

“Holocaust Remembrance Day and Oct. 7, 2023”

This collection of two articles is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 27, 2024.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—The events of Oct. 7, 2023, have shaken the world. First, there was the horrible behavior by the terrorists against Israeli citizens. Second, there was the understandable reaction of Israel fighting for its very existence. And, then, there were the many examples of anti-Semitism arising in cities around the world.

Although I have found great value in reading *The Jerusalem Post* through the years, the recent events have influenced me to read the publication with greater regularity and interest.

I decided to select the following two recent articles for your edification.



An article by Renée Garfinkel titled “Holocaust Remembrance Day: Parallels Between Hamas and the Nazis” was posted at jpost.com on Jan. 25, 2024. Following is the article.

On Jan. 27, the world solemnly marks International Holocaust Remembrance Day, a United Nations initiative to commemorate one of history’s darkest chapters. Yet, the day’s significance extends far beyond mere commemoration. It’s a stark reminder, especially as the Jewish state, born from the ashes of the Holocaust, grapples with accusations mirroring the very horrors Jews once faced.

The Holocaust, a term that emerged from the depths of human cruelty, encapsulates the Nazis’ methodical and monstrous extermination of millions. Today, we confront a chilling irony: on this day dedicated to remembering the past’s atrocities, Israel faces threats reminiscent of that tragic era. Absent are the gas chambers, but present are tunnels, missiles, and a barrage of propaganda.

This irony intensifies as Israel’s self-defense—a response to the worst slaughter since the Holocaust—is contorted into allegations of genocide. It’s a bitter

twist that the very institution commemorating this day accuses Israel of the crimes it solemnly remembers.

What, then, is the purpose of remembrance if not to learn and prevent history's darkest moments from repeating? The Holocaust taught us about the persistence and lethal nature of antisemitism. Dara Horn, in her book *People Love Dead Jews: Notes From a Haunted Present*, poignantly underscores how Jewish suffering is often minimized and universalized, losing its unique historical context. The Anne Frank House controversy, where a Jewish employee was initially barred from wearing a yarmulke, exemplifies this troubling trend.

The persistence of anti-Semitism is both adaptable and deeply ingrained in paranoia, often cloaked in terms of "neutrality" or "context-dependent" rhetoric. It ranges from bizarre conspiracy theories to more-insidious and dangerous beliefs.

Are Nazi and Islamist anti-Semitism similar?

Prof. Joseph S. Spoerl conducted a study that compared Nazi and Islamist anti-Semitism. His work reveals their shared beliefs and assumptions—shared paranoia. Both ideologies view "global Jewry as an enemy conspiring to subjugate and ultimately destroy non-Jews."

Despite the vast numerical difference (1.7 billion Muslims to 15.7 million Jews), Hezbollah leaders' quotes insist, "The struggle with Jews is a struggle for Islamic survival."

This fundamental Islamist paranoia and its consequences, the beliefs it fosters, and the actions it drives, are too often overlooked by Western thinkers, academics, foreign policy experts and journalists. They cannot be left unchallenged.

As we observe International Holocaust Remembrance Day, it's crucial to recognize these disturbing parallels. This day should serve as more than just a label. It should be a wake-up call to the world about the continuing threats of anti-Semitism and the importance of learning from history to prevent its repetition. In doing so, we give true meaning to the concept of remembrance.



An article by Robert Scott Kellner titled "Holocaust Remembrance Day: Jews Need to Hear Hard Truths About October 7" was posted at jpost.com on Jan. 25, 2024. Following is the article.

This year's International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Jan. 27 follows closely upon an almost unimaginable event that exposed the horrific cost of our failure to end anti-Semitism.

Who bears the fault for the terrors of Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas murderers stormed into Israel from Gaza? The killers genocidal intentions, of course, are

apparent in their charter. But the Israel Defense Forces, AWOL from their posts, played a role—as did the Israeli people who wildly assailed each other over internal issues while the bloodthirsty enemy at their border plotted their deaths.

However, the major fault did not occur on that day in October. That heavy burden lies with Jewish leaders who minimized threats from the Iranian aya-tollah and his armored pawns, Hamas and Hezbollah.

Opting to appease and placate aggressive Islamic nations, Jewish leaders joined Western nations in denouncing as “hate speech” the factually correct description “Islamic jihadist fanatics.” Moreover, they championed the Palestinians’ demands for territory, convinced that their liberality would irresistibly lead to friendship and peace.

Instead of steadfastly confronting those who slandered Jews and threatened to destroy Israel, Jewish leaders fixated on educating the world about the six million Jews killed by Nazis in the Holocaust, fully expecting the individual stories of Jewish victims to arouse sympathy, compassion and understanding, which would then naturally dispel anti-Semitism.

Their noble efforts proved delusional. Despite a fortune spent on Holocaust museums, the slogan “Never Again” carved on the museum walls did not protect Jews from being beaten while strolling in Brooklyn or shot while at prayer in their synagogue in Pittsburgh.

Even the heartrending story of Anne Frank, the young Jewish girl hiding from the Nazis whose diary has been vital reading for tens of millions of young girls, could not move *Time* magazine’s “Person of the Year,” Taylor Swift, to rally her fans (“Swifties”) and speak out for the release of a young Jewish Swiftie taken hostage by the Hamas invaders. The unlucky girl was murdered.

Our world looks away in silence, just as it did when the grandparents of today’s besieged Jews were prey for beasts.

A diary from the Nazi era that addresses these matters and assigns accountability for the Jew hatred that plagued his country was written by Friedrich Kellner, a German justice inspector and Social Democrat who had campaigned during the Weimar Republic against Hitler and his Nazi Party.

When Hitler came to power, Kellner began his diary (while under Gestapo surveillance) to record Nazi crimes. He considered it a “weapon of truth” for future generations to use against their own Nazis.

As for the world looking away in silence, Kellner criticized his own Evangelical Lutheran Church for not caring about the vast amount of casualties during World War I. He added: “The Church in Germany during this war says nothing about the terrible atrocities committed against the Jews.”

About Jews being prey for beasts: “The Nazis’ entire action against the Jews—who are no worse than people in general—is because rulers need a scapegoat

to divert attention away from their own crimes. It is the same as throwing down a piece of meat to distract the beasts.”

Kellner’s first diary entry about Arabs was to show Hitler’s policy of using radio broadcasts to incite Arab resentment against Jews. “The lack of any goodwill on our side is clear to see in Palestine,” Kellner wrote. “At the same time in the 1930s that we were throwing Jews out of Germany, we roused up the Arabs through radio and press to resist Jewish settlement there.”

Hitler paid the grand mufti of Jerusalem, Amin al-Husseini, to broadcast anti-Semitic propaganda over Radio Berlin. In March 1944, al-Husseini urged Arabs to commit genocide: “Rise as one man and fight for your sacred rights. Kill the Jews wherever you find them. This pleases God, history, and religion. This saves your honor. God is with you.”

The grand mufti was especially useful in raising volunteers to form the Arab Legion in Hitler’s army. “Arabs in German uniforms?” wrote Kellner. “Must we now create that? And the hypocritical Nazis are being so solicitous about their Islamic customs and religion! In an emergency, the devil eats flies.”

After the war, when the Soviet Union took over the role of supporting Palestinian terrorist groups against the Jews, Friedrich Kellner called the connection between atheist Russia and jihadist Islam “an unholy alliance of totalitarian fanatics” and warned it would seriously challenge democracies in the future.

As we commemorate the victims of the Nazis, we must be honest about the role of those in the Islamic world who openly threaten Israel and Jews with a second Holocaust. The frightening difference this time is that concentration camps won’t have to be built, and railroad cars won’t be needed, because today’s enemies of the Jewish people plan to drop a nuclear bomb on Israel, where the next six million Jewish victims are already in place.