

to pass without comment. The main thesis of that book is that most of the Arabs present in Israel before 1948 were in fact recent immigrants and therefore the Palestinians as a people do not exist. Peters claims to support this claim by prodigious original scholarship and demographic studies. However, it is now clear that this book is in fact an impressive exercise in fraud and misinformation. Strangely enough, it was always recognized as such in Israel (see, for example, the 29 March 1985 review in the Israeli newspaper *Davar*), where it was clear that Peters was voicing discredited Israeli propaganda. Similar dismissals appeared in the British press.

For a page-by-page demolition of Peters's work, see Norman G. Finkelstein's article in *Blaming the Victims: Spurious Scholarship and the Palestine Question* (E. W. Said, C. Hitchens, eds., Verso P., New York, 1988). Finkelstein's 36-page study comes to the conclusions that "first, the evidence Peters adduces to document massive illegal immigration into Palestine is almost entirely falsified" and "second, the conclusions Peters draws from her demographic study of Palestine's indigenous Arab population are not borne out by the data she presents."

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8/89

GREYBER REPLIES: The calumnies cited by Malcolm H. Levitt are outrageous and dead wrong. Barbara Tuchman commented, "This book is a historical event in itself, a discovery that has lain in the dark all along until its revelation by Joan Peters's unrelenting research."

In 1785 a French traveler, Comte de Volney, estimated the population of Palestine at 50 000, with perhaps 20 000 in Jerusalem and 5000 at He-

bron (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1961). Visiting Palestine in 1869, Mark Twain wrote, "Jerusalem numbers only 14 000 people" (*The Innocents Abroad*, volume II). Those numbers include many non-Arab nationalities.

Yet an official census in 1931 showed 850 000 Arabs as against 175 000 Jews (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1961). Since a generous estimate of Arab inhabitants of Palestine in 1869 is 25 000, can the growth of the Arab population have been due to "natural increase"?

An upper-limit estimate of the natural increase in the Arab population over those 62 years would be (considering the terrible health conditions) 100 000. This means an immigration into Palestine of at least 500 000 Arabs, which agrees with Peters's conclusion.

The truth is, most Jews and most Arabs immigrated into Palestine within the last 125 years. Just as Mexicans immigrate into the United States and blacks have immigrated into the Republic of South Africa for decades, Arabs, cruelly exploited by wealthy royal rulers, immigrated into Palestine to enjoy the relative prosperity created by the Western technology brought by Jewish immigrants.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt noted in 1939, "Arab immigration into Palestine since 1921 has vastly exceeded the total Jewish immigration during this whole period." Winston Churchill wrote in the same year, "So far from being persecuted, the Arabs have crowded into the country and multiplied till their population has increased more than even all world Jewry could lift up the Jewish population." Were they dealing "fraud and misinformation" too? Levitt does not mention that over 600 000 Jews were forced to flee or expelled from Arab countries since 1948—countries where they had lived for thousands of years.

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3/90

Corrections

July, page 19—The three images that were superimposed to create the COBE photograph of the Milky Way were taken at wavelengths of 1.2, 2.2 and 3.4 μm .

June, page S3—In the budget table for Department of Energy physics-related research, the line reading "Construction" under "Basic energy sciences" should have read "Operations and maintenance of major user facilities." The construction amounts are as follows:

	FY 89 actual	FY 90 request (millions of dollars)	FY 90 current	FY 91 request
Accelerator improvement projects	2.3	4.5	4.5	7.0
General plant projects	3.2	2.8	2.8	3.1
1-2-GeV Synchrotron Radiation Source, Berkeley	25.6	25.6	25.6	23.0
6-7-GeV Synchrotron Radiation Source, Argonne	6.0	39.4	39.4	75.0
3-GeV SPEAR injector, Stanford	9.5	4.4	4.4	—

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