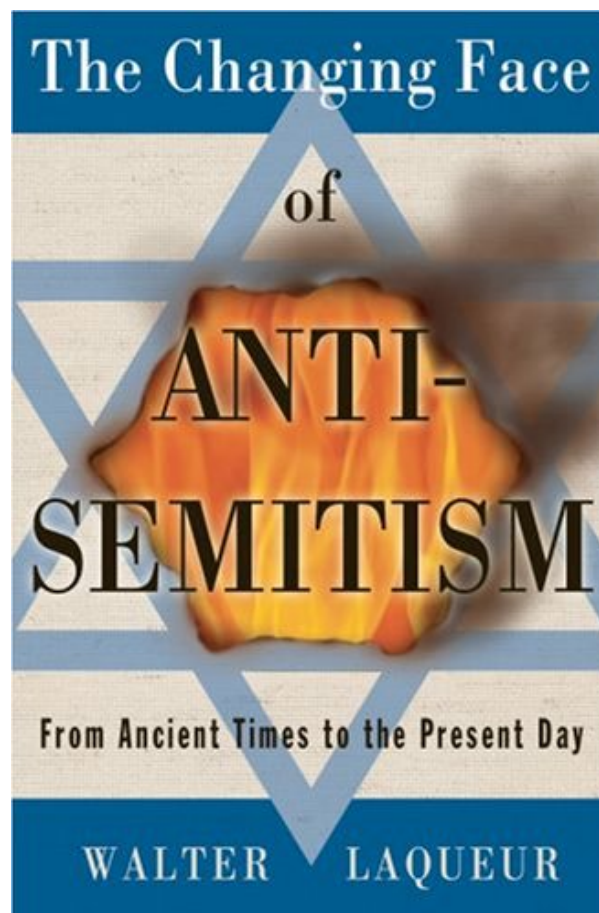
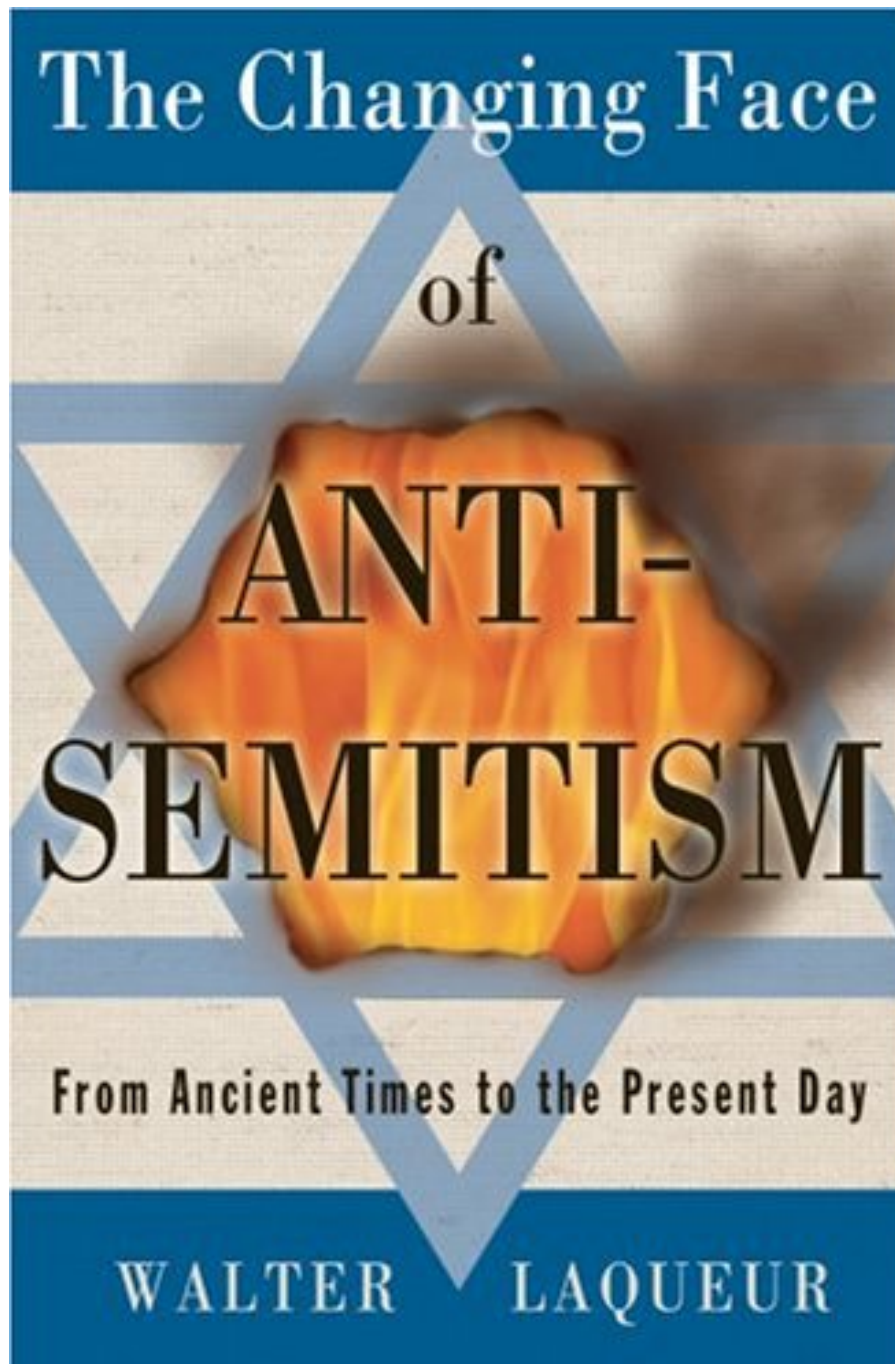


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FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO THE PRESENT
DAY BY WALTER LAQUEUR**



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For thirty years the director of the Wiener Library in London, the leading institute for the study of anti-Semitism, Walter Laqueur here offers both a comprehensive history of anti-Semitism as well as an illuminating look at the newest wave of this phenomenon.

Laqueur begins with an invaluable historical account of this pernicious problem, tracing the evolution from a predominantly religious anti-Semitism--stretching back to the middle ages--to a racial anti-Semitism that developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The author then uses this historical account as backdrop to a brilliant analysis of the newest species of anti-Semitism, explaining its origins and rationale, how it manifests itself, in what ways and why it is different from anti-Semitism in past ages, and what forms it may take in the future. The book reveals that what was historically a preoccupation of Christian and right-wing movements has become in our time even more frequent among Muslims and left-wing groups. Moreover, Laqueur argues that we can't simply equate this new anti-Semitism with anti-Zionism and write it off as merely anti-Israel sentiments. National and religious minority groups have been systematically persecuted from Indonesia, to Bangladesh, Rwanda, and beyond, but their fate has not generated much indignation in Europe and America. If Israel alone is singled out for heated condemnation, is the root of this reaction simply anti-Zionism or is it anti-Semitism?

Here is both a summing up of the entire trajectory of anti-Semitism--the first comprehensive history of its kind--and an exploration of the new wave of anti-Semitism that will be of interest to all concerned about the future of Jews, Judaism, and Israel.

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Four Stars

By Tiger Lily

Requirement for my Holocaust course. Difficult to read due to the content.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent overview of a question that still has no definitive answer

By Sheldon Goldberg

Walter Laquer is an excellent writer who provides an objective view of a very difficult subject. He admits that there is no definitive answer to the question of "Why Anti-Semitism," but he provides an excellent overview of different manifestations of it. Recommended for anyone interested in Jewish history or the phenomenon itself.

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Lacks passion, prose drags

By John Harpur

This is not a well written book. It lacks footnotes and the in-text references to bibliographic material could be spruced up. The bibliography itself reads like a file dump from the author's computer. There is a certain casualness or perhaps more accurately a journalistic informality about the prose that didn't read well for me. And all of that is a pity because the central theme of Laquer's work is the constancy of anti-Semitism propagated under different deceitful guises in different times. Anyone who learns something new from this book is not familiar with Jewish history, the history of the diaspora. The book is, from this perspective, a useful introduction to the emergence and solidification of anti-Semitic trends. However, given Laquer's professional provenance I expected much greater depth, much more profound analysis and I did not encounter it. Instead, one ends up with a version of a Dummies Guide. I would have liked more passion to flow, more provocative argument to be evidenced, the Sword of Moses to be waved about. One can be academic and passionate (e.g. Saul Friedlander) and for me, and I stress for me, this work did not hit the spot.

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