

*Images are displayed throughout the presentation*

- Because this whole issue of Israel on the left is so important and because tomorrow night we've got Dave Rich coming in, I decided that I had to slot in two extra lectures just to look at what I've called, "The Great Libel. An Inverted Commerce, the Nazification of Israel". Because what is extraordinary is how Israel, which after all is a democracy, has more a programme put on it than, and I think any other state. There are more resolutions passed against Israel at the United Nations than any other state in the world. And I'm not making any comments whatsoever about Israel's policies and politics. Every one of us has the right to make our own decisions about that. And I'm never going to suggest that it's anti-Semitic to criticise Israel's policies. I was part of IRA and I was on the British delegation and the IRA declaration pretty well as far as I'm concerned covers anything, everything.

But what came out of Russia, and this is what I was talking about in the last session. What came out of Russia was the gradual use of Nazi language when dealing with Israel. Now, just a recap. If you remember, when Israel was first created, the first country to give her both de facto and de jure recognition was Russia. America gave de facto, and then Russia gave both de facto and de jure. The Stalin's government decided that the very best they would have an ally in the Middle East with the socialist Zionist. At the very worst, they would have a neutral power. And you've got to think in terms of the Cold War. You've got to think in terms of the end of colonialism. And of course, the power play that was going to emerge between America and Russia. And at that time, there was absolutely no way that Stalin's Russia could do any deals with the Arab countries. But what happens in the Arab countries, gradually, many of the feudal regimes fall. You have Nasser in Egypt. And of course, later on the United Arab Republic with Syria. You have a... Saddam Hussein comes to power in 1958 in Iraq. Deposing the Hashemite regime. Idris in Libya. And all of a sudden you have completely different regimes. And also, really the emergence of the third world. The third world, the Afro-Asian block. And which side of the fence are they going to go on? Now ironically, in the '50s Israel had provided more advisors in Africa per capita than any other country in the world. They taught them Socialist culture. Very much trying to forge alliances. And also seeing themselves as, if you like, a new emergent nation.

However, beginning with Golda Meir's visit to Russia, that is when Stalin realised he had a Jewish problem. And then, it goes through a trial in Hungary, a trial in Czechoslovakia. The Slansky trials where you begin to see Zionist, Cosmopolitan, Trotskyite, Tito. And gradually, as we go through the '60s, particularly after the agreement, the reparations agreement with Germany, and then the Eichmann trial, West Germany in the block, in the American, in England block, and of course, East Germany part of the communist block, gradually they begin to distort certain aspects of Jewish history. Now, one of the most naughty issues that I have mentioned when I began to talk about this issue is that of course in the Shoah and in the lead up to the Shoah, there were dilemmas that were so difficult and so sophisticated, and so much on the acute edge. Like for example, in 1933, when Arlosoroff negotiated with Schacht, the head of the Reichsbank to allow Jews to leave Germany with some of their resources for Palestine. We know that Eichmann visited Palestine. We know of course, that there was, that in 1944, at the time of the invasion of Hungary, Eichmann asked for meetings with young Zionist, Kasztner and Brand. He offered them the "Blood for Goods" deal. Later on, it proved to be a most cynical, appalling thing put up by Himmler because Himmler was trying to divide the allies. But the point is, there were certain issues when there were conversations.

Now, speaking personally, I always use my friend Anita Lasker-Wallfisch when I think about this. She always says, "Only if you are in hell can you make these kind of judgements. Judge the perpetrators if you wish. Judge the collaborators. But can you actually judge Jews themselves? Can you actually judge the kind of morality? I know that I would've traded with the devil if I thought it could have saved my family." And of course, it's an issue that has still divided Israel. So, what happens in Soviet writing? And of course, they actually set up a Zionology Institute, and some of them unfortunately were self-hating Jews. They began to look at areas of where Zionists had entered into conversations with Nazis with a view to try and save. They twisted everything. Many of you will recall that in 1937, the Appeal Commission was discussing whether to partition that one-third of the mandate between the Jews and the Arabs. And Weissmann actually said, "At least let us save the young." There are 6 million threat. Let's try and save the young. That was later used as him actually saying it doesn't matter about the others. And you see this terrible message more and more and more in Russian papers. And of course, it ties up with the liberation movements of the '60s. The '60s were an extraordinary time. On one level, you have the Six-Day War when Israel won that incredible victory. And I remember Saul Bellow wrote that if Israel had lost the world would've sent blankets to the surviving Jewish orphans. But Israel didn't lose. Israel won. And then NASA sinks his ships into the Suez Canal. And the situation never, there was never really an attempt at that stage, at any attempt at peace. And then of course, bearing in mind that NASA, and I know that Lyn Julius lectured you on this, and I know that NASA of course had a whole coterie of Nazis writing for him. There were over 6,000 former Nazis working in Syria. Some were propagandas, some were working on rocket programmes, some were training the army just as they were in Syria. And so what comes together, Israel becomes no longer a victim. Remember Howard Jacobson's comment? "They can never forgive us the Holocaust." Israel becomes an occupying power at a time when the left throughout the world is becoming very anti-colonial.

I want you to think Music Revolution. I want you to think CMD. I want you to think the whole student protest movement and the extreme ends of it. The PLO, the Japanese Red Army, the Baader-Meinhof Group, et cetera, et cetera. And then what happens is, of course, the Palestinian issue really explodes. Arafat's becomes the head of the PLO and he sets up camp in Jordan. What happens in Jordan is that he goes to war with Hussein's army and consequently they are evicted Black September and they finish up in Lebanon. Now, the libel is underway and it's also beginning to permeate the Trotskyite left. And what I'm going to do tonight, and on Wednesday, I'm afraid I had to put in two extra lectures to get us to there. And I think it's very important that we do discuss this issue. And as I said, tomorrow night, we're very fortunate that Dave Rich is coming in. So, I really wanted to give you the background.

Now, can we come to the first slide, Judy? And it's really, really good to have Judy back. So, the Yom Kippur war. The Yom Kippur War where the Arab armies invade on Yom Kippur, and from the first few days of the war, it looked like it could in fact be an Arab victory. But then everything turns around, and again, Israel wins a victory. But can we go on, please? Golda Meir's government becomes very, very unpopular. And in 1977, they elect into power a new government, the government of Menachem Begin. Now let's have a look at Begin. Can we see the next slide? Now, Begin is a very, very interesting complicated character who we will be talking about many, many times. Begin of course, he'd been born in Brest-Litovsk. He had been a Zionist from from his early youth. In fact, I have a personal story about him that was told me by Felix Schaff There was a revisionist meeting in Krakow and the students were incredibly excited. Jabotinsky, the great Jabotinsky, their hero came into Krakow. They unhooked the horse from the waggon. They dragged him to the hotel Saski where he was going to speak. He addressed the audience. And in those days, believe it or not, students could put up with, or people listening to rallies could put up with a speaker for two or three hours. Jabotinsky addressed them. A

young man called Begin made a speech. He comes to the front, Jabotinsky lays his hands on him and says, "You are my future."

Now, though Begin has written his autobiography, "White Knight", he's back in Russia. He is imprisoned. He's in a Gulag, he escapes. He joins Ader's Army and is stationed in Palestine. He then leaves the army, he doesn't desert, and he becomes the head of the Irgun. And of course, in the last days of the mandate, he takes a much more stringent line than the Haganah. And I spent quite a lot of time with you on the Haganah, the Irgun, and of course, the Lechi. And after the creation of the state of Israel, his supporters believed that he stopped a civil war after the Altalena incident. And it is Begin who leads the right. And finally, he is swept into power. You no longer have a left wing government in Israel. And can we see the next slide, please? And also, a man who's going to become very important in the story. Ariel Sharon, Arik Sharon. To some, the great hero of Israel, to other, the devil of Israel. He is an incredibly controversial figure. He was the great military hero who unfortunately his sons were involved in corruption stories. And he's a very controversial figure. But these are the characters who are now in power. And it's in, and of course then, can we see the next? Because what is pulled off though by Begin that had never been pulled off by the left, is of course, peace with Egypt. Sadat later pays for it with his life. But there is at least a cold peace with Egypt. But then don't forget that the PLO is now attacking Israel from Lebanon. And what happens is Sharon, the Israelis invade Lebanon. Now, I'm not talking about the invasion of Lebanon. I'm talking about how it's going to be dealt with in Russia and later on in the Arab world.

In 1983, the state sponsored anti-Zionist committee was established. And it denounces both America and Israel. And this is the opening of the, this was a huge article in Pravda. "As the Nazis had helped the Jews to send their co-religionists to the gas chambers and had joined with the gestapo, it stands to reason that Begin and Shamir would continue to use Hitlerite measures to massacre subhuman Arabs in Lebanon. What is more natural that the allies of Hitler in the past should be his imitators, successors and heirs in the present?" And I'm just giving you one example. Can we have a look at another? Can we see the quotes, please? "Israel is perpetrating a deliberate genocide in Lebanon based on the idea of racial purity. Zionists have always collaborated with Fascists and Nazis and recruited Jews from all over the world to be part of the conspiracy." So, now this is a Zionologist. It's coming out of Russia. And it's not the Israelis now. It's Jews from all over the world. And this is how this sort of tie up. Jews, these Cosmopolitan Jews who work with the Zionists, the mothership, to be part of a Jewish world conspiracy. This is the protocols of the elders of Zion, Russian, Soviet style. Can we see the next one, please? And that's the one I just read you. Let's read it again because this is so ghastly. "As the Jews had helped the Nazis to send their co-religionists to the gas chambers and had joined with the gestapo, it stood to reason that Begin and Shamir would continue to use Hitlerite measures to massacre subhuman Arabs in Lebanon. What is more natural that the allies of Hitler in the past should be his imitators, successors and heirs in the present?"

Can we see the next slide, please? Here you see Mahmoud Abbas. Now of course, he is president of the state of Palestine since 2004. And he's chairman of the PLO. He was born in Safad in Mandate Palestine. The family fled to Syria in the 1948 war. He graduates from Damascus University and then he went on to study at the Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow, where he earned a Candidate of Science degree, which is the equivalent of a PhD. And his doctoral thesis is called, "The Other Side: The Secret Relationship Between Nazism and Zionism". It was actually published in book form in 1984. Very much the war in Lebanon at its height. And it was published in Arabic. It's republished in 2011. And can we go on, please? This is his speech, the Palestine National Council. "They say hatred against the Jews was not because of their religion." This is 2018. "It was because of their social profession." So, the Jewish issue

that has spread across Europe was not because of their religion, it was because of usury and banks. The old qanna about Jews and money. Remember, he was educated at the Patrice Lumumba University. Can we see it, please? Can we see the next slide? This is the People's Friendship University in Moscow. It was the, it's named for the Congolese politician, Patrice Lumumba who was killed in a coup. It was actually established in 1960 by a resolution of the central committee. The Council of Ministers of the USSR. It was to help nations that have recently achieved independence from colonial powers. It also very much acted to further Soviet foreign policy in non-aligned countries, previously known as third world countries. It was considered the Oxford of Russia. It trained personnel mainly from Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America. By 1975, it had 5,600 graduates. 4,250 were for 89 foreign countries. Now, do you see how important this is? Because what is happening is that the Russians are taking in Arabs, Africans. And after 1967, nearly all the African countries broke off relations with Israel as did the whole of the communist block. So, basically they're taking in characters from all over the world, the non-aligned world.

And I don't know how many of you have ever had the misfortune to live under totalitarianism? I haven't. But I've lectured in Russia and I've lectured in China. And I've had, ironically, after many of the Refuseniks came out, I had Refuseniks students in London. And what was fascinating, they were incredibly smart. They had a very good solid education, but there was no flexibility. They'd only been taught one way. So, here you have a bus at the university actually studying the relationship between Zionism and Fascism that basically Zionism is a kind of Fascism. Can we go on please, Judi? These are some anti-Zionist. These are Arab. You see these are Arab anti-Zionist cartoons equating Zionism with Nazism. And there are hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of them.

Can we go on, please? Yeah. Hideous. So these are the kind of, it comes out of Russia. It spreads all over the Arab world. I mean, the former Syrian foreign minister also, he wrote his PhD on the blood libel. So, you've got to remember that this is being fed through. In Egypt, it was fed through from the fascists as well. The Nazis who went to work for NASA. But it's also coming in from Russia. And please don't let us forget the speech he made. He made on the 15th of May at the United Nations 2023. I'm giving you some extracts from it. This is a bus celebrating Nakba Day. The catastrophe day at the United Nations. The United Nations was that body that enabled Israel to come into existence. And if you remember, when Arafat went into the UN branching his, gesturing with the gun and the olive branch. And you will recall what Daniel Moynihan said, that the UN was an organisation set up to fight fascism and anti-Semitism. And 30 years after, it was an organisation that was sponsoring anti-Semitism. Now, Gilad Erdan, who was the Israeli ambassador to the UN. He said, "The thought that an international organisation could mark the establishment of one of its member states as a catastrophe or disaster is both appalling and repulsive."

Now, this is Abbas' speech. "Britain gave Palestine as a gift to Israel to get rid of their Jews. The Israelis and Zionists continue in their false claims that Israel made the desert bloom. They can't but lie. It is a lie. They lie just like Goebbels. They lie, lie, lie until people believe." You see, this is absolutely extraordinary. This is, I'm going to give you some of your, some other quotes from Abbas. He doesn't deny. He doesn't deny the Holocaust, but he raises the question of as to who is guilty. That blaming the Nazis is only half the truth. He goes on, he actually states that the Zionist collaborated in killing a large number of European Jews in order to encourage the rest to embrace Zionism. Do you see how painful this is? Remember, nearly a million Holocaust survivors went to Israel. And of course, when he refers the Ha'avarah Agreement and also the Eichmann Trial, he said, "Eichmann was silenced." He's quoting almost verbatim Zionologists because according to Abbas because he was about to reveal to an American magazine, Life, that Eichmann knew all the truth. Now, Eichmann in Argentina was about to

tell his story. And the thesis was that basically the Israelis executed Eichmann to silence him from telling the truth about how much the Israelis collaborated. This is the Eichmann Trial of 1960, '61. You see how it was twisted by Russia, and then it's fed into these kind of issues. And this is again, I'm quoting. "The Zionist movement led a campaign of incitement against the Jews living under Nazi rule to arouse the government's hatred of them to fuel vengeance against them and expand the mass extermination."

Let me repeat this. He's not denying the Holocaust, but just listen to these words very carefully. "The Zionist movement led a campaign of incitement against the Jews living under Nazi rule to arouse the government's hatred of them to fuel vengeance against them and expand the mass extermination." He describes the numbers as a fantastic lie. "It seems to me that the interest of the Zionist movement is to inflate the figure so their gains will be greater." And as you know, there has always been debates about the figures. How many died in the killing fields? How many died in the camps? He said though later he does recant on this. In a 2003 interview in the New York Times, he said, "When I wrote it, we were at war with Israel." So, basically the Russians did their work. It spreads out of Eastern Europe. It spreads into the Arab world. And now of course, then of course, communism fails and falls in Russia.

And now let's look at the situation. Can we go on, please? Jude? This is Pamyat. Now, Pamyat means memory. And it was actually founded as a public organisation in Moscow in 1980. There are many, many splits within Pamyat. I was told at one time there were over 380 odd organisations who are, who have their kind of credo. It's a far right anti-Semitic, anti-Zionist monarchist movement. It also involves Orthodox Christianity. But common to Pamyat, this is the open letter from leader of Pamyat to Boris Yeltsin. You see, as far as these far-righters are concerned, the Jews are behind everything. So, you've had the communist attack on Israel as inverted as a Zionist state. And now you have the right in Russia. Now this is, your Jewish entourage has already made good use of you. You will share the destiny of Napoleon, Hitler, et cetera, who was Zionist, who were Zionist maintained dictators. Don't ever look for logic in this. This is absolute insane rambling. The aim of international Zionism is to seize power worldwide. For this reason, Zionist struggle against national and religious traditions of other nations. And from this purpose they divide the Freemason concept of cosmopolitanism. Don't forget to the right in Russia, to the right in Russia who was to blame for the destruction of the Russian Orthodox Church and the destruction of the czar.

Let's see the next slide, please. Sweet Saint Nicholas. The last of the czars who was murdered by the revolution on orders from Lennon given to Sverdlov who happened to be a Jew. He was murdered with his family and servants. The family have now been made into saints, not the servants. He is now Saint Nicholas by the Russian Orthodox Church. And the ultra right in Russia believe that it was a Jewish plot. It was communist Jews that destroyed religion in Russia. They go to Marx, the Communist Jew. The fact that Marx suffered from a big dose of Jewish self-hatred and equated Jews with capitalism. So, do you see how these tiny people is fodder for the right and fodder for the left? You'll be pleased to know I must bring a little bit of light relief into this. China doesn't think this way. Hindu India doesn't think this way. I am really, really more and more convinced, I very much take Robert Wistrich's point on this. It's because Judaism in many ways is seen as the parent religion. You know, 14 million Jews worldwide gave birth to two largest religions in the world, Christianity and Islam. So, at some level they are central. If you think about Christianity, it's Jewish Psalms, it's Jewish ideas.

Well, I remember as a child when they sung Jerusalem, the iconography of Jerusalem, the fact that Jews, if you like are at the centre of all of this. It's makes us seem, it makes us far more important than we really should be. Because underneath it all is the notion that Christianity blamed the Jews for killing

God. Now, I'm not insane. I do not believe that every non-Jew goes along thinking Jews killed God. Of course, they don't. But nevertheless, there is this negative stereotype that associates the Jews with power and their economic position not being allowed to enter any of the guilds. They do become money lenders and traders. So, you do have merchants, you do have the association of Jews with money and Jews with merchanting. So, on one level you've got the double negative stereotype. And then, of course, you have a disproportionate number of people of Jewish birth involved in revolution. And as the great Simon Dubnow said, "In many ways it's going to be the Trotskys and the Uritskys who are going to do more damage to the Jews than anything else. They'd thrown away their Jewishness. They were the rootless cosmopolitans. But the problem was that they were sick. They thought they could be rootless cosmopolitans and that they could create some new world order. That was idealistic actually, and it was spread from country to country.

So, that's how you get back to that mad mantra of the Rothschild Marx conspiracy. And unfortunately, it's alive and well because people are, in times of stress, people are drawn to conspiracy theories. Look, I do not believe that the situation is acutely dangerous because I do believe when we get out of this economic recession, things will go back to a relative level of tolerance and toleration of all ethnic groups. There are many groups when times are hard, people look for the other. And as far as Pamyat is concerned, the Jews are the other. And also the fact that a disproportionate number of the oligarchs were born Jewish is another reason that made them think that there was some crazy Jewish conspiracy at work. So, from the extreme left and the extreme right. So, it happened.

But what I need to look at now with you, and I'm going to continue it on Wednesday night, is how these insane ideas actually permeate the West. And they come to the, can we see the next slide, please? Isaac Deutscher. The Isaac Deutscher who wrote "The Non-Jewish Jew". Isaac Deutscher, one of the most fascinating characters in the pages of Jewish history. But the problem is this left wing cosmopolitan follower of Trotsky, he died in 1967, he was violently anti-Zionist. And we're going to see that people like him and Ralph Miliband are going to, if you like, become the gurus of the extreme left. And I'm going to use England, I'm going to use Britain as my special case because ironically it was in Britain that it becomes most pernicious actually. So, let's talk a little bit about Isaac Deutscher. His book, "The Non-Jewish Jew", in fact Dennis Davis lectured on the chapter "The Non-Jewish Jew". It's absolutely fascinating. And I think there's a lot of mileage in it. He talks about the Jews who leave the Jewish tradition. He talks about Spinoza, he talks about Rosa Luxemburg, he talks about Trotsky, and they go on and their dream is to change the world and improve the world.

Unfortunately, it's going to be, his ideas are going to be very much twisted. And it's going to, because of course what he's against, he's a follower of Trotsky, he's against the West, he's against colonialism, and now this is what he says. "The Jews now appear in the Middle East in the role of agents of powerful Western interests and they're agents neocolonialism. This is how the Arab world now sees them, not without reason." Because of course the left, and let's talk about the left in Britain. It's not just violently anti-Israel. It's also violently anti-America. And it's going to see Israel more and more in the American block because obviously looking 1956, Eisenhower was furious. In 1967, America is not really completely on their side. The greatest supporter of Israel was France. But in 1973 it was America. But by sending Israel the arms, actually saved the nation, and more and more as so many of the Arab countries and the African countries were attracted East. So more and more Israel becomes part of the American axis and very, very useful to America. 'Cause after all, is not Israel, the sort of the startup country in terms of technology? So, also the other thing that's going to happen with the West, with extreme left in the West, is the sort of rethinking of Jews. So consequently, at the time of the Iraq War, you have left wing, the new line paper, which is the paper of the Trotskyite left actually accusing Blair's

government of being manipulated by a Jewish cabal. Now, the reality was there have been Jews in powerful positions in Britain as British ministers. We had the honour of hearing Malcolm Rifkind last week.

So, let's be careful here. And it all goes back to that muddle of what it means to be a Jew. To some Jews living in Britain or anywhere, they are citizens of the country in which they live of the Jewish religion. Some are citizens of the country of which they live, and they happen to be just cultural Jews. Others have taken the roots to Zionism, to Israel. Others support the, they live in Britain or America, and they support the existence of the state of Israel, and they will do everything they can to maintain the state of Israel. So basically, I think that is where another problem arises because it's not easy to define Jew. Elias Canetti, the Nobel Prize winner who was himself a survivor. He said, "There are no people more difficult to understand than the Jews." And that's probably true. So, I want to give you a little background to Isaac Deutscher. And then next week, I'm thinking about on Wednesday, I'm going to go on to how it completely permeates the left in Britain through characters like Livingston, like Corbyn. And unfortunately it goes from the extreme left into what I will call the liberal left. And so, it is a very complicated situation. But I think we are beginning to turn a little bit of a corner insofar as the illogicality of it all is getting through to quite a few reasonable people.

So, let's talk a little bit about Isaac Deutscher. His dates are 1900 to 1967. He was born in a religious family near Krakow which was then in the Habsburg Empire. He had a brilliant mind. He actually, according to him, he was considered a Gaon. His bar mitzvah dissertation was whether the bird dropping that fell in Tobit's eye was kosher or trief. And as far as he was concerned, that made him leave his Jewish roots behind. He first published religious poetry. He was involved. And then he get, then of course, he's living in Krakow. He speaks Polish. He becomes very involved in writing for Polish literary magazines. He writes verse in both Yiddish and in Polish. He tried to bridge the gulf between the two peoples. He's very smart. He learns languages. He translates into Polish poetry from Hebrew, Latin, German, and Yiddish. He studied as an extramural student at the famous Jagiellonian University. He studied literature, history and philosophy. Incredibly smart, bearing in mind that we are now in the days of a quota in the... The Jagiellonian University issued, introduced a quota. And after the death of Pilsudski in 1935, by 1936, total terrible anti-Semitism in Poland. He then when he's 18 years old, he goes to the University of Warsaw where he studies philosophy and economics. And it's at the University of Warsaw that he becomes a Marxist. And age 27, he joins the illegal Communist Party and he becomes the editor of its illegal press, because of course, the Communist Party is illegal in Pilsudski's Poland.

In 1931, he actually went on a tour of the Soviet Union and seeing the economic conditions under the five year plan. Now, he was such a renowned scholar that both Moscow and Minsk Universities offered him chairs in history of socialism and Marxist theory. He returns to Poland and he was very perturbed by what he'd seen in Stalin's Russia. And he forms the first anti-Stalinist group in the Polish Communist Party. I think we have to see him as an idealist. He believed that Nazism and the communism that was coming out of Russia were actually twins. He published an article, "The Danger of Barbarism Over Europe", in which he advocated a united socialist communist front against the Nazis. You know, that is very ironic because if the left had combined in Germany, the communist, the independent socialist and the broad left, Hitler could have been stopped. And he was actually expelled from the Communist Party for exaggerating the dangers of Nazism. He managed to leave for London in 1939 as a correspondent of a Polish Jewish newspaper, which he'd worked on as a proofreader for 14 years. So, he gets out in 1939. He never returned and he never saw any of his family again. The majority of them, of course, were murdered. And he joined the Trotskyite Revolutionary Party's League. And so after the war broke out,

he had no salary from the Polish papers. So, he taught himself English and began working for the Economist. 1940, he tried to join the Polish Army, but was interned as a dangerous subversive. He was released in 1942. And of course, by that time his hero Trotsky had been murdered.

After the war, he becomes an economic expert on Soviet affairs and military affairs, and the Chief European Correspondent of the Economist. You see, his experience in Russia is now making him very useful. He left journalism in 1946, '47 to write books. He was on Orwell's List. In 1949, George Orwell was asked, you know, the great writer who wrote 'Nineteen Eighty-Four', he was asked to write a list of people that the British government should be worried about. And of course, one of those people on the list was Isaac Deutscher. By the way, so was JB Priestley. So, it's very, no, I will not divert into that. But it's interesting that Deutscher, that Orwell who wrote "Nineteen Eighty-Four", nevertheless, he would produce this list of subversives. Because remember, it's 1949, the Cold War is underway. Secrets are being sold, are being given to the Russians. Think about the spies which Helen has lectured on. And also, you have this anti-communist attitude. But Deutscher has no truck with Russia. Deutscher believes in international revolution. He is a member of, he is a Trotskyite and he's going to become a great guru. He is a great, he's very influential on the left, in the campuses both in Britain and in America. He had a kind of humanitarian Marxism. Thousands listened to his indictment of the Cold War. He lectured at Cambridge in 1966 in Harvard, Princeton, Columbia. He actually died unexpectedly in Rome in 1967.

He becomes the darling of the left just at the time of the student revolutions. And this is his definition of Jewishness. He says, "Religion, I am an atheist. Jewish nationalism, I'm an internationalist. In neither sense am I a Jew. And yet however, I am, however, a Jew by force of my unconditional solidarity with the persecuted and the exterminated. I am a Jew because I feel the pulse of Jewish history. Because I should like to do all I can to assure the real, not spurious self-respect of the Jew." Let me repeat this, because we have to be very careful with Deutscher. He's going to be, his ideas are used by the left. And yes, he is anti-Zionist. But he was very much in touch with the Jewish tragedy. Remember, he lost most of his family. So, let me repeat this. "Religion, I am an atheist. Jewish nationalism, I am an internationalist. In neither sense am I a Jew. I am, however, a Jew by force of my unconditional solidarity with the persecuted and exterminated. I am a Jew because I feel the pulse of Jewish history. Because I should like to do all I can to assure the real, not spurious self-respect of the Jew." I think that's actually quite marvellous.

So, can we see the last? Can we? And what I'm going to talk about next week on Wednesday is what Robert Wistrich wrote. Robert Wistrich tragically died much too young and he was probably the world expert on anti-Semitism. He headed up the centre of the study of anti-Semitism. In Jerusalem, I was very fortunate because we were very, very close friends. In fact, the room I'm lecturing from, he often would write here, and this is what he wrote. I remember when he used to first lecture at the London Jewish Cultural Centre. People thought he exaggerated. They thought he was a prophet of doom. Unfortunately, many of them began to, are now beginning to see that Robert was not political. He was, if you like, he saw it. His father, by the way, had been a communist. And when war broke out, his father put he and his wife in the car and they fled into Russia. And Robert was born in Eastern Europe. Anyway, during the last decades, Britain led by its liberal left elites has been sleepwalking into a morass of anti-Israel and anti-Jewish bigotry whilst vehemently denying anything is amiss.

I'm going to stop now and look at questions because I feel the second slot we should finish at after an hour. So, let's have a look at questions.

Q&A and Comments



Tim, de facto is in fact, de jure is in law. You mentioned these in relation to Russia recognising Israel.

Oh and Rita. This is, oh this is Rita. "In law and government de facto describes practises that exist in reality, even though they're not officially recognised by laws in law and government. De jure describes practises that leastly recognised regardless of whether they practise exist in reality." You know, I do love, I keep on telling you, I love lockdown. There you are, Tim. Perfect answer.

Michael is talking about, Michael is taking a very strong political stand. He is talking about left wing, left wing Jews who are causing, who are causing problems for Jews. We are very much a pugnacious people, are we not? Today is of course the, where did I get? "Oh my God, where'd you get this crazy information from?" I'm afraid I got it from terribly, terribly reputable sources. I used Robert Wistrich. I've used many, many different books. I'm afraid this isn't crazy information, this is facts. I'm very careful. I'm very, very careful. I try and hold a balance. That's why Michael, I will not get involved in politics.

"Today, of course is the anniversary of the start of Six-Day War. Great timing, Trudy." Yeah. Yes, but...

"Patrice Lumumba was the first president of the Congo. So weird that the school in Moscow had that name. We fled the Congo when Lumumba came to power. It was a blood bath for Caucasians." Yeah. You would think, you know, it's fascinating. We have so many wonderful inventions in medicine, in science, in technology, which terrifies me. But we don't seem to progress much as human beings, have we? That's what I find most worrying.

"We shall not see the likes of Moynihan again." You know, I was feeling very, I was feeling very, very depressed last week. But then Malcolm Rifkind cheered me up and he said, "You've got to remember, we don't know yet the quality of people in America, in Britain. And we've just got to hope that people of good spirit and good heart will start going into politics again." We've just got to hope that.

This is from Dr. Gold. "This ghastly and hugely dangerous nonsense is all over the web available just with a few flicks from seemingly unconnected websites. Anti-vax, global warming, big pharma. This is how people are often unwittingly and ignorantly recruited into believing this stuff. It's terrifying widespread." Yes, Dr. Gold. I don't you know your first name. Yes, and this is one of the problems because the net is almost uncontrolled. And what is your truth? Look, I will say to you as a historian, of course, there is no such thing as unbiased history, but I try very hard to hold the line. And if you don't agree with me, there's a hundred books that you can go to and you can argue with me and that's fine too. But when people take on a mantra and they just see one viewpoint. And particularly when there's economic, social, and political unrest, conspiracy theories come to the fore because it's easy to blame someone else.

It's like that ridiculous, you know, why not... There's that stupid joke at a Nazi rally. People were screaming against the Jews and this man stood up and said, "Yes, the Jews and the bicycle makers, I'm sure you all know this." And the man said, "Well, why the bicycle makers?" And the answer was, "Well, why the Jews?" "And the poisons have thrived amongst our left."

This is from your you, Hooda. "What is particularly hard to comprehend is a Holocaust survivor lecturing all over Britain with that message." Sir, sadly, I've also heard it on church premises. Look, people are people are people. Look, be careful. That doesn't mean you cannot criticise the policies of

the state of Israel to the left or the right. Okay? That's not a problem. What is a problem is if it goes into anti-Semitism and to start accusing Israel being the centre of a universe of crime where every Jew in the world is linked together from communism to capitalism to whatever, anti-vax or whatever. And that's when it becomes mad.

And that's why we have to hope that when we come out of, I think COVID did a lot of damage to people's psyches. When we come out of the economic, social, and political unrest, what we've got to hope for is that sense will prevail. The majority of people I know are actually reasonable. I'm sure the majority of people you know are actually reasonable. I also think, 'cause my daughter's a journalist and she's always on the net and she's always telling me these terrible things. I think also people who spend too much time on the net. You know what we used to say in my day? What my partner who was American used to say? "Why don't they just get a life?"

Oh, this is, Yoona. "I strongly beg to your assertion, the UN enabled Israel to be created. Rather apart from an early resolution, it did nothing to enable its survival, but instead failed to stop or worse abate the Muslim nations, mostly Arab to gang up against Israel and encourage Western nations to preemptively file the UN for every act after the first refugee." Yoona, you've taken a very political stand on this. I probably shouldn't have used the word enable. But the point is, Israel desperately wanted. Remember the UN? You remember the, the UNSCOP Commission? Israel desperately wanted. The Jews in Palestine wanted UN recognition. They played a blinder. You should read Abba Eban's memoirs on this. And Horowitz, the economist, they wanted it. They wanted the UN's recognition. And in the end, 33 countries for, I think it was 13 against and 11 abstentions. The British of course abstained. So be careful. Be very careful about history, okay? At that stage, they wanted it. And Begin who was leading the Irgun and to the right, remember, after Israel declared self a state, after the Altalena incident, he folded his people into the IDF. One country sanctioned by international law. Okay? Now what has happened since is another story. And that's another story for another time.

"If Jews are only allowed to work in finance for jobs, of course those are the jobs we're working. But as you say, don't look for logic. Tim, I was talking historically. Of course, after emancipation, Jews could go into whatever field they wanted. But for example, in England, between 1066 and 1290, they were actually invited in by the Norman Conquerors to be the money lenders of the kingdom. He had a feudal society. He needed someone to oil the wheels. So, that's where it comes from. It's historic message.

Today, you get Jews in every walk of life. And of course in Israel, that was the whole, one of the points of Zionism. We are going to create a people which fulfils every niche in the economy. You know, we're going to have, what was it? Ben-Gurion wanted Jewish farmers. Remember the Kibbutz movement? We are going to... You know, Zionism also said there's something unwholesome about the diaspora. We need to enter every walk of economic life, you know? Let's become a normal people, whatever that means. Sadly, Susan's saying there's so many comparisons in the UN.

"I wonder if it's worth doing a talk on what it means to be a Jew", says Tim. That would be interesting. Tim, the website is going to be up in July and Wendy's in London. I'm going to be discussing with her having more debates. And I think what would be interesting is if we actually had a couple of our presenters taking a different stand on that. Because you're right. I mean, I think I'm correct in saying that if I asked you to define Christian, you would probably give it a religious connotation. Whereas when you talk about the word Jew, it is more complicated. Can you be a secular Christian? I don't think so. Maybe a Christian can answer that for me. A religious Christian. Can you be a secular Christian? Of

course, you can be a Brit or you can be an American, but you can be a secular Jew. Can you be a secular Muslim? That's even more complex. I dunno if there's anyone online who can answer that one for me.

James, "There is another self-hating leftist, Avi Shlaim, who claims that Israel has dispossessed the Palestinians and caused the exodus of Jews from Arab lands." Look, they are always, there are also, there are many Jews on the left. They hate it when I use the phrase self-hating. I will certainly use it about Karl Marx. But I am not going to get into politics. I just, I can't.

"What did Deutscher really think Jewish self-respect was?" It's a very good question, Shelly. A very, very good question. Look, he was a man who lost most of his family in the Shoah. He adored Trotsky. Hated Stalin although he'd started out as a communist. Lived in anti-Semitic Poland. Came to England. Interned Orwell's list. He dreamt of an international world. It's real pure idealism. As far as I know, it's never, ever come to be.

Monty, "I do not wish to cross swords with Michael Block." Okay, Monty and Michael can have their own argument. Thanks, Monty.

"What was Russia's motive to become anti-Jewish?" Ah, careful. Good question, Brian. I hope I'd covered it in the last lecture. Maybe you didn't hear. Look, how do you get into the mind... Look, the Czarist regime was violently anti-Jewish. When the Communist took power in Russia, Lenin outlawed anti-Semitism, so did Stalin. Stalin, remember, how'd you get into the mind of a Stalin? He murdered 40 million people according to Russia counts, you know? But it appears that he didn't turn against the Jews unless they were enemies of his. His greatest enemy was Trotsky, remember? And Trotsky was a Jew. But it was really when Golda Meir comes to Moscow and 50,000 young Jews come up to sit to greet her. He's got a Jewish problem. And gradually, as the Arab states become more likely to become pawns in his game, he turns to the Arabs. And after his death, so does Khrushchev.

No, I think Michael, she wasn't talking about you. She was talking about the stuff on the internet. Crazy information. Michael, I think we'd all agree what's going on. I believe that's what she meant. What's going on about on the internet. You can get all sorts of weird, weird theories.

Thank you, Rita. Oh, right. But I think, Rita, it wasn't about Michael's comment. Michael's comment was a political comment, which is fine. Thank you. Okay, everyone. Judi, I've done it. I've finished on time.

- [Judi] Thank you, Trudy.

- And thank you. And it's so good to have you back, Judy. God bless. Bye, everybody.