



Walid Jumblatt and the Holocaust

A Leader on “Nazis, Islamists, and the Making of the Modern Mideast”

The Lebanese politician Walid Jumblatt, a maternal grandson of the famous pan-Islamist and friend of Amin al-Husaini, Shakib Arslan, contributes in his weekly Arabic series to the Bairut paper “Al-Anba’.” On July 14, he tackled a range of news items. After noting that, by chance, world soccer championships—in his French usage “Al-Mundiyal,” meaning the Rio World Cup (see Arabic headline next page)—coincide with Israeli wars as with the 1982 battle of Bairut and the conflict in Ghazza, he opined it has nothing to do with [Hamas](#). Rather they are a part of a 100-year struggle of Palestinians: much killing and destruction but few results. He asked for not just a truce but a complete agreement between both sides.

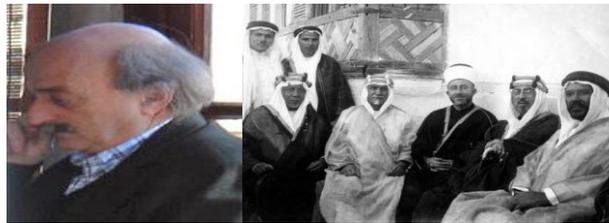


Photo: [Wiki](#)

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Walid Jumblatt, his grandfather Shakib Arslan, 2nd from the right, with Amin al-Husaini, Hashim al-Atassi

That day, Lebanon’s “[The Daily Star](#)” offered a brief English version thereof: In response to the book “Nazis, Islamists, and the Making of the Modern Middle East” by Barry Rubin and Wolfgang G. Schwanitz, [Jumblatt](#) condemned the authors for forging links between Nazism and Islamism, arguing that “the Islamic world has never practiced systematic burning of Jews the way the West has (in the past). [Jumblatt](#), it is claimed, called for a distinction to be made between rejecting the occupation and the issue of Jewish settlements in an Arabic Palestine, arguing that the opponents of the Israeli occupation have no issue with those Jews who have fled to the Arab world ever since the West reclaimed Andalusia.

As that summary is flawed, missing his basic ideas, and Jews lived for 4.000 years in that area, I shall display the two points of Jumblatt’s article that are related to our book in the Arabic original and give my translation of the passages. A slight critique I see, though no condemnation whatsoever. Rather, the Lebanese leader of the Druze community offers deep insights into the current discussion which keeps evolving in light of the ongoing Hamas-Israel dispute, including the horrific burning of a teen’s body, Muhammad Abu Khudair, to which Jumblatt also refers. Let me display first Jumblatt’s commentary on our book “Nazis, Islamists, and the Making of the Modern Middle East” and then add a reply.

صدفة "المونديال" وحروب اسرائيل

وختم: حول تلك النظرية البائسة التي تم الترويج لها مؤخراً في كتاب جديد صدر لمؤلفيه باري روبن وولفغانغ شوانيتز بعنوان: "النازيون، الاسلاميون، وقيام الشرق الأوسط الحديث" وتتمحور حول إتهام المفتي الحاج أمين الحسيني بأنه منظر المحرقة النازية بحق اليهود، فهي نظرية سخيفة وهو معروف بمواقفه السياسيّة. صحيح أنه إعتق نظرية "عدو عدوي صديقي" والتقى أدولف هتلر مرات عديدة وسائر السياسة النازية على هذا الأساس، وصحيح أن البعض من العرب والمسلمين لا يميزون بين سخطهم من الاحتلال الصهيوني لفلسطين وبين اليهود كيهود فيعبرون في الباطن أو الظاهر عن عواطف لاسامية ويذهبون لتبرير المحرقة؛ ولكن هذه نظريات عبثية، فالمحرقة جريمة من أكبر الجرائم ضد الانسانية ولا يمكن تبريرها أو إنكارها كما نظرت لها بعض المفكرين المتقلبين والتيارات العبثية. فالجذور الفكرية والفلسفية لنظرية المحرقة تعود أساساً لنظريات كبار الفلاسفة والمفكرين الغربيين وتوجها لاحقاً أدولف هتلر في كتابه "كفاحي"، الذي لم يشارك في كتابته على حد علمي الحاج أمين الحسيني!

من هنا، فإنه لا بد من التمييز بين رفض الاحتلال الاسرائيلي والتمدد الاستيطاني لليهود فيفلسطين العربية، وبين نظريات حرق اليهود وإبادتهم وهي نظريات مرفوضة من النواحي الأخلاقية والانسانية بصرف النظر عن المواقف السياسيّة. وللتذكير أنه عندما إستعاد الغرب الأندلس، لجأ أنذاك ما تبقى من يهود قبل إبادتهم، إلى السلطنة العثمانية والعالم الاسلامي الذي لم يشهد محارق مبرمجة كذلك التي أقامها الغرب بحق اليهود!

المصدر: الأنباء أون لاين

Walid Jumblatt: The Chance of the "Mondial" and Israel's Wars [two book related extracts above]

Finally, a word on those misleading reflections that are being spread recently in a new book by the authors Barry Rubin and Wolfgang G. Schwanitz under the title "Nazis, Islamists, and the Making of the Modern Middle East." It puts the blame on the Mufti al-Hajj Amin al-Husaini claiming he was the organizer of the Nazi Holocaust—al-Muhraqa—against Jews. This is silly, though his political viewpoint is known. It is correct that he adopted the motto "the enemy of my enemy is my friend." He met Adolf Hitler many times and went along with Nazi politics on that basis. It is also correct that some Arabs and Muslims did not distinguish between their anger at the Zionist occupation of Palestine and the Jews as Jews. So they voiced internally and openly unholy sentiments and went so far to justify the Holocaust. But these were frivolous arguments. For the Holocaust is one of the biggest crimes against humanity. It is impossible to justify or deny it as some twisted thinkers and foolish schools do. But the spiritual roots and the philosophy in the idea of the Holocaust belong profoundly to the theories of great philosophers and thinkers of the West, which, subsequently, Hitler used in his book "Mein Kampf." Academically, at least, al-Hajj Amin al-Husaini did not participate in the writing of it.

From here, one has to distinguish between opposing the Israeli occupation, the continuation of Jewish settlements in Arab Palestine and ideas of burning Jews and liquidating them, which are to be rejected from both ethical and humanistic, to say nothing of political points of view. Remember, as the West got back Andalusia and before the liquidation, the remaining Jews fled to the Ottoman Sultanate and the Islamic world which had never seen a systematic burning of Jews such as occurred in the West.

Source: Al-Anba' Online

I agree: al-Hajj Amin [al-Husaini](#) adopted the principle that “the enemy of my enemy is my friend,” met Hitler and went along with Nazi [politics](#). But I was appalled, when I discovered, how [far](#) the Grand Mufti went in forging [ties](#) between Nazism and Islamism. His primary goal was blocking all of the ways out of Europe. He slammed the last doors of a burning house shut and opened flood gates to adapt strains of the Nazi ideology. As part of the [German-Arab history](#), we unearthed many unknown files. While giving new facts and evidence, we never claim that the Islamist al-Husaini was a Nazi nor do we blame him as “architect of the Holocaust.” A misguided [reviewer](#) tried to pin this claim onto [us](#). Since others have probed Arab [responses](#) to the Holocaust, I just would like to highlight Jumblatt’s distinction: It is also correct that some Arabs and Muslims did not distinguish between their anger at the “Zionist occupation of Palestine” and Jews as Jews. They expressed unholy views and justified the Holocaust which Jumblatt describes as one of the biggest crimes against humanity that is impossible to justify or deny it—as others [still](#) do.

Like Walid Jumblatt, Husni Mubarak and Mahmud Abbas termed al-Muhraqa one of the biggest crimes in history. Although a profound step, in the end it is not words, but deeds that count. Muslims visited the death camps of Auschwitz and Neuengamme. They came from Germany, Africa, Asia and Jerusalem. Holocaust denial is huge. The Iranians Mahmud Ahmadinejad, Ali al-Khaminai and the Turk Recep Tayyip Erdoğan denied the Shoah or denounced Israel’s fight against Hamas as genocide, Israelis as Nazis or Hitlers. It is Israel’s duty to defend itself against Islamists who abused the civilians on *both* sides.

Jumblatt rightly states that there was never such a persecution in Islamic lands as in the West. Although al-Muhraqa means “sacrifice by fire,” not burning was the main tool, but killing by shooting or gassing. [Al-Husaini](#) wrongly said that Chaim Weitzmann advised gassing in World War One, arguing that Hitler, who survived it, was right in doing it to them, but to civilians? We show the German-Ottoman axis, Berlin’s aid for Islamism as a tool in world politics, and the use of eight Muslim brotherhoods as [podia](#) for jihadism. Often, the same men who served as young soldiers in World War One went on to become commanders with genocidal ideologies in World War Two. They had observed [genocide](#) against the Armenians and attempted genocide against the Jews of Palestine. Only in the Mideast, Nazism and Islamism stayed legitimate more than six decades [after](#) World War Two. Networks resurfaced in the 1970s. Again, Jihadis under Usama Bin Ladin prepared for “killing of civilian infidels” on [9/11](#). Some wrested power in the Arab and Islamist Spring. Is that past repeating itself in horrific slaughters of the “infidel civilians” in [Iraq](#)?

We revealed how the Mufti motivated Jihadis. He drew on the past to justify evildoing. Of all humans, Jews are the worst and guilty of the prophet’s early death, al-Husaini told the Zainab poison story of Khaibar in a 1937 appeal to all Muslims to cleanse their lands of them. Muhammad Mursi said Jews are broods of apes and pigs. His aide Fathi Shihab ad-Din painted the Holocaust as a trick by US secret services for the six million allegedly killed Jews went to America: there their murder was invented to justify war bombings of Germany. Yusuf [al-Qaradawi](#) preached “Hitler acted as God’s tool.” If we ask when that ideology will ever die, Walid Jumblatt’s distinction is essential.

[Wolfgang G. Schwanitz](#)

See related books *Nazis, Islamists and the Making of the Modern Middle East*: [Yale](#), [February](#) 25, [2014](#), 360 pp. & *Islam in Europe, Revolts in the Mideast*, in German, [Weist](#), Berlin [2013](#), [2014](#) 2nd ed. [order here](#)