

Willfully Ignorant:

Jews Who Blame Israel for the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

By Lawrence Martin
drlarry437@gmail.com
First Posted August, 2021
Updated December 19, 2024

Note: This website was initially posted August 2021. The Hamas invasion and massacre of civilian men, women, and children in Israel on October 7, 2023, and the ensuing war as of this date, should be a “wakeup call” to willfully ignorant Jews. Unfortunately, events since October 7, 2023 have served as fodder for anti-Semitism and media propaganda against Israel. Rabid anti-Semites like Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib have doubled down in their lies -- in her case, to such an extent that the U.S. Congress formally censured her on November 7, 2023.

<https://apnews.com/article/congress-house-censure-resolution-tlaib-8085189047a4c40f2d44ada4604aa076>

Left-wing media like *The New York Times* can hardly go a day without publishing some anti-Israel propaganda, some of which reads like it was edited by Hamas. Even NYT essays avowedly pro-Israel seem to always include some “red meat” for the anti-Zionist (read: anti-Semitic) crowd who, by their comments to these essays, show incredible ignorance of the conflict’s history. Several of these post-Oct 7, 2023 opinion pieces been added to www.lakesidepress.com/NYTBiasAgainstIsrael.pdf, with my comments for each in yellow-bolded highlight.

A slide presentation that I gave in 2024, on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, the last half of which deals with the war since October 7, 2023, is online at www.lakesidepress.com/I-P-Conflict-on-PowerPoint.pdf.

Introduction

I will define “blame Israel” up front, so there’s no confusion as to what this essay is about. Progressive American Jews who blame Israel for the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict believe that if Israel would just adopt this, that, or some other laws, policies, and/or attitudes regarding the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, there could be a path to peace. They believe that Israel’s laws, policies, and/or attitudes have been and are a significant impediment to a peaceful solution of the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. Progressive American Jews will acknowledge the terrorist activities by Palestinian groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, but they nonetheless feel that Israel bears significant blame for the ongoing Conflict. The most important aspect of this belief system is that *if Israel would just change somehow, there could be a peaceful solution. Israel is the impediment.*

“Israel change somehow” can include lots of actions, such as one or more of the following:

- removing all walls and borders separating Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank from Israel;
- “ending the occupation,” which may be defined in a variety of ways, including: returning to Israel’s 1967 borders; stopping all settlement construction in the West Bank; removing most or all of the existing Jewish settlements in the West Bank; ceding control of East Jerusalem to the Palestinians;
- ceasing what is perceived as human rights violations against the Palestinians;
- allowing millions of Palestinian “refugees” to return to the towns and cities from which their ancestors fled during the 1948-1949 War of Independence.

“Peaceful solution” usually means one of two situations:

- a two-state solution, whereby the Palestinians have their own state in the region, borders to be defined; or,
- a one-state solution, where everyone from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea has equal rights and citizenship in a single, unified country.

I’m sure there are variations and nuances to “Israel change somehow” and “peaceful solution.” The key point to make is that American Jewish progressives who blame Israel profess to believe that unless Israel changes, there can be no peaceful solution. Israel must change its ways for there to be a chance of peace.

My response to these progressive American Jews is that they are willfully ignorant of the history of the Conflict, and therefore their beliefs are ill-founded and not based on reality.

Definition of Willful Ignorance

Willful ignorance is a recognized psychological condition. It can be applied to all of us at some point, when there is a subject we don’t wish to learn about because it’s too painful or because it interferes with a set of rigid beliefs. See [Willful Ignorance and Self-Deception | Psychology Today](#)

In the context of this essay, willfully ignorant refers to people who choose not to learn the true history of the I-P Conflict. Basically, learning the true history would interfere with their progressive belief system that Israel is somehow the oppressor, or the major cause of the Palestinians’ oppression. To maintain willful ignorance, they learn about the I-P conflict mainly through the prism of left-leaning, progressive media: The New York Times, Washington Post, The New Yorker, NBC, CNN, CBS, MSNBC, NPR, et. al. They choose not to review books or newspapers or websites that expose the blatant anti-Israel bias in these media and the revisionist history of left-wing academics.

It will be helpful to put in perspective Jewish critics of Israel along with Jews who write the truth and seek to accurately inform about its history. Below is my “Spectrum Of Jews Who Write About Israel,” with just a few names in each category.

Spectrum Of Jews Who Write About Israel

Twisted Minds

Progressives

Truth Tellers

Twisted Minds. People who make up their own history, or who view history only through the lens of hatred for Israel, and who advocate for policies that would destroy the country. Their writings appeal to anti-Semites, who can claim, for example: “See, he is a Jew, and if *he* admits Israel is apartheid, it must be so.” About people who fit in this group, Alan Dershowitz wrote: “Their hatred of all things Jewish is as old as Judaism itself. It defies rational, political or moral explanation and demands recourse to psychology.” (*Defending Israel*, 2019; p. 246) Here are just a few of these twisted minds.

Gilad Atzmon (Israeli-born, lives in England)
Peter Beinart (Journalist, orthodox Jew)
Noam Chomsky (academic)
Richard Falk (academic)
Norman Finkelstein (academic)
Ilan Pappé (Israeli-born, lives in England)
Sarah Roy (Harvard academic, daughter of Holocaust survivors)

Progressives. This group does not seek to destroy Israel, but instead to criticize it in a way that panders to the left wing in politics and the anti-Israel crowd. *The New York Times* (NYT) is a favorite outlet for this group (www.lakesidepress.com/NYTBiasAgainstIsrael.pdf). Their writings often: 1) present history out of context, or simply omit critical parts of history when they would contradict the offered opinion; and/or 2) display a blatant double standard – criticize Israel for some behavior or policy, while ignoring similar or worse in other state actors. There are many more in this group than listed here.

Jeremy Ben-Ami (head of J Street)
Tom Friedman (NYT)
David Leonhardt (half-Jewish; NYT)
Michelle Goldberg (NYT)
Bernie Sanders (guest essayist in NYT)
Ben & Jerry (guest essayists in NYT)
Gideon Levy (*Haaretz*)
Lee Remnick (The New Yorker)
Ari Shavit (*My Promised Land*, 2013)

Truth Tellers. Jews who present a realistic and informed view of Israel and I-P conflict. They don't omit relevant history or preach a double standard. Below is a list of just a few.

Noa Tishby (*Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth*)
Alan Dershowitz (*The Case for Israel*, 2003; many other books)
Bret Stephens (NYT)
Ben-Dror Yemini (*Industry of Lies*, 2017)
Mitchell Bard (*Death to the Infidels*, 2014)
Melanie Phillips (English blogger)
Ira Stoll (Journalist, columnist for *Algemeiner.com*)
Jonathan Tobin (Editor in Chief of Jewish News Service)
Caroline Glick (Israeli Journalist)

The outright lies and propaganda generated by people in the first group are well documented in books by Alan Dershowitz and Ben-Dror Yemini.

- *The Case for Israel*, 2003 (CI), by Alan Dershowitz (**re: Chomsky**)
<https://www.amazon.com/Case-Israel-Alan-Dershowitz-ebook/dp/B00DNL0NVE/>
- *Defending Israel*, 2019 (DI), by Alan Dershowitz (**re: Atzmon, Chomsky, Falk, Finkelstein**)
<https://www.amazon.com/Defending-Israel-Relationship-Challenging-Client-ebook/dp/B07NL36HBY/>
- *The Industry of Lies*, 2017 (IL), by Ben-Dror Yemini (**re: Chomsky, Falk, Levy, Pappé, Roy**)
<https://www.amazon.com/Industry-Lies-Academia-Israeli-Arab-Conflict-ebook/dp/B076RH5H1P/>

The anti-Israel bias of NYT columnists listed in the 2nd group is documented in www.lakesidepress.com/NYTBiasAgainstIsrael.pdf.

This website is for the willfully ignorant, not for the well-known Jewish Israel critics who would fit in the first two categories. Their minds are made up. They have an agenda, for whatever reason: for the first group, to see Israel gone; for the second group, to punish Israel like a wayward child.

A basic assumption of this website is that its target audience – Jews willfully ignorant about the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict – don't wish for the destruction of Israel, that they want the nation to thrive and remain an independent country, a haven for the world's Jews, and that if they knew the true history, they would not blame Israel for the Conflict.

There are several progressive or left-wing Jewish organizations that attract willfully ignorant Jews. The largest and most influential is J Street, an ostensibly a pro-Israel lobbying group that in fact pushes Pro-Palestinian positions, at least on its website, <https://jstreet.org/>. The following is from J Street's website section on settlements.

OUR POLICY: The ongoing Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory is a major obstacle to the achievement of Israeli-Palestinian peace, is a systemic injustice violating the rights of the Palestinian people, and poses a severe threat to Israel's long-term future as a democratic homeland for the Jewish people. Military rule over millions of Palestinians who lack civil and political rights represents a daily infringement on the basic rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people, and has been extremely detrimental to Israel's democracy, security, economy and regional standing...J Street believes that responsible American lawmakers and political leaders must warn Israeli leaders that unilateral annexation of any kind will have serious, tangible ramifications for the US-Israel relationship.

[J Street: The Political Home for Pro-Israel, Pro-Peace Americans:](#)

J Street makes no attempt to educate its members on the history of the conflict, and its “blame Israel” positions are designed for willfully ignorant Jews. You have to be ignorant of the history to believe that the “Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory is a major obstacle to” the achievement of peace. J Street never mentions the true objectives of the Palestinian leaders (to take all the land), nor the fact that there were no settlements until 1973, before which the Arabs refused any agreement on a two-state solution. J Street’s purposeful distortion of the history is further discussed in Section III of www.lakesidepress.com/Israeli-PalestinianConflict.pdf.

J Street is bad, but not the worst. There is a Jewish organization, Jewish Voice for Peace, that supports the BDS movement, which seeks the destruction of Israel (discussed in detail later in this essay).

- <https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/>
- <https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/assets/pdf/israel-international/Top10-Anti-Israel-Groups-in-America.pdf>
- www.lakesidepress.com/Israeli-PalestinianConflict.pdf (Section III)

So, to make the point once again, this website is not for those Jews who, for whatever twisted bit of logic, wish for the destruction of Israel, or who refuse to read beyond the pro-Palestinian propaganda of J Street. It is for intelligent, potentially open-minded Jews who want Israel to survive, and who might wish to learn more about the century-old Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. At the end of this essay is a short [Bibliography](#) of books about Israel, where you can learn about the country’s history and its battles against biased liberal media.

If you consciously choose to *not* learn the true history, it is very easy to be misled by what is printed and/or aired in media that caters to the left-wing and blame-Israel crowd.

The Arabs Want All the Land, from the River to the Sea

The history of the I-P Conflict shows there is NOTHING Israel could do to satisfy the demands of the Palestinian leaders, *except cease to exist*. Once you learn this fact, you would come to understand that Israel is not, and has not been, the impediment to peace. The impediment has been the Palestinian leadership, and its generation-after-generation demands regarding Israel. The only thing that will satisfy them is for Israel to go away – to cease to exist.

The Palestinians, or perhaps more accurately their political and thought leaders – *no matter from what era* – do not want to co-exist with Israel. They want all the land, not just the West Bank, or the West Bank and East Jerusalem. They want the whole place, all the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. Their fighting motto is “from the river to the sea.”

Total elimination of Israel as the primary goal has been espoused so often, by so many Arab leaders, that one could fill several books with just their quotes. You can find them on the



internet. A good place to start is with Amin al-Husseini, Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, who colluded with Hitler to kill all the Jews in Palestine once World War II was over. This picture shows the Mufti meeting with Hitler in Berlin, 1941. The following is from the Wikipedia website, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amin_al-Husseini. (See full 28,000-word article for quote references).

Throughout World War II, al-Husseini worked for the Axis Powers as a broadcaster in propaganda targeting Arab public opinion. He was thereby joined by other Arabs such as Fawzi al-Qawuqji and Hasan Salama. The Mufti was paid an absolute fortune of 50,000 marks a month (when a German field marshal was making 25,000 marks a year), the equivalent today of \$12,000,000 a year. Walter Winchell called him “the Arabian Lord Haw-Haw”...

The Mufti also wrote a pamphlet for the 13th SS *Handschar* division, translated as *Islam i Židovstvo* (Islam and Judaism) which closed with a quotation from Bukhari-Muslim by Abu Khurreira that states: “The Day of Judgement will come, when the Muslims will crush the Jews completely: And when every tree behind which a Jew hides will say: ‘There is a Jew behind me, Kill him!’”

On 1 March 1944, while speaking on Radio Berlin, al-Husseini said: “Arabs, rise as one man and fight for your sacred rights. Kill the Jews wherever you find them. This pleases God, history, and religion. This saves your honor. God is with you.” This statement has been described as incitement to genocide.

The Mufti set the tone for future generations of Palestinian leaders. Below are websites from which I have extracted a few relevant quotes.

- <https://www.adl.org/news/article/hamas-in-their-own-words>
- https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/1671798.Hassan_Nasrallah
- <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/myths-and-facts-quotes>
- <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/bds-in-their-own-words>
- <https://honestreporting.com/iran-regimes-incitement-destroy-israel/>
- <https://www.memri.org/> (an umbrella site with translations of many Arab speeches expressing the goal to destroy Israel)
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum_Resolution

“If the Jewish state becomes a fact, and this is realized by the Arab peoples, they will drive the Jews who live in their midst into the sea... Even if we are beaten now in Palestine, we will never submit. We will never accept the Jewish state... But for politics, the Egyptian army alone, or volunteers of the Muslim Brotherhood, could have destroyed the Jews.”

- Hassan al-Banna, Muslim Brotherhood founder
(*New York Times*, August 2, 1948)

“No peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with it.”
Khartoum Resolution, 1967

“Peace for us means the destruction of Israel. We are preparing for an all-out war, a war which will last for generations... We shall not rest until the day when we return to our home, and until we destroy Israel.”

- Yasser Arafat
The Times, UK, August 5, 1980

“It is an open war until the elimination of Israel and until the death of the last Jew on earth.”

- Hezbollah statement, issued under Islamic Jihad
(United Press International, March 24, 1992)

“Israel is destined for destruction and will soon disappear.”
Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, 2006

“Oh Allah, vanquish the Jews and their supporters. Oh Allah, vanquish the Americans and their supporters. Oh Allah, count their numbers, and kill them all, down to the very last one.”

- Ahmad Bahr, Palestinian Legislative Council
(Sudan TV, April 13, 2007)

“The PLO... has not changed its platform even one iota... the Israeli ideology will collapse in its entirety, and we will begin to progress with our own ideology, Allah willing, and drive them out of all of Palestine.”

- Abbas Zaki, Palestinian Authority representative in Lebanon
(NBN TV, April 9, 2008)

“The Jews are the most despicable and contemptible nation to crawl upon the face of the Earth, because they have displayed hostility to Allah.

Allah will kill the Jews in the hell of the world to come, just like they killed the believers in the hell of this world.

The Jews kill anyone who believes in Allah. They do not want to see any peace whatsoever on Earth.”

Sermon delivered by Atallah Abu Al-Subh, former Hamas minister of culture, which aired on *Al-Aqsa TV*, April 8, 2011, translation by MEMRI

“Israel is our enemy. This is an aggressive, illegal, and illegitimate entity, which has no future in our land. Its destiny is manifested in our motto: 'Death to Israel.'”

— Sayed Hassan Nasrallah, head of Hezbollah

“For example, a few years ago, a great French philosopher, Roger Garaudy, wrote a scientific book. He did not offend, curse, or insult anyone. He wrote a scientific research of an academic nature, in which he discussed the alleged Jewish Holocaust in Germany. He proved that this Holocaust is a myth.”

— Sayed Hassan Nasrallah

According to the website of 'Izz Al-Din Al-Qassam, the objective of the [Gaza Strip summer] camps is “to fan the flame of jihad among the generation of liberation, instill Islamic values and train the hoped-for liberation army to free Palestine.” [Hamas' Kids' Camps Indoctrinate For Jihad, Martyrdom | MEMRI](#)

The Arab Position: Israel has no right to exist

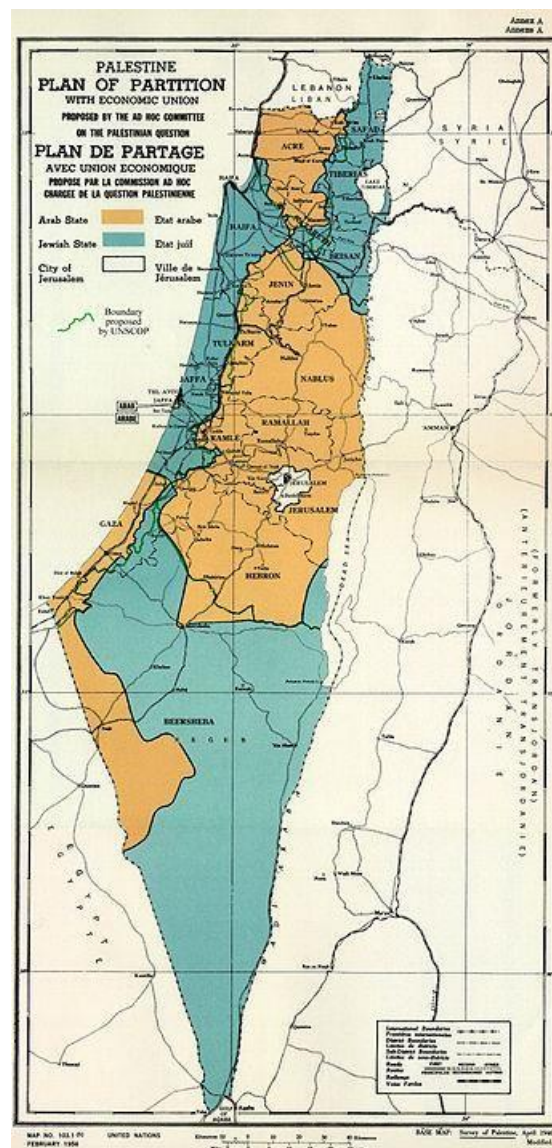
In essence, leaders of the Palestinians – principally Iran and its proxy terrorist groups, plus the PLO – have, throughout the decades, espoused the belief that Israel has no right to exist, that it has no right to occupy the land immigrant Jews began settling in the late 19th century. This is one reason why Arabs in the region have never agreed to negotiate a two-state solution in good faith. They have turned down or simply ignored the following opportunities to forge a two-state solution:

- The Peel Commission Partition Plan 1937
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peel_Commission
- The Woodhead Commission Partition Plan in 1938
<https://thenewporphyry.blogspot.com/2016/06/the-woodhead-commission-1938.html>
- The UN Special Committee on Palestine Proposal in 1947 – Resolution 181
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Partition_Plan_for_Palestine
The map below is the 1947 UN Proposal of Resolution 181
- The Israeli “Conquered Lands for Peace” Proposal Plan in 1967
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khartoum_Resolution
- The Camp David Summit Proposal by Israel in 2000
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000_Camp_David_Summit

- Prime Minister Olmert's proposal to Mahmoud Abbas in 2008
<https://www.voanews.com/world-news/middle-east-dont-use/abbas-admitsrejecting-two-state-peace-plan-israel-2008>

The map below shows the 1947 UN Proposal of UN Resolution 181. In this proposal, Jerusalem was designated a “separate entity,” to be governed by a special international regime. The response of the local Arabs to this two-state proposal was to attack Jews when it first came out in November 1947. Then, the day after Israel declared itself a new nation on May 14, 1948, armies of Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, and Lebanon invaded Israel with intent to destroy it. During the ensuing war these armies were aided by troops from Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Transjordan.

- [1948 Arab–Israeli War - Wikipedia](#)
- [Milestones: 1945–1952 - Office of the Historian \(state.gov\)](#)



But it is more than not agreeing to any specific proposal. Israel has made proposals; the Palestinians have not responded with any serious counter proposals, serious meaning something that would allow Israel to exist as an independent Jewish state. As one blogger wrote:

“Critics of Israel will try to demonize Israel by posturing and only looking at The Jews/Zionists/Israel’s supposed eternal goal of wanting it all. But we need to distinguish between wanting and *accepting*. It’s normal to want more than you are willing to accept but in negotiations what is most important is what you are willing to accept. And that is the difference between Israel and the Arabs and has always been the difference. Regardless of what both sides supposedly want, Israel has always been willing to accept a two-State solution and the Arabs have not.”

<https://thenewporphyry.blogspot.com/2016/06/the-woodhead-commission-1938.html>



U.S. President Bill Clinton, Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at Camp David, July 2000

Insight into the Palestinian wish for *no* two-state solution can be gleaned from the Camp David Summit in 2000, under President Clinton. The principal negotiators were Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. The Palestinians claim the Summit failed because Israel’s offer of a two-state plan did not remove many of the elements of the Israeli occupation regarding land, security, settlements, and Jerusalem. President Clinton requested that the Palestinians make a counter-offer, *but Arafat proposed none*. Former Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben Ami who kept a diary of the negotiations said in an interview in 2001, when asked whether the Palestinians made a counterproposal: “No. And that is the heart of the

matter. Never, in the negotiations between us and the Palestinians, was there a Palestinian counterproposal.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_conflict

So, what change could Israel make that would alter this generation-after-generation refusal to negotiate a peaceful solution? The answer is “none.” The problem is not what Israel does or doesn’t do. The problem for the Palestinians is Israel’s *very existence*. The willfully-ignorant progressive Jews in America don’t get this. The history is there, easily accessible, but they wish to remain ignorant in order to justify their beliefs – that Israel must change in order to bring about peace.

The Goals of Existing Palestinian Terrorist Groups

And what happened when Israel did make a major change? In August-September 2005, under Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Israel pulled out of Gaza, literally uprooting some 8000

Jewish settlers so the Palestinians would have no Jews in Gaza: zero Israeli presence. [Israeli disengagement from Gaza - Wikipedia](#)

The result? Hamas won the 2006 Palestinian legislative election and became the *de facto* governing authority of the Gaza Strip following its 2007 war with Fatah, the ruling party of the West Bank Palestinians. See [Hamas - Wikipedia](#)

Since 2007, Hamas has been in total control of Gaza, to the detriment of Gaza's two million Palestinians. No democracy, no freedom of the press or of speech, no equal treatment of women, and God help you if you are outed as LGBTQ. Any published dissent is met with imprisonment or death to the dissenter.

Hamas is a U.S.-recognized terrorist organization, with one overriding goal: destroy Israel, no matter how long it takes. From the Hamas Charter, Article 6:

“...raise the banner of Allah over every inch of Palestine, for under the wing of Islam followers of all religions can coexist in security and safety where their lives, possessions and rights are concerned” <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamas>

Hamas works hard to prepare each new generation for the battle to destroy Israel. Starting in kindergarten, Hamas does this through educating Palestinian children to grow up with ingrained, murderous hatred of Jews. MEMRI and other web sites provide documentation (and videos) of this childhood instruction.

- [Gaza Islamic Jihad Pre-School Terror Display | MEMRI](#)



- [Hamas' Kids' Camps Indoctrinate For Jihad, Martyrdom | MEMRI](#)
- [Behind the Headlines: Hamas' Mickey Mouse teaches children to hate and kill \(mfa.gov.il\)](#)
- [MEMRI: Inquiry and Analysis - No. 393 \(archive.org\)](#)
- [Hamas Magazine for Kids Promotes Martyrdom and Hatred \(archive.org\)](#)

- [Tomorrow's Pioneers - Wikipedia](#)

Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) functions as another, smaller, terrorist group in Gaza, with its own missiles that are sometimes fired on Israel. Its goal, too, is the destruction of Israel. PIJ has been labelled a terrorist organization by the United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and of course Israel. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Jihad_Movement_in_Palestine

Hezbollah is a political party and militant group based in Lebanon. Israel last fought an all-out war with Hezbollah in 2006, and there have been numerous skirmishes since then. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006_Lebanon_War

All three terrorist organizations are supported by Iran, and have the stated goal to destroy Israel – not to live in peace, not to have a two-state solution. Hamas has spent billions of dollars on tunnels dug into Israel to attack from the ground, and on rockets to attack from the air. Gazans suffer in part because much of the money intended for their welfare has been siphoned off for rockets and tunnels.

How is Israel supposed to change so that Hamas and Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah agree to give up their goal of destroying Israel? Open up its borders? Stop building settlements in the West Bank? Give up East Jerusalem? American Jews who think any of these measures will somehow bring peace are willfully ignorant. They refuse to learn the reality of the situation, or acknowledge what the goal of the Palestinian leaders has been and continues to be to this day – destroy Israel, get rid of all the Jews from the river to the sea.

Willful Ignorance and Democratic Politicians

The vast majority of Jews who think Israel should change to bring about peace are liberals who vote for Democratic politicians. They will tell you that the Republicans attract anti-Semitic white supremacists, while ignoring or minimizing the blatant anti-Semitism of several Democratic politicians. One lightning rod for liberals to attack the Republican Party has been Georgia Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene, who has espoused anti-Semitic rhetoric. Then, of course, there is always Donald Trump, who supported Netanyahu. The liberal American Jews who believe “If Only Israel Would Change” loathe them both, so they naturally gravitate to the Democratic Party.

I have found that if you try to educate progressive left-wing Jews about the anti-Semites in the Democratic Party, they will brush you off, and instead harp on Donald Trump or Marjorie Taylor Greene or some right-wing extremist group that they associate with the Republican party. Yes, there are certainly right-wing extremist groups that harbor intense anti-Semitism: the QAnon crowd, the Proud Boys, the Three Percenters militia (some of whom wear T-shirts with the slogan, “Camp Auschwitz: Work Brings Freedom”). But harping on these rightwing extremists is just the progressives’ method of shifting focus away from the outspoken anti-Semites among Democratic politicians, of which there are far more than among the Republicans. For starters, there is the Squad, five women:

Ilhan Omar of Minnesota
Rashida Tlaib of Michigan
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York
Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts

Two members of this group - Cori Bush of Missouri and Jamaal Bowman of New York were defeated in 2024 in Democratic primaries.

Members of this group have made anti-Semitic comments and/or support anti-Semitic causes such as BDS. This documentation is all over the internet, but you will seldom, if ever, read about it in the liberal media. Why not? **Because they are Democrats.**

<https://www.jns.org/opinion/the-real-threat-to-u-s-israel-relations-comes-from-anti-semitic-democrats/>

If this far-left, anti-Semitic element of the Democratic Party had its way, the U.S. would withdraw all support from Israel – the only Democracy in the Middle East. Yet liberal American Jews still rush to support the Democratic Party, because it's not Trump and not Greene. Progressive American Jews who claim to be aware of the Squad's anti-Semitism tend to minimize its impact or importance.

Several times I have heard otherwise intelligent Jews reply that these members of Congress have no real power, that they don't speak for the Democratic party, etc. Whatever excuse is offered, American Jews who support these anti-Semitic Democrats, or refuse to condemn them with the same energy they would a Marjorie Taylor Greene, are practicing a horrific double standard. They are, at best, politically naïve when they give a free pass to anti-Semitic politicians *just because they are Democrats*.

Omar and Tlaib are the most vocal among the Democratic Party anti-Semites. But what about Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez? She is a darling of many American progressive Jews, because of her socialist pronouncements. She is also loathed by conservatives for the same reason. However, my focus here is not on her economic proposals, but on her anti-Semitism. If Jewish progressives are aware of her anti-Semitism, it is ignored or minimized – again, simply because she's a Democrat. If she were a Republican, no doubt she would be lumped together with the villainous Marjorie Taylor Greene and vilified in all the liberal media – and by progressive Jews.

Sadly, though, many American Jews are actually *unaware* of AOC's anti-Semitism. This goes hand in hand with their willful ignorance about the history of the I-P conflict. The information is out there, if one just cares to look beyond the biased liberal media.

AOC is Anti-Semitic by Association

AOC is part of the Squad, all of whose members manifest various degrees of anti-Semitism. The worst are the two anti-Semitic Muslim women, Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib. They often appear

together in photo-ops and vote together on far-left issues. There are many references to their overt anti-Semitism. Here are a few.

- [CAMERA Snapshots: NY Times Praises Ilhan Omar's Book While Glossing Over Her Antisemitism](#)
- <https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2019-07-17/ilhan-omar-seizes-spotlightto-push-pro-bds-resolution>
- [Rashida Tlaib scrubs anti-Semitic tweet \(nypost.com\)](#)
- [Rashida Tlaib Wrote Op-Ed for Anti-Semitic Louis Farrakhan Outlet -- Report | National Review](#)
- <https://www.commentarymagazine.com/christine-rosen/the-squads-noxious-antisemitism/>
- <https://ajcongress.org/jewishpoliticalguide/representatives/alexandria-ocasio-cortez/>

AOC is anti-Semitic by Language

She has accused Israel of “apartheid” in well-publicized tweets. See:

- [US legislator AOC calls Israel an ‘apartheid state’ | Israel-Palestine conflict News | Al Jazeera](#)
- [Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez calls Israel an apartheid state - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

AOC calls Israel an apartheid state without ever mentioning (or caring about) the true apartheid states of Egypt, Syria, Iran, or the Gaza strip, where there are no Jews, and where there is also no freedom of religion or freedom of the press (unless you want to be killed). Israel has 21% Arab citizens, several in the Knesset. This is apartheid? Of course not. The term is nothing more than a buzzword to energize U.S. progressives against Israel.

AOC is anti-Semitic by being a vocal supporter of BDS

AOC's support for BDS is well-documented.

- [Ocasio-Cortez Co-Sponsors Omar's BDS Resolution – The Forward](#)
- [AOC letter on Israel's West Bank annexation has BDS support \(nypost.com\)](#)
- [Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's activist group called to annihilate Israel - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

It's always “boycott Israel,” so Israel will change its behavior. AOC and the other congressional anti-Semites never rally against Arab countries that treat women like second class citizens, that foster and finance terrorism, or that operate as totalitarian theocracies. Instead, they go after Israel, a successful democracy and ally of the U.S., because...that's where the Jews are.

The Singular Goal of BDS – Destruction of Israel

I don't like to use terms like “many” and “most” because I have not done any polling of progressive Jews. However, from what I've read in their op-eds and essays, and from conversations with many of them, most left-wing Jewish progressives seem to be clueless about

the real purpose of the BDS movement. As a result, they turn a blind eye when AOC says she supports BDS.

The goal of BDS is, quite simply, the destruction of Israel. In the founders' own words, Omar Barghouti:

“The BDS movement was launched because of the ongoing failure to protect the rights of the Palestinian people. Some of these rights were frittered away: The Right of Return is in danger, the right of our people to the 1948 lands is in danger, and even the right of our people to the 1967 lands. Some of these rights are ignored. The BDS movement was created in 2005, in order to focus on the elimination of the occupation, on the elimination of the system of racial segregation – the Israeli apartheid – and on the right of the refugees to return to the homes from which they were expelled.”

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/bds-in-their-own-words>

By “right of return,” Barghouti doesn't mean the actual refugees from 1948 and 1967; he means their 5+ million descendants, which of course would mean the elimination of Israel as a Jewish state.

As to the oft-quoted “right of return,” note that there are *two* U.N. agencies for the world's refugees: United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for the Palestinians, and The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the rest of the world. The number of “Palestinian refugees” fitting UNRWA's bloated definition is now about *six million*. Why two completely different UN agencies for each class of “refugee”? The answer is apparent: it allows the UN to perpetuate policies that are anti-Israel and pro-Arab, reflecting the huge voting bias the UN has taken against Israel over many decades.

[UNRWA vs. UNHCR – The Numbers Will Shock You | The Jewish Press - JewishPress.com | Jewish Press Staff | 7 Shevat 5778 – January 23, 2018 | JewishPress.com](#)

To repeat: “Right of return” is a core aim of the BDS movement, which clearly would mean the destruction of Israel.

And there is this, from a professor at California State University, Stanislaus:

“[Norman] Finkelstein rightly asks whether the real aim of BDS is to bring down the state of Israel. Here, I agree with him that it is. That should be stated as an unambiguous goal. There should not be any equivocation on the subject.”

[As'ad AbuKhalil - Wikipedia](#)

On the internet there is abundant information on the BDS movement and its real goal – destruction of Israel. See:

- <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/bds-in-their-own-words>
- https://www.factsandlogic.org/ad_169-what-does-bds-really-want/?gclid=CjwKCAjwpX0BRAFEiwAheRui36KJbeMjmh7kx8hzMApfPmBb1sRM_G-DF0FrFY1GmQ2Xs5PeJn6_BoCtDEQAvD_BwE

From my perspective, there are only two possible ways to view a proponent of the BDS movement: willfully ignorant, or anti-Semitic (or both).

AOC has millions of “followers” on twitter, and many think she is the new, progressive voice of the Democratic Party. Older folks, particularly of a more conservative bent (defined anyway you want), are frankly appalled that any Jew could think highly of her.

A perceptive comment about the Squad’s speeches in Congress in May 2021 is in this website. [Watch AOC, Rashida Tlaib, The Squad's Powerful Speeches On Palestine and Israel \(jezebel.com\)](https://jezebel.com/watch-aoc-rashida-tlaib-the-squad-s-powerful-speeches-on-palestine-and-israel/)

“In what the Intercept called a “historic moment on the House floor,” Rashida Tlaib, Ayanna Pressley, Cori Bush, Ilhan Omar, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez gave talks that, taken together, signal a broader shift when it comes to Americans’ willingness to criticize the policy decisions of both the U.S. and Israeli governments. What was once an untouchable third rail in U.S. politics, even for many so-called progressives, is no longer unspeakable.”

If the criticism was fair, rational, even-handed, honest as to the history of the Conflict and the true goals of the terrorists, then it would be appropriate. But the criticism is so unfair, so irrational, so not-even-handed, and ignores the history of the Conflict.

Now, the excuse the critics often give is, “We are not anti-Semitic when we criticize Israel, just “anti-Zionist.” This excuse is often quoted by willfully-ignorant Jews, who understand little about the state of anti-Semitism today.

The False Distinction between Anti-Zionism and Anti-Semitism

Certainly, Israel is not immune to criticism. Among its biggest critics are its own citizens. You need look no further than Haaretz, <https://www.haaretz.com/>, Israel’s left-leaning English daily newspaper, which offers relentless criticism. But far more often than not, the “anti-Zionist” criticisms are really, unequivocally, anti-Semitism in flimsy disguise. How so?

There are simple criteria, mentioned earlier, and now accepted by the U.S. State Department, to define anti-Semitism. Called the 3-Ds, they originated with Russian refusenik Anatoly Sharansky (published in Jewish Political Studies Review 16:3-4, 2004).

- Demonization – when the critic makes absurd comparisons, as comparing Israeli treatment of Palestinians to Nazi treatment of Jews, or comparing Israel’s treatment of its Arab citizens to South Africa’s apartheid policy against blacks – that is blatant anti-Semitism. It is simply lying about reality to demonize one nation, and only one nation.
- Double Standards – When criticism is applied selectively to Israel, such as blaming Israel for human rights abuses while ignoring countries with far worse human rights issues like China, Iran, Cuba, Syria and Venezuela.

- Delegitimization – When Israel’s fundamental right to exist is denied, alone among all peoples of the world.
 - [Israel blasts 'anti-Semitic' UN Human Rights Council - Israel National News](#)
 - [UN Human Rights Council continues its anti-Semitic campaign against Israel \(msn.com\)](#)
 - [UN Human Rights Council continues antisemitic campaign against Israel | Washington Examiner](#)

I would like to add a fourth “D” to this definition. “Destruction.” When the policies proposed would, inevitably, lead to destruction of Israel as a Jewish nation, that is anti-Semitism. Here the BDS movement takes center stage. People who claim the BDS movement is not against the Jewish people per se, but only Israel’s policies, are blowing smoke. The BDS movement calls for Israel to:

- end its **occupation** and colonization of all Arab lands
- recognize the fundamental rights of the **Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel** to full equality; and
- to accept the rights of **Palestinian refugees** to **return to their homes and properties** as stipulated in **UN Resolution 194**.

All this sounds good until you realize that the first and third items translate into total destruction of Israel. “All Arab lands” means all the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. As for UN Resolution 194, it refers to a resolution passed in 1948, stating that refugees from the December, 1948 war should be allowed to return to their homes in Israel.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly_Resolution_194

But the BDS movement interprets 194 the way UNRWA does today. “Refugees” means *all the descendants* of the original refugees, i.e., now some 6 million Palestinians. Same argument. *Let’s destroy Israel this way*. That is the BDS movement.

So yes, there are many valid criticisms of Israel, as there are of any other country. But if the criticism singles out only Israel for criticism among all the world’s countries, or calls for its destruction, that is both anti-Zionism *and* anti-Semitism.

What If Israel Disappeared?

Interestingly, even if Israel disappeared overnight, the warring situation would be far worse than it is now. Hamas and Fatah fought a war to control Gaza in 2007 (Hamas won; see [Fatah–Hamas conflict - Wikipedia](#)). If all the land that once was Israel came up for grabs, the resulting battles would be far greater, and would no doubt involve other interests. Hezbollah would certainly be in the fight for hegemony of a large part of Israel. And Jordan would again be threatened with a takeover by radicals (see [Black September - Wikipedia](#)).

Iran, which funds Hamas and Hezbollah, would become a major player, and maybe the decider of who would take ultimate control. But that would bring in anti-Iran Arab Sunnis, mainly Saudi Arabia, and the Saudis would no doubt try to get the U.S. involved. And that could bring in Russia.

Far more Arabs have been killed by other Arabs in Mid-East wars since 1948 than by the Israelis. There is no doubt that a disappeared (or destroyed) Israel would *not* bring peace to the region. It would likely bring on war such as nothing yet seen between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

If You Want to Read Further

Apart from the many websites listed in this essay, there are several books about Israel and the Conflict I recommend, books that give an honest recounting of the history and are, therefore, supportive of Israel. They are listed in the [Bibliography](#).

Counter-argument

My thesis is that if otherwise intelligent Jews learned the true history of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, they would realize that nothing Israel can do will bring about peace until there is fundamental change in Palestinian leadership: one that disposes of all the terrorist groups, and renounces the goal of destroying Israel, of removing all the Jews “from the river to the sea.”

No one likes to be told they are willfully ignorant, or politically naïve. I get that. No Jewish progressive who has read this far is going to roll over and admit that they’ve been misled by the liberal media, that they really don’t know the true history of the Conflict. The only way attitudes and views on this subject can change among the willfully ignorant is if *they choose NOT to be ignorant*, and begin self-education on the history of the Conflict beyond what is in left wing media. Some may choose to do this, and if my essay spurs self-education, then I will have succeeded in my goal.

But...what if an intelligent Jew acknowledges all the history I’ve recounted, claims to be aware of the oft-stated goals of the Palestinian leaders, and still thinks Israel is at fault, and therefore must first change to bring about peace with the Palestinians? Such a person may respond as follows.

“Larry, you paint too broad a brush, and criticize by assumption what liberal Jews know and believe. I, for one, am not ignorant, I know all of the information you are presenting, but I strongly disagree with your conclusions. There is much posturing among the Palestinian leaders, but basically the Palestinians want peace with Israel, and if Israel would change its ways, I do believe peace would be possible. I believe if Israel would do this, that, or the other (fill in the wish list), then Israel would be on a path to a peaceful solution. So, I fundamentally disagree with your conclusions. I am not ignorant at all. I just see a different outcome if Israel would change.”

By professing knowledge of the history, such a response is saying, in effect: “Yes, some Palestinian leaders claim they want to remove all the Jews from the river to the sea, but that’s just talk. Yes, Hamas has sent thousands of missiles to try to kill Israelis, but I know deep down they want peace with Israel. Yes, I know Hezbollah has thousands of missiles in Southern Lebanon poised to strike Israel, that Hezbollah and Hamas are supported by Iran, and that Iran has repeatedly stated its goal is to destroy Israel. And I am well aware that the Arabs have turned down multiple formal peace offers. But I also believe the peace offers were not satisfactory for various reasons. If a better offer comes around that includes (fill in the blanks), then I think the Palestinians would accept it. For me, the bottom line remains: Israel is the occupying nation, and there can be no peace until Israel undergoes fundamental change in its treatment of the Palestinians.”

There is no way to argue with someone who takes this position, because it simply denies the true history of the Conflict and the current political reality. The best reply I can give to such a position is to offer two quotes from Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir. Consider them “food for thought.”

“If the Arabs put down their weapons today, there would be no more violence. If the Jews put down their weapons today, there would be no more Israel.”

“Peace will come when the Arabs will love their children more than they hate us.”

The Solution As I See It: A Radical Change in the World Order

There is a solution to the Conflict, but I doubt it will come anytime soon. The solution requires a radical change in the world order. Based on the history of the century-old Conflict, it would likely take at least one to two generations, if not more. By radical change in the world order, I mean:

- A revolution in Iran that removes its Jew-hating theocracy and leads Iran to give up its quest for regional dominance.
- The emergence of strong Palestinian leaders who care more about their own people than they do about killing Israelis, and who can avoid assassination for expressing and acting on this belief. This means giving up the charade of “right of return” of all descendants of the 1948-1949 Israeli-Arab war.
- Establishing freedom of press and of speech in Palestinian-controlled areas, while eliminating school curricula that only teaches Palestinian children to blame the Jews for everything.
- Restructuring the UN to eliminate UNRWA and put all true Palestinian refugees under UNHCR.
- Full acceptance of Israel as a sovereign Jewish nation by Israel’s Arab neighbors, which would also require them to aid in emasculating all terrorist groups, including Hamas, Hezbollah, and Islamic Jihad.
- Agreement by the Palestinians to form a nation state that is: a) not run by terrorists; b) acknowledges Israel’s legitimacy and right to exist; c) agrees to an unequivocal peace

agreement with Israel; d) accepts any Jews living in its borders as voting citizens, just as Arabs living in Israel are Israeli voting citizens.

Since Israel is determined to remain Jewish and sovereign, and has the military muscle to stay that way, the solution to the conflict lies with the Palestinians and their Arab supporters.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

If you only have time to read one book, I recommend *Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth*, by native Israeli Noa Tishby. She explains the history of the Israeli-Arab conflict, and points out the many misconceptions held by willfully ignorant critics of Israel, both Jew and non-Jew.

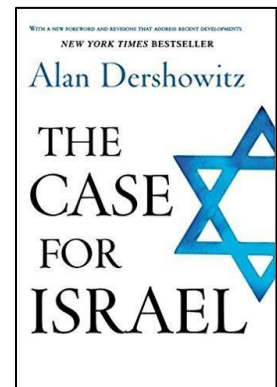
The three books by Alan Dershowitz are also clear in their case for Israel. Dershowitz has probably done the most to publicize (and debate) the extreme anti-Israel views of Jewish intellectuals such as Norman Finkelstein and Noam Chomsky. Although a brilliant legal mind and prolific writer, for American progressives his books on Israel come with some “baggage.” He has written books and articles that defended President Trump’s legal positions, including arguing in the Senate against impeachment on constitutional grounds. Though he is quick to point out that he also argued against the impeachment of President Clinton, and considers himself “non-partisan,” progressives and never-Trumpers are appalled by his position. As result they denigrate or simply ignore his views on anything. “Don’t talk to me about Dershowitz!” is a typical response I hear from progressive Jews when I bring up his books about Israel. The exclamation point on their response is not an exaggeration.

This is unfortunate, because his pro-Israel arguments are cogent and well-founded. You may not like the messenger, but the message is worth listening to. No one writes more clearly about the hypocrisy and double standards Israel has to put up with than Dershowitz. In 2004 he published *The Case for Israel*, which was a New York Times Bestseller. He followed this up in 2008 with *The Case Against Israel’s Enemies*, and in 2019 with *Defending Israel*.

2004: The Case for Israel

<https://www.amazon.com/Case-Israel-Alan-Dershowitz/dp/0471679526/>

“This book will prove not only that Israel is innocent of the charges being leveled against it but that no other nation in history faced with comparable challenges has ever adhered to a higher standard of human rights, been more sensitive to the safety of innocent civilians, tried harder to operate under the rule of law, or been willing to take more risks for peace.” [p. 2]



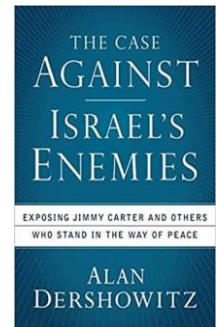
2008: The Case Against Israel's Enemies

<https://www.amazon.com/Case-Against-Israels-Enemies-Exposing/dp/0470379928/>

“Peace is never easy to achieve, and it is not in the hands of Israel alone, as some of Israel’s enemies suggest. I challenge the enemies of Israel to dispute the following propositions.

- If Israel’s military enemies – Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran, and other terrorist groups and nations – were to lay down their arms, stop firing rockets, stop sending suicide bombers, and stop threatening to wipe Israel off the map, there would be peace.
- If Israel were to lay down its arms, there would be genocide

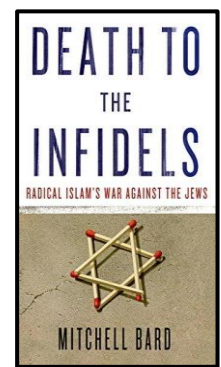
This is the sad reality that Israel’s enemies forget or ignore, when they blame Israel alone for the current situation in the Mideast.” [p. 16]



2014: Death to the Infidels

[Amazon.com: Death to the Infidels: Radical Islam's War Against the Jews eBook: Bard, Mitchell G.: Books](#)

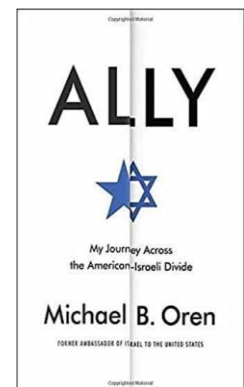
“Just as Western leaders refused to take seriously Adolph Hitler’s public declarations of his plan to exterminate the Jews, the threats against Jews made today by radical Muslims are typically brushed aside. Like Hitler, the Islamists make no secret of their genocidal intentions and willingness to use deceit, terrorism, and whatever else it takes to defeat the infidels.” [p. 247]



2015: Ally

[Ally: My Journey Across the American-Israeli Divide: Oren, Michael B.: 9780812996418: Amazon.com: Books](#)

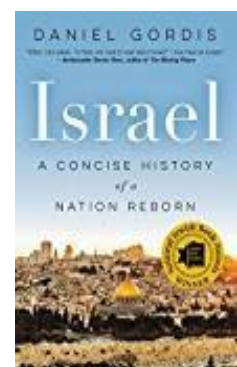
“Among the common anti-Semitic canards is that Jews control the press. A pernicious myth, it nevertheless reflects the disproportionate number – relative to their share of the U.S. population – of Jewish journalists...But the presence of so many Jews in print and on the screen rarely translates into support for Israel. The opposite is often the case, as some American Jewish journalists flag their Jewishness as a credential for criticizing Israel...The preponderance of Jews in the U.S. media often means, simply, that Israel is subjected to scrutiny and standards imposed on no other foreign nation.” [p. 266]



2016: Israel: A Concise History

[Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn: Gordis, Daniel: 9780062368751: Amazon.com: Books](#)

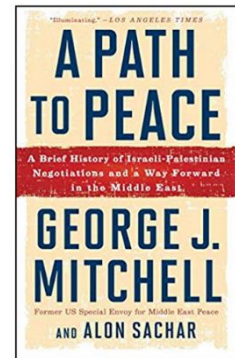
Offers a brief and objective account of Israel’s history.



2016: A Path to Peace

<https://www.amazon.com/Path-Peace-History-Israeli-Palestinian-Negotiations-ebook/dp/B01E4BC1DE/>

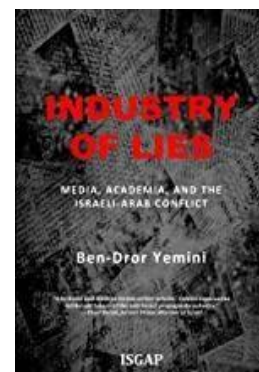
George Mitchell was the primary architect of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement for peace in Northern Ireland, so he knows about negotiations. From 2009 to 2011 he was the U.S. special envoy for Middle East peace, working to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The detail he provides shows clearly how the Arab leaders simply refused to negotiate in good faith, always finding an excuse to either not respond, or to respond with demands that would be impossible for Israel to meet and remain a Jewish nation



2017: Industry of Lies

[Industry of Lies: Media, Academia, and the Israeli-Arab Conflict: Yemini, Ben-Dror: 9781979061438: Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/Industry-of-Lies-Media-Academia-and-the-Israeli-Arab-Conflict-Yemini-Ben-Dror/dp/9781979061438/)

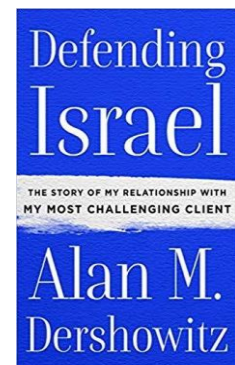
“Israel is accused, with varying degrees of explicitness, of genocide, ethnic cleansing, colonization, apartheid, and war crimes. It is also accused, via representatives in Western countries and especially the United States, of hijacking other countries’ foreign policy decisions to further its nefarious agenda. For many of the writers making such claims, Israel is not the subject of study, but an enemy, and they have built an industry of lies to ensure that enemy’s defeated.” [From the Introduction]



2019: Defending Israel

<https://www.amazon.com/Defending-Israel-Relationship-Challenging-Client/dp/1250179963/>

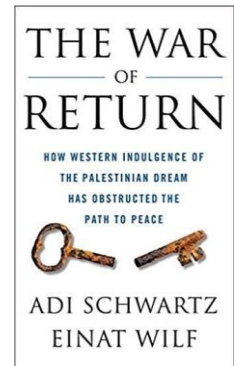
“Another threat faced by Israel, this one in the longer term, is the diminishing support for the nation-state of the Jewish people by young Americans, especially on the left...Until recently, this diminution of support could be seen primarily on the extreme hard left, especially among university faculty, some students and radical activists. This diminution of support for Israel among current students threatens the bipartisan support of Israel that has long been a staple of American politics...Recent polls suggest a growing disparity between Republicans and Democrats in their support of Israel. This is especially apparent among young Democrats.” [p. 272-3]



2020: The War of Return

[Amazon.com: The War of Return: How Western Indulgence of the Palestinian Dream Has Obstructed the Path to Peace \(9781250252760\): Schwartz, Adi, Wilf, Einat: Books](https://www.amazon.com/The-War-of-Return-How-Western-Indulgence-of-the-Palestinian-Dream-Has-Obstructed-the-Path-to-Peace/dp/9781250252760)

“The Arabs and Palestinians would later claim that the 1948 war caused the outrageous injustice of the refugee problem. But this is anachronistic: in fact, the belief that Zionism was an outrageous injustice predated the war and caused the Arabs to violently oppose the Jewish national liberation movement many decades earlier. Before even a single Palestinian had fled his home in the Mandate territory, there prevailed the notion in the Arab world that Jewish sovereignty in the region was a crime against justice. It was this Arab view of Zionism as an inherent injustice that led to the war of 1947-1949 and to the creation of the Palestinian refugee problem in the first place.” [p.2]



2021: Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth

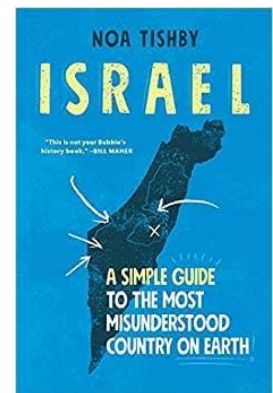
<https://www.amazon.com/Israel-Simple-Guide-Misunderstood-Country-ebook/dp/B08BZX1WBY/>

“I am not for a second dismissing the pain that war and displacement has caused the Arabs. However, it is infuriating to see over and over again history being twisted into a perceived underdog story. Palestinians and their supporters, including many on the American left, some of whom are my close friends, use the word *nakba* to describe a disaster that just happened to the Palestinians, like some natural disaster, a hurricane, or, dare I say, a premeditated holocaust. One that was inflicted upon a nation out of the blue and without any provocation. But that day, which was indeed disastrous for Arab Palestinians, Syrians, Iraqis, Egyptians, and their allies, was not an act of God. It was a military and political defeat that was the result of bad choices made by bad Arab leaders.”

“In only about fifteen years or so, BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) managed to become pretty successful in altering the conversation about Israel, infiltrating liberal circles, and becoming a hip extracurricular activity for my friends in the woke crowd. BDS has had incredible success reaching young Americans, who then become extremely active on college campuses and later on, in all walks of life, convincing those young Americans that they are only after justice for all.

“This couldn’t be further from reality. A dive into the movement reveals a well-coordinated manipulation of American public opinion. BDS is not what it appears to be, and many people behind the BDS movement are working hard to make sure unsuspecting and well-meaning people stay in the dark.

“...Let me be clear: BDS is not a movement for justice or peace. The movement doesn’t offer any solutions for peace anywhere. BDS leaders try not to say it out loud this way, of course, but it’s very easy to see, once you take a look...” [p. 198-199]



2022: Artists Under Fire: The BDS War Against Celebrities, Jews, and Israel

<https://www.amazon.com/Artists-Under-Fire-against-Celebrities/dp/1544528507/>

“BDS entangles the ideas of the bad Jew and the bad Israeli and provides artists — and others — with the language and ideas of classic antisemitism when it criticizes the Jewish state. When BDS proponents or others vilify Israelis, they are not referring to the Arab citizens who make up 20 percent of the population; they are talking about the Jews.”

“Although some Israel Bashers believe their condemnation of Israel is unbiased criticism, it lacks balance and objectivity. There is no sign of empathy for the suffering of innocent Israelis or any criticism of Hamas’ goal to destroy the Jewish state or the militant organization’s reign of terror on both Israelis and its own people.”

