

Semitic is a Language Group, Not a Racial or Ethnic Group

by Sam Hamod, Ph.D.

One of the myths that has been perpetrated on the world is that only Jews are Semites. This is totally inaccurate. Unfortunately the ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) has made a fortune in donations and has conned most media networks and most people in the world into believing this untruth.

If one looks into the history of the word "Semite", it references a language group and no more. The Semitic languages are:

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Amharic: Spoken in Ethiopia, Eritrea and the lands once known as Abyssinia

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Arabic: The language of the Qur'an is spoken in all the Arab countries and in many Muslim dominated countries

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Hebrew: Spoken in Israel and by some Jews and others outside of Israel

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Aramaic: Spoken primarily by the Chaldeans of Iraq and by some Catholic and Maronite Christians in the world, at least during their church services if not in their homes or business

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Syriac: Spoken by a few in various parts of Syria and in the Middle East

Incidentally, according to most linguists, Abraham, the father of the Jews and Arabs spoke Aramaic; this was the language of the land at the time, not Hebrew. TOP

To get back to facts about Semites, Jews, language and genetics, let me go further. The actual genetic Jews were born in the Middle East and are known as Sephardic Jews. These Jews did speak a Semitic language, Hebrew, from their earliest incarnation. Some at the time of Christ also spoke Aramaic, Arabic and Amharic because of their location in Jerusalem and other Middle Eastern cities including modern day Addis Ababba, Cairo, Baghdad and Damascus. One rarely hears a Sephardic Jew yelling, "Anti-Semite" because he/she knows better. Sephardic Jews are aware of their history within Semitic language speaking lands. TOP

Let me be clear about another important matter; I am not touting for people who are anti-Jewish, anti-Arab or anti-any ethnic or racial group; those people who stereotype or attack others based on their race or ethnicity are dead wrong and should be condemned. So too should those that abuse labels and use them wrongly to stop others from being justifiably critical. These people and organizations should also be condemned. In this case I am referring to the ADL and other groups of that sort which label people with impunity and carelessness. This carelessness has wrecked careers, reputations, businesses and lives! TOP

Thus, when a person from the ADL calls someone who is critical of Israel, Zionists or Zionism an "anti-Semite", this is pure nonsense. The person speaking is simply critical of Israel or Zionism. If a person speaks against an Arab as I pointed

out, Arabs speak a Semitic language; he may be anti-Arab, but he is not "anti-Semitic". In both cases, the person may be anti-Zionist or may be a racist and be anti-Jewish or anti-Arab; but the person is SIMPLY NOT ANTI-SEMITIC. TOP

This abuse of the term and our language reached new heights recently when some of the Zionists in the American media began saying that Robert Novak, himself a Jew, was "anti-Semitic."

First, most Ashkenazim Jews who were born and raised in America like Paul Wolfowitz, Richard Perle and Feith, are not Jews genetically. They are descended from Slavic tribes known as the Khazars who converted to Judaism in the 8th Century AD. Khazars' native language was Slavic and their first language in America has been English. This is the case of Robert Novak. I am not saying all Ashkenazim are not Jews, but the way some of them behave is certainly not in the way Moses brought Judaism from God through the Torah. Simply look at the haters and war-mongers in the Bush circle of influence to see this evident; no God would want this behavior to be associated with his name.

Thus, as a friend of mine, Rabbi Shmuel Handelman put it, "They may call themselves Jews, but I doubt very much if I'd call them that. And if I did, I'd say they were the worst of what any person might be. I'd rather not be associated with them." TOP

However, Novak is intelligent and educated enough to know the difference between a Jew, a Zionist and what Semitic actually is! An excellent and accurate source for this history is Ashkenazi, Arthur Koestler's, book: THE THIRTEENTH TRIBE.

The ADL and others have attacked and continue attacking this book, but scholars know of its truth.

This is not a condemnation of Ashkenazis or their conversion to Judaism; it does mean they have enough genetic DNA in them not to have the same feelings about Judaism and life in the Middle East as do the Sephardic or "genetic" Jews. TOP

Unfortunately, the misuse of the label, "Anti-Semitic" and its consequences have been so bad that even presidents, senators, congress people, media giants and others in the world cringe at being labeled, "Anti-Semitic" by some Zionist, Israeli or ignorant religious, media or social group. Little do they know they are being victimized by charlatans of the language who have found a label that they throw around with impunity and for which there has been little or no come-back. Those who read this article and do further research may now correct those who speak this nonsense; throw this nonsense back in the faces of the ignorant or the charlatans. TOP

It is time our media people and non-linguistically literate scholars, politicians, religious leaders and others became educated about the truths about the meaning of Semitic, including its misuse whether intentional or unintentional. If not, we'll keep allowing charlatans to abuse our language and to continue their name-calling, abusing others, including Jews, Arabs, Americans, British and others.

Once again I am referring those individuals and groups who label people with impunity and carelessness, sometimes wrecking careers, reputations, businesses and lives by calling them Anti-Semitic if they speak against Israel, (which is not a Semitic state) or Zionists (a political group, not exclusively Jewish that has nothing to do with Semitic or Semitism). TOP

Until we clean up our language and stop this incorrect name-calling, as a society

we will continue to be at the whim of a few politically ambitious and unscrupulous people. We shall remain victims of a misuse of a legitimate language categorization, a language that is abused for the benefit of a few.

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A Letter From
Jewish Leaders to President Bush...

June 27, 2003

Hon. President
George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you because of your deep and abiding interest in the suffering of the peoples of the Middle East and your desire to finally bring an end to all the bloodshed and violence there. We pray for peace and brotherhood.

However, I would like to respectfully bring to your attention that although you are aware that there are many Jews who support the State of Israel, what you may not have heard about is that there is a silent majority of Jews opposed to Zionism who remain ignored by the media, and who remain steadfast in loyalty to the teachings of our rabbis that the ideology of Zionism is in utter opposition to our religion. For more information there are a number of websites on the Internet that discuss this subject, e.g. JewsAgainstZionism.com, which we know you will find most interesting as it includes historical documents and photographs relating to the long-time opposition of revered rabbis to Zionism. TOP

Ever since the destruction of the holy Temple in Jerusalem and the exile of the Jewish People some two thousand years ago, we have been enjoined to be scrupulously loyal to the countries we reside in, and never seek to undertake to establish independent sovereignty in the Holy Land or anywhere throughout the world. One of the great biblical prophets, Jeremiah, in chapter 29 of his book

proclaimed G-d's message to all the exiled; verse seven reads, "Seek out the welfare of the city to which I have exiled you and pray for it to the Almighty, for through its welfare will you have welfare." This has been a cornerstone of Jewish morality throughout our history to this very day.

The Zionist movement rejects all of the fundamental principles of our Torah and rabbis. Jews do not need a state of their own. The very establishment of a "Jewish" state is a grave violation of Jewish tradition and law. TOP

Therefore they don't represent the Jewish people in any way whatsoever. They have no right to speak in the name of the Jewish people. Therefore, their words, declarations and actions are not in any way representative of the Jewish people. We deplore acts and policies of violence carried out by those who – misusing the name of Israel – have substituted the ideal of nationalism for the teachings of the holy Torah.

Therefore, Mr. President, it is of the utmost urgency that the State of Israel should not be referred as a Jewish State, but as the Zionist State. The foundation of its existence is not Judaism, but the Zionist ideology. We are extremely concerned that referring to it as a "Jewish" state endangers the welfare of Jews worldwide by linking Jews and Judaism to the terrible actions of the Zionist State. TOP

The Zionist state with its supporters worldwide seeks to take all measures possible, including provoking hatred of Jews through Israeli policies, in order to convince Jews to move from their native countries to the State of Israel!! Indeed, hatred of Jews is the very lifeblood and oxygen of the Zionist movement and their state, which are stand in total opposition to Judaism.

We also feel great pain about the misplaced sympathy of Christian evangelicals for Zionism. If they knew the truth about Zionism they would not support the Zionist movement.

Throughout history when persecution resulted in expulsions, there were always other nations who opened their doors to the Jews, and were blessed by G-d for doing so. We believe that our country would even welcome those Jews who would wish to leave the State of Israel, and bring great blessings onto the United States.

Your good intentions and kind consideration in relation to Jews is greatly appreciated, but we strongly believe that G-d's blessings upon the United States will grow if there is greater understanding and different policies in relation to this issue of the difference between Judaism and Zionism. TOP

We await the days when all the world will recognize the sovereignty of the Creator, and the words of the prophet Isaiah will yet be fulfilled: "And they will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. No nation will lift its sword against any other, nor will they learn warfare anymore."

Yours very truly,

Russell Waxman

In behalf of the silent majority, American Jewry

Torah True Jews, Inc.

Brooklyn NY