

The Grouse House Gazette

Thoughts and Observations on Music, Nature, and Politics, from the Catskill Mountains

ISSUE #149 – DECEMBER 29TH, 2016 www.GHGAZETTE.com www.GILBERTHETHERWICK.com

THE TRUTH ABOUT PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL FROM RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE AND STATEMENTS FROM CONGRESS YOU WOULD THINK THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA WAS ISRAEL'S WORST ENEMY

If you have been able to watch the news since the election... I'm sure you have been barraged by statements from both parties as well as *all* of the media about President Obama's recent decision to *not* veto the recent U.N. resolution against further expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian West Bank. And from these news reports (on all the networks) you could easily think that President Obama was Israel's greatest enemy. This is a long way from the truth.

Politicians in both parties have always been hesitant to criticize Israel... or its leaders.

For some reason they mistakenly form a connection between the Jewish religion and the state of Israel on all levels. This is ridiculous. Criticizing a dishonest pandering opportunist like Netanyahu does *not* make one an anti-semitic. It makes one sensible.

When John Boehner invited Netanyahu to address Congress last year (and didn't even reach out to President Obama to tell him that he was doing so) it was an extreme slap in the face. A foreign head of state addressing Congress on a position opposing that of an American president? It was total bullshit and I was planning on writing a Gazette at the time declaring that Netanyahu had unofficially become a member of The GOP.

An old friend (& fellow "recovering music executive") advised me to tread lightly with my criticisms, so as to avoid being labeled as anti-semitic. So I backed off at the time.

But the fact that Netanyahu is Jewish has nothing to do with my valid observation that he risks turning Israel into an apartheid state similar to the "old days" in South Africa. The ruling coalition in Israel and their lobbyists have been able to convince Americans that we should maintain our pro-Israel positions no matter what.

It falls right in line with the often simplistic view that most Americans have about other countries and their politics. How many Americans know if England has a conservative or liberal government? Or France? Or Anywhere? To Americans it is very simple... the Israelis are the “good guys”... and the Palestinians are the “bad guys”.

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is once again playing his “victim card” as he casts President Obama as an enemy of Israel... while essentially *every other country on the planet* is against the Israeli West Bank settlements for a very good reason.

Under international law... the [settlements are illegal](#).

According to Article 49 of the 4th Geneva Convention an occupying country is prohibited from transferring its own civilians into the territory it occupies. And Article 55 of the Hague Regulations states that an occupying country is only there to uphold order and safety while respecting the laws of the occupying country.

Every other member of the United Nations Security Council voted in support of the new resolution (including France, the UK, Spain, New Zealand, and others) ... and whereas in the past The United States has always used our lone veto power to “protect” Israel... this time President Obama felt that the ever expanding illegal settlements will hurt the possibility of a “two state solution” (supported by every U.S. President since 1967).

As the Palestinians have now been waiting *half a century* for their own country.

Enough is enough... It was a very brave thing that President Obama did by not vetoing the resolution. America didn't vote for the resolution... as all of the others did... we simply abstained from voting. Which allowed the resolution to pass.

This is the one and only resolution against the state of Israel that President Obama has allowed to pass. While Lyndon Johnson allowed 7... Richard Nixon allowed 15... Gerald Ford allowed 2... Jimmy Carter allowed 14... George H.W. Bush allowed 9... Bill Clinton allowed 4... George W. Bush allowed 6... and Republican “hero” Ronald Reagan holds the record at 21! ([Source Link](#))

So this isn't really about President Obama at all... but rather the current extremist pro-

Trump/Republican Netanyahu kicking President Obama in the ass on his way out the door. It is totally disgraceful... and the press and our Congress should be ashamed.

American congressional members on both sides have *always* been paranoid about losing the American Jewish vote and have almost always voted in favor of Israel. But they might reconsider when they read the following statistics....

In a [recent poll](#) of Jewish Americans about the current U.N. resolution... only 27% were in favor of Obama vetoing the action... 31% agreed with Obama's position of abstaining from the vote... and 31% *supported* the resolution. Which means that fully 58% supported the resolution going forward! Jewish Americans also believe that the two-state solution is the only road to a future of peace. And they also give a [70% approval rating of Obama](#) . Which matches up perfectly with Hillary Clinton winning [70% of the American Jewish vote](#) ... against 25% for Trump. (Now *that* is a "landslide" Mr. Trump!),

THE FACT IS... NO AMERICAN PRESIDENT IN HISTORY HAS BEEN MORE SUPPORTIVE OF ISRAEL THAN PRESIDENT OBAMA... please read on...

Obama signed off on an [unprecedented military aid package](#) to Israel of 38 BILLION dollars to be given to them over the next ten years. Think of how many American highways, airports, and railways we could be rebuilding here at home with that money.

And our tax dollars also went to paying \$225 million for the famous ["iron dome"](#) that is currently protecting their country from missile attacks. This was also Obama's doing.

We currently give [more foreign aid to Israel than any other country on earth](#).

And it's not like there is a natural disaster there or that their people are starving (despite those completely dishonest commercials on Fox News and CNN requesting money for "food boxes" because "all of Israel's money is going to defend them from terrorism" ([The head of this "charity" is currently being paid \\$1,200,000 a year!](#)))

Forget about Netanyahu for a minute... and [read what the Israeli Minister of Defense Ehud Barak](#) (a former Israeli Prime Minister) told CNN's Wolf Blitzer...

"I think that from my point of view as defense minister relations are extremely good... extremely deep and profound. I can see long years on both sides of the political aisle

deeply supporting the state of Israeli and I believe that reflects a profound feeling among the American people. But I should tell you honestly that this administration under President Obama is doing in regard to our security more than anything that I can remember in the past. In terms of the support for our security, the cooperation of our intelligence, the sharing of sorts in a very open way even when there are differences which are not simple sometimes, I've found their support for our defense very stable."

Asked if the President Obama has been the most supportive on U.S. / Israeli relations... Barak affirmed... saying that from his recollection of President Carter forward... President Obama had done more for Israeli defense than any other President.

So Mr. Netanyahu should simply shut the fuck up! He and Donald Trump deserve each other... two fat pigs in a trough of lies, bigotry, ignorance, and deception.

And I have one additional question for those that refer to Israel as our "closest ally".

What has the state of Israel *ever* done for The United States of America?

ALL HAIL TO OUR NEW "COMMANDER IN TWEET"!

Donald Trump has not held a press conference in 152 days now... and he plans to continue using Twitter as President as his means of "reaching the American people".

So how many will the future President Trump reach in this way?

Trump currently has 18 million Twitter followers... impressive right?

But Kim Kardashian has 49 million followers...

Current President Obama has 80 million followers...

Justin Bieber has 90 million followers...

And Katy Perry has 95 million followers.

So maybe Katy Perry should be our President? Now I would prefer *THAT* in a second!

Gilbert Hetherwick www.GHGAZETTE.com

Follow me on Twitter @Hetherwick

And check out my music at www.HETHERWICK-MUSIC.com

Or my romantic and private B&B at www.GROUSEHOUSE.net