Anti-Semitism and Anti-Black Racism: Nazi Germany and Apartheid South Africa

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Abstract

Conventional wisdom holds that antipathy toward one minority usually combines with prejudice toward other "outsiders." Disdain for Jews goes along with contempt for blacks. Various scapegoats are manufactured interchangeably. Often they are blamed simultaneously. Even if "Bolsheviks" and "capitalist exploiters" share nothing, the conspiratorial mind lumps them together as causes of misery, without bothering with the contradiction. Yet racism shows many faces. Where several targets and potential "enemies" can be manufactured into threats to national survival, some are more, others less discriminated against. The cultural characteristics or the behavior of the minority hardly influence such selective stigmatization. Ethnicity is never the cause of antagonism, only its vehicle and demarcation.

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The anti-Semitic BDS movement is rooted in bigotry and hatred of Jews. It seeks to delegitimize the only Jewish State. While Rep. Omar is attempting to equate her actions to justified boycotts of Nazi Germany, in reality this resolution is reminiscent of the hateful Nazi boycotts of Jewish communities." Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY) tweeted, "This new pro BDS reso by Omar has the nerve to claim moral equivalency between boycotting Nazi Germany & boycotting Israel. Disgraceful! I'm a hard NO on this reso, her past anti-Semitism, hate towards Israel & blame America 1st agenda! Again=>she sho... Anti-Semitism BDS Ilhan Omar State Department. Anti-Semitism (or antisemitism) is discrimination against, hatred against, or criticism of Jews, Jewish culture, or the state of Israel, or Semitic ethnic groups such as Arabs, Assyrians, and Samaritans. As a word it is first recorded in the English language in 1882, but as an idea and argument of hatred examples exist from much earlier times. It was Wilhelm Marr (1819–1904), a German agitator who coined the term "anti-semitism" in 1879. Anti-Semitism did not begin with Adolf Hitler: Anti-Semitic attitudes date back to ancient times. In much of Europe throughout the Middle Ages, Jewish people were denied citizenship and forced to live in ghettos. Anti-Jewish riots called pogroms swept the Russian Empire during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and anti-Semitic incidents have increased in parts of Europe, the Middle East and North America in the last several years. The term anti-Semitism was first popularized by German journalist Wilhelm Marr in 1879 to describe hatred or hostility toward Jews. Many of the anti-Semitic practices seen in Nazi Germany actually have their roots in medieval Europe. In many European cities, Jews were confined to certain neighborhoods called ghettos. —Leon Volovici, Antisemitism International. "Anti-Semitism: Myth and Hate from Antiquity to the Present by Marvin Perry and Frederick Schweitzer tells a story that must be confronted and overcome. Times such as these put the Perry-Schweitzer book on the required reading list." As in Nazi Germany, the media in the Arab world are often lied with re-pulsive caricatures of Jews—dark, stooped, sinister, hook-nosed, devil-like creatures. So too does equating Zionism with Nazi racism or South African apartheid and Ariel Sharon with Hitler, as do describing Israeli leaders as "bloodthirsty"—a classic antisemitic motif—and shrilly accusing the Israeli government of using Nazi-like methods in a campaign of genocide or ethnic cleansing against the Palestinian people. Elite Transition: From Apartheid to Neoliberalism in South Africa Unsustainable South Africa: Environment, Development and Social Protest Against Global Apartheid: South Africa Meets the World Bank, IMF and Global Finance Talk Left, Walk Right: South Africa's Frustrated Global Reforms Arise Ye Coolies: Apartheid and the Indian, 1960–1995 We Are the Poors: Community Struggles in Post-Apartheid South Africa