

Editor's Page

Alan Johnson

Does the two-state solution remain viable after the conflict in Gaza, and if so what are the obstacles to its realisation? We posed these questions to a range of writers. **Michael Walzer** argues that two states is in bad shape, but remains the only viable solution and can be advanced by a combination of 'internal unilateralism' on both sides, and greater support by the US and EU. **John Strawson** argues the time has come for the international community to consider compelling the two parties to reach a compromise. **Ghada Karmi** makes the case for the one-state solution as realistic not utopian, while **Donna Robinson Divine** calls for both sides to go beyond those constitutive narratives around which identities have hardened and which have blocked progress. **Martin Shaw** calls for 1948 to be revisited as well as 1967 and for the idealism of the one-state solution to inform the two-state solution, while **Alex Stein** argues none of the existing 'solutions' remain viable and what's really needed is imagination and radical new ideas. **Menchem Kellner** and **Fred Seigel** and **Sol Stern** warn of the dangers of moving towards two states without a radical change of attitude towards Israel by the Palestinian leaderships, while **Eric Lee** surveys the trade unions reaction to the conflict in Gaza.

We continue our examination of the nature of a progressive response to Islamism and violent extremism with pieces from **Gina Khan**, who has been reading Ayaan Hirsi Ali in Birmingham, and **Rashad Ali** who demolishes a series of Islamist myths about 'Sharia' from a scholarly Islamic perspective. **Simon Cottee** writes in praise of Ian Buruma's book *Murder in Amsterdam*, and **Samuel Helfont** offers a thoughtful critique of Noah Feldman's recent book on the 'Islamic State.' **Reza Aslan**, author of *No god But God* and *How to Win a Cosmic War*, explores the struggle for the soul of Islam, and the need for us to get beyond the 'war on terror,' in a fascinating extended interview. **Tim Stevens** explores the tensions between counterterrorism and liberal democracy.

Will Marshall sets out the 'central drama' of the Obama presidency, while **Lawrence J. Haas** carefully explores the four challenges facing the new administration and the policy options open to the new President. **Joschka Fischer**, the former German Foreign Minister, draws up a 'to do' list for Europeans who wish to preserve the Atlantic Alliance and take forward the European project.

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Michael J. Thompson is provocative and engaged in a way few writers are these days about the future of social democracy. On that note, **Ethan Porter** charts the lunacy of the financial system and the opening it has provided for a social democratic agenda, while **Paul Thompson**, who edited the social democratic journal *Renewal* for fourteen years, offers an appreciation, and a critique, of a new book by *Democratiya* advisory editor Nick Cohen.

Matthew Omoleky explores the contemporary meaning of Miltonic freedom in a comprehensive account of the recent controversy concerning Mark Steyn's encounter with the Canadian courts. **Gary Kent** reviews Henry MacDonald's recent book which seeks to debunk Sinn Fein's account of the Northern Ireland Peace Process, while **Michael Ezra** has gone back to the archives to tell the story of an early post-Leftist, Malcolm Caldwell, whom he indicts as an 'apologist for Pol Pot.' **Eric Litwack** carefully thinks through the arguments for and against reparations for Africa, while **Dick Wilson**, former Director of East European Affairs at the Free Trade Union Institute of the AFL-CIO, writes a fascinating memoir-cum-analysis of the controversial reform programme of Yegor Gaidar in the Yeltsin era.

The Arts section contains a beautiful essay from **Chahandras Choudoury** on Gandhi's *Autobiography*, a plangent poem from **Kevin Higgins**, and a hymn of praise to the eclectic US 'newspaper of the imagination,' *First of the Month*, from **Tom Hale** (which promoted a brief exchange between its editor Benj Demott and Hale)

Our Archive section publishes two documents by the US socialist **Susan Green**, taken from the 1949 dispute on the US left about the attitude socialists should adopt towards military conflicts between democratic and totalitarian forces when they are clear-sighted and honest enough to admit that there is no possibility of a 'third camp' alternative in any relevant time-frame.

The Letters Page carries an appeal from **Richard Greeman** of the Victor Serge Centre concerning the recent spate of attacks on democrats in Russia.