

Why History Matters: The 1967 Six-Day War

David Harris, AJC

Mention the word "history" and it can trigger a roll of the eyes. Add "Middle East" to the equation and folks might start running for the hills, unwilling to get caught up in the seemingly bottomless pit of details and disputes.

But without an understanding of what happened, it's impossible to grasp where we are -- and where we are has profound relevance for the region and the world.

Forty-four years ago this week, the Six-Day War broke out.

While some wars fade into obscurity, this one remains as relevant today as in 1967. Many of its core issues remain unresolved and in the news.

Politicians, diplomats, and journalists continue to grapple with the consequences of that war, but rarely provide context. Yet without context, some critically important things may not make sense. First, in June 1967, there was no state of Pales-

tine. It didn't exist and never had. Its creation, proposed by the UN in 1947, was rejected by the Arab world because it also meant the establishment of a Jewish state alongside.

Second, the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem were in Jordanian hands. Violating solemn agreements, Jordan denied Jews access to their holiest places in eastern Jerusalem. To make matters still worse, they destroyed many of those sites.

Meanwhile, the Gaza Strip was under Egyptian control, with harsh military rule imposed on local residents.

And the Golan Heights, which were regularly used to shell Israeli communities far below, belonged to Syria.

Third, the Arab world could have created a Palestinian state in the West Bank, eastern Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip any day of the week. They didn't. There wasn't even discussion about it. And Arab leaders, who today profess such attachment to eastern Jerusalem, rarely, if ever, visited. It was viewed as an Arab backwater.

Fourth, the 1967 boundary at the time of the war, so much in the

news these days, was nothing more than an armistice line dating back to 1949 -- familiarly known as the Green Line. That's after five Arab armies attacked Israel in 1948 with the aim of destroying the embryonic Jewish state. They failed. Armistice lines were drawn, but they weren't formal borders. They couldn't be. The Arab world, even in defeat, refused to recognize Israel's very right to exist.

Fifth, the PLO, which supported the war effort, was established in 1964, three years before the conflict erupted. That's important because it was created with the goal of obliterating Israel. Remember that in 1964 the only "settlements" were Israel itself.

Sixth, in the weeks leading up to the Six-Day War, Egyptian and Syrian leaders repeatedly declared that war was coming and their objective was to wipe Israel off the map. There was no ambiguity. Twenty-two years after the Holocaust, another enemy spoke about the extermination of Jews. The record is well-documented.

The record is equally well-documented that Israel, in the days leading up to the war, passed word to Jordan, via the UN and United States, urging

Prayer Schedule

SHABBAT

PARASHAT BE'HAALOTKHA

Friday, June 10th, 2011

Shaharit 6:30 am

Minhah & Arbit 6:30 pm

Candle Lighting 7:45 pm

Saturday, June 11th, 2011

Shaharit 8:30 am

Guest Speaker Lev Hakak

during morning services

Tehillim 6:00 pm

Class w/R. Batzri 6:15 pm

Minhah & Arbit 6:45 pm

Motzei Shabbat 8:49 pm

WEEKDAYS

Sunday, June 12th

Shaharit 7:30 am

Monday-Friday

Shaharit 6:30 am

EREV SHABBAT

PARASHAT SHELACH

Friday, June 17th, 2011

Shaharit 6:30 am

Minhah & Arbit 6:30 pm

Candle Lighting 7:48 pm

Amman to stay out of any pending conflict. Jordan's King Hussein ignored the Israeli plea and tied his fate to Egypt and Syria. His forces were defeated by Israel, and he lost control of the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem.

Seventh, Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser demanded that UN peace-keeping forces in the area, in place for the previous decade to prevent conflict, be removed. Shamefully, the UN complied. That left no buffer

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In Memoriam

SHABBAT KIDDUSH

is sponsored
by
Sue and Aaron
Sassoon

CONDOLENCES

We send our deep condolences
to the family of
Victoria Cohen, z"l
Victoria bat Hanina, z"l

Aunt of
Ezra Atragjhi, Yvette Dabby
Rachel Dror, & Rosy Nissan
Sister of Juliet Dabora in Israel.
May Hashem comfort them
together with all the mourners of Zion.

It is customary to light a memorial
candle and to donate tzedakah.
Family members are encouraged
to attend prayer services in honor
of loved ones.

Shabbat / 9 Sivan
Ester bat Amam*
Aziza bat Rahel*

Sunday / 10 Sivan
Mazal bat Rahel
Massouda bat Khatoun*
Mazal Tov bat Ester*

Tuesday / 12 Sivan
Avraham Lurie
Sion Abdulla Zekaria

Wednesday / 13 Sivan
Farha Hanah bat Garzi
Sulman Sion Soffer

Friday / 15 Sivan
Itzhak ben Yaacov Bekhor*
*To update, please call the office
at 310.474.0559.*

THANK YOU

to Suzy Assia
for hosting a
wonderfully planned
Rosh Hodesh Sivan
Celebration & Tehillim Reading
led by Rabbanit Orly Batzri
or the women of
Kahal Joseph Congregation

EREV SHAVUOT

REFRESHMENTS

were sponsored
In memory of

Victoria bat Hanina, z"l
Victoria Cohen, z"l

by her family

Refuah Shlemah

Yonatan ben Alizah • Mazal Tov
bat Sulha Mitana • Matilda
Louisa • Yaheskel ben Regina •
Ayala bat Naomi • Khayah Noa
bat Sara • Haim ben Mordechai •
Pnina bat Esther • Yosi ben
Esther • Victor ben Latif • Ramah
Regina bat Farha • Aziza bat Sara
Judith bat Malka • Ofek ben Yochai
• Efrayim Zev ben Fayga • Sulha
Matana bat Mozelle • Gershon ben
David • Farangis Miriam bat
Touran • David ben Leah •
Avraham Haim ben Miryam •
Yaakov ben Freda • Rachel bat
Mazal Tov • Avraham ben Rab-
bie • Mazal Sigalit bat Rivkah •
Orit bat Tikvah • Yaakov ben
Aliyah • Chana Leah bat Reiza •
Victoria Cohen • Avraham
Moshe ben Miriam • Mordecai
Haim ben Hanna

SHAVUOT

1ST DAY KIDDUSH

was sponsored
in memory of

Mansour ben Benayahou, z"l

by
Nahid Sedaghat and Family

SHAVUOT

2ND DAY KIDDUSH

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in memory of

Nisan ben Avraham, z"l
Nima Shayesteh, z"l

by
Doris and Shaoul Moshi

NOTICE TO PARENTS

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2. No child is allowed to remain in the synagogue lobby without the constant supervision of a parent or guardian.
3. We are not responsible for unsupervised children walking out the front door.

Torah Readings

Parasha 605-619
Haftara 620-622

Shabbat Shalom

(Continued from page 1)

between Arab armies being mobilized and deployed and Israeli forces in a country one-fiftieth the size of Egypt -- and just nine miles wide at its narrowest point.

Eighth, Egypt blocked Israeli shipping lanes in the Red Sea, Israel's only maritime access to trading routes with Asia and Africa. This step was regarded as an act of war by Jerusalem. The United States spoke about joining with other countries to break the blockade, but did not act.

Ninth, France, which had been Israel's principal arms supplier, announced a ban on the sale of weapons on the eve of the June war. That left Israel in potentially grave danger if a war were to drag on and require the resupply of arms. It was not until the next year that the U.S. stepped into the breach and sold vital weapons systems to Israel.

And finally, after winning the war of self-defense, Israel hoped that its newly-acquired territories, seized from Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, would be the basis of a land-for-peace accord. Feelers were sent out. The formal response came on Sept. 1, 1967, when the Arab Summit Conference famously declared in Khartoum "No peace, no recognition, no negotiations" with Israel.

Today, there are those who wish to rewrite history.

They want the world to believe there was once a Palestinian state. There was not.

They want the world to believe there were fixed borders between that state and Israel. There was only an armistice line between Israel and the Jordanian-controlled West Bank and eastern Jerusalem.

They want the world to believe the 1967 war was a bellicose act by Israel. It was an act of self-defense in the face of blood-curdling threats to vanquish the Jewish state, not to mention the maritime blockade of the Straits of Tiran, the abrupt withdrawal of UN peacekeeping forces, and the redeployment of Egyptian and Syrian troops. All wars have consequences; this one was no exception. But the Arab aggressors have failed to take responsibility for actions they instigated.

They want the world to believe post-1967 Israeli settlement-building is the key to the Arab-Israeli

WELCOME

Guest Lecturer
Professor Lev Hakak
who will be speaking
at Kahal Joseph this Shabbat
during morning services
on the topic of
"Another Tallit" by S.Y. Agnon:
*A Jewish Man Struggles
With His Faith*

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conflict. The Six-Day War is proof positive that the core issue is, and always has been, whether the Arab world accepts the Jewish people's right to a state of their own. If so, all other contentious issues, however difficult, have possible solutions.

And they want the world to believe the Arab world had nothing against Jews per se, ... yet [they] trampled with abandon on sites of sacred meaning to the Jewish people.

In other words, when it comes to the Arab-Israeli conflict, dismissing the past as if it were a minor irritant at best, irrelevant at worst, won't work.

Can history move forward? Absolutely. Israel's peace treaties with Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994 prove the point. At the same time, though, the lessons of the Six-Day War illustrate just how tough and tortuous the path can be. **Shabbat Shalom**



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c) zman matan torateinu d) bikurim e) bet hamikdash f) chalav g) shivat haminim
(Hints at babganewz.com/search...)




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