

# Professor John Henrik Clark on The Farrakhan Jewish Controversy

*(in response to Professor Henry Louis Gates attack on the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan and the book *The Secret Relationship Between Blacks and Jews* vol. 1)*

A new Black awareness is causing Blacks, young and old, to question everything that has any influence on their lives. **We are realizing that Jewish people have an influence on our lives far out of proportion to their numbers in the population.** I totally disagree with Professor Henry Louis Gates that anti-Semitism among Whites is on the wane in the country. Quite the contrary, I think it is increasing in this country and in the world, and Black people are not the cause of it.

What you have in this new charge of Black anti-Semitism against Blacks is the most pathetic of all tragedies, a scapegoat looking for a scapegoat. Because of Black Americans' reading or misreading of the Bible, we have always had a sentimental attachment to Jewish people and, to a large extent, most of us still do....

There are well over 300 organized White hate groups in the United States. I know of no overt attacks by the Jews being made on any of them. **Yet, Jewish people have attacked Louis Farrakhan more than they have attacked the leaders of the Aryan Nation or the American Nazi Party.** Are the Jews in America looking for an easy victory or the Truth? **Black Americans have never been their enemy. And they, the Jews, have never been our friends unless it was to their convenience...**

My writing on Black-Jewish relationships is not new. I participated in forums on this subject in the old Harlem History Club in the 30s. In my latest book, *Notes for an African World Revolution: Africans at the Crossroads*, (Africa World Press, Trenton, 1991), Chapter Four is called "Africa, Zionism, and Friends Without Friendship." This is an analysis of 500 years of African-Jewish relationships. **I am not writing about an historical Black-Jewish alliance, because the one often referred to is a myth.** There can be no successful alliance between weak people and strong people.

There have been times when it was to the best interest of the Jews to support certain Black causes, and they have supported them. When it was no longer in their interest, they withdrew from them....

Professor Gates' complaint about the book, *The Secret Relationship Between Blacks and Jews*[volume 1] seems without justification. [I don't consider] it a masterpiece, however **it is a competent piece of research. The documentation is good. Instead of complaining about the footnotes, Professor Gates should read some of the footnotes and the books they refer to; especially he should read the works of Professor Bertram W. Korn, an able Jewish scholar whose writings about the role of American Jews in the slave trade is most revealing.**

Professor Gates keeps referring to an historical alliance between Blacks and Jews. I wish he would be more precise and say when this historical alliance occurred. I have been a teacher of African World History most of my life and a student of history in general. I know of no evidence indicating such an alliance. The earliest opportunity for a coalition between Blacks and Jews came in 1675 B.C., when an African people called the Egyptians took in the sons and daughters of Abraham, who were fleeing from hunger and starvation in Western Asia. After receiving food, clothing and shelter as well as the foundation for Judaic culture, language and religion, the majority of these "guests" joined the invaders, the Hyksos (or Shepherd Kings) rather than form an alliance to defend the country of their African benefactors. They had found a greater acceptance in Africans than Africans have ever found in a European-dominated country. With this visit to Africa, the people who would later be known as Jews conspicuously entered world history.