

Dicey Future Seen For World Jewry

Islam expert Daniel Pipes at Jewish Week forum predicts rising Muslim anti-Semitism will create major problems.

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The good times are over for Jews in America, warned Daniel Pipes, an expert on Islam.

The reason: the threat of a growing anti-Semitic American Muslim culture.

Pipes, director of the Philadelphia-based Middle East Forum, whose years of warnings about the global threat of fundamental Islam were ignored by national policymakers, also told a packed audience at a Jewish Week breakfast forum last week that he believed Jews eventually will be forced to leave most countries in the world, and will only be safe in the United States and Israel.

Pipes said Jewish life is coming to an end in places like South Africa and Argentina as a result of historical anti-Semitism and a new virulent breed of Muslim anti-Semitism.

"Long-term, Jews have a future in only two countries: the United States and Israel," he told about 250 people at the Center for Jewish History. Pipes was interviewed by Jewish Week editor and publisher Gary Rosenblatt.

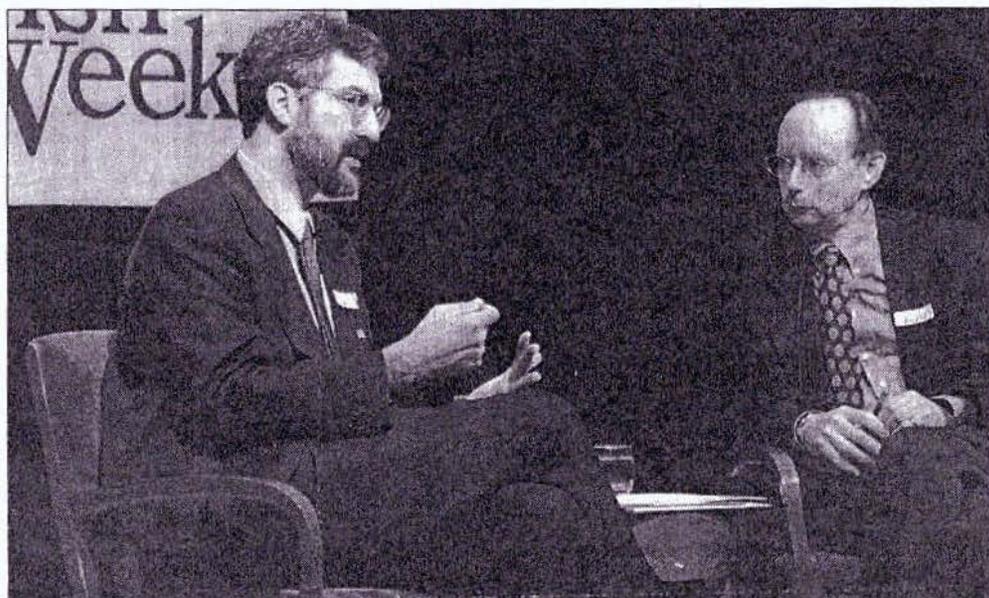
But the U.S. is also becoming an increasingly dangerous place for Jews, Pipes declared.

"The American Jewish institutions need to understand that the good time is over," he said. "They must protect their own, worry less about Israel, worry less about other people, non-Jews in this country, and start worrying more about themselves."

"More specifically, what I am getting at is that for the first time in American history, there is a self-defined enemy of Jews — I'm speaking about this proportion of the [radical] Muslim population. It is growing, it is highly antagonistic, it is already engaging in rhetorical and physical acts of violence, and there's every reason to expect that to continue."

Pipes, who cited right-wing conservative columnists and publications as his sources — he said he stopped reading *The New York Times* because of a major article on the Israel peace process he disagreed with — called on American Jewish defense organizations to rethink their classic liberal positions on open immigration and civil rights because of the threat.

However Pipes, who supported the Vietnam War while in university, and later strongly opposed the 1993 Oslo peace initiative between Israel and the Palestinians, said he was "not a historian of Jewish life."



Daniel Pipes, left, in conversation with Jewish Week editor Gary Rosenblatt, said "Long-term, Jews have a future in only two countries: the United States and Israel." MICHAEL DATKASH

"I'm a student of Muslim life," Pipes said.

Nevertheless, he stood by his "bold" prediction that "the golden age of American Jewish life may be coming to an end" based on "my sense of the historical record, knowing something about Jewish history, something about American history and something about Islamic history."

"I have had a fairly good record in terms of predictions," he added, citing his declaration two years ago that there would be no peace treaty between Syria and Israel, despite former President Bill Clinton's efforts with the late Syrian President Hafaz Assad and a chorus of positive predictions.

"There was unanimity this was going to happen," Pipes crowed. "I and I alone said there would not be a signed treaty."

Pipes, who writes newspaper columns on terrorism, defined America's strategic enemy today as a "terroristic version of Islam" that began its war on America 22 years ago in Iran under the Ayatollah Khomeini.

His estimate of the numbers of militant Islamists in the world, "which has been accepted globally," is about 10 percent to 15 percent of the Muslim population, or about 150 million people.

Pipes said the majority of moderate Muslims are not organized and ineffectual. More important, he said, they have been intimidated into silence by the radicals. Pipes said the West's key goal in battling terrorism must be to strengthen moderate Islam.

"We can crush the militant version of Islam and create an opening for the moderate version of Islam," he said, but added that "America can't rule over those nations, nor transform Islamic theology, which must be done by the moderates."

Pipes praised President Bush for showing resolve, but criticized him for failing to tell the American people that the enemy is militant Islam.

"Long term, it is debilitating," he said. "The American population can't really understand what's going on as long as the government refuses to recognize what the problem is."

Pipes declared that "the story is over in Afghanistan," and he said Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's development of nuclear weapons is the highest priority threat. The next target of the U.S. military should be "easy prey," Pipes said.

For Israel, he said, peace negotiations are a waste of time now, and Israel must readopt a policy of deterrence as they did from 1948 until Oslo.

"They have to show again they're tough and if you mess with them they're nasty, so don't mess with them," he said.

"The key problem as always is that Israel's existence is not accepted by its enemies. It seemed to be less of a problem, but it has come back and the Israelis don't recognize it, and because they don't, the U.S. doesn't see it either."

Pipes predicted that the Palestinian Authority is facing an imminent collapse of will. He also said that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon "should continue hard-line policies making them [Palestinians] miserable and they will recoil from violence." □

For audio of Daniel Pipes forum, go to *The Jewish Week's* web site, www.thejewishweek.com.