



ISRAEL NEWS
A collection of the week's news from Israel
From the Bet El Twinning / Israel Action Committee of
Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation

Commentary...

Dear Diaspora Jews.... By Avi Ganz

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'll start from the end: This is a real war. People are getting killed. People are getting injured. Businesses are suffering. Reservists are called up and leaving their families with no school and the most labor-intensive Jewish holiday just a few days away. Millions are scrambling to and from bomb shelters and things are not ok. Where are you?

In the immediate aftermath of the brutal attack on Eretz Yisrael on October 7th, 2023, the response from world Jewry was unequivocal and unmistakable. Everyone felt it. Everyone mourned. Everyone did something. Everyone showed up. I speak for so many of my Israeli friends and relatives when I say that we felt the hug of not just Am Yisrael (the Nation of Israel), but of Bnei Yisrael: the brotherhood that is our people. We are one family and, to borrow a term, we are indivisible.

We watched, with tears of gratitude and camaraderie in our eyes, as planes full of people and supplies showed up to show support: they volunteered in schools, on farms, on army bases and staging areas. People visited the sick, cooked for displaced families, soldiers, and the wounded. Jews all over the world Davened, of course, for our soldiers, for the hostages, for our people, and our land, but they also wrote checks, lobbied politicians, packed duffel bags, andthey checked in. They empathized. They shouted "Imchem Anachnu b'Tzara" (we are with you in your pain) from the rooftops. They acknowledged that our people were (many still are) bleeding and just wanted to lean in and shoulder some of that with Israel.

Well now it is March 21st, 2026. Two and a half years later. Thank God, all of the hostages are home though some 85 were killed in captivity. We had moved into a new phase called "relative calm". Almost no new names of fallen soldiers, stories of hope and healing, and several months of uninterrupted school and jobs. Not surprisingly, this phase has introduced (or perhaps we've just reacquainted ourselves?) some complacency: Iran Round 1 was "The 12 Day War" during which Israel and the U.S. let Iran know that we didn't appreciate their stubbornness. The global community seemed unphased and besides, what's 12 days?

On February 28th, just 22 days ago, after months of military positioning and posturing and of course, the ever-present global speculation, Israel and America executed a stunning display of firepower and effectively crippled the Iranian regime. Targeted strikes removed powerful people while other aircraft have traveled back and forth between maritime and Israeli bases to disable the well known and shamelessly stated Iranian Threat. While there is plenty to be said about the mid to longterm aftermath of this very expensive preemptive strike, the reality we are facing today in Israel is quite unpleasant, to put it very mildly. When the war broke out 22 days ago, the first responses we saw from overseas were jubilant. "Khomeini was killed!". "It's Purim 2.0!". "Look at how resilient the Israelis are as they dance in their bomb shelters!". And yet, 22 days later, more than 20 Israelis have been killed and thousands have been injured and/or displaced. Our fighter pilots who have clocked more flight miles in the last two weeks than my neighbor whose medical practice is in New York has racked up in the last 10 years and we all don't know what to answer when someone from abroad asks about our Pesach plans. Every single one of us knows that there is no rhyme or reason for when and where the miraculous defense systems might miss a ballistic missile so any siren could be our last. Routine is a distant memory for many or even most and the systems in place (there are so many! It's truly amazing!) to offer support can't possibly keep up with the need.

War isn't supposed to be fun. I have no complaints. Truly. I am so grateful to be here today and every day. But I am curious and I am

far from the only one:
Where are you?

No, this isn't a pitch for Aliyah and I'm pretty sure we don't need too many more boots (although new recruits have been requesting gear as thousands march into Lebanon for the first time). Our

people and our army have enough experience to do what we are supposed to do and we don't have the liberty to turn off that switch: soldiers do as they are told and the Home Front (that's us) knows about warnings, sirens, safe places, zoom school, too much screentime, and people just generally feeling unpleasant. But where are you?

I can't say that I speak for everyone because I don't know or speak to everyone, but there is a general consensus among my peers that I am not the only one who feels this way. I don't want to speculate (well, I do want to but I think that is unwise) as to why this is so, but I will allow myself the following: War is unpleasant. Unpleasantness requires regular encouragement. We are all busy people with myriad responsibilities and limited capacity. Plan B isn't Plan A and OUR Plan B certainly isn't your Plan A. I get it. And I am still asking for your presence. Better yet, I am asking for our reality to be present for YOU. Plaster signs in your shuls. Change the headings of your weekly newsletters. Every Jewish organization everywhere should start every single one of its form emails (So Shabbos schedules, building campaign updates, event invitations, Eruv updates....Every Single One) with an acknowledgement of a war in Israel. Start every announcement, sermon, or ceremony with a prayer for Israel. Rabbis and community leaders, this one is for you: We know you have a list of pre-Pesach shiurim to be delivered, new cleaning hacks and, depending on your Kehilla either a new Chumra or a new Kula for this year, but we have all had to pivot. It would be so appreciated if you do the same. For everyone else, when you send a boring e-mail asking for a simple favor, start with "How are you doing during these uncertain times?". One of the recurring COVID-19 jokes was about the ubiquitous use of the preface "during these unprecedented times". Just because there is precedent to Israelis being in bomb shelters (that's why we have them, after all), doesn't mean it is normal or easy. Why do so many seem to be saying "well yes, we know you are living through this, but let's just get straight down to business". Would you do the same for someone you know who was recently checked into a hospital? "Hey Larry, I'm trying to figure out what colors we want for the tablecloths....also, any way you can make that beeping any quieter, it's making me uncomfortable...".

Please add Tehillim after davening. It is ok and warranted and appreciated and it might be just a little "annoying". That's ok.

Please send a letter or an email or a WhatsApp to a friend, relative, or better yet – a complete stranger in Israel. It is ok and warranted and appreciated and it might be just a little "annoying". That's ok.

Please rewrite your sermon. It is ok and warranted and appreciated and it might be just a little heavy. That's ok.

Please use your social media to change our national dialogue. Let the algorithms know what is important to you and the magic of AI will do the rest. Every follower of every Jewish account should be talking about this war. It is ok and warranted and appreciated and it might be just a little "annoying". That's ok.

There is, at this very moment,

- A soldier risking his life in the field sleeping among bushes in the rain;
- A wife at home with her children trying to manage work, zoom calls, sirens, and anxiety;
- A female soldier at the command center working nights all week and knowing that she won't be able to make up this semester;
- A Chareidi soldier in a completely new environment juggling the culture change, the realities of combat, and the nagging voice in his head that reminds him of his own uncomfortable departure from his cultural norms;
- A grandfather, a career officer, who hasn't seen his children or grandchildren in weeks;

- A pilot who has reconfigured his wedding plans for a small wedding before taking off on a dangerous mission to Iran the next day; and
- Hundreds of thousands of children who can't grow up in peace, haven't been to school consistently for years, are growing up with sirens and rockets, and are spending too much time away from and worrying about their courageous fathers.

Among the conversations I have had recently about these ideas, a cherished friend said "But that's life, isn't it? There must be peaks and valleys. If October 7th was a peak, where is the valley?". I don't know. But as another fighter jet just flew over my head, I'd say this ain't it.

We know that day will come soon but for now, hopefully we can juggle the joy and freedom of Zman Cheiruseinu while simultaneously acknowledging the challenges that face us all – as well as the ones that are currently facing Eretz Yisrael and her inhabitants. (Times of Israel Mar 22)

Bomb-Shelter Schmoozing By Ruthie Blum

They file in gradually, descending the two flights of steps leading to the bomb shelter. Some remain silent, heads down. Others exchange knowing glances, shrugging as if to say, "Here we go again."

Newcomers to this particular space follow veterans, learning the rhythm, the corners, the spots where cell reception is best. The last one to enter when the air-raid siren stops wailing pulls the heavy door shut and leaves the handle until it clicks—a required act to stave off blast-damage.

The room has white walls, dingy from basement dust, visible via the 100-watt bulb in a hanging socket. The chairs along the walls are an accidental collection—plastic, folding, upholstered, one with a cracked armrest, another too low to be useful—brought down by residents realizing that "Operation Epic Fury/Roaring Lion" will be going on for a while.

Laughter and gaping yawns intermingle, the language of disrupted REM cycles. All phones are out, with owners scrolling for updates on aerial interceptions and impact sites, while checking social media and snapping selfies. Or playing computer games, thumbs in furious motion.

This has been the ritual for the past three weeks, since the morning of Feb. 28. Repeating it daily in regular intervals, at all hours, is sufficient for creating bonds with people who were once strangers, a cast of diverse characters who happen to reside in adjacent buildings.

There's a woman in her 70s with broken Hebrew and a heavy Russian accent. She seems more perturbed about having to leave her apartment upstairs so often than worried about injury or death.

Beside her, a petite Filipina stands as if she's just stepped out rather than rushed in—hair neat, clothes pressed, expression composed. She offers a small, steady smile to anyone who meets her eye, a gesture that has become part of the ambiance.

Cross-legged on the floor is a 20-something Canadian whose Israeli parents moved to Toronto before she was born. Cradling a small poodle in her lap, she is busy tapping out messages to her mother and father who—she announces, smiling—"are more stressed out about the situation than I am."

To her right is a middle-aged couple who made aliyah from France several years ago. They, too, have a dog—a tiny puppy happily seeking and receiving attention.

Near the door, a divorced father with a five-year-old boy smiles at the sight of his child playing with the canines. It's a welcome distraction from his having been forced out of bed to head for safety.

At his mom's home in Herzliya, he's able to sleep through the night in her fortified room.

Then there's the real-estate agent who bemoans the fact that he doesn't dare get any shuteye for fear he won't hear the alert or siren. He says he's considering moving to his parents' house in another part of the country for the duration of the war, since in any case, his business is currently at a standstill.

Across from him is a guy from Germany with brightly painted fingernails and a pile of silver bracelets stacked from wrist to elbow. "Tel Aviv has the best LGBT community," he declares. "But maybe I need to go back to Berlin for a bit, to have a little peace and quiet."

A man speaking Swedish to his three Israeli children nods.

"We managed to get a flight tomorrow night to Larnaca," he says. "From there to Paris and on to Stockholm. Better for them to be with their grandparents for Passover."

It is Friday, ahead of Shabbat. The following night, for the first time since the war began, Tel Aviv isn't targeted. Perhaps the sudden thunderstorm is responsible for pausing enemy launches to the center. Or maybe not. And though the temporary calm should feel like a relief, no one really sleeps. News about mass destruction and casualties in Dimona and Arad make that impossible.

In any case, the alerts return, one after another, on Sunday morning. During one of these excursions to the shelter, a group of women spills in, decked out in Lululemon attire, ready for their workout in a nearby gym.

Another girl appears, with her face covered in a mud mask. "Sorry for looking like I belong in a horror movie," she apologizes. "What can I do? It's supposed to stay on for at least half an hour."

A young man looks up, unfazed. After all, he's wearing a fleece, adult-sized onesie with a Mickey Mouse theme.

A soldier on furlough—with his rifle slung over the shoulder of his Pokémon pajamas—is equally nonchalant. He calls out that getting caught by a siren while in the shower is even more problematic than engaging in cosmetic treatments.

When the sound of various pings and ring tones signal the "all clear," everyone moves toward the exit, expressing with humor the false hope that they won't have to see one another again in the near future.

Missiles, rockets and drones aside, the most explosive aspect of these endless gatherings is the utter—uncanny—absence of politics. It's one of many miracles marking this war. (JNS Mar 22)

The 'Failed War' Narrative on Iran is Political Spin

By Jonathan S. Tobin

President Donald Trump's announcement of a five-day delay before making good on his threats to bomb Iran's power plants was greeted with relief by those who have been hoping that he would end the U.S.-Israeli military campaign as soon as possible. It remains to be seen whether the talks reportedly taking place with the Islamist regime to end their nuclear program are achieving any real progress.

This may be evidence that those within the White House pushing for a diplomatic deal with Iran are winning the day over concerns about the economy and increasing gas prices. Or, as with previous decisions by the president prior to the 12-day war in June 2025 and the start of the current conflict, it may be that he is giving them one more chance to bend to America's will to avoid heavier blows yet to come on what's left of the country's infrastructure and military capabilities.

In the absence of evidence that the fanatics who still control Tehran are finally giving up their faith in a perpetual jihad against the West, the latter still seems the most likely answer. His assurance that Israel would be satisfied with what the United States is demanding—and his reminder that if the Iranians don't satisfy him, his threat that "we'll just keep bombing our little hearts out"—seems to indicate that he has not changed his position from one of maximum pressure to appeasement.

Regardless of how anyone chooses to interpret this development, discussion about the progress of the war is largely being driven by a narrative promoted by the president's political opponents and their media cheerleaders. They crow that the American effort is already a failure. Democrats like Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), as well as many of his congressional colleagues and other would-be 2028 presidential contenders, have been pouring scorn on the administration from the moment the bombs started falling on Iran. They have variously denounced it as illegal, without clear goals and incompetently led. Every small setback and American casualty is depicted as a catastrophe and reason enough not only to end the strikes immediately, but to impeach the president and every official involved with their implementation.

Some, though not all, of these war critics pay brief lip service to the fact that America's opponent is a savage, theocratic terrorist government that slaughters its own people in their tens of thousands and has been at war with the United States since it seized power in the 1979 revolution. Yet it's hard to avoid the impression that most of

those claiming that the campaign is already a “quagmire”—echoing the propaganda emanating from regime figures like Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh—are in one way or another rooting for the United States to be defeated.

As was apparent from the first days after Trump’s decision, the Democrats and their new allies on the antisemitic right, led by former Fox News host Tucker Carlson, have a great deal invested in the failure of the effort to stop Iran.

For Democrats, like their Republican foes, in this hyperpartisan age of Trump, every issue, even those that ought to be a matter of bipartisan consensus rooted in a common and easily understood conception of national interest, represents a zero-sum game.

That is especially true for the president’s opponents, whose dislike of him goes beyond normal political antagonism and has become something of a derangement syndrome. In this view, anything that might be construed as a victory for Trump, even if it advances national interests or the security of the American people, is considered bad. That’s because they think he is an authoritarian racist and/or fascist leader, and his discomfiture, if not defeat, transcends every other possible interest.

To note this incontrovertible fact about his opponents is not to assert that Trump cannot or has not made mistakes. Nor does it give him a pass for his trademark way of communicating his positions, which is, at best, unorthodox, often confusing and clearly more focused on trolling his critics than on conveying clear messages to the American people. That’s true even if, after sifting through his various comments on this issue, his intentions are not exactly a mystery.

Indeed, Trump has expressed over and over again his belief, shared by his predecessors of both parties over the last two decades, that Iran must not be allowed to have a nuclear weapon and that this must be prevented at all costs. He has also expressed, as has Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a desire to see the Iranian regime fall and the oppressed people of that tortured country given the opportunity to choose a better government, and thus better lives, for themselves. If he hasn’t laid that out point by point as part of a specific address to the American people, then that is more Trump’s governing style, as well as his demonstrating sensible caution about events he can’t control, than a lack of clarity on his part.

Where he differs from other presidents is his clear-eyed understanding that all of the negotiations and deals cut with the Iranians have been disastrous failures. Former President Barack Obama’s 2015 nuclear agreement was, at best, an effort to kick the can down the road. What it did do was to enrich and empower a dangerous regime, enabling it to finance a campaign of international terrorism and a bid for regional hegemony. Even worse, it not only failed to shut down Tehran’s nuclear program but guaranteed that the mullahs could acquire a bomb once its weak restrictions expired at the end of the current decade.

Those facts may be disputed by partisans, but that doesn’t alter the truth that the efforts of Obama and his predecessor, Joe Biden, to appease Iran actually made the world less safe. Without Obama’s Iran deal and the advantages it gave the Islamist regime, including finances and encouragement of its terror proxies, the Hamas-led Palestinian Arab terrorist assault on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, may not have occurred. And the world would not have gotten to this point.

Still, the debate currently taking place about the Iran war is not about the desirability of stopping Iran’s nuclear ambitions, its ballistic-missile program or ending its status as the world’s leading state sponsor of terror. It’s an assertion that the U.S.-Israel military campaign is failing in its goals. And that is as palpably false as is the denial about the disastrous impact of Obama’s nuclear pact in the first place.

No matter what follows, there is no question that the devastation of Iran’s military capabilities, nuclear facilities and missile program has, at the very least, set back the regime’s ability to make mischief and inflict pain on the region for years to come.

Should the campaign continue, as logic would dictate that it should, that damage will be compounded. Even now, it’s to the point where the regime has been stripped of much of its power. No longer is it the “strong horse” of the Middle East in the wake of its diplomatic triumph over a feckless Obama administration that gave away its leverage in negotiations to get a deal at any price.

That said, there is no sign yet that the regime is at the point where

it will fall, which is disappointing. The notion that the Iranian protest movement that shook the regime back in January won’t rise again and take to the streets is, at best, premature. But the bombing campaign is still ongoing, and it’s too soon right now to be sure of the outcome of the conflict.

Can the campaign be a success, even if the mullahs who have succeeded Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other regime figures taken out during the opening days of the conflict stay in power, however shaky their hold might be?

It’s true that the conflict with Iran will never end until the Islamists are out of power. If Trump accepts a truce at some point with the theocrats still in control, Tehran will declare itself victorious. That verdict will be accepted by Trump’s critics, but also by those in America and Israel who believe that the current campaign is a singular opportunity to end things once and for all.

Yet the real lesson of recent history is not, contrary to Murphy and other Trump foes, that all attempts at “regime change” are foolish and bound to fail. It’s that you can’t impose a change in the system of government in any country from the outside. Trump is right not to invade Iran and replace its government. What he and the Israelis have done is give the regime’s opponents a better chance of success. The United States and Israel have cut their oppressors down to size, killing their leaders and many of their operatives, depriving them of their most deadly weapons and, perhaps most importantly, humiliating them with a resounding military defeat. But the question of their overthrow remains in the hands of the Iranian people, not Washington or Jerusalem.

Simply put, even if the Iran campaign ended immediately, the devastation that it wrought on a dangerous regime should still be counted as a success. Whether it will be a full victory will, as military analyst John Spencer has written, be a function of whether Trump and Netanyahu follow through beyond the current limited scope of their joint effort to ensure that Iran cannot simply come back in a few years with a vengeance, forcing their successors to strike again.

It’s true that the Iranians have made America and Israel pay a price for this military operation.

Israel has suffered through weeks of missile attacks, including some that have caused casualties and significant property damage. The United States has also suffered military casualties. That these losses have been very few when compared to the scale of destruction being visited upon Iran doesn’t make the individual deaths any less tragic. But a dispassionate analysis would have to acknowledge that those casualties do not negate the fact that a dangerous regime that considers itself at war with the West, and allied to China and Russia, has been rendered far weaker. Whatever chance the Iranians had of racing to a nuclear weapon or achieving their hopes to dominate the Middle East is gone. That’s a far greater contribution to the security of the Middle East than that of Obama’s disastrous policy of appeasement.

The war has also caused an immediate and steep rise in oil prices, with a consequential hike in the cost of gasoline at the pump. That, of course, has affected the American and global economies. If this continues indefinitely, it could seriously impact the GOP’s chances of holding onto Congress in the November midterm elections. That, in turn, could ruin Trump’s final two years in office as his Democratic foes proceed to use their majorities to investigate and likely impeach him (albeit with little or no chance of removing him from office) as they did in his first term.

But looking beyond the political implications of higher oil prices, predictions of the collapse of the economy are mere hyperbole, not a serious analysis of the prospects of such an event.

In the end, the doom-and-gloom view of the war that is being published and broadcast, and echoed by the Democrats, is simply a matter of hoping that their principal opponent can be hurt by the conflict, not whether it’s actually being lost or is doing more harm than good. It is one more cudgel with which to bash anything that comes out of this administration.

There’s also the fact that many of those who are vocally opposed to the attack on Iran are committed to the myth that Israel dragged the United States into a war that wasn’t dictated by U.S. interests. They believe this not because a war against a regime that has killed thousands of Americans and seeks the country’s destruction because of their religious fanaticism is unjustified. Their arguments along

those lines are easily refuted by a simple rehashing of the last 47 years of Iranian behavior.

They oppose the U.S.-Israeli campaign because many of them fear it will actually make Israel, as well as America, safer. Those who embrace the post-Oct. 7 Hamas propaganda lies about Israel committing “genocide” are appalled at the idea that an existential threat to the Jewish state is being reduced. Meaning, that is how much a significant cadre in the United States hates the existence of the State of Israel and the power that it currently has.

A poll conducted by the left-leaning Israel Democracy Institute showed that a whopping 93% of Israelis—a figure that encompassed the overwhelming majority of even those who are politically opposed to Netanyahu—support the war on Iran. Indeed, even the far-left Haaretz newspaper, whose politics are even more extreme than those of most liberal Democrats, excoriated J Street, the liberal American group that purports to be “pro-Israel” but which has more in common with anti-Israel and antisemitic organizations than Zionist ones, for opposing the war.

Yet those Israel-haters ignore the fact that the Arab nations in the Gulf and throughout the region are reportedly urging Trump not to stop. Tehran’s decision to attack its Muslim neighbors with even more missiles and drones than the ones it has fired at Israel is a reminder that it is, as it always has been, at war with every country that doesn’t embrace the brand of fanatical and jihad-obsessed Shia Islam that the mullahs have imposed on Iran.

The war is not a personal project of Trump or Netanyahu. It is one started by the Islamists themselves. They are essentially fighting against everyone but their terrorist allies and auxiliaries. What Trump has done is to stop pretending that this existential struggle is something that can be solved by Western compromises. That recognition ought to be backed by a bipartisan consensus rooted in the notion that politics ends at the water’s edge. Unfortunately, that sort of willingness to prioritize the country’s best interests and security over political one-upmanship is something Trump’s opponents just cannot acknowledge. Their small-mindedness, frustration and obsession with him not winning at any cost make that impossible to consider.

Whatever the campaign against Iran turns out to be—either in terms of regime change or the mullahs’ eventual prospects for rebuilding their arsenal if they hold onto control in Tehran—the effort to strip them of their military assets and make it much harder, if not impossible, to regain the strength they possessed before the current conflict was set in motion by the Oct. 7 atrocities. The blows administered to Hamas and Hezbollah, as well as the significant leadership change in Syria, were all brought on by an atrocious attack on southern Israel. As they say, war has consequences.

As for this one, at worst, it is a limited victory over a dangerous foe that will make the next round of conflict less dangerous for the West and Iran’s Middle Eastern neighbors. At best (and that is still a very real possibility), it has started a process that will eventually end with the collapse of an evil regime and the removal of one of the greatest threats to peace on the planet. Calling that a quagmire—or a failure when these operations are still in full throttle—isn’t just hyperbolic political spin. It’s premature, based on petty prevarications, and downright false. (JNS Mar 24)

Megyn Kelly’s Moronic Iran Maunderings By David Catron

When President Trump ordered the attack on Iran, it was inevitable that he would receive considerable criticism from the Democrats and their mouthpieces in the corporate media. It was also to be expected that some conservatives would offer thoughtful criticisms of his decision to hit Iran. It was surprising, however, when he was denounced by various podcasters, most of whom have been stunningly naïve about Iran’s threat and why Trump had to take action. By far the most clueless of them has been Megyn Kelly. On the first day of the conflict, Kelly opened her podcast by braying, “No one should have to die for a foreign country.” What foreign country?

Israel, of course.

She actually seems to believe that Iran presented no threat to the United States, which was somehow forced into attacking by Israel. She said the following during the same monologue: “This feels very much to me like it is Israel’s war.” She went on to question Trump’s veracity when he explained that the attack was necessary to eliminate an

imminent threat from Iran: “Does it make any sense to you that Iran was planning preemptive strikes against us and our civilians, knowing full well about the massive military assets we had moved into the region, the aircraft carriers and so on?” Well, yes it does. As special envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff has explained, diplomatic talks with his Iranian counterparts had effectively collapsed.

Everyone with a rudimentary grasp of the situation in the Middle East understands that Iran would still be a serious threat to the region and the world even if Israel didn’t exist at all.

During an interview with Sean Hannity on Fox News after Operation Epic Fury began Witkoff said, “Iranian negotiators declared they controlled roughly 460 kilograms of enriched uranium to about 60 percent and that this material could potentially be further enriched toward weapons-grade levels in about a week to 10 days.” According to Witkoff, enrichment beyond about 20 percent serves no civilian purpose and is associated with weaponization. Who did Megyn Kelly consult with concerning whether Iran constituted an imminent threat? Joseph Kent — the National Counterterrorism Center official who suddenly announced his unexpected departure from the Trump administration in a social media post that included a copy of a resignation letter that outlined the following conspiracy theory:

Israeli officials and influential members of the American media deployed a misinformation campaign that wholly undermined your America First platform and sowed pro-war sentiments to encourage a war with Iran. This echo chamber was used to deceive you into believing that Iran posed an imminent threat to the United States, and that should you strike now, there was a clear path to a swift victory. This was a lie and is the same tactic the Israelis used to draw us into the Iraq war.

Joe Kent, according to a report in Axios, has been under FBI investigation for months on suspicion he leaked classified information. Yet, Megyn Kelly credulously lapped up his claim that there was a dark plot to trick the President into launching a wholly unnecessary war in the Middle East. And, who precisely were the “influential members of the American media” colluding with the Israelis to bamboozle Trump? Kelly names a few in her initial podcast on the war, including Mark Levin and Ben Shapiro. She also throws in Miriam Adelson, the widow of Sheldon Adelson, but she’s not a member of the media. Why would Kelly include her in this list? What does she have in common with the others? Meanwhile, the New York Times is enjoying the brawl:

The podcaster Megyn Kelly and the Fox News host Mark Levin are two of the country’s best-known conservative influencers. She opposes the war in Iran. He supports it ... The debate reflects a widening rift within the American conservative movement. For decades, conservatives were stalwart supporters of the Jewish state, but over the last few years, some have grown disenchanted with Israel and its role in American politics. The disagreements have only intensified since the attacks began on Feb. 28.

The worst part of all this is Kelly’s childlike gullibility concerning Kent’s claim in this now infamous X post: “I cannot in good conscience support the ongoing war in Iran. Iran posed no imminent threat to our nation, and it is clear that we started this war due to pressure from Israel and its powerful American lobby.” Anyone paying attention to the metastasizing anti-Semitism that has characterized the first 25 years of the 21st century will recognize this trope. Older Americans familiar with the horrors of the Holocaust, will see it for what it is. Younger Americans, however, have been fed propaganda that portrays Israel as an oppressor that “occupies” a fictitious nation called Palestine. Thus they somehow exercise power over Trump.

This is all nonsense, of course. Everyone with a rudimentary grasp of the situation in the Middle East understands that Iran would still be a serious threat to the region and the world even if Israel didn’t exist at all. When its leaders chant “death to the Great Satan,” they aren’t kidding. And their ongoing effort to acquire a nuclear arsenal is not just a hobby. Instead of blaming “the Israel lobby” for the current conflict, we should thank them for keeping the barbarians outside of the gate. As to Megyn Kelly, she should stick to media gossip and other things she grasps. (The American Spectator Mar 22)
