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: Europes Search



Europe's Search

Europe's Israel policy, the search for a unifying narrative—opinion

By GOL KALEV

PHOTO: REUTERS/LOUISA GOULIAMAKI

Growing pressure on Israel reflects Europe's search for cohesion in a time of political and cultural division.

Three groups are competing for Europe: Integrationists, nationalists, and Muslims. While the first two have a cohesive narrative and flags, the nascent Muslim national movement is still in its early stages of development.

Muslims who went to Europe from different cultures and places are united on the one hand through voluntary separatism, and on the other hand through European actions that force Muslims together: religious suppression, racism, and claimed rising anti-Muslim violence.

Both forms of Muslim collectivization are viewed as a threat to Europe; but what if Europe can collectivize Muslims through a common bond that has nothing to do with Europe: Opposition to Israel?

As Europe is escalating its campaign against the Jewish state, some argue that this is exactly what is happening: Throwing the Jewish nation under the bus in a desperate effort to save Europe.

In the middle of the 19th century, the father of Germany, Otto von Bismarck, first tried to unite a number of unrelated German-speaking kingdoms and principalities through the "German spirit." This did not work, and Bismarck resorted to Plan B. He orchestrated wars—first against Denmark, then against Austria, and finally against France.

Theodor Herzl, who studied Bismarck's efforts, created Zionism as an ideological departure from Europe.

Indeed, today innovations produced in Tel Aviv, Judea and Samaria, Jerusalem and throughout Israel are prolonging life, changing science, and changing humanity. And yet, Europe and its partners have been spending billions to block the light from Zion

through sanctions, threats, travel limits, and massive incitement against the Jewish state.

During the following century, European powers successfully cultivated Palestinian nationalism in order to promote their own interests. This colonialist identity-building effort was first rejected by Arabs living in Palestine. Continuing this trend, Palestinian nationalism is now arguably used by Europe to deflect Muslim frustration away from Europe and toward the Jewish state.

Europe could ask for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Some argue that change is already happening, from "Old Europe" to "New Europe," which wishes to benefit from the light emanating from Zion.



PHOTO: DOR PAZUELO/FLASH90

Dictionary

Competing	קומפטינג	מתחרים
Cohesive	קוהסיב	מגובש
Nascent	נקנט	מתהווה
Voluntary	וולנטרי	מרצון
Separatism	ספרטיזם	בדלנות
Suppression	ספרשן	דיכוי
Collectivization	קולקטיביזשן	התקבצות
Escalating	אסקליטינג	מסלים
Desperate	דספרט	נואש
Orchestrated	אורקסטריטד	תזמר
Principalities	פרינסיפליטיז	נסיכויות
Ideological	אידיאולוגיקל	אידאולוגי
Prolonging	פרולונגינג	מאריך
Incitement	אינסטימנט	הסתה
Cultivated	קלטיביטד	טיפחו
Colonialist	קולוניאליסט	קולוניאליסטי
Deflect	דיפלקט	להסיט
Frustration	פרסטרישן	תסכול
Reconciliation	ריקונסיליאישן	פיוס
Emanating	אמניטינג	נובע