

RAISING RACISM IN ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES: A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER –DRAFT FOR COMMENTS BY EDY KAUFM

Racism propagated by the ruling elite in Israel and the United States has been a growing concern particularly throughout the last weeks. Again, the use again of ethnocentrism as a unifying factor seems not only to be policy but the true mindset with leaders such as Netanyahu and Trump. No wonder that they are friends, not only for convenience or just demagogic discourse. The comparative analysis of behavior and rhetoric discourse of both has been studied lately by Prof. Shaul Kimhi a social psychologist of Tel Hai College in Northern Israel, as well as journalists as Roger Cohen in the Washington Post; namely - in both countries where I was proud to be given citizenship.

The election campaign in Israel - the second in six months- is scheduled 47 days from this post, , after failing to align a majority government 61 in the Israeli Parliament, the 120-member Knesset. And the 2020 general elections scheduled for 2020 do not present, so far, an alternative Republican candidate I am not a blogger, but in this case I am requesting to friends both critical comments and perhaps more supportive argumentation that ethnocentrism is a strong and key commonality among the current political leaders in what has been called liberal democracies; regardless of personality differences. Before I try to rest my case by publishing this concern in the printed media I with other friends in Israel to get energized rather than depressed, through this already started electoral campaign. There could be nothing more urgent for me than the first time to test the effectiveness of “crowdsourcing, and appealing to my Facebook friends for help

Comparing does not mean that Trump and Netanyahu are the same, comparative analysis can be done by antipodes, contrasting as well; but in this case both show more similar traits than differences. The estimated massive support of both Trump and Netanyahu of around a solid 30% of the vote is not showing still a majority enthusiastic, but the electoral system gerrymandering in the United States, and the multi party coalition with other Jewish religious fundamentalist parties in particular needs to be challenged. Perhaps it is mission impossible to create doubt among the millions of supporters, but at least we could help energize the many more apathetical “silent majority” facing this type of racism.

From my adolescence in Argentina, I also found dangerous the antidemocratic discourse of some political leaders, perhaps from my profound repugnance of popular fascist tendencies that got massive support in Europe and Latin America at times of imaginary or real security or economic crisis. They fomented fear from a “Other” neighboring states and even from fellow citizens within. Often, such demagogues pointed to us Jews as part of an international conspiracy, as dominating from the Kremlin and Wall Street. These enemies of democracy were able to attract a large mass of people feel attracted. Paradoxically, to see such trends within my life long commuting, between Israel and the United States is making it doubly scaring.

Since I was a sociology student at Hebrew University, before I became a university teacher –now celebrating 50 years in the classrooms- a Jubilee [the word comes from Hebrew “Yovel and then Arabic Yubil] I studied Adorno’s et al F scale that targets an authoritarian, anti-democratic personality profile as a transmitter or receiver. The items were written in accordance to fascist propaganda materials’ analysis, protocol data and interviews with ethnocentric participants and covered the following traits, briefly:

- *Conventionalism*: Adherence to conventional values.
- *Authoritarian Submission*: Towards [in-group](#) authority figures.
- *Authoritarian Aggression*: Against people who violate conventional values.
- *Anti-Introversion*: Opposition to subjectivity and imagination.
- *Superstition and Stereotypy*: Belief in individual fate; thinking in rigid categories.
- *Power and Toughness*: Concerned with submission and domination; assertion of strength.

- *Destructiveness and Cynicism*: hostility against human nature.
- *Projectivity*: Perception of the world as dangerous; tendency to project unconscious impulses.
- *Sex*: Overly concerned with modern sexual practices.

PAROXICALLY, IN BOTH THE USA AND ISRAEL, TRUMP AND NETANYAHU ARE MANIPUALTING FEAR BECAUSE OF THE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY SYSTEM WOULD PREVENT THEIR ONE IDENTITHY GROUP TO RULE. THE FIRST- EVEN WTH ATTEMPTS TO STOP IMMIGRATION FROM LATIN AMERICA-, ACCORDING TO THE US BUREAU OF STATISTIC ESTIMATES, THE WHITE NON-HISPANIC PEOPLE TO A 48.5% MINORITY AND IN ISRAEL ANNEXING THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES OF EAST JERUSALEM AND THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES IN THE FUTURE [THE GREAT ISRAEL MOVEMENT] IN 2017 ACCORDING [demographic statistics of the CIA World Factbook. At the same time, the **Israel** Central Bureau of Statistics estimated that the collective **Palestinian Arab population** in the region of **Palestine**, including **Israel**, the **West Bank**, and the **Gaza Strip**, amounted to 5.79 million people in 2017. With just over 6.5 million Jews, Israel is the only Jewish state defined as such by a majority. and Jewish state AND THE PALESTINIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS FORECAST ALREADY FOR 2020 THAT THE JEWISH POPULATION WILL BECOME A MINORITY. AS THE LATE RACIST RABBI MEIR KAHANE SAID:” BY BULLETS OR BABIES, the Arabs want to dominate us”. Unless..... either by ethnic cleansing or an Apartheid minority rule as earlier in South Africa. already now three generations of Palestinians living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem do not have the right to vote or be elected [art 21 from the UDHR]. Hence, this type of regime will not resemble a democracy, by any means. So, living with fear or having faith in God’s help provides enough votes to become re-elected, now in Israel, Netanyahu is serving longer than any previous Prime Minister, even more than the founder of the Jewish State, David Ben Gurion.

I came at the age of eighteen because I felt attracted to the idea of the Jewish experiment to become a nation-state as a dignified member of the family of nations. There could be nothing more demining than to give up democracy and human rights for the sake of nationhood. I would continue to resist peacefully to with all my might to live in an autocracy, when one people is dominating another people. “One men [person] one vote” is still the rule in Israel today, and preventing the same right for the Palestinian nation [already acquired in Gaza] will be an anti-historic folly.

Shabbat [Saturday the day of rest] is coming in a couple of hours, hopefully a Shabbat Shalom. And Yom Al Jumma [Friday] for my Muslim friends is ending soon. Pray or not pray, we must follow a path that will give us, both nations, to enjoy equal rights, one day soon. Not by miracles but by hard work, together.