

The Brownshirts Of Our Time

The Brownshirts of our Time:

Here's what's sad. Clearly, my speech touched hearts and minds; there was room for common ground and for civilized discourse. But not once the word "Palestine" was uttered, not when "Palestine" is seen as a symbol for every downtrodden group of color who are "resisting" the racist-imperialist American and Zionist Empires. Once the "Palestine" litmus test of political respectability was raised, everyone responded on cue, as if programmed and brainwashed. It immediately became a "white" versus "brown" thing, an "oppressed" versus an "oppressor" thing.

These are the Brownshirts of our time. The fact that they are women of color, womanists/feminists is all the more chilling and tragic. And unbelievable. And to me: Practically unbearable.

Yes, **something nasty** is happening. Something with countless precedents since time immemorial. But something else is happening too, something *without* precedent in human history. Though still very far from being a majority sentiment, there is nevertheless an unmistakable *large-scale, mainstream, gut-level solidarity with Jews* (and with Israel), especially in the United States. Consider **Charles, founder of LGF**, and **Frank, and Misha, and Elliot**, and **Alan**, and **countless others**. Could it be that this difference will make the difference? That the current brownshirts will be the last to have any significant effect on the world?

Thu, 11/20/2003 - 02:44 | [digg](#) | [del.icio.us](#) | [permalink](#)

dan truly

consider me too a friend of the Jews.

a person ashamed for not getting it years ago, for letting the TV reports of attacks and suicide bombings blur by in the background, of feeling vaguely connected to the Palestinians because they of course were the "underdogs" and the "oppressed" ones.

no longer.

never again.

not on my watch.

by a reader on Thu, 11/20/2003 - 03:56 | [reply](#)

Me too

Turning the gut reaction into useful arguments, that's the thing. I find it hard.

Alice

<http://www.alicebachini.com/>

by a reader on Fri, 11/21/2003 - 17:32 | [reply](#)

umm

useful arguments against which coherent rival theories?

-- Elliot Temple

<http://curi.blogspot.com/>

by [Elliot Temple](#) on Sat, 11/22/2003 - 16:41 | [reply](#)

umm

Why do the rival theories have to be coherent?

It seems to me that they only have to be attractive and (potentially) popular to be a problem against which arguments could be useful.

Many people hold incoherent theories. Perhaps many of these people will not be swayed by argument, but I suspect many of them can be; if the argument is well-suited to them and they're ready for it.

Gil

by [Gil](#) on Sat, 11/22/2003 - 22:05 | [reply](#)

shrug

fine, arguments against which competitive rival theories? or which relevant rival theories? or which rival theories at all? since when are there any that we lacked arguments against? i know there's out-and-out Jews Are Evil, but we could already defeat that one in an argument no problem, and that's not the solution to it.

-- Elliot

by a reader on Mon, 11/24/2003 - 03:47 | [reply](#)

Israel V Jews

I reserve the right to think whatever I want of the Jewish religion, and the people who profess the Jewish faith, and still think Israel, the State, are a bunch of Nazis.

If they were putting up a wall around a bunch of Jews...

by a reader on Mon, 11/24/2003 - 16:17 | [reply](#)

A Wall Around A Bunch Of Jews

They *are* putting up a wall around a bunch of Jews.

They're trying to keep them from getting blown up.

How would *you* protect people from getting murdered by enemies who have long taken "credit" for just that as their strategy and goal?

Gil

by **Gil** on Mon, 11/24/2003 - 18:54 | [reply](#)

Thinking

I reserve the right to think whatever I want of the Jewish religion, and the people who profess the Jewish faith, and still think Israel, the State, are a bunch of Nazis.

If they were putting up a wall around a bunch of Jews...

You have the right to think whatever you want, but not to be free of the moral consequences of your position. As it stands now, you are standing with evil against good. That you are called on it is not a violation of your rights.

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

by **Woty** on Tue, 11/25/2003 - 03:09 | [reply](#)