

It Really Is Happening Again

Antisemitism. "It really is happening again" says **Andrew Sullivan**.

Hope that he is wrong. Be prepared for him to be right.

And, right now, take his advice and read Natan Sharansky's latest masterpiece **On Hating the Jews**, which we have already put permanently in our sidebar.

Mon, 11/03/2003 - 19:38 | [digg](#) | [del.icio.us](#) | [permalink](#)

Happening again in Europe

Happening again in Europe:

<http://www.policyreview.org/oct03/rosenthal.html>

and of course in the Muslim world:

<http://frontpagemag.com/Articles/ReadArticle.asp?ID=10581>

by **Alan Furman** on Tue, 11/04/2003 - 04:54 | [reply](#)

Correction

As a friend of Israel and an admirer of Natan Sharansky, I feel it is my duty to point out -- before someone else who is neither does so -- that the supposed quote from Dr Martin Luther King in the Commentary article is a fabrication. See [this Wikipedia article](#).

by a reader on Tue, 11/04/2003 - 16:48 | [reply](#)

On Loving the...

I might be well roasted for saying this, but it is about time we get off the topic of hating Peoples. Sure, there are so many anti-semites. Sure, it is dangerous and unreasonable. However, with all the specific hates and haters in the world, it does not get us very far to generalize first and look for evidence after. Just round up all the usual suspects. Or don't.

Seriously, more usefully, get to the specifics, take action where it is

warranted. People aren't blind, but they are all too easily polarized. Instead, work with change. Develop allies. Work with Reason. Call a spade a spade. Forge Alliances. Act together. If there is any opportunity for overlap at the fringes or the center, go for it. Do not love or hate or segregate or integrate with labels. They don't work for any useful long term purpose or gain.

Howard Dean, a Democratic candidate for U.S. president is a good current example of this not so useful debate, and is being criticized for it. Sure the confederate flag is a racist symbol, for some people anyway. So are all flags and causes in general if used that way. Regardless, poor southerners as individuals should not be labeled, other than self-identified poor and southern, and that does not exclude them from the larger debate, reach out, Dean's main point. Criticize not, until you can make lots of elbow room for criticism back. Critique is the better, more useful word. By all means act. Less talk at, more act with. Enough said.

by a reader on Wed, 11/05/2003 - 20:27 | [reply](#)

Why?

I might be well roasted for saying this, but it is about time we get off the topic of hating Peoples. Sure, there are so many anti-semites. Sure, it is dangerous and unreasonable.

It's unreasonable and **dangerous**, but we should stop thinking about it? Why?

~Woty
<http://woty.davidsj.com>

by [Woty](#) on Thu, 11/06/2003 - 00:13 | [reply](#)

Why

We should not stop thinking about it. That is right, you and I should not stop thinking about it. What makes us different? What gives us common ground? We, you and I, should do whatever we can to deal with it, truth about humanity. All prejudice is based on fear and misunderstanding of the other, barriers to knowing, playing one against the other for gain.

Act to change it, see the evil of prejudice in all its group labels and contested borders and vile histories. Get energized. You have the tools. Do more.

Go beyond identifying or responding only to the hate. Work with people and forces that do not hate. Do not play into the hands of anti-semitism, do not play into the hands of racism, do not play into the hands of those who benefit by all polarizations of the other, fear or hate. There is no room for anti-people. Find ways to triumph over what someone might call us, label us, group us, misunderstand or misuse us.

As you say, Set **The World** To Rights.

What I read here is worthwhile to think about. The first question is always how do we change it. The other is you and me, how we see. Why do we buy into being categorized? We must believe something about the category. Do not fear The Other. It is tangible and always changing. For one, I believe we must be individuals first, never labels or categories, ourselves or others.

It is always the individual where we meet. Live that.

by a reader on Thu, 11/06/2003 - 02:55 | [reply](#)

Think First, Act Later

A Reader exhorts us to "Act", and "Do more", and "Go beyond identifying or responding only to hate." etc.

But, how is one to know what actions to take without having a good theory about his obstacles?

A Reader seems to think that all prejudices are alike, but I disagree and think that anti-semitism is different from the others. We need to try to understand it in order to avoid repeating mistakes.

Gil

by [Gil](#) on Thu, 11/06/2003 - 03:51 | [reply](#)

Think and Act

Gil, you are right: But, how is one to know what actions to take without having a good theory about his obstacles?

A rhetorical question, which can also be said as a statement: One needs good theories in order to know what action to take.

My theory is that all prejudices are alike in their essence of how they distort thinking, and all prejudices have their personal and individual basis of perpetuation. Prejudices thrive on labels and stereotypes and at their core reveal deep mistrust, fear, anger, hurt, and misunderstanding.

Group prejudices are fostered by group images of who the enemy is. The enemy is/are those whom we fear and who we have feared. Fear and mistrust is a big blind spot and barrier to clear thinking. It is a contagion if left untouched. Lack of contact with those persons we might have prejudices about tends to foster a breeding ground for stereotypes and pat hateful, fearful answers. This is group-think, which paradoxically is not rational thinking, but rather rationalizing or sloganeering or segregating thought.

Predjudice breeds in a vacuum of ideas and inaction. It is critical to break into the group-think of the group, as well as our own tendencies to group-think. It is critical to act. If we do, some will hold to their ideological prejudice. Some will be shaken. Some will change.

Acting to break through prejudice has many ways and many

specifics. Causing fear or perpetuating stereotypes only reinforces those who hate and/or fear. **Setting the world to rights** is a good start at breaking through. The discussion needs to broaden and also needs to offer ideas to be tested and tried.

You each have your own theory about prejudices, no matter what the labels and history of it. Share them. Share it.

by a reader on Thu, 11/06/2003 - 15:05 | [reply](#)

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