

## Survey of Events 2000-Present PowerPoint Speaker Notes

### [From Teacher Aid 1.2C: 2000-2005 PowerPoint]

#### PowerPoint I, Slide 1 - Year 2000

- (*click*) In May 2000, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak ordered the unilateral withdrawal of all Israeli troops from south Lebanon where they had been deployed to protect Israel's northern border since the 1980s. Israel fully complied with United Nations stipulations which also called for Lebanon to deploy its troops to the area.
- (*click*) Instead, the Syrian and Iranian-backed Hezbollah terrorist group took over, declaring a victory over Israel. Hezbollah controlled the area until the summer of 2006 with approximately 13,000 rockets aimed at Israel.
- (*click*) In July, President Bill Clinton convened a summit between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in Camp David, Maryland. Prime Minister Barak offered the PA a chance to negotiate a new Palestinian state on more than 95 percent of the West Bank and 100 percent of the Gaza Strip with Palestinian control over parts of Jerusalem as well as religious sovereignty over the Temple Mount area (holy to Jews as the site of the First and Second Temples, Muslims as the Haram al-Sharif) in exchange for peace with Israel. Barak's proposal was rejected by Arafat.
- (*click*) By the fall, tensions were boiling, with Palestinian television intensively broadcasting emotional scenes of violence from the first *intifada* of 1987-1992. On both September 27 and 28, Israeli soldiers were killed by Palestinian Arabs.
- (*click*) Also on the 28th, after consulting with Palestinian security forces, Ariel Sharon, then leader of the opposition party Likud, made a public visit to the Temple Mount, declaring it part of Israeli territory for eternity (in line with official Israeli government policies.) The al Aqsa mosque, which Muslims claim as their third holiest site, is also on the Temple Mount.
- (*click*) The day after the visit, Arabs rioted in many parts of Israel and the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Jewish worshippers at the Western Wall fled as Arabs pelted them from above with rocks; Israeli police forced their way onto the Temple Mount to put down the attack. Palestinian security personnel and others turned their weapons on Israelis and the so-called "al Aqsa Intifada" had begun. Much of the press repeated as fact the official Palestinian line that Sharon's visit had provoked a spontaneous uprising. However, the truth, as indicated later by

Palestinian spokesmen, was that Arafat had been preparing for violence at least since Camp David.

- **(click)** Clashes, shootings and bombings erupted in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as terrorist attacks in Israel. In the Gaza Strip, a Palestinian father and son allegedly were caught in a cross-fire between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian gunmen; when 12-year old Mohammed al-Dura was killed, he became an instant “martyr” in the Arab world and beyond, thanks to a 24-hour news cycle that played and replayed clips said to show his shooting. (Later studies indicated that al-Dura could not have been killed by Israeli soldiers, who did not have a line of fire, but may have been hit by Palestinian gunmen nearby who were firing at Israeli forces.)
- **(click)** In Nablus (Shechem), a Jewish shrine, the Tomb of Joseph, was overrun and burned by Palestinian Arabs. An Israeli soldier bled to death at the site when he could not be evacuated for treatment.
- **(click)** On October 12, two Israeli reservists took a wrong turn into the Palestinian city of Ramallah and were arrested by the PA police. A Palestinian mob stormed the police station, beat the soldiers to death, and threw their mutilated bodies into the street. The gruesome event was captured on video and broadcast worldwide.

### **PowerPoint I, Slide 2 - Year 2001**

- **(click)** Despite the escalating violence, the PA and Israeli representatives met for one more round of negotiations at Taba in the Sinai. Israel again proposed a West Bank and Gaza Strip state, with eastern Jerusalem as its capital, in exchange for peace but Arafat still refused.
- **(click)** Mounting Israeli casualties helped bring down the Barak government and Ariel Sharon was swept into power as Israel’s eleventh prime minister.
- **(click)** Bombings, shootings and other violence continued unabated. **(click)** Children and families were especially targeted in what amounted to a reign of terror; in June, 21 youths were blown up at the Dolphinarium disco in Tel Aviv while **(click)** 15 more innocents were murdered at the Sbarro Pizzeria in downtown Jerusalem in August.
- **(click)** Israel responded with targeted killings of terrorists, military incursions into territory previously ceded to Palestinian Authority rule and occasional attacks against PA security forces, in some cases warning of impending raids to clear the area of bystanders.

- *(click)* Enmity toward Israel spread internationally. Antisemitic acts increased sharply throughout Europe. In August, a U.N. conference held in Durban, South Africa ostensibly dedicated to fighting racism became a forum for maligning Israel and the Jewish people.
- *(click)* September 11. *(click)* Mass terror comes to the United States. 3,000 Americans and other non-combatants were murdered at the hands of al Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden. In some Palestinian towns public celebrations followed. In contrast, Israelis swamped hospitals to donate blood.

### **PowerPoint I, Slide 3 - Year 2002**

- *(click)* Official Palestinian claims of lack of responsibility for anti-Israel violence were seen to be false when, in January 2002, Israel intercepted the *Karine-A*, a vessel under Palestinian command, loaded with Iranian-supplied weaponry and headed for Gaza. Arafat's unconvincing attempt to disassociate himself from the shipment helped seal U.S. president George Bush's negative view of the PLO leader.
- *(click)* Murderous attacks against the Jewish state peaked in March on the eve of Passover with the suicide bombing of the Park Hotel in Netanya; 29 Israelis, a number of them Holocaust survivors, were murdered as they sat down to a holiday Seder.
- *(click)* Israel then launched a large-scale military intervention into the West Bank. In Operation Defensive Shield, its troops returned to towns and cities throughout the Palestinian-ruled territories previously vacated by Israel as part of the Oslo self-rule process, to eliminate terrorists and their bomb factories. Palestinian spokesmen and many in the Western press claimed that Israel had massacred civilians in the incursion. [Note the Italian cartoon labeled "Tank and Manger," which portrays Jesus as a baby crying out to the Israeli tank, "You're not coming to kill me again?!" ] The truth was different. In Jenin, Israel lost 23 soldiers by seeking out gunmen in house-to-house searches rather than bombarding the refugee district from the air. The Palestinian claim of 500 or more "massacre victims" in Jenin proved to be 55 dead, nearly all armed combatants.
- *(click)* In May, Prime Minister Sharon visited Washington where he presented the president with documents taken from Arafat's headquarters during Operation Defensive Shield. These proved that Arafat was directly involved in funding terrorists.

- **(click)** In June, President Bush publicly called for American support for a Palestinian state but only after the Palestinian Arabs had rid themselves of leaders tainted by terrorism.
- **(click)** Due to the Israeli army's return to Palestinian population centers and aggressive counter-terrorism, attacks began to diminish over the summer. Another key measure in reducing terrorist attacks was the beginning of construction of a West Bank security barrier to prevent infiltrations.
- **(click)** Arab violence continued, however. In November, al Qaeda claimed responsibility for attacking a resort in Mombasa, Kenya frequented by Israelis and for nearly downing a flight to Tel Aviv.

### **PowerPoint I, Slide 4 - Year 2003**

- **(click)** In March, as American troops massed near Iraq, Arafat seemed to comply with U.S. demands for reform of the corrupt, inefficient Palestinian Authority. Reluctantly he appointed his long-time ally, Mahmoud Abbas as Palestinian prime minister.
- **(click)** In a lightning strike across Iraq, American troops overthrew the regime of dictator Saddam Hussein, sanctioned by the United Nations for violating restrictions imposed after the first Persian Gulf War, including, it was believed by Western intelligence agencies, resumption of programs for weapons of mass destruction. Hussein, who had massacred many Iraqis, also had helped bankroll the families of Palestinian suicide bombers.
- **(click)** On May 1, the "Quartet" (the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia) unfurled a "road map" for peace, which envisioned the creation of a Palestinian state by 2005. It also called for the PA to first dismantle terrorist networks. At a summit held in the Jordanian city of Aqaba in June, Prime Minister Sharon publicly acknowledged the need for a Palestinian state and Abbas committed himself to ending Palestinian violence.
- **(click)** The violence, however, did not end. Arafat refused to give up control of his many "security forces" including Force 17 and the Tanzim, while other terrorist groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad continued to wage war against the Jewish people. Although these groups, as well as PA forces, claimed to be sticking to a "hudna" (cease-fire), their actions belied their words. On August 19 an attack on a crowded bus in Jerusalem killed 23 Israelis, including seven children.

- *(click)* Israel continued to build its West Bank security barrier, condemned by the United Nations General Assembly in a resolution. The vote passed 144–4, with only the United States, Israel and two tiny Pacific Island nations opposing it. Nonetheless, the barrier, along with actions of the Israeli Defense Forces, began to reduce the number of successful Palestinian terrorist attacks.
- *(click)* A suicide bombing in October at Maxim, a Haifa restaurant frequented by both Arabs and Jews, killed 21. Israeli jets bombed a terrorist base in Syria, serving notice to that country that it could not support murderers without consequences.
- *(click)* Violence by Palestinian Arabs also turned against those who tried to help them. A convoy of U.S. diplomats was attacked in the Gaza Strip, en route to a meeting to discuss arranging for local students to receive scholarships in America.

#### **PowerPoint I, Slide 5 - Year 2004**

- *(click)* In February, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon stunned Israel and the world with an announcement that he would seek to remove unilaterally Israeli military forces and installations and all citizens from Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip (known for their agricultural production, including that from greenhouses) and from four communities in the West Bank, stating that their presence in hostile, largely Palestinian-populated areas was no longer tenable.
- *(click)* In March, Israel killed the leader of Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, and then in April, his successor, Abed al-Aziz Rantissi. Despite their roles in murdering hundreds of innocents, much of the world protested Israel's "extra-judicial" killings of the Hamas leaders.
- *(click)* In April, Prime Minister Sharon and President Bush exchanged letters, in which the president appeared to agree that some Israeli communities built in the West Bank would likely remain part of Israel in whatever future settlement was reached between Israel and the Palestinian Arabs.
- *(click)* The town of Rafah, straddling the border between the Gaza Strip and Egyptian-controlled Sinai, had long been a site of weapons smuggling against Israel. In May, Israel launched Operation Rainbow, directed at uncovering and destroying the numerous tunnels that conveyed arms and material for Israel's enemies.

- **(click)** In July, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Netherlands produced an advisory opinion holding that Israel's security fence was illegal, despite the fact that the barrier was credited with saving scores of Israeli and foreign lives and that many legal experts asserted that the court lacked jurisdiction in the matter.
- **(click)** During the four years of al Aqsa *intifada* attacks, Palestinian gunmen had been working on improving the range and effectiveness of their Qassam rockets which had targeted Jewish communities in the Gaza Strip. In the fall of 2004, rockets began to fly over the 1950 Israel-Egyptian armistice line and land in Israeli towns like Sderot, causing death and injury. Israel responded with counter-strikes, trying to uproot the organizations and workshops in which the rockets were manufactured. Silent when rockets fell on Jewish homes, the United Nations condemned Israel for responding in self-defense.
- **(click)** In November, Yasir Arafat, who had been confined by Israeli troops in his headquarters in Ramallah most of the time since 2002, died of an undisclosed illness in a Paris hospital. He was surrounded by family and cronies, who fought over who would succeed him and who would control the vast sums that he had siphoned from international donations to the Palestinian cause.

### **PowerPoint I, Slide 6 - Year 2005**

- **(click)** In January, elections were held in the Palestinian self-rule territories for the first time since 1996. Mahmoud Abbas, a long-time leader of Arafat's Fatah organization and briefly Palestinian prime minister in 2004, was elected president of the Palestinian Authority. Although there were indications of voter fraud, many nations—including Israel—accepted him as the legitimate winner.
- **(click)** In February, Sharon and Abbas met at a summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, where the two men pledged a cease-fire. Regardless of their pledge, the Palestinian Arabs did not dismantle their terrorist infrastructure (arms and organizations) as required by the Oslo agreements and the 2003 "road map" sponsored by the "Quartet" of the United States, Russia, United Nations and European Union.
- **(click)** The Palestinian self-rule territories saw a surge in internal fighting among armed groups and families. Members of Prime Minister Abbas' own Fatah movement went on rampages, demanding jobs, special treatment and a continuation of violence against Israel.

- *(click)* In August, more than 8,000 Jewish residents of the Gaza Strip (as well as all Israel Defense Forces) and of four communities in the northern West Bank (Samaria communities Ganim, Kadim, Homesh and Sa-Nur) were removed from their homes by the Israeli government. *(click)* In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian Arabs celebrated by burning the newly-empty synagogues.
- Several weeks after forming a new political party, ‘Kadima’, in the wake of challenges from within his own Likud, its leader, Prime Minister Sharon, was incapacitated by a series of strokes.

**[From Teacher Aid 1.2D: 2006-2010 PowerPoint]**

**PowerPoint II, Slide 1 - Year 2006**

- *(click)* Despite Israel’s evacuation of the Gaza Strip, Palestinian terror groups continued to fire Qassam rockets into Israel like this one in the Israeli city of Ashkelon.
- *(click)* The election of Holocaust-denier Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as president of Iran in the summer of 2005 highlighted that country’s nuclear threat against Israel. In January, Iran—which was believed to be developing nuclear weapons—openly declared that it was restarting its uranium enrichment program despite international treaty obligations not to do so.
- *(click)* On January 26, Palestinian Arabs voted in elections for the Palestinian Authority’s legislative council. Hamas, the terror organization whose charter calls for an Islamic state from “river to sea,” (i.e. all of Israel) won. Israel declared it would not deal with a Hamas-led government as long as it continued to reject Israel’s legitimacy, refused to honor previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements and continued anti-Israel terrorism.
- *(click)* In late January and early February, deadly riots erupted across the Muslim world, ostensibly in response to the publication months earlier in a Danish newspaper of satirical cartoons depicting Islam’s prophet Mohammed. Many felt that freedom of expression in the West had come under attack.
- *(click)* In March, Ehud Olmert was elected twelfth Prime Minister of Israel.
- *(click)* In June, Palestinian gunman attacked an Israeli army post via a tunnel from the Gaza Strip, killing two soldiers and capturing Corporal Gilad Shalit. *(click)* The IDF responded by re-entering the Gaza Strip after having evacuated all Israeli civilian and military presence there almost a year before, attempting to rescue the kidnapped soldier and to end the barrage

of rockets and mortars fired at Israel from the Strip. Shortly after the Gaza attack, Hezbollah gunmen infiltrated Israel from Lebanon, killing eight soldiers and kidnapping two others under cover of rocket attacks against northern Israel. (*click*) The Israeli military responded, and Hezbollah continued firing rockets at northern Israeli communities. Scores of civilians were killed and hundreds of thousands fled or took shelter in bunkers. After a month of Israeli-Hezbollah fighting in Lebanon and rocket attacks into Israel, (*click*) a U.N.-brokered ceasefire was put into place. Israel temporarily weakened Hezbollah in Lebanon, killing approximately 700 gunmen. An estimated 500 Lebanese non-combatants also died. Israeli war deaths were 119 soldiers and 43 civilians.

- (*click*) By December, Hezbollah had made enough of a comeback to try to overthrow the Lebanese government by means of massive street demonstrations that shut down the capital Beirut. It began rearming extensively, in violation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701, which called for, among other things, all Lebanese paramilitary groups to disarm.

### **PowerPoint II, Slide 2 - Year 2007**

- (*click*) In February, bonds between Holocaust-denying President Ahmadinejad of Iran and President Bashar al-Assad of Syria were further strengthened by vows to work together to defeat the United States and Israel. (*click*) Iranian influence could be seen throughout the Middle East, including alliances with Hamas in the Gaza Strip and continued strong ties with Hezbollah in Lebanon.
- (*click*) Despite calls by the U.N. Security Council to cease nuclear activities, in April, President Ahmadinejad declared his country was now able to enrich uranium on an industrial scale, part of the process needed to make fuel for nuclear bombs.
- (*click*) In June, Hamas forces attacked Fatah in the Gaza Strip. (*click*) More than 100 Gazans were killed in the “five-day war” in which Hamas drove Fatah out of the Strip.
- (*click*) In September, Israel destroyed a secret Syrian installation, later reported to be a nuclear facility, near Deir al-Zor in northeastern Syria.
- (*click*) The Annapolis Conference was held in November. In December, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators began formal talks to launch another U.S.-brokered peace process. (*click*) Although no official map has ever been released, Prime Minister Olmert’s peace plan is said to have offered the Palestinian Arabs extensive land swaps in exchange for areas of large

Jewish settlement blocks, a free passage route from Hebron to the Gaza Strip and re-dividing Jerusalem to give areas with large Arab populations to the new Palestinian state. In 2008, PA President Abbas rejected the proposal with no counter-offer.

- *(click)* 2007 drew to a close with a significant drop in Israeli deaths due to suicide bomb attacks. *(click)* Hamas, however, increased terror attacks from the Gaza Strip on southern Israel on towns like Sderot.

### **PowerPoint II, Slide 3 - Year 2008**

- *(click)* In early 2008, Palestinian Arabs in the Gaza Strip fired rockets and mortars at nearby Israeli communities, including Sderot, approximately a half mile away. Palestinian terrorists fired a Katyusha rocket with extended range from the Gaza Strip into northern Ashkelon. Also, a Hamas suicide bombing in the Israeli town Dimona, *(click)* killed one Israeli and injured 23.
- *(click)* In late January, Hamas succeeded in manipulating a credulous press, alleging that Israel strangled the territory and turned off its power. Note the daylight behind the curtains as the Gaza portion of the Palestinian legislative council convened by candlelight in an effort to score additional public relations points.
- *(click)* In February, Hezbollah terror chief Imad Mugniyeh was assassinated in Damascus. He was believed responsible for, among many attacks, the bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks at Beirut in 1983, and the hijacking of TWA flight 847 and torture-murder of U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem in 1985.
- *(click)* In March, eight yeshiva students were shot dead by an Arab resident of eastern Jerusalem in a terror attack at the Merkaz HaRav Yeshiva in Jerusalem.
- *(click)* In November, Democrat Senator Barack Obama defeated Republican Senator John McCain to win the U.S. presidential election.
- *(click)* Also this month, Muslim terrorists attacked a Chabad House in Mumbai, India, killing the rabbi, his pregnant wife and seven others. The little boy in the picture was left an orphan. The Chabad attack was one of ten coordinated assaults in India's largest city and financial capital, in which at least 173 people were murdered and more than 300 were wounded.
- *(click)* Under Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Israel Defense Forces launched Operation Cast Lead in December, a three-week offensive to halt mortar and rocket fire and other attempted

terrorist attacks on Israel by Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other terrorist groups from the Gaza Strip.

### **PowerPoint II, Slide 4 - Year 2009**

- **(click)** In January, Israel declared a ceasefire to end Operation Cast Lead in the Gaza Strip. Hamas rejected Israel's ceasefire call, but its leadership announced its own ceasefire 12 hours later. Contrary to Palestinian claims, much press coverage and the U.N.'s Goldstone Commission report, but in accord with later admissions by Hamas, Israel asserted that at least half the approximately 1,400 Arab fatalities during Cast Lead were of Hamas and other combatants; many of the non-combatants essentially were "human shields" among whom Hamas and other Palestinian terrorists sought cover, in violation of international law.
- **(click)** In March, Likud Party Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu was sworn in as Israeli prime minister and head of a new government. The Kadima Party (led by Tzipi Livni) had won a plurality of Knesset (parliament) seats in the election the previous year but had been unable to form a new majority coalition government. Subsequently, runner-up Likud succeeded in assembling a majority.
- **(click)** In May, Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Obama met at the White House. Netanyahu received a cool reception.
- **(click)** In a June speech in Cairo, President Obama called for a "new beginning between the United States and Muslims." He received criticism for appearing to tie the re-establishment of a Jewish state in *eretz Yisrael* (the land of Israel) in 1948 to the Holocaust, omitting Jewish ties to the land dating back more than 3,000 years.
- **(click)** In June elections in Iran, incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (who was first elected in 2005), claimed victory over challengers including Mir-Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi, formerly prominent in the Islamic revolutionary movement. Many Iranians charged voter fraud. Widespread protests and rioting took place in Tehran and other cities, the largest anti-regime demonstrations since the 1979 Iranian revolution. **(click)** Iranian security forces violently suppressed demonstrations, killing many and arresting more.
- **(click)** Also this month, Prime Minister Netanyahu spoke at Bar Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center, **(click)** for the first time publicly endorsing the concept of a West Bank and Gaza Strip

Palestinian Arab state alongside Israel, in exchange for peace and recognition of Israel as the Jewish state.

- *(click)* September saw the release of the Goldstone report, ostensibly a U.N. Human Rights Council-commissioned analysis of the Gaza war. The report, by a panel led by South African Judge Richard Goldstone, accused both Israel and armed Palestinian groups—by which the Goldstone commission meant but did not specify Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and similar terrorist organizations—of war crimes and possible crimes against humanity in connection with Operation Cast Lead. Two months later, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a resolution denouncing the Goldstone report as “irredeemably biased and unworthy of further consideration or legitimacy.” A year and a half later, Goldstone retracted central accusations against Israel, most notably that Israeli troops had intentionally targeted Arab civilians.
- *(click)* In November, Prime Minister Netanyahu announced a ten-month freeze on Israeli construction in West Bank communities in a bid to restart stalled peace talks with the Palestinian Arabs. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas refused to negotiate for the first nine months. Under U.S. pressure, he temporarily returned to the table in the tenth month, at which time he demanded a total freeze, even on new building inside existing settlements and Jewish neighborhoods in eastern Jerusalem, which no Israeli government had accepted. No progress was made.

### **PowerPoint II, Slide 5 - Year 2010**

- *(click)* In May, Israeli naval forces intercepted six ships attempting to break their blockade of the Gaza Strip. These ships were said to be an international “humanitarian aid” flotilla but actually were chartered by the anti-Israel Free Gaza Movement and IHH, a Turkish Islamic charity thought to have ties to Hamas, al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations. *(click)* During the boarding of the lead vessel, the Turkish Mavi Marmara, by Israeli commandos, flotilla participants attacked Israeli personnel with knives and metal bars, and wrested firearms from the troops. After seven Israeli soldiers were wounded, others opened fire and killed nine Turks. This led to international outcry against Israel and increased existing tensions between Jerusalem and Turkey’s Islamic-leaning government. *(click)* No humanitarian supplies were found on the Mavi Marmara. The other ships in the flotilla were stopped

without casualties and brought to the port in Ashdod, where the participants were held and then released, and the goods sent overland to the Gaza Strip, as they could have been without the publicity-seeking flotilla.

- *(click)* In July, the IDF released declassified intelligence maps indicating that Hezbollah, in the four years following the 2006 Israeli-Hezbollah war in Lebanon, had turned more than 100 villages in south Lebanon into military bases. In March 2011 the IDF determined that there were more than 1,000 weapons sites in southern Lebanon, in violation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701, adopted after the 2006 fighting and that calls for Hezbollah's disarmament, among other requirements.
- *(click)* In December, WikiLeaks—the Web site exposing secret documents of the United States and its allies—released classified official papers suggesting close cooperation between Israel and forces loyal to President Abbas when rival Hamas gunmen took over the Gaza Strip in June of 2007.
- *(click)* Also in December, a large natural gas discovery in the eastern Mediterranean Sea within Israel's territorial waters was revealed. Large quantities of Israeli natural gas were first discovered in 2009, in Israel's Tamar field.

**[From Teacher Aid 1.2E: 2011-Present PowerPoint]**

**PowerPoint III, Slide 1 - Year 2011-1**

- *(click)* January brought “The Arab Spring”—anti-regime uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Bahrain, Yemen and protests elsewhere in Arab countries. These led to the overthrow of long-time dictators in Tunisia and Egypt, and civil war with NATO involvement in Libya (leader Muammar Gaddafi was killed in October by rebel forces), and large-scale bloody repression in Syria. Israel suddenly found itself in an even less stable Middle East and the United States lost long-time partners in the fight against al-Qaeda and other Islamic radicals.
- *(click)* In March, terrorist attacks on Israelis included the murder of five members of the Fogel family in Itamar (*click*) and a bomb explosion opposite Jerusalem's central bus station, killing one person and injuring 39.
- *(click)* Israel thwarted an Iranian attempt to smuggle weapons into the Gaza Strip via the sea, seizing the “Victoria,” a German-owned ship with more than 50 tons of weapons, including sophisticated missiles.

- **(click)** Also in March, the United States vetoed a U.N. resolution declaring that settlements were “illegal.” However, Washington still labeled the Jewish communities in the West Bank “illegitimate.” This position contradicts the League of Nations’ Palestine Mandate, Article 6, which called for “close Jewish settlement” on the land west of the Jordan River. The Mandate’s Article 6 is upheld by the U.N. Charter’s Article 80.
- **(click)** In an April Op-Ed piece in *The Washington Post*, Judge Goldstone retracted his statements accusing Israel of crimes against humanity during the December, 2008 – January, 2009 “Operation Cast Lead” in the Gaza Strip, stating that Israel did not intentionally target civilians. Many major news media all but ignored the retraction of key charges in the U.N.’s “Goldstone commission” report.
- **(click)** Hamas and Fatah signed a new unity agreement this month. Hamas refused to renounce anti-Israel terrorism, accept previous Palestinian-Israel agreements or recognize Israel’s legitimacy. These conditions had been set by the diplomatic “Quartet” of the United States, United Nations, European Union and Russia for Quartet acceptance of Hamas in the Palestinian Authority.
- **(click)** The month of May brought “Nakba Day, including violent riots along Israel’s borders. *Nakba*, an Arabic word meaning “catastrophe,” is used by many Palestinian Arabs and other Arabs and Muslims to recall the “catastrophe” of the creation of the state of Israel.
- **(click)** In May, al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was killed in Pakistan by United States Navy SEALs. **(click)** He had been living in a compound near a Pakistani military installation for more than five years.
- **(click)** This month also brought a “war of words” among Palestinian Authority President Abbas, United States President Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu. Disagreements included issues such as history of Israel’s 1948 War of Independence and Arab responsibility for causing refugee flight, potential borders and the status of Jerusalem.
- **(click)** In July, a Palestinian Authority summer camp for children named three of its divisions after Palestinian terrorists. **(click)** Earlier, a Fatah summer camp group and a college class also were named after terrorists.
- **(click)** An Egyptian pipeline carrying natural gas to Israel and Jordan via Sinai was blown up again, the third time in six months.

- **(click)** In August, eight Israelis were killed and 30 wounded during a terror attack along the Israeli-Egyptian border; five Egyptian police and/or soldiers were killed during Israeli retaliatory actions; Israel subsequently expressed regret for their deaths.
- **(click)** The Israeli Defense Force (IDF) continued to deploy the defensive missile system Iron Dome to protect cities and towns from short-range rocket attack, primarily from Hamas in the south and Hezbollah in the north.
- **(click)** In September, thousands of Egyptians mobbed the Israeli embassy in Cairo, and Israel was forced to airlift 86 Israelis (diplomats and family members) to safety. Anti-Israel sentiment in Egypt had been vociferous since the border deaths of five Egyptian soldiers at the hands of Israeli forces searching for terrorists following August's attack.
- **(click)** In reaction to increased antisemitism and anti-Israel activity—including the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement—on United States college campuses, the Jewish civil rights group Shurat HaDin (Israel Law Center) issued a warning to hundreds of university and college presidents around the United States that their schools may be subject to civil and criminal liability if they do not take necessary measures to ensure the educational rights and safety of Jewish and Israeli students on their campuses.

### **PowerPoint III, Slide 2 - Year 2011-2**

- **(click)** In September, a U.N. “anti-racism” event, Durban III, was held in New York City; Israel and major Western nations boycotted it, rejecting it as antisemitic.
- **(click)** In a collaborative effort between Google and the Israel Museum, five of the historic Dead Sea Scrolls went online for public viewing, and were available in searchable, high-resolution images.
- **(click)** Ignoring President Obama's plea to drop his bid for a unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) for a state of Palestine and to instead negotiate directly with Israel, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas spoke to the U.N. General Assembly, requesting formal recognition of a Palestinian state comprised of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and eastern Jerusalem.
- **(click)** In October, Israel and Hamas agreed to a prisoner swap, freeing Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, held in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip for more than five years, in return for 1,027

Palestinian Arabs (many convicted and jailed for murders of Israelis and Americans) held in Israel prisons. Hamas immediately called for the abduction of more Israeli soldiers.

- **(click)** The sophisticated Stuxnet virus was reported to have slowed Iran’s nuclear weapons program, yet the actual damage done remained uncertain.
- **(click)** Missile barrages from the Gaza Strip hit southern Israeli towns and cities; one Israeli from Ashkelon was killed, and Israel retaliated, killing 10 terrorists.
- **(click)** The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) voted overwhelmingly to approve full Palestinian membership. This was part of a continuing attempt by the Palestinian Authority for full recognition as a state outside of required negotiations with Israel. Israel feared that, among other things, the Palestinian Arabs would use UNESCO membership to claim Jewish holy sites.
- **(click)** In November, more evidence was gathered by Western countries and the U.N.’s International Atomic Energy Agency about Iran’s growing nuclear program.
- **(click)** Unrest and rioting continued in Syria, and speculation of civil war emerged amid spreading civilian armed resistance.
- **(click)** Iran captured what appeared to be an advanced U.S. unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV, or drone), likely endangering U.S. military secrets. This raised concern that a U.S. or Israeli mission to destroy Iran’s nuclear capabilities might become more difficult.
- **(click)** In late December, the president of the new nation of South Sudan visited Jerusalem. This was his first foreign visit as president. Israel supported South Sudan in its effort to secede from Islamist-ruled Sudan and become an independent state.

### **PowerPoint III, Slide 3 - Year 2012-1**

- **(click)** In January, Islamists in Egypt prepared to take control of parliament. Led by the Muslim Brotherhood, they stated that they would never recognize Israel and that Egyptians should be prepared for war.
- **(click)** Since “Palestine” was voted into UNESCO last year, Palestinian officials attempted to designate the Machpelah (Tomb of the Patriarchs) in Hebron a Palestinian “World Heritage Site.” Palestinian Arab representatives claim that the burial place of the Jewish patriarchs and matriarchs is a mosque.

- **(click)** Greece and Israel pledged to boost defense cooperation during a visit to Greece by Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak. Traditionally pro-Arab, Greece did not officially recognize Israel until 1991.
- **(click)** The Sinai Peninsula became a new hotspot with an expanding terrorist infrastructure following the overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak. **(click)** To counter this, Israel continued to build a security fence on its border with Egypt in the Sinai to prevent terrorist attacks as well as to stop additional African migrants from entering the country without authorization.
- **(click)** Iran announced that its underground nuclear installation near Qom would be operational soon, thus reaching another milestone in Iran’s effort to become a nuclear power.
- **(click)** In February, IDF Intelligence head Aviv Kochavi reported that Israel’s enemies had 200,000 rockets and missiles pointed at the country, and could reach all parts of Israel—even the ostensibly safe “center” of Tel Aviv and its suburbs.
- **(click)** It became public that PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas and Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal reached an agreement in Cairo on December 22, 2011, on national reconciliation and a strategic partnership.
- **(click)** In the twelfth such strike in the past year, saboteurs blew up an Egyptian pipeline that supplied natural gas to Israel and Jordan.
- **(click)** A photograph purportedly showing an Israeli soldier pointing a rifle at a Palestinian Arab girl with his boot keeping her on the ground went viral. **(click)** The photo subsequently was identified as having been taken in Bahrain during a street theater performance in 2009.
- **(click)** Continuing the hostile policies of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s Islamist Justice and Development Party, Turkey blocked an Israeli plan to contribute a missile ship to NATO’s “Active Endeavor” mission in the Mediterranean Sea.
- **(click)** Terrorist bombers attacked Israel embassy staffers in India. In New Delhi, the wife of Israel’s defense attaché was injured by shrapnel, along with three Indians. Israel accused Iran of being behind this attack as well as a thwarted car bomb attack in Tbilisi, Georgia. There were foiled attempts in Singapore and Thailand as well.
- **(click)** Prime Minister Netanyahu paid an historic visit to Cyprus, this being the first time an Israeli leader visited the nearby island nation. Relations between Israel and Cyprus have been historically chilly, but in the face of turmoil in the Middle East, both states were interested in upgrading ties.

- **(click)** More than 150 rockets were fired at Israel from Gaza, while the Iron Dome system intercepted more than 50. At least one million Israelis were forced to take cover.
- **(click)** Additional large quantities of oil and natural gas were discovered off the coast of Tel Aviv in Israeli waters.
- **(click)** A U.S. State Department spokesman refused to state that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, instead stating that its status is subject to negotiation.

### **PowerPoint III, Slide 4 - Year 2012-2**

- **(click)** Publicized details about imprisoned Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti's 2002 interrogation indicated that he had confessed to giving instructions and money to Fatah terrorist groups who murdered Israeli citizens. Barghouti, sometimes spoken of as a successor to Mahmoud Abbas, is serving five consecutive life sentences and an additional 40 years for his part in terror attacks.
- **(click)** During an April *60 Minutes* segment, "Christians of the Holy Land," CBS Television correspondent Bob Simon blamed Israel for what he termed an exodus of Palestinian Christians from the West Bank. Simon made his statement during an interview with Israeli Ambassador to the United States Michael Oren. In actuality, although the percentage of Christians has decreased due to an increase in the Muslim population, the actual number of Christians in the area has increased since Israel took control of the territory.
- **(click)** The British newspaper *The Guardian* published a photo caption identifying Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. However, three days later *The Guardian*, denying reality, issued a "correction" that Jerusalem was wrongly referred to as Israel's capital and instead referred to Tel Aviv as Israel's capital. **(Click)** In May, in a ceremony honoring the 45th anniversary of Jerusalem's reunification, Prime Minister Netanyahu said that the city will remain the united capital of the Jewish people, and that it will never be re-divided.
- **(click)** Israeli officials became increasingly outspoken that Syria's President Bashar al-Assad should step down after a 15-month uprising in which more than 10,000 Syrians, mostly non-combatants, had been killed.
- **(click)** Historian Benzion Netanyahu, father of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, died in Jerusalem at the age of 102. He was well known for his contributions to Jewish and Zionist history.

- **(click)** Israel received a fourth Dolphin submarine from Germany and ordered two more. According to military sources, the submarines are equipped to carry Israeli-made cruise missiles with a range of 1,500 kilometers (900 miles) and the ability to carry nuclear warheads, giving Israel “second-strike” capabilities in case of a nuclear attack.
- **(click)** In a surprise move, Israel’s Likud and Kadima parties agreed to form a unity government, thus averting the prospect of early elections. The agreement collapsed 70 days later over disagreement about how to expand the military draft and national service to exempted ultra-Orthodox yeshiva students.
- **(click)** The International Olympic Committee rejected an Israeli call for a moment of silence at the 2012 London Games to mark the 40th anniversary of the Munich terrorist attack in which PLO terrorists murdered 11 Israeli athletes.
- **(click)** Another computer virus—Flame—was reported to have attacked Iranian computers, as well as computers in other Middle East countries. It was considered to be part of a cyber-espionage and warfare campaign against Iran. Officials said that Stuxnet and possibly Flame likely were the work of U.S. and Israeli experts.
- **(click)** Israel transferred the bodies of 91 Palestinian terrorists, including several suicide bombers, to Palestinian authorities, saying it hoped the move would help restart peace efforts.
- **(click)** The Israeli High Court of Justice ruled that the state must dismantle five apartment buildings in Ulpana, located on the outskirts of the Beit El settlement. The court ruled that they were built without permits on land classified by the state as belonging to private Palestinian Arabs.
- **(click)** An Israeli government-appointed judicial commission headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Edmond Levy presented its report on settlements and outposts in the West Bank. It stated that Israel’s presence in the West Bank was not occupation and recommended that the state grant approval for Jewish settlements there. And though the findings comported with Israel’s long-standing interpretations of the League of Nations’ Palestine Mandate (including Article 6, encouraging “close Jewish settlement” on the land), U.N. Charter (Article 80, upholding Mandate Article 6), the 1924 Anglo-American agreement, the Fourth Geneva Convention, U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and the diplomatic record underlying the resolution, the findings prompted widespread criticism and condemnation.

- **(click)** Lockheed Martin Corp. said it planned to deliver 20 state-of-the-art F-35 fighter planes in 2016. Israeli airmen would train in the United States and return to Israel at the beginning of 2017. The transaction will cost approximately \$2.7 billion.
- **(click)** Israel and China **(click)** signed agreements to build an Eilat railway, linking the port of Eilat to the ports of Ashdod and Haifa, permitting shippers to bypass the Suez Canal. Such a rail line would ease the impact of an Egyptian blockage of Israeli access to the Suez Canal.
- **(click)** An Israeli tour bus carrying dozens of vacationers in the Bulgarian resort city of Burgas exploded in a terrorist bombing, killing five Israelis and a Bulgarian driver, and injuring more than 30. Bulgarian investigators said agents of the Iranian-back Lebanese Hezbollah perpetrated the attack.

### **PowerPoint III, Slide 5 - Year 2012-3**

- **(click)** Members of the United Church of Canada, the country's largest Protestant denomination, voted to affirm a motion supporting a boycott of goods produced in Israeli communities on the West Bank and in eastern Jerusalem.
- **(click)** The annual Shanghai Jiao Tong report listed three universities in Israel (Hebrew University, the Technion Israel Institute of Technology and the Weizmann Institute) among the world's top 100 universities. Hebrew University and the Technion ranked 38th and 39th in science.
- **(click)** An Israeli judge ruled that Israel was not responsible for the death of Rachel Corrie, the American woman run over by a military bulldozer in 2003 as she protested the demolition of Palestinian homes in the Gaza Strip. The report called her death a "regrettable accident." Her family and anti-Israel groups have tried to portray Corrie as a "martyr" to Palestinian "resistance."
- **(click)** In September, the Democratic Party deleted a platform reference to Jerusalem as Israel's capital, then reinserted it during the party's convention preceding the November 2012 election. The 2012 Democratic Party platform was silent on the Palestinian refugee issue, whereas the 2004 and 2008 platforms stipulated that, as part of the peace process in creating a Palestinian state, "the issue of Palestinian refugees" should be resolved "by allowing them to settle there, rather than in Israel."

- **(click)** Foreign terrorism against the United States included attacks in Libya and Egypt. The September 11 attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya resulted in the murder of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other American staffers by groups sympathetic to al-Qaeda.
- **(click)** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the U.N. General Assembly. Displaying a drawing of a bomb, he explained the three stages of enriching uranium and drew a red line, showing the stage at which Iran must be stopped. He said all attempts to persuade Iran to halt its progress toward developing a nuclear weapon (including economic sanctions) had failed so far, and he urged the world to impose a strict red line on Iran to prevent war.
- **(click)** In October, Israel shot down an unmanned drone that entered its airspace from the Mediterranean Sea, marking the first time in at least six years that a hostile aircraft penetrated Israel's airspace. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah claimed responsibility, saying the device was built by Iran; in November, Nasrallah asserted that Hezbollah missiles could strike all of Israel.
- **(click)** More than 3,500 American service members joined Israeli counterparts for *Exercise Austere Challenge 2012* in Israel. U.S. forces manned Patriot anti-missile systems, an Aegis ballistic missile defense ship and various other air defense systems. The Israelis fielded more than 1,000 service members and tested the Iron Dome short-range missile defense and the medium-to-long range Arrow 2 and David's Sling systems.
- **(click)** What was reported to be an Iranian missile production and warehouse facility in Sudan was destroyed in an air attack. Both Iran and Sudan accused Israel of being responsible, which Jerusalem denied.
- **(click)** Egypt's President Mohamed Morsi attempted to seize additional power, effectively making himself a dictator and placing himself beyond the law, including issuing a decree shielding his decisions from judicial review. Egypt erupted in violent protests. After days of protests, Morsi agreed to a partial retreat.
- **(click)** On November 14, Israel launched Operation Pillar of Defense in response to incessant rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip. The operation began when the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) assassinated Ahmed Jabari, the head of Hamas' terrorist operations against Israel. **(click)** During the next eight days, the IDF targeted more than 1,500 terrorist sites across the Strip

and destroyed most of Hamas's [longer-range missiles](#). Of the 1,506 rockets fired from Gaza, more than 800 struck Israel, damaging a relatively small number of homes, schools and other civilian infrastructure, but some reaching Tel Aviv and Jerusalem for the first time. Four hundred and twenty-one rockets on trajectories likely to hit populated areas were intercepted by the Iron Dome. Many of the rockets fired at Israel from Gaza were provided by Iran.

- **(click)** On November 29, the U.N. General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to grant “Palestine” the status of “non-member observer state.” This date was the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Partition Plan for Palestine (U.N. Resolution 181)—which proposed dividing what remained of British Mandatory Palestine (the land west of the Jordan River) into a Jewish and an Arab state. The plan was accepted by the Jews and rejected by the Arabs. PA President Mahmoud Abbas ostensibly chose the anniversary of this resolution to show what he considered to be the basis of a “two-state solution.” The Palestinian Authority planned to use the upgrade in status to fulfill two political objectives: (1) to declare all disputed lands in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Israel as Palestinian “occupied territory” and (2) to change the status of Palestinian terrorists in Israel’s prisons to “freedom fighters” and “prisoners of war.”
- **(click)** On the same evening “Palestine” was granted non-member observer state status, Palestinian U.N. representative Riyadh Mansour opened an exhibit in the public entrance hall of the U.N. New York headquarters, which included depicting all of Israel as Palestine, matching the logo on the cover page of Mahmoud Abbas’ speech to the General Assembly.
- **(click)** Amid condemnation by the United States, European nations and others, the Israel Land Authority issued approval for new construction in eastern Jerusalem neighborhoods. Israel also announced building in the roughly four square mile E-1 development area connecting the Maaleh Adumim suburb to Jerusalem. Israel’s position is that building a Jewish-populated corridor to Maaleh Adumim would prevent the division of Jerusalem and establish a defensible line along its eastern border, without presenting a problem for Palestinian contiguity.
- **(click)** The Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA) released a comprehensive study of the *New York Times* for July-December 2011, detailing an anti-Israel double standard in the paper’s coverage of the Jewish state and its neighbors, Palestinian Arabs in particular.

### **PowerPoint III, Slide 6 - Year 2013-1 (January-February)**

- **(click)** Israel's January 22 parliamentary elections gave the ruling Likud and Israel Beitenu parties a reduced plurality, with 31 of the Knesset's 120 seats. Yesh Atid (There is a Future), led by former newscaster Yair Lapid, emerged as the second-largest party, with 19 seats. Habayit Hayehudi (Jewish Home) led by Naftali Bennett, placed third with 12 seats.
- **(click)** On January 27, International Holocaust Memorial Day, *The Times of London* published a cartoon of Prime Minister Netanyahu building a brick wall with bodies of Palestinian Arabs embedded and using their blood as mortar. Rupert Murdoch, the paper's owner, issued an apology published by the *Times*, called the image "grotesque" and "offensive."
- **(click)** News reports claimed that Israeli warplanes blew up a truck convoy carrying advanced anti-aircraft weapons along the Syrian-Lebanese border. The weapons were said to be destined for Hezbollah.
- **(click)** Intel's Israeli subsidiary more than doubled its exports in 2012 to \$4.6 billion. The world's No. 1 computer chip maker, Intel is Israel's largest private employer, with more than 8,000 employees. In 2012, the company accounted for 20 percent of Israel's high-tech exports. In addition, Cisco Systems, the world's largest maker of networking equipment, agreed to buy Israel's Intucell Ltd. for about \$475 million, gaining technology that helps wireless carriers manage their networks.
- **(click)** In February, a study funded by the U.S. State Department concluded that Palestinian textbooks rarely demonize Israel or incite hatred against the Jewish people and that both sides use texts to present children and students with a one-sided view of their conflict. Israel's Education Ministry rejected the findings, stating, "The attempt to create a parallel between the Israeli and Palestinian educational systems is completely unfounded and lacks any basis in reality".
- **(click)** Yityish Aynaw, 21, a former Israeli army officer born in Ethiopia who came to Israel with her family at the age of 12, became the first Ethiopian-Israeli to win the Miss Israel pageant.

### **PowerPoint III, Slide 7 - Year 2013-2 (March -May)**

- **(click)** A U.N. report cast doubt on Israeli responsibility for the death of the infant son of a BBC employee during Operation Pillar of Defense in November 2012. Images of BBC journalist Jihad al-Mishrawi tearfully holding his 11-month-old baby's corpse spread throughout the world, with Israel blamed for the death. The report, released by the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, suggested the two were hit by shrapnel from a rocket fired by Palestinian Arabs aimed at Israel, which missed its mark.
- **(click)** On March 18, after six weeks of coalition talks, PM Benjamin Netanyahu formed a new government, Israel's 33rd. The coalition members agreed to an arrangement of four parties: Likud-Beytenu (31 seats), Yesh Atid (19), Jewish Home (12) and HaTnua (6), for a total of 68 members in the 120-seat Knesset.
- **(click)** President Obama arrived in Israel for a three-day visit, followed by a one-day meeting with Palestinian Arabs. His agenda included discussing three strategic security issues with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu: Iran's nuclear program, the situation in Syria and Israeli-Palestinian diplomacy.
- **(click)** The Egyptian military continued demolishing tunnels linking the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula, after destroying approximately 250 in March. **(click)** The diagram is an illustration of the Rafah weapon smuggling tunnels.
- **(click)** i24news, a new Israeli television channel broadcasting news 24 hours a day in English, French and Arabic, was launched this summer.
- **(click)** According to a report issued by the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel's population numbered 8,018,000. This included 6,042,000 Jews (75.3 percent), 1,658,000 Arabs (20.7 percent) and 318,000 non-Arab Christians and others (4 percent). Since the previous Independence Day, Israel's population grew by 137,000, including 19,500 immigrants. Outside of Israel, there are an estimated 5.5 million Jews in the United States, 500,000 in France, 380,000 in Canada and 290,000 in Britain, with a world-wide total of approximately 13,800,000 Jews today.
- **(click)** A Palestinian terrorist stabbed 31-year-old Israeli Evyatar Borovsky of Yitzhar to death at a bus stop at the Tapuach Junction in Samaria. A father of five, the victim was the first Israeli to be murdered in a terror attack in Judea and Samaria since 2011. Palestinian Authority President Abbas' Fatah movement proclaimed the murderer a hero. **(click)** The

Judea Military Court sentenced Waal al-Arjeh to two life sentences and 58 years for the 2011 murder of Asher Palmer, 25, and his infant son, Yonatan, killed when al-Arjeh threw a stone through the windshield of their car. Al-Arjeh, who had worked for the Palestinian Authority security forces, headed the group in charge of “developing” this method of killing Jews.

- **(click)** The French Court of Appeals in Versailles ruled that Israel did not violate international law by building a light rail line in eastern Jerusalem. The ruling came in response to a 2007 Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) lawsuit. The judges ruled that international treaties applied to lands Israel captured in 1967 and that those conventions—including the Hague Convention of 1907—state that the ruling power “can and even must establish normal, public activity” in that territory.
- **(click)** Google replaced the words “Palestinian territories” with “Palestine” in its English and Arabic versions. A Google spokesman said the company followed the lead of several international organizations, including the United Nations. Israel criticized the Internet giant for “getting involved in international politics.
- **(click)** Prime Minister Netanyahu paid an official visit to China, the first by an Israeli prime minister since 2007. Two-way trade between China and Israel has increased from \$50 million in 1992 to \$9.91 billion in 2012. The two main goals of the trip were to (1) open the Chinese market to Israeli companies and (2) press for tougher action over Syria and on Iran's nuclear program.
- **(click)** University of Cambridge physicist Professor Stephen Hawking withdrew from the fifth President's Conference in Jerusalem, stating his support for an academic boycott of Israel. Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, Director of the Shurat HaDin-Israel Law Center, responded that Hawking's “whole computer-based communication system runs on a chip designed by Israel's Intel team.”
- **(click)** Upheavals in Arab and Muslim countries throughout the Middle East were accompanied by attacks on Christians, many of whom were forced to escape Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and other countries in Africa. Dozens of churches in the Middle East have been destroyed.
- **(click)** Thirteen years after the purported death of 12-year-old Muhammad al-Dura during the al-Aqsa *intifada*, an Israeli government review discredited a report, from French public television station France 2, that said he was killed by Israel Defense Forces (IDF) fire. Widely

covered internationally, al-Dura became one of the second *intifada*'s most widely disseminated anti-Israel symbols. The IDF had initially accepted responsibility for the Gaza incident, but an inquest had concluded that the boy was not hit by IDF fire. In March, 2002, German television station ARD broadcast a documentary suggesting that al-Dura was more likely to have been hit by a Palestinian bullet than an Israeli bullet. At the end of May, 2013, Philippe Karsenty, a French media commentator, was convicted of defamation for calling the incident "staged" and for suggesting France 2 had doctored the material.

### **PowerPoint III, Slide 8 - Year 2013-3 (June-August)**

- **(click)** A U.S. consulting firm reported that Israel is the largest exporter of unmanned aerial systems, or drones, surpassing aerospace companies in the United States.
- **(click)** Hassan Rouhani won Iran's presidential elections. Although presented both by the Iranian regime and Western media as a "reformist," Rouhani is a regime loyalist, serving as secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council for 16 years. During his tenure, Rouhani led the crackdown on a 1999 student uprising and struck a conciliatory posture as Iran's top nuclear negotiator while presiding over the secret advance of the nuclear program, helping the Iranian regime evade Western scrutiny. He also served on a special committee that plotted the 1994 bombing of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires which murdered 85 and wounded hundreds more. Before his inauguration, Rouhani said, "The Zionist regime has been a wound on the body of the Islamic world for years and the wound should be removed."
- **(click)** The Israeli start-up company OrCam developed a device giving the visually impaired the ability to read. The device (also called OrCam) is a small camera hooked onto a pair of glasses connected to a portable computer that fits in the wearer's pocket. **(click)** Google Inc. acquired the Israeli company Waze for a reported \$1.1 billion. Waze is a social-mapping, traffic navigation start-up.
- **(click)** On July 3, Mohammed Morsi was deposed by Egypt's military led by **(click)** army chief General Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. The military suspended the constitution and installed an interim government. Morsi rejected the generals' actions as a "military coup." Egyptian security forces also arrested at least 38 senior leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood. U.S. President Obama stated that Washington was "deeply concerned" by the actions of the

Egyptian military, and urged it to “move quickly and responsibly to return full authority back to a democratically elected civilian government.”

- **(click)** On July 4, America’s Independence Day, singer Alicia Keys performed to a sold-out Tel Aviv concert despite pressure to cancel her trip from author Alice Walker and other proponents of the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.
- **(click)** Israel carried out an air attack near Latakia, Syria that targeted advanced Yakhont antiship cruise missiles sold to Syria by Russia. The missile represented a threat to Israel's naval forces and raised concerns that it might be provided to Hezbollah.
- **(click)** The European Union published a binding directive forbidding any funding, cooperation, awarding of scholarships, research funds or prizes to any Israelis residing beyond the 1949 armistice line, including in Judea and Samaria, eastern Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. **(click)** The regulation requires that any agreement or contract signed by an EU country with Israel include a clause stating that Jewish communities beyond the armistice line are not part of the state of Israel.
- **(click)** The European Union added the “military” wing of Hezbollah to its list of terrorist organizations. In response, Prime Minister Netanyahu said, “I welcome the fact that the EU has also declared Hezbollah to be a terrorist organization . . . . In recent years, the State of Israel has invested great effort in explaining to all EU member states that Hezbollah is the terrorist arm of the Iranian regime and perpetrates attacks around the world. . . . Hezbollah is one organization, the arms of which are indistinguishable.”
- **(click)** In a bid to resume talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the Israeli government agreed to release 104 Palestinian terrorists over nine months. All were imprisoned either prior to the 1993 Oslo Accords or immediately after, and have served between 20 and 28 years of their sentences.
- **(click)** A U.S. federal appeals court found unconstitutional a law giving thousands of Americans born in Jerusalem the option of listing “Jerusalem, Israel” as their birthplace on U.S. passports. The court found that the law passed by Congress in 2002 “impermissibly intrudes” on the foreign policy powers of the president.

- **(click)** The death toll in Syria was reported to be more than 100,000, with civilians bearing the brunt of the fighting. More than 100 Syrian casualties from the civil war were sent discreetly to Israel for lifesaving treatment.
- **(click)** The Jewish Agency airlifted 17 Jews from Yemen to Israel, prompted by concerns for the safety of Yemen's remaining Jewish population in the wake of growing threats from radical Islamist groups including al-Qaeda. **(click)** Since 2009, 151 Yemeni Jews escaped to Israel (over 50,000 escaped since early 1900's), while fewer than 90 Jews remain in Yemen today.
- **(click)** Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Iran installed 7,000 centrifuges since June, including 1,000 upgraded models with enhanced uranium enrichment capabilities.
- **(click)** In August 21, more than 1,400 Syrian men, women and children were killed in a nerve gas attack by Syrian President Bashar-al-Assad forces on rebel-held areas east of Damascus. The United States, Israel and other intelligence sources confirmed that the Syrian regime used chemical weapons against its own people.
- **(click)** Israel and the Palestinian Authority held several rounds of peace talks, their first negotiations in nearly five years.
- **(click)** In October, two Israeli scientists and one American Jewish scientist shared the Nobel Prize in chemistry. The winners were: Arieh Warshel, an Israeli-American professor at the University of Southern California; Martin Karplus, a Jewish citizen of the United States and Austria who researches at the University of Strasbourg and Harvard University; and Michael Levitt, an American, British and Israeli citizen who works at the Stanford University School of Medicine.
- **(click)** In November, the P5+1 powers (United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China, Germany and the European Union) reached a six-month interim deal with Iran on its nuclear program, despite the opposition of Israel, Jewish groups, the U.S. Congress and Saudi Arabia. In exchange for sanctions relief, Iran agreed to halt any uranium enrichment above five percent and promised to neutralize its stockpiles that are near 20%.

### **PowerPoint III, Slide 9 - Year 2014**

- **(click)** In April, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abba's Fatah movement agreed to form a unity government with Hamas, designated a terrorist organization by the United States, Israel and other countries and sworn to the destruction of Israel. This Fatah-Hamas agreement prompted the Israeli government to pull out of peace talks.
- **(click)** In June, Israeli teenagers Eyal Yifrach, Gilad Shaar and Naftali Frenkel were kidnapped. Israeli security forces launched an intensive search for the three in the West Bank, which Hamas and its allies attempted to disrupt by firing mortars and rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel. The discovery of the teenagers' bodies 18 days later led to an apparent revenge killing of Palestinian teenager Mohammed Abu Khdeir.
- **(click)** In July, Israel launched Operation Protective Edge in response to increased rocket fire from Gaza. The war began with airstrikes, then led to a ground invasion that destroyed more than 30 Hamas terror tunnels into Israel. During the 50-day war, there were many more fatalities among Palestinian Arabs (approximately 2,100) than among Israelis (approximately 70), in large part due to the fact that while Hamas again used its Gaza residents as human shields as it had fighting with Israel in 2008-2009 and 2012, Israel had built extensive networks of shelters, warning and anti-rocket systems. After Hamas violated 11 cease-fire proposals or agreements, a final cease-fire was reached on August 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Israel and Egypt shared an interest in cracking down on Islamic terror groups in the Sinai Peninsula and in targeting Hamas. Israel also reportedly found tacit common ground with Sunni Muslim governments in Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates in opposing Islamist radicals.
- Israel faced new threats at its border with Syria from al-Qaeda-affiliated terror groups, Hezbollah and Iran. After violence on the Syrian side, the United Nations moved its threatened peacekeeping forces to the Israeli side of the Golan. Israel built an improved security fence against infiltration. Although barely reported, Israel has been quietly helping Syrian refugees throughout the war, both medically and with supplies.
- **(click)** The relationship between Turkey and Israel continued to deteriorate, with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accusing Israel of "genocide" and "terrorism" against the Palestinian Arabs. He also claimed Israel's "barbarism has surpassed even Hitler's" and refused to consider renormalizing relations with Israel.

- **(click)** Threats from Islamic extremists intensified. The Islamic State terrorist group, also known as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) or the Islamic State in the Levant (ISIL) was the most prominent, conquering large portions of Iraq and Syria and beheading American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff (who also held Israeli citizenship) and two British citizens, David Haines and Alan Henning. ISIS posted videos of their brutal murders on YouTube.
- Energy-independent Israel is now supplying natural gas to its neighbors. In September, Israeli energy companies signed a multi-billion dollar deal with Jordan to provide it with off-shore natural gas.
- **(click)** Antisemitism increased worldwide, especially in Europe, to levels not seen since the Holocaust. French Jews made aliya to Israel in markedly increased numbers.
- **(click)** Anti-Israel and antisemitic activity continued to grow on American college campuses, including regularly held “Israel Apartheid Week” and BDS (“boycott, divestment and sanction”) events. Supporters of Israel—Jews and non-Jews—and Jewish students in particular often were targeted for discrimination and intimidation.