

Anti-Semitism – What's in a Word?

In the old days, an Anti-Semite was a racist who hated Jews. Things has changed: today it is an anti-racist, who is hated by Jews (who may, therefore, also be called Anti-Semites).

The concept of **Anti-Semitism** could give rise to a longer thesis from me and has done so from others. Time restrictions forces me to a rather short statement, void of all the discrete variations of shadows which gives the concept an obviously eternal actuality.

At first, who are the opponents? Classically, the front is made up between Caucasians (the Nazi word is Arians) on one side and Jews on the other. Taken both together reveals a minority in the Worlds population, but that may be explained by traditional European thinking, which did not even count the original inhabitants of other continents worthy consideration. And Semites are not just Jews, according to the Old Testament, the family deriving from Noah's son Sem also includes the Arabs.

So in that sense, the word would stand for a simple racism, going back to the well-established feeling that "we are the best." Besides, it opens the consideration of reverse sentiments which, however, I shall comment upon later. But for the first, I shall consider the traditional aspect, Caucasians vs. Jews, since that reflects the everyday challenge.

Undoubtedly, there exist an open **Anti-Semitism** and there is an undercover one. An open one is what you may find in primitive circles, such as neo-nazi, but apart from that, it is difficult to find real open **Anti-Semitism** anywhere – according to my sense. Obviously not according to others. In Germany, where I live now, the concept is used to another scale. It touches the criticism of anything Jewish and is therefore also abused by some Jews to achieve a "Jester's Liberty" ("Narrenfreiheit" – if you criticize me, you are an **Anti-Semite**). Which may again give further rise to the hidden type. For that reason, it was good to hear the warning from American Jews against such "Narrenfreiheit," to prevent the recurrence of real **Anti-Semitism**. In Germany, however, such a warning would suffice to stamp even a Jew as an **Anti-Semite**.

The undercover **Anti-Semitism** is a difficult concept, hardly possible to erase with words. It is so much undercover, that those exerting it are not really aware of it themselves – and, of course, there are much broader interpretations, how this can be understood. To the perception of many Jews, I may myself be a victim of such, for which it may not help swearing that I despise any racism, be it towards Indians, Negroid, Chinese or other non-Caucasian races. Being consequent in this view, I also despise racism from Jews against others, for which I acknowledge being called a bad boy or worse (**Anti-Semite**), without accepting the justification of such a designation. But that leads to my final consideration.

It is incredible to realize that some of those happily using the term anti-Semitism are themselves exerting racial distinctions, giving Jews certain privileges towards others. For that, I am not thoroughly informed, but it is obvious that the current state of Israel is practising such racism. I see it as a simple duty to protest against it, then call me an **Anti-Semite** if you care. To which degree the Israeli settlers are racists, I can only guess, but I anyhow consider them (and their government) thoroughly criminal. Such criminal behaviour, and its defence by some Jews, poses the biggest danger for a new wave of **Anti-Semitism**.

Jan. 4th, 2004,
John Schou