

Jokes



HOT NEW DIET

"I gave up jogging for health reasons. My thighs kept rubbing together and setting my pantyhose on fire."

SUGAR-FREE

Q: What do you call someone who can't stick with a diet? A: A desserter.

LEARNING ABOUT LETTERS

"I would like vitamins for my son," a mother said. "Vitamin A, B or C?" the pharmacist asked. "It doesn't matter," the mother replied. "He can't read yet."

REPEAT THAT, MATE?

If you understand English, press 1. If you do not understand English, press 2. Recording on an Australian tax help line.

MODELED ON CONFUSION

The photographer was positioning my new husband and me for our wedding photos when he asked, "Have you ever modeled?" My cheeks instantly turned red. "No, I haven't," I said. "But I always thought..." The photographer interrupted me: "I meant him."

THE MYSTERY KITCHEN UTENSIL...

My collection of vintage kitchen utensils includes one whose intended purpose was always a mystery. It looks like a cross between a metal slotted spoon and a spatula, so I use it as both. When not in use, it is prominently displayed in a decorative ceramic utensil caddy in my kitchen.

MICHELLE WOLF ON A FRIEND'S PREGNANCY

One of my friends is pregnant. And I'm really excited. Not for the baby but because she's one of my skinniest friends.

MAKING AMENDS WITH THE IRS

After hearing a sermon on Psalm 52:3-4 (lies and deceit), a man wrote the IRS, "I can't sleep knowing that I have cheated on my income tax. Enclosed is a check for \$150. If I still can't sleep, I'll send the rest."

A WOMAN SHOOTS HER HUSBAND FOR STEPPING ON THE CLEAN FLOOR...

A police officer jumps into his squad car and calls the station. "I have an interesting case here," he says. "A woman shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped." "Have you arrested her?" asks the sergeant. "No, not yet. The floor's still wet."

NO SUCH THING AS A FREE YACHT

A salesman talked my uncle into buying 10,000 personalized pens for his business with the promise that he would be eligible to win a 32-foot yacht. A born gambler, my uncle agreed. Well, he won, and a few weeks after the pens arrived, his prize showed up: a 12-inch plastic yacht with 32 plastic feet.

TIME ZONES ARE HARD.

While I was out to lunch, my coworker answered my phone and told the caller that I would be back in 20 minutes. The woman asked, "Is that 20 minutes Central Standard Time?"

ONE REASON TO BUY A PAINTING

At an art gallery, a woman and her ten-year-old son were having a tough time choosing between one of my paintings and another artist's work. They finally went with mine. "I guess

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INSULTED AND COMPLIMENTED AT THE SAME TIME?

It's amazing how a person can compliment and insult you at the same time. Recently, when I greeted my coworker, she said, "You look so gorgeous, I didn't recognize you."

GRAPES MAKE WINE

What did the grape do when he got stepped on? He let out a little wine.

CONSTRUCTION WORK AHEAD

Want to hear a joke about construction? I'm still working on it.

CALL ME DAD

I'll call you later. Don't call me later, call me Dad.

DAD HAIRCUT

Dad, did you get a haircut? No, I got them all cut.

COFFEE CRIME

Why did the coffee file a police report? It got mugged.

APPLE TREE

How many apples grow on a tree? All of them.

CHEESE FIRE

Did you hear about the cheese factory that exploded in France? There was nothing left but de Brie.

JUST THE WURST

I hate jokes about German sausage. They're the wurst.

PEOPLE POWER

I advertised the following item on our local radio program: For sale: Small push-type lawn mower. Brand-new, \$40. One person called and asked if the lawn mower was a single or double cylinder. I told him, "It depends on how fast you walk!"

Police officer talks to a driver: Your tail light is broken, your tires must be exchanged and your bumper hangs halfway down. That will be 300 dollars. Driver: Alright, go ahead. They want twice as much as that at the garage.

Husband: "Oh the weather is lovely today. Shall we go out for a quick jog?" Wife: "Hahaha, I love the way you pronounce 'Shall we go out and have a cake!'"

A guest calls the waiter and complains, "How come there are no chairs at our table?!"

The waiter shrugs, "I'm sorry but you only booked one table..."

I forgot my cell phone when I went to the toilet yesterday. We have 245 tiles.

How many gorillas can fit into a car? Eight.

How many chickens can fit into the car? None, the car is already full of gorillas.

She: I have a doctor's appointment today but I really don't want to go...

He: Just call in sick then

A girl asks a boy: "Peter, how much do you love me?"

The boy looks her in the eyes, "Look up at the stars, that's how much I love you." The girl is confused, "But it's morning, there are no stars?"

Boy nods, "Exactly!"

A recent scientific study showed that out of 2,293,618,367 people, 94% are too lazy to actually read that number.

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Once Upon a Time, America Supported Palestinians

The steady erasure of the Israeli occupation from Washington's political discourse not only makes it impossible for the United States to resolve the conflict but places Israelis and Palestinians on a seemingly irreversible path to one state.

Although the term nakba never entered Washington's political lexicon, U.S. policymakers understood the nature and scope of the calamity that befell Palestinians during Israel's creation. At the time, U.S. diplomats and intelligence officers closely monitored and reported on developments in what was then British Mandate Palestine as events unfolded. Most senior U.S. policymakers therefore, including the president and secretary of state, had no illusions about the nature of the Palestinian exodus.

In the wake of the Deir Yassin massacre, in which more than 100 Palestinian civilians were killed by members of two Zionist militias the Irgun and the Stern Gang the trickle of refugees became a full-blown exodus. Thereafter, the U.S. State Department kept regular tabs on the numbers and conditions of Palestinians fleeing the area. When the first U.S. representative to Israel, James G. McDonald, repeated Israeli claims that Palestinians fled as a result of the invasion of Arab armies, it was Secretary of State George Marshall who set him straight. Marshall reminded the representative that the "Arab refugee problem ... began before outbreak of Arab-Israeli hostilities. A significant portion of Arab refugees fled from their homes owing to Jewish occupation of Haifa on April 21-22 and to Jewish armed attack against Jaffa April 25." Marshall's message went on to warn that the "leaders of Israel would make a grave miscalculation if they thought callous treatment of this tragic issue could pass unnoticed by world opinion."

Like the rest of the international community, the United States supported U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194, which among other things called on Israel to allow the Palestinian refugees "wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date." According to President Harry Truman's Middle East peace envoy, Mark Ethridge, Israel bore "particular responsibility for those who have been driven out by terrorism, repression and forcible ejection." Many acknowledged U.S. culpability as well. The U.S. consul in Jerusalem, William Burdett, complained that "the United States has accumulated an enormous moral and even financial responsibility in the situation in our justifiable zeal for creation of a [Jewish] state." Even Truman, revered by many as the midwife of the modern Israeli state, conceded that he was "rather disgusted with the manner in which the Jews are approaching the refugee problem."

Over the years, however, the sense of urgency over the Palestinian refugee crisis began to fade, as did the memory of what created it. Nevertheless, successive U.S. administrations continued to view a resolution of the refugee issue as the key to an Arab-Israeli peace settlement. It was President Lyndon B. Johnson who marked a distinct departure from his predecessors. Unlike the three presidents who came before him, Johnson made no serious attempt to address the refugee issue. Thus, when Israeli diplomats notified the State Department in 1966 that Israel would no longer entertain any proposals that involved repatriation, which henceforth would be considered tantamount to calling for Israel's destruction, the Johnson administration was unfazed. Indeed, Johnson's own views tracked closely with those of Israel's leaders. In his memoirs, Johnson castigated Arab leaders for failing to absorb the refugees and for using "the issue of Israel and the tragic plight of the refugees to advance personal ambitions and to achieve the dominance of Arab radicals over Arab moderates." Gone was any reference to Israel's responsibility in the creation of the refugee problem or to American involvement in it.

The same type of historical and political amnesia that effectively erased the Nakba from Washington's political consciousness half a century ago is once again taking hold among U.S. politicians this time in relation to the Israeli occupation. Since 1967, U.S. policy and the Middle East peace process have been based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which called on Israel to withdraw from lands it occupied, including the West Bank and Gaza, in return for peace and normalization with neighboring Arab states. Since 2000, the United States and the international community have interpreted Resolution 242 in the context of the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza alongside Israel.

Bill Clinton was the first U.S. president to make support for Palestinian statehood a matter of unofficial U.S. policy. The policies of ending Israel's occupation and establishing an independent Palestinian state were formalized by George W. Bush. Barack Obama



later reiterated the positions of his predecessors, though by this time they were no longer a matter of bipartisan consensus. Thus, in 2011, when Obama called for a two-state solution with the stipulation that the "borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines, with mutually agreed swaps" essentially paraphrasing language used by his predecessor he was met with wild outcry from congressional Republicans and charges of having thrown Israel "under the bus." In 2016, the Republican Party formally expunged references to a two-state solution from its party platform while declaring that it "reject[s] the false notion that Israel is an occupier."

The election of Donald Trump has only accelerated this trend. Trump's ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, maintains strong ties to Israel's settler movement while downplaying what he calls Israel's "alleged occupation" of the West Bank. While Trump has not been so explicit, neither has his administration expressed unambiguous support for Palestinian statehood or for ending Israel's occupation, as each of the last three U.S. presidents have done. Trump has said only that the United States would support a two-state solution "if agreed to by both sides," while the administration's much-anticipated peace plan seems to envision something less than full Palestinian sovereignty. The decision by the State Department to drop references to the West Bank and Gaza as "occupied territories" from its annual human rights report suggests that occupation denial is coming alarmingly close to being normalized at the official level.

The motivation behind this denial is not difficult to discern; if there is no occupation, as such, then there is no need for Israel to relinquish any of the territory it now controls. The discourse of occupation denial and Israeli triumphalism that seems to have taken hold on both the Israeli and American right is equally problematic for Israel and its supporters however. For if the West Bank, East Jerusalem, or, for that matter, Gaza is not occupied, the only other way to understand continuing to control millions of people while denying them basic citizenship rights would be as a form of apartheid. Indeed, by negating the occupation, these modern-day revisionists inadvertently highlight the one-state reality that exists today in which Israel maintains effective control over all of the territory between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. On one side are roughly 6.5 million Israeli Jews with full citizenship rights living on both sides of the 1967 line and on the other an almost equal number of Palestinian Arabs with varying degrees of legal and political rights. Without the prospect of an independent state of their own, Palestinians will inevitably gravitate toward the demand for equal citizenship rights in an Israeli state, a trend that is already well underway.

Despite the similarities, today's political amnesia is unlikely to take hold completely — not only because digital technology has made it virtually impossible to forget anything but because, unlike the period after 1948, there is now political resistance to forgetting. Recent years have witnessed a shift in U.S. public opinion toward greater awareness, recognition, and support for Palestinian rights, particularly among younger, progressive, and female voters, as well as people of color and liberal Jews. Whereas in the past, the process of forgetting the Nakba, the rights of refugees, and our original understanding of the conflict was more or less universal, today's occupation denial is largely a partisan exercise and is increasingly being met with resistance among liberal and progressive Democrats, such as Sen. Sanders and Rep. Betty McCollum.

Unless U.S. policymakers are prepared to take a clear-eyed and honest — approach to Israel's prolonged military occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, as well as the long-neglected issue of Palestinian refugees, the United States will have little to offer in the way of peacemaking. Just as decades of ignoring the plight of Palestinian refugees in Gaza and elsewhere have not succeeded in taking that issue "off the table," denying the existence of Israel's occupation is likely only to produce more problems down the road.