

How Campuses Turned Against the Jews

SCHOLARS CIRCLE



About Professor Pessin

Andrew Pessin is Professor of Philosophy and Jewish Studies at Connecticut College and Campus Bureau Editor of the *Algemeiner*. His many books include *Anti-Zionism on Campus*, *Poisoning the Wells: Antisemitism in Contemporary America*, and *The Jewish God Question*, as well as several novels. His most recent novel is *Nevergreen*, a satirical account of campus cancel culture, its ideological excesses, and its deleterious impact on the Jews. Long ago he enjoyed some moments of fame portraying “The Genius” on the David Letterman Show.

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UPCOMING LECTURES BY PROFESSOR PESSIN

- Setting the Record Straight: Dispelling Myths Surrounding Israel
- Decolonization and Murder, and the Rejection of ‘Settler-Colonialism’
- Paradox of Prejudice: When Anti-Racists Display Racism



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Common Q&A's

How did North American campuses react to the Oct 7 massacre perpetrated by the internationally proscribed terrorist group Hamas?

Not by condemning the terrorist violence but by endorsing, celebrating, and calling for more violence against Jews, and doing so for months.

What role did the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement play in generating the campus response?

By soaking many campuses for decades in lies about Israel (settler colonialism, genocide, ethnic cleansing, apartheid, “Jewish supremacy”), it successfully dehumanized and delegitimized Israeli Jews so that even Israeli Jewish civilians, even children, are legitimate targets of violence.

What role did the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) movement play in generating the campus response?

By soaking many campuses for years in the ideology of “oppressor v. oppressed,” in turn identifying Jews as the most oppressive group that exploits its privilege to oppress all marginalized groups down, the movement dehumanized and delegitimized all Jews, even non-Israeli Jews, so that all Jews are legitimate targets of persecution and harassment.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Following the deadliest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, numerous North American campuses responded by endorsing, celebrating, and advocating for more violence against Jews, leading to a semester marked by hate rallies, campus takeovers, vandalism, harassment, and physical violence, resulting in a surge of lawsuits and federal investigations against many schools.
- ✓ Two predominant movements on campuses in 21st century America— the BDS movement spreading misinformation about Israel, and the DEI ideology portraying Jews as white supremacists—collectively foster an environment that dehumanizes Jews and justifies violence against them.
- ✓ The Jewish community is at a branching point and must decide how to move forward with respect to campuses.

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