

Review of: "[Commentary] Israel: A Problem the World Created (And Now Appears Unable to Solve)"

Eli Osheroff

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

After reading the essay, I am not exactly sure what its purpose is. Is it to advocate for the idea of the Confederacy? To hold the world accountable for Israeli policy? To provide a critical survey of the history of the conflict? I am afraid there is a connection between the essay's considerable length and its lack of clarity in terms of argument.

Since much work was put into it, and since I generally identify with the author's rhetoric, I want to make the following three suggestions:

First, I encourage the author to engage with the concept of settler colonialism instead of ethnonationalism. It is more coherent and commonly used today when analyzing Zionism. There is an abundance of scholarship on this subject; a good place to start would be Gershon Shafir's "A Half Century of Occupation: Israel, Palestine, and the World's Most Intractable Conflict" (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2017).

My second suggestion is to clarify exactly what the argument is. Is it that the world has responsibility? If so, then focus on that, but understand that this has less to do with confederalism, for example. Choose an argument and pursue it consistently.

Lastly, following the argument, the essay must be shortened and condensed to avoid becoming a compendium of historical phases and anecdotes. I am curious about further drafts of this essay, if there will be.

Good luck!