

Today's Nazis: The missing truth

It is not unusual these days to hear Israel compared with Nazi Germany. Given the history of the Jewish people, this is the most heinous charge that could be levelled against them. But let us examine the facts.

Nazism in Germany was marked by three evils. First, Nazi Germany was a dictatorial police state that used propaganda and intimidation to control German life. Second, Germany was committed to territorial expansion, beginning with the negotiated acquisition of Sudetenland and followed by the invasion of most of Europe. The third evil was genocide, as six million Jews were killed along with other 'undesirables'.

None of these evils exists in Israel. Far from being a police state, Israel is the only true democracy in the Mideast. Nor has there been any territorial expansionism in the Nazi sense. The Jewish state accepted the land given to it by the United Nations. Expansions that occurred in 1948 and 1967 were the result of wars when Israel was forced to fight for its life. Retention or occupation following a defensive war is not unusual (compare WWII). Finally, there is no genocide; in fact 1.4 million Arab Israelis live peacefully within Israel.

Much of the 'Nazi' charge is directed at Israel's policy toward Gaza, which has been likened to the Warsaw ghetto. When Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, hoping to trade 'land for peace', it was rewarded by a barrage of rocket attacks that increased when Hamas took over the government. As a result, Israel closed its borders and began a partial blockade aimed at bringing down the Hamas regime, which is dedicated to Israel's destruction. Keeping terrorists out is not the same as keeping Jews in. Israel's recent attack on Gaza was not genocide, but a desperate attempt to stop the rocket attacks on Israeli cities. Unlike the Jews of the Warsaw ghetto, Gaza's Palestinian population still exists.

However, there is a culture in the Mideast that bears more than a passing resemblance to Nazism. Hamas is an ideologically-based dictatorship that wants to expand its territory, exterminate Jews, and replace Israel with an Islamist state. One can only wonder why it is Israel that is charged with Nazism and not its Hamas enemy. (To read more, visit kbrm.org.nz and click on March 25 post.)

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