



Israel, the Palestinians and the Myth of David and Goliath

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In the biblical story of David and Goliath, a young shepherd uses a slingshot to kill a Philistine monster. Goodness reigns over evil; mental prowess beats brute force; underdog defeats a powerful adversary. It's dramatic, inspiring and timeless.

Because David was good and brave, and Goliath a giant ogre, the parable carries the false assumption that whenever the weak opposes the strong, sympathy should go to the more vulnerable.

The real myth of David and Goliath is that underdog status means having the moral high ground.

The **latest warfare** between Israel and the terrorist organization Hamas, which rules over the Gaza Strip, began when Hamas started firing missiles into Israel—4,300 over an 11-day period. Israel responded by bombarding the Gaza Strip with air strikes, hitting more than 1,000 militant targets.

Most of the world laments the plight of the Palestinians and criticizes Israel's forceful defense. In Europe, hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated in protest of "Israel's savage war on Gaza," implying that Israel started it and the Palestinians were blameless.

The global **media gushes** over the Palestinian cause, and accuses Israel of "war crimes" and "child-murder"—while omitting to report that Hamas places its military stockpiles and headquarters in thickly populated residential neighborhoods. Hamas' strategy is to create sympathy for the Palestinians and to paint the Israelis as evil.

Every time Hamas starts a war with Israel, they suffer **disproportionate casualties** because Israel has a mightier military. Gaza's health ministry claimed that at least 243 people were killed. Israel, protected by its Iron Dome air defense system, suffered fewer casualties, with 12 killed. Israel has a far more advanced military than Hamas—but that doesn't render Hamas' cause noble, nor make it wrong for Israel to defend itself. What would any country do if they had a neighbor whose goal was to wipe out its existence?

Yet world sentiment seems firmly **on the side of Hamas**. People condemn the unintentional killing of children by Israelis while refusing to denounce Hamas' deliberate use of civilian populations as human shields.

War with Israel is a public relations coup for the Palestinians. **Donations roll in** from countries and organizations around the globe, Hamas buys more rocket launchers and weapons, and the cycle continues. Without the support of the world media, Hamas would be defunded.

A spokesman for Israel Defense Forces was asked how it was fair that Israelis have an Iron Dome and the Palestinians don't, and **he replied**, "They do have an iron dome. It's called 'Don't fire rockets at Israeli civilians, and Israel won't fire back.'" In other words, stop the terrorism and there will be peace.

Israel is a thriving energetic nation with no interest in war. There's an old saying, as true today as ever: "If the Palestinians put down their arms, there would be peace. If Israel put down its arms, there would be genocide against the Jewish people."



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