



COMMITTEE FOR ACCURACY IN
MIDDLE EAST REPORTING AND ANALYSIS

The Anti-Semitic Rhetoric of Anti-Zionists

There was a time, not so long ago, when there was wide consensus about what antisemitism is and why it should be combatted in all its forms. Manifestations of Jew hatred and anti-Semitic rhetoric were relegated to the fringes of society in the decades following the defeat of the Nazi regime and the exposure of their atrocities in the Holocaust. But as time progressed, classic anti-Semitism re-emerged from the shadows. In addition, anti-Zionism — the rejection of self-determination for Jews in their ancestral homeland— continues to gain considerable ground, sparking debate about whether it is just another manifestation of anti-Semitism.

Anti-Zionists contend that anti-Zionism is a political position rooted in progressive values and principled advocacy for Palestinians whom they consider the rightful heirs to the Holy Land and that charges of anti-Semitism are just cynical smears meant to muzzle legitimate criticism of Israel. They claim that anti-Semitism is limited to the far-right, white supremacists and neo-Nazis.

It is instructive therefore to compare the language and rhetoric used by prominent anti-Zionist organizations, politicians, journalists and activists to the classic antisemitic tropes disseminated by Nazis in the prelude to and during the Holocaust.

Themes and Tropes Used in Nazi Germany Propaganda and by Modern-Day Anti-Zionists

	NAZI GERMANY	MODERN-DAY ANTI-ZIONISTS
Jewish Supremacy, Imperialism and Conquest	<p>The trope of Jewish supremacy and conquest was a mainstay of Nazi indoctrination. The old anti-Semitic canard about Jews seeking to dominate and control the world's non-Jews was popularized in the fraudulent <i>Protocols of the Elders of Zion</i> and was resurrected by the Nazis who promoted it as incontrovertible truth. It was presented as the primary evil to be defeated.</p> <p><i>"The secret goals of the Jewish people are laid out in the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. Der Stürmer has written about them more than a hundred times. They contain the Jewish plan for world conquest ..."</i> <i>(Lead article in Der Stürmer, 1933 [1])</i></p>	<p>The same trope that had been so successfully employed by Hitler and his Nazi party has become the backbone of current anti-Zionist propaganda.</p> <p><i>"[Israel's religious leaders] believe that everybody that is not a Jew is only on earth to serve them and they believe that the Indigenous people of the region that they kicked off the land in 1948 and have continued to kick off the land ever since are sub-human."</i> <i>(Rock musician/anti-Zionist activist Roger Waters, 2013 [2])</i></p> <p><i>"How can you ...support a state like Israel that is based on supremacy, that is built on the idea that Jews are supreme to everyone else?"</i> <i>(American BDS activist Linda Sarsour, 2019 [3])</i></p>

<p>Racism</p>	<p>While racism – the notion of the racial superiority and purity of the Aryan – was central to Nazi ideology and lauded as its aspirational goal, Hitler and his Nazi propagandists projected the evil and immorality of their ideology onto the Jews whom they falsely accused of harboring the same objectives. For example: <i>“With every means [the Jew] tries to destroy the racial foundations of the people he has set out to subjugate.”</i> (Adolf Hitler, Mein Kampf)</p>	<p>The Nazis’ racist ideology is universally recognized today as evil and immoral; yet modern-day anti-Zionists continue the pattern of Nazi projection of racism’s immorality onto Israel and Zionism.</p> <p><i>“[Zionism] is an ideology which was rooted in the racism, colonialism and ethnic nationalism of the nineteenth century in which it was born, and the practical application of which (i.e. the creation of Israel) has showed their pernicious influence at every stage ... ”</i> (UK Labour Party member Ian Wellens, 2020 [4])</p> <p><i>“I think it’s really important to understand Israel is a racist state ... ”</i> (U.S. Representative of Congress Rashida Tlaib, 2021 [5])</p>
<p>Criminals and Murderers</p>	<p>The theme of Jewish criminality and murder was used in Nazi Germany to frighten the non-Jewish populace and justify the genocide of Jews.</p> <p><i>“[The Jews are] a people of criminals and murderers.”</i> (Lead article in <i>Der Stürmer</i>, 1933 [6])</p>	<p>A similar canard that replaces ‘the Jew’ with ‘Israel’ or ‘Zionists’ is repeated by modern-day anti-Zionists.</p> <p><i>“Israel is a criminal state and deserves to be condemned.”</i> (Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, 2019 [7])</p> <p><i>“Genocide is the word that best captures the dynamics of Zionist and Israeli policy when it’s considered in historic perspective.”</i> (California State University Professor/BDS leader Mohammed Abed, 2015 [8])</p>
<p>Devious, Liars and Slanderers</p>	<p>Jews were portrayed as devious schemers who lulled their unsuspecting victims into a false sense of security, lied about their actions and slandered their opponents.</p> <p><i>“To the outside, the Jew works anxiously to conceal the differences between him and his host people, to lull them to sleep so that he can continue his destructive activities undisturbed ... ”</i> (Reichspropagandaleitung’s monthly bulletin for speakers, 1935 [9])</p>	<p>These same themes permeate anti-Zionist rhetoric.</p> <p><i>“Israel has hypnotized the world; may Allah awaken the people and help them see the evil doings of Israel.”</i> (U.S. Member of Congress Ilhan Omar tweet, Nov. 16, 2012)</p>
<p>Tumours and Parasites</p>	<p>Jews were portrayed as Untermenschen (subhuman), as rodents, vermin and particularly as parasites who take over and</p>	<p>Among modern-day anti-Zionists, the parasite is translated as a tumor or cancer that invades and destroys its host.</p>

	<p>poison the bodies and lives of non-Jews. Such characterizations were both visual, in cartoons and covers of publications, and descriptive, in Nazi rhetoric.</p> <p><i>"[The Jew was] only and always a parasite in the body of other peoples ...He is and remains the typical parasite, a sponger who like a noxious bacillus keeps spreading as soon as a favourable medium invites him."</i> (Adolf Hitler, <i>Mein Kampf</i>)</p>	<p><i>"The Zionist regime is a deadly, cancerous growth and a detriment to this region. It will undoubtedly be uprooted and destroyed."</i> (Iran Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, speech on Iran's state television, May 22, 2020)</p> <p><i>"Israel is a cancer and will be extirpated from Palestinian lands."</i> (Sayid Tenório in a tweet, April 6, 2018)</p> <p><i>"[The State of Israel is] 'an overgrown, malignant tumour that appeared in the Middle East'."</i> (Muslim Student Association, 1990 [10])</p>
<p>Money and Influence</p>	<p>Jewish love of money and greed was a major theme of Nazi propaganda, depicted in cartoons, books and described in articles and speeches. International Jewry was accused of wielding money as a corrupting influence to gain power and control over non-Jews.</p> <p><i>"Even kings and emperors fall victim to the Jew's weapon of money..."</i> (Nazi school textbook, 1937 [11])</p> <p><i>"How has the Jew subjugated the peoples? With money ..."</i>(<i>Reichspropagandaleitung's</i> monthly bulletin for speakers, 1935 [12])</p>	<p>Anti-Zionists have borrowed this theme to attack political contributions from Jewish philanthropists and supporters of Israel as a corrupting influence.</p> <p><i>"The powerful pro-Israel Zionist lobby in Britain ... wields money and influence within parliament ... "</i> (British journalist/activist Yvonne Ridley, 2017 [13])</p> <p><i>"It's all about the Benjamins baby. "</i> (U.S. Member of Congress Ilhan Omar referring to Jewish money buying influence in a tweet, Feb. 10, 2019)</p>
<p>Zionism</p>	<p>A popular canard among anti-Zionists is that Hitler supported Zionism. They base this on the fact that the Nazi regime, in the 1930's, allowed German Jews to emigrate, some to Palestine, seeing it as an opportunity to rid the country of the despised Jews while taking money from and appropriating most of the émigrés' assets. In fact, Hitler and his Nazis loathed Zionism, viewing it as a devious ploy by World Jewry to create an international headquarters for the Jews' nefarious schemes and designs. As Hitler wrote in his manifesto:</p> <p><i>"[W]hile the Zionists try to make the rest of the world believe that the national consciousness of the</i></p>	<p>Anti-Zionists, by definition, strive to delegitimize Zionism as did the Nazis, and thus portray it as rooted in lies.</p> <p><i>"Zionism is based on the creation of an alternative narrative, part of it related to the Biblical narrative and part of it just manufactured ..."</i> (<i>Journal of Palestine Studies</i> editor/Palestinian advisor Rashid Khalidi, 2020 [14])</p> <p><i>"[T]he Jewish State of Israel, the bastard progeny of Zionism's rape of Palestine, is still 'thriving' among us as the fictitious 'ancestral homeland' of Jews."</i> (Rima Najjar, 2019 [15])</p>

<p><i>Jew finds its satisfaction in the creation of a Palestinian state, the Jews again slyly dupe the dumb Goyim. It doesn't even enter their heads to build up a Jewish state in Palestine for the purpose of living there; all they want is a central organization for their international world swindle, endowed with its own sovereign rights and removed from the intervention of other states: a haven for convicted scoundrels and a university for budding crooks." (Adolf Hitler, Mein Kampf)</i></p>	
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[1] "Die Geheimpläne gegen Deutschland enthüllt" [[Secret Plans Against Germany Revealed](#)], *Der Stürmer* 27 (July 1933): Calvin University's German Propaganda Archive, collected and translated by Professor Emeritus Randall Bytwerk

[2] Barat, Frank, '[An Interview with Roger Waters](#)', in Counterpunch.org, (Dec. 6, 2013)

[3] [Address](#) to the 12th Annual Conference for Palestine in the US (Nov. 29, 2019)

[4] "[An open letter to UK Labour leader Keir Starmer](#)" Mondoweiss.net (April 10, 2020)

[5] Democracy Now [radio interview](#) with Rashida Tlaib (Jan. 19, 2021)

[6] "Die Geheimpläne gegen Deutschland enthüllt" [[Secret Plans Against Germany Revealed](#)], *Der Stürmer* 27 (July 1933): Calvin University's German Propaganda Archive, collected and translated by Professor Emeritus Randall Bytwerk

[7] Mahathir Mohamad, "[A genocidal state](#)", malaysiakini.com (Jan. 28, 2019)

[8] Abed in a panel [discussion](#) at an anti-Zionist conference entitled "[Palestine, Israel and the Assault on Academic Freedom](#)" held at the University of California on Oct. 22-23, 2015

[9] Aufklärungs- und Redner-Informationsmaterial der Reichspropagandaleitung der NSDAP [["Our Battle Against Judah,"](#) Educational and speaker information material from the Reich Propagandaleitung of the NSDAP], *Lieferung* (August 1935): Calvin University's German Propaganda Archive, collected and translated by Professor Emeritus Randall Bytwerk

[10] Quoted by Kenneth Stern in [Anti-Zionism: The Sophisticated Anti-Semitism](#), publication of the American Jewish Committee (Sept. 1990)

[11] Karl Bareth and Alfred Vogel, *Erblehre und Rassenkunde für die Grund- und Hauptschule* [[Heredity and Racial Science for Elementary and Secondary Schools](#)] 2nd edition, Bühl-Baden: Verlag Konkordia (1937): Calvin University's German Propaganda Archive, collected and translated by Professor Emeritus Randall Bytwerk

[12] Aufklärungs- und Redner-Informationsmaterial der Reichspropagandaleitung der NSDAP [["Our Battle Against Judah,"](#) Educational and speaker information material from the Reich Propagandaleitung of the NSDAP], *Lieferung* (August 1935): Calvin University's German Propaganda Archive, collected and translated by Professor Emeritus Randall Bytwerk

[13] Yvonne Ridley, "[Zionists threaten British government over illegal settlement vote at the UN](#)", Middle East Monitor (Jan. 12, 2017)

[14] Russia Today, "On Contact with Chris Hedges" [interview](#) with Rashid Khalidi (May 3,2020)

[15] Rima Najjar, "[Israel was Forced on Palestinians — as in Rape](#)" Countercurrents.org (May 15, 2019)