their World War II atrocities.

The major problem of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the tensions between Jews and Muslims all over the world is not Holocaust denial. As irritating and disgusting as that phenomenon undoubtedly is, it is merely a symptom of something much deeper...And that is the basic refusal

of the overwhelming majority of the Muslim world to accept the legitimacy of a Jewish state in the Dar-al-Islam, the Islamic expanse.

In other words, even if the Arabs stop denying the Shoa, it will not bring peace to the Middle East. In fact, it is not even that significant in and of itself. What will bring a true change to our region, and to relations between Jews and Arabs, will be when the latter recognize the history of the Jewish people and their connection to Eretz Yisrael and the legitimacy of a Jewish state in the Dar-al-Islam...”

-Efraim Zuroff, The Jerusalem Post, June 4, 2009

“...The Jewish aspiration for the land of Israel has nothing to do with the persecution that Jews have suffered. We don't belong in Israel because people killed us. We belong in Israel because we have an ancient and enduring claim to the land that goes long before a single Jew was ever killed by an anti-Semite. As soon as you say we belong in Israel because we were killed, you feed into that terrible Arab myth, which is 'we didn't do anything wrong, Jews were killed in Europe by Christians, and so they foisted all these Jews on us which wasn't our fault in the first place...

...We have to understand what the Land of Israel means to us. We have to be careful not to teach our children that we are there because we suffered, but quite the opposite. We are there because we built ancient kingdoms there. We are there because we built our temple there. We are there because for thousands of years, despite the suffering - not because of it - but despite it, we prayed 'next year in Jerusalem.' We prayed it in good times and in bad times and it had nothing to do with our pain and everything to do with our promise...”

-Rabbi David Wolpe, Sermon at Sinai Temple, June 6, 2009

“...What the Holocaust proved is that the world is too dangerous a place for Jews to be stateless and defenseless. But we Zionists were making that argument long before Hitler came to power.

Granted, modern political Zionism developed in the late 1800s and early 1900s. But the president needs to better appreciate that Israel's legitimacy is not dependent on the consequences of the war waged against the Jews between 1933 and 1945. It is, first and foremost, rooted in the historic connection of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel.

The Zionist movement rejected Uganda as a safe haven in 1903, the need to save Jews from violent anti-Semitism notwithstanding, because Uganda did not belong to the Jews.

However one chooses to understand Jewish civilization - as sacred history, or through the modern lenses of secular history and archeology - the ancient bond between the Jews and their land is indisputable...”

-Editorial, The Jerusalem Post, June 7, 2009
