Nazism and Zionism

Nazis viewed Jews as mortal enemies of the German people and humanity, a kind of infection to be eradicated. They spared no effort to physically destroy the Jewish communities within their reach in Europe, at the cost of millions of deaths.

In this respect, their support for Zionism may seem paradoxical. Pragmatism doesn't explain everything. Those who were allowed to leave for Palestine, supervised by the Zionist movement that refused to allow them to go anywhere else, paid for this permission, but nothing would have prevented the Nazis from confiscating their property. The kinship between the two ideologies is another explanation, but it is insufficient. Adolf Eichmann, sent to Palestine by his party to explore possibilities, declared after visiting a kibbutz that had he been Jewish, he would have been a Zionist. At the time, most Zionists were or believed themselves to be on the left, and Zionism appeared as a form of national socialism. This did not prevent the Jewish union in Palestine, the Histadrut, from never accepting non-Jewish members. Since its inception, the Zionist movement has never hidden its project of replacement colonization, which is fundamentally racist and certainly not left-wing.

The departure to Palestine certainly helped to empty Germany of its Jews, but it also aroused and fueled an Arab anti-Semitism that was almost nonexistent, or seemed to have disappeared. The Jews expelled from Spain were welcomed by Muslim countries, where mutual tolerance and lasting coexistence were established, based on Islamic respect for the "religions of the book" and despite the minority status of "dhimmi" imposed on non-Muslims.

But the Nazis, while allowing Jews to emigrate to Palestine, worked to stir up hostility against them. Hitler's meeting with the Mufti of Jerusalem is often cited, and the role of local iraki pronazis in the pogrom of Baghdad, a city that at the beginning of the 20th century was one-third Jewish, is certain. That this hostility was exploited and encouraged by Israel is also proven. The leaders of the young state were concerned about the insufficient level of European Jewish immigration in the face of a large and prolific Palestinian population. Reinforcing the immigrants with others from Arab countries was an obvious solution, and Israel actively worked towards this goal, extolling the benefits of this emigration but also by worrying Arab Jews, including through anti-Semitic false flag attacks.

The massive ethnic cleansing of 1948 (800,000 refugees fleeing the terrorist massacres of the Irgun, the Stern Group, and the Haganah) had already powerfully contributed to giving Jews a hateful image in the Arab-Muslim world. Israeli hostility toward the Palestinian people, driven out, dispossessed, dominated, deprived of their rights, especially their return—a condition imposed by the UN for Israel's recognition—has created a situation of permanent conflict that culminated in the massacres in Gaza.

It is increasingly clear that the Hamas attack and the lies that tarnished it were the pretext the Israelis were waiting for to crush, empty, and annex the enclave. Will they succeed? We still don't know. What is certain is that Israel's image seems permanently ruined. The so-called "Jewish state" appears racist, terrorist, and genocidal, and is increasingly rejected by the diaspora, which rightly sees it as a threat of anti-Semitism resurgence and a trap. The Nazis would not disavow it. They saw the Jews as an infection, they would probably see Israel as a fixation abscess that would sooner or later have to be emptied.

Baudouin Petit, May 30, 2025