

Impressum

Ashutosh Vardhana: These Evil Cowards, or: I love America

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EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

Society has to defend itself against terrorists and to punish them. However, by calling them 'evil' we concede that we do not understand them and are not willing to consider the causes of their actions. Calling them 'cowards' is often plain silly. Western belief in the superiority of its civilisation (1), matched with Muslim belief in the superiority of its secular and religious values, must lead to contempt. Contempt breeds hatred, and hatred breeds violence, in both directions. We must stop calling our enemies evil and must try to understand them if we want to stop the cycle of violence. This article puts forward a specifically Hindu point of view.

Ashutosh Vardhana: These Evil Cowards, or: I love America

I LOVE AMERICA

I love America. I love its intellectuals and liberals, I love its artists, its wild spaces and its bustling cities, its optimism, its belief in hard work and rewarding it, the perfectionism of its scientists and engineers, its belief in the freedom of speech. I love its vulgarity and the courage with which it produces its kitsch. I love friendly people wherever I find them. I love life.



**I love American optimism:
Engineering solutions for moral problems.**

The text of the news report can be found (in a more readable font size) in Footnote (2).

I do not condone the Manhattan attacks. We have to defend ourselves against terrorists (and they have to defend themselves against us), and their actions are plainly wrong, especially in

the eyes of the victims. I am a vegetarian, and in my religion killing and violence of any kind are a greater sin than the first four or five of the Christian and Jewish commandments, which condemn sinning against God and one's parents. That, however, does not mean that all terrorists are evil or that they are cowards.

EVIL

'Evil' is a popular term of abuse which we heap on a person whose actions we do not understand and who acts without intelligible cause, a person who does something we would not do. People may be selfish, stupid, ill-informed or cruel, but they are hardly ever evil.

If we call a person evil, we admit that we do not understand him, do not want to understand him and will therefore never be able to do anything about the causes of his actions. All we want to do is to exterminate him - and let someone else take up his cause.

Osama Bin Laden acted wrongly when he sent his suicide bombers into the Manhattan Towers and killed 6,000 innocent people. So did Hitler when he bombed Coventry (in 1940: 450 dead) and Churchill when he bombed Dresden (in 1944: 41,000 dead) (3). That did not make Churchill evil, for he had a cause and a purpose (ill-conceived or not) for doing so.

Osama killed innocent civilians, we hear. The Manhattan victims are innocent; but so are the soldiers who get killed in a war. They are enemies, but not criminals. (4)

War and terrorism play by different rules. Those people who are not in power, do not control a state and an army, have to fight their battles as terrorists. Presidents do not need to be terrorists, that's why they aren't (except the Israeli government when it habitually assassinates its opponents) (5). The members of the French *résistance* were terrorists. Once terrorists have come to power, they become statesmen, e.g. in Israel (6) and in Northern Ireland (7).

It was Zionist terrorists who, prior to 1948, bombed the Palestinians out of their villages and thus paved the way for the establishment of the State of Israel on Palestinian territory. (8) The grievances (and the displacement of people) then created have never been resolved and lead through a chain of action and reaction to the Manhattan outrage and to the continuing incurable violence in Israel and Palestine. 'It is the curse of an evil deed that it continues to give birth to never ending generations of evil.' (Schiller) (9)

Osama Bin Laden needs no defenders. If I still speak out 'for' him, say anything other than calling him 'evil', it is in our interest as non-violent people to understand him and take note of his bloody message.

In fact we have done so already (a silly thing to do if he were merely evil). In grand politics we are very polite to Muslims and Muslim states. Only after 11 September did President Bush advocate a 'viable Palestinian State', i.e. a larger territory and sovereignty (15 Oct 2001) (10). Only after 11 September did so many western statesmen (except Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi) discover their respect, if not love, for Islam. Only Prince Charles has always been a genuine friend of Islam. (11)

On 27 September 2001, honest Joe Berlusconi declared at a press conference in Berlin

'that the attacks on New York and Washington are attacks not only on the United States but on our civilisation, of which we are proud bearers, conscious of the supremacy of our civilisation, (12) of its discoveries and inventions, which have brought us democratic institutions, respect for the human, civil, religious and political rights of our citizens, openness to diversity and tolerance of everything.'

Well, at least we can't call him a liar. But Manhattan has shown that a civilisation that is 'supreme' (how?) is not necessarily invulnerable.

COWARDS

Politicians routinely describe terrorists as cowards because they evade arrest and avoid being hurt.

This is a strange criticism. By the same token, soldiers are cowards because they wear steel helmets. American bomber pilots are cowards because they fly so high that the rusty Taliban anti-aircraft guns cannot reach them. They want to kill others without being killed themselves: that is cowardice, is it not?

Even the Manhattan pilots, who sacrificed their lives for their cause (however much we may disapprove of it) have been called cowards.

SUICIDE

Why do the media use the term 'suicide' for terrorists who face certain death when they undertake a mission. A true suicide kills himself because he cannot bear life any more, he is running away from a problem.

The bombers of Manhattan and the Palestinian 'terrorists' do therefore not commit suicide. They would gladly achieve their objective without sacrificing their lives. But the objective or their duty is more important to them than their life. Like Christians, but more sincerely!, they believe in immortality.

If they are suicides, then so were the soldiers in the trench warfare of the First World War who were mown down by grenades and machine guns when they came out of the trenches to attack the enemy. (13) But they weren't. They merely did their accursed duty for their mother cuntry. (Note for printer: This spelling is not a typing error.)

Westerners are so much wedded to this life, and only this, that they find it impossible to understand someone who can happily part with it. They gape like children at the incomprehensible spectacle.

By their incredulity they show how little empathy they have with any culture, religion or mode of thinking but their own and that, perhaps, there was no other way to wake them up from their self-centred complacency than the death of six-thousand tower workers who died for the West's sins of ignorance.

Ian Duncan Smith, the conservative leader, said a couple of months ago (10 Oct 2001): 'Bin Laden claims to speak for Islam, but he cannot. His is a cynical and suicidal cult dedicated to the destruction of civilisations and lives, irrespective of their faith.' (14)

Not so, Bin Laden is not dedicated to destroying Muslim states. When has he ever tried?

Ian Duncan Smith said: 'This is a man who sends young acolytes to die for his own pathological purpose, while he himself skulks in caves. This is a man who prefers martyrdom at a distance.'

Fools, like Ian Dunce Smith (sic), denigrate their enemies. Bin Laden may be a criminal: he has broken the law of the United States. But who is the greater man, law-abiding Ian Duncan Smith or outlaw Osama Bin Laden?

Bin Laden's acolytes went happily to their fate. No English general has ever yet exposed himself to death in the front line. That is not cowardice but common sense: the foot soldier is more easily replaceable than the general.

The US pilots in the Gulf War (1990-1991), the NATO pilots in the the Kosovo War in 1999 and now in Afghanistan (2001-) 'skulk' in the clouds because they are too cowardly to expose themselves to the guns of the enemy. The whole of American high-tech warfare (e.g. the widespread use of drones) is nothing but a big support system for cowards: our media and our mothers screech the moment one body bag comes home.

After twenty white casualties they will press on our governments to abandon their 'just war', and they ignore the thousands of brown-skinned people that are being killed by our war machine and whose only body bag is their skin. We go to war only if the enemy is incalculably inferior. Osama Bin Laden, by contrast, took on,

rightly or wrongly, the strongest country in the world. That may be criminal, brave or foolhardy, but it is not cowardly.

HATE

Osama hates and despises the Americans, the Americans hate and despise Osama: neither sentiment is justified. There are wonderful Arabs and there are wonderful Americans. **Noam Chomsky** is an example, **a wonderful American and a wonderful Jew** (15).

Franz Boas (1858-1942) is **a wonderful Jew and a wonderful German**. He was a world renowned anthropologist and linguist. He spent his life in America, proud of his German heritage, suffering from anti-German sentiments during the two world wars, undermining the pseudo-scientific bases of racism and cultural superiority, defeating the Nazi "scholars" in debate at a Paris international conference. (Lévy Zumwalt, Rosemary (2022)). (16)

The Polish **Bundists** (17) (founded in 1895 and most strongly active in inter-war Poland, i.e. until Hitler's invasion of Poland) were **wonderful Poles and wonderful Jews**. They opposed the plans of Zionist fellow-Jews to create a racist Jews-only state in Palestine and to expel or exterminate its rightful owners, the Arab-Muslim and Arab-Christian Palestinians, i.e. they opposed the creation of a "state of Israel". Instead, they advocated the principle:

**"Rights and justice for Jews everywhere
without wrongs and injustice to other people anywhere"**
(Emanuel Scherer, 1901-1971) (18)

All countries produce good people and bad people. Hatred and contempt lead to violence: Westerners, because of their 'superior civilisation', are particularly prone to contempt. Contempt provokes hatred.

The Manhattan attacks were not the cause without cause of everything. Society has to punish Osama, but we do not have to hate and despise him.

If anyone is a coward, it is us, for none of us is ready to die for any f***ing cause.

That may be a good thing though, for I distrust causes that are worth dying for. Perhaps they aren't.

Note: For Westerners, evil has no right to exist. For Hindus both good and evil have a right to exist. We have to live with evil. Good and evil are engaged in a never ending battle. There is no reason to be outraged.

Notes

((01))

White superiority: Since 1492 (Columbus), white people have nurtured the illusion that land that was inhabited by "black people" (non-white people) was terra nullius, uninhabited and therefore for the white arrivals to take possession of, to rule, to settle in. That superior attitude was the basis of settler colonialism. Immanuel Kant criticised it severely, as early as 1795, in his essay: "Zum Ewigen Frieden" (Eternal Peace).

Kant wrote:

Let us look now, for the sake of comparison, at the inhospitable behaviour of the civilised nations, especially the commercial states of our continent. The injustice which they exhibit on visiting foreign lands and races - this being equivalent in their eyes to conquest - is such as to fill us with horror.

America, the Negro countries, the Spice Islands, the Cape &c. were, on being discovered, looked upon as countries which belonged to nobody; for the native inhabitants were reckoned as nothing.

In Hindustan, under the pretext of intending to establish merely commercial depots, the Europeans introduced foreign troops; and, as a result, the different states of Hindustan were stirred up to far-spreading wars. Oppression of the natives followed, famine, insurrection, perfidy and all the rest of the litany of evils which can afflict mankind. (Kant, 1795)

The white invaders had better tools and better weapons and could therefore not be defeated by force. This strengthened their illusion that they were the superior race, and all cultures with different customs were inferior to them. There is now an academic discipline called "Critical Whiteness" which studies these delusions.

The white superiority complex is discussed by Englert (2022), Pappé (no year): Zionism as Colonialism, Applebaum (2016)

Jewish people normally consider themselves "White", i.e. superior. While, in Europe, they were a persecuted minority, stigmatised for not being Aryan and not being Christian, when they arrived in Palestine in greater numbers, from, say, 1919 onwards, encouraged by the white British (Balfour Declaration), they regarded the millions of "black" Palestinians as infinitely inferior, massacred them, flattened their villages and planted parks and woodland over the sites to prevent Palestinian refugees from ever returning. In 1948 they proclaimed the creation of a "State of Israel" and declared the remnants of Palestinians who continued to resist and wanted to drive the white Jewish invaders out of their country to be terrorists. The aim of Israel still is to remove the remaining Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank entirely from the inherited Palestinian land. Since Israel

represents White culture, White mentality (the superiority complex), White technology, it is not surprising that they are supported in their colonist crimes by the white USA, Europe and the UK. Israel is a bridgehead for White USA in an "uncivilised" "black" world.

For full details, see Bresheeth-Žabner (2020), Pappé (2006), Chomsky:(2016), Chomsky and Vltchek (2013), Masalha (2014)

((02))

The report entitled "Mexican Architect to re-build WTC" about the new design of the Twin Towers reads as follows:

CNN.com
Mexican architect to rebuild WTC
Washington, D.C.

President Bush met this morning with Benjamin Félix, well known architect in México, in order to review his proposal to rebuild the Twin Towers of what used to be the World Trade Center. President Bush's staff contacted Mr Félix yesterday afternoon, as indicated by the vast majority of congress. The towers will have a similar look although more round shaped. The most controversial attribute of the new towers are the "big holes" located on top of each tower, to allow air traffic and prevent future catastrophes that could take place as a result of another terrorist attack of this nature.

((03))

In the "Coventry Blitz", on 14-15 November 1940, approx 568 people were killed by Hitler's bombers (Wikipedia, referring to John Ray (1996): "The Night Blitz").

On 13 February 1945, when Churchill bombed Dresden, 35,000 people were killed (according to Richard J Evans, The Third Reich at War. The Penguin Press, New York).

The proportion of corpses on both sides is similar to that during the Gaza war which started on 7 October 2023. Coventry: 568 corpses, Dresden: 35,000 corpses, Rate: 61 Dresden corpses for each Coventry corpse. Disproportionate.

The Israelis may have learnt from the Coventry/Dresden exchange. The approximate number of people killed in Palestine between 7 October 2023 and 3 December 2024 is: 1,500 Israeli corpses, 43,500 Palestinian corpses, Rate: 29 Palestinian corpses for each Israeli corpse. Disproportionate.

Surprisingly, Churchill did better than Netanyahu.

((04))

Their innocence is irrelevant. Some of them may in fact have been criminals: arms dealers, atheists, corrupt bankers, corrupt drug dealers, fraudsters, husband beaters, lawyers, paedophiles, politicians, racists, rapists, shoplifters, smugglers, wife beaters, - and even murderers - not capital crimes these, of course, but they were not saints. They presumably were simply human. I am sure there were at least ten racists among them.

((05))

Israeli government when it assassinates its opponents:

"The combined effect isolates Israel from criticism and censure, allowing IDF and Mossad free rein across the globe. Many assassinations attributed to Israel, such as those of Iranian military figures and scientists and Palestinian functionaries around the world, have gone unhindered and unpunished. Israeli officers and politicians are in the habit of taking credit for such criminal operations in the knowledge that no country is likely to confront Israel." (Bresheeth-Žabner, 2020)

In May 2003, two leading Israeli civil rights attorneys provided "a detailed list of all of the liquidations and all of the attempted assassinations that Israel's security forces carried out" during the al-Aqsa Intifada, from November 2000 through April 2003. Using official and semiofficial records, they found that "Israel carried out no less than 175 liquidation attempts"—one attempt every five days—killing 235 people, of whom 156 were suspected of crimes. "It greatly pains us to say the following," the lawyers wrote, but "the consistent, widespread policy of targeted liquidations bounds on a crime against humanity." (Aryeh Dayan, Ha'aretz, 21 May 2003.) (Chomsky (2003)

Israel's established policy of assassinations and massacres is further documented by Bergman (2018), Bresheeth-Žabner (2020), Masalha (2012), Pappé (2006), Said (2004) and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Targeted_killing_by_Israel

((06))

Notorious Jewish terrorist organisations (aka "paramilitary forces" and "militias") destroyed a multitude of Arab villages in Palestine, conducted a string of well-documented massacres and drove millions of Palestinians out of their country thus clearing the land for the foreign Jewish settlers.

The best known of these organisations are:
Haganah, Irgun, Lehi (aka "the Stern Gang") and Palmach.

Moshe Dayan, who held many ministerial offices, was previously a commander of Palmach.

Five of the first eight Israeli prime ministers previously belonged to one of these terror organisations:

1. Levi Eshkol, Prime Minister 1963 to 1969:
previously member of Haganah
2. Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister 1974-1977 and 1992-1995):
previously commander of Palmach
Received Nobel Peace Prize in 1994
3. Menachem Begin, Prime Minister 1977-1983:
previously a leader of Irgun
Received Nobel Peace Prize in 1978
4. Yitzhak Shamir, Prime Minister 1983-1984 and 1986-1992:
previously a leader of Lehi
5. Shimon Peres, Prime Minister 1985-2001
previously member of Haganah
Received Nobel Peace Prize in 1994

One of the massacres conducted by Jewish terrorists (militias) was that of Deir Yassin (9 April 1948): "Most of the Jewish forces that attacked Deir Yassin belonged to two extremist, underground, militias, the Irgun (Etzel, abbreviated IZL) (National Military Organization), led by Menachem Begin" (Wikipedia). Read about Menachem Begin and the assassinations and massacres of which he approved in Pappé (2006). His style as an orator must have been modelled on Hitler, as this picture of 1948 shows.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deir_Yassin_massacre

Israel's Prime Minister from Menachem 1977 to 1982) was leader of the Jewish terrorist organisation Irgun.

See Pappé for the activities of the terrorist Irgun organisation and its offspring, the Stern gang.



Image: Terrorist Menachem Begin, prospective Prime Minister of Israel, in the Hitler pose that was natural to him. About Begin's terrorist activities before he became a politician, see Pappé, (2006) and Bresheeth-Žabner (2020)

((07))

Northern Ireland , terrorists who became leaders:

Martin McGuinness, a notorious member of the "terrorist" IRA, the Irish Republican Army, later Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland from 2007-2017. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

((08))

Destruction of Palestinian villages prior to 1948:

"In 1948 Israel took over what was historical or Mandatory Palestine (destroying and depopulating 531 Arab villages in the process. Two-thirds of the population were driven out: they are the 4 million refugees of today)." (Said, 2005)

((09))

Das eben ist der Fluch der bösen Tat, Daß sie, fortzeugend, immer Böses muß gebären.	It is the curse of an evil deed that it continues to give birth to never ending generations of evil.'
Friedrich von Schiller: Wallenstein, Die Piccolomini, Act 5:1	

((10))

Julian Borger (2001): US backs state for Palestine. The Guardian, 2001-10-03
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2001/oct/03/afghanistan.israel>
 Accessed: 2025-05-09

((11))

Prince Charles, genuine friend of Islam (Ahmed, 2023)

((12))

(12) Berlusconi, press conference in Berlin on 26 September 2001:
 "supremacy of our civilisation"
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2001/sep/27/afghanistan.terrorism7> -- Accessed 2025-05-05

((13))

Trenches warfare in World War I: Erich Maria Remarque: All Quiet on the Western Front

((14))

Ian Duncan Smith speech on 10 Oct 2001: Full text of the speech:
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2001/oct/10/conservatives2001.conservatives4>

((15))

Chomsky (2002); Chomsky and Vltchek (2013)

((16))

Boas (1934), Lévy Zumwalt (2022), Montagu (1945)

((17))

About the Bundists, see:
Jewish Socialists' Group (2024):
The Jewish Workers' Bund, Past, Present and Future
jsg@jewishsocialist.org.uk
<https://www.jewishsocialist.org.uk/resources/other>

Goldstein (2016)

((18))

Information about Emanuel Scherer (sometimes also spelt **Sherer**) is comparatively hard to come by. Apart from providing the Wikipedia link:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emanuel_Scherer

I therefore give here one of his brief obituaries in full:

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY
Emanuel Scherer Dead at 75
Date: 6 May 1977

Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Dr. Emanuel Scherer, secretary of the General Jewish Labor Bund. He died yesterday at the age of 75. A native of Cracow, Poland, Scherer joined the Jewish Labor Bund at the age of 17. He took part in the Jewish Socialist movement at Jagiellonian University in Cracow from which he earned a doctor of law degree.

In 1930, Scherer moved to Warsaw and became the youngest member of the Bund's central committee. He was elected to the Warsaw City Council in 1938. After the German attack on Poland, Scherer, his wife Bronka and several other members of the Bund central committee moved their headquarters to the then as yet unoccupied part of the country. But after the Red Army moved into Poland and most Bundists were arrested, Scherer succeeded in making his way to Lithuania, then Sweden and finally coming to the United States in 1941.

Scherer became a leading member of the American representation of the Jewish Labor Bund in Poland. In 1943 after Szmul Zygielbojm, the Bund representative on the Polish National Council in London, committed suicide in order to shock the Western world into action against the massacre of Jews by Nazis, Scherer succeeded him on the Council and remained in London until the end of World War II.

Scherer returned to the U.S. in 1946 and became secretary of the coordinating committee for the Bund. He was also editor of the Bund monthly, "Unser Tsait," and its representative in the Socialist International. He was also vice-president of the Jewish Labor Committee.

Source: <https://www.jta.org/archive/emanuel-scherer-dead-at-75>
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