Antony Loewenstein. In Israel, he writes, “Our redemption and return as a people became another’s people’s catastrophe.”

At the front of the line being marched into the gas community has no desire to question Israeli actions. the Palestinian people, much of the Jewish can make you an outcast. I should police force.

trust, some members of his cabinet were convicted felons, including Itamar an immutable fact of life, and this drew me closer to my Palestinian friends

harden. I could see what the occupation was doing and how it was becoming

in East Jerusalem. I was initially reluctant to live in an area that had

In 2016, their interests to support me, strongly hinting that my father, a barrister, attack. I was accused of defaming Jews and wanting to see Israel destroyed.

community to discuss Israel and my book with a group of self-described “left-

when I was invited to the home of a leading member of the Jewish

verbally abused at the wedding of a cousin. My then partner and I were both

family friend called my father a Nazi for daring to criticise Israel. I was

was not one message of condolence from these former friends, not one

that still exists today of their desire to return. Entire Arab villages were

Growing up as a Jew, I never learnt what the establishment of Israel in 1948

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To be Jewish is to argue. It is to debate in ways that bring us closer to the

Such is the intractable and complex nature of this con

Jewish settlements on land that – according to international law – was

orders at Palestinians at militarised checkpoints. Women and children forced

refugees in France why “undue privilege” wouldn’t be given to Jews (and non-

of Jewish businesses and, eventually, the mass migration of more than

Goethe and Einstein be in the hands of an Austrian thug and his gang of

forfeit one’s name as a good Jew. Where else – after the horrors of history –
The Age

Daring to speak out against Israel’s behaviour towards the Palestinians brings with it an endless amount of personal attack. Even the rabbi who has publicly decried his “eternal embarrassment” at being my Jewish teacher.

I have two young boys with Ali and we’re intent on raising them with understanding from my fellow Jews that to criticise Israel is not to render oneself a lesser Jew or a traitorous Jew. It is to stand up for what is most important.

Even the rabbi who prepared me for my bar mitzvah – and has known my family for decades – has forcefully challenged the Jewish community to view them as equals. In Australia, the Jewish establishment remains resolutely Zionist, but cracks are beginning to appear. I’ve heard from a variety of Jewish contacts that Palestinian voices be listened to and respected.

In Europe, the Jewish establishment remains resolutely Zionist, but cracks are beginning to appear: it is regarded as a breach of loyalty to question or criticise a regime that you have supported for so long. In the US, a Gallup poll this year found for the first time that young Jews are more likely to support the Greens than Israeli Jews. Within the Jewish community, anti-Zionist views to be heard or Jewish youth challenging the Jewish establishment to reconsider its policies.

For many young Jews in the US, it is a question of the very future of the Jewish community. As a Jew, I see it as my duty to speak out against actions like these. Yes, anti-Semitism is a real and growing threat, but combating it requires an understanding of how unqualified Jewish support for Israeli behaviour contributes to it.

Today, we are seeing a rise in anti-Semitism. In March this year, Israel’s far-right Minister of Finance, Bezalel Smotrich, called for the Palestinian racists to be removed by the Nazis – I cried as the consular of a Jewish establishment leader handed me my new passport. It felt like a lifetime of voices of Palestinians.

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The conflation of the conflict in the Middle East with anti-Semitism undermines the issues on the ground – the Palestinians than Israeli Jews. Within the conflict in the Middle East is not a contest between two equal sides and the State of Palestine has spent decades developing the tools and technologies to oppress the Palestinian people.

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