

WEAPONISING ANTI-SEMITISM

How The Israel Lobby Brought Down Jeremy Corbyn

Asa Winstanley

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<<https://www.orbooks.com/catalog/weaponising-anti-semitism/>>

Robin Ramsay

This book recounts the creation of the Corbyn-is-anti-semitic lie by the Israel lobby. Looked at another way, the author has written an unprecedented exposé of a successful political operation in Britain. For an operation it was, directed by the Israeli embassy in London. The British political system and its attendant media have allowed the Israeli state to restructure one of its two main political parties. On the evidence presented here, the Israel lobby is the most intimidating force in British politics.

Parts of this story have appeared in *Lobster* over the years¹ but many sections were new to me and the bits I was familiar with are done in much more detail than I had previously read. (Given the threat of legal action from the lobby, this is thoroughly documented and must have been very carefully lawyered.) The story runs from the operation's beginnings in student politics, right through to Westminster machinations and the failure of the mass media to report the operation, even when it was exposed in a series of Al Jazeera documentaries. Almost *en passant* this is a devastating critique of the incompetence, cowardice and venality of most of the British media.

So this is a very important book and it will be interesting to see how the British media respond to it. (If they respond at all . . .)²

However, it need not have happened this way. Winstanley shows that Jeremy Corbyn consistently failed to challenge the narrative, let alone expose the operation for what it was. And this could have been done. Much of the information pulled together here by Winstanley was available at the time – notably on his website The Electronic Intifada.³ Most important of all there was

¹ For example John Booth's 'Labour, Corbyn and anti-semitism' in 2017 at <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/article/issue/74/labour-corbyn-and-anti-semitism/>>.

² For another, more detailed review, see <<https://www.jewishvoiceforlabour.org.uk/article/weaponising-antisemitism-a-review>>.

³ <<https://electronicintifada.net/>>

the Al Jazeera documentaries which had exposed the Israeli embassy's role in creating the anti-semitism narrative. Labour's leader and his spokespersons declined to use any of it. So, at the very least, Corbyn and his allies could have put up more of a fight. Why they chose not to has yet to be explained.