

# NEWS BYTES

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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

How ironically symbolic that Biden fell asleep with talking with Bennett this weekend, while Bennett was quoting Isaiah:

“Raise your eyes and look about: They have all gathered and come to you. Your sons shall be brought from afar, Your daughters like babes on shoulders. (Isaiah 60:4)

...Nothing to see here, folks, move along... MD

## FROM AFGHANISTAN TO GAZA CHAOS REIGNS ON ISRAEL'S BORDERS

written by David Mark

After an IDF soldier and two “palestinian” Arabs were critically injured on the Gaza border, PM Naftali Bennett ordered airstrikes on Hamas installations on the Gaza border.

These sorts of exchanges are typically isolated or at the very most mini conflicts that can last up to three weeks. However, given the current climate post the US retreat from Afghanistan, Israel's border has grown more unsteady than it has been since the Arab Spring.

The uptick in violence in Gaza, Hezbollah's threats, and Russian protected Iranian activity were all growing over the last month, however Biden's fumbled and chaotic retreat from Afghanistan has made Israel's position far more precarious.

After all, if you cannot trust the US with managing to protect Afghanistan from a rag tag group of terrorists, then why would anyone believe they will swing to Israel's defense against a much more sophisticated enemy. The fact is they won't. Not because they don't want to, but because the empire the US built post World War Two and somehow kept relevant after the Cold War is now crumbling.

Bankrupt, “woke”, and addicted to cheap Chinese goods, most Americans appear to be living in an alternate reality where marching around paranoid about hurting each other's feelings has become the underlying ethos of their society. Social justice and transgender rights do not preserve culture or sustain countries – only strength and a clear moral purpose do.

Israel's upstart leaders like Bennett and Lapid are working within an outdated paradigm. Instead of flying to Washington, – Bennett should be flying to Japan, South Korea, and India in order to tackle the real enemy pulling the strings – China. If Israel's leaders don't, they risk being pulled into the collapsing vortex of the once hegemonic America.

The choice is Israel's.

## We must not let Biden divide Jerusalem

**The Biden administration has been pushing both publicly and privately to open a US consulate in Jerusalem aimed at serving the Palestinians.**

By [MICHAEL FREUND](#) J.Post

Amid the coronavirus resurgence and mounting tensions with Hamas in Gaza, an important and highly resonant issue has been largely overlooked of late: the future of Jerusalem as Israel's undivided capital.

Demonstrating remarkable diplomatic naivete, the Biden administration has been pushing both publicly and privately to open a US consulate in Jerusalem aimed at serving the Palestinians.

Such a move, if allowed to take place, would not only be a slap in the face to Israel, but it would serve to encourage greater extremism by stoking misguided Palestinian hopes of obtaining a foothold in the city.

Nearly four years ago, on December 6, 2017, the Trump administration took the historic step of acknowledging history, reality and destiny when it granted official US recognition to Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

After the US Embassy in Jerusalem was formally inaugurated on May 14, 2018, the separate American consulate in the city which was tasked with dealing with our neighbors was closed and subsequently absorbed into the embassy where it is now the Palestinian Affairs Unit.

This was the proper and logical thing to do. After all, it made no sense to have a free-standing American diplomatic office on Israeli soil dealing with a foreign entity such as the Palestinian Authority. Hence, subsuming it under the auspices of the embassy was the sensible, appropriate and cost-effective thing to do.

But now the Biden administration wants to turn back the clock on this move, signaling an openness to dividing the Holy City.

On May 25, when US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Ramallah, he informed Palestinian Chairman Mahmoud Abbas of the decision to reopen an American consulate in Jerusalem that would handle Palestinian matters.

This might seem trivial to some, but to view it as such would be a grave mistake. Indeed, symbols matter, especially in diplomacy and international affairs, and there can be no doubt what a new US consulate in Jerusalem aimed at the Palestinians would signify.

As Nir Barkat, the former mayor of Jerusalem, said recently, "The act of establishing a Palestinian consulate in Jerusalem means recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. The administration's consent on this matter is disastrous. I intend to aggressively fight this dangerous decision."

And lest there be any doubt as to how the Palestinians are interpreting the proposed move, consider the following.

On the day following Blinken's announcement, Hussein al-Sheikh, a member of the Fatah Central Committee, told Palestine TV that the US announcement was a clear message that eastern Jerusalem is part of the "occupied Palestinian territories."

Similarly, as the Al-Monitor website reported on June 1, Ahmad al-Deek, political adviser in the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, insisted that, "the decision confirms that east Jerusalem is part of the occupied Palestinian territory and is the capital of Palestine and will remain subject to final negotiations."

Consequently, the Biden administration has succeeded in reigniting the Palestinian illusion that they will gain control over Jerusalem, a fantasy that only serves to feed greater extremism and rejectionism.

Fortunately, due to international law, Washington cannot unilaterally undertake such a measure. Doing so would require Israel's consent.

As Ambassador Alan Baker, the former legal adviser of the Foreign Ministry, explained in an insightful paper published by the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs last month, the "declared intention to reopen the former consulate general raises complex legal and political questions."

Citing the terms of the 1963 Vienna Convention of Consular Relations, Baker points out that, "consular posts, or any other offices forming part of a consular post, may only be established in the territory of the receiving state with that state's consent.

"Clearly," he concludes, "reopening the former consulate in Jerusalem, the jurisdiction of which would be intended to cover relations with the Palestinian leadership, Palestinian governmental bodies, and Palestinian residents of the territories, none of which are subject to Israel's sovereignty, would be politically and legally problematic."

An equally compelling case against the Biden administration's plan was made by former US ambassador to Israel David Friedman. In an article back in May in The Hill, a major American political news website, he wrote that, "A US consulate in Jerusalem to a foreign body clearly runs afoul of American law." Such an act, he said, "would be illegal and unwise."

Friedman rightly points out that, "the location of the consulate in Jerusalem will be perceived as a de facto location of a future embassy. That would be a huge and unwarranted gift to the Palestinian leadership who continue to pay terrorists in violation of American law and universal principles of morality, and who otherwise show none of the attributes necessary for non-threatening peaceful coexistence within the region."

Doing so would "set forth facts on the ground that will guarantee the failure of future peace negotiations."

For all of these reasons, Israel must stand firm on this issue and reject any request by Washington to open a separate consulate for Palestinians in Jerusalem. We cannot and must not agree to allow Mr. Biden to lay the groundwork for dividing Jerusalem.

No other country in the world would even consider consenting to such a step, which would only undermine the international legitimacy of our rightful claim to our own capital.

And neither should Israel.

*The writer served as deputy communications director under prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu during his first term of office.*

## **New York Times Attacks Israel, Erases Millennia-Long Jewish Connection to Temple Mount**

honestreporting.com

How can an article about Jewish prayer on Jerusalem's Temple Mount fail to note that the site is the holiest in Judaism?

It's an egregious omission for a pair of professional journalists at one of the world's leading newspapers. But that's exactly what Patrick Kingsley and Adam Rasgon have done in a piece published by The New York Times on August 24 titled, "In Shift, Israel Quietly Allows Jewish Prayer on Temple Mount."

In fact, the piece is riddled with errors and distortions.

### **The Temple Mount is Judaism's Holiest Site: Why Can't The Times Admit It?**

While the article explicitly states that the Dome of the Rock is the "third-holiest place in Islam," (thus creating the false impression that the Dome of the Rock is the third-holiest place in Islam, when it is actually the nearby Al-Aqsa mosque,) it fails altogether to note that the Temple Mount is Judaism's most revered site. Totally omitted is the fact that Jews around the world pray in the direction of the Temple Mount. It is undeniably central to Judaism.

This omission is made starker in the context of the sentence in which the words "third-holiest place" appears, which makes it sound as if the Jewish temples were built on the site of the Dome of the Rock, rather than the other way around:

***Ultimately, they seek to build a third Jewish temple on the site of the Dome of the Rock, the third-holiest place in Islam."***

Chronology matters, and it is worth noting that the Dome of the Rock was built in the late seventh century CE. The First Jewish Temple, however, was completed in 957 BCE — approximately 1,700 years earlier.

This distortion is made starker still by the fact that the article describes the importance of Al Aqsa to the Palestinian identity:

***Many Palestinians consider the Aqsa compound the embodiment of Palestinian identity, the animating force behind the aspiration for a Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem."***

It's telling that while The Times finds space to mention that Al Aqsa is important to Palestinian identity, the 'newspaper of record' doesn't see fit to include the basic fact that the Temple Mount is integral to Judaism and Israeli identity. This omission fuels public misconceptions regarding Israel and Jews' claim to the Temple Mount, making it sound as if they are invaders when in fact the Jewish presence there *far pre-dates* the existence of Islam.

And that's before addressing the trite last few words of the quotation above — the myth that Palestinians want only the eastern part of Jerusalem.

### **Serially Contextualizing Palestinian Violence**

Another bizarre aspect of the story is the manner in which Palestinians are not held to account for their own actions.

The article correctly notes that while Israel is responsible for security at the Temple Mount, it has allowed the Jordanian government to retain administrative oversight there, and has enforced an unofficial ban on Jewish prayer. But the next part is far more contentious, as readers are told that, "When this balance of power has appeared to teeter, it has often led to violence."

How so?

The examples listed start with former Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon's 2000 visit, described as a "provocation" that "led to the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising."

This particular lie has already been debunked by HonestReporting repeatedly.

Next on the list is an incident in 2017 when Israel set up metal detectors at the Temple Mount's gates. The Times characterizes this as having:... ***led to unrest that left several people dead and briefly threatened to unleash another major uprising.***

Again, this is a gross distortion of the facts. Israel installed metal detectors after two Israeli police guards on duty at the Temple Mount were shot dead by Palestinian gunmen in July 2017. The security measures were put in place in response.

The Palestinian reaction? More violence. Despite metal detectors being in place for many years at the adjacent Western Wall, frequented by millions of Jews yearly, Palestinian leaders vehemently rejected the move. After Israel initially closed the site, Hamas declared a "religious war," and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' ruling Fatah party incited a "fight for Jerusalem." The Jordanian Islamic Waqf, which administers the mount, urged Muslims "to reject and boycott all the Israeli aggression measures."

In the aftermath, multiple terrorists stabbed Jews, including one who broke into a family home and murdered a 70-year-old grandfather and two of his children. Other attacks included Arab Israeli civilian stabbed in central Israel by a Palestinian man from Qalqilya, while an Israeli guard at the Israeli Embassy complex in Amman was knifed by a Jordanian citizen.

Characterizing these acts of violence as if they were caused by the installation of basic security equipment at the Temple Mount subtly legitimizes them.

Another example listed is the mass violence atop the Temple Mount in the lead-up to May's Hamas-initiated conflict against Israel. According to The Times:

***... when the Israeli police raided the compound several times last spring, it contributed to tensions that led to an 11-day war with Hamas, the militant Islamist group in the Gaza Strip, as well as days of unrest within Israel.***

Again, this is a deeply problematic telling of events. Israeli police did not simply "raid the compound." Israel was compelled to act after thousands of Muslim worshippers chanted violent slogans while rioting

on the Temple Mount. Large rocks and heavy objects were brought to the Temple Mount and stockpiled inside Al Aqsa Mosque. Videos of the clashes also captured Palestinians using fireworks as weapons, forcing Israeli border police to use shields to protect themselves. Lasers were used to distract and disorient the officers.

Yet, The Times chooses to focus exclusively on Israel's response, not the events that necessitated it.

### **Jewish Prayer — Not Muslim Intolerance — Leads to Conflict?**

Noting the increasing number of Jews allowed to pray at Judaism's holiest site, Kingsley and Rasgon see "a shift that could aggravate the instability in East Jerusalem and potentially lead to religious conflict."

Really?

Instead of this exercise in crass victim-blaming, the Times should be asking why the Palestinians are so offended by praying Jews that there was an unofficial ban on Jewish prayers at the Temple Mount for decades. Why should Jews be forbidden from praying anywhere, much less their holiest site? Surely such a policy constitutes a severe breach of religious freedom.

The reason why there is "instability in East Jerusalem" is because of a lack of tolerance on the part of Palestinians. Penning an article that frames Jews seeking to exercise their basic rights as liable to provoke renewed hostilities exposes the depth of The Times' inability to understand how Palestinian bigotry and discrimination drive the conflict.

Not for the first time, international media outlets simply can't seem to admit that Jews are deeply connected to Jerusalem.

## **Largest US Food Distributor Having Trouble Keeping Shelves Stocked**

One of the defining features of the early phases of the covid pandemic, when public fear was rampant and when few wanted to take chances that supply chains would remain viable, is that for a brief period US supermarkets resembled those of the USSR circa the late 1980s: many items were in short supply, and some - notably toilet paper, clorox, and perishables such as milk - were out of stock for weeks.



Fast forward to today when fears about the Delta strain are being fanned by the liberal media, the US may be facing a similar shortage of key products ... only this time for a very different reason: not a surge in demand, but rather a drop in supply.

According to Bloomberg, some of the largest U.S. food distributors are "reporting difficulties in fulfilling orders as a lack of workers weighs on the supply chain." Take distribution giant Sysco, North America's largest wholesale food distributor, which is turning away customers in some areas where demand is exceeding capacity.

Worse, food inflation is about to soar: the company said prices for key goods such as chicken, pork and paper products for takeout packaging are climbing amid tight supplies.

In particular, production has slowed for high-demand, labor-intensive cuts like bacon, ribs, wings and tenders, Sysco said. And if intermediate and final wholesale prices are "rising", just wait until they emerge on the consumer side.

The culprit for the coming price shock? Biden's catastrophic stimmys and universal basic income which has unleashed havoc on the US job market and led to historic labor shortages:

"There are certain areas across the country that are more challenged by the labor shortage and our volume of orders is regularly exceeding our capacity," Sysco Chief Executive Officer Kevin Hourican said in a letter to clients earlier this month. "This has, unfortunately, led to service disruptions for some of our customers."

Hourican's troubling observations were confirmed by an analysis from DecaData, which tracks retailer transactions with shoppers and manufacturers; it showed that retailers are bumping up against manufacturer capacity as they stockpile ahead of the holiday season.

In July, the incidence of suppliers limiting or putting a cap on orders from customers was more than double what it was in January, its data show.

Another major distributor, United Natural Foods is having trouble getting food to stores on time. The company blamed not just labor shortages, but also delays in the procurement of some imported goods like cheese, coconut water and spices, as causing the problems.

"We anticipate additional supplier challenges in the short term with gradual improvement through the fall and winter," a United Natural Foods representative said. The company's top priority is to support customers "by working diligently to recover and bring their shelves back to normal inventory levels as quickly as possible."

Translation: it's about to get bad as the double whammy of insufficient workers and snarled supply chains leads to shortages of key perishables and, logically, much higher prices.