

## Against Our Better Judgment

Alison Weir

Testimony to the amazing power of propaganda and control of the press. Who is conning us today? The public is finally, after seventy years, wearying of the Zionist message. Supporters of Israel are encountering an uphill fight.

Weir's succinct, powerful account of the deceit, propaganda and political pressure surrounding the establishment of the Jewish state is finally falling on a receptive audience. The American public is awakening to the fact that it has been had. That our youth have been dying in the Middle East not to serve American interests but those of a foreign power. Weir's gift is to pull together what so many other books such as *Image and Reality of the Israel-Palestine Conflict*, New and Revised Edition and those by Noam Chomsky, mostly by Jewish authors, into a single, powerful, compact statement.

As a fourth grader in the 1950s I proudly wrote my first term paper on the subject of Israel. A heroic tale of kibbutzniks fighting against all odds to establish a pioneer nation in the empty deserts of the Middle East. In college I listened with interest to the stories told by Leon Uris, Saul Bellow and the legions of star authors, songwriters, dramatists and newsmen, who all seemed to be Jewish. What a coincidence! These gifted scribes are all telling somewhat the same story, about this brave new nation of Jews.

They were a hard crowd to please. When I attempted to ask some penetrating questions about inconsistencies in the stories, I was called variously a social Darwinist, a reactionary, and an anti-Semite. I don't like being called names. It caused the worst of all possible reactions. I started to think for myself, and resent those who called me names. Fortunately, I had no great position in society to lose, so it would not have been worth their while to attempt to undo me. They had bigger fish to fry. Which they did. But I came to the conclusion that I had been conned, and actually came to resent it.

We note that even today Israel's supporters, the neocons and whoever, never admit they are/were wrong and never give up. They constantly fill the dialog with controversy, disinformation and distractors. Now that the Israel story is being undone, I ask, who else? What other pack of lies?

There are two competing, contradictory packs of lies today. One is foisted on us by the progressive establishment in the United States: problems in the schools can be fixed with money; white bigotry is the source of the problems; the Federal Reserve is in control of the situation and printing money will work us out of this temporary impasse; immigration is good for us.

The other story, favored by libertarians of the Rand Paul/Pat Buchanan/Paul Craig Roberts persuasion, is that Russia somehow has the answer. Vladimir Putin is a true Christian who is being unjustly put-upon by a vindictive and corrupt West enamored of sexual deviancy, debt and other moral degeneracy.

Both stories - all stories, for there are certainly more - are supported by massive deceit and propaganda. The take-home point from Weir's account, for me, is that one should be very, very skeptical. Go with Andre Gide, quote, "Seek those who seek the truth. Avoid those who have found it."