



## The West Will Rue The Day It Stopped Israel From Taking Out Iranian Nuclear Plants

Israel has long claimed an existential national security interest in preventing Iran from building a nuclear arsenal. And there can now be little doubt that Israel had the capacity – and the will – to neutralize Iran’s nuclear sites, since it struck that country’s military infrastructure last month in retaliation to a missile and rocket attack against Israel by Iran. Indeed, in the event, the attack spanned three key provinces, and not only ended up devastating the bulk of Iran’s self-defense capabilities, but also in the process, confirmed that no place in Iran was ever safe from Israeli warplanes.

Yet, despite ongoing Iranian vows to destroy the Jewish state and sponsorship of continuous rocket and missile attacks by its terrorist proxies, Israel refrained from hitting Iran’s nuclear sites – when it plainly had and continues to have the ability to do so – leaving the issue to continue to fester to another day when Israel’s military superiority might not be as decisive. And, as is well-known, Israel’s forbearance is attributed to significant U.S. pressure to avoid hitting Iran’s nuclear and oil facilities.

So, while the Biden administration never

misses an opportunity to state that it will not allow Iran to become a nuclear power and that a preventative military option is “on the table,” it has long been apparent that imposing economic sanctions is as far as they are prepared to go.

However, comments the other day by Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, underscore that by restraining Israel, a historic opportunity to address a looming threat to the west and world peace is being squandered.

After initially downplaying the damage Israel inflicted on Iran in response to Iran’s October 1 missile barrage and hinting that there would be no further response, reportedly, last week, as the extent of the damage became clearer, Khamenei said; “The enemies, whether the Zionist regime or the United States of America, will definitely receive a tooth-breaking response to what they are doing to Iran and the Iranian nation and to the resistance front [i.e. the Teheran-backed terror groups Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis].”

Significantly, as reported in *The New York Post*, the comments came a day after one of his

top advisers issued a warning that the country could alter its policies on using nuclear weapons if the threat seemed big enough: “If an existential threat arises, Iran will modify its nuclear doctrine, we have the capability to build weapons and have no issue in this regard.”

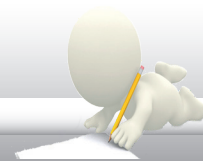
Perhaps even more significantly, the Khamenei comment came within a day of a U.S. announcement that the Pentagon is sending additional fighter jets and naval destroyers to the Middle East.

Plainly, Iran is chafing over having to face the reality that it is currently vastly outmatched by the U.S. and even Israel and is looking for a way to radically change the calculus. And it is also clear that they are eyeing a nuclear weapons capacity as the way to change that.

When Israel struck Iran and laid bare its weaknesses even as they contributed to it, it seemed that the die was cast and dealing with Iran’s toxic nuclear aspirations was the logical next order of business. We should know more about what’s coming as the new administration in Washington takes shape.

## Letters

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Hezbollah’s leaders would still be alive and Israel’s north would never be safe.

If personnel is policy, a Trump administration will be solidly pro-Israel. Harris staffers will reflect today’s Democratic Party: uniformly hostile to Israel’s government and increasingly hostile to Israel’s security needs, with a sizable wing hostile to Israel’s existence. Biden, a former Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman, has at times held back his deputies from throwing Israel under the bus. Would Harris have the conviction to do the same? She must negotiate between her party’s factions, as she does with activists who shout “genocide” at her rallies.

This dynamic may explain why the Biden administration created a sanctions regime against Israel. The rapidly expanding blacklist – against any Israeli deemed an obstacle to peace – may be the most dangerous innovation in U.S.-Israel policy.

Biden early on nixed Trump’s sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC) and restored the funding Trump had cut from UNRWA. He has blocked new sanctions against the ICC and tried to preserve UNRWA, even as the ICC expands and abuses its powers to attack Israel and UNRWA is exposed as compromised by Hamas.

Trump would likely restore his old policies, and he pledges to revoke the visas of antisemitic foreign students. From Harris, Israel can expect more sanctions and deference to international bureaucrats. Forget her snub of Mr. Netanyahu’s speech to Congress; Israel should worry about being abandoned at the U.N. Security Council.

Israel isn’t the central issue in the U.S. election. But those who care about it will recognize that it was one of Trump’s strongest policy areas

as president. It could be one of Harris’s weakest.

*Brian Goldenfeld  
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### The Compelling – But Costly – Call Of *Aliyah*

One phrase in Dr. Amy Neustein’s insightful article in the October 11 issue (“The Sociology of Envy – Moody’s And Israel”) – “the Jewish State’s robust real estate sector” – caught my attention because I have concluded that just as the Land of Israel vomited out the Jews in Biblical times because it couldn’t tolerate our ancestors’ iniquities, as Moshe Rabbeinu had warned us, America has now begun pushing out its Jews because the land is so filled with immorality that it can’t tolerate our collective righteousness. The process of marginalizing Jews has begun in education, especially universities, as well as in corporations, media, and literature and the arts.

If anyone has doubts about the immorality, just consider the cruelty we are inflicting on our children by burdening them with DEI, “wokeism,” and the transgenerating craze that has reached the point where schools and health care providers are increasingly being forbidden to inform parents of a student’s transitioning without the minor’s permission, a policy that started on the West Coast and is proceeding across the nation by a process that one wag has dubbed “Californication.”

The problem is that for many of us, making *aliyah* is challenging because of the astronomical price of housing in Israel. Every advertisement I see for apartments anywhere near the central region shows a price tag of at least two to three million NIS – that is, well over half a million dollars. For those of us who can’t come

up with that kind of money, what are we to do? Will we be left behind like Dora Bloch, *a”h*, in the Entebbe rescue?

Years ago, former MK Moshe Feiglin proposed a solution to the housing crisis. Since most of the land in Israel is owned by the government, he recommended that more of it be opened to development. Since as a quasi-libertarian, Feiglin is anathema to every political party in Israel, left, right, and center, his idea has gone nowhere. Perhaps it’s time to get past personalities and concentrate on doing what is right for Israel. Remember, Hashem doesn’t like for us to engage in *machlokes* (strife).

*Richard Kronenfeld  
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### Iran Must Be Vanquished

I spent most of my life writing books on the Holocaust and finding ways to preserve Holocaust memory. Now I am spending most of my time on the election and helping Israel. I am not a general or Israeli politician, but I do predict that unless Israel destroys Iran’s nuclear and economic program, there will never be a long peace for Israel. Perhaps peace will be achieved for a few years, but history teaches us it will not last and our grandchildren in Israel will die fighting the enemy.

I have family in Israel, a son who made *aliyah* with his two babies and wife, a grandson in his third year in yeshiva, a niece finishing high school who will enter the army, and some cousins who are commanders in the IDF. Does anyone think that in the future Iran and its proxies will not try and gain more hostages?

*Rabbi Dr. Bernhard Rosenberg  
Via E-mail*