

Alan Dershowitz: I was given an Honorary Doctorate of Tel Aviv University and asked to make the speech at graduation. And at that time there were attempts by some people on the right to dismiss some hard-left professors. And so I divided my speech into two. First I said that left-wing professors have a complete right to express views, even anti-Israel, anti-Zionist views, even racist views, whatever views they want *outside of the classroom*. I defend that right. I said now the second half of my speech: let me condemn them for what they are saying, let me tell you why they're wrong, let me tell you why we should respond in the marketplace of ideas. Well the furor that was caused. *Ha'aretz* had an editorial saying I was a McCarthyite because though I defended their right of free speech, I attacked them. Well free speech obligates those who defend the right of free speech to attack those who are using it for hate. When I defended the right of Nazis to march through Skokie as a legal matter, I attacked their positions. When I defended a young neo-Nazi who was denied admission to the Bar for his political views, I went out of my way to condemn his views while defending his right to express them. I think that combination of defending the right while also defending my right to attack them on the merits of their views is an essential part of Western values.