

## The Houthis, Israel, and Imperialism



**THESE BOLD YEMANI CHAPS** setting out to fight the “genocidal” Israelis are enough to stir the blood of any Western lefty habitually committed to fighting Imperialism when, and wherever, it rears its ugly head. It is, of course, unclear what exactly is meant by ‘imperialism’, but hey, they know roughly what they mean. John A Hobson and Vladimir Ilych Lenin had exacting definitions, but since then the word appears to mean, anything the left doesn’t like, done by the United States and her allies.

Something similar might be said about the meaning of “genocide” currently *de rigueur* among observant Muslim activists in Britain, and their many ‘socialist’ supporters. Genocide used to mean the intention to destroy a particular ethnic group – like Hamas’s explicit and repeated pledge to kill the Jews. Now, charges of genocide are being muddled up with

the Israel Defence Force's killing of thousands of Palestinian civilians during the course of their ruthless battle to destroy Hamas fighters in Gaza.

The ethnic cleansing being advocated by a number of right-wing Israeli politicians is also being adduced as evidence of "genocidal intent". This is extraordinary given the clear aim of Hamas and its allies to engage, not in ethnic cleansing, but in the wholesale destruction of the Jews as an ethnic group.

The latest addition to the genocidal coalition aimed at destroying the Jews, the Houthis, have five major slogans plastered on everything from placards, flags, and the walls of buildings, to the stocks of their guns. They are:

**God is the Greatest**  
**Death to America**  
**Death to Israel**  
**A Curse Upon the Jews**  
**Victory to Islam**

The Houthis are an Islamist movement belonging to a Shia Muslim sect, which is opposed to the Sunnis of Saudi Arabia, but in truth, not by much – apart from political conflict their religious differences are apparently relatively small. However, the Houthi movement is often distinguished by their lively medieval belief that only the descendants of the Prophet Mohammed are fit to rule.

Like Hamas, and Hezbollah, the Houthis, despite any doctrinal differences, are Islamists in that they believe society should be governed by religious as opposed to secular leaders and authorities. They also believe in the destruction of Israel and of the Jews. Which is why they are attacking shipping in the international waters off Yemen's coast.

American and British attempts to degrade and destroy Yemen's capacity to attack shipping in the Red Sea has predictably drawn the Stop the War Coalition, and its observant Muslim allies in Britain, to denounce our naval forces as imperialist cat's-paws of the Americans. Apparently, any attempt to attack Islamist

forces are illegitimate because the Islamists are fighting the good fight for the liberation of Palestine from the accursed Jews.



This unholy alliance between ‘socialists’ and observant Muslims in Britain has been strengthening Muslim activists and mosque leaders throughout the country. Agitation for the imposition of pro-Muslim policies in schools and other institutions – everything from hostility towards homosexuals, to the right of children to campaign against Israel and the Jews whilst at school, is now in vogue. We should also remember that most, if not all, mosque leaders in Britain are Islamists, and broadly support Islamists throughout the world.

The alliance between ‘socialists’ in Britain and observant Muslims is borne of the left’s commitment to the struggle against imperialism. As the socialist endeavour to battle against neo-colonialism has gradually decayed and faded over the years the ‘progressive’ slack has been taken up by Islamists. By and large armed resistance to the United States and her allies has been provided by Muslim forces, who many on the left believe are boldly attacking capitalist cabals and Wall Street billionaires. This has placed the left in the position of supporting the ‘objectively’ anti-capitalist armed struggle against imperialism, America, and the Jews.

Ersatz socialists in Britain, like Jeremy Corbyn and the like, insist that their opposition to Zionism is not antisemitic, yet their active alliance with those who

explicitly curse the Jews, whilst demanding their destruction, leaves little room for doubt that they are supporters of Islamists and consequently, anti-Jewish, in traditionally virulent and hateful ways. Even the fig-leaf distinction often made between “Zionism” and “the Jews” is beginning to fade as many supporters of the Stop the War Coalition make clear their support for Hamas’s pogrom on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

In regarding pogroms as the legitimate response of an oppressed people these ‘socialists’ have revealed that the formulaic distinction between Zionism and Jews is redundant – they have replaced formal distinctions with fulsome support for Islamist terror.

Clearly, Israel is in a struggle for survival. It is faced with South Africa’s anti-Zionist coalition, Hezbollah and the Syrians in the North, Hamas in the South, and with murderous Palestinian armed groups to the East of Jerusalem. This has led the political right in Israel towards the idea of simply driving as many Palestinians as possible out of the West Bank into Jordan and other neighbouring Arab countries.

This is a problematic idea for a number of reasons, but particularly because the Arab neighbours of Israel have been steadfastly opposed to integrating Palestinians as citizens. Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon have supported maintaining the ‘refugee’ status of Palestinians since 1948. The European expedient of integrating and resettling refugees as citizens in Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, etc. during the late forties and early fifties, has been rejected in favour of maintaining displaced Palestinians as ‘refugees’ in perpetuity.

Consequently, generations of Palestinians who have never lived in what is now Israeli territory are said to be ‘refugees’ with the right of ‘return’ to places where they, and in some cases, even their parents and grandparents, have never lived. This ‘refugee’ fiction is maintained by all Palestinian political organisations as a way of refusing to accept the partition of Palestine between Jews and Arabs since

the declaration of Israel's independence in the late forties.

It has been this steadfast refusal to accept their defeat in the war of 1947 to 1949, that has resulted in this Arab strategy of keeping the displacement of Palestinians as an open wound and source of grievance for almost eighty years. The perpetual war between Arabs and Jews which started during 1920 or thereabouts has been kept well alight with this 'refugee' fiction, and is being maintained to this day with the support of Egypt, and other Arab states.

Not only Netanyahu, but Israelis in general cannot accept a two-state solution if the Palestinians are going to continue to demand the 'right of 'return' of Arabs to the territory of Israel who have never lived in the country, and who reject the legitimacy of the Zionist state. As long as Palestinian political forces and the neighbouring Arab states insist on supporting this 'refugee' fiction the foundation of a sovereign Palestinian state will be impossible.

The rhetoric of much of the British left chanting in support of a single Palestinian state "from the river to the sea", and now shouting in defence of the explicitly anti-Jewish Houthis, and their attacks on cargo ships in international waters, show the level to which they have sunk. This irate defence of anti-Zionist and anti-Jewish forces reveals the utter bankruptcy of the 'progressive' left's so-called 'anti-imperialism'.

The ersatz left does not have an independent position on anything – they hang on the coattails of Islamist forces for want to a policy of their own. Consequently, they find themselves supporting movements and fighters who are diametrically opposed to everything that socialists have traditionally been associated with – the equality of women, anti-racism, minority rights, free speech, religious freedom, and popularly elected secular government.

Islamism is the enemy, not just of Israel, but of any genuine left-wing politics. Until this is widely recognised the left has nothing to contribute to current political debates or struggles.