



Antisemitism: Here and Now

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The award-winning author of *The Eichmann Trial* and *Denial: Holocaust History on Trial* gives us a penetrating and provocative analysis of the hate that will not die, focusing on its current, virulent incarnations on both the political right and left: from white supremacist demonstrators in Charlottesville, Virginia, to mainstream enablers of antisemitism such as Donald Trump and Jeremy Corbyn, to a gay pride march in Chicago that expelled a group of women for carrying a Star of David banner.

Over the last decade there has been a noticeable uptick in antisemitic rhetoric and incidents by left-wing groups targeting Jewish students and Jewish organizations on American college campuses. And the reemergence of the white nationalist movement in America, complete with Nazi slogans and imagery, has been reminiscent of the horrific fascist displays of the 1930s. Throughout Europe, Jews have been attacked by terrorists, and some have been murdered.

Where is all this hatred coming from? Is there any significant difference between left-wing and right-wing antisemitism? What role has the anti-Zionist movement played? And what can be done to combat the latest manifestations of an ancient hatred? In a series of letters to an imagined college student and imagined colleague, both of whom are perplexed by this resurgence, acclaimed historian Deborah Lipstadt gives us her own superbly reasoned, brilliantly argued, and certain to be controversial responses to these troubling questions.

Antisemitism: Here and Now Details

Date : Published January 29th 2019 by Schocken Books Inc

ISBN : 9780805243376

Author : Deborah E. Lipstadt

Format : Hardcover 304 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, History, Politics, Religion, Judaism, World War II, Holocaust, Judaica

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From Reader Review Antisemitism: Here and Now for online ebook

Jean says

I became interested in this subject because of the news coverage of Charlottesville and the shootings at the Pittsburgh Synagogue. Therefore, I decided to read this book.

The book is well written and researched. Professor Lipstadt explores the subject in a series of letters to fictional composites: Abigail, a Jewish student, and Joe, a non-Jewish colleague. Lipstadt examines current day antisemitism. The author also discusses the conspiracy theorists or ideologues who cannot be reasoned out of their view points. I enjoyed the discussion about how to spell antisemitism and the meanings put on words. Lipstadt skillfully examines antisemitism. In the last few years, I am surprised at how rapidly worldwide antisemitism has spread.

I read this as an audiobook downloaded from Audible. The book is seven hours and thirty-seven minutes. Ellen Archer, Paul Boehmer and Phoebe Strole do a good job narrating the book.

BOOKLOVER10 says

Deborah Lipstadt, in "Antisemitism—Here and Now," offers her perspective at what has led to the rise of verbal and physical attacks on people of the Jewish faith. This book was written before the vicious murder of congregants at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. Dr. Lipstadt, who is a professor of Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University, lists many examples of violence perpetrated in recent years against Jews by so-called white nationalists, neo-Nazis, and terrorists. This well-researched and informative work of non-fiction consists of a series of questions posed by a fictional student and colleague of Lipstadt (these characters are composites of actual students and colleagues whom Lipstadt has known over the years) to which the author responds with measured and thought-provoking responses.

Antisemitism is a complex subject that has been in the news a great deal of late. Lipstadt touches on the events at Charlottesville; the virulent protests on university and college campuses that have gone way beyond civil disagreement; the Women's March that has been tainted by anti-Semitic rhetoric; the slaughter of Jews in such European countries as France and Belgium; and the explosion of vitriolic posts on social media that demonize Jews.

What is going on? Lipstadt suggests that extremists are emboldened by the ever-deteriorating level of public discourse. Politicians and self-appointment spokespersons on the left and the right have become increasingly assertive and voluble, believing that they have the constitutional right to express offensive views. Moreover, anyone with a computer can anonymously disseminate repugnant ideas, and they are sure to find others who share their beliefs. What can we do? It is our obligation to encourage respectful discourse, kindness, and compassion towards people of all races, religions, and social classes. Let us teach our children that peace and goodwill are preferable to conflict and discord, and perhaps members of future generations will decide, at long last, to coexist harmoniously with one another.

Chris says

This morning in the New York Times, there was a full-page ad thanking Trump for having appointed a person to “monitor and combat anti-semitism”.

Yeah, that was my reaction too.

Considering Trump’s reaction to what occurred at Charlottesville, let alone his ad that no real network agreed to run, one does wonder why.

And this wondering even occurs when one takes into account the rise of anti-semitism that has been occurring.

One also wonders what Dr. Deborah Lipstadt thinks of it.

Lipstadt’s new book focuses on anti-semitism, not only explaining exactly what it is, and how it gets tied up and sometimes conflated with criticism of Israel. The book includes a look at the boycott Israel movement as well as whether certain politicians on both sides of the pond are anti-semitism. She just doesn’t just examine trump and Corbyn but also other public figures and their comments.

The book is designed as an email between Lipstadt, a student, and another professor who is not Jewish. This allows for the answering of questions – what is the difference between anti-semitism and criticism of Israel, where do the two melds, how does one combat the racist belief that Jews control everything.

Lipstadt does seem to be in part inspired in terms of structure by Coates’ work, a debt which she does acknowledge.

Jed Sorokin-Altmann says

I really like Professor Lipstadt's other works, but I'm sorry to say that the epistolary format of Antisemitism: Here and Now did not work well for me. The content itself was interesting and Professor Lipstadt covers a lot of ground, but I wish it was in the form of a more traditional non-fiction work.

Dawn Wells says

A book that’s written in letters. It tells how small things are made to be acceptable which then makes others acceptable that cause more and more things to be acceptable. Explains why you can’t accept things as they are and why it needs to be stopped. What’s different about antisemitism today. It’s on the political right and left and Islamic.

Elyse Walters says

Audiobook read by Ellen Archer, Paul Boehmer, and Phoebe Strole

This is an OUTSTANDING Audiobook!

Given all the noticeable antisemitic occurrences in recent years: Charlottesville and the shootings at the Pittsburgh Synagogue....left wing groups targeting Jewish students and Jewish organizations on American

College campuses.....and Nazi slogans popping up around town....we can't deny that Anti-Semitism is HERE and NOW.

Author, Deborah E. Lipstadt, A professor of Jewish history at Emory University wrote a very timely book. I love the way this book is written. EASY TO FOLLOWHOLDS OUR ATTENTION.

Over the course of a year, Professor Lipstadt,
And.....

one of Lipstadt's Jewish students, Abigail, who is about to graduate and go out into the world,
And.....

Professor Wilson, 'Joe'...(a non-Jewish-law Professor from the same University), examine modern antisemitism from every angle. In conversational stylethrough emails....(Group Viewing for all three of them).... Abigail, and Professor Wilson send emails to Professor Lipstadt and ask valuable questions, and share concerns. They lean on Lipstadt's years of expertise & study - to help them understand WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON? AND WHY? They ask for tips, opinions, inquire about what they can do - exploring MANY THOUGHT-PROVOKING IMPORTANT QUESTIONS.

THIS IS NOT AN ACADEMIC book. It's intimate and personal. It's a fantastically ENGAGING READ....(definitely important to Jews and non Jews)....
SURPRISINGLY A VERY ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE spending time with THIS BOOK.

Perhaps 'enjoyable' is not the correct word...(I agree).... but what I'm trying to say is it's NOT AT ALL BORING! NOR HARD TO COMPREHEND.

This book is perfect for THE MAJORITY - THE LAYPEOPLE - regardless if politically savvy or not. AWARENESS happens naturally through the journey one takes with this conversational injury-book.

Abigail asked the professor a simple (embarrassing for her), question...

"what is the correct way to spell antisemitism?and why are there so many different spellings?- Is there any meaning behind the various ways it's spelled? The answer was fascinating to me. I had never thought about this question.

Abigail brings concerns to the professor about social conversations with non Jews on campus about antisemitism. Are Jews themselves to blame - in part - of so much hate?

We look at conspiracy theories, delusional theories, illogical theories that we can't understand(look at ways to define it), extremism, enablers, dinner party covert antisemites, clueless antisemitism, racism & antisemitism, Israel's government, Zionism, De-Judaizing the Holocaust, BDS, (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions), etc. etc.

OUTSTANDING! HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR EVERYONE.

I PROMISE(or I'll eat my hat)....that it's not only NOT BORING....but you come away with better vision - better hearing - and better informed.

5 STRONG STARS

Erin Britton says

Historian and author Deborah Lipstadt is perhaps best known for her book *Denying the Holocaust* (1993) and the libel trial that followed its publication. In the book, Lipstadt discusses and condemns the practice of Holocaust denial, using English historian David Irving as an example of a prominent Holocaust denier. She characterises Irving as “one of the most dangerous spokespersons for Holocaust denial” and claims that he twists historical evidence “until it conforms with his ideological leanings and political agenda”. Irving sued Lipstadt and her publisher, Penguin Books, for libel on the grounds that the book falsely accused him of being a Holocaust denier and of falsifying or misrepresenting evidence. After a lengthy trial, Irving’s action for libel was unsuccessful, with the judge determining that the claims made by Lipstadt were substantially true and hence justified. As an article in *The Times* noted, “History has had its day in court and scored a crushing victory”.

Of course, Irving is not the only person to deny the Holocaust nor is he the only one to express antisemitic sentiments. In fact, despite widespread recognition of the scope and devastation of the Holocaust and the historic persecution suffered by Jews, it is arguable that antisemitism is actually more prominent now than it has been in recent decades. It is for this reason that Lipstadt has written her most recent book, *Antisemitism: Here and Now*, in which she examines “what many people are doing, saying, and facing now”. She also ponders the impossibility of answering the deeply troubling question of what contemporary antisemitism might lead to in the future. She starts with the basics – “defining antisemitism, categorizing the antisemite, and figuring out how best to spell it” – before going on to analyse what is actually taking place in the modern world. Is antisemitism the same now as it has always been or are antisemites following some new conception? Does modern antisemitism originate from the right or the left of the political spectrum? Is Israel central to all the facets of antisemitism? Are people en masse able to recognise antisemitism when they see it?

Lipstadt has used an interesting and unusual approach when writing *Antisemitism*, choosing to structure the book as a series of emails between her and two fictional acquaintances from the university at which she teaches. The first acquaintance, “Abigail”, is an intelligent Jewish student who is trying to learn more about antisemitism as a phenomenon, while the second, “Joe”, is a non-Jewish lecturer in law at the university who “has a deep appreciation for the successes and travails of the Jewish people”. Lipstadt uses these two acquaintances to express the “confusion, worries, and distress about antisemitism in general” as well as the personal experiences of the phenomenon that real people have discussed with her. As such, the correspondence is intended to reflect the real-world situation of antisemitism as of summer 2018. This epistolary approach generally works well and allows Lipstadt to discuss weighty matters in a highly conversational fashion. It might not appeal to all readers, but it does help to highlight the everyday aspects and implications of antisemitism, which in turn serves to show the immediacy of the problem and the impact that it has on all spheres of life.

Although Lipstadt notes the practical impossibility of defining a belief (and the associated actions) that is inherently irrational, absurd, obscene and unsupportable, in *Antisemitism* she clearly sets out the history of the hatred of Jews, the apparent retreat of antisemites following World War Two, the lingering presence of their hate, and the resurgence of antisemitic thoughts and actions, in both the private and public spheres, in recent years. Unfortunately, there are plenty of examples available for her to consider: “the murder of a Holocaust survivor in Paris, elections in Hungary in which the winning side relied on overtly antisemitic tropes, a Polish law rewriting the history of the Holocaust, white power demonstrations in the United States, campus anti-Israel campaigns that easily morphed into expressions of antisemitism, Labour Party antisemitism in the United Kingdom, the growing resiliency of white supremacist groups” and so on.

While Lipstadt does state that certain improvements have been made – the abolition of quotas for Jewish students, more effective legal recourse when incidents of antisemitism do occur, antisemites being “called

out” on social media, etc. – it is clear from Antisemitism that the problem is still massive and likely growing, especially in terms of so-called “subconscious antisemitism” and antisemitic statements made both otherwise liberal and progressive people. Yet, if society is ever to be truly liberal and progressive, antisemitism must be treated “with the same seriousness as racism, sexism, homophobia, and Islamophobia” and it is for that reason that Antisemitism is such an important and timely book.

Shira Reiss says

I listened to this as an audiobook downloaded from the library. The book is organized as a series of letters between the author and one of her graduating students and a non-Jewish colleague from the law school which I felt made it very reader friendly especially when listening to it. She covers an array of topics around antisemitism in a very organized manner giving examples of how to react to numerous situations that are happening today; be it antisemitism from the right or left.

I have found in my life that I have had the same questions that she “receives” in these “letters” and so listening to her answers was not only enlightening, but it prepared me as to how to respond to different situations now. For example, she addresses how the term of a “self-hating Jew” or “anti-Semitic Jew” is not helpful and can actually be detrimental when used with people who are involved with J-Street or involved with BDS. It also addressed how one can be opposed to Israeli policies and not be anti-Semitic, but there is a line one can cross. It gives one insight into the current conversations happening within the Jewish community that you might not otherwise have access to. Antisemitism operates differently than other forms of discrimination, and it's important to understand how and why to better equip yourself to identify antisemitism. The last chapter OY to Joy is wonderful with advice on parenting our children in the beauty of Judaism and not focusing on being Jewish because of antisemitism. Wonderful book.

Janet Lavine says

Deborah Lipstadt’s newest book on antisemitism is written as an exchange of letters between Lipstadt and a bright Emory student and a senior professor friend on how antisemitism is expressed in today’s society. A lot of what she writes is similar to implicit racial bias that we are all working to overcome. In the realm of antisemitism, it’s expressed as “some of my closest friends are Jewish” and then without hesitation we assert the age old claim that Jews control the media and banks. And what about the political ad during the 2016 campaign that portrayed Clinton as a sheriff conveniently wearing a 6-pointed sheriff’s badge? C’mon, Did someone not know it would be seen as a Jewish star? . I found most interesting lipstadt’s discussions that both the progressive far left and the conservative far right are equal spewers of antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment. We unfortunately live in toxic times when it seems that extreme views like Israel = apartheid, and all Jews = Israel, infers that Jews = apartheid and have to be marginalized. I am not naive and I don’t see an antisemitism around every corner, but when I am often hesitant to self identify as a Jew in public and while traveling and when there are police cars permanently sitting in the parking lot of my synagogue, I know there is something very very wrong. This is not the best written book, and Lipstadt often goes off on her own tangent about groups that avow that they are for justice but endorse the Nation of Islam, etc. Or as we saw in last weeks, new members of Congress who link the influence of “Benjamin babies” to Jewish influence in foreign policy. , So like implicit racial bias, implicit LGBTQ bias, like Islamophobia, we need to talk about

implicit antisemitism and claim it as a real force in our society.

Skip says

There is little doubt that anti-semitism is on the rise, fueled by the explosion of social media and the rising tide of hatred in the U.S. and overseas. This book dives into current examples of anti-semitism and white nationalist violent demonstrations happening in the U.S. and in Europe today as well as in the past, including a long look at Holocaust deniers. I did not care for the book's format, where Lipstadt uses a series of letters to guide her wide-ranging but seemingly unfocused discussion. Anger against Israel's treatment of Palestinians, unjustified fears of Jewish control of governments and the media, even stereotypes or arguments that Jews are better off than other minorities, indifference to aggression against political leaders like President Trump, the Labour Party in the U.K. and in France, and the failure of Warsaw bloc to acknowledge their complicity in the deportation of Jews are some of the many reasons for this deplorable situation.

Bruce Katz says

A profoundly disturbing and timely book. I'm going to need time myself to think about it. The book is arranged in the form of email exchanges between Lipstadt, one of her graduating students, and a non-Jewish colleague from the law school. Each chapter critically examines a particular aspect of antisemitism, putting each in historical and sociopolitical perspective, evaluating the origins and significance of each, and discussing possible responses. Far more personal than any of her other work that I've read, and profoundly honest.

Scribe Publications says

To say anything worthwhile about antisemitism you need calm, lucidity, intelligence, and a faultless moral compass, all powered by a proper feeling for racial justice. Deborah Lipstadt has the entire skillset. That's why her new book is so welcome, so necessary, and so clear.

David Hare

Antisemitism comes in different shades, all of them ugly — not least when it comes from those who regard themselves as champions of liberation. To fight this abomination in all its shades, Deborah Lipstadt has given us a sage, sober, and lucid manual for the perplexed and willfully blind. An outstandingly useful book.

Todd Gitlin, Author of *The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage*

A must read at the time of a mounting wave of aggressive nationalism and xenophobia in the world today.

Professor Jan Gross, Author of *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*

A leading scholar of Judaism explores just about every manifestation of contemporary antisemitism, with plenty of history included for context ... A didactic tour de force approachably presented.

Kirkus

The most powerful and important element of Antisemitism is Lipstadt's clarity on the impact of words. Violence doesn't just appear out of the blue – it is enabled and encouraged by language ... Her book is essential reading for anyone perplexed about antisemitism and how we got to this point.

Ruth Smeeth, *Mail on Sunday*

[Lipstadt] has written a book that combines erudition, clarity, accessibility, and passion at a moment when they could not be needed more.

The New York Times Book Review

The book deals with Trump, the alt-right, social media and Holocaust denial, European populism, Islamism, leftist anti-Zionism and Jeremy Corbyn. So it covers, and covers well, the big concerns of modern Jewry. ... a valuable book.

The Times

A timely book about contemporary anti-semitism — timely because all the signs are that we are entering an era when this ancient prejudice is having new life breathed into it.

Hugh Linehan, *The Irish Times*

This is not an academic history of antisemitism. It's something more valuable—an act of zooming in the moral lens on what is happening in the world today ... Read Lipstadt's new book. And then give it to your children and grandchildren. It is that good—and it is that relevant.

Jeffrey Salkin, *Religion News Service*

*Lipstadt's insight and perspective contextualise current events ... crafting an informative read for those interested in social justice and political and Jewish history. **STARRED REVIEW***

Library Journal

Keeping her tone measured and carefully noninflammatory, Lipstadt presents an intelligent, evenhanded explanation of why Jews come under attack today. Informed, historically sound, and deeply rational, her book offers both convincing reasons for the recent rise of antisemitism and apt advice to 'call out and combat' it.

Publishers Weekly

The present book is not a history but a reckoning with antisemitism in its current guises and contortions.

Geoffrey Brahm Leven, *Canberra Times*

Naomi says

There are certain books that one just has to read right away. I put down all my others and read this in two sittings. We have seen a recent normalization of open expressions of hatred and this book is an answer to the uncertainty we all have.

Organized as a series of letters, the book dives into current examples of antisemitism and white nationalist violent demonstrations happening in the U.S. and Europe. Lipstadt addresses current incidents and historical events through a series of letters, which I thought made it reader-friendly with short, specific chapters. She also adds her personal viewpoints, which I liked.

Lipstadt dives into Trump, anti-Zionism, social media, Holocaust denial, BDS, racism, separatism, violence, hatred of Muslims, opposition to immigrants, and antisemitism that is fundamental to these movements. normalizing open expressions of hatred, the normalization or mainstreaming of white supremacy and its panoply of attendant prejudices.

“It seemed that every day a new development—the murder of a Holocaust survivor in Paris, elections in Hungary in which the winning side relied on overtly antisemitic tropes, a Polish law rewriting the history of the Holocaust, white power demonstrations in the United States, campus anti-Israel campaigns that easily morphed into expressions of antisemitism, Labour Party antisemitism in the United Kingdom, the growing resiliency of white supremacist groups, and so much more—demanded analysis and inclusion in this work.”

Jason says

After reading the review for this book in the NY Times I thought it was important for me to give this one a read.

I am honestly not sure how I feel about this book, which is why I liked it as much as I did. I certainly learned a lot about the growing sense of antisemitism that exists on both the conservative (overt Jew hating) and liberal (subtle Israel hating) side of the political spectrum.

This book also does a good job of connecting the dots of anti-Zionism with antisemitism. I'm not sure what to extract out of this connection, but I'm glad that I'm more aware of it.

In a world now where teenagers are less aware of swastikas and Nazi imagery, a President who in the same breath can say that Democrats are anti-Israel and antisemitic but also say that there were "Good people on both sides," it's important for Jews to understand what is going on in our world. A lot of Europeans have problems with Jews and a lot of Americans have problems with Jews, which is similar to when problems were starting in the 20s and 30s.

What I like about this book is that it's ultimate message is not one of alarmism, but more of about a need for outspokenness and activism.

While I wouldn't go as far as to say, if you are Jewish, you MUST read this book. I will say that it's definitely an education.

Caren says

"No healthy society harbors extensive antisemitism - or any other form of hatred." This is a central tenet of Lipstadt's straight-shooting exploration of contemporary antisemitism, in which she examines the presence and rise of hatred of Jews in countries, in universities, in governments, among "friends", overt and subtle, acknowledged and sometimes excused.

The content was extensively researched and engaging in its arguments; however, the structure chosen - that of a series of letters between her and a fictional academic colleague (a non-Jew) and a fictional former Jewish student of hers - did not appeal to me. I found its Socratic method annoying, at times, despite its

methodology being a teaching tool of the Emory University professor. I believe that its intent, through her direct replies to questions posed, was to make Lipstadt's research and conclusions more accessible to a broader range of readers than those who have studied Jewish History or Holocaust Studies, her fields of expertise. But, for me, it seemed to "dumb down" the impact of her delivery.

In characterising the types of antisemites as either "Extremists" or those "Beyond the Extremists", "Enablers", "Dinner Party" antisemites, or "Clueless", Lipstadt presents a cast of both easily recognised and often disguised or "hidden" bigots and clearly provides a litany of examples of their reprehensible behaviour for the reader to access and evaluate. It is regarding the more subtle forms of antisemitism that the author is most critical and warns the reader most adamantly to be on guard as the subtlety of such attacks may be the more dangerous.

After reading Lipstadt's explanation of antisemitism as delusional and irrational, I will now take care to spell antisemitism without a capital letter or hyphen, as I had been taught in school years ago. Lipstadt's etymological discussion of the word is intriguing.

Most engaging were the instances where anti-Zionism and antisemitism have been linked, where anti-Israel views are antisemitic and when criticism of Israel is not. Also, the discussions of contradictory statements made and actions taken by governments (even including those of Israel) were intriguing, so disappointing in light of post-Holocaust history and/or denial.

Lipstadt ends with a hope for Jews now and in the future: "...avoid letting this 'longest hared' become the linchpin [sic] of your identity." She warns Jews of seeing themselves in light of their persecution, of being eternal victims. This significant discussion could have been extended in her advice to "balance the 'oy' with the 'joy'" and provided a breath of positivity after an erudite discussion of the insidious nature of hatred against Jews.
