

Anti-Semitism Today

It is 2003. The extermination camps of Europe ceased murdering 58 years ago and ever since then the ideologies that created and justified them have been a byword for evil in civilised circles – and even in most uncivilised ones. That anti-Semitism is once again a significant causal force in international politics, and in the internal politics of Western nations, is an idea grotesque almost beyond belief. But believe it we must, for it is a cold fact.

Here are some recent articles on the phenomenon, which everyone should read:

The demonology of SE Asian Islamists by **Michael Danby**:

Sue and Donna lived in Elwood and Port Melbourne respectively, suburbs in my constituency in Melbourne, where I serve as a federal member of parliament. Sue and Donna were killed whilst enjoying a holiday in Bali, and now Donna leaves behind a disabled four-year-old.

As justification for their murderous acts in Bali, two of the known perpetrators, Amrozi bin Nurhasyim and Imam Samudra, have focused their rhetoric on revenge “against the Jews,” despite the fact that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no Jews in Indonesia.

Fiamma Nirenstein:

If Israel is, and it is indeed, the focal point of anti-Semitic attacks, our attention must be concentrated there. We must measure the moral character of the person we are speaking to on that basis: if you lie about Israel, if you cover it with bias, you are an anti-Semite. If you're prejudiced against Israel, then, you're against the Jews.

This doesn't mean criticizing Israel and its policies is forbidden. However, very little of what we hear about Israel has to do with lucid criticism. Prejudice and bias, not Sharon's personality is the major reason for criticism. The self-defined critics are not the pious interlocutors for the Jews that they pretend to be. So we must tell them: from now on you cannot use the human rights passport for free; you cannot use false stereotypes. You must demonstrate what you assert: that the army ruthlessly storms poor Arab villages that have nothing to do with terrorism; that it shoots children on purpose; that it kills journalists with pleasure. You cannot? You called Jenin a slaughter? Then you are an anti-Semite, just like the old anti-Semites you pretend to hate. You have to convince

me that you are not an anti-Semite, now that we know that you do not condemn terrorism, that you have never said a word against the contemporary caricatures of hooked-nosed Jews with a bag of dollars in one hand and a machine gun in the other.

Solomon:

Jewish bank ownership, media ownership, personal flaws...they stand out because they hate you and they don't hate you because of the "occupation" – they hate the "occupation" because they...hate...you.

On Ignoring Anti-Semitism by **Ruth R. Wisse**:

No extract can sum up this careful and comprehensive analysis. Go and read it all.

Mon, 09/01/2003 - 20:26 | [permalink](#)

That's some company to be in...

...thank you for the link - and the pointers. Good stuff.

by **Solomon** on Tue, 09/02/2003 - 20:38 | [reply](#)

Here's Another Interesting One

http://europundits.blogspot.com/2003_09_01_europundits_archive.html#106267265194636376
(except that the PS is, as he says himself, too conspiratorial.)

(Via **InstaPundit**.)

by **Editor** on Fri, 09/05/2003 - 03:34 | [reply](#)

Bias about bias

Yes, there's a lot of anti-semitism, and many critics of Israel are anti-semitic, and that's very bad. However, Fiamma Nirenstein writes:

[...] if you lie about Israel, if you cover it with bias, you are an anti-Semite. If you're prejudiced against Israel, then, you're against the Jews.

This is of course entirely a non-sequitur. Yes, many of those biased against Israel will be anti-semitic. But by no means all. There are many other reasons people can be biased against Israel. The most important reason for people to be biased against Israel, I would guess, is not anti-semitism but anti-Westism or cultural relativism. Jews mostly belong to the European culture. And Israel is a Western type state, with emphasis on individual rights and rule of law. And that is something that is hated by those who would favor oppression and backwardness, or the "freedom" non-Westerners to enjoy the benefits of a culture of oppression and backwardness (why should only non-Westerners have this "freedom"?).

Also, Israel is seen as a form of Western colonialism in the East. And they are hated for that just as Americans are hated for being in Iraq (by leftist Westerners and non-Iraqi muslims, mostly not by Iraqis themselves). It's not all about anti-semitism, even if part of it is.

Henry Sturman

by **Henry Sturman** on Sun, 09/07/2003 - 10:52 | [reply](#)

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