



The British Labour Party Since The Hitler Era And World War II:

From Anti-Zionism to
anti-Semitism under Jeremy Corbyn

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ORIGINS UNDER POSTWAR LABOURITES



Neville Chamberlain and Adolf Hitler - 1938

Founded in 1900, the British Labour Party is the oldest, continuously existing social democratic party in the western world. World War I and the English people's desire to "socialize" their economy propelled the Labour Party into power in the 1920s. An analogous dynamic did the same for Labour after World War II.

During the 1930s, many Labour politicians opposed Neville Chamberlain's appeasement of Adolf Hitler. However, the Party had a strong pacifist wing, which was also reflected in British public opinion. As a result, Labour was certainly not as opposed to appeasement as Churchill's anti-Hitler Conservative followers.¹

Specifically, as regards anti-Semitism, however, the Labour Party was consistently opposed to what they considered a domestic, as well as an international fascist menace—perhaps more so than were the Tories. Even today, elderly left-wing Brits (including Jeremy Corbyn) like to reminisce about how their relatives fought Sir Oswald Mosely's fascists during 1936's "Battle of Cable Street" in London's East End.²

The return of the Conservative Party to power in 1951 began a half-century of jostling between Conservatives and Labour for dominance in Westminster. Moderate Labour governments under Harold Wilson in the 1960s and Tony Blair beginning in the 1990s maintained good relations with Israel.³

But after 2000, as the British political system began to polarize and fragment over both domestic and foreign policy issues, things started to change.

ANTI-ISRAEL, ANTI-JEWISH ANIMUS IN LABOUR EARLY IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Extremist elements in both the British Communist and British Labour parties started to turn virulently against Israel soon after the 1967 War. However, it took thirty years for this tendency to mount serious challenges to the moderate, generally pro-Israeli leadership of both Conservative and Labour parties. Some of the reasons paralleled later developments in the US among the Democrats. In Britain, these ranged from the growth of an Arab and Muslim anti-Israel constituency (relatively much larger in the UK than the US), to extremist ideological tendencies toward "identity politics" with an anti-Semitic tinge, to anti-Americanism on the British left, and to the impatience by both older and younger British radical cohorts with Prime Minister Tony Blair's economically moderate, pro-American, and pro-Israel leadership of Labour.⁴

LONDON MAYOR KEN LIVINGSTONE LAYS A NEW FOUNDATION

Born in 1945, and first elected London's mayor in 2000, Ken Livingstone belongs to the same generation as Jeremy Corbyn. However, he has a more flamboyant political style and a propensity toward even more outrageous statements than Corbyn. This may be why he has never gotten quite as far in national politics. Without Livingstone's outré leftism laying the groundwork, Corbyn's rise probably would not have been possible.⁵



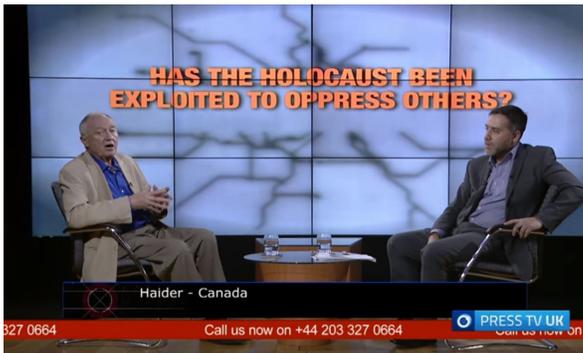
Though Livingstone first became notorious as “Red Ken” for his support of the violent wing of the IRA, his hatred of Israel dated back to 1981 when he coedited a new Trotskyist newspaper, funded by Libya’s Muammar Qaddafi. Rather than praise British Jews for predominantly voting Labour, he viewed their support of Labour MPs as part conspiratorial.⁶

Livingstone went ballistic in 2003 when Tony Blair supported President George W. Bush’s Iraq War policy. He referred to American President George H. W. Bush as “the greatest threat to human life on the planet.”⁷

In 2004, he issued the first of two invitations to London to Sheikh Yusuf Qaradawi, a key Muslim Brotherhood fanatic who supported suicide bombings by Palestinians and fueled their hatred against gays and women as well as Jews. Livingstone lauded the Sheikh as “one of the most authoritative Muslim scholars in the world.” The Egyptian Sheikh’s website prayed that Jews should “choke on their food,” demands that homosexuals be killed “to keep society pure,” and justifies suicide bombings against Israel as “martyrdom in the name of God.” Rivaling George Galloway—Saddam Hussein’s favorite MP—Livingstone began his admiration society with Mideast fanatics in 2005 when he rolled out London’s red carpet for the visiting Sheikh.⁸

Livingstone’s fawning over the terror-spouting Sheikh did not buy London immunity from the 7/7 attacks in 2005 that took 52 lives and resulted in more than 700 injuries. Yet rather than rethink appeasement, Mayor Ken compounded it by comparing Qaradawi to saintly Pope John XXIII.⁹

In 2005, he accused Israeli PM Ariel Sharon of being “a war criminal.” In 2009 during that year’s Gaza War, he called for the European Union and the UK to recall their ambassadors to Israel to express disapproval of the “slaughter and systematic murder of innocent Arabs.” That year he also began a stint as a book reviewer on the Iranian state-sponsored television channel.¹⁰



Defeated for a third term for mayor in 2008, Livingstone’s continued bashing of Israel and Jews imperiled London’s bid for the 2012 Summer Olympics.

In 2016, Livingstone was suspended by Labour for “bringing the party into disrepute” by a BBC Radio London interview in which he claimed, “When Hitler won his election in 1932 his policy then

was that Jews should be moved to Israel. He was supporting Zionism before he went mad and ended up killing six million Jews.” He also supported Labour MP Naz Shah after she was suspended by posting a satirical map on Facebook suggesting that Israel should be relocated to the United States.¹¹

Another like-minded Livingstone crony was Labour MP George Galloway who was Saddam Hussein’s favorite MP as well as a paid Iranian propagandist.¹²

Livingstone was accused of being a “Nazi apologist.” His retort was to accuse a Jewish reporter of the same. He expressed regret both for mentioning Hitler and for offending Jews, for example, suggesting that Jews and Israelis have the blood of Christian children on their hands, but added that “I’m not going to apologize for telling the truth” and that it was “absurd” to call him an anti-Semite because he had had two former Jewish girlfriends, and that he may have maternal Jewish ancestry.” He painted himself a martyr of a “well-orchestrated campaign by the Israel lobby to smear anybody who criticizes Israeli policy as anti-Semitic.”¹³

In 2018, an unrepentant Livingstone resigned from the Labour Party.

JEREMY CORBYN—THE LABOUR LEADER WHO MAINSTREAMED HATRED OF ISRAEL AND JEWS INTO THE NATION'S POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CULTURES

BACKGROUND

In 2012 while plotting his rise to control of the British Labour Party, Corbyn admirably defended a mural depicting ravenous Jewish bankers taking bites out of the backs of naked Third World minorities.¹⁴ Not since the meteoric career of Sir Oswald Mosley, leader of the British fascists in the 1930s, who never seriously threatened to become PM, had British Jews faced such danger from a major political figure.

Corbyn has supported the campaign to overturn the convictions of Jawad Botmeh and Samar Alami for the 1994 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in London; Botmeh and Alami had admitted possessing explosives and guns. Corbyn signed five motions in support of their case between 2002 and 2006, raising issues of public interest and calling for their parole. Their convictions were upheld by the High Court of Justice in 2001 and by the European Court of Human Rights in 2007.¹⁵ Corbyn was paid £20,000 for hosting an Iranian call-in television program.¹⁶

After Corbyn became British Labour Party head in 2015, defeating moderate Jewish Labourite David Miliband, he insisted that all western governments repudiate and disarm Israel in the face of the new campaign by Iran-aligned Hamas to destroy the Jewish state by attacks from without and within. On Passover, Jeremy Corbyn read a message outside of the prime minister's office on Downing Street and posted on his own Facebook page, calling for a review of arms sales to Israel because of its "illegal and inhumane" actions against Palestinians protesting on the border with Gaza. . . . They have a right to protest against their appalling conditions and the continuing blockade and occupation of Palestinian land, and in support of their right to return to their homes and their right to self-determination."¹⁷

As early as 2016, the prestigious Home Affairs Select Committee blamed Corbyn for "the failure of the Labour Party to deal consistently and effectively with anti-Semitic incidents. Corbyn was also accused of creating "a safe space" for "those with vile attitudes towards Jewish people," and of encouraging Labour's passivity before anti-Semitic incidents that risked "lending force to allegations that elements of the Labour movement are institutionally anti-Semitic."¹⁸

Corbyn permitted the word "Zio"—an anti-Semitic term used by the Ku Klux Klan—to become the modish slur in Labour circles on campuses and elsewhere.

Also in 2016, the Labour Party refused to discipline parliamentary member Afzal Khan for tweeting that "the Israeli government is acting like Nazis in Gaza," while Corbyn ignored a letter from Isaac Herzog, heading Israel's Zionist Union, inviting British Labourites to visit Yad Vashem.¹⁹



Allegations of anti-Semitism, as well as hatred of Israel, extend into the elite recruitment chain for the Labour party's future leaders, the Oxford University Labour Club (OULC). The Club's non-Jewish co-chair Alex Chalmers, resigned after the club voted to endorse Israel Apartheid Week. He explained: "Whether it be members of the Executive throwing around the term 'Zio' with casual abandon, senior members of the club expressing their

'solidarity' with Hamas and explicitly defending tactics of indiscriminately murdering civilians, or a former co-chair claiming that 'most accusations of anti-Semitism are just the Zionists crying wolf', a large proportion of both OULC and the student left in Oxford more generally have some kind of problem with Jews."²⁰

Corbyn referred to Hamas and Hezbollah as "our friends," causing an editorial in London's *Jewish Chronicle* to remark that the Labour Party "seems to be a party that attracts anti-Semites like flies to a cesspit." He invited them to visit Parliament. Corbyn is also a friend of Holocaust Denier Paul Eisen.²¹

Other allegations—including that "Club members condoned the anti-Semitic attacks on synagogues in Paris in 2014 and mocked the Jewish mourners and victims of the 2015 supermarket attack" and also "allegedly referred to Auschwitz as a 'cash cow'" —surfaced in a report made by a Labour party body, the release of which Jeremy Corbyn suppressed.²²

Parry Mitchell, a Jewish peer, was the first to quit the Labour Party in disgust because: "How can I, a Jew and a Zionist, remain in a party where the leadership is so hostile to Israel (even to its very existence) and which also flirts with anti-Semitism."²³

Corbyn is a close ally of American-born, Black-Jewish Labour activist, Jackie Walker, prominent in Corbyn's anti-Semitic lobby, Momentum. She claimed that "many Jews were the chief financiers of the sugar and slave trade," thus implicated in and guilty of perpetrating "the African holocaust" in which "millions more Africans were killed" than in the Shoah. She was suspended from Labour, but then quickly reinstated.²⁴



The 2017 parliamentary election campaign, in which Corbyn contested Theresa May, occurred in a political atmosphere not only permeated by anxieties over renewed terrorism but in a miasma of anti-Semitism. At The Bear Pit, an outdoor popular venue in Bristol, a giant campaign banner showed Prime Minister May in Star of David-shaped earrings, which some Jewish observers called "anti-Semitic." The banner listed positive statements about Corbyn and negative ones about May. One Jewish Bristol citizen asked, "I can't believe the stuff I haven't heard of, or seen since I was a child is now happening again. It makes me sick."

According to London's *Jewish Chronicle*, in Manchester, where a terrible terror attack claimed 22 lives, police-reported that arson attacks on two kosher restaurants that are "anti-Semitic hate crimes" occurred within five days of each other.

The Labour campaign was also embarrassed by revelations that as far back as 2002 Corbyn addressed a rally attended by 300 members of the extremist group Al Muhajiroun where audience members shouted slogans calling for Israelis to be gassed.

2018
Early in 2018, it was revealed that Corbyn belonged to three Facebook groups in which anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and Holocaust denial were commonplace, and whose members posted stories about Rothschild control of the world's banking systems and Israeli armed forces harvesting the organs of their Palestinian victims. Corbyn, was once again embroiled in a furor about anti-Semitism. Corbyn's remarkably sanguine attitude toward Jew-hatred has been a contentious issue in Great Britain ever since he took over the Labour Party in a shock party

vote in 2015. The controversy seems to have come as a surprise to Corbyn himself, for during his decades as an extremist but inconsequential backbencher on the edge of expulsion from the party, he had taken part in countless anti-Israel events and hosted activists from the most extreme

Palestinian and Islamist groups—and had never been moved to reject, condemn, or apologize for the often violent and virulently racist statements by his fellow agitators.

Corbyn defended Vicar Stephen Sizer who propagated the big lie that Israel was secretly behind the 9/11 World Trade Center terror attack. In September 2018, a 2014 picture was revealed showing Corbyn laying a wreath, in Tunis, at the graves of Black September terrorists responsible for the 1972 Munich massacre of 11 Israeli Olympians.²⁵

In response to the Facebook scandal, many Labour MPs joined a demonstration in Parliament Square at the end of March 2018 called by the British Board of Deputies and the Jewish Leadership Council, the UK's most prominent Jewish community organizations. Corbyn's response was oddly low-key. He kept repeating that he had "fought against racism" his entire career, but made no mention of "anti-Semitism."²⁶



Corbyn attending Passover Seder with Jewdas Group

Corbyn's outrageous conduct during the 2018 campaign replicated what he had done in 2015. At a September campaign rally, Corbyn sang a Communist anthem and led a chorus of



the Red Flag with supporters who said that Israel is responsible for ISIS. His supporters openly admitted to "hating" Israel, and ranted about the "ugly Israeli species." Corbyn mocked critics by appointing two virulently anti-Israel MPs, Kate Osamor and Sarah Champion to lead the Labour Party's unconvincing effort to repair relations with the Jewish community.²⁷

In 2018, Corbyn attended a Passover Seder with members of the small Jewdas Group, a radical anti-Zionist Jewish organization that has called Israel a "steaming pile of sewage which needs to be properly disposed of." This comports with the video of Corbyn's 2013 speech at the Palestinian Return Center in which he drew comparisons between the actions of the Israeli government and Nazism. Jonathan Arkush, the outgoing president of the British Jewish umbrella organization, the Board of Deputies, noted that Corbyn had been chairman of Stop the War, an organization that is "responsible for some of the worst anti-Israel discourse." Arkush added, because of Corbyn's "unquestionably anti-Semitic views," there is "an increasingly widespread question asked over the dinner table, which is, do we have a future here, and what's that future going to look like."²⁸



Kalen Ockerman "Freedom for Humanity" anti-Semitic street art

In March 2018, Corbyn had no explanation after Labour MP Luciana Berger tweeted a screenshot in which British graffiti artist Kalen Ockerman announced on Facebook that, back in 2012, his mural "Freedom for Humanity" was due to be removed by local authorities from London's East End. The mural depicted several Jewish-looking businessmen and bankers counting money and playing monopoly over the backs of the poor. At the time, Corbyn commiserated with the anti-Semitic painter about the scheduled removal of the anti-Semitic artwork: "Why? You are in good company. Rockefeller [sic] destroyed Diego Viera's mural because it includes a picture of Lenin."²⁹

2019

As a new parliamentary election approached, Corbyn tried to keep a lower profile.

Yet in February 2019, seven MPs resigned from the Labour Party, starting an exodus by Jews and non-Jews, because of Corbyn's failure to tackle institutionalized anti-Semitism in Labour.³⁰

During Summer 2019, Labour debated adopting a Code of Conduct against anti-Semitism. The draft Code included a 16-point definition of anti-Semitism drawn from a formulation used by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)—but edited out those parts of the definition that related to the use of anti-Semitic tropes in critiques of Israel. It also specified that anti-Semitic intent would have to be proven for any criticism of Israel to be considered anti-Semitic. No such caveat exists in the Labour Party's treatment of other forms of racism.³¹



In 2014, in Tunisia, Corbyn placed a wreath on graves of the terrorists who perpetrated the Munich Olympic massacre in 1972.

In July 2019, the BBC interviewed senior Labour officials as well as Jewish activists for investigating anti-Semitism in the Party. Some of them eventually threw their hands up in despair and resigned. For context, the program reminded viewers that Corbyn, while visiting Tunisia, placed a wreath on the graves of the terrorists who perpetrated the Munich Olympic massacre in 1972, and that party officials have uttered a litany of libels against the Jewish people.³²

In November 2019, Corbyn supporters chanted “Jew Jew Jew” to the chorus of “Hey Jude at a political rally.³³

Also during that month:

- During a BBC interview, Corbyn was asked four times whether he wanted to apologize ahead of the December 12 general election for inflaming anti-Semitism. Instead, all he would say four times was: “What I’ll say is this I am determined that our society is safe for people of all faiths.”³⁴ Vice Chairman of the World Zionist Organization (WZO) Yaakov Hagoel asserted that “300,000 Jews are living in fear of their future and their security.” In a letter issued to the *Jerusalem Post*, Hagoel blasted Corbyn for being a “declared anti-Semite, a hater of Israel, and a terrorist supporter.” Blasting the Labour Party, he said “today, a large, well-established and influential political party is giving a tailwind to bigotry against Jews, officially, without masks and fear.”³⁵

CONCLUSION

UK journalist Dave Rich wrote about the mindset shared by Corbyn and his fervent supporters: “The basic idea behind most modern anti-Semitism is that Jews must be up to something. Whatever Jews say and do can’t be taken at face value: they must have some ulterior motive or hidden agenda that needs to be uncovered. So when Jewish donors give money to political parties, it can’t simply mean that they support that party’s policies, as any non-Jewish donor would; they must be trying to buy support for Israel. Or when Israel sends rescue teams to countries that have suffered from natural disasters, it can’t simply be to offer humanitarian aid; it must be to steal human organs from the victims of those disasters.”³⁶

But Corbyn's left-wing views are not the core problem. His mendacity and hypocrisy—as evidence in his taking every position possible on Brexit as the UK contemplates its December 2019 parliamentary election—is. It is fine that he is sympathetic to the Palestinians, but not that he embraces Hamas as well as Fatah, and celebrates Palestinian terrorists as martyrs. Ditto his admiration for the Tehran Mullahs. And his coddling up with UK Muslim incendiary preachers like those who helped inspire London terrorist attacks. He has vilely attacked Israel. He has impugned reporters who ask him tough questions as Jewish and suggests somehow having relatives who died in the Holocaust disqualifies them from doing so. He has equated Zionism with the Nazis and Hitler.

That such a man should become UK PM—again—is unthinkable. Corbyn's rise to political power is reminiscent of the 1930s when French anti-Semites rejected Socialist Leon Blum under the slogan “Better Hitler than Blum.” Corbyn is *not* Hitler, but he is bad enough. His links with America's left-wing, anti-Semitic zealots make him an immediate menace that transcends geographic boundaries.³⁷

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