

# The John Locke Society

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*"Everybody sees the problem in relations between the Jews and Arabs.  
But not everybody sees that there's no solution to it."* David Ben Gurion (1919)  
*"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."* George Santayana (1905)

The Arab-Israeli conflict has been a major flash point of world politics of the last half century and a constant concern of U.S. foreign policy. The Jewish nation was born in battle with full scale rematches being fought in 1956, 1967, and 1973, and with constant strife in between. Yet what appears unique (Jews versus Arabs) is in reality commonplace (one ethnic group versus another). This same sort of dispute bedevils many countries, of which Ireland, Rwanda and Kosovo are merely the recent exemplars. All are places where more than one ethnic group lives in large numbers and where these ethnic groups do not wish to cohabit. History teaches that ultimately there is only one sustainable solution—separation. Poland and much of Eastern Europe in the 1930's struggled with a restive German minority. World War Two arguably began as one of these ethnic conflicts (the Sudetenland dispute between Czechoslovakia and Germany). However, ever since 1945, Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Baltic States and others no longer have such ethnic strife. Why? Because the triumphant Red Army forcibly expelled the vast majority of Germans, clearing out regions like Prussia (the original heart of the German nation-state) that had been majority German for centuries. Indeed, the collapse of the Soviet Union and its breakup into constituent republics brought no independence for the Soviet enclave of Kaliningrad (former German East Prussia) nor any calls for its re-attachment to Germany for the simple reason that there are no Germans living there any longer. Israel should accept these historical truths—attempting to cohabit with Arabs will merely be a prescription for constant conflict. Only partition will bring peace. Israel was founded to be the Jewish nation, and as long as significant numbers of non-Jews live within Israel's political boundaries and are subject to Jewish political authority, Israel will be riven by irreconcilable conflict. Israel's forthcoming election this February sixth for the first time addresses this reality. Peace is only attainable when Jews reside in Israel and Arabs reside in Arab countries.

The Chairman, however, finds his conscience rebels at what can only properly be called "ethnic cleansing". Expelling the Palestinians from Israel is unconscionable. To expel individuals currently living in Israel merely because they are Palestinian Arabs and not Jews is not only antithetical to the fundamental tenets of the philosophy of John Locke, which emphasizes the sovereignty of the individual and his right to his property and possessions, but is also morally indefensible. Not only are these individual's homes being taken from them, but so are their livelihoods and their histories. Israel of all countries cannot morally undertake a wholesale religious and ethnic expulsion, which in substance is no different from medieval England's expulsion of all Jews. Historical vile treatment of Jews (pogroms, expulsions, ghettos) does not justify Israel doing similar things. Morally, it is wrong. Internationally, it guarantees perpetual warfare with the Arabs (along with Palestinian terrorism and an accompanying radicalization of moderate Arab nations) and will also lead to U.S.-Arab conflict. And, as a purely practical matter, Israel's economy is dependent upon Palestinian labor. Moreover, examples abound as to the perils of ethnic cleansing. The religious and ethnic partition of India in 1947 resulted in the death and displacement of millions and the recurrent warfare that still plagues the subcontinent. Having fought two devastating wars in the last century, Europeans have finally learned their lesson and today are working closely together as Frenchmen, Germans, Poles and others to build a soon-to-be new nation. No, these historical wrongs must "not be repeated" (a slogan oft heard in Israel in particular). Israel should instead emulate those multi-ethnic countries that do work like Switzerland, the United States, Canada, and Malaysia. Cohabitation with the Arab Palestinians indeed is the only road to a true and lasting peace for Israel.

Like Odysseus caught between Scylla and Charybdis, the Chairman too seeks to chart a course to a safe harbor, and requests the counsel of the Members and guests of the John Locke Society, who are invited to the thirteenth Ronald Wilson Reagan Debate Caucus to wrestle with these mighty issues by debating

## ***Resolved: Israel Should Homogenize Zion.***

The Society will assemble Thursday, February 8th, in the Crescent Room of the Royal Oaks Country Club (7915 Greenville Avenue, Dallas). The Chairman will gavel the Caucus to order promptly at the NEW time of 7:30 p.m. Gentlemen are reminded to adorn proper neckwear; ladies should adhere to a similar sartorial standard. Literary presentations are encouraged. Also **NEW** for this debate will be a SOCIAL HOUR commencing at 6:30 p.m. to be held at the bar of the nearby Gershwin's Restaurant (8442 Walnut Hill Lane, the SE corner of Greenville Ave. and Walnut Hill Ln). As always, the Chancellor will provide a cash bar at the debate. Please direct questions to the Chairman at 972-729-7410.