

Graffiti for intellectuals



SIMON SAYS



OCTOBER
16
2006

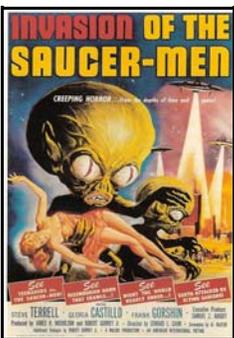


By Si Frumkin

REASONING WITH ROBOTS

On August 16, New York Times printed a letter from Shelley Leiser of Cupertino, CA. It commented on the cease-fire in Lebanon and probably represented the feelings of millions of Americans. Here it is, somewhat abbreviated:

"I am an American Jew who wants peace and prosperity for both Israel and Lebanon.... My heart bleeds for a devastated Lebanon. ...If Hezbollah truly wants to see a free, powerful and prosperous Lebanon, it will disarm. Hezbollah can be a powerful force for change through a peaceful message."



I wonder why Ms. Leiser assumes that there is a chance that Hezbollah might want a free, etc. Lebanon? Did Hezbollah ever say so? No? I didn't think so.

So let's take another look, at what Hezbollah really wants, OK?

H.G.Wells' "The War of

The Worlds" is a science fiction classic. It has given birth to a whole genre of space invasion films and books. It is about an invasion by mindless mechanical robots bent on slaughter and extermination of humans for incomprehensible reasons. Against all odds, humans win and humanity survives.

Happy ending? Well, yes, for humans but not the aliens, right? Shouldn't we try to see their point of view, put ourselves in their place, negotiate, compromise and attempt to understand one another? But none of the movies showed a car with a bumper sticker, "War Against Aliens Is Not The Answer", or a pro-monster rally with posters that "One Man's Monster Is Another Alien's Freedom Fighter".

Ridiculous? Of course. It is futile to try and understand robots. They do not think like we do. They have been programmed to exterminate us. They will not be stopped by love, sympathy, and a friendly attitude. They don't care what we think about them - we are irrelevant.

It is grotesque that the lessons of 9/11 have not yet been learned. For almost five years we have faced an enemy to whom our feelings and our beliefs are as irrelevant as those of humans are to alien robots, or those of cockroaches to us. Few have remarked on the absence of demands by the 9/11 conspirators - they didn't ask for money, prisoner

release, our conversion to Islam or the liberation of occupied territories. They wanted nothing from us - except our deaths.

The situation elsewhere is analogous. Suicide bombers in the Middle East kept on massacring innocents after Israel withdrew from Gaza and was willing to relinquish most of the West Bank. Hezbollah kept attacking after Israel withdrew from all of Lebanon. The bombings in India, Indonesia, Philippines, the genocide of Moslems by Moslems in Darfur, the internecine slaughter in Iraq and the terror attacks throughout Europe have no goals that make sense to us. They do, however, appear to be reasonable to millions who



crowd the streets of their miserable impoverished cities to demand

"DEATH!" - to America and Israel and Britain and Denmark and whoever else comes to mind - and to proclaim their own willingness to die for reasons that are incomprehensible to us.

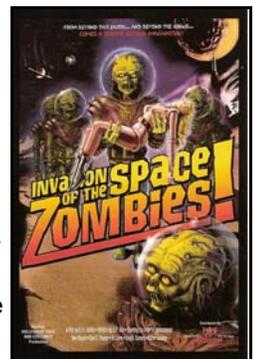
I am aware that not all Moslems are radical, fanatical, mindless Islamists. The estimates by Islamic moderates are that no more than 10% are. I think this is a low estimate but even so, this would be at least 160 million murderous robots! This is scary, especially since it shows that about 90% - 1 1/4 billion - are more moderate. Why then aren't their voices ever heard? Why is there no Moslem indignation at the atrocities and murders, perpetrated by the 10%? Why aren't there questions asked about the reasons for the economic and intellectual progress of Israel, a country with no oil, no natural resources and a landscape identical to the struggling and economically and culturally impotent Jordan,

Lebanon and the West Bank? Why does the Moslem Middle East struggle against apparently insurmountable internal economic and social problems?

Is it because the entire Islamic world is unable and unwilling to recognize that its problems are internal, not caused by external enemies and world conspiracies? Is it because Islam is ruled by dictators and mullahs who preach that violence against external enemies will solve all problems (and parenthetically, perpetuate the existing power structure)? Is it because death is glorified and seen as more important than life? Probably, all of the above.

It is interesting that Moslems who emigrate to North or South America achieve economic and social success that is greater than the national average of the host countries - proof that there is no intrinsic racial or ethnic disability that accounts for the backwardness of their countries of origin. And why is it that the voices that are heard loudest are those of Muslims who protest, take offense and demonstrate at the slightest criticism of Islamic nations but who are a minority - only about 1/4 of American-Arabs are Moslem - about 75% are Christians.

We are in a war whose outcome has as yet not been decided. To win we must be realistic and recognize our enemy's only goal - our death. We must reject the idea that the West in general, and the U.S. and Israel in particular, are somehow responsible for the enemy's misery and hatred. We must stop trying to humanize and "understand" the 21st century's Islamofascist murderous robots if we and our children are to survive. §



TAIWAN? AS FAR AS THE U.N. IS CONCERNED IT'S JUST AN ASIAN ISRAEL

If you thought that Israel was the only country that didn't have the right to exist, think again.

There is also Taiwan, and in the past, there were Biafra, Tibet, the Baltic states, and yes, further back, Ethiopia and Czechoslovakia. Look it up.

As it has 13 times before, last week Taiwan again tried to join the United Nations. Its friends proposed a committee to study representation for Taiwan.

The People's Republic of China - and those nations it has bribed or bullied into line - insist Taiwan is part of China and deserves no more standing at the U.N. than Maine or Massachusetts. International politics being what it is, Beijing will likely prevail.

Why does the Republic of China on Taiwan persist in this seemingly futile exercise, year after year? It does so to highlight the ongoing injustice of the exclusion of its 23 million people from the international organization, as well as to emphasize the threat this poses to world peace.

Every other state with a significant population, and many in the league of Lilliputians, is now represented at the U.N.. Only Taiwan - more populous than 60 percent of U.N. member states - is not.

How can the U.N. ignore a nation with the world's 17th largest economy, 16th greatest volume of trade and third largest foreign exchange reserves?

But Taiwan is more than an economic dynamo. In the course of less than 20 years, the island has evolved from repressive military rule into one of the most democratic nations in its region.

What America is fighting for in Iraq already exists in Taiwan: popular sovereignty, freedom of speech, a free press and the regular transfer of power through fair and open elections.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948, calls for nations to guarantee the right to property, freedom of "thought, conscience and religion" and the right to a fair trial. While the 1.1 billion people of mainland China are denied these basic human rights, all are scrupulously respected on Taiwan.

Taiwan has diplomatic ties with only 24

nations, but it has a diplomatic presence {quasi embassies} in more than 100 countries. There's hardly a spot on Earth not penetrated by goods manufactured on Taiwan.

China's preposterous claim to exercise sovereignty over the people of Taiwan has no basis in reality. Since its founding in 1949, the People's Republic has never controlled Taiwan - not for a single day. For almost 60 years, Taiwan has had a political existence entirely separate and apart from the Mainland. As the Montevideo Convention acknowledges, "The political existence of the state is independent of recognition by other states!"

Taiwan's ongoing exclusion from a body supposedly dedicated to the peaceful resolution of international conflicts is more than a grave injustice - it's also a threat to world peace and regional stability. China's obsession with Taiwan is a problem the international community can't simply ignore. Any day, it could be upgraded from simmering dispute to full-blown crisis.

Beijing has more than 800 short-range ballistic missiles targeting Taiwan - an arsenal that grows at a rate of almost 100 a year. A 2006 Defense Department assessment reports: "The threat against Taiwan [by the People's Republic] is further reinforced by the deployment of the most advanced systems and military capabilities in the region directly opposite Taiwan."

Threatened by Taiwan's democratic experiment (the first direct election of a president), in 1995-96, China test-fired missiles toward Taiwan to intimidate its people. Last year, China's National People's Congress passed its notorious Anti-Secession Law - which provides a rationale for aggression (possibly even invasion) whenever the Taiwanese take un-

specified steps toward "independence?"

Taiwan's exclusion from the United Nations encourages China's delusions - by seeming to validate the dogma that the resolution of the conflict is an "internal matter:" and that aggression against Taiwan would be no more than China asserting its sovereign rights.

Besides defending the rights of its citizens, Taiwan is doing the Free World a favor by gently, but persistently, tapping at the door of the General Assembly.

The worst thing that could possibly happen for Taiwan's 23 million people, as well as for those of us who adhere to the rule of law and hope for a world in which reason rather than force prevails, would be for Taiwan to wait quietly and unobtrusively to be absorbed by its totalitarian neighbor.

By keeping the question of its national existence before the world forum, Taiwan is calling on the United Nations to return to its founding principles.

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CHINA AND SUDAN—BLOOD AND OIL

Nicholas D. Kristoff, New York Times

Americans

make a habit of bashing China for all the wrong reasons.

It's

hypocritical of us to scream at President Hu Jintao, as we did during his visit last week, about China's undervalued currency. Sure, that's a problem for the world economy but not nearly as much as our own budget deficits, caused by tax cuts we couldn't afford.

We're now addicted to capital from China and other foreign countries, and that should be a concern. But our deficits aren't China's fault, and junkies like us don't have any basis to complain about the moral turpitude of those who supply cheap capital or other narcotics.

But there are two good reasons to complain to President Hu. First, he has presided over a broad clampdown on freedom of expression in China, including the imprisonment for 19 months of my colleague Zhao Yan, an employee of The New York Times.

Second, China is now underwriting its second genocide in three decades. The first was in Pol Pot's Cambodia, and the second is in Darfur, Sudan. Chinese oil purchases have financed Sudan's pillage of Darfur, Chinese-made AK-47's have been the, main weapons used to slaughter several hundred thousand people in Darfur so far, and China has protected Sudan in the U.N. Security Council.

Indeed, it's because of China's support that Sudan felt it could get away this month with sending a proxy army to invade neighboring Chad.

For more than two years now, I've been holding President Bush's feet to the fire over his refusal to make the Darfur genocide a priority for his administration. But Mr. Bush has taken half-steps in the right direction - including pushing President Hu to cooperate on Darfur - and that's more than can be said of the leaders of

most other countries. Europe has, snored through this genocide. Then there's the Arab League, which met last month in Sudan, in effect legitimizing the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of Muslims (almost all the victims in Darfur are Muslim).

As Fatema Abdul Rasul wrote in The Daily Star of Lebanon this month: "For the entire Muslim and Arab world to remain silent when thousands of people in Darfur continue to be killed is shameful and hypocritical." Do you hear that, Hosni?

And where's the Arab press? Isn't the murder of 300,000 or more Muslims almost as offensive as a Danish cartoon?

The biggest obstacle to forceful action is China. The latest outrage came a few days ago when the U.S. and Britain tried to impose



the most feeble possible sanctions - targeting just our people, including a midlevel Sudanese official. China and Russia blocked even that pathetic action.

Why is China soft on genocide?

The essential reason is oil. China traditionally was self-sufficient in oil, but since 1993 it has been a net oil importer and it is increasingly worried about this vulnerability.

So China has been bustling around the globe trying to ensure oil supplies from as many sources as possible. And partly because most of the major oil fields are already taken, China has ended up with the world's

thugs: Sudan, Iran and Myanmar. China has been particularly active in Africa.

About 60 percent of Sudan's oil flows to China, and Beijing has a close economic and even military relationship with Khartoum. A recent Council on Foreign Relations report on Africa notes that China has supplied Sudan with small arms, anti-personnel mines, howitzers, tanks, helicopters and ammunition.

China has even established

three arms factories in Sudan, and you see Chinese-made AK-47's, rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns all over Darfur.

Last month in a village on the Chad-Sudan border, I interviewed a man who told how a Sudanese militia had grabbed his baby boy, Ahmed Haroun, thrown Ahmed to the ground and shot him in the chest. The odds are overwhelming that that gun and those bullets came from China.

Likewise, the women and children I've seen torn apart by bullets in Darfur and Chad - that lead and steel was molded in Chinese factories. When women are raped and mutilated in Darfur, the gun barrels pointed at their heads are Made in China.

Let's hope China's 13 million bloggers take up this issue, for this has received very little attention in China but it is not so sensitive that discussion of it will get anyone arrested.

One of the central questions for the 21st century will be whether China's rise will be accompanied by increasingly responsible behavior in its international relations. Darfur is a test and for now China is failing.

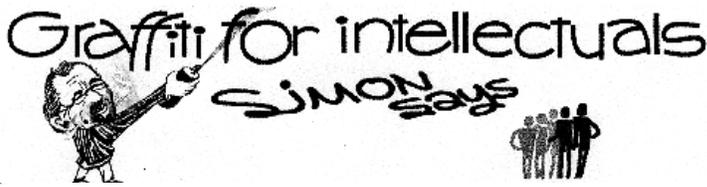
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THIS COWARDLY JEWISH LEADERSHIP

By Melanie Phillips, Jewish Chronicle, London, September 8, 2006

Throughout last month, what was that deafening sound emanating from Britain's Jewish community as the world convulsed over the Lebanon war? Silence. Six weeks ago, I wrote on this page about the failure of British Jews to rebut the wholly unwarranted charge of Israel's "disproportionate" response to the attack -by Hizbollah on its northern towns. Since then, Israel has been the target of a verbal and 'psychological pogrom of vilification and distortion. Calumnies were hurled at it almost daily by the media, politicians and intellectuals.

It was accused of aggression when it was the victim of aggression. It was accused of bombing most of Lebanon when only a tiny part of it was bombed. It was accused of destroying the fragile Lebanese nation when that same nation had in fact been hijacked by Iran, through its proxy Hizbollah. These libels were underpinned by such outright fabrications as the bald claim that Israel had started the war, the publication of doctored photographs and the solemn reporting of implausible, staged "atrocities" as facts.

Such hysteria has resulted not only in an inevitable rise in physical attacks upon Jews. It has also caused a significant section of the Labour party to descend into madness. There is now the surreal possibility that the Prime Minister might be driven from office because he failed to call for an early ceasefire - and thus force the one democracy in the Middle East to surrender to genocidal Islamic fascists.

Yet during this hatefest against the Jewish state, there was not a peep of protest from the UK's Jewish leadership. In private, they were wringing their hands; in public, not a ripple disturbed the glassy surface of communal complacency. With such a torrent of lies and distortions crying out for rebuttal, such behaviour is astounding. In Israel, people were amazed and distressed by the silence of British Jews.

American Jews expected Britain to re-

spond as they would have responded to such an assault upon the Jewish people: full-page ads rebutting the lies, emails to MPs, questions in Parliament about the blatant manipulation of journalists by Hizbollah, protests and rallies, articles placed in the press.

Sha-shtil al'Anglaise

There was none of that. It was left instead to a few non-Jews, such as

Freddie Forsyth, Julie Burchill or other voices of gentile conscience, to ask why the country had taken such comprehensive leave of its senses. It's shocking - but not surprising. It's *minhag anglia*, the historic custom of the leaders of British Jewry to be craven and servile, to be terrified of rocking the boat and drawing attention to the fact that they are different, that they are Jews.

They are frightened for their reputations and their interests, for their place in British society. They are frightened of being accused of being partisan and not properly British, of being demonized as extremists, of being stamped as supporters of Jewish war criminals. They are frightened, indeed, that the big lie that Israel is guilty of war crimes might be true. Above all, they are frightened that if they say anything about anti-Semitism they will provoke even more of it.

We have been here before. In the 1930s when, like today, the scapegoating and hatred of the Jews were received with widespread denial, indifference and appeasement, the behaviour of Britain's Jewish establishment

was similarly compromised. As Richard Bolchover documented in his book, "British Jewry and the Holocaust," community leaders were all but paralyzed in their response to the Nazi threat by their fear that identification as Jews with the suffering of other Jews would raise the spectre of dual loyalty.

So they subsumed specific warnings in general condemnations of Nazism, blamed Jewish misbehavior for expressions of anti-Semitism, and viewed non-Jews as more effective advocates of the Jewish cause. Today, such an attitude is creating a wasteland of ignorance in which lies are taking deep root. The situation requires the urgent establishment of an infrastructure of public rebuttal and education about Israel and the Jews: detailed, painstaking monitoring of the lies about Zionism and Israel's history, and the promotion instead in the public domain of the truth.

Some say we cannot hope to defeat the longest hatred. Maybe so. But what is better, to stand up for ourselves and go down fighting for truth and justice - or to cower on our knees in the refined but malodorous drawing-rooms of British society while Jewish self-determination is viciously delegitimize?

Our community's public silence, alas, itself answers the question. You can take a man out of the ghetto but, as we are now learning once again, you can't take the ghetto out of the man. ☐

Melanie Phillips is a Daily Mail columnist and author of the bestseller "Londonistan"