

The origins of this move can be traced back to 1963. In this year, the Elysée Treaty was signed by the French President, Général de Gaulle, and the German Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer. This treaty included a commitment of both countries to cooperate in the area of defence. This initially involved the exchange of personnel and cooperation between their defence industries. In 1987, the military links between the two countries was enhanced by President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl setting up the French-German Security and Defence Council. The French-German Brigade arose from this development. This was followed in 1993 by the formation of Eurocorp, a development that enhanced "the construction of the European defence and security identity nevertheless keeping a role within NATO".⁴

The intention of Germany to deploy troops in France is clearly highly symbolic given the history of war and invasion between the two countries in the last century. Indeed, Alsace-Lorraine was one of the specific areas fought over. When Armageddon takes place, Europe will be united against Israel, and indications that Germany and France are working closely together are an important sign in this regard.

In Revelation 17 it is written of the European kings, "These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb" (vv. 13,14). The unity implied by "one mind", and the ability to "make war" as an overall European power, are things we should be looking for at the time of the end. The proposed stationing of German troops in France should be viewed as an indication of a trend towards this greater unity and military capability. As we have seen, Angela Merkel herself sees the proposal in this wider context, for she spoke of a "wider European defence and security policy".

Conclusion

The close ties Germany is forging with both Russia and France are evidence that the configuration of nations seen in Ezekiel 38 is developing apace. Magog and Gomer at the present time are becoming closer, and the individual countries referred to by Gomer are becoming closer between themselves.

4. http://www.eurocorps.org/history/eurocorps_history/.

Anti-Semitism is worldwide

John Nicholls



Globalising Hatred: The New Anti-Semitism.

Denis MacShane (2008). Weidenfeld & Nicolson. ISBN 978 0 297 84473 0.

£12.99 (can be bought more cheaply over the Internet).

188 pages, including a useful index, notes and references, and a select bibliography.

TO PUT IT MILDLY, this is a stirring book. It arises from an All-Party Parliamentary Commission of Enquiry set up in 2005 in the UK to look into the problem of anti-Semitism. The author of the book, Denis MacShane MP, was the Commission's chairman. He is not Jewish, nor

were any others of the MPs on the Commission, who included one Muslim MP, a former leader of the Conservative Party, former ministers, and representatives from all the major political parties in the UK. The Commission reported in 2006, and the government's response to the report was published as a command paper in 2007. Dr MacShane's parliamentary constituency includes 10,000 Muslims, and he is well known for his aversion to intolerance of all forms.

Anti-Semitism is not new, and Bible-believers recognise that it has its origins in the time of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, when God made the covenants of promise with them, incurring the jealousy and hatred of Ishmael, Laban, Esau and their descendants. This, coupled with the separateness of the Jews and their religion, has excited the hostility and suspicion of Gentiles down through the ages. Add to this the amazing survival of the Jewish people despite intense persecution, and their success in so many spheres

of life—business and finance, the arts and the sciences—and the admiration and anger which are components of anti-Semitism are not hard to understand.

Anti-Semitism has manifested itself in many periods of Jewish history, and the author comments wryly that without it there would be no State of Israel today. The Holocaust in Europe is probably the best-known manifestation of anti-Semitism in the public mind, but Denis MacShane's thesis is that anti-Semitism today has reached global proportions, and that, until it is combated and dealt with at its roots, Middle East, and indeed world, peace will not be possible.

Anti-Semitic parliamentarians

He begins by showing that anti-Semitism could be found amongst British MPs for decades, especially in the Tory party. It is a central feature of far-right parties, like the British National Party, which are not represented in the House of Commons. It is even stronger in the European Parliament, with twenty MEPs representing far-right anti-Semitic political groups. He then outlines how neo-anti-Semitism (the 'new anti-Semitism') is still strong in Germany and France, even though in Austria and Germany Holocaust denial and the wearing of swastikas are illegal.

The author asks, "Should Germany's 100,000 Jews be worried?", and says, "The answer, sadly, has to be 'Ja'. In a recent study, a fifth of all German students agreed with the statement, 'Jews in Germany have too much influence', and 17% of all those surveyed agreed that 'Jews have odd and peculiar qualities and are not really the same as us' . . . In 2006, one of the endless sociological surveys carried out in Germany reported that half of those under 30 believed that 'Israel was staging an extermination war against Palestinians'" (p. 38).

Besides Europe, Dr MacShane and the Commission report that anti-Semitism is to be found in many countries, including Russia, Argentina, Venezuela, Iran and even Japan. University campuses can be breeding grounds for anti-Semitic meetings and speakers, and he cites instances in both UK and USA universities. To illustrate the worldwide prevalence of anti-Semitism, he lists serious anti-Semitic incidents in various countries involving Jews being attacked or killed during the year 2006. It makes grim reading.

The language used in anti-Semitic literature and discussion has changed: "Today, Jew-haters try to avoid using the term 'Jew' or 'Jewish' and

instead reach for the word 'Zionist' or 'Zionism' as a substitute that does not carry the obvious negativity of 'Jew' . . . Just as anti-Semitism was a euphemism for anti-Jewish politics, so too is anti-Zionism an attempt to find a formula that covers up a call for the eradication of the State of Israel . . . Many who use the term 'Zionist' will be confident in their own belief that they are not anti-Semitic but simply using a political, rather than religious or racial adjective" (pp. 82-84).

Islamist anti-Semitism

The author turns to the ideological basis of Islamist anti-Semitism, and shows that embedded in the general anti-Western thrust of Islamic fundamentalism there is a specific anti-Semitic threat. He quotes from a book *The Islamist* by Ed (a shortened form of his name Mohammed) Husain, who went through different Islamic organisations as a student, and attempted to come to terms with his faith whilst seeking to escape the clutches of Islamist organisations in the Muslim Council of Britain. In Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Husain observed the following:

"All the mosques had state funded preachers . . . almost without exception, Friday sermons were highly politicised and radical. The Imams prayed for Jihad in Iraq and Palestine to continue, and called on God to destroy the Jews . . . This mantra of destruction would have elicited an Amen from me a decade earlier. Now I sat mute, not even raising my hands as is Muslim custom, but looking around bewildered. How could we? Why did we not learn from the fact that despite Islamist prayers for destruction over five decades, Israel was still in place and America reigned supreme? Was God not telling us something in rejecting Islamist-Wahhabi prayers of cataclysm?" (cited p. 103).

The 'Jewish Lobby'

Dr MacShane entitles chapter 8 "Conspiracies, Cabals and the 'Lobby'". He says that across Europe and elsewhere the term 'lobby' is becoming a new scattergun device for accusing Jews anywhere of exercising secret and sinister power. The idea that Jews exert behind-the-scenes control and influence in politics and finance was dominant in Nazi ideology, but the same sentiments can be found today. He cites many well-known people, such as the actor Mel Gibson and the preacher Billy Graham, and makes extensive quotations

from a book about the 'Jewish Lobby' by two American Professors, Mearsheimer and Walt. These academics criticise US policy concerning Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas.

MacShane highlights some of the Hamas charter, which was written in 1988. Quoting the prophet Mohammed it says, "Muslims will fight the Jews (and kill them); until the Jews hide behind rocks and trees, which will cry, O Muslim! There is a Jew hiding behind the tree, come on and kill him!". The charter also states that "the so-called peaceful solutions, and the international conferences to resolve the Palestinian problem, are all contrary to the beliefs [of Hamas] . . . these conferences are no more than a means to appoint the non-believers as arbitrators in the lands of Islam". He says it is one of the most virulent expressions of Jew-hatred ever written down. There is much more in the book about the failure of Arab leaders to come to terms with Israel, and he says that "all the arguments of European anti-Semitism have been taken over as job lot by Islamist and Arab anti-Semitism".

The solution to anti-Semitism

"What can be done?" is the final chapter of this absorbing book. As we would expect from one who plays a big part in British politics, the author is unable to offer much hope for a solution to anti-Semitism. He says, "As I defend the right of my Muslim friends to follow their faith and support their causes, how can I accept politics that denies those to Jewish friends? Combating neo-anti-Semitism is not about supporting every demand made by Jews, and certainly not interpretations of Judaism that deny women or non-Jews equal rights. Still less is it an endorse-

ment of whatever the government of Israel does or says. But to combat global anti-Semitism is to confront words, language and political demands that start from the premise that Israel as defined by its citizens cannot exist". With much of this we would agree.

He goes on, "Somehow, somewhere, a new politics and language has to grow that replaces the mutual contradictions of today's discussion of Israel and Palestine, Jews and Muslims, by a more tolerant politics that adds value to human existence. From the point of view of a European politician like myself, that cannot happen unless and until neo-anti-Semitism is understood, exposed and rejected by all except dyed-in-the-wool Jew-haters".

The gospel of the Kingdom of God, and its fulfilment by the Lord Jesus, will indeed provide the new politics and language that Denis MacShane and his Commission look for. The working of the New Covenant, under which God's laws are put into the minds of both Jews and Gentiles, and written in their hearts (Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:8-12; 10:16-18) by the teaching of Christ and the saints, will achieve what man is unable to do. And surely the 'dyed-in-the-wool' Jew-haters who are alive at Christ's coming will, like all the wicked, be slain with "the breath of his lips" (Isa. 11:4).

The book is both horrifying and fascinating for those who understand the great purpose of God, which in His wisdom is channelled through Israel, and made effective by the work of the Son of David. It shows how the evil of anti-Semitism has become worldwide and is beyond the ability of man to overcome. It is recommended to all who are interested in the signs of the times and are praying for "the peace of Jerusalem".

Anti-Semitism in Europe

The 2 February 2009 edition of the *Jerusalem Report*, in a wide-ranging review of the fallout from the recent Gaza war, draws attention to the widespread outbreaks of anti-Semitism in Europe that have resulted, saying, "On the street, massive anti-Israel demonstrations from Oslo to Belfast, Berlin and Athens have brought out hundreds of thousands of protestors, most of them immigrants with Arab or Muslim backgrounds; others from far-left and far-right groups. Many of these demonstrations included openly anti-Semitic symbols, with slogans and banners, in Arabic and local languages, demanding to 'kill all Jews' and 'all Israelis'". There has apparently been very little attempt by the authorities to deal with these anti-Semitic outbursts, despite the strict laws in EU countries against racism and anti-Semitism. The article states: "In addition, the last two weeks have seen a wave of overtly anti-Semitic attacks on Jews and on synagogues, Jewish schools, and Jewish-owned shops, throughout Europe, especially in areas with large Muslim populations". The article quotes one Israeli expert on European affairs as saying, "The atmosphere . . . is creating the necessary psychological conditions for individual violent acts against the Jews".—*T.B.*