Last May's incident where Israeli military forces intercepted a Turkish aid flotilla headed for Gaza has highlighted the ever-growing rift between these seemingly allied countries. Turkey is a Muslim society. Israel is a county of Judaism, and it has dug itself into an ever-deepening hole in how it treats its Muslims residents.

At the 2009 World Economic Summit, during a live conference, Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan stormed off the stage after a heated exchange with Israeli President Peres. Erdogan called Gaza an "open-air prison"; after the audience applauded that assessment, Peres fired back, stating that Turkey had "killed people." For those with even a minimal understanding of history, it was clear that Peres was referring to the 1.5 million "killed people" of the Armenian genocide.

Many find it strange that Turkey and Israel have been so cozy, but the explanation is simple: Both depend on Uncle Sam for their existence, and their respective relationships have paid off nicely. But over time, jealousies and suspicions have created an atmosphere of forced tolerance, smiling through gritted teeth.

But their soured relationship isn't the real story. It's what has come from it: revelation that Israel has, for decades, colluded with Turkey in the final stage of the Armenian genocide -- denial that it ever happened.

The most blatant example of Israel's meddling occurred in 2000 when the Armenian Genocide Resolution was set for a House vote. Armenians had been anxiously awaiting this vote, 85 years after the killings began, and former House Speaker Dennis Hastert had promised to bring it to a vote. Passage, and the beginning stages of justice, was certain.

But in a surprise, last-minute move, Hastert withdrew the resolution from the docket, and many suspected Israel's involvement. The Washington Post confirmed that suspicion in June 2010 when it reported a sequence of panicked events that flowed from Ankara directly to AIPAC in Washington, which immediately contacted President Clinton, who personally requested Hastert remove the resolution. The full Congress still has yet to take up the matter.

In a 2004 Library of Congress interview, retired Ambassador Arma Jane Karaer emphasized just how annoying the State Department finds Armenian issues, especially genocide recognition. Her degree of callousness and candor was stunning.

But the truly stunning part was not that the Jewish lobby has been an active accomplice in suppressing genocide recognition since the 1980s, but the reason why: "They don't particularly want to share the genocide label with other groups."

Genocide denial is shameful enough, but turning this into a game of ego gratification is sick.
These are not the only instances where Israel has sought, like Turkey, to rewrite the Armenians' history. The Anti-Defamation League's "No Place For Hate" program, which seeks awareness of ethnic violence, included the Armenian genocide in this program only after a huge public outcry over its exclusion. In the end, ADL President Abraham Foxman, an ardent anti-Armenian, finally conceded, with just enough wiggle room, that what happened in 1915 to the Armenians was "tantamount to genocide."

Either you are a victim of race extermination, or the perpetrator. You cannot be both. Israel and its constituency are quick to label anybody who does not passionately support Zionist causes as anti-Semitic. But given their active participation in the final stage of genocide, they might want to reconsider at whom they throw stones. The view from the moral high ground, high atop Masada, is spectacular. Unfortunately, the view is from within a glass house.

Once Turkey and Israel split for good, which is not far off since Turkey just declared Israel a "major threat," one must wonder what Israel's position will be on the genocide.

Surely if it refuses its support one could view Israel in the same light one views neo-Nazis. To avoid such a branding, Israel must calibrate its moral compass; not as a favor to those who support complete justice, but as a matter of truth.

Some day, perhaps even next year, in Jerusalem, the descendants of the Shoah will confess the truth they already know.

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