

## Israel A Blessing to All Humanity

President Ahmadinejad of Iran has claimed that the existence of Israel is “an insult to all humanity.” Rather than dwell on the mendacity of that lie, it is far more beneficial to declare the truth. The existence of Israel is a blessing to all humanity.

Israel is a blessing to every human because humanity craves freedom from oppression. No regime was more oppressive than the Third Reich of Adolf Hitler. The persecution of Jews under his direction was unprecedented in human history. Yet, to make the leap from being the target of Hitler’s death camps in 1945 to nationhood and freedom three short years later is astounding. This example of Jews winning the fight by creating the new state of Israel inspires every rational person.

Israel is a blessing to the world because in the face of irrational hatred and even deadly violence, it has responded with sincere appeals for peace and goodwill. Yes, Israel is not perfect. But how many nations in this world would show the restraint Israel has to almost daily rocket barrages, and constant attempts to murder her innocents? How many countries give water, hospitals, and electricity to those who refuse to even acknowledge their right to exist? Name just one.

Israel is a blessing to the entire human race because so many technological, cultural, scientific, and medical innovations have come from the people of Israel. Who hasn’t benefitted from inventions such as drip irrigation, solar panels, pill cameras, Wi-Fi, Intel Pentium chips, and ultrasound and MRI breakthroughs, just to name a few? A county of eight million people has produced benefits far out of proportion to its numbers.

Israel is a blessing to the world because it has an unshakable commitment to democracy and the rule of law. Even admitting once again that Israel is not perfect, yet who else on this earth, or in that neighborhood in particular, will let those opposed to their policies serve in the national legislatures (assuming they have one)? Who will give the kind of human rights to women and minorities that are notable anywhere, much less in the Middle East?

Israel is a blessing to all of humanity because for 2000 years the Jewish people, since the final conquest of their ancestral homeland by the Romans, maintained

their traditions and heritage, though dispersed throughout the world. Continued persecutions and prejudices made a stable way of life difficult, but the Jewish people persevered. Even those who should have known better and been more sympathetic, the Christians, far too often made life unbearable. But today, this remarkable tenacity to keep the language, the scriptures, and the traditions alive and unchanging down through the ages is truly inspirational.

Finally, Israel is a blessing to Christians in particular. Christianity would not exist without its Jewish foundation. Christians should never have bought into the medieval slander that the Jews killed Jesus. True Christianity teaches that every single person who has ever sinned, which is every person who has ever lived, is in some measure responsible. The blame for the crucifixion is universal, just as its benefits are universal. The fact that today Israel truly respects and protects all the holy sites within its borders, whether Christian, Jewish, or Muslim, should be a great comfort for all people of faith.

For these and many more reasons, people of good will everywhere must not just be neutral about Israel, as if it is just another of the two hundred or so countries around the globe. The world is a better place because Israel exists. We should support this tiny, beleaguered country, because Israel is a blessing to all humanity.