

Exclusive to OpEdNews

Op Eds 6/28/2024 at 3:33 PM EDT

D-Day and G-7 Reflections: World Lessons for Ending Gaza, Ukraine Wars

By Ashleigh Fields and Robert Weiner



Though Generation Z has never seen nuclear warfare, it is well clear that they understand the posed threat. As Gen Z obliterates social media with heartfelt posts about the war in Gaza propelling President Joe Biden to draft an amenable ceasefire proposal, the world is learning to draw a powerful parallel from today's unrest in Gaza and Ukraine to the mission of soldiers fallen 80 years past in Normandy. Humanity and the desire for peace are constants.

Biden's proposal for a truce was accepted by Israel, refuted by Hamas. Over a month ago, Egypt and Qatar authored an agreement, agreeable to Hamas but rejected by Israel.

However, both outline Israel's full withdrawal as the first step in the proposal, which is crucial. After losing Rafah as a safe haven, international onlookers are questioning the possibility of peace.

Both Israel and Hamas must accept that neither can be eliminated at this time without delivering an overwhelming and unnecessary blow to humanity. For this reason, their desires must take a backseat to the indignance of the world.

Society will not allow neither to blunder. Those who are dead long and deserve to be returned to their families as outlined. Though amends may never be accepted, solemnness can be secured.

The end goal seems to be getting both sides out of the very serious box. The world's goal is peace; it is a major lesson of D-Day's 80th Anniversary ceremonies, and the G-7. Utilizing age-old remedies from decades past, a resolution can be confirmed. However, many viewing bloodshed recorded moment by moment must recognize generating a truce is complicated.

The dilemma's got Biden's hanging on a cliff, both literally and physically. We saw that as he honored the 225 lost at Pointe du Hoc off the French coast.

"As we gather here today, it's not just to honor those who showed such remarkable bravery on that day, June 6th, 1944. It's to listen to the echoes of their voices, to hear them, because they are summoning us, and they're summoning us now," Biden said. "They're asking us: What will we do?

"They're asking us to do our job: to protect freedom in our time, to defend democracy, to stand up aggression abroad and at home, to be part of something bigger than ourselves," he continued indirectly referencing wars that have gotten the world involved.

Earlier in his speech, Biden said, "the most natural instinct is to walk away, to be selfish, to force our will upon others, to seize power and never give up". But upon conclusion, he reiterated that American recusal could not transpire citing involvement as a " a solemn vow to never let them [Pointe du Hoc soldiers] down".

The image of 225 slain is starkly magnified amidst today's death toll. The 34,900 Palestinian lives and 1,139 Israeli souls diminished, lost, tortured, and family members bereaved can never be repaired but the mainline proposal for the release of prisoners in exchange for hostages is a worthy jumpstart to align both groups on one accord.

"In Gaza, innocent civilians are suffering the horrors of the war between Hamas and Israel," Biden released in a statement in honor of the Muslim holiday Eid al-Adha. "Too many innocent people have been killed, including thousands of children."

United Nations human rights chief Volker Turk said a child in Gaza is killed or wounded "every 10 minutes". A new war strategy has been developed by Hamas, using hospitals, schools and churches to cover from Israeli air strikes, purposely positioned with civilians as human shields.

According to Al Jazeera, whose television channel has been banned 62 percent of homes have been destroyed, 26 hospitals and hundreds of medics have been killed.

"The world needs to wake up and realize that Israel has no choice but to protect its citizens and you shouldn't be surprised when it does so with greater and greater strength and resolve, and don't come to us with complaints when the situation gets out of control," Israeli President Issac Herzog warned last week after facing "attacks" from Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

Former army leader Benjamin Gantz later told the community to "brace for war" predicting the situation will get much worse before it gets better. A bad omen, which can be avoided by drawing from the lesson of D-Day in remembering World War II and its disastrous outcome, recognizing 2024 is not the first time instability, firm disagreement and complications in warfare have occurred.

"Isolationism was not the answer 80 years ago and is not the answer today," Biden said in his speech.

On June 6, we watched as President Joe Biden, French leader Emmanuel Macron and Ukrainian head of state Volodymyr Zelenskyy united overtop of 9,388 graves.

At the D-Day commemoration just 10 years prior to the historic 80th commemoration, we shrilled as Russia worked alongside France, Germany, and Ukraine to create the Normandy format in an effort to mend relations. Globally, we have shriveled from that moment forth whilst we should have grown. What changed?

As corpses pile up in the Gaza strip and Ukraine-Russo War, the former battleground in Normandy would have been the perfect place to unite with all parties instead of perpetuating further discontent. When the opportunity to facilitate a peaceful conversation between two sovereign nations arose, figureheads all but walked away. In addition, neither Putin nor Netanyahu were present.

To date, over 120,000 Russian soldiers have been pronounced dead, 70,000 Ukranians totaling approximately 500,000 deaths and injuries. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan has reported that Russian authorities are listing abducted Ukrainian children on Russian adoption websites. Both sides have forced vulnerable African migrants to join the war effort and many have died on the frontlines.

## When will it end?

Biden, Macron, Justin Trudeau, Olaf Scholz, Giorgia Meloni and Rishi Sunak just met during the G7 Summit. They faltered in finding viable methods towards peace and upending the perpetual loss of life.

We are losing too many to a menacing form of resistance, we must make harmonious headway towards an end.

For as Biden proclaimed in Normandy, "The price of unchecked tyranny is the blood of the young and the brave."

We need leaders that are level headed. We cannot stand idle as both dire and deafening blows to the powers of democracy are rattled, time and time again we must choose widespread collaboration amidst terror in worldly matters.

Ashleigh Fields accompanied President Joe Biden to Normandy with the White House press pool to cover the 80th D-Day commemorations. A Howard University journalism 2023 graduate, she is a policy analyst at Robert Weiner Associates News and Solutions For Change.

Robert Weiner was a spokesman for the Clinton and George W. Bush Administrations. He was communications director of the House Government Operations Committee, and senior aide to Congressmen John Conyers and Charles Rangel, as well as Four-Star General Barry McCaffrey, Reps. Claude Pepper, Ed Koch and Sen. Ted Kennedy.