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IN YOUR WORDS

Mountain siege in Iraq ends

Building public momentum toward an intervention while quietly removing the Yazidis through the back door was a master stroke. Subtle, clever, and it seems to have worked. Some may be too terrified to leave the mountain — it won't be the first time they've fled up there in their long and very sad history. I will give Obama and the U.S. command their due; it may not make for popular headlines, but it has saved hundreds of lives.

JON CHAMPS, UNITED KINGDOM

Here's a fine opportunity to create a model for all future problems of this nature, globally. Those who want no part in a conflict should be offered a safe rescue structure. The U.S. and the Western world should set up huge refugee camps in peaceful countries and fill them with the frightened and needy. It would be much cheaper than fighting their attackers in situ. Get the innocent out. Leave the murdering radicals to fight among themselves.

JOE MCNALLY, SCOTLAND

This is a slippery slope that we are going down faster and faster. What the Iraqis are experiencing is anarchy in its purest form. With their government rapidly failing, uncertainty has gripped all the players. Obama's oscillation from no boots to some boots is a reflection of the fluidity of the situation.

NYCLAW, FLUSHING, NEW YORK

Europeans act to help Kurds

While there is no easy answer to the many issues of the region — more weapons aren't much of a solution. If the French want to have better-armed Kurds, why not persuade Iraq to give up some of its arms surplus? It is sad that diplomats and world leaders seem to think that increasing the ability to kill will bring about solutions.

JON S., SWEDEN

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IN OUR PAGES

International Herald Tribune

1939 Fascist Italy Issues Book Ban

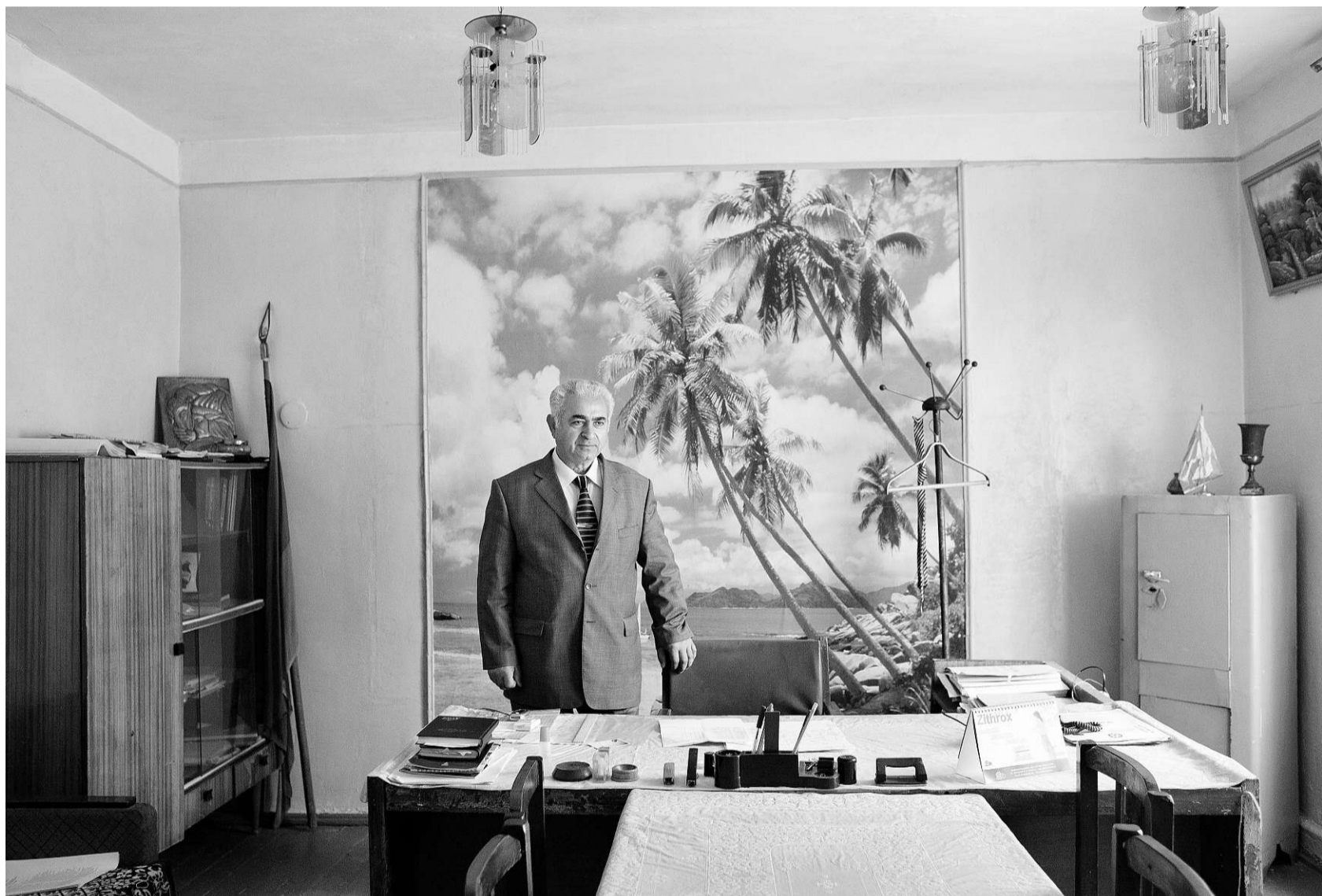
ROME The works of famous writers, including many Jews, and such books as the Nick Carter series of red-blooded adventures that thrilled American boys a generation or two ago, as well as Emil Ludwig's biography of Lincoln, have been condemned officially as unsuited to the Fascist spirit. Booksellers and librarians received the list, which included books that have been seized and destroyed and others of which the sale has been forbidden. The condemned authors include Casanova, Balzac, Boccaccio, Machiavelli, Rabelais, Voltaire and Poe.

1964 U.N. Fails to Control Nicosia

NICOSIA United Nations Cyprus commander Gen. K. S. Thimayya today [Aug. 14] said the U.N. was unable to gain control of the situation in the tense capital city of Nicosia. Gen. Thimayya said he had received "assurances from both sides" that there would be no firing in the area of Kokkina, the only major port still dominated by the Turkish Cypriots. But, he said, he was "not happy about the situation in Nicosia, where I have been unable to get control of the situation despite all my efforts." A U.N.-patrolled neutral zone (green line) through the city divides Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

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Dreaming of the Caspian



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MILA TESHAIEVA

'PROMISING WATERS' The countries that surround the Caspian Sea occupy a juncture of jarring political, economic and environmental transformations. For four years, the photographer Mila Teshaieva has focused on three countries that are former Soviet republics: Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turk-

menistan. The result is "Promising Waters," a book that examines how the region is changing. Top, the seashore in Aktau, Kazakhstan, created in 1963 as a model city for workers in uranium mines, now closed. Aktau is being remodeled as the City of Energy. Above, an official of Narimanabad village, Azerbaijan.

Earl Cheit, who predicted university financial woes, dies at 87

BY DOUGLAS MARTIN

Earl F. Cheit, an educator who in 1970 wrote an influential report saying that two-thirds of the colleges and universities in the United States were in or near grave financial difficulty, died on Aug. 2 at his home in Kensington, Calif. He was 87.

OBITUARY

The University of California, Berkeley, where he was a longtime administrator and professor, announced the death, giving the cause as cancer.

Dr. Cheit's 250-page report, titled "The New Depression in Higher Education" and sponsored by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education, examined 41 private and public colleges and universities in 21 states and the District of Columbia. Based on research Dr. Cheit (pronounced "chite") directed, it found that 70 percent of these were either in financial difficulty or "headed for trouble."

The analysis was particularly jolting because it came as baby boomers were flocking to campuses, which had expanded to meet the demand. Research at universities had grown exponentially as

course offerings and majors increased.

The reason for alarm, Dr. Cheit wrote, was that costs faced by colleges were rising at a faster rate than income. He said that if the institutions were to prosper, federal and state governments would have to contribute substantially more funds. At the same time, the report said, colleges and universities needed to cut costs and raise tuition.

The findings were the basis of a front-page article in The New York Times and the subject of dismay in a Times editorial. Academic papers still cite the study.

"The future capacity of higher education to serve the country's youth, and the nation itself, is in jeopardy at the very moment when its top priority ought to be the costly unfinished task of extending equal educational opportunities to the poor and deprived," the editorial in The Times said.

In a two-year follow-up study, in which Dr. Cheit participated, universities and colleges were said to have brought their finances into better balance and achieved "a fragile stability." But the study warned that they were still "living on borrowed time."

Over the next 40 years, pessimism proved more than justified. The cost of

tuition, room, board and fees increased at greater than the rate of inflation at both public and private colleges. State-run institutions endured repeated cutbacks in funding by legislatures, while private ones had to discount the list price of tuition selectively for families who could not or would not pay it.

Part of the solution was round after round of cost-cutting. Colleges fired professors, hired part-time replacements and shut facilities. More recently, some have turned to online courses to reach more students more cheaply.

But a huge gap remained. That was filled by student loans, which the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, an independent federal agency, estimates now exceed \$1 trillion. In the years after the report, politicians debated whether to increase grants or loans to meet college students' needs, and loans won out.

"We rely on debt by default, as it is the only way to fill the gap between family resources, need-based grants and rising college prices," David W. Breneman, an economist at the University of Virginia, wrote in The Chronicle of Higher Education in 2002.

Earl Frank Cheit was born in Minneapolis on Aug. 6, 1926, but considered



Dr. Cheit's pessimism over the dire state of university finances has proved justified.

Hague, N.D., the wheat and cattle town where he grew up, his real birthplace.

He graduated from Hague High School in a class of eight and went on to earn undergraduate and law degrees, as well as a doctorate in economics, from the University of Minnesota. His thesis sought to disprove the commonly held belief that generous compensation for workers injured on the job would result in "malingering."

After getting his Ph.D. in 1954, he taught at St. Louis University in the

mid-1950s, then joined Berkeley as a visiting associate professor of economics and a research economist at the university's Institute of Industrial Relations. He later became its director. His writing further explored compensation for occupational injuries and addressed social issues like increasing women's presence in the work force.

Dr. Cheit was twice dean of the Haas School of Business at Berkeley, from 1976 to 1982 and in the 1990-91 academic year. When the campus erupted in a so-called free speech protest in 1964, he was elected to an emergency committee of the academic senate. The next year, he was named executive vice chancellor of the campus.

In an interview with The Times in 1968, Dr. Cheit attributed the protest, a precursor to campus demonstrations around the country, to "underadministration." He said not enough money was available under the budget to establish channels for student and faculty advice to be heard.

Dr. Cheit is survived by his wife of 63 years, the former June Doris Andrews; his daughters, Danielle Cheit and Julie Ross; his sons, David and Ross; and three grandchildren.

Gaza conflict is latest page in a long war



Steven Erlanger

LETTER FROM THE MIDEAST

JERUSALEM As another round of warfare between Israel and Hamas may be ending, Israelis can feel as stuck, in different ways, as the Palestinians themselves. Because of course this is really just another round in the unresolved Arab-Israeli war of 1948-49.

A permanent peace treaty seems far away, with the main actors — Israel, the Palestinians and the United States — all seemingly blocked by their internal politics from necessary compromises on borders and on deeply held religious beliefs.

Israel wants to disarm Hamas to end the attacks and indiscriminate rockets that now reach most of Israel. But how, without a permanent peace?

Israel could recapture Gaza, but at greater cost of life to Gazans and Israelis, and no senior Israeli commander wants to do it. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his core allies, Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon and Justice Minister Tzipi Livni, don't want to, either.

Because once Israel is back in Gaza, even if it drives Hamas and Islamic Jihad underground, how does it get out again?

In 1978, Menachem Begin, then the Israeli prime minister, offered Gaza to Anwar el-Sadat, then the Egyptian president, at Camp David; Mr. Sadat wanted no part of Gaza and its refugees. Neither, finally, did another Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon. In 2005, judging that protecting Israelis there was too costly, he pulled them out.

So now many Israelis wonder why Hamas keeps attacking them, which misunderstands Israel's real problem — instability from the failure to negotiate a sovereign Palestinian state and finally fix its borders.

The Palestinians themselves are deeply divided, a "unity government" aside. Secular Fatah recognizes the state of Israel and is committed to a two-state solution. Fatah controls the West Bank in coordination with Israel, which keeps Hamas suppressed. With no Israeli forces in the West Bank, Hamas might dominate there, too.

But Hamas thrives off Fatah's failure to deliver a Palestinian state, winning the last real election in 2006. And Hamas capitalizes on its reputation as fighters against Israel on behalf of all Palestinians.

Unlike Fatah, Hamas claims the whole of the British mandate of Palestine as land granted by Allah, which cannot be ceded. In other words, Israel is illegitimate and its occupants should "go home." The most any senior Hamas official ever offered was a "hudna," a cease-fire, which the Prophet Muhammad offered enemies to restore his strength.

Sometimes Hamas officials say a hudna can last four years, or seven. Those who talk to the world's press, like Ahmed Yousef, a former Hamas official, say a "future generation" can decide. But a hudna is not a peace treaty. At the same time, Hamas lets the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, negotiate, expecting failure.

But for all its bravery, Hamas is in trouble. It needs to show that the death and destruction, and the huge investment made in rockets and tunnels, will bring an improvement to ordinary Gazan life. But beyond continuing the war, which could force a reoccupation of Gaza and its own destruction, there is little more pressure Hamas can apply to Israel.

Hamas's real dilemma now is Egypt. The coup that put Gen. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in power has tightened the Gazan "prison" and "the siege."

Mr. Sisi is an enemy of the Muslim Brotherhood, which is an ally of Hamas. Egypt has sealed the border, stopping the profitable tunnel traffic into Gaza of building materials, cars, household goods and weaponry.

Shlomo Avineri, an Israeli political scientist, is struck, like Mr. Sisi, by the effectiveness of small, religiously inspired groups like the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, Hezbollah and Hamas, which believe in martyrdom through battle. "Arab state and military structures are not so good, but these small, highly motivated religious groups have resilience and are ready to sacrifice themselves and their own people," Mr. Avineri said.

There is a lesson in that for Israel, Mr. Avineri said. And there is another lesson, from the Bible, about the power of religiously motivated self-sacrifice.

After all, it was in Gaza that Samson, calling on God, pulled down a temple on his Philistine enemies, making him an early kind of suicide bomber.

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