

# Nuts And Yahoos: The World According To Bibi

by Harley Schlanger

In a crowded synagogue in Houston on Nov. 4, former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin “Bibi” Netanyahu presented an appeal for support for a “war of good versus evil.” In the aftermath of the events of Sept. 11, he said, we are engaged in something more than a battle against terrorism. “There is a battle under way for our common civilization.” We face “implacable foes. Our societies are hated by the perpetrators of an unmatched fanaticism. . . . We must eradicate this evil.”

Though Netanyahu appeared calm and under control — he is, after all, known for his “media savvy,” having practically served as co-host of ABC’s “Nightline” when he was Israel’s Ambassador to the United Nations in the early 1980s — his intention was to whip the audience into a frenzied desire to plunge into a war of civilizations.

Netanyahu’s argument is familiar, combining the geopolitical ravings of former U.S. National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, with the near-apocalyptic vision of Harvard Prof. Samuel P. Huntington. The “Clash of Civilizations” thesis was introduced by Huntington in the Summer 1993 issue of *Foreign Affairs* magazine, in which he argued that the 21st Century will be shaped by wars between “civilizations,” which primarily are defined by religious differences. The most serious problem facing the West is that of confronting “anti-Western” civilizations, says the influential Huntington, such as “Islamic civilization,” and “Confucian/Chinese civilization.”

Thus, for Huntington, security for the West depends on being prepared to engage in wars of religion, such as those which raged in Europe from 1511 to 1648.

## Islam As Enemy Image

Though Netanyahu is careful to adhere to a politically correct line, saying that these “implacable foes” do not “necessarily represent the views” of all Muslims, it was obvious by his remarks that he is in full agreement with Huntington’s thesis, that Islamic civilization cannot coexist peacefully with “Western” civilization. Netanyahu said the goal of the terrorists is to reverse the last 1,000 years of history, to reverse the ascent of the West and the decline of Islam. This reversal, he claims, requires not only destruction of Israel, but of “Western democracy,” with Israel merely serving as an outpost of this “cancer,” as Muslims allegedly perceive it, in the region. Eventually, said Netanyahu, these terrorists will destroy the

United States.

Today, Israel is the front line in this battle, he continued, then sarcastically expressing his true sentiments towards Israel’s neighbors: “We hope one day for a messianic end of days, when a more democratic polity will prevail among the Arabs. Until then, we must sharpen our teeth and claws, if necessary.”

To win this war, Netanyahu said, those states which support and protect terrorist organizations must be targetted. In addition to Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, he identified Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan and Arafat’s Palestinian Authority (PA) as targets — the very same list presented by Richard Perle, head of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld’s Defense Policy Board, and other “Mega” operatives who are pressuring President Bush to expand the war (see *EIR*, Nov. 16, 2001, “The ‘Mega’-Maniacs Steering Sharon’s Mideast War Drive”).

In the face of the threat from these “forces of irrationalism,” the West must demonstrate the will to fight, according to Bibi. If we “press the collective snooze button,” we will soon face Islamic nations armed with weapons of mass destruction. “We have little time. Within a few years, Iraq and Iran will be able to produce nuclear weapons.” To “eradicate” this threat, it is necessary for the alliance of the United States, Britain, and Israel to bring “those other Western democracies” into the fight immediately.

It is rogue networks in these three states — the United States, Britain, and Israel — which Lyndon LaRouche has identified as the actual authors of the terrorist acts of Sept. 11, in order to provoke a retaliatory response which would trigger a general religious war.

Netanyahu concluded by saying he is “deeply troubled” by the West’s desire that Israel restrain itself from acting against Arafat and the Palestinians. Israel is facing the same “irrationalism” from the Palestinians, he insisted several times, that the people of the United States were confronted with on Sept. 11. Israel must be free to attack these forces, as the United States has done in Afghanistan.

## Bibi The Hypocrite

The speech in Houston is virtually identical to one delivered by Netanyahu in the U.S. Congress on Sept. 20, 2001, which was included as the foreword in the re-release of his 1995 book, *Fighting Terrorism*. He attempted to take full advantage of the shock from the events of Sept. 11, asking the stunned Congressmen to identify with his cause: “Each one of us today understands we are all targets, that our cities are vulnerable, and that our values are hated.”

There is one network behind all terrorism, he said in that speech, and that includes Hezbollah, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad. To this list, he added the Palestinian Authority, which, under the direction of Arafat, was established to serve as Israel’s partner in peace under the Oslo Accords. Both current Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Netanyahu have insisted that the Oslo process is over, that it has failed, and that it, and Arafat, must go.



*More rabid than Ariel Sharon, former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu (left) was recently in the United States, using the Sept. 11 attacks to demand war against the whole Arab world.*

Instead of Israel negotiating with the PA, as demanded repeatedly by President Bush, and reiterated by Secretary of State Colin Powell in his speech in Louisville, Kentucky on Nov. 19, Netanyahu told the Congress, "We must dismantle the entire terrorist network," including the PA.

"If we begin to distinguish between acts of terror, justifying some and repudiating others based on sympathy with this or that cause, we will lose the moral clarity that is so essential for victory," he said.

One wonders if Netanyahu would have applied this same standard to the Jabotinsky-ite terrorists of the Irgun, who on July 22, 1946, blew up the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 91 people, on behalf of the creation of a "Jewish state." Using his logic, the British at that time would have been justified not only in "eradicating" the Irgun, but also in destroying the mainstream Zionist movement under David Ben-Gurion, which opposed the Irgun, and its use of terrorism. Ben-Gurion had nothing but contempt for Vladimir Jabotinsky, whom he called "Vlad Hitler," for the latter's admiration of the Nazis!

There are, in fact, certain parallels between the Irgun and al-Qaeda. The Irgun used terrorism to drive the British from the "holy soil" of colonial Palestine, as al-Qaeda claims to be deploying terror to force the United States to evacuate troops from "holy" Saudi Arabia. Both required illegal flows of funds to function. And both were condemned by the world at large, and by the majority of those whose interests they claimed to represent.

Further, Netanyahu's present party, the Likud, was created by the terrorist followers of Jabotinsky in the Irgun, who were responsible for the King David Hotel bombing, the assassination of UN envoy Count Bernadotte in September 1948, and other violent acts.

This alliance between the Jabotinsky-ite Likud and terrorism lives on today: In Netanyahu's cozy relations with the extremist settlers' movement, which engages in vigilante violence against Palestinians in Israel; in his incitement of hatred against Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, which his widow Leah Rabin said was instrumental in creating the climate which led to Rabin's Nov. 4, 1995 assassination by a Jewish extremist; and in his close relationship with the messianic Christian and Jewish extremists, who are committed to building the "Third Temple of Solomon" on the "Temple Mount," where one of Islam's holiest sites, the Dome of the Rock, is presently located.

### **Irrational Sponsors In America**

The co-sponsor of Netanyahu's speech in Houston was Pastor John Hagee and his Cornerstone Church of San Antonio, Texas. Hagee holds an annual "Night to Honor Israel" to promote his pet project, which is to eliminate the Palestinian presence in Jerusalem, to fulfill his interpretation of Biblical prophecy.

In his most recent book on this topic, *The Battle for Jerusalem*, Hagee leaves no doubt that he is a fervent adherent of the Clash of Civilizations thesis. There is a fundamental "theological" conflict between Judaism and Islam, he writes. "Islam's ideology insists that Islam triumph over everything else. . . . Understand this: No matter what the Arabs say about peace, their religion demands that they defeat Christians and Jews."

Hagee is also clear that he shares the desire of Jewish fundamentalists, such as the kooky Gershon Salomon of the Temple Mount Faithful, that the so-called Third Temple of Solomon be constructed on the Temple Mount, once the Islamic holy sites occupying that land are destroyed.

And what of the chaotic bloodshed, of Jews and Muslims, that would be triggered by such an act? Hagee, like his friend Bibi, appears unconcerned about such an outcome. The Temple Mount "is the place where the Messiah will rule His kingdom from a third temple." And what will become of the Jews? They will have the opportunity to atone for their previous error, by embracing Jesus as their Messiah.

With friends like this, Bibi is in no position to call his enemies "irrational."