



## **In Einstein's Opinion**

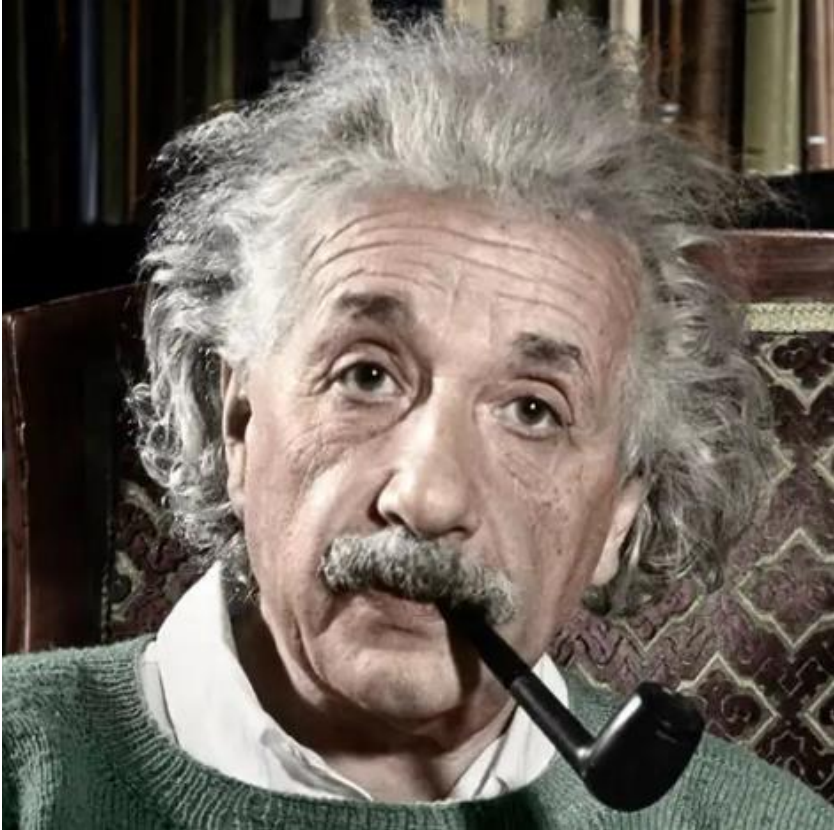
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## In Einstein's Opinion

Letter, *The Observer*, 24 May 1981, 16a–b



TO THE EDITOR, *THE OBSERVER*

Oxford

May I support Dr Levenberg's refutation (Letters, last week) of the claim that Einstein was opposed to the political aims of Zionism?

Einstein was opposed to aggressive nationalism everywhere and had hoped that peaceful relations with the Arabs could be established.

He attributed the failure to achieve this less to the fault of either Jews or Arabs than to British colonial policy during the Mandatory period, of which he said in 1949 that it could 'hardly avoid following the notorious device of *divide et impera*. In plain language this [16b]

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means: create discord among the governed people so they will not unite in order to shake off the yoke imposed upon them.<sup>1</sup>

I do not myself think that this is true, and quote it only as evidence of Einstein's view of what, after the war, made the creation of the state of Israel the only means of achieving any part of the Zionist goal.

There is no doubt that he remained a fully committed, if at times critical, Zionist, and supported the state of Israel to the end of his days.

(Sir) Isaiah Berlin

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<sup>1</sup> 'The Jews of Israel' (an NBC broadcast for the United Jewish Appeal, 27 November 1949), in *Out of My Later Years* (New York, 1950), 275.