

Averting this contingency, however remote it may be, will require a display of U.S. geostrategic skill on the western, eastern, and southern perimeters of Eurasia simultaneously.”

Thus, Brzezinski defines the emerging “Survivors’ Club” as the single most dangerous “geopolitical” force which those who desire to dominate Eurasia might encounter. Once again, Brzezinski allies himself with the British “Club of the Isles,” that emerged out of two world wars that were instigated by a treasonous Anglo-American Tory plot—e.g., financing Hitler’s imposition upon a prostrate Germany by E.H. Harriman, Sir George Bush’s father, Prescott Bush, and Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England—in order to halt precisely such integration of Eurasia around such true global economic development as the Land-

Bridge conception.

Hence, Brzezinski fantasizes a “global-zone of percolating violence,” that could be skillfully manipulated to stop Eurasian integration. According to a map of this region in *The Grand Chessboard*, this zone of “percolating violence” includes all of Central Asia, extending westward to include Turkey, northward to include southern Russia, and eastward to touch upon the western borders of China. It includes the entire Middle East, where Brzezinski claims it is imperative for the United States to retain control, especially in the critical Persian Gulf. And, the zone extends eastward to include Afghanistan and Pakistan, up to the latter’s border with India.

It is clear, based on reading *The Grand Chessboard* “geopolitical” lunacy from the perspective of Lyndon

LaRouche’s Eurasian Land-Bridge for the integration of the United States in strategic partnership with Franklin Roosevelt’s World War II allies—i.e., China and Russia—that anyone in policymaking circles insane enough to lend credence to Brzezinski’s nonsense has endorsed a fast track toward World War III. As LaRouche made clear in his strategic study “Mad Brzezinski’s Chessboard” [*Executive Intelligence Review*, April 2, 1999], every time the Anglo-American Tory traitors have faced a depression collapse, they have sought to protect their global dominance by starting a war. *The Grand Chessboard* is a blueprint for how to start such a war, which would plunge the majority of mankind into a New Dark Age for generations to come.

—Scott Thompson

Crackpot Landlords vs. Mideast Peace

Yossi Beilin, a top aide to Israeli Prime Ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, and a behind-the-scenes architect of the Oslo peace agreement, once offered an insightful comment on the difficulty of resolving the deadlock over Jerusalem: “There is a crackpot quality to much of the talk here about Jerusalem,” he said.

That “crackpot quality” is again evident in the last-minute maneuvers of outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which threaten the potential for a reinvigorated effort to conclude the Oslo process under Ehud Barak, who defeated him by a landslide in the elections on May 17. These measures include a green light for the construction of 132 housing units for Jewish settlers at Ras Al-Amud in a Palestinian neighborhood in East Jerusalem, which cuts off access to East Jerusalem from Abu Dis, a large Palestinian suburb just outside the city; and, in the decision announced May 29 to expand the West Bank Jewish settlement of Maale Adu-mim by 3,000 acres, linking it to Jerusalem and cutting the West Bank in half.

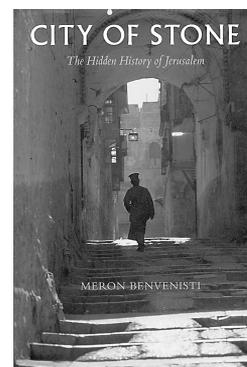
Both actions have provoked an angry

response from Palestinian Authority leaders, at precisely the moment that hopes for peace have been rekindled, with the ouster of Netanyahu.

The Bingo King

The case of Ras Al-Amud highlights the danger inherent in this “crackpot” factor. The settlement houses members of Yeshiva Ateret Cohanim, messianic Jewish extremists who believe that building the “Third Temple” on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem will bring the advent of the Messiah. To facilitate this occurrence, the buildings presently occupying the Temple Mount—the Al-Aksa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, both sites holy to Islam—must be removed, by force if necessary. Members of the Jewish Underground allied with Ateret Cohanim have been arrested by Israeli security forces in recent years for attempts to blow up these mosques.

Financing this settlement is the notorious bingo king of California, Irving Moskowitz, who has funnelled millions of dollars to projects in Jerusalem. The opening of one of his pet projects, the tunnel adjacent to Temple Mount, in September 1996, resulted in more than



City of Stone: The Hidden History of Jerusalem
by Meron Benvenisti
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75 deaths in the riots which followed.

Moskowitz, who vehemently opposes the Oslo peace process, exemplifies the crackpot factor. He has stated that the essence of Judaism can be reduced to the following formula: “Jewish control of Jerusalem, of the Temple Mount and the Western Wall, is more important than peace. When Jews throughout the ages prayed, they did not pray for peace with the Arabs. They prayed for Jewish control of Jerusalem.”

To reduce the mission of the Jews, from that of being “a light unto the

nations”—with the message of One God, and with the idea that man, created in God’s image and likeness, serves as an instrument through which civilization moves toward a more perfect future—into a single-minded pursuit of property titles in Jerusalem, as Moskowitz and the crackpots in general do, is, first off, a demeaning insult to those who sustained their commitment to that mission through two thousand years of Jewish dispersion. Moreover, it is also the means by which some Jews, such as the extremists financed by Moskowitz, have been turned into psychotic killers, driven by the belief that human life is less sacred than real estate.

‘City of Stone’

Israeli author and historian Amos Elon wrote that this extremist view, which posits that the holiness of Jerusalem makes it imperative that it be under Israeli sovereignty—for which there is widespread acceptance among settlers and other fanatic supporters of “Greater Israel”—“is a novelty in Jewish religious thought.”

Yet, as becomes clear in the thoughtful and provocative book by Meron Benvenisti, *City of Stone: The Hidden History of Jerusalem*, it is precisely this novelty which is at the heart of the Jerusalem “crackpot quality,” and which is the ultimate stumbling block to an agreement in the final status talks on Jerusalem.

Benvenisti has had hands-on experience with governing Jerusalem, having served as a deputy mayor with responsibility for administering the Palestinian areas annexed by Israel. From reading this book, one discovers that he knows the city well, both in its physical space, and in the subjective distortions which have become attached to political control of that space. While the market has been flooded in recent years by books on Jerusalem, few combine the depth of insight of Benvenisti with his razor-sharp, polemical slicing-and-dicing of the ideological impediments to peace.

The central problem faced by negotiators for Israel and the Palestinians over Jerusalem, is laid bare in the opening pages. The year 1995 was chosen by Israel as the 3,000th anniversary of the

establishment of Jerusalem as the capital of the Kingdom of Israel. To commemorate the event, the Israeli government distributed handbills which stated, “Jerusalem is the concrete historical expression of the Jewish religion and its heritage, on the one hand, and of the independence and sovereignty of the Jewish people, on the other. Jerusalem’s identity as a spiritual and national symbol at one and the same time, has forged the unique and eternal bond between this city and the Jewish people, a bond that has no parallel in the annals of the nations.”

This assertion is mirrored, Benvenisti writes, by an official explanation produced by the Palestinians: “Jerusalem has been the capital of our Palestinian Arab homeland ever since it was built by our ancestors. . . . The Arab presence in Jerusalem was never interrupted.”

When Benvenisti asks, “Who is right?” he answers: “The question is superfluous. The chronicles of Jerusalem are a gigantic quarry from which each side has mined stones for the construction of its myths—and for throwing at each other.”

Making Demographic ‘Facts’

As Israel has governed Jerusalem since its victory in the 1967 war, the designation of Jerusalem as a “city of stone” goes beyond metaphor. “History is a vast quarry from whose stones a magnificent edifice dedicated to the cult of Israeli Jerusalem has been constructed,” writes Benvenisti. “In it there is no room for the other—Palestinian Arab—collective.”

The implications of this attitude for the non-Jewish residents of Jerusalem is a particularly valuable contribution of Benvenisti. He is unsparing in his criticism of his former boss, long-time Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek, who used city planning to establish “demographic and physical ‘facts’ in east Jerusalem.”

Kollek pursued this, with support from both Labor and Likud governments, during his tenure, which lasted from 1965 until 1993. With the adoption of the 1968 Master Plan for the city, city planning became a “Jewish national undertaking. Organization of urban space ceased to be a question of plan-

ning, aimed at guaranteeing optimal quality of life; the physical space came to be perceived as a battlefield to gain control of and to defend against the Muslims and Christians.”

In 1992, a Commission established by the Interior Ministry, decreed that it is “the state’s obligation to strengthen and shore up the status of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital through increasing its [Jewish] population and expanding its economic base.” Thus, Jewish settlements were expanded with heavy state funding, and Jewish neighborhoods provided the most modern infrastructure, while Arab neighborhoods suffered from neglect, all in the name of “establishing physical and demographic facts.” Kollek admitted that this was conscious policy in his 1994 book, *Teddy’s Jerusalem*, in which he wrote: “It is necessary to make life difficult for the Arabs, not to allow them to build.”

The situation has grown worse for Arab residents of Jerusalem, Benvenisti points out, under Kollek’s successor as mayor, Likudnik Ehud Olmert, who has openly backed actions by extremist settlers to break up Arab neighborhoods.

Good Questions

Despite the multitude of problems presented by Benvenisti, he remains hopeful. While sharing with Beilin concern over the “crackpot” factor, writing that “the problem with Jerusalem is irrational at its core,” he believes a “process-oriented approach,” as initiated with Oslo, which grapples with each problem as it arises, remains the only solution. He has concluded that there is no alternative to Oslo, but confrontation and war. The Intifada demonstrated that a “unified Jerusalem” is “nothing but a forcibly imposed fiction.”

In the end, all sides must answer the question, “Why is it that the love of Jerusalem and the reverence for its holiness, shared by all the religious communities, do not become a unifying force in the world, but instead a force for conflict and divisiveness?”

Benvenisti may not have all the answers, but he asks many of the right questions.

—Harley Schlanger