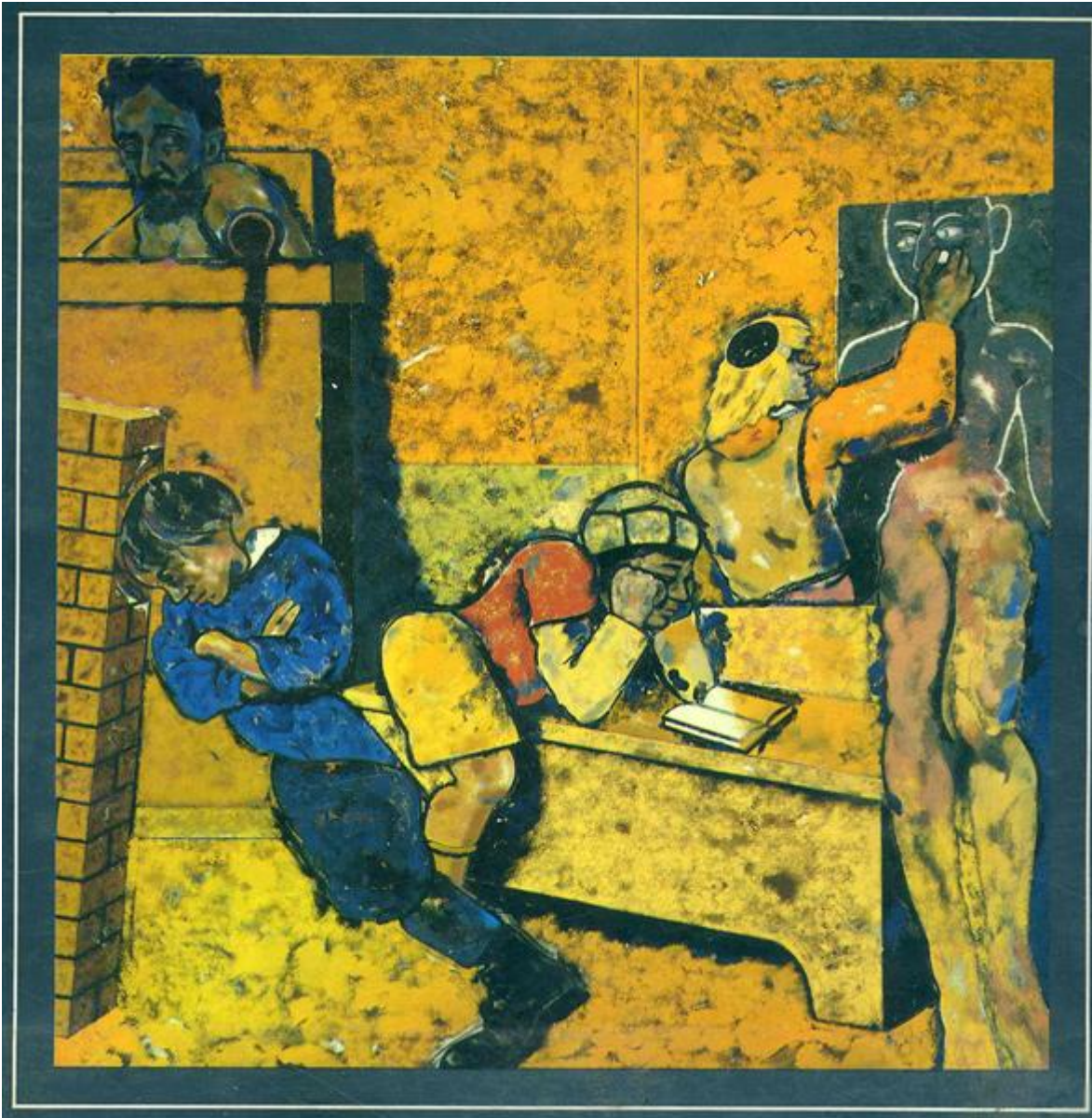


Germany's Moral Choice

by [Howard Rotberg](#) (January 2020)



The Jewish School (Drawing a Golem), R. B. Kitaj, 1930

Since the 1960s, German historical memory of the Holocaust was the foundation for a moral obligation to support the existence and security of the Jewish State, Israel.

Having perpetrated the genocide of six million Jews, Germany has been loath to publicly criticize Israeli positions. One might say that German politicians had a type of *inhibition vis-a-vis* Israel; however, many commentators inside and outside Germany, are becoming more focused on a choice between adherence to this historic inhibition or following what they assert to be mutual interests and realpolitik with respect to the wider Middle East.

Accordingly, the “special relationship” formerly based on morality, is feeling certain strains as historical memory fades, Islamic immigration increases, and Germany bases its decision on political and economic interests, and the voting patterns of a younger generation, not so cognizant of the Holocaust, who, like many of their peers in western universities, are subject to anti-Israel indoctrination and incitement.

[Read more in *New English Review*:](#)

- [Politicizing Language](#)
- [The Demise of Jeremy Corbyn](#)
- [Tony Blair: A Reckoning](#)

Shimon Stein [writes](#) in his March 7, 2018, essay, “Germany-Israel Relations: Unique or Normal,” (*INSS The Institute for National Security Studies, Tel Aviv University*), of certain strains that threaten to transform the relationship from “special” to “normal”.

Given the increasing anti-Israel, pro-Arab, outlook of the rest of Europe that plays along with UN General Assembly

hostility to Israel, “normal” is not good enough.



In the past, there have been tensions over sale of German tanks to Saudi Arabia, and the sale of military chemicals to Iraq which were useful in attacks on civilians. More recently, Germany’s refusal, as one of the P5+1 nations, to follow the

American lead in tearing up the Iran deal which would see Iran legally achieve nuclear weapons in about 2031, was viewed negatively by Israel and the United States.

Israelis remember that Germany was “neutral” in the Arab Yom Kippur War of 1973. We might all ask whether Germany would also be neutral in the event of an Iranian attack against Israel, using the 150,000 rockets they have stockpiled in Hezbollah-occupied Southern Lebanon, or even with nuclear weapons.

And we must all remember that in a speech at Tehran University on December 14th, 2001, former Iranian president Rafsanjani [said](#):

Muslims must surround colonialism and force them [the colonialists] to see whether Israel is beneficial to them or not. If one day, the world of Islam comes to possess the weapons currently in Israel’s possession [meaning nuclear weapons]—on that day this method of global arrogance would come to a dead end. This is because the use of a nuclear

bomb in Israel will leave nothing on the ground, whereas it will only damage the world of Islam.

Germany is both the largest contributor to the European Union's budget (21%) and the largest in population (16%) and therefore, when we scrutinize Germany, we also have to pay regard to the acts of the EU.

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