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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

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## New York Times Struts Its Anti-Semitic Stuff

Dear Friend of FLAME:

The *New York Times* has descended to new lows in its anti-Semitic treatment of Israel and Israel's leadership. In the April 25, 2019 issue of its International edition, the *Times* printed a political cartoon that would have been [right at home in \*Der Sturmer\*](#), the Nazi-era anti-Semitic rag that earned the attention and love of Adolf Hitler and his Reich.

The *New York Times* dutifully issued a tepid retraction within days, attributing the worldwide distribution of this bit of infamy to "an error of judgment" by a production editor at its International-edition offices. It then issued another set of comments admitting that the offending cartoon might have included "anti-Semitic tropes."

The cartoon's vileness is easily seen by anyone: A blind President Trump is being pulled along by his guide-dog, a nasty-looking Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The Netanyahu figure is a [dachshund with a caricature of Netanyahu's visage with exaggerated Jewish features](#). Just in case the viewer is confused about the message, the Portuguese cartoonist, Antonio Mereira Antunez, lends a helping hand by showing a Star of David dogtag hanging off Netanyahu's neck, and a Jewish *yarmulkeh* crowning Trump's head.

This disgraceful bit of handiwork serves as another piece of proof that anti-Zionism is anti-Semitic to its core.

The *New York Times'* rabid contempt for President Trump, and its equally virulent hatred for [Binyamin Netanyahu](#) is exceeded only by its century-old revulsion at both Jews and the very concept of a Jewish state in Israel. If it had merely wanted to suggest that the American leader was following the direction of his Israeli counterpart, there were many images available to present this canard. But *this* cartoon had those extra touches that let the reader know that there is much more to it than that.

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

**What Does BDS Really Want?**

Media often report that the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement is a "protest against Israeli occupation of the West Bank"—but facts prove otherwise.

Some mainstream press and politicians view the BDS position, represented by an aggressive criticism of Israel's policy toward Palestinians. The truth is BDS stands openly against the very essence of Israel's—and ultimately anti-Semitic—mission to deliver the Jewish state.

**What are the facts?**

The U.S. Senate recently passed a landmark bill—the Combating BDS Act—affirming the rights of states to provide compensation that discriminates economically against Israel. While the ACLU, five Israeli and several presidential candidates opposed this Act, saying it violates free speech rights, the bill also denies the fundamental nature of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.

In fact, BDS has nothing to do with political speech and everything to do with commercial discrimination against a specific and ethnic group—Jews—and an attempt to Jewish national self-determination. Imagine those media and politicians speaking in an act of Congress meant to protect the existence of a religiously Jewish or racially black country that is opposed by its citizens solely for religious or racial reasons.

Yes, an Israel-based media outlet misrepresents this precisely the nature of the BDS movement.

**BDS doesn't just criticize Israel policy, it opposes the existence of Israel.** BDS doesn't simply question Israel's "occupation" of its Jewish-occupied territories, Judea-Samaria (the "West Bank"). Rather, BDS opposes Israel's occupation of the entire Holy Land. The BDS design says in all "promotes death to Jews from the Jordan river to the Mediterranean sea—starting on their state's land."

Indeed, BDS founder, Omer Bartov, admits, "It would be a...no." Why do the media neglect this damning fact?

BDS doesn't criticize any other nation for its treatment of Palestinians. While BDS attacks Israel exclusively for its detestable policies in the disputed territories and Gaza, the movement does not criticize any other nation or ethnic group. It points the finger of Palestinian in Syria. It votes no-opinion to brutal discrimination against Palestinians in Arab-Egyptian where for 70 years Palestinians have been prohibited from having their religious services, practicing in many professions and even owning land. This double standard proves that BDS is a Palestinian support group—and it is a anti-Semitic, anti-Israel group, bent on the destruction of the only Jewish state. Why do journalists fail to reveal that BDS doesn't criticize Hamas or the PLO for their open oppression of Palestinians. Israeli-Palestinian

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It was not enough to emphasize the ethnic membership of the "dog" (Netanyahu) by having him sport the Jewish emblem—the *Magen David*—around his neck, it was important to show the blind President of the United States wearing the skullcap of an Orthodox Jew. In other words, the hateful Trump is really an undercover Jew! And he is not just *colluding* with a foreign leader, he is slavishly following this Jewish leader around.

And to think Americans were concerned that Trump was a pawn of Russia. Clearly, this is much worse: The President is clearly a part of the International Jewish Conspiracy—another anti-Semitic trope—or so the *Times* cartoon would have it.

And yet, surprisingly, this vicious anti-Semitic portrayal is not the worst factor about its publication in the *Times*. Its inclusion in the paper reveals more clearly than ever the deep-seated anti-Semitism of the world's "newspaper of record."

The paper's earliest publishers had been virulently anti-Zionist since the Zionist movement's beginnings at the turn of last century. Run by the Jewish Ochs and Sulzberger families, the *Times* reflected a late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century anti-Zionist opinion that was then the official position of the American Reform movement of Judaism. But Reform Judaism awoke to the necessity of a Jewish state after World War II.

Yet the publishers of the *New York Times* decided to cling to their anti-Zionism despite this sea-change in Reform Judaism's view of Jewish peoplehood. To the *Times'* owners and editors, the Holocaust was a mere footnote to World War II. Despite knowing what was happening in Nazi Germany and Nazi-controlled Europe, the *Times* turned a blind eye to the systematic extermination of European Jewry. It is well-documented that the leadership at the *Times* was quite aware of the Nazi death-squads and murder-camps, and ignored these verifiable stories or buried them as minor pieces deep inside the paper's pages. Even the *Times* acknowledged its shameful disregard for the Holocaust in an apologetic editorial published last week about the cartoon scandal.

Throughout Israel's existence, the *Times* has been obsessed with news and editorial coverage besmirching Israel and its leaders.

In one infamous story from 2000, the *Times* published a picture of an Israeli policeman towering over a prone, terrified, Palestinian-looking young man. The hulking policeman was swinging his club menacingly, and the caption informed the reader that this was yet another example of Israeli brutality.

When it turned out that the cop was wielding his club to fight off a rabid Arab mob that wanted to kill the man—who was, as it turns out, an Israeli Jew—the *Times* eventually published a small squib days later that retracted the caption's interpretation of the incident.

According to the *Times'* narrative, Israelis are bloodthirsty and manipulative oppressors of the victimized Palestinian Arabs.

FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

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**FLAME'S WEEKLY  
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FLAME's Hotline e-newsletter keeps you up to date on the most important pro-Israel advocacy issues and features our choice of the week's most informative and thought-provoking article on Israel and the Middle East. If you only subscribe to one pro-Israel news service, make it the FLAME Hotline.

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Throughout all of the wars and strife in Israel and its environs, the *New York Times* has faithfully sided—in both its news and editorial pages—with Israel's adversaries. Even brutal, terrorist Palestinian Arab gangs—such as Hamas, Hezbollah and Fatah—can count on their absurdist press releases and bald-faced lies being faithfully reported and commented on in the *Times*.

It is therefore not too surprising that an International editor would select this cartoon for publication, having [marinated in an anti-Semitic, anti-Zionist stew](#) throughout his or her *Times* career. And, if President Trump can also be savaged, that is icing on the Jew-hating cake.

The *New York Times* has let the world know that it is incapable of providing decent and honest journalism on the topics of Jews, Israel, the Middle East . . . and much more.

FLAME does not support boycotts, although few could blame *Times* subscribers who choose to get their news elsewhere, especially after this incident. But it is important for all who care about matters affecting the Jewish people and Israel to seek [alternative sources of news and opinion](#) so that the *Times'* hateful reporting, editorial content—and now even its cartoons—can be refuted and dismissed as the hateful rubbish that they are.

To express your outrage at the *New York Times* coverage of Israel in general, and this cartoon in particular, contact their editors at [letters@nytimes.com](mailto:letters@nytimes.com).

In talking with friends, family and colleagues, I urge you to make them aware of the grotesque biases of the *New York Times*. Discuss with them the *Times'* inability to self-police even the most [outrageous accusations against Israel](#) and its leadership. Emphasize that this latest example is not just an unfortunate incident of "inadequate oversight": It is an honest expression of the *Times'* long history and its pervasive culture of anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic assaults. Urge them to rely on other sources for their information on Israel and events in the Middle East.

I hope you'll also quickly visit FLAME's lively new [Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's most recent *hasbarah* campaign-on whitewashing misrepresentations made by the media and, alarmingly, by some politicians, about the insidious Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

Best regards,

Ken Cohen  
Editor, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. While the Combating BDS Act overwhelmingly passed the Senate (by a vote of 77-23) in February, some media and politicians, as well as the ACLU, opposed the bill based on its alleged infringement on free speech. Yet this representation is a lie, since BDS does not merely criticize Israel's policies toward Palestinians, but rather opposes Israel's

very existence. This is not a free speech issue, but a thinly veiled hate speech issue. That's why FLAME has created a new hasbarah message called "[What Does BDS Really Want?](#)" I hope you'll review this hard-hitting paid editorial, which began running this month. It exposes the true motives of BDS supporters and explains why they are anti-Semitic at heart. It will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Pence 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 Israel's critical role in protecting U.S. interests in the region—as well as protecting itself.

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