

Letter to the editor
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Were the Messiah to appear at the Square Corner, Roy Meachum would find a way to make pro-Arab, anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli propaganda of it.

This is precisely what he did when Historian Barbara Tuchman died.

Plus more of his self-promotion and name dropping. Her death was his "personal loss." ^{Real} ~~Or~~, she'd been his great chum.

With his usual ~~distortions~~ ^{distortions} and misrepresentations ^{and} writing of Jewish attitudes of 1956, he says that then "many Zionists still ~~harbored~~ ^{harbored} bitter hatred against the ~~British~~ English for their resistance to Palestine's conversion into a Jewish-controlled state."

Long before then 70 percent of Palestine had been turned over to the Arabs for the State of Trans-Jordan. It now calls itself Jordan.

He uses "hatred," which is hardly the word, except for propaganda purposes, and he says it was "against the English," which is ~~entirely untrue~~ ^{fake}. Jewish opposition and resentment was not against a people. It was against a series of British governments because of their actions and refusals to meet their obligations and agreements ^{as} a result of which hundreds of thousands of Jews died, some terrible deaths.

He uses the new buzzword ^{for} of Jews as it is used by ~~the Arabs who in his writing are~~ ^{the} Arabs who in his writing are ~~always right about just about everything~~ and by the USSR's anti-Semites. ~~When he means~~ "Jews," he ~~says~~ says "Zionists."

Over the years his timing for self-exposure has been remarkable ^{and} as it was the ~~very~~ ^{5/8} very day that column appeared. That same morning the Washington Post ~~had~~ ^{had} a story from its Moscow correspondent ^{who} headed, "Soviets Assail Anti-Semitism," subhead, "Historians Liken Moscow Tactics to Hitler's."

Those two historians, Sergei Rogov and Vladimir Nosenko, condemned ~~the~~ Vladimir ~~the~~ Begun and others for sowing "mistrust and suspicion of Jews," leading "to eventual emigration of tens of thousands of Soviet Jews."

They compared Begun's writings with Hitler's ~~the~~ "Mein Kampf." They concluded that

"the only difference is that Hitler wrote about Jews and Begun writes about Zionists." The Post's ^{said} correspondent wrote that these historians "also said that In Soviet propa- ganda, the term 'Zionist' has been mere 'cam⁴flage' to mask blatant anti-Semitism."

This has been true of the Muslim world for years ^{and} it is true today of Mr. Meachum's shameless exploitation of Barbara Tuchman's death.


~~xxxxxx~~ Mr. Meachum lectures ^{everybody} ~~the world~~ because he knows more and better than anyone else. He is omniscient. ~~It~~ He concludes his Tuchman exploitation by ^{lecturing} ~~undertaking~~ ~~to lecture, XXXXXXXX~~ Israel: Its "rulers should examine the lessons taught by the history of other conquerors." ¹¹

There is no limit to His Omniscience's insensitivity and ignorance. There is no other people more familiar with "the lessons taught by the history of other conquerors." ^{personal experience with} Jewish ~~personal knowledge~~ of this history goes back 4,000 years. It includes too many ~~holocausts~~, not the least of which was by Mohammed when he drove those Jews he did not ^{or keep as} kill ~~less~~ slaves or prostitutes ~~off~~ out of their native land ^{it} their recovery of which makes them "conquerors" to Mr. Meachum.

What history teaches Jews is that no people have ever been ^{slaughtered} killed as they have been by other peoples, "conquerors." ^{Countless millions were killed in antiquity} At the time of the Roman Empire ^{of the Roman empire when the Romans} Jews were about 10 percent ~~of it~~ when, as the ^{of} ~~reeks~~ before them did, the ~~Roman~~ started wiping them out. Jews familiar with their history know what Mohammed did to them. It is because they know too painfully ^{well} ~~what~~ ^{their} the lesson of ~~it~~ history is that Israel's leaders have their own concepts of what their security requires and do not ^{listen to the} ~~accept those offered by the~~ Meachums great and small.

For Roy Meachum, the Jew Barbara Tuchman did not die in vain.

Harold Weisberg



Soviets Assail Anti-Semitism

Historians Liken Moscow Tactics to Hitler's

2/10/89
By David Remnick
Washington Post Foreign Service

MOSCOW, Feb. 9—In the strongest denunciation of Soviet anti-Jewish propaganda published officially here in half a century, two historians today equated Moscow's anti-Zionist campaigns in the past 25 years to Adolf Hitler's.

Writing in a Communist Party newspaper, *Sovetskaya Kultura*, Sergei Rogov and Vladimir Nosenko said that the Nazi-like tactics of Vladimir Begun and other leading anti-Zionist propagandists have produced widespread "mistrust and suspicion of Jews" and led to eventual emigration of tens of thousands of Soviet Jews.

In their article, the two historians used the extraordinary technique of quoting Begun's writings in *Nash Sovremenik* and other journals alongside excerpts from Hitler's manifesto, "Mein Kampf," concluding that "the only difference is that Hitler wrote about Jews and Begun writes

about Zionists." They also said that, in Soviet propaganda, the term "Zionists" has been mere "camouflage" to mask blatant anti-Semitism.

The article, published in one of the more liberal newspapers in the central press, comes three days before the opening of the first Jewish cultural center here since the era of Joseph Stalin.

Summarizing official anti-Semitism, the historians gave a brief account of the way Jewish schools and synagogues were closed and destroyed under Stalin and the way Jews were persecuted as "cosmopolitans." They also wrote that "during the '70s, Jews had difficulties getting into universities."

"Unfortunately, Begun is not alone," they wrote. They blamed such propaganda for fostering ideas among the people about "the civic irresponsibility of the Jews."

The *Sovetskaya Kultura* article is one of the strongest expressions yet of the Kremlin's easing of restrictions on Jews.

Roy Meachum



Tuchman and the Palestinians

2/10/89

On Monday, amidst the tranquility of her Connecticut home, historian Barbara Tuchman passed away. I cannot begin to recount the admiration, the affection and the profound respect her writing inspired. Her death came as a personal loss.

Less than 48 hours later, the State Department included in its annual report on human rights conditions in 169 nations a dozen pages devoted to cataloguing the violations committed by the occupation army in the West Bank and Gaza.

The two events are linked together by a slim volume that sometimes loses itself among all the books on the Middle East which occupy yards of space in my personal library.

In the wake of the first exultation that swept most of the world at the birth of Israel, Ms. Tuchman set down to write *Bible and Sword*. It was never counted as one of the Pulitzer Prize-winner's important works.

Among her several major obituaries and appreciations which appeared this week, *Bible and Sword* received scant mention. At any rate, I am told it has long been out-of-print. It came to me through a secondhand book store in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Its sales in 1956 could have hardly enriched New York University.

In yielding copyright to the school, Ms. Tuchman demonstrated her own lack of profit-incentive in the long months devoted to researching and writing. In addition, there must have been considerable stress brought to bear on the author for adopting a controversial position.

At a time when many Zionists still harbored bitter hatred against the English for their resistance to Palestine's conversion into a Jewish-controlled state, Barbara Tuchman eloquently defended Britain as the true progenitor of Israel.

Bible and Sword traces the connections between the island kingdom and the Jewish people into the mists of pre-history. It presents the best explanation I have ever read for the circumstances which made England the first Christian nation (about 1300) to bar Jews from residency. It shows how their return several hundred years later played a major role in the development of the world's mightiest empire — the "Sword" of the title.

But the basic premise of the book

rests on the fervor that prominent and influential Englishmen invested in the idea of restoring Jews to the Holy Land in an attempt to fulfill the prophecies of the Bible.

It would be impossible, and even Ms. Tuchman didn't try, to convince modern Americans of the far-reaching impact a revival in Christianity had on Victorian England.

The Bible became the guide for statecraft, as well as religious practices. It was used to excuse the excesses of imperial rule. Massacres were fairly commonplace. Torture of suspected "rebels" was routine.

On the basis that they brought the Word of God to heathen people, the

British 19th and early 20th century conquerors felt perfectly free to indulge their power in all sorts of ways considered today "violations of human rights."

Indeed, when Ms. Tuchman wrote her book equality among all mankind was still an unobserved ideal.

In the mid-1950s, the Civil Rights movement in the United States was only beginning to pick up steam. The French continued to brutalize Algerians. The English were engaged in African independence wars, when men could tell their enemies by the color of their skin.

None of the changes happening around her affected the author. The scope of *Bible and Sword* remains firmly fixed on the advantages brought to the creation of Israel by the British empire as the militant enabler of some Englishmen's Biblical dream to restore the Jewish people to the Promised Land.

In the book, Palestine's Arab population exists only as despoilers of the sacred earth and its traditions. There is nothing vicious in the author's mentions of men and women who can claim descent from the Canaanites who first welcomed Abraham and then resisted Moses' returning refugees from Egypt.

Barbara Tuchman possessed too much personal charity and sense of justice to permit accusations that her book truly maligned the Palestinian people.

However, the impression left was even more deadly to her hopes that the recently established Israel would become a beacon for all humanity,

besides a haven for her oppressed fellow Jews.

In her book, Ms. Tuchman denied all reality to the presence of hundreds of thousands of Arabs in what the British called Palestine, as had the Romans and Ottoman Turks before them. In that sense, the superb scholar simply echoed the early Zionist slogan: A land without a people for a people without a land.

By the time death came calling this week, Barbara Tuchman had learned the tragic flaw in *Bible and Sword*. Each new casualty in the current Palestinian uprising must have brought personal pain to a lady of her great compassion.

Certainly, the State Department report this week could have only added to the discomfort of her final days. As an admirer, I must express my relief that Ms. Tuchman's inevitable death was not delayed until this Friday, or beyond.

For those of us who face the future, the report undoes some of the damage of the past. It is the first instance in which Washington has raised a clear, unmistakable voice against the injustices which have been visited on a helpless people every day for more than 20 years.

At the very least, maybe now Israel's rulers should examine the lessons taught by the history of other conquerors, as explicated in Ms. Tuchman's body of works. Soon, they must let the Palestinians go!