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For Labour and the Left, Israel really is the source of all evil

A friend of mine, a (non-Jewish) supporter of Israel, performed an experiment once. Cloaking herself in a giant Israeli flag, she set out from her home in Oxford, sending her way into the town centre. The goal was to see how far she could get before trouble started. It wasn't long. Within five minutes, a man of Middle-Eastern appearance had started following her, shouting anti-Semitic abuse. Within six minutes, he was verbally threatening to kill her, and she'd started running. At the 10-minute mark, the police had to intervene (she emerged physically unharmed). My brave friend repeated the experiment the next day, and the next, just to be sure. More or less the same thing happened.

If that wasn't proof positive of the nasty way in which Israel provides an outlet for anti-Semitism, what is? And yet not everyone was satisfied by my friend's data – many with whom I shared the story came up with ways of downplaying or excusing what happened.

Above all, people refused to believe in the connection between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism. Even when incontrovertible proof emerges – as it frequently does – that anti-Semitic attitudes are linked to strong anti-Israeli views whether within the Labour party, on campuses, or on the streets of Britain, people roll their eyes as if it's all just paranoid attention-grabbing. God, they seem to say, can't the Jews just stop going on about themselves?

Perhaps they'll actually take note of the latest batch of evidence showing not only the connection between anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish beliefs but the sizeable extent and make-up of anti-Semitism in Britain. The explosive in-depth survey of British attitudes towards Jews published last week by the Institute for Jewish Policy

this week when the head of Assian collections was torn to shreds as a racist far twerking that the extremely long names of Asian dynasties can be "confusing" to schoolchildren). No, we're talking ideas that come straight out of Goebbels' playbook, such as "Jews think they are better than other people" and "The interests of Jews in Britain are very different from the interests of the rest".

The far-right were, predictably, far more anti-Semitic than the average, while more than 55 per cent of Muslims surveyed admitted to holding "at least one anti-Semitic attitude". Crucially, as the report suggested, the high degree of anti-Semitic sentiment among Muslims is related to the strength and breadth of anti-Israel feeling. In cautious tones, Dr Jonathan Boyd, director of the IJE, noted that "The higher the level of anti-Israel attitudes measured, the more likely they are to hold anti-Semitic views as well". For this reason the far-Left also was also found to exhibit above-average anti-Semitism – hardly surprising when one recalls incidents like veteran Left-winger Ken

People refuse to believe the connection between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism

Livingstone, the former London mayor, calling Hitler a "Zionist" earlier this year.

These are stark findings. But I doubt we'll hear much from the Left about the distinctness of anti-Semitism, or get much acknowledgement of how it is fostered by the pro-Palestinian cause that is so central to Leftist politics. After all, for the strongly Left, Israel really is the source of all evil. So much so that the likes of Jeremy Corbyn could call Hamas – the terrorist



Is Doctor Foster the new Fatal Attraction?

Fatally watchable: Gemma (Suzanne Jones) in Doctor Foster

Tomorrow marks the 30th anniversary of the cinema release of *Fatal Attraction*, and many have been indulging in a good stroll down memory lane. After all, it was Glenn Close's Alex that gave us the term "bunny boiler" (a spurned female lover seeking revenge) by actually boiling the family rabbit owned by the man she was obsessed with. Commemorating the film, the *NPR* director, finally saw its potential.

Smash hit or not, though, for some *Fatal Attraction* is simply a reprehensible example of the "mad woman written by man" trope. Still, whatever you think of its portrait of the murderous Alex, you needn't look far for a slick current incarnation. I give you the BBC's fatally watchable *Doctor Foster* – although it remains to be seen whether 30 years on it will be the ex-Mr Foster who proves to be the bunny boiler in this instance.

Far from moribund, the City is toasting the future

Living in "remainy" London, it's easy to feel down as Brexit unfolds. Once the envy of the world, say the remnants, nobody wants to touch us now. How wrong they are, as the recent opening of London's opulent members' club, Ten Trinity Square, makes clear. The City is moribund? That wasn't my impression when I visited the club last week for a sneak peek. For this is a vote of confidence in – even a love letter to – the financial muscle and cultural splendour of London.

Located in the temple-like former Port of London Authority building, overlooking the Tower of London, Ten Trinity Square also houses a new Four Seasons Hotel on the first two floors. But it's the club where everybody's heart seems to be. Obsessed with fine wine, the chairman of the Reignwood Group, which owns the building, managed to pull off a partnership with Chateau Latour so that members have premium access to the first-growth estate's tipples. The club features a billiard room, art gallery and cigar lounge, which – under the watch of Britain's only female Master of Havana Cigars – sells a range of vintage beauties ranging from £28 to £500.

Nigel Stowe, the manager, is the man to know here, since he oversees the notoriously exclusive membership list. Formerly manager of The Ivy restaurant and used to world leaders and Hollywood superstars, we found him somewhat in awe of his new hushed surroundings. Escorting us through acres of marble and up a glass elevator to the club, Nigel trod softly and quickly along the club's long hall, streaked in a wine-red tribute to Bordeaux's Gironde river.

London is over? That's not how the group intensely involved in a Barneysy tasting seemed to feel as they peered over a glossy bound map of the region with heavy magnifying glasses. To us, too, any Brexit-induced Armageddon seemed remote as Melodie, a sommelier from Hong Kong, made tall, slender glasses of champagne appear as if by magic. The City is not dead: it's being reinvented.



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London is over? That's not how the group intensely involved in a Burgundy tasting seemed to feel as they pored over a glossy bound map of the region with heavy magnifying glasses. To us, too, any Brexit-induced Armageddon seemed remote as Melodie, a sommelier from Hong Kong, made tall, slender glasses of champagne appear as if by magic. The City is not dead: it's being reinvented.