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# The Scourge of Jewish Anti-Semites

Prof. Steven Plaut, University of Haifa

The Jewish New Year is a time of renewal and a time for cherishing the ties between Israel and the Diaspora. But this year, it is essential that Jews in all communities learn about a growing menace, one that threatens from within Israel and Jews everywhere.

Understanding this menace is particularly important in the wake of the war with the Hezbollah this past summer. Over the past decade or so, there has been a bizarre sort of convergence between Israel and the North American Diaspora in the emergence of a dangerous pathology. I refer to Jewish anti-Semitism. That sounds like an oxymoron, and if only it were so!

Jews who are themselves anti-Semites have long been an unavoidable part of Diaspora existence. Indeed, anti-Semitic Jews go back at least as far as the Hellenist collaborators against the Maccabees, and probably even before that. What is new is the growth inside Israel of this pathology.

Let me be clear. People commonly refer to assimilationist Jews as “self-hating Jews”, but the application of that term to them is somewhat misleading. Assimilationist Jews are simply indifferent to their own Jewishness, with little interest in living as Jews.

Jewish anti-Semites, however, are people of Jewish extraction who actually hate Jews and wish them harm. In most cases, the main focus of their anti-Semitism is in their opposition to Israel’s existence and their endorsements of the barbarous forces warring against Israel and Zionism.

The Jewish community of North America has produced quite a number of Jewish anti-Semites. In extreme cases these include Jews promoting Holocaust Denial and neo-Nazism. And in recent years, these self-hating Jews are being joined by Jewish anti-Semites from the fringes of the Israeli far Left and especially from Israeli academia. In the US, there is Norman Finkelstein, a pseudo-scholar on the faculty of DePaul University in Chicago, who has been declared a Holocaust Denier by the Anti-Defamation League. Finkelstein is often described as the Jewish David Irving, and proudly proclaims that “We are all Hezbollah now!”

Noam Chomsky, Professor at MIT, certainly is a contender for the most anti-Semitic Jew to emerge in the United States. The only thing not clear is whether he hates America more than he hates Israel. Chomsky, a Stalinist who served as apologist for the Khmer Rouge while it was conducting

genocide, is himself a promoter and champion of Holocaust Deniers and terrorists of all sorts.

Canada has also produced its share of anti-Semitic Jews. While hardly the only one, probably the very worst is Michael Neumann from Trent University, a pseudo-academic basher of Israel and a regular Jew-baiter for the left wing pro-terror web magazine *Counterpunch*, published by Stalinist anti-Semite Alexander Cockburn. Like Cockburn, Neumann regards America and Israel as barbarian states. Perhaps his most memorable comment has been: “I think we should almost never take anti-Semitism seriously, and maybe we should have some fun with it.”

This was followed by: “Israel has committed war crimes. It has implicated Jews generally in these crimes, and Jews generally have hastened to implicate themselves. This has provoked hatred against Jews. Why not?” The Canadian Jewish Congress wrote a letter of complaint to Neumann’s employer, Trent University, about his naked anti-Semitism. Neumann proudly proclaims himself a follower of the Swedish neo-Nazi “Israel Shamir.” Neumann, author of *The Case Against Israel*, recently informed a neo-Nazi website that he is “not interested in the truth, or justice, or understanding,” unless it serves the Palestinian cause. Last year Jonathan Kay from Canada’s National Post did a superb job of “outing” the jihadnik from Trent.

Britain hosts an ex-Israeli neo-Nazi named Gilad Atzmon who is so openly anti-Semitic that he has been repudiated by British bash-Israel anti-Zionist groups. He has called for the burning down of synagogues. North America Jewry has begotten a cult of anti-Israel far-left paganism called the “Tikkun Community” or “Renewal” or “Aleph”, led by people like pseudo-rabbi Michael Lerner, editor of *Tikkun Magazine*, who believes that anti-Semitism is caused by the evil of Jews. These and other Jewish anti-Semites are the focus of the recent book by Paul Bogdanor and Edward Alexander, *The Jewish Divide Over Israel* (Transaction Publishers, March 2006).

Israel in recent years has produced hundreds of Jewish radical anti-Semites, and many of these hold faculty positions at Israel’s tax-funded public universities. These are people who justify and celebrate Arab terrorism, who help initiate campaigns of boycott and “divestment” directed against Israel, who collaborate with anti-Semites all over the

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► GLICK, continued from page 1

Rosh Hashana marks the beginning of the Ten Days of Repentance that precede Yom Kippur. To properly atone for our sins and correct our mistakes, we must understand who we are and what we represent and what we can and should aspire to as Jews. To do this, we must reject the notion that our haters can tell us who we are. To do this we must embrace our Jewish identity and uphold our commitment to our collective

destiny.

I wish the American and Canadian Jewish communities — and our people in Israel and in the Diaspora — that the Year 5767 will be one of Zionism, humility, security and peace. It should be a year where Clal Yisrael, the Jewish people, embraces our Jewish identity and heritage. And by doing so, we will safeguard our past, our present, and our future and continue to contribute to the progress of mankind.

Shana Tova from Jerusalem! ■

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## The Good News

Jonathan Rosenblum

world, who attempt to get Israeli military officers indicted as “war criminals” before courts outside Israel. Some of them openly call for Israel to be annihilated. Some campaign for and promote Holocaust deniers. Many of them cheered as northern Israel was bathed by katyusha rockets this summer. They are Israel’s version of “Taliban John”.

In-classroom anti-Israel indoctrination is becoming more common at Israeli universities. Battling against Israel is becoming the chief scholarly credential of a growing number of Israeli academics.

Ilan Pappé from the University of Haifa was the driving force behind recent attempts in the UK and Canada to boycott Israel and Israeli universities. Scores of Israeli university professors have been involved in organizing mutiny and insurrection among Israeli soldiers, and some leftist professors have been arrested for violently attacking police and soldiers or for other forms of law breaking. Many make the University of Colorado’s Ward Churchill look like a sane moderate. The university authorities wink at such behavior.

Among the worst extremists in Israel is Neve Gordon from Ben Gurion University, a “political science” fan of neo-Nazi Norman Finkelstein, whom Gordon compared ethically to the Prophets in the Bible. Gordon is so venomously anti-Israel that his articles have been carried by the web site of deported neo-Nazi Ernst Zundel. Gordon regularly denounces Israel as a fascist, apartheid terrorist state. He served as a human shield for wanted murderers being hidden in Yassir Arafat’s headquarters in Ramallah and was arrested when he interfered with Israeli anti-terror military operations. Gordon launched an international campaign of vilification against his own army commander, accusing him on anti-Semitic web sites of being a “war criminal.”

Gordon and hundreds of other Israel-hating faculty members in Israel continue to enjoy backing by the campus authorities. At Ben Gurion University a policy is in place in the political science department by which no Zionists nor Israel supporters may teach. Israel-hating faculty members are almost as common at Tel Aviv University and the University of Haifa. Rigid anti-Israel uniformity is to be found in many academic departments in Israeli universities, especially in the humanities, the soft social sciences, and education.

Israeli leftist anti-Semites have been instrumental in fanning the fires of anti-Semitism all over the world and in leading the campaign to delegitimize Israel. Israeli traitors with tenure continue to collaborate with the enemies of their own country in time of war. To date, very little has been done to stop them.

The activities of Israel’s anti-Semitic Jews is the focus of Israel Academia Monitor, a group that monitors and exposes the anti-Israel activities of Israel’s academic Fifth Column (see [www.israel-academia-monitor.com](http://www.israel-academia-monitor.com)). It and other institutions fighting Israeli Jewish anti-Semitism need your help and support. ■

Despite the heartbreaking outcome of the month-long fighting in Lebanon, there were many encouraging results from the war. Chief among them was the bravery and determination of the people of Israel, who provided the strongest possible refutation of Hassan Nasrallah’s characterization of Israel as a “cobweb waiting to be swept away.”

Over a million residents of northern Israel endured more than a month away from their homes — either in bomb-shelters or as refugees in other parts of the country. Yet they never called upon the government to bring hostilities to a premature conclusion — on conditions unfavorable to Israel — in order to relieve their plight.

While the government abdicated its responsibility for those who left the North, private individuals and charitable organizations took up much of the slack, providing housing, activities for children, and food for the refugees. The outpouring of concern stood in stark — and happy — contrast to the response to the Gush Katif expellees last year.

For all the failures of the war at the command level, Jewish soldiers and the officers in the field fought with great bravery against a well-trained and deeply entrenched enemy, who had the benefit of surprise and knowledge of the terrain. Yet in almost all face-to-face confrontations, the IDF soldiers proved themselves the better fighters. Soldiers lightly wounded in battle begged to be allowed to return to their comrades and the battle for the state of Israel as soon as they were able.

Reservists reported almost to a man, and continued to fight, despite having been poorly trained and often lacking even food and water or proper protective gear.

Perhaps most important of all, the people of Israel — secular, no less than religious — have begun to recognize the fundamental nature of the struggle with the enemy. The importance of national will, of belief in the justice of our cause, has been placed at the top of the national agenda by completely secular commentators. Others have decried the illusion that Israel could be just a normal nation — no different than any other, and have labeled as delusional the attempts to escape the rules of Jewish history. Still others have charged that an ever increasing decadence, hedonism, and materialism have weakened the fiber of Israeli existence and called for a reversal of those trends.

These glimmers of truth remain far from a full understanding of Jewish peoplehood, but they are an auspicious beginning.

Our prayer is that in the year to come, the realization that the true source of Jewish strength and purpose cannot be separated from acknowledgment of the unique mission given us at Sinai becomes ever more widespread.

And may all the Jewish unity, mutual responsibility and determination shown in the just finished war turn out to be not a brief interlude, but rather a harbinger of a yet fuller, more complete unity with the coming of Moshiach. ■