From Left to Right: Lucy S. Dawidowicz's Political Life

In December 1994, Lucy S. Dawidowicz (1915-1990) the well-known historian of East Europe of World Jewry and the Holocaust, gave the State of Israel an influential public forum in 1984 at the 99th Street Y in New York City. The address was an influential public forum for a discerning Jewish Leader to address the spiritual, political, and social condition of the Jewish people in Israel and throughout the Diaspora.

Dawidowicz followed Abba Eban, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Stuart Eizenstat, Chief Domestic Policy Adviser under President Carter, Genevieve Cohen, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and Norman Podhoretz, editor of Commentary magazine. She was the only woman to give the address. Dawidowicz's talk was subsequently published in Commentary in February 1985 as "The Politics of Jewish History? (Politics, the Jews, and the 94th Election)" and posthumously in "What is the Use of Jewish History?" (Politics, the Jews, and the 96th Election).
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Defending Israel also became central to their foreign policy positions after the Six Day War. As Davidowicz wrote in his 1985 book, he became an influential Jewish intellectual figure in the United States. Among those who wish to destroy her, the United States is friendly. That friendship has continued to be encouraged by American Jews, who are Israel's only loyal and consistent friends. American Jews who care about Israel—and I don't mean the political character of the government, but Israel as the embodiment of Jewish civilization and the Jewish will to survive—have an obligation to support it as it is surrounded by enemies who wish her destruction. Amid the nations who wish to destroy her, among those who wish the destruction of the United States is the United States. Among those who wish the destruction of the United States is the United States.