

## A guide to the ideas and sayings of Gilad Atzmon, the anti-Semitic jazzman,

### Introduction

Why devote an article to Gilad Atzmon? Most of his writing is tedious, monotonous and repetitive and what it lacks in quality it more than makes up for in sheer quantity. The answer is because everything he says feeds the Zionist canard that anti-Semitism equals anti-Zionism. Atzmon is proof that a supporter of the Palestinians can be anti-Semitic.

Atzmon is able to take advantage of the natural inclination of most Palestinian supporters and anti-Zionists to dismiss allegations against him of anti-Semitism as more of the same Zionist propaganda. Because Zionism has no interest in combating anti-Semitism, it has no difficulty making false allegations of anti-Semitism, a situation where 'If you cry wolf long and loud enough, when anti-semitism does raise its head no one will bat an eyelid.'<sup>1</sup> Historically Zionism allied with anti-Semitism as its primary interest was to 'encourage' emigration of Jews to Palestine. As the founder of political Zionism, Theodore Herzl, wrote in his Diaries:

'the anti-Semites will become our most dependable friends, the anti-Semitic countries our allies. We want to emigrate as respected people.'<sup>2</sup>

Even today we have the chair of the Zionist Federation, Jonathan Hoffman, demonstrating alongside the English Defence League,<sup>3</sup> a fascist and anti-Semitic group, in support of Ahava, an Israeli shop in Covent Garden which sells stolen goods from the West Bank. Zionism isn't the least concerned about genuine anti-Semitism.<sup>4</sup>

When caught on camera, Hoffman's first reaction was to describe a photograph of himself and the leader of the EDL's 'Jewish Division' Roberta Moore as 'photoshopped' resulting in a threat of libel and a humiliating apology from Hoffman.<sup>5</sup>

Indeed Hoffman, Richard Millett and various Zionist activists actually *defended* a staff member of Ahava who accused a Jewish demonstrator of being a 'Christ-killer' (one of Atzmon's favourite accusations!).<sup>6</sup>

But because Zionist accusations of anti-Semitism are wrong and malicious 99.9% of the time, it doesn't mean that they are always wrong. As the article below will show, Atzmon is the exception that proves the rule.

Atzmon represents a tiny but nonetheless important current within the broader Palestine solidarity movement who see the responsibility for the conflict in Palestine and the oppression and dispossession of the Palestinians as being due to something inherent in the fact that Israel/Zionism are Jewish. It is '*Jewishness*' that is all-important. They accept Zionism's claim that its actions are carried out on behalf of Jews worldwide and that the 'Jewish Lobby' is responsible for US foreign policy and its support for Israel. Some even imagine that, but for the Lobby, the USA would have adopted a favorable stance towards the Palestinians, forgetting that US policy in South Africa, Chile, El Salvador, Indonesia etc. was hardly different.

The phenomenon that Atzmon and his group of ideologues represent, including Israel Shamir and Mary Rizzo, (who he has subsequently fallen out with and whose 'Palestine Think Tank' is now defunct) isn't so much racist as a reflection of racism. It represents the weakness of the Palestine struggle when, in moments of despair people adopt the language and tools of analysis of the Zionists, merely inverting the categories.

Although small and politically backward, this current, is not without influence. They tend to support the right wing in the Palestinian body politic, in particular Hamas and to reject explanations of US policy as

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<sup>1</sup> **Vetting in Practice** Guardian Comment is Free, 31.5.07.  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2007/may/31/vettinginpractice>

<sup>2</sup> Diaries of Theodore Herzl, pp. 83-4.

<sup>3</sup> <http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2010/08/jonathan-hoffman-of-zionist-federation.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2010/08/jonathan-hoffmans-lies-catch-up-with.html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2010/08/jonathan-hoffmans-lies-catch-up-with.html>

<sup>6</sup> <http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2010/12/jewish-protestor-accused-of-killing.html>

imperialist and Zionism as settler-colonial. It's not oil or Israel's strategic position as a stable imperialist base in the region that is responsible for the support the Israeli state receives. It's the Jews *qua* Jews. The revolutions in the region have left them and those they support bewildered and confused and their only response is to seek to Islamicise it and introduce sectarianism into the fight for Arab liberation. It is no accident that **both** Hamas and the Palestinian Authority did their best to prevent demonstrations against Mubarak in Egypt.<sup>7</sup>

I decided to write a guide to the writings of Gilad Atzmon after repeated queries from people wanting to know why we call him anti-Semitic. Many people find it difficult to believe that someone who was an Israeli Jew and who denounces the racism of Zionism is himself racist and anti-Semitic and even a Zionist ideologically.

### Anti-Semitism in the West

Anti-Semitism in Britain is a marginal form of prejudice. Jews are rarely subject to physical attack because they are Jews nor do they suffer from state racism. Jews are not treated any differently by the immigration laws from other white people.<sup>8</sup> The Jewish religion and Jews are not demonised and ridiculed in the popular press. Racist and opportunist politicians do not say that '*if we don't get the non-Jews angry he's* (Phil Woolas) *gone*.'<sup>9</sup> Anti-Semitism is largely confined to the loony tunes and conspiracy theorists.

It is because of the absence of what most people have traditionally understood as anti-Semitism, i.e. violence, hatred and discrimination against Jews,<sup>10</sup> that bodies such as the Community Security Trust [CST] distort and inflate figures of anti-Semitic incidents.<sup>11</sup> Integral to this is the deliberate conflation of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. The purpose being to 'prove' that anti-Semitism is increasing and thus alarm Jews into emigrating to Israel. The Community Security Trust is an establishment charity which, quite uniquely, is allowed to keep details of its trustees secret. It is a wholly owned Zionist outfit, set up by Gerald Ronson, owner of the Heron Group, the largest private company in Britain, as well as being a far-right Zionist.

An example of the CST's overt Zionist bias is its response to the controversy stirred up by Caryl Churchill's powerful play, '*7 Jewish Children*', which made comparison between what Israeli parents told their children, and with the tragedy of the Palestinians, implicitly referring to the Jews own tragedies. It has been subject to considerable debate, Michael Billington describing it as a '*heartfelt lamentation for the future generations who will themselves become victims of the attempted military suppression of Hamas*.'<sup>12</sup> What was the reaction of Mark Gardener and Dave Rich of the CST? To debate the subtleties, to criticise its artistic merits? No, it was '*The blood libel brought up to date*'.<sup>13</sup> Not merely absurd but hysterical. The blood libel was the most murderous and vicious of all anti-Semitic libels, albeit one that Atzmon's friend Israel Shamir subscribes to. Whether you like it or not, '*7 Jewish Children*' is an attempt to probe, in 10 short minutes, the conditioning of Israeli children and the comparison with those who turned a blind eye in the past. It may be good theatre or bad, but to compare it with the medieval Blood Libel demonstrates that the CST's idea of 'anti-Semitism' bears no relationship to that which most Jewish people understand.

When Jonathan Hoffman claimed that he had been the victim of anti-Semitic jeering at a Bricup [academic boycott] meeting at the School of Oriental & African Studies on 4.12.09, Gardener was quick off the mark: '*For daring to raise this he was jeered with outright hatred. "The UCU's attitude to anti-Semitism is disgusting, and those who collaborate with it should be ashamed of themselves."*' In fact, as video footage showed, Hoffman had not been subject to any anti-Semitic jeering and within 24 hours the BBC pulled the

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<sup>7</sup> <http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2011/02/egyptian-counter-revolution-has-begun.html>

<sup>8</sup> See 'Redefining Anti-Semitism – The False anti-Racism of the Right.', Tony Greenstein, Return Number 5, p. 10, December 1990. <http://cosmos.ucc.ie/cs1064/jabowen/IPSC/php/art.php?next=true&aid=80548>

<sup>9</sup> The Guardian, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/nov/05/phil-woolas-ejected-parliament-election> 'Phil Woolas Ejected from Parliament Over Election Slurs, 5.11.10.

<sup>10</sup> Hence the attempt to foster a 'definition' of anti-Semitism that includes criticism of Israel per se. <http://www.jewdas.org/2009/11/anti-semitism-in-the-service-of-war-crimes/>

<sup>11</sup> Jewish Chronicle, 5.10.05. Jenni Frazer <http://tinyurl.com/ykpov9u>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/stage/2009/feb/11/seven-jewish-children>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/may/01/carylchurchill-theatre>

plug on a story which said that Hoffman was a victim of anti-Semitism. On March 30 2010 they formally apologised for the Report.<sup>14</sup> Meanwhile Hoffman had made a complaint of 'anti-Semitism' to the Zionist Community Security Trust which was almost certainly recorded as such (Gardener has refused to deny this).<sup>15</sup>

As Mark Elf pointed out, referring to the latest statistics from the CST, '*anti-Semitic incidents in the UK fall to a record high?*'<sup>16</sup> a fall of one-third in anti-Semitic incidents is spun as a record high.<sup>17</sup> The Jewish Chronicle headlines a fall of one third in anti-Semitic incidents as: '**Anti-Semitic incidents still at record high**'<sup>18</sup>

Anti-Semitic incidents have reached the second highest level since records began, according to annual figures released by the Community Security Trust.

The CST confirmed that 639 incidents were reported in 2010, a 31 per cent fall from 2009's record high of 926, caused by anti-Semitic reactions to the Gaza conflict in January of that year.

If the Jewish Chronicle still retained any connection with objective reporting, the first paragraph would read 'Anti-Semitic incidents have **dropped to** the second highest level...' but that would have spoilt the story. And so we see the truth of the old adage that there are '*lies, damned, lies and statistics.*'

I can give a personal example of the CST's manipulation of statistics. Last year I received 2 hate e-mails. One was from an anonymous Zionist who wished that my family and I had perished in the Auschwitz death camp and another saying that the Holocaust was a hoax. I reported them to the CST. Its spokesperson, Mark Gardener, responded by saying that the first e-mail wouldn't be classified as anti-Semitic but the second one would because '*(the) CST does not believe that arguments between "Zionist" and "anti-Zionist" Jews constitute anti-Semitism as such.*'<sup>19</sup> Which is very convenient. I wasn't aware there was any sort of 'argument' or debate, merely anonymous abuse, but as it was from a (presumably Jewish) Zionist then the CST refused to record it. Indeed, from personal experience again, some of their stewards (one of whom went on to co-found the Jewish Division of the EDL) probably agree with it. But at least Gardener's comments were an admission that for Zionists, wishing your Jewish opponent had perished in Auschwitz with his family is par for the course and part of their argument.

Such is the level of anti-Semitism, that we even have the phenomenon of Jews faking attacks on themselves, such as the student in the USA who was caught painting swastikas on her own door.<sup>20</sup> Norman Finkelstein has detailed in ***Holocaust Industry*** examples of false 'survivors' of the concentration camps such as *The Painted Bird*, by Polish émigré Jerzy Kosinski and Binjamin Wilkomirski's *Fragments*. Finkelstein notes how Israel Gutman of Yad Vashem and a Holocaust lecturer at Hebrew University when asked said "it's not that important" whether ***Fragments*** is a fraud. "*Wilkomirski has written a story which he has experienced deeply; that's for sure.... He is not a fake. He is someone who lives this story very deeply in his soul. The pain is authentic.*"

Even the Zionists admit that anti-Semitic incidents only increase when Israel attacks the Palestinians, that is when a few people take the Zionists at their word when they claim that Israel's murderous actions are carried out on behalf of all Jews. The highest level of anti-Semitic incidents, by the CST's own admission, took place at the time of Israel's attack on Gaza.

*'CST recorded 924 antisemitic incidents in 2009. This is the highest annual total since it began recording antisemitic incidents in 1984, and is 55 per cent higher than the previous record of 598 incidents in 2006.... The main reason for this record high is the unprecedented number of antisemitic incidents recorded in January and February 2009, during and after the conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. The number of incidents recorded did not return to relatively normal*

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<sup>14</sup> <http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2010/04/bbc-hoffman-lied-when-claiming-anti.html>

<sup>15</sup> <http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2009/12/bbcs-humiliating-climbdown-after.html>

<sup>16</sup> <http://jewssansfrontieres.blogspot.com/2011/02/antisemitic-incidents-in-uk-fall-to.html>

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.thecst.org.uk/docs/Incidents Report 2010.pdf](http://www.thecst.org.uk/docs/Incidents%20Report%202010.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> <http://jewssansfrontieres.blogspot.com/2011/02/antisemitic-incidents-in-uk-fall-to.html>

<sup>19</sup> <http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2010/03/when-is-anti-semitic-attack-not-anti.html>

<sup>20</sup> <http://tinyurl.com/47uw2yo>, <http://uk.answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20100919113524AAGLcok>

*levels until April, some three months after the conflict ended.*

By the Zionists own admission, it is the 'Jewish' State that is most responsible for the increase in anti-Semitism! It is also proof that anti-Semitism has no indigenous roots and, to the extent that it exists, it is primarily the result of Israel's own actions in claiming to act on behalf of Jews.

So why, when anti-Semitism is at an all-time low in Europe, is Gilad Atzmon of any importance? Atzmon and friends hardly represent a threat to British Jews. They don't organise vigilante squads or promote any regular anti-Semitic publication.

The answer is simple. Anti-Semitism is not a threat to Jews so much as a danger to Palestinians. The only ones who benefit from anti-Semitism are the Zionists because without anti-Semitism there is no Zionism. It was anti-Semitism which pushed Jews out of Europe. It was Zionism which ensured that some of them went to Palestine. Some even argue that Israel 'owes its creation to the Holocaust...' <sup>21</sup> That is why anti-Semitism matters.

## Background

In 2005 a number of us in Jews Against Zionism made our concerns known over the involvement of Israel Shamir, an Israeli/Swedish fascist from Russia in pro-Palestinian politics. Shamir had become an 'advisor' to the Board of *Deir Yassin Remembered* [DYR] <sup>22</sup>

Shamir is a holocaust denier and anti-Semite who believes in the medieval blood libel that Jews baked their Passover bread with the blood of non-Jewish children. The first criticism of him was by Ali Abunimah and Hussein Ibish's in an article '*Serious Concerns About Israel Shamir*'. <sup>23</sup>

Lea Tsemel, an anti-Zionist Israeli lawyer, and Michael Warschawski of the Alternative Information Centre, resigned from the Board of DYR in May 2005 when they learnt of Shamir's new role. They wrote that '*There is no room for a racist in an institution aimed to fight for the memory of the Deir Yassin victims of Ethnic cleansing and massacre.*' <sup>24</sup>

Jeff Halper of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions also resigned around the same time, writing that Shamir: '*deflects the discussion from the essentials of Deir Yassin onto the supposed characteristics of the perpetrators. To cast all "Jews" as perpetrators of such heinous crimes... is racist, absolutely unacceptable and deflects entirely from the issue of Deir Yassin itself.*' <sup>25</sup>

DYR had become a repository for a small group of open racists and anti-Semites. In August 2004 British director, Paul Eisen, penned an essay *Jewish Power*, the title of which is self-explanatory. It was not Zionism, a political current that historically has been adopted and supported by a spectrum of right-wing and anti-Semitic forces; from Palmerstone to Christian Evangelists to neo-Conservatives, born-again Christians such as John Hagee and fascists like Michel Kaminski of Poland's Law and Justice Party, that was the problem. It was 'Jewishness' and 'Jewish Power'.

*'The crime against the Palestinian people is being committed by a Jewish state with Jewish soldiers using weapons displaying Jewish religious symbols, and with the full support and complicity of the overwhelming mass of organised Jews worldwide. But to name Jews as responsible for this crime seems impossible to do.'* <sup>26</sup>

It was a classic example of looking through the telescope from the wrong end. It inverted cause and effect, mistaking the symptoms for the disease. The majority of Jews today support Zionism. The reasons for this include the holocaust and their higher socio-economic status. For many of them it is their prime identity. Likewise the perpetrators of the atrocities against the Palestinians are Jewish. But is being

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<sup>21</sup> Gilbert Achcar, *The Arabs and the Holocaust: The Arab-Israeli War of Narratives*, p.19 (London: Saqi Books, 2010)

<sup>22</sup> *Turning a Blind Eye to anti-Semitism* Tony Greenstein, *Weekly Worker* [WW], 8.7.05. <http://tinyurl.com/6hktyud>, '*The Irony of Israel Shamir*'. WW, 217.05. [http://www.cpgb.org.uk/worker2/index.php?action=viewarticle&article\\_id=91805](http://www.cpgb.org.uk/worker2/index.php?action=viewarticle&article_id=91805)

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.nigelparry.com/issues/shamir/originalletter.html> on 16th April 2001

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.mail-archive.com/vtjp@yahoogroups.com/msg00700.html>

<sup>25</sup> [http://www.sue.be/pal/Halper\\_DYR.html](http://www.sue.be/pal/Halper_DYR.html)

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.righteousjews.org/article10.html> 19.8.04.

Jewish the cause of the Palestinian's dispossession? Is there an essence of 'Jewishness' that leads to what Zionism has done? Or to make a comparison, was being a Protestant the reason for the pogroms, murders and expropriations carried out against Ireland's Catholics? How does it explain the support that the United States and Western governments give Israel? Where do political, social and economic factors fit in or is being Jewish a sufficient explanation in itself? But if 'Jewish Power' gave an indication of the direction of DYR then Eisen's next work, *Holocaust Wars* left no doubt.

*Holocaust Wars*<sup>27</sup> was dedicated to Ernst Zundel, an open neo-Nazi, who had been deported from Canada and imprisoned by West Germany for holocaust denial. It quotes, with approval, Zundel's wife Ingrid when she says that '*Many WWII soldiers (now very old) have told me that World War II - that is, the war against the East - was really a preventive/defensive war against Communism, which was Jewish.*' *The Jewish-Bolshevik menace no less.*' Eisen wrote that:

'Ernst Zundel was once involved in the publication of a book called **The Hitler We Loved and Why**, but Ernst Zundel was not the only German who loved Hitler and is probably not the only German who still loves Hitler. Millions of Germans loved Hitler who for twelve years impacted on them as no German has or probably ever will, and, though they never say so, must, deep down still cherish his memory.'

Eisen omits to mention that the Hitler he so cherishes also murdered hundreds of thousands of trade unionists, socialists, gays and gypsies in concentration camps as well as 3 million Russian prisoners-of-war and an equivalent number of Poles.

In 2006, on DYR's website he penned '*In Clear Sight of Yad Vashem*' Eisen explained his support for holocaust denial:

The Holocaust too has come under assault. Over the last fifty years, revisionist scholars have amassed a formidable body of substantial evidence, which runs in direct opposition to the traditional Holocaust narrative. "*Where is the evidence,*" they say, "*for this alleged gargantuan mass-murder? Where are the documents? Where are the traces and remains? Where are the weapons of murder?*" *These revisionists all acknowledge of course, that there was a terrible assault on Jews on the part of the National Socialist government, but disagree as to the scale, motive, and methods cited in the typical narrative, a narrative that most of us choose or are obliged to accept. "What befell the Jews", they say, "was a brutal ethnic cleansing accompanied by dispossession, pillage and massacre."*<sup>28</sup>

This is the standard argument of the more sophisticated holocaust denier. Of course there was ethnic cleansing and brutality, but this was no different from similar massacres that have convulsed Europe. What they deny though is that the Nazis planned, and nearly succeeded in achieving, the total extermination of Europe's Jews. In particular they contest the fact that poison gas was used in the exterminations. It is an accepted fact that carbon monoxide was used to murder up a hundred thousand plus mentally and physically handicapped Germans.<sup>29</sup> Yet Eisen has openly stated that '*the evidence for the use of homicidal gas-chambers is not good at all. The evidence against it is much, much stronger.*'<sup>30</sup>

A number of us therefore advocated that DYR be ostracised. When Gilad Atzmon became aware of this, he wrote an article, **The Protocols of the Elders of London**.<sup>31</sup> Atzmon used the metaphor of the infamous anti-Semitic forgery, the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* quite deliberately. It was a signal to Shamir and Eisen that he agreed with them, but couldn't say so openly. Atzmon wrote of '*a horrifying image of modern Jewish secular intolerance. It is a glimpse into the abusive, assertive and violent world of Zionist lobbying.*' Hysterical phrase mongering aside, Atzmon was saying that Jewish anti-Zionists in the Palestine solidarity movement had no right to speak out about anti-Jewish racism and if they did they were 'Zionists'. I wrote to Atzmon concerning his distribution of Eisen's *The Holocaust Wars*. On 6th June 2005, Atzmon responded thus:

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<sup>27</sup> [http://www.zundel.org/zundel\\_persecuted/may20-05\\_eisen.html](http://www.zundel.org/zundel_persecuted/may20-05_eisen.html)

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.deiryassin.org/byboard18.html>

<sup>29</sup> See THE ORIGINS OF NAZI GENOCIDE, From Euthanasia to the Final Solution, Henry Friedlander, 1995, University of North Carolina.

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.haloscan.com/comments/thecutter/117192641046077827/>

<sup>31</sup> <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/shamireaders/message/494>

*'Mr Greenstine, True I circulated Paul Eisen's paper. I do believe that argumentative texts must be circulated as widely as possible. ... By the way, my take on the subject is **slightly** different than Paul's one and yet, i found Paul very attentive to my criticism. Furthermore, Let me assure you that **if I ever see a great text written by yourself I'll be the first to circulate it.**' [My Emphasis (ME) - TG]*

By his own admission, Atzmon found Eisen's **Holocaust Wars** 'a great text' with which he had only 'slight' differences.

In the **Protocols** Atzmon wrote that *'There is one man who they really detest, his name is Israel Shamir. An ex Jew, Shamir is a very civil and peaceful man and probably is the sharpest critical voice of 'Jewish power' and Zionist ideology.'* In an e-mail of 12.6.05., he explained to me that *'I find him (Shamir) an extremely charming man and rather entertaining. But more to the point, my ties with Shamir are merely intellectual. I regard Shamir as a unique and advanced thinker.'*<sup>32</sup>

That he is unique is not disputed. As to how 'advanced' Shamir is can be gauged by his description of Auschwitz as *'Another go of Zionist propaganda. The camp was an internment facility, attended by the Red Cross (as opposed to the US internment centre in Guantanamo). If it were bombed, the internees would die – or as a result of the bombing, or due to starvation for the supplies would not arrive... This idea of "bombing Auschwitz" makes sense only if one accepts the vision of "industrial extermination factory", and it was formed only well after the war.'*<sup>33</sup>

A good example of just how unique Shamir is was his debate with Lee Barnes of the British National Party. The BNP weren't anti-Semitic enough! He accused them of being in the pay of the Jews. *'I do not feel at ease accusing you and your comrades of betraying the Britons and joining with the Jews, but if I'd keep mum, stones won't.'*<sup>34</sup>

But if he dislikes Jews, Shamir has a soft spot for paedophilia:

*'The Americans over-simplify the question of sex with minors, when they present it as something monstrous. This is not so. Are you revolted by Romeo and Juliet? As a good American citizen, you should be; Juliet was 14, and thus Romeo today would be tried and locked up as a "paedophile.... Indeed, almost all cases of alleged abuse are homosexual; the alleged victims should sue the gay rights organizations rather than the Church. But the Church is not allowed even to utter these words.... (homophobia) may stand next to the taboo on "being less than fond of Jews" (anti-Semitism).... two secondary offences have been created, "racism", an antisemitism spill-off, and "paedophilia", a homophobia spill-off.'*<sup>35</sup>

According to Atzmon *'there have been a lot attempts to destroy the few of us who have stood up against Jewish power. I found myself in trouble for supporting people like Israel Shamir and Paul Eisen...'*<sup>36</sup>

Below is a guide to Atzmon's worldview expressed in his own words. Unless otherwise indicated, all quotes are from Gilad Atzmon.

Atzmon combines the wisdom of the bar room bigot with the rhetoric of 'philosophical' ramblings that sound meaningful. His writings are full of contradictions, but beneath the surface there is one clear and consistent message – *'the Jews are to blame.'* It's a simple message.

#### **Atzmon's Number 1 Target - Jewish anti-Zionists**

There must be few if any Jewish anti-Zionists who haven't been called 'traitors' or 'self-haters'.<sup>37</sup> We are the living proof that Zionism has no monopoly over being Jewish. It is also no coincidence that Atzmon reserves his bile and poison for us. We are 'crypto-Zionists'.

One of Atzmon's primary themes is that Jews in the Palestine solidarity movement are really only interested in fighting anti-Semitism. In an attack on the non-Zionist Independent Jewish Voices he took

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<sup>32</sup> <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/shamireaders/message/494>

<sup>33</sup> [http://www.israelshamir.net/English/Who\\_Needs.htm](http://www.israelshamir.net/English/Who_Needs.htm)

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.israelshamir.net/Contributors/Contributor48.htm>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.israelshamir.net/English/Eng19.htm>

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/silvia-cattori-an-interview-with-gilad-atzmon-to-call-a-spad.html>

<sup>37</sup> See for example *If I Am Not For Myself - Journey of an anti-Zionist Jew*, Mike Marqusee, Verso 2008.

particular exception to the sentence in their founding statement that “*The battle against anti-Semitism is vital and is undermined whenever opposition to Israeli government policies is automatically branded as anti-Semitic.*”<sup>38</sup> Not only was it number 5 on a list, but it is quite clear that what IJV were saying was that opposition to Israeli policies should not be branded as anti-Semitic **and** that if Zionists were so concerned about anti-Semitism they wouldn’t undermine opposition to it by such an association. Atzmon thought he had hit a goldmine. ‘*Eventually, the prominent independent Jews spit it out. They are really against anti-Semitism.*’<sup>39</sup> Well yes, they are against anti-Semitism but they aren’t **only or primarily** against anti-Semitism.

Atzmon gives comfort to Zionism by reinforcing its message that opposition to Israel and to Jews is one and the same thing. He not only racialises the struggle but tries to divide the Palestine solidarity movement by alleging that Jewish members are primarily loyal to their own ‘tribe. What Atzmon terms the:

‘ultimate self-hater’ is ‘a secular, cosmopolitan, peace lover, inspired by humanistic views, in a mixed married, living in the Diaspora... who makes Zionism into a dynamic movement... who serves as an inside enemy’.<sup>40</sup>

Jewish anti-Zionists are a fifth column ‘*who will convert (to Zionism) in the next anti-Semitic wave... who makes Zionism into an eternal struggle for ‘Jewish salvation’.* Notwithstanding his previous declarations that there is no such thing as anti-Semitism, Atzmon predicts that there will be a new anti-Semitic wave. ‘*Bizarrely enough, it is the Jewish Left which turns Zionism into the official voice of the Jewish people.*’ Bizarre is one description.

### **Gilad Atzmon – Anthony Julius and a journey to the dark Zionist world**<sup>41</sup>

When solicitor Anthony Julius, a leading Zionist and anti-boycott campaigner, wrote a 2 part article ‘**Jewish Anti-Zionism Unravelling – The Morality of Vanity (Part 1)**’<sup>42</sup> and **Questioning Antisemitism (Part 2)**<sup>43</sup> Atzmon effusively welcomed it.<sup>44</sup> It confirmed everything he had ever written or spoke about anti-Zionist Jews.<sup>45</sup>

‘Julius correctly suggests that anti-Zionist Jews fall into contradiction when they hold that while dispersion is good for the Jews, it is bad for the Palestinians, and when they demand of the Jews that they disavow ‘nationalism,’ while valuing the Palestinians’ “continuing struggle for justice;” Julius obviously hit here on some severe level of lack of integrity within the Jewish left discourse.’

Julius’ assertions are however based on the Zionist claim that the Jews are a nation.<sup>46</sup> Atzmon has no quarrel with this.

It is precisely because Atzmon’s analysis has never broken with Zionism ideologically that he agrees with

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<sup>38</sup> <http://jewishvoices.squarespace.com/declaration-2>

<sup>39</sup> [And What About The Palestinian Cause?](http://jewishvoices.squarespace.com/declaration-2/) <http://jewishvoices.squarespace.com/declaration-2/>

<sup>40</sup> Not in My Name <http://gilad.co.uk/html%20files/notin.html>

<sup>41</sup> [28.4.08.]

<http://peacepalestine.wordpress.com/2008/04/28/gilad-atzmon-anthony-julius-and-a-journey-to-the-dark-zionist-world>

<sup>42</sup>

<http://www.z-word.com/z-word-essays/jewish-anti-zionism-unravelling%253A--the-morality-of-vanity-%2528part-1%2529.html>

<sup>43</sup>

<http://www.z-word.com/z-word-essays/jewish-anti-zionism-unravelling%253A-questioning-antisemitism-%2528part-2%2529.html>

<sup>44</sup>

<http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2008/05/gilad-atzmon-joins-with-anthony-julius.html>

<sup>45</sup>

<http://www.z-word.com/z-word-essays/jewish-anti-zionism-unravelling%253A--the-morality-of-vanity-%2528part-1%2529.html>,

<http://www.z-word.com/z-word-essays/jewish-anti-zionism-unravelling%253A-questioning-antisemitism-%2528part-2%2529.html>

<sup>46</sup>

<http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2008/05/gilad-atzmon-joins-with-anthony-julius.html>

Julius' attack on anti-Zionist Jews. *'Julius succeeds in exposing some serious inconsistency as well as a fundamental lack of integrity [Atzmon loves this word – TG] within the Jewish left discourse.... his deconstruction of some large sectors of the Jewish political and ideological left is more than valid.'*<sup>47</sup>

Atzmon demonstrates his intellectual dishonesty by citing Julius as stating that *"The anti-Zionist is not just a Jew like other Jews; his dissent from normative Zionist loyalties makes him a better Jew. He restores Judaism's good name; to be a good Jew one has to be an anti-Zionist."* It is clear from the original text that this is a parody of the views of anti-Zionist Jews.<sup>48</sup> Clearly Julius does not believe that Zionists are worse Jews than anti-Zionists! Atzmon continues on his dishonest way:

*'When a so-called 'better' Jew refers to himself as a 'Jew', what is it that he refers to? Is it his racial belonging? [Atzmon never refers to race!] Is it biological determinism in play? Is it the ethnic identity...'*

It is little wonder that Atzmon concludes that *'It is rather shocking to admit that Zionist and Palestinian criticism of Jewish anti-Zionism is almost similar.'* What authority Atzmon has to speak for Palestinians is unclear.

Atzmon's ideological agreement with arch-Zionist Julius, who took a prominent part in the campaign against the Academic Boycott and who is the next President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, is revealing. Julius complains that for Jewish anti-Zionists:

*'Moralising provides the moraliser with recognition of his own existence and confirmation of his own value.... a moraliser has a good conscience and is satisfied by his own self-righteousness. He is not a self-hater; he is enfolded in self-admiration.'*

This is a secondary string in the Zionist bow. Jewish anti-Zionists simply parade their own consciences at the expense of fellow Jews. A clearly racist argument but Atzmon's response is: *'The real meaning of secularism within the Jewish tribal left discourse means the replacement of 'God-loving' with 'self-loving.'* We are either 'self-haters' or 'self-lovers'!!

Julius castigates Jewish anti-Zionists for lack of loyalty to a group ethic, Atzmon echoes him in a section entitled **'The Crypto Zionist's Role'**: *'the British Zionist academic has some Judeocentric conspiratorial expectations from his fellow dissident brothers. He would like to see them fighting the anti-Semites in the Palestinian solidarity discourse.'* In short there is a conspiracy between Zionist and anti-Zionist Jews.

Atzmon quotes with approval Julius' attack on Jewish anti-Zionists:

*'According to Julius, the Jewish anti-Zionist "wrongly assumes that group loyalty is inconsistent with the ethical life, and that universalist moral foundations cannot sustain a version of nationalism."*

Atzmon has no problem with Israeli Jews 'group loyalty' and desire to live apart from Palestinians. It is not simply that Atzmon accepts that the Jews are a nation, he fails crucially to distinguish between the nationalism of the oppressed and oppressor. The former is racist and exclusive, the latter encompasses the coloniser.

*'Seemingly, the man learned a lot from the revisionist historian he managed to defeat in court. [David Irving - TG] However, the truth must be said. Julius is absolutely correct here. There is NO contradiction between group loyalty and the ethical life.'* [ME - TG]

Atzmon concludes that

*'Julius manages to establish a profound criticism of Jewish anti-Zionism. Seemingly, Jewish anti-Zionism is inconsistent to the bone. Due to the impossibility to bridge the gap between the tribal and the universal, Jewish anti-Zionism is doomed to fall either into inconsistency or lack of integrity.'*

To be a Jewish anti-Zionist is to act 'tribally' because to Atzmon being Jewish can only mean a tribal/ethnic/racial affiliation. It is noticeable how Julius's assumptions and expectations are accepted

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<sup>47</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/anthony-julius-and-a-journey-to-the-dark-zionist-world-by-gi.html>

<sup>48</sup> Jewish Anti-Zionism Unravelling, Part One: The Morality of Vanity, March 2008.

without comment by Atzmon:

Bearing in mind that Julius is a Zionist who calls the anti-Zionists to fight anti-Semitism, it is impossible not to see JAZ [Jews Against Zionism] as an integral part of the Zionist plot on the verge of Sayanim.'

Of course this is more nonsense. Julius is describing what he would like to happen. But in Atzmon's warped logic this becomes established fact. Whilst he draws different conclusions, Atzmon agrees with Zionism's ideological basis:

'Since Zionism is a monolithic voice of the Jewish people... I tend to agree with many points raised by him [Julius]. Jewish anti-Zionism is a futile project. It leads nowhere,... If secular Jews intend to resist Zionism genuinely... then the only way to do it is to join the human family and to act as ordinary people.'

If you want to oppose Zionism then you can't be Jewish or speak as a Jew. That Jewish identity has changed and is changing seems to have passed him by. We are all members of the same tribe! Atzmon's views on the role of Jews are not dissimilar to that of fascist anti-Semitism.

'Jewish universalism appears to operate as a maintenance project of Jewish chauvinism and tribalism.'<sup>49</sup>

An article in *Spearhead*, owned by John Tyndall, a key figure in post-war British fascism, then of the Greater Britain Movement, argued that '*The Jews wish the destruction of every race and culture but their own.*'<sup>50</sup> Twelve year later, the National Front's Activities Organiser, Martin Webster, was making the same complaint:

'Zionists [i.e. Jews - TG] have organised themselves to promote race-consciousness and racial nationalism among the Jewish people but to promote race-mixing and internationalist cosmopolitanism among the people of nations which are host to Jewish communities.'<sup>51</sup>

**In The Politics of Anti-Semitism: Zionism, the Bund and Jewish Identity Politics**<sup>52</sup> Atzmon counterposes support for the Palestinians with anti-Semitism.

'For me it is Palestine and the Palestinian people. If this makes me into an anti-Semite in the eyes of some confused Diaspora Jews (left, right and centre), I will have to learn to live with it. At the end of the day, I cannot make everyone happy.'<sup>53</sup>

### To be Jewish is to be a Zionist

#### Not in My Name<sup>54</sup>

'By declaring 'not in my name', one affirms the totality of that which one tries to oppose' which is another way of saying if you oppose war crimes carried in your name you are still responsible!

Atzmon has '*never come across a German dove who defines himself as an 'Aryan for peace.'*<sup>55</sup>

'Accordingly, if we regard Jewish identity as a national definition then ... by doing so we accept the notion of Jewish nationalism. In other words, we become devoted Zionists.'

The key word is '*if*'. The whole point of being a Jewish anti-Zionist is that one doesn't accept this Zionist idea! It is equally clear that Atzmon does accept Zionism's claim that Jewish identity is synonymous with Zionism.

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<sup>49</sup>

<http://peacepalestine.wordpress.com/2008/04/28/gilad-atzmon-anthony-julius-and-a-journey-to-the-dark-zionist-world/> 28.4.08.

<sup>50</sup> 'Why there is Anti-Semitism', Paul Trevelyan, *Spearhead* January 1965.

<sup>51</sup> *Spearhead*, August 1977 '*N.F. Stampedes the Zionist Racialists*' Martin Webster.

<sup>52</sup> <http://dissidentvoice.org/2007/12/the-politics-of-anti-semitism-zionism-the-bund-and-jewish-identity-politics/>

<sup>53</sup> <http://dissidentvoice.org/2007/12/the-politics-of-anti-semitism-zionism-the-bund-and-jewish-identity-politics/>

<sup>54</sup> <http://gilad.co.uk/html%20files/notin.html>

<sup>55</sup> Most didn't call themselves 'Aryans' either!

Black equals white and opposites are identical. The more Jews oppose Zionism the more they support it. If you accept Atzmon's absurd Zionist formulations then anyone Jewish is in a Catch-22 situation. The more opposed they are to Zionism the more Zionist they are!

### **Jews - The Enemy Within the Palestine solidarity movement**

In a talk to Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2006, '**Palestinian Solidarity Discourse and Zionist Hegemony**'<sup>56</sup> Atzmon compared Jewish supporters of Israel to '*a dozen exiled German dissident intellectuals*' who criticised Churchill for insisting that it was Nazism not the German people who were responsible. Leaving aside the fact that that millions of German workers had opposed Nazism when the British ruling classes had feted and fawned over them, because of their destruction of the trade unions and the murder of communists, trade unionists and socialists in Germany, Atzmon was comparing British citizens who are Jewish with '*exiled dissident Germans*' whose legal position was that of aliens. Atzmon is pleased with his pernicious analogy, pointing out that '*Britain would never allow a bunch of German exiles to control its rhetoric at the time of a war against Germany.*' But at least that was a war where the very existence of Britain, not least its half million Jews, was at stake. It is not surprising that there was a high level of anti-German rhetoric.<sup>57</sup> But there is no such war in Britain, yet Atzmon compares the situation of the Jewish community in Britain with that of German exiles at a time of a world war, as if British Jews were 'exiles' in Britain.

In other words, Jews **who have broken with Zionism** working inside the Palestine solidarity movement are aliens, fifth columnists and part of a conspiracy to impose their own agenda. '*In spite of the fact that it is the 'Jews Only State' that we struggle against, we allow a bunch of self-appointed Jewish leaders and activists to become our gatekeepers.*' And Atzmon complains about being subject to a '*smear campaign*' because he '*identifies the symptoms of Zionism with some fundamental or essential Jewish precepts*'

### Zionism DOESN'T EXIST

#### **Gilad Atzmon Interviewed by Mary Rizzo**<sup>58</sup>

But although Atzmon calls Jewish anti-Zionists 'Zionists', he denies Zionism exists!

Zionism doesn't mean a thing for the contemporary Jew born in Israel. Zionism is a Diaspora-orientated notion. Zionism is there to differentiate between Abe Foxman and Roland Rance. Both are Jews, both operate in racially segregated political cells, yet, one is a Zionist the other is a Jewish Anti-Zionist (big deal). When it comes to Israelis who were born in Israel, the idea of a Jewish State isn't something to celebrate. For Israelis, a Jewish State it isn't something you have to aim towards or ideologically endorse. Being an Israeli means being a Jew and living in a Jews-only State. When I joined the IDF 25 years ago, I did it because this was the only available interpretation of my Jewishness. I was a Jew living in the Jewish State and joining the Jews' army was the natural outcome.

'The word Zionism is almost meaningless in Israel and within the Israeli discourse **it is actually non-existent**. Zionism may mean something to the American settlers in the West Bank or the new wave of French immigrants to Israel, but not much more than that. ... As much as Israelis do not regard themselves as Zionists, they are hardly affected by anti-Zionism.'<sup>59</sup> [ME - TG]

All the problems that Palestinians experience are because of 'the Jews' not Zionism. Atzmon rejects the idea that Zionism is a settler colonial state or that it is a product of a Christian Evangelism that saw Jews 'returning' to Palestine. Zionism was merely '*a political practice aimed at confronting assimilation and the disintegration of the Jewish identity.*'

In fact Zionism was a political current that originated in non-Jewish Romantic and Evangelical circles in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It was the anti-Semitic pogroms in Russia that helped Zionism take root among Jews

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<sup>56</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/palestinian-solidarity-discourse-and-zionist-hegemony-gilad.html>

<sup>57</sup> This chauvinism led to German Jews being interned as enemy aliens.

<sup>58</sup> <http://peacepalestine.blogspot.com/2007/07/gilad-atzmon-interview-tangling-with.html>  
<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article17969.htm>

<sup>59</sup> <http://peacepalestine.blogspot.com/2007/07/gilad-atzmon-interview-tangling-with.html>

not 'Jewishness'. But to Atzmon 'acting politically under a Jewish banner is in fact the very definition of Zionism.'

### **The 3rd Category The 3rd Category and the Palestinian Solidarity Movement<sup>60</sup>**

Atzmon accepts that 'the Zionist project was there to make a change and it indeed succeeded in doing so. The first generation of Zionist ideologists was aiming at the formation of Jewish secular life..' Whilst agreeing with the aims and objectives of Zionism, Atzmon recoils from the outcome.

### **The Politics of Anti-Semitism: Zionism, the Bund and Jewish Identity Politics<sup>61</sup>**

Atzmon reserves his venom for the anti-Zionist Bund, now confined to 'a half a dozen contemporary Bundists' whose sole purpose is to 'monitor the Palestinian solidarity discourse.' and for whom 'fighting anti-Semitism is a primary issue?' This is a favourite Atzmon theme.

For Atzmon, the new Israeli 'is born in a Jewish state, is not concerned at all with the Diaspora Judeo-centric query 'who am I'. The Israeli subject regards himself as an ordinary citizen within a normal national society.' The ignorance is astounding. Israeli Jews have continually debated how to define their identity. The question "who is a Jew" has been a political bone of contention since the Israeli State's inception, because it defines who is and is not privileged. The Law of Return, which entitles all Jews throughout the world to 'return' to Israel, has been repeatedly amended since 1950. Atzmon argues that "The emancipated Jew is insecure in his relations with his fellow-beings, timid with strangers," whereas 'the Israeli isn't timid or insecure, he is proud and to many people's taste, he may even be 'far too proud'.' This is a caricature of reality.

Atzmon's belief that Israel is a normal state and that 'Zionism and Zionism alone has become the one and only symbol of Jewish secular identity.'<sup>62</sup> undisturbed by notions of Jewish identity, unlike their diaspora cousins not only accounts for his contempt for any non-Zionist Jewish identity but demonstrates, beyond doubt, that his whole thinking is molded by Zionism. What else are the 'demographic fears' of Israeli Jews but an expression of their identity? Atzmon's views are known as the 'negation of exile' one of Zionism's 3 foundational myths.<sup>63</sup>

Atzmon has never understood Zionism, hence his circular definitions. 'Zionism, at least in its early days, had more than just one face. German Jewish philosophers and thinkers who immigrated to Israel in the mid 1930's such as Gershon Scholem, Martin Buber and Hugo Bergman felt an urge to establish a Zionist ethical value system.' In fact these people were some of the most racist of all Zionists. Buber was a dedicated supporter of the idea of 'blut and boden' (blood & soil) Zionism and Scholem was the first professor of Jewish mysticism.<sup>64</sup>

Atzmon's anti-Semitism prevents any analysis or understanding of Zionism. It is proof that anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism are separate political categories. He writes that 'as much as Zionism is meaningful within the Diaspora Jewish context, it is totally meaningless within the Israeli reality.'<sup>65</sup> But to the Bedouin of the Negev and the Arabs of the Galilee, subject to 'Judification', Zionism is concrete enough. The Apartheid Wall is also a good example. In fact it is diaspora Zionism that is problematic because Zionism involves loyalty and uncritical support for the Israeli state. This can often be in opposition to their own interests as British, French etc. citizens.

'the Israeli Jew is an authentic genuine character, he regards Israeliness as a genuine national identifier, but he lives as well in peace with his singularity: with his unique traits, with his Hebrew language, with his culture and even with the crime his Jewish state is involved with. For the Israeli-born Jew, the Zionist aspiration is rather meaningless.'

Atzmon admires Israel, whilst understanding nothing of Zionism and its relationship to Israel's strategic role

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<sup>60</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/the-3rd-categorythe-3rd-category-and-the-palestinian-solidar.html>

<sup>61</sup> <http://dissidentvoice.org/2007/12/the-politics-of-anti-semitism-zionism-the-bund-and-jewish-identity-politics>

<sup>62</sup> <http://dissidentvoice.org/2007/12/the-politics-of-anti-semitism-zionism-the-bund-and-jewish-identity-politics/>

<sup>63</sup> Gabriel Piterberg, *The Returns of Zionism*, pp. 96-105, Verso 2008

<sup>64</sup> Lenni Brenner, *Zionism in the Age of the Dictators*, 1983, Chapter 2. Blut und Boden (Blood and Soil): The Roots of Zionist Racism, see also Pitberg, *Returns*.

<sup>65</sup> <http://dissidentvoice.org/2007/12/the-politics-of-anti-semitism-zionism-the-bund-and-jewish-identity-politics/>

and expansionism externally (apart from ascribing it to Moses and Joshua!), still less how it maintains and justifies Israel's Apartheid internally.<sup>66</sup>

In *1001 Lies About Gilad Atzmon*, Atzmon demonstrates an extreme version of narcissism. The best definition of Zionism is apparently criticising or opposing Atzmon!

'No one has ever dared challenge my philosophical ideas. Instead of doing that, they label me. They call me names, they misquote me, they lie and they are very quick to believe their own lies. In other words, based on their responses, they are Zionists and they behave like ones....<sup>67</sup>

### Illusions in Zionism and Imperialism

With the election of Obama. Atzmon was effusive in his praise for the change. In *God Blessed America* he wrote of how he was

'lucky to be in America this week, to watch a place being transformed, to smell the refreshing scent of restored liberty,... When I visited America two years ago it was a different place. ... The gigantic American flags that were waving from every corner had a rather threatening impact on me. And now somehow, seeing exactly the same flags evokes sympathy and trust in me.'

Rejecting a class analysis, with only anti-Semitism to guide him, Atzmon flounders.

'I was blown away by President Obama. I wasn't prepared for it and I simply couldn't believe my ears.... After years of Western leaders dancing to Israeli cacophony composed and orchestrated by different types of repulsive Wolfowitzes, listening to Obama's extended humanist cadenza was indeed music to my ears.'

The mood music must have been overpowering. '*In spite of the credit crunch inflicted on America by the enemy within, [the Jews - TG] there is a scent of cheerfulness in the air.*' Indeed Obama '*is a million years ahead of most Palestinian solidarity campaigners*'. He writes, without any trace of irony, that Obama '*is now marching America towards humanism. He reclaims the American ideology of liberty. I salute the man, I salute the great intellect, I salute the humanist. Gladly I am to admit that God blessed America.*'<sup>68</sup> This nonsense was written on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009. On 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008 when Obama was elected, I wrote an article '*Obama – the Black Face of Imperialism*'.<sup>69</sup> I had no crystal ball but nor did I believe that Israel controls the USA.

In November 2005, after the election of Amir Peretz, an Oriental Jew, to the leadership of the Israeli Labor Party, Atzmon was beside himself. In '**The Case of Amir Peretz**'<sup>70</sup> he wrote, under the sub-title '**National Socialism As Opposed to Global Capitalism**' that 'The recent election of Amir Peretz as the Chairman of the Israeli Labor Party is far more significant than many commentators would seem to admit. For the first time, the Israeli Labor party is led by a real fiery working class leader.... He is a simple Israeli man who managed to take over the second biggest Israeli party, he did it on his own right and he is an Arab Jew.' None of this prevented Peretz as Defence Minister from waging war on Lebanon in the summer of 2006, killing over 1,000 civilians before Israel was forced to withdraw. Peretz the radical has now left the Israeli Labor Party and joined the universally detested Ehud Barak in a new party 'Atzmut' (Independence).

### *It's not Settler Colonialism, It's the Jews Stupid*

A corollary of the idea that the oppression of the Palestinians is something inherent in 'Jewishness' is the rejection of the idea that Zionism is a settler colonial movement and that Israel is a settler colonial state. To Atzmon, everything can be explained by the Jews, *qua Jews*.

'For years, politically correct liberals who present themselves as leftists have been insisting upon telling us that Israeli aggression should be understood in expansionist colonial terms...The reason is simple; as long as Israel is a colonialist state, then the archaic 19th century Marxist orthodox

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<sup>66</sup> <http://dissidentvoice.org/2007/12/the-politics-of-anti-semitism-zionism-the-bund-and-jewish-identity-politics/>

<sup>67</sup> <http://gilad.co.uk/html%20files/1001lies.html>

<sup>68</sup> <http://atlanticfreepress.com/news/1/9962-gilad-atzmon-god-blessed-america.html>

<sup>69</sup> <http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2008/11/obama-black-face-of-us-imperialism.html>

<sup>70</sup> <http://peacepalestine.blogspot.com/2005/11/gilad-atzmon-case-of-amir-peretz.html>

paradigm can be applied to the conflict. Moreover, if Israel is indeed an expansionist colonial regional force, then nothing is categorically wrong with the Israelis, they are just like the British were, but 150 years too late....'<sup>71</sup>

In ***the 3rd Category and the Palestinian Solidarity Movement***<sup>72</sup> Atzmon write that

*'... Zionism shouldn't be seen merely as a nationalist movement with a clear geographical aspiration. It isn't exactly a colonial movement with an interest in Palestine. Zionism appears to be an international movement that is fuelled by the solidarity of 3rd category subjects. To be a Zionist means just to accept that more than anything else you are primarily a Jew.'*

Zionism isn't a product of capitalist expansion, imperialism and colonialism. It is an international conspiracy of Jews. To Atzmon 'imperialist' is just another label or term of abuse, rather than an analytical category, e.g. as an example of predatory capitalism. It is simpler to blame 'the Jews' than the operation of the money markets or multinationals. Atzmon takes the badge that colonialism adorns its settlers with and trains his fire on the symbols of imperialism. He is the classic sucker for imperialism's divide and rule strategies.

In ***Between the Shtetl and the Big City - One Hundred Years of Jewish Solitude***<sup>73</sup> Atzmon makes a failure to see the wood for the trees into an art form. Zionism is 'a tribal Jewish preservation project.' Like many nationalist movements Zionism seeks to preserve an elite, taking the religious concept of a chosen people and fashioning it into a *herrenvolk*.

But that isn't the cause but the consequence of colonialism. Racism didn't create the slave trade, quite the reverse. Having convinced himself that the Palestinians suffer because of 'the Jews' his wrath was aroused by a Jewish Chronicle interview with David Rosenberg and Julia Bard of the Jewish Socialists' Group.<sup>74</sup> Atzmon found it difficult to understand how they could reconcile being socialists and opposing Zionism when they identified as being Jewish:

*'in spite of the fact that they are not that impressed with Judaism either, they still very much want to be part of the Jewish community.... Why don't they just 'get on' with the socialist agenda and join the human family as ordinary people?'*

Leaving aside his explicit racism, Atzmon seemingly doesn't understand that there is more to being Jewish than Zionism. That there is a long Jewish tradition of rationalism and rebellion against religion from Spinoza and Heine to Marx. The prominence of Jews in the European revolutionary parties, a product of the situation they found themselves in, also forms a part of Jewish identity for some Jews. There is no one Jewish identity nor has there ever been. It is the Zionist project, whose framework Atzmon accepts, which holds that Jewish nationalism is the sole outlet for Jewish identity.

Atzmon reserves his praise for the Gershom Scholems and Max Nordaus rather than the Einsteins, Freuds and Arendts. One of the most telling attributes of Zionism is its production of mediocre talents such as Amos Oz, whom Yitzhak Laor slated in his book *'Liberal Zionism'*.<sup>75</sup> Zionism represented an insular nationalism which sat uneasily with those who had rejected Jewish Orthodoxy and the nationalist worship of the State. As Einstein explained to the 1946 Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry: *'The State idea is not according to my heart. I cannot understand why it is needed. It is connected with narrow-mindedness and economic obstacles. I believe that it is bad. I have always been against it.'* For him, the idea of a Jewish state was an *'imitation of Europe, the end of which was brought about by nationalism.'* And as the Apartheid Wall has shown, it has even recreated a Jewish ghetto.

The very declaration that there is more to being Jewish than Zionism arouses Atzmon's wrath. Failure to reject being Jewish is evidence of being a Zionist! The only answer is to positively support 'assimilation'. But assimilation is a voluntary personal, not a political choice or strategy. I am indifferent to 'assimilation' –

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<sup>71</sup> *Beyond Comparison*, <http://tinyurl.com/pfa9o>

<sup>72</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/the-3rd-categorythe-3rd-category-and-the-palestinian-solidar.html>

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.counterpunch.org/atzmon01202007.html>, January 20/21 2007

<sup>74</sup> 21.12.06. <http://tinyurl.com/6x5642t>

<sup>75</sup> [http://www.cpgb.org.uk/article.php?article\\_id=1004062](http://www.cpgb.org.uk/article.php?article_id=1004062)

it's not something to support or oppose. Jewish revolutionary traditions belong mostly to the past that has long disappeared. Jewish identity, in a hideously distorted form, is primarily sustained by Zionism. But as a result of Israel's barbarism, carried out on behalf of all Jews, there has been a flowering of dissent in the name of a radical Jewish tradition. All cultures and traditions tend to merge and coalesce where people live together freely.

But for Atzmon 'We should then regard the colonizing of Palestine as not more than just one single face of Zionism.... Jewish Socialism (is) ... an integral part of the Zionist network...' Atzmon's arguments amount to a fully fledged conspiracy theory. By identifying as Jewish, one becomes 'an integral part of the Zionist network' regardless of whether you oppose what Israel and Zionism does. The colonisation of Palestine is but 'one single face of Zionism.'

Atzmon argues 'Zionism indeed colonizes Palestine but its branches are far-reaching. Zionism is not a local movement... Zionism is a global network.' It is not much wonder that Atzmon is such an ardent supporter of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.<sup>76</sup>

In **Anatomy of a Conditionally Unresolved Conflict**<sup>77</sup> Atzmon describes how the Jewish conspiracy operates:

**'once it is clear that a new country is becoming a leading world super power, it won't take long before a wave of liberated assimilated Jews would try to infiltrate into its governing elite. "If China ever became the world's foremost super power," he warned, "American Jews would migrate there to assimilate rather than in the US."**

**'For if Israel is a "settler state" – then what exactly is its "motherland"? In British and French colonial eras, the settler states maintained a very apparent tie with their "motherland". In some cases in history the settler state broke from its motherland. ... the Boston Tea Party is a good example of that. But, as far as we are aware, there is no "Jewish motherland"..' <sup>78</sup>**

It is neither true nor relevant. The wiping out of the American Indians and the conquering of the West occurred primarily after the War of Independence of 1775-83. The American settlers had no motherland then. The majority of South Africa's Whites, the Boers, did not see Britain as their motherland. It was from them that Apartheid largely sprang. When Zionism sought and obtained imperial sponsorship from Britain in 1917, with the Balfour Declaration, it also gained a motherland. This is a complete non-argument, albeit one that Zionists often resort to to suggest that Israel's Jews have nowhere to go, unlike settlers in e.g. South Africa. It is false on a number of levels. Firstly many, possibly a majority, of Israeli Jews hold dual citizenship and secondly Palestinians have not called for them to leave but that they accept equality with non-Jews. Those who cannot do this will leave voluntarily, as their White cousins did at the opposite end of Africa.

Atzmon admits that

**'Zionism manifests some symptoms that are synonymous with colonialism — however that is not enough: Zionism is inherently a racially oriented "homecoming" project driven by spiritual enthusiasms that are actually phantasmic.'**<sup>79</sup>

The term '*homecoming*' demonstrates how Atzmon buys into Zionist mythology because the Zionists' primary rationale is that Jews are 'returning' to Israel, despite having neither lived nor been born there.

The refusal of people like Pappé to see it his way is because '*Our academics are suppressed, and scholarship is silenced*'. It is unlikely that Pappé will be silenced at Exeter University having refused to be silenced at Haifa University, but Atzmon has no other argument. We learn why Atzmon is so opposed to what he terms '*the colonial paradigm*.' Cunningly it '*locates Zionism nicely within their ideology... we first equate Israel with South Africa, and then we implement a counter-colonial strategy, such as the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions)*.'<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>76</sup> All quotes from <http://www.counterpunch.org/atzmon01202007.html>.

<sup>77</sup> <http://tinyurl.com/628zqss>

<sup>78</sup> <http://windowintopalestine.blogspot.com/2011/02/silvia-cattori-interview-with-gilad.html>

<sup>79</sup> <http://windowintopalestine.blogspot.com/2011/02/silvia-cattori-interview-with-gilad.html>

<sup>80</sup> <http://windowintopalestine.blogspot.com/2011/02/silvia-cattori-interview-with-gilad.html>

According to Atzmon BDS has not worked.

**'it has led to further intensified radicalisation within the right in Israel. Why has the BDS not worked yet? The answer is simple: It is because Israel is not at all entirely a colonial entity... it needs to be understood that its power and ties with the West are maintained by the strongest lobbies around the world.'**<sup>81</sup>

In fact BDS, compared to Oslo, negotiations, the UN etc. has been more successful than any other single strategy. BDS is something that the Israeli government fears, hence why support for BDS is being criminalised within Israel. But for Atzmon BDS misses the point - the Jews! *'So, if the Left wants to stop Israel for real, then it must openly question the notion of Jewish Power and its role within Western politics and media.'* Quite. Developing his theme Atzmon explains that

**'Israel is also markedly different, for example, from earlier colonial states such as South Africa, because Israel implements genocidal tactics. South Africa was indeed brutal — but it stopped short of throwing white phosphorous on its indigenous population. South Africa was a settler state, and was exploiting its indigenous population: but it wanted to keep them alive and oppressed. The Jewish state, on the other hand — would much prefer to wake up one morning to find out that all the Palestinians had disappeared, because Israel is driven by a Talmudic racist ideology.... the colonial paradigm is simply incapable of fully addressing that.'**<sup>82</sup>

In fact settler colonialism followed two paths – either exterminatory and exclusionary or exploitative. The USA and Australia, to say nothing of the Belgian Congo where 10 million Africans died, were indeed exterminatory. South Africa, like Rhodesia, was primarily exploitative, though they also murdered thousands of natives. Far from being the product of Talmudic chauvinism, Zionism is completely normal in its brutality and mass murder.

Any rational analysis of Israeli settler colonialism will reach the conclusion that it isn't Jewish lobbies or power but US and Western corporate interests that sustain Israel.

**'My approach is totally different, because I would argue that Israel and Zionism is a unique project in history, and the relationship between Israel and the operation of the Jewish Lobbies in the West is also totally unique in history.... the fact is that we are all subject to Zionist global politics. According to my model, the credit crunch is in fact a Zionist "punch". The war in Iraq is a Zionist war.... it is Jewish power which we have to confront. And this is exactly what the "Jewish Left" and Jewish intelligentsia are there to prevent us from doing.'**<sup>83</sup>

There could be no clearer indication that for Atzmon the struggle for anti-Semitism is more important than solidarity with the Palestinians.

In **Palestinian Solidarity Discourse and Zionist Hegemony** Atzmon lines up with Alan Dershowitz, the Zionists' Professor of Torture and Plagiarism. He agrees with Dershowitz that if Israel is a colonial state, then there is a problem over whose mother country it is. *'Fair enough' says Atzmon, 'I say, he may be right. I myself do not regard Zionism as a colonial adventure.'*<sup>84</sup>

And we see here the symbiosis between Dershowitz and Atzmon. *'Our problem with Israel has nothing to do with its colonial characteristics. Our problems with the 'Jews Only State'.* The emphasis being on 'Jews Only' rather than 'Zionist'.

As he demonstrates in his appropriately named *'Swindler's List - Zionist plunder and the Judaic Bible'*<sup>85</sup> Zionism is no more than *'an attempt to rob the indigenous Palestinians in line with a cultural and religious heritage that is overwhelmingly documented in the Judaic Bible'*. The description of the Old Testament as

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<sup>81</sup> <http://windowintopalestine.blogspot.com/2011/02/silvia-cattori-interview-with-gilad.html>

<sup>82</sup> <http://windowintopalestine.blogspot.com/2011/02/silvia-cattori-interview-with-gilad.html>

<sup>83</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/silvia-cattori-an-interview-with-gilad-atzmon-to-call-a-spade.html>

<sup>84</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/palestinian-solidarity-discourse-and-zionist-hegemony-gilad.html>

<sup>85</sup> The description of the Old Testament as the Judaic of Jewish Bible has a long tradition, culminating in the Reich Church under Bishop Muller which attempted to dissociate Christianity from Judaism, by pretending that Jesus was not Jewish and that Christianity owed nothing to the Old Testament.

the Judaic Bible has a long tradition, culminating in the Reich Church under Bishop Muller which attempted to dissociate Christianity from Judaism, by pretending that Jesus was not Jewish and that Christianity owed nothing to the Old Testament. Forget imperialism, just read your (Jewish) Bible!

### Zionism is Jewish Not Colonialist

Atzmon nonetheless denies that he is anti-Semitic.

'often I am accused by left Jews of being an Anti-Semite. ... Once the Zionists had managed to establish their Jewish state, any form of anti Jewish sentiments should be comprehended either as a private case of xenophobia or as a political retaliation to Israeli/Zionist atrocities. In other words, the title Anti-Semite became an 'empty signifier... **no one actually can be an Anti-Semite and this includes me of course.**'

How convenient. Whatever Atzmon says or does he cannot *a priori* be anti-Semitic! <sup>86</sup>

### United States is a Colony of Israel

#### The Protocols Of The Elders Of Zion (Verse 2) <sup>87</sup>

'The idea that Zionists have taken over America might sound bizarre in the first instance ... Last month I heard Israel Shamir's observation regarding this very issue.... "Some times [...] great empires are taken over by very marginal groups". We might have to acknowledge that this is the case with America. American foreign policy is dictated by a very marginal group of Zionist activists, even by the state of Israel itself. ...

How is it that the great American nation, the world's leading superpower, has become dominated by a narrow lobby from a miniature foreign state? Do the American and the Israelis really share the same interests? And if they do can someone enlighten us as to what those interests are?'

### Anti-Communism and Hatred of the Left

#### Swindler's List<sup>88</sup>

Atzmon has developed a variation on an old theme. The Bund, a mass Jewish political party in Russia then Poland before World War II, which organised Jewish self-defence against the pogroms, is the particular subject of Atzmon's ire. In *Swindler's List* Atzmon intertwines political reaction and anti-Semitism. Jews are thieves.

'Bundists believe that instead of robbing Palestinians we should all get together and rob who is considered to be the rich, the wealthy and the strong in the name of working class revolution.' Those who seek the redistribution and confiscation of the wealth of the rich and powerful are guilty of 'robbery'. Like all reactionaries, Atzmon doesn't ask how the rich become rich. Presumably the Arab ruling classes who live off stolen oil are paragons of virtue. Colonialism meant the legalised theft of the land and labour of indigenous peoples, because the colonists made the law. Atzmon finds it difficult to grasp that capitalism and later colonialism were political-economic systems built on systemised theft from the poor and downtrodden. For Atzmon restitution is theft..

The Bund's Jewish nationalism centred around the places Jews actually lived, the Pale of Settlement. It had no connection with Arab Jews. The Bund, which organised Jewish workers in a general union and led strikes and self-defence is dismissed as '*aiming towards ... an alternative materialistic reading of Jewish history*' whereas '*Zionism pointed towards a real metaphysical transition of the Jewish subject, his reality and his role in the universe.*'

However, according to Atzmon, the '*early Zionists were clever enough to realise that the true meaning of nationalism can only be realised in terms of geographical orientation. For the Zionist, nationalism meant a bond between man and 'his' land.*' Atzmon's definition of nationalism isn't that of the French Revolution – *liberty, equality and fraternity* – but the mystical and backward 'blut and boden' nationalism of people like

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<sup>86</sup> <http://gilad.co.uk/html%20files/1001lies.html>

<sup>87</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/the-protocols-of-the-elders-of-zion-verse-2-by-gilad-atzmon.html>

<sup>88</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/gilad-atzmon-swindlers-list.html>

Nazi theoretician Alfred Rosenberg.

Atzmon is at one with European anti-semites and Zionists who held that the Jews, including Arab Jews, were indeed members of the same nation/race. Atzmon argues that *'Being Askeno-centric, the Issue of Sephardic and Arabic Jews was totally ignored by the Jewish (national) socialists. I would assume that the Bund expected Moroccan Jews to learn Yiddish...'* It is doubtful whether the Bund were even aware of the existence of Arab Jews. They certainly had no expectations of them. Atzmon's real criticism of the Bund is that they weren't good Zionists!

Atzmon suggests that *'As far as the Jewish National project is concerned, the Bund had failed completely.'* Except that the Bund had no Jewish National Project. The Bund was a socialist movement. Jewish self-defence against anti-Semitic violence and pogroms were its priorities.<sup>89</sup> Again Atzmon aligns himself with the Zionist movement: *'early Zionists were honest enough to admit that on the eve of the 20th century, there was not much in Jewish secular life to be proud of (either culturally or spiritually). This was only natural, considering the fact that in 1898 (the First Zionist congress) [in fact 1897 – TG] Jewish emancipation was still in its early days.'* Atzmon's tributes to early Zionism suggests that he absorbed quite a lot of the politics of his own, revisionist Zionist parents and grandparents.

For Atzmon, the anti-Semitic attacks of Zionists such as Pinhas Rosenbluth, Israel's first Justice Minister, description of Palestine *"an institute for the fumigation of Jewish vermin"* were an expression of an authentic nationalism.<sup>90</sup>

Atzmon concludes that *'We do not need "working class politics" anymore. The old 19th century clichés can be dropped.'*<sup>91</sup> As he admits, *'from a Marxist point of view I am associated with the most reactionary forces: I support Muslim Brotherhood, Hezbollah, and I support Hamas. ... I am the ultimate reactionary being.'*<sup>92</sup> Who could disagree?

#### 'Jewish Marxism'

The ideas of Marxism and socialism are sharply opposed to a politics based on the division of the working class on grounds of ethnicity, 'race' or national origin. Socialists believe in the unity of the oppressed and working class. Zionism, in the words of Moses Hess, an early Zionist writer, believes that the *'race struggle is primary and class secondary.'*<sup>93</sup> Atzmon is therefore quite innovative in devising the concept of *'Jewish Marxism* which *'is very different from Marxism or socialism in general.'* In an attack on veteran Israeli Marxist and anti-Zionist, Moshe Machover, **'Tribal Marxism for Dummies'**<sup>94</sup> Atzmon argues that *'While Marxism is a universal paradigm, ... Jewish Marxism is basically a crude utilisation of 'Marxist-like' terminology for the sole purpose of the Jewish tribal cause.'*<sup>95</sup>

When Hitler spoke of 'Jewish Marxism', he meant that Marxism was, by its very nature, Jewish.<sup>96</sup> For Atzmon 'Jewish Marxism' is a separate creature entirely from Marxism. Therein lies Atzmon's quite unique contribution to the political sciences.

Atzmon's particular obsession is with Machover's description of Israel as a *'settler state'*. *"Machover's*

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<sup>89</sup> The Politics of Anti-Semitism: Zionism, the Bund and Jewish Identity Politics, <http://dissentvoice.org/2007/12/the-politics-of-anti-semitism-zionism-the-bund-and-jewish-identity-politics/>

<sup>90</sup> Joachim Doron, *Classic Zionism and Modern Anti-Semitism:*

*Parallels and Influences (1883-1914)*, Studies in Zionism 8, Autumn 1983 (now Journal of Israeli History).

<sup>91</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/silvia-cattori-an-interview-with-gilad-atzmon-to-call-a-spad.html>

<sup>92</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/silvia-cattori-an-interview-with-gilad-atzmon-to-call-a-spad.html>

<sup>93</sup> Moses Hess, *Rome and Jerusalem*, Foreword, Cologne, May 1862, Philosophical Library Inc. New York. 1958.

<sup>94</sup> <http://www.atlanticfreepress.com/news/1/10370-tribal-marxism-for-dummies.html>

<sup>95</sup> <http://www.atlanticfreepress.com/news/1/10370-tribal-marxism-for-dummies.html>

<sup>96</sup> They must unite, he [Hitler] said, to defeat the common enemy, Jewish Marxism." *A New Beginning*, Adolf Hitler, *Völkischer Beobachter*. February 1925. Cited in: Toland, John (1992). *Adolf Hitler*. Anchor Books. p. 207. ISBN 0385037244. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazism#cite\\_note-107](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazism#cite_note-107)

'settler state' is just another Judeo Marxist spin that is there to divert the attention from the clear fact that Israel is the Jewish state. In order to understand Israel's unique condition we must ask, "who are the Jews? What is Judaism and what is Jewishness?" Atzmon is fiercely opposed to the idea that Israel is a bastion of imperialist interests. He rejects any rational explanation for how Israel behaves or why the US supports Israel or indeed for the collaboration of the Arab regimes with Zionism and US imperialism. For Atzmon there is no such thing as Zionism. The problem is the Jews. It really is that simple. The role of the West in the creation of Israel is irrelevant.

### Race & Racial Remarks

In **1001 Lies About Gilad Atzmon**<sup>97</sup> Atzmon parries the charge that he is a racist.

There is not a single racist remark in any of my political writings or in my performances. I do not refer to any form of biological determinism. **I have never written about race or referred to it whatsoever. ...**

Unfortunately Atzmon isn't blessed by a good memory. There is for example his remark that '*Ostrovsky refers to racial solidarity, I call it 3rd category brotherhood and Weizmann calls it Zionism.*'<sup>98</sup>

In '**Tribal Marxism for Dummies**' Atzmon explains why he rejects the idea of 'Zionism as a colonialist expansionist project'

*As long as Zionism is conveyed as a colonial project, Jews, as a people, should be seen as ordinary people. They are no different from the French and the English, they just happen to run their deadly colonial project in a different time.'*<sup>99</sup>

The converse is that Jews are not ordinary people, or indeed human beings at all. Racist? Perish the thought. In '**Not In My Name**'<sup>100</sup> Atzmon writes that 'as far as Jews are concerned, the demarcation between racial identity and nationalist identity is very ambiguous.'

In an interview with Mary Rizzo, Atzmon gives another example of how he never writes about race. '*I am engaged in scrutiny of the complexity of the Jewish world. I aim towards understanding the notion of Jewish racial brotherhood.*'<sup>101</sup> In the same interview Atzmon demonstrates his own confusion when he states that '*The first question is whether Jews form a race. The answer is NO, yet Jewish political activism is by definition racially orientated.*' It probably doesn't occur to him that Jewish non-anti-Zionist groups are defined by their politics!

In the same interview when Rizzo suggests that '*the reason of oppression in Israel has never been class, but rather a question of race, is it not?*' Atzmon response is: '*Race may sound a bit abstract. Let's call it racial brotherhood, cultural supremacist views, blood orientation and so on.*' Quite.

Other examples of Atzmon never making a single reference to race include his ability to

'clearly identify a line of ugliness that is stretched between Zionism, Neocons, and the Bund, a line of racially orientated discourse that is stretched between Jaz... and ADL... And what is Jewish identity? To those who have read my articles, it is more than obvious that I believe it has nothing to do with racial category ... but rather with racially-orientated *politics*..... For my readers and myself, it is absolutely clear that every form of Jewish secular politics... is based on racial orientation.'<sup>102</sup>

(JAZ) Jews Against Zionism, has consistently opposed Zionism. The ADL is a dedicated Zionist organisation. Both are Jewish. Their politics are diametrically opposed but in Atzmon's view they are 'racially oriented'. Of course this has nothing to do with race.

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<sup>97</sup> <http://gilad.co.uk/html%20files/1001lies.html>

<sup>98</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/the-3rd-categorythe-3rd-category-and-the-palestinian-solidar.html>

<sup>99</sup> <http://www.atlanticfreepress.com/news/1/10370-tribal-marxism-for-dummies.html>

<sup>100</sup> <http://gilad.co.uk/html%20files/notin.html>

<sup>101</sup> <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article17969.htm> Information Clearing House provides many useful articles but it also carries Atzmon's articles and refuses to explain how this is compatible with its overall anti-racist message. Interview 7.5.07.

<sup>102</sup> <http://peacepalestine.blogspot.com/2007/10/gilad-atzmon-open-comment-to-jsf.html>

## Socialist Workers Party (SWP)

To their shame, on June 17<sup>th</sup> 2005 the SWP decided to hold a meeting, with Atzmon as their speaker, at Bookmarks. In charge was the then Secretary of the SWP Martin Smith and amongst those attending was the SWP's Middle East guru, John Rose. Despite many entreaties, the SWP insisted on going ahead with the meeting and Atzmon spoke on a topic close to his heart, about the man Hitler described as his favourite Jew, Otto Weininger. The meeting was picketed by about 40 people, both Jewish and non-Jewish.<sup>103</sup>

Atzmon regaled his audience with how

*'some Jews are opposing that which they despise amongst themselves. This tendency is called anti-Semitism but as we all know Jews are not alone. Some non Jews find the Jewish tendencies within themselves. According the Weininger, "even Richard Wagner, the Bitterest anti-Semite cannot be held free of accretion of Jewishness even in his art" (Weininger, 2003: 305). ' <sup>104</sup>*

These and other choice insights made up the slightly unusual, if not indigestible, fare that the Bookmarks audience were treated to in June 2005.

At least until July 2009, the SWP still had a statement on their website arguing that Atzmon was not an anti-Semite, though they have now removed it.<sup>105</sup> Like the airbrushing of Trotsky's photograph by Stalin, there is no explanation. History has been erased since the link and the statement have disappeared (it's difficult to tell because the SWP's site has a search facility that doesn't search!). Type in 'Atzmon' and you get nothing. But if you know the url then articles are still available.<sup>106</sup>

### **Statement on Gilad Atzmon and Marxism 2005 (21<sup>st</sup> June 2005)** <sup>107</sup>

*There has been some controversy surrounding our invitation for the musician Gilad Atzmon to perform at Marxism 2005. One or two small groups are claiming that Gilad is an anti-Semite and Holocaust denier. We would like to state the following:*

*Gilad Atzmon is an Israeli born Jew who served in the Israeli Defence Force and who now lives in "self-exile" in Britain.*

*He is an internationally acclaimed jazz musician whose album Exile won BBC Best Jazz Album of 2003.*

*The SWP would also like to make it clear, that we would never give a platform to a racist or fascist. Our entire history has been one of fierce opposition to fascist organisations like the National Front and the British National Party. We played a prominent role in setting up the Anti Nazi League in the mid-1970s and Unite Against Fascism two years ago.*

*One of our members, Blair Peach, was killed on an anti-fascist demonstration in west London in 1979. Our founding member, Tony Cliff, was Jewish and, like many of his generation, lost many members of his family in the Holocaust. Nazis in the British National Party and National Front have targeted our members for attack. In the last three weeks we have helped initiate two vigils in response to anti-Semitic attacks on Jewish cemeteries in Manchester and east London. Across the country our members are involved in campaigns to defend asylum seekers, oppose police brutality and defend communities from scapegoating.*

*We have a record of opposing fascism, anti-Semitism and all forms of racism, that is second to none.*

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<sup>103</sup> See Roland Rance's report of the picket 'Gilad Atzmon Bookmarks protest' <http://www.labournet.net/antiracism/0506/bookmarks1.html>

<sup>104</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/sex-and-politics-by-gilad-atzmon.html>

<sup>105</sup> <http://www.socialistunity.com/?p=4412> though there are still other references up such as an advert for the Cultures of Resistance Festival starring Atzmon. <http://www.swappeal.org.uk/events/gilad.html> The SWP web site doesn't tolerate a 'search' facility so it's difficult to see how many other references remain.

<sup>106</sup> [www.swp.org.uk/gilad.php](http://www.swp.org.uk/gilad.php) is defunct but you can still obtain a page <http://www.swappeal.org.uk/events/gilad.html> advertising Atzmon playing at the SWP's Cultures of Resistance festival. Probably not for much longer!

<sup>107</sup> [http://www.newleftproject.org/index.php/site/blog\\_comments/A\\_tale\\_of\\_two\\_Socialist\\_Workers/](http://www.newleftproject.org/index.php/site/blog_comments/A_tale_of_two_Socialist_Workers/)

*The SWP does not believe that Gilad Atzmon is a Holocaust denier or racist. However, while defending Gilad's right to play and speak on public platforms that in no way means we endorse all of Gilad's views. We think that some of the formulations on his website might encourage his readers to feel that he is blurring the distinction between anti-Semitism and anti Zionism. In fact we have publicly challenged and argued against those of his ideas we disagree with.*

*We do not believe that Gilad should be "banned" from performing or speaking. "No Platform" is a principle that the left has always reserved for fascists and organised racists. Where other disagreements occur, the left, with the same vigour, has defended the right to freedom of speech, debate and the clash of ideas.*

Contrary to the SWP's statement we were not objecting to Atzmon's performance at Marxism 2005 so much as his speaking at an SWP meeting. It is true that Atzmon was born in Israel, that he served in the Israeli military, that he lives in Britain and that his album Exile won BBC Best Jazz Album of 2003. But they are completely irrelevant as to whether he is a racist. Bobby Fischer was Jewish and a world champion chess player but he was indisputably anti-Semitic. The SWP's defence that relies on their record in opposing fascist organisations or the death of Blair Peach is also irrelevant. The past does not excuse the present. It's because the SWP are an anti-fascist organisation that we were surprised that they should have given a platform to an open racist.

The idiocy of the SWP leadership – Callinicos, Smith and Rees – in taking a racist and anti-Semite (as well as an anti-communist) to their bosom provided a field day for right-wing pundits like The Time's banker columnist Oliver Kamm,<sup>108</sup> and David Aaronovitch.

*'It was Eisen on the Holocaust that sent the balloon up for Atzmon at Marxism 2005. Because Atzmon firstly circulated Eisen's Holocaust-denying article, then told critics defiantly that, "my take on the subject is slightly different than Paul's one". How did the far Left manage to slip into bed with the Jew-hating Right?'<sup>109</sup>*

In **Atzmon: we need more Holocaust deniers**<sup>110</sup> Kamm ridicules the SWP's pretentious nonsense about Atzmon's "[fearless tirades against Zionism](#)", nothing that 'The admiration is reciprocated, for Atzmon declares, ... "[I love Socialist Worker. It is the only newspaper in Britain which campaigns against Israel.](#)"<sup>111</sup>

The supporters of war in Iraq could point the finger at the SWP's hypocrisy. In their opportunistic twists and turns the SWP made a bonfire of their principles. It is a pretty stupid leftist party that deliberately gives hostages to fortune by allowing the likes of Kamm and Aaronovitch to attack them as racists.

### **Jewish People Should Oppose (or Shouldn't Oppose) Zionism**

An example of how Atzmon contradicts himself is the opening paragraph of '**On Anti-Semitism**':

*'If Israel is the state of the Jewish people and the Jewish people themselves do not stand up collectively against the crimes that are committed on their behalf, then every Jewish person, Jewish symbol and Jewish object becomes an Israeli interest and a potential terrorist target. It is up to the Jewish people to take a stand against their Jewish state and to disassociate themselves from their zealous national movement.'<sup>112</sup>*

In '**And What About The Palestinian Cause?**' Atzmon writes that:

*It is indeed about time that Jewish people with influence in art, academia, business and the media raise their voices against Israel's crimes and its supportive lobbies around the globe. It is rather crucial that Jewish people should openly succumb to true ethical and universal thinking rather than clannish monolithic discourse solely concerned with tribal maintenance.'<sup>113</sup>*

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<sup>108</sup> [http://oliverkamm.typepad.com/blog/2005/03/atzmon\\_watch.html](http://oliverkamm.typepad.com/blog/2005/03/atzmon_watch.html)

<sup>109</sup> [http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/david\\_aaronovitch/article538076.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/david_aaronovitch/article538076.ece)

<sup>110</sup> [http://oliverkamm.typepad.com/blog/2006/02/atzmon\\_we\\_need\\_.html](http://oliverkamm.typepad.com/blog/2006/02/atzmon_we_need_.html), 24.2.06.

<sup>111</sup> Both links have now been rendered inoperative.

<sup>112</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/on-anti-semitism-by-gilad-atzmon.html>

<sup>113</sup> <http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=19445>

But is this the same Atzmon who writes that: <sup>114</sup>

'I really do not understand those who fight Zionism in the name of their secular Jewish identity. I have never understood them. I have never really understood what secularism means for the Jewish people...

To demand that Jews disapprove of Zionism in the name of their Jewish identity is to accept the Zionist philosophy. To resist Zionism as a secular Jew involves an acceptance of basic Zionist terminology, that is to say, a surrendering to Jewish racist and nationalist philosophy. To talk as a Jew is to surrender to Weizman's Zionist philosophy...

Indeed **'by fighting Zionism in the name of their Jewish identity they approve Zionism.'** <sup>115</sup>

Apart from seamlessly contradicting himself, Atzmon's argument is that if you are Jewish then you cannot oppose Zionism. He accepts the fundamentals of Zionist belief that there is a 'Jewish nation'. Zionism is therefore right to call anti-Zionist Jews 'traitors' and 'self-haters'. There can be no secular definition of being Jewish.

In **Dialectic of the Negation**, Atzmon blames Jewish anti-Zionists for the failure of the Palestine solidarity movement to become a mass movement:

'I have come across groups of people who call themselves 'Jews for Peace', 'Jews for Justice in Palestine', 'Jews for this' and 'Jews for that'. I have recently heard about 'Jews for Boycott of Israeli Goods'. Occasionally I end up asking myself what stands at the core of this racially orientated [Atzmon never mentions race!] separatist peace-loving endeavour.... negation of Zionism is a good enough reason to set a powerful Jewish political identity. Though this may explain why Jews are so involved in Palestinian solidarity, it may additionally explain why the Palestinian solidarity movement has never made it into a global mass movement. Apparently, not many people around are that keen to join a liberal synagogue.'

And if someone Jewish wants to oppose Zionism?

'It is time for emancipated peace-loving Jews to follow the dog rather than their mothers, they should just let go. I would suggest that for a Jew to fight Zionism is to turn his back on Jewishness and to make peace with humanity.' <sup>116</sup>

'3rd category Jews love the Holocaust, therefore, some of them spend a lot of time searching for its deniers. Greenstein is no doubt a Holocaust denier hunter.' <sup>117</sup> [not true: with Atzmon you don't have to hunt, it stares you in the face - TG]

### Jewishness and anti-Semitism

When I first began to publicise Atzmon's anti-Semitic writings, he went back and 'edited' the articles in question, in particular **'On anti-Semitism'** <sup>118</sup> He originally wrote that:

*'Since America currently enjoys the status of the world's only super power and since all the Jews listed above declare themselves as devoted Zionists, [there is a list of Jews in the Bush White House - TG] we must begin to take the accusation that the Jewish people are trying to control the world very seriously.'* <sup>119</sup> and

'American Jewry makes any debate on whether the 'Protocols of the elder of Zion' are an authentic document or rather a forgery irrelevant. American Jews do control the world.'

The text was changed and *'the Jewish people'* replaced by *'Zionists'*. The sentence *'American Jews do control the world.'* had *'(in fact Zionists)* added after *'American Jews'*. In a piece he wrote for the Guardian's Comment is Free, Atzmon admits to having changed the wording of this article. <sup>120</sup> Oliver

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<sup>114</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/not-in-my-name-an-analysis-of-jewish-righteousness-by-gilad.html>

<sup>115</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/not-in-my-name-an-analysis-of-jewish-righteousness-by-gilad.html>

<sup>116</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/the-dialectic-of-negation-by-gilad-atzmon.html>

<sup>117</sup> <http://gilad.co.uk/html%20files/1001lies.html>

<sup>118</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/on-anti-semitism-by-gilad-atzmon.html>

<sup>119</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/on-anti-semitism-by-gilad-atzmon.html>

<sup>120</sup> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2006/dec/12/giladatmonrespondstodavid>

Kamm has also documented the above changes.<sup>121</sup>

A Jewish world conspiracy lay at the heart of Nazi anti-Semitism. Atzmon plays every instrument in the anti-Semitic orchestra. Support for the arguments of **The Protocols of the Elders of Zionism** as well as the accusation that Jews are 'Christ-killers' trip off his pen: He writes:

*'a. The 'Elders of Zion' syndrome: Zionists complain that Jews continue to be associated with a conspiracy to rule the world via political lobbies, media and money. Is the suggestion of conspiracy really an empty accusation?*

*2. Why is it that the Jews who repeatedly demand that the Christian world should apologise for its involvement in previous persecutions, have never thought that it is about time that they apologised for killing Jesus? .... if a Jew feels offended when accused, this reveals attachment to the perpetrators.'*<sup>122</sup>

Atzmon says that it is irrelevant if the Protocols are a forgery because they are true, whereas Hitler wrote in Mein Kampf that *'They are based on a forgery, the Frankfurter Zeitung moans and screams once every week: the best proof that they are authentic.'*<sup>123</sup> The only difference between Atzmon and Hitler is that for Hitler the fact that they were criticised by his enemies meant they were genuine, whereas for Atzmon, since they tell the truth, it is irrelevant if they are a forgery. A distinction without a difference.

Atzmon writes that 'Jews being Christ killers isn't a myth. It is rather a historical and a theological narrative. Whether it is true or not isn't my concern.'<sup>124</sup> Everything is a 'narrative' i.e. a story. All you have to do is change the narrative and, hey presto, history changes.

Atzmon denies that his categorisation of Jews is based on race. If by that is meant biological inheritance then that is true. However racism takes many forms. It is about an arbitrary definition of the *untermenschen*. It might be based on colour (South Africa,), religion (Ireland, Israel), ethnicity, caste etc. In **The 3rd Category and the Palestinian Solidarity Movement** Atzmon placed Jews in 3 categories – the religious, humanists who just happen to be Jewish and those he described as '*3rd category Jews*' who prioritise being Jewish over and above everything else. Whether the latter are Zionist or anti-Zionist is irrelevant. If you make any connections between opposition to Zionism and being Jewish then you are a Zionist and the more you oppose Zionism the more Zionist you become! Jewish anti-Zionists are part of an international conspiracy.

*.... Jewishness is basically an international network operation.... Apparently, Zionism is not about Israel. Israel is just a colony, a territorial asset violently maintained by a mission force composed of 3rd category Jews. In fact, there is no geographical centre to the Zionist endeavor. ...*

*The Palestinians, for instance, aren't just the victims of the Israeli occupation, they are rather the victims of 3rd category Jews who decided to transform Palestine into a Jewish national bunker. ....*

*... I tend to believe that the 3rd category Jews are mutually acting together. But then whether they are fully aware of it or not is a big question. Throughout the years they have formed a network that operates as a global Zionist body shield. They simply act in harmony, they protect each other. Even when they fight against one another, they depict an image of pluralism.'*<sup>125</sup>

The above is as good an illustration as any of the International Jewish Conspiracy theory. Whether unconscious or not, Jews work towards the same ends. Left-wing and right-wing Jews are merely different heads of the serpent. Zionism is not even about Israel or settlement. It's all about Jewish control. It recalls not dissimilar remarks by Hitler that the Zionists have no intention of living in a Jewish state in Palestine. *'What they really are aiming at is to establish a central organization for their international swindling and cheating.'*<sup>126</sup>

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<sup>121</sup> [http://oliverkamm.typepad.com/blog/2006/09/respect\\_and\\_ant.html](http://oliverkamm.typepad.com/blog/2006/09/respect_and_ant.html)

<sup>122</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/on-anti-semitism-by-gilad-atzmon.html> see also Norman Cohn, *Warrant for Genocide*, Serif, London, 2005.

<sup>123</sup> <http://ddickerson.igc.org/hitler-protokollen.html>

<sup>124</sup> <http://gilad.co.uk/html%20files/10011i%20es.html>

<sup>125</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/the-3rd-categorythe-3rd-category-and-the-palestinian-solidar.html>

<sup>126</sup> *Mein Kampf*. pp. 184-185, trans. James Murphy, April 1942.

For Atzmon 'Jewishness' is *'the key element in one's being. Any other quality is secondary.'*<sup>127</sup> Atzmon's preoccupation on what being Jewish means diverts the struggle from opposing Zionism and support for the Palestinian struggle to the racial character of the Jews. It is entirely destructive to Palestine solidarity work. In **The J word, the J people and the J spot** <sup>128</sup> Atzmon states that *'The J's are the ultimate chameleons, they can be whatever they like as long as it serves as some expedient. As soon as you criticise their expansionist militant national beliefs (Zionism) you hurt them as a race (Semites),'<sup>129</sup> ... When you condemn their racist tendencies, they are transformed immediately into an innocent cultural identity...*

when it was right to be a Socialist they were right there in the forefront of the Bolshevik revolution, now when it is hard capitalism that sets the tone, you read about them in the Wall Street Journal, they are the new prophets from Manhattan. Life is never boring for 'J' people.<sup>130</sup>

It's one never ending (Jewish) conspiracy.

Thus Atzmon sets off in search of an elusive 'Jewishness', the secret ingredient that binds Jews from countries as different as India, China and France. But given they speak different languages, wear different clothes and even have different religious practices, what binds them together? 'Jewishness' is a code for race. It is old wine with a new label.

In **From Guilt to Responsibility**<sup>131</sup> Atzmon explains how

The impossible condition of being an ex-Israeli... leads towards a serious guilt complex.... for the crimes committed on one's behalf by one's brethren.'

This is of course understandable. Many Jews have gone through just such a process and most of them use that fact to oppose Zionism. Atzmon's response is different. Instead of rejecting what Israel does in his name, he **accepts the Zionist definition of being Jewish** and thus rejects being termed a Jew. This is fair enough and some Jewish people will indeed recoil in such a manner from the crimes committed in their name. But Atzmon goes further and locates the cause of Israel's atrocities in the fact of being Jewish. He is not alone. A small number of Jewish people have come to this conclusion, people such as Paul Eisen, Israel Shamir, Jeff Blankfort.

*if indeed the crimes against the Palestinians are committed by the 'Jewish State' in the name of the 'Jewish' people, before any progress can be made, we first must grasp what the word 'Jewish' stands for. In other words, it is Jewishness which I am trying to contemplate.... if it is the Jewish State that is engaged in terrorising the Palestinians, we better understand once and for all what hides behind the notion of Jewishness.*<sup>132</sup>

Instead of understanding that Israel **rationalises** what it does in terms of being 'Jewish', instead of comparing Israel's behaviour to that of similar settler-colonial states and comparing their record, Atzmon takes its justifications at face value. What guides Israel's behaviour is a metaphysical 'Jewishness.' Since there is no such entity, he will be searching forever and forever dividing the Palestine solidarity movement. Atzmon argues that

'Jewish political pressure groups both in the left and in the right, both Zionists and anti-Zionists, ... fight to keep the differentiation between Judaism, Jewishness and the Jews as blurred as possible. ... (it) allows them to dismiss any possible criticism of Israel and its lobbies as being a racist assault.'<sup>133</sup>

On the contrary, we argue that Zionism has nothing at all to do with the nature of the Jewish religion *per se*. In fact the Jewish religion was changed by Zionism in much the same way as trade changed the nature of biblical Judaism.<sup>134</sup> Gabriel Piterberg argues that Zionism can be best be understood as the intersection

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<sup>127</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/the-3rd-categorythe-3rd-category-and-the-palestinian-solidar.html>

<sup>128</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/the-j-word-the-j-people-and-the-j-spot-by-gilad-atzmon.html>

<sup>129</sup> Another example of Atzmon *'never (having) written about race!'*

<sup>130</sup> <http://www.gilad.co.uk/writings/the-j-word-the-j-people-and-the-j-spot-by-gilad-atzmon.html>

<sup>131</sup> *Speech given in Stockholm 18 March 2007, <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=m31465&hd=&size=1&l=e>*

<sup>132</sup> *Speech given in Stockholm 18 March 2007, <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=m31465&hd=&size=1&l=e>*

<sup>133</sup> Ibid.

<sup>134</sup> For example the biblical injunction against usury was changed by classical or rabbinical Judaism to forbidding

of Protestantism, colonialism and anti-semitism: *"It cannot be overemphasised that the Zionist Israeli project was not merely national but, crucially, settler-national."*<sup>135</sup> Ben Gurion, with his return to Old Testament literalism, was nothing if not a Protestant Jewish settler.

To Atzmon *'Jewishness is an Ideology'*.<sup>136</sup> The idea that inherited social traits cause people to act in certain ways, regardless of circumstance, is a prime example of a racist ideology. Atzmon fails to understand that Jewish identity, 'Jewishness', is not fixed. Like all identities it has changed over time, as has that of the Palestinians. Whereas orthodox Jews were mostly anti-Zionist up to 1945, today the opposite is the case. When Herzl wanted to hold the first Zionist Congress in Munich, it was the opposition of the local Jewish community that forced him to relocate to Basel in Switzerland. How to explain the vehement hostility of Reform Judaism in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to Zionism? Atzmon can't because for him it never happened. It's irrelevant.

Atzmon's argument is rooted in both race and his own psychosis. *'Jewishness is actually a deeper concept than mere Zionism. How do I know that it is deeper than Zionism? I know because I look into myself and into my past.'* Atzmon rejects any analysis of Zionism, because for him Zionism doesn't exist: *'as a young lad, the word Zionism was foreign to my ears. My peers and myself were Israelis, we were the Jewish people, we were not Zionists. Zionism was a foreign abstract expression, it smelled of Galut (Diaspora).'* To the average Israeli this is true, but the institutions of Zionism, the Jewish Agency, Jewish National Fund and World Zionist Organisation are all woven into the fabric of the Israeli state and law. Zionism may appear abstract, though less now that loyalty tests are in the air, but it is real enough when Netanyahu rejects the idea that foreign workers or child refugees might be allowed to stay in Israel because of 'Zionism' i.e. ensuring a Jewish demographic majority in Israel.<sup>137</sup>

According to Atzmon, *'Jewish groups ... have managed to block any meaningful debate having to do with Israel, the Jewish State, Palestine, world Jewry, ... etc...'* Perhaps people don't believe a debate about the Jews and being Jewish is of much use to the Palestinians! Atzmon's *'responsibility thus is to expose the real meaning of the Jewish idea in its full extent.... to expose the carriers and protagonists of this ideology. As an artist, my duty is to look into myself and to trace its origin in my own soul.'*<sup>138</sup> What this has to do with Palestine solidarity is unclear.

### Petty anti-Semitism

Atzmon is no slouch at what might be termed petty anti-Semitism. In a talk in Brighton he threw out comments, recorded on tape, such as (32.51:6) *'I agreed & wanted to be an ordinary human being, which is very unusual for a Jew (laughs) and it's still not easy for me, I'm still practising.'* and in a casual aside wrote of *'(Shraga) Elam the crypto-Zionist is acting as an ethnic campaigner Greenstein... Shell report them to the Jewnited Nation.'* This kind of witticism is usually associated with the 'humour' of neo-Nazi misfits.<sup>139</sup> In a particularly nasty little attack on a critic, Atzmon said: *"Mary i have seen this Goodwin on Socialist Jewnity... It is pretty funny, all those socialist crypto Zios are as well H scholars... they know what, how when and how many... But they never come up with an answer...their Job is to maintain the Zio H narrative in the left... somehow, it doesn't work anymore.'* 11.1.08.<sup>140</sup> Quite.

### Holocaust Denial

On November 27<sup>th</sup> 2005, Atzmon performed at the Langendreeer Railroad Station in Germany. He was reported to have told the audience that the holocaust was a *"complete forgery, initiated by Americans and Zionists"*. According to reports on Press TV and elsewhere, the lawyer for Ernst Zundel, Sylvia Stolz, read

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the charging of interest for loans only to non-Jews.

<sup>135</sup> The Returns of Zionism, Verso 2008, pp. 260, 278. See Journal of Holy Land Studies, 9.1 (2010) pp. 99–106, 'Myths, Politics and Scholarship in Israel, Tony Greenstein.

<sup>136</sup> <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=m31465&hd=&size=1&l=e>

<sup>137</sup> See Jerusalem Post 3.1.11. <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Editorials/Article.aspx?id=210401&R=R6>

<sup>138</sup> <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=m31465&hd=&size=1&l=e>

<sup>139</sup> <http://www.haloscan.com/comments/thecutter/2471404870879707252>

<sup>140</sup> <http://www.socialistunity.com/?p=1559>

a newspaper article to the court concerning the appearance of Gilad Atzmon in Bochum.<sup>141</sup> This was reported in a local newspaper.<sup>142</sup> It was also widely reported on fascist sites such as [David Duke's](#), the Zundelsite and Adelaide Institute, that during the trial of Dr Rigolf Hennig, whom Stolz was defending, the lawyer [referred to the report](#) thus:

*'A few days ago, on 27 November 2005, Gilad Atzmon introduced the most radical blow that has as yet been struck against the political indoctrination forced on us. This is to be found in Exhibit No. 1....He describes the historiography of the Second World War and Holocaust, ... as a complete falsification invented by Zionists and Americans. He shows that the real enemy was not Hitler but Stalin.'*

Atzmon denied it subsequently and it is noteworthy that as part of his defence he used the statement that the SWP published. According to a post sent to me by [Kristoffer Larson](#):

*'There was a 'heated debate between the writer and the audience in the course of which several members of the audience left the hall under protest. Atzmon referred to the historiography about the World War II and about the Holocaust such as we know it as a complete forgery initiated by Americans and Zionists. According to him the true enemy was not Hitler but Stalin.'*

In '**Holocaust politics in the service of Anglo-American hegemony**'<sup>143</sup> Atzmon wrote that: *'I am not a Holocaust scholar nor am I a historian. My primary interest is not the story of Auschwitz nor the destruction of European Jewry.... I do not wish to enter the debate regarding the truth of the Holocaust....'* [ME - TG] Atzmon makes it clear that there is a debate to be had about whether the holocaust occurred at all. No serious historian challenges the fact of the holocaust any more than serious scientists challenge the fact that the planets go round the sun.

How the holocaust is and has been used by the Zionist movement, is the subject of much controversy and debate. Norman Finkelstein has written about the Holocaust Industry and its exploitation of the holocaust for political and financial purposes and historians, such as Lenni Brenner, have written concerning the actual record of collaboration and obstruction of the Zionist movement during the years of Nazi rule. But that is entirely different from denying the holocaust.

Atzmon has previously been astute enough to realise what the consequences of holocaust denial would be for his career. That is why he has preferred to defend the right of holocaust deniers to express their views whilst maligning his opponents. In **Holocaust politics in the service of Anglo-American hegemony** he wrote that *'I do not wish to enter the debate regarding the truth of the Holocaust.... Regardless of what the truth of the Holocaust is and what its denial may entail, to seal the past is to give away the vision of a better future.'* [ME - TG] Who can pretend that Atzmon has remained immune to the political charms of his friends?<sup>144</sup>

In '**Purim Special - From Esther to AIPAC**'<sup>145</sup> Atzmon holds that the problem with even anti-Zionist holocaust historians is that they don't challenge the 'validity' of the holocaust: *'none of them dare'* to debate or engage in a dialogue with the historical revisionists. Nor do they *'challenge the Zionist narrative, namely Nazi Judeocide'*. The Nazi extermination is part of a *'Jewish continuum.'* For Atzmon there is a genuine debate to be had as to whether there was a deliberate attempt to exterminate the Jews of European:

*'The Scholars who are engaged in the study of the Holocaust religion.... happen to search for the theological dialectic (Marc Ellis), ... the commandments (Adi Ofir),... its historical evolution (Lenni Brenner), ... its financial infrastructure (Finkelstein). Interestingly enough, most scholars who are engaged in the subject of Holocaust religion are engaged with a list of events that happened between 1933-1945.<sup>146</sup> Most of the scholars are themselves orthodox observants. Though they may be critical of different aspects of the exploitation of the Holocaust, they all accept the validity of the Nazi Judeocide.... Most of the scholars, if not all of them, do not challenge the Zionist narrative,*

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<sup>141</sup> <http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=38848&sectionid=351020604>

<sup>142</sup> Source: *Ruhrnachrichten* (News of the Ruhr,) Bochum, Tuesday, November 29, 2005

<sup>143</sup> <http://www.redress.btinternet.co.uk/gatzmon29.htm> 28.1.07. accessed 5.3.11

<sup>144</sup> <http://www.redress.btinternet.co.uk/gatzmon29.htm>

<sup>145</sup> <http://www.counterpunch.org/atzmon03032007.html>

<sup>146</sup> Atzmon seems surprised that Holocaust historians concentrate on this period!

namely Nazi Judeocide, yet, more than a few are critical of the way Jewish and Zionist institutes employ the Holocaust.... no one goes as far as revisionism, **not a single Holocaust religion scholar dares engage in a dialogue with the so-called 'deniers'** to discuss their vision of the events...'

.... Holocaust religion was well established a long time before the Final Solution (1942).... The Holocaust religion is probably as old as the Jews.' [ME - TG] <sup>147</sup>

In *Gilad Atzmon – Now an Open Holocaust Denier*<sup>148</sup> I first argued that Atzmon was an open holocaust denier. Subsequently I had doubts regarding the use of the term 'open' as his views were still half-submerged. Since then the trend has become clearer. As one writer has written, '*Gilad Atzmon's canter towards the territory of the Extreme Right continues on apace.*' <sup>149</sup>

In '**Truth, History, and Integrity**' <sup>150</sup> Atzmon leaves no room for misunderstanding. '*If, for instance, the Nazis wanted the Jews out of their Reich..., or even dead, as the Zionist narrative insists, how come they marched hundreds of thousands of them back into the Reich at the end of the war?*' [ME - TG] The answer is obvious. The death marches were organised to prevent them falling into the hands of the Russians primarily. The march from Budapest to Vienna was organised to build tank ditches against the Russians at Strasshoff. Atzmon confesses that '*I have been concerned with this simple question for more than a while.... and happened to learn from Israeli holocaust historian professor [Israel Gutman](#) that Jewish prisoners actually joined the march voluntarily.*' This is a gross distortion. Gutman refers to **one** prisoner who weighed up his chances of escaping or going on the death march. Even Atzmon cites the prisoner as saying that '*The temptation was very strong.... I then decided to join (the march) with all the other inmates and to share their fate.*' This is hardly a ringing endorsement of holocaust denial.

Atzmon is 'puzzled'. '*If the Nazis ran a death factory in Auschwitz-Birkenau, why would the Jewish prisoners join them at the end of the war?* The answer, as Primo Levi wrote,<sup>151</sup> was that most prisoners had little choice, fearing that prisoners left behind would be murdered. Levi had diphtheria and was in Auschwitz'S hospital. But despite admitting to not being a historian he writes that '*We should ask for some conclusive historical evidence and arguments rather than follow a religious narrative...*' Presumably the eye witness testimony of those like Primo Levi is not sufficient for him. In the libel trial that David Irving lost against Penguin Books, the refusal by holocaust deniers to take account of Jewish witnesses was noted in the judgment.<sup>152</sup>

Atzmon draws an equation between the Nazi treatment of the Jews and Israel's treatment of the Palestinians, using the latter as an explanation if not justification of the former. '*Why were the Jews hated? Why did European people stand up against their next-door neighbours? Why are the Jews hated in the Middle East.*' The Israelis and Jews of Europe are one and the same. Both antagonised their neighbours. It isn't a question of colonialism. It is the Jews as Jews.<sup>153</sup>

But whilst blaming the Jews for the holocaust they brought on themselves, Atzmon also questions the fact of the holocaust.

'I must admit that **I have many doubts concerning the Zionist Holocaust narrative.** Being familiar with many of the discrepancies within the forcefully imposed narrative, being fully familiar with the devastating tale of the extensive collaboration between the Nazis and the Zionists before and throughout the Second World War, I know pretty well that the official Holocaust narrative is there to conceal rather than to reveal any truth.'<sup>154</sup>

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<sup>147</sup> <http://www.counterpunch.org/atzmon03032007.html>

<sup>148</sup> <http://www.socialistunity.com/?p=1559>, 21.1. 08.

<sup>149</sup> <http://modernityblog.wordpress.com/2010/03/17/gilad-atzmoms-holocaust-denial-and-other-stupid-questions/>

<sup>150</sup> <http://dissentvoice.org/2010/03/truth-history-and-integrity/> <http://tinyurl.com/6kvuuw3> 13.3.10.

<sup>151</sup> *Survival in Auschwitz, the Nazi Assault on Humanity*, Collier Books, New York, 1961.

<sup>152</sup> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2000/apr/11/irving.uk>

<sup>153</sup> <http://tinyurl.com/6kvuuw3>, **Truth, History, and Integrity: Questioning the Holocaust Religion**, 15.3.10.

<sup>154</sup> <http://gilad.co.uk/html%20files/1001lies.html>

In **Beyond Comparison** Atzmon explains that:

*'To regard Hitler as the ultimate evil is nothing but surrendering to the Zio-centric discourse. To regard Hitler as the wickedest man and the Third Reich as the embodiment of evilness is to let Israel off the hook... Hitler has never flattened a country for no reason at all, and this is exactly what the Israelis have been doing in Lebanon for four weeks already and in Gaza for years and years....*

*If a comparison is to be made, then it is the Israelis who win the championship of ruthlessness... Nazis were indeed proper expansionists, they were trying to take towns and land intact. Carpet bombing and total erasure of populated areas that is so trendy amongst Israeli military and politicians (as well as Anglo-Americans) has never been a Nazi tactic or strategy.'*

Leaving aside the minor fact that the Nazis exterminated, not just the Jews, but Gypsies, gays and the mentally and physically handicapped with poisonous gas, to say nothing of murdering 3 million Poles and an equal number of Russian soldiers, Atzmon is simply wrong. For three days, in April 1941, German bombers raised Belgrade to the ground.<sup>156</sup>

Likewise Hitler's plans for Russia included the mass starvation of 30 million Russian civilians and the complete razing to the ground of Moscow and Leningrad,<sup>157</sup> to say nothing of Lidice.<sup>158</sup>

Perhaps the most intriguing fact about Atzmon to emerge in his interview with Simon Jones<sup>159</sup> where he reveals that when he was 26 'I received a formal letter from the Israeli 'prime minister's office' inviting me to join the Israeli secret service (basically the Mossad). I hope that you realise that I didn't go for that tempting career shift.' But to be fair to Atzmon, he is much more valuable to Israel without formal membership of Mossad. As the old saying goes, 'You cannot hope to bribe or twist (thank God!) the British journalist. But, seeing what the man will do unbribed, there's no occasion to.'

### **Jews and The Economic Crisis**

Whether Atzmon is anti-Semitic or just a fool (not that they are incompatible) is best shown in his reaction to the current capitalist crisis. It is the Jews who are responsible. In '**Credit Crunch or rather Zio Punch**', Atzmon cited John Reynolds, who wrote that "Above all we need more individuals to make a stand. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York should go further and call for more Christians to work in the city."<sup>160</sup>

Clearly Reynolds was using the term 'Christian' interchangeably with ethical or honest. Reynolds was saying nothing whatsoever about Jews in the City of London or elsewhere. He was focussing on the practices of city dealers regardless of religion. As a committed Christian he naively believes that religious Christians might introduce some ethics into the City, despite greed and corruption being integral to the money markets. There was nothing anti-Semitic in what Reynolds wrote. However Atzmon chose to put an entirely different interpretation on Reynold's words.<sup>161</sup>

*'One may wonder what Reynolds refers to when calling for more 'Christians to work in the City'... By pleading the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to send more Christians to the City he may try to suggest to us that our financial world must be spiritually de-Judified. I must admit that it took me by complete surprise to read such a suggestion in the politically correct Guardian.'*

It also came as a complete surprise to John Reynolds! Once he had recovered, Reynolds threatened to sue for libel and Atzmon backtracked, making a fulsome apology. Atzmon may be an anti-Semite but he

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<sup>155</sup> <http://tinyurl.com/pfa9o>

<sup>156</sup> William Shirer, *The Rise & Fall of the Third Reich*, p.988, Pan Books, London, 1964.

<sup>157</sup> Ibid. pp. 996-7, 1020.

<sup>158</sup> [http://www.lidice-memorial.cz/history\\_en.aspx](http://www.lidice-memorial.cz/history_en.aspx) was a Czech village destroyed by the Nazis in reprisal for the assassination of Reinhardt Heydrich.

<sup>159</sup> <http://simonjones1.blogspot.com/2005/04/david-vs-goliath-remix-interview-with.html>, *David vs Goliath - the remix: An interview with Gilad Atzmon*.

<sup>160</sup> The Observer 28.9.08 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2008/sep/28/economics.banking>

<sup>161</sup> <http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2008/10/atzmon-eats-humble-pie-for-suggesting.html>

knows a threat to his pocket when he sees one.

*'Clarification: In the course of an article entitled "Credit Crunch or rather Zio Punch?" I recently made a comment about Mr John Reynolds, the Chief Executive of Reynolds Partners and chairman of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group. I suggested that some people may think that his call in The Observer to send more Christians to the City was a plea for the financial world to be "spiritually de-Judified". I want to make it clear that I did not intend to suggest that Mr Reynolds was anti-Semitic or in any way hostile to Jewish people or those of the Jewish faith and I am sorry if my comment was understood by anybody in that way. Mr Reynolds has asked me to clarify the position and I am happy to do so. I would like to apologise for any distress caused.'*<sup>162</sup>

When stories about New Labor corruption surfaced, involving Lord Levy, Atzmon was quick to point to the Jewish origins of donors like David Abrahams and Willie Nagel.

*Levy and Abrahams were prominent activists in the 'Labor Friends of Israel' and 'Jewish Labor'. They both operate as Israeli lobbyists. It is more than possible that their interests as openly rabid Zionists do not exactly match the British interests.... The Jewish press in Britain is panicking lately and they have good reason, too.... We have already learned about Lord 'cash machine' Levy who acted as 'No 1 Labor fund raiser'... about David Abrahams who donated his money to the party by proxy....*

*Yesterday, Peter Hain, a senior British Cabinet minister resigned. Once again following a row over political donations and guess what, once again it is Zionist donators who put money into his campaign by proxy.... Clearly, the British press avoids questioning the identity of the donators, and more crucially there is the disturbing question: what was it that they tried to buy?*<sup>163</sup>

Historically rich Jews have made donations to the Labor Party, whereas non-Jews chose the Tories. In Harold Wilson's days it was Lords Kagan and Grade who contributed. The reasons are not difficult to understand. Because of anti-Semitism, Jews gravitated towards the Labor Party. Today Asian millionaires such as Lords Gulam Noon and Desai contribute to the Labor Party, but no one suggests they have a Zionist agenda! But for Atzmon what was important was the Jewish origins of the donors and the link between political corruption and Jews.

#### Harry's Place Zionists Find Gilad Atzmon Congenial Company

But it's not only holocaust deniers and anti-Semites who idolise him. Zionists also find him congenial company. His attacks on Jewish anti-Zionists attract their admiration. Zionists from the rabidly racist Harry's Place blog, including David Taube,<sup>164</sup> are happy to socialise with him.<sup>165</sup>

Taube described how fellow Zionist, Mikey Ezra *'invited me for a drink with Gilad Atzmon.'* This is no surprise since Mikey acted as Atzmon's unpaid informer in his battles with his Jewish opponents.<sup>166</sup> Taube found Atzmon an *'utterly charming and a delightful drinking companion'*.

*'Is Gilad Atzmon a racist?' Taube asks. Answering his own question he concludes 'Not in the narrow sense of being preoccupied by genetic differences between people, certainly. He is rather, I think, a 'cultural essentialist'. Of course 'it goes without saying that Gilad Atzmon has a somewhat eccentric way of viewing the world. It owes something, as we know, to the writings of "Israel Shamir" and Paul Eisen, although he holds Heidegger in high regard.'* 'Eccentricity' is a common way of describing the racist foibles of the upper classes and cultural elite.

Atzmon drew the distinction, evidently with approval, *'between those cultures which are grounded in the*

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<sup>162</sup> <http://www.martinfrost.ws/htmlfiles/oct2008/financial-crashings-christians.html>

<sup>163</sup> Two Jewish Jokes (and a Hain in the Middle), <http://peacepalestine.blogspot.com/2008/01/gilad-atzmon-two-jewish-jokes-and-hain.html>

<sup>164</sup> <http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2008/10/fancy-that-david-taube-signs-up-to.html>

<sup>165</sup> <http://hurryupharry.org/2007/03/19/gilad-atzmon-and-jewishness/> 19.3.07.

<sup>166</sup> <http://www.socialistunity.com/?p=1706>

"soil", and which are "authentic", with those which are not.'<sup>167</sup> This may be one reason why Atzmon looks favourably on Zionism. Attachment to the soil was integral to national identity both for the Zionists and Nazis, in particular Agriculture Minister Richard Darre.

But if Atzmon and the Harry's Place Zionists make 'charming and delightful' drinking partners, the same is not true for those of us without authentic cultures grounded in the soil. 'Elam and Greenstein have to be despised... they behave like gangsters, they then land in their Jewish Box, on of those very few Kosher cyber cell (Socialist Jewnity, Alef etc)'<sup>168</sup>

### Atzmon & Indymedia

Indymedia, the alternative news resource is run by an anarchist/libertarian collective. At the end of 2007 articles by Atzmon began to be placed on IM. It caused the biggest political controversy in its history as many of its collective, FTP ('Free the Peeps!'), Phunkee and others, defended Atzmon's right to post his racist articles. Others simply left IM. There is a long tradition, stemming from Proudhon, of anti-Semitism in the libertarian/anarchist milieu.<sup>169</sup> Many people found it difficult to understand that an ex-Israeli Jew could support the Palestinians and yet be anti-Semitic. A few didn't care. It began a debate which is still simmering. My own blog was set up directly as a result.<sup>170</sup>

The issue crystallised over an article, '**Saying NO to the Hunters of Goliath**, which had been posted on IM until Atzmon was affronted at having his articles placed in a 'disputed' category.<sup>171</sup> *Hunters* argued that 'Jews are now more than welcome in Germany and in Europe, yet, the Jewish state and the sons of Israel are at least as unpopular in the Middle East as their grandparents were in Europe just six decades ago.'<sup>172</sup> In his defence, Atzmon wrote a letter to IM defending **Hunters**. 'It is the personification of WW2 and the Holocaust that blinded the Israelis and their supporters from internalising the real meaning of the conditions and the events that led towards their destruction in the first place...' <sup>173</sup> And what was this meaning?

'teach (ing) Jews how to start looking in the mirror, to teach Jews to ask themselves why conflicts with others happen to them time after time. Rather than blaming the Goyim, the Germans, the Muslims, the Arabs, it is about time the Jewish subject learns to ask the 6 million \$ question: "why do they pick on me?"'<sup>174</sup>

**Hunters** broke new ground. '*Within the Judaic worldview*' where '*history and ethics are often reduced into a banal single binary opposition principle. For instance, the deadly battle between the 'righteous' David and the 'evil' Goliath personalises the struggle between the 'good' Israelites and the 'bad' Philistines.*' The opposition of good to evil, strong to weak, is common to all cultures yet according to Atzmon is unique in '*the world Judaic view.*'

Atzmon conflated the Jews of Europe, 99%+ of whom never even set foot in Palestine, with the Israeli settlers. The Jews of Europe had brought their own destruction on their heads. They were as unpopular as

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<sup>167</sup> <http://hurryupharry.org/2007/03/19/gilad-atzmon-and-jewishness/>

<sup>168</sup> <http://www.haloscan.com/comments/thecutter/2471404870879707252>

<sup>169</sup> See Nora Levin, *Jewish Socialist Movements, 1871-1917 - While Messiah Tarried*; p. 103, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London 1978.

<sup>170</sup> See <http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2008/01/open-letter-to-indymedia.html>,  
<http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2008/02/indymedia-finally-replies-to-their.html>,  
<http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2008/02/indymedia-update-atzmon-beats-retreat.html>,  
<http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2008/02/hornets-nest-and-stick-indymedia-uk.html>,  
<http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2008/02/indymedia-capitulates-to-anti-semites.html>,  
<http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2008/02/how-indymedia-uk-lost-its-way-and.html>.

<sup>171</sup> Open Letter to JSF, 23.10.07. <http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2007/08/378213.html>,

<sup>172</sup> <http://gilad.co.uk/html%20files/saying%20NO.htm>, 4.10.09.

<sup>173</sup> <http://lists.indymedia.org/pipermail/imc-uk-features/2007-November/1113-7c.html>

<sup>174</sup> <https://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/regions/world/2007/08/378213.html?c=on>,  
<http://peacepalestine.blogspot.com/2007/10/gilad-atzmon-open-comment-to-jsf.html>.

Israel is with its neighbours.<sup>175</sup> Usually it is Zionism which uses the holocaust to justify the Israeli state. Atzmon innovatively uses the latter to rationalise and justify the former! Atzmon quandary is whether the Jews cause a holocaust that he denies ever happened? Because it's only a story, the 'narrative' can be changed as needed.

The dispute at IM resulted in one of the stranger of political alliances. For 25 years I had debated Steve Cohen of the Jewish Socialists Group over the theory of 'left' anti-Semitism in his book *'That's Funny You Don't Look anti-Semitic'*.<sup>176</sup> Notwithstanding his analysis of Zionism, which I rejected, including his description of himself as an 'anti-Zionist Zionist' (a total contradiction) and his belief that it is anti-Semitic to ask someone who is Jewish where they stand on Palestine, Steve was a fine anti-racist and someone 100% committed to fighting immigration controls in this country.<sup>177</sup> Together with Lenni Brenner, a historian of Nazi-Zionist Collaboration and someone also criticised by Steve in his book, we battled together against IM posting Atzmon's articles and eventually we succeeded. Steve Cohen passed away after a long illness in the summer of 2008.

### Birds of a Feather

One way of judging someone is by the company they keep. The Radical Press<sup>178</sup> is a gutter anti-Semitic site. In the interests of enlightenment it has posted the whole of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion.<sup>179</sup> The Radical Press doesn't step gingerly around the topic of anti-Semitism. You get the full-blooded thing. There are articles on the [Jewish Banking Cartel](#) (267) [Jewish Holocaust Industry](#) (278) [Jewish Lobby](#) (398) [Jewish Media Monopoly](#) (375) [Jewish Porn Industry](#) (229) [Jewish Racism](#) (5) [Jewish Ritual Murder](#) (1) [Jewish Supremacism](#) (1) [Jews](#) (400) [Jews Behind Bolshevik Revolution](#) (244) and [JIMM-Jewish International Media Monopoly](#) (1)

This didn't however stop Atzmon supplying an article **'The Primacy of the Ear'** for which the owner of The Radical Free Press expresses his gratitude.<sup>180</sup> And what could be more fitting than Atzmon sending them **'my Christmas Present - Liberating the American People, a free ride with my quartet on youtube. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year – Gilad.**<sup>181</sup> The Chair of DYR, Daniel McGowan, also contributed an article *'What does the holocaust mean'*.<sup>182</sup>

Guilt by association is something we should all be wary of, given its association with McCarthyism. But Atzmon **welcomes** the support of neo-Nazis, fascists and anti-Semites. If Atzmon were seriously opposed to racism, including its anti-Jewish variety, he would react when someone like David Duke, a former Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, paid him tribute. Instead Atzmon was perfectly happy to have a 'preface commentary by Dr. David Duke' on the latter's blog. Duke urged his followers to read Atzmon's **'From Esther to Aipac'**.<sup>183</sup> Mary Rizzo also put up links to Duke's site on her blog before we embarrassed her into removing them.

### The Boycott of Israel

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<sup>175</sup> Of course Atzmon is also an ignoramus and speaks about that of which he knows nothing. Contrary to Atzmon and Zionist historiography, anti-Semitism in Europe was not uniformly accepted. For example the Situation Report of Einsatzgruppen (killing squad) A of 15.10.51. in the wake of the invasion of the Soviet Union, Operation Barbarossa, describes how *'Surprisingly, it was not easy at first to set in motion a pogrom against the Jews (in Kovno, Lithuania) on a large scale.'* And *'It proved much more difficult to set in motion similar mopping up operations and pogroms in Latvia.'* 'A Holocaust Reader' Lucy Dawidowicz, p. 93, Behrman, NJ, 1976.

<sup>176</sup> <http://you-dont-look-anti-semitic.blogspot.com/2007/02/there-must-be-some-way-out-of-here.html> 1984, Beyond the Pale Collective.

<sup>177</sup> My own tribute is here <http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2009/03/steve-cohen-dont-rest-in-peace-comrade.html>

<sup>178</sup> <http://www.radicalpress.com>

<sup>179</sup> <http://www.radicalpress.com/?p=594>

<sup>180</sup> <http://www.radicalpress.com/?p=640>

<sup>181</sup> <http://www.radicalpress.com/?p=302>

<sup>182</sup> <http://www.radicalpress.com/?p=919>

<sup>183</sup> [http://www.davidduke.com/general/1841\\_1841.html](http://www.davidduke.com/general/1841_1841.html), 3.4.2007

In 2005 the Academic Boycott was launched by activists in what became the University & College Union in Britain. It caused an unprecedented reaction, in Israel and Britain amongst Zionists and the threat of legal action by Anthony Julius. It was the foundation stone on which the cultural and economic boycott has been built. Boycott is the one weapon that Zionism fears, hence the current attempts in Israel to make support for boycott illegal.<sup>184</sup>

Yet Atzmon had a problem. Many academics involved in the Boycott Israel movement were Jewish and those who were not, like Sue Blackwell, were vehemently opposed to him. I have discovered only two academics, Israeli Oren Ben Dor at Southampton University and Glen Bowman at Kent University, who are or have been associated with Atzmon. Oren Ben Dor in particular.<sup>185</sup> Activists in the UCU know that failure to condemn anti-Semitism unreservedly would mean death to any boycott campaign. You can't oppose one form of racism and support another. But Atzmon was more concerned about his political enemies leading the academic boycott campaign. Hence when he was interviewed by Mary Rizzo,<sup>186</sup> Atzmon **condemned** the boycott:

*'interfering with academic freedom isn't exactly something I can blindly advocate. ... I am against any form of gatekeeping or book burning. But it goes further, I actually want to hear what Israelis and Zionists have to say. I want to read their books. I want to confront their academics.'*

In response to further probing he made his objections clear:

*'to impose a boycott is to employ a boycotter. When it comes to an academic boycott I would expect the inquisitor in charge to be a scholar of great esteem.... Seemingly, it isn't the leading minds in British academic life and ethical thinking who are leading the Boycott. In fact it is the other way around, the boycott is led by some minor academics with very little to say about ethics and even less to say about the specific conflict.... It has a lot to do with maintenance of some particular decaying old-school socialists within the fading progressive Western discourse. ... When it comes to the current boycott we are unfortunately operating within a political mode rather than an ethical one. ... Shouldn't we ban as well any form of racially orientated activity? ... I believe that the best way around it is to support freedom of speech categorically...'*<sup>187</sup>

But Atzmon is also a liar as well as a fool. After declaring that the Academic Boycott is the equivalent of 'book burning', in another interview he states that *'A while ago I decided not to communicate with the Hebraic people. I support any form of boycott on the Israeli society and people. I argue that Israeli academics and artist should be banned from any overseas activity unless they publicly denounce Zionism.'*<sup>188</sup> Suffice to say that Atzmon doesn't understand that the Boycott is about boycotting institutions not individuals.

I hope this article will lay to rest any doubts as to whether Gilad Atzmon is anti-Semitic. Those who believe that Zionism can be fought using racist arguments can only damage the Palestine solidarity movement. Racism has never been defeated by racism. Others, including the leadership of Palestine Solidarity Campaign under Socialist Action, have preferred not to see or hear. It is an example of a long line of political cowardice that originated with Oslo and continues to this day with the quisling Palestinian Authority.

Tony Greenstein

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<sup>184</sup> <http://theglobalrealm.com/2010/06/21/proposed-israeli-law-would-make-supporting-boycott-a-crime/>

<sup>185</sup> <http://azvsas.blogspot.com/2008/03/oren-ben-dor-southampton-university.html> 'Oren Ben Dor: Southampton University Lecturer Who Supports Bigots In the Name of Free Speech.

<sup>186</sup> Gilad Atzmon Interview: Tangling with the Oppressor - What really matters is what Palestinians Do, July 5, 2007.  
<http://peacepalestine.wordpress.com/2007/07/05/gilad-atzmon-interview-tangling-with-the-oppressor-what-really-matters-is-what-palestinians-do/> and <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article17969.htm>

<sup>187</sup> <http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/Default.pl?id=21321>

<sup>188</sup> <http://gilad.co.uk/html%20files/SJinterview.html>