

“THE CAUSE OF WORLD UNREST”

A Compilation of Articles from the anti-Semitic British Newspaper,
The London Morning Post (1920)

Below follows selected excerpts from the preface to the 1920 American edition of *The Cause of World Unrest* (Jews, of course!). Here, the editor of the Morning Post of London, H. A. Gwynne, strenuously defends himself against the charge of anti-Semitism in issuing this compilation of articles largely based upon the notorious forgery, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* from his newspaper charging a worldwide Jewish conspiracy “against civilization.”

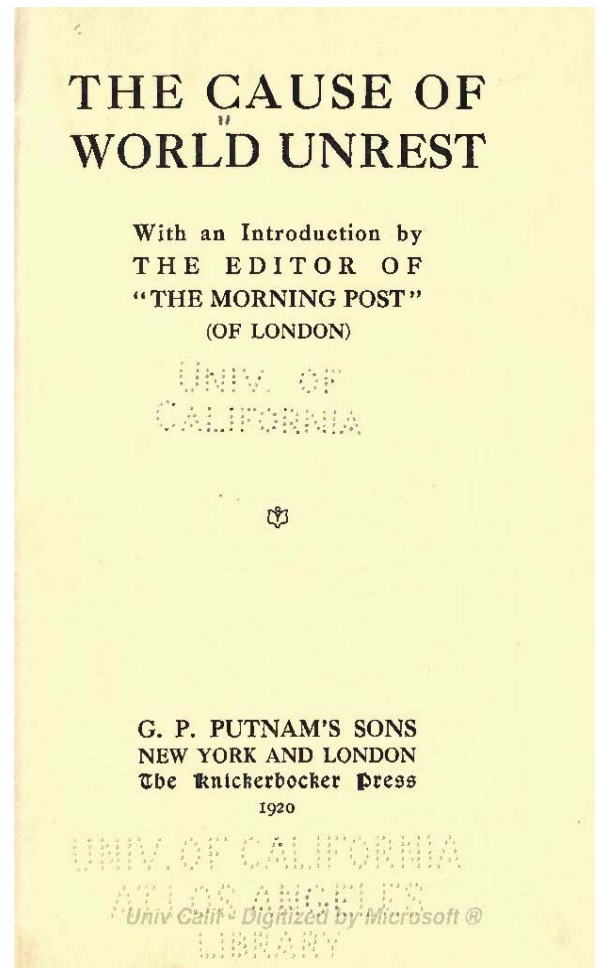
This compilation of anti-Semitic articles evidently served as a chief inspiration for America’s most influential anti-Semitic newspaper, *The Dearborn Independent* which was independently funded by the magnate Henry Ford in the 1920s. *The Dearborn Independent* also notoriously reprinted in several volumes a compilation entitled, *The International Jew*.

What chiefly interests us today in reexamining these indignant protestations against the charges of anti-Semitism by a newspaper editor are how fresh and familiar these specious arguments ring with those put forth to defend our own, local anti-Semitic friendly rag, *The Berkeley Daily Planet*. As with the champions of *The Planet*, this tract attempts to have it both ways: on the one hand it issues the familiar and reflexive denial of the slightest anti-Semitic motives while on the other hand simultaneously and incongruously defending the “truth” of the “Jewish conspiracy.”

Excerpts from the preface by H. A. Gwynne, editor of the Morning Post of London to the *The Cause of World Unrest*:

In excerpt 1 below, we read an outlandish, totally unsupported claim of a massive Jewish conspiracy. We have seen this thesis, only slightly updated and revised, stated in various guises in the Daily Planet for many years.

1. The main outline of the contents of this book is, in brief, that there has been for centuries a hidden conspiracy, chiefly Jewish, whose objects have been and are to produce revolution, communism, and anarchy, by means of which they hope to arrive at the hegemony of the world by establishing some sort of despotic rule.



In excerpt 2, we find the familiar protestation that some of the editor's best friends are Jews and that there are a few good Jews here and there but more "bad" ones overall.

2. I have said that this secret revolutionary movement seems to have been engineered chiefly by Jews. It is about time that somebody spoke out frankly on this subject. I myself have several Jew friends. One of them I shall always remember with gratitude, for he would give me no peace in the years before the war until he had convinced me of the German danger. At his own expense he dispatched a man to visit the various dockyards of Germany and the information thus obtained was found extremely useful. Now this man is as good a patriot as I am, but I say that there are certain bad Jews who have conspired and are conspiring against stable government; I point out that over 80 per cent, of the present Bolshevik Government are Jews, and that the Bolshevik movement outside Russia is chiefly directed by Jews.

Excerpt 3 is a very familiar inversion of anti-Semitism in which those who traffic in old and new anti-Semitic canards blame the victim for complaining about their mistreatment. This line of reasoning is still echoed verbatim in the Planet on an ongoing basis.

3. If I cast doubt upon the political integrity of any Jew, or even if I disagree with his policy, I am dubbed an anti-Semite. This is not just. I accuse the Jews themselves of creating anti-Semitism and I will proceed to give my reasons. [...] They [Jews] may quarrel among themselves, but they unite instantly and almost unconsciously against any criticism from outside. The result is that a critic of a prominent individual Jew or of a particular Jewish policy, who begins with no sort of prejudice against Jewry, finds arrayed against him the serried and united ranks of Jewry. It is no use his declaring that his objections are not to Jewry, but to a particular Jew or a particular Jewish policy. He is dubbed an anti-Semite, with a consequence that he has to accept the epithet and, in some cases, on the principle of the dog with the bad name, promptly proceeds to justify it.

Excerpt 4 takes us (surprise!) back to Palestine while the ink is still wet on Balfour Declaration and many years prior to the creation of the State of Israel. How many times have we read in the editorials of the Berkeley Daily Planet on the subject of Palestine a slight variant on this theme, "Cannot the good Jews see that this is a mistaken policy? It creates, as I said before, anti-Semitism."?

4. I will give a concrete instance of this. A few months ago, as a result of the Peace Conference, Great Britain accepted a mandate for Palestine, and, true to her word, proceeded to carry out her promise to provide a home for Jews in that country. At the present moment the

population of Palestine consists of 80 per cent Arabs and 20 per cent Christians, Jews and other religions. The Arabs are in a highly excited state of mind, because they know of the intention of the British Government to afford Jews a home in Palestine. Naturally they are asking each other what is to become of them if the Jews come into their country in great numbers. They are not ignorant of the fact that there has been started a great Jewish fund of 25,000,000 to aid the immigration of Jews into their country. The situation is a highly delicate one. On the one hand is the declared British policy, on the other the Arab inhabitants, fearful about their fate. To deal with such a critical state of things tact and, above all, impartiality was required. The British Government for some extraordinary reason appointed Sir Herbert Samuel, a Jew, to be High Commissioner for Palestine. In the opinion of the Morning Post it was a dangerous and an improper appointment. Were Sir Herbert Samuel the greatest of men and a very Solomon for wisdom, the appointment would still be a gross mistake, for even the loftiest motives and the most impartial application of justice were bound to be misunderstood. I have never yet met in private conversation a Jew or a Christian who defended the appointment. Yet when the Morning Post protested against it, the Jewish papers came out with bitter attacks, and with the usual accusations of anti-Semitism. Cannot the good Jews see that this is a mistaken policy? It creates, as I said before, anti-Semitism. The objection to Sir Herbert Samuel's appointment was justified on every count. If the British Government had proposed Sir Edward Carson as Viceroy of Ireland, that step would be exactly on all fours with the choice of a Jew as High Commissioner of Palestine. Surely criticism of such an obviously unwise decision might have passed without arousing the stupid cry of anti-Semitism.

In the final excerpt 5, we return to another familiar theme of trotting out rabidly anti-Semitic conspiracy theories while in the next breath vehemently denying the slightest anti-Semitic motive. Accordingly, there are two types of Jews once again, the "good" ones, the "honest, patriotic Jews" who, in the opinion of this newspaper editor, must "come forward and denounce and no longer defend the revolutionaries of their race." In updated, local terms, Jews like Barbara Lubin, Mark Sapir and Gilad Atzmon who embody "honest, patriotic Jews" whereas destabilizing revolutionaries and warmongers like the critics of the Berkeley Daily Planet imperil the future of civilization.

5. The question which every reader of this book will want to have answered is whether there is a Jewish Peril and, if so, what are its ramifications. That there is a Jewish Peril I have no sort of doubt, but we must guard ourselves against generalizations. It is easy to prove that a certain section of the Jews in the world are engaged in a mighty

attempt to destroy the established rule in many countries and, to bring this world into communistic brotherhood. The thing is taking place before our eyes. But it would be downright wicked to ascribe to Jewry as a whole this mad and dangerous policy. In that direction lies the danger, the hideous danger of a violent and indiscriminate anti-Semitism. It must be averted by the Jews themselves. The honest, patriotic Jews must come forward and denounce and no longer defend the revolutionaries of their race. They should refuse to approve of any policy which tends to undermine the pillars of civilized society, for the time has come when there can be no sitting on the fence; those who are not with us are against us. The pages of this book will tell the tale of this conspiracy against civilization for that is really what it amounts to...