

Pro-Israel and Anti-Semitic at the Same Time?

The avalanche of articles about the anti-Semitic implications of the Charlottesville, Virginia, white protest march strikes a chord with many Jewish people which cannot be denied. The march is one in a long series of concerning events which have occurred in the last several generations since the end of World War II. Many U.S. Presidents and their Administrations have been labeled “anti-Semitic.” There are people who thought Jimmy Carter, Barack Obama and Donald Trump were all anti-Semites, at least in disguise, and perhaps openly. It is interesting and odd to hear so much talk about less than 3% of the population. Added to that is the fact that non-Orthodox Jews in the United States are disappearing at an alarming rate and probably will not even exist as a separate denomination in the next generation or two.

Yet, the question remains as to whether people like Steve Bannon, and he is only one of many, is truly pro-Israel and a domestic anti-Semite at the same time? The argument is made that the Bannon-type supports Israel’s identification of its capitol in Jerusalem as legitimate. The United States, by law, is supposed to move its Embassy to Jerusalem and to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capitol, but every President has ignored that, including Donald Trump. The blatant anti-Semitism shown towards Israel by the United Nations and much of Western Europe, is evidenced by the fact that the tiny nation state of the Jewish people is labeled as an occupying power, when in fact it is the most democratic institution the Middle East has ever known, advancing the interests of every race, religion and creed within its dominion. Arabs living on the Jordan River or the Mediterranean Sea, and from Syria/Lebanon to Egypt and the South have never had it better.

The same nations that tried to wipe Israel off the map in 1948, and almost succeeded, have continued their war of annihilation with military action, boycotts, and false-negative vicious publicity in the world community.

So why would the Steve Bannons of the world support Israel’s right to survive and, at the same time, be critical of American Jews who are members of the Democratic Party or the left wing in general? Caroline Glick, among other writers, seemed to have an insight into this most odd lineup of emotions and arguments. I have frequently been faced with the question by those who would consider themselves right wing, “How can so many American Jews be Democrats when the Democratic Party does not really support Israel?” Supporting Israel and yet criticizing Jews in the United States from a political perspective can be appreciated. Since a majority of Jewish people in the United States belong to the Democratic Party, the right wing, recently called the alt-right, hates those Jews along with other liberals, Democrats and left wingers demonized by the right wing without pause. Some of that dislike is thoroughly understandable. A few democratic Jews are not very liberal when it comes to Israel. They would support the creation of another terrorist regime in the Middle East, and namely on the West Bank of the Jordan River, which none other than Al Gore once referred to as a “knife in the back of Israel.” Some of those left-wing politicals and Democrats, for reasons not readily

knowable, identify with the poor, underprivileged Palestinians whose authority specifically pays money for Jews to be killed. That's right, the latest Palestinian terrorist receives, and will receive, \$3,100 per month for killing of innocent civilians. Now, how is supporting the Palestinian Authority part of the liberal agenda? Beats me.

It is therefore understandable that those in the alt-right would be confused and would reach out to strike liberal democratic Jews, along with other liberals they hate, in the U.S., while lauding the virtues of Israel. Others have a more pernicious agenda. There certainly are those within the Evangelical community, and thankfully they are minority, who believe that all Jews should live in Israel so that there could be a final war of titanic proportions based upon the Book of Revelations, which would take place at the bucolic Israeli heritage site called Megiddo and these Evangelicals call Armageddon. Either way, there is a view by this troubled minority that the Jews should get out of the United States and other countries, and go to Israel so that this war could usher in the Messianic Age.

As a thoroughly boring moderate, I too am appalled and troubled by people like Senators Cory Booker and Kirsten Gillibrand. They, in effect, support a movement to boycott Israel simply because it continues to protect its interests in the Holy Land in a way which is on a par with what any other nation would do. These same Democrats have not done anything about the U.S. occupation and disenfranchisement of the citizens of the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the like.

The ultimate answer to the question is one cannot be an anti-Semite and a supporter of Israel at the same time. One could dislike the hypocrisy and anti-Israel attitudes of the left wing in the United States, whether they are Jews or members of other ethnic and non-ethnic groups in the United States. It is laudable and wonderful that the right wing and the alt-right support Israel. However, the Jewish people who vociferously and unapologetically work for the viability of the Jewish State in the Middle East, do not need or want the assistance of anti-Semites. A 3,500-year history has taught us that extremism is bad for the Jewish people. In fact, it is bad for societies in general. We are just the canary in the mine when it comes to reacting to those on either side of the political spectrum that would stereotype us, deny us our rights, or so weaken our national homeland so that it cannot survive in a hostile and brutal neighborhood.

Israel should never have to go back to the 1949 Armistice lines imposed upon it when Israel could not defend herself and was set upon by brutal enemies who sought the destruction of the State. By the same token, no Jew anywhere in the world should have to bear the inequity of anti-Semitism. The two cannot and should not coexist. By the same measure, and not by way of any equivalent, those on the left who naively and sometimes viciously support the dismemberment of the Jewish State and would give Judea and Samaria back to her enemies, need to give themselves a reality check. I would suggest to those friends of mine who occupy the left-hand point of view that they pay just a little bit of attention to the worst offenders of human rights in the world, whether that be within our own country or whether it be Russia, China, most of Africa, and plenty of countries in Asia as well. A little equality in demanding government responsibility is in order for my friends on the left wing. To those on

the right, burn your Nazi flags, drop your ideology of suspicion and hate, and join the great middle of those in America who will ultimately make a difference.

One day, the ACLU sent a man to my office who was the head of the Ku Klux Klan in North Central Pennsylvania. He wanted to sue the City of Williamsport because he could not get a parade permit. I told him that there were plenty of good lawyers who would represent him, but that I would not be one of them. I then asked him, a man from upstate who never met a Jew or black person, why he hated us. We spent three hours talking, and I suggested to him that he do something productive with his political instincts. I heard later on from the Williamsport Chief of Police that the man had quit the Ku Klux Klan after talking with me, and he decided that he was better off working with legitimate politics instead of relying upon the power of hate groups. A little goodwill and fair-minded thinking would go a long way to assuring sanity in American politics.

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