

Unconditional Surrender



The Generals of Nazi Germany surrendering, May 1945

I AM GENUINELY MYSTIFIED by the inability of the British government, among many others, to grasp the concept of unconditional surrender. Have they forgotten the close of the Second World War? Have they forgotten the defeat of the Nazis and Japanese militarism? It seems they have.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, has made it abundantly clear in recent weeks that he seeks nothing less but the unconditional surrender of Hamas and other Islamist groupings at present fighting the war in Gaza. There will be no negotiated settlement, no legitimacy will be conferred upon Hamas, they must free the hostages and surrender their weapons.

This is because Israel has decided that nothing short of unconditional surrender is acceptable from those who seek to kill Jews or Israeli citizens. Hamas

leaders supported the pogrom of October 7th 2023 and the recent killings of civilians in Jerusalem. Consequently, Islamist terrorists have now reaped the whirlwind as IDF forces struck the homes and offices of Hamas leaders in Doha, Qatar's capital.

This act by the Jewish State is being widely condemned in the West by governments of all stripes who themselves refuse to negotiate with terrorists, or to provide armed insurgents with any form of legitimacy or recognition. Why is this?

Some steps towards an answer are provided by Dara Horn in her brilliant book, *People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a haunted present*. In her book, Dara Horn references the ubiquitous memorialising of the Holocaust, without any engagement at all with living Jews or living Jewish traditions or communities.

Holocaust memorials grace major cities in Europe and many in North America. Everywhere the apparently passive Jewish dead are wept over, not so much the defiant heroism of the youngsters of the Warsaw Ghetto going to their deaths, Molotov cocktails and guns in hand; we hear little of the Jewish partisans in the forests and marshes of Belorussia and Ukraine killing Nazis and their collaborators in the nineteen forties. Jews are not supposed to fight back.

This is part of long tradition in which Jews were said to keep themselves to themselves and submit to periodic outbursts of slander, brutalising, and killings. In Europe, from York to Minsk, we have a venerable tradition of first humiliating and then slaughtering Jews; yet at no time have we expected, or accepted, that the benighted Jews would ever fight back.

This tradition was brought to a decisive end in 1948 with the reestablishment of the state of Israel, in which it is an article of faith that the Jews will be armed to the teeth, and will fight back against all, and any attacks upon them.

However, in war after war, since the founding of the Jewish state, Western allies have always prevailed on Israel's armed forces to temporise their responses to genocidal attacks by Arab states and Arab terrorists.

Israel has always been told to minimise its resistance, to negotiate, to be reasonable, to be proportionate in the use of violence. Since October 7th this advice has been falling on deaf ears as Israel insists that only the complete destruction of Hamas in Gaza is acceptable.

Now, the governments of Britain, Canada, France and others, have turned on Israel accusing it of intentionally killing or starving Arab civilians. War crimes are alleged; the United Nations, and all its agencies, has sought to demonise and isolate the Jewish state. The world's media have routinely accepted Hamas and Islamist accounts of the war in Gaza, in support of those who openly seek the destruction of Israel.

In this it has become clear that what is unbearable about the young men and women of the IDF is their defiance of the historic role, attributed to the Jews throughout history, of submitting more or less quietly to humiliation and massacre. These Zionist Jews have broken the mould, and deprived all and sundry of the opportunity to lament "man's inhumanity to man", wringing their hands, and weeping over dead Jews.

The widely expressed horror of Jewish violence and Jewish intolerance of those who set out to murder Jews – those who seek the destruction of Israel – has revealed the deeply ingrained nature of Jew-hatred. Jews are alright as long as we can mourn and grieve over dead Jews, over the Holocaust, over pogroms, and massacres, but woe betide the Jews if they dare to fight back by destroying their enemies.

It has now become abundantly clear that contemporary Jew-hatred – 'antisemitism' – has assumed its modern form, opposing Jews, Zionists, who ruthlessly fight back against those who wish to kill them.

Consequently, Jews and their allies have only one course of action open to them – to demand nothing less than unconditional surrender of the Islamists.