

# Israeli Outcroppings Of ‘Universal Fascism’

by Steven Meyer

Several weeks before the U.S. invasion of Iraq, a colleague asked me to review a book which is causing an uproar amongst the Middle Eastern diplomatic community in Washington, D.C. Michael Oren’s *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East*, has been characterized as the authoritative history of the Middle East, based upon its vast use of U.S. and Israeli government documentation which has been declassified in the recent years. The book, issued last Summer, made it quickly to the top ten of the *Washington Post*’s bestseller list.

Many of the diplomats who were angered by the book were themselves military officials, so I consented to read it with interest, but with the hesistancy that the content with respect to military affairs was beyond the scope of my expertise. I got as far as reading the introduction, which was an outrageous fabrication of the history of both the Zionist movement and the Arab and Palestinian nationalist movements prior to the establishment of the state of Israel. I put the book down, determined to discover who had dropped this propaganda bomb into the preparatory phases of the current war in the Middle East.

What I found was the curious marriage between the family of Leo Strauss’s kindergarten of philosophers and political operatives in the United States, and the like-minded family of the late avowed Jewish fascist Vladimir Jabotinsky. As a young man in the 1920s, Strauss met with Jabotinsky and carried on a correspondence with him, but it appears little has been written about their relationship. In 1954, Strauss spent a year in Israel. Today, Jabotinsky’s kindergarten—and Strauss’s network—reside in the Likud and radical parties to its right, a web of Israeli-American think-tanks, and several philosophy departments of leading Israeli universities.

The commonality of outlook of these networks is reflected in their successful joint effort that killed the Oslo Accords, the attempt to establish a just peace with the Palestinians. They all tend to promulgate Samuel Huntington’s Clash of Civilizations thesis, and their explicit goal remains to establish a messianic Israel on both sides of the Jordan, with Jerusalem as its capital; as Lyndon LaRouche has said, their current doings have placed Israel on that very precipice of Hell that is leading Israel toward self-doom.

Any intelligence hand in the Arab world and Israel must



*Irving Kristol, godfather of the U.S. neo-conservatives, addressed the Shalem Center in 1999, "On the Political Stupidity of the Jews." According to him, their "stupidity" lies in the fact that they have historically been too susceptible to "universal humanism."*

master the epistemological underpinnings of these networks, which LaRouche's accompanying article explains, in order to understand how Anglo-American utopians have consistently deployed a fascist core within the Zionist movement to disrupt every potential peace accord between Arabs and Jews, beginning with the Arlosoroff negotiations in the early 1920s.<sup>1</sup>

That said, who produced Oren's book, and what does this larger Jabotinskyite-Straussian fascist monster look like?

## The Shalem Center

Oren is a resident scholar of the Shalem Center, a Jerusalem and Washington think-tank, and his book was one of its projects. Shalem was founded in 1994, with the explicit purpose of launching a cultural war inside Israel by the American Straussians. The associate director of Shalem, who also serves as the director of its Washington office, is Hillel Fradkin. Fradkin is a student of Allan Bloom, one of Strauss's leading apostles, and Fradkin has characterized Strauss as one of the two or three greatest men of the 20th Century.<sup>2</sup>

From 1986-88, Fradkin taught political science at the University of Chicago Committee on Social Thought, an interdisciplinary center created to house Strauss and his disciples. He is currently the director of the neo-con Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington. The Shalem Center describes itself as dedicated to "Jewish social thought and Israeli public policy"—an unmistakable reference to the two centers.

While teaching at the Committee on Social Thought, Fradkin also served as vice president of the Bradley Foundation and a program officer for the Olin Foundation. These

two foundations, along with the Mellon-Scaiffe and Smith Richardson foundations, have funded the entire gamut of neo-con think-tanks in the United States, as well as Straussian university deployments, including Samuel Huntington's ravings at Harvard.

Fradkin also served as a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, where he published with "Clean Break" author David Wurmser. His "ethics" include promoting the use of military force for regime change in Iraq and the other so-called axis-of-evil states, and he has been among the small numbers of signators of public letters in support of such action, written to President Bush by the neo-con Project for a New American Century.

Now, the marriage.

The Israeli director of Shalem, Yoram Hazony, was an admirer of the racist, terrorist Meir Kahane, whose father was a friend and collaborator of Jabotinsky. Hazony published a eulogy for Kahane in the *Jerusalem Post* in 1990. "We were mesmerized," wrote Hazony. "We listened in astonishment, and finally in shame, when we began to realize that he was right. . . . [We express] gratitude to someone who changed our lives, thrilled and entertained us, helped us grow up into strong, Jewish men and women. Many of us found other ways of doing what he asked."

Hazony was sent to Shalem from Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu's political stable, where he worked as an advisor, speechwriter, and ghostwriter. Netanyahu is an avowed follower of Jabotinsky, having been raised in that political and philosophical tradition by his father, whose mentor, Abba Achimier, was a leading member of Jabotinsky's Betar. Achimier, an admirer of Hitler and Mussolini, wrote a weekly column in the *Palestine Betar* newspaper, entitled "From the Desk of a Fascist." Achimier was accused of being the author of the murder of Chaim Arlosoroff.

Hazony, an American-born Israeli, was schooled in the United States and received his Ph.D. at the Political Science Department of Wilson Carey McWilliams, a resident Straussian at Rutgers University. The department receives Bradley Foundation monies for its doctorate program. Michael Oren received his Ph.D. at Princeton in 1986, in the Near East Studies Department, whose resident scholar was British intelligence hand Bernard Lewis, author of the "Clash of Civilizations" doctrine later popularized by Samuel Huntington.

Shalem's purpose, as stated in the founding edition of its quarterly magazine *Azure*, is to establish cultural and philosophical hegemony amongst Israel's intelligentsia. It plans to provide Israel's conservative political parties with the essential ideas necessary to govern. The center plans to create a university devoted to producing a cadre elite. Shalem has devoted itself to translating and publishing Hebrew editions of works of leading conservative economists and philosophers, such as Friedrich von Hayek, Adam Smith, Milton Friedman, and Edmund Burke (one of U.S. Secretary of Defense for Policy Doug Feith's icons).

1. See Steven Meyer, "Will Israel Outlive Its Fascists? Jabotinsky: Mussolini's Favorite" and "Jabotinsky Wrecked Zionists Hope for Water for Peace in the Mideast," *EIR*, May 24, 2002.

2. "Parting of the Ways II: Jewish and Islamic Thought and 9/11," by Hillel Fradkin, lecture delivered at the American Enterprise Institute, May 13, 2002.

Shalem was created with large amounts of cash from U.S. multi-millionaire Ronald Lauder—known in Israel as Netanyahu's piggy bank—along with funds from the Sanford Bernstein Company. The latter is owned by Roger Hertog, a financial partner of Michael Steinhardt, whose father was a fence for Meyer Lansky's organized crime syndicate, and who is now a leading light in the circles of the Democratic Leadership Council (see *EIR*, Aug. 9, 2002). The two own the *New Republic*, which published Hazony's book, *The Jewish State: The Struggle for Israel's Soul*—an attack on those who have not succumbed to Shalem's doctrines. Israeli academic Shlomo Avineri has characterized Hazony's style of attack as a synthesis of Pat Robertson and Sen. Joe McCarthy.

### Enter, Irving Kristol

Irving Kristol, a devotee of Leo Strauss and the "godfather" of the U.S. neo-cons, addressed the Shalem Center in 1999, during the 50th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the state of Israel. His presentation was entitled, "On the Political Stupidity of the Jews."

Castigating liberal American Jews and Israelis alike, Kristol asserted that both suffer from political stupidity which stems from "nothing less than a deeply grounded utopian expectation that good 'human relations' can replace political relations between other ethnic and religious groups, whether one faces these groups within the context of domestic American life, or across the border in Israeli foreign affairs."

The ultimate cause of such "utopianism," according to Kristol, is the fact that since Jews historically lacked any political tradition, they were susceptible to "universal humanism" during the Enlightenment, and that this universal ideal has unfortunately become a "quintessentially Jewish belief." It is a sorry state of affairs that both Israeli and American Jews are still susceptible to these ideas, he said, which are but "day dreams, . . . abstract theories of universal rights and international laws," which have left the Jews "intellectually disarmed."

Kristol's assertion is so wild, that it doesn't seem plausible to me that it was widely circulated in Israel or the United States—or he would have been politically lynched. But his construct is worth looking at, because it is pure Straussianism.

The Straussians, who claim to be the experts on Plato, overlook the existence of Moses Mendelssohn (1729-1786), the Orthodox Jew and Platonic philosopher known the world over during his lifetime as the "Berlin Socrates." Mendelssohn and his Jewish collaborators promoted the ideas of Gottfried Leibniz and the creation of the American republic and other modern nation-states, based upon the idea of justice and equality for all. They were also key in furthering the scientific discoveries of Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven, and contributed to other areas of universal knowledge. For Mendelssohn, Plato's concept of reason was coherent with Mosaic law.

Strauss, a Jew who emigrated from Germany in 1934 under the sponsorship of top Nazi jurist Carl Schmitt, did a critique of Mendelssohn, saying that, unfortunately, his proof

concerning reason and Mosaic law was insufficient. Strauss also attacked Gotthold Lessing's play *Nathan the Wise*, in which the character of Nathan, the learned Jew, was known to be modelled upon Mendelssohn. Nathan uses an ecumenical approach to bring together Christian and Islamic protagonists.

Irving Kristol closed his 1999 address to Shalem with the following charge: "Before the daunting task of instilling a tradition of thinking politically among the Jews, there is little to be done other than to continue the work of education. Such work is very difficult, but it must be done if both Jews and Judaism are to survive. Those of us in the United States who have been involved in this enterprise for some years now are certainly encouraged to see a comparable enterprise under way in Israel."

The Israeli Education Ministry during the Ehud Barak Administration officially determined the Shalem Center to be "a research institute whose leanings are extreme right wing and even fascistic." Shalem's board of directors includes Irving Kristol's son William Kristol, of the *Weekly Standard*, Ronald Lauder's public spokesman Allen Rother, and *New Republic* owner Roger Hertog.

### The Straussians and 'Clean Break'

"A Clean Break: A New Strategy for Securing the Realm," was written at the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies, based in Jerusalem and Washington. It was a research project of the Division for Research in Strategy, whose co-director, William R. Van Cleave, received his Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate School. The Claremont Schools, the West Coast version of Chicago University's Committee on Social Thought, are dominated by Harry Jaffa, a protégé of Leo Strauss, who was Professor Emeritus of Government at Claremont McKenna College and the Claremont Graduate School.

IASPS's founder, Robert J. Loewenberg, was a Straussian professor of history at Arizona State University before moving to Israel. Applicants to IASPS's Graduate Fellowships are required to have a mastery of Strauss's works.

The executive director of IASPS Jerusalem is Zev Golan, who is also the director of the Temple Institute, a messianic right-wing Jewish organization which wants to build the Third Temple on the site of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

When Golan immigrated to Israel from the U.S. in 1979, he became an assistant to the elderly Rabbi Moshe Segal, one of the first members of Jabotinsky's Betar organization in Palestine. Segal led the infamous 1929 Betar demonstration by several hundred cadres, armed with explosives, to the Wailing Wall and Temple Mount. It was the first provocation of its kind, and in the ensuing riots, hundreds of Arabs and Jews were killed. Segal was an avid promoter of Third Temple until his death in 1985.

Segal was also national commander of Brit Habirionim (Union of Terrorists), a violent underground group that used terror against Israeli founding Prime Minister David Ben Gu-

tion and the Histadrut. He rose to the top levels of the Irgun High Command and the Stern Gang. Through Segal, Golan became intimately involved in the Betar networks, compiling an oral history of the group.

IASPS has received over half a million dollars in recent years from the Bradley Foundation and the Sarah Scaife Foundation. One of IASPS's major funders is the San Francisco-based Koret Foundation, which has been financing it yearly for close to half a million dollars. Koret's president, Tad Taube, is a member of the governing board of the board of overseers of the Hoover Institute, along with Donald Rumsfeld and Richard Mellon Scaife. The Hoover Institute, for whom Van Cleave is a senior research fellow, receives a yearly grant of \$1.25 million from Koret. Hoover's current vice president, and the director of its Washington office, is Kenneth R. Weinstein. Prior to joining Hudson, he was the managing director of the Shalem Center's Washington office.

### Strauss's Israeli Protégés

Prof. Paul Eidelberg graduated from the University of Chicago in 1966, as a protégé of Strauss. He joined the faculty of Bar Ilan University in 1976, where he taught political science for several years. A devotee of Jabotinsky, whom he refers to as a "philosophic-statesman," he also wrote that Jabotinsky was "a man of impeccable character; truthful and magnanimous, fearless and compassionate, and wholly dedicated to the welfare of the Jews." Eidelberg castigated both Netanyahu and Sharon for their weakness in not establishing a completely Jewish state that encompasses all of Gaza, Judea, and Sumeria. His articles are circulated widely in right-wing journals and Internet sites in Israel and the United States.

An ardent opponent of the Oslo Accords, he stated in the *Jewish Press* that "Yitzak Rabin and his cohorts created the emotional and political climate that led to his assassination."

In lamenting Israel's current state, he has written that "Israel desperately needs a Jabotinsky-like alternative to its present leaders," but he does support the Sharon government's military policy against the Palestinians.

Eidelberg runs the Foundation for a Constitutional Democracy, which promotes a constitution he has written for Israel. Although seen as an extremist in Israel, his ideas on a constitution are endorsed by elements within the Likud party centered around Moshe Feiglin. In 1988, Eidelberg wrote an article for the Foundation for a Constitutional Democracy which would even make Irving Kristol blush. Entitled "Justice and the Arab Vote, a Socratic Issue," he argued that Socrates would have come to the conclusion that Israeli Arabs do not have the right to vote.

Another prominent Israeli Straussian is Prof. Emil Fackenheim, who was born in Germany in 1916. His mentors were both Strauss and the existentialist Martin Buber. He is one of Israel's more important theologians and philosophers. A fellow at the Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, he is internationally acclaimed as an expert on the Holocaust.

Fackenheim's outlook is weighted with pessimism toward the human soul. His basic thesis is that for any Jew living anywhere in the world, whether they are sufficiently able to recognize it or not, modern history begins with the Holocaust, whose aftershocks remain a driving force of history. Furthermore, Jewish identity in the current era, begins with the establishment of the state of Israel, and any perceived danger, real or imagined, legitimizes an Israeli reaction. Fackenheim lectures on the 614th commandment (his own creation), which states: "Jews are forbidden to give Hitler posthumous victories."

Fackenheim has a substantial international following in academia. As with Strauss, international colloquia have been held, uniting scholars to present papers on his life's work. A vociferous opponent of Oslo, he endorses a "Greater Israel" policy and the creation of a Jewish-controlled Jerusalem as the only possible capital of Israel. He and chicken-hawk Doug Feith are founding members of One Jerusalem, which promotes such a policy.

Fackenheim and Eidelberg sit on the editorial board of *NATIV*, the journal of Israel's Ariel Institute for Policy Research. Established in 1997 by former Stern Gang leader Yitzhak Shamir to oppose the Oslo Accords, the Institute has promoted Huntington's Clash of Civilization thesis. Ariel's advisory council includes IASPS's William Van Cleave; its board of directors includes Mark Zell, Feith's law partner.

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