

Anti-Semitism: a weapon of Zionism

Mubasshir Khan

Research Scholar, Department. Of West Asian Studies
Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh UP

Abstract: As we are aware about the policies of Zionism, they are very opportunistic. They manipulate and make favorable any incident for their own purpose. Recent attack in Denmark in which two persons were killed, one of them was a Jew, member of Scandinavian countries of Jews community. After this attack Prime Minister Netanyahu invited all the diaspora Jews to come in Israel by saying that wave of anti-Semitism is again continue. Anti-Semitism is proved the best card for Israel's policy. Whoever opposes the policy of Israel is being labeled anti-Semitic. In this article we examine how it proved the best card for Herzl in the past and today for Netanyahu.

Key words: introduction, causes of anti-Semitism, Zionism's anti-Semitism card, Herzl policy towards anti-Semitism, anti-Semitism and Holocaust violence, anti-Semitism: from holocaust to nowadays.

Introduction

The term, "anti-Semitism" simply means any kind of hatred towards 'Semites'. Semitic people are those who belong to Shem, one of Noah's three sons and so the languages- Arabic, Babylonian, Hebrew, Aramaic, Assyrian, and Ethiopic-are called 'Semitic languages'. Regardless it is being confined to Jews alone and Jews believe in the limitations of the term and all forms of hostility towards Jews and Judaism is considered anti-Semitism. Bernard Lewis says that "anti-Semitism has never anywhere been concerned with anyone but Jews."¹

Anti-Semitism appeared for the first time in a book, *Der Sieg des Judenthums über das Germanenthum (the Victory of Jewry Over Germandom)*, written by Hamburg journalist, Wilhelm Marr, in 1873.² Marr was given the title 'patriarch of Anti-Semitism' by the Israeli historian Moshe Zimmerman. He coined this term to differentiate the old time Jews hatred to modern opposition to Jews, but later it was applied to all kind of opposition to the Jews and it was made an established procedure to use anti-Semitism for all type of Jew-hatred.³ In spite of this that the literary meaning of anti-Semitism also includes different kind of people especially the Arabs, we would use the term with the limitation and would examine how this weapon was used and how it is exploited by the Zionists to gain their motives.

Causes of Anti-Semitism

This term has been emerged only in 19th century on the world's stage. There are different

opinions about the origin of anti-Semitism. Jews considered that the main cause of anti-Semitism is their strong economic position. Economic role of Jews has been a permanent source of trouble and confrontation with their fellows. They have been traders and shopkeepers and this was a source of tension with the farming and working class.⁴ Others have a contrary view about it. They say that before the Jesus there were some pagan tribes dominating Europe. Due to Jesus's efforts they accepted Christianity. When Christianity became weakened in 18th and 19th century, a peculiar movement was emerged and it called to Europeans to reject Christianity. This movement was called Neo-paganism. The neo-pagans entertained great hatred for Judaism because they assumed that Judaism is the basic root of Christianity.⁵

Apart from the two contrary view points about the causes of anti-Semitism, there is also different view that Bernard Lazare discussed in his book- "*Anti-Semitism, Its History and Causes*". He enumerated many causes of anti-Semitism, but out of them, fear of the exclusiveness or isolation and contamination are very much considerable. He argued that when a conqueror conquered people, the conquered had to follow the laws of conqueror that were made according to circumstances, but the same was not with the Jews people. Jews never accepted the laws of strange nation and submitted to them. They did not believe in human laws in contrary to divine law because they are imperfect and subject to decline. Thus, wherever colonies were established by Jews, they stressed to follow the religion. They were exempted to follow the customs of the host nation and the privileges were given to govern themselves by their own personal

¹ Bostom 2008, p. 31.

² Roger Garaudy, 1985.

³ Bostom, 2008.

⁴ Benjamin, 1992.

⁵ Harun Yahya, 2006.

laws. At Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, in Cyrenaica they enjoyed full freedom and liberty. They were allowed to establish self-government. In Alexandria they were themselves the chiefs and even they were not subjected to municipal authorities. Due to these privileges and facility of exemptions in some matters even in taxes, their business and trade flourished. This caused the jealousy and hatred of non-Jewish people. He cited Spinoza who said:

“It is not at all surprising that after being scattered for so many years they have preserved their identity without a government of their own,...they have isolated themselves from all other nations, even to the extent of drawing upon themselves the hate of all mankind.”

In addition to the abovementioned cause of anti-Semitism, Bernard Lazare argued that fear of contamination also played an important role in jealousy and hatred toward Jews. The Pharisees was on extreme hardness on the subject of contamination even they considered themselves contaminated after contacting with strangers. They assumed that Bible was insufficient to protect from sins, so they enacted number of rules which were used in daily life. These rules were enacted to save Jews from the contamination. But the problem was that, “all these rules might properly be observed in an independent state or city, but could not possibly be enforced in foreign lands, for their strict observance would require the Jews to flee the society of Gentiles, and thus to live isolated, hostile to their environment.” This isolation and hostility caused the jealousy and hatred toward Jews. Their rabbinate prohibited to study sciences and languages. Bible was considered less beneficial and less conducive to salvation and priority was given to Mishnah. These things also exalted the feeling of hate. In conclusion he said:

“With this transformation of the Jewish spirit and the victory of sectarian doctors, coincides the beginning of official persecution. Until that epoch there had only been outbursts of local hatred, but no systematic vexations. With the triumph of the Rabbinate, the ghettos come into being. The expulsion and massacres commence. The Jews want to live apart; a line is drawn against them. They detest the spirit of the nation amidst whom they live; the nations chase them. They burn the Moreh; their Talmud is burned and they themselves are burned with it.”⁶

The three causes of anti-Semitism discussed above are general causes. The first cause argued by Lazare is similar to Jewish point of view and support it. It is evident that the reason of hatred was superiority of being ‘chosen people’. Due to this superiority they remained isolated and unsocial

and this isolation and exclusiveness produced jealousy and hatred. Regardless of it, Jewish atrocities and anti-nation activities in host countries also played an important role in creating the hatred situations. Jews were blamed for the Black Death, in which one third of all Europeans were killed and this led to massacre of Jews in Germany. When, in Russia, they were enjoying different kind of freedom and relief under the regime of the Czars Paul I and Alexander I, their involvement in Polish revolution in 1830 became cause of hatred and they were again subjected to repression. During the regime of Alexander I, they enjoyed much freedom but he was assassinated. In his assassination, a young Jewish woman, Hessia Helfman was involved and this proved as a catalyst for pogroms in Russia. Jews were also accused of murders for their ritual purposes. A detailed investigation of ritual murders was made available by Dr. Helmut Schramm under the title-“*Jewish Ritual Murder: A Historical Investigation*”. In France, the Alfred Dreyfus affair also played an important role in producing anti-Jewish wave. Thus, these reasons were significant in creating the atmosphere of jealousy and anti-Jewish in comparison to others, those were discussed by other point of view.

Zionism’s ‘Anti-Semitism’ Card

Apart from other weapons, Zionism also used the weapon of anti-Semitism to achieve its goal. Through this weapon they were succeeded in spreading the sense of insecurity among Jews in their native country. The feeling of insecurity compelled them to leave their native country and they became ready to immigrate to Palestine. At that time there was a perception that Zionism would reduce or destroy the feeling of anti-Semitism, but latter proved that anti-Semitism supported Zionism. Sami Hadawi rightly viewed:

“Without the constant threat of anti-Semitism there would be no Zionism; Jewish immigration to Israel would diminish if not cease altogether; Israel would lose the colossal financial aid it now receives from the United States and world Jewry; and the Jewish State would cease to become the nationalist empire and fulcrum for international political influence and economic control envisaged by the Zionist”.⁷

Anti-Semitism is being used against anyone who opposes the Zionist crime, cruelty and their policy. Any statement or activity, which is contrary to Zionism, is being pronounced an anti-Semite. Anti-Semitism is being used by Zionists against all those persons, groups and institutions, who oppose the policy of Israel and express their views against the political aims of Israel. Anyone who speaks against the atrocities of Israel is weary

⁶ Bernard Lazare. 1995, pp. 8-18.

⁷ Hadawi, 1967, p. 49.

of being labeled an anti-Semite. Using this weapon the Zionist achieves their motives. Hadawi wrote:

“Anti-Semitism is being used by the Zionist movement as a double-edged weapon: on the one hand, it serves to silence any person who opposes Zionism and Israeli policy; on the other hand, it is used to discourage Jews from becoming assimilated into the lives of the countries of their origin.”⁸

Apart from the fact that minority is persecuted due to social, political, economic and cultural conditions, Zionist announced that minority persecutions is not the result of some specific conditions but it is inherent in human nature. On the basis of this idea, Zionism assumes anti-Semitism as a natural attitude of the gentiles. It does not believe that it is a misused and distorted phenomenon, rather it is normal behavior of non-Jews world. After accepting anti-Semitism as an inherent, natural and normal attitude, Zionism cannot combat it, rather it believe that one must take it and adapt according to his condition and capabilities.⁹ That is the reason that Zionist did remain alive the feeling of anti-Semitism and whenever and wherever they conceived that this feeling is going to die, they became very nervous. Dr. Nahum Goldman, president of World Zionist Organization, in a speech he delivered on 23rd July 1958 asserted that, “disappearance of anti-Semitism....has had a very negative effect on our internal life.”¹⁰

Herzl's Policy towards Anti-Semitism

During the middle ages, Jews were being treated as second class citizens with many restrictions. But in 19th century they started to assimilate in European societies and to live there free without any restrictions. At the same time, Zionist differentiated between the Aryan and Semitic races and they propagated that Jews were maculating their soul by living among European. This fast growing assimilation incited the Zionist to make collaboration with Anti-Semites. On the other hand European racist also wanted to stop assimilation of Jews because they were very frightened with their assimilation. The goal of European racist and Zionist was the same. They collaborated to each other. Theodor Herzl realized perfectly that anti-Semitism was essential to abandon Jews from their host countries and compelled them to turn their face towards Palestine. Herzl portrayed anti-Semitism as an incurable disease and only remedy for that to establish a state in Palestine. Herzl was assured that only anti-Semitism would make migration possible: “Anti-Semitism is a propelling force which, like

⁸ Ibid, p. 50.

⁹ Arie Bober, 1971.

¹⁰ Hadawi, op.cit., p. 51.

the wave of the future, will bring Jews into the Promised Land...Anti-Semitism has grown and continues to grow-and so do I.”¹¹ So he established his contact with all anti-Semites. He wrote in his diary on 9th June, 1985:

“First I shall negotiate with the Tsar regarding permission for the Russian Jews to leave the country...Then I shall negotiate with the German Kaiser, then with Austria, then with France regarding the Algerian Jews, then as need dictates.”¹²

Herzl did not wage a war against anti-Semitism rather he made a bargaining to achieve a common goal. He made an agreement with Plehve, the ill-famed anti-Semitic Tsarist Minister responsible for Kishinev massacre in 1903. He wrote a letter to Plehve in May in which he recommended Zionism as a counter poison to revolution. In response Herzl received a letter from Plehve in which he expressed support for Zionism but not permitted to run alien nationalist movement in Russia. Herzl found this letter very satisfactory and he also made this correspondence public at the Zionist congress of 1903.

One of Herzl's critics wanted to kill him arguing that he will do the Jews horrifying injury. In reply Herzl accepted without hesitation: “So I am beginning to have the right to become the world's worst anti-Semite.” Herzl was very much optimistic about the convergence between Zionism and anti-Semitism, so he said: “The anti-Semites will become our surest friends and the anti-Semitic countries our allies.” Herzl believed that if the Jews felt comfortable in their native countries it would harm Zionism, so first of all he provoked enmity against the Jews in their native countries. He very much relied on persecution to made emigration easy. So he encouraged and unleashed anti-Semitism rather to combat it or to stop it. Baron Chlomecki, president of the Austrian Parliament, wrote to Herzl: “If your intention and the objective of your propaganda is to foster anti-Semitism, you may reach this objective. I am absolutely convinced that by such propaganda anti-Semitism will grow and that you will bring a bloodbath upon Jewry.” Herzl tried very much to invoke anti-Semitism and to form a bond with the anti-Semites until his death. But when we analyzed the consequences of his efforts we find no success because a large majority of Jews declined to immigrate to Palestine.¹³

¹¹ Hart, 205, p.157.

¹² Yahya, op.cit., p.43.

¹³ Garaudy, 1985.

Anti-Semitism and Holocaust violence

As we have mentioned that both Zionism and Nazism have same objectives and they tried to gain these objectives with similar efforts. Nazi's major objective was purifying German race and it was not possible without pushing Jews out from the country. The same objective was of Zionism because their dream to create a Jewish state was not possible without mass immigration to Palestine. That was why two sides developed relationship when Nazi movement was close to gain the power. One of the significant examples of relationship was between Kurt Tuchler, a member of ZVfD and Baron Leopold Mildenstein of the SS. Tuchler agreed to write a pro-Zionist article for the Nazi press and Baron to visit Palestine. They travelled to Palestine with their families after Hitler became the chancellor of Germany. The Significant evidence of their relationship that disclosed in 1962 was a memorandum that was sent by ZVfD to Nazi party on June 21, 1933.¹⁴

In 1933, due to the wrong policy of Weimer Republic Hitler became the chancellor of Germany. After capturing power Nazis started to kill their opponents. They began persecuting and suppressing the minorities living in Germany out of which Jews were on special target because of their activities. Near about 11 million people were killed in concentration camps most of them were babies, elderly persons and sick. At this terrible juncture Zionist did nothing to rescue the Jews from Nazis and did not oppose this cruelty rather they collaborated with the Nazis who were responsible for the holocaust. The main motive behind this dirty collaboration was to force the Jews for mass migration towards Palestine. David Ben Gurion unveiled their hidden motive in a speech delivered in 1938 at a meeting in these words:

“If I knew that it would be possible to save all children in Germany by bringing them over to England and only half of them by transporting them to Israel then I would opt for the second alternative.”¹⁵

Stephen wise, the leader of the Zionist movement in America opposed the activities of the Emergency Committee that was founded to rescue the European Jews. He also opposed the resolution that called for a government rescue agency for the victims of holocaust. He defended the American immigration quotas in 1938 and opposed the changes in law because after it there was a possibility to take refuge by Jews in America.¹⁶ When President Roosevelt tried to solve the problem of Jews refugees by settling them in America and elsewhere, being displaced due to Hitler's anti-Semitism, his plan was hijacked by

¹⁴ Lenni Brener, 1983.

¹⁵ Yahya, op.cit., p.77.

¹⁶ Brener, 1983.

Zionists and they tried to prevent the president to take such ameliorative measures. Anyone who wished to discuss the plan for displaced persons, his act was considered as treason to Zionist movement. The best example of this was of Morris Ernst. Zionist target was to send all the displaced person to Palestine, not anywhere else. In this way they supported the pressure that was enforced on Jews.

After the death of President Roosevelt, his successor Harry S. Truman attempted to solve the problem of displaced person. He, on 22 December 1945, taking an initiative directed the Secretaries of State and War and federal authorities to speed up the procedure of granting visas. He wanted to full immigration to the United States under existing laws. He was also in favor of using the unused quotas of the war. If it could be brought in use, it could be given visas for approximately 400,000 refugees in the USA: “Such a solution to the Jewish refugee problem, if it had been implemented, would have destroyed Zionism's most powerful weapon of the time-the Nazi holocaust as a political and emotional blackmail card.”

Nazi anti-Semitism provided Zionism the engine they needed to achieve their objective. Zionist leaders believed that Nazi holocaust would provide essential number of immigrants they need to create and sustain their own state. That was why Zionist did nothing for the betterment of displaced persons and even did not interested the initiative taken by American and British Government rather they opposed any such legislation and they succeeded in preventing the ameliorative legislation being introduced in congress.¹⁷

Anti-Semitism: From the Creation of Israel to Nowadays

As we have disused above that Zionism used the term of anti-Semitism to achieve their ends and they created the situation of anti-Semitism themselves because without which they could not survive. Before the creation of Israel they supported all the policies of their enemies because they compelled to Jews to leave their native country. The dream of greater Israel cannot be achieve without mass migration of Jews, so after establishing Israel they created themselves an environment of anti-Semitism and forced the Jews to leave their native country and migrate to Palestine. Meir Merhav wrote an article published in *Jerusalem post* on 7th October 1978. In his article Merhav charted a plan that how unwilling Jews would migrate to Palestine:

“In the history of Zionism and the state of Israel there has never been a mass migration...Even in their most troubled times only sixty thousands of the three hundred thousand Jews of Germany

¹⁷ Hart, 2005.

emigrated during the period 1933-39...The 50-60 percent of the Russian Jews who are the most downtrodden desire to go elsewhere than Israel. What, then, should have been done to bring them to Israel? Simply put, the answer was to repeat the earlier policy: to instigate the threat of anti-Semitism once more as a goad to drive the Jews out of the diaspora to Israel.”¹⁸

An article, published in *Davar*- official organ of the *Mapai* party- unveiled the hidden agenda behind anti-Semitism after the creation of Israel. The editor, Sharun, wrote:

“I shall not be ashamed to confess that, if I had the power as I have the will, I would select a score of efficient young men-intelligent, decent, devoted to our ideal and burning with desire to help redeem Jews-and I would send them to the countries where Jews are absorbed in sinful self-satisfaction, plague these Jews with anti-Semitic slogans, such as ‘Bloody Jew’, ‘Jew go to Palestine’ and similar intimacies. I can vouch that the results, in terms of considerable immigration to Israel from these countries, would be ten thousand times larger than the results brought by thousands of emissaries who have been preaching for decades to deaf ears.”¹⁹

Since 1948 they have been exercising and working on this project to force the Jews to migrate Palestine. In Iraq they operated operation Ali Baba which primary aim was to create hostility between Muslims and Jews in order to compel them to flee to Palestine. According to David Reuben, an Iraqi Jew, Zionist especially Mossad was responsible for this operation. Israel paid a sizable amount to Ethiopian leaders to purchase the Falashas, black Jews. The emigration of these black Jews could be

¹⁸ Yahya, op.cit., pp. 147-151.

¹⁹ Hadawi, op.cit., p. 51.

References

- Beit-Hallami, Benjamin. (1992). *Original Sins: Reflections on the History of Zionism and Israel*. London: Pluto Press.
- Bober, Arie. (1972). *The Other Israel: The Radical Case Against Zionism*. US: Doubleday & Co.
- Bostom, Andrew G.(2008) *The Legacy of Islamic Antisemitism: From Sacred Text to Solomon History*. New York: Prometheus Books.
- Brenner, Lenni. (1983). *Zionism in the Age of Dictators*. Westport: Lawrence Hill.
- Garaudy, Roger. (1985). *The Case of Israel, A Study of Political Zionism*. London: Shorouk International.
- Hadawi, Sami. (1967). *Bitter Harvest, Palestine between 1914-1967*. New York: New World Press.
- Hart, Alan. (2005). *Zionism the Real Enemy of Jews, vol.1*. Calicut: Camel Books.
- Indian Express* (2005) Delhi February 16, 2015.
- Lazare, Bernard. (1995). *Anti-Semitism: Its History and Causes*. London: University of Nebraska Press.
- Lilienthal, Al Fred M. (1978).*The Zionist Connection What price peace*. New York: Dood, Mead & Company.
- Yahya, Harun. (2006). *The Holocaust Violence*. Istanbul: Global Publishing.

possible by operation Moses in 1984 and operation Solomon in 1991. During these operations seven thousand Jews transported to Israel. The same thing happened with the Romanian Jews in 1959. Those who were agreed to go to Israel were facilitated in every way, but who refused to go to Israel and went in other countries; they were not assisted in such a manner. In Yemen during 1948-49 they launched a fraud ‘Magic Carpet operation’ which accomplished 45,000 thousand Jews. In that operation it was propagated that messiah came to the earth in Israel.²⁰

In recent days, again they are busy in creating the environment of anti-Semitism so that the Jews living in Europe will have to migrate to Palestine in order to fulfill their dream of Greater Israel. After the murder of a Jew, member of Scandinavian countries of Jews community, in Denmark in February 2015 Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu responded in these words:

“Again, Jews were murdered on European soil Just because they were Jews...This wave of attack is expected to continue, as well as murderous anti-Semitic attack, Jews deserve security in every country, but we say to our Jewish Brothers and sisters, Israel is our home.”²¹

From the so-called holocaust to present day they are using the anti-Semitism to gain their objectives. They make themselves an environment of anti-Semitism and force the Jews to leave their native country and migrate to Palestine. They are not interested in solving the problem of Jews in their native country rather they have only one remedy-‘flee to Palestine.’ Ian Gilmour rightly said: “Zionism aggravated the disease that it professed to cure.”²²

²⁰ Yahya, 2006.

²¹ Indian Express, Delhi February 16, 2015.

²² Al Fred Lilienthal, 1978, p. 411.