

# FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

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## Synagogue Killer and Israel Haters: Two Forms of Anti-Semitic Racism

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Those engaged in Jewish life have naturally tried to make sense of the Tree of Life synagogue massacre. Many have attempted to explain the brutal act in terms of partisan politics, especially blaming the President, whose daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren are Jewish. Others blame it on the excesses of social media.

But ultimately, we must ask ourselves: How different was the accused synagogue murderer from Russian pogromists attacking Jewish stetls in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Nazis of the Third Reich slaughtering six million in the 20<sup>th</sup>, or Muslim terrorists murdering Jews in a Parisian kosher butcher shop in the 21<sup>st</sup>?

They all hated Jews. They all wanted to harm Jews. They all wanted to eliminate the Jews.

And they all had their reasons: "They're responsible for all the immigrants." "They control the economy." "They use the blood of gentile children to make Passover matzah."

In every case, their reasons were lies—hateful falsehoods, slanders and myths. It's called anti-Semitism. It's the desire to annihilate a people because of race or ethnicity. And that's called racism.

Today we still have the obvious anti-Semites who burst into a synagogue in Pittsburgh or into a Israeli family's home and murder as many Jews as possible.

But today we also have the more genteel anti-Semites, like Louis Farrakhan, who merely refer to Jews as "termites." Or those who disrupt college-campus gatherings of Jews holding a Holocaust

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**YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...**

**Anti-Zionism Is Racism**

Anti-Semitic attacks that kill Jews in a synagogue are fundamentally no different than attacks on Zionism—Israel's right to exist. They're both racist acts of hate.

Anti-Zionism is only for the convenience of the Jewish people—whether that is to murder or destruction of the Jewish state. These who act for endangering or attacking any other people by what the political right or left—any party of fiction.

**What are the facts?**

Zionism is the belief that the Jewish people have a right to self-determination—in the face of Israel's 60 million—old homeland. According to the U.S. State Department, self-determination is a right of nations distinct of land usage, immigration, delegitimization or Jewish genocide. The form of anti-Zionism appears to legitimate genocide—mostly false accusations—done to the Jewish right and radical left. The objective of anti-Zionist attacks is to deny the right of the Jewish state, among all the world's nations, to exist.

**Attack #1: Israel is a colonial state.** This narrative legitimizes a Jewish homeland, as well as a lie. No unique immigration permit Turkey's military colonization of Crete, nor China's occupation of Tibet. The Jewish is clearly accused of colonizing its own ancient homeland. In fact, Jews are the indigenous people of Palestine—over 60% of the entire Jewish state in 1948 had more than 3,000 years ago, with continuous residency since then. Indeed, Zionism is an anti-colonial movement, having it's roots in Cromwell, Ottomans, British and Jordanian imperialism.

**Attack #2: Israel stole Palestinian land.** This attempt to delegitimize Israel ignores the fact that since 1948, Jewish land holdings, the Palestinians have never had sovereignty over any territory. Therefore, they do not "possess" public lands in present-day Israel or Judea and Samaria (the West Bank). The territory controlled by Israel today was settled on land that Jews owned or purchased, was public land granted by the British Mandate for Palestine, or was captured when Israel defeated invading Arab armies from Jordan and Syria in 1947—all of it in full compliance under international law to be resolved by negotiation.

**Attack #3: Israel's claims to the Holy Land are religiously based.** Many oppose the claim by state Jews and Christians that Israel's right to exist springs from biblical authority. The Zionists in reality is a secular movement, and Israel's right to exist is also supported by indisputable legal, historical and humanitarian rights. While Israel's main religion is indeed Judaism—and it is the world's only Jewish state—of over 400 other nations, mostly Muslims, that designate a state religion, also including China, India and England. Above all, Israel is not a democracy, like Iran, but a secular democracy.

**Attack #4: Israel is an apartheid state.** This attempt to delegitimize Israel is false on its face. Israel is the most diverse state in the Middle East. Its citizens of all races, genders,

ethnicities and religions enjoy equal civil rights—most freedoms that in most of the world's nations. Arabs serve in Israel's legislature, the Knesset, and Supreme Court. The who celebrates the Palestinian's special festival that all Jews be cleaned from their ancient biblical homelands of Judea and Samaria's "Olevent" members?

**Attack #5: Jews are members of a religion, not a race!** "Angels" who serve Jews have always been called by a "heathen" as heathens, the Bible speaks of "the people of Israel"—actual Hebrews who built a sovereign nation, as well as legal, economic and social systems. How are they called by the Hebrew language? Contrary to this delegitimization attempt, there are a distinct people who also share a religion, who also share a religion.

**Attack #6: Some Jews oppose Israel, so that can't be anti-Semitic.** Just as Muslims, or any group can oppose violent racial or ethnic hate against their own people, so can Jews. Jewish liberals or liberal Muslims, Kurds and academics oppose a Jewish state before the Holocaust arrived. Other Jews, such as members of Jewish Voice for Peace or Students for Justice in Palestine, object to Zionism based on the lies and disinformation listed above. The fact remains that specifically targeting Jews—and the world's only national refuge for Jews—in a form of racial hate is in full compliance with international law.

Attempts to delegitimize Israel—whether in the United Nations, college campuses or by the Internet, Disinformation and Sensory manipulation—murder, terror and genocide. Good people will lead the fight for the restoration of civil rights under Martin Luther King, Jr. "The whole world must see that Israel must exist and has the right to exist and is one of the great success stories of humanity."

This message has been published and part for by

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FLAME is the only organization

memorial. Or those who demand that Israel be treated as an international pariah because it has established a Jewish state in its ancient homeland.

Yes, the anti-Semites always have a reason for their hate.

Which brings us to this week's featured FLAME *Hotline* article (see below), a thoughtful, poignant, and compelling analysis by former Harvard professor, Tikva Fund senior fellow and author of "Jews and Power," Ruth Wisse. Wisse draws the line sharply connecting the synagogue shooter and today's Israel haters.

Please pass this brief, but powerful piece to friends, family and fellow congregants to help them understand the raw, hateful nature of anti-Semitism and how it disguises itself behind "polite" criticism of Israeli "apartheid" or "colonialism" in parlor conversations . . . and now even by several Democratic Party candidates.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson  
President, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

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P.S. We may never defeat anti-Semitism or its equally twisted twin, anti-Zionism—but we have an obligation to fight them with every ounce of our being. That's why FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[Anti-Zionism is Racism](#)." I hope you'll review this hard-hitting paid editorial, which will soon begin running in December—for the first time in the *New York Times*. It exposes slander of Israel and opposition to Israel's existence by BDS activists, members of Students for Justice in Palestine and even a few politicians as racist calumnies. These lies need to be called out, and FLAME's new position paper does it boldly. In addition to running in mainstream media, this editorial will be sent to every member of the U.S. Congress and President Trump. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME's powerful ability to influence public opinion—and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you'll consider giving a donation now, as you're able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate online, just go to [donate now](#). Now, more than ever, we need your support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and President Trump stay focused on the true obstacle to peace, which is the lack of a credible Palestinian peace partner.

As of today, more than 15,000 Israel supporters receive the FLAME Hotline at no charge every week. If you're not yet a subscriber, won't you join us in receiving these timely updates, so you can more effectively tell the truth about Israel? Just go to [free subscription](#).

## The Many Faces of Jew-Hatred

**Anti-Semitism is a politics of misdirected blame. Today its most frequent target is the state of Israel.**

By Ruth Wisse, *Wall Street Journal*, November 1, 2018

**In the wake of the shooting in Pittsburgh, a volley of voices** called for more of this or that—armed guards or gun control, barring the doors of synagogues, policing of fringe web platforms or resources for mental health. While President Trump denounced the shooting as "an evil anti-Semitic attack" and visited the grieving community, a sector of the media blamed the president for the incident, as it does for everything else. It was politics as usual.

But instead of prompting a serious inquiry into the ideology that

fuels the murder of Jews, the atrocity seems to be reinforcing a misconception that can only worsen the problem. Anti-Semitism is not synonymous with Hitlerism—the only form of anti-Semitism that has gone down in military defeat. Anti-Semitism is a politics of misdirected blame, and Americans must be sure to avoid its trap.

The shooter is being cast as a neo-Nazi threat. Under the caption "A Day of Broken Glass," a cartoon in the Pittsburgh Current shows broken windows on the Tree of Life synagogue, linking this attack to Germany's Kristallnacht of Nov. 9, 1938, which signaled Nazism's open season on the Jews of Europe. Israel's Education Minister Naftali Bennett made the same association in conveying Israel's sympathy to Pittsburgh community.

**What could be worse than the specter of Nazism here in America?** In fact, it is politically comforting to cast Robert Bowers in this light. Unlike in Germany, where the attacks on Jews were launched by the Führer, our head of government ordered the full press of law enforcement to prosecute the sole gunman. Unlike in Germany, where the SS directed and fomented the attacks on Jews, here four policemen were shot trying to save the Jews. Moreover, the American people are united in horror at this atrocity. If Mr. Bowers represents anti-Semitism, the response to his attack tells us we have relatively little to fear.

Mr. Bowers's shooting—complete with his scream that "all Jews must die"—conveniently fits the stereotype of "evil" that Americans and the Jews among them constructed in the wake of the Holocaust. It seems to ratify our fantasy of the enemy as Darth Vader—blackhearted, ostentatiously murderous and cruel.

The country that lost more than 400,000 servicemen fighting Hitler is not likely to support attacks on synagogues full of Jews. But anti-Jewish politics in America is now bolder than in the 1930s. Never coterminous with Nazism, anti-Semitism becomes truly dangerous to a society only when espoused by its leaders and politicians. Today, the political forces of anti-Semitism most often target Jews through their state.

It was eerie to hear the prime minister of Israel and members of its government, who routinely respond to Pittsburgh-like attacks on Israeli citizens, consoling American Jews for *their* losses. Jews in Israel are threatened daily by Hamas and Hezbollah on two of their borders and by Palestinian Arabs taught and paid to do so by their leaders and coreligionists. Stabbing, blowing up or throwing rocks at Jews is the sport of youngsters raised to hate Jews, and destroying Jewish property with burning projectiles was this summer's chief entertainment of boys in Gaza—from which Israel extracted every last Jew in 2005.

**This Jew-hatred dates from the year Germany surrendered** in World War II, when anti-Semitism became the dominant ideology of the Arab and Muslim Middle East. Just as Europeans organized politics against the Jewish "usurper" among them, the Arab League sought to expel the Jewish people—their fellow Semites. And just as European anti-Semitism united left and right, revolutionaries and traditionalists, internationalists and nationalists, populists and elites, so too anti-Zionism unified otherwise adversarial Arab and Muslim countries.

Assailing Israel deflected blame for domestic flaws in Arab societies. It still does. It redirects grievances against the Jews, inspiring national and religious fervor through opposition to a common enemy. The Jews, a small minority whose power is hugely inflated, are a perennial target, though they have no incentive for counteraggression and every reason to seek acceptance in their usual position among much larger surrounding nations. The typical reaction of the Jews of Pittsburgh was not to call for the death penalty but to reveal that Jewish doctors had treated the shooter. The Jews of Israel imprison but do not execute those who slaughter their women and children. Mr. Bowers has rightly been called a coward for attacking the innocent; so are those who attack Israel.

The most discouraging feature of the anti-Israel brand of anti-Semitism is its penetration of Western societies, including the U.S. That a single shooter wants to kill the Jews is less dangerous to this country than Louis Farrakhan's smiling designation of Jews as "termites," broadcast to a vast audience, or the vicious movement to boycott Israel—an extension of the Arab boycott launched in 1945. The incursion of fanatical anti-Israel politics into the American campus and the Democratic Party is a threat not to the Jews alone but to what they represent in liberal democracy.

**Even as we try to comfort the mourners and suggest better security** measures, we must stop the scourge before a full-fledged anti-Semitic politics emerges in America under the unifying banner of "intersectionality." Anti-Semitism is the only ideology that can unite the far left and far right. Its success would signify America's failure.



Facts and Logic

About the Middle East

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