

The rise of anti-Semitism

I was born in 1942. I am an American of Jewish descent. When I was growing up, my father would tell me about how difficult it was for him to find work because he was Jewish. I never faced what he endured. I grew up on Long Island where I experienced no anti-Semitism whatsoever. I went to Marietta College in southern Ohio and that was my first experience being singled out because I was Jewish. Three out of the five fraternities on campus at that time would not permit Jewish members.

Later, I joined the United States Air Force and became a navigator. My first assignment as a rated officer was to join the 16th Special Operations Squadron as a fire control officer (FCO) aboard the AC-130A gunship. I flew 177 combat rides, mostly with my crew, but on occasion with others. To my knowledge, I was the only Jewish member of the squadron. My regular crew was comprised of seven officers and seven enlisted men. The other officers on the crew were all born-again Christians. I felt at home with them and all the members of my squadron. I never experienced a hint of anti-Semitism. My crewmembers called me the "Rabbi of the Booth," as I wore a gold Star of David on my dog tags. As their FCO, I directed all offensive operations without any complaints. I was, in every aspect, a full member of that crew. When I returned from combat duties in Southeast Asia, I found that I suffered discrimination from the fact that I was a combat veteran of an unpopular war, not because I was Jewish.

At the turn-of-the-century, some 23 years ago, I started noticing that people who have a conservative bent were not allowed to be heard on college campuses. I also noticed, in conjunction with limiting speech on campuses, a rise in anti-Semitism throughout the higher educational communities. Many of my liberal Jewish friends who prayed in the same synagogue with me argued strenuously that discrimination against conservative voices was not occurring. A perfect example: approximately five years ago Ms. Condoleezza Rice was not permitted to speak at Berkeley. She was considered too radical. Ms. Rice is moderately conservative and certainly not a radical. I approached one of my liberal Jewish friends (a college professor with three advanced degrees) and asked him if that silencing Ms. Rice was a concern to him. He shook it off and his answer was, "That happens at both ends of the Spectrum." That's pure nonsense. He could not or would not face the truth.

In the past five years, the rise of anti-Semitism has been steady and more virulent. If you told me in the year 2000 that in 20 years a Jewish student attending a college or university in the city of New York would have to worry about wearing a yarmulke or a Jewish star because of anti-Semitism, I would've called you crazy. Couldn't happen... But it did!

The first point I wish to address is why the 60-year decline in anti-Semitism occurred and why it sprung back to pre-World War II levels. My answer is Gen. Dwight David Eisenhower, the overall commander of all Allied forces in Europe. After the war was over, Gen. Eisenhower ordered all

uniformed personnel into the death camps. They saw the Holocaust up close and personal. It's not just what they saw, but what they smelled and heard. They left those camps with an understanding of what virulent anti-Semitic rhetoric brings forth and it sickened them. I remember reading one soldier's response when he said, "Now I know what I was fighting for." Those veterans returned home and would not become involved with anti-Semitic rhetoric or behavior. But now, most of them have passed on. There are very few Holocaust survivors or the veterans who liberated them still left alive. Their experiences went to the grave with them.

The next issue is how our education system became inundated with teachers and professors who hate capitalism and the American system of justice. The leftist demand is for equality of results while conservatives strive for equality of opportunity. This is the only country in the world whose basic tenants is based on an individual's rights emanating from the one God. Seven years ago, I had an argument with a "well-educated" Jewish liberal and made the point that our rights come from God not from the state. She argued with me saying that was not true. I told her that concept was imbued in the Declaration of Independence. She looked up the declaration on her computer and found this:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

She did not know her own basic history. Four years ago, a survey of Jewish students attending colleges in the Philadelphia area found that a large majority could not answer basic questions about the Holocaust. I can go on with other examples, but the point is why are our students not learning true history.

I think the answer goes back to the Vietnam war. We lost more than 58,000 men in a war that should never been fought. However, once it was started, it should have ended with a complete victory. It didn't. It left a generation of embittered young people. So, how did that affect the education system?

During that war, if you were a young man who attended college, you received a 2-S deferment. If you were just a high school graduate, you were drafted into a war in a steamy, unhealthy and dangerous environment. Once a young man graduated college, he could get a job teaching which continued his 2-S deferment. As a result, many draft-dodgers became teachers. But teachers were not well paid. One of the ways to improve their pay scale was to get a graduate degree. By acquiring Masters' degrees and PhD's in education, these men worked their way into the educational hierarchy. By the 1970s or 80s, the education system was rife with these gentlemen who preferred not to fight for their country. They devalued patriotism and a belief in the American system. When they were set to retire, they hired on people who shared their values. Gradually over the years, the humanistic values which dominated our education for our first 200 years gave way to what is now known as "Woke" values.

Over the past 20 or 30 years, there was a natural mating of the educational hierarchy with the progressive left as they shared a contempt for the way our system of self-governance was constructed and also, they wanted to create a society of equals by socializing the country. Slowly, but assuredly, the Woke left and their allies in the educational hierarchy instituted a biased look at history with attacks on basic Judeo-Christian values. This is a necessary step if you wish to socialize the country because you must destroy the family unit and the values which emanate from that societal construction in order to

establish a socialist state. This is true because if one believes that your rights come from the Almighty, then rationally, the government you create must limit the power of the state. If you want to institute socialism where the state becomes the all-powerful entity, then you must make ill relevant the concept of a one true God. Your rights then would come from the state.

Over the past three years, our country has dealt with the Covid infection. One of the few good things to come out of this pandemic was the fact that students stayed home and parents got to see what the educational system was teaching their children. That led to a political uprising which I believe is still going on and, in fact, growing. It explains why Virginia now has a Republican governor. It was that issue and that issue alone that made that result possible.

It is also instructive in combating anti-Semitism. This is a long-term process. There are no quick fixes. The first and most important step to take is to institute a "fully-funded" voucher system where the educational money provided by the state follows the student. The parent(s) get(s) to decide which school their children attend. The state provides them a voucher equivalent to what they spend on each student and the parent gets to decide which school gets the voucher. If you are a Catholic family and wish to send your child to a parochial school, you turn in the voucher which will pay his or her tuition. If you're Jewish, you can use a yeshiva to educate a child. If you're a born-again Christian, you can use a school that reflects your values. The important thing is that you, the parent, get to choose. As of this writing, there are nine states now who have at least partially funded vouchers. I believe that number will rise dramatically and that will help, in the long-term, to reduce anti-Semitism by increasing the quality of the education that our children receive.

In the short run, elite educational institutions, such as Ivy League schools and their ilk must be held accountable for what is being taught. I speak as a parent of a son who graduated from Brown University and received his Masters' degree from Harvard University. Stop sending them money. Pull your children from these schools who teach Wokism of any kind. If you are an employer, do not hire graduates from these institutions. Instead, hire graduates from schools that teach the basic core curriculum to include courses in history, Western civilization and great literature.

Finally, anti-Semitism is not a Jewish problem. It's the rest of society that has to deal with it as a whole. I want to be accepted for the person I am, not because I'm Jewish or non-Jewish. That's up to the rest of you. We are less than 3% of the population of the United States. It's what the other 97% think and do which will determine whether or not we will ever end the scourge of anti-Semitism.

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