

An open letter to the *Los Angeles Times* about its distorted coverage of Israel

James O'Shea,
Executive Editor

Dear Mr. O'Shea,

Federal judge Edward C. Voss recently issued a ruling that denounced the *Los Angeles Times* for "abusive" and "irresponsible" journalism, including the "manufacturing" of facts in its coverage of baseball's steroid scandal. In response, the *Times* ran a front-page story correcting the report in question.

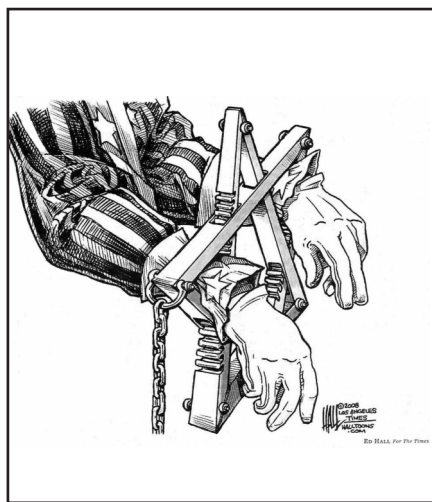
Now editors should address similar journalistic abuses – errors, distortion and lack of balance – in *Times* coverage of the Middle East, starting with the Op-Ed pages.

- A 19-month study found the *Times* published 50% more Op-Eds expressing a pro-Arab message versus those presenting a pro-Israel message.
 - While officials of Hamas, the Palestinian Authority and Syria were given space to argue their case, only one former Israeli official appeared – a radical Arab member of Israel's parliament with ties to Syria, who, facing charges of treason, had fled the country.
- Why are mainstream Israeli leaders excluded, while Arab officials including some who call for Israel's destruction, are given a platform?*
- Opinion columns repeatedly include factual errors that denigrate Israel and distort the threats it faces, including the false charge Israel fired the first shots in the war against Hezbollah instead of the reverse; that Hamas never supported attacks against Westerners, which it has; that Israel's founders plotted to expel the Arabs, which they did not, and many more.
- Why has the Los Angeles Times refused to correct these and other falsehoods?*
- Accompanying an anti-Israel column on January 6, 2008 by John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, authors of a widely discredited book scapegoating Israel, was a cartoon chosen by the *Times* that would have been welcomed in a neo-Nazi publication.

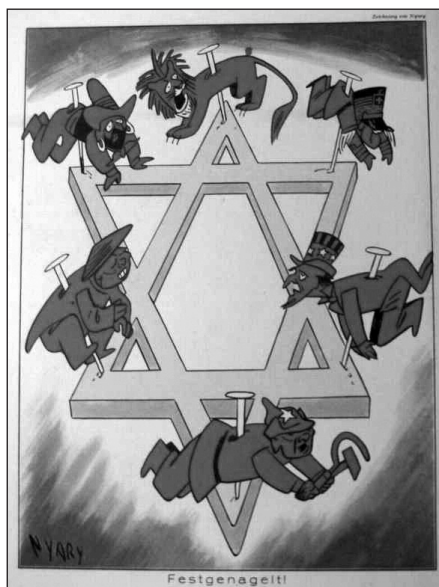
Why would the Los Angeles Times publish a cartoon echoing Nazi imagery?

The *Los Angeles Times* has unfairly and unprofessionally denigrated the Jewish state in word and image. It's time to correct the errors, redress the distorted and shoddy opinion pages and desist from promoting prejudice.

First in a series



Here's the Los Angeles Times image of Uncle Sam in the shackles of the Jewish Star.



Here's a 1943 German cartoon from Lustige Blätter with a Jewish star pillorying Uncle Sam—and other nations.

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