

— S T A N D I N G B Y —
ISRAEL



A Special Report Prepared By The Washington Times Advocacy Department

No better friend in the world

The United States and Israel have each other's back



By Josh Block

The world we live in is both increasingly globalized and increasingly dangerous. There are more than 20 countries currently battling violent internal instability problems involving the use of military forces. Planes are being shot out of the sky over Ukraine and rockets are flying toward skyscrapers in Tel Aviv — and Americans have died in violence related to both of those conflicts.

Both the left and the right are currently struggling with neo-isolationism. Whether in response to fringe progressives on the left or radical libertarians on the right, The Israel Project has worked to boost the bipartisan voices in the vast center calling for continued American engagement in the world. In such an environment, it seems clear that we need our allies, and our allies need us.

And yet there are those on the left and the right calling for America to withdraw from the global scene. Polls show Americans are increasingly disgusted with foreign activities in general. They are being led, and in some cases followed, by members of both parties. The trends could not be more troubling.

Turning inward cannot and will not insulate the United States from the security challenges we face. Violence and instability in seemingly far-off regions of the world have a direct impact on the safety and security of our country.

Benign neglect is also not a solution. To take just one example, American hopes that the Syrian conflict would somehow burn itself out have collided with reality. More than 1,700 people died in that war just last week, and terrorists have declared an Islamic State in vast swaths of Iraq and Syria.

They're looking outward. Foreign jihadists from all sides of the conflict are, of course, dying alongside the hundreds of civilians, but the ones who are surviving are emerging battle-hardened and traveling back to their home countries.

Ditto for our hopes that Russia would stand down in Ukraine. Ditto for our hopes that reaching out North Korea would placate its dictators. And ditto for the fantasy that a new, smiling Iranian president would put a stop to the mullahcracy's atrocities across the Middle East and against Iranians themselves.

Without a strong commitment to protecting American interests and values, conflicts like those in Syria and Ukraine — and murders and tortures like those that happen daily in Iran — will become the new normal. American leadership remains the best chance we have for peace and stability around

definition of insanity — doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results — to believe that further reductions in American power will trigger anything but catastrophe.

This brings us to the U.S.-Israeli relationship. Israel plays a role in advancing just about every vital American interest. It's an unsinkable aircraft carrier in the Eastern Mediterranean at a time when our Pentagon is cutting back on actual ships. The Israelis have built defensive technologies like Iron Dome, which is now co-produced in the United States and will make its way to our other allies. It is an economic and technological powerhouse with more companies listed on the NASDAQ than any other foreign country, contributing to our economy in a myriad of ways.

Most immediately, and daily — we

way-station to attacking the American homeland. When Israel launches counterterror operations against those terrorists, they remove the threat posted to us as well.

FROM OUR OPINION WRITERS

When pro-Palestinian terrorists hijacked Air France Flight 139 with 34 American passengers on board, it was Israel that rescued the hostages. When Saddam Hussein built a nuclear weapons research program at Osirak, it was Israel who eliminated the threat. When Bashar Assad constructed a nuclear weapons facility at al-Khabir, it was Israel that destroyed that, too.

American foreign policy must be aimed at growing and deepening our critical alliances, including our unbreakable relationship with Israel. It is certainly not a coincidence that every successive American president since Harry Truman has — often in as many



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

the world.

Our friends and allies rely on us to maintain our global commitments, and we rely on them to help us advance our common interests in their corners of the world. American withdrawal has in every case been followed by global chaos and destruction, increasingly of nightmarish proportions. It's the literal

and the Israelis share the same terrorist enemies and the same core values.

Iran's leaders decry Israel as the Little Satan, but in their marches and speeches they still refer to us as the Big Satan. Israel's work undermining the Iranian nuclear program also protects the United States. Jihadists throughout the region seek to destroy Israel as a

words — insisted that America has no better friend in the world than Israel.

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Josh Block is the CEO and President of The Israel Project, a non-partisan American educational organization dedicated to informing the media and public conversation about Israel and the Middle East.

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Congress must counter efforts to delegitimize Israel

The Jewish state has an eternal right to exist

By Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

Every nation has the right and the obligation to defend itself and its citizens against unwarranted and unprovoked attacks. If the United States were being hit with rockets from our neighbors, we would expect the president to respond appropriately to defend us. Yet there is this double standard when it comes to Israel. When Israel is attacked, it's Israel that is met with international opprobrium.

I was in Israel when the bodies of three innocent teenage schoolboys were found murdered by Hamas operatives and when Hamas began firing dozens of rockets indiscriminately at Israel on a daily basis. During this time of incredible sadness and turmoil, I witnessed the nation's resolve and supported its response. However, it did not use its force unyieldingly. Israel was more measured than many other nations would be in its place. From the beginning, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made clear that silence would be met with silence and that Israel only sought to restore a relative calm for its citizens.

Israel is a strategic partner that shares our mutual security concerns, values and ideals, and it's important that we help it guard against its threats. When my bill, H.R. 938, the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act, came to the House floor for a vote earlier this year, it passed with only one dissenting vote.

This bill codifies U.S. policy to provide assistance to Israel for defensive systems such as Iron Dome, David's Sling and Arrow. Iron Dome has protected millions of innocent Israeli civilians from Hamas rocket attacks and is the reason why we've witnessed so few fatalities on the Israeli side. The bill also sends an unmistakable message that Congress supports Israel's right to exist, its right to defend itself, and its need to maintain its qualitative military edge over its foes.

These foes surround Israel — al Qaeda in Sinai, Hezbollah and the Islamic State in Syria and Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza and, of course, the regimes that support these groups such as Turkey, Qatar and Iran. Hamas continues to break cease-fire agreements while being emboldened by its benefactors. Turkey reportedly authorized another flotilla to Gaza, Qatar funds Hamas, Iran provides arms and other support, and

North Korea is reportedly in negotiations with Hamas over an arms deal. If completed, it would violate multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions, as well as U.S. laws, including the Iran, North Korea and Syria Nonproliferation Act. Israel may soon be under siege if Hamas is not crippled.

Hamas isn't just waging a war against Israel through rockets and bullets; it's waging a public relations war using the U.N. as its bully pulpit. While Israel goes to great lengths to protect

the civilians of Gaza, Hamas intentionally puts the Palestinian people in harm's way, placing its missile batteries in densely populated areas near schools, mosques and hospitals, and using men, women and children as human shields. The media are helping Hamas spread its propaganda.

Last week, the U.N. Human Rights Council called a special session to vote on an anti-Israel resolution. This resolution failed to mention Hamas' use of human shields or its indiscriminate rocket attacks on Israel. The council is a body that long ago strayed from its noble goals of promoting and protecting human rights globally. Now it's a platform from which gross human rights violators such as Cuba, Venezuela, China and Vietnam spread their misinformation and mendacity. The U.N. may be profligate, but this continued pursuit to delegitimize Israel must be stopped, and Hamas must not be rewarded by the feckless and corrupt thugs at the U.N.

That is why it's imperative for the U.S. Congress to act as a counterbalance to those seeking to harm Israel. This is why Wednesday the House overwhelmingly passed a resolution I introduced along with Rep. Ted Deutch, Florida Democrat; namely, House Concurrent Resolution 107, denouncing Hamas' despicable use of human shields. We will continue to protect Israel's right to self-defense, its eternal right to exist as the Jewish state, and our values and ideals,

even more so when they are threatened — because, make no mistake about it, when these radicals attack Israel, they're also aiming at the United States.

We must also reassess our position in the U.N., especially on bodies such as the U.N. Human Rights Council and the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which has long had its hands dirtied with ties to Hamas. In 2008, President Bush refused to have the United States sit on the council and rightly withheld U.S. funding equivalent to our share of the U.N. Human Rights Council budget from the U.N. When President Obama took office, he reversed that decision and restored funding, arguing we need to have a seat to protect against, presumably, bad resolutions such as the latest anti-Israel one. Clearly, that hasn't worked as we couldn't even sway our European allies on the council to vote against the resolution. Congress must urge Mr. Obama to immediately withdraw from, and cut off any assistance to, any U.N. entity that seeks to delegitimize Israel and undermine its, and our, national security — and that should start with the U.N. Human Rights Council and U.N. Relief and Works Agency.

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Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Florida Republican, is chairman emeritus of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and current chairman of its Middle East and North Africa subcommittee.

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A Tale of Two Hospitals

By Ted Cruz

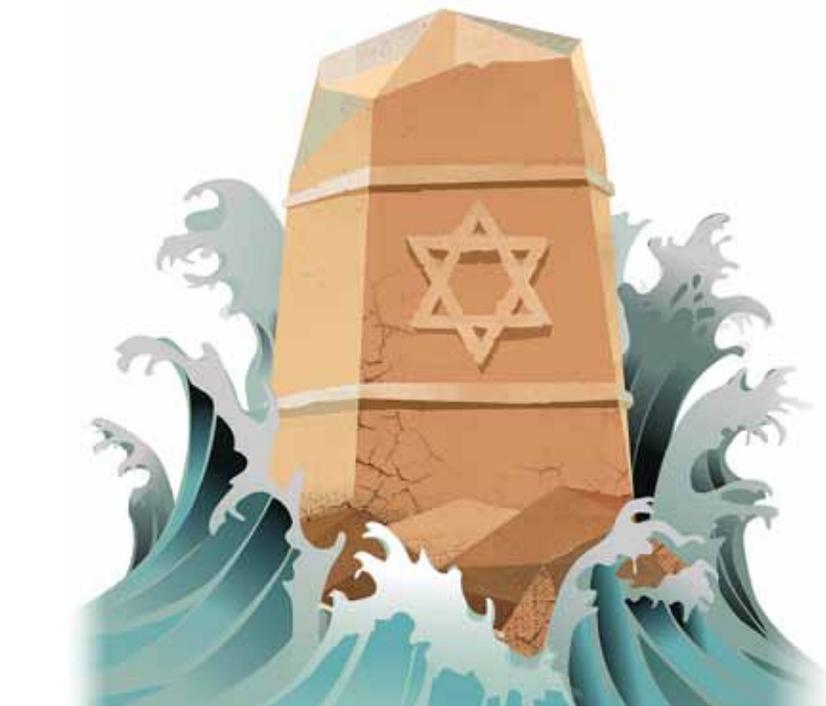
If you want to judge a nation, look at how it treats its most vulnerable civilians. Hospitals are a good place to start.

Al-Shifa, the largest hospital in Gaza, is housed in a converted British army barracks. Some 126 miles north is Israel's Ziv Medical Center in Zefat.

Hamas, which controls Gaza, is using the civilian population as human shields. The terrorist group has placed its missiles in schools and mosques and, even more deplorably, burrowed its command center underneath the al-Shifa hospital.

Hamas' activities are taking place in plain sight. Just two weeks ago, *The Washington Post* described al-Shifa as "a de facto headquarters for Hamas leaders." These terrorist facilities are of course well known not only to the foreign journalists who interview Hamas fighters there, but also to the Israelis, who would by necessity consider such a location a legitimate target for any action against Hamas. However, the terrorist group has tried to immunize their headquarters by digging it under a hospital, leaving Israel no option but to target al-Shifa if they want to get rid of the Hamas terrorist leadership.

Hamas sees no downside in this arrangement. Knowing that Israel prioritizes protecting civilians, the terrorists can be reasonably confident that al-Shifa will not be targeted, and they can continue their murderous activities undisturbed. If the Israelis finally decide that these activities are intolerable and that to destroy Hamas they must target



their headquarters, Hamas will have pictures of the quintessentially innocent martyrs — hospital patients unable to flee — to plaster across international media in their ongoing propaganda war to demonize the Jewish state.

The medical care and even survival of the Gazan people are of no concern to these terrorists, for whom casualties are not an unintended consequence of war, but rather a deliberate objective. Like the rest

of the population stationed around the

many civilian institutions militarized by Hamas, they must either make do with a substandard medical facility being exploited by a terrorist organization, or die in the service of that organization's savage campaign to destroy Israel.

Meanwhile in Israel, Ziv is a center for pediatric and orthopedic medicine. Given its proximity to Israel's borders with Lebanon and Syria, Ziv has seen its share of violence, but despite taking direct rocket fire during the 2006 Lebanon war, it has remained in continuous operation.

During the past three years of the

Syrian civil war, Ziv has treated more than 1,000 Syrians injured in that conflict — all free of charge.

In a visit to Ziv this spring, I met the social worker whose job it is to explain to the patients who wake up grievously injured and surrounded by Israelis that they are not in hell, but that the people who they have been told from birth are the devil are, in fact, working very hard to heal them.

I met a Syrian child who had lost three limbs but has been fitted with revolutionary prosthetics and will, God willing, walk again.

All of this means that many of Ziv's hospital beds and a substantial portion of its funding are not available for Israelis, but the staff has concluded it is worth it if their work can start to reverse the intractable hate that has been relentlessly leveled at Israel by its neighbors.

The contrast in this tale of two hospitals could not be more clear: Hamas exploits their medical facilities as a human shield to launch terrorist operations against Israel, while Israel uses theirs to provide cutting-edge medical care to people whose government's avowed goal is to destroy the Jewish state. Hamas' actions are a war crime. Israel's are one of the great, unsung humanitarian missions on the planet.

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Sen. Ted Cruz, Texas Republican, is co-sponsor with Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, New York Democrat, of Senate Concurrent Resolution 41, denouncing the use of civilians as human shields by Hamas and other terrorist organizations in violation of international humanitarian law.

US firm to build Jetson-like highway in the sky for Israel

By Crystal Hill

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Cruising to work in a levitating pod 20 feet above city streets might sound like something out of "The Jetsons," but a California company is building the technology right now in Tel Aviv and thinks it could solve transportation problems in major cities worldwide.

SkyTran Inc. has formed an unlikely partnership with defense giant Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd. to build a prototype of the next-generation mass-transit system at the Israeli company's headquarters. Tel Aviv has committed to installing a 2.7-mile downtown commercial line that could be completed as soon as 2016 at a cost of about \$50 million if the project succeeds.

"Our vision is to change the way people live and travel," SkyTran CEO Jerry Sanders said.

SkyTran uses magnetic levitation

technology to transport lightweight, egg-shaped cars hovering underneath a rail constructed above city streets. A commuter would be able to summon a pod by smartphone to platforms at the tops of staircases roughly every quarter-mile along the line.

A connected side track would allow cars to divert from the main rail line, pick up passengers at platforms and then re-enter the flow of traffic.

The cars are designed to hold two people and travel up to 150 miles an hour, but the average speed of the line planned for Tel Aviv is expected to be about 43 miles per hour. The SkyTran vehicles will rely on a "neural network software system" that will control the flow of traffic and indicate which areas need higher concentrations of cars to satisfy demand.

The transit system, which is touted by its builder as fast, safe, green and economical, will carry up to 12,000 people along a

125-mile line. Each ride will cost about \$5.

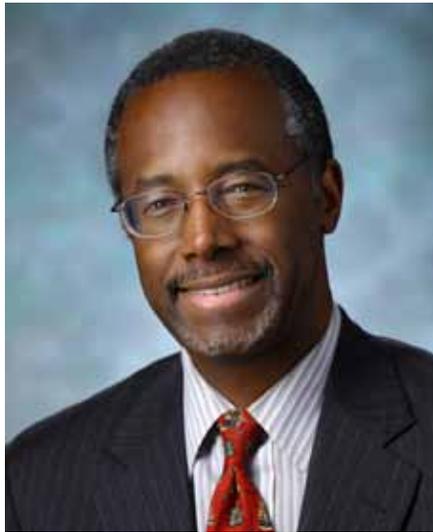
"We don't expect to take over the mass-transportation system," Mr. Sanders said. "But as SkyTran grows and people see its benefits, we think more and more people will stop driving cars and taking trains and will start taking SkyTran, and I think we will decrease the number of cars on the road."

The project has been underway for almost a decade at SkyTran's headquarters at the NASA Ames Research Center near Mountain View, California. It is part of a public-private partnership by which NASA offers companies access to its expertise and technology. In this case, designers were looking to "revolutionize public transportation." "Everyone knows that the [public transportation] system doesn't work," Mr. Sanders said. "The highways we have can no longer accommodate the number of cars on the road."

Mr. Sanders said he envisioned a

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Obama's failure on Iran further sign of rudderless foreign policy



By Ben S. Carson

The Obama administration's recent failures in the foreign-policy arena have only highlighted how far American leadership has fallen in this new century. From the Middle East to Eurasia, it often seems that President Obama is reacting to events instead of trying to shape them. Americans have begun to see his collective failures as an indictment on his presidency, and they long for clarity and purpose from their president.

The clear foreign policy that is grounded in American ideas of promoting liberty abroad and preserving our security at home is what is needed now. That is how we became a superpower. Reversing these ideas allows our adversaries to become stronger and impairs our ability to respond to present-day threats.

While Mr. Obama's foreign-policy adventures have waxed and waned in the eyes of the American public, his indecisiveness in places such as Iraq and Syria has presented an image of weakness on the global stage. We have failed to adequately deal with Russian aggression in Georgia and Ukraine. Recognizing that the United States would soon be changing administrations, Russia invaded Georgia in 2008. As a nation, we stood by and watched during that transition, as parts of Georgia fell under Russian rule. Russia annexed Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and all we did was condemn it. Russia's Vladimir Putin sensed our weakness and saw opportunity. Six years later, he annexed Crimea and now pro-Russian forces are trying to take over more land in Ukraine.

What has the Obama administration done in response to this aggression by Russia? Not really much, other than

impose toothless sanctions on Russian businessmen close to Mr. Putin (but not the Russian president himself) that have done little to make Russia change course. Is this what Ronald Reagan would have done? Or would he have helped pro-democracy Ukrainians and pressed Europe to look for alternatives to Russian natural gas to preclude being held hostage by Russian energy?

Additionally, we need to reinforce our commitments to NATO and get the former components of the Soviet Union involved. Otherwise, Mr. Putin will do this again. We need to embolden Europe to confront him.

Russia is not the only country that has taken advantage of our preoccupation with the Middle East. Recently, China has been expanding its maritime boundary in the South China Sea. It also seeks to test our resolve to long-held security commitments we have with our partners in Asia. We must do more to let our Asian allies know that we will stand with them and confront China's territorial ambitions. China continues to threaten our country with cyber-attacks and is a repressive global power. We need to do more to support those people in China who long for

democratic reform.

If we had supported the masses who were trying to overthrow the tyrannical government in Iran in 2009, I suspect we would be looking at a very different situation in the Middle East today. The United States should always stand on the side of freedom-loving people. What has the Obama administration done to support those who long for liberty and freedom in Iran? More needs to be done.

Our foreign policy is rudderless. We are a ship lost at sea. We need to have a foreign policy that is proactive in safeguarding our interests and not reactive to events unfolding around the globe that affect our security. Our friends and allies need to know that we can be counted on when they are in jeopardy or their security is threatened. We must have a foreign policy that is rooted in those ideas that have made us the envy of all freedom-loving people around the globe.

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Ben S. Carson is professor emeritus of neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University and author of the new book "One Nation: What We Can All Do To Save America's Future" (Sentinel).

FROM OUR OPINION WRITERS

Quit the Mideast cease-fires *Calls for cessation of hostilities only allows the aggressors to regroup*

By Thomas Sowell

Many years ago, on my first trip around the world, I was struck by how the children in the Middle East — Arab and Israeli alike — were among the nicest-looking little children I had seen anywhere.

It was painful to think that they were going to grow up killing each other, but that is exactly what happened.

It is understandable that today many people in many lands just want the fighting between the Israelis and the Palestinians to stop. Calls for a cease-fire are ringing out from the United Nations and from Washington, as well as from ordinary people in many places around the world.

According to The New York Times, Secretary of State John F. Kerry is hoping for a cease-fire to "open the door to Israeli and Palestinian negotiations for a long-term solution." President Obama has urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to have an "immediate, unconditional humanitarian cease-fire" — again, with the idea of pursuing some

long-lasting agreement.

If this was the first outbreak of violence between the Palestinians and the Israelis, such hopes might make sense. But where have the U.N., Mr. Kerry and Mr. Obama been during all these decades of endlessly repeated Middle East carnage?

The Middle East must lead the world in cease-fires. If cease-fires were the road to peace, the Middle East would easily be the most peaceful place on the planet.

"Cease-fire" and "negotiations" are magic words to "the international community." But just what do cease-fires actually accomplish?

In the short run, they save some lives. In the long run, though, they cost far more lives, by lowering the cost of aggression.

At one time, launching a military attack on another nation risked not only retaliation, but annihilation. When Carthage attacked Rome, that was the end of Carthage.

However, when Hamas or some other terrorist group launches an attack on Israel, they know in advance that whatever Israel does in response

will be limited by calls for a cease-fire, backed by political and economic pressures from the United States.

It is not at all clear what Israel's critics can rationally expect the Israelis to do when they are attacked. Suffer in silence? Surrender? Flee the Middle East?

Or — most unrealistic of all — fight a "nice" war, with no civilian casualties? Gen. William T. Sherman said it all, 150 years ago: "War is hell."

If you want to minimize civilian casualties, then minimize the dangers of war, by no longer coming to the rescue of those who start wars.

Israel was not only attacked by vast numbers of rockets, but was also invaded — underground — through mazes of tunnels.

There is something grotesque about people living thousands of miles away, in safety and comfort, loftily second-guessing and trying to micromanage what the Israelis are doing in a matter of life and death.

Such self-indulgences are a danger, not simply to Israel, but to the whole Western world, for it betrays a lack of realism that shows in everything from the current disastrous consequences

of our policies in Egypt, Libya and Iraq to future catastrophes from a nuclear-armed Iran.

Those who say that we can contain a nuclear Iran, as we contained a nuclear Soviet Union, are acting as though they are discussing abstract people in an abstract world. Whatever the Soviets were, they were not suicidal fanatics, ready to see their own cities destroyed in order to destroy ours.

As for the ever-elusive "solution" to the Arab-Israeli conflicts in the Middle East, there is nothing faintly resembling a solution anywhere on the horizon. Nor is it hard to see why.

Even if the Israelis were all saints — and sainthood is not common in any branch of the human race — the cold fact is that they are far more advanced than their neighbors, and groups that cannot tolerate even subordinate Christian minorities can hardly be expected to tolerate an independent, and more advanced, Jewish state that is a daily rebuke to their egos.

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Thomas Sowell is a senior fellow with the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

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The lone soldier

Americans travel from afar to defend the Israeli ally in democracy



By David A. Keene

Earlier this week, an estimated 20,000 Israelis gathered in Haifa for the funeral of a 21-year-old from South Padre Island, Texas, who had come to Israel, joined the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), and died in fierce fighting in Gaza.

Sean Carmeli was what the Israelis call a “lone soldier.” A lone soldier is defined by the Israeli government as a young man or woman without parents or family in Israel

who joins the army to help defend the Israeli state. There are several thousand lone soldiers serving in the Israeli army at any given time, and about 35 percent of them are from the United States. Carmeli and another lone soldier, 24-year-old Max Steinberg of Los Angeles, were among the early casualties in the current conflict with Hamas fighters on the Gaza Strip.

Like most Americans, I had never heard of lone soldiers, but I met several last year during a trip to Israel. They come from all over: I met young soldiers from the United Kingdom,

Sweden and New Jersey, who had all left their homes and family to join the IDF. Their stories were all pretty much the same and reminded me of stories I’d read of Americans who fought with the French and British in World War I before their own country entered the war.

They’re called lone soldiers because they are alone in Israel, having left their families in London, Stockholm or Jersey City to travel to a foreign country to serve. Some are dual citizens, and others had made a decision

to become permanent Israeli citizens before signing up, but I was told that a few aren’t even Jewish. They view their service as essential to the survival of the Jewish state, and share a dedication to the need to defend Israel. They tend to end up in elite IDF units and bond with each other. Steinberg, for example, was a sharpshooter in the IDF’s elite Golani Brigade.

I asked those I met if they ever get a chance to visit their parents and families. Some parents travel to Israel to see them when they are on leave, and after their first year of service,

they are granted a month’s leave so they can go back to their native countries to see families and friends. The soldier I met from New Jersey said he went back and was happy to see his family, but somewhat disappointed when he got together with his old high school friends to hang out.

“It was hard to identify with them anymore,” he told me. “They seemed more interested in things that I now think trivial than in the sorts of things that I’m doing.” None of them really understood or appreciated why he had decided to risk everything by actually volunteering to help defend the people of a foreign country against a brutal enemy. He said it was a decision he had difficulty explaining, even to his Jewish friends, but it was one of which he was proud.

Many American young people these days manage to extend their adolescence into their 20s, so it was easy to see why this young man who had chosen a different path and literally been forced to grow up had little in common with his former classmates. He would, one suspects, have been more comfortable sharing his experiences with young American veterans

of Iraq and Afghanistan.

The IDF does all it can to make life easier for its lone soldiers, because the Israelis know how difficult and lonely being so far away from home can be. Private groups join in and virtually adopt them while they are in Israel and help them when they finish their service should they decide to stay and make their home there.

There are young men and women who are IDF lone soldiers at home in the United States right now who are anxiously trying to get back to Israel to rejoin their units. Many will stay in Israel, but others, knowing they have done what they can to help that tiny, but important nation survive will return to this country as veterans of a war they could have avoided. That they chose instead to volunteer, travel alone to a faraway nation, and risk their lives on behalf of the only democratic state in the Middle East says a lot about them, their dedication and their courage. It’s no wonder so many Israelis showed up to honor the young man from Texas.

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David A. Keene is opinion editor of The Washington Times.

FROM OUR OPINION WRITERS

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Advice to Israelis: Endure

Gazans may tire of Hamas using them as human shields

By Clifford D. May

Hamas wants to kill as many Israeli civilians as possible. It's been doing all it can to achieve that objective, for example, launching missiles at Israel's international airport and constructing tunnels to infiltrate terrorists into Israeli communities for the purpose of slaughtering and hostage-taking.

Israelis want to kill as few Palestinian civilians as possible. They've been doing all they can to achieve that — no nation under attack has ever done more. For example, they warn noncombatants of impending strikes on military targets by phoning, texting, leafleting and even dropping dummy bombs.

Palestinian civilians are being killed anyway, in large measure because Hamas has placed command posts, missile repositories and tunnel entrances in mosques, schools and hospitals. What's more, Hamas commanders continue to use Palestinian men, women and children as human shields or, as they prefer to call them, "martyrs."

Surprise: The United Nations, much of the media, many so-called human rights groups and large swaths public opinion — most of it on the left — condemn Israel and condone Hamas.

It's worth pondering the origins of such perverse attitudes, and I'll attempt to do so in a moment. But more urgent is to consider what Israelis can do about it. My answer: Very little.

If that pessimistic — or realistic — view is correct, it has policy implications. It suggests Israelis should first defend themselves as best they can, while degrading their enemies' martial capabilities (in particular the missiles and tunnels) as much as possible. Second, continue scrupulously observing the laws of war despite the fact that their enemies do not, and despite the fact that they will receive no credit for such efforts,

because third, they will know the truth about themselves and that will fortify them against the slanderers. Fourth, steadfastly reject proposals that would let Hamas achieve "wins" as a result of having initiated this conflict. Finally, try to drive home to Palestinians the fact that Hamas has brought them no benefits in exchange for the sacrifices it



has demanded and the suffering it has inflicted.

One more recommendation: Once the current Battle of Gaza is over, Israeli officials would be well-advised to reiterate to Palestinians that if they would adopt a policy of nonbelligerence ("peace" is a bridge too far) vis-a-vis Israel, they would enjoy increased security, prosperity and self-rule, a foundation upon which further progress might be built.

It would be helpful if key actors within the "international community" would stop encouraging Hamas to commit war crimes. One egregious example: the U.N. Human Rights Council last week voted on a resolution titled "Ensuring respect for international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem."

What does the resolution say about Hamas' firing missiles at passenger planes taking off and landing — attempting to do what was done recently done over the skies of Ukraine? Not a word.

What does it say about the tunnels from which Hamas assault teams

planned to emerge armed with explosives, tranquilizers and handcuffs, on a mission to kill Jews and drag others beneath the earth? Nothing.

What does it say about Hamas? The resolution does not mention Hamas.

Note that the resolution calls Gaza "occupied" despite the fact that the Israelis withdrew from that territory in 2005. As for Israel's blockade of Gaza, that was not put into place until 2007 — after Hamas' violent ouster of rival Fatah from Gaza, and in response to Hamas' continuing threats and attacks. It's a military blockade: Food, medicines and fuel are allowed in — even now. However, Israelis have tried, not entirely successfully, to prevent the importation of missiles and other weapons. That's it — that's the "occupation."

Not one Western European member of the Human Rights Council voted against this distortion of legality, morality and reality. The most they could manage was to abstain.

Only the United States — kudos to President Obama and U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power — had the integrity to oppose a resolution sanctioning a

democracy for defending itself and supporting an organization whose charter calls for genocide and proclaims "death for the sake of Allah ... the loftiest of wishes." (Still, because the resolution passed, there will now be a multimillion-dollar "investigation" — funded largely by American taxpayers.)

Finally, a word about the factors fueling anti-Israelism: Among them, indisputably, is the world's most durable prejudice, anti-Semitism, or more precisely, Jew-hatred, or to use a modern construction, Judeophobia. Bias and animosity against people of color, homosexuals and Muslims is beyond the pale in polite society. Against Jews — not so much.

In recent days, demonstrators in a list of Western cities have targeted not just Israeli embassies but synagogues — seven in Paris alone — as well as shops and other properties owned by Jews. In Boston, there were shouts of "Jews back to Birkenau," and "Drop dead, you Zionazi whores."

Imagine the outrage if French Jews, in response to a terrorist attack against Israelis, were to storm a mosque in Paris,

or if Italian Catholics, in response to the Islamic State's persecution of Iraqi Christians, threw stones at Islamic worshippers in Rome.

"The world is a mess," former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright mused last weekend. Among the primary reasons: Bellicose, supremacist, jihadist ideologies, movements and regimes have arisen from within the decreasingly diverse Muslim world. Hamas is such a regime, participates in such a movement, and subscribes to such an ideology — its charter is explicit in this regard as well.

Western nations cannot make peace with jihadists. They can attempt to appease them, but doing so only serves to reinforce the impression that they are weak horses. Israelis have few options — none of them appealing. Some, however, are worse than others, as I suspect most Israelis don't need me to tell them.

Clifford D. May is president of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

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A Special Report Prepared By The Washington Times Advocacy Department

Not your same old Gaza conflict

By Jonathan Schanzer

The latest round of violence in the Gaza Strip between the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas and the Israel Defense Force (IDF) continues in fits and starts, even after calls from President Barack Obama for an unconditional ceasefire. In many ways, this is the continuation of a long and bloody conflict dating back to Israel's creation in 1948. But here are a few twists to an old conflict that have gone largely unnoticed:

Israel's enemy is invisible to the West. When was the last time you saw a Hamas fighter on your TV screen? I'm willing to bet the answer is "never." Hamas has not allowed

for one embed. They have not released any YouTube videos either. It's almost as if Israel is firing blindly into the densely populated Gaza Strip without a military target in sight. The West only sees the devastating after-

math of the firefights in Gaza, but never what led to them. The journalists reporting from Gaza have not done a good enough job explaining this dynamic.

New Middle East politics are preventing a ceasefire. It may look like Israel vs. Hamas, but it's also Egypt vs. Turkey and Qatar. Egypt has it out for the Muslim Brotherhood. Hamas is a splinter faction of the Brotherhood. Turkey and Qatar are the last remaining bastions of Brotherhood support in the aftermath of the movement's collapse in the Arab Spring. These actors are now locked in a bitter fight over the terms of the ceasefire – and the future of the movement. Turkey and Qatar wants favorable terms for

Hamas that Egypt, which shares a border with Gaza, will not abide. The longer this continues, the longer the deadlock, and the more blood will be shed in Gaza. Hamas rockets are Iranian rockets. The rockets that have been fired into Israel from Gaza have Iranian fingerprints all over them. The longer-range M302 and M75 rockets were

smuggled to Hamas courtesy of Iran. Hamas has indigenous rocket capabilities thanks to Iranian training. Iranian parliament speaker Ali Larijani said as much last week. This is not surprising, but here's what is: America provided Iran with sanctions relief for complying with technical issues on its illicit nuclear program during the time that Hamas stocked up on Iranian arms. In other words, American sanctions relief has indirectly subsidized Hamas's Iranian rockets.

Washington looks confused. Iran is just one example of how American foreign policy has looked muddled. The

president balked on enforcing his "red line" in Syria last year, and let's not forget the failure of U.S.-led peace talks between the Palestinians and Israelis in April. Secretary of State John Kerry has hung in there admirably since the Gaza conflict erupted, fighting for a ceasefire. But he created

quite a diplomatic storm on Saturday, endorsing a Qatar-Turkey ceasefire plan which only served to alienate the Israelis, Egyptians, and others. Mahmoud Abbas could be the big

winner. Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas has been sidelined of late. He moved his family to Jordan while

the West Bank erupted in protest against the Israeli ground operations in Gaza. Some say he's irrelevant, but he's not. He's still the moderate Palestinian yin to Hamas' radical yang, and the West loves him for that. The Israelis love him less, but he is still their first choice among Palestinian leaders. Abbas know this, which explains why he insists that he is the only one who can deliver calm. But he has ulterior motives. He is looking to re-take control of the Gaza Strip, which Hamas conquered by force in 2007. It was a black eye for Abbas that he has not forgotten. It's possible now that Abbas will benefit from Israel's weakening Hamas. Depending upon how diplomacy goes, he might also assume

meaningful responsibility over the Gaza Strip, and still find time to take the Israelis to the International Criminal Court for what he calls "war crimes" in Gaza. Talk about a happy ending for Abbas.

A mass casualty event was prevented. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not want this war. He delayed a ground assault multiple times before finally giving way, at considerable damage to his ruling coalition. But there can be no doubt that he feels vindicated. Since going in on the ground, the Israelis have discovered more than 32 sophisticated tunnels that snaked their way into Israeli territory. Hamas' goal was to launch a coordinated ground assault. This war, however painful for Israel to endure, prevented a surprise attack that could have yielded far more casualties than the 43 reported today.

Israel's ground forces are back. The 2006 war with Hezbollah was a bitter pill for the IDF. They were unprepared for a ground war and flailed. Not so today. Operation "Protective Edge" may sound like a shaving cream commercial, but it is undeniable that Israel has dominated the battlefield. Remarkable Israeli technology has contributed to this effort, like the Iron Dome rocket defense system and the Trophy anti-missile system that protects Israeli tanks. In short, this war is reestablishing Israeli deterrence. More importantly, it is restoring morale in a country where the army is a central institution.

86.5 percent of Israelis back this war. This is an astounding number for a place where everybody argues about everything. Israelis can't agree on the color of hummus. One news broadcast after another make it clear that the vast majority of Israelis see this operation as key to their long-term security. Threats of sanctions or war crimes tribunals mean little to this tiny country when survival is on the line. The Israeli public wants the IDF to finish the job of destroying tunnels and rocket stores before facing the political and legal challenges that are sure to follow.

Three weeks of war has only deepened the bitterness on both sides of this conflict. This is not new. But it is clear that the other dynamics at play are different than in battles of the past.

Jonathan Schanzer, a former intelligence analyst at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, is vice president for research at Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

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For embattled Israel, a Leviathan Massive gas find could transform economy

By MEGHAN DRAKE
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The headlines in Israel are focused elsewhere, but the country's long-term prospects may be determined not in Gaza but in the western Mediterranean waters beyond the Palestinian enclave.

An energy-starved country in a region of petrostates, Israel has an economy and strategic position that could be transformed with the 2010 discovery of a natural gas field off its Mediterranean coast. Dubbed the Leviathan gas field, it is the largest exploratory find in the world in the past decade and, based on increased estimates released a week ago, contains nearly 22 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

News of the expanded deposit estimate was enough to trigger the biggest one-day rise in the Israeli stock in six months, even with clashes with Hamas in full swing.

"As Israel's natural gas production increases, some of that will go to increasing domestic consumption and natural gas will likely increase its share of overall energy consumption," said Alexander Metelitsa, an economist with the Energy Information Administration.

"Some gas will be exported. Israel's government ruled that only up to 40 percent of production can go to exports, so this will not be a major new source of gas to the global market," he said.

However the gas is used, Leviathan has radically changed Israel's energy outlook. Major deals to exploit the find already are taking shape.

Houston-based Noble Energy Inc. has the largest stake in the Leviathan region at 39.66 percent. Israel's Delek Drilling LP and Avner Oil Exploration LP both have 22.67 percent working interest. Ratio Oil Exploration Ltd. is operating with a 15 percent stake.

"The dramatic increase in Leviathan's gas reserves gives a wide range of export options and bases Israel's position as a leading player in the international energy map with gas reserves of 1,000 billion cubic meters," Delek Drilling CEO Yossi Abu told the Reuters news agency.

Early this year, Israel approved plans for the Leviathan to supply natural gas to the Palestinian Authority. Noble Energy has signed agreements with two Jordanian companies to supply natural gas from the Tamar field for a 15-year period that begins in 2016.

Last month, Noble Energy, with oil

interests in places from West Africa to the Gulf of Mexico, announced a nonbinding letter of intent with BG International Ltd. to supply natural gas from the Leviathan field to BG's natural gas liquefaction facilities in Egypt. An estimated gross sale of 3.75 trillion cubic feet of natural gas is expected over a 15-year period, or 700 million cubic feet per day over that term.

'Making all the right moves'

Other customers are still in talks, Noble Energy Chairman and CEO Chuck

"I'm extremely proud of them, and we all hope for a rapid resolution. Our facilities are well-protected, and they remain unaffected," he said. "However, we do feel that it is appropriate to slightly reduce our estimates for near-term sales volume there due to the situation."

Analysts say Noble has done well in its early efforts to tap the giant natural gas field in a difficult operating environment. Motley Fool, an online investing community, said this month that Noble Energy is "making all the right moves to

increase in our deliverability based on continued growth and demand in Israel and in various regional markets nearby," David L. Stover, Noble Energy president and chief operating officer, said in the earnings call. "Our expansion plants between now and 2018 ... highlight the more than tripling of today's capacity."

Other fuels still in the picture

The EIA's Mr. Metelitsa said Leviathan could radically alter Israel's energy picture, although its overall profile will remain complicated.

"While Israel will likely become a net natural gas exporter once these fields develop, the country will continue to be a significant net importer of other fuels, including crude oil, coal, and petroleum products such as liquefied petroleum gases," Mr. Metelitsa said.

The 2000 discovery of the Marib field met up to 40 percent of Israel's natural gas demand, but that declined in 2012 as the field reached depletion, the EIA said.

Commercial production of the Tamar field began last year. With hopes of a floating project to draw natural gas from the Tamar and Dalit fields, an estimated 3 million tons of natural gas are expected by 2017.

With these fields in production, plus the largest production of natural gas still to come from the Leviathan, the EIA called Israel a "significant exporter of natural gas in the next decade."

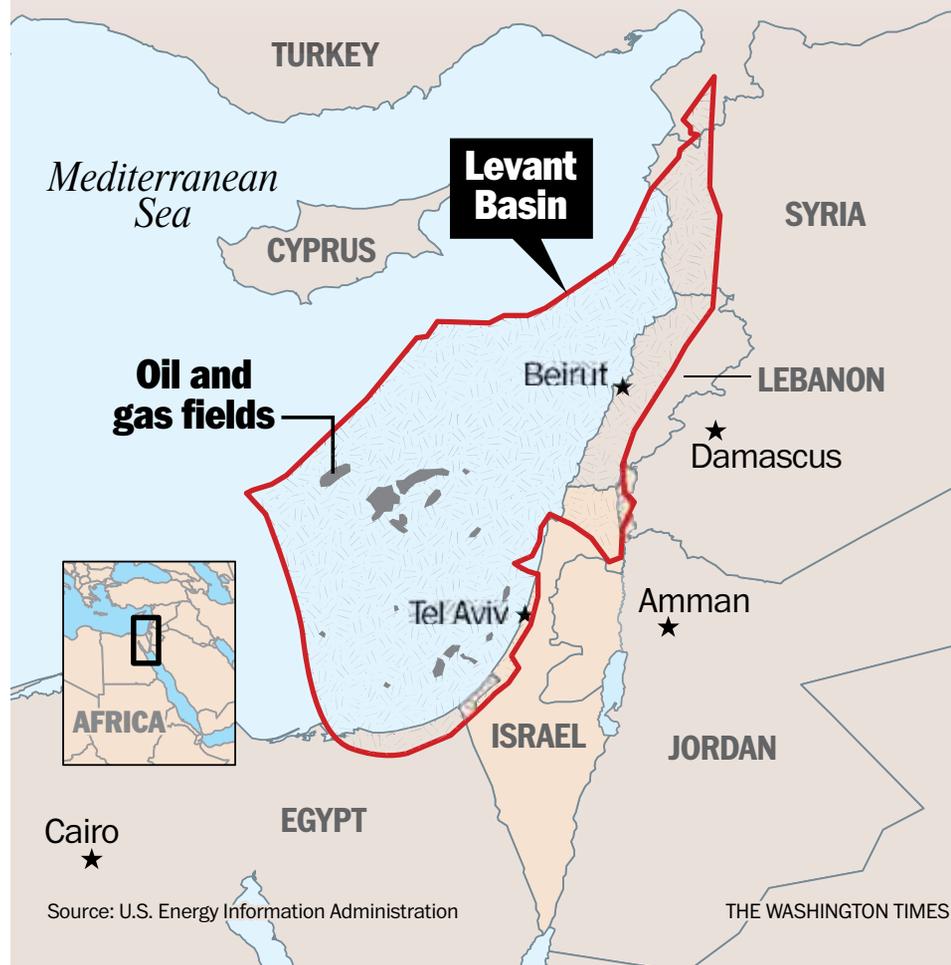
In 2012, Israel consumed 15.4 million short tons of coal to generate electricity. The EIA estimates that the use of coal will decline with the growth of natural gas from the offshore fields and an increase in natural gas-fired generating capacity.

Israel is hoping for the same, pushing for natural gas because of its seemingly never-ending reservoirs and the benefits of eco-friendliness. The Israeli Ministry of National Infrastructures, Energy and Water Resources estimates that the use of natural gas as a primary fuel will stand at 60 percent in 2027 and 68 percent by 2040.

But political and economic factors remain deeply intertwined in Israel as it tries to line up buyers for Leviathan exports. A study by the Institute for National Security Studies, which has ties to Tel Aviv University, said rising tensions between Turkey and Israel in the midst of the Gaza violence could complicate a deal with potentially the largest customer for Leviathan natural gas.

LEVIATHAN COMES TO LIFE

The Leviathan natural gas field off the coast of Israel, with an estimated 22 trillion cubic feet of deposits, ranks as the biggest single energy find on the global market in the past decade.



Davidson said in a call with analysts discussing the company's latest earnings report last week.

Expressing optimism about Leviathan's long-term prospects, Mr. Davidson touched on the increasing Palestinian-Israeli violence in Gaza. He said Noble Energy will continue to provide "an uninterrupted supply of natural gas to Israel."

secure long-term customers and ensure the project is brought online."

Although revenue increased by 20 percent, Noble's position in Leviathan could not be more timely. The company last week reported \$192 million in net income in the second quarter, compared with \$377 million the previous year.

"We're in the midst of a multiyear

Why Israel needs to destroy the tunnels

By David A. Keene

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has the support of something like 84% of his fellow citizens for his effort to destroy the dozens of tunnels Hamas has dug under Israeli territory over the last few years because every Israeli knows that they allow Hamas fighters to infiltrate their country to kidnap and kill Israeli civilians or worse.

These tunnels are not simple holes in the ground or a nuisance, but make up a sophisticated complex of concrete reinforced underground pathways into the heart of Israel. They originate in civilian residential areas, homes and schools in Gaza and allow Hamas fighters a safe, clear road into Israel itself and are central to Hamas' effort to destroy the hated Jewish state.

The Israelis have known of their existence for some time, but few realized how many or how sophisticated they were until the current fighting gave the IDF an opportunity to uncover, capture and destroy them. Once they saw what they were dealing with, Netanyahu's government quickly decided that there can be no real cease fire until they have been destroyed. Because they originate in highly populated residential areas, the effort to destroy them has entailed heavy civilian casualties, but the Israeli government seems intent on finishing the job regardless of criticism from

the US, the UN and Israeli critics the world over.

Critics of Israel tend to minimize the threat posed by the tunnel complex or claim destroying them is not worth the cost in lives and destruction in Gaza, but history suggests Hamas like Iran is looking for ways to overcome the stale-mate on the ground that has thus far prevented them from over-running and destroying both the state of Israel and her citizens.

A century ago during World War I opposing European armies found themselves bogged down in a war of attrition that cost each side millions of dead and wounded without anything even resembling a breakthrough. The trenches that stretched for hundreds of miles across the continent combined with the artillery and machine guns that dominated battle after battle forced officers on both sides of the trenches to think up new ways to break the deadlock.

Winston Churchill championed the tank, both sides toyed with poisonous gas and the Germans turned to the submarine to break the will of their adversaries while generals sacrificed millions of men in frontal assaults against each others lines. It was to avoid trench warfare in the future that the Germans came up with the Blitzkrieg used so successfully in the opening days of World War II.

Among the ways in which the British tried to break the stalemate was by tunneling under enemy trenches to give them a chance to destroy from underground what their best efforts had failed to destroy through surface warfare. Beginning in 1916, British miners began tunneling near Messines in Belgium toward and then under the German trenches. By June of 1916 they had managed to dig twenty-one horizontal tunnels a hundred feet below the German lines and fill them with something like a million pounds of high explosives.

In the early hours of June 7th, the British set them off, obliterating the German tunnels above and burying some 10,000 German infantrymen. Paul Fussell wrote in his monumental "The Great War and Modern Memory," the explosion "jolted" British Prime Minister Lloyd George "in Downing Street 130 miles away." In a rare breakthrough, the British almost immediately captured 7,000 panicked Germans and occupied the strategically important Vimy Ridge.

Today as Hamas finds itself incapable destroying the hated Israeli state, its leaders have been searching for a means of altering the balance of power or terror in their favor. They haven't been able to do it on the ground, but have been hoping to trump the Israeli's beneath the ground. That's why they've

expended millions of man hours and poured hundreds of thousands of tons of concrete into a sophisticated tunnel complex from which their fighters can literally pop up within Israel to kill or kidnap Israeli civilians or soldiers. That's what they've been doing thus far, but at some point there is the added danger that they could stuff their tunnels with explosives and do the sort of damage that took place when the Brits blew theirs so many years ago.

It should be remembered that the Israeli soldier captured by Hamas and then traded for a thousand Hamas fighters was kidnapped inside Israel using the tunnels, that Israel has unearthed and thwarted Hamas plans for major assaults mounted from the tunnels and that Hamas leaders have called for the capture of hundreds of Israelis to be used in Gaza as human shields. One of Iran's top military leaders as recently as July 24th, advised Hamas in an open letter that "Ten to fifty Zionist hostages in each (Palestinian) city are the best defensive battery for the city." Given the very real threat the tunnels pose, it should surprise no one that Netanyahu is willing to risk international condemnation to destroy them.

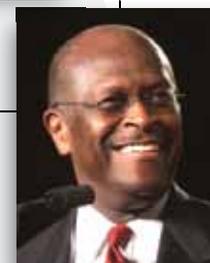
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David A. Keene is opinion editor of *The Washington Times*.

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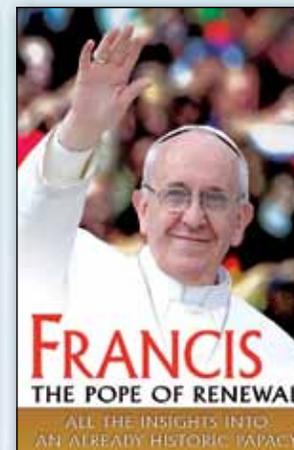
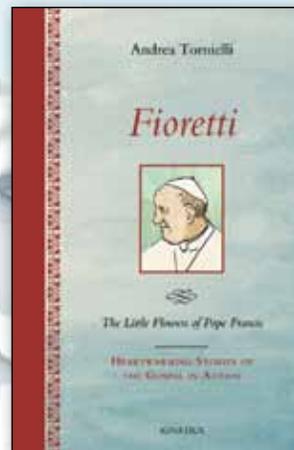
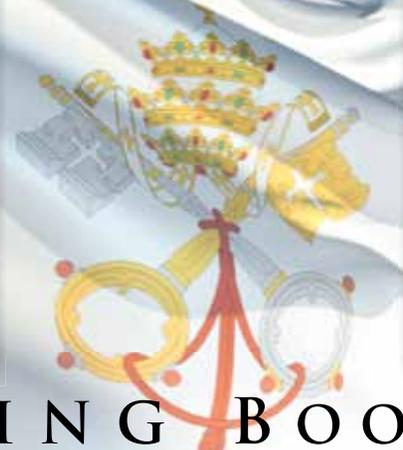
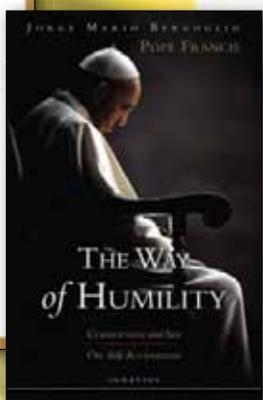
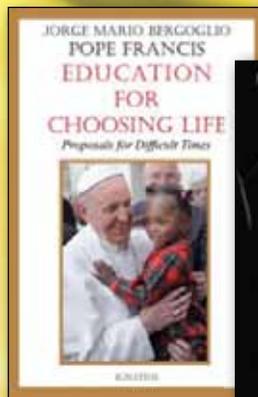
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INSPIRING BOOKS & FILMS POPE FRANCIS

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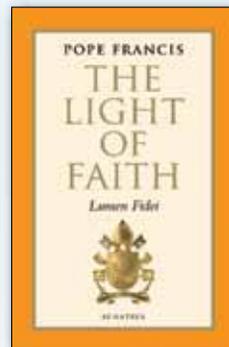
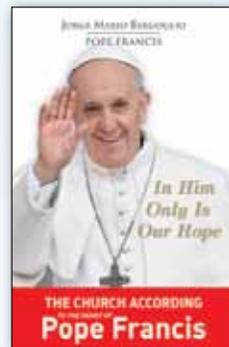
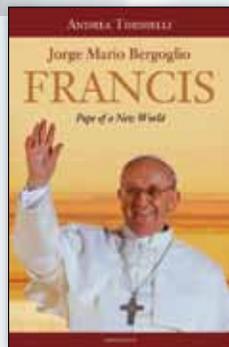
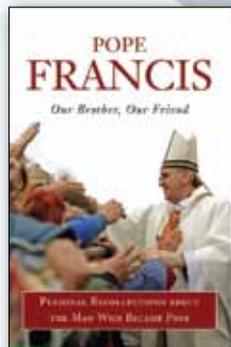
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