

BDS MTHS AND FACTS

In contrast to a peace based on mutual recognition and compromise, the one-sided wrongs of the BDS campaign are legion. BDS singles out only Israel for boycott, ignoring far worse human rights abuses and bitter ethnic-religious conflicts. If anything, Israeli actions are far less brutal than the behavior of China in Tibet, the United States during Vietnam, Indonesia in Aceh and formerly East Timor, and Russia in Chechnya. This is to say nothing of the persecution of minority racial or religious groups within Zimbabwe, Sudan, Iran, Rwanda and elsewhere. BDS also collectively punishes all Israelis for the actions of their state; it demonizes Jews who oppose it; it educates followers that the Jewish state is at the center of all that is wrong in the world; it puts a campaign against the Jewish state at the top of the agenda of progressive activists; it pushes many Jews out of progressive movements and strengthens the hand of hardliners in Israel allowing them to perpetuate a 'bunker mentality' among sections of the population. In both Western and Arab worlds, BDS recycles images of Jews as bloodthirsty oppressors exercising disproportionate influence; and popularizes the specious idea that people who raise the issue of anti-Semitism are doing so in bad faith in order to silence any criticism of the Israeli State.

Myth: The BDS is a non-violent political strategy that rejects the suicide bombings and other forms of terror previously utilized by Palestinians against Israeli civilians.

Fact: The BDS does not involve a principled rejection of terrorism. Rather, it promotes boycott as a more effective means of waging political war against Israel.

Myth: The BDS is designed to protect the human rights of Palestinians. It is not intended to harm the rights of Israelis.

Fact: If successful, the BDS would almost certainly produce the ethnic cleansing of most Israeli Jews from their homeland.

Myth: Opponents of BDS are right-wing Zionists who oppose Palestinian national rights.

Fact: Many of the leading critics of BDS are two-staters who support the creation of a Palestinian State alongside Israel.

Myth: BDS supporters are moderates who merely wish to promote the same human rights for Palestinians that exist for Israelis.

Fact: Most of the leading BDS advocates are long-time extremists who support the destruction of Israel and its replacement by an Arab majority state of Greater Palestine.

Myth: The BDS movement eschews all forms of racism including anti-Semitism.

Fact: The BDS movement is based on the ethnic stereotyping of all Israelis and Jewish supporters of Israel as evil, and has produced numerous manifestations of anti-Semitism.

Myth: Jewish anti-Zionists who support BDS are a growing force in Jewish life internationally.

Fact: Jewish anti-Zionists are a tiny group in Jewish communities, and would constitute well below one per cent of the Jewish population. They are even a small minority amongst left-wing Jews. From

From Philip Mendes & Nick Dyrenfurth, *Boycotting Israel is Wrong*. Sydney: University of New South Wales Press, 2015.