

The \342\200\234World Community\342\200\235 Has Double Standards.
Posted On:December 31, 1969

The response to Bashar Assad\342\200\231s use of poison gas lobbed into rebel-held suburb
s of
Damascus has been fascinating. Finally, somebody is remembering that a treaty was
signed by almost every country in the world banning poison gas at the end of World
War I. The use of mustard gas in trench warfare decimated a whole generation of young
men fighting on both sides of the war. This was the first time that any weapon had
been declared unacceptable to human values. Poison gas is an effective genocidal
weapon against soldiers and any civilians within range.

However, where was that outrage when the Nazis used gas to \342\200\234exterminate\342
\200\235 Jews,
Gypsies, and Slavs? Even in the midst of World War II, the West was incredulous about
rumors that the Nazis were doing this---and it was not until the war ended and the
concentration death camps were exposed did we once more face the poison gas dilemma.
\342\200\234Never Again\342\200\235 was the response of the winners of that war (and the
Jewish
survivors in their new homeland, Israel).

Then it did happened again: Iraq used it against Iran during their decade long 1980s
war and after that against civilian Kurdish villages. There was scarcely a peep from
the \342\200\234world community.\342\200\235 Iraq was the villain here, but I suspect tha
t Iran would
have used it too had the prevailing winds not been against them.

But how about all the other areas of double standard giving the lie to
\342\200\234International norms?\342\200\235

\342\200\242 Genocide. We all said \342\200\234Never Again\342\200\235 after the Nazi-
driven holocaust, but what
happened to that vow when Rwanda in Central Africa conducted a government-organized
genocide against its ethnic minority? Did China stop to ask why Rwanda was ordering
paneloads of machetes? Did France (Rwanda\342\200\231s former colonial master) intervene
by
at least jamming the radio incitements to genocide? Did the UN punish \342\200\234global
law\342\200\235 offenders? Absolutely not! Nobody seemed to care enough to intervene, and
had
they done so, the UN would have complained that \342\200\234national sovereignty\342\200
\235 was being
violated.

Genocide was in full flood in Cambodia (Killing Fields) until Vietnam invaded and
stopped it. Did the world thank Vietnam? No, they were condemned by the UN for
violating national sovereignty.

Did anyone thank Syria for ending a monstrous multi-ethnic genocidal war in Lebanon?
No, they were condemned.

Why is national sovereignty more important than stopping genocide? It shouldn\342\200\231
t be,
but don\342\200\231t expect Russia or China to feel that way.

\342\200\242 Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. The world clearly has different standards
in
condemning Israel and the Muslim world. A slaughter of 800 Palestinians by Lebanese
Christian militia in a refugee camp was blamed on Israel which failed to stop it.
However, there was not a peep when the Syrian government slaughtered tens of
thousands of sleeping fellow Syrians in the town of Hama. Europeans weep tears over
the fate of Palestinians in the \342\200\234Occupied Territories\342\200\235 at the hands
of Israelis
(Jews) but do not bat an eye over thousands murdered by Muslim suicide bombers every
day in Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. Is this a double standard because people hold
Israelis to a higher standard of behavior? What does this say about the world\342\200
\231s
lack of expectations of standards from Muslims?

\342\200\242 Refugee Camps. The UN created an entire department, still functioning sin
ce 1949,

to house Palestinian refugees. No such care was given to the equal number of Jewish refugees kicked out of Arab lands, nor to millions of Pakistani and Indians displaced during their nations\342\200\231 founding. Those refugees took care of themselves. What does this say about the Palestinians---or about the UN?

\342\200\242 The most candid attack on hypocrisy comes from Raheel Raza, a Muslim himself (\342\200\234The Danger In Our Midst,\342\200\235 September 25, 2013, from Gatestone Institute):
\342\200\234Platitudes about Islam being a faith of peace are not credible anymore. Islam is only as good as the way its followers practice it; and if they have created killing fields in the name of Islam, then Islam will be recognized by the silence of those who did not speak out when their faith was being [trashed] to massacre humanity.\342\200\235

679 words

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