

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Progressivism...

Progressivism Is (Oxy)Moronic
By Yonatan
Hambourger and
Tzali Reicher



Israel should be the darling of the progressive Left: The story of the modern State of Israel is a triumph of a battered and decimated people triumphing over their fascist and world colonizing enemies, and returning to their ancient homeland, from where they were driven out millennia before. It's a story of a people maintaining their homogeneity and culture, despite centuries of oppression and persecution, and their miraculous rebirth in our more tolerant age.

But, as we've seen over the last eight months, the progressive Left hasn't exactly embraced Israel as they've been fighting a battle for their survival against the same enemy that aligned itself with the fascist Nazis just decades ago. In fact, they've protested for the rights of a genocidal terror organization that was elected by the government of people that doesn't want to live side by side with the world's only Jewish state that sits on the Jewish people's historical homeland.

Why is this the case? Why hasn't the progressive movement embraced Israel, which checks all the boxes as a cause they should support?

Is it antisemitism? Sure. Israel is uniquely hated in the world and treated with a double standard that no other nation is similarly condemned and harangued. Governments, "humanitarian" bodies and everyday people are irked by the existence of the state for Jewish people to be safe in after millennia of reliance on authorities that proved time and time again they would sell out their Jewish communities in a heartbeat.

But more than antisemitism, "progressives" hate Israel because it proves the truth about their ideology: that it is all false and flimsily built on a house of cards.

Progressives believe all minorities that have been historically oppressed are disadvantaged for the rest of time and have no agency to grow and climb out of their tough circumstances to find a way to thrive and build a successful life for themselves. Instead, these predominantly white saviors claim the system needs to be remade and rebuilt, and no compensation will ever be enough for injustices caused against people who passed long ago by people who died long ago.

Israel proves that this Divestment, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) philosophy is built on a lie. A broken and battered minority can in fact stage a remarkable comeback from horrific oppression and rise to become a world leader in innovation and technology in just a few short decades. Once condescending programs that make people reliant on handouts that lock them into a cycle of poverty are thrown-out, wonderful things happen to people that work to grow out of their challenging surroundings.

Another core tenant of progressive belief is anti-settler colonization, and they posit that Israel is a colonizing state on Palestinian territory. This claim is countered by history and the facts on the ground. Literally.

Israel has a documented 3,800 history with the Land of Israel, long before the founding of Islam, proven by historical records and archaeological discoveries. From the time the Roman Empire colonized the then-independent Israel in 70 C.E. and renamed it 'Syria Palaestina' to erase the historical and national ties of the Jewish people to the region, the Jewish people always knew they would come back home. Invaders and colonizers of all faiths and religions fought for control of the Jewish people's land over the next centuries, always embracing the first colonizers name for it, Palestine. In 1948, Israel accepted the United Nations partition plan for the land and declared independence, while the disjointed Arab clans that lived there refused to accept Jewish neighbors.

The myth of a Palestinian national identity was only adopted in the 1960s, and it has turned into a cause celebre of young Western progressives, who don't know there has never been a state of Palestine or Palestinians as a national identity is a modern invention.

A people returning to their ancient homeland cannot be called settler colonizers. One would think that those who are declaring "land acknowledgments" on behalf of indigenous peoples in the U.S. and elsewhere, would view the Jews as the original indigenous people of all time, miraculously returning to their historic homeland. But they can't because progressivism is hypocritical and oxymoronic.

In short, "progressivism" is the Orwellian name of a movement that aims to keep people trapped in their historical circumstances of grievance as though that should dictate how people must be condemned to live today. Trapped as well, to think that their perceived underdogs automatically hold the moral and righteous high ground, no matter how baseless their claims may be.

Israel disproves their entire philosophy. Israel is a modern-day miracle of world leading success and tolerance. Yet much of the West, from naive college students to naive leaders, give credence and attention to this utter lunacy.

There was once a time where the nutso fringes were politely ignored while the rest of us pushed on with making the world a better place. It's time we did that again.

We would love to hear your comments and questions. You can reach us at y@tasteoforah.org. Yonatan Hambourger and Tzali Reicher are Rabbis and writers serving communities throughout the regional South.

Guest Columns

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper.

If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

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When Evil Becomes Glorified

On Oct. 7, 2024, a date which will live in infamy (thank you Franklin D. Roosevelt), HAMAS terrorists launched an attack on Israel, rampaging through a music festival and numerous Israeli towns, killing at least 1,400 people and taking captive 240 others. These statistics include 32 Americans killed and 10 taken hostage. This was the deadliest attack on Jews since the Holocaust. Babies were slaughtered, women raped and whole families burned alive.

Guest Editorial
Gary W. Meier

WHAT DID ISRAEL DO?
They did what any country would do when their borders have been penetrated and their citizens slaughtered; they retaliated. The war was on. For more than 70 years, Israel has been America's closest and most trusted ally, surviving in a region where surrounding countries were intent on driving this tiny nation into the sea. In this time of travail, America naturally jumped to Israel's aid, supplying weapons and encouragement from all sectors of the country. Our president met with their prime minister to coordinate the war and relief efforts.

WHAT DID AMERICA DO?
Liberal kooks took action and opted for evil. As war escalated in the mid-east, so too did war erupt on university campuses nationwide. Students and outside agitators went on a rampage against Israel. American higher education and America itself. Liberals call it protests but war is the proper terminology.

These people are pro-HAMAS and pro-Palestinian. Actually, those two groups are one and the same. Hamas is an arm of the Palestinian people, emerging in 1987 as an outgrowth of the Muslim Brotherhood. Their aim is to physically and brutally drive Jews from their land and create an Islamic Palestinian state in Israel's place. Brutally is a vain, weak attempt to describe what these people are really like.

To begin, the U.S. State Department has designated Hamas as a foreign terrorist organization. That means they are an arch-enemy of America. To achieve their objectives they use improvised explosive devices, short- and long-range rockets and mortars, small arms, kidnapping operations, rocket-propelled grenades, man-portable air defense systems, antitank missiles and unmanned aircraft systems in their incessant attacks against Israel and their other enemies.

Those are the people our president and university students are supporting... against our ally and the only democratic nation in that part of the world, Israel. Their support of this evil has resulted in the most widespread and vicious campus unrest since the restless 1960s. University campuses were taken captive, pro-Palestinian tent encampments as war zone control centers were set up in public places, clashes with police became the norm, burning and looting was not uncommon. Mayhem increased as almost to a person, university presidents and other school leaders refused to address the situation. University officials and the police lost control.

Even more nefarious, antisemitism began to raise its ugly head in a big way. Jews were threatened and Jewish students were not allowed to attend classes. University officials refused to protect their Jewish students. Some students felt threatened enough they took off their yarmulkes or Stars of David to avoid being harassed. Suddenly, because these students couldn't express their faith without fear, America lost its status as being a country protecting religious freedom.

As we gazed at our TV sets, we became inundated with 24/7 news coverage of the demonstrations and riots. We saw the war-mongers wave signs proclaiming "mercy for the martyrs," "pride for Gaza," "from sea to sea, Palestine will be Arab," "boycott Israel," "sweep the Jews into the sea," "f--- Zionism," "Zionism=Nazism," "from the river to the sea" and "get rid of the genocide." High-decibel chants pierced the air, one of their favorites being "There is only one solution, Intifada, revolution."

The chants of these people (and I use the term loosely) were calling for the complete destruction of Israel. Intifada is an Arabic word meaning uprising, shaking off and rebellion. To HAMAS it means murder, rape, mayhem, violence and armed terrorism. During the 2000 bloody intifada, over 1,000 Israelis died, most as a result of suicide bombings. To the Jew, Intifada means racial bias and antisemitism, hatred and bloodshed.

Meanwhile, most Americans sat on their hands, doing nothing. However, the outcry from Christians has been deafening as this group, seeing religious freedom disappear before their eyes, rallied the forces to confront and physically combat the evil they saw rising from a flickering match into a blazing inferno.

Wrong!!!
These rebels are taking direct aim at God's chosen people, the Jews, glorifying terrorism and the Devil's agenda. Christians, observing the mayhem and evil being perpetuated upon them and the Jews, simply joined the rest of America in thinking to themselves and proclaiming in their discussions, "someone ought to do something about this." Because of this attitude, Christians for decades have sat in their padded pews on Sundays, content with the status quo and refusing to take a stand and confront evil. As a result, abortion is running rampant throughout the nation killing off millions upon millions of babies, schools are teaching LGBTQ+ values, the Bible was taken out of our schools, the WOKÉ agenda has infiltrated the schools and now antisemitism is making a comeback.

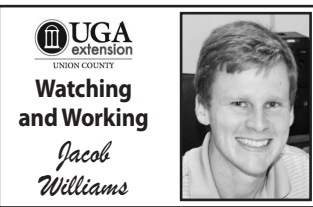
Pastors are experts at pontificating from the pulpit about how the Devil is taking control of America. We must pray, they emphasize. And that's what Christians around the land began doing... praying for the Jews. And doing nothing else. Saying "Let's pray about it" is disingenuous, at best. That's not what the Bible teaches. Prayer must be accompanied by action. In rebuilding the gates of Jerusalem, Nehemia and the house of Judah not only prayed to their God but they also did something about their perilous situation. They sat a guard as protection (Neh. 4:9). Half the people guarded, half built the wall. The job was completed in 52 days (6:15).

When Christians see injustices taking place, they need to mobilize into action. Evil cannot be condoned by inaction. Martin Luther King said it best, "He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetuate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it."

When that happens and Christians don't step forward and take action, evil eventually becomes the new norm. Evil becomes glorified.

Moles and Voles

Moles and voles can be very damaging to your yard. Moles can dig up long tunnels through your yard, and voles make a meal out of the plant roots. This can leave your yard with a lumpy look and wilted dying plants. The key to treating these issues is figuring out whether you have moles or voles in your yard.



Understanding some of the differences between moles and voles is important to decide how to treat them. Technically speaking voles are rodents, but moles are not. Moles are carnivorous animals that eat insects and grubs that they find underground. If you look at a picture of a mole they have very large front feet. They're able to use these big, meaty claws to 'swim' through the soil creating the tunnels in your yard. They are looking for insects to eat in the soil. They won't eat the roots of plants, as those aren't in their diet.

Voles are smaller in size than a mole, looking similar to a mouse. The easiest way to tell the difference between a vole and a mouse is that a mouse's tail is about the same length as its body. A vole has a much shorter tail. Voles are herbivores, meaning that they feed on plants. Bulb plants are often a particular favorite of voles. Voles have much smaller front paws than moles do. This means that voles are not nearly as adept at digging tunnels through the ground. Voles will often use tunnels that have been left behind by moles.

Because moles and voles have different diets and behavior they must be treated differently for control. There are a couple of different methods for mole control. The first one is to use a granular insecticide to get rid of all the insects and grubs in your yard. Once the food source is removed the moles will move on to find a new food source. A second way of removing moles is by placing a trap in their main tunnel. Go out into your yard and tamp down all the tunnels that you can find. Wherever the ground has popped back up the next day is the main tunnel. Repeated trapping may be necessary because a single yard could be host to several moles. Some of the grubs that moles eat, such as earthworms, are a sign of healthy soil. Moles also like moist soil because it is easier for digging. This means that if you do a good job taking care of your garden you will also inadvertently be encouraging moles to tunnel!

Voles can also be trapped. Place a mouse trap with peanut butter near an active site to catch the voles. If you are able to get rid of the moles in your yard oftentimes the voles will also leave because they can't do a good job of digging their own tunnels. If you're unsure if you have voles or moles take a slice of apple and tie a piece of string around it. Place it in the hole and let it sit for a couple of days. When you pull it back out, if the apple is gone you have voles (herbivores), if the apple is still there you have moles (carnivores).

If you have questions about vole and mole control please contact your local Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Cycle of Life

Dear Editor,
Hot dogs, cotton candy, games and rides for thrill-seekers come to mind when I think of going to the fair. In many ways, our lives can be compared to our experiences associated with a fair or amusement park. The young really enjoy the food, games and thrilling rides without hesitation. Let a few years pass and some of the aspects of the fair or amusement park will lose their appeal for you. A few more years pass and you will be heard saying, "There's no way I'm going to get on that Ferris wheel. Perhaps a merry-go-round with the grand kids, but no roller coasters for me."

Life, in general, is like that for most of us. Young and wide-open, a little bit cautious in middle-age, and somewhere around the Golden Years we tend to brake with both feet. The fast cars we enjoyed driving when we were younger now aggravate us as they seemingly try to push us out of their way.

Body piercings we contracted for in our younger days become just holes in our bodies as we search for the jewelry intended for them. Tattoos we thought looked so great when we were younger are now distorted because of thin skin and blood thinners, and we have to explain to others what the tattoo used to be. So, let us all relax and enjoy our senior years and even our senior moments. Life is like the fair, with something for everyone to enjoy.

Gene Vickers

Towns County Community Calendar

First Monday of each month:	
School Board... HS/MS Media Center	6:45 pm
Every Tuesday:	
Storytime for Children... TC Library	10:30 am
First Tuesday of each month:	
Hiaw. City Council... City Hall	6 pm
YH City Council... YH City Hall	6:30 pm
Second Wednesday of each month:	
Board of Elections... Elections Office	4 pm
Third Monday of each month:	
Planning Commission... Temporary Courthouse	6 pm
Third Tuesday of each month:	
Commissioner's Mtg... Courthouse	5:30 pm
City of Young Harris Planning Commission...	
Meeting Room in City Hall	5 pm
TC Water Authority Board Meeting	6 pm

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