



Hamas and Israel and *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*

In 1903 a 160-page document was published called *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. *The Protocols* purport to document the minutes of a late 19th century meeting attended by world Jewish leaders, the 'Elders of Zion', who were conspiring to take over the world. For example, *The Protocols* includes plans to subvert the morals of the non-Jewish world, plans for Jewish bankers to control the world's economies, plans for Jewish control of the press, and – ultimately – plans for the destruction of civilization. If that sounds like a modern conspiracy theory, that is exactly what it was. It was a fabricated text plagiarized and based in part on Maurice Joly *The Dialogue in Hell Between Machiavelli and Montesquieu*. The forgery was brought to light in an article by Philip Graves in *The Times* in 1921.

However, like the problem of modern conspiracy theories which won't die but continue with a life of their own, the document and the false belief that the Jews want to take over the world continues to this day. Indeed, Hamas bases its logic and vision on the assumption that *The Protocols* is a true reflection on Jewish aspirations:

Zionism scheming has no end... Their scheme has been laid out in the 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion'.¹

The plagiarism can be seen in the perceptions over government money and debt, for example:

A loan is an issue of Government paper which entails an obligation to pay interest amounting to a percentage of the total sum of the borrowed money. If a loan is at 5%, then in 20 years the Government would have unnecessarily paid out a sum equal to that of the loan in order to cover the percentage. In 40 years it will have paid twice; and in 60 thrice that amount, but the loan will still remain as an unpaid debt.²

Plagiarised from Montesquieu:

How are loans made? By the issue of bonds entailing on the Government the obligation to pay interest proportionate to the capital it has been paid. Thus, if a loan is at 5%, the State, after 20 years, has paid out a sum equal to the borrowed capital. When 40 years have expired it has paid double, after 60 years triple: yet it remains debtor for the entire capital sum.³

As a result of *The Protocols* version Hamas believes Jews wish to control the financial world:

With their money, they [Jews] took control of the world media, news agencies, the press, publishing houses, broadcasting stations, and others. With their money they stirred revolutions in various parts of the world with the purpose of achieving their interests and reaping the fruit therein. They were behind the French Revolution, the Communist revolution and most of the revolutions we heard and hear about, here and there. With their money they formed secret societies, such as Freemasons, Rotary Clubs, the Lions

¹ Article 32, *The Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement*, 18 August 1988. Hamas refers to the organisation of that name and not to any member or subset of members thereof.

² Page 77, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, 1903

³ Page 209, Maurice Joly, *The Dialogue in Hell Between Machiavelli and Montesquieu*, 1864



*and others in different parts of the world for the purpose of sabotaging societies and achieving Zionist interests.*⁴

Although *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* can be shown to directly plagiarized from parts of *The Dialogue in Hell Between Machiavelli and Montesquieu*, the path of plagiarism can be traced back further to other documents, for example the French Jesuit Abbe Barruel who published a treatise in 1797 blaming the French Revolution on a secret conspiracy through the Order of Freemasons. Though obviously nonsense since the French nobility was heavily Masonic, these earlier conspiracy theories trickled down into what became *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

Like many conspiracy theories circulating on the Internet today the 1903 paper document had in its introduction:

*Kind reader, will you please help to broadcast this message of warning throughout the world? You can do so by passing this along to a friend; better yet by having more printed and distributed, or by translating it into other languages and disseminating it in every corner of the earth.*⁵

Again, like many conspiracy theories they cite well-known names to support its veracity, for example Henry Ford:

They fit in with what is going on... they [Jews] have fitted the world situation up to this time. They fit it now. (Claimed to be an interview on 17 February 1921 given in the New York World about *The Protocols*)⁶

The Protocols was translated from the original Russian into many languages including German and was required reading for German schoolchildren from 1933, leading to what Hitler saw as 'the final solution'.

The Protocols claim all wars must be shifted to an economic basis, allowing no territorial advantages to result from war, and thus tending to make the Jewish control of wealth the determining factor in war.

*It is necessary for us that wars, whenever possible, should bring no territorial advantages; this will shift war to an economic basis and force nations to realize the strength of our predominance; such a situation will put both sides at the mercy of our million-eyed international agency, which will be unhampered by any frontiers. Then our [Jewish] international rights will do away with national rights, in a limited sense, and will rule the peoples in the same way as the civil power of each state regulates the relation of its subjects among themselves.*⁷

⁴ Article 22, *The Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement*, 18 August 1988

⁵ Introduction in the printed version of *The Protocols* held in the FBI vault in the USA and available as a copy on the Internet

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Protocol II, *The Protocols*, full text from Project Gutenberg



As a result of this Hamas believes Jews are responsible for all wars everywhere in the world:

You may speak as much as you want about regional and world wars. They [Jews] were behind World War I, when they were able to destroy the Islamic Caliphate, making financial gains and controlling resources. They obtained the Balfour Declaration, formed the League of Nations through which they could rule the world. They were behind World War II, through which they made huge financial gains by trading in armaments and paved the way for the establishment of their state. It was they who instigated the replacement of the League of Nations with the United Nations and the Security Council to enable them to rule the world through them. There is no war going on anywhere, without having their finger in it.⁸

Hamas belief in the world domination and expansionism of Israel can be traced back to Protocol V:

Per me reges regnant—'Through me the sovereigns reign.' The prophets have told us that we [Jews] were chosen by God himself to reign over the world. God endowed us with genius to enable us to cope with the problem. Were there a genius in the opposing camp, he would struggle against us, but a newcomer is not equal to an old inhabitant. The struggle between us would be of such a merciless nature as the world has never seen before; moreover their genius would be too late.⁹

The United Nations Partition Plan for Israel which was adopted as Resolution 181(II) on 29 November 1947 allowed 56% of what had been the British Mandate to the new Jewish state, while at that time it was only 33% of the resident population. Obviously, that didn't take account of the number of Jews who would be making Aliyah, ie returning to Israel after the Shoah/Holocaust in Germany. In 1950 the Israeli parliament gave all diaspora Jews, as well as their children and grandchildren, the right to relocate to Israel and acquire Israeli citizenship on the basis of their Jewish identity.

In 1948 more than 700,000 Palestinian Arabs, about half the pre-war Palestinian population, fled from their homes or were expelled by Zionist militias. They were not given normal refugee status and the *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (UNHCR) doesn't deal with them but a separate organisation the *United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East* (UNRWA). This obviously feeds the myth that Jews control more of the world than they do, including the United Nations.

Since 1947 Israel has controlled progressively more and more of what had been the British Mandate. As well as what is written in *The Protocols* there has been talk coming from some politicians in Israel about a *Greater Israel*.

The term *Greater Israel* has various geographic definitions, the smallest of which is current Israel plus the Palestinian territories, the largest of which is all the land east of the Brook of Egypt and west of the Euphrates, north of Kadesh and south of Mamath. It is difficult to quantify how many Jews today believe in or aspire to a *Greater Israel* landmass. Likud has as it's platform the smallest of those areas (ie taking over all the current Palestinian areas) and some Israeli political parties (eg Kach, Tehiya and the National Religious Party) support the idea of *Greater Israel* larger than the minimal Likud area.

⁸ Article 22, *The Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement*, 18 August 1988

⁹ Protocol V, *The Protocols*, full text from Project Gutenberg



It is therefore unsurprising that Hamas sees expansionism as implicitly Jewish.

...after Palestine, they [Jews] will covet expansion from the Nile to the Euphrates River. When they have finished digesting the area on which they have laid their hand, they will look forward to more expansion.¹⁰

As a result, Hamas sees this as a battle between 'good' (Islam) and 'evil' (Jewish take-over of the world) which requires the elimination of all Jews everywhere:

The Day of Judgment will not come about until Muslims fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out: 'O Muslim, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him.'¹¹

And that it is the duty of all Muslims to take part in the elimination of Jews worldwide.

The day the enemies usurp part of Muslim land, Jihad becomes the individual duty of every Muslim. In the face of the Jews' usurpation, it is compulsory that the banner of Jihad be raised.¹²

Hamas sees war as the only solution not negotiation or any peace initiatives:

Initiatives, and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement... Those conferences are no more than a means to appoint the infidels as arbitrators in the lands of Islam... There is no solution for the Palestinian problem except by Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are but a waste of time, an exercise in futility.¹³

Because Hamas believes the conspiracy theory set out in *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, discussion about land has become secondary to a Jihadic antisemitic destruction of the Jewish people.

Meanwhile Western and European people and governments see this as an issue about land looking for a 'just solution' to provide homelands for both Jews and Palestinians and a resolution to the inhuman conditions under which Palestinians live. The Palestinian *Nakba*, which is the same word as the Jewish *Shoah* meaning catastrophe, in 1948 was the turning point for them. Recently people, both inside and outside the Middle East, make claims: '*Before 1947 the whole country was called Palestine and belonged to the Palestinians*'.

This often starts a long historical narrative going back thousands of years, sometimes involving the Biblical 'Philistines' and the Peleset people cited in Egyptian history. But the Sea People (Peleset) who came from Crete can be shown to be a different DNA to the Palestinians who have DNA links to the Arabic peninsula. Recently Arabs from the peninsula are starting to see Israel as being for Jews and claiming the Palestinians are mere gypsies. Maybe 21st century science in the form of DNA analysis is making a difference.

However, as we can see, the false narrative of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* has created a problem a lot larger than the resolution of a land dispute. We know from dealing with people in cults and people subscribing to modern conspiracy theories how difficult it is to change a mindset when it is fixed. It is the difficult task of re-programming to see reality as it really is!

¹⁰ Article 32, *The Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement*, 18 August 1988

¹¹ Article 7, *Ibid*

¹² Article 15, *Ibid*

¹³ Article 13, *Ibid*



So where do we go from here?

There are some questions to answer: Is Israel trying to take over the world, as is claimed in *The Protocols*? The answer is clearly no. *The Protocols* is a work of fiction not truth. There is no conspiracy by the Jews to take over the world.

Do some Jews/Israelis wish to take over a land area called Greater Israel, either just the current Palestinian territories or as far as the river Euphrates based on what we call the *Old Testament* of the Bible? The answer is clearly yes. Some do, though most don't.

The number of Jews who do believe in a Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile are very few and reducing in number, particularly after the normalisation of relations with several Arab states.

Clearly the memory of *Shoah* is something that is affecting Jewish reactions to 7 October 2023. Non-Jews cannot feel what it is to be a Jew: Only 80 years ago to have gone through the catastrophe of the Holocaust. It is war and people tend to support their government regardless of its position on other policies so it's difficult to tell how many Israelis support the current ruling Likud party long term aspirations for Greater Israel. Within the world community there are fears about the intentions of the Likud coalition administration since 7 October 2023 especially if the war becomes more genocide of the Palestinian people than destruction of Hamas.

The statement from Israel president Netanyahu on 28 October 2023 linking the response to 7 October catastrophe to the Old Testament response to Amalek was refreshing a memory of attack from the rear which they were commended to remember.¹⁴ However, some western commentators have taken Netanyahu out of context and linked it to a different Biblical reference to the Amalekites which looks more like genocide:

*Now go and completely destroy the entire Amalekite nation—men, women, children, babies, cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys.*¹⁵

The memory of *Nakba* is also affecting Palestinian reactions. Non-Palestinians cannot truly feel what it is to be Palestinian and feel what you saw as your land progressively taken from you. And then there is the question of the greater and lesser jihad as written in the Qur'an. Is Hamas misunderstanding the greater jihad?

*Jihad becomes the individual duty of every Muslim. In the face of the Jews' usurpation, it is compulsory that the banner of Jihad be raised.*¹⁶

The greater jihad is understood by most Muslims to be the individual struggle within each of us with sin and not a holy war over land. Some, however, are influenced towards holy war. If it is only 5% of Muslims worldwide who believe that we are still talking of 50 million people.

¹⁴ Deuteronomy 25:17-19

¹⁵ 1 Samuel 15:3 New Living Translation

¹⁶ Article 15, *The Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement*, 18 August 1988



Since a lot of this is related to history hundreds and thousands of years ago, one needs to consider Israel in terms of the Abrahamic covenant which is normally cited as God giving them the land:

*The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation.¹⁷ I will bless you and make you famous, and **you will be a blessing to others.** I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. **All the families on earth will be blessed through you.**'¹⁸ (emphasis ours)*

But what does *being a blessing* mean and how will *all families on earth be blessed by you*? Until the first and second centuries CE the Jews had times of exile, ostensibly to bring them back to God. When they were in exile they often had a beneficial action on the conquering or hosting nations. During the time in exile in Egypt Joseph dealt with the localised climate change, feeding the Egyptian population as well as his family.¹⁹ During the exile in Babylon Daniel acted as interpreter of dreams and consultant to the king.²⁰

After the Jewish-Roman Wars, when many Jews were killed, and the advent of Christianity in the Roman Empire, more Jews lived outside Israel than inside it, becoming primarily a diaspora people. As a diaspora, Jews became better placed to bless *all the families on earth*. But Shakespeare's Shylock doesn't paint an attractive image of a Jew in his era and reflects antisemitic feelings in 16th century Britain. However, it was not until the Shoah/Holocaust from 1933 to 1945 that Jews urgently looked for a safe homeland back in Israel. At the time some saw it more a restoration of post-Holocaust Jewish pride than a long-term nation state.

What we see in the Jewish people is an oral and written storytelling history and memory. Jews make connections and see trends. In part that is why, rather than scheming to take over the world, they are so good with financial dealings. But this corporate memory can also be the blessing to others. For example, the memory of the Shoah/Holocaust helps them to see evolving genocides around the world in a way other people groups would not and then to bring them to the notice of the world community.

The Abrahamic covenant still remains an obligation upon the Jews to be a *blessing to all families on earth*. Some Jews, though possibly not recognising it, are indeed following that covenant. However, some Jews and some Palestinians appear stuck in a form of victimhood that leaves no way out except violence. While others on both sides see that any people group that has made it to the 21st century deserve a measure of self-determination.

A resolution between Hamas and Israel is complicated by some people around the world believing that Jews are less than human. The extreme weaponry available in the 21st century complicates self-determination in many countries in the world; which indeed we see in the Ukraine-Russia conflict, the China-Taiwan conflict and the Israel-Palestine conflict alongside others.

¹⁷ The word used here is **goy** which at the time of writing meant people group or nation, which was understood in a very different way to our current understanding of nation state or the current use of the word goy

¹⁸ Genesis 12:1-3, New Living Translation of the Bible

¹⁹ Genesis 47:13-31

²⁰ Daniel 20