

CRITICAL REVIEW
OF
JEWISH JOURNAL'S "ARE WE FACING A WAR WITH IRAN?"

(An Excerpt From Opinion Book)



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WHAT IS WRONG WITH RABBI WARSHAL'S OPINION PIECE?

The short answer is EVERYTHING. To wit:

- Start with the TITLE: "ARE WE FACING A WAR WITH IRAN?" If the good Rabbi wanted to opine about U.S. policy as viewed by Iran, he could have used the title: "IRAN'S VIEWS REGARDING THE 2015 DEAL" or a similar title. There is nothing wrong with presenting the views of an obvious opponent. THERE IS SOMETHING QUITE OBNOXIOUS IN HAVING THE ENTIRE OPINION PIECE DEDICATED TO THE ANSWERS – IMPLICITLY STATED – THAT "YES" WE ARE FACING A TERRIBLE WAR.

- “YES,” THE U.S. IS THE BEARER OF FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FACILITATING SUCH A WAR. “YES,” IRAN HAS BEEN DONE WRONG FOR ALL THE YEARS OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC’S EXISTENCE. “YES,” THE GRIEVANCES ARE SUBSTANTIAL AND JUSTIFIED.

- Continue with the TITLE. Assume that the best of intention drove the good Rabbi to use the original title. HE REALLY WANTED TO BE “FAIR” TO IRANIAN POSITIONS VIS-À-VIS THE 2015 DEAL, AND QUITE EXPLICITLY, SCORE SOME ANTI-TRUMP POINTS. He is entitled to do so. WHAT HE IS NOT (INTELLECTUALLY) ENTITLED TO DO IS TO FORGET THAT IRAN IS NOT DENMARK (or Canada, for that matter). THERE IS NOT A SINGLE FACT OR OPINION IN HIS ENTIRE PIECE POINTING OUT THAT IRAN IS NOT DENMARK, ONLY SAINTS ARE PERMITTED TO BE THAT “FAIR” (that is why there are only a few saints, and the church is very rigorous vetting the applicants.)

- Consider the Key IRANIAN GRIEVANCES

“In 1953 ITS INTERNAL DEMOCRACY was destroyed by a Coup engineered by our own CIA that toppled Mohammed Mosaddegh, its elected Prime Minister.” This fact is true.

WAY BACK, ABOUT 1790, WILLIAM BLAKE, A MAN OF GREAT INSIGHTS, HIGHLIGHTS FOR US ALL THAT MANY OF THE

TRUTHS THAT ARE CITED ALL OVER SHOULD BE
SUBJECTED TO THE FOLLOWING RULE:

“A TRUTH THAT’S TOLD WITH BAD INTENT BEATS ALL THE
LIES YOU CAN INVENT.”

The world, especially the neighborhoods of Russia and the Middle East, was subjected to an incomparable hunger of the Soviet Union to control target countries. IN THE CONTEXT OF WORLD WAR III (erroneously called the “Cold War”) IRAN, GREECE, ALL OF CENTRAL EUROPE, THE ENTIRE FAR EAST (Remember Korea) WERE ALL PART OF A REAL WAR (SOME “HOT,” SOME “TEPID,” AND SOME “COLD”).

Please note that the CIA didn’t actually send troops to IRAN. Who toppled Mossadegh, physically? What factions were actually engaged? What was Russia’s role? In the aftermath of toppling Mossadegh, the Rabbi informs us, “The U.S. then installed the Shah, a cruel despot who acted as our puppet until he was overthrown in 1979.” The CIA (“the culprit”) had no troops there. When saying that they “installed” the Shah could only mean that they used money and promises to “bribe” the winning faction.

Now consider “the attributes assigned to the Shah: (1) Cruel. (2) Despot. (3) Puppet. None of those attributes made any sense in 1953 when he was “installed.” Nobody at that point had given the Shah the opportunity to be a cruel, despot and puppet. The “Political Angels” who ruled developing countries, did, in their

countries the same shtick that the shah did. IT MAY ACTUALLY BE THAT HE DID LESS BAD THINGS (political prisoners, torture and other fine deeds) THAN ANY OF HIS NEIGHBORS, INCLUDING RUSSIA.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE GRIEVANCES OUTLINED DO NOT MENTION WHO “OVRTHREW THE SHAH” – THE ZANIEST, CRUEL, AND CORRUPT AYATOLLAH (ACTUALLY “THE FUHRER”) AT THE END OF THE DAY, GOOD RABBI, WHO DO YOU ACTUALLY PREFER “OUR DESPOT SHAH” OR THE “SAINTLY” MULLAH?

In the real world of 1953, one does not wear a tuxedo or a top hat and striped pants of European diplomats. You wear dirty clothes, talk dirty and go for the oil, unless of course you apply for sainthood. Good luck making it.

The Rabbi forgot to mention the “sanctity” of “Democratic Elections” which he touts as being violated by the CIA. Elections in that region meant “one man, one vote, one time” and then there was nothing fair or holy about it except for the naiveté of dreamers who sat in New York in a fine building on the East River.

Right after mentioning that the Shah was overthrown in 1979, the Rabbi mentioned the second big Iranian grievance: “In 1980, Iraq invaded IRAN, armed and backed by our country resulting in a prolonged eight-year war (fought six years on Iranian soil) which

some experts believe cost IRAN one million lives. They eventually prevailed and sent Saddam Hussein back into the arms of America with nothing to show for his aggression.” [THIS QUOTE RMINDS ME OF A FINE YIDDISH SAYING WHICH I AM PARAPHRASING – “YOU HAVE TO WORK VERY HARD TO MISSPELL “NOAH” IN SEVEN WAYS.] (In Hebrew it is just two letters – nun and khet). Besides the true year of start, the duration and probably the casualties, all the descriptors are patently wrong. The real truth is that two insane regimes (I mean really berserk) seemed – both of them – to cherish a bit of jousting in an insane region that G-d endowed with lots of oil.

The Saddam megalomania included unifying the Arab mythical UMMA (“nation” in Arabic and Hebrew)) by any means. He exhibited this by later attacking Kuwait and burning every oil well they had. He was going to acquire nuclear capability to prevent anyone from intervening in his quests. He had the fourth largest army in the world and 11,000 (yes, you read it right) Generals. His regime was a clear “National Socialists” (remember “Nazis”) party rule, mirroring his neighbors’ Syrian Baath Party with G-d knows what its exact goals were.

The IRAN Fuhrer’s goal was to establish IRAN as an important, if not the dominant, power. It was a new regime flexing its muscle.

The opinion piece fails to mention “A MINOR LITTLE FACTOID” – the Iranian takeover and sacking of the U.S. Embassy – AN

AMERICAN TERRITORY. It was an act of war. They held 52 Americans hostages for 444 days!

The IRANIANS FORGOT A CARDINAL RULE IN LONG RANGE DIPLOMATIC ANALYSIS: “The feet you step on today are usually connected to the behind you will have to kiss tomorrow.” NOW, KEEP WONDERING WHY THE U.S., NOTING TWO BERSERK REGIMES (really ...) IN A CRAZY NEIGHBORHOOD, HELPED IRAQ FIRST. SUBSEQUENTLY, JUST A LITTLE LATER, ISRAEL DEMOLISHED THE IRAQ NUCLEAR INSTALLATION IN OSIRAK. LATER, THE U.S. PUNISHED IRAQ FOR INVADING KUWAIT. It really shows how, on balance, the U.S. is really an evenhanded sheriff when dealing with insane regimes.

It might be interesting to mention that IRAN has actually been spared a well-deserved drubbing following the war acts. Richard I, in Ivanhoe, is said to teach his listeners “FOR HE THAT DOES GOOD, HAVING UNLIMITED POWER TO DO EVIL, DESERVES PRAISE NOT ONLY FOR THE GOOD HE PERFORMS, BUT FOR THE EVIL WHICH HE FORBEARS.”

The U.S. unlike the European Empires in WWI, did not take territory, did not impose astronomical reparation on the vanquished in WWII and WWIII. ON THE CONTRARY, IT RESCUED THE DEVASTATED LOSERS AND THE IMPOVERISHED “WINNERS” FROM ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL COLLAPSE.

Now consider the IRAN DEAL (2015)

The Rabbi, being an honorable man, (reminds us, his readers) that “Trump is not always wrong” and that “he enunciated a perfectly rational foreign policy objective in his inaugural speech.” He quotes directly from the Trump speech: “We will seek friendship and goodwill with the nations of the world, but we do so with the understanding that it is the right of all nations to put their own interest first.” Then comes a BOMBSHELL. The Rabbi writes, “I want to apply this truth from Iran’s viewpoint.” This statement is, at best, a naïve assertion; at worst it is bordering on what we will expose as a nearly “criminally naïve” statement. The accusation is very severe and thus, requires thorough scrutiny. We start with the embedded naiveté.

“IRAN sees itself surrounded by five nuclear powers (Pakistan, India, Israel, Russia and China) not all of whom can be counted by leave it alone. FROM A PURELY DEFENSIVE VIEWPOINT (not denying that all countries, including Iran, want regional hegemony, it made perfect sense that IRAN wants to possess nuclear capacity.”

As stated, the text seems to be eminently fair. THE ENTIRE ARTICLE RESTS ON THE VIEW THAT IRAN HAS THE RIGHT TO DEVELOP A NUCLEAR CAPACITY. MOREOVER, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE “NUCLEAR CLUB” (Pakistan, India, China and Israel) HAVE ACTED IN THE PAST AS IF THEY HAD THE

RIGHT TO GET NUCLEAR; EVEN MORE THAN THAT, ONE OF THEM, THE US, ACTUALLY USED NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN WAR. THERE IS EVEN A CREDIBLE ACCUSATION THAT IN THE 1973 “YOM KIPPUR WAR” ISRAEL HAD PLANES, CARRYING NUKES ON THE RUNWAY PREPARED FOR TAKE OFF.

It is my belief that the above represents fairly what the Rabbi believes that IRAN believes.

To attack the IRANIAN beliefs, one must start WITH POINTING OUT A RATHER “MUNDANE FACT” THAT IRAN AIN’T DENMARK.”

IRAN HAS HAD SINCE 1979 A “FASCIST REGIME,” BUTTRESSED BY DEEPLY HELD RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS AND A MYRIAD OF GRIEVANCES. THE CONVICTIONS INCLUDE THE INEVITABILITY OF ARMAGEDDON, SOON. THE IMPERATIVE OF ISLAM CONVERTING ALL OTHER INFIDELS; PRIMARY ENEMIES ARE SATANIC INSPIRED (Big Satan = US; Little Satan = Israel). EVEN ISLAMIC CO-RELIGIONISTS WHO DO NOT PRECISELY ADHERE TO IRAN’S REGIME VERSION ARE AND WILL BE TREATED AS “INFIDELS,” NO AMOUNT OF SOPHISTRY WILL ALTER THE ABOVE “PICTURE” OF THE REGIME. REMEMBER, “DEATH TO AMERICA” IS IRANIAN EQUIVALENT TO HITLER’S “FINAL SOLUTION.”

NO ONE PERSON OR COUNTRY CAN ACCUSE DENMARK OF HAVING A FASCIST REGIME.

- NOT ALL ISLAMIC MAJORITY COUNTRIES HAVE FASCIST REGIMES. A SIZEABLE PART OF IRAN'S POPULATION DOES NOT ADHERE, BUT IS SUBDUED TO FOLLOW THE REGIME'S DICTATES. THE ARTICLE NEVER MENTIONS THE ACTUAL NASTY FACTS OF INTERNAL OPPOSITION AND SEVERE SUPPRESSION.

Let us get back to the title of the Rabbi's opinion piece. THE TITLE, AS STATED, presumes the possibility of the U.S. not being at war with IRAN. The same presumption existed for 46 years vis-à-vis WWII. The U.S. and the Soviet Union have not engaged in direct military actions from 1945 till the end, in 1991, when the Soviet Union collapsed. Given no direct interaction, the entire period has been dubbed "The Cold War."

The "hot" part of the "Cold War" was left for the surrogates. This was due to the fact that both sides were RATIONAL, knowing full well that by direct engagement they will annihilate the world.

IRAN IS NOT DENMARK; IT IS ALSO NOT RUSSIA. IRAN DID DIRECTLY ENGAGE THE UNITED STATES IN "HOT WAR" ACTS.

It attacked and sacked the U.S. Embassy in Tehran – The Embassy is U.S. territory. It held hostages for 444 days!

- It attacked U.S. patrol boats in the Gulf and held U.S. Navy soldiers in captivity.
- It overtly supplied IED's the killed American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- It overtly supplied rockets and missiles to rain down on Israel by Hezbollah and Hamas.
- ONE MAY SAY THAT ALL THE ABOVE AND OTHER ACTS ARE "JUSTIFIED." There is one very obnoxious theory that terrorism is a "LEGITIMATE TOOL OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS." IRAN AIN'T DENMARK, IT AIN'T RUSSIA, IT AIN'T A "FREEDOM FIGHTING" COUNTRY EITHER.

When confronted with the accusation that IRAN is a "major" sponsor of international terrorism, the good Rabbi pulls out an old debating tool; this tool lets out the claim that such an accusation "is an OLD CHARGE BEING RESUSCITATED BY THE AMERICAN RIGHT-WING."

The sole response of the Rabbi to accusations against IRAN is a lame quote of Fareed Zakaria in a CNN blog in 2012. "Over the past decade, there have been thousands of suicide bombings by Saudis, Egyptians, Lebanese, Palestinians and Pakistanis, but not a single suicide attack by an Iranian."

This is one silly little argument by Fareed, who is generally a thoughtful analyst, many a time. Suicide bombings (I call it "homicide bombings," a much more accurate term which attributes

less saintly qualities to the cockroaches who engage in the atrocity) are a small part of international terrorism's criminal acts. So, let's just thank the Iranians for not engaging in homicide bombings. WE MIGHT AS WELL THANK THEM FOR NOT EATING STONES NOR DRINKING GASOLINE.

IRAN AIN'T DENMARK, AIN'T RUSSIA, AIN'T FREEDOM FIGHTING, BUT IS THE MOST ACTIVE AND PROLIFIC SUPPORTER OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. CHECK THE FACTS IN THE ENTIRE MIDEAST, NOT JUST LEBANON, SYRIA, IRAQ, YEMEN AND BAHRAIN.

It is fair that the Rabbi does not even attempt to propose the prevalent silly theory that IRAN DOESN'T AIM TO ENGAGE IN GETTING A BOMB. The theory suggests that all the research done by Iran is part of a civilian use in health and energy research. THIS SILLY THEORY ENABLE THE UN TO ALLOCATE \$20 MILLION (A PUNY SUM, BUT IT IS THERE ...) FOR IRAN'S "PEACEFUL NUCLEAR RESEARCH." One has to choose between laughing, crying or pitying the "criminal naiveté" crown who votes for it.

Let us get to the instigator of the atrocity. We are informed by the Rabbi that "The nuclear option was traded away in 2013 by the agreement between Iran and "The P-5 + 1 Nations, a treaty that Trump threatens to abrogate."

YOU GOT TO BE CAREFUL WITH WORDS. THEY DO HAVE A MEANING.

First, it wasn't a treaty, IT WAS NOT RATIFIED BY THE SENATE. TRUMP HAS, IN FACT, RECENTLY ABROGATED IT.

It took two more years to hone in on the term "NUCLEAR CAPACITY." The brilliant negotiators (the only brilliant ones were the IRANIAN NEGOTIATORS) have committed to a sunset clause for not acquiring a nuclear capacity until the sunset date. Different interpretations lead to setting the sunset date somewhere between 2025 and 2030. IN SIMPLE ENGLISH IT MEANS, "WAIT FOR THE SUNSET DATE AND THEN WELCOME TO THE NUCLEAR CLUB."

Refrain from any development activities that improve the production and use of materials and equipment to enhance the current state of know-how and materials availability for the bomb. IN SIMPLER ENGLISH: "DON'T GET ANY IMPROVED METHODS TO ENRICH URANIUM." Mothball the Plutonium Plant. WHY NOT DESTROY IT? THIS LITTLE SHTICK ENJOYED BY IRANIANS, PROVES THAT THEIR "ENTIRE NUCLEAR" UNDERTAKING – FOR CIVILIAN USE ONLY – IS A NON-DISGUISED HOAX.

FAILURE BY IRAN TO KEEP TO ITS COMMITMENTS (above plus others) WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE RE-IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS (so it is said by the brilliant Europeans).

THIS THEORY IS THE BEST ILLUSTRATION OF THE CONCEPT OF “CRIMINAL NAIVETÉ.”

CONSIDER: IRAN, UPON SIGNING, HAS IMMEDIATELY GOTTEN \$150 BILLION UNFROZEN. They got these unfrozen funds with the knowledge (so everybody says) that the sanctions hurt very much and their imposition WAS A REAL DETERRENT. THE NEGOTIATORS ABSOLUTELY KNEW HOW HARD IT WAS TO GET THE SANCTION IMPOSED IN THE FIRST PLACE. THE SAME GENTS understand that to re-impose the sanctions is a belief of fools. Striped pants and top hats, mostly Europeans, know with absolute certainty that to re-imposition is not really possible.

Overt glee of the “P-5+1” is expecting a very sizeable business with IRAN (an entire fleet of planes falling apart, needs Airbus – that is 10’s of billions. Huge infrastructure associated with oil production is urgently needed. (This adds 10’s of billions.) They would be actually hostile to any re-imposition of sanctions in the Iran case. WHEN YOU KNOW THAT YOU WILL LIE, PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL COMMITMENT OF THE LIES, AND YOU COLLUDE WITH THE ANTAGONIS TO KEEP LYING NO MATTER WHAT, YOU COMMIT A CRIMINAL ACT, AT BEST,

YOU ARE NAÏVE. NONE OF THE VAUNTED DIPLOMATIC AGENTS (all overeducated, well-mannered and well groomed) WOULD EVER ADMIT TO SUCH AN ATROCIOUS TRANSGRESSION. WHY COULDN'T THE DEFREEZE (of Iran's money) OCCUR IN STAGES, WHERE THE SIZE OF THE UNFREEZING AMOUNT IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO AGREED COMPLIANCE.

To add insult to injury, the U.S. added a \$1.5 billion of a cash bribe. Shame on you, John Kerry. ANOTHER IMPORTANT INDICATOR THAT IRAN IS NOT DENMARK AND KERRY ISN'T LINCOLN (IN SPITE OF THE LONG FACE).

What about the missiles?

A very worrisome aspect of the good Rabbi's article emanates from the statement: "It is important to realize that the treaty was strictly limited to nuclear capacity." Add to the above: "Contrary to 'alternative facts' espoused by members of our administration, ballistic missile development, A FIELD IN WHICH IRAN HAS SPECIAL DOMINANCE, WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL ... THEY DID NOT AGREE TO BECOME A DEMILITARIZED NATION."

It is hard to count the false and unbelievable faults emanating from these quotes. Why was the agreement with IRAN just limited to nuclear capacity? What negotiator(s) in his/her right mind does not

incorporate in a nuclear deal the means of bomb delivery? If I'm not mistaken (small chance in this case that I'll be ...) the good Rabbi, in his desire to be "fair" and "really understanding of the IRANIAN VIEWS," almost gloat about Iran's "special dominance" in the missile field. IT IS THE EUROPEANS, THE MASTERS OF APPEASEMENT FOR THE ENTIRE LAST CENTURY AND THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS CENTURY THAT IMPACTED THE US' AWFUL POLICIES VIS-À-VIS IRAN, THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION WANTED TO BELIEVE THAT IRAN IS, AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS A "NICE COUNTRY," LIKE DENMARK, FOR INSTANCE. The Rabbi, let's face it, hates Trump, loves Obama, loves and "respects" the Europeans, is compelled intellectually to support IRAN'S views.

One statement out of the Obama's negotiators is especially obnoxious – they did, and continue to claim, that the "P-5+1" agreement is "the best agreement for Israel." Kerry keeps saying it and doesn't blush.

If any of the arguments forwarded to buttress the IRAN views were advanced by, say, CANADA, not IRAN, one would have to readily agree that the arguments thus advanced make sense. BUT EVERYBODY KNOWS, AND NEEDS NOT BE REMINDED, THAT IRAN AIN'T CANADA.

The ending of the article is worst of all possible attempts to smear the Trump administration, forecast doom and play at the IRANIAN

SIREN SONG OF A “PROUD NATION BEING WRONGED” –
WHEN, IN FACT, AN OBNOXIOUS REGIME, NOT THE IRANIAN
PEOPLE, DO NOW, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO, THE
DEVIL’S WORK.