

Samantha Power: Fact Sheet

Invasion of Israel?

In 2002 Samantha Power sat for an [interview](#) with Harry Kreisler, the director of the Institute for International Studies at Berkeley. Kreisler asked her the following question:

Let me give you a thought experiment here, and it is the following: without addressing the Palestine – Israel problem, let's say you were an advisor to the President of the United States, how would you respond to current events there? Would you advise him to put a structure in place to monitor that situation, at least if one party or another [starts] looking like they might be moving toward genocide?

Power's response:

What we don't need is some kind of early warning mechanism there, what we need is a willingness to put something on the line in helping the situation. Putting something on the line might mean alienating a domestic constituency of tremendous political and financial import; it may more crucially mean sacrificing — or investing, I think, more than sacrificing — billions of dollars, not in servicing Israel's military, but actually investing in the new state of Palestine, in investing the billions of dollars it would probably take, also, to support what will have to be a mammoth protection force, not of the old Rwanda kind, but a meaningful military presence. Because it seems to me at this stage (and this is true of actual genocides as well, and not just major human rights abuses, which were seen there), you have to go in as if you're serious, you have to put something on the line.

Unfortunately, imposition of a solution on unwilling parties is dreadful. It's a terrible thing to do, it's fundamentally undemocratic. But, sadly, we don't just have a democracy here either, we have a liberal democracy. There are certain sets of principles that guide our policy, or that are meant to, anyway. It's essential that some set of principles becomes the benchmark, rather than a deference to [leaders] who are fundamentally politically destined to destroy the lives of their own people. And by that I mean what Tom Friedman has called "Sharafat." [*Sharon-Arafat; this is actually an Amos Oz construction -- NP*] I do think in that sense, both political leaders have been dreadfully irresponsible. And, unfortunately, it does require external intervention.

Summary: Power said that her advice to the President would be to 1) "Alienate" the American Jewish community, and indeed all Americans, such as evangelical Christians, who support the state of Israel, because 2) Israeli leaders are "destroying the lives of their own people." 3) Pour billions of dollars of the taxpayers' money into "the new state of Palestine"; 4) Stage an American ground invasion of Israel and the Palestinian territories — what else can she mean by a "mammoth protection force" and a "military presence" that will be "imposed" by "external intervention"? — in order to do the exact same thing that she considers the height of arrogance and foolishness in Iraq: an American campaign to remake an Arab society.

Note that this wasn't Power's response to a question about her personal views of the conflict, or about what she envisions might be a utopian solution to the conflict; it was a response to a question about what she would *tell the President of the United States if she was his adviser*.

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2008/01/27/obama-and-israel-it-gets-worse/>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFdt6fjdHQw>

In 2008, she completely [disavowed](#) her 2002 “thought experiment” in an interview with [Miftah.org](#), a pro-Palestine sovereignty website. “Even I don’t understand it,” she says. “This makes no sense to me. The quote seems so weird.”

<http://frontpagemag.com/2013/arnold-ahlert/an-israel-hater-heads-to-the-u-n/>

We care too much about whether it is good for the Jews

When concerns arose in 2008 regarding Barack Obama and his views towards Israel it generated wrath from Ms. Power, who was a key foreign policy adviser to candidate Obama. She let loose in a radio interview while in Europe, “So much of it is about: ‘Is he going to be good for the Jews?’”

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2013/06/samantha_power_obamas_pick_as_americas_am_bassador_to_the_un_will_fit_right_in.html

The US likes to go it alone

Power is an advocate of the Walt-Mearsheimer view of the American relationship with Israel. In a recent [interview](#) published on the Harvard Kennedy School's website, Power was asked to explain “long-standing structural and conceptual problems in U.S. foreign policy.” She gave a two-part answer: the first problem, she said, is “the US historic predisposition to go it alone.” A standard reply, of course.

America defers to the special interest of Israel on security assessments, and on tactics

The second problem, though, should give us pause: “Another longstanding foreign policy flaw is the degree to which special interests dictate the way in which the “national interest” as a whole is defined and pursued.... America's important historic relationship with Israel has often led foreign policy decision-makers to defer reflexively to Israeli security assessments, and to replicate Israeli tactics, which, as the war in Lebanon last summer demonstrated, can turn out to be counter-productive.”

http://www.americanthinker.com/2008/02/samantha_power_and_obamas_fore_1.html

Israel’s invasion of Lebanon violated the spirit of the international law

Power’s complained about Israel's treatment of Lebanon when that nation was forced to defend itself against attacks from terror groups based there: “Israeli forces refused to comply with the spirit of international demands to withdraw...”

Israeli-Palestinian problem caused Israel’s Lebanon invasion

...and the major powers on the Security Council were not prepared to deal with the gnarly issues that had sparked the Israelis invasion in the first place: dispossessed Palestinians and Israeli insecurity”.

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2013/06/samantha_power_obamas_pick_as_americas_am_bassador_to_the_un_will_fit_right_in.html

Israel thumbed its nose at the UN

Power’s wrote in her most [recent book](#) (*Chasing the Flame: One Man's Fight to Save the World*): “Israel had thumbed its nose at the Security Council resolutions that demanded that Israel stay out of

Lebanon, and in the course of invading a neighbor, its forces had trampled on the UN peacekeepers in its way".

<http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2013/06/m-samantha-power-obamas-pick-as-americas-ambassador-to-the-un-will-fit-right-in.html>

Iranian nukes...no problem

In 2008, Ms. Power also derided concerns about Iran's nuclear weapons program in a *Time* magazine column, stating that it was a figment of the imagination conjured up and promoted by George Bush to gin up pressure on Iran. She counseled, what else, outreach and engagement not further pressure.

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1704682,00.html>

Hillary the Monster who will stoop to anything

In *The Scotsman*, Ms. Power called Hillary Clinton a "monster".

"She is a monster, too — that is off the record — she is stooping to anything," Power [said](#).

She went into depth on what she believed were deceitful tactics by the Clinton campaign.

"You just look at her and think, 'Ergh.' But if you are poor and she is telling you some story about how Obama is going to take your job away, maybe it will be more effective. The amount of deceit she has put forward is really unattractive."

According to Power, she will [go to her grave](#) regretting the comment.

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/hillary-clinton-s-a-monster-obama-aide-blurts-out-attack-in-scotsman-interview-1-1158300>

US has a responsibility to protect in Libya

From John Podhoretz's column:

The Tuesday-evening meeting at the White House at which the president decided to move on Libya was "extremely contentious," according to a report in Josh Rogin's excellent blog, *The Cable*. Power and a few others took the position that the United States couldn't stay on the sidelines as Moammar Khadafy murdered his own people and snuffed out the people-power revolt in the Middle East in its infancy. They were opposed by Power's own boss, National Security Adviser Tom Donilon and by Defense Secretary Robert Gates...

According to Rogin, the governing doctrine that helped Obama to make his decision to act was not an appeal to the national interest, but rather to a recent concept promulgated at the United Nations called "responsibility to protect," or R2P. R2P is an effort to create a new international moral standard to prevent violence against civilians. In her career as a genocide expert, Power was an indefatigable proponent of R2P, and now on the National Security Council has been "trying to figure out how the administration could implement R2P and what doing so would require of the White House going forward." Hillary is her ally in this effort, it appears.

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/hillary_war_EoKkCyGYqsysPnV179w wuL

US has a responsibility to protect

She [opened a symposium](#) put on the by the International Coalition for The Responsibility To Protect (ICR2P) as recently as November, 2010, with a keynote address. Furthermore, Sergio Vieira, was an international diplomat who pioneered the concept of the "responsibility to protect." Vieira was later killed in a suicide bombing attack in Iraq. Power wrote an [admiring biography](#) (if not a hagiography) of Vieira a few years ago that noted his role in developing and promoting that concept. http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/03/the_rise_of_samantha_power_and.html

The US needs to apologize for its prior actions

Power recommended that United States officials should apologize to the world for its past failures in order to enhance credibility with foreign countries.

“A country has to look back before it can move forward,” Power wrote. “Instituting a doctrine of the mea culpa would enhance our credibility by showing that American decision-makers do not endorse the sins of their predecessors.”

She reasoned that terrorists depend for their sustenance on “mainstream anti-Americanism throughout the world,” and that anti-Americanism is the fault of the United States.

“Some anti-Americanism derives simply from our being a colossus that bestrides the earth,” argued Power. “But much anti-Americanism derives from the role U.S. political, economic, and military power has played in denying such freedoms to others.”

<http://freebeacon.com/samantha-powers-five-worst-statements/>

The President should meet with any leader, without preconditions

Power offered praise for President Barack Obama’s statement that he was willing to meet with rogue leaders without preconditions in the first year of his administration.

According to the [Huffington Post](#), Power saw this statement by Obama as a turning point for his campaign and talked positively of his staunch insistence on the point.

“I can tell you about the conference call the day [after Obama made the proclamation],” she recalled.

“People were like, ‘Did you need to say that?’ And he was like ‘yeah, definitely.’”

<http://freebeacon.com/samantha-powers-five-worst-statements/>

Israel is paranoid

Of Israel’s presence in Lebanon, Power wrote in her book, *Chasing the Flame*, that what sparked Israel's invasion of Lebanon was "dispossessed Palestinians and Israeli insecurity," where in truth Israel invaded Lebanon to stop the incessant stream of rocket attacks that terrorized its northern cities. The phrase 'Israeli insecurity' implies that Israel is paranoid rather than reflecting the reality of a Lebanon dominated by Hezbollah, whose genocidal aim is the destruction of Israel.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rabbi-shmuley-boteach/goldstones-apology-and-sa_b_844527.html

We shouldn’t use the words “Islamic terrorism”

Power said: “All we talk about is 'Islamic terrorism'. If the two words are associated for long enough it's obviously going to have an effect on how people think about Muslims. But I think Obama's going to do wonders for closing those chasms. Even just opening up a conversation is going to get

us some of the way. And it's not insignificant that he spent time in a Muslim country that he is half Kenyan - a lot of barriers have been bust through."

SAMANTHA POWER, *New Statesman*, Mar. 6, 2008

http://www.notable-quotes.com/p/power_samantha.html

Soft power is more legitimate

In that interview, Power said: "I think that most of us, in a knee-jerk way, tend to conflate power with 'hard power' - with economic and military power. At the Kennedy School, Joe Nye gave us the concept of 'soft power' as another component of power. Building on Nye's concept, we would be wise in the 21st century to measure our power by our influence. Influence is best measured not only by military hardware and GDP, but also by other people's perceptions that we, the United States, are using our power legitimately. That belief - that we are acting in the interests of the global commons and in accordance with the rule of law - is what the military would call a 'force multiplier.' It enhances the U.S. ability to get what it wants from other countries and other players.

US under Bush was incompetent

The third component of influence - along with traditional hard power and legitimacy - is people's perception that we know what we are doing, that we are competent. Here, one cannot overstate the devastating one-two punch of Iraq and Katrina in undermining the global public's and the American people's faith that the U.S. is a competent prosecutor of its own objectives."

<http://daledamos.blogspot.com/2011/03/hard-power-soft-power-and-samantha.html>

Power likes Noam Chomsky book

In her 2004 review of [Noam Chomsky](#)'s book *Hegemony or Survival*, Power [agreed](#) with many of Chomsky's criticisms of U.S. foreign policy and expressed her own concerns about what she called the "sins of our allies in the war on terror," lumping Israel together with Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan, Russia, and Uzbekistan. She called Chomsky's work "[sobering and instructive](#)."

<http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2013/06/05/who-exactly-is-samantha-power-obamas-new-u-n-ambassador-pick-everything-you-need-to-know/#>

The US has historically committed, or allowed to take place, crimes

More on the Power appointment, from [Wednesday's Washington Post](#):

But Republicans could decide to launch a fight against Power, whose book generated considerable reaction by focusing on what she deemed America's moral failure to act in the face of modern genocides in Africa and the Balkans....

"We need a historical reckoning with crimes committed, sponsored, permitted by the United States," she wrote.

Keith Urbahn, a former chief of staff to George W. Bush Pentagon chief Donald H. Rumsfeld, tweeted this morning: "I don't know about you, but it might be helpful to have someone rep'ing America at UN who doesn't think we are the source of world's ills."

<http://pjmedia.com/blog/loyalty-rewarded/2/>

The fuller context for that quote from Power can be found in [the March 2003 TNR article](#). But here's some of what Power has to say [concerning American foreign policy](#) and the general direction in which it needs to go:

U.S. foreign policy has to be rethought. It needs not tweaking but overhauling. We need: a historical reckoning with crimes committed, sponsored, or permitted by the United States. This would entail restoring FOIA to its pre-Bush stature, opening the files, and acknowledging the force of a mantra we have spent the last decade promoting in Guatemala, South Africa, and Yugoslavia: A country has to look back before it can move forward. Instituting a doctrine of the mea culpa would enhance our credibility by showing that American decision-makers do not endorse the sins of their predecessors. When Willie Brandt went down on one knee in the Warsaw ghetto, his gesture was gratifying to World War II survivors, but it was also ennobling and cathartic for Germany... The United States is willing to bind itself to the World Trade Organization, because it knows it benefits more than any other country from free trade, but not to the ICC [[International Criminal Court](#)], because there is no good selfish reason to expose American citizens to external scrutiny. But the truth is that only U.S. resources and leadership can turn such institutions into forces for the international stability that is indispensable to U.S. security. Besides, giving up a pinch of sovereignty will not deprive the United States of the tremendous military and economic leverage it has at its disposal as a last resort... The United States has thus far lost its campaign to persuade its allies of the merits of preemptive war with Iraq not because of the dearth of smoking guns. Few who oppose the U.S. attack do so because they disagree with Bush's characterization of the Iraqi regime. Most do so because of what they take to be the character of the U.S. regime.

<http://pjmedia.com/blog/loyalty-rewarded/2/>

Israeli war crimes in Jenin

In 2003, a quote by Power contained in the book "Ethnic Violence and Justice," [demonstrates](#) a reflexive antipathy towards Israel as well. Power asks David Rohde, a *New York Times* reporter who covered the intifada, the following question: "I was struck by a headline that accompanied a news story on the publication of the Human Rights Watch report. The headline was, I believe: "Human Rights Report Finds Massacre Did Not Occur in Jenin." The second paragraph said, "Oh, but lots of war crimes did." Why wouldn't they make the war crimes the headline and the non-massacre the second paragraph?" In other words, despite the reality that the so-called Jenin massacre never happened, Power thought the *Times* should juxtapose its headline to show that Israel was still guilty of war crimes.

<http://frontpagemag.com/2013/arnold-ahlert/an-israel-hater-heads-to-the-u-n/>

Israelis are "bastards"

Power quotes (with no disapproval) the statement of Sergio Vieira De Mello, the subject of her hagiography, that the Israelis are "bastards."

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2013/06/samantha-power-hater-of-israel.php>

Power's do nothing job at the Atrocities Prevention Board

Wanting to ascertain whether the board was actually doing anything to help prevent crimes against humanity, some 60 scholars of genocide studies and human-rights activists from across the globe sent a letter to Samantha Power, then-chair of the board, in December. Power never responded. They sent her a second letter in January, and again received no response.

When Power resigned in late February, they sent a letter to Steven Pomper, who assumed Power's position as senior director for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights. He, too, never replied. On March 28, a letter was sent to another member of the board, Donald Steinberg, deputy administrator of USAID. Again, no response. In early April the scholars wrote to U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice about this situation. To date, she has not responded...

... the board does not have a website, a Twitter account or even list email addresses for its main office or its members.

http://seattletimes.com/html/opinion/2020993497_johnkrothsamueltottenopedxml.html

US foreign policy is amoral, especially under Bush

In a March 2003 [article](#) for the New Republic, Power engaged in the typically leftist denigration of the United States, characterizing American foreign policy as “an explicitly amoral enterprise.” She bemoaned the fact that America’s “exceptionalist impulses,” had been “with us for a long time,” and that they animated George W. Bush’s “militant moralism.” She was further lamented that such “militant moralism” was left unchecked by Congress, due in large part to the fact that America no longer sustained enough war casualties to animate their concern “thanks to U.S. technological supremacy.”

<http://frontpagemag.com/2013/arnold-ahlert/an-israel-hater-heads-to-the-u-n/>

Power went to Durbin I, and stayed after the US walked out, and helped plan Durban II:

In 2001, she attended the United Nations’ World Conference Against Racism, held in Durban, South Africa. She remained there after the U.S. withdrew most of its diplomatic participation, when it became apparent the gathering would amount to little more than a platform for anti-American, anti-Israel, and anti-Semitic tirades.

<http://frontpagemag.com/2013/arnold-ahlert/an-israel-hater-heads-to-the-u-n/>

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/u-s-fends-off-israeli-pressure-decides-to-help-plan-durban-2-1.270154>

By backing Israel the US lost its right to discuss human rights

“For the United States, of all countries, to be talking about human rights,” Power wrote in the *Boston Phoenix* in 2003, “just rings very, very hollow in light of all the objections to our policy in Israel.”

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/350297/samantha-power-exemplary-pick-charles-c-w-cooke>

Israel may have helped instigate the US invasion of Iraq

Power has said: “Another longstanding foreign policy flaw is the degree to which special interests dictate the way in which the “national interest” as a whole is defined and pursued . . . America’s important historic relationship with Israel has often led foreign policy decision-makers to defer

reflexively to Israeli security assessments, and to replicate Israeli tactics, which, as the war in Lebanon last summer demonstrated, can turn out to be counter-productive.

So greater regard for international institutions along with less automatic deference to special interests—especially when it comes to matters of life and death and war and peace—seem to be two take-aways from the war in Iraq.”

Power is not just assenting to the Israel Lobby view of American foreign policy, but is also arguing that Israel had something to do with the Bush administration’s decision to invade Iraq in 2003—an appalling slander, and a telling one.

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2008/01/26/obama-and-israel-continued/>

Moral equivalence between terrorist Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon:

Power wrote, “We will lambaste Yasir Arafat, investing significant political capital in regime change, but we will only ritualistically take issue with Ariel Sharon ...

<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/srebenica-liberalism-balkan-united%20nations#>

Also see:

<http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Peace/2013/06/05/Top-10-Questions-for-Samantha-Power-Confirmation-Hearing>

<http://bbbooksss.blogspot.com/2011/02/problem-from-hell-by-samantha-powers.html>

http://www.petemccormack.com/interview_power_001.htm