



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
**INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY
OF CONTEMPORARY ANTISEMITISM**

ISCA Webinar Series “Come & Learn”

**“Blaming the Jews: Politics
and Delusion”**

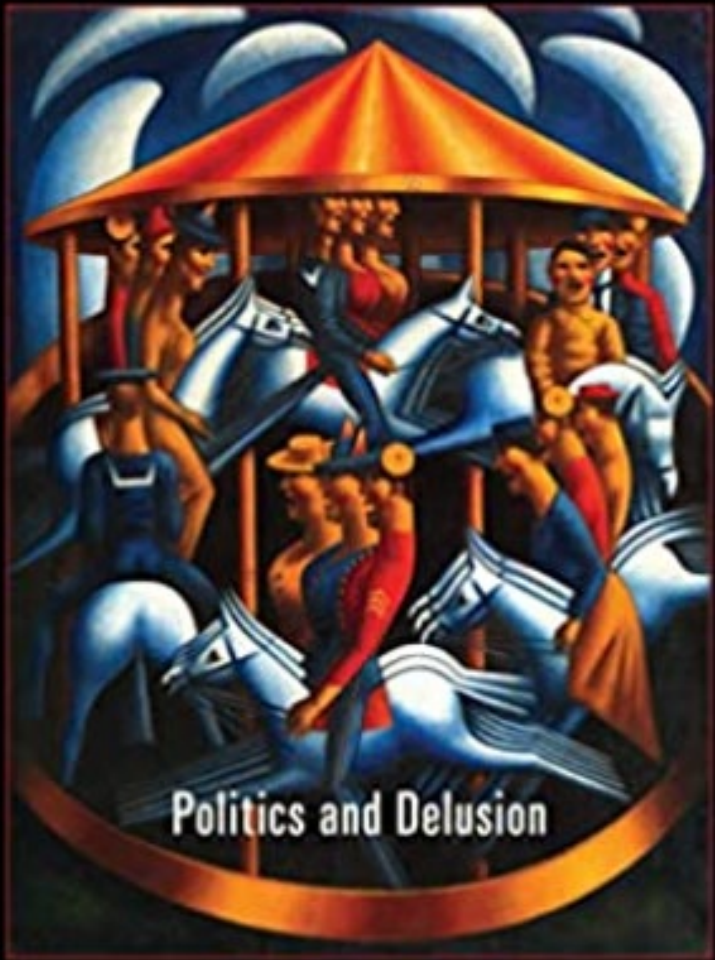
Bernard Harrison

(University of Utah and University of
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When: October 18th, 2PM EST



BLAMING THE JEWS



BERNARD HARRISON

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Blaming the Jews: Politics and Delusion
(Indiana University Press, 2020)

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1. ***Social antisemitism.*** A state of mind, or emotional disposition: *contempt and hostility towards Jews as Jews.*

2. ***Political antisemitism,*** A body of delusive, pseudo-explanatory *political theory*, to the effect that whatever a specific group of antisemites happens to find uncongenial about the present course of events in the *non-Jewish world* has come about, not because of any error or vice on the part of *non-Jews*, but because the control of the non-Jewish world has mysteriously passed out of non-Jewish hands, and into the hands of *the Jewish collectivity*, a collectivity envisaged by the antisemite as centrally and conspiratorially organised..

EMOTIONAL TONE

Social antisemitism: contempt

Political antisemitism: fear: panic

CONTENT

Social antisemitism: a small range of intrinsically distinct and logically unconnected *stereotypes* supposedly characterising Jews *as individuals*.

Political antisemitism: a set of closely logically interconnected and entirely delusive propositions concerning, not this or that Jewish individual, but the Jewish *collectivity*, in its presumed role as the secret power supposedly in control of world affairs. These include:

1. Jewish people collectively committed to evil.
2. Possession of vast secret power founded on money and finance.
3. Conspiratorial organization.
4. Secret control of major non-Jewish organisations.
5. Hence, elimination of Jews only way of rescuing non-Jewish world from Jewish control.
6. Automatic return to a problem-free "normal" once Jews eliminated.

EMERGENT PRACTICAL PROPOSALS

Social antisemitism: *Exclusion* of Jews from social groups and benefits.

Political antisemitism: *Elimination*. The "Jewish Problem" can only be solved by altogether eliminating the influence of the Jewish collectivity on world affairs.

Claims leading to the conclusion that Israel is *essentially* politically illegitimate.

- Israel is an essentially racist state.
- Israel is an essentially settler-colonial society, occupying land "stolen" from the indigenous population.
- Israel is an essentially Nazi society.
- The existence of Israel is a permanent threat to peace, both in the region and in the world

How an essentialist critique of Israel assists the Anti-Zionist argument

- 1. What need is there to consider in detail any specific shortcoming of Israel, if it can be shown that Israel is *in essence*, or *by its very nature* evil?
- 2. If Israel can be shown to be *in essence* or *by its very nature* evil, what possibility can there be there of mounting any defence of Israel *at a lower level of generality*?
- (Essentialist criticism of this kind is *non-resoluble* (see above).
Therefore entails *eliminationism* with respect to Israel.)

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