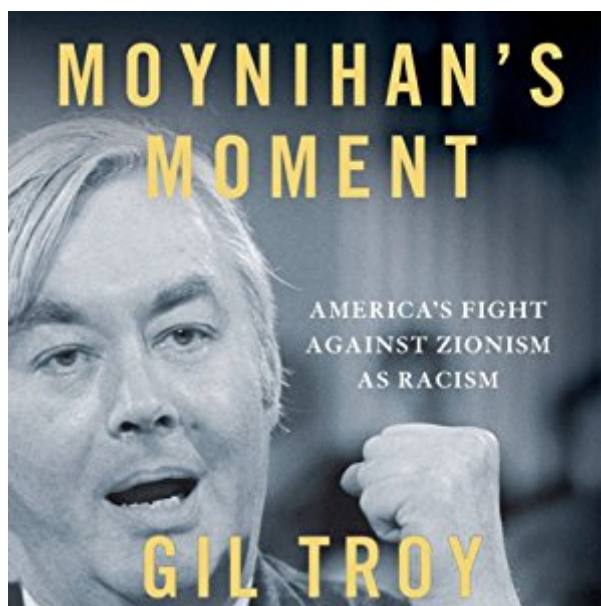


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Moynihan's Moment: America's Fight Against Zionism As Racism



Synopsis

On November 10, 1975, the General Assembly of United Nations passed Resolution 3379, which declared Zionism a form of racism. Afterward, a tall man with long, graying hair, horned-rim glasses, and a bowtie stood to speak. He pronounced his words with the rounded tones of a Harvard academic, but his voice shook with outrage: "The United States rises to declare, before the General Assembly of the United Nations, and before the world, that it does not acknowledge, it will not abide by, it will never acquiesce in this infamous act." This speech made Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, a celebrity, but as Gil Troy demonstrates in this compelling new book, it also marked the rise of neo-conservatism in American politics - the start of a more confrontational, national-interest-driven foreign policy that turned away from Kissinger's detente-driven approach to the Soviet Union--which was behind Resolution 3379. Moynihan recognized the resolution for what it was: an attack on Israel and a totalitarian assault against democracy, motivated by anti-Semitism and anti-Americanism. While Washington distanced itself from Moynihan, the public responded enthusiastically: American Jews rallied in support of Israel. Civil rights leaders cheered. The speech cost Moynihan his job - but soon won him a U.S. Senate seat. Troy examines the events leading up to the resolution, vividly recounts Moynihan's speech, and traces its impact in intellectual circles, policy making, international relations, and electoral politics in the ensuing decades. The mid-1970s represent a low-water mark of American self-confidence, as the country, mired in an economic slump, struggled with the legacy of Watergate and the humiliation of Vietnam. Moynihan's Moment captures a turning point, when the rhetoric began to change and a more muscular foreign policy began to find expression, a policy that continues to shape international relations to this day.

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Customer Reviews

I have nothing but praise for Prof. Gil Troy's brilliant rendering of Ambassador Daniel Patrick Moynihan's tenure as US Envoy to the United Nations. Prof. Troy is the first scholar to write about the events that led to the "Zionism Is Racism" UN Resolution, the harm that was done, and the brave and bold response of Amb. Moynihan and his friend and colleague Chiam Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the UN. I lived through all of it. Amb. Moynihan was my father, and I always felt it was his finest hour, exposing the "Big Red Lie", the handiwork of UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, who was later outed as a Nazi general who oversaw the extermination of tens of thousands of European Jews. Waldheim outlived both Moynihan and Herzog and died in his luxurious chateau in Austria. I thank Prof. Troy for telling this story so that the world will know what happened, why Amb. Moynihan had to resign from the UN, and what Waldheim and his cabal did to the UN and to the world. The book captures the reader with elegant writing, meticulous research, and vivid renderings of those events in 1975 and 76. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the international history of the post war era.

It's hard to conceive of a more timely book than Gil Troy's "Moynihan Moment." Troy captures an era that has returned, and with a vengeance--the movement to delegitimize Israel. Today it is BDS; in the 1970s it was "Zionism as racism." The two are simply two sides of the same coin, and with the same objective: not to oppose Israel's policies but Israel's existence. In this lucid, clear-eyed and deeply researched book, Troy describes how UN Resolution 3379 was a direct result of Soviet machinations, which, as he points out, were grounded in virulent anti-Semitism. Unable to counter the resolution, Moynihan denounced it with an eloquence that reverberates today, when the U.S. frequently fails to take a sufficiently moral, forthright position in world bodies. Moynihan's unabashed stance was directly opposed by Henry Kissinger, who is portrayed in this book as back-stabbing and insincere. Troy goes on to deal with the aftermath of the resolution, its 1991 revocation, the Durban disaster of 2001, in which anti-Semitism was on display in an open and brazen manner not seen since the Nuremberg rallies. This book is of particular value to those of us who are troubled by the preoccupation with Israel by many on the left and their connivance with radical Islam, which runs counter to true progressive values. Troy's book provides valuable insights into that disturbing

phenomenon.

Excellent historic recollection of a very powerful event that moved the US toward the solidarity with Israel and the American Jews. Eye opening of the power struggles in Washington, the petty personalities of very respected people, like Kissinger, and the corruption of ideas that mingle in the UN to this day. It talks about the obsession with Israel in the UN, the amplification of everything that the Israeli government does and the way that no responsibility is given to the totalitarian regimes in the Middle East.

This is truly a wonderful book explaining in a clear manner how the one man, speaking clearly and carefully, was able to change the world. The book shows that words and individuals do matter. It also puts much of the late 1970's through 1990's in context. It is an important read and I truly thank the author for writing it.

Very timely with all that is going on in the world right now. Reminds us that one or two people can make a difference even when the odds are long. Gil Troy has done a service by writing this and showing us how strong leadership, despite obstacles at home and abroad, can overcome the conventional wisdom.

What a great book. It's as relevant today with all the Jew and Israeli-hatred as it was 40 years ago. This is good source information for today's BDS movement against Israel. Times haven't changed.

This is a critically important book for us all. It explains and provides us some important understanding of current antisemitism in the BDO movement.

The book reviews recent history that has become almost forgotten despite the fact that we are still living in times highly influenced by it.

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