

SEVEN STOLEN NARRATIVES

How Anti-Israel Propagandists Hijack Other People's Stories



Civil Rights March



Native Americans



Apartheid



The Holocaust

SEVEN STOLEN NARRATIVES

Not all situations of conflict are the same, or even similar. Yet, the human need to make sense of the world and categorize things often distorts perceptions and leads to mistaken conclusions.

Such is the case when analogies are made between fundamentally different situations to promote a political agenda. The goal is to hijack people's anger, compassion, fear, sadness, or shame.

Around the country, on college campuses and in the public square, we are witnessing a highly organized attempt to take the different narratives of various communities and tie them to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This manipulation has a goal: to dehumanize Israel and Israelis as evil oppressors while framing Palestinians as powerless victims.

This ongoing drumbeat of demonization has created a hostile environment. It generates an almost theological dimension to the discourse, transforming perceptions of what is essentially a local conflict between two competing national movements into a cosmic battle between good and evil.

While anti-Israel activists use different messages for different audiences, all of their analogies tie back to one central theme: that Israel is yet another example of white Europeans colonizing and oppressing an indigenous people of color (the Palestinians).





This false narrative seeks to obscure the undeniable fact that Jews are indigenous to the land of Israel, where they have had an unbroken presence for 3,000 years. Additionally, over half of Israel's Jews are people of color who fled or were expelled from Arab states.



With dehumanizing slurs like “white colonialist,” anti-Israel extremists seek to erase the history and identity of Israel's people and ultimately strip away the right of Jews to self-determination in their homeland. Instead of promoting a just peace between Israelis and Palestinians, this rhetoric only fuels more conflict and injustice.



Despite the stark differences between the Israeli-Palestinian situation and that of the Black community and other peoples of color in the United States, false and misleading linkages are being made to create an artificial equivalence. This is seen when Gaza is likened to Ferguson or the Israeli security barrier (built to stop suicide bombers) is compared to the fence on the U.S.-Mexico border (built to restrict immigration).



In this booklet, we examine and refute the most common false parallels between the Israeli-Palestinian dispute and the ongoing tensions in American race relations. We will also examine the outright appropriation of Jewish history, culture, oppression and aspirations.

By shining a light on these important issues, we hope to ensure that anti-Israel activists will fail in their efforts to exploit various communities for political gain.

Bottom photo: “Sign @ District 6 Museum, South Africa” by Tim Parkinson, cropped, www.flickr.com/photos/timparkinson/181374598, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>.

INTERSECTIONALITY

INTERSECTIONAL THEORY AS A TOOL

Intersectionality, or intersectional theory, suggests that different forms of oppression such as racism, classism, sexism, anti-Semitism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, and xenophobia do not act independently of each other.

Rather, all these forces interrelate and interact, creating a system or “intersection” of oppression. As such, activists for many different causes use intersectionality as a tool to build diverse coalitions and organize effective political movements.

The Exploitation of Other People's Narratives

In recent years anti-Israel groups have been exploiting intersectionality to promote a destructive political agenda, drawing on false and dehumanizing accusations that connect Israelis to injustices faced by various communities in the United States and elsewhere. One striking example is the outreach by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) to the Black Lives Matters movement using the emotive and misleading slogan “From Ferguson to Palestine, Occupation Is a Crime.”

This deceptive strategy can rightly be described as the exploitation of other peoples’ narratives. This maneuver wrongly likens the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to apartheid South Africa, discrimination against African Americans, Mexican-American border issues, the Holocaust, and even the crucifixion of Jesus.

By distorting the Israeli-Palestinian conflict into a simplistic “good vs. evil” equation, the anti-Israel movement does two things. First, it polarizes the discussion on the Middle East and makes peace more difficult to achieve, and secondly it promotes hatred and diverts attention from the social justice issues facing communities in the United States.

The following examples demonstrate how anti-Israel groups are using other peoples’ suffering as a tool to demonize and dehumanize Israelis. The direct effect of this exploitation is to undermine the causes they exploit.

**Exploiting narratives
manipulates emotions
and misleads.**

STOLEN NARRATIVE NO. 1

EXPLOITING FERGUSON

AND THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT

In 2014, after the fatal shooting of Michael Brown by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, protests erupted. This and other similar shooting incidents that followed in Baltimore, Cleveland, Detroit, Baton Rouge, Minnesota, and elsewhere brought national attention to what many critics describe as systemic police brutality and discrimination against black people. The debate intensified in July 2016 when police shootings of two black men—Philando Castile and Alton Sterling—were followed by two shooting attacks on police in Dallas and Baton Rouge in which eight officers were killed.

During the 2014 Ferguson protests, anti-Israel activists began to introduce the slogan “From Ferguson to Palestine, Occupation Is a Crime” into Black Lives Matter rallies. This slogan is part of a false and malicious narrative that stereotypes Israeli Jews as “white European colonizers” who are oppressing people of color.



This racializing of a national dispute between two peoples does not hold up to reality.

First, the Jewish¹ people are indigenous to Israel, having an unbroken 3,000-year presence there. The land of Israel is the cradle of Jewish culture and heritage. Most of modern Israel's early founders were Jewish refugees from centuries of European oppression, which morphed in the 19th and 20th centuries into a form of white supremacy that led to a continent-wide genocide of Jews. Today the majority of Israeli Jews are in fact people of color. They are refugees from North Africa and the Middle East who fled violence, discrimination, racism, and expulsion by various Arab governments.² Additionally, since 1980 Israel has absorbed nearly 100,000 Ethiopian Jews fleeing war and anti-Jewish persecution in Ethiopia.³

¹ The English word "Jewish" is a rendering of the original indigenous Hebrew word Yehudi, meaning Judean, a person from Judea (Yehuda in Hebrew), much of which is located in today's West Bank. ² For more information on this subject, see Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa at www.JIMENA.org, and Justice for Jews from Arab Countries at www.justiceforjews.com. ³ Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, *Immigrants, by Period of Immigration, Country of Birth and Last Country of Residence* (PDF) from the Statistical Abstract of Israel 2007-No.58

Photo, bottom left: "Black Lives Matter protest march" by Fibonacci Blue, cropped with gradient, www.flickr.com/photos/44550450@N04/23051729395, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>.

Jews of color fled Arab states. Most found refuge in Israel.

	1948	2011		1948	2011
Algeria	140,000	1,500	Libya	38,000	0
Egypt	75,000	100	Morocco	265,000	2,700
Iran	100,000	10,400	Syria	30,000	100
Iraq	150,000	7	Tunisia	105,000	1,000
Lebanon	20,000	0	Yemen	55,000	250

Statistics derived from Mitchell Bard, *Myths and Facts: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 2001, pp. 192-198 and "Vital Statistics: Jewish Population of the World: 1882-Present (2012)," Jewish Virtual Library.

SJP: Falsely Blaming Israel for the Suffering of Black People



NYU Students for Justice in Palestine

July 7, 2016 •

In the past 48 hours another two black men have been lynched by the police. The total number of black people lynched by cops in 2016 now totals 136. We must remember that many US police departments train with the [#IsraeliDefenseForces](#). The same forces behind the genocide of black people in America are behind the genocide of Palestinians. What this means is that Palestinians must stand with our black comrades. We must struggle for their liberation. It is as important as our own. [#AltonSterling](#) is as important as [#AliDawabsheh](#). Palestinian liberation and black liberation go together. We must recognize this and commit to building for it.

[#BlackLivesMatter](#) [#PhilandoCastile](#) [#NoJusticeNoPeace](#)
[#FromBatonRougeToGaza](#) [#PalestiniansForBlackLiberation](#)



After the shootings of Castile and Sterling, the NYU Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) chapter issued a Facebook statement blaming the “genocide of black people in America” on Israelis. This statement is slanderous and obviously meant to cause ill will.

First, only a tiny fraction of the police personnel employed by U.S. state and local law enforcement agencies⁴ have trained in Israel.

Moreover, only senior commanders and staff, not patrol officers on



Georgia police officers taking part in an exchange program at Israeli police headquarters. Credit: Georgia State University.

the beat, participate in the exchange programs to Israel.⁵ They are briefed by Israeli experts, primarily in counter-terrorism. Community policing and crowd control are not discussed. The bottom line is that none of the officers involved in unjustified shootings of black people were trained in Israel beforehand.

The demand to end this exchange program is not only based on a false premise but is also potentially harmful to Americans of all backgrounds. As Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed pointed out in a July 2016 statement, meeting this demand would deprive the U.S. of crucial counter-terrorism knowledge and thus endanger public safety.⁶

International exchange programs between the U.S. and foreign police forces exist with dozens of countries other than Israel:⁷



Argentina	Colombia	Hungary *	Kazakhstan
Australia	Denmark	Indonesia	Korea
Austria	Finland	Italy	The Netherlands
Argentina	France	Indonesia	Romania
Brazil	Georgia	Jamaica	United Kingdom
Canada	Greece	Japan	Uzbekistan
China	Haiti		

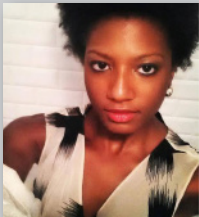
Yet anti-Israel activists fail to mention, let alone blame, any of these numerous other exchange programs for any unjustified police shootings of black people in the U.S. This exposes their bigoted and manipulative agenda.

⁵One-point-one million full-time and 100,000 part-time police personnel are employed by 17,985 U.S. state and local law enforcement agencies. There are a “total of 664 state and local law enforcement academies [that] provided basic training to entry-level officer recruits in the United States. During this period [2011-2013], nearly 135,000 recruits (45,000 per year) entered a basic training program, and 86% completed the program successfully.” See more at President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing, 2015. Final Report of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing. Washington, DC: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Accessed July 26, 2016. www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce_finalreport.pdf. (page 29) ⁶Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) www2.gsu.edu/~crlxf/gilee.htm, LEEP (Law Enforcement Exchange Program of JINSA) www.jinsa.org/events-programs/law-enforcement-exchange-program-leep/all, Anti-Defamation League, www.adl.org, and American Jewish Committee’s Project Interchange, <http://projectinterchange.org>. ⁷The Tower Staff, “Atlanta Mayor: Israel ‘Has Some of the Best Counter-Terrorism Techniques in the World,’” *The Tower*, July 22, 2016. “See for instance Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange. Accessed July 24, 2016. www2.gsu.edu/~crlxf/gilee-programs.htm; Active-Officer Exchange Program, International Police Association, <http://www.ipa-usa.org/?page=exchangeprogram>.

Twenty-eight million Africans have been enslaved in the Muslim world.

Where Is SJP's Condemnation of Ongoing Slave Trade?

Chloé Simone Valdary, director of partnerships at Jerusalem U, replied to SJP's statement with a video tweet in which she said, "You want to exploit my people's history. ... You want to exploit Jewish people's history and twist and turn it to use towards your political gains? You need to check yourself. ... [Y]our governments [in the Arab world] to this day engage in the African slave trade. ... Stay in your lane before you try to comment on everything else because this is not about you. Don't act like you have solidarity with my people."



Chloé Simone Valdary ✓

@cvaldary

How @NYUSJP blame Jews for police brutality
but ya'll still trafficking African slaves?
[#haveeveralseats](#)



Valdary is referring to the fact that over "28 million Africans have been enslaved in the Muslim world during the past 14 centuries."⁸

Most relevant to this issue is that the terrorist organization Hamas has been exposed for profiting from human trafficking of Africans in the Sinai desert.⁹ Also related is the genocide committed by Arab League member Sudan against Africans in Darfur and Hamas' public opposition to efforts to hold the regim accountable for these crimes.¹⁰

Justifying Terrorism?

Another slogan pushing the “intersection” of the crisis in race relations in the U.S. with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is “From Palestine to Ferguson, Resistance is not a Crime.”

This simplistic slogan creates a stark moral question for anti-Israel activists. The “resistance” they celebrate often takes the form of terrorism—including indiscriminate shootings, stabbings, car rammings, suicide bombings, and rocket attacks against unarmed Israeli civilians. By adopting this slogan, are these activists suggesting that the Black Lives Matter movement should abandon non-violence and begin randomly murdering their fellow American citizens?

“Those who hate Israel, and seek to co-opt other struggles into their hate campaign, must be exposed. ... Those who fight against police brutality and an unjust criminal justice system here in America deserve better.”

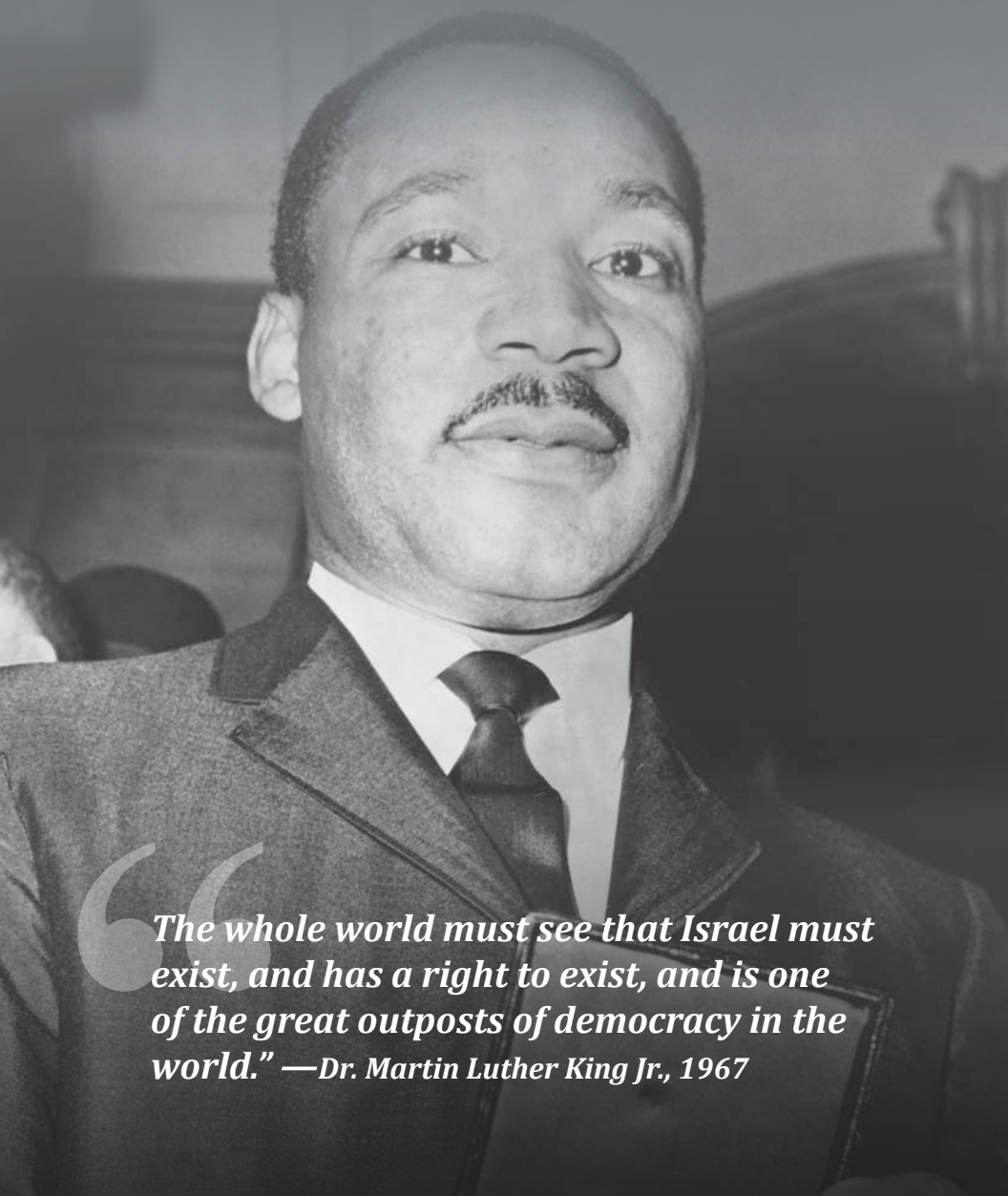
—Ashley Bell, Founder, CEO and Chairman of 20/20 Leaders of America, a bipartisan coalition of black elected officials, legal professionals, and civic and business leaders¹¹

⁸“A Focus on the African Slaves in the Arab World,” *African Echo*, Vol. No: 45. Accessed July 17, 2016. www.africanecho.co.uk/africanechonews5-sept29.html. ⁹Pleitgen, Fred “Human trafficking in the Sinai: to fight it we need to know it,” *EveryOne Group*, February 22, 2013, at www.everyonegroup.com/Everyone/MainPage/Entries/2013/2/22_Human_trafficking_in_the_Sinai_to_fight_it_we_need_to_know_it.html. Myers, Calev, “Hamas’ Sinai Torture Camps,” *Times of Israel*, October 27, 2014, at <http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/hamas-industry-of-death-and-torture/#ixzz3HV2G4Bm2>. ¹⁰See “Darfur Genocide” at World Without Genocide, Mitchell Hamline School of Law, available at <http://worldwithoutgenocide.org/genocides-and-conflicts/darfur-genocide>. ¹¹Africans for Peace, “New Perspectives on Israel and Palestine,” 2016, at <http://africansforpeace.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Africans-For-Peace-Perspectives-On-Israel-And-Palestine.pdf>.

STOLEN NARRATIVE NO. 2

CO-OPTING

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT



“The whole world must see that Israel must exist, and has a right to exist, and is one of the great outposts of democracy in the world.” —Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 1967



Jewish leaders actively joined the civil rights marchers at the March on Washington, August 28, 1963.



At this Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade in Texas (2013), anti-Israel activists piggyback on MLK's legacy to promote their agenda.

The civil rights movement of the 1960s has also been targeted for appropriation by anti-Israel activists. The movement reached its zenith in the 1950s and 1960s, culminating in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It was “the largest social movement of the 20th century in the United States.”¹² Its aim was to secure for African Americans equal access to and opportunities for the “basic privileges and rights of U.S. citizenship.”¹³

One of the movement’s primary leaders, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was assassinated by a white supremacist in 1968. Since then, anti-Israel propagandists have tried to co-opt MLK’s legacy to push their own agenda. This is especially offensive given that MLK and many of his closest colleagues identified as Zionists and strongly supported Israel’s right to exist.

¹² “Civil Rights Movement: An Overview,” Scholastic, accessed July 31, 2016. www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/civil-rights-movement-overview. ¹³ Ibid.

STOLEN NARRATIVE NO. 3

EXPLOITING

U.S.-MEXICO BORDER ISSUES



FACTOID

65 COUNTRIES—
ONE-THIRD

OF THE WORLD—HAVE BORDER FENCES

The issues surrounding immigration and the Mexican-American border are a major controversy in the U.S., whose population—with the exception of Native Americans—is entirely comprised of immigrants from around the world. The issue is complex, multi-layered, and often highly emotional. The questions involve the right of nations to secure their borders under international law, the use of the term “illegal alien”—seen by many as dehumanizing and others as an accurate description. Other strongly debated topics include amnesty, deportations, discrimination, and possible terrorist infiltration.

Since 2006, the U.S. has been building a fence along its border. This is part of a larger global trend—according to the *Daily Mail*, “security fears and a widespread refusal to help migrants and refugees have fueled a new spate of wall-building across the world, with a third of the world’s countries constructing them along their borders.”¹⁴

¹⁴ Tomlinson, Simon, “World of Walls: How 65 countries have erected fences on their borders – four times as many as when the Berlin Wall was toppled – as governments try to hold back the tide of migrants,” *Daily Mail*, August 21, 2015. Accessed July 24, 2016. www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3205724/How-65-countries-erected-security-walls-borders.html#ixzz4FJVqFJEK.



India's security fence

Countries with BORDER

MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA, AND CENTRAL ASIA

	Immigration	Security	Trafficking	Territorial	Smuggling	Other
Algeria	✓	✓	✓			
Egypt	✓			✓		
Kuwait	✓			✓		
Morocco		✓				
Oman		✓				
Saudi Arabia	✓	✓	✓			
Tunisia	✓	✓				
United Arab Emirates	✓	✓				
Yemen		✓				
Iran	✓	✓	✓			
Pakistan	✓	✓			✓	
Turkey	✓	✓				

AFRICA

Botswana						✓
Namibia						✓
Somalia	✓	✓				
South Africa	✓					

Fences

And Cited Reasons (Sampling Of 28 Out Of 65 Countries)¹⁵

EUROPE

Bulgaria

Immigration	Security	Trafficking	Territorial	Smuggling	Other
✓					
			✓		
✓					
✓					
✓					
✓				✓	
✓					

Cyprus

Greece

Hungary

Macedonia

Spain

Sweden

ASIA

China

India

Malaysia/Thailand

South Korea

			✓		
✓	✓			✓	
	✓	✓		✓	
	✓		✓		

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil

✓		✓			
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¹⁵ "More neighbours make more fences," *The Economist* (UK), January 7, 2016. Accessed July 26, 2016. www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2016/01/daily-chart-5.



*“As individuals ...
concerned with the
fate of victims of
racial, ethnic and
religious prejudice ...
we feel a particular
sense of solidarity
with Israel’s struggle
to survive as a
democracy in peace.”*

—Cesar Chavez, 1973

Exploiting The Immigration Debate To Attack Israel

Seeking to drive a wedge between Latino communities and Israel, anti-Israel activists are making false comparisons between Israel’s security barrier and the U.S.-Mexico border fence. For example, one such activist wrote the following about a “mock separation wall” set up at Princeton University: “The mock separation wall may only separate chunks of grass, but its real counterpart separates people on the basis of ethnicity. From the U.S.-Mexico to Israel-Palestine, these walls are apartheid walls. ... It is the intersection of these two issues that ‘The Wall,’ a collaborative art installment ... seeks to highlight.”¹⁶ Sometimes, iconic Latino civil rights leaders are also used to promote anti-Israel narratives—like Cesar Chavez, who in fact vocally supported Israel during his life.

This misleading and offensive rhetoric makes it more difficult to have a reasonable debate about both immigration reform in the U.S. and how to best resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Meanwhile, the other 64 nations (one-third of the UN’s members) that have constructed their own barriers are spared such dishonest comparisons.

¹⁶ Sakha, Sarah, “Call it what it is: Apartheid Walls in the West Bank and Mexico,” *The Princeton Progressive*, February 13, 2016. Accessed July 24, 2016. <http://princetonprogressive.com/2016/02/13/call-it-what-it-is-apartheid-walls-in-the-west-bank-and-mexico>.

The Key Differences Between The Two Barriers

ISRAEL'S SECURITY BARRIER

Built To Stop Terrorism And Save Lives

The Israeli security barrier was put in place as a direct response to the massive campaign of violence carried out by Palestinian terrorists from 2000 to 2005. This “second intifada” was directed by terrorist groups like Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Al Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigade, and others. Like the terror campaign by ISIS in Europe and the U.S.

today, they primarily targeted civilians in Israeli restaurants, nightclubs, streets, buses, and trains. They used suicide bombers, shootings, knifings, car rammings, and cross-border rocket attacks. Some 1,100 Israelis—mainly civilians of all backgrounds, including Jews, Arabs, Druze,

Bedouin, Muslims, and Christians—were murdered; thousands more were maimed for life. Americans, too, have been victimized. One striking example is the July 31, 2002, Hamas bombing in a Hebrew University cafeteria that murdered American students Marla Bennett from San Diego and Benjamin Blutstein from Harrisburg. Three other Americans were also killed: Janis Ruth Coulter from Boston, Dina Carter from North Carolina, and David Gritz, a dual U.S.-French national.

A Palestinian suicide bomb attack on an Israeli bus, March 5, 2003, 17 people murdered, 53 injured.



Most terrorists crossed into Israel from the West Bank, which had no fence or barrier from 1967 to 2003. Terrorists could simply walk into Israel and kill innocent people.

After Israel built the security barrier, the number of deaths from terrorist attacks declined by over 98 percent.¹⁷

¹⁷ Civilian casualty ratio Sept. 2000-2009—Israeli Security Agency, “Distribution of Fatalities from Palestinian-based terrorism in the second Intifadah,” 2009, at www.shabak.gov.il/English/EnTerrorData/Reviews/Pages/terror-victims.aspx.

The Key Differences Between The Two Barriers

THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER FENCE Primarily About Immigration

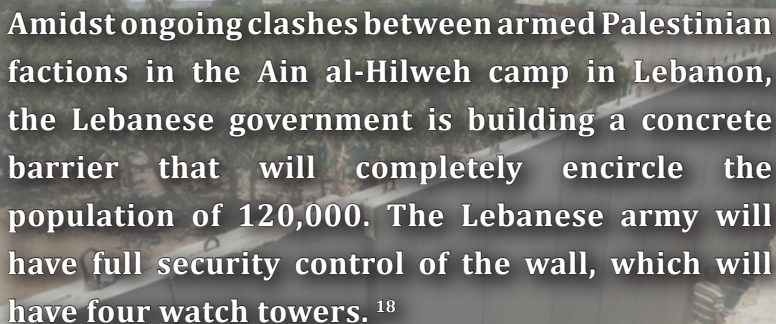
As with many of the 65 countries with barriers on their borders, the U.S.-Mexico border fence was built mainly to control immigration, drug trafficking and criminals. In stark contrast, the Israeli security barrier exists to prevent racist terrorist groups from harming Israeli civilians of all religious and ethnic backgrounds.

The U.S.-Mexico border fence is part of a larger domestic debate over immigration reform. The debate's polar extremes are defined by those arguing against any rights for undocumented immigrants and wishing to see them deported en masse and those who contend that the border between the U.S. and Mexico should be completely open.

The mainstream discussion, however, hovers around how to find a balance between the legitimate needs of the U.S. to secure its borders and how to make that consistent with humanitarian values, human rights, and the treatment of all immigrants with dignity and respect. These two considerations are based on the following principles:

- All sovereign countries have the right to establish who may enter and remain within their borders according to international law.

WORTH NOTING



Amidst ongoing clashes between armed Palestinian factions in the Ain al-Hilweh camp in Lebanon, the Lebanese government is building a concrete barrier that will completely encircle the population of 120,000. The Lebanese army will have full security control of the wall, which will have four watch towers.¹⁸

¹⁸ "Wall Around, Ain al-Hilweh Palestinian Camp is Nearly Done," The961.com (Lebanon), February 24, 2017, www.the961.com/wall-ain-al-hilweh-palestinian-camp.

- The individual rights of immigrants—documented or undocumented—should be meticulously evaluated by federal and state governments and their law enforcement agencies in accordance with fundamental American principles of equality, fairness, and due process of law.

Those who exploit this complex issue to promote an anti-Israel agenda are manipulating emotions and creating a false and toxic narrative. They conflate generally peaceful immigrants with terrorists who seek to harm Israeli civilians and effectively blame Israel for domestic problems in America. This approach is intellectually dishonest and damaging, both to communities in the United States and efforts to achieve peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

A FINAL NOTE On Why Israel's Security Barrier Still Exists

Before the previously mentioned second intifada began in 2000, Israel offered Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat 100 percent of Gaza and 97 percent of the West Bank so that he could establish the first Palestinian state in history. Had he accepted the offer, the security barrier never would have been built, but he rejected it and chose war instead.

This was not the first time Palestinian leaders rejected offers for full independence. In 1937 the British proposed the creation of an Arab state and a very small Jewish state. Two years later in 1939, the British issued a “White Paper” that proposed the creation of an Arab state and no Jewish state. This, too, was rejected by the Palestinian leadership.

In 1947 the UN partition plan envisioned a two-state compromise

solution. Again, it was rejected by Palestinian Arab leaders, who opted for war instead.

Then in 1979 the Egypt-Israel peace agreement included a plan for Palestinian autonomy, a first step toward full independence. Again, it was rejected by Palestinian leaders. Finally, in 2008, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert met with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and offered a withdrawal from almost the entire West Bank with major compromises on Jerusalem. Abbas rejected this offer too.

It should be noted that from 1949 to 1967 the West Bank was controlled by Jordan and the Gaza Strip by Egypt. During this time, Palestinian leaders did not demand an independent state from Jordan and Egypt.

STOLEN NARRATIVE NO. 4

EXPLOITING

THE SUFFERING OF NATIVE AMERICANS



When European empires (British, French, Spanish, Dutch, and Russian) conquered and colonized the Americas, they caused the destruction of most (an estimated 90 percent) of the indigenous population through violence and the spread of European-borne illnesses to which Native Americans had no immunity. The U.S. and Canada also stole their land and forced the survivors onto “reservations.” This is widely considered a genocide.

Seeking to exploit this historical trauma, many anti-Israel activists make misleading comparisons between the European conquest and colonization of the Americas and the reestablishment of a Jewish state in the land of Israel.

The argument usually goes something like this: “This [Jewish] yearning to settle in Palestine is reminiscent of the American colonialist rhetoric of ‘manifest destiny,’ used to validate U.S. expansionism in Native American lands and subsequently native dispossession and ethnic cleansing.”¹⁹

For those unfamiliar with Jewish history, culture, religion, and civilization, this distorted comparison may be convincing. But in the eyes of those who are more educated on the issues, including numerous Native American leaders and activists, this narrative rings false.

According to David Sickey, vice chair of the Sovereign Nation of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, “once we began to look into it, we found similar stories about the plight of Native Americans and the Jewish people, the search for homelands, banishment from our homelands, adversity and persecution. We both also have modern-day challenges of security and land rights.” He also notes that the Jewish people and his tribe “still speak our ancient language fluently.”

Ryan Bellerose, a Métis First Nations activist from Northern Alberta, resents the hijacking of his people’s narrative. He writes, “Though Palestinian propagandists love to characterize Zionism (that is, Jewish nationalism) and the re-establishment of Israel in 1948 as

¹⁹Elmor, Osama, “The American colonization of Palestine,” Mondoweiss, November 16, 2015. Accessed July 26, 2016. <http://mondoweiss.net/2015/11/american-colonization-palestine/#sthash.0RBFr0Ti.dpuf>.

**“To claim the Jews
are colonizers in the
Holy Land delegitimizes all
indigenous peoples.”**

**—Ryan Bellerose, Native American
of the Métis people in Canada**

colonial enterprises, it is the Jews who are aboriginal to the Holy Land. Alone among other nations, Jews’ language, history, culture and folklore were born and forged in the Holy Land. There is no statute of limitations on being indigenous.”

Bellerose argues, “to claim the Jews are colonizers in the Holy Land delegitimizes all indigenous peoples because such attempts trivialize the unbreakable, maternal ties to the land that make us, like the Jews, indigenous.” He also notes that anti-Israel activists are generally “silent with respect to the rights of indigenous peoples still dominated by Arab states from Morocco to Iraq.”

Bellerose is speaking of the Amazigh people, who are the “indigenous inhabitants of North Africa since time immemorial”;²⁰ the Copts of Egypt; the Judeans (Jews) of Judea; the Kurds of Iraq, Syria, Iran, and Turkey; the Assyrians of Iraq; the Maronites of Lebanon; and other indigenous peoples of the Middle East and North Africa that were vanquished and subjugated by conquering Arabian armies in the seventh century CE.²¹

The history of the indigenous peoples of the Americas and the indigenous people of Judea are analogous in that both were conquered, massacred, and scattered by Western colonialists. When imperial Rome destroyed Judea and burned Jerusalem after a major Judean uprising in 135 CE, Emperor Hadrian changed the name of the country from Judea to “Palestina” in an effort to wipe the Jewish people’s memory of their ancestral homeland.

Subsequent empires (Byzantine, Arab/Islamic, Turkish, and British) retained this colonial name, and the remaining Jews lived as a subjugated people in their own homeland.

Native Americans suffered a similar fate, having been subjugated and decimated by overseas invaders while becoming strangers in their own lands. They, too, saw foreign names imposed on their territories by foreign empires. In light of these facts, the exploitation of the Native American narrative to perpetuate hatred against Israel is particularly offensive, manipulative, and dishonest.



In an article criticizing anti-Israel activity, Robert Joseph, chief of the Gwawaenuk First Nation and ambassador for Reconciliation Canada, wrote that “both Jews and Palestinians have the right to their own land, where they can safely live side by side in peace.” With their shameless propaganda, anti-Israel activists only make this goal more difficult to achieve.



²⁰“Berbers: The Empire Without Borders,” www.temehu.com/imazighen/berbers.htm, accessed January 29, 2017. ²¹“CE” (Common Era) is a non-sectarian term used in place of the specifically Christian “AD” (*anno Domini*, or year of our Lord).

Photo: “camp palestine” by Becker1999, cropped with gradient, www.flickr.com/photos/becker271/31015393134/, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>.

STOLEN NARRATIVE NO. 5

EXPLOITING SOUTH AFRICAN APARTHEID



BOYCOTT APARTHEID
ISRAEL



"Free Palestine Protest in Whitehall London against Netanyahu's visit February 6 2017 (16)" by DAVID HOLT, cropped with gradient and repeated as a collage, www.flickr.com/photos/zongo/32708444456, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>.

Israel is a democratic and Jewish state and the only consistently free country in the Middle East according to human rights watchdog Freedom House. The rights of all its citizens—Jews, Arabs, Druze, Muslims, and Christians and others—are protected equally under the law. All citizens vote in free and fair elections for the party of their choice. Israeli Arabs are members of Israel's parliament (Knesset); sit at all levels of the judiciary, including Israel's Supreme Court; have equal access to all institutions of higher education; and enjoy the same rights as Israeli Jews to freedom of expression, press, and religion. Anti-Israel activists falsely accuse Israel of “apartheid” partly to obscure its undeniable and inspiring success as a diverse democracy.



While Israel's policies in the West Bank and Gaza are more controversial, they also do not constitute apartheid. Israel has never annexed these areas, and Palestinians living there are not Israeli citizens. Most Palestinians in these territories live under Palestinian jurisdiction. They have their own governments and leaders: Hamas in Gaza and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.²² Most importantly, the vast majority of Palestinians do not want to be part of the Jewish state. They want their own state that fulfills their aspirations to nationhood. This was made clear after 1967, when Israel offered Palestinians in East Jerusalem full citizenship but nearly all of them refused for political reasons.²³ Israel made peace offers in 2000 and 2008 that would have ended occupation and led to the establishment of a fully independent Palestinian state. Palestinian leaders rejected both offers and refused to even start negotiating for peace again until 2013.²⁴

Thus, Israel is still in the West Bank primarily because Palestinian leaders have rejected serious and substantive Israeli peace offers. So Israel cannot and should not be held solely responsible for the current situation. Until the two sides reach a peace agreement,

“Few of those who suffered from apartheid directly have bought into [the apartheid analogy]. ... [R]acism and discrimination do not form the rationale for Israel’s policies and actions.” —*Rhoda Kadalie, former member of the South African Human Rights Commission*

safety measures like checkpoints (which have been drastically reduced since 2005) and the security barrier are necessary to ensure the daily safety and survival of Israeli civilians and do not constitute “apartheid.”

Israel’s security measures do not exist to separate people based on race, religion, ethnicity, or nationality. They exist to separate terrorists from their intended victims—Israelis of all religions and ethnicities.

So, what is the real reason the word “apartheid” is flung at Israel? There are a number of explanations, but fostering understanding and reconciliation between two peoples in conflict is not one of them.

“Apartheid” is used precisely because it provokes and inflames emotions. When applied to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, “apartheid” cuts off discussion and prevents dialogue between people.

This fallacious charge gained traction at the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Forum of the 2001 UN Anti-Racism Conference in Durban, South Africa. The NGOs issued a declaration calling Israel “a racist, apartheid state” and called on the “international community to impose a policy of complete and total isolation of Israel as an apartheid state.”

The goal of linking Israel with apartheid South Africa is to tarnish Israel’s name and to delegitimize the Jewish people’s inalienable right to self-determination and equality among nations.

**“Apartheid” is used
precisely because it provokes
and inflames emotions.**



This is the same goal as when the Soviet Union, one of history's worst human rights offenders, led the effort to brand Zionism as "racism" at the UN in 1975 as part of the Cold War between liberal democracies and totalitarian communist regimes.

Even though this resolution was repealed in 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed, politicized NGOs claiming a universal human rights agenda revived the strategy at Durban.

It is not surprising that many South Africans who suffered under apartheid resent having their narrative hijacked in this manner. South African Parliament Member Kenneth Meshoe has said, "I am shocked by the claim that the free, diverse, democratic state of Israel practices apartheid. This ridiculous accusation trivializes the word apartheid, minimizing and belittling the racism and suffering endured by South Africans of color."

²²Goldstone, Richard, "Israel and the Apartheid Slander," *New York Times*, October 31, 2011, at www.nytimes.com/2011/11/01/opinion/israel-and-the-apartheid-slander.html?_r=0; Rhoda Kadalie and Julia I. Bertelsmann, "Franchising 'Apartheid': Why South Africans Push the Analogy," *Z Word*, March, 2008, at http://web.archive.org/web/20110718150740/http://www.z-word.com/uploads/assets/documents/Franchising%20Apartheid_sbHFe7yX.pdf

²³Dumper, Michael, "The Politics of Jerusalem Since 1967," 1997, Institute for Palestine Studies, at <http://books.google.com/books?id=Os3pePtyUwC&pg=PA48&lpg=PA48&dq=israel+offered+citizenship+east+jerusalem+palestinians&source=bl&ots=Sp8OmRS8rN&sig=HmE3u6ZzyAgIRASUDztcxjUhKjg&hl=en&sa=X-&ei=dTh9U7zxAdba0AS41oHQA&ved=0CDkQ6AEwAjgU#v=onepage&q&f=false> Jewish Virtual Library, "Actual Proposal Offered at Camp David," 2000, at www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Peace/rossmap2.html; Aluf Benn, "Haaretz Exclusive: Olmert's plan for peace with the Palestinians," December 19, 2009, at www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/haaretz-exclusive-olmert-s-plan-for-peace-with-the-palestinians-1.1970

APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA

vs. Democratic Israel

Blacks in Apartheid South Africa	Arab Citizens of Democratic Israel
The white minority population controlled the government and oppressed the black majority.	Israel, a Jewish-majority state, respects pluralism and democracy for all its citizens.
Lawmakers segregated blacks and deprived them of equal rights and opportunities.	All minorities, including Israeli Arabs, enjoy full and equal rights as citizens of the state, including representation in the government, freedom to organize, and full protection under the law.
Blacks were excluded from central government and denied the right to vote in national elections.	Israeli Arabs are citizens with full voting rights and political parties; Arab citizens are represented in the Knesset (Parliament) either by predominantly Arab parties or as members of predominantly Jewish parties.
Restricted movement—blacks could not enter white-only areas without special permits.	Absolute freedom of movement is guaranteed by law all over Israel for all citizens.
Strictly segregated residential communities were enforced by law. Blacks were forced into impoverished regions.	Israelis of all ethnicities and religions legally may live in any municipality within Israel. There are many mixed cities and towns (e.g., Jerusalem, Haifa, Akko, Jaffa, Lod, etc.).
There were separate and inferior public facilities for non-whites, including buses, trains, parks, beaches, libraries, hospitals, and schools. Quality universities were restricted to whites only.	All public facilities are fully integrated. Israeli Arabs attend Israel's top universities and are among the most educated people in the Middle East. For example, Israeli Arabs serve at the highest levels of major hospital administrations.
A racist legal system ensured harsher penalties for blacks. Black South Africans could be executed for raping whites, but whites could only be fined for raping blacks.	All people are treated equally under Israeli law.

Toward A More

PERFECT DEMOCRACY

No democratic society is a final product, and each one is always a work in progress. The essence of democracy is the freedom and ability for citizens to effect change. Like all multi-ethnic democracies, Israel struggles with discrimination and the disadvantages its minorities face, but its laws are meant to eradicate—not institutionalize—these problems.²⁵ There are many Israelis, both in Israel's government and in its open and thriving civil society sector, who devote their lives to ending discrimination and promoting equality for Israel's minorities.²⁶ Israeli universities, for instance, have enacted effective affirmative action programs to help Arab citizens overcome the disadvantages they face.²⁷



²⁵Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, 2012, Israel and the Occupied Territories," U.S. Department of State, 2013, at www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm#wrapper ²⁶Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, 2012, Israel and the Occupied Territories," U.S. Department of State, 2013, at www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm#wrapper ²⁷Qanta Ahmed, "The Poverty of Boycotting Israel," *Haaretz*, July 25, 2013, at www.haaretz.com/opinion/.premium-1.537930

STOLEN NARRATIVE NO. 6

EXPLOITING

AND “INVERTING” THE HOLOCAUST



The Holocaust, which took place from 1938 to 1945, continues to deeply impact Jewish identity, politics, and sense of security in today's world. In some respects, this parallels the impact of slavery and Jim Crow on identity and politics in the Black community.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum describes the Holocaust (Shoah in Hebrew) as being “the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by

the Nazi regime and its collaborators.”²⁸ It was a continent-wide genocide affecting almost every country in Europe and even parts of the Middle East and North Africa. No Jewish community was left untouched, and in some countries like Poland, about 90 percent of the Jews were exterminated.²⁹

The Nazi murder machine included industrialized death camps designed to slaughter, by mass gassing, tens of thousands of human beings daily. Other methods the Nazis used included death squads that rounded up and shot hundreds of thousands of Jews. The Babi Yar massacre of the Jewish population of Kiev, where the Nazis shot over 33,000 Jews in September 1941, is one of the most notorious.³⁰

Deprived of medical care and adequate rations while forced into squalid, walled ghettos, hundreds of thousands of Jews perished from disease and starvation. The Nazis also worked to death an untold number of Jews in slave labor camps. They even used Jewish prisoners, including children, as human guinea pigs in ghastly medical experiments.³¹

Anne Frank

One of 1.5 million murdered Jewish children

Over one and one-half million Jewish children were murdered by the Nazis.³² One was Anne Frank, a 15-year-old girl who died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp along with her sister and mother. She became a symbol of the murdered Jewish children after her diary was published after her death.

Seeing an opportunity to score propaganda points, some anti-Israel activists appropriate Anne Frank’s memory and the Holocaust in general to demonize Israelis and paint Palestinians as helpless

²⁸“Introduction to the Holocaust,” United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, accessed July 26, 2016. www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005143. ²⁹“The Jewish victims by country,” Anne Frank Guide (website). Accessed July 29, 2016. www.annefrankguide.net/en-US/bronnenbank.asp?oid=20747. ³⁰“Kiev and Babi Yar,” United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, accessed August 8, 2016. www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005421.

³¹For extensive bibliographies on Holocaust history, see the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website at www.ushmm.org/research/research-in-collections/search-the-collections/bibliography, or the Basic Bibliography of the Holocaust at the Holocaust Resource Center of the Yad VaShem World Holocaust Remembrance Center at http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/holocaust/resource_center/bibliography.asp#prettyPhoto. ³²See the Children’s Memorial web page of the Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Center, accessed August 8, 2016. www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/remembrance/childrens_memorial.asp.

victims. One example is the Dutch artist T, who Photoshopped a Palestinian keffiyeh onto Anne Frank's likeness. Ironically, if she were alive and living as a Jew in either Europe or Israel, she would be a target of terrorists.

Historian Alvin H. Rosenfeld explains, "Anyone familiar with the ongoing Arab-Israeli war knows that Palestinians are being killed, as are Israelis, but not because of their 'identities' or anything else that bears resemblance to the motives behind the killing of Anne Frank."³³



What anti-Israel activists are doing is known as "Holocaust Inversion."

Anne Frank's Family Speaks Out

"As members Anne Frank's family, we are saddened by the use of her memory to highlight the problems of the Palestinians, which in no way compare with the systematic, industrial slaughter of the Jewish people. To equate life there with Nazi Germany is obscene.

One of us lives in Amsterdam, the city where Anne lived and grew up from the age of four. The other lives in Israel and spends his life working in the Israeli Arab sector and with West Bank Palestinians."

—**Yopi Frank and Baruch (Barend) Velleman, Anne Frank's relatives**, who lost most of their family in the Holocaust. Baruch's grandmother Femmetje and his aunt Clara, who went to school with Anne, were also hidden in Amsterdam in the same period and were also betrayed and murdered—Femmetje in Sobibor, Clara in Auschwitz. Baruch's Arab friends and colleagues accept that Anne, if she had lived, may well have come to Israel, helping to build a Jewish state, based on justice and equality, cooperating in friendship with a neighboring Palestinian state.

Holocaust Inversion Defined

Writing for the left-leaning UK journal *Fathom*, Lesley Klaff states, “What has been called ‘Holocaust Inversion’ involves an inversion of reality (the Israelis are cast as the ‘new’ Nazis and the Palestinians as the ‘new’ Jews), and an inversion of morality (the Holocaust is presented as a moral lesson for, or even a moral indictment of ‘the Jews’). ... In short, the Holocaust... is now being used, instrumentally, as a means to express animosity towards the homeland of the Jews.”

This cynical tactic used by anti-Israel activists is especially shameful because the Holocaust was not solely a European matter. Shortly after the Nazis came to power, Palestinian Arab leader Haj Amin al-Husseini (and other Arab nationalists) began making contact with the Nazi regime.³⁴ The British sought to arrest al-Husseini in 1937, but he escaped to Iraq, where he made contact with other pro-Nazi Arab nationalists. There al-Husseini played a key role in a pro-Nazi coup d’etat in 1941, which led to the massacre of some 200 Jews in Baghdad and Basra. Hundreds more were wounded, and much Jewish property was destroyed. This Nazi-inspired massacre (called the Farhoud in Arabic) marked the beginning of the end for Iraq’s 150,000 Jews, an ancient community that by the 1960s had been almost entirely ethnically cleansed.^{35 36}

Al-Husseini next went to Berlin. He worked closely with Heinrich Himmler, head of the dreaded SS and architect of the Holocaust.³⁷ Al-Husseini directed anti-Semitic Nazi radio broadcasts to the Arabic-speaking world.³⁸ He also established two Bosnian Muslim Waffen SS divisions that fought anti-Nazi partisans in Yugoslavia.³⁹

³³Rosenfeld, Alvin H., “Anne Frank and the Future of Holocaust Memory,” United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, October 14, 2004, accessed July 31, 2016. www.ushmm.org/m/pdfs/Publication_OP_2005-04-01.pdf. ³⁴Mallmann, Klaus-Michael and Cüppers, Martin, *Nazi Palestine: The Plans for the Extermination of the Jews in Palestine*, Enigma Books, New York in association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2010. Originally published in Germany as *Halbmond und Hakenkreuz: das Dritte Reich, die Araber und Palästina*, Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, Darmstadt, 2005. ³⁵Benjamin, Marina, *Last Days in Babylon: The Story of the Jews of Baghdad*, Bloomsbury Publishing, London, 2007. ³⁶By the 1970s, practically all Jews in Arab countries, close to 1 million, were forced to flee their homes by 10 Arab governments, which confiscated their personal and communal properties. About two-thirds went to Israel as penniless refugees and today their descendants are the majority of Israel’s Jewish citizens. ³⁷Herf, Jeffrey, *Nazi Propaganda for the Arab World*, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 2009. Pages 90, 198–199. ³⁸*Ibid.* ³⁹Dalín, David G., and Rothmann, John F., *Icon of Evil: Hitler’s Mufti and the Rise of Radical Islam*, Random House, New York, 2008, page 56.



Haj Amin al-Husseini
Palestinian Mufti of Jerusalem

Adolf Hitler
Leader, Nazi Party

In November 1941 al-Husseini met Hitler in Berlin. The meeting's official minutes document Hitler promising al-Husseini, "Germany's only remaining objective in the region would be limited to the annihilation of the Jews living under British protection in Arab lands."⁴⁰

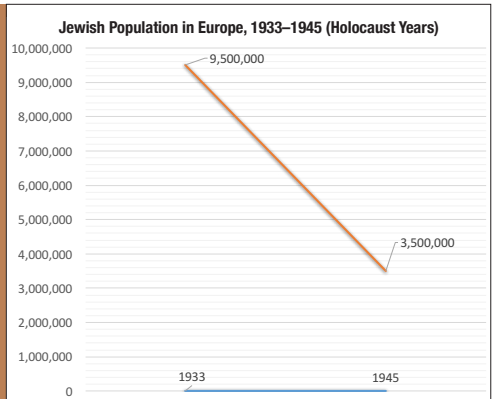
Indeed, the Nazis, with al-Husseini's collaboration, planned to bring about the mass annihilation of all Jews in the Middle East and North Africa, including in the British Mandate of Palestine. The Nazis established concentration camps in German-occupied Tunisia, where about 2,500 Tunisian Jews perished.⁴¹ Only the Allied victory against German forces at Al Alamein in late 1942 prevented the Holocaust from being carried out in the Middle East.⁴²

After World War II al-Husseini escaped trial for Nazi war crimes and returned to the Middle East, where he began agitating for war against the Jews in the British Mandate.⁴³ His efforts resulted in the Arab states rejecting all proposed compromises with the emerging Jewish state and the Arab side's launching of the war of 1947–49, which they lost.

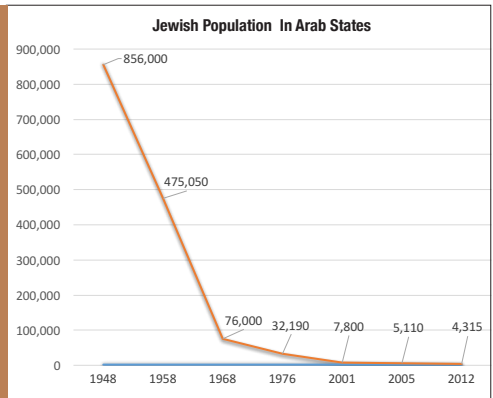
⁴⁰ Minutes cited in Fleming, Gerald, *Hitler and the Final Solution*, University of California Press (1988), page 101-104. ⁴¹ Ward, Seth, *Holocaust in North Africa*, SephardicGen Resources, 1997. Accessed July 29, 2016. www.sephardicgen.com/holocaust.HTM. ⁴² Mallmann and Cüppers, op.cit. ⁴³ Karsh, Efraim, *Palestine Betrayed*, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 2010. Page 82.

The Terms
“ETHNIC CLEANSING” AND “GENOCIDE”
Cannot Be Applied
to the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

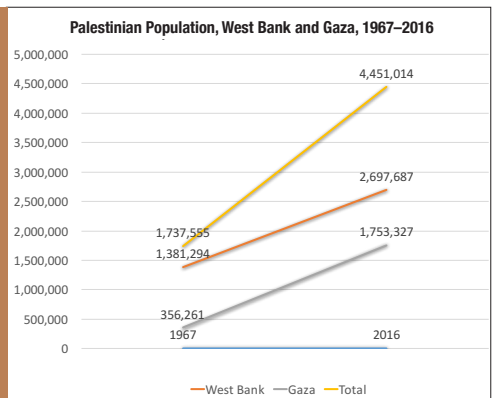
**This is
genocide.**



**This is ethnic
cleansing.**



**This is none
of the above.**



STOLEN NARRATIVE NO. 7

APPROPRIATING

JESUS AND JEWISH HISTORY



Stolen Narrative

Co-opting Jesus for Palestinian Nationalism

The claim that “Jesus was a Palestinian” is used to deny Jewish history and promote anti-Israel narratives. By denying Jesus’ Jewish identity⁴⁴ and replacing it with a Palestinian one, anti-Israel propagandists seek to negate Jewish ties to the land of Israel. This is cultural appropriation.

Despite its historic inaccuracies, this slogan has taken on a life of its own as it is constantly promoted by Palestinian leaders and anti-Israel activists in western churches.

Its promotion is “rooted in an audacious strategy adopted by the Palestinian Authority to deny Israel’s right to exist by distorting Jewish history. Part of this strategy involves denying that Jesus was a Jew from Judea and turning him into a Palestinian.”⁴⁵

The slogan ignores the actual history of the period.

According to Christian tradition, Jesus was born in the year 6 BCE⁴⁶ in “Bethlehem in Judea.”⁴⁷ He was crucified by the Romans in Jerusalem in the year 28 CE.

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem.” —*Matthew 2:1*

Some 38 years after the death of Jesus, in the years 66–70 CE, a major Judean uprising (the First Jewish Revolt) against imperial Roman rule was crushed. Roman forces destroyed Jerusalem and burned the Jewish temple there.

⁴⁴Jesus is accepted by most scholars as having been a Galilean Jew. See for instance Maier, Paul L., *The Date of the Nativity and Chronology of Jesus in Chronos, Kairos, Christos* by Jerry Vardaman, Edwin M. Yamauchi 1989 (pages 113–129), or Köstenberger, Andreas J., *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament*, 2009 (page 114). ⁴⁵Phillips, Melanie, “‘Jesus Was a Palestinian’: The Return of Christian Anti-Semitism,” *Commentary*, June 1, 2014. ⁴⁶“BCE” (Before the Common Era) is a non-sectarian term used in place of the specifically Christian “BC” (Before Christ). ⁴⁷Matthew 2:1



"Iudaea Capta" coin of Vespasian, struck in 71 to celebrate the victory in the First Jewish Revolt. The legend on the reverse reads: IVDEA CAPTA (Judea conquered).



To celebrate this military victory, Roman Emperor Vespasian had a commemorative coin struck with the motto *Iudaea Capta* (Latin for "Judea conquered"). It does not read *Palestina Capta* because, at the time, the country was known as Judea.

In 115 CE, a second revolt called the Kitos War was raised by ethnic Judeans at various locations in the Roman Empire in Libya, Cyprus, Egypt, and Judea. Within two years, however, Rome succeeded in crushing this revolt as well.⁴⁸

Then, in 132 CE, a third Judean revolt erupted,⁴⁹ led by Shimon Bar-Kochba. The Roman response was devastating, leading to a general massacre of some 580,000 Jews according to contemporary Roman accounts.⁵⁰ Some scholars refer to this event as a genocide.⁵¹

Due to this and the two previous Jewish rebellions, the Roman Empire in 135 CE changed the name of the country from "Judea" to "Syria Palaestina" in an effort to erase the Jewish people's memory of their ancestral homeland.

The choice of “Palaestina” was a deliberate insult, naming the country after the Judeans’ ancient enemy, the Philistines (P’lishtim in Hebrew, meaning “invaders”), a non-Semitic people from Crete that arrived in Canaan at the beginning of the 12th century BCE. They later assimilated and disappeared as a culture. The Arabic word Falastin comes from a Latinized form of the original Hebrew.

All this took place over a century after the traditional date of Jesus’ death. Meaning, any reference to Jesus as a “Palestinian” is inaccurate, ahistorical, and motivated by a political agenda that seeks to deny the history and rights of the Jewish people in their ancestral homeland—this is cultural appropriation, a form of racism.

⁴⁸Ben-Sasson, H. H., editor, “A History of the Jewish People,” Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1976. Page 330. ⁴⁹Some scholars don’t count the Kitos War as the “Second Jewish Rebellion” and refer to the Bar Kochba War by this designation. ⁵⁰According to Roman historian Cassius Dio. ⁵¹Taylor, J. E., “The Essenes, the Scrolls, and the Dead Sea,” Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2012. Page 243.



The Arch of Titus in Rome commemorates the Jews’ defeat by the Romans.

Detail from the Arch of Titus, erected in 81 CE, depicting the looting of the Second Temple.



Attempts to appropriate Jesus are part of a larger historical trend. As early as 1968, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) made the denial of Jewish history and culture a central theme within its national charter:

“Claims of historical or religious ties of Jews with Palestine are incompatible with the facts of history and the true conception of what constitutes statehood. Judaism, being a religion, is not an independent nationality. Nor do Jews constitute a single nation with an identity of its own.”⁵²

—*Palestinian Charter, 1968*

This statement not only denies Jewish history but imposes an external definition of Jewish identity onto Jews. The forcing of cultural identity onto a group is a form of racism often associated with imperialism.

This repudiation of Jewish history, culture, spirituality, and indigeneity continues today.

This includes the claim that modern Jews have no genetic connections to Jews of the past, despite mountains of DNA evidence to the contrary that shows that Ashkenazi, Sephardi, and Mizrahi Jewish populations share Middle Eastern ancestry.⁵³

Even Hebrew, a language that is at least 3,000 years old and is the original language of the Bible, is claimed to be a “dialect” of “Palestinian Aramaic.” For instance, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Fani of the Al-Quds Institute of Research and Documentation told PA TV that Israeli Jews “have no culture” and “the Hebrew language is not [really] the Hebrew language, since it is taken from Aramaic. ... They (Israelis) stole the Aramaic language and codified it, and it became Hebrew.”⁵⁴



The goal of this systematic falsification of ancient and modern history is to deny the Jewish people's right to self-determination in any part of the land of Israel.

In 2000, during the attempt at Camp David to broker a final peace deal between Israelis and Palestinians, Yasser Arafat denied that there was ever a Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. "It is that all [Arafat] did at Camp David was to repeat old mythologies and invent new ones, like, for example, that the Temple was not in Jerusalem but in Nablus."⁵⁵

This theme has carried over into Palestinian media. PA TV repeatedly broadcasted a music video through 2008 and 2009 that denies all historical connection between the Jewish people and Jerusalem.⁵⁶

More recently, these assertions have been politicized through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In 2015 UNESCO passed a resolution erasing Jewish historical and spiritual links to the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron and the Tomb of Rachel—sites that have been holy to the Jewish people for thousands of years. Then in 2016 UNESCO's executive committee adopted a resolution that "refers to Temple Mount area solely as Al-Aksa Mosque/Al-Haram Al Sharif, except for two references to the Western Wall Plaza that were put in parenthesis."⁵⁷

Like all of the stolen narratives in this booklet, these attempts to strip away the history, identity, and rights of the Jewish people in their homeland foster ignorance and hatred rather than respect and mutual understanding. Thus, anti-Israel extremists are undermining efforts to bring about a just peace between Israelis and Palestinians and ultimately harming both peoples. To stop this, we must shine a light on these cynical tactics and educate those around us about the complex realities on the ground.

⁵²"The Palestinian National Charter: Resolutions of the Palestine National Council July 1–17, 1968," The Avalon Project Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy, Yale Law School. Accessed August 21, 2016 at http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/plocov.asp#art20.

⁵³Katsnelson, Alla, "Jews worldwide share genetic ties," *Nature*, June 3, 2010. Accessed August 21, 2016 at www.nature.com/news/2010/100603/full/news.2010.277.html.

⁵⁴Palestinian Authority TV, December 7, 2010. Available at Palestinian Media Watch at http://palwatch.org/pages/news_archive.aspx?doc_id=4179. ⁵⁵Ross, Dennis and Grinstein, Gidi, "Camp David: An Exchange," *The New York Review of Books*, September 20, 2001. Accessed August 21, 2016 at www.nybooks.com/articles/2001/09/20/camp-david-an-exchange. ⁵⁶PA TV (Fatah) September 23, 2008–October 25, 2009, available at Palestinian Media Watch, <http://palwatch.org/main.aspx?fi=489>. ⁵⁷Lazaroff, Tova, "UNESCO adopts resolution ignoring Jewish ties to Temple Mount," *Jerusalem Post*, April 15, 2016. Accessed August 21, 2016, at www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/UNESCO-adopts-resolution-ignoring-Jewish-ties-to-Temple-Mount-451346



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