

Bicephalous

(April 2024)

Before you read this, please bear in mind that I have no particular preference for Israel, nor any particular dislike for Arabs and Muslims, and, on the contrary, my personal inclination would be toward the Arabic culture, as it has always been since I was a schoolboy in Algeria and during my many sojourns in the Muslim world.

I also believe that Zionism was based on questionable notions and the founding of Israel was not the most brilliant idea in History, but Israel is what it is, whether for just or unjust reasons, and a Nelson Mandela would understand that the presence of perceived foreigners must be unconditionally acknowledged and accepted by all who demand their ouster.

I think there is a fatal flaw involved when evaluating geopolitical issues on the basis of preconceived moral standards instead of detached observation.

Even more preoccupying is the use of big accusatory words without investigating [the actual meaning of such words](#).

With regard to the perceived status of Israel as a refugee nation herself, the reality seems to be rather as follows:

- There were about 25,000 Jews in the Palestine in 1878, and 60,000 just after the First World War;
- Between the two world wars a further 385,000 had moved to the Palestine, all of them voluntarily;
- Just before the Second World War there were 445,000 self-described Jews in the Palestine, and 528,000 in 1944, which means that 83,000 only arrived during the Second World War;
- In 1948 the Jewish population in the Palestine was 806,000, which indicates that 278,000 had migrated since 1945;
- Most of the immigration originated in Europe and was voluntary, since the Nazi did not expulse Jews but were content with slaughtering them at home.
- On the other hand, about a million Jews were expelled from Arab and Muslim countries after 1967. Those constitute the largest part of what can be considered true refugees, or perhaps rather expulsees. For reference, 88% of Jews were expelled from Morocco, 99% from Algeria, 100% from Libya, 99% from Egypt.

Interestingly, the Ayatollahs arrived in Iran only in 1979 so there was no expulsion and Iran has today the largest Jewish population of all Muslim countries.

Rancor has certainly more than subsisted among those who were expelled from Arab countries (and I'm quite certain they still long for their home countries, as anyone who ever traveled in the Maghreb would surmise).

Although we must agree that the spirit of retribution is a dreadful fault, we must also reflect that people are people, especially when convinced that they are threatened daily with total annihilation by those who not only surround them, but also live in their midst, for some of them, and number about 200 times their own population on lands that extend over 1,000 times the size of Israel, so a certain level of perhaps irrational paranoia might be expected, especially after the events of 7 October 2023, irrespective of whether this is a valid excuse or not.

With regard to the massacre of innocent civilians, and certainly not to absolve it, I still fail to comprehend why the assassination of an innocent civilian is justly decried as being utterly criminal, while there are no qualms about murdering the young sons and daughters of the same civilian a minute after they were pushed into khaki attire. What is the rationale for assuming that those youngsters are any less innocent than their parents? And who said the massacre of guilty civilians would be legitimate in any case?

The massacre of one, a hundred, a thousand, or a million, is equally repugnant, irrespective of numbers, of nationality, or of perceived culpability. There is no law of proportionality attached to the horror of murder.

I would think that the Middle Eastern bloody charade is purely of the making of all nations on earth, probably without exception, and it is not clear to me why a sensible solution was not devised decades ago by some international entity to make things amenable to all parties, instead of forcing impossible tiny enclaves inside tiny hostile nations when there is so much land available all around.

Considering the ruthlessness of both sides since October 7th, 2023, and recent escalations, I don't see how a bicephalous Palestinian State can be seriously envisioned today (now even less than ever), the only solutions being that either everyone suddenly becomes reasonable, or Option C is chosen for the problem (see the last page of [A New Jerusalem](#) here).

I remember vividly my father's remark in June 1967 that the main reason for Western support to Israel during the Six-Day War was that people of the West disliked Arabs even more than they disliked Jews. He himself disliked neither, and why would anyone? Which way would the balance tip today, and why?

It seems modern societies are even quicker to judge than in the past, on an impulse and based on personal hatred. Could that be seen as an Enlightened Civilization?