



To what do you attribute the rise in anti-Semitism in Europe?

I don't believe there is a rise in anti-Semitism in Europe. It is always there. There is a legacy of anti-Semitism in Europe that is 20 centuries old.

There are times when it seems to hide beneath the surface. It comes out when there is a fuse. There's something I've heard Simon Wiesenthal say, let me paraphrase. The anti-Semite is always there. It's like gun powder—quiet at times, but should there fall a spark, then you will have an explosion. Hitler did not invent negative thoughts about the Jews, he simply knew how to bring them to the surface.

It's like Heinz 57. Anti-Semitism comes in 57 different varieties. Each age chooses what holds interest for them. When there is trouble of any kind, the Jews are a convenient target.

Jews are often the victims of jealousy and this is true to today with regard to Israel. Many prefer the image of the Jew as victim, not as a person who can defend himself or herself. Some people have a problem with this new Jew. Israel can defend itself and is a successful country. It drives them crazy.

Some say that Israel's actions bring out anti-Semitism, but it would be there anyway. The existence of a powerful Jewish state drives some to distraction. So, it is not a rise, just a reappearance. It is always there and it always will be there.

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