

PALESTINE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

Presents

The Struggle for a Free Palestine:

**SPEAKING OUT AGAINST ISRAELI APARTHEID
AND OCCUPATION**

A public forum and discussion on Israel, Zionism, apartheid
and the Palestinian struggle for justice and freedom

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Speakers: Kim Bullimore & Avigail Abarbanel



Growing Up Blind: How Jewish-Israeli Psychology Creates an Apartheid State

Avigail Abarbanel



Many are confused about what Israel is doing to the
Palestinians:

Shouldn't Jews know better?

Not if you understand the psychology of trauma that
underlies Zionism and the mindset in Israel today



Zionist, Jewish-Israeli mentality is similar to that of a cult

The psychology of cults:

- Belief in a doomsday scenario.
- ‘Us and Them’ mentality.
- Others—outside the cult—cannot be trusted. ‘We’ are good. ‘They’ are bad.
- Siege mentality—inside the group is safe; outside the group is dangerous.
- Fear-based.
- Belief in ‘specialness’: Cult members believe they have a special relationship with god. They often believe they are better, more righteous, more holy, more noble, more *something* than others...
- Strong focus on survival—The very purpose of each member is to work for the survival of the cult.



Zionist, Jewish-Israeli mentality is similar to that of a cult

The psychology of cults (continued):

- Cults indoctrinate heavily. Dissent is allowed only up to a point.
- Belief system is rigid. Everything is interpreted from within.
- Loyalty is everything. Personal values or ideas that do not agree with the cult have to be abandoned.
- The cult creates the *very identity* of its members, not just the way they think or what they believe.
- Truth is defined by the needs of the cult. Cults teach a version of reality that agrees with their belief system and supports their continued existence.
- Questioning the cult's beliefs, or criticising it, comes at a risk of being labelled a traitor and being seen as an enemy of the cult.
- Leaving is betrayal.



Zionist, Jewish-Israeli mentality is similar to that of a cult

- Cult mentality existed in mainstream Jewish culture long before Zionism.
- Zionism is a secular nationalist movement based on the same fundamental psychology as Jewish religion or culture.
- Cultism is not unique to Judaism.
- Cult psychology is one of the possible responses to trauma and persecution. It's also one of the symptoms of some personality disorders.



Israel's charter comes directly out of its psychology

- *Israel's charter:*

Since Jews are not safe with non-Jews, and since Jews must preserve themselves at all costs, Israel must be a safe haven for *all Jews everywhere always*, so that they will have somewhere to run to, when the next holocaust happens.

- Israel has been 100% consistent in adhering to its charter. It never wavered.



Apartheid mentality is consistent with an isolationist, cult psychology.

- If non-cult members are physically present with cult members, they have to be segregated to protect the purity and integrity of the cult. Mixing with others can dilute and destroy the cult.
- Belonging to the Zionist, Jewish-Israeli cult state is based on ethnicity. Assimilation for non-Jews isn't an option.
- Israel is an 'ethnocracy'—there is no such thing as Israeli nationality. My birth certificate says that my nationality is *Jewish* not Israeli! The birth certificate of a Palestinian citizen of Israel defines his or her nationality as *Arab*.



Apartheid mentality is dangerous

- Cult members are more important than non-members.
- Non-members are a potential threat to the survival of the cult.
- Survival is everything, and anything is justified in the name of survival.
- ‘Destructive entitlement’—The belief that past injustice legitimises hurting others.
- Dehumanisation helps in maintaining apartheid and carrying out actions against other groups.
- Benny Morris: **“Preserving my people is more important than universal moral concepts.”**



The notes from tonight's talk and a copy of my presentation slides are available under 'What's New' on my website at:

www.avigailabarbanel.me.uk