

29/10/2003

Why they overreacted

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MANY Jews and Jewish-influenced organisations have criticised Dr Mahathir for his OIC speech, especially those few words that no Westerner dares to utter.

It might be useful to look at what else Dr Mahathir said: "Even among the Jews there are many who do not approve of what the Israelis are doing"; "We must not antagonise everyone. We must win their hearts and minds"; "The whole world is looking at us (Muslims)".

There are many reasons for this overreaction. One, the West has a heavy burden of guilt for its treatment of Jews through two millennia. Two, there is an ancient, subconscious prejudice against Islam and Muslims. Three, many are under Zionist pressure in the West.

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