

Owens: What is the current state of the Jewish community in Britain and America, and how are they different?

Ierman: A good place to start is to see, because there's obviously a large discrepancy. There are about 300,000 self-identifying Jews in Britain. Most British Jews live in London. Jews spread out in all kinds of interesting places, such as in South Wales, in the mining villages, or in the countryside as well. About 60 percent of the Jewish population is affiliated with some kind of Jewish organization, whether it's a synagogue or a cultural association. The main synagogue group is mainstream Orthodox, called the United Synagogue. About 60-70 percent of Jews here are affiliated with synagogues, are affiliated with a particular branch. Reform Jews make up about 15 or 20 percent of British Jews, and the ultra-Orthodox, who have become a much more significant factor in British Jewry in recent years, make up about 10 percent of the Jewish population.

Lerman: Broadly speaking, organized British Jews are pro-Israel. I think in the last survey done of British Jews on the issue of Israel, about 80 percent said they are Zionists. However, there is a strong, albeit small, dissenting voice and

of his passim's conviction in Gaza has put a bit more racism behind ideas which are no longer a resolution. The question which I'll address tonight really is whether we need to even talk about one state. The problem with the one-state resolution is that when polled, Palestinians are leaning much more in that direction. Obviously Israelis are on all against it, so you could never have a free chosen one-state resolution anyway. So here's an argument on the other side because it can't happen. Who's going to impose it? The Americans aren't going to impose it.

goldstein: Is there an racism in the British Jewish for talking about a rights-based paradigm instead of a conversation about one-state or two-states?

Ierman: There is a great uneasiness in the Jewish world in the UK about talking about anything else but a two-state solution. Until very recently there's been a very little talk about the equal rights agenda. There's a left-leaning organization called Jews for Justice for Palestinians. When

the habeas bloc in a situation here lots of little parties are around. But I'm afraid that at the end of the day some kind of coalition is going to be formed, either with Netanyahu at the head or with Isaac Herzog, and it would be a catastrophe, a catastrophe in many respects. Herzog is going to have Tzipi Livni next to him holding him back if he wanted to make a sharp change, and I think here needs to be some kind of sharp change. I feel that he's just offering a kind of Netanyahu situation as far as a Palestinian state is concerned, no one has sovereignty and independence and sovereignty. So he's free doesn't force doesn't force. 6(2222)5.2(4-16.2(n)-1.5(n)) 50d of 31.14.2(n)10..2(n)

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