


Part F. Fundamentalist Zionism is Fodder for Rising Antisemitism

1. I have no wish to add more grist to the mill of hundreds of submissions to you, addressing Zionism and its implications, specifically for antisemitism and, more broadly, for the political, social and economic welfare of Australian Jewry. I am restricting myself to making a few overarching observations on antisemitism and social cohesion in Australia.

Zionism is an Ideology

2. The muscular fact is that Zionism is a 140-year-old ideology, and like any other political ideology, it can be questioned. It asserts the supremacy of the 'chosen people'. Like any supremacist creed - racial, national or religious - political Bolshevism or neo-fascist Hindutva - it too can be adjudged as Hans Meyer did in *The End of Judaism* (2008)

Verified: Condensed and Paraphrased



"Zionism has NOTHING to do with Judaism; because Judaism, as I learned it, is a reform movement, that is highly, highly ethical. And so, you cannot connect Zionism with 'highly ethical'. You can only connect Zionism with the words: 'aggressive', 'oppressive', 'stealing', 'robbing', but not with 'high ethical'."

If we want to stay really human beings, we must get up and call the Zionists what they are:

NAZI CRIMINALS."

Hans-Joachim Gustav (Hajo) Meyer
(1924 - 2014)

Auschwitz-survivor

- It is a blatant violation of democratic norms of free speech to label a critic of Zionism as antisemitic for doing so. That is reminiscent of how Comintern used to silence anti-Bolshevists, or Mao's self-criticism dramas to silence 'rightists'.

The Conflation of Zionism and Jewishness

3. The conflation of anti-Zionism with antisemitism presents a corrosive challenge to social cohesion. Is anti-Zionism - or even criticism of Israel - a self-proclaimed Zionist entity - truly tantamount to hatred of Jews?

- Zionists conflate Israel's actions with the Jewish people, narrating biblical injunctions in support, for example, the call to "destroy Amalek", and branding tortured prisoners with Jewish symbols. Israel defines itself as the state of all Jews, as an inevitable and divine consequence of troubled Jewish history.
- Consequences follow. Some horrified by the Gaza genocide, and the Iran and Lebanon wars, mistakenly conclude that to oppose what Israel does is to oppose Jews. Diaspora Jews are strapped to Israel's conduct and placed in the line of fire.

Antisemitism as an Alibi

4. Thus, Zionism opportunistically uses antisemitism as an alibi to ward off criticism of Israeli deeds committed in the name of defending the Jewish faith. Worse, by inciting murderous conflicts and endless political instability across West Asia in the quest for Greater Israel, it increasingly endangers Jewry worldwide.

- When establishment Jewish organisations hide behind Judaism, publicly insisting that Israel represents Jews worldwide, they bind every Jew to the Israeli state.
- So when Israel commits atrocities in that name - ignoring the Jewish voices screaming “not in my name” - it is hardly surprising that antisemitism, and worse, Jewophobia, escalates, unjustifiably encompassing Jewishness in general.
- A definition stretched to capture political argument captures innocents.

5. There is one other uncomfortable point that, adding to antisemitic bias, sticks in the Australian craw:

- Not only does the Zionist lobby in Australia claim moral authority as recompense for the Holocaust - with which Australians had nothing to do - but it also uses that victimhood to demand more support from the government.

Intra-Jewish Divisions

6. Jewish Australians are not of one voice. The intra-Jewish divisions on conflating Zionism with Judaism also have the potential to disturb Australian social cohesion. For example, the participation of anti-Zionist Jews and organisations in the Palestinian cause has invited acrimony and threats of a violent response from Zionists and associated bodies.

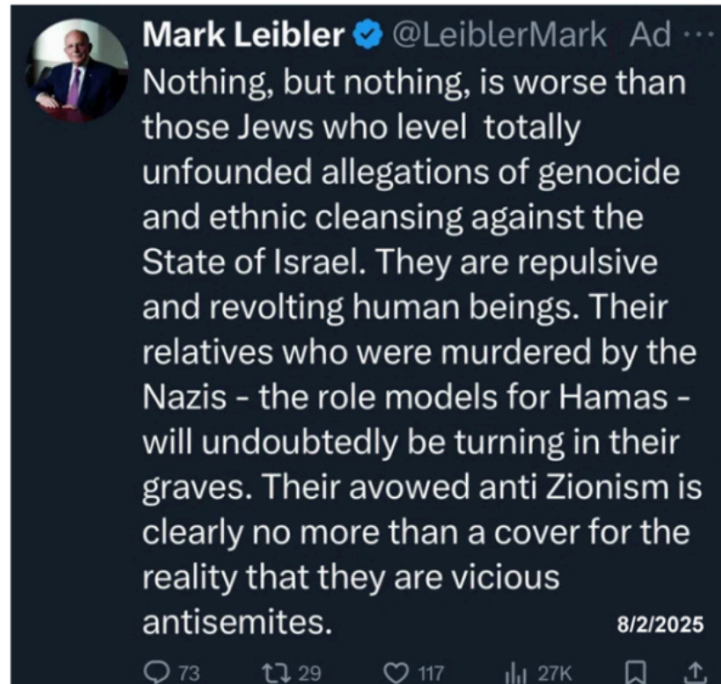
7. There is ample evidence that Zionists adjudge the Jewish identity of their co-religionists by what they say, not by their Judaic heritage:

- Anti-Zionist Jews are often accused of not being “really” Jewish. Their ancestry is questioned because of their politics. To deny someone their Jewish identity because they oppose Zionism, condemn virulent Ministerial statements in support of the ethnic cleansing of Gaza, or condemn Israel’s devastation of South Lebanon is not just a political disagreement; it is, ironically enough, itself antisemitism — punishing a Jew for holding the ‘wrong’ opinion.

This is Anti-Semitic.

Yes. Zionists who identify themselves as the Chosen People fit Sartre's definition of an antisemitic: insecure and needing the mantle of an ideology to strut in the world.

Netanyahu approved the payment of \$30 million per month to Hamas-run Gaza until 2023.



- The core of the problem is the deliberate conflation of Zionism with Judaism, and of Jewish identity with the actions of the Israeli state. Zionist organisations claim to speak for all Jews. Jews are spoken of as a single community worldwide represented by the Jewish State, Israel. It is hardly surprising that hostility toward that state becomes entangled with Jewish identity - and is then turned against the very Jews who reject the conflation.
- The conclusion is inescapable: Discrimination against Jews who do not support Zionism is itself antisemitism. It is directed at 'non-conforming' Jews by those who claim to speak for them. It does not make for social cohesion in multicultural Australia.

8. The answer is not to silence criticism of Israel. It is to separate Jewish identity from the actions of the Israeli state, and to name the exclusion of dissenting Jews for what it is: antisemitism

- Australian governments must resist recognising only establishmentarian communal bodies as 'authentically Jewish', marginalising Jews who dissent. This distorts the wider public's understanding of the community.

9. The Zionist narrative betrays another deep flaw. It rests on a glaring contradiction: first, that it is antisemitic to criticise Israel; and second, that it is antisemitic to conflate Israel with all Jews.

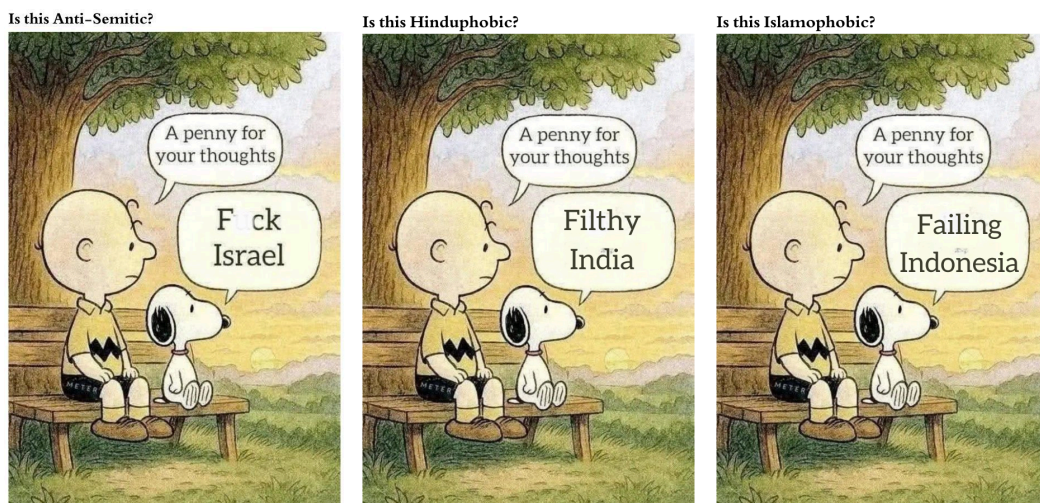
- Zionists will officially concede that one may criticise Israel without being antisemitic - but that is not their position in practice. Zionists angrily accuse

critics of Israel of antisemitism. A tepid critique of extreme Zionist behaviour might be accepted - for example, of Security Minister Ben-Gvir's treatment of the Australian participants in the flotilla - but consistent and vocal criticism of Israel is forbidden.

- If every critic of Israel is branded an antisemite, all criticism of Israel is antisemitic, because "Israel represents all Jews". In effect, Zionists are doing the very thing they decry.

10. The uncompromising strand of the 'Chosen People' doctrine has anointed and proudly proclaimed Israel as a Zionist entity. But for many of the Jewish faith, its political and social ideology is distant from true Judaism, akin to the Hindutva ideology in India, which is distorting Sanatana Hinduism, or to American evangelical nationalist Christianity, which betrays the tenets of the Bible. (It is no coincidence that these three states now share the same space in the geopolitical axis - along with Australia.)

11. But how can criticism of the Zionist-ruled state of Israel be interpreted as antisemitism? How can criticism of Australia be construed as anti-Christian, of India as anti-Hinduism, of America as anti-evangelical nationalist Christianity?



12. Finally, I reiterate that [I have been a lifelong supporter of all measures, Australian or international, for promoting Jewish political, economic and social welfare](#), and, by extension, of Israel. This was often to the chagrin of Orthodox and non-Ashkenazi Jewish interlocutors. Now, however, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that Israel is a (majority) Jewish state ruled by Zionist ideologues. Zionism is a racial supremacist ideology; Judaism is a faith.

13. I believe that Australia, in its quest for social cohesion, must learn that equating criticism of Zionism with hatred of Jews is not to defend a people; it is to grant a political ideology the one shield no ideology should ever hold - immunity from dissent. This equation conscripts every Jew, willing or not, into culpability for the deeds of a state, and then cries "antisemitism" when others object.

14. A Commission convened to study the hostility rising around us will find little of it in the ancient hatred of Jews as Jews, and much of it in the refusal to let a state be judged as states are judged - as we so often do, the most recent example being Russia's war on Ukraine. If Australia is to keep faith with both its Jewish citizens and its own democratic conscience, then it must hold the line this submission recommends: that a faith can be honoured, a people protected, and an ideology still called to account - all at once, and without contradiction.

Conclusion: Zionism is the Identity Theft of Judaism