

Zionist Propaganda in Britain through The Manchester Guardian Newspaper (1897 AD - 1948 AD)

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Abstract:

British Zionist Jewish media played a significant role in supporting and disseminating Zionist views both in Britain and abroad. The Zionists also took use of widely distributed non-Zionist British newspapers, which had a significant impact on British society as a whole, and the political elite in particular. The purpose was to promote Zionist news throughout Britain and write significant Zionist pieces that would assist them spread their beliefs and gain support from various British individuals as well as organisations. Such movement focused on The Manchester Guardian, which was widely read and played a significant role in advancing the Zionist endeavour to seize Palestine.

Keywords: the Zionist movement, the Manchester Guardian newspaper, Britain, Palestine.

« La propagande sioniste en Grande-Bretagne par le biais du journal Manchester Guardian (1897 après JC - 1948 après JC) »

Résumé:

Les médias juifs sionistes britanniques ont joué un rôle important dans le soutien et la diffusion des idées sionistes en Grande-Bretagne et à l'étranger. Les sionistes ont également utilisé des journaux britanniques non sionistes largement diffusés, qui ont eu un impact significatif sur la société britannique dans son ensemble, et sur son élite politique en particulier. L'objectif était de promouvoir les nouvelles sionistes dans toute la Grande-Bretagne et d'écrire des articles sionistes significatifs qui les aideraient à diffuser leurs croyances et à obtenir le soutien de divers individus et organisations britanniques. Ce mouvement s'est concentré sur The Manchester Guardian, qui était largement lu et a joué un rôle efficace dans l'avancement des efforts sionistes pour s'emparer de la Palestine.

Mots Clés: le mouvement sioniste, le journal Manchester Guardian, la Grande-Bretagne, la Palestine.

Introduction:

Zionism was and still is a deadly racial movement in Palestine and the Arabo-Islamic world. This movement achieved its objectives while also having a terrible global impact. In this article, we will try to reveal some of its stated and implicit purposes. This movement has effectively practiced broader media propaganda, particularly in Britain, through a number of newspapers such as The Manchester Guardian. This media had a large readership, but it was notorious for backing the Zionist movement.

The actual research seeks to investigate the news material contained in The Manchester Guardian, as well as some Arabic references, in order to obtain historical facts that demonstrate the colonial plan conceived by Britain and other colonial powers for the future of Palestine and the Arab world. In fact, such a plan created a tragic scenario for the Palestinian

people, forcing mankind as a whole to find a solution to eliminate such historical injustice. However, we must acknowledge that the Palestinian situation requires additional research to expose the catastrophic effects of the Zionist occupation not only in Palestine but throughout the Arab world.

The study employs both a descriptive history and an analytical technique to examine and comprehend this significant historical event that occurred over a long period of time between 1879 and 1948. The analysis focusses on significant events, emphasising the effects of the Zionist movement and Jewish migrant patterns to Palestine.

The central issue raised in this study is whether The Manchester Guardian was objective in its coverage of the Zionist project in Palestine between 1897 and 1948.

A. The Zionist movement:

Historians and researchers have given multiple definitions for this notion. We attempt to use a definition that clarifies the etymology of the word as well as the meaning it conveys as a concept.

According to Abdulwahab Elmeseri, the word Zion refers to the Mount of Zion and Jerusalem in the Jewish religion; this same mount is known as the Mount of David (the prophet) among Muslims and Palestinians. It is also used to refer to Jews as a religious community. (Elmeseri, 1999, p. 14). This term was taken from the word Zion. Nathan Birnbaum (1864-1937), a Jewish thinker, invented the term Zionism to refer to the movement aimed at gathering Jews in Palestinian territory. Jews believe that in the end of time, the Messiah will come to restore back the Jewish people to Palestine and to rule the entire globe (Encyclopedia, 1984, p. 64).

In a specialised context, the term Zionism refers to a movement aimed at returning Jews to their ancestral country, often known as Israel. According to Elmeseri, Zionism is a political movement that seeks to resolve Jewish difficulties by establishing settlements in the promised land. (Elmeseri, 1999, p. 13) . Zionism purports to be a political movement that is not concerned with religious education. Its primary purpose was to establish Jewish states in Palestine and to encourage the migration of Jews from all countries to Palestine. (Abuhisham, 2013, p. 49). It is a racist and colonialist movement that utilises Judaism as a cover to achieve its goals. It also adopts the pretence of the oneness of the race of all Jews of the globe, which is just a Zionist tactic to control the lands of Palestine (Elkhomeyni, 1996, p. 18).

The founder of the Zionist movement was Theodor Herzl(1860- 1904) . He wrote *Der Judenstaat (The State of the Jews)*, which was published in February 1896. In 1897, Herzl convened the First Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, and was elected president of the Zionist Organization. He began a series of diplomatic activities to obtain support from powerful states to facilitate the Jews' immigration to Palestine (Elkhouli, 1968, p. 9).

B. The emergence of the Zionist organization:

Several events contributed to the formation of the Zionist movement. Some European colonial powers undoubtedly aided this movement because their interests were intertwined. For a long time, Jews were repressed by eastern European powers, particularly Russia. During this time, the nationalist movement was expanding throughout Europe, and Jews were also impacted by it. But arguably the major cause that spurred

the Zionist movement was the decline of the Ottoman empire and the extension of colonialism in the Arab and Islamic worlds (Taylor, 1961, p. 74).

The Zionist movement appears to have emerged in Europe as a response to a set of conditions that Jews were facing, namely their isolation and inability to integrate into European societies. They were also known for their monopoly on products and services, which resulted in an increase of bigotry towards Jews. These circumstances facilitated the formation of many Jewish and racist organisations, such as the Lovers of Zion organisation, which was founded in Russia and established Rishon LeZion, the first Jewish community in Palestine, in 1882 (Saadi, 2008, p. 53)

C. The Guardian news Paper :

“The paper was founded in Manchester in 1821 as the weekly *Manchester Guardian* but became a daily after the British government lifted its Stamp Tax on newspapers in 1855. “Manchester” was dropped from the name in 1959 to reflect the newspaper’s standing as a national daily with a positive international reputation, and its editor and editorial staff moved to London in 1964” (Augustyn, 2024).

The Guardian represented the Liberal Party's point of view, but it did not take an aggressive stance opposing progress, freedom, or socialism. It was known for advocating for better cooperation with the United States of America while protecting the interests of Great Britain. This journal prints and distributes roughly 200,000 copies. It is part of what is described as the "new English media." It defends Lancashire's textile factories. Its readers are noted for their political versatility. The Guardian supports the

Labour Party's government programs and NATO. It also asks for broader cooperation with the United States, but it frequently takes realistic attitudes, as it attempts to protect the confidentiality of the establishment of a public of actions owners, although the Scott family had authority over everything (Gannon, 1971, p. 66).

D. The role of the Manchester Guardian in promoting the Zionist ideas:

The Manchester Guardian newspaper had a key role in spreading and publicising Zionist ideas. It had set aside significant space on its pages to follow, analyse, and expose Zionist beliefs. Furthermore, it used to publish pieces reflecting its point of view and emphasising its support for Zionism. The new papers used a variety of methods to disseminate Zionist ideas. The most noteworthy of these can be mentioned in the following lines.

A. Publishing and following Zionism's news:

Since the organization's inception in 1897, the newspaper has been used to publish any news on Zionist conferences on a regular basis. For example, it reported on the first Zionist convention and revealed its specifics, as well as the approval of the decision to establish a Jewish national homeland. It also wrote about the plan to organise a committee dedicated to establishing a Jewish settlement bank and a Jewish university in Jerusalem (Guardian, 1897, p. 9).

In 1900, the publication devoted a significant portion of its pages to completely chronicling the fourth Zionist congress held in London in August (Guardian, .1900, pp. 6-8). Furthermore, the journal was concerned with reporting all Zionist conferences held in Britain and other nations (Guardian, 1913, p. 8).

The Manchester Guardian had likewise set up a section to cover Zionist operations in Britain. It dealt exhaustively with a great deal of Zionist activities, such as the covering of the official English Zionist Union manifesto published in February 1907, which announced that the Zionists decided to continue the Zionism project and to accomplish Hertzl's work, and to focus on the practical activities that contribute to making Palestine a national homeland for Jews (Guardian, 1907, p. 5).

The British media also covered the general Zionist reunion organised by the English Zionist Union in 1909, which was presided by President Charles Dreyfus and Vice President Leopold Greenberg. In this reunion, the Zionists made a decision that said that the Zionists of Manchester support the Zionist organisation and trust sincerely in its leaders, as they would never spare any effort to improve working in the Zionist organisations (Guardian, .1909, p. 6).

In 1913, the journal reported the annual meeting of the Zionist Union and highlighted a message delivered by Max Nordau in which he talked about the evolutions of the Zionist activity in Palestine, the internal elections of the Union, and the nomination of Joseph Kawin as president (Guardian, 1913, p. 10).

The press was not confined to transmitting news about Zionist conferences or the Zionist Union; it also covered all international events linked to the Zionist Movement, such as the British occupation of Jerusalem in December 1917. As it had published in the same corner a letter from Hayim Wiseman in which he declared that the Jews would eternise in their souvenirs the entry of General Allenby into Jerusalem (Guardian, 1917, p. 5).

After the Saint Remo conference, the Guardian published an article titled "the Jewish homeland: doctor Wiseman view about Palestine," which mentioned the appreciation of Zionists for the decisions taken in the Saint Remo conference, and it also discussed that the future Zionist activities in Palestine will be focused on education, agriculture, and industry (Guardian, 1920, p. 8).

The publication was always concerned with disseminating news about Zionism in order to supply British citizens with all data that may validate the evolution and expansion of the Zionist movement, as well as to assess the level of interaction demonstrated by the British government and its seriousness. The Guardian ran pieces headed "The Massacre of Palestine" and "Shame on the British government" when it dealt with the Palestinian riot or the Buraq rebellion of 1929. The piece was reserved for transmitting the Zionist interpretation of the events. It reported that a Zionist riot occurred in which people protested the atrocity committed by Palestinians against Jews in order to express their horror and dissatisfaction. Furthermore, the publication confirmed in other articles that all of the victims of the murder were Jewish. Photographs of the Journal documenting the events were displayed in many Jewish synagogues in Britain (Guardian, 1929, p. 12) . However, while covering the 1936 Palestinian revolution, the Guardian journal implicitly supported the Zionist position. It stated, for example, that Jewish sources reported nine dead Jews and that there was no definite information about Arab victims. Paradoxically, the British police recognised that there was one murdered Arabic citizen, although Arabs' claims that the number of martyrs was too large (Guardian, 1936, p. 11) .

It is obvious that the journal's approach to formulating such reports was designed to spread among its British audience the idea that Arabs in Palestine had no credibility, that the numbers or statistics they provided could not be trusted, that their version was therefore incorrect, and that they represented a threat to Zionists who needed to be helped and protected from Arab violence in Palestine. Because the Guardian consistently adopted the Zionist narrative while ignoring the Palestinian version, we can conclude that the magazine itself was a Zionist media outlet.

B. Editorials :

The Manchester Guardian was recognised for embracing Zionist beliefs in several of its editorials. On June 25th, 1915, the publication published an article titled "Jews and the War" in which it portrayed Zionism as the Jewish spirit that strives for evolution and continuity in an ever-changing world. This article also emphasised that the future of Palestine must be an important concern for Zionism because the Jewish spirit requires material performances that may have a certain worth in order to achieve its ambitions (Guardian, 1915, p. 6) .

In November 1915, one of the Guardian's editors, Herbert Sidepotham, wrote an essay in which he discussed the value of having a friend state near Egypt's borders. This state would take on the responsibility of protecting British interests in the Suez Canal. This state is designed to function in the same way as the Hebraic Nation did in ancient times, operating as a buffer between the major empires of the East and Egypt. It was considered that Jews had the prospect of being allowed to form a Jewish state that would guarantee the protection of the Suez Canal and hence a safe way for Britain to reach its colonies in India (Guardian, 1915, p. 3). This argument was later embraced by the British foreign office, which maintained that British

support for Zionism is motivated primarily by the need to fulfil and maintain British interests.

These facts clearly show the Manchester Guardian's involvement in defending Zionist interests. Furthermore, it appeared to be the Zionists' mouthpiece, demanding and encouraging the British government to realise Zionist goals by emphasising the link between such goals and the imperialist interests of the British Empire.

Following the publication of the Belfort Declaration, the Guardian ran an article on November 9, 1917, emphasising that while discussing Palestine, we should emphasise that it is not a state, but will be a state for Jews. It saw the Belfort proclamation as a fulfilment of Jewish ambitions. The Jewish settlement in Palestine, according to the magazine, was the foundation of a true civilisation. Furthermore, this article praised the announcement and saw it as a British government assurance of a brighter future for the Zionist movement and the Jewish race. The author mentioned that if the British continues its victories and reaches to impose its control over all Palestine, all possible steps will be taken to promote Zionist migration to Palestine, where they will be given total peace and autonomy as a strategy for accomplishing the ultimate goal of creating a Jewish State (Guardian, 1917, p. 4) .

The Manchester Guardian's treatment of the Belfort Declaration looks to be more enthusiastic than the Jewish Journal's treatment in terms of contact, support, encouragement, and welcome. Such a reaction from the publication indicates its adoption and steadfast defence of Zionist philosophy, as well as its strong willingness to publish and promote any new evolution of Zionism.

The Manchester Guardian expressly stated in August 1941 that it shared Zionist beliefs. It explicitly said that it will establish an independent Jewish state in Palestine. It suggested that this state is critical to regional stability. It pretended that after World War I, Britain granted Arabs freedom as well as large assets and lands, whereas all it gave Jews was a small piece to build their national homeland. It said that time is appropriate for realising any more pleasure from Arabs, and to keep in mind that justice is strongly necessary in Palestine (Guardian, 1941, p. 4)

Furthermore, the Guardian's support was not restricted to this request; in the same number, it harshly criticised the British government and the 1939 White Paper. It believed that such a Paper lacked legal or moral foundation. It also addressed a number of accusations to the British government, including failing to implement the White Paper's agenda, establishing an independent Jewish state in Palestine, and enabling Jews to join the British army and fight as Jews. It also urged for treating Jewish soldiers similarly to Polish and Czech elements in the British army (Guardian, 1941, p. 4).

The Guardian reserved a full column on October 27th, 1943, to discuss Palestine's destiny. It criticised the 1939 white paper again and listed some British lawmakers who opposed it. The newspaper also criticised the trials of Jews in Palestine as a result of weaponry smuggling. The guardian believed that such trials would result in unwarranted discrimination against the Jewish community. The column also discussed Jewish successes in Palestine, such as a strong economy and how Zionists established a spiritual, religious, and social core for all Jews worldwide. The column stated that it is apparent that constructing a Jewish state in Palestine will be

the required and ongoing treatment for the Jewish predicament (Guardian, 1943, p. 4).

When dealing with Zionist terrorism in Palestine against Britain, the Guardian employed wording that seemed to glorify the Zionists' terrorist activities, the victims of which were primarily the British Army. The journal published an article on "The Jewish Terrorism in Palestine" on July 3rd, 1946, in which we can read that there was a great gap between the ancient Jewish generation, which stood against Britain but only in words, and the new generation, whose opposition to Britain is made up of acts and deeds. The quoted article noted that this new Jewish generation considered the British army an impediment that blocks doors to their Brothers Jews, causing them to be neglected and even exposed to death in Europe (Guardian, 1946, p. 4).

Following the United Nations' vote on the resolution to partition Palestine in 1947, the Guardian published an article about such partition, stating that Britain bears a great responsibility, particularly towards Jews, because it was Britain who gave Zionists the promise of a Jewish state, as well as the Belfort Declaration. Britain had governed Palestine for 27 years, therefore it could never afford to ignore its obligations. This paper revealed that the journal strongly endorsed such a choice. It also claimed that it thinks the words of the Lord Bill stated in the Royal Committee report that the partition provides at least an opportunity to achieve peace and stability in the region.

(Guardian, 1947, p. 4).

The Manchester Guardian appears to have adopted a clear strategy for raising the ceiling of demands in such a way that they converge with Zionist demands and claims that must be communicated to the British

government and viewed as legal rights demanded by Zionists and supported by British society, particularly by intellectuals, journalists, and readers. At the same time, the publication attempted to publicise such demands in order to win support and sympathy from the British public.

C.Zionist leaders' letters and articles:

Not only did the Zionists benefit from the Manchester Guardian's assistance, but they also published articles and letters in the Journal's sections. The publication published a letter from a British Zionist rabbi on October 6, 1921, claiming that nine-tenths of the Palestinian community believes that a Jewish settlement can bring enormous benefits to Palestine. He also calculated that the opponents to Zionism in Palestine constitute the minority, those who fear for their own interests, but because of Zionists, they will never impose excessive taxes on the bulk of the population (Guardian, 1921, p. 14).

Israel Cohen (1879–19616) was a British Jewish writer and leader. In 1909, he was appointed secretary of the Colonia Central Zionist Office for Anglophone States, after studying in Manchester. He then moved to Berlin, where he worked as a journalist for the Manchester Guardian and the Times. In 1917, he joined the London Zionist Organisation Office. He published various books and articles, particularly in the Jewish Traveler Magazine, in 1925. He Kohen produced numerous articles on Zionism, antisemitism, and other Jewish issues. On January 9, 1930, this Zionist wrote a letter in which he attempted to rebut the Arabic assertion that Britain favoured Jews over Arabs in Palestine. He also stated that the administration spent only 14% of the cash it had committed to development Palestine and donated it to Jews from the start of the mandate until 1928 (Guardian, 1930, p. 13).

Furthermore, on May 15, 1936, the Guardian published a letter claiming that Arabs were the first to incite violence and aggression against Jews, as well as propaganda against the Jewish state. This letter also claimed that the Arabic media contributed to incitement.

On December 15, 1937, Jabotinsky released a letter supporting and promoting the concept of splitting Palestine. This Zionist contended that this was the unique answer because it was difficult to impose a total separation between Jews and Arabs in Palestine, as well as the restricted surface of lands allotted to Jews (Guardian, 1937, p. 18).

Oliver Lampson, a Zionist, released a letter on February 19th, 1941, calling for the formation of an autonomous Jewish army to fight Hitler alongside the British and Allied forces. He pretended that if this proposal were implemented, the Zionists would be able to outfit a Jewish army of one million warriors (Guardian, 1941, p. 10).

By reserving a section for Zionist letters, the journal hoped to provide Zionists with a constant means of communication with the greatest number of British readers, Jews and non-Jews, to discuss Zionist issues and problems, as well as to analyse the readers' perspectives in order to determine how to persuade them of Zionist ideas and defend their project.

Conclusion:

This research can be completed by highlighting the most significant findings as follows:

It is apparent that the Manchester Guardian did not maintain a neutral stance when broadcasting news and stories. On the contrary, it had obviously adopted the pure Zionist views, with no regard for the Arabic Palestinian version or proofs. Furthermore, it had never contemplated pursuing the injuries perpetrated by Zionists to Palestine's native people.

The Manchester Guardian was interested in publishing all details concerning the Zionist Movement's ideals, values, and leaders' pronouncements and promoting them as evidence.

The Manchester Guardian was attempting to devise a solution to the Jewish problem at the expense of the Palestinian people, who were subsequently exposed to homelessness and life in the diaspora.

This topic deserves to be thoroughly researched in order to reveal the attitudes of British journals on the Palestinian issue in general, and Jewish migration in particular, as well as to compare British journal articles to Arabic writings on the same issue during the same period.

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