



Samson Blinded: A Machiavellian Perspective on the Middle East Conflict

By Obadiah Shoher

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Samson Blinded: A Machiavellian Perspective on the Middle East Conflict, by Obadiah Shoher, abandons moralizing and ideological hubris to view Israeli-Arab struggle in terms of raw realpolitik. Terrorism is historically normal mode of war. Israel must respect terrorists as efficient warriors. Nuclear terrorism is unavoidable, and it may hit America before Israel. We must learn to tolerate and mitigate its damages. Shoher makes the case that only by shedding liberal idealism the West can win against Islamists. Espousing political rationalism, he deplores both Jewish and Muslim myths, and argues for efficiency and separating politics from moralism.

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Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

The book makes us re-think many issues, and for that it is definitely worth reading. -- *Israel Hasbara Committee, January 26, 2006*

There's plenty of food for thought in this book, which, wrongheaded or not, is both open and fearless. -- *Kirkus Discoveries, June 12, 2006*

This is an extreme viewpoint well worth taking the time to examine. -- *Postscript Publishing Company, August 1, 2006*

From the Author

Several reviewers classified this book as hate literature. This cannot be true: hate is irrational while I argue for pure rationality; hate veils itself in morality while my policies are stripped from any notion of moralizing; hate is wasteful while my aim is efficiency. Hate is like any ideology: silly, costly, and going nowhere. We cannot afford to hate enemies; we must act efficiently.

Any political book advocates against someone; discrimination is central for politics. Democrats, for example, want more votes at the expense of Republicans, and legitimately attack them. My recommendations involve threat of reciprocal violence, but international politics is always built around such threat; balance of power is the only proven strategy for maintaining peace.

I do not hate Neo-Nazis. They are just enemies, and must be dealt with rationally. I dislike anti-Semites, but cannot object to their opinions as long as they remain passive. Xenophobia is all too human. I do, however, believe in the biblical choosiness of the Jews. That does not make me a racist, but, on the contrary, makes me to hate many Jewish violations of Or Hara'ayon.

I am liberal - in the traditional sense of the word before leftists usurped it. I dislike irresponsible idealists who in the worst totalitarian manner shut voices of realism, and keep their heads in sand. These totalitarian moralists are bad for us, but catastrophic for the next generation which will suffer the crisis the idealists created - the crisis we still can defuse.

About the Author

I have written dozens of articles on economics, politics, and asymmetrical warfare; essays on ethics and political philosophy; and a book on religion. I have been mayor of a municipality and served in other public offices, have managed election campaigns, and lead a political party. I have a law degree.

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