

Yom Ha'atzmaut 5769

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## Israel's Founding Revisited

By Elliot Resnick

If asked, "Who created the modern state of Israel?" most Jews would offer such names and institutions as David Ben-Gurion, Chaim Weizmann, the Jewish Agency, and the United Nations. A newly translated memoir, however, completely upends this popular perception.

In *The First Tith*, Israel Eldad, who ran the underground Lehi movement (sometimes known as the Stern Group) together with future Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Shamir and Nathan Yellin-Mor, argues that the British would never have left Palestine in 1948 had the Irgun (headed by Menachem Begin) and Lehi not forced them out. He also defends his group's deadly terrorist tactics and unique Zionist vision, which included the building of the Third Temple.

After Israel's founding, Eldad - who held a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Vienna - became a high-school teacher, but Ben-Gurion, fearing Eldad's influence, ordered the Ministry of Education and Culture to fire him. Eldad continued writing ideological books and articles (he also translated most of Friedrich Nietzsche's works into Hebrew) until his death in 1996. His son, Aryeh Eldad, currently serves in the Knesset.

To mark *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, The Jewish Press interviewed Zev Golan, who translated *The First Tith* into English. Golan has authored three books in his own right and directed the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies in Jerusalem from 1992-2003.

**The Jewish Press: Do you agree with Eldad's take on Israel's founding - that the Irgun and Lehi, not the Haganah or the Jewish Agency, are responsible for the British leaving Palestine?**

Golan: Of course. It would be absurd to claim the British left *Eretz Yisrael* because of the Jewish Agency, which was cooperating with the British and asking them to stay and help them hunt the Underground.

They left because they were blown out of the country. When they left, they said that 84,000 British soldiers and policemen in the country couldn't preserve law and order. And it wasn't the Haganah and Jewish Agency that were

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## AIPAC Policy Conference To Push Action On Iran

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON - Cherry blossoms have withered off the trees, Easter eggs have rolled off the White House lawn and now it's time for two more Washington springtime perennials: An Iran sanctions bill is about to roll off the congressional presses, and thousands of AIPAC lobbyists are about to tumble out of buses to make sure it passes.

Just in time for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee annual policy forum next week, Sens. Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.) and Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.) are set to introduce a major new Iran sanctions bill. In addition to Kyl and Lieberman, who caucuses with the Democrats, nine other Republicans and 12 Democrats will sign on as co-sponsors, Capitol Hill sources said.

Similar legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Reps. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) and Brad Sherman (D-Calif.), and the House leadership is backing a bill that would facilitate divestment from Iran. The latter, modeled on a bill drafted by

President Obama as a U.S. senator, is due for consideration this week by the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The bills come just weeks after the Democratic House leadership wrote Obama that Iran's nuclear potential "must be dealt with on an urgent basis."

They revive the failed effort by the last Congress to expand sanctions aimed at isolating Iran's energy sector in a bid to have the Islamic Republic end its suspected nuclear weapons program. It targets shippers, bankers and insurers who deal with Iran's energy sector.

In a speech Sunday night in New York to members of the pro-Israel media watchdog CAMERA, Lieberman warned that the acquisition of nuclear weapons by Iran would pose a serious threat to Israel and Arab nations, and bolster the Islamic Republic's efforts to threaten Israel and Arab regimes.

The current confrontation is the consequence of Iran's behavior during the past three decades, said Lieberman, who was receiving an award from the

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Children in Israeli town of Efrat gear up for the country's celebration of Independence Day this week.

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# Quick Takes

## News From Israel You May Have Missed

By Aaron Klein

While President Bush "blindly" and "mindlessly" supported Israel, President Obama may be less willing to give the Jewish state "blank checks," says Rosa Brooks, the Obama administration's new adviser to one of the most influential Pentagon officials.

Brooks will advise Michelle Fluornoy, the undersecretary of defense for policy, a position that wields enormous power regarding U.S. military doctrine in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Before accepting her position earlier this month, Brooks, who has worked on behalf of George Soros's philanthropic foundation, served as a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. A WorldNetDaily review of her opinion pieces in the newspaper found themes that defenders of the Jewish state may view as anti-Israel, including distortions of history in an apparent attempt to whitewash Palestinian terrorism.

In a 2006 column, Brooks asserted that Israel's actions in the Middle East were fueling anti-American resentment in the Arab world.

In another piece, Brooks grossly distorts the historical record by claiming that former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is to blame for the failure of U.S.-brokered Israeli-Palestinian negotiations that culminated in a summit at Camp David in 2000. However, Sharon was only elected after those talks broke down.

Brooks also slams Israel's 22-day military campaign against Hamas in the Gaza Strip that ended this past January. She has also lamented that the two sides are not on equal footing, claiming that compared to Israel's military might Hamas "is weak, and its weapons - terrorism, homemade rockets - are the weapons of the weak."

She pointed out that as long as Bush was in the White House, "Israel could count on a U.S. administration that wasn't merely 'supportive' of Israel but blindly, mindlessly so. Obama may be less willing to offer Israel blank checks."

### 'Don't Let Arabs Sell To Jews,' PA Tells Jerusalem Agents

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has instructed his agents operating in Jerusalem to enhance their efforts at stopping Arabs from selling property to Jews in strategic parts of the city, WND has learned.

According to informed intelligence sources, the instructions coincided with a recent behind-the-scenes U.S. campaign the past few weeks that led to an Israeli government decision earlier this month not to bulldoze Palestinians homes built illegally on Jewish-owned property in Jerusalem.

Over the past two weeks, the PA has increased its efforts to stop Jerusalem Arabs from selling property to Jews. A contingent of Jewish groups, including an organization called Ateret Kohanim, works to strengthen the Jewish presence in Jerusalem by purchasing properties from Arabs, primarily in eastern neighborhoods, including in Jerusalem's Old City. Some of the purchased properties were Jewish until Jews fled during Arab riots in the early 1900s.

Just last week, according to informed sources, the PA forcibly detained at least five Israeli Arab

citizens from Jerusalem and brought them to the West Bank city Ramallah, where they were tried in PA courts for selling property to Jews.

The sources said some of the Israeli Arabs went to Ramallah on their own accord after having their families threatened by the PA. The fiasco was halted when the Israeli government stepped in and worked with the PA for the return of the Israeli Arabs to Jerusalem. The PA does not have jurisdiction to detain or try Israelis, whether Jewish or Arab.

### Jews Shocked At Joseph Tomb Defacement

Jews who arrived this past week to pray at Joseph's Tomb - Judaism's third holiest site - were stunned to discover the structure vandalized, with the headstone smashed in and swastikas painted on the walls.

"Only barbarians could do such things. People who pathologically disgrace such a holy place don't deserve to be called human beings," said Gershon Mesika, head of the Jewish regional council in the West Bank.

Following repeated Palestinian attacks, Israel in October 2000 unilaterally retreated from Joseph's Tomb and, with very few exceptions, banned Jews from returning to the site, purportedly for security reasons.

Although the tomb area is now controlled entirely by the Palestinians, Mesika has been working with the Israel Defense Forces to lead monthly midnight excursions to the tomb in the hope of restoring a Jewish presence to the area.

### Israeli Media Silent On Who Ordered Ax Murder

Are the Israeli media protecting terrorists?

Israel's Shin Bet security services announced this week that it nabbed a Palestinian two weeks ago who was responsible for the grisly ax murder of a 13-year-old boy in the West Bank settlement of Bat Ayin earlier this month.

Musa Tayet, 26, is suspected of entering the settlement and using an ax to attack boys who were playing in a yard. Shlomo Nativ, 13, was killed, and Yair Gamliel, 7, was injured.

Reports in Israel's major newspapers, including Yediot Aharonot, Haaretz, and Maariv, all claimed that Tayet had no links to any organized militant group. However, a top leader of the military wing of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah party claimed responsibility for the murder just after it occurred.

Fatah's Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades also later released an official pamphlet taking credit for the attack and put out a statement to that effect on its website. The Brigades announced the attack was carried out to avenge the Feb. 12, 2007, assassination of Hizbullah arch-terrorist Imad Mughniyeh. A leader of the Brigades said the attack was carried out by members of what he called the Imad Mughniyeh Brigades, which he said is composed of Fatah Al Aqsa Brigades gunmen.

Aaron Klein is Jerusalem bureau chief for WorldNetDaily.com. He appears throughout the week on leading U.S. radio programs and is the author of the book "Schmoozing with Terrorists."

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### NYC Candle Lighting Time

May 1, 2009 - 7 Iyar 5769  
7:32 p.m. NYC E.D.T.

Sabbath Ends: 8:43 p.m. NYC E.D.T.

Weekly Reading: Acharei Mos-Kedoshim

Weekly Haftara: Ha'lo K'vnei Kushiim (Ashkenazim: Amos 9:7-15; Sephardim: Vayehi D'var Hashem - Ezekiel 20:2-20)

Daf Yomi: Bava Metzia 6

Mishna Yomit: Keilim 19:7-8

Halacha Yomit: Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chayyim 306:1-3

Rambam Yomi: Hilchos Mechira chap. 3-4

Earliest time for Tallis and Tefillin: 4:56 a.m. NYC E.D.T.

Latest Kerias Shema: 9:24 a.m. NYC E.D.T.

Pirkei Avos: 3

Sefiras HaOmer: 22

This coming Thursday evening and Friday, the 14th of Iyar, is Pesach Sheni. Some do not say Tachanun at Shacharis and Mincha, as well as at the Mincha service of the preceding day.

It is customary to eat matza at least at one meal, even with chametz in the house [at the table] - based upon Tractate Pesachim (95a, Mishna), "... On the second (Pesach Sheni) one may have in his house both chametz and matza. The Talmud (ad. loc.) explains this halacha as being derived through exegesis of the Thirteen Principles.)

The following chapters of Tehillim are being recited by many congregations and Yeshivos for our brothers and sisters in Eretz Yisrael: Chapter 83, 130, 142. -Y.K.

Next week's Luach on Page 46

### Candle Lighting Times In North America

May 1 and May 8, 2009

Add One Hour For Daylight Saving Time (Where Applicable)

Atlanta.....	7:03, 7:08	Hartford.....	6:31, 6:39	Phoenix.....	6:53, 6:58
Baltimore.....	6:41, 6:48	Houston.....	6:40, 6:45	Pittsburgh.....	6:57, 7:04
Boston.....	6:26, 6:33	Kansas City.....	6:53, 7:00	San Diego.....	6:12, 6:17
Buffalo.....	6:57, 7:05	Los Angeles.....	6:19, 6:24	San Francisco.....	6:42, 6:48
Chicago.....	6:30, 6:38	Memphis.....	6:28, 6:33	Seattle.....	7:01, 7:10
Cincinnati.....	7:13, 7:19	Miami.....	6:34, 6:37	St. Louis.....	6:34, 6:41
Cleveland.....	7:07, 7:14	Milwaukee.....	6:34, 6:42	St. Paul.....	7:00, 7:09
Dallas.....	6:51, 6:56	Montreal.....	6:41, 6:50	Toronto.....	7:00, 7:08
Denver.....	6:36, 6:43	Newark.....	6:34, 6:42	Wash., DC.....	6:42, 6:49
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## New Book Warns: Israel May Cease To Exist

By Jewish Press Staff

Israel is headed down a road that may result in the country's demise, according to a new book released this week.

In *The Late, Great State of Israel*, author and Jewish Press columnist Aaron Klein argues that while Israel is facing unprecedented, mortal danger, few seem to realize it. Klein takes no prisoners, fingering both the U.S. and Israeli governments for "actively working against the Jewish state's interests."

In the book he claims that Obama is poised to legitimize Hamas terrorists; the U.S. is funding Palestinian terrorism; Iran is positioning its proxies to wreak havoc on Israel; a war is being waged

against Israel's national religious camp; Jerusalem has been divided; and the news media and even the Israeli government is covering up for terrorists and playing a dangerous lying game about the Mideast and Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Klein also analyzes how and why Israel failed in its recent 22-day war in Gaza and how Hamas is preparing to take over the West Bank.

"Unless these and other outlined perils are countered soon," warns Klein, "the only remnant of the Jewish country may soon be an epitaph: 'The Late, Great State of Israel.'"

Klein is the Jerusalem bureau chief for WorldNetDaily.com and is known for his regular segments on top American radio shows and appearances on cable news networks.



# Israel's Founding Revisited

(Continued from Front Page)

blowing up their buildings. It was the Irgun and Lehi.

**Very few history books tell the story in this manner.**

Well, he who writes history determines what's in the history books, and there's no doubt that the Labor Party took control of Israel, wrote the history books, and wrote the Irgun and Lehi out of them.

**People also often credit the UN vote of November 29, 1947 as instrumental in creating Israel. However, while many Jews in Palestine danced in the streets the night of November 29, Eldad walked around depressed. Why?**

Eldad compares that night to the time when Israel danced around the Golden Calf and said, "This is the god who took you out of Egypt." Here they were looking to the United Nations and saying, "This is the god who has given us the state," and it wasn't.

The people who created Israel were the people who sat in prison and the people who were shot or hanged by the British. The facts on the ground are that the British would have left even if the United Nations had not voted for a Jewish state.

Eldad also felt depressed that night because they were not celebrating the Jewish state that had been dreamt of for thousands of years and that he and others had been fighting for, but rather a truncated, shrunken Jewish state that would not have survived were it not for a miraculous war that followed.

**Eldad writes of some fascinating encounters with Menachem Begin. One of them took place in June 1948, the day after the IDF, on Ben-Gurion's orders, fired on the ammunition-laden Altalena ship, killing 16 Irgun fighters. Eldad and Begin discussed the possibility of the Irgun and Lehi founding an independent state in Jerusalem's Old City. Can you speak about that meeting?**

First, Eldad was friendly with Begin before they came to *Eretz Yisrael* — they escaped from Poland together when the Nazis invaded — and he was friendly with him afterward during the Underground years and later. But they did not view matters 100 percent the same way.

So, in '48 with the Altalena ship, Begin said, "I won't allow a civil war. If they shoot at us, we're not going to shoot back." And Eldad said, "We need to take power; we can't let power stay in the hands of people who are shooting at us and killing Jews."

Well, it's a different way of looking at things. Eldad was a total and complete revolutionary, willing to go to the very end of that revolution, no matter how cruel or hard, in order to realize the complete Jewish redemption. Menachem Begin was not such a revolutionary; he was a soldier.

**So if it had been up to Eldad, the Jews on the Altalena would have shot back?**

Without a doubt. He would've shot back and made a move elsewhere to take power...

**... and create a separate Jewish state in Jerusalem.**

Right, that's what he wanted to do. But at that point, not only was Begin not on his side in terms of strategy but neither really was Lehi, which had moved leftward.

**Many would consider the thought of shooting back at fellow Jews to be horrific.**

The horrific thought is not that Jews would shoot back at people trying to kill Jews and prevent the salvation of Israel. The horrific thought is that Jews would take that first shot at Jews whose only goal was to help Israel.

And if the Jews who are fighting to save the country announce in advance that they will not fight back if the government comes to kill them, why fight at all? If you announce that in advance, the other side really can get away with anything it wants. So Begin had lost as soon as he made that announcement. He was saying essentially, I don't care if Ben-Gurion runs the country.

Now, if you believe that the argument over who runs the country is not that important and that both sides more or less want the same thing, then that's an acceptable way of looking at things. But if you believe, as Eldad did then, that the people shooting at the Jews did not intend to save the country,

indeed did not even want to set up the country, then you're obligated to be willing to fight back. The *Chashmonaim* didn't fight the Greeks; they fought the Jews, and we celebrate that victory today as the greatest Jewish victory for freedom in our history.

**But why start a civil war when both sides really want the same thing?**

If that's your attitude, indeed you're obligated not to start a civil war.

**Were the Irgun and Lehi that different from the Jewish Agency that a civil war might have been necessary?**

Lehi was fighting for a Jewish state from the Nile to the Euphrates and the Irgun was fighting for a Jewish state that included Transjordan. Both of those organizations were fighting for a Jewish state with the capital in Jerusalem. In addition, Lehi was fighting for a *Beit Hamikdash* in the center of Jerusalem and to bring all the world's Jews to Israel. In other words, complete redemption.

They both were fighting to prevent the British from staying in *Eretz Yisrael*, and Ben-Gurion according to them was doing the opposite. If you see Ben-Gurion as doing the opposite, what's the point

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*The people who created Israel were the people who sat in prison and the people who were shot or hanged by the British. The facts on the ground are that the British would have left even if the United Nations had not voted for a Jewish state.*

---

of turning power over to him?

**What do you mean when you say Ben-Gurion was doing the opposite?**

Eldad's and Begin's view was that the state as set up and accepted by the Labor movement could not survive. Now you can say in hindsight they were wrong, the state did survive. And since they were wrong, then not shooting back was a good thing because it prevented a civil war. But then you could also argue — there's no way to answer this question — that had the Irgun and Lehi fought back, the masses would have supported them and the country would look not like it looks today, but a lot larger, more powerful, and not negotiating over whether we should give the Palestinians the cities of our fathers but rather whether they will give us more territory closer to the Nile.

**All this is pretty critical of Ben-Gurion.**

*The First Tithe* was written in 1949-1950. Eldad's view of Ben-Gurion changed over the next four decades. I'm not saying he viewed Ben-Gurion as a hero, but he recognized later that Ben-Gurion did things that no one else did. He set up the Jewish state, built a Jewish army, and led the country. Nobody did that except him.

**You mentioned Eldad's vision of a Jewish state from the Nile to the Euphrates with a Temple in Jerusalem and all the world's Jews living there. Did he really see this as a practical goal?**

Yes.

**And if, hypothetically, Eldad had been in charge in 1948 and he received a state with smaller borders?**

If he got smaller borders, the borders would have been used to expand.

**In terms of aliyah, at least, it seems Eldad's vision was no different from Ben-Gurion's.**

That's completely wrong. When Ben-Gurion started negotiating with American Jews and taking their money, he stopped believing that all the Jews had to come to Israel. Eldad did not. The Bible says clearly that exile is a punishment and anywhere we go in the Diaspora we will suffer. Ultimately, according to Eldad, exile and Diaspora lead to one of two things: *shmad* or *hashmada*, assimilation or extermination.

**You write in the introduction to *The First Tithe* that Eldad was instrumental in your own**

**aliyah to Israel. Can you elaborate?**

I read a booklet of his that said something I had never heard before, which was that the goal of Zionism was not the creation of a Jewish state but that the state was a tool to realize Zionism. As soon as I understood that we were not yet where we have to be and we have a road to travel to redemption, I moved to Israel.

**And then when you met Eldad in Israel, you told him you were thinking of moving back to the States because of difficulties in finding a job and a home.**

That's true and that's the wrong answer. Eldad told me that I'm here because I'm a Jew who's come home and just like any person in his own country, you look for a job and a place to live and you move around until you find one. You don't get up and leave the country.

**In Eldad's conception, after world Jewry makes aliyah and the Third Temple is rebuilt, what then?**

The Temple is the place where we unite heaven and earth, and that's almost a metaphysical point. To what exactly it leads I don't know, but it's the reunification of heaven and earth, the ladder in Jacob's dream that unites heaven and earth, the kingdom of God on earth.

**Was Eldad's vision, then, essentially a religious one?**

I'm not sure if Eldad would use that term. It wasn't in fulfillment of commandment number two hundred and fifty something or other. But there's no doubt that his vision of redemption is the biblical, prophetic and traditional view of redemption. Avraham Stern [Lehi's founder] put the building of the Temple into the principles of the Stern Group and called it a recognition, a symbol, of redemption.

**In *The First Tithe* Eldad criticizes Palestine's chief rabbis, Isaac Herzog and Benzion Uziel, but highly praises — almost idolizes — Reb Aryeh Levin (subject of the book *A Tzaddik in Our Time*). Can**

**you explain why?**

I'd rather not make specific references. But I will say that a lot of the underground leaders and fighters were very disappointed at the apathy of religious leaders who left the field of Jewish redemption to others.

And that's one of the reasons why Israel today has such a non-religious character: because religious Jews spent a lot of time fighting over soccer fields being open on *Shabbos* and how women should dress — which are both important — but then ignored the questions of how to get Jews out of Europe on the eve of World War II and how to get the British out of *Eretz Yisrael* who were locking the gates to the country.

There were rabbis of course who did concern themselves with what we could call "ultimacies," matters of ultimate importance. One was Rabbi Kook and one was Rabbi Aryeh Levin. And there were many others. Eldad, as many of the other freedom fighters, had an incredible regard for these rabbis.

**Was Eldad religious?**

He was from a traditional home. I cannot testify as to whether he kept all the *mitzvot*; I was not in a position to see or know that. He didn't wear a yarmulke, but his son, MK Aryeh Eldad, told a story in Jerusalem a couple of weeks ago of how his father would walk with him every Nissan to *kasher* all of the pots and pans in the house for *Pesach*. Well, if you want to say he's not religious, what's he doing kashering his pots and pans?

**Can you translate Eldad's philosophy into contemporary Israeli politics?**

If the Jewish people are going to deal in small politics, negotiating with the non-Jews for our right to live, then we're back in the shtetl. In order for us to survive, it's not only useful but necessary that we have a strong, large Jewish state that does not shrink but rather gets larger, and the place for all the Jews in the world is in that state.

Another application concerns the Iranian threat. Many hope the world will take care of this threat. Eldad would say that the purpose of the Jewish state is that we take our destiny in our own hands. If we cannot resolve the Iranian nuclear threat on our own then perhaps this entire experiment of the Jewish state was pointless.

*Elliot Resnick is a Jewish Press staff reporter.*