

EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE (UK) DAY CONSULTATION on the HOLY LAND

Thursday 26 June 2003, 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

St Paul's Church, Robert Adam Street, London W1

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES: ETHNIC, HISTORICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL FORCES BEARING ON THE HOLY LAND

Brief abstract of presentation by Bat Ye'or

The situation of Israel as a people and a sovereign state in its ancient homeland is at the center of three theological perspectives:

1. The Jewish perspective which considers the Jewish people and the State of Israel as the heirs to biblical history;
2. The Christian perspective that includes diverse currents – from the Jewish perspective to its negation by Christian replacement theology;
3. The Islamic perspective which adopts Islamic replacement theology, considering both Judaism and Christianity to be erroneous deviations from a common Islamic origin of the three monotheistic religions – Islam being the primal religion preached by Abraham, Moses, the Hebrew kings and prophets, and by Jesus (Issa), the Muslim prophet of Islam, whose second coming will bring the end of Christianity.

The negationist Christian current, represented mainly by the Palestinian Liberation Theology, joined the Islamic *jihad*-war against Israel. This policy had two major consequences:

1. A Christian support justifying the Islamic *jihad* against Israel, but in fact weakening Christianity, which is included – with Jews and Israel – in the *jihadist* conception;
2. A Marcionist drift, grafting Christianity on to Arab Palestinianism, thereby furthering its Islamization, by the suppression of its Hebrew-Jewish biblical roots.

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a) 20 minute presentation by Rev. Stephen Sizer followed by 2 periods of questions (30 mins.)

b) 20 minute presentation by Bat Ye'or followed by 2 periods of questions (30 mins.)

Presentation by Bat Ye'or

Two powerful **replacement theologies**, sometimes allied but in fact opposed, are threatening Europe, the West and world peace. One is the Christian replacement theology in relation to Israel, and the other is its Islamic version in relation to Judaism and Christianity.

Replacement theology has always been strongest within the Church in the Holy Land where it was committed to imposing upon the Jewish people St. Augustine's verdict on Jewish destiny: a fallen people, condemned to wandering, humiliation and slavery among the nations. From the moment the clergy gained power, monks and others harassed the Jews in their biblical homeland, destroying or taking over their synagogues. The Roman prohibition against Jews residing in Jerusalem which had fallen into disuse was now applied with the harshest severity. The Temple Mount was transformed into a place for dung, where Christians were invited to throw all their garbage, as St. Jerome – the translator of the Bible into Latin at the end of the 4th century – described it during his sojourn in Jerusalem; hence, the name 'Dung Gate' near the entrance to the former Temple of Solomon. A discriminatory Jewish status established by Byzantine legal codes in the 5th and 6th centuries was applied throughout the Orient, especially in the Holy Land, creating hatred, persecution and an **apartheid**-like system for the Jews.

After the Byzantines defeated the Persians (627), Jews were again expelled from Jerusalem at the demand of the Palestinian Church. At the instigation of Sophronius, the newly elected patriarch of Jerusalem, the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius ordered the conversion or massacre of the Jews (628). Thousands were killed. But a few years later Sophronius was forced to surrender Jerusalem to the invading Arab army. Before leaving for exile he persuaded the Muslim authority to maintain the exclusion of the Jews from their ancient capital, but the 2nd Caliph, Umar b. al-Khattab, allowed 40 Jewish families to return to Jerusalem.

In the course of centuries some of the anti-Jewish persecutions in Europe were caused by false accusations from the Palestinian Churches. Numerous Christian travellers have described the pathological hatred of their co-religionists toward the Jews in the Holy Land, although the Christians were reduced there, as well as elsewhere in the Muslim Empire, to a mere **shadow**, existing only thanks to the protection, bribes and pressures from European countries.

Christianity had thus nearly disappeared from the Holy Land, its holy places were protected by European states, mainly France. From the second part of the 19th century, a stream of Christian settlers arrived to Palestine from Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Greece, fleeing the massacres perpetrated in their countries by Muslims. They were helped in settling there, and were protected by European powers, which also bought Ottoman lands. At this time Eastern Christians translated into Arabic the worst anti-Jewish European literature, spreading it among the Muslims. In 1921, Arab Christian leaders in Palestine presented Winston Churchill, then British Colonial Secretary, with a copy of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, and denied to the Jewish people any religious or historical rights in its ancient land. These allegations are based of course, on replacement theology. **The first Arabic translation of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* was published by the Roman Catholic community of Jerusalem in 1926.**

During World War II many Christians Palestinians were pro-Nazi, some migrated to Berlin with the Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husayni, together with Muslim Palestinians and other Arabs. They helped form both a Bosnian Muslim and an Arab Muslim brigade, fighting alongside the German army. The Palestinian Churches never publicly condemned the Palestinian Arab collaboration with the Axis powers and the “ominous role in the extermination of European Jewry” of the Mufti of Jerusalem [Lukasz Hirszcwicz, *The Third Reich and the Arab East*, p. 267], although documentary proof of this was presented at the Nuremberg trials when he was indicted as a war criminal. This is just a reminder that replacement theology and hatred of the Jews is profoundly integrated into Christian history in the Holy Land. **Replacement theology has been strongly condemned by the Vatican in Vatican II Council (1962-65), and other declarations since.** However, we see it currently flourishing in **Palestinism and Palestinolatry.**

The replacement theology principle was not lost on the Muslims who used it themselves against both Jews and Christians. According to Islamic dogma, the whole biblical history is Islamic. The biblical figures, Abraham, Moses, all the Hebrew prophets and kings are all Muslims; Jesus and the Apostles are also Muslim prophets who preached Islam. According to Muslim belief, the Muslim Jesus (Issa) will return at the end of time to suppress Christianity and all other religions [Muslim, (trans. Siddiqi), vol.1, 72.]. Judaism and Christianity have no religious nor historical links to the Holy Land, for their biblical history is an Islamic history.

Islamic replacement theology is linked to *jihad*, an ideology based on the belief that Allah has given the whole earth to the Muslims, a community he has elected over all others (Koran 3:105) and whose religious duty is to rule the world according to Koranic law (2:189).

Islam took from Eastern Christendom its anti-Jewish laws intended to destroy Judaism. Those laws were integrated into the *shari'a* in a more severe version and with new elements. They were applied to Jews and Christians in the same manner; both were given the same status of *dhimmis*, that is, they were protected as subjected unbelievers, from the rules of *jihad* that orders massacres or enslavement for non-subjected unbelievers. I have called this condition, ‘dhimmitude’ – a dehumanizing and **apartheid-like** system. It is those laws, together with the *jihad* rules, that led to the Islamization of Christendom over the centuries.

During the *jihad* conquest, populations in Armenia, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Palestine and all the other regions, were killed, enslaved, deported, and expropriated as described in Christian and Muslim chronicles. Throughout the Islamic world, Christianity was utterly humiliated and destroyed. The continuous Muslim persecutions and religious **apartheid** system against

indigenous Jews and Christians caused the flight of **millions of refugees over the centuries**, whose lands, homes and belongings were taken as booty. I was one of the million Jewish refugees who fled Arab countries after World War II, completely destitute. Unfortunately, this wave was not the last, since many waves of Christian refugees have followed, fleeing Muslim countries from Sudan to Indonesia in the last decades.

Christian leaders were always hostage to Muslim powers and were instrumentalized in the realisation of Islamic anti-Christian goals. The policy of using **Christian dhimmis to destroy Christianity** is still practised today. Moreover, Christians are often used by Muslims to spread antisemitism in Europe, as well as anti-Zionism, and anti-Americanism. The *jihadist* policy manipulates Christians against Jews, Europe against America, and provokes inter-Christian divisions. However, the ideology of *jihad* is clearly not shared by all Muslims.

The Palestinian cause bonded Christian antisemitism and **replacement theology** with the *jihadist* threat and hatred against Jews and Christians. The *jihadist* interpretation of “**peace and justice**” has been adopted by the Palestinian Churches, who ignore that this concept of “peace and justice” is based on the *jihad* **genocidal ideology**, the very system that virtually eliminated Christianity from its Middle Eastern birthplace, and threatened its existence in Europe for centuries. By justifying the principle of replacement theology toward the Jews, Christians thereby encourage the Muslim replacement theology against Jews and Christians.

The alliance of Muslim and Christian **replacement theologies** against Israel has led to a policy of **concealment** of the history of *jihad* and dhimmitude. Because of the pathological and obsessive policy aimed at the destruction of Israel, the persecution of Christians by Muslims has been carefully **concealed**, leading to a **distortion** of facts. This concealment has encouraged *jihad* and persecution against them. These Christians are **doubly victims**: victims of Muslim persecutions, and victims of a Christian-Muslim alliance against Israel that led to the obfuscation of their dire situation.

Palestinian Christians are in a hostage situation; many have become the agents of an Islamist policy whose goal is the Islamization of Europe, the destruction of Israel and of America, the spread of antisemitism in the world linked to a Western destructive self-hatred and guilt toward a *jihadist* civilisation. The Muslim-Christian hatred against Israel has led to the **concealment of *jihad* and dhimmitude, the most important historical climateric for Christianity, which has been continuously aggressed and destroyed by it** for a millenium.

Israel by its very resistance to these forces of evil is a witness to the anti-Zionist Christian forces of hatred against Jews on one hand, and on the other to the **Muslim *jihad* ideology against the world**. The alliance of these two forces is the biggest worldwide threat today to democracy and religious liberty, for it is based on deceit, concealment, distortion, and **the genocidal/apartheid system of *jihad*/dhimmitude which is still not denounced in the West**.