

## Introducing Our Series, “A Short History of Israel”

This is the introduction to our series, “A Short History of Israel”. The Table of Contents is [here](#), and at the foot of each part of the series, we link to the next part. If you want to skip this introduction, [click here to go straight to Part 1](#).

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Once upon a time, we wrote a parody history of Israel, intended for **Setting The World To Rights**, in which every sentence contained at least one lie.

But the reactions of many of our friends who read it were alarming. Instead of falling about laughing, saying, “Jolly good show! What a super parody!”, most of them read it as fact. These are not opponents of Israel, you understand, but people who are sympathetic to it. We hadn't realised quite how pervasive the prevailing distortions and falsehoods are. When you consider that the parody began: “Judaism is unique among religions in being exclusive to a particular ethnic group (the Jews). It teaches (in its doctrine of ‘the Chosen People’) that all other races are genetically inferior to the Jewish one and that Jews are entitled to rule over them”, you might (we admit we're optimists) understand our unease that our friends took it seriously.

We soon realised that we could not put the parody into the public domain. After all, **The Protocols of the Elders of Zion** is also a crude forgery, but is now part of the standard anti-Semitic repertoire – for instance it is in the **Charter of Hamas**. We do not want to be responsible for another anti-Semitic canard that might last the next few centuries.

However, everyone who read the parody asked us where they could find the true facts. Looking around the internet, we found that there are no satisfactory summaries containing just the facts (though we found many containing falsehoods far worse than our parody!). So we decided that we had to compile a short History of Israel ourselves, and we are pleased to announce that we shall post the first instalment (“Anti-Semitism and Zionism”) *tomorrow*. Look out for it!

**UPDATE: [Click here for Part 1: Anti-Semitism and Zionism](#)**

## When you consider that the pa...

When you consider that the parody began: ♦Judaism is unique among religions in being exclusive to a particular ethnic group (the Jews). It teaches (in its doctrine of ♦the Chosen People♦) that all other races are genetically inferior to the Jewish one and that Jews are entitled to rule over them♦, you might (we admit we're optimists) understand our unease that our friends took it seriously.

What is false about that? No really. It looks OK to me.

by a reader on Mon, 05/05/2003 - 00:57 | [reply](#)

## Why'd You Do That?

I'm curious about what sort of thought process could possess you to think that your comment was a good thing to post.

-- Elliot Temple  
<http://curi.blogspot.com/>

by [Elliot Temple](#) on Mon, 05/05/2003 - 04:51 | [reply](#)

## The parody

Well, I thought the parody was hilarious. Maybe it needed to be more obvious for idiots, like this:

"Judaism is the only religion which is limited exclusively to people whose noses are a certain length, and which actually shoots anyone else who tries to join in. It teaches in its doctrine of "The Master Race" that all other humans should be eliminated and that one day Jews will rule this universe, and most of the other ones as well, in a great big orgy of Broadway musicals, haberdashery shops and potato latkes."

[http://libertarian\\_parent\\_in\\_the\\_countryside.blogspot.com/](http://libertarian_parent_in_the_countryside.blogspot.com/)

by [Alice](#) on Mon, 05/05/2003 - 12:19 | [reply](#)

## O Lord, I realize that we're...

O Lord, I realize that we're the Chosen People but can't you pick on the Hindus once in a while and give me a little break?

by [Peter W. Davis](#) on Mon, 05/05/2003 - 19:02 | [reply](#)

## Will there also be a history ...

Will there also be a history of Ireland next week?

by a reader on Tue, 05/06/2003 - 12:39 | [reply](#)

## Rastas

Here's a question I have always been embarrassed to ask: what is the connection between judaism and the rastafaris? Reggae songs talk of Mount Zion and the children of Israel a lot, although in some connection with Ethiopia: why?

With dreadlocks and silly hats on, they also look a bit like orthodox jews put through some kind of photoshop filter.

- "Dash"

by a reader on Tue, 07/01/2003 - 03:50 | [reply](#)

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