

It was a relief to be back in the States, where the question of my ethnicity or religion is still largely nobody's business, and where most people are committed to making a racially and culturally diverse country work.

I must admit, the proverbial Nazis of which people in Israel warned me were in evidence. Among the mail awaiting me was a catalog from "National Vanguard Books" - a Nazi outlet in West Virginia. A separate sheet entitled "What We Believe" asserts: "...no multi-racial society can be a truly healthy society, and no government which is not wholly responsible to a single, homogeneous, racial group can be a good government..." In the body of the catalog is an exposition of alleged Jewish control over the media. It concludes: "Permitting the Jews [control of the media] ... is tantamount to race suicide". Mix and match the terms "racial", "ethnic", "religious", "national", trade Jewish for, say, Arab, and you recover the point of view held in Israel.

It is curious how deeply Zionists and Nazis have become entangled. Initially, they should have been quite disjoint. Zionism was founded before National Socialism. The major feats of reviving the Hebrew language and of instituting a viable national community were achieved in Palestine before the Nazis came to power in Germany. Even the militant struggle for independence started in 1942. The holocaust was already in progress, but it was not yet known. The launching of the revolt against the British was in no way motivated by it.

Had there been no holocaust, the independence of Israel might have been delayed a few years. But the machinery to claim it was already in motion. Yet once the facts of the holocaust became known, the attitude in Israel changed. The previous bitter controversy with European Jewry gave way to adulation. Present day Israel savors the holocaust and lives it every day. The holocaust gives Israel its *raison d'etre* and its meaning in life. One might think (and some Israelis are misled into thinking) that without the holocaust there would have been no Israel. That Israel is Adolf Hitler's creation.

On its own part, Nazism considered the Jews a minor nuisance; a kind of vermin to be exterminated. Once this was achieved, the Third Reich would go on to a thousand years of bigger and better things. No wonder that many Germans weren't even aware of the little cleanup operation in Dachau. Yet the current Nazis of *National Vanguard Books* are obsessed with the Jews.

The two groups, Nazis and Israeli Jews, maintain similar, although differently polarized, concepts of the world. Each has grown dependent on the existence of the other for a concrete instantiation of its ideals.

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