

The Frankenstein Monster

"You are my creator, but I am your master. Obey!"
Mary Wollstonecraft Shelly, 1817.

I suppose that after so many years of humiliation the world has begun to view the Palestinian people as natural losers. Suicide bombers just do not appeal to the Western mentality of "me first" and impoverished nations with few friends are simply too commonplace.

Today some 30% of all Palestinians live behind barbed wire. An even larger percentage are subjected to 24 hour curfews with regularly scheduled breaks for "shopping". Many Palestinian homes have been either bombed or raided; Palestinian men are systematically rounded up and interrogated; residences are flattened by armor-plated bulldozers as they clear the way for Israeli troops. Offices are broken into by Israeli "Gestapo". Many Palestinians are without food, water, and proper medical attention. Why? Because the Israeli government has destroyed most governmental facilities and turns away badly needed supplies at Israeli checkpoints and road blocks. Palestinian workers that once held jobs in Israel are now unemployed. All but one of Palestine's major cities are occupied by Israeli soldiers.

More recently the Israeli government has begun building barbed wire stockades around its West Bank colonies -- protected islets in the middle of a vast, artificially created, "human wild-life sanctuary". Deportation to the zoo-like encampment of the Gaza-strip is punishment for those "animals" that stray outside of their "sanctuary". In effect the Israeli government has shown to the world that they are in full control of the "Palestinian situation", and come what may, these latter will have to answer to Israel for whatever they might receive in foreign aid and/or national sovereignty.

Is the Israeli government afraid of poachers when they deny foreign diplomats, UN officials, and members of the international press corps the right to visit roving "Palestinian animals" in their natural habitat? Surely, these visitors do not have as much to fear as the Israeli colonists.

Under such conditions does the US government really believe that anything will change in Palestine should a new government be elected? What Palestinian leader today could stand before his people as anything more than a US-Israeli lackey? What Vichy-type government could be put into place that would not deeply offend Palestine's sense of national pride? What will stop the creation of new terrorists, once the old one's have been uprooted and destroyed? Is there something better about living under a freely elected Vichy-type government, than under a self-made terrorist freedom fighter poorly suited to play the role of a US/Israeli lackey? How long could such a government last?

Certainly no other government or group of governments has the guts to face down the Israelis, because that would mean offending the all powerful United States. Accordingly, those who speak out against Israeli brutality and its endless acts of humiliation do so only from a distance, as they scurry about

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from one summit gathering to the next thinking of ways to save face for themselves while the plight of the Palestinian people worsens. What sort of sick joke it must have been to Palestine's "animals" when they heard on world news recently that prominent officials from around the world "strongly condemned" the murder of seven Palestinian children victimized by a one-ton bomb purposefully dropped on their three-story house by an Israeli commandeered US F-14 jet?

No, it is not a pleasant thought to know that your child could be blown up on her way to school by a "wild Palestinian beast", but then Israelis have endured far worse hardships. Just ask any number of Israeli grandparents who lived through the European holocaust. So what perverted mind-set could permit the Israeli public to believe that their government is leading them down a path to salvation? Could today's Israelites possibly be any more desperate than the Palestinians living in the human zoo created by the Israeli government?

The memory of September 11 may still appear vivid in the USAmerican mind, but what makes terror any more wrong than the crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Israelis? Terror is a technique employed to achieve certain ends. Some people employ it to achieve revenge, others to extort money, still others to topple national governments. Palestinian militant groups are using it today as a means to win back their sovereign right as a nation and to free themselves from US-Israeli domination and oppression.

Since when has the means become more important than the end?

I do not like terrorism any more than the next guy, but when it is the only means available who can point the finger of blame? Would the current Bush administration be satisfied, if Palestinian militants promised not to employ terror in exchange for F-14s directed at Israeli military targets?

Let's be honest and quit hiding behind September 11.

What amazes me most about the current situation is that rather than sanctioning Israel with economic boycotts and arms withdrawal the Bush administration is developing war plans to topple Saddam Hussein. Is the situation in the Middle East not already hot enough?

After tossing Hussein out of Kuwait the United States government under the leadership of the former President Bush placed an iron lid over Iraqi skies and organized an economic boycott to force Hussein to comply with its demands. Surely it has been an unfortunate situation for the innocent many trapped with Hussein inside this externally wrought geo-political prison. Nevertheless, this is the way things have been for over a decade. Now all of a sudden Saddam Hussein is in the news again. Why?

Surely not because of his relationship with Osama bin Laden, because most reports have indicated that none exists. Neither can it be that Saddam Hussein is suspected of developing weapons of mass destruction. His interest in such weapons was apparent more than a decade ago, when Israel war planes intruded upon Iraqi airspace and bombed Hussein's nuclear research laboratory. Can it be the hardship and pain that tens of thousands of innocent

Iraqi citizens have suffered under Hussein's autocratic rule. That their suffering were the real reason! Can it be Hussein's reluctance to submit to weapon's inspections? No, this too is unreasonable, because most UN member nations appear willing to tolerate his continued intransigence. So what has changed?

Are the hundreds of thousands of oil dollars sent to the impoverished families of Palestinian suicide bombers reason enough to sacrifice the how many tens of billions of dollars it would take to evict Hussein from his throne? This to say nothing of the loss in US American life?

Then too, maybe I have got it all wrong about US/Israeli friendship, perhaps the Bush administration is merely seeking to divert his nation's and the world's attention away from the many corporate scandals that threaten to rout the US economy.

So what is so beautiful about democracy when it comes to foreign affairs, anyway?

The end of Frankenstein's horror began when he told his hideous creation "The hour of my irresolution is past and the period of your power is arrived. Your threats cannot move me to do an act of wickedness.... Begone! I am firm and your words will only exasperate my rage." (Chapter 20)

Israel may not have been created by the United States, but certainly it depends on it for its continued existence. Has anyone recommended President Bush some good bedtime prose, lately?

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