

Graffiti for intellectuals



SIMON SAYS



AUGUST
4
2008



By Si Frumkin

GRATEFULLY YOURS, GEORGE W. BUSH

President Bush

IS NOT POPULAR. HE IS EVEN MORE UNPOPULAR THAN TRUMAN AND REAGAN WHO PASSED AWAY

before historians, the media and the public recognized them as great. Time will tell if George W. will be similarly appreciated. Meanwhile, I have tried to refrain from both excessive criticism and excessive praise in judging his failures and his accomplishments.

There is, however, one flaw in the President's character that I can no longer overlook. It deals with a basic trait that has nothing to do with politics or global issues. I am surprised and disillusioned by President Bush because he lacks something as simple as politeness, good manners and a sense of gratitude towards the man who may succeed him in the White House and who will make sure that the Bush legacy will continue for years to come.

I regret that the President has not written an open letter to Senator Obama expressing his appreciation and gratitude for Obama's recent and wholehearted acceptance and support of most of the important Bush policies. Here is the letter I would like to see:

"Dear Senator Obama:

"I must admit that I had believed that your election to the Presidency would bring about chaos, disruption and endanger the United States. I apologize for this. I now recognize that the policies you proposed during the primary process were rhetoric – to quote that honorable Texan, Bill Shakespeare, 'Sound and fury, signifying nothing!'

"And, so, since I am now certain that I will leave my office with the knowledge that you will, if elected, follow in my footsteps and maintain my sincerely held policies, I sincerely apologize for having misjudged you.

"I had thought that your pledges to almost immediately end the war in Iraq – in no more than 16 months - and withdraw our troops would create an atmosphere of strife, bloodshed and civil war throughout the Middle East. I didn't realize that what you really meant was that this stance would be "refined", i.e. it would be predicated upon your future consultation with the generals and an acceptance of their suggestions which will surely include additional troops, armaments and energetic suppression of terrorist activities by various militias. This was and is exactly my position and I thank you for your support of it. I might add, that your opponent has not been nearly as outspoken about his plans and his willingness to accept the generals' opinions – in fact, he opposed me and the Pentagon by forcing us to adopt his Surge policy that ap-



pears to have been successful but was counter to the policy of his Commander-in-Chief and the Pentagon.

"I am also grateful for your vote and support in the matter of immunity for American telecommunication companies in the global battle against terrorism and your opposition to the so-called "fairness doctrine" to limit dispensation of truth by radio talk shows. Here too you had used your rhetoric to appear to be against both, but when it came to action – you did the right thing!

"I am happy that you didn't mean to be taken seriously when you spoke so movingly of your love and respect for your spiritual adviser, Reverend Wright, whom you compared to your beloved grandmother. You denounced him as soon as you wanted your true feelings to be known

and are currently making obvious your desire to have closer ties with the religious belief I and my family share – the Evangelical church. You have left your previous racist and anti-American church after only twenty years – it took me more time than that to abandon the drinking and partying habits of my youth and I am so happy that you will follow me in accepting the Lord as your Guide. Your sincerity in this is made obvious by your recent support of limitations of abortions and support of Christian charity organizations under your Administration.

"There is much more that gives me hope about America with you as President: your patriotism evidenced by the return of the flag pin on your jacket and a flag in your hand on the 4th of July, your respect for the law when you hurried to announce your agreement with the Supreme Court decision on ending the Washington DC gun ban and I am sure the many other revelations in the near future that will reverse the dangerous 'sound and fury' nonsense of your primary speeches.

"You are probably aware that I was roundly criticized during my terms in office over the possibility that I may reinstitute the draft. I didn't dare do so because of public opposition and, therefore, I admire your most recent proposal that you would 'set a goal for all American middle and high school students to perform 50 hours of service a year, and for all college students 100 hours', and

that disregarding these goals would be punished by loss of federal education dollars. Drafting students! How clever and innovative – the only similarity I can think of is the Soviet "Young Pioneers" and the "Hitler Youth".

Frankly, I could only dream about something like this; I didn't have the guts to do it.

"So, keep up the good work and may you make many more changes that we both desire,

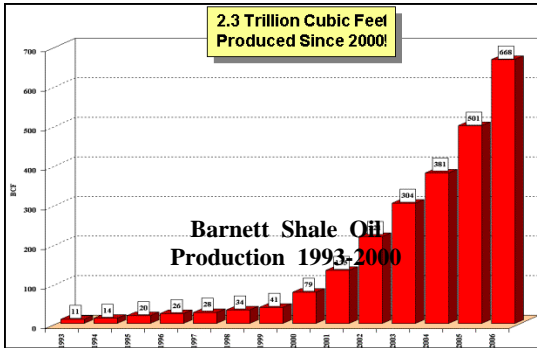
"Cordially, George W. Bush" ☺



THE BARNETT SHALE

Editorial of the New York Sun, July 25, 2008

As the Congress CONSIDERS WHETHER TO FOLLOW PRESIDENT BUSH'S LEAD IN REPEALING THE DECADES-OLD MORATORIUM ON DRILLING FOR OIL ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL Shelf and in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, it might want to take a look at what's happening in the Barnett Shale region in Texas. The recent history of the Shale, where innovative energy companies have turned a once impenetrable rock formation into the most important natural gas source in America, provides a testament to the professional competence of the engineers and geologists who find and obtain the energy resources that make America's economy possible. It also illustrates just how irrational the Congress's persistent opposition to drilling has become.



In addition to being the largest onshore natural gas field in America, the Barnett Shale sits directly on top of the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area, which is home to 6 million people. Companies are drilling for natural gas underneath schools, underneath the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, and underneath residential communities, and the process so far has been a resounding success. The Shale is producing at rates that have exceeded all expectations, and it's being done in a major American city without disturbing the residents who live there. Surely the reindeer in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, on whose behalf much of the resistance to drilling in that area is based, are as amenable to the process of drilling for resources as the citizens of Fort Worth.

Meanwhile, the Shale's economic impact on central Texas is a reminder that oil and natural gas are not just fueling energy addiction and pollution; these resources also create wealth. While the national economy is suffering, central Texas is experiencing a veritable boom. The annual economic impact of the Shale is \$22 billion, according to a study by the Perryman Group. The Shale has also generated nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars in local and state tax revenues, and has created nearly 100,000 jobs with more on the way. It's made a few billionaires, more than a few millionaires, and lifted thousands of fortunate men and women into sudden affluence. Would not a rational Congress rather these rewards accrue to Americans rather than our enemies in the Middle East?

The reluctance to utilize this kind of wealth when it exists beneath public lands is peculiar to our federal legislators. Alaskans are as free of this senseless inhibition as their compatriots in Texas, but much of Alaska's energy resources, unlike those of Texas, lie beneath land owned by the federal government. The governor of Alaska, Sarah Palin, is an outspoken critic of the Federal government's ban against drilling on Federal lands in her state, and, not coincidentally, she enjoys an 84% approval rating.

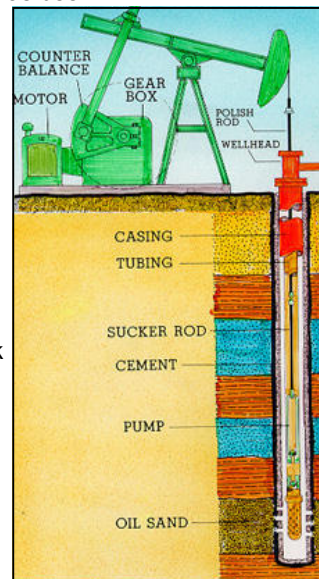
Only a few years ago, drilling for the gas in the Barnett Shale was considered virtually impossible. "It is far more complicated to extract natural gas from shale than from other sources of natural gas, like sandstone," a spokesman for Devon Energy, Chip Minty, said. Devon Energy has been active in the Shale since 2002, but until recently other companies have shied away from the area. Exxon Mobil, for instance, was late in buying an interest in the Barnett Shale even though its global headquarters is only a few miles away. Geologists and energy companies have known about the vast natural gas deposits in the Shale for decades, but the tight, almost impermeable nature of shale, a black rock formed from organic deposits 300 million years ago, made drilling there economically infeasible. A few decades of trial and error and a couple of visionary technological innovations later, and the Shale has become the most important natural gas field in America. The history of the Shale, Mr. Minty said, "shows the potential for energy resources across America."

As the Shale demonstrates, the engineers at energy companies haven't exactly been idle in the decades since the congressional bans on drilling were introduced. Oil and natural gas drilling has become safer, less intrusive, and more efficient. In addition to the Shale, Devon Energy produces in the

Gulf of Mexico. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina ripped right through their production sites. The storm battered Devon's oil rigs and destroyed a great deal of their infrastructure, but there wasn't a single significant oil spill.

Of course, the Barnett Shale does not challenge what is the most common — and nonsensical — objection to drilling in ANWR and on the Outer Continental Shelf: "By themselves," one can hear countless politicians say, "these oil sources will not solve America's energy problems." This point does not stand on its own. Its persuasiveness relies on relentless repetition.

Everyone agrees that soaring energy prices are burdening America's economy and empowering dangerous regimes abroad. And yet the most immediate means of relief, drilling for the oil in ANWR and the Outer



Continental Shelf, is dismissed on the grounds that it is not a complete solution to the problem. No reasonable person, suffering from thirst, would refuse a glass of water on the grounds that after he drinks it he'll still be thirsty. And yet this is precisely the reasoning informing the political opposition to drilling in ANWR and the Outer Continental Shelf.

America now consumes oil and natural gas at costs that embolden our enemies and weaken our middle class while at the same time prohibiting American companies from drilling where oil is known to exist within our own territory. With every rise in the price of oil, this absurdity becomes ever more tragic. In the case of offshore drilling, it's true enough that the risk of an oil spill cannot be entirely eliminated. But it's a risk that has diminished dramatically in the nearly 20 years since Exxon Valdez, and it's a risk we can no longer afford to forego. **\$4.??+**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: "*A JEW IN THE NEW GERMANY*,"

AUTHOR: HENRYK BRODER TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY THE BRODER TRANSLATORS' COLLECTIVE. EDITED BY SANDER L. GILMAN AND LILIAN M. FRIEDBERG

(Continued from page 4)

absurdity of their views. One has to marginalize anti-Semites: to isolate them in a sort of social quarantine. Society must make clear that it disdains both anti-Semitism and anti-Semites: just as it disdains parents beating their children and rape — including spousal rape — even though it well knows that it cannot monitor everything that transpires behind closed doors.

Secondly, if you want to come to terms with anti-Semitism, you must realize that it is not a fixed quantity like the standard meter prototype in the Paris vault or the definition of the volt, watt, or ampere. Like all social phenomena, anti-Semitism is susceptible to transformation. Even poverty is no longer today what it once was at the time of *Oliver Twist*. The anti-Semitism that we are most readily inclined to discuss is an artifact of the last century and the century before that. It is the anti-Semitism of fools, who are still chasing chimeras. [*In the late 19th century, the German Social Democrat August Bebel famously described anti-Semitism as the "socialism of fools."* — *Translator's Note*] The common anti-Semite has no real idea about the object of his obsessions, but only a diffuse feeling. He lets off steam by painting swastikas on aluminum siding and scribbling "*Juda verrecke*" ["Jews go croak!"] on gravestones. He is a case for the police and the local courts, but nothing more than that. Nobody is going to feel sympathy for thugs who raise their arms to give the Hitler salute and shout "*Juden raus!*" ["Jews out!"]. This sort of anti-Semitism is ugly, but politically irrelevant: it is its own death notice.

The modern anti-Semite looks entirely different. He does not have a shaved head. He has good manners and often an academic title as well. He mourns for the Jews who died in the Holocaust. But at the same time he wonders why the survivors and their descendants have learned nothing from history and today treat another people as badly as they were once treated themselves. The modern anti-Semite does not believe in the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. But instead he fantasizes about an "Israel lobby" that is supposed to control American foreign policy like a tail that wags the dog. For the modern anti-Semite, it goes without saying that every year on January 27 he will commemorate the liberation of Auschwitz. But at the same time he militates for the right of Iran to have atomic weapons. For "how can one deny Iran what one has permit-

ted Israel or Pakistan?" as Norman Paech [the foreign policy spokesperson of the German Left Party] has put it. Or he inverts the causal relationship and claims that it is Israel that is threatening Iran and not vice-versa — as [*German Middle East scholar*] Dr. Udo Steinbach did in a recent radio interview. The modern anti-Semite finds ordinary anti-Semitism disgraceful. He has no problem, however, embracing anti-Zionism and is grateful for the opportunity to express his resentment in a politically correct form. For anti-Zionism is a sort of resentment just like classical anti-Semitism was. The anti-Zionist has the same attitude toward Israel as the anti-Semite has to Jews. He is not bothered by what Israel does or does not do, but rather by the fact that Israel exists. That is why he participates so passionately in debates about the solution to the Palestinian question — which could well mean a final solution for Israel. On the other hand, he is left indifferent by conditions in Darfur or Zimbabwe or Congo or Cambodia, because there are no Jews involved in those places. Ask the foreign policy spokesperson of the Left Party, for instance,

how many statements he has issued about "Palestine" and how many about Tibet.

Earlier — let's say at the time of classical anti-Semites like Wilhelm Marr, Karl Lueger, and Adolf Stoecker — everything was plain and simple. There were Jews, there were anti-Semites, and there was anti-

Semitism. After 1945, for the well-known reasons, we then had in Germany an anti-Semitism without Jews. And now today we are again confronted by a new phenomenon: an anti-Semitism without anti-Semites. Another new phenomenon is the professional profile of what might be called the "leisure time anti-Semite" who does his regular job during the day, perhaps even in a federal government office, and then in his spare time writes "critical" texts on Israel that appear on obscure anti-Zionist websites. [*The reference is to Ludwig Watzal, an official of Germany's Federal Office for Civic Education (BpB), many of whose articles have been reprinted on the site antimperialista.org. See [Google on Watzal] The BpB has resisted calls for*

Watzal's dismissal, arguing that the writings in question are not connected to his professional activity. — *Translator's Note*] Nobody wants to be an anti-Semite, but the "anti-Zionist" hall of shame is getting increasingly crowded.

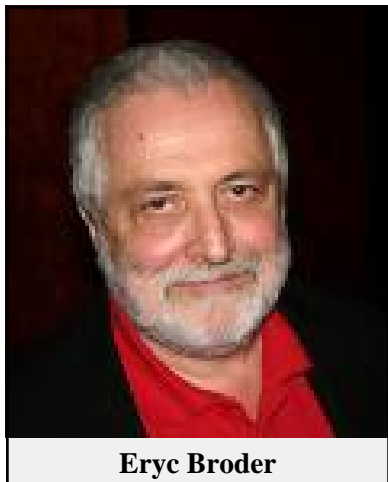
Anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism are two sides of the same coin. If the anti-Semite was convinced that it is not him, the anti-Semite, who is to blame for anti-Semitism, but rather the Jew himself who is to blame, so too is the anti-Zionist convinced that Israel is responsible not only for the suffering of the Palestinians, but also for the hardship it suffers itself. The older persons among you will perhaps remember what a Green Party politician, who is still a member of the Bundestag, said about the Iraqi rockets that were fired at Israel at the time of the first Gulf War in 1991: "The Iraqi rocket attacks are the logical, nearly unavoidable consequence of Israeli policy." [*The author of the quote is Green Party Member of Parliament Hans-Christian Ströbele.* — *Translator's Note*] At the time, the same Green Party politician also opposed the delivery of defensive weapons like Patriot rockets to Israel, because this would, he claimed, lead to an escalation in the hostilities.

Today, some 17 years later, we hear similar remarks about rocket attacks on Israel from southern Lebanon or the Gaza Strip: namely, that they are the logical, nearly unavoidable result of Israeli occupation and that Israel would do well not to react in order to avoid escalating hostilities. The modern anti-Semite pays tribute to Jews who have been dead for 60 years, but he resents it when living Jews take measures to defend themselves. He screams "Beware of the Beginnings!" when a handful of weekend Nazis hold a demonstration in Cottbus, but he justifies the policies of the current Iranian president and defends the continuation of German business with Iran.

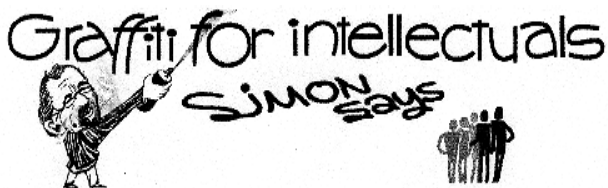
Ladies and gentlemen, we will not solve the problem of anti-Semitism: not at this hearing nor at the next. But the mere fact that you are discussing the issue — when there are also other and more pressing problems that need attention — is a good sign. If I may in all modesty make a suggestion: leave the good old anti-Semitism to the archaeologists and antiquarians and historians. Devote your attention to the modern anti-Semitism that wears the disguise of anti-Zionism and to its representatives. You will find some of the latter among your own ranks.

I thank you for listening.

English Translation by John Rosenthal



Eryc Broder



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Fax: 818-766-4321
Phone: 818-769-8862
Esfrumkin@roadrunner.com

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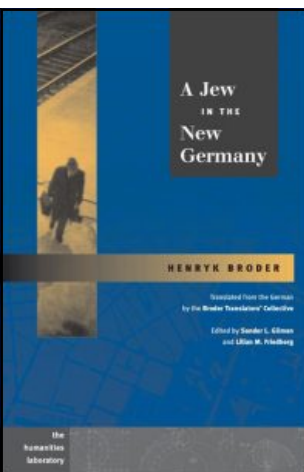
ANTI-SEMITISM WITHOUT ANTI-SEMITES By Henryk Broder, July 15, 2008

Henryk Broder is a German journalist and author. He is well known for his columns in "Der Spiegel" and his books that examine current left-wing anti-Semitism and German attitudes toward Israel and Jews. In July, the Domestic Affairs Committee of the German Bundestag held public hearings on anti-Semitism in Germany. Many of the speakers chose to focus on the "classical" anti-Semitism to be found in what in Germany are euphemistically called "right-wing extremist" milieus, i.e., among skinheads and self-avowed neo-Nazis. The journalist Henryk Broder, however, located the problem elsewhere: namely, in the mainstream "anti-Zionist anti-Semitism" to be found, for instance, among academics and Bundestag members. Pajamas Media here presents a complete English translation of Henryk Broder's statement to the Bundestag's Domestic Affairs Committee.

I thank you for the invitation to this hearing. It is an honor for me to be able to speak to you. I know that there has been some unhappiness on account of my participation. But I am sure that by the end of my statement you will not regret having invited me.

anti-Semitism starts with a definition of the concept. And many get no further than that, such that after all the efforts to get a grasp on the phenomenon one is left merely with the finding that anti-Semitism is, as the old joke goes, "when one can't stand Jews even more than is normal."

resentment is as follows: a prejudice concerns a person's behavior; a resentment concerns that person's very existence. Anti-Semitism is a resentment. The anti-Semite does not begrudge the Jew how he is or what he does, but that he is at all. The anti-Semite takes offense as much at the Jew's attempts to assimilate as at his self-marginalization. Rich Jews are exploiters; poor Jews are free-loaders. Smart Jews are arrogant and dumb



This is not the first hearing on the issue of anti-Semitism and it will not be the last. Ever since the writer and self-avowed Jew-hater Wilhelm Marr published his "The Triumph of Germanism [Deutschtum] over Jewry" in 1879, thus becoming the leader of political anti-

I would like, therefore, to concentrate on two points: two arguments to which one has to pay special attention if one does not want to conduct a merely virtual debate. Firstly, anti-Semitism is not a matter of a prejudice, but rather of a sort of resentment. In and of themselves, prejudices — literally "pre-judgments" [Vorurteile] — are harmless. I have prejudices, you have prejudices: everyone does. It is only *negative* prejudices that bother us. If I say to you that Germans are hardworking, disciplined, and show their guests great hospitality, you will happily agree with me. If, however, I say that Germans are cheap, infantile, and lack a sense of humor, you will presumably get upset. That's an unacceptable generalization, you will say. It is the same with Jews. We gladly hear positive prejudices expressed — on the "people of the book" or Jewish humor — but negative prejudices, which thematize our worse tendencies, we take as an insult.



Jews — and, yes, there are also dumb Jews — are a disgrace to Jewry. The anti-Semite blames Jews in principle

Semitism in imperial Germany, there have been numerous attempts made to define, explain, and neutralize anti-Semitism. They have all failed. If this was not the case, we would not be here today. Every discussion of

The distinction between a prejudice and a

for everything and its opposite. That is why there is no point in trying to debate anti-Semites or in wanting to convince them of the (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)