

The Cyrus Pact: Iran and Israel in the Persian World

It is now November, marking the seventy-eighth anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel and its recognition by the United Nations.

I wish to pay tribute to all the historical figures who, through their ideas, writings, actions, and struggles, made it possible after 3,500 years for the children of Israel to once again settle on part of their ancestral land.

The friendship, love, solidarity, and brotherhood between Iran and Israel date back over 3,500 years. Iranian empires have always been the protectors of the Israelites, defending them during invasions from Rome, the East, and the West from ancient times to Cyrus the Great and later to Reza Shah Pahlavi, who granted Iranian passports to any Jew coming to Iran from anywhere in the world so they could freely migrate to the Land of Israel and escape Hitler and the Nazis.

Regarding the establishment of the State of Israel, although Britain and more than twenty of its colonies abstained or voted against it at the UN, the former Iranian Prime Minister Seyed Zia al-Din Tabatabaei gave significant assistance to purchase lands that Arabs refused to sell to the Israelites.

In return, the Israelites have always played a vital and influential role in Iranian empires — from Daniel, who served as prime minister of Persia, to Mordecai, who was a court minister, and to Esther (Setareh), who became Queen of Persia. During the Abbasid, Saffarid, Ghaznavid, Nader Shah, and Pahlavi eras, both Jewish and Zoroastrian thinkers played major roles in preserving Iranian values — light, goodness, humanism, and reason.

The rise of Reza Shah the Great and the continuation of the Pahlavi monarchy under Mohammad Reza Shah Aryamehr would not have been possible without the efforts of two Jewish intellectuals: Seyed Zia Tabatabaei and Mohammad Ali Foroughi. During the flourishing reigns of the two Pahlavis, Israel and the Israelites played an important role, and brilliant figures such as the late Habib Elghanian were among the victims of Khomeini's dark Islamic revolution.

We also owe the rediscovery of Persepolis, one of Iran's greatest archaeological treasures, to the Israeli (Jewish) French archaeologist Roman Ghirshman, who unearthed it from beneath the soil.

After Khomeini's dark Islamic revolution, Israel was one of the first victims. People were killed, Israel's embassy was handed over to Palestinian terrorists, and even today the slogan "Death to Israel" appears in Friday sermons and newspaper footnotes. Yet when Saddam Hussein attacked Iran, Israel came to the aid of the land of Cyrus — destroying Iraq's nuclear bases that threatened Iran and providing vital military supplies. Israeli figures such as my dear friend Ari Ben Menashe were even imprisoned for a year in the U.S. for helping Iran militarily. Without Israel's support, Saddam Hussein and Iraq would have won the war and Iran would have been partitioned.

For more than 45 years, Israel has endured the hostility and terrorism exported by the ayatollahs, who have ceaselessly shouted anti-Israel slogans and poured billions of dollars into terrorist groups sowing chaos in the region. After enduring several proxy wars, two years after the barbaric October 7th massacre, Israel struck back hitting Evin prison to free political detainees, targeting the regime's propaganda network, and destroying the main security council meeting. The IRGC commanders killed in these operations were long-time collaborators of Saddam Hussein and the main perpetrators of 45 years of repression, torture, and murder. Several of them were members of the "Al-Mansouroun" group, originally created under the Shah with Saddam's funding to separate Khuzestan from Iran.

These past two years have also emboldened Israel's historical and ideological enemies in the West to act openly, reviving antisemitic hatred. Since 1990, I have declared in my French-language broadcasts that anti-Zionism is simply antisemitism in disguise. But the billions of petrodollars circulating in Western politics, education, media, and economics have dangerously strengthened anti-Israel sentiment in Europe.

Therefore, following the successful and promising ****Abraham Accords**** between Israel and the Arab world, the ****Cyrus Pact****, under the leadership of Prince Reza Pahlavi, must be extended to all twenty Persian-speaking countries — to reunite the lands of Cyrus under his descendants, and to renew the historic, brotherly, and benevolent bond between Iran and Israel, changing the colors of Iran, Israel, and the world itself.

I also wish to express my admiration for the courage, vision, and modern thinking of Prince Mohammed bin Salman, hoping that a new Islam will emerge from his ideas a modern, rational, and humane Islam that every Muslim should learn from MBS, whose "great No" to 1,400 years of outdated religious dogma represents a path forward.

To combat global antisemitism, several psychological corrections must be made in the collective mind:

First, in Islamic culture, the angel of death is called "Azrael" a name derived from "Israel." This association must be removed.

Second, the antisemitic reflex remains strong: when someone is asked, "Are you Jewish?" they rush to say "No!" as if being Jewish were a crime. I have long taught that whenever one faces such a question, the answer should be:

Every Iranian is an Israeli, and every Israeli is an Iranian.

Abraham, the ancestor of the Israelites and the Jewish people, was born in the city of Ur, near the Persian Gulf, only a few kilometers from the 7,000-year-old city of Susa, in today's Iran-Iraq border region. Thus, the lineage of the Israelites is Iranian, and Iran is the true homeland of Israel. The city of Ur, long before it was Sumerian, was Elamite and Iranian, facing the Persian Gulf.

Moreover, the Caspian Sea or the Kaspian Sea can be viewed as a root of the Israelite people, and Susa as the birthplace of Adam before his descent into the Sinai desert.