

## *Is Anti-Zionism Anti-Semitism?*

Zionism is the belief the Jewish people have the right to self-determination in their ancestral homeland. Zionism has been a central tenet of Judaism for thousands of years. Connection to the Land is at the heart of Judaism with her festivals tied to the agricultural seasons in the Land of Israel, celebrated by Jews in Maine to this day.

Although most Jews were forcibly exiled from the Land of Israel after conquest by Rome in 70 CE, a significant number of Jews remained in the Galilee writing the Mishnah to the 5th century CE. The Sanhedrin, governing body of 70 rabbinic sages functioned until the 3rd century CE in the Galilee. Although Muslims conquered Israel in the 7th century CE, Jews fought side by side with Arabs against the Crusaders, and some survived to still live in their Land. After the Spanish Inquisition, more and more Jews returned to their ancestral homeland to this day.

Anti-Zionism is the denial of the Jewish people's right to self-determination in their ancestral homeland. Anti-Zionism perpetuates a subtle form of antisemitism that denies the indigeneity of Jewish people in the Land of Israel.

Anti-Zionism is a virulent form of antisemitism. Antisemitic tropes in media result in violence against Jews worldwide. Anti-Zionism denies Jews their right to self-defense. Anti-Zionism denies the historical connection of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel. Anti-Zionism and its demonization of Jews leads to violence.

Recent polling of 600 four year US colleges by the University of Chicago found that "66% of Jewish college students understand the chant 'Free Palestine from the River to the Sea' means the expulsion and genocide of Israeli Jews. 62% of Jewish students report fear for their safety.

Anti-semitism is cloaked in critiques of Israeli government and her supporters, claiming they don't have any issue with Jews; rather, their problem is with Zionists, a catch-all for anyone who supports the Jewish state. The vast majority of the global Jewish community are Zionists. Open and respectful debate are essential ingredients in fostering progress for all. Therefore, when discussing sensitive issues with colliding narratives, it is crucial to remove hate and misinformation from the conversation.

**"When people condemn Zionists - they mean Jews. You're talking anti-semitism."**

**Martin Luther King**

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**Yes. Anti-Zionism is a form of anti-semitism.** Anti-semitism is the representation of the outsider Jews as a symbol of what ever a given society regards as its utmost objectionable quality; an irritating thorn in the side for any monolithic society. Romans with a pantheon of gods, Jewish monotheism was an abhorrent threat. To Christianity, there is nothing more loathsome than to be the people who do not 'accept' their Messiah, aka murdered their messiah. To Muslims, the greatest sin is to denigrate Mohamud, thus Jews are depicted as cursing their prophet and being cursed in return. In other words, you got it - the Jews would not convert to Islam. To Communism, Jews are the ultimate capitalist. To the Nazi, the Jew was the race polluter. Today in the noble era of human rights, Jews symbolize the detestable quality of colonialism. Are we beginning to see a pattern here?

In the long history of attacking Jews, the recent accusation of 'white oppressor' is the most absurd. Ashkenazim crawling out the death camps of Europe and pogroms - 30%. Sephardim forcefully expelled from Arab countries - 50%. There were far more brown skinned Sephardi-Jewish refugees in Israel than all the Palestinians that were 'displaced '. To accuse Israel in its desperate broken state of being an oppressor is ludicrous, especially when the Arabs that stayed in Israel have flourished - 20% of Israel. The perverse demonization of the victims of Holocaust or the Oct 7 massacre as perpetrators is like blaming the victim instead of the rapist.

The falsehood that Zionism is a European scheme to expel its Jews is taught as factual history by the 'Free Palestine' movement. Although Israel's population is 50% dark-skinned Sephardic Jews who were forcibly expelled from their Arab-host countries when modern Israel was established, this is ignored by Free Palestine proponents. Just as over 20% of Israel are Arab Israelis who participate fully in Israel's modern democracy.

The labeling of Israeli Jews, refugees from the Holocaust and pogroms, or forcefully expelled from Arab dictatorships - as colonizers is nonsensical even on its own twisted terms. 'Free Palestine' promotes abject dehumanization of Jews as a people. Their aim is not for Palestinians to live in peace and dignity alongside Israelis, but to establish a state on the ruins of Israel.

"Free Palestine from the river to the sea" sounds like an innocent call for people to be free. It may seem innocuous but wait a second - look at the map. "From the river to the sea" is the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, an area that encompasses the *entire land of Israel*. It is a call for the total elimination of Israel, home to half of the world's Jewish population. The only way to eliminate Israel is by murdering millions of Jews. Yasser Qashlaq, co-founder of the 'Free Palestine' movement, describes Jews as 'human pieces of filth' and promotes total annihilation of Israel and Jews everywhere. *Genocide*.

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### **Anti-Semitism in our Media**

There is a pervasive anti-Israel and anti-Zionist bias in our media. A statistical analysis of over 1,500 New York Times articles written post October 7 shows an imbalanced narrative for the purpose of creating sympathy for Palestinians. Most articles neglect to mention Israeli casualties post-October 7 or Palestinian violence post-October 7." [1]

The Associated Press, Reuters, and CNN use confirmed terrorist operatives as their field reporters in Gaza. [2,3] The BBC has been caught repeatedly trying to pass off the families of high-ranking Hamas members as regular Gazans in order to sell stories of suffering under Israeli oppression. [4]

Anti-Zionism sells. In a world where journalists sit in their newsrooms watching a leaderboard to see how many clicks their articles get, printing anti-semitic, anti-Israel, anti-Zionist narratives is a time-tested method click-bait to drive traffic, and spike engagement. Post-October 7 antisemitic websites saw a 63% increase in traffic while websites with pro-Israel narratives saw an increase of only 8%. [5]

*First they came for the Socialists. I did not speak out because I was not a Socialist.*

*Then they came for the trade unionists. I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews but I did not speak out because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me. There was no one left to speak out for me.*

Pastor Martin Niemöller, incarcerated 8 years in Nazi prisons and concentration camps.

### References

1.<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-842801>

2.<https://nypost.com/2024/02/28/us-news/victims-of-hamas-massacres-sue-reuters-associated-press/>

3.<https://x.com/HonestReporting/status/1893586140323582287>

4.<https://x.com/mishtal/status/1904071032861839832>

5.<https://www.mideastjournal.org/post/antisemitic-google-search-results>

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