



Watching Unto Prayer . . .

"What I say to you, I say to all: Watch!" —Mk 13:37

"But the end (final limits) of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers." —1 Pet 4:7

Star Parker

Middle East Policy = A Shift in Values

It should be clear to anyone conscious and watching that central to President Obama's Middle East strategy is to disabuse the long held notion that there exists a "special relationship" between the United States and Israel. The sense of unique kinship between our country and the democratic Jewish state has existed since Israel's founding just 60 years ago.

The Arab world has always resented the U.S.-Israel connection and has felt that because of this, Americans would never be an honest broker in Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Obama is out to change this. His first hundred days, from his very first television interview—given to an Arab television network—have focused on warming up our relations with Islamic nations and cooling down our Israeli ones.

We should appreciate that this shift is more than a technical change in diplomatic strategy. It reflects a change in values.

The "special" American-Israeli relationship has always reflected the shared values and traditions of the two countries. A commitment to freedom sustained by traditional Judeo-Christian core values.

Freedom House (www.freedomhouse.org) is a widely respected non-partisan organization that publishes annual reports on the state of freedom around the world.

They rate the state of freedom on a scale of 1-7, with 1 being most free.

According to the latest Freedom House data, released this past January, in the area of "political rights," Israel rates a 1. On "civil liberties," Israel gets a 2.

And Israel's Arab neighbors? On "political rights," Egypt ranks 6, Jordan 5, Syria 7, and Lebanon 5. On "civil liberties," Egypt ranks 5, Jordan 5, Syria 6, and Lebanon 4.

Oil rich Saudi Arabia, to whose king the President of the United States bowed deeply at the waist, ranks 7 in "political rights" and 6 in "civil liberties."

Freedom House also reports on freedom of the press. Of 18 countries in the Middle Eastern/North African area, they report only one country with a free press, Israel. Eleven of these countries have no free press, including Jordan, Syria, and Saudi Arabia. Egypt and Lebanon are rated partly free.

Despite being the youngest country in the region, Israel's per capita gross domestic product is five times higher than the average of all its neighbors. Also, despite having no great endowment of natural resources, its GDP per capita, at \$24,097, is higher than Saudi Arabia's, \$22, 296, which has, by far, the world's largest oil production and reserves.

The great American writer Mark Twain visited the Holy Land in 1867 before Jews made their miraculous return to their ancient homeland. He reported that there was nothing there. "Palestine is desolate and unlovely."

You have to be either blind or have a political agenda to refuse to see the incredible miracle that has occurred in the re-birth of the Jewish nation.

Of course, there is a special relationship between the United States and Israel. The same values and traditions have produced in both places freedom and prosperity from nothing.

Should we denigrate Arabs and Muslims? Certainly not. But anyone who thinks that peace and prosperity will come from abandoning those very Judeo-Christian values that got us to where we are, and along with this our friends who share those values, is deeply misguided.

Unfortunately, today we have an American president who is set on doing just that. Principled Americans and Israelis should tighten their seatbelts and prepare to defend the truths we hold dear.

—Excerpted with permission. Star Parker is president of the Coalition on Urban Renewal & Education (www.urbanreure.org) and author of the new book, "White Ghetto: How Middle Class America Reflects Inner City Decay."

AMERICA'S VOLUNTARILY STATE-CONTROLLED MEDIA

Gary Bauer

To say that the media is biased in favor of President Obama is not just hyperbole. It is a fact proven by three separate studies that looked at how the president has been treated in nightly news broadcasts during his 100 days.

The first study, conducted by the Center for Media and Public Affairs, found that ABC, CBS, and NBC devoted 28 hours of coverage to President Obama during his first 50 days in office. The same networks gave Democrat Bill Clinton 15 hours and 7 hours and 42 minutes to George W. Bush. But more is not always better, unless you are "The One." For example, of Bill Clinton's 15 hours, 44% contained positive evaluations. Not surprisingly, George W. Bush only got 33% favorable coverage in his 7 hours and 42 minutes. But the Center found that 58% of Obama's 28 hours were favorable!

The Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism surveyed seven national media outlets for two months and found that "Positive stories about Obama outweighed negative ones by a two-to-one margin (42 percent vs. 20 percent)." Pew found that Bill Clinton got 27% positive coverage, while Mr. Bush got 22%.

Our friends at the Media Research Center surveyed 852 news stories that aired between January 20th and April 15th. They found that the media studiously avoided labeling any of President Obama's policies as liberal or socialist. Not the bank bailouts or the auto bailouts, not even "universal health care." In fact, they went even further, "The networks never had a single sound bite from a conservative or a free market expert." In other words, the media willingly silenced Obama's critics.

Amazing. America's Big Media networks have voluntarily done what most dictators have to force journalists in their countries to do: provide hours and hours of fawning, uncritical, and unquestioning coverage of the "dear leader."

—Excerpted from *End of Day Report*, 4/30/09, Campaign for Working Families; www.cwfbac.com

PROTECTION FROM DECEPTION

Derek Prince



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