

DHS assesses Biden's border policies as greatest threat to our nation

We must adopt a new strategy that puts Americans first

By Chad Wolf and Robert Law

Last month, Americans across the country came together to honor and remember the 2,977 Americans who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Noticeably absent from the ceremonies in New York City, at the Pentagon, or in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, was President Biden, who was in Alaska returning from an international trip.

This wasn't a scheduling gaffe; it was a conscious decision by the president to deprioritize attending a vigil for the worst terrorist attack our homeland has ever experienced.

Unfortunately, this decision was not surprising. For the better part of the last 2½ years, Mr. Biden has claimed that White supremacy and "MAGA Republicans" are the biggest threats to the homeland. Speaking at Howard University's graduation in May, the president declared White supremacy "the most dangerous terrorist threat."

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has made similar assertions, saying last year that the "greatest terrorism-related threat that we face in the homeland is the threat of domestic violent extremism" and that "the most prominent threat is the threat of White supremacists." Oddly, the secretary also recently claimed that climate change is "the most prominent threat we face."

Omitted from the administration's publicized list of threats to the homeland in the past 2½ years is any reference to the unsecured southern border. Nothing has been mentioned about the more than 250 known or suspected terrorists apprehended at the southern border thus far during the Biden administration or the nearly 2 million "gotaways" who avoided the Border Patrol and have disappeared into our communities.

Amid that backdrop, DHS quietly published its 2024 Homeland Threat Assessment just days after the 9/11 anniversary. For those unfamiliar with the report, it is intended to identify "the most direct, pressing threats to our Homeland during the next year." Despite the political rhetoric of the Biden administration, the report never mentions White supremacy.

Instead, the report is a damning indictment of the Biden administration's failed border strategy. "While terrorists pose an enduring threat to the Homeland, drugs kill and harm far more people



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in the United States annually," one passage reads.

The report explains that the leading cause of death of young Americans ages 18 to 45 is fentanyl poisoning. It also states that the source of the fentanyl is the Mexican drug cartels, which exploit an overwhelmed Border Patrol to smuggle it into the U.S. and flood our communities.

This threat assessment predicts that the

fentanyl poisoning epidemic will persist in 2024, underscoring how the Biden administration's border policies have effectively turned every state into a border state.

The report also undermines the White House's claims that the border is secure. According to the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, "We expect continued high numbers of migrant

encounters over the next year" and "Terrorists and criminal actors may exploit the elevated flow and increasingly complex security environment to enter the United States."

Although the administration and its media allies try to paint the unlawful border crossers as sympathetic women and children seeking a better life, real national security and public safety threats are among those entering our country. This is an inconvenient truth to the Biden administration's narrative, but the reality is that nefarious actors exploit vulnerabilities, and there is nothing more fragile today than our southern border.

The Biden administration is at a crossroads. By every objective measure, its border policies

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have failed Americans and jeopardized the security of the homeland. Look no further than what is going on in Eagle Pass, Texas. The mayor has declared a state of emergency as a record 10,000 aliens crossed the southern border illegally in just 24 hours several times in recent weeks.

It is time to stop politicizing the issue and adopt a new strategy that puts Americans first. To secure the border

and keep fentanyl out of American communities, there must be deterrence and accountability for unlawful behavior.

The Biden administration should end its "catch and release" scheme and reinstate the "Remain in Mexico" policy. It also needs to treat the cartels as public enemy No. 1 and use leverage to compel the Mexican government to become a useful partner in the effort to defeat the cartels.

Open borders are a national security threat that makes our communities more dangerous. It's time to get serious about securing the border.

Chad Wolf is the former acting secretary of homeland security and executive director and chair of the Center for Homeland Security and Immigration at the America First Policy Institute. Robert Law is the director of the Center for Homeland Security and Immigration at the institute and the former chief of the Office of Policy and Strategy at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Trump administration.

Iran's terrorist war

Hamas and Hezbollah are wholly controlled proxies of the Tehran regime

By Jed Babbin

On Oct. 7, the 50th anniversary of the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, the terrorist group Hamas made an unprovoked attack on Israel by land, sea and air. Thousands of rockets were fired from the Gaza Strip at Israeli civilians and military bases, Hamas members flew paragliders into Israel, and a great many of its ground troops forcibly entered Israel.

As of Thursday morning, at least 1,200 Israelis have been killed and over 2,000 wounded. Some were massacred in their own homes. About 250 were slaughtered while attending the Supernova music festival.

As many as 150 hostages, including Israeli soldiers, have been kidnapped and taken to the Gaza Strip. Unless they are rescued quickly, they will all be killed. Secretary of State Antony Blinken confirmed Thursday morning that at least 25 Americans were killed by Hamas in the invasion. Some may be among the hostages.

Rape and torture are common Hamas tactics. As the Israeli Defense Forces reported, Hamas published a video of its members beheading captured Israeli soldiers. In Kfar Aza, Hamas killed at least 40 children, some of them babies.

Hamas spokesman Ghazi Hamad said that Iran had given its support to the Hamas terrorists. Iran reportedly funded and armed the terrorists and helped plan the attack.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, the

principal terror agency of the ayatollahs, reportedly gave final approval at an Oct. 2 meeting with Hamas in Beirut.

In criticizing President Biden's payment of a \$6 billion ransom for five American hostages on Aug. 22, this column pointed out that Iran could — and said at the time it would — use the money any way it wanted. It's impossible to prove that

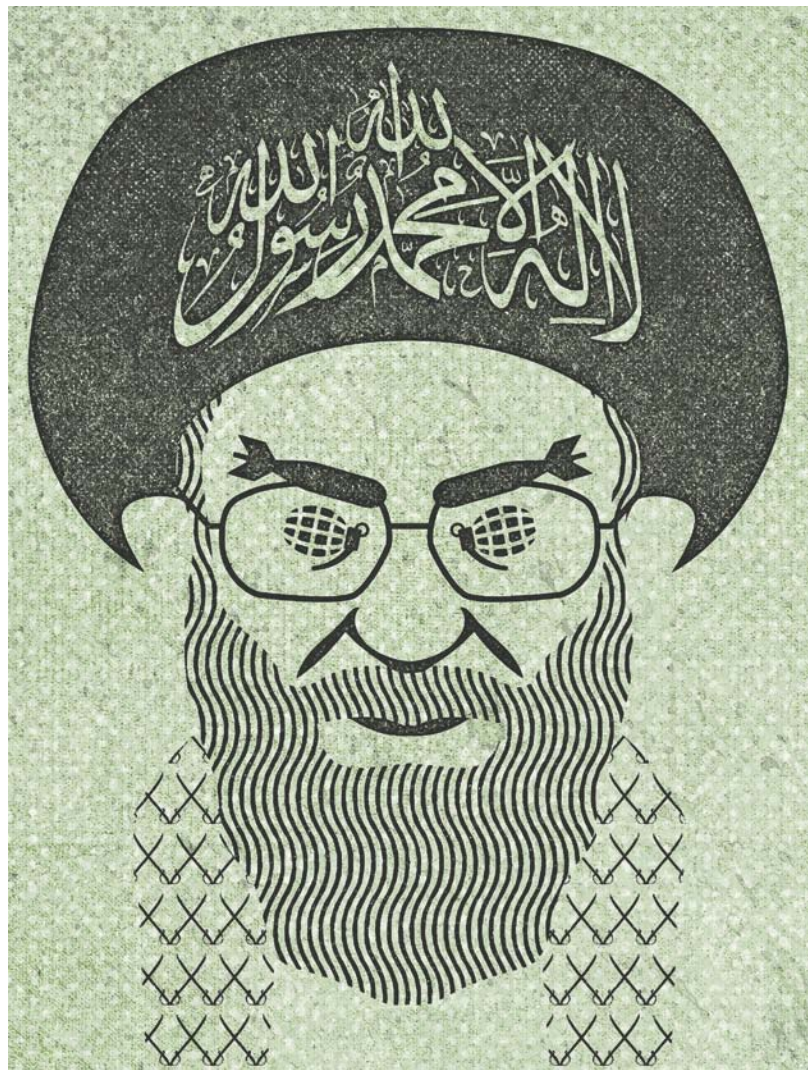


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the money Mr. Biden sent Iran paid for the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas, but it's also impossible to prove that it didn't.

Israel was surprised by the attack, which

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By Charles Hurt

I hate to break it to you, House Republicans, but nobody cares who you pick as the leader of your silly little club. So just pick the next idiot and get on with your job.

How easy does it have to be? You don't even have to pick someone from the ranks of the blithering morons in Congress.

Just walk out to Independence Avenue, flag down the first cab going by, and haul the driver into the House chamber and make him speaker of the House.

OK, OK. So you people have somehow manage to screw up every corner of this country and the cabdriver you just hauled in off the street doesn't speak English. Then just grab the passenger from the back seat of the cab and make her speaker of the House.

I mean, Dennis Hastert did this job. Hakeem Jeffries could do this job. If they could do it, just about anybody could do it.

President Biden could probably do this job. Vice President Kamala Harris already does this job in the Senate. OK, maybe Mr. Biden would screw it up, but he screws everything up.

America is bankrupt and sits on the precipice of catastrophe, and you guys are squabbling like children over something nobody cares about.

We have an invasion of terrorists at the border. Government-funded inflation has spiked consumer prices to the highest point in two generations. Gas prices are already high and once again on the march skyward.

And again, America is bankrupt — \$33 trillion in debt — and you clowns are still printing money.

In the last election, American voters put the "good guys" in charge to start solving these problems. Unfortunately, the "good guys" also happen to be the Stupid Party. Sadly, it is still an improvement over the evil and dishonest alternative.

Now comes House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, the latest sacrificial offering to be

Stupid Party vs. Evil Party

Republicans have to look abroad for problems to solve

speaker of the House. This is great news because it allows Republicans to spend the next year reminding voters how an extremist Democrat radicalized by Sen. Bernie Sanders tried to assassinate Mr. Scalise and as many other Republican lawmakers as he could find.

If the past is any measure, though, Republicans will somehow screw this up, too.

Mr. Scalise is already doing his part. Apparently, America's broken border, gas prices, inflation and the looming threat of China are not enough to get Congress to grow up and start working. But you know what is?

The horrifying, despicable terrorist attacks by Hamas in Israel halfway around the

world. Mr. Scalise announced this week that his very first priority if he gets elected to lead the clown show in Washington will be to reiterate our allegiance to Israel.

All well and good, especially since American citizens were killed and an unknown number of American hostages are being held by Hamas savages. But where exactly

do Americans have to get in line to have their government address the problems facing them every day?

Israel's security and prosperity are certainly important, but not as important or urgent to Americans as America's security and prosperity.

Charles Hurt is the opinion editor of the Washington Times.



NUCLEAR OPTION BY CHARLES HURT



Rep. Steve Scalise

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Foreign contractor ignoring sanctions wants to sell weapons systems to U.S. military

Airbus continues to use Russian titanium in planes

By Brian McNicoll

Whatever you think of the war in Ukraine, is it too much to ask that the defense contractors that are cashing in do not continue with business as usual with Ukraine's invader, Russia? This would not seem to be a heavy lift. The war is not universally popular in the U.S., and it does no good for those who support helping Ukraine if defense contractors violate the sanctions our government has established.

But that appears to be the case with Airbus. The plane and helicopter manufacturer, based in the Netherlands, is making refueling tankers for the U.S. Air Force. The company admitted in a recent letter that it is continuing to use titanium from Russia in the construction of the planes.

This violates sanctions established by the U.S. and its partners to punish Russia for starting this war. Airbus, which gets about half its titanium from Russia, argues that the sanctions do not matter, that they don't dissuade Russia from attacking Ukraine and that it's better to hold costs down by turning to cash-strapped Russia to supply the lightweight metal critical to aircraft manufacturing.

Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury said in April 2022 that the company had been stockpiling titanium for nearly a decade — beginning when Russia took Crimea and did not see a need to violate sanctions in the short or medium term.

But beyond that, "we don't think sanctions on imports will be appropriate," he said. "This will be a small impact on Russia and would have large consequences on the rest of the countries and the industry. So we think the no-sanction policy is the most meaningful one."

Airbus also declared last November that it was "decoupling from

Russia when it comes to titanium" and would do so "in a matter of months, not years."

According to a letter from a coalition opposing business-as-usual with Russia, Airbus continues to buy titanium from Russia, and it looks like the Air Force has already gotten skittish about this.

The Air Force has reduced its order of the currently used KC-Y planes from 140 to 75 and is looking ahead to a new generation of tankers to be purchased in the 2030s. Airbus had hoped to produce at least 100 of the current generation of tankers to justify hiring 1,300 more workers to produce the planes in Alabama and Georgia, but the 75-plane

Russia's core sources of revenue from the outside world are energy and raw materials, which means it is vulnerable to sanctions if they are honored by all relevant participants. At the very least, we should expect that those that wish to sell multibillion-dollar military assets to the U.S. government would see the wisdom in honoring its sanctions.

Alas, that is not the case with Airbus. Its CEO says the "most meaningful" approach is to defy U.S. policy and sanctions and continue to purchase titanium from Russia. Titanium is an important part of airplanes, to be sure. Its strength-to-weight ratio

makes it ideal for everything from wings to landing gear.

But it is available outside Russia, and it is not unreasonable to expect companies trying to do business with the United States in the defense sector to not do things that compromise American foreign policy goals.

Those who believe the U.S. is right to help Ukraine can't overlook that a vendor seeking a large contract is ignoring the wishes of the customer and financing a war effort against that customer in the process.

Those who don't believe the U.S. is right to help Ukraine should be concerned as well. A foreign vendor that ignores our defense needs is not the kind of company we should do business with under any circumstances. Such a company can't be relied upon. It can't be trusted.

There should be some decoupling all right — between the U.S. Department of Defense and the vendors willing

to thwart our defense goals to improve their bottom line.

Brian McNicoll, a freelance writer based in Alexandria, Virginia, is a former senior writer for The Heritage Foundation and former director of communications for the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

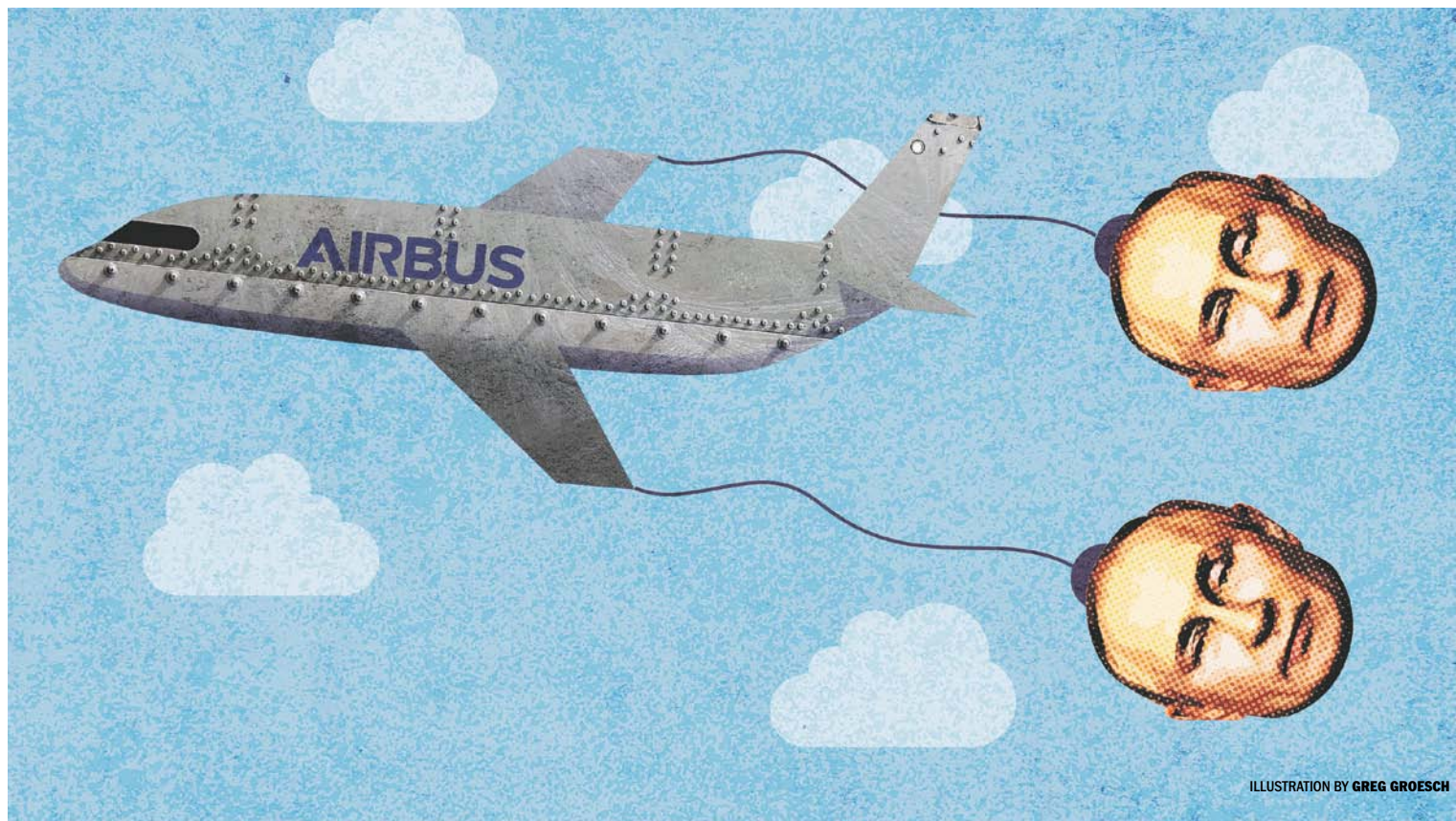


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order makes it economically infeasible for Airbus to do its manufacturing in the U.S.

Russia sells little in the way of intellectual property. It designs almost nothing. Its web presence is a shadow of those of countries half its size and population. Its manufacturing base is unstable and not known for quality.

By Scott Walker

Weakness opens the door to evil. President Biden's weakness over the past two years has invited many of the problems we see in the world today.

For all the complaints about former President Donald Trump's tweets, I would take one now. Remember when he said this?

"To Iranian President Rouhani: NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE. WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS!"

Right now, I would appreciate more of his mean tweets — and decisive actions. Hamas was not successful with blatant acts of terrorism while Mr. Trump was in office, and Iran did not flaunt its financial support of the terrorist group in the past. Russian dictator Vladimir Putin did not invade Ukraine during the Trump administration.

As president, Mr. Trump ordered the precision strike that took out the head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps Quds Force in 2020. A drone strike on the Baghdad airport killed top Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani. After the attack, the president said: "He was planning a very major attack and we got him."

Peace through strength works. The capabilities of our armed forces increased under the Trump administration, just as they did during the

A weak leader brings destruction

President Biden is putting the rest of the world at risk

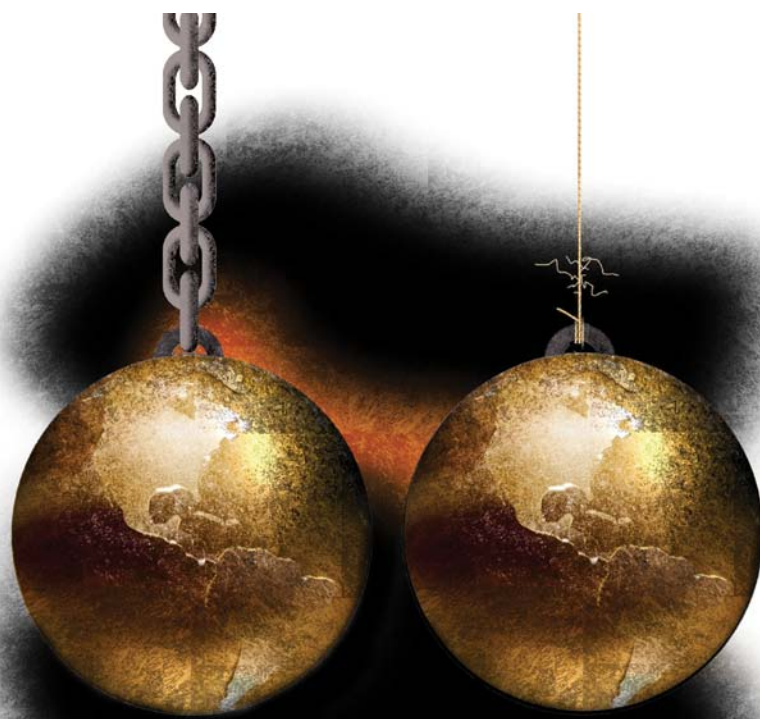


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Reagan administration. Mr. Trump kept us out of war by being strong, not weak.

Mr. Biden, on the other hand, is a wimp on national security. His weakness is putting the rest of the world at risk.

That's because Hamas and Lebanon-based Hezbollah are wholly controlled proxies of the Iranian regime. They do nothing that is not ordered by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps.

On Oct. 8, the chief of staff of the Iranian armed forces, Gen. Mohammad Bageri, celebrated the "sacred wrath" of the Hamas war and said that it would ultimately result in the "crumbling" of Israeli's "Zionist regime."

As I wrote on this page on Sept. 12, 2001, there should not have been any thought of "proportionality" in our response to the 9/11 attacks. Nor should there be now in Israel's response. The only proper response is proportionate to the attacked nation's might, not the enemy's purported weakness.

Some pundits and some Israelis are saying that Israel should wipe out Hamas for good. This idea gravely misunderstands the conflict, because there will always be Islamist terrorists

In addition, the implementation of a better plan for a drawdown would have allowed Afghan forces to maintain control of the country. Instead, the Taliban now dictate the actions of the United States.

Worst of all, about \$7 billion worth of military equipment was left behind and is being used to oppress the people of Afghanistan. Some of it either has been or will be used against Israel and eventually even against the United States.

The failure of the withdrawal from Afghanistan revealed the weakness of the Biden administration. In turn, Mr. Putin saw an opening and moved into Ukraine. The people of that sovereign nation rejected the attacks by the Russian military, but the rest of the world saw a weak response from Mr. Biden.

Then the Biden administration rewarded the oppressive leaders of Iran by announcing plans to lift economic sanctions and make \$6 billion available to the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world. This gave the green light for the attacks we saw against Israel this past weekend. Iran must pay for its involvement in these attacks.

The people of Israel have every right to respond to these attacks on their citizens. This was their 9/11. They must restore a deterrence to actions against them.

The United States must help in this effort. Support Israel's efforts to restore its Iron Dome missile defense system. Provide Israel with all the arms and intelligence it needs to eliminate the terrorists. Speak out against those siding with Hamas and the terrorists — abroad and at home.

We must also push back against those supporting the terrorist acts. Freeze the \$6 billion transfer payment to Iran. Renew economic sanctions. Expand the Abraham Accords. Let all governments in the region know that they must not allow their territory to be used to wage the war against Israel. Hold the leaders of Hamas accountable for their actions.

Mr. Biden wasn't even briefed on what happened in Israel until Saturday morning, even though the attackers started late Friday night. Even then, he was slow in his response.

We need a commander in chief who takes charge and understands that the United States is the leader of the free world. We need a president who will keep us out of another world war through strength, not appeasement.

It is time for America to lead again.

Scott Walker is president of Young America's Foundation and served as the 45th governor of Wisconsin.



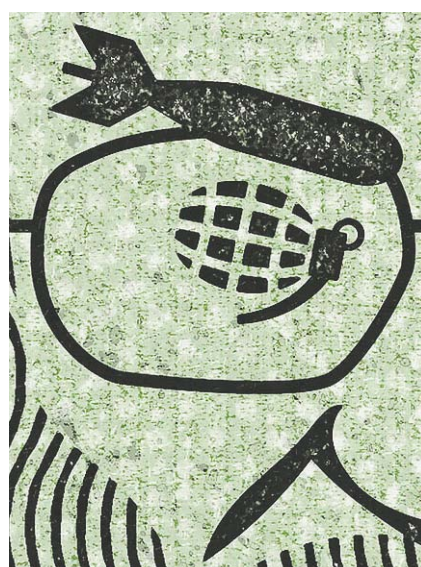
SCOTT WALKER

Babbin

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means there was a massive failure of its vaunted intelligence services. It was, in the words of several Israeli officials, their 9/11. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel was at war, which Mr. Netanyahu's Cabinet confirmed by declaring war on Hamas. Warning Palestinians to leave Gaza immediately, Mr. Netanyahu vowed that "the enemy will pay a price it has never known before."

It should. Israel faces a grim, long and hard fight that may become a two-front war. The terrorist group Hezbollah (literally the "party of God") has fired mortars into Israel from Lebanon, which was answered by Israeli artillery. This could be the precursor of a huge escalation of the Hamas war. Hezbollah may still attack Israel, but only the Iranians know for sure.



whose objective is to wipe Israel off the map. If every Hamas member were killed, another group will rise in its place because this is, at its core, a religious war.

This not only a religious war but

also a political one based on a fiction that has dominated Western thinking about the Middle East for decades. The Palestinians are a perpetual victim class and nothing is otherwise permitted to be said.

The Oct. 7 attack should disprove that fiction for good. The Palestinians are a protected class because Arab nations have found that they are a convenient political tool for them to maintain hostilities with Israel.

Many Western nations have fallen for that ploy, including the United States under many presidents. It was then-President Donald Trump's Abraham Accords that exploded the Palestinians' mythology, and President Biden has done nothing other than impeding their spread by pressuring the Israelis to grant concessions to the Palestinians.

Hamas' attack sought not only to kill Israelis but also to assert Palestinian relevance. As the Abraham Accords proved, the Palestinians are

irrelevant to peace between Israel and the Arab states. All Hamas can accomplish is to delay the normalization of negotiations between Saudi Arabia and Israel or cause them to be canceled.

So far, the battle favors the Israelis. Hundreds of airstrikes on Gaza have been accompanied by a cutoff of fuel, water and electricity in the Gaza Strip. On Oct. 8, Israel's equivalent of our Navy SEALs — its "Squadron 13" — reportedly captured Hamas naval force commander Muhammad Abu Ghali. Israeli Defense Forces are now massing troops for a counterattack on the Gaza Strip that will probably begin before you read this.

There can be no peace in the Middle East while the ayatollahs reign in Iran. We must, as we do, stand with Israel.

Jed Babbin is a national security and foreign affairs columnist for The Washington Times and contributing editor for The American Spectator.