



Anti Semitic Tropes? Time for the Left to Toughen Up!

Many times we have written about the nature of journalism in nations like the UK. Here, the elite status of Britain on the world stage has produced a news culture in which basic standards of moral integrity are absent. We recognise too that well meaning people who work from within, trusting that at some level they will find in the system a degree of fairness, are often damaged if not destroyed by the experience

Of all the retreats by the Corbyn left, trying it seems to assuage the almost never ending fury of the ruling classes, the impulse to placate the 'left antisemitism' narrative, with its focus on Israel, and by extension the interests of the western alliance, is by far the most seriously misguided

It is true that high status people will have limited insight into the nature of their privilege and its impact on how they view the world. In enjoying open access if not control over the moulding of opinion, it is also true that they will descend to the most cynical of deceptions in the defence of their interests. When studies say the idea is false, in this case the 'particular problem' of antisemitism on the left, the studies are redefined as 'denial' becoming 'proof' of the disease. And the antisemitic 'trope' by which anti zionists are assumed to mean something different to what they say is predicated on the precise opposite of the standard reserved by the accusers for themselves

Contrary to what the 'populist' press often says about the poor or minorities, research suggests marginal people rarely invent or embellish experiences of harassment or discrimination. In the outlandishly exaggerated, dramatised, misrepresented or fabricated nature of many of the public allegations of bullying or antisemitism aimed by the right at the left mostly we are not hearing the voices of excluded or misunderstood people nor any reasoned assessment of their concerns. What we are hearing is described quite accurately by Leon Rosselson as the 'special pleading' of people who have no idea what it is like not being heard

Those promoting the 'left antisemitism' panic, which is very different to exposing antisemitism, are easily identified and it isn't by their race or religion. Universally they are exceptionalists, believers in the right of western nations to subordinate others, a concept entirely contrary to the UN Charter. To the violence of the rich towards the poor they apply a 'standard' not recognisable to anyone else or in any other sphere where human beings interact

If you believe the idea that the Palestinians are wronged is all the result of hatred for 'us' or our 'values' - and ultimately this is the aim - you've been undone by the unthinking eurocentrism that informs the western global narrative. Only in this culture could the perspectives of people living in ghettos and refugee camps disappear under the weight of outrage at the 'racism' of their cause

In the face of exceptionalism the mindset of most people in the West continues to be one of complicity. The acquiescence therefore of 'mainstream' Jewish organisations in Israel's colonisation of Palestine is to be expected, as is the duplicitous nature of the claim that Zionism is not an ideology but simply the 'expression of Jewish identity'. It isn't that you don't have the right to sympathise with Israel, or take her side, it's just that in an open society you'd fight your corner rather than avoid the debate by pretending its not political

Having witnessed the systematic delegitimisation of Middle Eastern and African nations including Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Iran and Syria, and the decades of torture inflicted upon their societies, the Labour left has surely grasped the painful truth that no concession to the war party, driven as it is by unlimited aims, can ever contain its sense of entitlement. If, instead of looking at Corbyn, we examined the record on 'double standards' and 'self determination' of our 'moderate' politicians and 'commentators' we would surely understand why, in their assessment of the Israel - Palestine conflict the perspectives of those who lost homes and land would not be understood

The surrender of the Corbyn faction to the faux angst of political conjurers mired in crimes against humanity is a major kick in the teeth for everyone campaigning at the grassroots for a more equitable world. By adopting in full a definition of antisemitism (IHRA) rejected by just about everyone on the planet outside rich white countries (and plenty inside), Labour's supposedly left leaning NEC has accepted the subordination of non Jews living in Israel and Palestine. Under the IHRA 'examples' pro war politicians living here may compare their experiences to pogroms and even the Holocaust while for those living under occupation or repression to say the same about their oppressors is 'racism'. Having forced the removal of the 1975 UN General Assembly resolution which viewed Zionism as a form of racism, every capitulation to the IHRA 'small print' is for the exceptionalists another mark in the continual remoulding of history and 'opinion' to reflect their minority interest; in this case establishing the 'role' of Palestinians as people who 'deny' the rights of those who 'settled' their land

Radical people who understand firstly the nature of the Labour Party and secondly the dependency of news media on the 'memes' of our murderous elite, know exactly how and why Corbyn is generating an establishment shift to the right. However sincerely held, the hope on the part of a few anti war people in a pro war party that they might one day have influence could never justify the betrayal that is involved here, not only of Palestine but of the left wing anti racist Jews who are facing the worst abuse, branded 'self hating antisemites', for doing what few of us here dare, speaking out on behalf of the 'other'

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