Iran and Israel: A ticking clock

Iran edges closer and closer to all out war

Choose: Whether the upcoming Israeli election would make Israel’s Prime Minister Netanyahu more militant against Iran, to put on a show of power; or less militant, to sustain calm.

Choose: Whether President Trump would meet the leader of Iran to advance a non-nuclear Iran — and to lift imposing sanctions — or whether it’s a pipe dream.

Choose: Whether Iran really has thrown the nuclear deal overboard, refusing to allow in UN inspectors, or whether it’s all bluster.

Choose: Whether Hezbollah, Syria and Iraq will continue to station or allow passage for Iranian armaments, on pain of Israeli attacks; or whether Israel is too tough to tempt.

Choose: Whether Hamas, the Sunni Islamic terrorist group, will receive major monies from Iran, the Shiite Islamic terrorist group; or whether internecine religious hatreds will rule the day.

Pick whichever side you wish in these scenarios, it doesn’t matter. These are sideshows, whatever the choices. The real show, the one with only one side, is the growing possibility of a major war between Israel and Iran. THE side here is Iran and the other is Israel and Iran. The side here is the US, the “Great Satan.”

Nor is there any rational calculus by Iran of its own self-interest. If Iran loses $800 million worth of weaponry in one night of Israeli bombardments, it just keeps coming back. If Iran suffers the loss of smaller caches of weapons in hundreds of Israeli attacks, it just keeps coming back. If Iran cannot secure in Syria its weapon caches, meant for Hezbollah in Lebanon, Iran moves these caches elsewhere, such as Iraq.

If Iran cannot sufficiently weaponize Hezbollah to threaten Israel’s existence, and if Iran is thwarted wherever it turns in its attempt to build major military bases close to Israel, then, we fear, Iran might strike out in a major war.

Netanyahu, even his critics will testify (sometimes especially his critics) is not trigger happy. Scores of attacks by Hamas in Gaza on Israeli civilians and farms would have justified an Israeli response over the last five years. Repeated Iranian intrusion of its own weaponry in Syria over the last five years may have elicited a full blown military response from another Israeli prime minister. As the stakes have risen, however, so has Israel’s caution. But with Iran showing no signs of restraint in ambition or in practice, Iran seems to edge closer and closer to all out war.

A political video recently played in an eastern state. With dramatic music, it plays into every imaginable anti-black stereotype. If the town falls 75 acres to the blacks, the locals will lose control. In fact, the video says, the locals will lose “Our Homes,” “Our Families,” “Our Schools,” “Our Way of Life,” “Our Communities.” Even: “Our Water.”

“Join us,” the video pleads. It needs people on its side to prevent what it openly labels a black “takeover.” The video speaks of “our” families as opposed to blacks whom it labels “they.” “They” want to take over. “They” have targeted the city, and have still another target in mind once “they” have taken over the city. Which, of course, they can, because they steal votes; and because the city is selling out the locals by preparing to sell the blacks 75 acres.

“If they win, we lose,” the video pronounces ominously, against the background of the ominous music.

The one that really gets us is “Our Water.” The locals will even lose control of their water to the blacks. This reminds us of the old medieval anti-Semitic canard about the Jews poisoning the wells. Actually, it’s not such a distant reminder, since the blacks against whom this video漩涡minutes are not people with black skin but people with black clothing. Jews, chasidic Jews, who wear black clothing, are aptly projected in this video as the nefarious people ploting the “takeover” of Ramapo, in Rockland County, New York. The chasidic people in black are pugnaciously stacked against the local whites: “Our Families.” In this video, on the one side is “Aron Wieder and his Ramapo blue, plotting a takeover; while on the other side are idyllic scenes of whites, minus any people dressed or pigmented in black.

This video, produced by the Rockland County Republican Party, is “deeply disturbing,” says New York Attorney General Letitia James.

She said:

“To clearly state that members of the Jewish community are a threat to families and our safety and that they must be stopped is despicable and completely unacceptable. Attacking those who are different than we are, our neighbors, is hateful and makes us weaker. We must all stand together to denounce this hateful video.

The Republican Jewish Coalition called the video “absolutely despicable” and “pure anti-Semitic.” The New York and New Jersey office of the ADL said that the “images and language of the video strongly suggests an appeal to anti-religious bigotry, which has no place in our elections.”

Speaking of elections, Aron Wieder, a legislator representing the Rockland County town of Ramapo, was duly elected to his post. And so far, no one has been convicted, or even charged, with voter fraud.

One response to the video to the Rockland County Republican Party Facebook page said, “Last time I saw a video like this it was in black and white and in German.”

Not everybody agreed. Others charged the chasidic Jews with pushing for “overdevelopment.”

If the citizens of Ramapo want to see “overdevelopment,” let them come to Denver, where even the fiercest opponents of the dramatic increase in density in this city has no one — not one single person — perceiving any racial or religious “takeover” behind it.

Disingenuously ignoring his stark video images contrasting the black-clad chasidic Jews and the white-skinned orthodox Jews, and only after the criticism started to pile up, the Republican chair in Rockland County, Lawrence Garvey, issued a denial. He said: “This is not, nor has it ever been, a religious issue.”

Instead, he said, “it is an issue of right and wrong.”

Indeed.

Dorian

Dorian, the Category 5 hurricane that pummeled the Bahamas, left a ghastly vengeance — more like a tsunami than a hurricane. Look at the photographs. Your jaw will drop; the mind reels. Only six in confirmed dead.

The whereabouts of some Jews are unknown. But today no one is an island. We are one. Please help the victims — because Dorian won’t likely stop at seven.