

Oped Page Editor  
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Dear Editor,

I hope you will consider the hastily-written enclosure as a response to Edward Said. If you do, please feel free to edit it as you see fit. I think of it in the sense of addressing "The Peace That Will Not Be."

I claim no special qualifications. I am not an area scholar but I have lived long and observed and I think learned something about life and realities and special interest. I am not a practising Jew and have not been since my confirmation. But I am the first member of my family ever born into freedom. I have no friends or relatives who are Israelis but I did have hundreds who might have been if they had survived, as 6,000,000 this one <sup>among</sup> many such times did not.

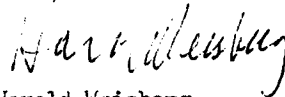
I make only passing reference to adamant arab refusal of many proposals that would have recognized a minuscule State of Israel. You may not be <sup>old</sup> enough to recall some of them and you may not have had occasion to learn about them.

I do believe that when a man like Said can advance such a "plan" there is no hope for peace in that area and there will not be for a long time.

May I therefore suggest that it may be informative for you, plural, to read a non-Jews account of the recent history of Arab intransigence? It is the last chapter in the English writer, Paul Johnson's, "The History of the Jews."

I think this would be informative and could help the Post be impartial in the views on the subject that it expresses.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

In his erudite oped-page article of March 17 articulate Edward W. Said, whose fine education apparently does not include Santayana's wisdom, that those who forget the past are doomed to relive it, argues passionately for his "Plan for Palestinian Self-Determination" without a single word mentioning any Jewish rights of any kind or survival of the State of Israel the elimination of which is the keystone of the charter of the Palestinian National Council, of which he is a member.

Yet he knows very well that no Israeli government ~~can or~~ can survive any agreement ~~that~~ that does not provide that State with meaningful guarantees of its security. His "plan," therefore, is no more than another battle in the propaganda war to end, in accordance with the PNC's charter and still unaltered PLO determination to drive Israelis into the sea, because he knows that he proposes what no Israeli government will accept.

If he really wanted a meaningful and fair beginning to a solution to the tragedy of the Palestinians - which is directly attributable to the Arab refusal to accept the right of Jews to any state of their own at all, going back to the proposal of the British Creel commission of the 1930's which Jews accepted with a proposed state of about a tenth of what the UN agreed to) - he would propose to begin with that all Muslim states that have insisted on preserving a state of war with Israel end that state of war; and he would at least as a member of it, propose that with none of Arafat's <sup>m</sup>mybling out of all the dozens of corners of his glib mouth, the PNC and the PLO unequivocally and publicly agree, with no qualifications of any kind, <sup>to</sup> the right of a State of Israel to exist within secure borders they guarantee not to violate.

Until he does this Said cannot be accepted as an honest man seeking an acceptable solution to the tragedy for which he, as a member of the PNC, bears a part of the responsibility. As long as he writes only of what he regards as Palestinian rights and says not a word about the rights of Jews, he knows he is not proposing anything that can be considered a solution. As he also knows, no State of Israel can or will accept his "plan."

In effect, he is therefore <sup>again</sup> calling for the end of the State of Israel.

The one mention of Isarel in his "plan" is "ideally" (sic) to "have a world<sup>wide</sup> moratorium on efforts ...endlessly trying to allay Israfeli insecurity..."

In Said's expressed view the only victims are Palestinians - Arabs. Yet there isn't a single word in his diatribe guised as a serious "plan" about why the present situation exists or of the fact that the only reason there is the present controversy is that the Palestinians rejected without even consideration each and every proposal to solve it until now, so belatedly, they support some of the <sup>UN</sup> proposals they rejected for decades.

He and they want the past to be forgotten. All begins now, with no history, no suffering <sup>by</sup> for Jews and no rights ~~for~~ for them. That the Arabs drove the Jews from their homeland and thus they and not Jews have rights to it is what he argues.

He does refer to the "massacre" at Sabra and Shatila, but he does not mention that it was of Arabs and by Arabs. He infers that Jews did it and he does not mention the much greater number of Palest<sup>a</sup>stinians slaughtered <sup>by</sup> Palestinians, of the even great number of Arabs slaughtered by Arabs in his flat-world ~~"plan"~~ *article*.

There is not a word in his article about the millenia-long sufferings of Jews that include and exceed all the sufferings of the Palestinians he does refer to. Nor does he say that <sup>Arab su<sup>per</sup>fixing</sup> any part of ~~it~~ is the direct response to their terrofistic efforts to wipe the State of Israel and its Jews out. *It is.*

There is not <sup>a</sup> single word about what Arabs have done and continue to do to Jews. Nor is there even by the most remote indirection ~~is there~~ any acknowledgement of the Arab responsibility for the present situation.

Rather does he claim that "only <sup>of</sup> Palestinians... can say whether it (the solution) is satisfactorily being realized," and that, "according to the terms of the Palestine National Council..."

He <sup>lusty</sup> even argues that the <sup>Saddam's</sup> Palestinian support for Saddam's frightful atrocities ought be rewarded, not condemned, simultaneously castigating "the Israeli peace movement" because "it waltzed off the scene" in reaction. How else, except in the view of irrationally blind partisans could it react to support for such villainy, to those terroristic Scuds

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killing, <sup>them</sup> maiming and wreaking enormous destruction of their homes and their land?

He drags in by the heels, knowing the impact of the designation on under-informed liberals, that today Israel has a "far-right cabinet," implying that what he criticizes exists only for this reason. That is false and he knows it. <sup>This government</sup> ~~That~~ exists because of Israeli <sup>on</sup> reacting to Arab terrorism and intransigence.

What he does not say is that almost no Arab government is less politically extreme and that in the entire Arab world there is only one government that can, with kindness, be referred to as democratic - that of Egypt, the only one he mentioned and he ~~sluts~~ sluts it.

Inherent in what he writes is that only Arabs have any right to any part of what was so long known as and defined in the geography books of my youth as Palestine. It was, after World War <sup>I</sup> ~~II~~, to have been divided between Arabs and Jews. Britain did establish a separate state for Arabs after World War I and called it "Trans-Jordan," because it was the more than three-quarters of Palestine that was across the Jordan River from the sea. It did not establish the Jewish state that was to have been established <sup>ad.</sup> from the rest of Palestine. Even Churchill was unable to keep Britain's promise to Jews and to the World.

Now Said, like most other Arabs, and specifically the PNC still in its charter demands the de facto end of the State of Israel. He does this in what he calls his new "plan," the "plan" that says not a word about the right of that state to exist in peace within secure boundaries, a "plan" in which only Arabs have any rights, a subterfuge he knows very well no Israeli government can accept or could survive accepting, any more than any State of Israel can.

When this is the best that one of the very brightest, best-informed and respected of Palestinians can offer, what it says all over again is that there is no hope for any meaningful or just solution to the tragedy of centuries <sup>a tragedy</sup> ~~is the one~~ that for two millennia Jews have suffered.

What he actually says is that there will be no solution other than what Arabs want.

As long as this is true there will be no solution and the suffering Arabs will continue <sup>to</sup> be their own victims. <sup>P</sup> and there will be no peace.