

At Last . . . They've Come Clean



THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY is currently fielding a series of meetings across the country on the “Jewish Radical Tradition” aimed at students and other youngsters. This is cover for their ‘objectively’ progressive campaign for the destruction of Israel. They will, no doubt, cite the Marxist and left-wing Jews who during the first half of the twentieth century opposed nationalism in favour of the class struggle for international socialism. This exercise is an expression of general amnesia on the left which steadfastly forgets that, tragically, the class struggle did not rescue the Jews, nor save them from their murderers.

Paradoxically, it was the Jewish revolutionary, Leon Trotsky, who famously described Jewish nationalism, and the idea of establishing a Jewish homeland, as “a bloody trap”. However, it was Zionist Israel – which provided a relatively safe berth for many

of the survivors of massacre and mayhem in Europe, and the wave of antisemitic expulsions which drove the Jews from across the Middle East, Egypt and North Africa, into Israel.

There is a peculiar sense on the left that the systematic murder of Jews in Europe, commencing in the pogroms of 1881 and ending during the mid 1940s, had little or nothing to do with the foundation of Israel. This is essential to maintaining the leftist view that the Jewish state is simply a colonial venture, and the Jews of Israel are the same as colons, like the French population in Algeria. The French settlers – the *piède-noir* – 800,00 of whom fled from Algeria ‘back’ to France after 1962, had somewhere to escape to. In fact, the 200,00 French ‘Algerians’, that remained after Algerian independence, left in droves during the following decades, their remaining numbers falling to less than 300 persons by the end of the twentieth century.

This example of decolonisation leads many anti-Zionists to imagine that the Jews can be expelled from between the “River and the Sea” rather like the *piède-noir*. The reason that this does not work as a comparison is because most of the Jews in Israel are actually refugees or the descendants of refugees. Given a choice during the period 1881 to 1940 most Jews would opt for New York or London rather than Mandate Palestine. They did not wash up on the shores of the ‘Holy Land’ because of some abstract belief in Zionism, or in God’s promise of the Promised Land, but because the United States, Britain, and her dominions, began squeezing down the numbers of Jewish refugees they would admit.

This reality is often obscured by the presence in Israel of many Jews, born post 1945, in the USA, the UK, or France, but these folks do not alter the fundamental reality of the composition of Israel’s population. The overwhelming majority of Israelis have parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents who fled from dispossession and murder in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

By denying this account, many on the left, including most Palestinians, and the peoples of Egypt, the Maghreb, and the Arab world in general, refuse to recognise the role of the 'long' Holocaust in Europe (and the wholesale antisemitic expulsions from Arab lands), in the Jewish settlement of Mandate Palestine, and the eventual founding of the State of Israel.

Jewish nationalism, Zionism, grew steadily in response to bloody persecution, but it only triumphed because of the refusal of the Anglo-American states to freely admit those fleeing for their lives. Zionism may well be viewed as a colonial venture, one that involved much ducking and weaving, and conflict between the power of the Ottoman, British, and French empires, the Third Reich, and the United States. But, in reality, it became a rescue mission, not an abstract Zionist goal, or a grand colonial operation. Israel was founded by Jewish refugees as a haven from antisemitism.

The refusal to take this reality seriously leads ineluctably towards implicit Holocaust denial and antisemitism.

Consequently, the speed with which left-wingers in Britain have taken up anti-Israel positions is troubling. It took Owen Jones all of two days following the Hamas-led pogrom of 7th October to begin attacking Israel. But this was not quite as quick as Novara Media's, Rivkah Brown, who posted while the pogrom was in progress:

Today should be a day of celebration for supporters of democracy and human rights worldwide, as Gazans break out of their open-air prison and Hamas fighters cross into their colonisers' territory. The struggle for freedom is rarely bloodless and we shouldn't apologise for it.

Rivkah rapidly retracted much of this, apologising for her disregard for the suffering of Israeli civilians. However, this rush to support the actions of Islamists, or at least to oppose those fighting Islamism, is extraordinarily common on the left. Tariq Ali, the

former firebrand, now a writer and respected veteran, welcomed the fall of Kabul to the Taliban. Further back, the Stop the War Coalition was founded within ten days of the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers. Ten days in which the participants phoned each other and held hurried meetings to hammer out a form of words to frame their mission of “fighting for peace” in the face of ‘imperialist’ aggression against Islamist terror.

Clearly, these elements, largely on the left, know well in advance what they think about justifying, explaining, or rationalising the crimes of Islamists. They are clear that Salman Rushdie, the cartoonists of *Charlie Hebdo*, assorted filmmakers and others, murdered for ridiculing, or simply criticising Mohammad, brought all this down on their own heads by their own inherent ‘Islamophobia’. It has become *de rigueur* for those on the *ersatz-left* to minimise or ignore altogether the fact that Islamists, are opposed to everything they are supposed to value, in militant pursuit of their ‘international socialist’ goal of fighting against the Western democracies, collectively denounced as “imperialists”.

Their hatred for their own societies knows no bounds.

Consequently, it should come as no surprise that their rabid hatred of Israel pairs rather well with the enthusiastic hatred of Jews and the Jewish State promoted by Islamists throughout the Arab world. This *ersatz-left* has over the years been rather shy of



talking about the destruction of Israel, they have talked instead of the two-state solution, of the single-state solution in which all would live in harmony, about the right of Palestinians to ‘return’ to the places they were driven out of in 1948 – their fudging and obfuscation has known no bounds. However, at last they’ve finally come clean, clearing up the ambiguity inherent in the slogan “From the River to the Sea” with: “Israel

Needs to Go”, “Dismantle Israel”, “Smash Israel”, and “Destroy Israel”. In placards comparing Israel to the Third Reich, and denouncing the Jewish State for “genocide” they are making it explicit that Zionism, like Hitler’s regime is simply insupportable. Therefore. their calls for the liquidation of the Hebrew-speaking homeland, by driving out the Jews from between the River and the Sea, is proclaimed as the benchmark of justice, and the hallmark of humanitarian policy. In this way the Palestine Solidarity movement has sanitised antisemitism.

Now, I am well-aware that many of the tens of thousands of people on marches and at demonstrations in London, Manchester, and other great cities, do not individually hate Jews, but are more concerned with the killing of children and other innocents during the Hamas-Israel War. However, these great crowds are being manipulated by leftist demagogues who know full well that all wars invariably kill more civilians than soldiers or fighters. In every conflict currently raging from Sudan to Burma the ratio of civilians killed to soldiers is much higher than it is in Gaza. This was the case in Syria where a quarter of a million people were murdered by Asaad’s regime, ably assisted by the *Voенно-vozdushnye sily Rossii*, VVS, the Russian air force. The same was true in Yemen during the war with Saudi Arabia. Yet, none of these conflicts, in which Muslim men, women, and children, was slaughtered by the bushel have roused the demagogues of the *ersatz-left* to demonstrate or march in the streets.

The Hamas-Israel War is a war, “like no other”, shouts the BBC’s foreign correspondents. Yet they know this is manifestly false. The killing of aid workers and other ‘friendly fire’ incidents was widespread involving British and American forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya. In the second and third battles of Fallujah, civilian casualties were lighter, but mass displacement, starvation, and the destruction of civilian infrastructure was comparable to the present devastation in Gaza. It is generally known that during

the battle to drive Islamic State out of Mosul in 2015, civilians were killed, in similar numbers to the present war in Gaza. All media and political commentators on the left know that war generally kills more civilians than fighters, yet Israel is said to be peculiarly unrestrained and violent.

This is because they are only concerned with attacking Jews. Perhaps I'm wrong, and it is merely a coincidence, that Zionism and the vast majority of Jews, simply find themselves on "the wrong side of history" in the struggle against 'imperialism' and the democracies. This maybe the case. However, when you accuse the Jewish state of being worse than any other state, and of surrendering its right to exist, by spilling the blood of innocents, it seems to me very much like the Jew-hatred of old. (Perhaps they need the blood of children to mix with their matza flour.)

Understandably, most people think that truly Gothic Jew-hatred is a thing of the past; surely nobody today would give house room to such demented conceptions. Unfortunately, blaming Jews for excessive violence, and the killing of innocents during the course of the Hamas-Israel War is an integral part of modern antisemitism. This is of a piece with the uncritical retailing of Hamas's casualty figures by the BBC and others, in which apparently all the dead and injured are innocent civilians, and none are Hamas fighters; this is integral to the modernised version of the ancient blood libel being aimed at the Jews. From mainstream news outlets to Ash Sarkar of Novara Media it has become routine to cite Hamas, and Aljazeera sources, rather than those favourable to Israel or the IDF.

Let me be clear. The objective of the leaders of the *ersatz-left* in league with Islamism is the outright destruction of the Jewish state and the wholesale displacement, and/or murder of Jews.

This interestingly is "where we came" in The claim that the Jews of Israel are "colonizers" rather than refugees, and the descendants of refugees, is a form of Holocaust denial. The refusal to

recognise that the Jews fleeing annihilation ended up in Palestine because nobody else would admit them is truly a mode of Holocaust denial. This is why Israelis can be forgiven for regarding the alliance of the left, with Islamists, and even with the liberal elites of Western Europe and North America, as a threat to the existence of their state. The future of Israel's Hebrew-speaking population is in jeopardy. It is literally facing the threat of annihilation. Consequently, despite enormous political disputes and strife within the country, there is no appetite for surrender to the killers of Hamas or Hezbollah, or to the bloody day-dreams of their allies on the *ersatz-left*.

As politicians of all stripes, the United Nations, and Palestine Solidarity movements, in country after country, once again gang up against the Jews, failure to recognise the motivating role of Jew-hatred is, to all intents and purposes, antisemitic.