

# **The Big Lie**

**FOREWORD** to the following article *The Big Lie*:

**D**uring the month of November my son Stefan and I were visiting London, Switzerland and Germany. We encountered great ignorance with regards to the reasons for the Middle East conflict, the war in Iraq, and their connections to global issues. Opinions especially about the role of Israel were not related to reality but had their roots in emotional bias created by a hostile environment of media and government information regarding the United States and Israel. Very few Europeans realize that the attack on Israel is part of the attack on the United States and the whole of Western civilization and therewith on them.

**A**ccording to a recent survey about 80% of the German people thought that Israel was the greatest danger to world peace. In London the British Political Cartoon Society awarded the first prize in a competition to an artist whose cartoon showed a naked Israeli Prime Minister Sharon eating a Palestinian. A Swiss friend asked me how the Americans could live with developments in Iraq, referring to the nearly daily new casualties of American soldiers. "What do you mean?" I returned her question, "naturally nobody likes a war, but the majority of the American people get even more determined to see that battle through. "So", she came back, "the Americans want to continue imposing their will on the Iraqi people?" That line of thinking had been fed to her by somebody. In most discussions of this nature there was no mentioning of those millions of Iraqis who are grateful for the liberation from a cruel and totalitarian regime. When I spoke to a Lions Club in Germany one of the members said to my hosts, "if Mr. von Campe is going to defend Mr. Bush I shall leave the room."

**T**here definitely is a global smear campaign of Israel, George W. Bush and "the Americans" afoot. It is created for power purposes of those forces who want to bring the United States to their knees. I shall come back to this theme in one of my next articles. Today with the following article I want to set the record straight on Israel.

## **The Big Lie**

by Sharon Nader Sloan, a Lebanese-American

**"The West Bank is occupied Palestinian land."** This phrase is repeated, as a given, by all the governments of the world and by the entire news media, etc., etc.

**This** idea that the West Bank is occupied Palestinian land has been accepted by almost everyone. Yet, it is, in fact, the greatest lie ever perpetrated on the whole of humanity.

**If** you think this is an outlandish statement please read on and decide for yourself.

**P**alestinians claim that Palestine is their land, and that Jerusalem is their capital, and that Israel is occupying their land. To resist occupation they have the right to send suicide bombers into crowded bus stations, pizza parlors, etc., and kill innocent men, women, and children. And all Arab and Muslim countries support them in their claims and actions against Israel.

**B**ecause of this occupation of Palestinian land by Israel, because of this crime committed against their Palestinian brothers, all Arabs hate Israel and want to destroy it.

**T**o anyone who is familiar with the facts, and has an objective eye, all this must be fascinating. Because never before has a complete lie, on such a large scale, been so successful.

**F**irst, if Arab animosity toward Israel is based on their love and support for their Palestinian brothers, and in wanting their Palestinian brothers to have their own state, where was that love and support before the Jewish state existed? Where were they when the Kingdom of Jordan ruled Palestine? Why were they not accusing Jordan of occupying Palestinian land? Why did not the Arab world and the United Nations call on Jordan to stop occupying Palestinian land? Second, where were the Palestinians themselves, with all their grievances and claims, when Jordan occupied the whole West Bank, including Jerusalem?

**D**id you know that? Did you know that for 19 years Jordan occupied and ruled the whole West Bank, including Jerusalem? Why didn't they clamor for a Palestinian state then?

**A**ll this time, did we hear a word about Palestine being occupied by the Kingdom of Jordan? Did we hear anything about a Palestinian state? Or about Jerusalem being the capital of Palestine? No, we did not. Why not? Because there never existed a Palestinian state.

**A**nd in the entire history of nations, Jerusalem was never the capital of any country other than that of ancient Israel and modern Israel. So how can there be a claim on Jerusalem as the capital of a state that never existed?

**O**ne of the problems here is that so few people know the history of the world. Hence, lies and more lies, repeated often enough, are assumed to be facts.

**I** have heard many scholars, including an Arab journalist, question the very notion of a Palestinian people. What, they ask, makes a people? Well, there are three elements that define a people: language, religion, and culture. For example, the Chinese and Japanese are both Oriental. Still, they are two different peoples, because they each have a different language, a different religion, and a different culture.

**T**he Palestinians speak the same language, follow the same religion, and manifest the same culture as all the other Arabs. They are really Arabs who happen to live in a region called Palestine.

**P**alestine is not, and never was, the name of a country, or the name of a people.

**I**t is the name of a region - just like Siberia is a region, not a country. There is no Siberian country, nor is there a Siberian people. It is a region. Just like the Sahara is a region, not a country. There is no Saharan country, nor is there a Saharan people. The Arabs living in that region are Libyans, Moroccans, etc., etc. It is a region.

**B**ecause Palestine is a region, not a country, England was able to carve out half of it and give it to the Arabs living on the other side of the Jordan River and call it the Kingdom of Jordan. Because Palestine is a region the United Nations was able to divide the rest of it between the Jews and the Arabs living there. Had the Arabs accepted the United Nations resolution there would have been a newly created Arab state called Palestine. Instead they rejected the United Nations compromise and went to war to destroy Israel. They lost the war. Hence, no Palestinian state.

**H**ere are some cold facts.

**K**ing David built the city of Jerusalem, and King Solomon, David's son, built the holy temple. This commonwealth of Israel lasted for a thousand years. There was only one break, when, 400 years after King David, the Babylonian invaders occupied the land for 70 years. Then, with the help of Cyrus the Great of Persia - yes, Persia - Israel came back to the land, rebuilt the temple, and ruled for another 600 years.

**T**hen the Romans came and ruled the land, then the Crusaders ruled the land, then the Ottoman Empire ruled the land, then the British Empire ruled the land, then Israel returned to its homeland and built a modern Jewish state. It was never - repeat, never - a Palestinian state. So what is all this talk about occupied Palestinian land?

**T**hey certainly have a right to live there freely and happily. Nobody wants to move them away from their land. But from where comes the right for a Palestinian state? Is it because they live there?

**I**magine, if the Mexican-American community in California, whose numbers are greater than the number of Palestinians in the West Bank, decides tomorrow to claim that the United States is occupying their land, because they live there and they want their own Mexican state. Imagine, if when the U.S. government says, "No, you can live here but you cannot have sovereignty, you cannot have your own state," they start sending suicide bombers, shooters, mortars, etc., etc. into the rest of the country, what do you think would happen?

**T**his is precisely why there was never any suggestion of a Palestinian state; not under the Romans, not under the Crusaders, not under the Turks, not under the English, and not under the Arab Kingdom of Jordan, not until after Israel was again established in its homeland.

**I** believe it is the big lie of our generation and we are all buying into it.

**W**hatever you believe, don't you think these facts deserve to be raised when discussing Middle East policies?

**Published 12/05/03 in the Monthly Articles section of Hilmar von Campe's web site.  
<http://www.voncampe.com>**