

Important Books for Serious Readers

Reviewed by Dr. Alex Grobman

“The Jewish Divide over Israel: Accusers and Defenders”

Edward Alexander and Paul Bogdanor, eds. “The Jewish Divide over Israel: Accusers and Defenders,” (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Transaction Publishers, 2006) 283 pages. \$39.95

For many Jews, the mere mention of Noam Chomsky, Michael Lerner, Tony Judt, Norman G. Finkelstein Joel Beinin, Marc Ellis, George Steiner, Seymour Hirsch, Thomas Friedman, and Benny Morris is enough to raise their blood pressure—and for good reason. These well-known academics and journalists routinely deride Israel for its “unjust and immoral treatment” of the Palestinian Arabs.

In his columns in the *New York Times*, Friedman

regularly casts Israel as the aggressor in the Arab-Israeli conflict, claiming that the Jewish state’s alleged “occupation” of Arab lands is responsible for Arab hatred of Israel. Mr. Friedman says little about the Arabs’ own aggression against the Jewish state.

Michael Lerner believes that suicide bombings and lynchings are “immoral,” but, he says, Israel cannot justify protecting itself against them because its own behavior has been unethical: “Israeli treatment of Palestinians has been immoral and outrageous.”

In “The Jewish Divide over Israel: Accusers and Defenders,” Prof Edward Alexander and writer Paul Bogdanor have put together an extremely important group of essays written by Cynthia Ozick, Rael Jean Isaac,

Efraim Karsh, David Roskies, and others. Messrs Alexander and Bogdanor explain why so many Jewish liberals and radicals continually and wrongly undermine the Jewish state. The book is must reading.

“The Crime of My Very Existence: Nazism and the Myth of Jewish Criminality”

“The Crime of My Very Existence: Nazism and the Myth of Jewish Criminality” by Michael Berkowitz (Berkeley, California: University of California Press, 2007) 321 pages \$24.95

The Nazis, who portrayed themselves as the advocates of “law and order,” justified their war against the Jews as part of the party’s war on crime. A prominent Nazi billboard proclaimed: “*Judentum is Verbrechen*”—Jewry and Judaism is criminality. Germany had to be

protected from Jews, Gypsies, leftists and other “social outsiders,” the Nazis said, as they eagerly assumed this task.

The Nazi claim of creating a society free from criminality is one of the myths explored by Michael Berkowitz, a professor of modern Jewish history in the department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies at University College in London. The charge of Jews as criminals plays a larger role in the history of the Holocaust and antisemitism than has been appreciated thus far. Exposing Jews as criminals made it easier for the Nazis to conceal and rationalize their persecution of the Jews to the German people.

For example, Germans who were not entirely convinced by Nazi racial theories were more apt to accept
continued on page 28

Learn About the New Medicaid Rules for Seniors and Survivors of the Holocaust

Lissner & Lissner LLP

Elder Law & Estate Planning Attorneys

250 West 57th Street, Suite 615

New York, NY 10107

Tel.: 212-307-1499

Email: contactlawyer@lissnerlawfirm.com

Outside NY State: 1-800-375-4583

On the Internet: www.lissnerlawfirm.com

As a result of the Deficit Reduction Act, there are new Medicaid rules that increase the cost of long-term care for Senior citizens. We urge anyone 65+ to consider available asset protection options and plan your long-term health care needs. Please ask us for information about Third Party Grantor Trusts.

Lissner & Lissner LLP has developed a form of asset protection uniquely available to Holocaust Survivors and their families. Eligible Survivors may be able to retain a significant portion in of their savings in Victims of Nazi Persecution Compensation TrustsSM while still qualifying for medical assistance for their long-term care needs.

Our firm, Lissner & Lissner LLP, established in 1950, includes attorneys licensed in New York, New Jersey and Florida; fiduciary and tax accountants, paralegals, bookkeepers, and a multi-lingual staff. We offer a full range of legal services, including the preparation of estate planning documents such as Wills, Living Trusts, Health Care Proxies and Powers of Attorney; and assists clients with matters concerning Elder Law and Medicaid planning, asset protection, estate planning and administration, income tax preparation, tax planning and real estate.

HOUSE CALLS AND MEETINGS AVAILABLE IN NY, NJ & FL