

1915

Henry James becomes a British citizen to highlight his commitment to Britain during the first World War.



1931

Emperor Haile Selassie signs the first constitution of Ethiopia.

1935

The world's first parking meter is installed in Oklahoma City, **Oklahoma**.

1941

Joe DiMaggio hits safely for the 56th consecutive game, a streak that still stands as an MLB record.



Shipping en route to Syria.

continues his quest to stop military confrontation in its tracks. Iran's leaders, however, are dissatisfied with Russia's "soft"

position. Iran had wagered on Russia, China, and EU powers to help navigate a way out of US sanctions.

Yet so far, Iran's escalation has backfired with the Europeans, who have distanced themselves from Iran and edged closer to

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the US, especially after Tehran increased uranium enrichment and exposed the flaws of the nuclear agreement. Iran also understands now that China is unwilling to enter the fray on its side. As for Russia, Iran has miscalculated in assuming the alliance with Russia in Syria would extend to the Gulf or to a US-Israeli-Iranian triangle.

If Iran crosses the threshold of uranium enrichment to 20 per cent in two months, it would cross an unacceptable red line for Europe, China, and Russia as well as the US.

The next level of putative sanctions could further rile the Iranian leadership and drive it either to more escalation or nudge it to adjust its behaviour and renegotiate the deal. This could take the form of a naval blockade and measures to prevent all countries

from dealing with Iran and its proxies and further sanctions.

Arab Gulf countries do not want a war and are avoiding escalation. However, they want to be present at the negotiating table to decide issues affecting their security and future.

Iran will seek to use the looming US elections to test the American president, with a view to limiting negotiations only to the nuclear issue and ballistic missile programme.

If a grand bargain is reached, it is important for Arab countries to be part of it, or else it will be incomplete and precarious. If Mr Trump achieves the impossible and concludes such a deal, it might be a historic achievement that will please everyone.

Until then, Tehran and its allies are preparing themselves for a confrontation. Hizbollah in Lebanon is waiting for orders from Tehran, poised to respond to an Israeli strike on nuclear reactors in Iran.

In the meantime, the group intends to respond to recent US sanctions on its senior members, not by directly attacking US interests but by forcing the Lebanese government to publicly denounce the sanctions and offer it support.

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Politics

has helped mask Israel's true intentions with regards to the occupied Palestinian territory.

SOAS scholar Mushtaq Khan, co-author of the 2005 book *Aid, Diplomacy and Facts on the Ground: The Case of Palestine*, writes that a genuinely sovereign Palestinian state would not resolve – and would possibly exacerbate – the challenges posed to Israel's identity as a "Jewish state" by two key constituencies – Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinian refugees in the wider region.

Thus, Khan wrote, Israel's security-focused argument, along with the facts on the ground of relentless settlement expansion, only make sense as "part of an Israeli strategy of long-term management of its 'Palestinian problem' through conditional, partial, and reversible transfers of governance responsibilities in densely populated parts of the occupied territory".

Israel's goal, then, is not the establishment of a genuine Palestinian state but rather, the creation of "a series of reversible bantustans" – an apartheid-style scenario that, by denying Palestinians their legitimate aspirations, provokes the unrest that becomes the justification for the policy itself.

This approach – one of so-called conflict management, limited Palestinian self-rule and endless transition – can be seen in the positions of today's main parties and coalition candidates.

For Likud's part, the rejection of Palestinian statehood is

explicit – indeed, prior to the last election, senior figures in the party contributed to a video calling for annexation of the settlements. Among other factions on the right, overt support for variations of annexation is even more prevalent.

But what about the opposition? Blue and White – an alliance of convenience of former Israeli military chiefs and centrists – includes both proponents of a vaguely expressed separation from Palestinians and more open opponents of a two-state solution.

Israel's Labour party, which hopes to recover from its abysmal showing in April, also fails to back Palestinian sovereignty and self-determination, instead pushing for a demilitarised state to be established in the future – if, of course, the conditions are right, as determined by Israel.

It is a bleak picture. Mr Lieberman's manoeuvrings or the attorney general's indictments may or may not sink Mr Netanyahu. But a Likud without Mr Netanyahu, with or without the Blue and White party as a coalition partner, is not going to be any more forthcoming in respect to core Palestinian rights.

Mr Netanyahu has loomed large over Israeli politics for some time but his domination has obscured a truth much more unpalatable than the impact of one demagogue; namely, that there is a consensus among the Israeli political mainstream for apartheid and against Palestinian statehood.

CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

New bill reduces green card waiting time



The US House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a bill this week which could dramatically reduce the current wait time of Indian H-1B technical workers seeking green cards. The measure is expected to be approved by the Senate, and President Trump may sign it into law. The change would be phased in over three years.

The US is the most generous western country accepting nearly 1.2 million permanent residents each year. Of these, nearly 800,000 green cards are awarded based on family ties, such as a US citizen sponsoring a sibling.

Only about 140,000 visas are given out to the so-called employment-based (EB) categories, and even these are tightly controlled based on

which skills bucket an applicant falls under. People with exceptional academic abilities, like professors and researchers (EB1); professional managers, lawyers, and doctors, with advanced degrees (EB2); the largest cohort are the tech workers with a Bachelor's degree (EB3); special immigrants, such as religious workers (EB4); and people who invest in American projects (EB5).

Two constraints are placed on the disbursement of these 140,000 EB visas. The first imposes a country-cap limited to 7 per cent of the total, so India is awarded only 9,800 visas for all EB visa categories combined. Iceland, which has a total population of just 350,000 people, also is awarded only 9,800 visas – although most Iceland-

ers never immigrate to the US. Second, the 9,800 visas which each country gets is shared with spouses and children – which means that an Indian H-1B worker with a spouse and two children will mop up four green cards in one scoop.

The bill passed this week eliminated the 7 per cent country cap for EB visas. Theoretically, all 140,000 EB visas could now become available to Indians (from just 9,800 visas today), dramatically reducing the green card wait time, although, in practice, Indians would be competing with other nationalities, such as the Chinese, for EB-5 investor visas. The bill does not increase the number of overall green cards, which stays pegged at 1.2 million.

Raj Kumar



TOP
4
TWEETS

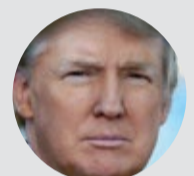
01



It's natural to be disappointed when people let you down. It's the Almighty's way of showing you their true colours in your hour of need; to show you who they really are. It's a reminder to depend only on Him. If you do otherwise, be prepared for disappointment.

@muftimken

02



When will the Radical Left Congresswomen apologize to our Country, the people of Israel and even to the Office of the President, for the foul language they have used, and the terrible things they have said. So many people are angry at them & their horrible & disgusting actions!

@realDonaldTrump

03



President Trump's remarks telling my colleagues to "go back where they came from" further reveals his narrow-minded ideas about who belongs in this country. They are principled Americans who belong right where they are – in Congress – pushing back against his dangerous agenda.

@RepAndreCarson

04



Our colleagues are Americans who are dedicated to improving the lives of the people they represent. Mr. President, your willingness to drag our values through the mud is appalling.

@RepSlotkin

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