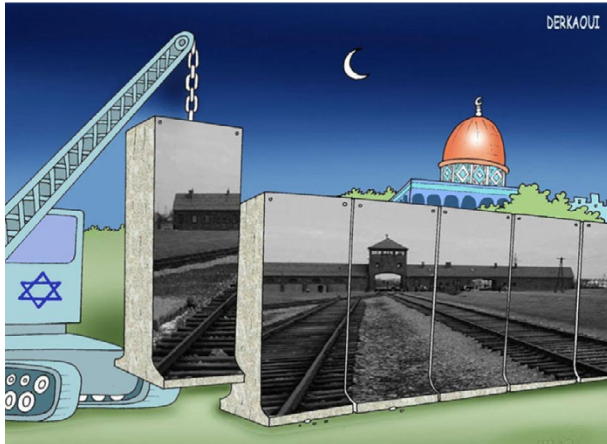


CASE STUDY #1

As you review the following, consider how criticism of Israel has crossed the line to antisemitism. Highlight evidence that supports your point of view.

HOLOCAUST CARTOON CONTEST



This drawing was the winner of a 2015 Iranian-sponsored Holocaust cartoon contest. It shows a wall being erected around the Dome of the Rock mosque, a sacred Muslim place of worship, with an image of the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. The cartoon equates Jews with Nazis as the Star of David on the crane suggests that Israel is oppressing Palestinians in the same manner as the Nazi genocide perpetrated against Jews.

NEW YORK TIMES CARTOON CONTROVERSY

In April 2019, The New York Times' international edition published this caricature by Portuguese cartoonist António Moreira Antunes. It shows Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a guide dog, wearing a Star of David on his collar and leading a blind U.S. President Donald Trump, who is wearing a skullcap.

Jonathan A. Greenblatt, National Director of the ADL commented: "The offensive image was antisemitic propaganda of the most vile sort... This type of content normalizes antisemitism by reinforcing tropes of Jewish control, and does so at a time when antisemitism is surging."



Antunes defended his cartoon as "a critique of Israeli policy, which has a criminal conduct in Palestine at the expense of the UN, and not the Jews." He explained that "The Star of David is an aid to identify a figure [Prime Minister Netanyahu] that is not very well known in Portugal." Antunes stated that the "Jewish propaganda machine" is responsible for claims of antisemitism: "The Jewish right doesn't want to be criticized, and therefore, when criticized they say, 'We are a persecuted people, we suffered a lot... this is antisemitism.'"

The New York Times, for its part, issued an apology two days after the publication of the cartoon. "We are deeply sorry for the publication of an antisemitic political cartoon," it read. "Such imagery is always dangerous, and at a time when antisemitism is on the rise worldwide, it's all the more unacceptable."

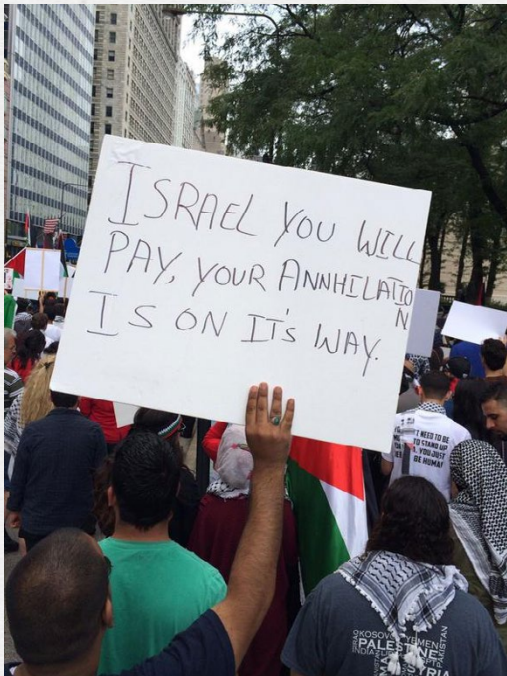
CASE STUDY #2

ANTI-ISRAEL RALLIES

As you review the following, consider how criticism of Israel has crossed the line to antisemitism. Highlight evidence that supports your point of view.

The right to peaceful protest is a human right and a critical component of democracy. The First Amendment of the United States Constitution protects your right to express an opinion, even if it's unpopular. However, many people struggle with the line between offensive protest speech and hate speech, which communicates discriminatory or hostile views directed at a group of people. The U.S. limits speech that rises to libel or slander (false and damaging statements), "true threats," or speech that causes violence or law-breaking. Other democracies have outlawed speech considered to be hateful. Hate crimes expert Phyllis B. Gerstenfeld suggests, "One way of thinking about it is, what is the primary intent of the speaker? Is it to affect change or is it to harm someone psychologically or verbally?"¹ Think about these questions as you evaluate the protest speech below from some recent anti-Israel rallies.

In Chicago, these protesters² marched in response to the 2014 conflict between Israel and Gaza, the Palestinian territory on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. They displayed signs with the words "Israel You Will Pay, Your Annihilation is On Its Way" and posters with Holocaust and antisemitic imagery. Protesters also demonized all supporters of Israel by distributing pamphlets declaring, "Zionism is the Enemy of Humanity." Comparisons between Nazism and Israel were frequent. There was a display of an Israeli flag with blood-stained children's handprints, calling the Israelis 'Nazis' and equating the Star of David with the swastika.



¹ Borque, Scott (2018, August 13). Free speech or hate speech? Americans struggle to decide when that line is crossed. Tucson Sentinel. Retrieved from tucsonsentinel.com/nationworld/report/081318_hate_speech/free-speech-or-hate-speech-americans-struggle-decide-when-that-line-crossed.

² Source: Photos of protesters and flyer distributed during rally were posted on Twitter by Jonathan Hoenig.

Protesters below rallied in support of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement against Israel. Unfortunately, the predominant drive of the BDS campaign and its leadership is not legitimate criticism of Israeli policies or a productive process to support Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts, but rather the demonization and delegitimization of Israel, blaming Israel alone for the Arab-Israeli conflict and the suffering of Arab people, and by calling for the elimination of Israel as a Jewish state.



At a University of California, Irvine demonstration, one sign read “Everything about Israel is illegal.” Such pronouncements demonize Israel by maligning the entire nation. They question Israel’s very right to exist and create an environment in which antisemitism becomes more acceptable.



Similarly, at this San Francisco march, protesters invoked anti-Zionist language, expressing prejudice against the right of the Jewish people to a homeland in the State of Israel. Calls for a boycott of the entire state of Israel as opposed to specific businesses or institutions can be seen as a punishment of all Israeli people by isolating them from commercial or social relations with others. This is a standard that is not applied to any other nation, even those with appalling human rights records.

CASE STUDY #3

ANTI-ISRAEL SENTIMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

As you review the following, consider how criticism of Israel has crossed the line to antisemitism. Highlight evidence that supports your point of view.

In a report¹ on the frequent occurrence of destructive antisemitism on social media, the Anti-Defamation League Center on Extremism found that roughly 4.2 million anti-Semitic messages were posted and reposted on just one platform, Twitter, in the one-year period they studied. The report differentiates between antisemitism and criticism of Israel, its actions and policies. One finding of the report is that many posts use the term "Zionist" as a stand-in for "Jew" in ways that are antisemitic. Zionist refers to those who support a Jewish independent state in the land of Israel.

In the first post, "Zionism" is used to advance the classic antisemitic idea that Jews and Israel control global media and financial institutions. In the cartoon, the mainstream media ignores the suffering of Palestinians while focusing their attention on Israel, represented by a crying baby who fakes victimhood in order to gain U.S. financial support.

In the second post, the term "Zionist" is used again as a stand-in for "Jew," in a context that indicates the tweet was motivated by antisemitism. Claiming the gas chambers were a "hoax" built after the war to extract reparations and justify the creation of Israel is an argument of Holocaust denial, a new expression of antisemitism. The Holocaust as a "Zionist lie" and "a huge financial swindle" of which the state of Israel is the beneficiary represents a common sentiment among deniers who claim the Holocaust has been exaggerated in order to benefit Jews and Israel financially.



¹ ADL (2018). Quantifying Hate: A Year of Anti-Semitism on Twitter. Retrieved from [adl.org/resources/reports/quantifying-hate-a-year-of-anti-semitism-on-twitter#introduction](https://www.adl.org/resources/reports/quantifying-hate-a-year-of-anti-semitism-on-twitter#introduction).