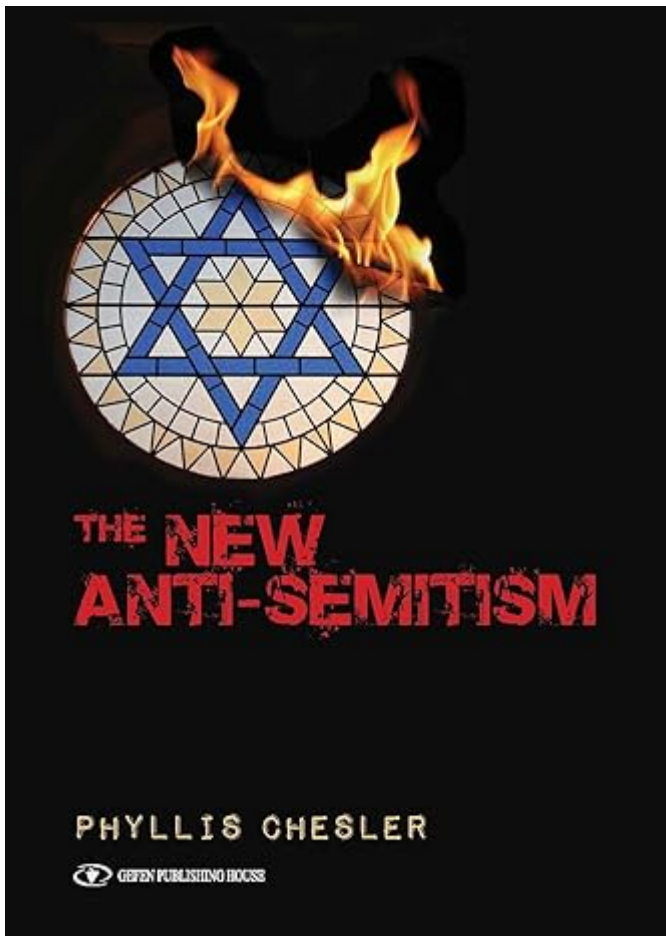


Anti-Zionism = Antisemitism



by Phyllis Chesler

“Are you sure, are you absolutely sure that you want to write that anti-Zionism is the new antisemitism? Really? Sure?”

Alan Rinzler, my editor on the 2003 edition of [The New Antisemitism](#) was berating, actually badgering me, about this way back in 2001-2002 as I was writing the book.

I wonder whether Alan has changed his mind. If so, he has never contacted me to say so. Well, the poor man lives in Berkeley and is surrounded by people who still believe that Israel is evil—and who only love dead Jews.

There's more, so much more.

First, the *New York Times*, which had reviewed every single

book of mine, often on the front page of the Book Review, sometimes even twice, refused to review this book. After a while, I asked a number of their editors whether they thought the book was not timely—or had they already reviewed too many books on the subject?

“It can’t be because I’m a woman—can it?”

Bill Keller, then the Executive Editor, got back to me. “If you’re accusing Chip McGrath (then the Book Review editor) of being an antisemite, then you’re a neurotic, paranoid woman.”

I had not brought that particular elephant into the room.

The Times did end up reviewing Abe Foxman’s book on the subject. Unlike what I’d written, his book failed to look at the alliance between Jew-hating Islamists and western “progressives,” and focused mainly on white, right-wing, Christians. Just their kind of book.

The left-liberal media in general refused to interview me.

For the first time in my career, what I had to say was welcomed by conservatives and Christians. One poor guy wrote: “Well, if I have to fight the good fight beside a feminist in the trench, so be it.” Another interviewer from Christian Broadcasting came to my home. He asked me how it felt to be so close to a believing Christian. I answered: “And how does it feel to be so close to a radical feminist?” We both laughed.

CNN in Washington D.C. had Judy Woodruff interview me. She was hostile, almost ballistic, and poorly informed. Wolf Blitzer backed out of interviewing me at the last minute. (I met him in the hallway). But the cameraman came out from behind his gear “to shake my hand.” That was a first.

The Jewish Museum in NYC refused to have me lecture there or even do a book signing. They told the employee who’d floated this idea: “No. The book is too Jewish.” He was distraught and

came to see me. Gently, I told him that what they meant was that the book was not “politically correct.”

About a month later, what I said at a grassroots feminist conference held at Barnard caused a near-riot. I was lecturing on a completely different subject for a group of African-American women who loved every word I said—until an agent provocateur asked me about “the humiliation at the checkpoints.” I told her that I opposed apartheid and that Islamic countries are the largest practitioners of both gender and religious apartheid, as well as practitioners of slavery.”

The place went wild and I had to be escorted out for my safety.

I lost most of my left-wing feminist colleagues. Those who did not choose to ostracize me, insisted on fighting with me. They, too, did not believe that anti-Zionism had anything to do with antisemitism; that as good Jews or as good people, they believed in supporting the victim, not the victimizer, and Israel was always viewed as the “occupying victimizer of innocent civilians in Gaza and on the West Bank.”

To this day, those feminists who remain Marxists, (and who still talk to me), continue to tell me that I “just don’t understand, that Israel is in the wrong, that the Palestinians are innocent, that Hamas/ISIS are freedom fighters.” Some of them proudly join “Queers for Palestine” demonstrations. The sight of Jewish blood has excited them so much that they wish for more. They read Ha-aretz, The Nation, and Al-Jazeera. Their minds have been deformed by disinformation and lethal propaganda.

Early on, at a conference at New Paltz, I had to endure an Israeli psychiatrist, one Ruchama Marton, (a woman), who believed that Israel was like a battering husband and his wife was a Palestinian. Oh, how she was cheered.

For years, I needed police protection on campuses when I

spoke.

At the time, I said: “going forward, will every Jew, every Israeli, require a personal bodyguard—or police protection? Or, should every Jew learn martial arts and be trained to use and carry a gun?”

Having a gun, making that fact known, once saved the Jews in my father’s home town of Lutsk, in Ukraine.

I could go on with anecdote after anecdote, some more unbelievable than others, but this is enough for now.

As you can imagine, I am so very pleased that today, on October 27th, the very eloquent Michael Oren, Israel’s former Ambassador to the United States, has confirmed my view. [He wrote](#): “Incontestably now, anti-Zionism is antisemitism.”

Jews are now engaged in an existential war for our survival, both in Israel and around the globe, including in the West. Soon, America will have to face the possibility and probability that World War 3 is upon us; that continuing to appease Iran will only lead to more danger; that Iran is behind Hamas and Hezbollah, that the Hama barbarians trained for their massacre in Iran; and that Americans have already been killed, captured, or fired upon.

Where do you stand?