

THE DIOGENES REPORT

The Wit, Wisdom & Wituperation of Emanuel L. Strunin

March, 2001, volume 1, number 3

THE ENEMY OF MY ENEMY....

One Jewish dilemma is that "the enemy of my enemy is still my enemy", which, of course, upsets the old Arab proverb about the enemy of my enemy being my friend. .

A case in point surfaces in The New York Times article of March 17th, "Poles and Jews: How Deep The Guilt" by Adam Michnik.

Michnik, whose "Jewish ancestry" is an ideal credential to serve as flag bearer, jumps to the defense of the "good Poles" who saved their Jewish neighbors in the light of the revelations in a new book which describes how the Poles of Jedwabne on July 10, 1941 herded most of the 1,600 Jews of the town into a barn and burned them to death, The rest, they hunted down and murdered with clubs, axes and knives.

Michnik asks: do Poles, along with Germans, bear guilt for the Holocaust? His answer is that it is hard to imagine a more absurd claim. His reasoning: not a single Polish family was spared by Hitler and Stalin. The enemy of my enemy is still my enemy.

Then he lumps the three million Jews of Poland murdered by the Nazis with three million Poles who died during World War II and under the communist regimes. I wonder if he includes the Jews massacred by the Poles during and after the war as part of the three million murdered Jews.? I wonder how many of the three million Poles that he claims were killed were killed by Jews? How many Jews were killed by Poles? While Poles were killed in bombings, ground warfare and for being members of selected organizations, the Germans never had a plan to wipe out all of the Poles, like they did for the Jewish people. The enemy of my enemy is still my enemy.

The author raises the usual strawmen to help fend off attacks on the supporting role of the Poles in the Holocaust . These are the righteous Poles who saved Jews from the Germans--and from their own neighbors are the strawmen in the current cotroversies about widespread Polish collaboration in the murder of Jews.. He notes the "dense forest of Polish trees" in the Avenue of the Righteous in the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem. The actions and memories of each of these righteous Gentiles is a blessing. But less us not forget that the huge Jewish population in Poland provided many more opportunities for civilized behavior.

How many more "dense forests of Polish trees " would we have if a tree was planted for every Pole --no matter how much he hated the Germans-- who murdered or robbed or assaulted a Jew?

Michnik's credibility about the depth of Jew-hate in Poland both in the pre and post war periods suffers from some of the understated examples he uses. For example: the relatively benign "segregated seating at universities", more often than not, degenerated into organized gangs of Polish students with clubs assaulting Jewish students in their classrooms while the professors stood idly, if not approvingly, by. A more egregious whitewash of current Jew-hate is the author's relegation of today's anti-semites to the "margins of Poland's political life". The hateful words of those very unmarginal Poles, Cardinal Glemp and Lech Walesa have been well documented.

I do agree with the author's contention that the Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, Ukrainians Russians and Belarussians were no more civilized than the Poles when it came to treatment of their Jewish neighbor. A shameful excuse by any standard. His implication that the Holocaust was a European rather than just a German phenomenon has great merit.

I do not know for what psychological or political reasons, Mr. Michnik undertook his defense of the indefensible but those are problems that his own conscience should examine.

THE RIGHTEOUS SUB-CONTINENT INDIANS

We're not talking about the Native Americans, formerly the American Indians, but about the Hindus/Moslems/Sikhs on the Asian subcontinent. You know who we mean --the Nehru-jacketed, self-proclaimed leaders of the third world who are always advising Israelis to get out of the land of Israel. It is the righteous thing to do according to those tzadikkim.

These same subcontinent Indians refuse to get out of Kashmir, a land populated mainly by Moslems rather than Hindus. Third worlders are not so generous with property they consider their own.

According to current media reports, this land of the untouchables --which, of course, is not as bad as apartheid--is being swept by a tidal wave of corruption among public officials. If they knew how to be embarrassed, they would be upset that their masks of righteousness have been torn off.

I, of course, have a plan that will allow them to redeem themselves. All of the cheating, robbing, conniving, bribe-taking officials should rush down to the River Ganges and immerse their entire bodies including their heads in

the cleansing waters of the sacred river for 15 minutes. Those who come up will be redeemed.

MEASURES TO EASE PALESTINIAN SUFFERING

In vain, I keep searching for a statement from an Israeli official that the government has undertaken some action to ease the suffering of its people. There must be some steps that can be announced and carried out that will enable Israelis to drive to and from work safely; that will protect the school busses taking their kids to and from school; that will make it too costly for the Arabs to keep shooting and bombing . Alas, I read nor hear any such pronouncements.

What I keep hearing from the Israeli officials--those that were thrashed at the polls and those that were elected because of the criminal misconduct of the previous government--is that actions must be taken to ease the suffering of the Palestinians. It's the familiar bleeding heart syndrome that ax-murderers must have TVs, phones in their prison cells, and access to the Internet and hot showers..

Perhaps some vigilante justice will ease Arab suffering by fulfilling their desire for being transmitted into the arms of Allah. That's a comforting thought.

NEW YORK CITY POPULATION PASSES 8 MILLION MARK

Hymietown has really grown since the last census. This reminds me that a lot of Jews took umbrage at Jessie Jackson when he called New York City Hymietown. I, on the other hand, was pleased that good old Jessie finally gave credit where credit was due. Hymie, of course is the English transliteration for the name Chaim, which, in Hebrew means life. Even Jessie recognized that New York City is a city of life. Wherever Jews live in a city, that place comes alive with culture, education, business, medical institutions and every other amenity desired by man. Unfortunately, Jessie's people, for whatever reasons, have turned vibrant cities and neighborhoods into shambles. Just take a ride down Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn or the Grand Concourse and Fordham Road in the Bronx or Jamaica Avenue in Queens. When Jessie is right he is right!

Here is what some other people said about New York City--

Where everyone mutinies but no one deserts.

Harry Herschfield

The city of right angles and tough, damaged people.

Pete Hamill

Prison towers and modern posters for soap and whiskey.

Frank Lloyd Wright

New York is the only city in the world where you can get
deliberately run down on the sidewalk by a pedestrian,

Russell Baker

This muck heaves and palpitates.

It is multidirectional and has a mayor,

Donald Barthelme

My own Manhattan with spires, and
the sparkling and hurrying tides, and the ships.

Walt Whitman

I'm not the type to get ulcers. I give them.

Mayor Ed Koch

That enfebled rock, that ship of life, that swarming million-footed,
tower-masted and sky-soaring citadel that bears that magic name
of the Island of Manhattan.

Thomas Wolfe

Maybe all those (UN) delegates should have six months in Moscow and the
six months in New York. It would give them an opportunity to see two ways
of life. We aren't asking anyone to leave, but if they chose to leave, goodbye.

President Ronald Reagan

She dreamed, lulled by the train, of getting off at heaven
or New York City, whichever she got to first.

Mary Lee Settle

If the United States is a melting pot, then New York makes it bubble.
Sign in Times Square

It is ridiculous to set a detective story In New York City.
New York City is itself a detective story

Agatha Christie

Everywhere outside of New York City is Bridgeport, Connecticut.
Alistair Cooke

NEW BANCRIPTCY LAW

It seems to me that the law should have been changed to criminalize the behavior of the pusher instead of the user. The whole credit card system is very much like the drug trade, only worse. At least when it comes to drugs, there are some voices out there warning about the pitfalls of addiction.

In the credit card arena every advertising medium is encouraging borrowing via credit card use/abuse. The strong implication is if you don't buy -- whether you can afford to or not-- you are un-American and a denier of the good life for your family and yourself.

And the pushers are relentless in trying to get you hooked. We get at least three mailing a week offering credit cards at low, low interest rates. Once you're hooked you're cooked. And the new law lets the pushers turn up the heat. The members of Congress who supported the new legislation were the recipients of substantial donations from the banks and credit card companies.

As Will Rogers so cleverly phrased it: "We've got the best Congress that money can buy".

QUOTES I LIKE

Early in life I had to chose between honest arrogance and hypocritical humility. I chose honest arrogance and have seen no occasion to change,
Frank Lloyd Wright

I and my public understand each other very well: it does not hear what I say, and I don't say what it wants to hear.
Karl Kraus

Immorality: the morality of those who are having a better time,
H. L. Mencken

Saint: A dead sinner revised and edited.
Ambrose Bierce

Most people would die sooner than think; in fact, they do so.
Bertrand Russell

I never vote for anyone. I always vote against.
W. C. Fields

Editor: Someone who separates the wheat from the chaff, and prints the chaff,
Elbert Hubbard

Moderation in temper is always a virtue;
but moderation in principle is always a vice.
Thomas Paine

I would like to take you seriously but to do so would affront your intelligence.
William F. Buckley, Jr.

COMMENTS APPRECIATED: e-mail to elscomm@earthlink.com

