



The 'New' Anti-Semitism! It's Only the Beginning!

It is important to understand the defining character of 'journalism' in the West. Here, instead of evidence, 'truth' is established by the narratives of the great and powerful, propelled most often by 'outrage'. Political panics work the same way as moral panics, health panics, any panics. The 'scale' of the 'problem' is established by our 'denial' or the failure of our leaders to 'do something'.

In relation to claims about a dangerous 'new' anti-semitism, the evidence - the *Campaign Against Anti-Semitism 'You Gov' survey 2015 - 2017* and the September 2017 *Institute of Jewish Policy Review* - says that anti-semitism is less common than other forms of racial hatred and found disproportionately on the right. In its 2017 search of messages sent to women MPs, *Amnesty International* found abuse including racial abuse targeted at non-whites and those who are politically left-leaning to a far greater extent.

Truth as it is 'identified' by mainstream media is the reality 'perceived' by right-wing pro-establishment politicians and commentators; in this case the alternative truth that a modern new anti-semitism is spreading across society and it is the peculiar territory of the anti-Israel left.

The pro-war lobby wants the *International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance* definition of anti-semitism adopted in its entirety without amendment for one reason only; in certain contentious 'examples' of anti-semitism, added by the IHRA, will be found its political narrative; more importantly, it enables 'evidence' to be evaluated and measured differently.

In the subtext of the IHRA definition, the hierarchical 'order' that governs the political structure of international affairs becomes the 'standard' by which we measure a form of hatred. In defiance of the equality that forms the theoretical basis of human rights law, the IHRA has determined that as a 'democratic' nation Israel is entitled to the benefits of the superior status conferred on its allies.

An attitude regarded as racism in everyone else, the equating of Israel with 'Jews', is accepted by the IHRA as legitimate for supporters of Israel. When viewed as 'representative' of Jewish identity or culture, Israel is protected from the scrutiny that is seen in other cases as political observation or opinion.

Under the terms of these 'examples', alone among nations Israel cannot be called racist or compared to Nazi Germany, epithets aimed routinely at its neighbours and at Palestinian representatives. The incorporation into the passages on Holocaust denial of Israel as symbol of Jewish identity, an ideological notion, confers on its supporters the right to 'define' critics like Norman Finkelstein as they would Nazis.

Over many decades debate on the Palestine - Israel conflict has been poisoned by the intrusion into public life of a militant Zionist narrative, tuned to the aims of British foreign policy: specifically the rewriting of anti zionism as a 'covert' form of anti semitism.

In the parts of the IHRA definition concerned with Israel, the inclination of pro war media to interpret racism in accordance with an imperial world view appears to be duplicated: the essence of anti zionism, the belief that Israel is a colonial settler state established by force, becomes anti semitism.

Scan the voting records on 'they work for you' and public advocates of the idea of left anti semitism share a common space where the most elementary principles of equality and sovereignty are startlingly absent: Berger, Eagle, Ellman, Hodge, Mann, Smeeth, Umunna, Woodcock; 'generally voted for the use of UK military forces in combat operations overseas', 'voted for the Iraq war' or 'voted against investigations into the Iraq war' and 'voted in favour of replacing trident with a new nuclear weapons system'. Given the 'standards' applied here by these MPs to other nations, the branding of lefties as 'racist' for tweeting or advocating bans or boycotts is beyond parody.

The politicians who call out the left's 'problem' with anti semitism differ from their critics in their core political doctrine, specifically their belief in an idea embroiled historically in racist thinking, the 'leadership' role of western states.

So long as we are enmeshed in a deviant idea, that we are entitled to dominion over others, and are oblivious therefore to the rights of Palestinians, Arabs and Africans, we will be inclined to accept the pro war 'outrage' that Israel is being 'singled out'.

As happens in all panics our perception of truth will be steadily 'changed' by favoured ideologues using a combination of fabrication and reconstruction. In a recently published survey of social media, the *Community Security Trust* found 15,000 anti semitic tweets from all sources over a twelve month period. This included the month of June 2016 during which Ruth Smeeth MP claimed she received 25,000 such messages. As she did when she accused a Labour activist who criticised her for talking to the Tory press, let's assume Smeeth simply 'interpreted' anti semitism differently.

It is in the controversial parts of the IHRA definition, not in the attitude of her critics, that an 'exceptional' standard is being created for Israel. Based upon it, there is no question anti semitism will 'rise' and be 'found' disproportionately on the left.

Orchestrated by people who are absorbed completely in the narrative world of the powerful, this panic does more than others which merely buy our agreement to bad policy. What is being slowly but systematically 'removed' here is the perception of most people outside the ruling elites of global power, that the Palestinians are oppressed by Israel.

Kim Bryan, 26th July 2018