

The nation of Israel has an inherent right to exist in peace

by Randy Bright <http://www.tulsabeacon.com/?p=4299#more-4299>

With so much of our attention being focused on the day-to-day activities of life, current events, upcoming elections and family activities, it is easy to forget how important it is to support Israel and its right to exist in peace.

The fact that Israel even exists is a miracle, and many believe, myself included, that it is a fulfillment of prophecy that this tiny country, about the size of the eastern third of the state of Oklahoma, has come to exist.

Reborn on May 14, 1948, Israel began its independence with a population of only 806,000, but now numbers over 7 million, and thousands of Jews still immigrate to Israel every year.

Some come to escape persecution, but many others have moved there because they are, as a Jewish friend of mine described it, strangely drawn to the place.

Barely more than a desert in 1948, Israel has become a leader in the Middle East in agriculture, and is also poised to become one of the region's leading producers of natural gas and oil, estimating that there may be as much as 122 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 1.7 billion barrels of oil just offshore in the Mediterranean Sea.

With around 300 million enemies surrounding it, Israel has survived several major attacks from neighboring countries.

In 1948, immediately after it declared itself the State of Israel, five countries - Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria - attacked, but with few military resources, Israel defeated them.

In 1967, Israel captured the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Sinai, and Jerusalem after Egypt and Syria attacked them in the Six Day War.

What is not so well known is that Russia nearly entered that war, but because of America's pledge to protect Israel, a nuclear war was narrowly averted.

In 1973, Egypt and Syria again attempted to destroy Israel on the holiest day in Judaism, Yom Kippur, but again Israel defeated them.

Nuclear war was again narrowly avoided after Russia began preparing its forces to join the war, and again it was America's military might that forced them to reconsider.

In 1982, Israeli Defense Forces discovered a massive amount of Soviet armaments in Lebanon, which had been secretly stored there in preparation for an invasion of Israel by Russian forces.

This occurred only one month before Israeli bombers had destroyed the Osirak nuclear reactor in Iraq, a move that kept Saddam Hussein from developing nuclear weapons.

News about Iran's nuclear weapons program is almost daily now, even though it claims to be developing only peaceful nuclear energy with Russia's assistance. No one believes it, of course, especially because Iran's Islamic leadership has vowed to completely destroy Israel.

President Bush was an ardent supporter of Israel, and there was much speculation at the end of his presidency that he would send our bombers in to destroy Iran's capability to wage nuclear war.

But he failed to do so, leaving the job to a new administration that has never shown any real interest in defending Israel.

During his candidacy in 2008, the American Thinker ran articles stating its skepticism that Obama would ever be a friend to Israel.

Even as early as 2004, Obama complained about the security fence Israel had constructed to stop suicide bombings, and at other times he claimed that "nobody has suffered more than the Palestinian people."

More recently, Obama snubbed Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu, when he abruptly left a meeting in the White House after Netanyahu would not agree to stop construction of settlements in east Jerusalem.

Even more recently, Obama cancelled a meeting with Netanyahu after Israeli forces seized a ship that they believed to be carrying weapons to Gaza. Though previous presidents have blocked onerous U.N. Security Council resolutions in the past, Obama made no such effort when they condemned Israel for its actions.

Polls both here and in Israel have shown the majority to believe that Obama does not support Israel.

Israel is critically important to stability in the Middle East, to world economy and energy supplies, and to the defense of the United States from Muslim nations, but beyond that is an admonition and prophecy in the Old Testament when God said to Abraham regarding Israel, "I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse..."

Are we such poor observers of history to recognize how, despite impossible odds, Israel and America have been blessed, while Israel's enemies continue to suffer? Perhaps it would be wise to continue our support for Israel, if not for the all the right reasons, then at least in the interest of self-preservation.

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