

## This Is Arab Land!

By Hans Stehling

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In-depth Report: PALESTINE

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Whatever may be the official position, and/or the wishful or skewed thinking, of the government of the United Kingdom, (and the Conservative Friends of Israel), the bald fact remains that the majority of ordinary, thinking citizens of this United Kingdom, apparently holds to the opinion that Israel is a neo-colonial state that has continuously persecuted the indigenous Arab population: stolen their lands and occupied their houses, under the pretext of religious dogma.

This would appear to be the current view of the majority, of whatever ethnic origin.

That being the fact, why is the British government apparently in a position whereby it is subservient to the doctrine of political Zionism – which, of course, has little to do with the ancient religion of Judaism?

And why, therefore, has the untenable position been adopted that a religion and a political movement, are in this case, synonymous when the converse is patently true?

It is, of course, readily admitted that there was once, 3000 years ago, a Hebrew settlement in the region of Jerusalem, but that historic fact in no way justifies the persecution of an Arab population that lived continuously as the majority demographic of the region for over a thousand years, up to the extraordinary time in 1947-8 when they were dispossessed (by a newly-constituted, minority United Nations) and made refugees in their own land, by thousands of displaced persons who had survived a war in Europe.

Palestine, i.e. the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the River Jordan, is and has been continuously for over a millennium, an Arab, Muslim settlement in the heart of the Arab, Muslim, Middle East. The region can conceivably hold also a Jewish or Christian minority living peacefully alongside – but not an expanding, belligerent majority. For this is Arab land.

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