

## They Joined a Cult, by Eve Barlow

I think part of the fascination with cults is that we wonder how people are taken in by them. Well as the adage goes: when you know nothing, you can be fooled by anything. People are lost. I have seen some of the most curious and thoughtful people I know say, imagine and *think* some of the worst things in these past two months. I have often been powerless to stop the seeds of antisemitism warp minds and change attitudes towards me, and I know that it's all inspired by an innate, probably often completely subconscious, prejudice about me that presupposes and ignores absolutely every empirical experience of me – and all of us – in reality. Why? Because everyone joined a cult. And cults are really powerful. Once you're in a cult there is a very high price to pay to leave, and most people who are vulnerable enough to join cults do not want to pay it.

Battle lines were drawn after October 7. Personal stakes were considered. And people chose. If you lost your friends, it's because they chose the cult. That's what happens when people join cults. They sacrifice themselves for the cult. And cults do not like critical thinking and will do anything and everything to shut it down, including proliferating sexy slogans. Heil Hitler. And they become robots with not much feeling or care. Tragic. Because losing compassion for loved ones is alarming and should freak everyone out. These types of bonds, rooted in trust, now shattered and lost and replaced by coerced belonging, actually help us live longer and more meaningful lives. But in a cult, the people who don't belong are suddenly ousted and theories are invented around them about "who they really are". And those who might question it are denied their free will or pressurized and coerced until there is no choice left. And while the cult profess to care and agonize deeply about the issues it stands for, nothing about these emotions are truly authentic. All that is genuine is the need to be in the cult, and not alone without it.

It is the cultists who forces us into a binary of us versus them. It's all become radically simple, but it is not comforting. People are either there, or they disappeared. Hamas is a cult rooted in fundamentalist ideology, and the tentacles of that ideology reach far and wide. To such an extent that

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whoever corroborates any element of Hamas's dogma is seriously dangerous. A lot of the people around us became cult followers, or just exposed themselves as cultists virtually overnight. Believe that if they can be that easily led in this, they can and will be just as manipulated when it comes to something else. These people are weak-minded, and totally unsure of who they are. Hence the obsession of so-called progressives with labels. When everything is a construct, nothing is a fact. It's not "liberating", it's destabilizing. And it's not good for anyone's mental health. The progressives are regressive. Our society is progressing backwards.



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**Have you lost friends since October 7 because of your views on Israel/Palestine? (Or simply because of your respective ethnicity/identity)**



 15.2K



Yes (4,890 votes)

86%

No (774 votes)

14%



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**Friends have been willing to impose psychological torture against their loved ones over foreign conflicts that the overwhelming majority of people have very little understanding of.**

Ostracism is used as psychological torture for those not prepared to comply with group norms. The more dysfunctional a group or individual, the more willing they are to impose psychological torture on others. Even after doing something as mild as expressing a different or challenging worldview, the blocker/s feel/s entirely justified in blocking, socially isolating, or imposing psychological torture on the other.

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Those figures are alarming.

I have always operated on the basis that life is short which is why I'm unafraid to say the truth. You don't have long so you may as well be real while you're here and not some fake-ass try-hard who is desperate to be liked and would literally sell their own soul in the process. The truth is that the cult followers are all mad at us because they don't know who they are and we do. We *really* do. We know who we are, they're trying on 100 causes and 25 different identities just to feel something. They're deeply attached to false idols and ideas. They're attached to Hamas, for Christ's sake. We're not. It's painful for them to see us be so sure of ourselves.

I think we are living through a time of endemic selfishness, in which more people are driven by fear, trauma and self-preservation than by love, trust and unity. Those who feign the latter are really just terrified to be disliked, while those who boldly scream their hearts out are some of the bravest people alive.

And so progressives who try to fit "from the river to the sea" into their human rights bumper sticker religion are pure QAnon inverters. Guys, listen to me. You're taking two things that would be terrible in a sandwich together (human rights and Hamas) and trying to convince us it's great. It's like you're trying to make a peanut butter tuna sandwich. It's not right. It doesn't work. You can't have human rights and genocide of Jews; unless you believe that Jews aren't human, which is fine if you want to be a Nazi. Free Palestine isn't literally free of charge, you know. The cost is: Jews die.

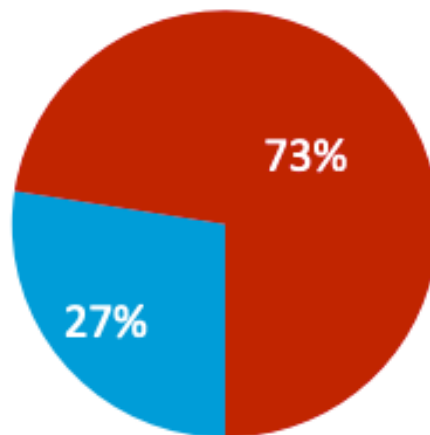
As you my readers know, I saw the October 7 footage. I saw what makes Hamas tick. Hamas's joy comes from unimaginable barbarism caused when killing Jews. A similar brokenness is in progressive "ceasefire now!" idiots. Their happiness comes when they're arrested for parroting terrorist slogans. It should worry them. It's called cult indoctrination. *You're in a cult. Break free, morons.*

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It would appear that all of America's youth has joined the cult. Well, not all. But a concerning amount. In the new Harvard/Harris poll released today, it is found that 67% of respondents aged 18-24 agree that "Jews as a class are oppressors and should be treated as oppressors." 60% of respondents agree that Hamas's October 7th massacre can be justified by the grievances of Palestinians, and 31% of respondents believe Israel does not have the right to exist. Blimey.

So basically everyone growing up in the world right now is an unapologetic and proud Jew hater.

**Do you think that Jews as a class are oppressors and should be treated as oppressors or is that a false ideology?**



■ Oppressors ■ False ideology

Column %	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Oppressors	67%	44%	36%	24%	15%	9%
False ideology	33%	56%	64%	76%	85%	91%

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It would be so easy to learn how to not be in the cult. I suggested going to a library and reading some books, but truly all you guys have to do is watch Bill Maher's segment from last night. He nails it in less than ten minutes.