

DANGEROUS COUNTRY

Israel is possibly the world's most dangerous nation.

If you thought North Korea, Iran, or Syria should have that title, think again: none of those three has actually attacked another country lately, nor are they likely to unless pushed into it. Israel, however, is both willing and able to attack any of its neighbors without overt provocation, and it can probably get away with it.

It can get away with it because it has the unqualified backing of the US. It is not politically expedient for any American leader to tell Israel to behave or risk losing support. So, the predictable reaction is "Israel has the right to defend itself", even when no one even threatened to attack Israel.

Israel launches more 'airstrikes' in Syria

Israel questions existence of intl. law: Saul Landau

"I think what Israel calls into question is the very existence of international law. If Israel feels free to bomb neighboring countries, it opens up a peculiar vulnerability for Israel. I mean why should anybody pay attention to rules about bombing other countries if Israel does not pay any attention?"

Syria is a dangerous place, as any country involved in a bloody civil war would be. The biggest danger it presents is that others, like the US and/or NATO might be tempted to intervene, to affect the outcome. That, of course, would be exactly the wrong thing to do. What we really don't need is a country like Israel making the situation worse, possibly causing retaliation, which could involve the US.

Obama Has Good Reason Not to Intervene in Syria

"Lessons from Iraq and Afghanistan show US military intervention in the Middle East doesn't work."

The situation would be dangerous enough if it were only about nations struggling over resources. That, at least, would have something of a rational motive. But the Middle East brings together the three most violent and irrational religions the world has ever known. The potential for insanity and disaster is high.

I suggest reading the following very carefully, to avoid inferring the wrong message:

An Atheist Muslim's Perspective on the 'Root Causes' of Islamist Jihadism and the Politics of Islamophobia

Never underestimate the danger of a religion. As the author points out, the majority of the adherents to any of them may well be good and peaceful people, but the fundamentalists, especially when they begin to think their religion or their fellow believers are threatened, can be as volatile as a puddle of gasoline.

And that, as we should all know, is not a place to play with fire.

-cosmicrat May 5, 2013