

THE PERISCOPE POST

Israel's single state solution

Opinion-makers: Who to read today. **The reversal of the Israeli right** A new political movement is afoot in Israel: the call for a one-state solution. This comes not from Palestinians and their champions but from the Israeli right. As **Jonathan Freeland** explained in The Guardian, this apparent reversal of Zionist doctrine (terrified about a demographic situation in which Palestinians outnumber Jews) is not so hard to understand. "For settlers and their allies the very idea [of a two-state solution] reeks of trauma: any division of the land is assumed to entail the dismantling of the towns and villages they call home." But why the change now? Freeland has one answer: Gaza. With the link to Gaza severed, 1.5 million Palestinians have been taken "off the books, as it were. That leaves the Palestinians of the West Bank, estimated variously as 1.5 or 2 million, whom Israel could just about absorb." Freeland warned that, though attractive to Palestinians, a one-state solution would most likely be painful: "Israel would remain a Jewish state, with West Bank Palestinians offered only the civil rights owed to them as individuals, not any national, collective recognition". **Lame duck Obama** Barack Obama is in danger of becoming "a lame duck" President, according to **Simon Heffer** (The Telegraph). A recent opinion poll puts the President as not only less popular than Hillary Clinton but less popular than her once-disgraced husband, Bill. "It is not clear what Mr Obama actually does," complained Heffer. "He isn't engaged with the economy; he certainly isn't engaged with foreign policy; he has abandoned hope of a climate change bill this year (and probably for ever); he has seen his health care bill into law, but America awaits news of how it will be implemented; he is under attack for a casual approach to illegal immigration." The mid-term elections are coming up, but Obama has only just "girded" himself into campaigning. "What is the President doing?" asked the incredulous commentator. "All that seems to prevent Mr Obama's being confirmed as a one-term president is the absence of a credible Republican against him." **Playing the oil hand** In The Huffington Post, **Raymond J. Learsy** worried about oil: economically, environmentally and politically. Learsy reminded his readers that Hugo Chavez's Venezuela is "among the leading miscreant producer nations" and railed against his "malignant policies toward the United States and the growing subjugation of his own people". "Would it not make sense . . . to limit imports from national origins that have policies that are inimical to our interests?" asked Learsy. "By simply limiting or refusing import permits to those whose policies belligerently run counter to our national interests, we would, finally in matters oil, be instituting the normal relationship between buyer and seller, where the buyer calls the tune or at the very least can play his hand." **Wikileaks debate** On bloggingheadstv, Julian Sanchez of the Cato Institute and Stewart A. Baker of Skating on Stilts debated the leak of a

trove of classified information pertaining to the war in Afghanistan.

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