

Newsbytes

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"Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him." Tozer

It's really getting interesting out there...there is so much more going on than what you hear about in irrelevant and useless political headlines predigested by a hostile media. These articles could be classified as wake-up calls....MD

Turkey: Uniting an "Army of Islam" to Defeat Just One Country

by Uzay Bulut

February 21

gatestoneinstitute.org

Istanbul recently hosted the second "International Islamic Union Congress," sponsored mainly by the Strategic Research Center for Defenders of Justice (ASSAM), which is headed by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's chief military advisor, Adnan Tanriverdi, a retired lieutenant general and an Islamist .

At the conference, Tanriverdi delivered a speech detailing the inner workings of the "Islamic Confederal State" that ASSAM aims to establish with 61 Muslim countries. In his address, Tanriverdi said that a "rapid deployment force" should be created. Judging by an article Tanriverdi penned in 2009, the purpose of this joint Islamic force is to defeat Israel, which "should be made to get engaged [in war] and the length of the war should be extended."

"If Israel has to call all of its reserve soldiers to duty," he explained, "there will be no one left at home or in their businesses. It cannot continue like that for a long time."

Tanriverdi also suggested how this could be accomplished:

"The Defense Ministers of Islamic Countries should be invited to an urgent meeting, at which possibilities for 'defense cooperation' should be examined; Turkey, Iran, Syria, the Iraqi Resistance Organization and Palestine should be the core of this cooperation."

Within this context, he said, a "'rapid Deployment Force of Islam,' which will consist of an amphibious brigade, an armored brigade and an aero-landing brigade, should be encouraged."

He went on:

"A peace force of Islamic countries should be deployed in Gaza... International efforts should continue, and the use of military force in Islamic countries should be encouraged. A joint military operation by our ground, naval and air forces should be carried out in the international waters of the Eastern Mediterranean."

Aid convoys from Turkey, accompanied by Turkish warplanes, should land at the Gaza port. The resistance movements in Gaza should be supported with anti-tank and low-altitude anti-aircraft weapons.

"An aid fund should be formed by Islamic countries; the monthly budget of the legitimate Palestinian government should be paid from this fund and every adult individual in [the Palestinian territories] should be paid a monthly salary... Egypt should be pressured to open the Rafah border crossing. Syria should be encouraged to enhance its military presence on the Israeli border."

Tanriverdi also claimed that:

"Turkish states, throughout history, prevented 21 crusades through which the West targeted Islam. Turkey did not get involved in the invasions following World War II, the establishment of the State of Israel and the US invasion of Iraq, which we could call the 22nd, 23rd and 24th crusades. It is Turkey's duty to rectify this. Avoiding this responsibility would be contrary to our historic mission, our commitment to the civilization to which we belong and to Turkey's survival."

Tanriverdi's views are the impetus for the founding in 2012 of his company, "SADAT International Defense Consultancy." On its official website, Tanriverdi writes:

"The Turkish Armed Forces give services of training, consultancy and equipment to 22 friendly Turkish and Muslim countries. But it is impossible for them to respond to all the needs of 60 Islamic countries in the defense sector.

"In order to give services in needed fields, to prevent dependence on crusader-minded colonialist countries, to help form an environment of defense industry and defense cooperation among Islamic countries, and to serve the Islamic alliance, SADAT was formed by 23 founding shareholders and with the support of 64 army officers and non-commissioned officers who have successfully served the Turkish armed forces and who are respectful of the religious sensitivities of Islamic countries."

Four years after SADAT's establishment, Necati Yılmaz, an MP from the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), submitted a written parliamentary motion to then-Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım, questioning SADAT's activities and international connections. The motion read, in part:

"SADAT states on its official website that that it tries to 'help establish a military force in the Islamic world that will be self-sufficient.' With what countries does SADAT have connections? Is there any other country to which SADAT gives military and intelligence training? Does it have camps in other countries?"

"Is it true that Sadat has connections with al-Nusra, al-Qaeda and ISIS? Is it true that Sadat has trained ISIS militants?"

Yıldırım did not answer the motion during his tenure, but allegations about SADAT's providing military training to jihadist organizations abroad and to some pro-Erdogan groups in "secret military camps" in Turkey have not subsided. Tanriverdi and other SADAT officials have repeatedly denied the accusations, going as far as to sue some newspapers that published pieces repeating them.

In an interview last January with the pro-government newspaper, Habertürk, Tanriverdi called claims about SADAT "slanderous" and "imaginary." Replaying SADAT's "founding objective," he insisted that it "engages with the state organs of friendly nations and provides them with services of corporate consultancy, training and equipment in line with their laws in their own countries."

He continued:

"With very pure and decent feelings, we just want to transfer the experiences of our armed forces to Islamic countries. That is all. We also want the Islamic countries to get united."

He failed, however, to remind readers that SADAT's objective is to unite against the West and Israel. He also omitted comments from his 2009 article entitled "Palestine too should have an army", such as:

"The states whose peoples are Muslim should either protect Palestine with their own armed forces or form a modern armed force for Palestine to deal with Israel."

Although Tanriverdi's dream of an "army of Islam" to fight Israel has yet to be realized, his company, SADAT, seems to be aiding Palestinian-Arab jihadist organizations targeting Israel. In February 2018, for instance, Israel's internal security service, the Shin Bet, said that Hamas was funneling terror funds to the West Bank and Gaza through Turkey. The Shin Bet statement also accused Turkey of aiding Hamas' military build-up via SADAT. Kamil Tekeli, a Turkish law professor who was arrested in Israel in mid-January, told his interrogators that SADAT sends money and arms to Hamas. Tekeli, after being interrogated, was deported back to Turkey, according to the Israeli media. The Turkish Foreign Ministry, however, rejected the Shin Bet's accusations.

Tanriverdi's statements and his company nevertheless appear to reflect Erdogan's worldview.

"We as Turkey and myself -- as long as I am in charge -- can never have a positive view of Israel," Erdogan said in 2014. "The obvious reality is that Israel is the country that threatens peace in the world and in the Middle East."

More recently, on December 15, Erdogan repeated one of many hostile claims he has made over the years -- comparing Israel to the Nazis.

Erdogan and his chief military advisor are obviously engaging in projection. It is Turkey that has ethnically cleansed itself of Greeks, Assyrians and Armenians, that refuses to recognize the religious rights of the Alevi minority and that is now targeting Syrian Kurds. It is the Turkish government's continued aggression against various peoples in Israel, Syria, Iraq, Cyprus and other countries that is a threat to world peace, not Israel. It is Turkey, not Israel, whose destabilizing foreign policy needs to change.

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A Disturbing Trend: Does Anybody Care?

By Jan Markell February 21, 2019 www.olivetreeviews.org

Interest in Israel is waning. Does anybody care?

In recent weeks, several publications have put out alarming stories that evangelical support for Israel is sinking -- and especially among young people. The periodicals state that a new survey reveals that there is confusion about, or indifference to, the world's only Jewish state.

It is really a two-pronged phenomenon. There is a decline in the interest in end-times (eschatology) and a decline in interest and support for God's Covenant land and people by those who identify as a part of the today's church.

The Christian Post states, "Seventy-seven percent of evangelicals, ages 65 and older, say they support the existence, security and prosperity of Israel, according to a Life Way Research survey. But only 58 percent of evangelicals ages 18 to 34 say the same."

The various articles indicate that young people are focused on social justice now. There is a perception that the Palestinians are "downtrodden, persecuted, and mistreated," and therefore, sympathy is towards them. Israel is the "occupier."

Adding to the survey were Joel Rosenberg and Chosen People Ministries. Rosenberg stated, "Unless the church gives younger believers a healthy, balanced, solidly biblical understanding of God's love and plan for Israel, overall evangelical support for the Jewish state could very well plummet over the next decade as Millennials represent an ever-larger percentage of the overall church body."

So who or what is to blame? May I suggest some of the following?

Pastors rarely teach or preach on the topic and thus it is not deemed as relevant. How can young people understand an issue if it is ignored?

Dispensationalism is in decline. This theology emphasizes the important and distinct roles of both Israel and the Church.

Replacing Dispensationalism are the troubling theologies known as Kingdom Now or Dominionism, Amillennialism, Replacement Theology, Christian Palestinianism, Preterism, and more. None of these will give Israel her proper biblical or end-time role. The emphasis will be on the church.

The latest false teaching: Christian Palestinianism

Many popular teachers and leaders mislead on issues relating to Israel and eschatology. Some of these include Dr. John Piper, Lynne Hybels, Hank Hanegraaff, Russell Moore, Rick Warren, Rick Wiles, Jim Wallis, Tony Campolo, Shane Claiborne, Brian MacLaren, and most postmodern and Emergent teachers. Men like Andy Stanley tell people to "unhitch from the Old Testament." How's that for de-emphasizing Israel's role?? Most of the Word of Faith/prosperity teachers and almost all of the New Apostolic Reformation promote Kingdom Now/Dominionism which does not teach Israel's rightful role in the future. Again, these theologies place more emphasis on the church.

The destructive "Boycott, Divest, Sanction" (BDS) movement has infected all of the Mainline Protestants. They want to strangle Israel's economy and thus "crush the occupation." The entire World Council of Churches has signed onto BDS.

Lynne Hybels at Christ at the Checkpoint

Events like "Christ at the Checkpoint" have painted Israel as the Mideast villain and bully rather than the one free society in that region. Prominent evangelicals and social justice promoters such as Lynne Hybels speak at this event. So do Tony Campolo, Gary Burge, Jim Wallis, Hank Hanegraaff, Shane Claiborne, and others who attract younger followers.

Periodicals for young people such as Relevant Magazine have turned into anti-Israel propaganda.

Youth events such as the Catalyst Conference and the Justice Conference regularly feature anti-Israel speakers, Palestinians, and speakers with off-base eschatology. Marxist Cornell West is a regular at the Justice Conference. These are targeting evangelical youth. Lynne Hybels has made the youth conference circuit, even bashing Israel's wall of protection that has reduced Palestinian terrorism over 90%.

Social justice is no longer just an issue for the religious Left. If you visit the website of the National Association of Evangelicals, you will find 65 articles about social justice! Type that into their search engine.

Anti-Israel films like "Little Town of Bethlehem" was shown at 360 venues in 2010 including dozens of college campuses. Again, it beat the mantra of the Israeli "occupation" and focused on the Israeli soldiers who enforce it.

Christianity Today says that at best, young evangelicals are "indifferent about Israel." With such a non-stop barrage of anti-Israel propaganda, how can young minds sort through fiction to find the facts?

The Israeli newspaper Ha-aretz is running an article that states that young evangelicals don't have the automatic support for Israel that their parents had. This is a generation that is suspicious of anything that is presented without explanation. They don't want to be political pawns. They don't adopt automatic views and positions. In order to connect them to Israel, we need to make a case for why they should support it. Future U.S. policy towards Israel is at stake!

All of this is happening as new and young members of the U.S. Congress, including one radical Muslim from Minnesota -- Rep. Ilhan Omar -- are taking a strong anti-Israel stand. Their anti-Semitism is not even subtle. How many younger people will Rep. Omar, Rep. Tlaib, and Rep. Ocasio-Cortez influence in the wrong direction?

While people, both young and old, can be disloyal and change sides, "He that keeps Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps." (Psalm 121) God's love and protection will never waiver for His covenant land and people.

How odd of God,
To choose the Jews;
But not as odd, as those who choose,
The Jewish God, but spurn the Jews.

Deeper State of Depravity

by Terry James

It is not the Deep State of governmental cabals I wish to examine here. It is the deeper state of depravity into which America has entered that demands to be addressed.

That being said, the former matter, like the latter, is part of the same depraved nature of man. It is rebellion against the Creator that is moving the nation and world ever downward toward the abyss where sin will be incarcerated for all eternity.

We witness daily all the madness and say with a shake of the head: "It's just insanity."

We have seen it in the political realm. The party of the ideological left continues to seemingly self-destruct. They do things that make no sense from the perspective of what under the norms of times just past would seem rational. For example, New York City leaders, desperately in need of revenue to fund their "progressive" giveaways, let a 29-year-old, first-term congresswoman—who most often speaks like a teenager—cause \$27 billion in taxes from Amazon to be lost. The company instead moved to another state. The neophyte politician, who has an economics degree from Boston University or one of those schools, thought the city was going to give \$3 billion to the company to come to the city.

But that wasn't the case. The company would have paid \$30 billion annually to the city, with the city government agreeing to give the company a \$3 billion tax break, meaning they would pay \$27 billion.

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio Cortez convinced her constituency and hundreds of thousands of other "progressives" that they didn't want their city paying \$3 billion to Amazon, because one of their key hatreds in their ideology is hatred for the rich. Donald Trump, after all, is a billionaire...

This hatred could not be contained, even though Amazon leadership is totally left on the ideological spectrum in every sense of the anti-Trump political war.

In addition to the lost \$27 billion in tax revenue annually, New York City lost what would have amounted to 25,000 jobs. The top officials in Ms. Cortez's party hierarchy aren't happy about this matter.

So, as we say here in the South, they cut off their noses to spite their faces.

It shows the growing spiritual dementia, I think. It is an ever-deeper state of depravity into which this generation is descending.

Other symptoms of this dementia-malady can be seen in the same political party in which Ms. Cortez is considered the up-and-coming darling. For example, more than 70 percent of all Americans, which includes those strongly in favor of abortion, say they are against after-birth infanticide. And, infanticide is exactly what a growing number of progressively run states are proposing following in the footsteps of New York City's decision to let just-born infants die if they were intended for abortion but continue to live after the birth. Despite this large percentage against such horrendous action, the Democrat Party continues to expand the attempted legalization of this infanticide. Other states continue to attempt to pass laws allowing this satanic practice.

Excerpts of a recent news item frames the depravity.

The newly elected Governor JB Pritzker has promised to make Illinois the abortion capital of the world, and he's making good on his word...

Illinois is taking extreme measures to ensure women are free to...abort their babies, even when they're partially born...

[The legislation, if enacted] repeals the Illinois Abortion Law of 1975, the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act, and the Abortion Performance Refusal Act.

That means doctors and medical facilities can be sued for NOT performing an abortion. You have a religious objection to abortion? Too bad Dr. Mohammad! You better suck that fetus out or you're through! ("Illinois Democrats propose laws expanding abortion access — including repeal of parental notification for minors," <https://t.co/XHk6k2hQiq>, Rapture Ready News, Feb 16, 2019)

The genuine madness continues to rage. The Apostle Paul's spiritual truth as given in Romans chapter 1 is coming to pass every day before our eyes and ears. Turning from God leads to reprobate (upside-down and evil) thinking and action. A stunning example of this is manifest in a recent news story.

A group of grandmothers in Maine is causing quite a stir for a little group they've formed "GRR!" which advocates for their children and grandchildren to have the right to abort any further progeny

According to LifeNews.com, GRR!, or "Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights," seeks to "educate women at the local level about the pro-abortion agenda, and encourage women to speak with their local

government officials about supporting abortion and other reproductive health issues.”

About 40 grandmothers participate in GRR!, according to a report. (“Pro-Abort Grandmas in Maine Form Group to Promote Aborting Grandkids,” By ISRAEL WIRE, Rapture Ready News Feb 16, 2019)

Just the acronym for the “grandmas” organization alone should clue us. “GRR!” They are obviously angry at someone or something. Paul indicated the anger of this rebellious generation at the end of the age would be directed toward the Creator of all things. This prophecy has proven true. It seems that more than half of the U.S. is growling forth their hatred like an angry bear just out of hibernation.

We recall one of Paul’s key “perilous times” prophecies in 2 Timothy, chapter 3. He foretold that people will be without “natural affection.” For those grandmas and grandpas reading this, does this make a profound statement as you think of your love for your grandkids?

America and the world are moving swiftly down the road of Sodom and Gomorrah-like depravity. When the Church and the restraining power residing within Christ’s Body goes to the Lord Jesus when He calls, that movement will become an instant free-fall into the Tribulation abyss.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!