



## B'NAI B'RITH WORLD CENTER - JERUSALEM

### SPECIAL REPORT

#### B'NAI B'RITH WORLD CENTER "JERUSALEM ADDRESS" 2011

##### *Melanie Phillips: "The War Against Israel: the Defining Issue of Our Time"*

#### Introduction

Over 600 people packed Heichal Shlomo hall in Jerusalem on Monday to attend the 2011 B'nai B'rith World Center "Jerusalem Address" delivered by renowned award-winning Jewish British journalist and author Melanie Phillips. Phillips spoke on "The War Against Israel: the Defining Issue of Our Time".



The "Jerusalem Address" was established by the B'nai B'rith World Center in 1985 as its most prestigious forum for addressing fundamental challenges facing Israel and the Jewish People. It has consistently hosted some of the most outstanding minds of our times including Abba Eban, Prof. Shlomo Avineri, Rabbi Dr. Lord Immanuel Jakobovits, Bernard-Henri Levy, Prof. Bernard Lewis, Seymour D. Reich, Ambassador Dr. Max M. Kampelman and, most recently Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth. Tuesday's event was organized in partnership with the Jerusalem Great Synagogue.

In opening remarks, B'nai B'rith World Center Chairman, Dr. Haim V. Katz described Phillips as "undoubtedly one of the most prescient, incisive and bravest commentators and writers of our time who keenly sees the existential threats posed to Israel and the West by Moslem fundamentalism, Arab rejectionism, Jewish disaffection and apathy". Introducing the speaker, David Horovitz, outgoing Jerusalem Post Editor-in-Chief, said that as Israel's status sinks in the UK and beyond, "Phillips stands out among the diminishing number people in Britain willing to put her head above the parapet and wage the struggle to uphold a fair picture, and thus to promote the understanding, support and alliances that are so critical to Israel's wellbeing".



**Dr. Haim V. Katz**

In her address Phillips discussed the multi-front war being waged against the State of Israel, including from within Britain, Europe and the US. She argued that the significance of this war extends far beyond the Middle East and that Israel stands in the front line of the fight to

defend Western civilization. Where people stand on Israel, she argued, defines where they stand in the war against the West.

Melanie Phillips is best known for her stimulating column about political and social issues which currently appears in the Daily Mail. Awarded the Orwell Prize for journalism in 1996, she is the author of *All Must Have Prizes*, a devastating critique of Britain's education system. Her book *Londonistan* was published in the US and UK in 2006 and immediately became a best-seller. Her latest book, *The World Turned Upside Down: The Global Battle over God, Truth and Power* is published by Encounter, April 2010. Her ideas have influenced politicians in both



**Asher Schapiro**

government and opposition, who closely follow her battles in the culture wars. Styled a conservative by her opponents, Phillips typically defends authentic liberal values against the attempt to destroy western culture from within. Born in 1951, Phillips read English at St Anne's College, Oxford before training as a journalist on the Evening Echo, Hemel Hempstead. After a short period on New Society magazine, she joined the Guardian in 1977 and soon became its social services correspondent and social policy lead writer. After a stint as the paper's news editor, she started writing her column in 1987, taking it to the Observer and then the Sunday Times before starting to write for the Daily Mail in December 2001. Phillips also publishes a popular blog at [www.melaniephillips.com](http://www.melaniephillips.com) and is a frequent panelist on



**David Horovitz**

Britain's TV and radio political debate programs. She is also the author of *The Sex-Change Society: Feminised Britain and the Neutered Male*, published by the Social Market Foundation, *America's Social Revolution*, published by Civitas, and *The Ascent of Woman*, a history of the ideas behind the female suffrage campaign, published by Little, Brown. She also wrote a play, *Traitors*, which was performed at the Drill Hall in London in 1985.

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### **"The War Against Isreal: the Defining Issue of Our Time" (highlights)**

The delegitimisation of Israel is based on the replacement of truth by lies and the hijacking of knowledge by an abuse of power. This has resulted in Israel being singled out for treatment meted out to no other country.

Forcing a country which has endured more than six decades of existential siege to give any ground to its attackers amounts to forcing such a victim to surrender. This is expected by the civilised world of no other country.

Israel has made all the concessions over the years while the Arabs have made none – yet it is Israel, not the Arabs, that is under pressure from the west. This is diplomacy as scripted by Franz Kafka.

Israel and its defenders, however, have themselves been crippled or cowed by the false analysis in the enemy's narrative. Israel has allowed itself to be painted as the villain of the region by persistently behaving as if *it* were the guilty party.



*Melanie Phillips*

This is because its position is essentially defensive. By failing to educate the world about the true meaning and implications of a Palestinian state, it has inevitably allowed itself to be painted as dragging its feet and obstructing a solution.

While some Israel-bashers are certainly Jew-haters, many more are not. They are in fact motivated by the highest ideals of conscience, law and justice. Tragically, these high ideals have become attached to an entire set of falsehoods about history, causing these people of conscience to reverse aggressor and victim in the Middle East without realising it.

It is in fact Israel that stands for legality, freedom and justice against illegality, oppression and tyranny. The narrative must therefore be reframed so that Israel becomes seen for what it really is: the champion and defender of life, liberty and right over wrong.



Here, therefore, is the modest beginning of a battle-plan to reclaim truth and justice from lies and intellectual terrorism: a bullet-point list of arguments to be deployed against Israel's attackers.

- **Reclaim the language from Orwellian distortion.** Words like liberal, rights, justice, centre-ground, extremist have been turned on their heads to mean their precise opposite. Words must once again be made to mean what they are supposed to mean. That requires spelling out at every opportunity the justice, legality and truth of Israel's cause and the lies of the other side.
- **Restart the historical clock.** At present, for Britain and other western delegitimisers the historical clock starts either in 1967, when Israel committed what they see as the crime of occupying Palestinian land, or in 1948, when as they see it European Jews with no connection to the

land were parachuted into Palestine as a result of Holocaust guilt and drove out the indigenous Palestinian Muslims whose land it had been since time immemorial. Every part of that story is untrue. Israel's side has to tell people in Britain and elsewhere that the Jewish claim to the land was recognised by the international community after World War One as an overwhelming claim from historical right; and that as a result, a binding international treaty required Jews to be settled throughout what is now Israel and the disputed territories.



- **Demand an end to the singling out of Israel for surrender.** Accuse Britain, the US and Europe of treating the Arab war against Israel differently from any other conflict by forcing Israel uniquely to make concessions at all to its attackers, even while its attacks and incitement continue. Identify this behaviour publicly as forcing the victim of genocidal aggression to surrender.
- **Scotch the myth of Israeli illegality.** Expose as wholly false the statements by Britain, America and Europe that the settlements and the 'occupation' are illegal. There are plenty of authoritative legal opinions based on international law and treaties going back to the end of the First World War which show that Israel has consistently behaved in accordance with international law and that it is its detractors who have repudiated it. Use them.
- **Delegitimise the delegitimisers.** Force *them* onto the defensive by demanding publicly they explain their double standards and moral inversion. Include in this Israel's self-styled but treacherous friends. Like the Obama administration, which gives Mahmoud Abbas a free pass for refusing to accept Israel as a Jewish state while falsely accusing Israel of jeopardising the peace process. Like Britain, denouncing Israel's 'attack' on the Turkish terrorist ship the Mavi Marmara, and thus misrepresenting as aggression Israel's right to defend itself against attack.



- **Publicly challenge western endorsement of aggression and the bullying of victims.** Demand of Britain, the US and the Europeans to explain why they are forcing Israel to make dangerous concessions to Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah, even while it repeats it will never accept Israel as a Jewish state and thus continues to aspire to its destruction.
- **Publicly challenge western support for incitement.** Demand why the UK and EU continue to fund institutionalised Palestinian Authority incitement to hate Jews and murder Israelis; and why they support the PA's claims against Israel in the light of this racism.
- **Publicly challenge western support for ethnic cleansing.** Demand that Britain, America and European government and western 'progressives' explain why they are backing the establishment of a racist state of Palestine which will be based on the ethnic cleansing from it of every Jew.
- **Expose indifference to real human rights abuses.** Accuse western progressives of rank hypocrisy in ignoring the violent oppression in the disputed territories of women, homosexuals and political dissidents, as well as these liberals' almost total indifference to the terrible abuses and oppression in countries such as Iran or China.
- **Delegitimise the UN.** Demand that western governments stop funding the UN which now negates its founding principles by ignoring the human rights abuses perpetrated by rogue and terror states and instead adopting their political terrorism tactics against Israel, which upholds democracy and human rights.
- **Identify the west as the reason why the Arab war against Israel continues.** Reframe the Middle East problem in order to arrive at the solution. Show the illogicality and historical illiteracy of the claim that the problem is the absence of a state of Palestine. Identify it accurately as an Arab and Muslim war of extermination against Israel and show therefore that the solution is to make the Arab and Muslim world stop its aggression. Demonstrate that since the beginning of the conflict in the 1920s, the west has consistently rewarded the perpetrators of that war of extermination and punished its victims, which has inevitably encouraged the continuation and escalation of the aggression. Show therefore that the west is a key part of the problem, and that the war will only end when the west stops rewarding Israel's attackers starts treating them rather than Israel as pariahs.

It's a start.