

Grass's 'What Must Be Said': A Revolt Against Zionism and the Western Hypocrisy

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Abstract

This article deals with Grass's view of Zionist audacity and the double gaming of the west regarding Israel and Iran's nuclear competition as expressed in his "What Must be Said". After the establishment of Israel in the Palestinian land, the Jews have been piling up nuclear and other fatal weapons in the name of securing themselves. On the other hand, in the name of defense, Iran is also depositing Uranium for making Nuclear weapon. This competition has made Grass anxious and so he strongly urges the conscience of the world to protest the Jewish ill-motive that endangers the world. At the same time he speaks ill of western hypocrisy for being blind to Israel's atrocities in the holy land.

1. Introduction

Breaking the silence of the world, Guntar Grass has been silent for ever on last 13 April 2015. His 'What Must Be Said' (1) published in the Suddeutsche Zeitung newspaper in 2012 is a revolt against Zionism. As soon as the poem was published a tempest swept over the globe and stirred the scruple of the people silenced for a long time. The western world and all of its institutions advocating for peace and justice have been simply playing blind man's buff with the people of the world. It was Grass who dared, as he could not compromise with the hypocrisy of the stake holders of peace around the globe, to voice against the Zionist obstinacy and their carelessness to people's opinions over the issue of Palestine.

2. History of the Zionism

Zionism is an orchestrated movement for establishing a separate Jewish state. This movement was fathered by Theodor Herzl in 1897. After the Second World War, the Jews scattered in

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the various corners of the world. Being a nation of none entity, a keen sense establishing an individual state was seen among them. They, with the help the west, especially Britain and America, started settling themselves in the land of Palestine. "The ideas of the restoration of the Jews in the land of Israel entered British public discourse in the early 19th century." (mideastweb.org)

Lord Shaftsbury of Britain urged to set up a consulate in Jerusalem in 1838. In the next year, Church of Scotland sent Andrew Bonard and Robert Murray to report on the circumstances of Jews there. The report was widely published (Edinburgh,1842) and was followed by a "Memorandum" to protestant marches of Europe for the Restoration of the Jews to Palestine. In August 1840, The Times reported that the British government was considering Jewish restoration. (mideastweb.org) Correspondence in 1841-42 between Moses Montefiore, the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and Charles Henry Churchill, the British consul in Damascus, is seen as the first recorded plan proposed for political Zionism. (Adler1997).

The first Jewish migration to Palestine is known as Aliyah, a Hebrew word for "ascent" referring to the act of spiritually "ascending" to the Holy Land and a basic tenet of Zionism.

After establishing themselves in Palestine, the Jews carelessly committing massacre in the land of Palestine. Ben Klassen in his essay "A Few Examples of Jewish Atrocities" writes;

Throughout their history the Jews have committed millions of atrocities, most of which will never be recorded and most of which are intentionally covered up and lost to history. Not only have they committed millions of atrocities throughout their history, flagrantly, and constantly, but they are perpetrating atrocities today, in Russia, in China, in Cuba, in Hungary, and in Germany, both East and West. In fact they are committing atrocities today in every country of the world, including these, our United States. Therefore, to list a few paltry examples does not do the subject justice. However, since so many people are so completely unfamiliar with the nature of these atrocities, I believe that reciting a few examples of Jewish atrocities will at least partially serve to shed some light on the fierceness of the Jewish nature, the vast immensity of their satanic program, and the diabolical cruelty perpetrated by the Jews upon the host nations amongst whom they have lived and grown fat.

The business of Jews is to deceive, to hate, to kill, to destroy and to perpetrate massacre around the globe. The history of Jews is the history of conspiracy, usurpation and absorption.

By cunning, by treachery, by deceit, the Jews claim they have an inherent God given right to destroy, kill, and obliterate all other peoples and nations that they may choose to victimize. (Klassen)

Many examples of the Zionist massacres and atrocities are found in the pages of world history. All these examples bear the testimony of Zionist barbarism and make sense that what a cruel nation the Jew is! Some examples are picked from history to unmask the devilish face of Zionism:

a) The Murder of Dresden

Just at the end of the Second World War almost 6000,000 people took shelter in Dresden, a beautiful city of Germany, famous for art and culture. These were people who were anti-communists. It is to be noted that at this period of history World War II was practically over and Dresden was not preparing to fight against the Red Army.

On the night of February 13, 1945 at 10:13 p.m., British bombers started dropping hundreds of thousands of fire bombs on the poor, helpless refugees and citizens of Dresden who were only trying to escape the butchery of the Red Army. These raids were carefully planned by these heinous and diabolical Jews to reap the maximum in death and destruction. The timing was such that it would hit the citizens of Dresden at a time when they were out on the streets celebrating a Christian religious holiday. Thousands were burned alive. (Klassen)

b) The Red Terror in Russia

This is another painful history. Soon after the Russian Revolution the Czarist government was overthrown and its supporters were severely persecuted by the Revolutionists, guided and trained by the Jewish terrorists.

“This kind of terror was going on throughout the cities of Russia. Soon every factory, every government bureau, every school district and every army unit would function under the gimlet eye of a Jewish commissar. Soon the blood of human beings would be oozing from under the doors of communist execution chambers as tens of thousands of White men and women were butchered like cattle in a slaughter house. Soon five million landowners were deliberately starved to death as part of a premeditated plan. I might add that one of my earliest childhood recollections is when I personally lived through the famine in Russia in 1922.” (Klassen)

Myriad of examples are available in the pages of the world history about the Jewish barbarity and their vendetta. Though they are minority, they have been the instrument of world crisis.

3. What Must Be Said: A Caustic Condemnation of the Israel

Grass has minutely observed that Zionism is the biggest problem of the world. Being afraid of the stigma of anti-Semitism, he has been silent for a long time about the Zionists who have made the world fragile by piling up the Nuclear Weapons, a threat to peace of the world. However, he is no longer silent; his mouth is widely opened to denounce the Zionism. In the very opening line of the poem "What Must Be Said", he says;

*Why have I kept silent, held back so long,
on something openly practised in
war games, at the end of which those of us
who survive will at best be footnotes?..*
.....
*Yet why do I hesitate to name
that other land in which
for years – although kept secret –
a growing nuclear power has existed
beyond supervision or verification,
subject to no inspection of any kind?* (Translated by Breon Mitchell)

Perhaps in the history of postwar Germany, none could dare to speak so blatantly against Israel as Grass. His steadfast vocal against the Jew has been hailed and reacted by many.

Never in the history of postwar Germany has a prominent intellectual attacked Israel in such a cliché-laden way as Günter Grass with his controversial new poem, "What Must Be Said." The Nobel Prize laureate has delivered a lyrical first strike against Israel. (Hammelehle)

The west has been blind to the Israel's atrocities in Palestine. Rather than speaking against the Jewish barbarity, the west is encouraging them. Since the settlement in Palestine, they have been plundering Palestinians' houses and dwelling places, occupying their lands and building illegal shelters for the Jews. No media, no agency is speaking against the illegal activities the Jews are committing in the holy land. America along with other countries leading UNO is highly vocal for justice and democracy, but never strictly delivered any statement against the Jewish atrocities. This hypocritical behavior has made Grass sick. He is now weary enough of the western world's unbecoming deportment to make drastic criticism against the double gaming of the west:

*And granted: I've broken my silence
because I'm sick of the West's hypocrisy;
and I hope too that many may be freed from their silence,*

Another important aspect of the poem is that Grass has meticulously pointed out that the Israeli atomic power endangers the already fragile world peace. They have so many atom bombs by which the world can be destroyed many times. They have made 'Iron Dome' for their security making the world insecure and vulnerable. They never care for the possible danger of their Nuclear Weapons. Their Atomic Plant is subject to no inspection. On the other hand, the UNO and the other powerful countries of the world are busy inspecting Iran's Nuclear Plant. They understand the dangers of Iran's Nuclear Plant, but they never sense the possible peril may derive from Israel's Nuclear weapons. This danger, though late, has been felt by the gallant Grass. Now he feels the pulse of time and cannot tolerate the procrastination. So he dares to protest today for tomorrow maybe too late:

*Israel's atomic power endangers
An already fragile world peace?
Because what must be said
Maybe too late tomorrow;*

He criticizes not only the west regarding Israel issue but also his own country for supplying Submarine to Israel. Once the two countries were enemies; the German people blame the Jew for killing Christ and the Jew blames the German people for the tragedy of Holocaust. Now they are behaving like friends, which frustrate Grass. So he reacts:

*But now that my own country,
brought in time after time
for questioning about its own crimes,
profound and beyond compare,
has delivered yet another submarine to Israel,
.....
whose specialty consists in its ability
to direct nuclear warheads toward
an area in which not a single atom bomb
has yet been proved to exist.*

As a minute observer of the world politics, Grass is not only denouncing the Israel's power mongering, but also he is recommending the solution. He feels that the world leader should be unbiased in solving the nuclear problems that are endangering the world peace. The UNO and other stake holders of the world should come forward to address the problems. He urges the scrupulous people, feeling exposed to the danger and destruction of the Israel and Iran's atomic plants, to come forward breaking the silence to demand the neutral international inspection and supervision of both the atomic bases of Israel and Iran:

*.....I hope too that many may be freed
from their silence, may demand
that those responsible for the open danger
we face renounce the use of force,
may insist that the governments of
both Iran and Israel allow an international authority
free and open inspection of
the nuclear potential and capability of both.*

What makes Grass so bold enough against Zionism at the end of his life? Perhaps he could realize the cruelty of the Zionism, that may play havoc with the people of the world in future if they are not checked at due time. They never mind killing innocent people in multitude. Radical Zionism encourages the Murder of Millions of Innocent people with Nuclear Weapons just because they are Arabs or Muslims. (loonwatch.com)

The website 'Israeli Insider' has published the most dehumanizing anti-Muslim hatred, that is, the Zionists proposes the "Samson Strategy" which can only be described as unrestrained massacre of innocent people, Muslims or non –Muslims, in relation for attacks against Israel.(Do)

However, the poem encounters much criticism from the Jewish corner. They accuse Grass for advocating in favor of Iran by writing this poem. Soon after the poem was published, Israel declared Grass as persona non-grata. Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, expressed outrage that Grass should have had the audacity to compare Israel to Iran. Netanyahu described the comparison as shameful, offensive, shall we say, to the dignity of every civilized person: 'In Iran there is a regime that denies the Holocaust and calls for the destruction of Israel.(Lal)

Holocaust is the painful history of the world but it should not be allowed to use as an instrument to persecute other nation in the world. Edward Said says;

*.....let me repeat that I cannot accept the idea that the holocaust excuses
Zionism for what it has done to Palestinians. (Loonwatch.com)*

4. Conclusion

Finally, we can say that Grass is out and out a dedicated pacifist who not only opposed the Israel's atomic plants but also opposed the installation of nuclear missiles on German soil. He defined himself in a 1969 interview a humanist, allergic to ideologies of any kind "to the point of wanting to attack any belief that claims to set absolute objectives." (www.timesofisrael.com) His "What Must be Said" is the pronouncement of time that stirs the scruple of the world. Out of the sense of responsibility and commitment to the art and literature, he advocates for peace denouncing the possible violence that may occur in the world due to nuclear power mongering between Israel and Iran.

Note:

1. Translated by Breon Mitchell. The poem can read in [the original German here](#). • It was amended on 10 and 11 April 2012 after it was revised by the translator. This was further amended on 13 April 2012 to include a link to the original poem in German.

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