

**If  
you  
want  
a  
future,  
read  
on . . .**

David Baram



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IF YOU WANT A FUTURE, READ ON ...

by David Baram

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IF YOU WANT A FUTURE, READ ON ...

Part 1            Unless treated the disease is fatal

There just has to be a future. There has to be a future for us and for our children. But whether there is a future and what kind of a future depends on what you and I do.

Let's look at the security of Israel. That in itself is a matter of life and death. Not in some future but just around the corner. If not this year then perhaps the next. So here is something of immediate importance. It is a matter of life and death and all the indications are that you and I need to consider some matters that are absolutely vital.

First let me say something about myself. In some ways I am quite a special guy:- I can tear myself out of the involvement with a situation, out of feeling strongly one way or the other, out of acting impulsively because of preconceived ideas. I am an adviser, a consultant, I help people see things as they are so that they themselves become aware of the consequences of the decisions they make, so that they become aware of the consequences of behaving one way or the other.

My name is immaterial but my work gets published and it has been favourably accepted both by the left and by the right because it is appreciated that it is objective. But one pays a price and the price is this:- Don't expect me to do your work for you. If you don't like the facts, if you don't like the situation, it is up to you to do something about it.

We are talking about Israel and the future of Israel and here I find myself in the position of the medical specialist who is talking to a very good friend and notices certain symptoms. Unless treated the disease is fatal. So what can one do? I can ask him how he feels, and he says he feels well. I suggest he goes and sees a doctor and as he is feeling well that could be the end of a beautiful friendship. But I know and he doesn't know that he can be cured but only if he takes action fairly quickly. In the end all that I can do is to tell him something about my qualifications, describe one or two of the symptoms in a mild sort of way and suggest that investigation is required. What he does after that is up to him.

In other words, it is up to you. Having pointed out what is taking place and the consequences, don't expect me to solve your problems for you. It is up to you and to no-one else.

But let me give you a word of warning. After all, what happens in Israel depends to a considerable extent on the political, religious and business establishment, on the educated middle class and elite, on trade union leaders and on worker representatives. And here they are warned:- After you have read this you will know that it is your choice, that it is your behaviour, that it is the way in which you encourage or allow others to behave which is determining the future of the country and its people. Don't expect to escape if Israel should fail. You now know that no matter which community you may wander to, there will from now on be other Jews who would point their accusing fingers at you.

IF YOU WANT A FUTURE, READ ON ...

Part 2

Now you see how serious the matter is

By this time you wonder what this is all about. Well let us look at some symptoms, let us look at the Israeli armed forces. As an Israeli the chances are you have been in it, you have seen action and you are in the reserve and it occupies a good slice of your life. Now you know as well as I do that there is a good deal of difference between what people say and what they do, between propaganda and reality. And here let me tell you one of my laws:- 'Judge people by what they do and not by what they say'. What is being said about the forces couldn't be nicer. The media show one a picture of young heroes, superb strategists, first-class teamwork under tough conditions and in demanding situations. Indeed, hardly any national or religious holiday or occasion passes without some military spectacle with blowing of trumpets and flaming torches.

At this point you may well say: Who is this guy to criticise the armed forces! If you ask this question you are responding emotionally, you are already prejudging the issue. Believe you me, I am not at all interested in criticising. What I am doing is putting some facts before you and if you don't like the facts, don't blame me - I had nothing to do with them. But I am the chap who wrote a report in 1973 before the Yom Kippur war and warned those whom I could reach that the military were not as effective as people thought. I am an expert in organisation, in the way people work together, in how to get effective teamwork and what I said then had nothing to do with the qualities of the individual soldier.

Just look at the sequence. Six-Day war in 1967, the forces totally effective, military strategies and successful operations that will be quoted in the textbooks for a long time to come. Yom Kippur war in 1973, initial ineffective response and disaster turned into victory. Lebanon action in 1978, reliance on fire-power, on fighting at a distance, on bombing rather than hand-to-hand confrontation.

You know, Judge Agranat produced a first-class report on what happened in the Yom Kippur war. You have no idea of the trouble I had to obtain a copy in Jerusalem. Maybe there were some parts that weren't published and it is possible that all I got was a public relations handout, but nobody I talked to had seen or read the document. It is a first-class report and Judge Agranat is highly skilled in the analysis of evidence and in clear logical thought. To me it looks as if he treated symptoms rather than causes so that the situation is probably much as it was before. I also think that what happened in Lebanon is a reflection of the way in which Israeli strategists themselves evaluated the personal strength, the morale if you like, of the Israeli armed forces in open face-to-face confrontation with the enemy. They are simply not as effective as they were before. Gone are the days when the sight of one Israeli strolling over the top of a sand dune could send ten Egyptians running.

Now you see how serious the matter is. Perhaps I am being a little brutal about the way in which I put things. It is intentional. Remember the Americans pulling out of Vietnam. In my opinion the Israeli forces are still far more effective than the American ones in face-to-face confrontation. But the Americans pulled out of Vietnam and you can't pull out of Israel.

IF YOU WANT A FUTURE, READ ON ...

Part 3      The writing has been on the wall for some time

So now you see the picture and you know you have to do something about it.

In fact the writing has been on the wall for some time, only you weren't told about it, you weren't told what to do about it. It doesn't help to know that the same process is taking place elsewhere. In America, in Britain. The social statistics shout it from the rooftops.

Let me put it to you in another way. It is only a few years ago that you went out for the evening without bothering to lock the door. Nowadays you make sure you fasten the windows as well and in some areas keep a light on and the radio going. Just think of what has been happening to crime, delinquency, drug addiction, the younger age of those involved and the increasingly brutal way people treat each other, leaving aside dishonest business dealings. Look at the increasing number of divorces and thus of one-parent families, look at the even larger number of children being brought up in this way. It is not just happening in Israel, it is happening in other democratic countries. And it is nothing new. It has happened again and again. Whenever democracy raised its head, the same knife was used to chop it off.

The family is the basic unit of society. Smash the family and you sap the strength of the people. I understand the resulting disruption was so marked in Russia that they had to backpedal. One of the first things the Khmer Rouge did in Cambodia was to smash the family to make the people dependent on the state. It is tough when you have to go to work to earn the money, do the shopping, look after the kids and do absolutely everything yourself. The one thing you cannot afford to be is to be ill. And you have got no time for the kids either. And in a one-parent family just where is the example of responsible behaviour of people looking after each other. The boy being brought up by the mother knows that both of them were left to fend for themselves by the father and that is a fine example to model himself on. If you are struggling on your own so as to survive you don't have time or energy to think of freedom or to work for the community or for the betterment of mankind.

The family is the basic unit of society. Each member of the family gets strength from the others. Two heads are better than one, and work divided between two people in such a way that each can become expert in his own area is done much better than one person trying to do it all. The family gives people enormous emotional and economic strength to overcome life's problems. Husband and wife battle on together back to back and they do so successfully regardless of how tough the struggle. O.K., you can't win all the battles but what cements the relationship is not just battles won but battles fought together. The depth of such a relationship between husband and wife and the wealth of strength it gives regardless of the opposition, this you know as well as I do. The children follow the example of their parents, gain the same strength and pass it on. It all depends on deep and secure emotional involvement between two people, between husband and wife.

IF YOU WANT A FUTURE, READ ON ...

Part 4            Here in cool and unemotional language are  
some of the facts

Talk to any social scientist worth his salt. If he knows what he is talking about he will tell you that the weakening of family life, the burden this places on each of the separated partners, the future unhappiness and social discontent likely to be suffered by the children, are largely caused by one factor. To be strong the relationship has to be unique and secure. It depends on the ability of the partners to commit themselves to each other.

We have been smoking cigarettes for quite some time. Cigarette smoking is habit forming. Many people smoked, many smoked very heavily, many still smoke today. It took years before the simple fact that people were paying good money for something that was doing them a lot of harm became known sufficiently for action to be taken.

Sex is mostly confined to within the family but in some countries sexual relations outside marriage have become more common. We now know the effect of this on the people concerned, on family life and on society. Like it or not, they concern you, your family, the quality of your life, the kind of world that will be left for your children to live in.

Here is one simple fact:- In all countries where sex education has been introduced, the same corruptive pattern of social change has been observed because sexual experimentation starts so that promiscuity increases.

Promiscuity means sexual relations outside marriage, both before marriage and while married. Has anybody ever told you what promiscuity does to people? Have you ever given one moment's thought about why people refrain from promiscuous relationships, why people are always intuitively putting the brake on any temptation to behave promiscuously? Here in cool and unemotional language are some of the facts:-

Promiscuity leads to increasing sexual dissatisfaction, to the weakening of family life and marriage bonds and to sexual excesses. The substitute satisfactions of smoking, drinking and drug-taking increase and there is a lowering of the age of those involved. There is an upsurge in wanton destructive aggression in the community and a rise in aggressive juvenile delinquency. There is increasing concern over the harm done on young children by the practices and by the lack of concern and commitment of their parents, and concern has already been expressed over increasing male impotence.

It is a summary of what Louise W. Eickoff, consultant psychiatrist, wrote in 1970. But this is 1978 and by this time the effects are obvious to you and to me, to any intelligent reader of the informed press.

IF YOU WANT A FUTURE, READ ON ...

Part 5            Now you understand the serious implications

The sum total of what we have talked about affects the individual, the family and the society. History shows that free societies which allow themselves to become 'permissive' (i.e. promiscuous) weaken themselves to the point where their civilisation destroys itself, or is destroyed by outsiders.

Now you understand the serious implications of what I said earlier on about the changing effectiveness of Israel's armed forces.

How come you weren't told before?

It took quite some time before the manufacturers of cigarettes would admit that there was even a possibility that their product could be harmful. The people at the top are simply more concerned with their own personal affairs than they are with yours.

A chemical company called Chisso operating near an attractive bay on the island of Kyushu in South-West Japan dumped effluent into the sea at a town called Minamata. The effluent was the cause of methyl-mercury poisoning:-

- 1925 The company compensated local fishermen because their fish catches had dropped but the company continued to dump effluent.
- 1953 Strange and frightening things started to happen in the town. Cats began to go berserk and even killed themselves by jumping into the sea. People could be seen in the streets slavering and twitching, with paralysed hands and grotesquely dilated pupils. The full effects were apparent. The company continued to dump its effluent into the sea.
- 1959 It was fully realised that the effluent was the cause of the mercury poisoning. It is now called 'Minamata disease'. Its symptoms are final. There is no known cure. The company continued to dump its deadly effluent into the sea.
- 1968 The company closed the plant.

The company is now paying compensation because some citizens got together to help the patients and took the company to court.

At one time 200,000 people in the area were at risk because they were consuming the contaminated fish. The long-term genetic effects are not known but many children with Minamata disease have been born to mothers who have shown no signs of poisoning. It is staggering to think that the company continued to dump deadly effluent into the sea for so many years after the first recognisable effects of their actions.

The social effects of promiscuity on you, your children and your neighbours, on all of us, on democracy and freedom are in sum total far greater than any of the horrors I have just mentioned.

You haven't been told before but now you know why. The people at the top care more about themselves than they care about you and those who wish to weaken democracy and freedom condone and encourage permissive (promiscuous) behaviour.

IF YOU WANT A FUTURE, READ ON ...

Part 6            In each case they admitted what had taken place  
and promised to correct it

You want to live in a free and strong country. After all, it is your life and it is your future. Matters have gone too far. Can you afford to sit by and let matters slide any further?

I was told that in at least one of your universities unmarried boys and girls, freshers, are allocated joint accommodation.

Rumour or fact? What is happening? Who is responsible? Who authorised it?

Here are some statistics, selected at random:-

Next time you are sitting in an Egged bus, count twenty people. One out of every twenty Israelis was the victim of a crime in 1974.

Count thirty people. One out of every thirty Israelis was using some kind of illegal drug in 1976.

Three million Jews live in Israel. About 40,000 abortions every year. Over one million potential sabras have been aborted since the establishment of the state of Israel.

Crime rate.            About 5 times that in Japan.

Drug abuse.            At least 5 times more frequent than in Britain. Perhaps 40 times more frequent than in Japan.

Abortion rate.        Roughly 6 times that in USA and in Britain.

Demand to know, find out the facts.

The social statistics don't have to get worse. In some countries the crime rate is falling. In some countries vandalism, delinquency, drugs or alcohol are not a problem among the young.

It was a Citizens Committee which supported the Minamata patients and helped them to take the company to court. Local associations have been very successful in Israel in making their opinion felt.

When it was reported that the Jerusalem Municipality had charged some residents what appeared to be excessive amounts for widening a road, they looked into what had taken place and admitted that inadvertently a mistake had been made. When it was reported that the fees charged to traders for outdoor street signs were to be increased by what appeared to be excessive amounts, they also backtracked. In each case they looked into what had taken place and promised to correct it, a day or so after these matters had been discussed in the press.

The power of the Israeli press and of the other media is great. You can find out what is happening and get publicity. You can make your opinion felt.



IF YOU WANT A FUTURE, READ ON ...

Part 7            The lesson is very clear

The Polish Roman Catholic Church recently accused the state authorities. A pastoral letter was read out in the churches which denounced declining moral standards, sexual education and sexual licence in the mass media, film and theatre. It called on parents, teachers, cultural figures and young people themselves to resist 'a secret plan for the moral disintegration of the nation'.

Take Japan. High standard of living, clean streets free from violence. The people are hardworking, well mannered and seemingly happy. They are so successful in business that they don't seem to know what to do with their vast global trade surplus.

Minamata showed that the Japanese leadership put economic growth, i.e. its own power, above the present and future welfare of its people. But it prevented the corruption of its people and in this way maintained internal strength and reaped the benefits of democratic leadership.

Israel is under pressure to withdraw from territories gained in 1967. It can only withdraw at the expense of its security. Israel is well armed but almost unimaginable wealth is flowing into the treasure chests of the Arab countries day by day, year by year and this is a process which began before the Yom Kippur war. This wealth is being used to industrialise, to educate and to train and vast sums are being spent on armaments and on building up an armaments industry.

It is still one man against very many, one tank against very many, one plane against just as many as before but the opposition is wealthier, more educated, more capable of handling advanced technological weapons systems and Israel is just as small as it was before.

You know it as well as I do. There wasn't a peace movement just after the Six-Day war. The tide has been turning against Israel.

The owner of any small business will tell you that he can compete with his bigger more powerful competitors because he can do better, because he is more effective. He has to offer better quality at the same price or the same quality at a lower price. In other words, if it wishes to be successful Israel has to be better, has to be more effective than the opposition.

We have allowed our establishment to weaken us internally, to push us into a tight corner where we are now fighting in a restricted space with our backs against some very solid walls.

The lesson is very clear. We must regain our internal strength and we must regain it quickly. If the establishment is unwilling then change for the better has to be ensured through pressure exerted by informed public opinion and demand.

I have explained my qualifications, described the symptoms, stated the diagnosis, warned about the consequences if the trend is not reversed, and described the cure.

The cure is there, it can be done.

The survival of a patient who has cancer depends on how soon the cure is started. It is best not to leave it till tomorrow but to start today.

And now it is up to you.

Stand up and be counted.



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Report No. 43 The Social Effects of Promiscuity.

Report No. 42 If You Want a Future, Read On ...

These two reports differ only in some points of detail.

'If You Want a Future, Read On ...' is intended for those concerned about Israel and for readers in Israel.

'The Social Effects of Promiscuity' is intended for those interested in the subject.

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