

# Anti-Semitism and Israel

Not all criticism of Israel is anti-Semitic. In applications of anti-Zionism, however, there is little to no difference. The leadership behind Israel Apartheid Week\* and the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement\* do not respect Jewish self-determination. Additionally, pro-Palestinian activists acknowledge Palestinian suffering, but fail to acknowledge Jewish suffering. While uplifting one Palestinian minority, they subjugate the Jewish other.

To understand anti-Semitism, one must be conscious of how classic anti-Semitism manifests. Sometimes, it is easy to determine anti-Semitism: simply replace "Zionist" with "Jew." Below are some examples. Under the graph are the "3-Ds" to help you deconstruct anti-Semitism on your own.

## EXAMPLES OF ANTI-SEMITIC CRITICISMS OF ISRAEL

### STATEMENTS

### PROBLEM

"...a group of rabbis in Israel announced, in a clear announcement, demanding their government, to poison, to poison, the water of the Palestinians..."  
- Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, June 22nd, 2016

False statements that accuse Jews of harming others, otherwise known as blood libels, led to pogroms for a millennium. Demonizing Jews as conspiratorial killers isolates Jews and promotes distrust. Additionally, the statement is false.

"The symbols and logos of devious religions and organizations are used [including] the six-pointed star...It is associated with Judaism, the logo and sign of the State of Israel, and the first symbol of the Masonry organizations in the world..."  
- Saudi fatwa ruling on Pokemon Go, July 20th, 2016

The Saudi ruling echoes demonizations of the Jewish people controlling the world and possessing abnormal powers. This is a classic example of scapegoating, which leads to racial and political anti-Semitism.

"Same Israeli photographer captures Nice and Munich tragedies. How likely is that? Remember the Dancing Israelis?"  
- Former U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney, July 23rd, 2016

McKinney was referencing the recent terrorist attacks and a discredited myth, accusing Jews of being mysterious, evil, and disloyal. Additionally, McKinney participates in victim blaming.

"There has been a steady [stream], almost like termites can get into a residence and eat before you know that you've been eaten up and you fall in on yourself, there has been settlement activity..."  
- U.S. Rep. Hank Johnson, July 25, 2016

"Jewish parasite" is a classic anti-Semitic trope accusing Jews of world domination and mysteriously bringing down nations by "being a parasite on the body of productive nations." It was heard in Nazi anti-Semitism and continues in modern neo-Nazism.

"Hitler supported Zionism"  
- Former London Mayor Ken Livingstone, May 1, 2016

It is offensive to appropriate a deeply personal genocide of the Jewish people to score political points. It diminishes the memory and significance of the Holocaust. It also is a myth that has been discredited.

## Peace Activist Natan Sharansky's 3 Ds

DECONSTRUCTING ILLEGITIMATE CRITICISM OF ISRAEL

### **D**elegitimization [of Israel]

Denying the Jewish people their basic right to self-determination, free from exploitation, inequality, and danger.

### **D**emonization [of Israel]

Portraying Jews or Israel with sinister motives historically used to repress Jews, including but not limited to: disloyalty, blood libels, and control of institutions.

### **D**ouble standards [for Israel]

Isolating and targeting the Jewish State with a different set of principles than other nations.



\*For more on BDS, check Avishai Don's article in the Harvard Crimson on page 42.

\*For more on IAW, check page 30.