

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

Ierman: A good place to start is size, because there's obviously a vast discrepancy. There are about 300,000 self-identifying Jews in Britain. Most British Jews live in London. Jews used to live in all kinds of outlying places, such as in South Wales, in the mining villages, out 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 that are affiliated with synagogues are affiliated with that 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.

Ierman: Broadly speaking, organized British Jewry is very pro-Israel. I think in the latest survey done of British Jews on the issue of Israel, about 80 percent say they are Zionist. However, there is a strong, albeit small, dissenting voice and

of freedom of thought and that kind of thing. There was a time, of course, when Israel was characterized by the ethos of the kibbutz movement. I remember that because I was involved with that kind of

of this past summer's conflict in Gaza has put a bit more traction behind ideas which are not the two-state solution. The question which I'll address tonight really is whether we need to even to talk about one state. The problem with the one-state solution is that when polled, Palestinians are leaning much more in that direction. Obviously Israelis are totally against it, so you could never have a freely chosen one-state solution anyway. So there's an argument to say it's nonsense because it can't happen. Who's going to impose it? The Americans aren't going to impose it.

goldstein: Is there any traction with British Jewry for talking about a rights-based paradigm instead of a conversation about one-state or two-states?

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

they have a bloc in a situation where 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 c a e, a e e c e* in many respects. Herzog is going to have Tzipi Livni next to him holding him back if he wanted to make a step change—and I think there needs to be some kind of step change. I feel that he's just offering a kind of Bantustan situation as far as a Palestinian state is concerned, not one that's contiguous and independent and sovereign. So the future doesn't look bright.

Herzog: I think there's a lot of people who are looking for a step change, but I think there's a lot of people who are looking for a step change.