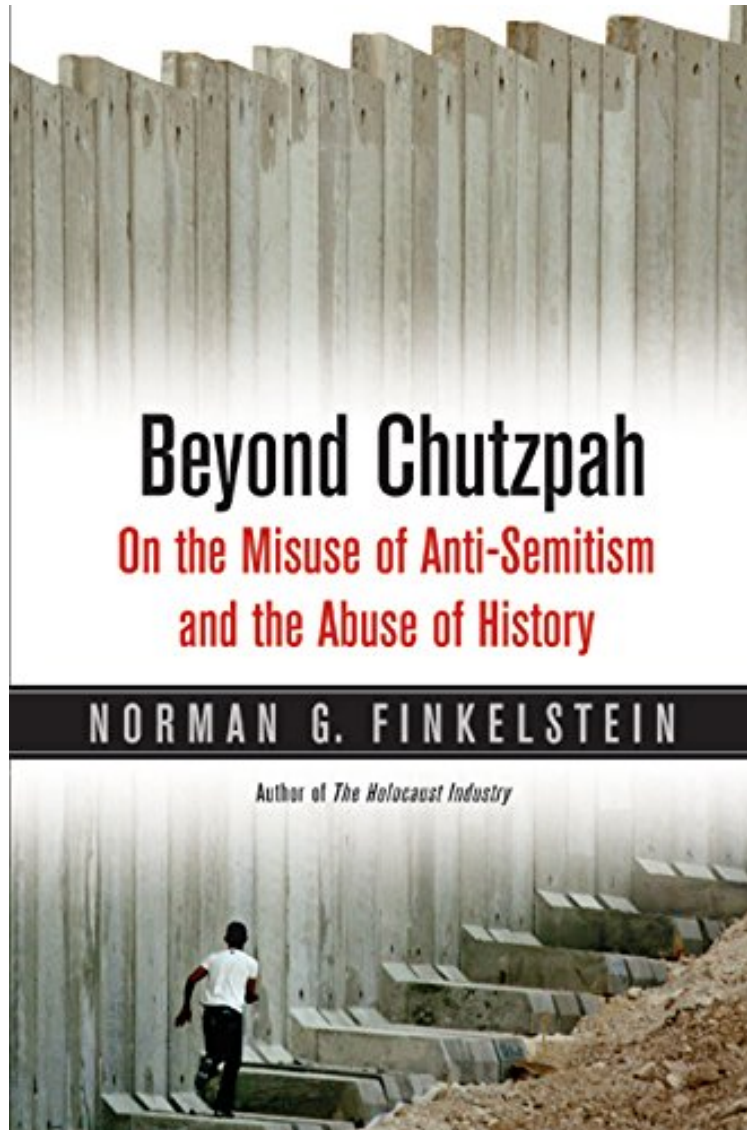


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# Beyond Chutzpah: On the Misuse of Anti-Semitism and the Abuse of History

*Norman G. Finkelstein*

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**Norman G. Finkelstein : Beyond Chutzpah: On the Misuse of Anti-Semitism and the Abuse of History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond Chutzpah: On the Misuse of Anti-Semitism and the Abuse of History:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Exceptional expose of Alan Dershowitz's 'The Case For Israel'By

JohnThis is really two books in one. The first 85 pages are an excellent discussion of the misuse and abuse of the term anti-semitism. The points are well made but border on overkill. The best part of the book is the much longer, highly detailed expose of the dishonest attempt at "scholarship" by Harvard's Alan Dershowitz in his 'The Case For Israel' (2003). Finkelstein is very detailed with exhaustive documentation. This is not pleasant reading, specially for those who believe all the pro-Israeli mythology that pervades reporting in the US. Dershowitz is clearly exposed as a world class liar; sorry, there's just no polite way to say it. For anyone willing to listen to all the international bodies that have studied the issues - this is an eye opener that's almost too painful to read. I did not read it until January 2014 and found it still highly relevant almost a decade later. The Dershowitz issues are nicely updated in Howard Friel's excellent 'Chomsky and Dershowitz: On Endless War and the End of Civil Liberties' (2014). This is not fun reading but if you want an adult dose of reality this will reward your efforts. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Thanks Norman for a well documented book that serves to ... By Philip J, Hearn, Jr. Thanks Norman for a well documented book that serves to save us from Dershowitz and Harvard University's attempts to minimize Israel's atrocities. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Educational but ranting By Frezzro The book was eye opening re: Israel's treatment of the Palestinians. The only problem was it was at times more of a rant with withering legal case details. But it was most definitely educational and i feel i more fully understand the history and cultural issues that perpetuate the status quo.

In this long-awaited sequel to his international bestseller *The Holocaust Industry*, Norman G. Finkelstein moves from an iconoclastic interrogation of the new anti-Semitism to a meticulously researched exposé of the corruption of scholarship on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Bringing to bear the latest findings on the conflict and recasting the scholarly debate, Finkelstein points to a consensus among historians and human rights organizations on the factual record. Why, then, does so much controversy swirl around the conflict? Finkelstein's answer, copiously documented, is that apologists for Israel contrive controversy. Whenever Israel comes under international pressure, another media campaign alleging a global outbreak of anti-Semitism is mounted. Finkelstein also scrutinizes the proliferation of distortion masquerading as history. Recalling Joan Peters' book *From Time Immemorial*, published to great fanfare in 1984 but subsequently exposed as an academic hoax, he asks deeply troubling questions here about the periodic reappearance of spurious scholarship and the uncritical acclaim it receives. The most recent addition to this genre, Finkelstein argues, is Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz's bestseller, *The Case for Israel*. The core analysis of *Beyond Chutzpah* sets Dershowitz's assertions on Israel's human rights record against the findings of the mainstream human rights community. Sifting through thousands of pages of reports from organizations such as Amnesty International, B'Tselem, and Human Rights Watch, Finkelstein argues that Dershowitz has misrepresented the facts. Thoroughly researched and tightly argued, *Beyond Chutzpah* lifts the veil of controversy shrouding the Israel-Palestine conflict.

From Publishers Weekly Finkelstein, a political science professor and author of *The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish Suffering*, has conducted a rancorous public feud with Harvard Law professor and pro-Israel stalwart Alan Dershowitz over the latter's *The Case for Israel*, and here expands his arguments into a vigorous polemic on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The first part of the book examines what he feels is a growing tendency of pro-Israel commentators to use spurious charges of anti-Semitism to deflect and discredit legitimate criticism of Israel. The second, much longer, part is a line-by-line debunking of *The Case for Israel*, which he compares to Communist apologetics for Stalinist Russia. Rebutting Dershowitz's claims about Israel's "superb" human rights record, Finkelstein cites human rights organizations like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the Israeli group B'Tselem to document Israeli abuses in the occupied territories, including killings of Palestinian civilians, torture of Palestinian prisoners and home demolitions. Lengthy appendices flesh out his explosive assertion that Dershowitz plagiarized the historical research and interpretations (but not the actual phrasing) of Joan Peters's *From Time Immemorial*. The Middle East conflict rarely inspires calm discussion, and Finkelstein duly pillories his opponents as perpetrators of "hoax" and "fraud" who lack "ordinary moral values" and whose behavior resembles anti-Semitic stereotypes. Inflammatory rhetoric aside, he does raise serious questions about the veracity, scholarly methods and fairness of Dershowitz and others. More important, he presents a wealth of evidence on the human rights situation in the occupied territories, so often ignored in American debate on these issues. Exhaustively researched and meticulously-if intemperately-argued, Finkelstein's book is a formidable challenge to the conventional wisdom on the Middle East. Photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Supporters of this book will not include Alan Dershowitz, author of *The Case for Israel* (2003). Very little of Dershowitz's widely acclaimed defense of Israel's occupation policies escapes Finkelstein's withering scrutiny. Behind Dershowitz's firm assurances that Israel is dealing with its adversaries justly and humanely, Finkelstein discerns ugly realities, including brutal torture of Palestinian prisoners and lethal disregard for Palestinian children and noncombatants. In Finkelstein's assessment, Israel is grievously violating Palestinian rights because its leaders deliberately choose to ignore both the humanity of the Palestinian people and the justice of international law. And in

the claim that will perhaps stir the fiercest debates, Finkelstein asserts that when Dershowitz and his allies defend Israel with shoddy and mendacious scholarship, they actually stoke the very anti-Semitism they claim to be combating. Neither anti-Semitism nor global antipathy toward Israel will persist, Finkelstein avers, if Israel and its partisans will honestly confront and redress the malign consequences of current Israeli policies. This book, which has already sparked intense controversy, belongs in collections seeking to represent multiple points of view on significant topics of international interest. Bryce Christensen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Accurate, well-written, and devastatingly important."