How to Teach the History of Antisemitism

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Miri Ben-Ari was born on December 4, 1978, in Israel. In an early age she was discovered as a very talented violinist and studied violin under Issac Stern.

Ben-Ari was one of Jewish Women International’s “Ten Women To Watch of 2007” and she won the JVIBE award as Best Israeli Artist of 2007. In addition, she received the first Israeli Martin Luther King Award from Israel President, Shimon Peres, and the "Eternal Flame Award" from the American Society of Yad Vashem for her work as a feature violinist and music score writer for Paramount's Freedom Writer.

Ben-Ari is co-founder and CEO of the non-profit organization “Gedenk” ("Remember") dedicated to promoting awareness among young people about the Holocaust. She recently received the Humanitarian Award from the Jewish Federation "for her inspiring leadership in creating the Gedenk project."
Sa’aid Kashoaa was born in Israel, to an Arab origion family. He his a writer and has a regular colume in one of the most important Israeli news paper.
Matthew Paul Miller (born June 30, 1979), better known by his Hebrew name Matisyahu, is an American Hasidic Jewish reggae musician. Known for blending traditional Jewish themes with Reggae, Rock and Hip Hop sounds, Matisyahu is most recognizable for his single “King Without Crown”, which was a surprise Top 40 hit. Since 2004, he has released two studio albums as well as one live album, two remix CDs and one DVD featuring a live concert. Through his career, Matisyahu has worked with Bill Laswell and reggae producers Sly & Robbie. Matisyahu is set to release a new album titled LIGHT featuring the single “One Day” on August 25, 2009. A deluxe album pre-order is available now at iTunes.
The Jewish Community in Salonika is one of the oldest in Europe.

Before World War II it numbered 55,200, constituting two thirds of Greek Jewry. Only 1,950 Jews from Salonika - four percent of their prewar numbers - survived the Holocaust.

Most of the Salonika Jews were hard labor workers. Many of them worked as stevedores in the local port, or on the railway tracks. Some were small merchants or in the moving business. Some of them were craftsmen. and in the customs service. A few worked in the liberal professions, such as doctors or lawyers.
Teaching about Antisemitism

Our educational approach focuses on:

• Providing historical context
• Using primary source materials
• Highlighting individual stories
Teaching about Antisemitism Should Enable Students to:

- Recognize Judaism as one of many religions
- Learn about the State of Israel and the history of the Jewish people
- Accept diversity among peoples and promote tolerance
- Acknowledge equality of minorities
- Develop critical modes of thinking
- Stand up to discrimination and foster personal responsibility
Antisemitism:

- Term was devised in 1879 in Germany to define anti-Jewish sentiment on a "scientific" basis

The term attributed to Wilhelm Marr, a German who was writing in the 1880s. Originally the term ‘Semite’ was used to refer to languages from a common core, including Hebrew and Arabic, it was only later during the 1800s that the term was used in the pseudoscience of race to refer to people originating in the middle east including many Arab Muslims and Jews. One should bear in mind however, that none of the dominant thinkers and policy makers that shaped Antisemitism throughout history referred to other groups but the Jews. Wilhelm Marr related only to Jews and the Nazi regime specifically declared that Antisemitism equals anti-Judaism.

Even though the term Antisemitism did not exist until 1879, in some cases for the sake of simplification, it will be used as a general name for anti-Jewish perceptions and behavior throughout history.

- Rejection of Jews as a different people, nation and (later) race
- Today the term refers to prejudice or discrimination against Jews, based on their religious beliefs and/or group stereotypes
Traditional Forms of Antisemitism

• Blaming Jews for deicide and for rejecting Christian beliefs
• Accusing Jews as traitors and ritual murderers of Christian children (The Blood Libel)
• Banishing them from their places of residence
• Forcing Jews to wear identifying marks and humiliating them
• Confining them to separate quarters
Modern Forms of Antisemitism

- Branding Jews as “the other”
- Rejecting Jews’ social integration
- Accusing Jewish people of devising secret plots to take over the world
- Stereotyping and scapegoating
- Developing pseudo-scientific theories about races
Nazi Racial Antisemitism

- Continuation of traditional and modern forms of hatred against Jews
- "Purity of the Blood": Jews portrayed as an inferior and destructive race
- Dehumanization of Jews through propaganda, terror and legislation
Jews – "sub-humans"

Aryans –
   Germans and Austrians
   – The “Master Race”

Nordic Peoples -
   Danes, Swedes, Finns

Anglosaxons - English-speaking Caucasians

Slavs

Blacks

Gypsies – Sinti & Roma
Points to Keep in Mind

• Antisemitism had long been entrenched in many European countries – not only in Germany

• Man’s inhumanity to man during the Holocaust began with demonization and dehumanization

• Jews were not the only victims of Nazi Germany, but the only group sought to be totally destroyed

• Antisemitism has nothing to do with a person’s degree of education

• The Holocaust was not inevitable

• Holocaust education cannot, and is not designed to, prevent antisemitism
Propaganda

• How does manipulative propaganda work?
• What dilemmas arise for educators when teaching about propaganda in the classroom?
Working with Nazi Antisemitic Caricatures

- What statement is this image making?
- What are some examples of ways that Nazi propaganda dehumanized Jews in these images?
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Caricature of the Jew as the Banker Rothschild — ruling the entire world, and a halo in the form of a coin above his head.

France, 1898 (Yadvashem 1599/153).
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Contemporary Examples of Antisemitism with Regard to the State of Israel

• Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination

• Claiming that the existence of the State of Israel is a racist endeavor

• Applying double standards by requiring of it behavior not demanded of any other democratic nation

• Using the symbols and images associated with traditional antisemitism (blood libel) to characterize Israelis

• Comparing contemporary Israeli policies to that of the Nazi regime
Recommended Websites for More Information about Antisemitism

The OSCE’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
http://www.osce.org/odihr

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance
http://www.coe.int/ecri

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
http://www.eumc.at/fra

The Center for Research on Antisemitism, Berlin
http://www.tu-berlin.de/~zfa

The Anne Frank House
http://www.annefrank.org

The Middle East Media Research Institute
http://www.memri.org

The Anti-Defamation League
http://www.adl.org

The American Jewish Committee
http://www.ajc.org

The Kreuzberger Initiative gegen Antisemitismus
http://www.kiga-berlin.org

Ligue Internationale contre le Racisme et l’Antisémitisme
http://www.licra.org

Projekte gegen Antisemitismus
http://www.projekte-gegen-antisemitismus.de

The Simon Wiesenthal Center
http://www.wiesenthal.com

The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism
http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
http://www.ushmm.org

The Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism
http://sicsa.huji.ac.il

Yad Vashem
http://www.yadvashem.org