

Resource Guide:

Setting the Record Straight - Part 2

SCHOLARS CIRCLE



About Dr. Andrew Pessin

Andrew Pessin is Professor of Philosophy and Jewish Studies at Connecticut College and Campus Bureau Editor of the *Algemeiner*. His many books include *Anti-Zionism on Campus*, *Poisoning the Wells: Antisemitism in Contemporary America*, and *The Jewish God Question*, as well as several novels. One recent novel is *Nevergreen*, a satirical and now clearly prophetic account of campus cancel culture, its ideological excesses, and its deleterious impact on the Jews. Long ago he enjoyed some moments of fame portraying “The Genius” on the David Letterman Show.

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UPCOMING LECTURE BY DR. ANDREW PESSIN

- Paradox of Prejudice: When Anti-Racists Display Racism



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Common Q&A's

What conclusions may be drawn from the fact that anti-Israel activists tell so many and such Big Lies about Israel?

That antizionism is antisemitism: Their concern is not to make fair or legitimate criticisms of Israeli policies or practices but to delegitimize Israel and dehumanize Israeli Jews, portraying them not as rational moral human agents engaged in a complex conflict but as purely and deeply evil actors, thus marking them for destruction, expulsion, and elimination.

What is a quick refutation of the Big Lie that Zionist Jews “ethnically cleansed” the Palestinians in 1948 and for the decades after?

In November, 1947, when the U.N. voted in favor of partition, there were zero refugees. Zionism itself literally displaced nobody. To the contrary, Zionism drew many Arabs and others into the country, by some estimates 500,000 over a couple of decades. What produced displacement, and thus refugees, was the 1948 war, as all wars produce refugees—a war that the Arabs started. Since 1948 the Arab population of Israel and all the territories has only grown dramatically, the opposite of “cleansing.”

Key Takeaways

- ☑ The campus campaign against Israel proceeds by means of numerous “Big Lies,” blatant flagrant falsehoods that are propagated relentlessly in order to delegitimize Israel and dehumanize Israeli Jews, marking them as purely evil actors to be destroyed. The campaign is thus profoundly antisemitic.
- ☑ Accusing the Jews of “ethnic cleansing” is one such Big Lie. Zionism itself displaced nobody and in fact drew many in. What produced displacement was the war the Arabs started in a failed attempt to ethnically cleanse the Jews from the region. Indeed true ethnic cleansing was perpetrated by the Arabs, before, during, and after the 1948 war, forcing some 800,000 Jews from their homes across the Middle East and North Africa.
- ☑ Accusing the Jews of “settler colonialism” is another such Big Lie. In fact Jews are the original indigenous inhabitants of the Land, with a 3000-year presence there, and their return was an act of “decolonization” that should be celebrated. They arrived as refugees, not colonists, bought and built the land they acquired, not conquered it. True “settler colonialism” in fact may be found in the Muslim Arab conquest of the entire Middle East and North Africa, including the Land of Israel.