

Letters

Sir,

Mr Mencher will be aware that both Zionists, non-Zionists and anti-Zionists are critical of Zionism as a nationalistic or ethnic force, and given that the promotion of Zionism is opposed by Orthodox Jews, my criticism of it is not especially radical or new, nor can it validly be called “vicious unthinking anti-semitism”; it’s certainly not anti-Arab nor anti-Israeli. It is however critical of Zionism in its aggressive militant form, a criticism supported by many Zionists and non-Zionists, intellectuals, academics and laymen alike. And doesn’t Zionism take away the right of self-determination laid down in the UN Charter from the Palestinians? Or where has Mr Mencher been this last half-century? Ah, I know; he has been writing novels and practising literary criticism. I did point out that to raise this matter would invite the label of anti-semitism. But *tu quoque!* I don’t suppose anything I can say will alter his unthinking prejudice against a discussion of a complex geo-political and ethnic problem without resorting to insults; it reflects discreditably upon his profession that he can so readily succumb to these journalistic clichés.

Cordially,

Colin Honnor



Dear Sir,

Why does *Words in Edgeways* not have a blog connected with it? It would permit discussion without having to wait three months for replies and without needing to go through the editor.

Best wishes,

Alison Jones

It does now. The first posting is on Middleton Murry’s Son of Woman. Perhaps you might like to comment on it. Ed.