

## Unknown

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**From:** Dr. M. Javad Zarif [Zarif@141.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2007 11:18 PM  
**To:** 'Trita Parsi'  
**Subject:** RE: Is it really 1938 and is Iran really Germany?

Salaam,

Many thanks for sharing this insightful article with me.

I wish you continued success.

Javad

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**From:** Trita Parsi [mailto:tparsi@jhu.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2007 4:33 PM  
**To:** Trita Parsi  
**Subject:** Is it really 1938 and is Iran really Germany?

According to Likud Leader Benyamin Netanyahu, it is 1938 and Iran is Germany. And of course, Ahmadinejad is Hitler, he goes on to imply. Bibi's analogy is very powerful and effective – yet false and tremendously dangerous. As I explain on the blog of [Tony Karon \(Time Magazine\)](#), not only is the analogy aimed at preventing diplomacy and making war with Iran inevitable, the ever so opportunistic Netanyahu played a remarkably different role only ten years ago when he ordered Israel to tone down its rhetoric on Iran and sought to quietly open up to Tehran.

A portion of the article and a link to the full article can be found below.

PS. This episode in Israeli-Iranian relations is explained in even greater detail in ["Treacherous Alliance – The Secret Dealings of Israel, Iran and the US."](#)

Sincerely,  
 Trita Parsi, PhD  
[www.tritaparsi.com](http://www.tritaparsi.com)  
[www.treacherousalliance.com](http://www.treacherousalliance.com)

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## Iran, the inflatable bogey

<http://tonykaron.com/2007/10/09/iran-the-inflatable-bogey/>

*By Dr. Trita Parsi*  
*October 10, 2007*  
[Rootless Cosmopolitan](#)

Benjamin Netanyahu would like Americans and Israelis to believe that it's 1938 all over again: Iran, he tells us, is Nazi Germany; President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is Hitler. And, of course, that means that anyone who advocates diplomacy and engagement with Tehran is simply reprising the tragic appeasement politics of Neville Chamberlain, even as the clock ticks towards catastrophe.

The 1938 analogy is entirely fallacious, but no less powerful because of it – by at once terrifying people and negating the alternatives to confrontation, it paints war as a necessary evil forced on

the West by a foe as deranged and implacable as Hitler was.

If Iran is, as Netanyahu and his allies in the U.S. suggest, irrationally aggressive, prone to a suicidal desire for apocalyptic confrontation, then both diplomacy and deterrence and containment are ruled out as policy options for Washington. The “Mad Mullahs,” as the neocons call them, are not capable of traditional balance of power realism. In the arguments of Netanyahu and such fellow travelers as Norman Podhoretz and Newt Gingrich, to imagine that war against the regime in Tehran is avoidable is to be as naïve as Chamberlain was in 1938.

However, as I discovered in the course of researching my book [\*Treacherous Alliance – the Secret Dealings of Israel, Iran and the United States\*](#), not only does Netanyahu’s characterization of Iran have little relationship to reality; Netanyahu himself knows this better than most. Outside of the realm of cynical posturing by politicians, most Israeli strategists recognize that Iran represents a strategic challenge to the favorable balance of power enjoyed by Israel and the U.S. in the Middle East over the past 15 years, but it is no existential threat to the Israel, the U.S. or the Arab regimes.

And that was the view embraced by the Likud leader himself during his last term as prime minister of Israel. In the course of dozens of interviews with key players in the Israeli strategic establishment, a fascinating picture emerged of Netanyahu strongly pushing back against the orthodoxy of his Labor Party predecessors, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, which treated Iran as one of Israel’s primary enemies. Not only that, he initiated an extensive discreet program of reaching out to the Islamic Republic.

[Read full article at Rootless Cosmopolitan](#)

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*Trita Parsi is author of the book, [\*Treacherous Alliance: The Secret Dealings of Israel, Iran and the United States\*](#).*

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