

The Jewish Idea and Its Enemies

Personalities, Issues, Events

Edward Alexander



Transaction Books
New Brunswick (USA) and Oxford (UK)

Contents

Introduction	1
I. Personalities	5
1. John Stuart Mill: A Post-Holocaust Retrospect	7
2. Lionel Trilling	31
3. Isaac Bashevis Singer and Jewish Utopianism	55
4. Anatoly Shcharansky	67
5. The Last Refuge of a Scoundrel: Gore Vidal's Anti-Jewish Patriotism	77
II. Issues	97
6. Stealing the Holocaust	99
7. The Attack on Holocaust Studies	111
8. The Journalists' War Against Israel	121
9. Strangers in the Land of Israel	143
Halachah and Jewish History	145
Judaism vs. Ethnicity	148
10. Liberalism and Zionism	153
11. Jewish Anti-Semitism, Enlightenment Evenhandedness, and the Arab-Israeli Conflict	165
III. Events	175
12. The Quandaries of Terrorism: Three Instances	177
The Jewish Terrorist Underground	177
Terrorists, Journalists, and National Security	180
Exchanging Terrorists for Soldiers	185
13. "We Will Drive this Country Crazy": Reflections on Meir Kahane and the Elections of 1984	191
14. Operation Moses	199

15. Denis Goldberg, Jerry Falwell, and the Wise Men of Chelm	211
16. NBC's War in Lebanon: The Distorting Mirror	217
Introduction	217
The Subject of Censorship	219
The Question of Civilian Casualties: "No Military Targets Here"	226
Deliberate Falsifications	232
The Terminology of Bias	238
The Missing Background of the War: The PLO in Lebanon	242
Selective and Tendentious Interviewing	249
Conclusion	253
Index	255