

Meet two sides of the antisemitic coin

BY CHRISTINE FLOWERS

I've received a few letters from readers over the past few weeks asking me why I keep writing about antisemitism. One was a simple question, with no negative intent. The others run the gamut between "stop carrying water for the Jews" to "anti-Zionism isn't Jew hatred so stop it" to "you're a two-note moron: abortion and the Jews."

That's not surprising, and I don't take it as an insult since it means that people are doing what I always hope they'll do: read my opinions. But I have to admit, I'd love to write about something else, like the Philadelphia Flower Show, or my hatred of daylight-saving time, or the Oscars.

But like Michael Corleone in that horrific third installment of "The Godfather," just when I think I'm out of it, they pull me back in.

This time it was primarily the wife of New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani who did the heavy lifting, or pulling, as it were. Rama Duwaji, who identifies as an artist and is Syrian-American, has been exposed as a Jew hater of the highest order, having liked dozens of posts that celebrated the mass murder perpetrated by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023.

Duwaji, who has been featured on a number of magazine covers since her move to Gracie Mansion, has had a relatively undistinguished professional career, which is probably why her husband called her a "private citizen." She is so private, hardly anyone outside of New York knows who she is.

But the Gaza Groupies, the sick cheerleaders of a death cult, know her well. She has thrown emotional support to their cause, celebrating the rape and murder of women and children with a flick of her New York finger.

I criticized her on X in a post that got almost 20,000 likes, so it wasn't an entirely bad week. She is, as Maya Angelou said, telling us who she is, and millions of us believe her. And her hubby is quite wrong to give her a pass on her Jew hatred. She may be an insignificant artiste-wannabe, but no "private" citizen gets to live rent free at the public's expense. With Mrs. Mamdani in residence, it should be called Disgrace Mansion.

And of course, she refuses to apologize.

Another woman who refuses to say she's sorry is Megyn Kelly. Many readers would be shocked at my comparing Catholic "conservative" podcaster Megyn with Rama Dujawi. It's true there are significant differences. The former Fox News superstar is arguably intelligent whereas Zohran's little strudel doesn't give off smart vibes. Megyn is accomplished, has several degrees and doesn't mistake crayon posters for art. But they have this in common: They both refuse to apologize for their despicable treatment of the country's Jewish population.

Rama is the more obvious one, as noted above, joyously celebrating the 21st century Holocaust of October 7th. There is no mistaking her political and moral views on the topic.

Megyn, because she's smarter, is more subtle. She does not openly spout antisemitic rhetoric and has a paper trail of saying the right things about her Jewish friends (most of them now former) in the pod sphere. But she refuses to condemn raging Jew haters like Candace Owens and Tucker Carlson, cozies up to people who platform antisemites like Piers Morgan and mocks the very legitimate concerns of more authentic commentators like Ben Shapiro and her once ride-or-die Dave Rubin. Even Sean Hannity, who is no one's idea of a liberal, and some of her erstwhile podcast guests like Bethany Mandel have jumped off of the Kelly express, wondering what happened to her.

And when people point it out, begging her to come to her senses she doubles down by saying she'd rather die than condemn Candace, the woman who has compared Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Satan.

Rama and Megyn are opposite sides of the same coin. Mrs. Mamdani represents the absolute worst of the pro-Hamas left, trying to cloak their embrace of terrorism and hatred of Jews behind a facade of human rights.



Weaponized Data via Silencer

"Authoritarian regimes have developed strong cyber espionage capabilities that enable their influence and coercion operations," explains a National Intelligence Council "assessment," dated April 7, 2020.

This report goes on to say that the "collection and aggregation of vast quantities of personal data" by commercial enterprises, and the willingness to share this data with third parties, "increases both the likelihood and the impact of data breaches."

The report, which is highly redacted though declassified in late 2022, fingers Iranian hackers as well as foreign governments for having obtained private data on U.S. citizens. In 2013, Russia's Federal Security Service "sponsored a theft of 3 billion accounts" off an American web service, and in 2017 Chinese agents "stole 147 million from a US credit-reporting agency." And more.

Reading on, a sense of *déjà vu* develops. The report calls this techno-

logical capacity "digital authoritarian capabilities" — yet our own government has the same.

It accuses China of marshaling "mass surveillance and AI-driven algorithmic tracking of its citizens' behavior at home to inform the use of soft or coercive incentives and disincentives to control them," but that, I'm afraid, is what our government does, too.

Now we learn that all this and more was known by American intelligence agencies during the first Trump administration.

But was kept from him.

That is, "intelligence analysts downplayed China's actions because they had disdain for the 'vulgarian' Trump," explains *Just the News*, and at least one agent kept evidence of possible Chinese interference in the 2020 election from the president because that might have led to "policies against China" that the agent didn't like.

That, right there, we call a *datum*.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

The real March Madness

BY PETER FUNT

The term "March Madness" was coined in 1939 by an Illinois high school official named Henry Porter, but it didn't relate to the annual NCAA basketball tournament until 1982, when broadcaster Brent Musburger put it in play.

Musburger was referring to the drama that comes with 68 teams competing in the single-elimination event, now underway. But here's the real madness: Americans will legally wager an estimated \$3.3 billion on the men's and women's tournaments. According to the American Gaming Association, it's

Rama cares deeply about Gazan babies who are victims of their parents' tragic political choices but has no concern for murdered Israeli toddlers whose only crime was being born Jewish.

Megyn is the much prettier but equally lethal face of right-wing antisemitism, a philosophy that hides its bigotry behind what it pretends is legitimate criticism of Israel or America First isolationism.

This country should shun both of them, and the movements they represent.

an increase of 54 percent in just the past three years.

The bottom line is that, one way or another, "Everybody Loses."

That's the title of a new book by my son, Danny Funt, who provides a comprehensive look at how legal sports gambling exploded following the 2018 Supreme Court ruling that allowed states to make it legal. Moreover, Danny details the efforts of betting companies to seduce gamblers, with reckless disregard for the growing number of addicted participants.

He writes: "If sports betting continues down the path it's been on since 2018, I wonder if watching a game without also wagering on it will, before long, seem quaint or even pointless."

Subtitled "The Tumultuous Rise of American Sports Gambling," the book explains how U.S. lawmakers, in their haste to rake in tax money through legalized wagering, failed to learn from the experience of other nations. Many countries, with longer periods of legalization, have had to reel in sports betting and install more guardrails — something that would have been easier to do at the start, rather than after serious problems were identified.

In Colorado, for example, legislation was introduced this month by Democrat Andy Ball to limit what he calls "a culture that normalizes constant gambling." Among its provisions, the measure would prohibit the use of credit cards for bets and block promotional bonus payments in exchange for placing an online wager.

As Danny's book points out, sports gambling, unlike other forms of addiction, often develops slowly—perhaps over two or three years. The insidious process can be more harmful than with, say, alcohol. It also means that much of the U.S. is still too early in the legalization era to fully evaluate the damage that out-of-control wagering is causing.

Exactly a year ago, during March Madness,

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) reintroduced federal legislation called the SAFE Bet Act, addressing public health aspects of legalized sports gambling. The goal, said Blumenthal, is "to stop the sports betting industry from abhorrently exploiting addiction. We have seen far too many — especially young people — driven into gambling abuse disorder, which is a disease." The bill remains stalled in committee.

I don't often use this forum to plug a product. But I think Danny's book is a worthy exception because of the profound way in which gambling is overwhelming the sports we love.

And that, whether you're a casual bettor or someone deep into addiction, is maddening.

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- Letters with political content will not be accepted the week preceding an election as it does not allow time for a response.

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