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ISRAEL NEWS

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Commentary...

The Islamists' Trojan Horse By Melanie Phillips

The "progressive" world is defined by its unchallengeable adherence to two causes: Palestinianism and international human-rights law. The two are symbiotically linked.

"Progressives" believe that these stand for conscience, morality and the betterment of the human race. In fact, both of them have destroyed the West's moral compass altogether.

They are the principal drivers of the tsunami of Israel demonization and Jew-baiting that's engulfed the Jewish world since the Hamas-led atrocities in Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

This infernal axis is perfectly encapsulated in the person of New York's mayor-elect, Zohran Mamdani.

After the mob attack on Park East Synagogue on New York City's Upper East Side over the meeting it hosted by Nefesh B'Nefesh to provide information about aliyah, or immigration to Israel, Mamdani said: "These sacred spaces should not be used to promote activities in violation of international law."

This was clearly ridiculous. Moving to Israel isn't a violation of international law, nor is any meeting to provide information about doing so. Moving there is no more unlawful than someone moving to the United States, the course pursued by Mamdani's own parents.

The mayor-elect's office later said that Mamdani had meant "settlement activity beyond the Green Line" was a violation of international law. That's untrue in itself, but it's not what he said and misrepresents the event that he denounced.

It's quite clear that he believes all immigration to live in Israel is illegitimate because he believes that the existence of Israel itself is illegitimate, as was obvious from his pre-election performances as a street agitator screaming for the destruction of the world's only Jewish state.

Mamdani made this "violation" remark for one baleful purpose—to delegitimize the right of Jews to live in their own ancestral homeland. That's because he wants to delegitimize Israel itself by any means possible.

This is the second time he's made a notable comment involving international law. Weeks ago, he said that if Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu set foot in New York, Mamdani would have him arrested under the terms of the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court.

But this was again absurd. He would have no power to do so. Such an arrest could only be carried out by the federal authorities. And no such arrest could be made by them either because the United States isn't a signatory to the ICC.

Why, then, is Mamdani so keen to cite international law, which has nothing at all to do with New York?

It's because international law is a key weapon deployed by the "eighth front" of the war against Israel. This eighth front (the other seven are the countries encircling Israel in a "ring of fire") is the war of the mind. It is conducted through the entire global apparatus of international human-rights law and the humanitarian establishment, and laundered by the media to demonize and delegitimize Israel in the West and cause people to press for Israel's extermination.

The United Nations, the international courts and the big NGOs like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International constitute a global infrastructure to promote the Palestinian cause; give the lies of "occupation" and Palestinian rights to the land a spurious justification in international law; and isolate Israel in the court of public opinion.

For the Palestinian Arabs, international human-rights law is a key weapon to destroy Israel. In the 1960s, when they realized they couldn't achieve this through war, the Palestinian terrorist leader Yasser Arafat and his allies in the former Soviet Union invented the bogus identity of a Palestinian people and thus claimed the right to

self-determination.

This hooked Western progressives for whom, as the Palestinian Arabs and their Soviet strategists well understood, universal human rights have become the nearest thing to a religion. To these liberals,

campaigning for the Palestinians meant campaigning for justice and the rights of the oppressed.

All the Palestinian Arabs then had to do was to hit Israel with fake accusations of human-rights abuses, and Western liberals would be turned into a weapon to bring about Israel's destruction. This has been carried out to the letter, turning justice into lawfare and bodies such as the International Court of Justice or International Criminal Court into kangaroo courts captured by Israel's enemies.

The Palestinian cause has had an even deeper effect. It has simply corrupted discourse and morality in the West. By adopting Palestinianism as their badge of moral worth, people have signed up to an agenda of lies that they assume is incontrovertible truth.

Convinced that the Palestinians are the wretched of the earth, Western liberals refuse to see that they are actually supporting a genocidal agenda. By internalizing Palestinian Jew-hatred, they now see nothing wrong in themselves spewing out vicious antisemitic tropes. Demonizing Israel in the name of anti-racism, they have turned morality inside out, reversing victim and aggressor. That's why, after the terror attacks on Oct. 7, so many of them denied Israeli victimization and instead grotesquely blamed Israel for abuses such as war crimes or genocide, of which Israel was innocent but of which the Palestinians were guilty.

This pathological projection by aggressors of their own evil deeds onto their victims is hardwired into the Palestinian cause and indeed the Islamist world.

The Islamists do this because they believe that Islam is perfection, and everything beyond it is the province of the devil. Islamist aggression against the West is therefore falsely framed as a defense against Western attacks on Islam.

This was why British Muslims in Birmingham justified their exclusion of the Maccabi Tel Aviv away-fans from the club's match against Aston Villa in October by claiming that the Israeli fans had a record of violence.

They based this on the utterly false assertion that a violent, pre-planned Arab "Jew-hunt" against Maccabi fans at a match in Amsterdam last year, in which the Israelis were chased through the city, beaten and one of them forced into a canal, was in fact a major attack by Israeli "hooligans" against local Muslims.

By allowing the Palestinian cause to subvert their ability to distinguish truth from lies and right from wrong, Western progressives have damaged something rather closer to home than the truth about the Israel-Arab impasse. It meant that they can't see how their own society is being Islamized.

That's why the knee-jerk response after any Islamist atrocities in the West is to worry about attacks on Muslims. It's why in Britain, any criticism of the police delivering "two-tier justice" by treating Muslims less harshly than others, or concern about attempts to Islamize the curriculum of some state-run schools, or speaking about the overwhelmingly Muslim identity of the rape and grooming gangs is all denounced as "Islamophobia" and silenced.

Palestinianism is the Trojan horse for the Islamization of the West.

Mamdani is motivated, above all, by his passion for the Palestinian cause and his hatred of Israel.

It's clear from his transition team—a nightmarish collection of Israel-haters, nihilists and ultra-leftists—that he intends to drive a wedge down the middle of the Jewish community by using anti-Zionist Jews as human shields to protect him from charges of antisemitism as he pursues his vendetta against Israel.

New York Jews who denounce Israel will receive protection and favors; Jews who are assumed to support Israel will be thrown to the wolves.

And it will all be done in the language of human rights, justice and international law. (JNS Nov 27)

‘We Identified a Clear Window of Opportunity’

By Yaakov Lappin

Following the Israel Defense Forces’ elimination of the chief of staff of the Hezbollah terrorist organization, Haytham Ali Tabatabai, in a precision airstrike in the Dahieh district of Beirut on Sunday, a military official provided further information about the operation.

The official said the operation was approved within a short window of opportunity and emphasized that despite the high-profile nature of the target, the action was not intended to spark a broader escalation.

“We chose to carry out the strike now after identifying a clear window of opportunity to target a key terrorist in the organization,” the military official stated. “There is no intention to escalate. This is a contained, opportunity-based elimination.”

According to the official, the strike was a direct response to Hezbollah’s accelerated efforts to rebuild its military capabilities across Lebanon in recent months, in blatant violation of the understandings reached between Israel and Lebanon in the November 2024 ceasefire.

“After the significant blows it sustained—and despite the agreement between the State of Lebanon and Israel—in recent months the [Hezbollah] organization has accelerated its attempts to rebuild its military capabilities,” the official said.

The official revealed the extent of this rearmament, noting that “over the past year, the Hezbollah terrorist organization has smuggled thousands of weapons into Lebanon in violation of the agreement, and has worked extensively to restore both above-ground and underground infrastructure as well as activity in its training camps.”

Regarding the operational context, the official described the strike as “precedent-setting,” made possible by “intensive intelligence work by the Intelligence Directorate and extensive multi-branch cooperation and synchronization by the Operations Directorate.”

The official added that numerous measures were taken before the strike to prevent harm to uninvolved civilians, accusing Hezbollah of embedding its infrastructure within civilian populations.

“We will not allow the situation to return to what it was before October 7,” the official declared. “We have acted—and will continue to act—consistently to remove threats and prevent Hezbollah’s reconstruction in the area. We call for the continuation of Hezbollah’s disarmament by the State of Lebanon.”

IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir, who commanded the operation from the IDF Senior Command Post, stated on Sunday, “We struck the most senior commander in the Hezbollah terrorist organization. The strike was intended to prevent the organization from further strengthening its capabilities and to deliver a precise blow to those who attempt to harm the State of Israel.”

Zamir reiterated Israel’s stance on the current diplomatic arrangement. “The IDF remains committed to the understandings agreed upon between the State of Israel and Lebanon, but we will not allow the Hezbollah terrorist organization to strengthen or rearm, and we will act to remove any threat to the civilians of the State of Israel.”

According to Israeli military records, Tabatabai was a veteran operative who joined Hezbollah in the 1980s. He previously commanded the elite Radwan Force and served as the head of Hezbollah’s operations in Syria, where he helped entrench the group’s capabilities. During the recent war, he commanded the organization’s operations array and, following the neutralization of the group’s leadership during Operation “Northern Arrows,” led the efforts to rebuild the organization and restore its readiness for war with Israel.

While the IDF operates in Beirut to degrade Hezbollah’s command structure, a separate security effort on the northern border has sparked a diplomatic dispute with the United Nations and the Lebanese government regarding the construction of a new concrete barrier.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon claimed on November 14 that the controversy centers on construction near the Lebanese town of Yaroun, where UNIFIL and Lebanese officials claim the concrete wall crosses the internationally recognized Blue Line.

According to a November 15 report by Reuters, the barrier has effectively cut off “more than 4,000 square meters” (nearly an acre) of land, rendering it inaccessible to Lebanese residents.

The IDF declined to comment on the barrier’s location.

Orna Mizrahi, a senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) in Tel Aviv, and former Deputy National Security Adviser for Foreign Policy, told JNS that there is a significant gap between the Israeli and Lebanese narratives regarding the wall’s location relative to the Blue Line.

“Of course, the construction of the wall is done for security reasons,” Mizrahi said. “According to the Israeli side, it is still in an area that is not in Lebanese territory. In contrast, the Lebanese and also UNIFIL claimed in an official statement that the wall penetrates into Lebanese territory even after a tour they conducted at the site.”

Mizrahi noted that the dispute is being leveraged within Lebanon to frame Israel as an aggressor. “On Lebanese networks, of course, claims are rising that this is not just a move for security needs, but that it expresses Israel’s aspirations for expansion,” she explained. “Lebanon submitted a complaint to the UN Security Council on the subject.”

The construction of the concrete barrier is part of the IDF’s broader effort to “change the security reality on the northern border,” as noted by the military official, following the lessons of October 7.

The 120-kilometer Blue Line, established by the United Nations in June 2000 to verify Israel’s withdrawal from Lebanon, is a temporary line of withdrawal rather than a final international border. Disagreements over the exact placement of the line in certain areas have persisted for years, creating friction points. (JNS Nov 25)

The AIPAC Backlash Isn’t About Foreign Influence or Democracy

By Micha Danzig

Every few weeks, a new wave of performative outrage washes across social media and op-ed pages about the American Israel Public Affairs Committee: AIPAC is destroying our democracy. AIPAC is buying Congress. AIPAC is subverting America.

The strangest thing about this supposed moral panic is not how hysterical it is, but how selectively hysterical it is.

If the concern were truly “foreign influence” or “money in politics,” the loudest AIPAC critics would be shouting from the rooftops about Qatar, China, Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates—and the tens of billions of dollars that they pour into American universities, think tanks, media outlets and lobbying operations.

They would be demanding hearings on the National Iranian American Council (NIAC), the Iranian-American lobby. They would be calling out the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO), the Turkish Coalition of America and Beijing’s sprawling influence networks.

Instead, they have only one boogeyman: the Jewish one.

Every major Diaspora community in America has lobbying arms, many of them far better funded than AIPAC. The Indian-American lobby, the Armenian National Committee, the Hellenic-American Council, the Cuban-American National Foundation, Iranian- and Arab-American groups, the Turkish lobby and the Chinese Communist Party’s many influence platforms all pour money into Washington.

Yet only AIPAC is treated as a threat to the republic.

The far-left’s favorite line—“AIPAC is a dark-money foreign lobby!”—collapses under one basic fact: AIPAC does not take foreign money. Its donors are Americans, overwhelmingly American Jews. That, of course, is the real issue for many of its loudest critics.

Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) calls AIPAC “the biggest threat to democracy.” Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) reduced Jewish political participation to: “It’s all about the Benjamins, baby.” The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) proclaims that “AIPAC is an enemy of working people.”

Meanwhile, these same figures are silent when Qatar funnels more than \$5 billion into U.S. universities (per Department of Education filings); bankrolls think tanks; funds Hamas’s propaganda ecosystem; and provides lawmakers with taxpayer-funded luxury trips.

None of that raises their suspicion. Only American Jews participating in American politics—exactly as other minority groups do—triggers outrage.

Rep. Seth Moulton (D-Mass.) recently announced that he was

“returning all AIPAC donations,” a performance widely praised in the media.

Left unmentioned? Moulton has taken free trips to Qatar and accepted donations from NIAC, an organization that multiple national-security officials have described as functioning as a de facto mouthpiece for the Iranian regime.

Returning donations from an American-Jewish organization is supposedly “principled.” Accepting support connected to a regime that funds terror, kills protesters and murders women for showing their hair? Apparently fine.

This isn’t ethics. It is antisemitism or cowardice dressed up as virtue.

The hypocrisy hit a new peak when, during a Friday sermon in California, USCMO Secretary-General Oussama Jammal declared: “AIPAC corrupted the soul of America. Senator Ted Cruz’s support for Israel is treason, not patriotism—we are the ones who care about American values.”

This was said by the head of a national lobbying umbrella group. A lobbying group attacking another lobbying group for lobbying—and, predictably, only the Jewish one is illegitimate.

Imagine the outcry if a Jewish organization were to accuse a Muslim-American group of suborning “treason” for engaging in constitutionally protected political advocacy. The accusations of Islamophobia would be endless. But when Jammal hurls that slur at American Jews, many of the same people who claim to oppose bigotry applaud.

This is what AIPAC’s critics never mention:

- Qatar has spent more money buying influence in American universities than any country in modern history.
- China has poured billions into Confucius Institutes and elite institutions in the United States.
- Turkey spends tens of millions annually on lobbyists.
- The UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt run massive Washington operations.
- NIAC lobbies aggressively on policy positions aligned with Tehran.
- CAIR and USCMO lobby and mobilize voters nationwide.

Where is the outrage? Where are the articles? Where are the viral videos about “foreign money buying our democracy”?

There are none, because the panic isn’t about lobbying. It’s about Jewish lobbying.

Even stranger is how perfectly the far-left and the far-right now align on this point.

Nick Fuentes: “AIPAC owns Congress.” David Duke: “AIPAC controls American foreign policy.” DSA activists: “AIPAC is destroying democracy.” CAIR leadership: “AIPAC is treason.”

Different aesthetics, identical obsession: American Jews are supposedly disloyal and too influential.

This convergence is not accidental. Antisemitic narratives have always migrated between extremes. But rarely have both fringes adopted the same slogans so seamlessly.

The issue isn’t money. It isn’t foreign influence. It isn’t democracy. It’s that American Jews remain politically active in support of the U.S. alliance with the only Jewish state and refuse to apologize for it.

AIPAC is the perfect scapegoat because it is generally effective and represents a minority community that refuses to play the role that its detractors prefer. It is not passive. It is not silent. And it does not treat support for Israel as something shameful.

If AIPAC were advocating for Ukraine, Qatar, Turkey, Iran or China, none of these voices would care. They don’t oppose lobbying. They oppose Jewish lobbying.

Because at its core, the AIPAC double standard has nothing to do with threats to democracy. It has everything to do with discomfort over American Jews exercising political agency—responsibly, legally, unapologetically—in ways that upset both far-left fantasies of Jews as perpetual victims and far-right conspiracies about Jewish power.

The real scandal in American politics is not that American Jews want a strong U.S.-Israel alliance and a safe and thriving Israel. It is that so many voices on the far-left and far-right now treat Jewish political engagement as a crime.

And that they no longer feel the need to even try to be subtle with their open hate and double standards. (JNS Nov 25)

Can’t Fight the Muslim Brotherhood While Groveling to Qatar

By Jonathan S. Tobin

President Donald Trump finally took the first step on Nov. 24 toward an action that many of his allies and supporters have been calling for since his first term in office. He signed an executive order setting “in motion a process by which certain chapters or other subdivisions of the Muslim Brotherhood shall be considered for designation as Foreign Terrorist Organizations.”

The Brotherhood is a transnational Islamist group that spreads fundamentalist Sunni Muslim ideology around the world, preaching hatred for and war against the West—co-religionists who do not share their extremism, as well as for Israel and Jews. It acts as a support network for terrorists such as Hamas, which was founded as an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, as well as for those who are working to undermine or overthrow non-Islamist governments in Arab and Muslim countries, such as those in Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan.

The Brotherhood is an open and avowed enemy of the United States and is allied to many of those with American blood on their hands. As U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said, “the Muslim Brotherhood is the progenitor” and “the grandfather of all modern global jihadism.”

Moreover, to speak, as the executive order does, of only the group’s “military wing” being subject to sanctions as a result of the designation is to fall into the trap of thinking that organizational divisions within the group are meaningful distinctions with respect to terrorism and other illegal acts. As is the case with Hamas and Hezbollah, these are distinctions without a difference. Though different branches have different roles in their war on the West, all have the same objectives.

So, the question to be asked about Trump’s decision is not why the United States has done something that many Arab and Muslim countries, who rightly fear the group, have already done, and which members of the administration, including the secretary of state and White House staffer Sebastian Gorka, have openly called for. It’s why didn’t this happen in Trump’s first term or earlier in his second? And, just as importantly, why is the executive order Trump signed so narrowly drafted and tentative in its approach?

The answer is that the Muslim Brotherhood has powerful friends, both foreign and domestic, who seem to have Trump’s ear. In particular, the emirate of Qatar, which has spent vast sums freely to acquire enormous influence over the worlds of American business, education and politics, doesn’t want the administration to act against the group.

The question the executive order raises goes to the heart of the struggle to determine Trump’s Middle East policy. While the president has always been eager to fight Islamist terrorism and support American allies, such as Israel and moderate Arab governments that the Brotherhood is seeking to destroy, he is also clearly enamored of and influenced by Qatar and the American friends the emirate has purchased.

As a result, this order may turn out to be nothing more than an impotent gesture rather than a genuine policy shift aimed at combating a sly and dangerous foe of the United States. Unlike many other such orders that have flowed in plentiful numbers from the Oval Office as Trump has undertaken a comprehensive effort to overturn many of the policies of his predecessor and beloved by the Washington establishment, this one leads to no immediate action. Indeed, unless the forces within the administration that have pushed for the designation of the Brotherhood are ready to spend political capital and really fight to commit the government to rolling back the influence of the Islamist group, this may be as far as Trump goes on the issue.

This highlights a basic contradiction in Trump’s stance. You can’t seriously fight the Brotherhood and its terrorist offshoots like Hamas while at the same time cozying up to the government that is their chief donor and protector. Yet that’s exactly what the administration has done.

Qatar is not just the object of Trump’s trademark flattery when he is seeking to engage with allies or adversaries and to get them to do

what he wants. It is being treated as a full-fledged ally of the United States and even as a nation whose security will be treated as a national priority to the point of recently issuing a White House statement to the effect that, “The United States shall regard any armed attack on the territory, sovereignty or critical infrastructure of the State of Qatar as a threat to the peace and security of the United States.”

That gives Qatar, which hosted the spiritual leader of the Brotherhood Yusuf al-Qaradawi and his successors, as well as the leaders of Hamas, impunity to act as a headquarters for international terrorism.

The argument in favor of close relations with the Gulf state, despite it being integral to the spread of terror and the Islamist ideology that is its foundation, rests on the notion that the emirate is an essential middleman in the effort to contain the threat from radical Muslims.

A successful foreign policy often requires leaders to see the world in shades of gray as opposed to merely black and white. So, it is arguable that there are times when the United States may want to deal with a treacherous government such as that of Qatar, in spite of its record and actions. But what the Trump administration—and, to be fair, what was also true of the Biden administration, which made it a major non-NATO ally—has done is to skew the balance between the two countries in favor of Doha.

Qatar has played a double role in the region for years, simultaneously hosting a major regional U.S. airbase and a wide array of terrorist functionaries. The Al Udeid base is well-suited to help America project power in the Persian Gulf, especially after Biden’s catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan, in which the United States abandoned the Bagram base there to the Taliban. Moreover, Qatari officials have also been the intermediaries by which the United States was able to broker the ceasefire-hostage release deal with Hamas that halted the war in Gaza with Israel.

These are not unimportant considerations. But the problem with embracing Qatar is the misnomer that Washington needs the emirate more than it needs Washington. The truth is quite the opposite. Other nations in the Gulf could host that base. And it is equally obvious that playing the role of go-between with Hamas allows Qatar to both launder its international image and help its terrorist friends survive the war they started with the atrocities committed on Oct. 7, 2023.

By committing itself to an alliance with Qatar, the United States isn’t engaging in a productive transaction with a problematic frenemy. It is completely undermining any effort to craft a coherent anti-terrorism policy and setting itself up for more misery in the years to come. And a half-hearted executive order with no teeth in it about the Muslim Brotherhood can’t rectify this mistake.

Why is Washington so willing to ignore the obvious and embrace Qatar?

A great deal of attention has been focused on Qatar’s “gift” of a 747 jetliner to Trump to serve as a new Air Force One to replace one of the two other ones that have been in use for that purpose for the last 35 years. But that is more symbolism than a bribe. The plane will require extensive renovations for it to be used to securely transport a president, which will likely cost more than double its value at a reported \$200 million. But the Qatari plane is still believed to be likely to wind up at a Trump presidential library and museum.

But whatever one thinks of the airplane, the answer as to how the emirate has acquired so much traction in Washington is no secret. Qatar’s influence-buying operation, which operates on a virtually unprecedented scale, has been enormously successful in either persuading many American leaders of its value as an ally to cause them to downplay its role in promoting terrorism or in purchasing them outright.

Israel-bashers like former Fox News host Tucker Carlson and his counterparts on the left, like congressional far-left “Squad” members Reps. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) and Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.), often speak as if supporters of the Jewish state, specifically the AIPAC pro-Israel lobby, have bought an alliance with the United States. But the truth is that the amounts spent by AIPAC and pro-Israel sources on lobbying in Washington or in supporting political candidates are dwarfed by the vast sums expended by Qatar in the United States.

Doha is involved in lobbying, though it exerts more influence as a major player in the business world, creating connections with a broad array of political affiliations on both sides of the aisle. In this way, it has used its financial clout to help and/or bail out some prominent persons, such as Trump’s foreign envoy Steve Witkoff, with purchases amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars. It has also invested heavily in American media outlets that add to its ability to project its views on the world. That is in addition to the clout it has via its Al Jazeera news station, which dominates the market in the Arab and Muslim world.

Just as important is the way Doha has poured money into academia, essentially purchasing the Middle East studies departments at many prestigious institutions of higher learning. Qatar isn’t just the largest foreign donor to American education. It has played a part in ensuring that these schools are uniformly bastions not only of anti-Zionism, but also of exponents of anti-Western and anti-American ideologies.

The point here is that the differences with Qatar go far beyond the obvious ones in terms of the values of a diverse democracy and those of an Islamist absolute monarchy. Qatar does business with the West while playing both ends against the middle in a never-ending game of diplomacy with Washington in a way that can be represented as similar to that of any nation with interests that don’t coincide with those of the United States. The regime’s real goals, however, are no different from those of the Brotherhood—namely, to undermine and subvert the West.

Both Qatar and the Islamist government of Turkey, which plays its own double role seeking a restoration of the old Ottoman Empire and supporting terror groups like Hamas while also remaining a NATO member, have clout in Washington. They also sit on both sides of the American dispute with an aggressive, terror-supporting Islamist regime in Iran. They and their American clients and auxiliaries have a pro-Islamist agenda and were able to stop the first Trump administration from taking action against the Brotherhood. And they have helped limit its current tentative steps toward designating it as a terrorist group and, no doubt, think they can prevent the follow-up necessary to put the executive order into effect.

The irony here is that while the portion of the political right led by Carlson that is hostile to Israel, and soft or even welcoming to antisemitism, likes to speak of defending “America First” or “America only” policy priorities against those who support the alliance with Israel, who are falsely labeled “Israel firsters.” But they seem completely uninterested in noting the way a country like Qatar is actively seeking to undermine a bipartisan American foreign-policy goal of opposing Islamist terror that threatens the West. While Carlson falsely labels Qatar as a faithful U.S. ally and trashes Israel as manipulating Washington against its own interests, the truth is just the opposite. The real opponents of “America First” are not supporters of Israel but the pawns, both witting and unwitting, of the jihadists of Qatar and the Brotherhood.

Trump faces an important choice about the Muslim Brotherhood. If he allows this toothless order to be as far as he goes with respect to efforts to stop this dangerous group, then he will be demonstrating that the administration is hopelessly compromised by its ties to Qatar. That ought not to happen. The president needs to understand the dire nature of the threat from fanatic Islamic terrorists, along with the insidious impact the Brotherhood’s Qatari funders and hosts are having on American media, culture and education. And, as he’s done time and again on many issues—not least his support for Israel—he needs to ignore the voices telling him that protecting U.S. interests means groveling to establishment thinking and Islamists.

The time is long past due for the United States to recognize that it is at war with the Brotherhood and act accordingly. If it doesn’t, it will just be setting in motion a process by which those who seek to spill American blood as well as that of Israelis will be given a leg up in their generational war against the West. That is something an administration that represents its policies as a clean break from the failed ideas of the Washington establishment and which says it is all about defending Americans, should avoid at all costs. (JNS Nov 25)