

Antisemitism Now

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[Photo](#)

A quick Google search is not necessary to define it, as most of us were born into it and will likely carry it to our graves. This phenomenon requires no explanation; everything is crystal clear. Originating possibly in the 15th or 16th century BCE, it has persisted ever since. It is a universal panacea, a solution to all problems. No cost is involved, no effort required; just a need to identify the right moment and circumstances. Yes, you guessed it – it's antisemitism.

I, like many others, was born into an atmosphere of antisemitism. Whether near or far from any anti-Semitic campaign, we've all experienced it. Antisemitism is diverse, taking myriad forms—from immediate death to hindering job opportunities or, in

my late father's case, forcing a departure from university due to relentless persecution.

Antisemitism made Nazis organize extermination camps, seeking a swift resolution to what they saw as the "Jewish problem." They didn't succeed entirely, and some still lament this. Today, antisemitism takes a different, albeit not new, route: lies, disinformation, and provocations as weapons for hate and negation of the right to exist for the Jewish people.

I spent a third of my life in a communist country where no opposition or demonstration was permitted. Fortunately, I escaped to a democratic country – one that values freedom of expression. I am proud that Israel, my new home, chose democracy.

Yet, a double standard persists globally. *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.* Consider atrocities in Ukraine – no large demonstration in the West, no posters *Death to Russia* or *Death to Putin* ; Chechnya – no organized protes in the free world, 2 UN and 3 Council of Europe resolutions ; Venezuela –18,000 civilians killed, torture, rape, persecution, no street protests in any European country ; Azerbaijan – hundreds of thousands killed, no demonstrations ; the plight of Afghans expelled to Afghanistan. Where were the protests? The commonality is that Jews weren't involved, so it went unnoticed. The common denominator of all of the above is that Jews were not (and are not) involved in any of the above events. Since no Jews could be accused, people react with indifference.

Antisemitism may not be fashionable, but its disguise as anti-Israelism is prevalent. Israel, and not Jews, is to blame for the suffering of the Palestinian people. Not Egypt and Jordan, who for 20 years did not care about the fate of the Palestine Arabs, and did not offer them a country. Not all the Arab states who did not accept

the UN Partition Plan in 1947, leaving the same Arab population of Palestine in limbo. The UN General Assembly disproportionately targets Israel, adopting 140 resolutions from 2015 to 2022 compared to 68 for all other countries combined. A stable and strong Jewish state contradicts anti-Semitic desires, making opposition to Israel a veiled form of antisemitism. Being critical of Israel is more socially acceptable than having anti-Jewish feelings.

This reminds me of the old joke about the guy who wants to have his watch repaired. He sees a huge clock in the window of a shop, goes inside and explains what he wants.

- Sir, we do not repair watches here.
- So, what do you do?
- We organize circumcision ceremonies...
- But you put a watch in the window!
- And what do you think we should put?!

This reality demands every Jew's vigilance. While optimism sees antisemitism waning, since it is in contradiction to modern ideas, others view it as cyclical. Both are incorrect. Antisemitism is here to stay, and its eradication from world behavior and ideology is implausible.

Apparently nothing has changed.

But it has. Israel stands as a reality. Every Jew wanting to preserve their heritage must consider it their home. Therefore, a strong Israel is not an option but a necessity.

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